



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

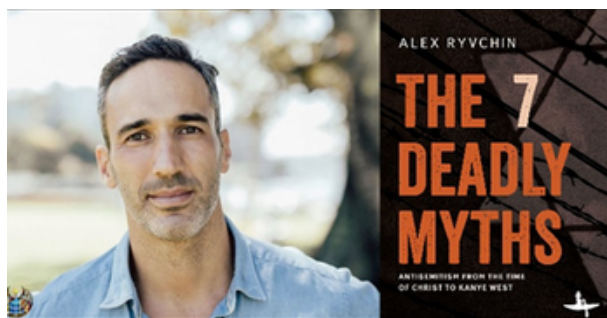
Message from the President... on B'nai B'rith and Antisemitism



The Adass Israel synagogue firebombing on 6 December 2024 raised yet again the question of what the Jewish community can do to combat antisemitism and its awful manifestations. There have been many suggestions from demanding that governments speak with 'moral clarity', that the law should be made to apply much more strongly on hate-filled demonstrations and speeches, and that Jews need to protect themselves with even more armed guards outside our schools and synagogues. B'nai B'rith, whose office is in the Beth Weizmann Community Centre, is well aware how high security has an impact on accessing the premises.

One of the issues which frequently crosses my mind is what can or should B'nai B'rith Victoria do? Public advocacy is probably best left to representative bodies such as the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) or the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) at the national level. We have participated in community events including those organised by Zionism Victoria. But we have not initiated protests or media campaigns.

However, we are not inactive on the subject of antisemitism. Our next speaker in the Human Rights Annual Oration series will be Alex Ryvchin (*pictured right*), Co-Chief Executive Officer of ECAJ, who will address this topic on 6 April. He is the author of a book titled "*The 7 Deadly Myths*" which explains the long history of antisemitism from Jesus to Kanye West. Alex is well placed to inform us about the various strategies we can use to combat antisemitism.



Aside from keeping us informed, another important role for B'nai B'rith is the social one. We should not underestimate the importance of the support we provide for each other during these difficult times. Together with other organisations, we encourage our members to be proud of their Jewishness. I have seen many recent references in the media to the fear that is gripping our community. This should not be the case.



American author Bari Weiss (*pictured left*), in her book "*How to Fight Anti-Semitism*", said that the best technique is to be a proud and confident Jew. In this vein, B'nai B'rith will be participating in the Pillars of Light program in Federation Square on December 29, hosted by the Ark Centre. I will be the MC and I personally invite you to attend. Its main purpose is to celebrate Chanukah. This multi-cultural and multi-faith program will show our belief in proclaiming our history and faith publicly and with pride. We saw off the Seleucid Greeks and we will get through our current challenges as well!

Peter Schattner, President

A Horrible Year



The 2024 year has been difficult, mostly unpleasant and increasingly dangerous for Jews around the world. Even in previously quiet and safe Melbourne we have witnessed an arson attack on the Adass synagogue, weekly pro-Palestinian marches down Swanston Street and antisemitic or anti Israel events at Universities, on radio, in The Age and on it goes. Our community friends, with few exceptions, have deserted us and multiculturalism in Australia is falling apart and is replaced by the views of undemocratic interest groups, especially from extreme right wing neo Nazis and Islamic fundamentalists.

Even worse, our friends and relatives in Israel are caught in a drawn out existential war since the 7 October 2023 massacre. Illan Shchori who co-leads B'nai B'rith in Israel wrote to me recently from Tel Aviv:

"This week we went through a very difficult period with missiles and the alarms. Now it has calmed down a bit. I hope it continues like this."

Fortunately Israel is winning this war and the Middle East is being transformed in front of our eyes. I find this totally inspiring. A tiny country like Israel is standing up against all its neighbours who want to destroy it.

It demonstrates the power that can flow from courage, determination and faith in a clear cause.

B'nai B'rith as an international community organisation is involved in helping Jews to survive since its inception 181 years ago. In the USA, B'nai B'rith is meeting almost daily with politicians and diplomats from around the world to publicise Israel's case and help the fight against antisemitism. Here in Australia we have worked together with the ECAJ and the Jewish Community Council of Victoria in helping each other and being strong and vocal against Jew hatred.

