



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Message from the President... on antisemitism and the Royal Commission

The Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion has made a call for people and organisations to make submissions. The Commission does not want to receive political analysis or recommendations. What it is interested in are stories of the 'lived experiences' of people who have faced antisemitic incidents.

I think the B'nai B'rith community would be more effective if we made a single submission. I am happy to try to collate these and then send these within a framework that we can provide. I therefore ask all of our members and friends to send your 'story' so that I can put these all together. Please email them to me at president@bbvic.org.au. Obviously, they will need to be brief: the shorter the submission, the more likely it is to be read.

The Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV) has provided very good guidelines on what the Commission wants and how you can make a submission (see: jccv.org.au/royal-commission). In this case, rather than submitting as an individual, we are asking you to contribute to a consolidated B'nai B'rith Victoria one.

Will the Commission be effective in creating recommendations that will successfully keep our community safe? Time will tell what this Commission will achieve, and I do not want to add to the feeling of scepticism that I have detected as I discuss this with people. So, don't labour over this excessively, but if you have anything to report (and check the criteria in the guidelines), then please do so rapidly. I suggest you email me by Monday 13 April; write no more than one page and send an email with 'Royal Commission submission' in the subject line.

What might be a better approach to fighting antisemitism? I have been very impressed by the movement started by Adam Louis-Klein who is a writer, anthropologist, and musician, currently completing a PhD in Anthropology at McGill University. He has established the Movement Against Antizionism (MAAZ). He explains that Israel-hatred is based on three core libels: "colonizer," "apartheid," and "genocide". This is a deranged ideology which should not be confused with anti-Zionism, which is a more respectable political stance taken by Reform Jews in the 19th and early 20th century or some Haredi groups today such as the Satmar Hasidim. Both of these movements based their anti-Zionism on their religious beliefs.

Antizionism is a hate movement that singles out Israel for demonisation and delegitimization. See the MAAZ website for further information (movementagainstantizionism.org). Louis-Klein says that antizionism cannot be neutralised by rational argument alone; it should become a term of shame, much as antisemitism is.

Will the Royal Commission deal with antizionism?

I doubt it but let us make the best of whatever opportunity we have. I hope to hear from you soon.

My best wishes for Pesach.



Peter Schattner
President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S DESK

Written on Tuesday 24th March

As Pesach approaches, the direction that the war with Iran is taking seems less clear than ever.

Today was supposed to be THE DAY – when the US would start destroying Iran's power grids.

Instead, we have woken up to declarations by Donald Trump that a deal with Iran to end the war is close; Israel will be happy; and strikes on Iran's energy sites have been postponed.

What the actual situation will be when Pesach commences eight days from now, is anybody's guess. And any guess out of the hundreds or thousands of possible permutations could be correct.

Our fervent prayers should focus on a Middle East which is freed from the spectre of ongoing war; that Israel and all its citizens and residents should be blessed with calm, safety, and the ability to live peaceful, harmonious and productive lives; that families should be spared further trauma and angst; and that Jews in the Diaspora will no longer have to deal with the relentless antisemitism that plagues our societies and our lives.

Yes, all of the above currently seems distant and unachievable, and our hopes for a better world seem naive. But we have been in this situation multiple times before, from Egypt to Masada, Spain to the Holocaust, 1948 – 2026, and everything in-between.

We have survived, we have rebuilt, we have thrived and flourished.

Israel – Iran 2026.

This too shall pass.

And we shall continue to do what we do best:

Live, love, laugh, learn, create, give and build.

Let us continue to express gratitude for the miracles and blessings, large and small, that are bestowed upon us each day.

May all of us be blessed with good health, safety, peace, calm, and freedom.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Chag Pesach Sameach.

Robbie

Robbie Franco

Executive Officer - B'nai B'rith Victoria



UPCOMING EVENTS

B'NAI B'RITH ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

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

Fortnightly Series | Guest Speakers | Lively Discussion

TUESDAYS, 10:00am - 12:00pm

SERIES 2, 2026

29 APRIL	GREG SHERIDAN AO
12 MAY	JOE SIRACUSA
26 MAY	JENNY LEE & ZARA COOPER
9 JUNE	MIKE KELLY AM
23 JUNE	JOSHUA DABELSTEIN

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS26



\$10 per session

Venue advised on booking

Sessions recorded by J-Air



9523 0888

www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



**B'nai
B'rith**

B'nai
B'rith

Join us and have fun at the

B'NAI B'RITH SUPER GAMES AFTERNOON**THURSDAY 16 APRIL, 1:00 PM**Convention Room in Beth Weizmann
(next door to the B'nai B'rith office)**GAMES OFFERED:**

Bridge
(cards + pads supplied)
Mahjong for beginners
Mahjong for experienced players
(bring your own tiles & board)
Scrabble
(sets supplied)
Rummy
(bring your own tiles)

Entry: \$10

Afternoon tea provided
All welcome!

