



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW

DECEMBER

Message from the President... on words, words, words



This is an abbreviated version of my talk to B'nai B'rith Victoria's Annual General Meeting held in November. I expressed my recognition that, 'there are so many words going around these days. This editorial is made up of words. But what do words achieve?

Allow me to write about some of the words that we have used to describe B'nai

B'rith so that hopefully others will understand us better and will want to support us, get involved with us or even join us. In other words, for us to be noticed we have to project what we stand for.

You might recall that a couple of years ago B'nai B'rith published what we called The Manifesto which was our updated strategic plan. In that we declared that we stood on four pillars, and these were to: support those in need; promote human rights and foster understanding; celebrate our achievers; and support Israel.

However, on reflection, we thought that the social opportunity for senior members of the community was the one thing that really stood out. And our most impactful projects, the Anti-Defamation Commission and Courage to Care, were the results of innovation. So, social connections and innovation were two additional two pillars or major strategies for B'nai B'rith.

But hold on – who can remember six items? Far too many words. These cannot be uttered in an elevator ride unless the lift gets stuck somewhere. So, in some of our brochures we summarised these many words by reducing it to: "B'nai B'rith is a community service organisation that brings people together to run projects and programs that are impactful."

Or, if you want even less words, you could use our byline, which is that "B'nai B'rith strengthens Jewish life".

Does anyone remember the byline words that B'nai B'rith Victoria used a few years ago? These fine words were: "Jewish Unity. Diversity. Continuity." We can't argue with that. The only problem was that they were hard to remember. And if you did remember them, it was also hard to remember the correct order – if that really mattered.

B'nai B'rith NSW uses the motto, "Engage. Connect. Belong." We can't argue with that either. And when B'nai B'rith was founded in 1843 in the United States, it promoted "Benevolence, Friendship and Harmony."

What is the point I am trying to make? We have spent some time over the past few years clarifying who we are and what we stand for. I do not think this has been effective enough. Many projects and programs are for the here and now – and they are excellent. But, for B'nai B'rith's survival, some of our strategies must be looking to the long term. And these strategies have a better chance of success if they involve more action and less words. These actions include providing what the community wants, that is, the right product, and networking within the community to help bring them in.

I won't elaborate further about actions because I have already delivered too many words. However, I hope you get the drift.'

Finally, allow me to finish with a few additional words. I am writing this as we wonder if there is going to be a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. Peace, the release of the hostages, the welfare of the brave Israeli soldiers and the defeat of Hamas remain uppermost in our minds. Let us hope 2025 is a much better year. My best wishes to you all.

Peter Schattner

President

B'nai B'rith looks forward to seeing you

**ENGAGE
ENJOY**

An afternoon with **"BARBRA STREISAND"**
World class vocalist **RACHAEL GRACE**
Producer & Star of 'The Australian
Barbra Streisand Show'

Sumptuous Lunch

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 1:00 - 4:00PM

BOOKINGS NOW CLOSED



**B'nai
B'rith**

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2024 MENORAH AWARDS

The Menorah Awards Ceremony took place on Sunday November 17. Four wonderful recipients were acknowledged and celebrated. Congratulations to: Helen Gelber, Danielle Schilling, Caroline Heard and Helen Heimann, pictured below along with their nominators. Guest speaker Leon Landau was just as inspirational, sharing his journey and growth through volunteering.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FIRST AID COURSE FOR SENIORS

B'nai B'rith is pleased to host a First Aid course for Seniors presented by Community First Responders Australia

Suitable for anyone who would like to learn more about medical emergencies relating to Seniors.

Uniquely tailored to provide comprehensive education on proactive solutions and practical strategies for managing a medical emergency and staying safe in your home.



TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER | 10AM

\$20 PER PERSON

[HTTPS://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/BBFIRSTAID](https://events.humanitix.com/bbfirstaid)

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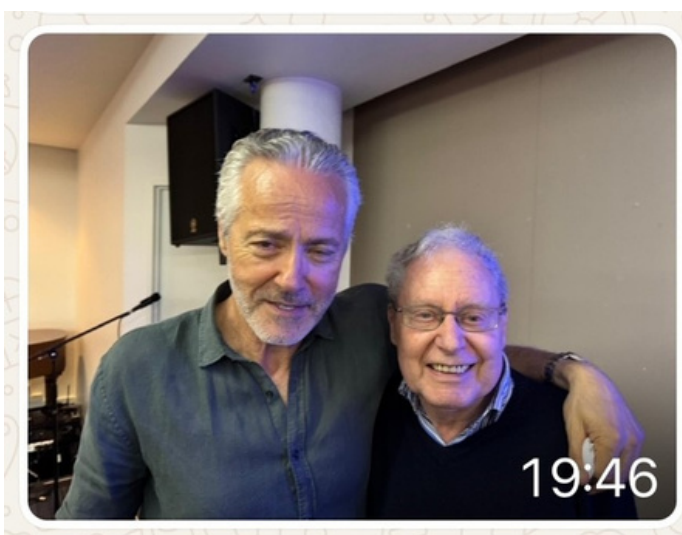


