



B'nai
B'rith

PREVIEW

SEPT/OCT 2026

Message from the President...

Beyond the Census: Why Gen26 Matters

We have only just finished completing the national Census, a task that many of us found demanding, and now we will be urged to take part in the Gen26 community survey. You may well question why we need a community survey and ask, what is its value? Isn't the Census enough?

The answer is that the 2026 Census and the Gen26 survey serve very different purposes.

The Census is nationwide, focused primarily on counting the population – on numbers – and determining its changing demographic characteristics, such as age distribution, location, education, income, health, religion, and birthplace.

Because the Census gathers information from across Australia, it creates a rich source of data that can be analysed in multiple ways. For the Jewish community, this allows us to understand whether our population is growing or declining, how many children there are, what school they attend, what occupations people hold, and levels of income. There is, however, an important limitation.

In the Census, it is up to people to decide if they identify themselves as Jewish. Identification is determined mainly through questions about religion and ancestry. Not everyone who is Jewish chooses to identify as such. This can have important consequences, including for community planning, service provision, and government funding.

The Gen26 survey, which is coming soon, is only for members of our community. It helps us understand not just numbers but also values and attitudes. It goes beyond stereotypes to provide a deeper understanding. For example, it reveals differences in religious observance, the extent of participation in Jewish

institutions, attitudes towards Israel, concerns about intermarriage, and people's sense of personal safety.

It will provide insight into the values of recent graduates of the different school sectors, including government, Orthodox, and Progressive schools.

This information is invaluable for community planning. It will inform leaders, educators, and community organisations about the changing needs, concerns, and aspirations of different segments of the community. Without such data, decisions about investment in schools, community services, welfare programs, and cultural initiatives would be based more on guesswork than evidence.

Melbourne is fortunate to have a long history of Jewish community surveys. Major surveys were conducted in 1961, 1967, 1991, 2008, and 2017. Together, these surveys provide a record of change across three generations. The Gen26 survey will add a new chapter, helping us to understand not only where the community stands today, but also how it is evolving and where it may be headed.

I encourage you to complete the Gen26 survey when it becomes available. You will be contributing to a vital resource for our community.

As this is my last column before the High Holy Days, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and your family a sweet New Year. May you be written and sealed for a good year.

Andrew Markus
President,
B'nai B'rith Victoria



From the CEO's Desk

As we approach the High Holidays, the upcoming New Year will usher in a period of deep reflection for each of us, our loved ones, our community, and the Jewish people around the world.

Since 7 October 2023, our lives have changed dramatically, and not for the better. The comfort and safety that Australian Jews felt and enjoyed since the end of WW2, has evaporated. Many believe that the “golden era” for Jews in Australia has gone. Forever. Others are still hopeful that common sense, a raft of strong legislation and a pivot in our educational institutions and law-enforcement agencies will facilitate a significant turn for the better.

Towards the end of 2026, the Royal Commission for Antisemitism and Social Cohesion is due to submit its findings and recommendations. To a large degree, the future of Australia as a democratic state, and the future of its Jewish community, depend upon the forcefulness and clarity of the report, and the Government's willingness to legislate and then enforce the key recommendations single-mindedly.

We have both the responsibility and the ability to advocate fiercely and strongly for ourselves and our community. Social media, face-to-face discussion, articles, and letters to newspapers all play their part in creating a forceful wave of public opinion.

Back in March, when we started urging Armchair attendees to make submissions to the Royal Commission, there were approximately three-thousand submissions. By closing date, there were over twenty thousand written submissions, accurately capturing thousands of incidents and vivid emotions, alongside the emotional, physical, and financial impact of almost three years of sustained antisemitic and anti-Israel vilification, abuse, and attacks. These submissions will, in time, become historical treasures, accurately detailing and demonstrating the moral decline of Australian society from 2023 – 2026. History books will be written about this period, and documentary series will be produced.

