חג פורים

Temple Timeless

The anual Temple Beth Israel Community spoof

March 2008 - Adar I/Adar II 5768

Rudd says 'Sorry' to the Jews

Temple Beth Israel has achieved a political coup with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's commitment to attend the TBI Communal Seder on 20 April. 'I am really, really sorry that my landmark "Australia 2020" summit is scheduled for the passover weekend,' admitted the Prime Minister in a letter to President Roger Mendelson. 'Yes, I was very badly advised and I hope my attendance at the Seder meal will be accepted as true contrition.'

The Federal Government is hoping for a gathering of the country's greatest minds, but Passover already excludes several prominent figures, including a number of members of the TBI community who received invitations to the exclusive summit and who have declined on religious grounds.

A government spokesman said that many of those who could not attend because of Pesach would 'still contribute to the development of Australia's foreign policy and did not resent the government holding the summit on April 19 and 20, the Passover weekend'.

The TBI luminaries who had to turn down the invitation declined to have their names published in *Temple Time*. One miffed soul suggested he would never have considered attending a 'talkfest for left-wing, chardonnay-swilling, pseudo-creative types anyway', but most declared that Kev's apology is good enough for them and it should be good enough for all of us.

While the rabbis maintained a dignified silence about the done deal, a Board spokesman gleefully suggested that the Prime Ministerial presence at our seder would make up for just about anything.

'Are you kidding?!' the spokesman exclaimed. 'Society and business luminaries have scrambled to secure an invitation to the greatest meeting of the nation's finest minds, with the Prime Minister's office inundated with hundreds of submissions in the first week—and we get to carry him off to dinner and feed him matzah balls and gefilte fish! I tell you, there will be a lot of wringing of hands and gnashing of teeth all over the shtibls of Melbourne when they hear about this!'

The rabbis confirmed they would all be there, and that the whole of the Progressive *moetzah* (council of rabbis) would be welcome to join them.

Bored Talk

Sam Sharman

As TBI has clarified and strengthened its policy on inclusiveness, the Board thought it may be a good idea to invite some orthodox input to our meetings. So, at last we rocked up to the oyster bar (only used for special occasions) to unknot some seemingly in-depth problems. With Purim almost upon us we decided to discuss this first.

We were trying to find deep and meaningful reasons to celebrate Purim and came up with the following.

- Making noise in shul is a mitzvah!
- Nobody knows if you are having a bad hair day. You can tell them it's your costume.
- Purim is easier to spell than Chanukah.
- You won't get hit in the eye with a *lulav*.
- You don't have to *kasher* your home and change all the pots and dishes.

We require more orthodox input on this.

Staffing and shul ambience

It was decided by 32 to 8 (unusually large numbers – must be the oyster bar!) that substantial additional staff are required. The Board of Management is placing ads in the local paper for the following.

1. **Polisher.** Person to polish all existing light globes, as God said 'let there be light' and ours doesn't seem to shine too brightly. I know we saved them from the old shul, but waste not, want not.
2. **Stacker**. Shul is too small so we need someone to stack furniture – chairs on desks, computers on the couch, chairs in the shul will be rotated between the carpark and the footpath to free up some space, etc. We are also working on a 'standing room only' section, with accordingly cheaper membership fees.
3. **Cloakroom attendant.** To assist with coats, hats, umbrellas, prams, shoe polishing, clothes brush, etc. Will also sell peanuts, choc-top icecream cones and Jaffas during breaks in the service such as the rabbi's sermon.

We are here to please, after all, so if you see a niche that we can fill by engaging more staff, please let us know.

'America's Next Top Model' comes to TBI

Who would have thought that genre of reality television would ever have gone this far?

Within the first week of my new role as Education Director I was responding to a vast number of new enquiries about MA-TAN, our Religion School. Excited parents and anxious grandparents were phoning, all wanting the best for the children they adore. It wasn't unusual, given the copious number of calls, to then receive one message from Ms Tyra 'Banksberg' who assured me that she had to do a story on the school she had heard so much about.

That story was to be 'TBI's Next Top Model Student'. Naturally I suggested that given the definition of 'student', we could not dismiss the fact that we have students here of all different ages. We agreed with the production company that they include the B'nei Mitzvah students, Limmud groups, Family Education attendees, and so on.

