



B'NAI B'RITH PREVIEW



Message from the President... on making choices about Jewish behaviour

There has been some discussion on whether the visit of President Isaac Herzog is good for Australian Jews or not so good. I attended the major community event for the President on Thursday, 12 February. There were of course the usual demonstrations but what was staggering was the number of police in attendance. Unfortunately, this could only help to reinforce our sense of vulnerability. Nevertheless, it was an important event, and I would like to explain what I believe is an important issue at stake.

It is apparent that most of the modern attacks against Jews in the diaspora are coming from the anti-Zionist alliance of Islamists and so-called 'progressives'. These attacks have heralded the new antisemitism. We face the choice of either stressing that we are simply Australians of the Jewish faith, or we can stand up for our identity which includes our connection with the nation-state of the Jewish people - Israel. We are being challenged to defend Zionism, and we should do so.

I attended the meeting with President Herzog on the basis of publicly proclaiming my commitment to Israel. While I was not officially representing B'nai B'rith on this occasion, as I had not sought endorsement to do so, it was entirely consistent with our values. B'nai B'rith supports Israel and promotes Zionism as key components of our Jewishness.

President Herzog's visit was not a political statement about whether the Israeli government did everything right in its war against Hamas and the Iranian axis. The visit represented the bond between the Jewish people of Israel and the diaspora, especially the victims of the brutal, antisemitic massacre in Bondi last December.

Jews sometimes have to make difficult choices on how to demonstrate their full commitment to Jewish identity in the public sphere. However, it is important to do so and I shall continue to support B'nai B'rith's public association with Israel whenever I can.



Peter Schattner, President

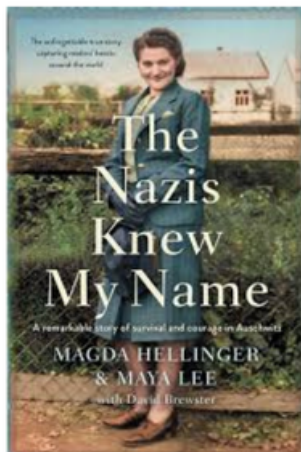
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Featuring "The Nazis Knew My Name: A Remarkable story of courage and survival in Auschwitz" by Magda Hellinger and Maya Lee

Holocaust survivor Magda Hellinger survived three years in Auschwitz where she was selected for leadership roles, eventually serving as camp leader. This book is the harrowing and heroic story of a woman put in an impossible position who saved an untold number of lives through everyday acts of courage, kindness and ingenuity – all whilst managing to avoid suspicion by the SS. It offers incredible insight into human nature, the power of resilience, and the goodness that can shine through even in the most horrific of conditions.

The discussion will be led by Maya Lee, Magda's daughter who extensively researched her mother's story.



THURSDAY 19 MARCH, 8:00 - 9:30pm

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/2026JEWISHBOOKCLUB

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



Join us and have fun at the **B'NAI B'RITH SUPER GAMES AFTERNOON**

THURSDAY 5 MARCH
1:00-3:00PM

Convention Room in Beth Weizmann
(next door to the B'nai B'rith office)

Entry: \$10

Afternoon tea provided
All welcome!

Bookings: Danielle Schilling
0408 128 639
danielle@the-schillings.com

GAMES OFFERED:
Mahjong for beginners
Mahjong for experienced players
(bring your own tiles & board)
Scrabble
(sets supplied)
Rummy
(bring your own tiles)





**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

THURSDAY 26 MARCH 7:30PM

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/ORATION26

VENUE ADVISED UPON BOOKING



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 16 MARCH



BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: Deidre 0408 121 213

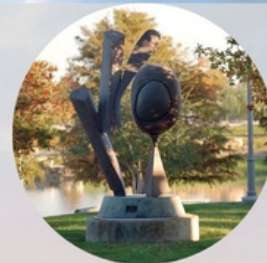
9523 0888 | www.bnaibrith.org.au



B'NAI B'RITH MELBOURNE LODGE

invites you to

An Exceptional BUS TOUR
to CRANBOURNE BOTANICAL GARDENS,
McCLELLAND SCUPLTURE 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!