In the meantime, let us display daily gratitude for all that we have been blessed with. It is a time to hug our loved ones more and inject as much laughter and joy as possible into our lives. To live our lives positively and with purpose. To contribute to our community and the State of Israel. And to ensure that we are guided by the moral compass enshrined in our teachings, from time immemorial.

Wishing you all a Shana Tova Umetuka and a G'mar Chatima Tova.

Robbie Franco
CEO,
B'nai B'rith Victoria



ARMCHAIR SOCIETY

WITH RON JAMES

HOSTED BY B'NAI B'RITH

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LAMM JEWISH LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

FORTNIGHTLY SERIES - GUEST SPEAKERS & LIVELY DISCUSSION

SERIES 4, 2026 | TUESDAYS, 10:00AM - 12:00PM

6 OCT PROFESSOR JEFF SZER

20 OCT ALAN HOWE

10 NOV GERARD HEALY

24 NOV ZVI CIVINS

1 DEC JOHN SILVESTER



Sessions recorded by J-AIR



\$15 PER SESSION

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/AS26

VENUE ADVISED UPON BOOKING

9523 0888 | admin@bbvic.org.au

COME & VISIT

GOULBURN VALLEY AND DISCOVER OUR HERITAGE

We will go via coach, and explore:

- Heritage Centre in Maroopna
- Visit of Tatura Internment and POW Wartime Museum
- Kialla Chocolate Apple Factory
- The "Moooving Art Cows Exhibition"
- View of the "Archibald Art Exhibition" at the Shepparton Art Museum
- View of the paintings & sculptures by artist "Tank" at the Visitor Information Centre **Plus many more surprises!**

MON 19 - WED 21 OCTOBER 2026

MEMBERS: \$1000 SINGLE / \$1,500 TWIN SHARE

NON-MEMBERS: \$1050 SINGLE / \$1,600 TWIN SHARE

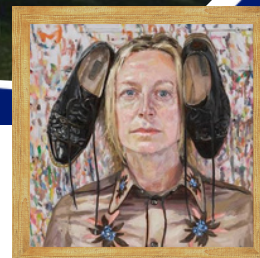
Cost includes:

2 nights + 3 days

Cooked breakfasts + 2 dinners

Entrance to galleries and exhibitions

Guided tour of Shepparton



Amanda Davies "Marta"
Archibald Prize 2026

TO BOOK: CONTACT Jacqui Dinor | 0412 440 501 | ddinor@yahoo.com

PAYMENTS: B'nai B'rith Melbourne Lodge | BSB 633 000 | Account No. 213 821 259
Please add your name as reference.



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

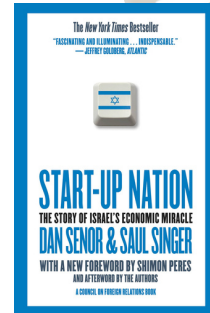
THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER | 8:00 - 9:30PM

Featuring "Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle" by Dan Senor and Saul Singer

This foundational book investigates Israel's tech and innovation prowess. Translated into 30 languages, it became a bestseller in multiple global markets and put Israel on the map as the 'start-up nation'.

Dan Senor, of the podcast "Call Me Back" fame and Saul Singer, with a background in government and journalism, have written a highly readable book full of people, companies and their stories as they explain just how Israel, a tiny country of only 7 million (at the time of writing), achieved that distinction.

Jock Orkin and Jack Bar-Ness will lead the discussion of this book.



Book here: EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/2026jewishbookclub

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

THE SCREENING AND DISCUSSION OF SAPIRO V. FORD: THE JEW WHO SUED HENRY FORD

The riveting true story of a young Jewish lawyer who dared to take on one of America's most powerful men—and most notorious antisemites. In the 1920s, as Henry Ford's publications incited hatred nationwide, Aaron Sapiro filed an unprecedented libel lawsuit, fighting hate speech long before the laws existed.

Following the movie, a discussion will be facilitated by movie podcasters Rob Harris and Rohan Woolf (Aussie and the Scotsmans Podcast).

