

The 5767 SHUSHAN TIMES

A TBI Purim Special

Bold charitable partnership for TBI with organic farmers' market

Temple Beth Israel will join the St Kilda Farmers' Market (based at 'Veg Out' Community Gardens - see web page www.vegout.asn.au/market.php) in a commercial venture to produce a range of organic jams, and biodynamic fruits and vegetables.

TBI approached 'Veg Out' in early January with a proposal to turn over the Temple grounds to the Cooperative, which will divide the land into small plots and manage them on the shul's behalf.

The venture follows intensive discussions over the summer to address the problems posed to the synagogue by the drought and accompanying water restrictions, which were brought to a head when the potted cumquats in the Jerusalem courtyard died over summer. It became apparent to the Board that a water-hungry garden was untenable for the synagogue.

Advice was sought and the TBI Social Justice Group successfully proposed the handover of all the extraneous shul land to 'Veg Out', which would rent out plots as market gardens to Victorian farmers suffering from drought. The rental income as well as the proceeds from the harvests would be shared between 'Veg Out' and the participating farmers in a unique Tikkun Olam project.

Temple President Roger Mendelson is very hopeful the congregation will support the venture. 'We needed to cut down our water bill; we need to have a long-term perspective on the implications of climate change and we have a duty, as Jews, to do what we can to repair the land. Besides, the SJG has been hassling me to launch a high-profile charitable project and this proposal basically solves all our headaches.'

The scope of the Temple market garden will include the whole of the front garden and drive, the current carpark and the Jerusalem courtyard. Roger concedes that the decision to do away with the carpark and circular drive was contentious but opponents were won over by the environmental and health benefits.

'We will be proposing a bicycle scheme to Port Phillip Council, with specialised cycling lanes and bicycle parking. The health benefits for members in cycling to shul will be enormous

and the shul will, as always, be in the forefront of social change, making a notable contribution to greening our environment.'

The logistics for all the changes are substantial but the Board hopes the TBI farmers' market will be up and running before the end of the year.

The rabbis point out there are religious benefits to the new scheme. Rabbi Zylberman commented, 'We're hoping to have our own harvest this Sukkot - we will have a true thanksgiving this September! And Matan, our religion school, will be able to expand the curriculum so students learn how nature's cycles fit in with the Jewish calendar.'

The TBI Board will enter into discussions with the King David School to establish how the venture can be expanded for the mutual benefit of our two communities, with the possibility that KDS will include horticultural subjects in the VCE curriculum from 2008.

See Pesach issue of Temple Time for details!

Treasurer promises new rabbinic 'retreat' in Noosa will be available to members

Details have been finalised on the purchase of an investment property in Noosa, to be used for rabbinic retreats and conferences.

Treasurer David Arkles has announced that settlement on the luxury unit is being finalised even as Temple Time goes to press, and the best news is... TBI members will be offered access to the unit during the off-season when it is not required by our rabbis!

The top-floor luxury apartment overlooks the ocean, is nestled among a lush green setting and boasts beautiful ocean views from every window!

For photos and details of how YOU can use the apartment see page 2!



PURIM CELEBRATION

Saturday 3 March, 8:45 pm

Spiel and catered supper

\$15 per head

Sunday 4 March

Megillah reading, 10:30 am

(part of our Limmud on Sundays program with Rabbi Morgan)

Purim Carnival & Food, 4-5:45 pm

\$5 per head (under 1 year, free)

featuring 'The Viggles' reformed!

Fashion Parade and Megillah for kids

Pantomime, 5:45 to 6:15 pm

Spiel, 6:15 to 7 pm

'Esterella' from the magical

kingdom of Persia - professional production!

TV show 'Survivor' inspires TBI Social Justice Group

Encouraged by positive outcomes of the *Survivor* series' stick-and-carrot approach to character-building, the Board has given provisional sanction to the TBI Social Justice Group to develop our own hybrid-quasi-*Survivor* format to toughen up our members, making them better Jews and better members.

In conjunction with the Ritual group, the SJG have devised a one-day *Welcome to TBI* induction program, to commence on a Thursday morning at 7:30 am with a special minyan at which all the new-member trainee worshippers will put on *tefillin*. All worshippers will be expected to chant the entire *shacharit* service out loud within no more than ten minutes. They will be timed and will have to repeat it until they can do so within the time limit to the satisfaction of the cantor.

This will be followed by a breakfast of week-old bagels in the shul kitchen. Next, a meeting with the Fundraising Group at which new members will learn the negotiating skills required to set up the Purim Carnival Sideshow, Spiel and Megillah reading, not to mention how to serve food and juice boxes to 300 people at the same time.

Trainee members will then get to identify everything in the Slome kitchen freezers and fridges. Whoever can name a food, the function it was left over from and the approximate time in the fridge (within 36 days) gets a 20-minute nap in the Bride's Room.

For lunch, lucky participants will sample three different types of herring and pickled cucumber. Bathroom privileges will only be given to those who can name four deceased past Presidents and the musical director of TBI in 1957.

In the afternoon, trainee members will attend the special Matan Hebrew class. The member who can best describe the head teacher gets to go home for dinner. Then it's back to shul for an evening minyan. You attend a dinner meeting of the Board of Management and initiate a food fight. If your side wins, you get to go home...if you lose, you have to stay for the meeting.

The Board is hopeful of producing a new, tough breed of member, able to roll with the punches and unafraid of getting their hands dirty.

Steroid use to enhance ritual prowess rumoured at TBI

When the congregation recently 'Chazak! Chazak v'nesChazak!' at the end of the book of Genesis, a new meaning was implied.

According to a reliable, unnamed ranking member of the Ritual Committee, the use of designer steroids to enhance *bima* skills has reached epidemic proportions.

He (or she) cites the following evidence:

1. Torah readers are reading crisp and clear with new-found fervor and finesse.
2. Voice-challenged readers have turned monotonous into melodious tones.
3. A recent *hagbah* veteran whose best display was five columns amazed the Shabbat morning regulars with a showing of 13 columns.
4. A *gabbai* trying to help a bar mitzvah picked up the lectern and moved it with ease.
5. And finally, why were the shades drawn in Rabbi Morgan's office during his recent Torah Leyning class?

Matan Coordinator, Jamie Whineberg, dismissed as malicious gossip all inferences that the cut fruit served to Matan b'nei mitzvah students was tainted with steroids. 'Yes, we are progressive in our methods but our b'nei mitzvah achieve results through hard work. We work their minds, not their bodies.'

TBI Youth Director, Whineberg, takes on new role as Matan Coordinator and places in Australian Body Building finals in the same week.

Jamie Whineberg, who is renowned for putting in 60 hour weeks as TBI Youth Director while at the same time training for the body building title, said she would give her all to the new TBI role. When asked how she would find the energy for both jobs she said she had 'a magic pill and it is called dedication.'



Matan students are encouraged to achieve their potential by innovative methods.

Whineberg, who is also Torah reading coordinator, categorically denies the use of steroids. She says it's the old tried and true formula: a lot of practice and a little prayer.

From page 1

New rabbinic 'retreat' in Noosa will be available to members

All rental applications and/or correspondence should be addressed to the TBI office



Shul notices

Morning minyan

For the last few years, the rabbis have been frequently approached with requests for a regular week-day morning minyan. The demand has now reached such a level that the Ritual Committee has scheduled a trial period of a month, commencing in March, during which a morning minyan will be convened each morning in the main sanctuary. Due to the difficulty of convening the morning minyan at a time convenient to everyone, we will offer five minyan every morning, at 6:30 am, 7 am, 7:30 am, 8 am and 8:30 am. Board members are required to attend all of them.

Interfaith outreach director stirs communal interest

In an extraordinary coup, Sheikh Taj El-Din Hamid Hilaly has been appointed by the TBI Board as our new Interfaith Outreach Director. Sheik Hilaly is taking the position on a part-time basis and will be flying to Melbourne weekly from Sydney, where he will retain his position as Imam of the Lakemba Mosque.

Sheik Hilaly will be with us on Wednesdays and will operate from Rabbi Morgan's office during the Rabbi's day off. The Sheik will take on the sensitive role of furthering interfaith understanding in our community. He has accepted the position on a complimentary basis, saying he 'just wants to be closer to the Jews'.

Security Levy Decision

The shul has struck a special levy, to be paid by each member as part of annual membership, to cover the cost of the two security guards hired to protect the synagogue when our new Interfaith Outreach Director is on the premises.

Optimising our space

Many members will have heard by now that the shul floor will, unfortunately, have to be replaced barely 10 years after it was laid, due to a faulty concrete pour. The Board is now investigating the possibilities of creating an underground level during the new building process to optimise the use of the land. The two front-running options are an underground public carpark or the creation of burial crypts beneath the sanctuary which could be auctioned to interested member families. Both options offer substantial cost benefits to the congregation and the opinion of members will be sought through a series of community-wide forums before the final decision is made.

Confusion reigns in Crown Heights affair

In a bizarre new twist, a splinter group of the Lubavitch who call themselves the 'Crown Heighters' have turned their eyes to Melbourne as the new Jerusalem.

The latest development began with the uncanny coincidence of names: Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Lubavitch headquarters and the former Rebbe's home, has an eerie similarity to our very own Crown Heights on the banks of the Yarra.