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
ZIONIST COUNCIL OF VICTORIA



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE B'NAI B'RITH STALL

AT THE IN ONE VOICE FESTIVAL

16 MARCH, 11AM - 5PM

PLEASE EMAIL ADMIN@BBVIC.ORG.AU IF YOU CAN HELP AT THE B'NAI B'RITH STALL



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

February 3 - guest speaker Zoe Booth



February 17 - guest speaker Adam Slonim



FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S DESK

As we approach the Festival of Purim, the phrase “what was, is – and what is, will be” seems more apt and poignant than ever. Certainty in relation to Jewish history. But not only.

To be alive and able to celebrate Purim, is a true blessing – notwithstanding all the mixed feelings and emotions that we as a community and a people currently share.

We have experienced a long history of oppressors and oppression, continuous attempts to destroy us as a people, break our resolve, and make us disappear. Most of those empires and groups have long disappeared and become footnotes in history. Others have taken up the cudgels and relentlessly endeavour to achieve the same goals. They obviously haven't learnt much from our long history.

We are here to stay.

What hasn't destroyed us has made us stronger.

We celebrate life, family, and community.

We invest in education, self-development, innovation, and excellence.

We commit to charity, contributing to our society and to positively changing peoples' lives forever – with giving and full hearts.

We embrace living and express gratitude for all that we have.

We are blessed.

Wishing you all a Chag Purim Sameach.

Warmly,

Robbie

Executive Officer, B'nai B'rith VIC.



RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY

Honouring and acknowledging Raoul Wallenberg's humanitarian and courageous deeds in saving more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews in 1944.

Addresses were given by the Mayor of the City of Port Phillip Alex Makin and Professor Frank Vajda AO.

The Keynote Speaker was Dr Erica Frydenberg AM.

This well attended annual event took place on 18 January 2026 in the St Kilda Town Hall Council Chambers. It is held on this date as it is the closest date to 17 January 1945, when Raoul Wallenberg was last seen alive.



L-R: Dr Erica Frydenberg AM & Rona Zinger



L-R: Joan Black, Sylvia Kovacs & Wendy Waller

RAOUL WALLENBERG DAY



L-R: Cr Libby Buckingham, Mayor Alex Makin



L-R: Helen Shardey & Dr Frank Vajda AO



L-R: Simone Markus, Dr Erica Frydenberg AM,
Mayor of City of Port Phillip Alex Makin
Dr Frank Vajda AO, Ms Jacqui Dinor Corry



L-R: Dr Lexi Frydenberg, Dr Harry Frydenberg
Sylvia and Paul Kovacs



L-R: Miriam Lad, Judi Schiff OAM, Jacqui Saunders



L-R: Stephen Schmideg & Peter Gaspar OAM



L-R: Lesley Gaspar OAM, Janie Fixler & Fay
Kingsley



L-R: Merelyn Corry, Margaret Toomey, Sandra
Farber, Jacqui Dinor Corry

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 March:

Monday 3

7:30pm - **Programming meeting** at Janet Machliss Kohn

Wednesday 12

7:30pm - **Regular meeting** at BW Auditorium

Guest speaker: Gary Starr

Topic: "The Australian Post Office and AI".

Past Events:

Nov 27 : Mt Macedon Ranges Day Trip

A great day out. 40 happy trippers enjoyed a comfortable bus ride to the Macedon area . We first stopped at a bush clearing for morning refreshments then visited the magnificent Forest Glade Gardens, lunched in Woodend and finally stopped off at a farm to buy fresh produce before safely returning home.

Thanks go to Jacqui for making all the arrangements.



