



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Message from the President: Reflections on 2025



I am writing this editorial in November 2025 although the current edition of Preview will cover three months over the summer period. Can I write something that deals with current issues but will also be relevant early next year? Please let me know!

Obviously, the main issues at present relate to the changes in office staff which is more extensive than I had originally anticipated. I am hoping that by February, this hiccup in B'nai

B'rith Victoria's evolution will have been resolved. The underlying strength of B'nai B'rith, with volunteers supporting a wide range of unit activities as well as BBVic-wide ones, will ensure that we get through this temporary challenge with flying colours.

I know that unit programs remain as packed as ever. I also know that volunteering remains strong, as the award winners at the 2025 Annual General Meeting and Menorah evening demonstrates. And these were only the named ones; I recognise how so many of you are contributing and helping to keep us going. I am not worried.

At this time of the year, it is also a time for reflection. I therefore wish to acknowledge the enormous contributions that Ellana, Joey and Chana have made to modernising our organisation, improving our profile and professionalism, and establishing systems that will stand the test of time. I will always remain grateful for what they have done.

I am also thankful for the support and assistance provided by the BBVic Executive and the VBBC, especially the presidents. While I risk getting into trouble singling out any one person, I would like to confess my gratitude to my Vice President and soon my successor, Professor Andrew Markus AO, who has given much wise counsel, especially in recent times.

There are two other matters that I reflect on as 2025 comes to an end and we see in a new year. The first concerns Israel which has come through a very difficult time and whose current problems, while better than war itself, nevertheless remain challenging. We can celebrate the military achievements but the trauma remains and the political complexity is still unresolved.

The other matter involves my pride in the Jewish community in Melbourne. By and large, it has stood with Israel when Israel has been subjected to the greatest verbal assault in its history, including by many in the West. Our community also received some of this opprobrium as did fellow Jews around the world. However, it has given me much reassurance that in these times, our religious, cultural and educational offerings have never been more plentiful or better attended. We, as individuals, and B'nai B'rith as an organisation, are indeed lucky to be a part of this community.

I look forward to even better times in 2026. My best wishes to you all.

Peter Schattner, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

B'nai B'rith Melbourne Lodge

BAGEL BRUNCH

Sunday 7 December
11:00am

A chance to meet new friends
in a friendly atmosphere

You will be advised who your hostess is in due time.

Register your interest to participate
to Alex Starr
aljan@bigpond.net.au
0419 354 084



B'nai B'rith is pleased to invite all members & friends
to our annual End of Year event

Engage & ENJOY

Fabulous Entertainment with award winning
performer *Galit Klas*

Sumptuous Lunch / \$50 per person

Sunday 14 December 1:00pm

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/ENJOY25

9523 0888
www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY - SUNDAY 18 JANUARY**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

18 January 2026 is of significance as it is believed to be the 83rd 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".

11.00am

Sunday 18 January 2026

St Kilda Town Hall, Council Chamber, 1st Floor,
Cnr Brighton Road and Carlisle Street, St Kilda
(Entry via Heritage entrance).

Keynote Speaker: Erica Frydenberg AM PhD HONFAPS
Topic: "Gratitude and Remembering"

Light refreshments will be served (Kosher catering).



Tickets are free; however **bookings are essential.**

Please scan the QR Code or visit

<https://www.trybooking.com/DHHUR>

to book your ticket.

If no internet access, please contact (03) 9209 6705.

RSVP final date: Thursday 15 January 2026

JAZZ FUNDRAISER

On a very gloomy rainy Melbourne day on 16 November, the Jazz afternoon at the Caulfield Shule Hall provided a ray of sunshine and uplifted our spirit.

We had the pleasure to enjoy the Starr Brothers Simon and Adam on the double base and guitar, together with young Zohar Starr who had just returned from a long stay in Israel and enchanted the audience with her lovely voice.

Jazz would not be jazz without a saxophonist and Josh Moshe proved that he could count among the best.

The Starrs had reserved a surprise for us; we welcomed a well-known singer from Israel Alon Lotringer who had just landed in Melbourne that very morning and who enchanted us with his beautiful voice.

It was jazz as we know it but also jazz with a twist of Klezmer. Smiles came to the faces while Simon left his instrument and started dancing to the rhythm of the music. Shtetl life had entered the hall!!

A beautiful afternoon tea provided by 'To Catch a Chef' allowed the guests to schmooze before listening to more music.

A great afternoon was enjoyed by all!