While Lubavitch headquarters has dismissed it as nonsense, the 'Crown Heighters' claim that the city of Melbourne has been annointed as the very location in which the Messianic age so long expected will finally begin.

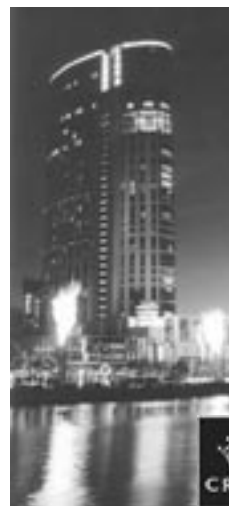
Shmuliek Goldfinger*, of Ripponlea, was blunt in his enthusiasm as he walked the Southbank walk, pointing to the ubiquitous Crown logo in daily newspapers and tourist information.

'The signs couldn't be clearer! There is the Crown of a Good Name, right here!'

'Even the huge crowds that are attracted here every day serve a holy purpose. You may think they are here just to gamble away their money, but in fact they ensure that when the great day arrives, there will be so many witnesses to the coming of the Moshiach that no one will be able to deny it!'

'They have even constructed a giant Ner Tamid on the Yarra in preparation for the new era, and they practice lighting it every night, just to be sure that it will light on cue when the Moshiach comes!'

'What greater miracle can you imagine? We have an event horizon happening here, but people refuse to see it! *Name changed to protect the innocent.



The 'Crown Heighters', a disowned splinter group of the late Rebbe's followers, see the Crown Casino logo as the 'Crown of a Good Name' and the spectacular gas jets on the river foreshore (which they insist will become a new Ner Tamid) as potent symbols of the soon-to-be messianic age in Melbourne.

Purim Joke...

you know you want it!

The story of Purim is an international tale. You didn't know? Well, it all began when King Achashverosh was *Finnish* with his disobedient wife Vashti.

'You *Congo* now!' he ordered her.

After she had *Ghana* way, the king's messengers went *Roman* the land to find a new queen. And *India* end, the beautiful Esther won the crown. Meanwhile, Mordechai sat outside the palace, where the *Chile* Haman would *Czech* up on him daily.

'I *Haiti* you because you refuse to bow to me!' Haman scolded Mordechai. 'USA very stubborn man. You Jews are such *Bahamas*! If you keep this up, *Denmark* my words! I will have all your people killed! Just *Kuwait* and see, you *Turkey*!'

Mordechai went into mourning and tore his clothes – a custom known as *Korea*. He urged Esther to plead with the king. The Jews fasted for three days and grew very *Hungary*.

Esther approached the king and asked, '*Kenya Belize* come to a banquet I've prepared for you and Haman?' At the feast, she invited her guests to a second banquet to eat *Samoa*.

The king asked, 'Esther, why *Jamaica* big meal like this? Just tell me what you want. Unto half my *United Kingdom* will I give you.'

Esther replied, '*Spain* full for me to say this, but Haman is *Russian* to kill my people.' Haman's loud *Wales* could be heard as he carried *Honduran* this scene.

'*Oman*!' Haman cried bitterly. '*Iraq* my brains in an effort to destroy the Jews. But that sneaky Mordechai - *Egypt* me!'

Haman and his ten sons were hanged and went immediately to the *Netherlands*. And to *Sweden* the deal, the Jews were allowed to *Polish* off the rest of their foes as well.

'You lost your enemies and *Uganda* friend,' the king smiled. And that is why the Purim story *Israeli* a miracle. God decided to *China* light on His chosen people.

So forget all your *Syria's* business and be happy!

Serb up some wine and *Taiwan* on!

Happy Purim!





Purim Mishloach Manot

Treat your family and friends to something special this Purim.

Order a Netzer Mishloach Manot and we will deliver it to their door, anywhere in Melbourne.

Netzer Mishloach Manot are all Kosher.

\$25 including delivery.

Get your order in before Wednesday 28 February.

For more information or to put in your order call Sean 0439-589-357

or email jeremymblyss@gmail.com

or check on our website

www.netzer.org.au

UNMISSABLE FANTASTIC WORLD FIRST!

Do you have children or grandchildren in Grades 2 - 6?

Do you know what to do with them over the April holidays? Send them to TBI's first-ever

PESACH DAY CAMP!

4 - 5 April 2007, 9 am - 4:30 pm

Arts and crafts - music - games and sports - cooking building Egypt in a day - jewellery making - lots more

Trained and experienced staff
Fun and Jewish!!

Early-bird rates (until 14 March)

One child: \$50 (includes chametz-free lunches and snacks)

Two children from same family: \$90

Three children from same family: \$120.

After 14 March, add \$5 per child

TBI: the only place to be over Pesach



Communal Second Seder Tuesday 3 April 6:30 pm

Led by Rabbi Fred Morgan, this seder is structured to ensure all members and friends can participate! Professional catering with all the ritual trimmings!

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

No. adults _____ Cost: \$ _____

No. children _____ Cost: \$ _____

No. concessions _____ Cost: \$ _____

Total participants _____ SUBTOTAL: \$ _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Adults	\$35 members
	\$48 non-members
Concession	\$25 members
	\$38 non-members
Children to 13	\$16 members
	\$20 non-members

Bookings will only be accepted with payment by Friday 23 March. For information contact the Temple office on 9510 1488.

I enclose a cheque for the TOTAL COST of the seder, payable to **Temple Beth Israel**. I understand there is a non-refundable fee per person for cancellations after 23 March 2007. *Post to P.O. BOX 128 ST KILDA 3182, or drop into office.*



Temple Beth Israel

קול ישראל TEMPLE TIME

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RABBI RAYNA GEVURTZ

There are giant cherries in our midst

The Sages taught, *Mi shenichmas Adar, marbin b'simcha*, 'When Adar enters, we increase our joy' (Taanit 29). As Jews the world over usher in the Hebrew month of Adar on 18 February, and with it the merriment of Purim, we ask ourselves, how can we fulfill this ancient teaching? How can we increase the sense of joy in our lives this month?

English Poet Laureate Robert Southey once reflected, 'I have told you of the Spaniard who always put on his spectacles when about to eat cherries, that they might look bigger and more tempting. In like manner I make the most of my enjoyments.'

This month of Adar invites us each to don our spectacles to make the most of our enjoyments. To see how great the blessings are, that are before us. It seems that in the rush of life, many of our days pass by with blessings gone unnoticed. If only we could stop long enough to see how grand these blessings really are. If only we could peer through the spectacles of gratitude that magnify the manifold blessings that fill our lives.

We each possess the power to feel joy this month and all the months of our lives. When

we live with an increased awareness of the blessings that we have already been granted, we open our hearts to experience the enduring joy that flows from gratitude for these gifts.

On a personal note, I am blessed this year with a wonderful new opportunity as I join the rabbinic team here at Temple Beth Israel. I look forward to getting to know you and your family as we study, worship and celebrate life together as a congregational family. For the many blessings that flow from a life lived within such a sacred community, I am grateful.

May this new month of Adar provide us each with an opening to see the greatness of all the little blessings in our midst. In so doing, may you and your loved ones go from joy to joy.

Induction of Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz

The Board of Management of Temple Beth Israel and Rabbis Morgan and Zylberman joyfully invite members and friends of our community to witness and participate in the induction service of Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz as a rabbi of our community.

**Join us on Friday 2 March
at 6:15 pm
Temple Beth Israel
76 Alma Road, St Kilda**



RABBI URI REGEV

President, World Union for Progressive Judaism

Rabbi Uri Regev is a dynamic and empowering speaker and advocate for Progressive Judaism.

For details call 9510-1488

Thursday 1 March at 8 pm

Public lecture at Beth Weizmann
No charge

Friday 2 March at 6:15 pm

Formal address from the bima
at Temple Beth Israel

Friday 2 March at 8 pm

Dinner for '20s/30s Somethings'
at the home of Rabbi Aviva Kipen
(\$10 pp, BYO beverages, bookings required
for catering, BPS 95639208)

Saturday 3 March at 10 am

Formal address from the bima
at Leo Baeck Centre



FROM THE PRESIDENT ROGER MENDELSON

A great start

You all will have received letters announcing the appointment of Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz as our third rabbi. Moving from one rabbi to two and now to three (albeit part-time) will allow us really to move ahead.

We can become pro-active in so many areas whereas we have previously been in reactive mode. The inclusion of Rabbi Gevurtz has been seamless, not only because she is familiar with our community but also because so many of us know her as well.

We have commenced 2007 with an air of confidence and excitement, knowing that we have such a strong rabbinic team, with diverse talents and complementary skills.

Don't take the Progressive movement for granted

In early November, I attended a two-night conference of presidents from UPJ

congregations around Australasia. Apart from the usual suspects, there were presidents attending from Singapore, Mumbai and a good sprinkling of Kiwis. The point which really struck me was that the Progressive movement is far more established in Victoria than in any other area under the UPJ influence. The reasons for this are partly historic, partly geographic and partly organisational.

The movement started in Victoria and TBI is the historic heart of the movement in Australia. From there, the tentacles spread. Leo Baeck, Bentleigh and Kedem, now strong and independent *kehillot*, were all originally offshoots from TBI.

Victoria is the most populous Jewish state and Melbourne is really the New York of Australia. The Jewish community is far more evolved here than elsewhere in the country, so you would expect that the movement would also be more evolved here.