Dec 10: Bagel Brunch

Another very successful yearly event. Organised as usual by Alex Starr, there was very positive feedback from the 7 hosts and 65 guests who enjoyed the brunch and the friendly, jovial company.

March Birthday Greetings to:

David Lewis (3), Lesley Gaspar (13), Jennifer Harvey (14), Peter Schiff OAM (15), Susie Taft (18), Noam White (20), Ann Offenberger (20), Joe Kaufman (27), Carol Bloustein (28), Simone Markus (28), Janice Huppert (30)

New Members:

We welcome Ros Shlagman, Margot Rodgers (back after a period of absence), Cynthia Pollack OAM, Shirley and Peter Urban, Claudine Faiman and Anne Mandel.

Mazel Tov:

Ruth Figdor - on the birth of 2 great grand daughters, one in Israel and one in New York; and on the barmitzvah of 2 great grand sons in Israel

Gary and Evelyn Fabian together with Eve Lustig celebrating the wedding of their grand son, Steven Adrienne Perch for the birth of a great grand daughter in New York

Congratulations:

Judi Schiff and Danny Lustig for being awarded with an OAM, for decades long contributions and achievements to B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Community.

Welcome home: Yvonne Segal after a foot operation.

Sad news: Nicole Wurzel' s sister Anita passed away at Emmy Monash.

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 March:

Sunday 15 11am - "GRUing Together at Etz Chayim"
 It is with great pleasure that we announce that Dr. Kate Gould will be our guest speaker. Kate is a daughter of our members Hilary and John.
Dr Kate Rachel Gould, BBNSc (Hons), DPsych (Clinical Neuropsychology) is a Senior Research Fellow who leads a theme of clinically applied research on understanding and improving cognitive, psychiatric and behavioural changes following acquired brain injury (ABI) with the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre. She leads experimental, qualitative, scoping, intervention-based and translation studies that have a strong consumer co-design focus. Dr Gould is a 2024 Vice Chancellor's Research Talent Accelerator Fellow..
Catch up and shmooze with your friends. Please bring a plate to share for lunch.
 For more information about GRU-ing events: Eleanor ezaprudsky@gmail.com

Coming up in April:

Sunday 19 11am - "GRUing Together"
 It is with great pleasure we will have our own Barry Ziegler talking about his current experiences in Israel on a JNF tour and why he wants to go straight back!!
 "Catch up and shmooze with your friends. Bring a plate to share."
 An email will follow with more details. Contact Eleanor ezaprudsky@gmail.com

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

Sue Bendel (3rd), Nora Bernhardt (6th), Helen Schneider (20th), Mary Lipp (23rd), John Gould (27th)

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

Sunday 15

7:30pm - **Regular Meeting** at the home of the Sztrajt's.

Brian Luber speaking about his trip to Germany, Spain and Portugal.

Contact Miriam

Tuesday 17

12.15pm - **Chat and Chew**, The Glass House, Station St, Caulfield North.

RSVP to Miriam.

Coming up in April:

Wednesday 15

10:00am - 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.

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 to Suzanne.

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

Andrew Kolb (5), Howard Rabinowitz (17), Rosa Dias Santilhano (22), Annette Harriott (24), Lois Cyngler (30).

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!

HATIKVAH UNIT

Chair: Paula Messer

Treasurer: Orly Dar

Preview: Judith Steinberg

What's on in March:

Sunday 22

9:30am -11:30am - **Calico Dolls at the Hamer's home.**

Please let Gerry know if you are coming on 9857 9909.

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.

Wishing the following members a happy birthday in March:

Issi Barit (1), Ron Friedman (10), Jenny Harvey (14), Renee Shapiro (18),
Anne Josefsberg (20)

We wish them all a happy and healthy year.

To all members who have been unwell recently, we send them our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis

Secretary: Eitan Froumine

Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff

Treasurer: Irena Blonder



enquiries@bbramblers.org.au

What's on in March:

Sunday 8

Morning - Edna will lead a medium walk in the Williamstown area.