UPCOMING EVENTS

B'nai B'rith is
co-sponsoring
the Tuesday
16 December
event

בס"ד



PILLARS OF LIGHT

PILLARS OF LIGHT CHANUKAH FESTIVAL 2025

GET READY FOR ANOTHER MAGICAL YEAR AT FEDERATION SQUARE, AS THE PILLARS OF LIGHT CHANUKAH FESTIVAL 2025 RETURNS, BIGGER, AND MORE INSPIRING THAN EVER!

FROM **SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER** TO **SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER**, JOIN US FOR SEVEN INCREDIBLE NIGHTS (WE ARE TAKING SHABBAT OFF!) OF MUSIC, COMMUNITY, AND CELEBRATION. EACH EVENING FEATURES A DYNAMIC LINE-UP OF LIVE PERFORMERS, INSPIRING SPEAKERS, AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIGHTING OF THE MENORAH.

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

ENJOY PERFORMANCES BY **DEBORAH CONWAY, STARR BROTHERS, LAZR BEES, FIFTH OF NISAN, DREW HOWELL, HA'LEV CHOIR, JOSHUA BATTEN, THE ST KILDA SHUL AND EAST MELBOURNE SHUL CHOIRS, PLUS CANTORS BRETT KAYE AND DOV FARKAS AND MUCH MORE!**

WHERE & WHEN

PILLARS OF LIGHT COMES TO LIFE EACH NIGHT AT THE MAIN STAGE, FED SQUARE

**SUN 14 DEC: 5PM – 8PM / MON 15 DEC: 7PM – 9:30PM / TUE 16 DEC: 7PM – 9:30PM
WED 17 DEC: 7PM – 9:30PM / THU 18 DEC: 7PM – 9:30PM / FRI 19 DEC: 4PM – 6:30PM
SUN 21 DEC: 5PM – 8PM**

COME TOGETHER FOR MUSIC, JOY AND THE GLOW OF THE MENORAH, A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT, HOPE, AND UNITY AT MELBOURNE'S ICONIC FED SQUARE. AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS



JACK & ROBERT
SMORGON FAMILIES
FOUNDATION



GREG ROSSHANDLER & FAMILY



FELLOWSHIP CONCERT

B'nai B'rith Fellowship held their Mitzvah Day concert at the Glen Eira McKinnon Bowls Club on Monday. Approximately 90 people enjoyed a wonderful concert and afternoon tea. Acclaimed pianist/composer and singer, Warren Wills, delighted the audience with his fabulous performance. A delightful end of year lunch was held on Tuesday 18 November for all the wonderful Fellowship volunteers.



UPCOMING EVENTS

B'NAI B'RITH FELLOWSHIP CONCERT

Starring the fabulous

ABBA GIRLS

Venue: Glen Eira McKinnon Bowling Club
Tyrone St, Ormond

Time: 2:30pm

Cost: \$15 entry includes afternoon tea & a raffle ticket



MONDAY 2 MARCH

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Deidre 0408 121 213



Proudly supported by

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B'nai
B'rith

B'nai B'rith Melbourne Lodge
invites you and your friends to experience Italy at

Giardano Pizzeria

**Tuesday 17 February
6:30pm**

550 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick

RSVP to Dorothy New 0414 540 329



Giardano
Pizza & Pasta

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 December:

Sunday 21 11:00am - "GRUing together" Catch up and shmooze with your friends. Chanukah party! Stephen Schmideg will demonstrate something delicious. Please bring a plate to share for lunch. For more information about GRU-ing events, contact Eleanor.

What's on in January:

Sunday 26 12:00pm - **Australia Day Picnic** at the Hedgley Dean Gardens, Malvern East (near the lake). Contact Eleanor
See flyer on page 13.

Coming up in February:

Sunday 15 11:00am - "GRUing together" Catch up and shmooze with your friends. Guest Speaker Ron Donath. He will share his interesting story as a prison chaplain with us. Email to follow with more details.
For more information about GRU-ing events, contact Eleanor

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

Abe Lester (4th), Sue Moskowitz (5th), Jeff Kestenberg (16th), Jeffery Morris (16th), Helen Heimann (21st), Laurie Bar-Ness (24th), Leon Mattatia (25th)

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

Evelyn Flitman (6th), Miriam Feldheim (10th), Barry Ziegler (11th), Henry Nissen, Leon Nissen (15th), Susan Meisner (21st), Monica Peterson (24th), Val Varga (29th)

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

Tom Zafir (1st), Mark Silver (5th), Peter Zeeng (6th), Vera West (18th), Karin Zafir (19th), Kathy Kaplan OAM (21st), Claudine Berman (28th)

Refuah Shleima: Margot Sims

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

Presidents: Denise Le Bransky & Henry Winfield

Secretary: Annette Gladwin

Preview: Kath Kolb

What's on in December:

- Saturday 13** 6:00pm - **Movie night** at Palace Church St or Bay St. Pick your own movie starting at 6.00pm and meet for supper after at Dendy Deli.
Book with Fay
- Tuesday 16** B'nai B'rith Pillars of Chanukah Light Night at Federation Square. See flyer on page 6.
- Wednesday 31** New Years Eve TBA. We are working on details for Memo Hall or dinner.
Details to follow.