We have seen from feedback in Melbourne and Sydney that our members especially enjoy the social and cultural activities we put on and they help boost morale and overcome loneliness and isolation.

Two activities stood out for me during the year:

1. The Armchair Society fortnightly meetings organised by Ron James and office staff. Their outstanding speakers generally attract over 200 people fortnightly to Beth Weizmann and cover a wide range of topics and controversies.
2. Click and Connect- this is a BBANZ initiative which links volunteers in Australia via Zoom each week with primary school children from schools in Israel who wish to learn to speak English. It is a heartwarming and very popular activity which is expanding and needs more volunteers.

I want to also let you know that planning has started for the next B'nai B'rith Triennial Convention which will be held in Canberra at the ACT Jewish Community Centre (which is near Parliament House) from 31 August to 2 September 2025. We plan to arrange tours of the nearby National Museum and other tourist highlights, so keep the date free. A big thank you to the staff and volunteers who make all this happen.

Best wishes for 2025!

Benny Monheit

President, BBANZ



Benny Monheit and Ilan Shchori



Denise and Benny Monheit and Ilan Shchori

UPCOMING EVENTS

B'NAI B'RITH JEWISH NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

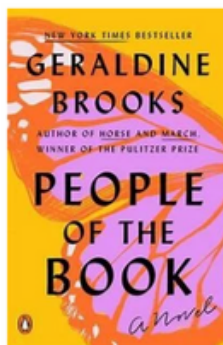
Featuring "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks

The book will be presented by Dina Jones and Vivien Lewis.

Geraldine is a journalist and Pulitzer Prize winning author who grew up in Sydney before making America her home.

"People of the Book" won the Australian Book of the Year Award in 2008. A fictional novel of sweeping historical grandeur, it is inspired by a true story of the Sarajevo Haggadah, one of the oldest surviving Jewish illuminated texts.

It follows this rare manuscript through centuries of exile and war, tracing its journey from its salvation back to its creation 500 years earlier. Its story of tolerance and intolerance, hope and survival are highly relevant to the Jewish experience in today's world.



THURSDAY 23 JANUARY, 8:00 - 9:30pm

For more information on the book club and for the venue, please contact Evelyn at non-fiction@bbvic.org.au.



B'NAI B'RITH ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

*In partnership with the Lamm Jewish Library of Australia
Hosted by Ron James*

5 PART FORTNIGHTLY SERIES

Featuring fascinating guest speakers at each session

Feb 11 - Warren Mundine AO
Feb 25 - Lillian Kline
March 11 - Stephen Michael Conroy
March 25 - Joel Burnie
April 8 - Adar Shiffman

Venue advised upon booking

SERIES TICKETS \$40 OR \$10 PER SESSION

TUESDAYS, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

[EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS25](https://events.humanitix.com/as25)

(03) 9523 0888 / www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



Lamm Jewish
Library of
Australia



ENGAGE AND ENJOY EVENT

The B'nai B'rith 'Engage and Enjoy' event took place on Sunday, December 1st, at Temple Beth Israel. Guests were treated to a delightful lunch, complemented by a performance from Rachael Grace, a world-class vocalist and entertainer. Rachael captivated the audience with her stunning voice and enchanting renditions of Barbra Streisand classics.

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who attended and hope you had a wonderful afternoon! A special thank you to Norbert Graetzer for sponsoring the event and for his efforts in arranging such exceptional entertainment.

We look forward to hosting more events like this in the future.



ENGAGE & ENJOY EVENT





MITZVAH DAY 2024 - FELLOWSHIP CONCERT

B'nai B'rith Fellowship Group hosted their Mitzvah Day Concert & afternoon tea at the Glen Eira McKinnon Bowls Club. Approximately 120 senior citizens sang, clapped & danced along to fabulous world-renowned singer/pianist, Warren Wills's performance.



GESHER RABIN UNIT - UMBRELLA LOUNGE

At the final Umbrella Lounge gathering for 2024, Tom Zafir sat down with Eleanor Aghion who shared her fascinating journey from Dnipro to Melbourne and Temo was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Unit in thanks for all his efforts in making the Umbrella Lounge such a welcoming venue.



GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Leon Nissen

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Karin Zafir

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

What's on in January:

Sunday 26 12:00pm - **Australia Day Picnic**
For location contact Karin

Coming up in February:

Sunday 2 11:00am - "GRUing together" (Previously "Umbrella Lounge"). Welcome back for 2025! Catch up and shmooze with your friends.
Jack Bar-Ness will be talking about Click and Connect.
RSVP Eleanor by 28 January. Venue will be advised on booking. (Please note, NOT at Umbrella Lounge)

Thursday 20 7:00pm - **Dinner at Souper Kitchen.** Bookings Essential.
Contact Lillian

Feb 28 - March 2 **Weekend away to Geelong with Unit Akiba**
Accommodation: Quest Geelong, 16-18 The Esplanade South. Tel: 5228 2000. Call to make your booking. Mention BBV when you book to get a 15% discount.
Let Henry know when you have booked.

Mazal Tov to the following members who celebrate their birthday in January:

Hanna Baum (1st), Evelyn Flitman (6th), Miriam Feldheim (10th), Henry Nissen (15th), Leon Nissen (15th), Dianne Mattatia (20th), Susan Meisner (21st), Monica Petterson (24th), Val Varga (29th)

Mazal Tov to the following members who celebrate their birthday in February:

Tom Zafir (1st), Peter Zeeng (6th), Vera West (18th), Karin Zafir (19th), Kathy Kaplan (21st), Claudine Berman (28th)

Mazal Tov to Laurie and Jack Bar-Ness on their 50th wedding anniversary on 2nd January!

Refuah Shleima to Irene Kirschner.

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please contact our Welfare Officer, Leon Nissen 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

UNIT AKIBA

President: Henry Winfield

Secretary: Annette Gladwin

Preview: Annette Harriott

What's on in January:

Sunday 12 12:00pm - **Akiba Beach Walk**, including lunch at Sebastian's.
Bookings through Denise

Sunday 19 11:00am - **Raoul Wallenberg Day** at the St Kilda Town Hall
Keynote speaker: Josh Burns MP.
Bookings are essential: www.trybooking.com/CVQVD

Thursday 23 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 February 2025:

Sunday 2 4:00pm - **B'nai B'rith Movie Club**
At this inaugural event, the movie "A Complete Unknown" will be screened.
Convenor Leah Shmerling.
A discussion with nibbles will follow the movie.
Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/bbmovie1>

Thursday 13 **Midweek Matters** TBA

Sunday 23 **Unit Akiba Annual Soiree** - exciting musical performances.

Friday 28 - Sunday 2 March **Annual Weekend Away with Gesher-Rabin**. Details:
Accommodation - Quest Geelong. 16-18 The Esplanade South.
Tel: 5228 2000.
We have organised a 15% discount. **Quote BBV when booking**.
Studio - \$201 per night. 1 Bedroom - \$228 per night.
2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom - \$320 per night.
Notes: Book with credit card, deposit not required.
Free cancellation up to 48 hours beforehand.
Fee for 1 night for cancellation within 48 hours.
It is 6-8 walk from Geelong Station for those travelling by train.
Contact - Henry

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Claude Fromm

Vice-President: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg

What's on in January:

Monday 27 12:30pm - **Australia Day Lunch** at Leo Baeck Centre, East Kew.
Please bring something scrumptious to share.

Coming up in February 2025:

Sunday 23 8:00pm - **Regular Meeting** at Leo Baeck Centre.
Our speaker will be Hatikvah member Orly Dar talking about Jewish composers. Please bring a small plate to share for supper.
(Note : there is no parking in the street for the evening)

Wishing the following members a happy birthday in January:

Cynthia Benporath, Joan Zawatzky (14th); Julian Woolfson (18th); and Ria Phillips (23rd)
Happy Birthday to Ruth Taft who celebrates her birthday on 8 February.

We wish them all a happy and healthy year filled with good times, friendship and laughter.

Best wishes and a speedy recovery to any members who have been unwell recently.

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 January:

Sunday 5 Morning - Irena will lead a SOMW from Red Hill to Merricks.

Wednesday 8 Morning - An easy midweek walk will be led by Vardit and Ron in Frankston.

Sunday 19 Morning - Eitan will lead a hard walk in Werribee Gorge.

Coming up in February 2025:

Sunday 2 Morning - Medium walk in Braeside Park and Waterways will be led by Evelyn.