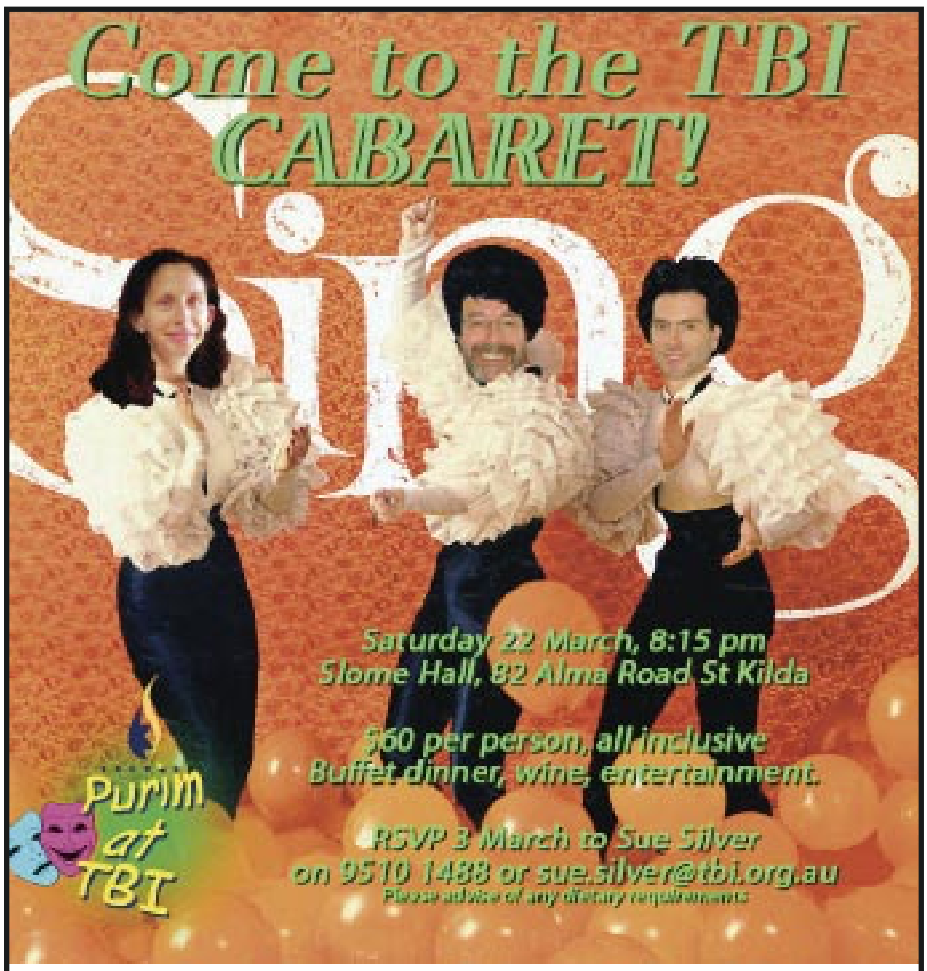
The team arrived and it was amazing to see the TBI car park filled with media production trucks, vans, catering facilities (much like bringing coals to Newcastle) and make-up buses! The two weeks ahead proved to be long but as each education group was filmed the level of adrenaline increased.

Day by day the show was following its regular sequence of placing the players through challenges and interviews in an attempt to eliminate individuals and conclude the series with a winner – the next model student.

Surprisingly this was no easy feat as the producers found, as everyone at TBI knows, we are all talented, brilliant and each of us is 'TBI's Next Top Model Student'.

Reality television is fun but the reality of our potential is great!

Left: Executive Director Alan Samuel with one of the entrants in 'TBI's next top model student'

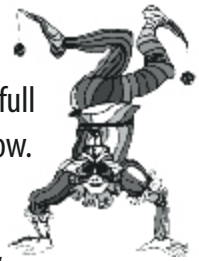


TBI COMMUNITY PURIM CELEBRATIONS

Don't go away for the Easter weekend!
Come to our Purim program instead!

THURSDAY 20 MARCH
7 PM, PURIM & PUNCH

Especially for adults, Purim service including the full reading of the Megillah and refreshments to follow.



8:30 PM, ELBOWS UP

Young TBI takes the Purim injunction seriously, and will imbibe at a local pub.

FRIDAY 21 MARCH
11 AM, FAMILY PURIM CARNIVAL!

Entertainers, sideshows, food, drink, Purim fashion parade, jumping castle, Purim spiel – the TBI family purim carnival is legendary. $10 per family

Bring the whole family just for the fun.

קול ישראל
Temple Time
The magazine of The Temple Beth Israel Community
March 2008 - Adar I/Adar II 5768

Celebrating Israel's 60 years with ten joyful days of learning and enjoyment

A fantastic ten-day program of Israel-focused events has been organised from 23 May and culminating on *Yom Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem Day) on 2 June; some are age-related, others are open to all and each one will offer enjoyable learning opportunities. Ten days, ten events; be tempted and choose amongst the selection for what would suit you best.

Friday 23 May, 6:15 pm
Shabbat Alive service, with our Junior Chazzanim setting the pace for a vibrant evening of celebration, followed by a Young TBI Oneg Shabbat Israeli dinner.

Saturday 24 May, 9 am
Shabbat Mishpacha service for young families, with a fun, Israeli flavour.

Sunday 25 May, 12 noon – 10 pm
We encourage the Temple Beth Israel community to participate in the State Zionist Council Yom Ha'atzmaut Community Festival, to be held at Gandel Besen House, Mount Scopus Memorial College, 15 Mayfield St, East St Kilda.

Monday 26 May, evening
Israeli dancing!
We are in for a treat because Shefi Shapiro will be leading and teaching. Shefi is the doyen of Israeli dancing in Melbourne. He started the trend which has inspired thousands to participate in this art form and when you taste his exuberance and energy you will be inspired to participate too! Time to be confirmed.

Wednesday 28 May, evening
An evening with world-renown Israeli writers Yehuda Amichai and Amoz Oz, presented by Associate Professor Ziva Shavitsky and Dr Dvir Abramovich.
You will not want to miss this dialogue between these respected commentators of Israeli society.