Bookings: Danielle Schilling
0408 128 639

danielle@the-schillings.com

**B'NAI B'RITH MELBOURNE LODGE**

invites you to

An Exceptional BUS TOUR
to CRANBOURNE BOTANICAL GARDENS,
McCLELLAND SCULPTURE GARDENS AND
MORNINGTON

**WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL**

8:45am: Bus departure from entrance to Caulfield Park Pavilion, Balaclava Rd
10.30am: Visit of the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens with a conducted bus tour in groups of 20
12:30pm: Visit McClelland Sculpture Gardens
1.30pm: Lunch in Mornington; visit to weekly art, craft and general street stores
3.30pm: Departure for Melbourne

Cost: \$70 including all entrance fees

Bookings Essential: <https://events.humanitix.com/bus-tour-april-29>

Enquiries: Jacqui Dinor-Corry 0412 440 501 | ddinor@yahoo.com

Very limited seats available - so book now!

B'nai
B'rith

UPCOMING EVENTS

ISRAEL'S WARS AND CONFLICTS: 1948-2025

THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE (1948 - 1949)
THE SIX DAY WAR (JUNE 1967) & THE YOM KIPPUR WAR (OCT 1973)
THE LEBANON WARS (1982 - 2000, 2006)
THE GAZAN WARS (2008 - 2025)

4 - WEEK LJLA LEARNING SERIES

WITH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR PETER SCHATTNER



David Ben-Gurion with Yigal Allon and Yitzhak Rabin in the Negev, during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. (Wikimedia)

 THURSDAYS | STARTING 16 APRIL 2026

 11:30AM - 1:00PM



 ZIONISM VICTORIA
JEWISH COUNCIL OF VICTORIA



Let's get crafty!

Join B'nai B'rith's Art and Craft Workshop

No experience necessary – come along and have fun!

First Tuesday of each month

1.00pm - to 3.00pm

B'nai B'rith office

Bookings are essential by the Wednesday prior -

Jacqui on 0412 440 501 or ddinor@yahoo.com

\$10 per session to cover costs





SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN!



B'NAI B'RITH



31ST JEWISH YOUTH ART COMPETITION

CALLING ALL ARTISTS IN YEARS 6-12

Let your creativity shine and share your unique artistic voice in one of Victoria's most respected Jewish youth art competitions.

Register Now

AMAZING PRIZES

Registrations Close: 16 May 2026

9523 0888 | artcomp@bbvic.org.au | www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



B'NAI B'RITH BERNARD J. LUSTIG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

- TRAVEL GRANTS for outstanding university students with demonstrated leadership capabilities
- RESEARCH GRANTS for students pursuing a thesis at masters or doctoral level

Guidelines & Application Form

\$3000 SCHOLARSHIP!

**APPLICATIONS NOW
OPEN FOR 2026!**



9523 0888 | www.bnaibrith.org.au
lustigscholarship@bbvic.org.au

ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

March 3 - guest speaker Hon. Michael Danby



March 17 - guest speaker James Macpherson



B'NAI B'RITH FELLOWSHIP CONCERT

Featuring the Fabulous
FRANKIE BRENT

Venue:

Glen Eira McKinnon
Bowling Club
Tyrone St, Ormond

Time:

2:30 - 3:45pm

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

MONDAY 4 MAY 2026

CONTACT: Deidre 0408 121 213 or 9523 0888 / www.bnaibrith.org.au



THE SHEEP DETECTIVES

George Hardy is a shepherd who loves to read murder mysteries to his sheep, never suspecting that they can understand him. When George is found dead under mysterious circumstances, the sheep decide to solve the crime themselves, even if it means leaving their meadow for the first time and facing the fact that the human world isn't as simple as it appears in books.

BOOKINGS:

Contact: Janet on 0409 334 576

<https://events.humanitix.com/film-premiere-the-sheep-detectives>

B'NAI B'RITH PREMIERE SCREENING OF

THE SHEEP DETECTIVES

ADULT COMEDY/MURDER MYSTERY FILM

Starring Hugh Jackman and Emma Thompson
and a flock of clever funny sheep

THURSDAY, 7 MAY

5.30PM FOR 6.00PM START

\$25

CLASSIC CINEMAS, ELSTERNWICK

PROCEEDS GO TO THE ISRAEL COMMISSION,
BE'ER SHEVA SOUP KITCHEN



9523 0888 | admin@bbvic.org.au | www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria

FELLOWSHIP CONCERT

B'nai B'rith Fellowship's March concert starring The Abba Girls was a resounding success. Approximately 100 attended. They clapped, sang & danced along to all the well known numbers.