Fri 7 - Sun 9 Weekend - Boris is coordinating both medium and hard walks in Tasmania.

Wednesday 19 Morning - An easy midweek walk from Gardenvale to Sandringham will be led by Rodney.

Sunday 23 Morning - SOHW walk led by Eitan, venue not yet confirmed.

MELBOURNE LODGE NO 1547

President: Danielle Schilling

Vice-President: Jules Gaddie

Preview: Dr John Kohn

What's on in February:

We plan to have a Welcome Back picnic in early February. Most likely at Heide in Bulleen. Date to be advised.

Wednesday 12 *Regular meeting* - Guest speaker: Ronald Zmood. Topic: "Water"

Coming up in March:

Wednesday 12 *Regular meeting* - Guest speaker: Judge Mordy Bromberg. Topic: "From Bench to Bench"

Past Events:

We again ran a very successful Bagel Brunch on Sunday 8 December.

Thanks to the Starr's for organising and to those who offered to be hosts. It was a great opportunity for members to meet and mingle. We enjoyed good food, wine, and lively conversation.

Birthday greetings in January:

Jack Klarnet (1st), Frieda Shapiro (1st), Judy Lewis (4th), Garry Fabian (11th), Anita Librach (13th), Jack Leder (17th), Norman Super (18th), Emery Faraday (18th), Rena Lopata (19th), Evelyn Fabian (21st), Marilyn Schimmel (21st), Ian Joseph (28th), George Deutsch (31st), Louis Gross

Birthday greetings in February:

Pola Better (2nd), Lotti Philipps (4th), Henry Wynne (4th), Rene Super (8th), Ari Offenberger (14th), David Morris (18th), Alan Wainrit (19th), Rabbi Philip Heilbrunn OAM (20th), Frances Lowe (20th), Tania Nahum (21st), Jack Bloustein (21st), Sylvia Freeman (23rd), Harold Luntz (25th), Dorothy New (28th), Ruth Waisberg

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.



MELBOURNE LODGE BAGEL BRUNCHES



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

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 FELLOWSHIP CONCERT

Featuring
World Class Vocalist and Entertainer
Rachael Grace

Venue:

Glen Eira McKinnon Bowling Club
Tyrone St, Ormond

Time:

2:30pm

Cost:

\$10 entry includes afternoon tea & a raffle ticket



MONDAY 17 MARCH

BOOKINGS: Deidre 0408 121 213



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**B'nai
B'rith**

COURAGE TO CARE UPDATE

Annual Volunteer End of Year Celebration



We finished 2024 in style with close to 80 volunteers gathering to celebrate another successful year. We enjoyed a convivial afternoon with delicious food in lovely company. A roaming photo booth offered a delightful opportunity to capture memories of the afternoon. It was a perfect way to thank our volunteers for their unflagging commitment and hard work during the past year.

Congratulations to Henry Ekert AM, Heidi Hayden and Kay Ronec, who were each honoured with the 2024 Anthony Weldon Meritorious Service Award for their immeasurable contribution to Courage to Care over many years and in many roles.

Looking ahead to 2025

Our plan is to reach over 21,000 Victorian students in 2025. This is the most ever and requires enormous support from everybody, especially our amazing volunteers.

Demand for our Middle Years Program (Grade 5 to Year 7) is enormous and will be a focus.



FEBRUARY 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27 Jan	28	29	30	31	1 Feb	2 Ramblers walk 11:00am GRUing together 4:00pm Movie Club
3 7:30pm ML Programming meeting	4	5 3:00pm ML Executive meeting	6	7 Ramblers weekend	8 Ramblers weekend	9 Ramblers weekend
10	11 10:00am Armchair Society	12 7:00pm ML Regular Meeting	13 Akiba Midweek Matters	14	15	16 7:30pm Akiba Regular Meeting
17	18	19 Ramblers walk	20 7:00pm GRU Dinner at Souper	21	22	23 Akiba Musical Soiree Ramblers walk 8:00pm Hatikvah Regular meeting
24	25 10:00am Armchair Society	26	27	28 GRU & Akiba Geelong Weekend	1 Mar	2



B'nai
B'rith



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

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/ORATION25

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

Compiled and edited by B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc.

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