Coming up in January:

- Thursday 22** **Midweek Matters.** Lunch at Fairfield Boathouse. RSVP Rosa

Coming up in February:

- Sunday 15** **Evening Soiree.** Details to come.
- Friday 27** **Weekend away in Daylesford with Gesher Rabin unit.** Book your hotel and let Henry Winfield know that you are coming so that we have numbers for other activities.
February -
Sunday 1 March

Happy Birthday to the following members celebrating their birthdays in December:

Mark Rubinstein (3), Hillary Malkinson (7), John Tescher (11), Esther Goldschlager (13), Denise Monheit (20), Suzanne Goldin (22), Barbara Lewis (23), Annette Gladwin (29).

January Birthdays: Miriam Pollack (1), Helen Fisher (4), Aaron Blicblau (8), Lynne Sput (10), Jenny Blakeley (12), Sue Winfield (18), Evi Morowitz (20), Rita Phillips (22).

February Birthdays: Stephen Lucas (6), Mark Haskin (7), Peter Schattner (9), Sabina Zmood (9), Herman Klein (16), Henry Winfield (17), Esther Lewin (20).

Mazel Tov:

Henry and Annette Gladwin on the Bar Mitzvah of their Grandson Harrison, son of Josh and Ros.
Karen and Richard Neumann on the birth of a granddaughter.

We wish a Refuah Shleima to Barbara Lewis and any members of Unit Akiba who may be unwell at the present time. We hope to see you joining us again very soon!

MELBOURNE LODGE NO 1547

Incorporating Raoul Wallenberg Unit & Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge

President: Danielle Schilling

Preview: Dr John Kohn

What's on in December:

Sunday 7 11:00am - **Bagel Brunch**. Contact Alex to register your interest.

Coming up in January:

Tuesday 27 Picnic in Landcox Park

Coming up in February:

Tuesday 3 7:30pm - **Programming meeting at Danielle Schilling's home**

Wednesday 11 7:30pm - **Regular meeting**

Tuesday 17 **Kulture Klub** - Dinner at Giardino on Glenhuntly Rd

Past Events:

Installation: Held at Beth Weizmann which allowed for a very smooth setting up and organising. A very happy audience enjoyed afternoon tea listening to Sarah Odell, a very talented Blues and Jazz singer. More than \$1,000 was raised to fund some of our projects in Israel.

Geelong Art Gallery Visit: A small group travelled by train to Geelong to see the Archibald at the Art Gallery and later enjoyed a nice lunch at a local Greek Restaurant.

Jazz Fundraiser: A large crowd of over 90 members and friends enjoyed an entertaining concert of amazing Jazz with a Jewish twist provided by Adam and Simon Starr, Josh Moshe and vocalists Zohar Starr and special Guest Artist from Israel Alon Lotringer. A delicious Kosher afternoon tea of sandwiches, sweets and fruit more than satisfied our gastronomic needs.

Guest Speaker at Regular meeting: Morry Frenkel who conducts interviews with international experts, federal, state and local politicians and community leaders on the L'Chaim program on 3ZZZ, 92.3 FM weekly.

Birthday Greetings for December:

Hilary Friedland (5), Danielle Schilling (8), Gilah Leder (16), Rosalyn Goldberg (16), Paul Gardner (21), Michele Huppert (21), Sandra Nathani (23), Miriam Faraday (23), Yvonne Elton (26), Jacqui D Corry (28)

Birthday Greetings for January:

Jack Klarinet (1), Judy Lewis (4), Garry Fabian (11), Anita Librach (13), Jack Leder (17), Norman Super (18), Rena Lopata (19), Evelyn Fabian (21), Ian Joseph (28), George Deutsch (31)

Birthday Greetings for February:

Pola Better (2), Henry Wynne (4), Lotti Phillips (4), Renee Super (8), Arie Offenberger (14), David Morris (18), Alan Wainrit (19), Francis Lowe (20), Rabbi Philip Heilbrunn (20), Tania Nahum (21), Sylvia Freeman (23), Dorothy New (28), Ruth Waisberg.