From the organisational perspective, we are the only state with an effective body looking after our interests at that level. The VUPJ is very active and is constantly pushing the barrow of the Progressive movement on all communal bodies. The Orthodox know that we are a force to be reckoned with and they, by and large, treat us with a degree of respect.

Temple Beth Israel has the numbers, the resources, the interest and the respect. In many ways, we are part of the Jewish establishment, not a marginal player.

However, we must not become complacent. We are in the position we are in because of the work done by earlier generations. This creates an obligation on us to push the boundaries further and do what we can not only to make TBI better and stronger but also to promote the values of our movement in a more pro-active manner.

Roger Mendelson

Shabbat Mishpacha

A worship experience especially for our young families



Saturday morning 24 February
9-9:30am in the Main Sanctuary

We are launching a Shabbat service geared to young children up to grade 2 and their families. Help us celebrate Shabbat through song, story, and fun!

Join Rabbi Gevurtz in a warm and relaxed atmosphere as together we envelope our children in the richness of our prayer tradition

Mark your calendars now for the 4th Saturday of each month at 9 am!

24 Feb, 24 Mar, 28 Apr, 26 May,
23 Jun, 28 Jul, 25 Aug, 27 Oct, 24 Nov



Young TBI drought relief picnic a success

Young TBI enjoyed a casual picnic to launch the new year in the garden of the KDS early childhood centre next door to TBI.

The purpose of the gathering was drought relief, and that purpose was doubly successful! Firstly, it rained and secondly a considerable quantity of non-perishable food items for Victorian farmers in need was collected.

Look out for more Young TBI events through the year.

Address enquiries to rabbi.zylberman@tbi.org.au

or jamie.wajnberg@tbi.org.au

or call the TBI office 9510-1488.



Bar/bat-mitzvah and the non-Jewish parent

About twenty months ago a family approached me to ask about the participation of the non-Jewish father in his son's bar-mitzvah. The question they raised opened us up to a lengthy process of discussion and evaluation within our synagogue. It was explored by various groups involved with the religious practices of TBI, by the Board of Management and by two Community-wide Forums held over the High Holyday period and summarised in Temple Time.

In the time-honoured manner of Jewish tradition, the rabbis have now produced a 'Response' (*teshuvah*) to this question (*sh'eiyalah*). The complete Response is available on request from the TBI office, and copies will also be made available on the display in the synagogue foyer. It will be distributed to all current and forthcoming bar/bat-mitzvah families. It is only by referring to the Response in full that you will be able to see the reasoning behind the conclusions that we draw.

We believe that the question of the involvement of non-Jewish family members in the life of the congregation is one that must be addressed by any progressive synagogue that is looking forward to the future. It's really a question about what it means for us to be a 'welcoming community', and that is the framework we adopted for the Community Forums. To be welcoming means to reach out to those on the periphery and

make them feel truly a part of what's happening within the walls of the synagogue. It seems to the rabbis that outreach understood in this way is essential if we hope to continue to thrive as a community.

We also recognise that, for many in the synagogue, other Jewish values come into play: maintaining a sense of Jewish identity, protecting the integrity of the community, maintaining the holiness of Torah as the central Jewish symbol, and so forth. These powerful values are also acknowledged and discussed in the Response.

After reviewing our current practices concerning non-Jews and distinguishing between progressive and orthodox approaches to this issue, the Response comes to three conclusions:

1. the rabbis commit themselves to continue offering *shiuirim* on the primary Jewish values, in order to help us to deepen our understanding of the role of these values in our lives as Jews;
2. we commit ourselves to offer learning opportunities specifically for and with mixed-faith families, to build greater understanding between these families and the rest of the community; and
3. we shall introduce a change in ceremonial practice for *bnai-mitzvah*,
 - simplifying the family *mi-sheberakhs*
 - calling the bar/bat-mitzvah to the final *aliyah* (the *maftir*), where s/he will stand alone at the Torah for the blessings and reading
 - introducing a new ritual of blessing the bar/bat-mitzvah after the Torah readings have been completed and before the Torah is removed from the reading desk for dressing; the family – including non-Jewish parent – will be invited onto the *bimah* to stand with the bar/bat-mitzvah for this blessing
 - using this new ritual of blessing after the Torah reading to replace the blessing currently delivered at the very end of the service.

These conclusions, and especially the new ritual procedure, conform to practices already found in some other UPJ congregations. They show respect for the sanctity of *keriyat Torah* (the reading of Torah) while acknowledging in

appropriate ways the role of the whole family, include the non-Jewish parent, in supporting the child's entry into Jewish adulthood. And they show that TBI is a progressive Jewish community that is welcoming to all.

How to make a welcoming community

Creating a welcoming community is not only a matter of having the right rituals. It is also a matter of what we might call 'active belonging'. How many of us feel that TBI is ours? Because, in truth, TBI belongs to each of us, and it is only when we become involved that we can feel the satisfaction and pleasure that the community offers. Just ask someone who is already active in TBI – they'll tell you how special it is for them!

If you'd like to become actively involved, there are several roles that need filling. They each require special skills, but you may be just the person with those skills, or ready to learn them:

- photographers at shul events (digital camera supplied!)
- archivists (both computer and hard copy)
- hospital visitors (as little or as much time per month as you can give)
- synagogue hosts (welcoming strangers and guests on Shabbat)
- synagogue guides (showing school groups around the synagogue)
- Temple Time reporters, cultural reviewers, copy editors...

Interested? Just pick up the phone and contact me at TBI, and we'll have a chat – no obligation!

Continued on page 8

Temple Time changes

You have undoubtedly noticed that *Temple Time* has been undergoing a process of change for many months now. The *Kesher* (communications) group which has taken on the task of renewing *Temple Time* is working slowly and with a great deal of thought and consultation, with the aim of improving our newsletter and serving our changing membership while keeping those elements which are important and adding new elements.

A significant change which we will trial this year is to move our publication dates so that the newsletter will revolve more closely around the Jewish calendar. This means that you will no longer receive *Temple Time* in your letterbox by the first of the month. Instead, our mailing dates will move around to reflect Jewish holidays and *Temple Time* will be published approximately every five to six weeks, rather than monthly.

We have exciting plans in store for the first half of the year, and we hope you will enjoy the new-format *Temple Time*. Please write to us and let us know! — Z.J.

Oneg Shabbat for Window Dedication & Shabbat guests

Friday 16 February, 6:15 pm
Oneg Shabbat BYO dinner, 7:15 pm

Dedication of the new *The Promised Land-Jerusalem* window, with thanks to the donors, Alan and Esther Michael.

Welcoming Rabbi Merle Singer and about a dozen guests from his congregation in Boca Raton, Florida, for Oneg Shabbat dinner, hosted by Rabbi Fred and Sue Morgan.

Please bring a non-meat dish to share. To assist with catering, please advise of your participation on 9510-1488.

A Blissful life

The Bliss story begins with a wedding at Alyth Gardens Synagogue, London, in January 1971 between a young dentist Philip Bliss and his bride Andrea Flack. Soon after their wedding, the young couple left for Melbourne and a new life. Here Philip began his dentistry practice and they started their family of four children.

Like so many younger people, organised religion was not part of their life and didn't become so until Andrea's parents arrived in Melbourne. They joined Leo Baeck Congregation and so Philip and Andrea joined them. With children attending Sunday school and a natural desire to become involved in community affairs, Philip soon joined his father-in-law on the LBC board. Not satisfied with running the annual fete, Philip became LBC President, following Michael Taft. As a result of his synagogue presidency, Philip became involved with the regional roof body, the AANZUPJ. To ensure he was not idle, he was slated as President and he started a campaign to make the roof body more professional and

AANZUPJ, was approached to be a Vice President of the WUPJ, the world roof body of Progressive Judaism. He now heads the WUPJ's new Social Action Committee, implementing his vision of bringing justice to the world. Not one to rest, he has now taken on the role of Secretary of the Council of Christians and Jews and is a member of the Zionist General Council. If that weren't enough, Philip has for many years edited an email information service, first on his own initiative and now as a service for the UPJ. *ProjeNews*, with a readership of thousands, broadcast around the world—all from his busy dental surgery in Hawthorn!

Whilst Philip has taken the very public role



in the Bliss family, he is not alone in communal service or in his devotion to Israel. Andrea has been for many years a volunteer crisis counsellor and is now involved with the Jewish Museum. She is Philip's chief critic and advisor but their dinner

meaningful for outlying congregations. Philip was instrumental in appointing Rabbi Levi as the first UPJ Regional Director and arranged for the increase in size of the regional body to take in Asia. Philip also built on the work of Sam Moshinsky, who had instigated the first agreements with UIA and the WUPJ to establish the UIA Progressive Trust.

Philip then took the reins as the President of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria. Never one to be shy of controversy, Philip was not always popular with other community leaders, speaking out on social and communal issues where others were loath to do so. Most notably, Philip told a visiting Maccabiah Bridge Disaster Commission sent out from Israel to deal with the issue, that the failure of the Israeli government to deal adequately with the disaster was harming relationships. This was too much for some and he was forced to resign. With hindsight Philip's views are now vindicated, but he does not look back with bitterness.