**B'nai
B'rith**

ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

This year's Armchair Society series has seen an extraordinary line up of guest speakers. B'nai B'rith thanks Ron James for working so hard to bring to the stage interesting stories, perspectives and experiences. We look forward to even more in 2025, kicking off on February 11 - more details soon.

**THANK YOU TO THE MOST RECENT AMAZING SPEAKERS -
ADAM BUTT, ZACH GOMO AND ARTHUR BOLKAS**



MITZVAH DAY 2024



Mitzvah Day Doll Making with Hatikvah unit



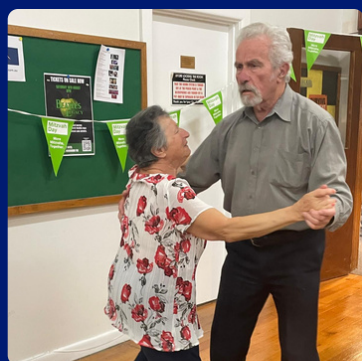
Unit Akiba on Mitzvah Day



Mitzvah Day at Jewish Care



MITZVAH DAY 2024 - FELLOWSHIP CONCERT



UPCOMING EVENTS

בס"ד

B'nai
B'rith

B'NAI B'RITH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ARK CENTRE



PILLARS *Of* LIGHT

A MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATION OF CHANUKAH
IN THE HEART OF THE CBD, FED SQUARE

SUN 29TH DEC

5:00PM-8:00PM

JOIN US AT PILLARS OF LIGHT CELEBRATION, MAIN STAGE, FED SQUARE
CELEBRATE CHANUKAH WITH AN UNFORGETTABLE LINE UP OF MULTICULTURAL PERFORMANCES,
INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS, AND A SHARED SPIRIT OF UNITY AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

WITH GUEST APPEARANCES
PROFESSOR PETER SCHATTNER // MARK LEACH
NICOLE BRITTAIN // VOCAL VIBES
NATIONAL BOYS CHOIR // COREY FOOKS PRODUCTIONS
LIVE FIRE MENORAH LIGHTING, DONUTS,
DREIDELS & MUCH, MUCH MORE...

OUR FOUNDATION AND PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



JACK & ROBERT
SMORGON FAMILIES
FOUNDATION



GOLD PARTNERS



Loti & Victor
Smorgon
Family Foundation



Besen Family
FOUNDATION

GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Leon Nissen

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Karin Zafir

Chanukah Sameach and Happy New Year to all B'nai B'rith members and your families.

Every Sunday 11:00 am - **Sunday morning "get-together"**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85211082214?pwd=QU5HNmwySjhvRzltc1cvMVgwWS9RUT09>.

If you use the link, you will not need to enter the passcode. However, if you start Zoom and enter the meeting ID, you will be prompted to enter the passcode. Zoom Meeting ID: 852 1108 2214, Passcode 923143. **Note:** Zoom get-together will not take place on 3rd Sunday of each month due to Umbrella Lounge in person get-together

What's on in December:

Sunday 22 11:00am - **Channukah Party** at a venue in Bentleigh East. **Bookings essential!**

<https://events.humanitix.com/gru-chanukah-party>

Bring a plate of milchig or vegetarian food to share. Please contact Karin to discuss what to bring: 0400 402 032 or karin@zafirfamily.com

Coming up in January 2025:

Sunday 26 12:00pm - **Australia Day Picnic** coming to a park near you (or not so near depending on where you live). Details in Updates and January Preview.

Other dates to keep free in 2025:

Feb 28 - Weekend away to Geelong with Unit Akiba
March 2 Contact Henry Winfield henrysue@bigpond.net.au

Refuah Shleima to Irene Kirschner.

Mazal Tov to Helen Heimann and all the other Menorah Award recipients.

Mazal Tov to Eva and Michael on the birth of their grandson, Levi.