We welcome our new members to our unit!

Ros Shlagman - presented by Paul and Helen Gardner,

Cynthia Pollack OAM - presented by Jacqui Dinor Corry, and

Margot Rogers - who is returning to BB after some years of absence.

Welfare of Members:

We wish Alan Wainrit a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to:

- Freida and Jeffrey Shapiro and Judy Braun who had twin great granddaughters.
- Renee Schwartz whose grandson Joel is celebrating his Barmitzvah on 22 November.



Guest Speaker Morry Frenkel with Janet Machliss Kohn

HATIKVAH UNIT

President: Claude Fromm

Vice-President: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg

What's on in December:

Sunday 7

Farewell to 2025

Lunch at Beardsley's nursery and café at 195 Heidelberg - Warrandyte Rd.
Please book with Yvonne

Coming up in January:

Sunday 25

12:30pm - **Lunch** to share at Leo Baeck Centre, Harp Rd, East Kew
Please bring a small plate to share (no nuts).

Coming up in February:

Sunday 22

8:00pm - **Regular meeting** at Leo Baeck Centre. Speaker to be confirmed.

The following members will celebrate their birthdays in the coming months:

December:

Hymie Zawatzky (5), Yvonne Neiger (7), Henry Brzezinski (11), Ken Hamer (12), Judith Steinberg (18), Gerry Hamer (20), Celine Woolfson (23).

January:

Cynthia Benporath, Joan Zawatzky (14), Julian Woolfson (18), Rita Phillips (22).

February:

Ruth Taft (8).

We wish them all a year of peace, health and happiness!

2025 B'NAI B'RITH VICTORIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Monday 24 November 2025, the Annual General Meeting was held, heralding in a new era for the organisation.

The opportunity was taken to thank and farewell staff members Ellana and Chana who are both finishing their time at BBV at the end of November. With no election required as there was only 1 nomination for each position, the incoming President Andrew Markus AO will resume this role in 6 months' time, pursuant to the resolution which was passed unanimously. Stephen Moskowitz and Devorah Zmood will continue their respective roles of Treasurer and Secretary, and a Vice President will be co-opted when Andrew becomes President in May 2026.

The opportunity was also taken to acknowledge and thank 4 wonderful members and contributors to B'nai B'rith Units:

Gesher Rabin Unit - Eleanor Aghion

Unit Akiba - Denise Monheit

Hatikvah Unit - Paula Messer

Melbourne Lodge - Robyn Goldman

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:

- Sunday 7** *Morning* - Saul will lead a walk in the Mt Evelyn area around Lilydale Lake, Mt Evelyn Aquaduct trail and Warburton trail.
- Wednesday 10** An easy midweek walk along Mullum Mullum Creek in Ringwood will be led by Sydney,
- Sunday 14** *Morning* - Walk leaders' meeting.
- Sunday 21** *Morning* - Boris will lead a difficult walk in Mt Leonard, from Dom Dom Saddle.

Coming up in January:

- Sunday 4** *Morning* - Evelyn will lead a medium walk, the Andrew Hill Circuit, in Kinglake National Park.
- Wednesday 14** *Morning* - An easy walk in Coburg/Fitzroy along Merri Creek will be led by Rodney.
- Sunday 18** *Morning* - Malcolm will lead a hard walk in Marysville, to Kepler lookout.
- Wednesday 28** *Morning* - Sydney will lead a walk along the eastern leg of the Mullum Mullum Creek.

Coming up in February:

There will be 2 other walks in February with venues not yet confirmed.

A medium walk led by Harvey on Sunday 1 February.

A hard walk led by Josh on Sunday 22 February.