Philip, after his term as President of the

table is always lively, as communal issues are discussed with any of the family who happen to be at home. This has proved to be a good grounding in communal service for the next generation. None of their children are reticent in speaking out when others are wronged, something that has obviously been learned around the lively Bliss dinner table.

Their three daughters, Gabby, a writer and chef working out of Sydney, Lara, a full time wife and mother, and Miranda, who works in marketing, have all had wonderful experiences in Israel which they hope will lead to further interest and involvement in Zionist and general Jewish affairs. Their youngest, Jeremy, has just returned from a year in Israel and has joined the leadership of Netzer.

Perhaps in a few years, Lara and her husband Craig's daughter Amelie will follow in this family's footsteps. It is the future of Philip's children and grandchildren that inspires him to work for our community.

IAN SAMUEL

Rabbinic Reflections *continued*

What's coming up?

Keep an eye out for these highlights over the coming months:

- In June, Rabbi Prof. Jonathan Magonet will be in Melbourne as the UPJ Scholar-in-Residence. Rabbi Magonet recently retired as the principal of the Leo Baeck College in London, where I received my rabbinic training. He has well over 30 years experience in interfaith work, and he is editor (with Lionel Blue) of four prayerbooks for the British Reform movement. He is also a great Bible scholar and teacher. He'll be giving lots of lectures and *shiurim* – not to be missed!
- Speaking of prayerbooks, in about three years the American Reform movement, which is currently producing a new siddur, will stop producing *Gates of Prayer*. This means that all congregations that use *GoP*, including TBI, will have to find a new siddur for the future. Following the lead of TBI's own 'Siddur Project', the rabbis of the VUPJ are now actively engaged in researching the new siddurim coming onto the market in North America and Britain. We'll be presenting our findings to all the VUPJ constituents over the next several months. You'll want to be a part of this fascinating and important process!
- Interested in India and her religions (including the Jewish communities of Mumbai and Cochin)? We're planning a fantastic tour of India for three weeks in February-March 2008: a totally unique itinerary and perspective on one of the world's most mysterious and awesome places. As a prequel to the tour, later this year I'll be running a series of Sunday morning sessions on *A Passage to India*, using our itinerary to introduce the religions of India through Jewish eyes.
- For those who enjoy a more traditional style of Jewish learning, with lots of one-to-one engagement and grappling with texts, look out for our *Sunday Matan Bet-Midrash*, which will start after Shavuot (in May).

Welcome to TBI for 2007!

Za'ed Morgan

Online donations facility

You can now donate to the tax-deductible Progressive Jewish Cultural Fund (PJCF) online. The service operates 24-hours, seven days a week. The online donations service is totally secure and your donation goes straight to the PJCF. You can make your online donations at www.ourcommunity.com.au/progressivejewishculturalfund



Send your kids to Netzer!

With the ghostly outline of Wilson's Promontory in the distance below, Netzer camp sat perched on a hill surrounded by serenity. But serene is not a word I would associate with Netzer camp itself!

Rabbis Morgan and Gevurtz, Jamie Wajnberg and myself were privileged to be guests at our summer Netzer camps that took place just outside Foster, Gippsland, in heat topping 40C and with an eerie smog from distant bushfires draping the rolling hills and cows below. And it was a good thing that there were only cows within ear-shot because with all the *ruach* (spirit) no one was going to get much sleep.

It's a real testament to our Netzer leadership that our camps were so successful, both junior and senior camp each having in excess of 100 attendees participating in fun and Jewishly informed programming. On behalf of the TBI rabbinic team I want to take this opportunity to thank Netzer for their hospitality and for all the dedicated service they give at our camps and throughout the year.

Two programs took place at senior camp that I believe all of us ought to know about because they give us insights into the extent to which our young people seriously wrestle with weighty matters affecting us all as Jews today.

The first program was the *Veida*, which is Netzer's annual ideological conference. Hours were spent, not just by the *bogrim/madrachim* (leaders), but by all those at camp, reviewing, debating and deciding on Netzer's policies and

of the day and making informed choices about how to live active and purposeful Jewish lives!

The other program that took place at Netzer senior camp that I would like to highlight is the first of a series of forums about developing new prayerbooks for our region. As the English-speaking Progressive communities of North America and the UK begin to unveil their new prayerbooks and phase out the old (including the *Gates of Prayer* that we use) we have an historic opportunity to develop our own prayerbooks that speak in the idiom of our region. After a number of years of dedicated work by members of TBI towards producing a new siddur that reflects the worship priorities and beliefs of our region, starting this year the endeavour is being expanded and redirected to encompass all constituents of the VUPJ as well as interested affiliate communities of the UPJ. Netzer was the first group we canvassed, both because senior camp was the perfect opportunity to speak with a large group of Netzer-niks, and also because Netzer already has its own home-grown regional siddur and therefore has helpful experience for us to draw on as we take into consideration the views of a wide range of our community members. Netzer has already begun to give us input – indicating their views about



beliefs. I was struck by the enthusiasm and respect that participants showed when discussing issues ranging from Netzer's beliefs about Zionism to the permissibility of animal-derived rennet (an enzyme used in making cheese); from wearing *kippot* to 'who is a Jew'; and from ways to encourage more Netzer-niks to go on Shnat (a structured year in Israel upon completing high school) to statements condemning Iran's sponsoring of the recent Holocaust denial conference and incitement against the State of Israel. We can all take a leaf out of our Netzer-niks' book with respect to our own engagement in pressing issues

transliteration, gender language in prayer, artwork, layout and much more. A series of forums, to be known as 'The Siddur Roadshow' will take place through the year in all constituents of the VUPJ (including several at TBI) on a range of topics relating to prayerbooks and worship. All the rabbis of the VUPJ strongly encourage your active participation in this process. We want you to have your say.

Please join us at our first Siddur Roadshow on Thursday 1 March in the Friedlander Bet Midrash, 7:30 pm - 9 pm.

Rabbi Gersh Zylberman

You want to add some shmooze and spice to your Shabbat experience?

You're looking for our Young TBI dinners!

For those aged 18 – 35+ on the fourth Friday night of each month, join a disparate group of younger TBI members for a Shabbat meal following our erev Shabbat service. Meet old friends and make new ones, shmooze and relax, enjoy music and delicious food. If you're keen, join the organisers to prepare the meal! Contact jamie.wajnberg@tbi.org.au or 9510-1488

Shabbat Alive!

On Friday 23 February and the **fourth erev Shabbat** of each month, welcome Shabbat with drums and cymbals, guitars, singing, vibrant rhythms and the energy of our junior chazzanim! A special Shabbat service for everyone who enjoys some extra *va-va-voom* in their Shabbat experience.

The Siddur Roadshow begins

Join us on **Thursday 1 March, 7:30 pm - 9 pm, in the Friedlander Bet Midrash.**

Give your opinion and ideas on a range of topics relating to prayerbooks and worship, as we consider our options after *Gates of Prayer*.

How a simple act can lift the spirit

On Sunday 7 January, Raquel Duarte, Sue Morgan and Sylvie Jonas from the TBI Social Justice Group, with two extra volunteers, Catriona Tyrrell and Denis Frankel, attended a working bee at one of the Jewish Care homes.

The front garden of the home was quite unkempt and overgrown, which made it rather unwelcoming. As the saying goes, 'many hands make light work', and in the span of two hours the overgrown front garden was transformed. Trees were pruned back, dead branches removed, rampant climbers cut back. Three people from the home were on hand to assist, one person was the supervisor, whilst the other two swept the driveway and path and also helped bag the cuttings. It's all about teamwork.

They stood back after the work was complete and couldn't believe the transformation that had occurred. The smiling faces said it all.

Tikkun Olam: TBI community steps into the breach at Sacred Heart Mission

For the fourth year running, a team of TBI volunteers staffed the Sacred Heart Mission kitchen and dining hall over summer to allow the regular staffers a holiday. While the work was its own reward, it also earned the heart-felt thanks of the Sacred Heart Mission volunteer organisers, expressed in a letter to the TBI volunteers.

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all the hard working members of the Temple Beth Israel group.

Our Meals Services Manager – David McNamara – along with all of his team, have given me excellent feedback on your group, remarking on the reliability, generosity and good will of the Temple Beth Israel volunteers.

Your on-going support of the Sacred Heart Mission is greatly appreciated and so, once again, our thanks for your generous assistance.

BRAD ARMSTRONG

PROGRAM MANAGER – VOLUNTEER SERVICES, SACRED HEART MISSION ST KILDA

To the 55 volunteers who gave their time so generously we, too, thank you so very much. For the first time in four years we managed to completely fill our roster. To those people who have volunteered for the first time, we hope you found your experience a rewarding one. To those who continue to volunteer year after year, you have become the backbone of what has become a yearly tradition of volunteering to the broader community, on behalf of the Temple Beth Israel family.

SYLVIE JONAS

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP COORDINATOR

Special needs Chanukah service

Rabbi Morgan, together with the TBI Social Justice Group, hosted a Chanukah Service for people with special needs on the 4th day of Chanukah. Some of the residents of three Jewish Care homes, together with support staff, participated in a warm and uplifting Service. The story of Chanukah was beautifully explained by Rabbi Morgan through words, song and some participant interaction. There were many eager volunteers at hand to kindle the Chanukiyah. This special evening ended with the traditional eating of *ponchcas*.