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please contact our Welfare Officer, Leon Nissen, (kirschnernissen@hotmail.com) so that we can offer support.

If you know of anyone who is celebrating a Simcha or birth of a grandchild, please contact Karin Zafir (karin@zafirfamily.com)

UNIT AKIBA

President: Henry Winfield
Secretary: Annette Gladwin
Preview: Annette Harriott

What's on in December:

Sunday 7

Movie 6:00 - 6:30 pm - Movie Night, pick a film at Dendy Brighton or Palace Cinemas that ends at approx. 8.30pm. Supper will be at Dendy Deli from 8.30. RSVP and inquiries to Fay Kayser, faykayser@hotmail.com or 0401 273 759

Wednesday 25

1:00pm - Picnic in Central Park, meet under trees near corner of Central Park Road and Kingston Street Malvern. Please bring a chair, food and drinks and friends.

Tuesday 31

NYE - 2 options

1. Melbourne SKA Orchestra at Memo Hall,
2. Dinner at Limerick Arms Hotel,

Coming up in January 2025:

Sunday 12

10:00am - Walk and Lunch along the beach. Please meet at end of North Road. Lunch will follow at Brighton Yacht Club. RSVP to Denise Le Bransky by 5th January on 0423 828 346

Thursday 21

8:00pm - Jewish Non-Fiction Book club. Book is "The People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. Presented by Dina Jones and Vivien Lewis. Enquiries to non-fiction@bbvic.org.au

Coming up in 2025:

February 23

Akiba Soiree

March 1

Annual Weekend away will again be with Gesher Rabin Unit and held in Geelong.

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Claude Fromm

Vice-President: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg

What's on in December:

Sunday 8 *12:30pm - Farewell to 2024 Lunch*
 Leo Baeck Centre East Kew.
 Please bring something scrumptious to share

Coming up in January 2025:

Sunday 27 *12:30pm - Welcome back to the new year lunch*
 Leo Baeck Centre East Kew.
 Please bring something scrumptious to share

Our best wishes to Claude Fromm, recovering post surgery, and to any members who are feeling under the weather.

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis

Secretary: Eitan Froumine

Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff

Treasurer: Irena Blonder



9527 6002



enquiries@bbramblers.org.au

What's on in December:

Friday 29 Nov - Sunday 1 Dec *Various level walks in the Castlemaine area. For more information, please contact Vardit, saxdavis@melbpc.org.au*

Wednesday 11 - Thursday 12 *2 days midweek- Hard walks in the Mt Stirling/Mt Buller area. For more information, please contact Boris, pogosb@bigpond.com*

Wednesday 19 *Morning - Fairlie and Dennis will lead an easy midweek walk, destination not yet confirmed. Their address fairlienassau@gmail.com*

Sunday 22 *Morning -Stan will lead a hard coastal walk in the Mornington area. Please contact him at taback15@tpg.com.au*

MELBOURNE LODGE NO 1547

President: Danielle Schilling

Vice-President: Jules Gaddie

Preview: Dr John Kohn

What's on in December:

Special Note: *There are no meetings scheduled for December*

Monday 11 10:30am - **Bagel brunches** - Alex and Janet Starr have finalised arrangements. There are 11 hosts and over 70 members attending.

Past Events:

* **October 20: Installation** - see page 15

* **November 13: Regular Meeting:** Guest Speaker Madeleine Popper - We were enthralled to hear Madeleine's inspiring story. She is a passionate and creative artist who produces colourful oil paintings. She is legally blind (due to Macular Degeneration). She can no longer see the end of a paint brush, so she paints with her finger instead. She exhibits her works and has created a platform for other artists with impaired vision.

* **November 14: Maribyrnong Boat Trip** - What a lovely day. Thirty people enjoyed a very interesting guided boatcruise down the Maribyrnong River to Williamstown and back. We stopped for lunch and had a stroll around. Thanks to Jacqui and Danielle for organising and to Charles who was our volunteer bus driver. We finished off with a visit to a Blacksmith's forge - where we watched the blacksmith work hot steel into decorative shapes and learnt about the craft of being a blacksmith. See pics on page 14.

A hearty Mazel Tov to members who are celebrating their birthdays in November:

Hilary Friedland (5th), Danielle Schilling (8th), Frankie Slonim (8th), Gila Leder (16th), Rosalyn Goldberg (16th), Paul Gardner (21st), Michele Huppert (21st), Sandra Nathani (23rd), Miriam Faraday (23rd), Jacqui Dinor Corry (28th), Yvonne Elton (26th), Marsha Swieca

Devorah Zmood has requested members send dates of their birthdays

Mazel Tov to Our President Danielle Schilling who was honoured at our recent Menorah Awards for her outstanding volunteer service to the community over many years.