SUNDAY 25 OCT 2026 | 2.45PM

CLASSIC CINEMA, ELSTERNWICK



\$23 MEMBERS*; \$25 NON-MEMBERS*

EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/BNAIBRITH-MOVIE-CLUB-THE-JEW-WHO-SUED

*Includes a drink and chocolate

Seats are allocated upon booking - secure your spot early for priority seating!

Movie will begin at 3pm. Please be punctual as there are no trailers or ads.

If you are late, your ticket will be at the box office.

ENQUIRIES: (03) 9523 0888 | admin@bbvic.org.au





Evan Thornley - 28 July



August was a busy and highly successful month for the Armchair Society, with three outstanding guest speakers captivating audiences with their unique insights and fascinating presentations.

A big thank you to Evan Thornley, Menchem Vorchheimer and Emeritus Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld for sharing their knowledge and perspectives and making each event so engaging and memorable.

Menchem Vorchheimer - 11 August



Emeritus Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld AC OBE KSTJ - 25 August



Allan Nahum, Ron James, Jeffrey Rosenfeld and Mervyn Cass

Melbourne Lodge Regular meeting - 19 August



L-R: Danielle Schilling, ML President, with 50+ year members Shirley Freedman & Joan Black, and BBVic CEO, Robbie Franco



Jacqui Corry lighting the Menorah



Shirley Freedman lighting the Menorah with Robyn Goldman assisting



Deidre Wainrit with Brendan Scott



Fellowship Concert - 27 July



Unit Akiba visit to Malvern Arts Society - 6 August 2026

Akiba unit visited the Malvern Arts Society. This was motivated by our previous guest speaker, Madeleine Popper, who is a vision-impaired artist. She spoke to us about her work and the challenges of being an artist with limited vision. The exhibition was inspiring and very enjoyable.

Unit Akiba Installation - 16 August 2026



L-R: Rosa & Peter Schattner,
Denise & Benny Monheit



L-R: Andrew & Kath Kolb,
Fred & Rosa Dias Santilano



Appointed President
Miriam Sztrajt

B'nai B'rith Memorial Service

IN MEMORY OF DEPARTED
B'NAI B'RITH VICTORIA MEMBERS

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2026

10:00AM

BETH WEIZMANN



B'nai
B'rith



B'NAI B'RITH UNIT GESHER-RABIN

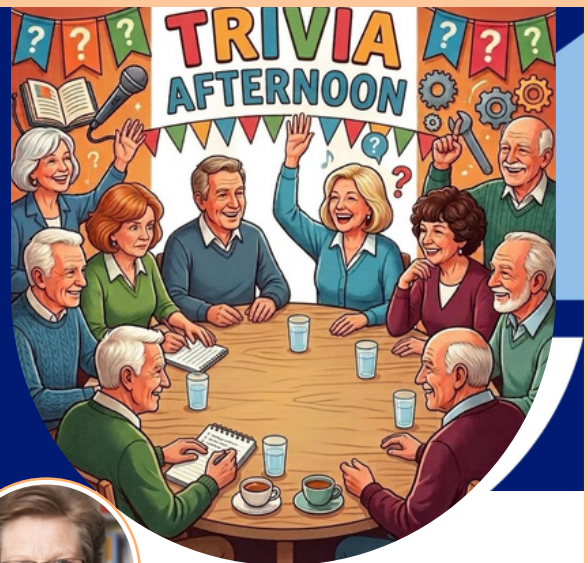
Our very popular Annual event

TRIVIA AFTERNOON

HAVE FUN AND RAISE MONEY FOR THE
B'NAI B'RITH ISRAEL PROJECTS

Includes prizes, silent auction, nibbles and a delicious
afternoon tea; bring your keep cup for extra points!