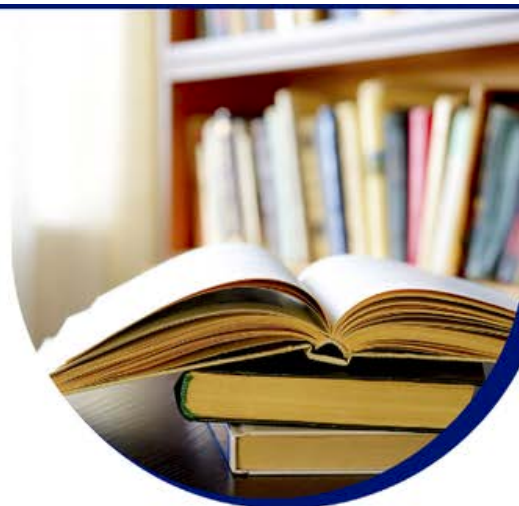
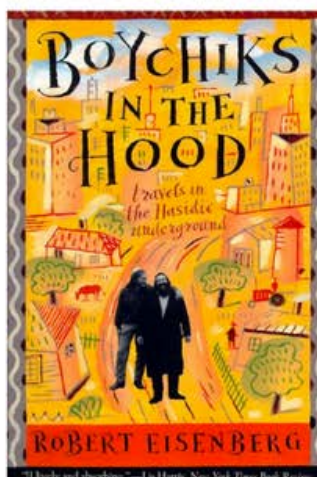
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Featuring "Boychiks in the Hood: Travels in the Hasidic Underground" by Robert Eisenberg

The discussion will be led by Myer Bloom.

Armed with the Yiddish his grandmother gave him Robert Eisenberg, a modern American Jew with distant Hasidic roots, sets off to investigate Hasidic communities in the US, UK, Europe and finally Israel. He explores the religious experience and traditions amongst a cast of intense, opinionated and irreverent individuals. And they really are characters. In fact, each chapter is a vignette in its own right; a snapshot of each community that resembles a scene from a movie. This book is a respectful yet revealing and informative exposé of the little understood – and often misunderstood – Hasidic world, told with humour and wit.



THURSDAY 22 JANUARY, 8:00 - 9:30pm
EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/2025JEWISHBOOKCLUB

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



B'NAI B'RITH UNIT **GESHER-RABIN**

Australia Day Picnic

Come shmooze, fress and make new friends in beautiful surrounds

Feel free to bring your friends along

MONDAY 26 JANUARY, 12.00PM

Bring picnic chairs & tables, picnic rugs, food & drinks, hats, sunscreen & Aerogard

Hedgely Dene Gardens
Tollington Avenue, Malvern East (meet near the lake)

CONTACT US:

Eleanor 0423 808 660 / ezaprudsky@gmail.com



MENORAH AWARDS

The 2025 B'nai B'rith Menorah Awards Presentation Ceremony on Sunday 25 November gathered over 200 community members to celebrate volunteerism, resilience and Jewish values in action.

This year's honourees reflected remarkable service:

- **Talia Boltin**, for her creative, inclusive leadership of the Emunah Purim Spiel supporting vulnerable families in Israel.
- **Fairlie Nassau**, for her quiet, unwavering support of refugee families and community organisations.
- **Evelyn Flitman**, for decades of energetic service across countless communal causes.
- **Dassi Erlich, Elly Sapper and Nicole Meyer**, for transforming personal trauma into a courageous, world-shaping campaign for justice and survivor empowerment.

Each spoke with humility, with Dassi, Elly and Nicole noting that the award signified deep communal solidarity with survivors of abuse. Guest speaker Kathy Kaplan OAM shared her family story, highlighting the transformative power of volunteering.

Held on Mitzvah Day, the event affirmed a timeless truth: small acts and steadfast dedication can light even the darkest moments.







COURAGE TO CARE UPDATE

EVEN MORE SCHOOLS IN 2026!

We are planning to reach over 23,000 students in 2026 with our Upstander education programs all over Victoria. That's over 200 schools! This is an ambitious target and we couldn't do it without the support of the community and our amazing volunteers. Most days our volunteers go to schools on the bus kindly donated by Community Bank Caulfield Park. Here we are off to Nar Nar Goon Primary School in Gippsland.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD

On Tuesday evening 21 October we held our 2025 Annual General Meeting. Thank you to all volunteers who attended to hear a wonderful organisational update and to meet our Committee of Management. All current members have stayed on plus Gary Hearst has been on our Audit & Risk Subcommittee and has joined the Committee of Management.



*Sam Rotberg, Lani Brayer, Harry Better OAM, Kay Ronec, Gary Hearst, Simone Marcus, David Klein, Kerry Lowe
Seated. Susan Hearst, Sabi Chakman (Chair), Vicki Lustig.*

CEO Mike Zervos OAM



**B'nai
B'rith**



HUMAN RIGHTS ORATION



WITH

**COLONEL
MICHAEL SCOTT CSC**

*Career Australian Army Officer
Founder & CEO of the 2023 Foundation,
a global charity combatting antisemitism*

Recipient of the 2026 Human Rights Award

ISRAEL AND THE DEFENSE OF WESTERN CIVILISATION

SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 7:30PM

HAPPY CHANUKAH!

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



Wishing you a happy and healthy
SUMMER

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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