Welfare of members:

Good News:

- * Margaret Fischer has had a new great granddaughter
- * Cera and Harry Newhouse have a new great grandson.
- * Adrienne Perch- a new great grandchild
- * Doreen Hermann and Frieda and Jeff Shapiro a new great grandson
- * Ruth Figdor- a new great grandson in Israel.

MELBOURNE LODGE NO 1547

We mourn the passing of:

- * **Rifka Kaufman** after over 60 years of being an active member of B'nai B'rith. Rifka with her dear husband Joe started with BB Youth, progressing through BB Young Adults to BB Shalom of which she became President. Rifka served on many committees including Maintenance Manager of BB House in Hotham St. and BB Parents Home. Rifka also served as BB Youth Commissioner for many years. BB was certainly central to Rifka's life. We thank her for her service and commitment and mourn her loss.
- * **Hilary Friedland's husband**
- * **David Rubenstein**
- * **Arie and Ann Offenberger's son in law**
- * **Tony Levy OAM** - remembered for his long and dedicated service at both Lodge, State and District level.

We wish a Refuah Shleima to any of our members with health issues, or who have been unwell and may have had or about to have medical procedures.

Donations to Making a Difference:

Paul Gardner has made a generous donation

DONATIONS TO "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" ARE NOW TAX DEDUCTIBLE:

DONATE NOW on the B'nai B'rith website (www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria)

Select "Making a Difference". Please let us know if gift is being made in honour of a person or event.

Book Club :

16 December: Last meeting for the year .

At Diane Orner's place 7:30 pm

The book is "The Women" by Kristin Hannah

B'NAI B'RITH - MAKING A DIFFERENCE JEWISH STUDENTS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

'Making a Difference' bursaries - providing support to financially disadvantaged Jewish students in Years 11 & 12 in State and Jewish schools for the last 28 years.

- **OVER \$220,000 DONATED TO 280 STUDENTS SINCE 1996!**
- **DEMAND HAS NEVER BEEN HIGHER**
- **AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST OUR YOUTH IN THEIR SCHOOLING**

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and can be made on the B'nai B'rith Victoria Website via the Scholarship Fund
www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria/donate-now/

DONATE TODAY!

CONTACT US: (03) 9523 0888 | www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



DONATE ❤️



**B'nai
B'rith**

A project of Melbourne Lodge

Melbourne Lodge - November Highlights



Melbourne Lodge - Installation

Another very successful function. Over 90 guests enjoyed a lovely lunch, entertainment by Alex Kyle with many members joining in with the sing along, hand clapping and dancing.

Jacqui Dinor Corry was the MC, and Janice Huppert the Installing Officer. Danielle Schilling, President gave an impassioned speech outlining the achievements of Melbourne Lodge during the past year and all the hard work done to achieve the successful merger of Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge and the Raoul Wallenberg Unit. Danielle thanked all her team members for their work throughout the year and all who helped with making the Installation a success.

The outgoing Executive was farewelled and the New Executive sworn in. Hilary Friedland sang the Australian National Anthem and Hatikvah. As in previous years we donated a large food parcel to the Salvation Army Crisis Centre. Over \$1000 was raised by our function and sent to an Israeli project.



UPCOMING EVENTS



B'nai
B'rith



**We are excited to invite you to the inaugural
B'nai B'rith Movie Club.**

A discussion with nibbles will follow the movie.

A Complete Unknown is the electric true story behind the rise of Bob Dylan, one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history. Against a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives in the West Village with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music.



SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2025

4PM TBC | \$25 PP

ENQUIRIES: (03) 9523 0888 | admin@bbvic.org.au | www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria

B'nai B'rith

Impact through social connection

Impact through projects and programs

DONATE NOW

Tax Deductible donations can be made to B'nai B'rith Victoria through:

1. B'nai B'rith Victoria Scholarship Fund (ABN 98 467 845 195) for the
 - Bernard J. Lustig Scholarship and
 - Making a Difference (bursaries for VCE students),
2. B'nai B'rith Victoria Cultural Fund (ABN 20 660 843 685)
3. B'nai B'rith Foundation (ABN 28 635 306 970).

Note: Donations directly to B'nai B'rith Victoria and the Israel Commission are not tax deductible.