OUT & ABOUT - IN ONE VOICE

B'nai B'rith hosted a stall at the annual In One Voice Festival last month, enjoying a bright, cheerful day while welcoming many new faces. A big thank you to our fantastic volunteers!



MELBOURNE LODGE NO 1547

(Incorporating Raoul Wallenberg Unit and Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge)

President: Danielle Schilling

Vice-President: Maxine Klarnet

Preview: Dr John Kohn

What's on in April:

Monday 13 7:30pm - **Programming meeting** at Robyn Goldman

Tuesday 14 1-3pm - **Art and Craft Workshop.**
Will continue second Tuesday of each month
Booking via Jacqui - all details on flyer.

Wednesday 15 7:30pm - **Regular meeting** at BW Auditorium
Guest speaker: Professor Julian Rood -Microbiologist
Topic: "How not to poison your family and friends"

Monday 20 **Book Club** at Doris Klein's home, featuring "Island of Missing Trees" by Elif Shafak

Thursday 23 3.00pm - **Executive Meeting** at BW 3

Wednesday 29 **Day trip to Cranbourne Botanical Gardens by bus**
This is a return trip from Caulfield Park - \$70 per person.
Visiting McClelland Sculpture Gardens and stopping in Mornington for lunch.
See booking details in flyer.

Coming up in May:

Tuesday 5 7:30pm - **Programming meeting** - venue TBC

Thursday 7 5.30pm - **Film Screening at the Classic-** "The Sheep Detectives "
A highly entertaining film based on a world-wide popular novel, starring Hugh Jackman and Emma Thompson
This will be a **fundraiser for I.C. project in Israel** (Be'er Sheva Soup Kitchen).
Book now on Humanitix or call Janet.

Thursday 13 7:30pm - **Regular meeting** at BW Auditorium
Guest speaker: Devorah Zmood
Topic: "How not to poison your family and friends"

Sunday 24 6.00 pm - "**Beau Jest** " - A night of laughter at the theatre. Saltpillar Production.
\$35 per person. Phoenix Theatre Glen Huntley Rd, Elwood. Book via Humanitix.Details on flyer.

April Birthday Greetings:

Ruth Figdor (7), Misha Nathani (8), Pearl Stock (8), Miriam Suss (12), Gerry Pearce (21), Renate Valentine (21), Sandra Farber (22), Morris Tobias (23), Edith Unger (24), Margaret Masur (26), Joan Black (29)

May Birthday Greetings:

John Kohn (3), Naomi Alberts (4), Robyn Goldman (6), Janet Machliss Kohn (9), Judi Schiff (15), Marilyn Mandie (16), Beryl Sandler (16), Shirley Freedman (17), Ann Cebon-Glass (22), Pnina Heilbrunn (30), Rena Komesaroff (31), Diane Orner

New Members: We welcome Claire Casan, Claudine Faiman, Ros Shlagman, Peter & Shirley Urban, Helen Shardey OAM, Margot Rogers, Anita Hockley, Brian & Barbara Arenson, Marylin Parkin, Cynthia Pollak OAM

Condolences: We offer our heartfelt condolences on the passing of our dear friend and member Pola Better.

GESHER-RABIN UNIT

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Eleanor Aghion

Secretary: Sue Moskowitz

Preview: Karin Zafir

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

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

What's on in April:

Sunday 19 11am - "GRUing Together at Etz Chayim

Our guest of honour will be Robbie Franco, B'nai Brith Victoria's new CEO. It will be good to meet Robbie and to hear what plans B'nai Brith has for the future and how we are going to get there.

We will also have our own Barry Ziegler talking about his current experiences in Israel on a JNF tour. He will tell you why he wants to go straight back!!

Catch up and shmooze with your friends. Please bring a plate to share for lunch.

Coming up in May:

Sunday 17 11am - "GRUing Together

Peter Schmideg - Making choices in life.

We have a truly remarkable guest, Peter Schmideg—a man who has mastered not one, but two incredibly successful careers, from advertising to management consulting, and now, a well-earned retirement filled with wisdom and storytelling.

Monday 18 **Visit to Government House and La Trobe's Cottage, in the Alexander Gardens**
RARE OPPORTUNITY -

Discover two significant landmarks in one experience with this combined tour.