Please contact her at ednaprim@gmail.com

Wednesday 18

Morning - Fairlie and Dennis will lead an easy midweek walk along the Maribyrnong River.

Their address fairlienassau@gmail.com

Sunday 28

Morning - The Sailors Falls Circuit walk in the Daylesford area will be led by Boris at

pogosb@bigpond.com



Let's get crafty!

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

No experience necessary – come along for some fun with
classes run by Cynthia Pollak

Second Tuesday of each month, starting 14 April

1.00pm - 3.00pm at B'nai B'rith office

Bookings are essential by the Wednesday, 8 April

Contact Jacqui on 0412 440 501 or ddinor@yahoo.com

\$10 per session, including afternoon tea

Each month will be a different activity, with guided explanation. First activity will
be the tree with coloured butterflies (bottom left), created with a special punch



B'nai B'rith Victoria logo

B'nai B'rith Gesher Rabin Unit
Presents their annual
**FUNDRAISING SAUSAGE
SIZZLE**

Sunday 31 May
Bunnings Moorabin
8am-4pm

Want to volunteer?

Please contact Evelyn Flitman on 0402 894 968
if you are interested in having fun and helping raise funds for the
Avalon Centre in Malvern.



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

COURAGE TO CARE UPDATE



MORE SCHOOLS PLANNED THAN EVER IN 2026!

We have set ambitious targets aiming for over 23,000 students booked in to Upstander education programs in their schools in 2026. We couldn't do it without our amazing volunteers.

Do you know anyone who is thinking of volunteering? Word of mouth is our most powerful means of attracting new volunteers. Volunteering with Courage to Care lets you choose your pace, your passion, and your legacy. We run regular introductory sessions at the office. Please encourage your friends to attend and find out what we do and how they can help us create a Generation of Upstanders.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS-REAL IMPACT

We are committed to providing a quality education experience, which is why all students and teachers are asked to complete our feedback surveys.

Here are snapshots from our 2025 evaluation:

- 93% of participating teachers say they would recommend the Upstander program.
- 86% of students identified safe and appropriate Upstander actions.
- 76% of teachers report improved student behaviour and attitudes.

We are making a positive difference!

LOOK OUT FOR OUR BUS

We are delighted that Community Bank Caulfield Park have donated a 12-seater bus to Courage to Care Victoria.

Having our own bus will save us considerable rental costs each year and travelling together allows our volunteers to relax and focus on what matters most, sharing their stories and delivering our Upstander education program.

Give us a wave when you see us around the neighbourhood.



If we support them, they support us.

Contact Marlene at marlene.ulat@bendigoadelaide.com.au to find out more.

CEO Mike Zervos OAM

MARCH 2026 EVENTS

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
23 Feb	24	25 8:30pm Hativkah Executive Meeting	26	27 GRU & Akiba Weekend Away	28 GRU & Akiba Weekend Away	1 Mar GRU & Akiba Weekend Away
2	3 ML Programming meeting; TBA 10:00am Armchair Society Series..	4	5 1:00pm BB Super Games Afternoon; Convention Room - Beth Weizman 1st floor	6	7	8
9	10	11 7:30pm ML regular meeting; BW 8:30pm Hativkah Activities Me...	12 7:30pm GRU - THE Bread Box	13	14	15 10:00am IN ONE VOICE - ... 10:30am GRU - Kate Gould 7:30pm Akiba Regular Meet..
16 2:00pm Fellowship Concert	17 10:00am Armchair Society Series..	18	19	20	21	22 10:00am Calico Dolls
23	24	25 8:30pm Hativkah Activities Meeting	26 7:30pm HUMAN RIGHTS ORATION	27	28	29 8:30pm Hativkah Regular Meeting
30	31 10:00am Armchair Society Series..	1 Apr	2	3	4	5

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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