Morrie, Denis, Harry and Evette - TBI volunteers served the Sacred Heart Mission over summer and their enthusiasm never flagged

B'Yachad: Bringing the TBI community together

An alphabetical listing of all the groups and activities at Temple Beth Israel. Please call the contact person specified, call the Temple office on 9510-1488 or check our monthly calendar for dates.

Note that most groups and activities will break over summer. Call the office for information on when we start up again in 2007

ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

Social and support group for Jewish Australian families with adopted children (JAFAC).

Contact Floss 0418 504526

DROP IN & CHAT/CRAFT CIRCLE @ TBI

BYO tabletop games or indulge your craft interests. Second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am. \$2 for refreshments.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Entertainment & social interaction, first and third Wednesday monthly. 11:30am to 1:30pm. \$7 includes lunch & raffle ticket.

GESHER L'TEFILLAH @ TBI

On second Shabbat monthly at 10 am, an intimate self-led gathering with Torah study.

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

Meeting every six weeks or so, offers companionship, support and provides helpful information to carers. Mondays, 26 March, 30 April, 25 June, 30 July at 7:30 – 9 pm.

MATAN

Hebrew and Jewish studies program for children from prep to b'nei mitzvah age. Jamie on 9510-1488 or jamie.wajnberg@tbi.org.au

MEN'S GROUP

An opportunity for Jewish men to gather for discussion on issues of concern. Meeting monthly in private homes. Contact Albert on 9555-2527 for details

NISHMAT COL CHAI

Jewish meditation, chanting, discussion on first Wednesday evening of the month. Occasional Jewish Renewal services with lay facilitators. Eva Light on 9510-1488

SUNDAY WALKS 'LECH LECHA'

Meet in Caulfield Park each Sunday morning for a walk in the Park followed by coffee.

David on 0414 339 238

TEMPLE TIME PACKING TEAM

Sort, wrap and pack the monthly issue of *Temple Time*. Often last Wednesday monthly.

TOASTMASTERS

Develop communication and leadership skills, self-confidence and personal growth. Alan Samuel on 9510-1488

To include your group or activity in this directory, contact the editor on 9510-1488 or email zoi.juvris@tbi.org.au with details. If you want more extensive coverage, contact the editor to arrange a story.

A letter to whom it may concern

Jeremy Bliss recently returned from Israel, where he spent a year with his Netzer group. It was a life-changing experience, best expressed in his own words.

Dear Nir,

Long time no hear. As you know, I'm back home. It's a bit weird to be honest. I feel a little uneasy at the idea of being back. I miss Israel a lot. Since you died I've only become more confused about where I want to be.

My perspectives were formed on the Machon, with you. Of course I learnt in the classes, *tiyulim* and *shiurim* but it was with you, Gefen, Anat, Oron and Yael that Israel became real to me. It was because of the contact with bonafide Israelis that I began to grasp how unique a life it is that you lead; that life can, and obviously is, hanging on such a tenuous thread that every minute has to be appreciated. And that your Israeli manners are not those of rudeness or arrogance but necessity; there are bigger problems than not saying please when buying your morning *rogale*. I always hated that iconically Israeli pinch of the hand, indicating *shnia*, just wait two seconds! That's changed now...

I remember the last time I saw you, the last day of Machon. I left the *madrichim* till last in my order of farewells. Not because it was the hardest but actually because it was the easiest. I knew I was going to see you all again, if not in a couple of weeks, then over my remaining six months in Israel. So, I saved the easiest till last. And it was, we hugged and you told me that 'this isn't goodbye, it's just *lehitraot* (see you later)'. I looked forward to the time when you would have finished leading your next group and I would have finished the first part of my options period, so that we could go for that hike down south. I remember when I was hiking from the Mediterranean to the Kinneret you called and asked that I come down to the Negev to see the floods, your passion for your country always shaped your pastimes and your interaction with others.

During my internship at the Israeli Religious Action Centre, reports were coming in day by day that the situation at the border was heating up. Israel was in an official *matsav* (situation). I didn't really think much about it and continued in the bubble that was my year in Israel. I attended films at the festival, ate at the salubrious Bookshop Café, attended films at Lev Smadar, travelled Israel, went to Cyprus and back by boat leading six hundred Americans, made new friends in Jerusalem and lived alone in Arnona – down from Shy Agnon's home just near the arty, eclectic and quirky cafés on Beit Lechem. I got to love your country.

Things struck me as a little more serious when, whilst on my way to the Central Bus Station, intending to visit my aunt and uncle in Netanya, I called an Australian friend who was volunteering in the North in an Arab town called Majd-Al Krum to hear her weekend plans. Then I realised that our bubble was bursting. I heard a shaky voice that was disinterested in what I was saying. I asked what was wrong, there was a hesitation and then a panic-struck response, 'We're being bombed' and then the beep signalling the conversation's end. Everything became a little fuzzy after that. I turned back on orders from our group's leader, returned to my house in Arnona and waited until my friends arrived. We passed the night with our leaders watching the news reports file in as the bombs travelled further and further south. The days that followed were spent the same way. A nervous hush fell on Jerusalem.

The *matsav* worsened and the next week we were moved to lead camp at Noar Telem Netzer in Kfar Silver. In an attempt to reinvigorate our Shnat bubble we were installed as leaders at their Israeli Summer Camp. Shnat went on, punctuated by the Qassams falling every few seconds from Gaza, only twenty or so kilometres away, and by reports of friend's friends being killed, or their families in bomb shelters, or worse; dead.

After camp I made the decision with my friends to do something to actively help the war effort. Sar-El, the army volunteer program, allowed for this. I moved then to the Batsap, Pikud HaOlef communications base in Ramle, near Tel Aviv. I repaired headsets for tanks that went straight up to the northern border. Maybe you were using them...

What was to be our final day on Sar-El started a little differently from most, our *Me-fakedet* (commander), in her morning news brief, omitted the names of the soldiers who died the night before since there were so many on that day in August. I thought nothing much of the omission as I had been late to the briefing and was thankful I had not been reprimanded and went straight to work. I still wish that our ever anticipated morning *hafsakah* (break) had not come, such was the news it brought. As we sat, eating outside the *shekem* (canteen) my friend got a call. I heard her repeat 'what do you mean, am I sitting down?' as she disappeared around the corner. Confused, I followed her to see what had happened. As someone unfamiliar with war,

I never imagined a connection. As I reached my friend she turned to me, her face wet from tears, her eyes red and she said the words that have echoed in my head ever since, 'Nir passed away last night.' My shock caused me to take the phone from her to get to the bottom of the situation. It couldn't possibly be true; you weren't sick, why would you have died? The voice repeated the news and clarified the situation. Your tank had been blown up by the Hizbullah's anti-tank missiles. I sat stunned and unable to speak, tears came and didn't stop for days.

We packed our things and moved back to Jerusalem, to a house that had been broken into and robbed. I couldn't function. I remember calling home and crying down the phone-line for hours, not speaking, no one saying a word. I met with friends and we speculated as to when your funeral would be, and spoke endlessly about you. I saw the clip the Israeli news made about your life and cruel death. I imagined your death.

They postponed your funeral, they said, because your family were coming from the US. The truth was that the body parts exhumed from the tank had to be DNA tested as they were so unrecognizable. And so, on the twelfth of August, my birthday, we buried you. I went the Shabbat before to dinner at a friend's home, to try to get my mind off your death a little, only to be reminded of how small a country Israel is and how communal its grieving can be. I found at that dinner one of your childhood friends and so, as the 11th became the 12th, I sat with him outside, talking about how the conflict will be resolved.

Your funeral was horrendous. At eleven on *Motzei Shabbat*, we gathered in Har Herzl, the National Military Cemetery, choked by our tears, to bid you farewell. Hundreds of your family and friends gathered around the freshly dug grave, yours next to those of other soldiers, buried only days before. That night I found myself again on the phone to my family, not speaking but crying, unable to express the feelings of utter helplessness and sadness that encompassed me.

The rest of the year was hard. With time, moments of enjoyment came. My Hebrew improved and I made many great Israeli friends. I lived in your beloved Negev desert and packed melons on a Kibbutz. I travelled your beautiful country from bottom to top and visited the north once again before I returned home. Things got better. The pain hasn't lessened but its appearance comes less frequently.

I guess you were wrong Nir, it was goodbye. But your memory will stick with me always as you, by nature of a cruel turn of fate, shaped my year in a positive way. *Lehitraot achi*.

BOOK REVIEW

These Are The Names, John S Levi (The Miegunyah Press, 2006)

Howard A Freeman

This book is unique within the whole field of Jewish historiography. Nowhere, until now, has there ever been published a biographical dictionary of this type, dealing as it does with virtually all the Jews of a single country, over such a formative period in the history of a nation.

We have here, within nearly 900 pages, the summation of the existence of some 1500 lives, comprising the biographical record of the Australian Jewish experience. Nothing as extensive has ever been written for any Jewish community in any other country.

It is unique, also, because Australia is the only country in the world for which the Jewish experience has been documented since the first Jews arrived.

But the public record is very widely dispersed, as the bibliography of the sources used in this book will show. This means that an immense amount of scholarship, within archives both here in Australia and overseas—over nearly 40 years of John's and his wife, Robyn's, lives—has gone into the gestation of this book.