Delve into Melbourne's rich political and architectural heritage as you explore the grand State Rooms of Government House and visit the modest home of Victoria's first Lieutenant-Governor, Charles Joseph La Trobe.

\$18per Adult, \$13 concession.

Please let Eleanor know if you are coming, as it is very close to the date.

Mazal Tov to the following members who celebrate their upcoming birthdays:

April:

Dr Margot Sims-Cohen (3), Jack Bar Ness (4), Helen Koenig (14), Esther Kahn (15), Louis Koper (18), Ruth Kestenberg (19), Sylvia Barson (22)

May:

Nick Koenig (11), Sally Gleitman (19), Ben Beckerman (22), Barbara Gelfand (23)

- 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

Co- Presidents: Henry Winfield and

Denise Le Bransky

Secretary: Annette Gladwin

Preview: Kathy Kolb

What's on in April:

Wednesday 15 Mid-week Matters. Visit the new metro tunnel stations with Brian Luber. Meet at 10.00am at Caulfield station. We will have lunch along the way. Bookings with Brian.

Sunday 19 7:30pm - **Regular meeting** at Evi Morowitz. Speaker Dorit Jaffa, CEO of Hadassah Australia and Assoc. Prof. Joel Symons, senior anaesthetist. Joel volunteered at Hadassah Ein Kerem following Oct 7th. Enquires Suzanne

Coming up in May:

Sunday 3 Afternoon tea at the home of one of our members. A way to get to know each other in a small group context. You will be rung and invited to one of our host member's home.

Wednesday 6 Meet at Malvern Central for Coffee and to meet others for social chat

Saturday 16 CLOC theatre company "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" - Book your own tickets for the night. We will be organising dinner beforehand at a local restaurant. If you want to come for dinner, please let Denise Le Bransky.

Sunday 17 **Regular meeting** at Monheit's. Speaker, Morry Szainbok, "Israel's Reality" Morry was born in Melbourne, spent 15 years in Israel before returning. He co-hosted local radio program "The World and Us" about the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sunday 23 7.00pm - **Members Dinner** at Elsternwick Hotel. Please come and schmooze and relax with friends. Please contact Lillian if you can come.

Happy Birthday to the following members celebrating their birthdays:

April:

Pam Gelfand (5), Ruth Figdor (7), Philip Woolf (17), Fay Kayser (21), Vivien Freadman (26)
Vardit Sacks-Davis (27)

May:

Ron Sacks-Davis (1), Ron James (4), Serge Sztrajt (13), Nonna Berter (23), Adela Kohn (30), Myrna Brits (31).

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

HATIKVAH UNIT

Chair: Paula Messer

Treasurer: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg

What's on in April / May:

Sunday 26

Celebrating Anzac Day - walk and lunch at LBC
11:00am - drop off food to share (no nuts please)
11:30am - those walking will set off for an hour's gentle exercise
12:30am lunch

Sunday 29

8:00pm - **Regular Meeting** at Leo Baeck Centre.
Guest speaker: Paul Hamer, topic to be advised. Please bring a small plate to share for supper. Please bring a small plate to share for supper.

Sunday 3 May

9:30am - 11:30am - **Calico Dolls at the Hamer's home**. Please let Gerry know if you are coming.

Sunday 31 May

8:00pm - **Regular Meeting** at LBC
Guest speaker: Tom Beer on "1956 and All That-covering The Hungarian Revolution, Olympic Games and the Suez Crisis." Please bring a small plate to share for supper.

Wishing the following members a happy birthday:

April: Orly Dar (4), Michael Taft (23), Judy Winikoff (24), Eva Haimon (27) and Avi Dar (29)

May: Henryka Fromm (10), Paula Messer (18), Helen Messer (19)

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis

Secretary: Eitan Froumine

Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff

Treasurer: Irena Blonder

What's on in April:

Sunday 5

Morning - Julie will lead a medium walk in the Templestowe area.

Wednesday 15

Morning - An easy walk in the Beaumaris area looking at mid-century architecture, will be led by Vardit and Ron.

Fri to Sunday 24-26

Weekend - Both medium and hard walks will be led by various walk leaders in Lorne.
To register, please contact Irena

What's on in May:

Sunday 3

Morning - Sydney will lead a medium walk along the Main Yarra Trail from Heidelberg to Eltham.
For more information please contact him directly.

Wednesday 20

Morning - An easy midweek walk, led by Fairlie and Dennis Nassau. The location is not yet confirmed. For more information, please contact Fairlie.