Friday 30 May, 6:15 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat service with Kol Simcha, including Israeli songs and followed by an Oneg dinner featuring guest speaker Benji Maor, the JNF Shaliach.

Saturday 31 May, 10 am
Our Shacharit Shabbat service, with guest speaker Benji Maor.

Sunday 1 June, 10:30 am
A MATAN family day, full of learning opportunities and fun focusing on Israel.

And finally…
A Virtual Tour of Israel!
Sunday 1 June at 5 pm
Our culminating event in celebration of Yom Yerushalayim. We'll take you on a tour from Ben Gurion airport and passport control all the way through Israel on a whirlwind tour of memorable sights, sounds, tastes and smells.

Diarise now and get ready for an unforgettable program in celebration of Israel's 60 years.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT
ROGER MENDELSON

I am occasionally asked whether the almost weekly bar/batmitzvah celebrations become tedious or boring. After all, I, the Rabbis, the cantorial soloists and organist as well as our army of Regulars experience them week after week. The answer is an emphatic 'no'.

Each week, our Shabbat service is special, unique and a warm and emotionally involving experience. I really feel that TBI does a wonderful job in helping our families celebrate *smachot* (major celebrations) in great style and with dignity but with lashings of pathos, humour and great warmth. Pre-wedding *aufraufs* (call ups), babynamings and special anniversaries, birthdays and major achievements are all celebrated in the same manner. We also provide a wonderfully caring environment for those who are ill, grieving or in need of support.

For families to celebrate *bnei mitzvah* with only immediate family and friends present (as I believe is often the case in larger synagogues in the US), is a rather depressing thought. It is the fact that our community comes together and supports each other in good times and bad, which makes us special.

If we are to continue on our path of becoming a true *kehillah kedoshah* (holy community), it is imperative that life cycle events as well as special celebrations be shared with the TBI family.

At the same time, we cannot lose sight of the fact that for an event such as a bar mitzvah, the regular shulgoers are effectively sharing what is to them a special time of the week with a large number of people they do not know. For an event to be special, there must be a community of real people who are prepared to share the joy.

However, there is not a bottomless pit of warm feelings which can be drawn upon continuously but never be replenished. Being a practical, goal-orientated type of person, I tend to see this in terms of a 'Goodwill Bank'. Each week we delve deep into the Bank to provide for people and families who are in need of our support. In order that the Bank be replenished, it is crucial that our members not only take out from the Bank but also contribute to it. The way to do this is consciously to attend and provide a warm and caring community to others.

This is one of the reasons why we have an expectation that not only the *bnei mitzvah* students attend shul for a certain number of services before their own big day. We really want to see families attending services with them. This way, they are helping to build the balance in the Goodwill Bank.

TBI functions so well because we have a large number of people who contribute to the warmth of the community. Our community would be even stronger if everyone were to adopt the attitude that they have an obligation to contribute to the Goodwill Bank. A personal side benefit to all this is that helping to form part of a caring/sharing community is immensely satisfying. Just ask any of our smiling Regulars.

The concept of developing a *kehillah kedoshah* is a principle which is driving many of the activities at TBI. You will have seen various activities advertised in the *Temple Time*, such as the film night and the Purim Cabaret.

Whilst these are fund-raising activities, they are much more than that. Each presents an opportunity to meet and socialise with other TBI people and whenever this occurs, another brick in our *kehillah kedoshah* is laid in place.

Don't wait to be asked. If you can help Sue Silver arrange activities, help ticket sales or put together a table, then please do so.

I look forward to seeing you in shul.

Roger Mendelson

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Temple Time is free with annual membership of Temple Beth Israel. To receive *Temple Time* by email instead of, or in addition to, a conventional copy, please advise alan.samuel@tbi.org.au

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Publication of any/all material is at the discretion of the editor. Articles express the views of the author, not the Temple Beth Israel Board of Management. Articles in *Temple Time* may be reprinted but please acknowledge your source.

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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.

Prepare for Pesach
'A Family Haggadah'

The Progressive family haggadah, with a contemporary interpretation by Rabbi John Levi, accompanied by a cookbook of delicious Passover recipes and a CD of the ceremony's ageless songs.
Haggadot, CD and cookbook are available separately from the TBI office at $20 each.

RABBI GERSH ZYLBERMAN

Purim, reconciliation and acceptance

Behind the frivolity of Purim lurks a serious message: when a group of people is singled out for maltreatment the inherent injustice all too often results in violence. In some cases that violence is almost exclusively unidirectional. In other cases the singling out of a group of people for maltreatment can trigger a tit-for-tat cycle of attack and response.

The Purim story as portrayed in the Scroll *(Megillah)* of Esther is a case in point. Our people are described as having been singled out for maltreatment by the evil machinations of Haman who had a grudge against us. According to our text he warns the foolish king Ahashverosh that 'there is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom; and their laws are different from all people; nor do they keep the king's laws: therefore…if it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed…'(Esther 2:8,9)

We're all familiar with the basic outline of the story, that in the end it is Haman who is destroyed. But what is often glossed over in an attempt to give the Scroll of Esther a *PG* rating is the brutal reprisals our people inflict on the people who were about to destroy them. My aim here is not to engage in a justification of our people's actions nor to rebuke them, but rather to illustrate the fact that all too often violence begets violence. And history shows that often the cessation of hostility requires historic acts of reconciliation and acceptance – whether in post-Apartheid South Africa or in post-genocide Rwanda.