Quizmasters Evelyn Flitman and Bronwen Lichtenstein,
Researcher Annette Gladwin OAM



SUNDAY 8 NOV 2026 | 2.00PM

Glen Eira Mckinnon Bowls Club
23 Tyrone St, Ormond

MEMBERS: \$35 / NON-MEMBERS: \$45

Make a table of 8 with your friends or let us place you on a table



TO BOOK: [TINYURL.COM/GRUTRIVIA2026](https://tinyurl.com/grutrivia2026)

CONTACT US: Karin | 0400 402 032 | kzafir@zafirfamily

Eleanor Aghion | 0423 808 660 | ezaprudsky@gmail.com



B'nai
B'rith

(Incorporating Raoul Wallenberg Unit and Melbourne Mitzvah Lodge)

President: Danielle Schilling
Treasurer: Margaret Fischer
Vice-President: Maxine Klarnet
Preview: Dr John Kohn

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

TUES SEP 1

7.30 pm

PROGRAMMING MEETING

AT THE HOME OF DEIDRE WAINRIT

WED SEP 9

7.30 pm

REGULAR MEETING

Beth Weizmann Auditorium

Guest Speaker: Arthur Bolkas - a criminologist, author, speaker and former prisoner.

MON SEP 28

BOOKCLUB

At the home of Doris Klein

"Waking Lions" by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

THURS OCT 1

3.00 pm

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Beth Weizmann Auditorium

SUN OCT 6

7.30 pm

PROGRAMMING MEETING

Venue TBC

SUN OCT 11

12.00 pm

INSTALLATION

Beth Weizmann Auditorium

MON - WED

19 - 21 OCT

EXCURSION TO SHEPPARTON

By coach (2 nights and 3 days)

Includes coach, hotel, cooked breakfast and 2 dinners plus entry to galleries.

This includes coach, hotel, cooked breakfast and 2 dinners plus entry to galleries.

Members: \$1000 Single / \$1,500 Twin share

Non-members: \$1050 Single / \$1,600 Twin share

Preferential bookings for Melb Lodge members closes August 31

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

September - David Mushin (1) John Eisner (2) Janet Starr (3) Dennis Nassau (5) Ian Meltzer (6) Miriam Bergman (12) Steven Klein (12) Faye Haskin-Dubrowin (13) Irene Bud (14) Sidney Travitz (19) Leah Black (22) Freida Shapiro (22) Theo Waisberg (22) Esther Zbar (22) Naomi Barnett (24) Lucy Gould (25) Barry Novy (29) Walter Rapoport (29)

October - Robert Wald (1) Martha Vanderhoek (1) Roger Alberts (6) Tania Tobias (8) Susan Wald (12) Bette Pulver (14) Helen Gardner (19) Naomi Potash (19) Cera Newhouse (20) Doris Klein (23) Harry Newhouse (31)

WELFARE OF MEMBERS

We wish Gilah Leder all the best and a speedy recovery for coming hip procedure.

Welcome back from hospital to Ros Goldberg who is making a progressive recovery.

Mazel Tov to Shirley Freedman and Peter Pulver on turning 90 .

Mazel Tov to Joan Black and Shirley Freedman for 50 years of service to BBVic.

Mazel Tov to Ruth Figdor on the engagement of her grandson, Shalom Simon, in Israel.

DONATIONS

Donations to MAD

Towards bursaries for socially disadvantaged Year 11-12 students for the 2027 year

- Martha Vanderhoek - in honour of family birthdays
- Steve Klein on occasion of Peter Pulver's 90th birthday
- Jack and Gilah Leder on occasion of Peter Pulver's 90th birthday
- Rodney and Aviva Taft, Jack and Maxine Klarnet
- Paul and Helen Gardner, Danielle Schilling, Russell Korn
- Gabi Crafti and Danny Benjamin

Co-Presidents: Karin Zafir / Eleanor Aghion
 Treasurer: Stephen Moskowitz
 Secretary & Preview: Susan Moskowitz

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

FRI SEP 18
10.30 am

MORNING TEA

A friendly get together at a private home with fresh coffee/tea and cake
Please call Eleanor for booking information.

SUN SEP 27
11.00 am

MONTHLY MEETING - SUKKOT CELEBRATION

At Etz Chayim

Let's get together and celebrate Sukkot, listen to the story and history. Learn lessons and eat, drink and enjoy friendship.