Particular reference must be made to Robyn Levi's role in the creation of this immense work, as the keeper of the records, the guardian of the database. If John is the father of this scholarship, Robyn is equally the mother.

Moreover, the scholarship has been supplemented with a great deal of detective work, and much new material has been uncovered. John has brought back to life over 1500 Jewish men and women, not one of whom could ever have dreamed that there would ever be a book to honour them, good Jews or bad, villains or victims.

Superbly detailed in the essay that John has written as the introduction, is the 18th century European atmosphere of deprivation and hunger, lives shaped by the imperatives of starvation or survival, in a society administered by an English judiciary that had no benevolent insight into crimes of necessity.

How delicious, then, that Justice Howard Nathan, himself the proud product of the criminal class, so well describes these personae in his



superb Foreword.

Unlike most histories, this one is not reserved for the powerful or the wealthy. It is a captivating thought to wonder how many hundreds of thousands of today's Australians, Jews and gentiles alike, are descended from the eight or so generations whose beginnings are described within this book. I wonder how many of them have any knowledge of their Jewish forebears?

No discussion of this major work would be complete without a biblical analogy or two.

John's chosen title, *These are the Names*, has two echoes in the Hebrew Bible. The first is the opening verse of Exodus, *V'Eleh Shemot*, 'These are the names...' which recapitulates the names of Jacob's family who came to Egypt and there became enslaved. How apt!

The second is in *B'Midbar*, the book of Numbers, which tells of the end of the journey that had begun in Egypt. In it we read 'And these were their names'. These verses recount the Israelites' first attempt to enter the promised, but as yet unknown, land of Canaan. The names are those of the spies, who are chosen from the 12 tribes. They understand that it will entail a great struggle, so the spies or scouts are sent out to collect information about this new but ancient land. The reports that come back are conflicting, coming as they do from a spectrum of observers. How equally apt!

This is a beautifully produced and sumptuously printed book that should be on the shelves of every Australian Jewish family, as well as the shelves of the countless non-Jews who have Australian Jewish ancestors.

Howard Freeman is President of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Victoria, Inc. Book available from TBI office at \$79.95

The year turns at The King David School

The new school year has begun at the King David School as it has for all schools throughout Australia, and with the new year comes the excitement of new possibilities.

The 2006 graduating VCE students of KDS have all done extraordinarily well and we wish them, and all our graduating Year 12 members, a hearty *mazal tov* on the successful completion of their 12th year of schooling. May these young adults continue to have success in their future endeavours.

Outgoing KDS 2006 school captains, Katie Kaminsky and Julian Buckeridge, both of whom come from committed Temple families, deserve special thanks for their efforts through 2006. Incoming captains for 2007, Simon Finkelstein and Yael Appelboom, will pick up the reins.

Mazal tov also to those KDS students who were specially recognised for their contribution to the school community: Jessica Chereshtsky, received the VUPJ Award for Leadership (middle school); Ramelle Lewis received the UPJ Atid Award; Alice Mikhman (Yr 9), Warren Shalekoff (Yr 10) and Rachel Krasky (Yr 11) received the TBI Award for Jewish Studies. And *mazal tov* to TBI members Reyzl and Dvora Zylberman for the top marks in VCE Yiddish 2006!

The strong and supportive bond between KDS and TBI was maintained throughout the year and the TBI Board and School Council will continue to work together for the mutual benefit of the two communities.

KDS Fete: King's Carnival!

This is a fabulously fun day for the whole family—food, drinks, entertainment, carnival rides, face painting, hair braiding, games, hand-crafts to buy, goods both new and used...a way of supporting our community school that is completely painless and a great deal of fun.

Join us in Armadale and enjoy a marvellous day. Further details in the next issue of Temple Time.



Smachot

RECENT BIRTHS

We welcome the new babies who have expanded our congregational family!

Baby Arbiv (daughter for Ziv Arbiv & Dao Thi Vo) • **Avigail Shoshana Bergman** (daughter for Danielle & Daniel, granddaughter for Roger Bancroft, great granddaughter for Kay Bancroft) • **Ashley Dena Birner** (daughter for Daniel & Melanie, granddaughter for Henry & Raquella Birner) • **Jaida Renee Cohen** (daughter for Sharon & Dion Cohen, great granddaughter for Sara Segal) • **Rory Maver Davis** (son for Andrew & Vikki, grandson for Lyn & Ross Maver, great grandson for Etta Maver & Eve Markov) • **Jade Abi Frydman** (daughter for Andrea & David) • **Lia Rebecca Goodvach** (daughter for Adam & Janet, granddaughter for Nellie & Greg Goodvach) • **Liam Avi Goodvach** (son for Paul & Shiri, grandson for Nellie & Greg Goodvach) • **Sophia Pip Klooger** (daughter for Nick & Caitlin, granddaughter for Ken & Carol Klooger) • **Livia Beth Lazarow** (daughter for Student Rabbi Gersh and Michelle Lazarow, granddaughter for Jenny & Tom Gorog) • **Amiel Sera Margis** (daughter for Belinda & Samuel Margis, granddaughter for Judy & John Margis) • **Michael Napolitano** (son for Vivienne & Peter, grandson of Inge Ruben) • **Ella Robyn Rath** (great granddaughter for Erica Greenberg & Ruben Potts) • **Mila Redlich** (daughter for Suzi & Leigh, great granddaughter for Greta Redlich) • **Ellie Leah Robinson** (daughter for Amanda & Brett) • **Oliver Michael Rogelberg** (son for Monique & Vadim, great-niece for Albert & Carol Bentata) • **Louis Oliver Schifftan** (son for Angela & Dan Schifftan, grandson for Peter & Lynne Schifftan) • **Strauss twins** (sons for Gisela Wilcox & Boyd Strauss) • **Mia Olivia Vexler** (daughter for Ronen & Liz) • **Amelia Zylberman** (daughter for Raf & Jane, granddaughter for Albert & Ziona Zylberman)

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS (1 FEB - 16 MAR)

Mazal tov on celebrating a birthday to:

• Dashiell Aloni • Roger Bancroft • Ric Benjamin • Ralph Berg • Jonathan Blashki • Helene Boon • Paul Bridgeman • Bettina Burnett • Mervyn Cohen • Michael Cohn • Andrea Dorey • Ann Dorey • Lotti Eisinger-Philip • Bianca Faber • Beryl Feldman • Marga Finkelstein • Jeanette Goldman • Leslie Gross • Judi Grossbard • Caroline Gurvich • Muffy Hand • Mary Harber • June Helmer • Marilyn Hyams • Nathan Jacobson • Diana Kahn • Jennifer Kalmus • Esther Kaufman • Renee Krane • Adam Lawrence • Gunter Lesh • Rose Lester • Monty Lester • Helen Light • Lucia Lipton • Veronica Maine

• Malvina Malinek • Rebecca Mark • Tony Michaels • Di Morton • Neville Moses • Theo Moss • Tania Nahum • Molly Nathan • Philip Opas • Les Pahoff • Lou Paykel • David Pook • Carmella Prideaux • Vadim Rogelberg • Asher Rose • Martha Sanders • Lynnette Schifftan • Charles Shaw • George Shaw • Judy Sher • Jeffrey Sherman • Sharon Simon • Rae Singer • Elstynne Sive • Oscar Sokolski • Catherine Soveny • Suzanne Stern • Carly Sward • Geoffrey Sward • Lydia Swart • Fiona Sweet • Rodney Swire • Lisa Tescher • Alfred Wallis • Stephanie Wayne • Torsten Weller • Erica Wilthagen • Raphael-Dan Zalchandler • Shay Zayontz

RECENT ENGAGEMENTS

Mazal tov to these recently engaged couples:

• Nicole Bando (granddaughter of Ellen Bando) & Danny Passov • Andrew Harris (grandson of Jill Harris) to Na'ava Lederman • Nikki Mahemoff (daughter of Dani & Arnold Mahemoff) & Alex Grinstein • Sandra Minc (daughter of Susan Minc) & Lee Tiepermann • Saul Ryan (son of Adam & Yoko Ryan) & Lauren Chaffey • Hayden Snow (son of Ross & Karen Snow) & Thea Schwartz

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES (1 FEB - 16 MAR)

Mazal tov on their wedding anniversaries to:

• David & Susi Lipszyc (55th) • Itiel & Maureen Bereson (50th) • Monty & Leila Kleiman (50th) • John & Robyn Levi (45th) • Paul & Norma Brand (45th) • Robin & Margaret McKenzie (25th) • Kevin & Andrea Eisfelder (20th) • Paul & Eve Bartrop (15th) • Barry & Paula Rockman (15th) • Jeffrey Harrison & Heike Schwarz (15th) • Joel & Stacey Dodge (5th) • Lior & Kate Rauchberger (5th) • Paul & Narelle Loewy (5th) • Shane & Galia Rose (5th)

MAZAL TOV

To **Stan Marks OAM** on being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours list!