In recent weeks we have seen two very different examples of this phenomenon. The first is the historic act of reconciliation we witnessed when Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said *'sorry'* to the Aboriginal people scarred by the actions of previous governments. While debate continues to simmer about the details of those actions and the question of motives, there is no doubt that the simple act of saying 'sorry' for past wrongs has permitted many Aboriginal people to feel validated in their experiences of suffering in a way that allows them and all Australians to move past this chapter and into a new future. This unambiguous act of reconciliation shows promise in reducing hostility and resentment and increasing national harmony and understanding.

The second, more gradual example of this phenomenon is the way in which gays and lesbians have over the last few decades increasingly felt accepted in mainstream Australian society. When I spoke to an ageing gay man recently about how things have changed for the gay community in Australia over his life, it was clear that, while much subtle prejudice, misunderstanding and legal inequities are still to be overcome, the kind of violent hostility that was routinely experienced a generation ago is no longer commonplace. More and more gays and lesbians are finding themselves, their partnerships and their families recognised and respected. For Rabbi Gevurtz and me a tangible sign of this were the thousands of people who joined together to march and to support the gay and lesbian communities at the recent Gay Pride March held in St Kilda. Those marching included gays, lesbians and transgendered folk and their supporters. There was a wide variety of groups represented from the Victoria Police to a bikie gang, from marching bands to ethnic groups of all kinds. Rabbi Gevurtz and I were proud to march along in support of the Jewish gay men's group, Aleph, the Jewish lesbians' group and Young Aleph. Lining the parade route were an equally eclectic mix of good-natured people of all ages cheering, clapping and singing along.

Whether in the realm of Aboriginal reconciliation or the acceptance of gays and lesbians, it seems to me that as a society we Australians have come a long way in honouring the differences among us. In the process, we are rejecting Haman's principle of singling out groups for maltreatment and we are building a better society for us all.

Chag Purim Sameach – have a very Happy Purim!

New Look, New Feel Community Seder
Sunday 20 April, 6:30 pm

Led by Rabbis Rayna Gevurtz & Gersh Zylberman, our seder service is specially structured to be a meaningful and fun experience. A wonderful night for young and old! Professional catering with all the ritual trimmings, lots of music, lots of laughter, and a big helping of seder cheer.

Adults	$38 members / $50 non-members
Concession	$27 members / $40 non-members
Children to 13	$18 members / $22 non-members

Bookings will only be accepted with payment by Friday 11 April. Book with the Temple office on 9510 1488, or email reception@tbi.org.au or come into the office in person. There is a non-refundable fee per person for cancellations after 11 April 2008.

LIMMUD @ TBI
Lifelong Jewish learning

LIMMUD ON SUNDAYS @ TBI

Adult learning for members and friends, Sundays, 10.30 am – 12 noon. Presented by TBI rabbis and guest lecturers. Gold coin donation.

AGUNAH: THE CHAINED WOMAN IN TRADITION AND IN THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

30 March, 6 April

Join Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz for an exploration of the serious issue of *agunah*, women who are chained to their marriages and are unable to receive a Jewish bill of divorce. The first class will focus on the traditional teaching regarding this issue. The second class will feature Dr Geulah Solomon OAM, the NCJW national co-chair for Status of Women and Malvina Malinek OAM, Past President of NCJW, who will discuss how this issue has developed in the State of Israel.

BET MIDRASH (STUDY HALL)

Bet Midrash precedes all Sunday morning limmud sessions for one hour, 9.15 - 10.15 am

The Bet Midrash provides an opportunity to learn texts one-to-one with other participants in the program, resourced and guided by the rabbis of TBI. Designed for those who are eager to deepen their appreciation for the Jewish textual tradition through close readings and intensive discussion. A more advanced course for people with some Jewish knowledge; Hebrew language skills helpful but not essential.

WHEN Each session self-contained, come as often as you like.
WITH Rabbis Morgan, Zylberman and Gevurtz
COST Gold coin donation to cover materials.

SHERIDAN HALL SHMOOZE

Mondays, 7 April, 5 May at 2 – 3 pm. With Rabbi Morgan at Sheridan Hall

Rabbi Morgan continues these popular monthly sessions at Sheridan Hall, corner of Northcote Avenue & Hawthorn Road.

COFFEE WITH THE RABBI

Weekly on Tuesdays during the Matan Religion School Term and presented by the rabbis of TBI and guests

Stop by TBI on your way home from work or school. *Coffee with the rabbi* will run every Tuesday afternoon, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, during the Matan term to encourage Matan families to join us!

MATAN @ TBI

Tuesdays after-school program at TBI
4 – 5:30 pm for prep to grade 2
4 – 6 pm for grades 3 to Year 8

Matan Jewish Studies and Hebrew program offers small classes, relevant Jewish learning, a fun, interactive program focusing on Jewish customs, festivals, values and tradition and great opportunities to socialise with other Jewish children. Enrolments are now open!