Please bring a vegetarian plate to share for lunch.

Book here now!

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

SUN OCT 18
11.00 am

MONTHLY MEETING - MOSKOWITZ TRIO

At Etz Chayim

Stephen, his son Marc and son in law Ben, are the 3 talented musicians that form the Moskowitz Trio. They will play a variety of popular music.

Book here now!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

September - Irene Kirschner-Nissen (7) Eva Pragier (15)
 Lee Hirsh (24)

October - Stephen Schmideg (1) Stephen Moskowitz (8)
 Phil Lipshut (19)

CONTACT US

If you know of anyone who is unwell, please contact our publicity officers Leon and Irene Nissen on 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 Eleanor: ezaprudsky@gmail.com

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS - HELP US CELEBRATE YOU!

It has come to our attention that many important milestones are being missed. We'd love to acknowledge and celebrate important milestones throughout the year.

If you're happy to do so, please let us know your:

1. Date of birth (day and month)
2. Significant birthdays (e.g. 70th, 80th, 90th, 100th)
3. Wedding anniversary (day, month and year, if you'd like us to recognise milestone anniversaries)
4. Other significant achievements you'd like to share – for example, key Awards and Recognitions.

Please email this information to: admin@bbvic.org.au – remember to include your full name, DOB, and key info you would like to share

We will only use this information to send birthday or milestone greetings and, where appropriate, to celebrate special occasions within our B'nai B'rith community. We will not publish or share your personal information without your permission.



President: Miriam Sztrajt
 Treasurer: Kathy Kolb
 Secretary: Helen Fisher
 Preview: Serge Sztrajt

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

THURS SEP 24
 11.30 am

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECE 2026: CARTIER EXHIBITION

Cartier's legacy - iconic pieces, panther brooch, mystery clock, jewellery worn by Elizabeth Taylor & more
 National Gallery Victoria (ground level); Tickets \$43; some discounts available
 Book your own tickets [online](#) or phone (03) 8620 2222
 Meet in lobby at 11.30am. Entry is staggered. Lunch after.
RSVP Miriam 20/9

SUN OCT 11
 10.00 am

BBVIC MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DECEASED MEMBERS

At Beth Weizmann
 Brunch after service at Mr Cedar 756 Glen Huntly Rd Caulfield

SAT OCT 17
 8.00 pm

COME FROM AWAY (THEATRE PRODUCTION)

Come from Away is a hit musical about 7,000 airline passengers who were stranded in Gander Canada after 9/11. The local townspeople fed and housed them. It is a true story of human kindness.

Cloc Theatre, 20 Carlisle St, St Kilda (National Theatre). Tickets \$41-\$65
Book tickets: bookings@cloc.org.au

SUN OCT 18
 7.30 pm

AKIBA REGULAR MEETING

Featured Speaker: Prof John Zeleznikow

Talk as to AI and the law and its effects

Bring a plate according to alphabet spot.

Book here now! OR contact Henry Gladwin

SEPTEMBER BDAY GREETINGS

Kath Kolb (3) Peter Morris (5) Tzvia Fremder (24)
 Janette Pat (29)

OCTOBER BDAY GREETINGS

Rosa Schattner (1) Jim Cyngler (3) Jock Orkin (6)
 Fred Dias Santilhano (10)

REFUAH SHLEIMA

We wish a Refuah Shleima to Frank Newman, who is currently recovering, and to any members of Unit Akiba who may be unwell at the present time. We hope to see you joining us again very soon!

Chair: Paula Messer
Treasurer: Orly Dar
Preview: Judith Steinberg

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

SUN SEP 27
8.00 pm

REGULAR MEETING

Leo Baeck Centre, East Kew; Orly Dar speaking about Jewish composers

SUN OCT 11
9.30 - 11.30 am

CALICO DOLLS

At Hamer's home. Please let Gerry know if you will be coming on 9857 9909.