Sunday 31

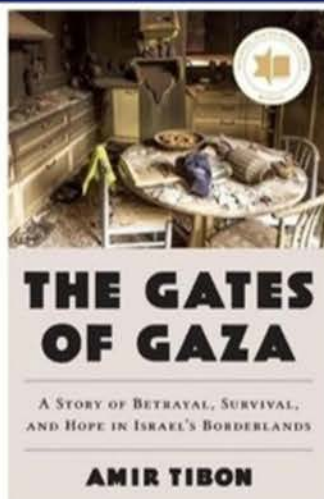
Saul will lead a hard walk in Woodlands Historical Park in the Tullamarine area.

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

Featuring "The Gates of Gaza" by Amir Tibon

The next session of the Jewish Non-Fiction Book Club will feature the book titled "The Gates of Gaza: a story of betrayal, survival, and hope in Israel's borderlands" by Israeli journalist Amir Tibon.

Amir Tibon's gripping account of his family's terrifying ordeal on October 7, 2023 and his father's heroic mission to rescue them is interwoven with the storied and bloodied history of their kibbutz and the systems of power that have kept the kibbutz's residents and their neighbours in Gaza in harm's way for decades.



THURSDAY 28 MAY, 8:00 - 9:30pm

[HTTPS://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/2026JEWISHBOOKCLUB](https://events.humanitix.com/2026JEWISHBOOKCLUB)

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



Join us for a night of laughter at the theatre...

Beau Jest is a charming, laugh-filled story about family, identity, and the sometimes-hilarious lengths we go to in order to please the people we love.

With its warmth, wit, and unmistakably Jewish humour, it's the perfect feel good production to lift spirits and bring people together.

Price: \$35 per person

Date: Sunday 24 May

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Phoenix Theatre, Glen Huntly Road, Elwood



Bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/salt-pillar>

9523 0888
www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria



COURAGE TO CARE UPDATE



SCHOOLS, SCHOOLS, SCHOOLS!

We thought that this month we would highlight what we do best, visit schools and educate against hate! Why not encourage your friends to consider volunteering with us so we can reach even more schools.



GENEROUS DONATION FROM FREEMASONS

Thanks to the support of John Rosenberg OAM, we once again received a \$5,000 donation from the Freemasons Middle Park Lodge. These funds will be put towards our school incursions in regional schools. Mike is pictured with (from left to right) Felix Pintado Worshipful Master, our wonderful volunteer Bev Rosenberg & her husband Freemason John Rosenberg OAM.

CEO Mike Zervos OAM



APRIL 2026

EVENT CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30 Mar	31	1 Apr	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 7:30pm ML Programming meeting (TBA)	14	15 7:30pm ML Regular meeting (BW) 8:30pm Hatikvah Activities Meeting	16 11:30am Israel's Wars & Conflicts - with Assoc Professor Peter 1:00pm Games Afternoon -all	17	18	19 10:30am GRU - Barry Zeigler 7:30pm AKIBA Regular meeting
20	21	22 8:30pm Hatikvah Exec Meeting	23 3:00pm ML EXECUTIVE meeting (BW)	24	25 ANZAC DAY - OFFICE CLOSED	26 Hatikvah Anzac Walk
27	28 10:00am Amchair Society Series 2	29 8:30am ML BUS TOUR	30	1 May	2	3

MAY 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27 Apr	28	29	30	1 May	2	3 10:00am Calico Dolls
4 2:00pm Fellowship Concert	5 GLEN EIRA COUNCIL GRANT AQUITAL DUE - HR ORATION - 5 7:30pm ML Programming	6	7 5:30pm ML Film Premiere fundraiser (Classic Cinemas @ Gordon St, Melbourne Victoria	8	9	10
11	12 10:00am Amchair Society Series 2	13 7:30pm ML Regular meeting (BW) 8:30pm Hatikvah Activities Meeting	14	15	16	17 10:30am GRU - Peter Schmidg 7:30pm AKIBA Regular meeting
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 6:00pm Beau Jest Comedy evening - with Saltpillar Theatre (Phoenix Theatre)
25	26 10:00am Amchair Society Series 2	27 8:30pm Hatikvah Exec Meeting	28 8:00pm Non-Fiction Book Club - The Gates of Gaza (Private home in Ormond)	29	30	31 8:30pm Hatikvah Regular Meeting

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.

Official Publication of B'nai B'rith Victoria Inc. 03 9523 0888 admin@bbvic.org.au www.bnaibrith.org.au/victoria

Vol. 79, April/May 2026. Approved by Australia Post P/P No. 100000993