WILLS & BEQUESTS

Please consider making a gift in your will to ensure the future of B'nai B'rith is vibrant, bright and sustainable. Through the establishment of the B'nai B'rith Future Fund, grown by bequests, more grants will be made to our community's future leaders

DONATE ❤️



GET INVOLVED



UPCOMING EVENTS

B'nai B'rith Melbourne Lodge No. 1547
(incorporating Raoul Wallenberg Unit and Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge)
and the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Port Phillip
invite you to **RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY**

17 January 2025 is of significance as it will be the 80th anniversary of the disappearance of Raoul Wallenberg in 1945. Australia's first and only Honorary Citizen, he has been characterised by the United Nations as "the greatest humanitarian of the 20th century".

Sunday 19 January 2025 - 11:00am

St Kilda Town Hall, Council Chamber, 1st Floor

Cnr Brighton Rd and Carlisle St, St Kilda. (Entry via Heritage entrance)

Keynote Speaker: Josh Burns MP, Federal Member of Macnamara



Light refreshments will be served (kosher).

Tickets are free; however bookings are essential.

Scan the QR code to book or visit www.trybooking.com/CVQVD

Queries: 9209 6762



B'NAI B'RITH HUMAN RIGHTS ORATION

WITH

ALEX RYVCHIN

Acclaimed author and Co-Chief Executive Officer of
the Executive Council of Australian Jewry

Recipient of the 2025 Human Rights Award

6 APRIL 2025 | 3PM

COURAGE TO CARE UPDATE

Another record year of Upstander Programs

Over 18,000 students have been booked into Victorian programs in 2024, this is the most ever! We are aiming to reach over 21,000 students next year.



Demand for our Middle Years Program (grade 5 to Year 7) is enormous. This program was only started in 2020 and even with the challenges during Covid has grown every year. We are increasing the number of younger students offered our program in response to this demand from schools. Our volunteers tell us that the younger students embrace the program messages with an open mind and willingness to learn. We can also reinforce these messages in later years with our Secondary Years Program *(SYP).

None of this would be possible without the support of B'nai B'rith who created Courage to Care!

Educating Adults-Glen Eira Council Workplace Programs

Glen Eira Council engaged us to provide community adult training. In their words "Glen Eira City Council is partnering with Courage to Care to deliver a two-hour Upstander Training for service providers and community organisations. This is part of Council continued commitment to Together We Stand and our pledge to work together across our communities for [Action against Racism and Discrimination](#).

We plan to do a lot more workplace and community workshops in the future as part of our Social Enterprise activity. We charge a fee that helps cover costs of our school programs.

New Education Manager Karen Maclean appointed.

We are delighted to advise that Karen Maclean is joining us as our Education Manager. This revised role will help us with the increasing activity and continue to build our amazing educational programs that have been so ably led by Zoi Juvris. We acknowledge the contribution that Zoi has made and this will free her up to concentrate as our Training Manager on the vital role of training our existing and new volunteers.



Karen has extensive school experience and for the last six years has been the EDUCATION SPECIALIST within ROAD SAFETY VICTORIA. Her role included recruitment, training and mentoring road safety educators; curriculum/content strategic reviews; educational professional development for teachers; policy and program development and school support. All this experience aligns very well with our offering into schools and the wider community.

CEO Mike Zervos OAM

DECEMBER 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
25 Nov 2:30pm Fellowship Concert	26 10:00am Armchair Society Series 4	27 7:00pm Hatikvah Executive meeting	28	29	30	1 Dec 1:00pm B'nai B'rith Engage and Enjoy Event
2	3	4	5	6	7 8:00pm Akiba Movie Night	8 Hatikvah End of Year function
9	10 10:00am First Aid for Seniors	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 11:00am GRU Chanukah Party
23	24	25 Akiba Picnic Chanukah: 1 Candle	26 B'nai B'rith Office closed Chanukah: 2 Candles	27 Chanukah: 3 Candles	28 Chanukah: 4 Candles	29 Chanukah: 5 Candles 5:00pm Pillars of Light - B'nai B'rith hosting
30 Chanukah: 6 Candles	31 Chanukah: 7 Candles	1 Jan Chanukah: 8 Candles	2 B'nai B'rith Office closed	3	4	5 To 12 Jan →

Click [HERE](#) to see the B'nai B'rith calendar which includes all B'nai B'rith and Unit Events and Jewish Holidays



HAPPY CHANUKAH!

May this festival bring peace and
light in Israel and the world



B'nai
B'rith

Strengthening Jewish Life

(03) 9523 0888

www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria

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