INFO Monica Hyams, 9510-1488

SIDDUR COMPREHENSION @ TBI

Six Thursdays, 10, 17, 24 April, 8, 15, 22 May at 7 pm

Taught by a master teacher, this Hebrew course will build on the fundamentals of the beginners' course to establish a more comprehensive understanding and familiarity with the Hebrew of the prayerbook.

WITH Albert Bentata
COST $75 includes material
INFO 9510-1488

TBI community film night

16 March, 6:30 pm
Classic Cinema, Elsternwick

Hey! Hey! It's Esther Blueberger

13-year-old Esther navigates the pressures of family, school and her impending bat mitzvah. Convinced she was born into the wrong family, Esther secretly switches from a private school into a public school and reinvents herself.

$25 per head, including supper. Bookings with Sue Silver on 9510-1488 or sue.silver@tbi.org.au

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Do you want to improve your skills in photography?

Are you willing to take photos of community activities for publication in *Temple Time* and more broadly?

Australian Jewish News Peter Haskin will conduct a photography workshop for interested members of Temple Beth Israel within the next few months.

To register your interest, please call the editor, Zoi Juvris, on 9510-1488 or email zoi.juvris@tbi.org.au

Beyond the frilly frock

Is Queen Esther a positive role model for our little girls?

Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz

It is really hard to believe that I am now the mum thinking about Purim costumes for my two girls! It seems like just a moment ago it was I who was colouring a crown, wearing my own mother's jewellery and donning the prettiest frock as I prepared to be the best Queen Esther at our Temple's costume parade! Oh, how the merry-go-round of festival cycles seems to speed up as the years go by!

And yet, here I find myself, thinking about my own daughters' Purim 'get up'. Will we allow them to transform themselves into the lovely Queen Esther this year? Esther, the fair young woman taken from her home and entered into a beauty contest to become the new Queen. Esther, the queen who hides her Jewish identity from her husband for so long. Esther, the niece who looks to her elder uncle for his sage advice. Will we let our little girls dress up in the frilly dress and sparkling crown that seem to represent the antithesis of all that we strive to teach them about who they can become?

It is not to the latest parenting book that I look for guidance on this dilemma, but rather to the ancient wisdom of our sacred texts. Come with me on a brief journey into the world of the Talmud as I share with you my own reflections on the appropriateness of Esther as a role model for our daughters.

We open up *Tractate Megillah*, and find a debate amongst the Rabbis as to whether the Scroll of Esther should be included in the Tanach. In the midst of this debate we read that Esther herself is included in the conversation. 'Rav Shmuel Bar Yehuda said: Esther sent a message to the Sages: *Kitvuni l'dorot*, Place me in Jewish memory for all generations!' And so it is that the story of Esther was included in the Jewish Bible.

It is within these two Hebrew words, *kitvuni l'dorot*, that we discover the strength of Esther. The lovely young Esther from the beginning of the *megillah* grows up into a woman who looks inside herself and draws on her God given strength and determination to shape the very destiny of the Jewish people. It is this complex and grown up Esther that I believe is indeed a model for our daughters to emulate. It is this Esther who has truly discovered her own sense of self and says to the rabbis of the Talmud, *kitvuni l'dorot*, place me in Jewish memory for all generations. Remember me, for my story is important. Remember me, for I am proud of what I have done. Remember me, for it is our mission as Jews to make the world a better place and this is exactly what I have done. Place me in Jewish memory for all generations.

On this Purim 5768, it is my prayer that every one of the 'little Esthers' running around our carnival and in shuls around the world, grows into a woman who can say to herself: 'My story is important. I am proud of my accomplishments for I have discovered my own inner strengths and done what I can do to make this world a better place.'

So, bring on the crowns and the frilly frocks, for the legacy of Esther should indeed be celebrated throughout the generations!

The Young and the Restless

Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives – however, we don't all live in soap operas and could always use a bit of extra drama. Enter the newly formed Young TBI 20s-30s Committee.

We have organised an entire year's worth of great activities for those aged in their 20s or 30s (or those who still feel that they're in their 20s or 30s); from monthly Shabbat dinners (for those weeks when you want to escape from your parents' place) to festival-based parties (a Yeast Feast to celebrate the end of Pesach, anyone?)

We kicked off the year in February with Shabbatana Mexicana – a Mexican-based Shabbat dinner complete with make-your-own tacos and burritos, many glasses of icy margaritas, and freshly made churros! Yum! In March, Shabbat goes Bolly with Indian cuisine (Friday 28th).

For Purim we'll be celebrating with 'Purim, Punch and Pub' on Thursday March 17th. We'll be meeting at 7pm at TBI for Punch (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) before a reading of the Megillah. Afterwards we'll be walking down to the *Back Bar* for further Purim festivities. Remember that it's a mitzvah to drink on Purim…

And because we're hip and young you can find us on the 'Interweb' with our very own Facebook group! You can find us under *young TBI*. We hope you will join us.

Rami Stiglec

Young TBI Team Leader

Young TBI dates

Purim, Punch & Pub
Thursday 20 March, 7 pm

Head down to the Back Bar (82 Green St, Windsor) after the Purim & Punch Megillah Reading at TBI

Shabbat Alive! Dinner
Friday 28 March, 6:15 pm

Bollywood Shabbat – yes, we go Indian after the service.