RECENT BA'ALEI KRIYAT TORAH

Lauren Basser, Jeremy Basser, Stephanie Greenberg, Rhondda Hall, Daniel Heymann, Bruce Levine, Guy Malka, Kieran Mihaly, Rabbi Morgan, Ben Needleman, Jamie Wajnberg, Fairlie Wayne, Rabbi Zylberman

Bereavements

DEATHS

We remember these recently deceased and offer sincere condolences to their families:

Andrew Bernhart (husband of Alisa, father of Talia & Allan) • **Anna Braham** (mother of



From top: Jenny Gorog with new granddaughter, Livia Beth Lazarow; Daniel Heymann (bar mitzvah 13 January 2007) with his parents and brother; Jeremy

Basser (bar mitzvah 20 January 2007) with his parents and sister; Stephanie Greenberg (bat mitzvah 3 February 2007)

Philip & Peter Braham & Lillian Wilson) • **Hilda Barrow** (mother of Malcolm & Graham Barrow) • **Yvonne Estrach** (wife of Abraham, mother of Dean) • **Vivien Froebel** (wife of Dieter Froebel, mother of David Krampel & Michelle Bud) • **Aurora Gininger** • **Miriam Gluck** (mother of Russell & Trevor, aunt of Rhonda Nirens) • **David Goldman** (husband of Jane Goldman, father of Aviva Goldman) • **Hanelore Guest** (mother of Miriam Traum & Judith Bennett) • **Monty Kirkwood** (father of Ian Kirkwood) • **Helen Novy** (wife of Barry Novy, mother of Lesley & Robin Novy) • **Morris Pitt** (son of Aubrey & Sylvia Pitt) • **Rita Skolnik** (mother of Robin Rockman) • **David Shenker** (husband of Nancy, father of Leonard) • **Nadia Simon** (mother of Jackie Dinor) • **Helen Tidor** (wife of Pinchas, mother of Susan) • **Ethel Victor** (mother of Deborah Veltman & Susan Traugott) • **Gita Vigushin** (mother of Tom) • **Heinz Ziffer** (husband of Ilse, father of Kath Kolb & Robert)

Yahrzeits
Zecher Tzadik Livracha
Observed 3 February

Faywell Boyarski (step-father of Daniel Rabinowicz) • **Kurt Brunswick** (husband of Inge Brunswick) • **Mendel Cohen** (husband of Eve Cohen) • **Gerald Dunn** (husband of Mary Dunn, step-father of Fay Nussbaum) • **Rosa Eichner** (grandmother of Kitty Ross) • **Ruth Fonstein** (mother of M. Fonstein) • **Julius Geiger** (father of Jenny Geiger) • **David Greenberg** (brother of Selwyn Greenberg, brother-in-law of Alan Samuel) • **Toni Hand** (mother of Muffy Hand) • **Lily Jona** (mother of Walter Jona) • **Mark Jurkowski** (husband of Dana Jurkowski) • **David Kenny** (husband of Rosa Kenny) • **Elsbeth Leser** (sister-in-law of Marion Lippmann) • **Atida Levine** (mother of Greg Levine) • **Robert Lind** (father of Mary Dunn, grandfather of Fay & Paul Nussbaum) • **Abraham Harry Lipman** (father of Minnie Kahan) • **Naftali Malinek** (father of Ernie Malinek) • **Rebecca Marks** (daughter of Peter Akbiyik & Anita Marks) • **Rachel Martin** (mother of Yvonne Elton) • **Eva Ann Nathan** (wife of Peter Nathan, mother of David Nathan) • **Jeanette Paleg** (mother of Leslie Paleg) • **Eva Pilcer** (mother of John Pilcer) • **David Rich** (father of Michael Rich) • **Sidney Rosebery** (father of Marian Lawrence) • **Stanley Ross** (father-in-law of Kitty Ross) • **Ilse Salinger** (mother of Jeff Salinger) • **Vojtech Steiner** (father of Eva Skrabal) • **Ida Trytell** (mother of Morris Trytell) • **Paul Verney** (husband of Mary Dunn, father of Fay Nussbaum) • **Harry Weller** (father of Hymie Weller)

Observed 10 February

Ilse Abrams (mother of Barbie Kolliner & Carol Young) • **Charles Thomas & Emily May Cameron** (parents of Carol Bentata) • **Rose Ciddor** (mother of Pamela Hayat) • **Rose Cummings** (mother of Sylvia Radolnik) • **Henry Donenfeld** (father of Marian Dobos) • **Gerald Dunn** (husband of Mary Dunn, father of Fay Nussbaum) • **Michael Engel** (husband of Susi Engel) • **Ernestine Fast** (grandmother of John Fast) • **Ronald Graham Heard** (husband of Caroline Heard) • **Chana Helmer** (sister-in-law of June Helmer) • **Jacob Isaac & Cypra Shainer Helmer** (parents-in-law of June Helmer) • **Manfred Heyman** (husband of Valda Heyman, father of Ian Heyman) • **Mimi Jacob** (mother of Barbara Jacob) • **Robert Lind** (father of Mary Dunn, grandfather of Fay Nussbaum) • **Henry Liner** (husband of Ruth Mote) • **Rebecca Lipman** (grandmother of Elaine Bourne) • **Irmi Loewenstein** (mother of Jeffrey Loewenstein) • **Max Opat** (father of Mirri Curtis) • **Deborah**

Ornstien (mother of Esther Kaufman) • **Rita Pearl** (mother of Vivien Swinnerton, sister of Margot Eger) • **Harry Phillips** (brother of Esther Hartman) • **Martha Prince** (mother of Violet Loewenstein) • **David Rich** (father of Michael Rich) • **Felix Salcman** (father of Sam Salcman) • **Bernard Zygmunt Slawik** (husband of Alma Slawik) • **Racheal Weller** (mother of Hymie Weller) • **Peter Wilthagen** (husband of Erica Wilthagen)

Observed 17 February

Rebecca Cohen (mother of Raymond Cohen) • **Yvonne Coopersmith** (mother of Dianne Samuel) • **Philip David Freedman** (husband of Margot Freedman, father of Michael & Joel) • **Pauline Freidin** (mother of Bob Freidin) • **Daniel Holan** (son of Ruth & George Holan) • **Harold James** (father of Felicity Guthrie) • **Doris Joseph** (mother of Margaret Bentley) • **Giorgio Juvris** (father of Zoi Juvris) • **Joseph Kamm** (father of Susan Hearst) • **Helena Kronberg** (grandmother of John Fast) • **Pessa Lachman** (mother of Tzvi Lachman) • **Pauline Lutwak** (wife of Hans Lutwak) • **Claire Niefeld** (aunt of Greg Goodvach) • **Henry Pilcer** (father of John Pilcer) • **Gertrude Prager** (mother of Peter Prager) • **Jack Pressman** (brother of Arnold Prezman) • **Esther Rinde** (mother of Shirley Koadlow) • **Leo Schiffan** (step-father of Peter Schiffan) • **Michael Stiglec** (father of Sam Stiglec) • **Otto Tescher** (father of John Tescher) • **Louis Vanpraag** (father of Margaret Poll) • **Esther Stella Wassertheil** (mother of Jeff Wassertheil) • **Helen Windholz** (grandmother of Kathy Kaplan) • **Theodore Zemel** (husband of Jean Zemel)

Observed 24 February

Fay Aarons (mother of Ronald Aarons) • **Rebecca Beck** (mother of Janet Beck) • **Walter Bliss** (father of Philip Bliss) • **Joseph & Erika Boros** (brother-in-law & sister of Marta Mote) • **Maurice Charcon** (father of Raquella Birner) • **Albert Louis Davis** (father of Edward Davis) • **Phillip Efron** (brother of Jeannie Segal) • **Werner Graff** (father of Dorothy Graff) • **Freda Hartman** (sister-in-law of Esther Hartman) • **Arthur Hartmann** (father of Gary Hartmann) • **Yehuda & Rachel Honig** (parents of Rena Rabin) • **Mary Indikt** (mother of Max Fremder) • **Robert & Anna Jepson** (parents of Ruth Wexler) • **Harry Moses Joseph Nathan** (brother of Howard Nathan) • **Charles Kalnoky** (father of Susie Cymbalist) • **Max Kelman** (father of Hilda Brous, grandfather of Pia Brous) • **Harry King** (father-in-law of Emily King) • **Sarah Marks** (mother of Stan Marks) • **Boris Pogorelske** (father of Pamela Fradkin) • **Esther Radler** (aunt of Fred Morgan) • **Siegfried Reich** (father of Ursula Steinhardt) • **Eric Rogers** (father of

Howard Rogers & Sally Barnes) • **Mary Schaeffer** (mother-in-law of Leslie Paleg)