SUN OCT 25
7.00 pm

AGM AND INSTALLATION

Leo Baeck Centre

Speaker: Karen Silberberg from Hope of Eden (Community Refugee Integration Settlement Program) Tickets: \$25 | RSVP to Yvonne Neiger by Monday, 14 October

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

September - Kris Barit (10) Leah Black (22) Sam Lew (22)

October - Marilyn Arnheim (17) Sylvia Lew (24)

Our best wishes for a heathy, happy and peaceful year.

REFUAH SHLEIMA

To all those members who are feeling under the weather, our best wishes for a speedy return to health.

B'NAI B'RITH RAMBLERS

PREVIEW

Chair: Vardit Sacks-Davis | Secretary: Eltan Froumine
Preview Secretary: Judy Winikoff | Treasurer: Irena Blonder

 enquiries@bbramblers.org.au

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

SUN SEP 6
MORNING

HARD WALK

Malcolm will lead a hard walk in the Mt Macedon area.

Contact Malcolm: malcolm@flitman.net.au

SUN SEP 6
MORNING

MEDIUM WALK

Evelyn will lead a medium walk at the You Yangs.

Contact Evelyn: evelyn@flitman.net.au

WED SEP 16
MORNING

MIDWEEK WALK

Fairlie and Dennis Nassau will lead a midweek walk at Moonee Ponds Creek.

Contact Fairlie: fairlienassau@gmail.com

WED OCT 14
MORNING

MIDWEEK WALK

Ron and Vardit Sacks-Davis will lead a midweek walk Gardiners Creek from Alamein to Hartwell.

Contact Ron and Vardit: saxdavis@melbpc.org.au

SUN OCT 18
MORNING

MEDIUM WALK

Edna Primorantz will lead a medium walk in Williamstown.

Contact Edna: ednaprim@gmail.com

SUN OCT 25
MORNING

HARD WALK

Stan Taback will lead a medium walk.

Contact Stan: taback15@tpg.com.au

Courage to Care Victoria CEO, Mike Zervos OAM, recently gave evidence to the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion.

The evidence highlighted the need for sustained federal investment in anti-discrimination education, supporting the submission lodged by Courage to Care Australia Ltd.

In Australia, we have seen record levels of antisemitism persisting, despite significant government investment in security and incident response. The architecture of a national response is being built, but what it needs now is the foundation, and that foundation is education.

Throughout the evidence, Mike emphasised that antisemitism is not a Jewish problem.

The fear experienced by Jewish families, and the growing normalisation of antisemitism, are symptoms of a broader challenge to Australia's social cohesion and values. Anti-discrimination education is not a niche response to one community's concerns. It is a preventative social cohesion strategy that benefits all Australians, one Courage to Care has spent over 30 years refining, reaching more than 500,000 students across the country.

Mike has always been passionate about challenging the concepts of prejudice and discrimination. He shared, 'I am not Jewish. I am a Greek Orthodox Christian, and I am CEO of an organisation with deep roots in the Jewish community. My own grandfather had to flee Kalgoorlie in 1915 because of who he was. Prejudice is not an abstract concept to me. It affects real people and real families, and it can leave scars that last for generations.'

That is why I am so passionate about creating change through Upstander programs in schools, reaching young people before attitudes harden.'

At this pivotal moment in our history, Mike implores all Australians to consider how we can be Upstanders in our own lives. To consider the small moments; in the workplace, with friends, or in public interactions - how can we choose to act, safely and effectively, when witnessing discrimination or hatred, rather than remaining a bystander?

Read an excerpt of Courage to Care's submission to the Royal Commission by clicking [here](#).



Mike Zervos OAM giving evidence to the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion



Save the Date



B'NAI B'RITH IS PLEASED TO INVITE ALL MEMBERS & FRIENDS
TO OUR ANNUAL END OF YEAR EVENT

SUNDAY
6 DECEMBER

Fabulous entertainment & afternoon tea

Engage & Enjoy

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