TBI community Seder 'Kids Table'
Sunday 20 April, 6:30 pm

Join other 20s-30s at the community seder, where we plan to let our hair down and enjoy Seder like we used to!

Yeast Feast

Matan year begins

Monica Hyams

MATAN, a child-focused hub of activity and excitement. We have had lots of new faces attend MATAN and we have welcomed back familiar faces.

There was a wonderful sense of anticipation as the staff received the students for the first session of MATAN in February. More than sixty participants are now very familiar and confident with the guidance and expertise of the staff.

Rabbis Morgan, Zylberman and Gevurtz have each spent time leading us in *Tefillah* (prayer) and visiting the classes. They have worked alongside the teachers to introduce new curricula for Jewish Studies, Festivals, Israel and the Hebrew components of the program for Prep-Year 8 students.

The *Chai Curriculum: Learning for Jewish Life* is a comprehensive approach to learning the values and practices of Jewish Life. It ensures that the students will reach a deeper, enduring understanding which will establish the basis for later Jewish learning and living. This term we introduce the concept of Torah as a dialogue between the text and students.

Mitkadem, our vibrant new Hebrew program, is structured so that students learn in multi-aged settings at their own ability level. Students are enjoying their rapid progress and achievements.

Our Parents Association has formed! Together with the inaugural Family Education Day we ran in February, the reality of lifelong learning being a family venture is emerging. Another initiative which involves parents is the Coffee and Chat with the rabbis after the students have been signed in.

Our wonderful staff

Karli Jacobs is known to many as she has taught MATAN students for a number of years and would be familiar to very young students at TKDS from her work there a few years ago. Sheryl Topol has worked with her students at MATAN for a few years and is also a familiar face of TKDS, as she taught Middle School last year. Our newcomers include Judy Sher, Tahlia Hyams and Rebecca Samuel. Both Judy and Rebecca are qualified teachers and Rebecca is the parent of a KDS student who will be bar mitzvah at TBI. Judy worked for twenty years at TKDS and has a wealth of knowledge of pedagogy and a passion for teaching. Tahlia Hyams has just returned from a year in Israel and there she found her bilingual studies at school really did help as she mastered the Hebrew language with ease and joy.

Torah Aura is the curriculum used for our festival studies. Purim will be full of learning activities structured so that each age group has a different focus. Consequently each year a group encounters a new activity.

We welcome new students at any stage of the year and look forward to you becoming a part of the lifelong learning at TBI.

Social Justice Group

Rotary Caulfield senior citizens Christmas lunch

Under the guidance of Jeff Nirens, an active member of the TBI SJG and of Rotary Caulfield, the SJG and other members of the TBI family, 12 of us, assisted Rotary Caulfield in setting up tables and then picking up senior citizens from their homes on Sunday 2 December 2007.

Once the seniors were seated, Rotarians and the TBI contingent served a festive meal while a Jewish musician set the scene for a wonderful two hours, by playing Christmas carols on his piano accordion. When the festivities were over, we drove our allocated passengers home. It was a very satisfying experience, knowing that we had assisted our broader community of senior citizens in celebrating their festive season.

Tu b'Shvat

On Tu b'Shvat Temple Beth Israel hosted a gathering of about 22 intellectually disabled Jewish adults and their carers and families, who came together to celebrate the festival. Sylvie Jonas, a TBI member who works with Jewish disabled at Gawith Villa, played an important role in ensuring the success of the event.

After explaining the festival as the 'New Year for Trees', Rabbi Fred Morgan led a brief Tu Bshvat 'Seder', with a platter of fruits and nuts.

Traditionally Tu B'shvat is associated with Greening Israel. We were fortunate to have received a donation of seedlings, potting soil & pots from Penhalluriaks of Caulfield to re-pot and take home as our part for making the world a greener place. It was a great night.

Sacred Heart Mission help

The TBI SJG together with the Sacred Heart Mission St Kilda would like to sincerely thank TBI members and friends for their wonderful support and energy so freely given over the festive holiday season.

For five years we have assisted the Sacred Heart Mission. This year, more than 50 volunteers came forward to work in the kitchen / dining hall and the meeting place / breakfast room, preparing meals and serving. We were able to cover Boxing Day and the remaining Sundays and Mondays to the end of January and relieve the regular Sacred Heart Mission volunteers who we able to take a well-deserved break.

Michelle Zivkovic, Manager of Volunteer Services at the Sacred Heart Mission, couldn't speak highly enough of how our volunteers went about the tasks assigned to them and the good spirit in which they served those who turn to the Sacred Heart Mission for possibly their only meal of the day.

To all those who volunteered for the first time and to those who continue to volunteer year after year, once again, thank you. I know that all of you found the time you spent volunteering at the Sacred Heart Mission a rewarding one.

Sylvie Jonas
TBI Social Justice Group

A newcomers view of the Friendship Club

Rebecca Silk

Rita's friend had nagged her to attend the Friendship Club for some time. Rita resisted in the belief that the Friendship Club was only for 'really old' people or those who did not have friends. Finally, after retiring from work, she had no excuse and agreed to try it out. Just once.

When Rita arrived she was overwhelmed to see the hall set up for what appeared to be hundreds of people. Members were already seated and could be seen greeting one another, chatting, waving and talking over the person at the front who was valiantly attempting to make announcements.