Observed 3 March

Rosa Abraham (grandmother of Sharon Herbert) • **Ida Arndt** (mother of Lolo Jackson) • **Sarah Barski** (mother of Lorraine Freeman) • **Ervin Bence** (husband of Erika Bence, father of Lillian Rotman) • **Hela Berman** (mother of Lilian Efron) • **Esther Cohen** (sister of Beatrice Levy) • **Leon Donald** (husband of Lea Donald) • **Leopold Epstein** (father of Hilde Weill) • **Peter Fisher** (son of Erika Fisher, husband of Helen Fisher, father of Benjamin & Simon Fisher) • **David Genis** (father of Stephen) • **William Gries** (husband of Anneliese Gries, father of Rosemary Swiderski) • **Arlette Hochmann** (mother-in-law of Robert Raynor) • **Isaac Meyer Kahan** (father of Josh Kahan) • **John David Kiffer** (son of Lili Kiffer, husband of Debbie Kiffer) • **Paul & Johanna Loewenstein** (grandparents of Jeffrey Loewenstein) • **Audrey Lubliner** (aunt of Jeff Sherman) • **Becky Marcovitch** (mother of Marilyn Parkin) • **Fanny Marder** (mother of Lydia Marshall) • **Simon Motulski** (father-in-law of Marta Mote) • **Moise Nahmias** (father of Raoul Nahmias) • **Solomon Nathan** (father of Paul & Victor Nathan) • **Barbara Paleg** (wife of Leslie Paleg) • **Leaza Samuels** (mother of Brenda Kahan) • **Henia Shaw** (mother of Rita Schulberg) • **Liza Sokolski** (wife of Oscar Sokolski) • **Olga Helene Sopher** (grandmother of Greg Hyde) • **Betti Steen** (mother of Frank Steen) • **Sarolta Syrop** (mother of Edith Kohn) • **Jacob Leib Tepper** (husband of Valerie Tepper) • **Helene Toronczyk** (mother of Edith Wagman) • **Helen Windholz** (mother of Vera Freidin)

Observed 10 March

Fay Aarons (wife of Ronald Aarons) • **Phillip Aarons** (father of Ronald Aarons) • **Lily Bernstein** (mother of Leila Cohen) • **Max Block** (husband of Judith Block) • **David Blusztain** (father of Helen Fisher) • **Rosalie Bristow** (mother of Louise Randall, sister of Margaret Poll, wife of Harry Bristow) • **Salomon Fast** (grandfather of John Fast) • **Leon (Eliezer) Feldman** (father of Ricky Feldman) • **Morley Felts** (husband of Eva Felts) • **Abraham & Rosa Fleiszaker** (parents of Jacqueline Purvis) • **Michael Fox** (father of Sybil Weller) • **Olga Geiger** (mother of Judith Shaw) • **Egon Greiner** (husband of Rita Greiner, father of Michael Greiner) • **Alexander Hegedus** (father of Andrew Hegedus) • **Ada Jacoby** (sister of Roma Frey) • **Stanley King** (father of Brad King) • **Morris Lawrence** (father-in-law of Marian Lawrence) • **Sarah Rebecca Opas** (mother of Philip Opas) • **Geoffrey Opat** (husband of Diana Opat, father of David Opat) • **Vernon Pearce** (cousin of Frank Durra) • **Annie Roberts**

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Observed 17 March

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Temple Beth Israel acknowledges that we are assembled on land whose traditional custodians are the people of the Kulin Nation.

Temple Beth Israel is proud to be affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism.

Purim issue: February/March at TBI (check www.tbi.org.au for updates)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
23 Shevat 5767 <p style="text-align: center;">11</p>	24 Shevat <i>Inaugural Jewish-Christian-Muslim Women's Conference. Enquiries on 9510 1488</i> 4 pm Matan religion school 7:30 Dementia Support Group meeting <p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	25 Shevat 11 am Café Shmooze @ TBI 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class (TBI - enquiries 9510 1488) <p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	26 Shevat 10:30 am Drop In & Chat/ Craft circle (Friedlander) 7 pm Netzer moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters (MRC) <p style="text-align: center;">14</p>	27 Shevat 7 pm Alef Bet Hebrew class with Ben Elisha (MRC) <p style="text-align: center;">15</p>	28 Shevat 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service Dedication of "The Promised Land-Jerusalem" window Oneg Shabbat BYO dinner with Rabbi Merle Singer <p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	29 Shevat Shabbat Mishpatim 10 am Shabbat morning service with Junior Chazzanim Batmitzvah of Danielle Cohen <p style="text-align: center;">17</p>
30 Shevat 10 am Sunday Walk Lecha 10:30 am Limmud on Sundays "Eilu v'Eilu": the Mikveh with Rabbi Gevurtz 3 pm "The Torah on the conquest of Canaan" CCJ host Rabbi Morgan at Toorak Uniting Church 8 pm Men's Group <p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	1 Adar 5767 4 pm Matan religion school <p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	2 Adar 11 am Café Shmooze @ TBI 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class <p style="text-align: center;">20</p>	3 Adar 11:30 am Friendship Club (Slome) 7 pm Netzer moetzah <p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	4 Adar 3 pm Pastoral Carers Open Day at TBI 7 pm Alef Bet Hebrew class with Ben Elisha (MRC) <p style="text-align: center;">22</p>	5 Adar 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service Shabbat alive! Junior Chazzanim 7:30 pm Young TBI Oneg <p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	6 Adar Shabbat Terumah 9 am Shabbat Mishpacha 10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Barmitzvah of Isaac Newcombe <p style="text-align: center;">24</p>
7 Adar 10 am Sunday Walk Lecha Lecha 10:30 am Limmud on Sundays "Eilu v'Eilu": Creation stories in Genesis with Rabbi Zylberman 5 pm Learn to leyn Torah: first session with Rabbi Morgan (Friedlander) <p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	8 Adar 4 pm Matan religion school <p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	9 Adar 11 am Café Shmooze @ TBI 5:30 pm Learn to leyn Torah: Second session with Rabbi Morgan (Friedlander) 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class <p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	10 Adar 10:30 am Drop In & Chat/ Craft circle (Friedlander) 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters <p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	11 Adar 7 pm Alef Bet Hebrew class with Ben Elisha (MRC) 7:30 pm Siddur Roadshow - discussion forum on our siddur <p style="text-align: center;">1</p>	12 Adar 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service Induction of Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz Special guest Rabbi Uri Regev <p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	13 Adar Shabbat Tetzaveh Zachor 10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Batmitzvah of Gabi Palti 8 pm Purim Spiel! <p style="text-align: center;">3</p>
14 Adar Purim 10:30 am Limmud on Sundays: "the unpurgated scroll" Reading of the Megilat Esther and lighthearted shiur 4 pm Grand Purim carnival! Fashion parade, pantomime, spiel, food <p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	15 Adar 2 pm Sheridan Hall Shmooze 4 pm Matan religion school <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	16 Adar 11 am Café Shmooze @ TBI 5:30 pm Learn to leyn Torah: Third session with Rabbi Morgan (Friedlander) 7:30 pm 'Introduction to Judaism' class <p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	17 Adar 11:30 am Friendship Club (Slome) 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 7:30 pm Nishmat Col Chai meditation (MRC) <p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	18 Adar 7 pm Alef Bet Hebrew class with Ben Elisha (MRC) 7:30 pm TBI Board meeting <p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	19 Adar 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service Babynaming of Mia Olivia Vexler <p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	20 Adar Shabbat Ki Tissa 10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Batmitzvah of Mairead Lesman Aufruf of Russell Weise & Rachel Same <p style="text-align: center;">10</p>
21 Adar 10 am Sunday Walk Lecha Lecha <p style="text-align: center;">11</p>	22 Adar Labour Day holiday TBI office closed <p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	23 Adar 11 am Café Shmooze @ TBI 5:30 pm Learn to leyn Torah: Final session with Rabbi Morgan (Friedlander) <p style="text-align: center;">13</p>	24 Adar Temple Time packing 10:30 am Drop In & Chat (Friedlander) 7 pm Netzer moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters <p style="text-align: center;">14</p>	25 Adar <p style="text-align: center;">15</p>	26 Adar 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service Babynaming of Ellie Leah Robinson <p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	27 Adar Shabbat Vayakhel Pekudei 10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Barmitzvah of Alexander Rose Aufruf of Ben Rogers & Danielle Wurzel <p style="text-align: center;">17</p>
28 Adar <i>Netzer Walkathon</i> 10 am Sunday Walk Lecha Lecha 8 pm Men's Group <p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	29 Adar 4 pm Matan religion school <p style="text-align: center;">19</p>	1 Nisan 5767 11 am Café Shmooze @ TBI 7:30 pm 'Introduction to Judaism' class <p style="text-align: center;">20</p>	2 Nisan 11:30 am Friendship Club (Slome) 7 pm Netzer Moetzah <p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	3 Nisan <p style="text-align: center;">22</p>	4 Nisan 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service 7:30 pm Young TBI Oneg <p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	5 Nisan Shabbat Vayikra 9 am Shabbat Mishpachah 10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Batmitzvah of Shafaye Gesundheit <p style="text-align: center;">24</p>
6 Nisan 10 am Sunday Walk Lecha Lecha 10:30 am Limmud on Sundays Three Holy Day offerings: Pesach "The Chief Rabbi's Haggadah" with Rabbi Morgan 1 pm Introduction to Judaism field trip to Jewish Holocaust Centre <p style="text-align: center;">25</p>	7 Nisan 4 pm Matan religion school 7:30 pm Dementia Support Group meeting <p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	8 Nisan 11 am Café Shmooze @ TBI 7:30 pm 'Introduction to Judaism' class <p style="text-align: center;">27</p>	9 Nisan 7 pm Netzer moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters <p style="text-align: center;">28</p>	10 Nisan <p style="text-align: center;">29</p>	11 Nisan 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service 7:15 pm Oneg Shabbat BYO dinner <p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	12 Nisan Shabbat Tzav 10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Batmitzvah of Aashleigh Anderson <p style="text-align: center;">31</p>