Rita was surprised at the range of people and age groups who were there. The 'young old', the 'older old' and the frail aged were all catered for and got along admirably well. Rita observed everyone being welcomed first by the front desk ladies and then by the hostesses Joan and Martha. As a newcomer she felt quite comfortable as she was guided, with her friend, to a table where she was introduced to six others. Thank goodness, she thought, only a few names to remember!

Over the next 40 minutes the noise rose to fever pitch and Rita felt sorry for MC Lou as he tried to get people's attention to encourage members to take the handouts, make sure they paid ($8 only), got a raffle ticket, and purchased some of the excellent crafts on the Bring and Buy Table. One woman on Rita's table told her that she now bought presents such as scarves, shawls and baby clothes from the Bring and Buy Table instead of going out to the shops.

On an unseen signal, the catering volunteers appeared with plates of sandwiches, cakes and fruit, tea and coffee. This is a well-oiled machine, thought Rita, they have been here preparing all morning and have the time frames down to a fine art. The chatting abated as Lou Paykel spoke about the entertainment program and beautiful background piano music began. That's Lili, someone said, she's been doing this for a long time.

When lunch was cleared away, Lou introduced the day's entertainer. Aura Levin Lipski was accompanied on the piano by her daughter, Avital. They sang with great skill and profound love for each other, and, clearly, for the audience too. It was an uplifting and all too short performance.

Some members had one last cup of tea, and the volunteers were once again in action, taking things into the kitchen, escorting the frailer members out of the hall, farewelling the regulars and packing up the tables.

What were Rita's impressions of her first Friendship Club? She found it altogether bigger, better organised, more fun and more friendly than she ever expected. She says that she'll be back!

Friendship Club Volunteers

The volunteers are modest about their contributions yet they all do so much. They describe almost all the roles as shared and there is such a democracy of effort in their continuing, wonderful, twice-monthly achievements for the Friendship Club and the wider community.

Coordinating tasks: Lou Paykel, Edna May, Joan Katz, Jill Harris, Mary Levin, Bette Pulver, Martha Sanders, Bette Drillich, Joseph Harouch, Rita Richter, Hymie Weller

The catering team: Ruth Davidson, Rosey Matthews, Elaine Bourne, Janet Nichol, Marilyn Hyams, Beryl Waander, Carole Loewy.

Front desk: Irene Benjamin, Emelie Josephs

Transportation: Sybil Weller, Roza Shontal
Bring and Buy table: Ruth Inwald, Annie Lewis, Claire Wynn

Piano players: Lili Silberstein, Len Benson

Smachot

RECENT BIRTHS

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

Son for Emma & Amit Levi, grandson to Penny & Andrew Jacobovits

ENGAGEMENTS

Mazal to this recently engaged couple:
Rochelle Jacobs (daughter of Rhonda & Stephan Jacobs) **& Dion Travitz** (son of Syd Travitz & the late Caroline Travitz)

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

(18 February – 7 April) Mazal tov on celebrating a special birthday to:

• Carolyn Abrahams • Rosi Alkalai • Yvonne Alterwein • Naomi Arrow • Kim Ashton-Cohen • Gregory Barger • Cheryl Batagol • Erika Bence • Ella Benjamin • Margaret Brand • Rebecca Brott • Joseph Brown • Adrian Cameron • David Cohan • Susan Cohen • Susan Cossen • Ann Dorey • Joshua Fast • Eva Felts • Jeremy Finkelstein • Marga Finkelstein • Olga Finkelstein • Joan Freadman • Bob Freidin • Romi Goldschlager • Jacqui Goldsmith • Eric Gorr • Harry Greenberg • Martha Gries • Joanne Gubieski • Mary Harber • June Helmer • Greg Hyde • Joseph Ingleby • Esther Kaufman • Frieda Kolieb • Vicky Kosky • Larisa Kreimer • Julie Lang • Samuel Langer • Kurt Langfelder • Monty Lester • Robert Levin • Jeffrey Loewenstein • Dani Mahemoff • Amy Marin • Galit Marks • Henry Mitchell • Inge Mohrer • Fred Morgan • Gemma Morgan • Natalie Moshinsky • Theo Moss • Joel Muller • Lee Nahmias • Philip Opas • Les Pahoff • Marc Pearce • Simon Poll • Jane Portnoy • Rena Rabin • Irvin Rockman • Janine Roff • Peter Rossdale • Romy Roth • Rochelle Rozental • Simone Sandler • Renee Schulberg • Gusta Schwarcz • Benn Selby • Rebecca Silver • Alma Slawik • Oscar Sokolski • David Southwick • Lilo Steinkoler • Jennifer Strover • Eva Stupel • Geoffrey Sward • Lydia Swart • Thomas Tenenbaum • Olga Tramer • Alfred Wallis • Ingeborg Warden • Mark Weis • Lauren Weiss • Oscar Zent

MARCH/APRIL B'NEI MITZVAH

Mazal tov to those families celebrating a bar or bat mitzvah during this month:

Toby Benjamin, Jess Broons, Joseph Griffin, Stephanie Palti, Adam Towns, Jessie Zucker

ESSIE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Esther Kaufman, known to her friends as Essie, was born 13 March 1908 in Auckland, NZ and she came to Australia as a small child. Essie met Sydney Kaufman when she joined the Judean Players and was cast as a grandmother opposite Syd the grandfather! They married in 1932 and enjoyed life together until Syd's death in 2000. Essie has four daughters, 13 grandchildren and 34 great grandchildren, many of whom will be at a family luncheon in her honour. The Kaufman family has had a long association with the Temple – they commissioned the portrait of Rabbi Sanger which hangs in our foyer!

Essie enjoys an active social life and she is still beautifully groomed, alert and charmingly witty.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

(18 February – 7 April) Mazal tov on their wedding anniversaries to:

• Laurence & Natasha Mandie (5th) • Dion & Miriam Rudzki (5th) • Daniel Fromm & Fiona Carnes (5th) • Geoff Markov & Jillian Burnett (10th) • David & Helen Ryvitch (15th) • Tony Heselev & Sian Hughes (15th) • Sam & Sheryl Salcman (25th) • Peter & Sharon Thurin (25th) • Mark Dreyfus & Deborah Chemke (25th) • Robert & Rita Schulberg (25th) • John & Sally Unglik (30th) • Arnold & Dani Mahemoff (30th) • John & Margot Rogers (35th) • Barry & Cheryl Batagol (35th) • Peter & Marlyn Bancroft (50th) • Peter & Marion Selton (60th)

RECENT BA'ALEI KRIYAT TORAH

(13 January – 1 March)

Martin Bando, Jeremy Bliss, Kath Cozens, Danielle Davidovits, Chloe Dean, Joel Kuperholz, Bruce Levin, Oliver Maher, Evi Morawetz, Rabbi Fred Morgan, Jason Segal, Dylan Velleman, Jamie Wajnberg,

MAZAL TOV!

• to **Irene Benjamin**, who was recently presented with the 'Cobber' Award by the TBI Friendship Club, for years of friendly assistance.

• to **Jana Urbach**, TBI bookkeeper, who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Accounting degree after years of part time study!

Bereavements

DEATHS

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

• **Boris Abramzon** (father of Dmitry Abramzon & Nataliya Shibanov) • **Marion Barnes** (mother of Candida Westney) • **Hilda Briskman** (mother of Adele Briskman, mother of Linda Briskman) • **Ilse Felder** (mother of Peter Felder) • **Miklos Frisch** (husband of Irma Frisch, father of Maria) • **Dora Gradzanowski** (mother of Shirley Shiff) • **John Lewkowicz** (husband of Helen Lewkowicz, father of Natalie Ross) • John Naarden **(husband of Lorretta Naarden)** • **Raoul Nahmias** (uncle of Ray Barnes) • **Vladmir Petersburgsky** (husband of Eugenia Peterburgsky, father of Regina & Julia) • **Kurt Popper** (husband of Irene Popper, father of Ronald and David) • **Jerszy Silberbach** (husband of Felicia Silberbach, father of Elizabeth Hatton) • **Boyard Taft** (father of Rodney Taft) • **Valerie Tepper** • **Max Wainshtein** (husband of Dolly Wainshtein, father of Cheryl, Karen Feurst & Mark Wainshtein) • **Henry Wagman** (husband of Edith Wagman, uncle of Stan Saks) • **Walter Weyl**

First and third Tuesday monthly
1, 15 April, 6, 20 May
10:30 – 11:30 am at Temple Beth Israel

Join Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz in our new monthly babies group right here at TBI! Grab yourself a bagel, then sit down, relax and get to know other Temple families with littlies. Each month we have a different Jewish surprise to keep things lively.

Temple Time Mailbag

I just had to tell you what a wonderful Australia Day was celebrated at TBI. First, I was delighted to see Rabbis Fred, Gersh & Rayna during the early Mishpacha (family) Service happily working on the floor at eye-to-eye level with tiny toddlers and children and dancing with them to Rabbi Gersh's golden guitar music.

Then, a very full hall appreciated the busy service with a bar mitzvah & *aufruf* (wedding call up) and Rabbi Gersh's superb sermon about the significance of Australia Day. Words fail me in describing the profound pleasure of hearing *Adon Olam* sung perfectly to the familiar strains of Waltzing Matilda! My sincere congratulations to all concerned

HARRY GREENBERG

Temple Time welcomes feedback from our readers. Please send your letter to: **Temple Time Mailbag, PO Box 128 St Kilda, 3182** or email **zoi.juvris@tbi.**

Temple Beth Israel WISH LIST

Can you help TBI fulfil any of our wishes?

• Photographers! Professionals or enthusiastic amateurs from within our community willing to take photos of community activities for *Temple Time* and other media; and simply to document our communal life. Equipment and training will be provided – just bring your enthusiasm!

• Play equipment and toys for use in the Friedlander Bet Midrash by young children during services.

• MP3 players for students using the Matan Hebrew lab.

Call Alan Samuel on 9510 1488 or email alan.samuel@tbi.org.au

DONATIONS TO TBI GENERAL FUND

(15 December – 15 February) With thanks for your generous donations:

• Ronald Aarons & Sandra Farber • Louis & Joan Abrahams • Peter Akbiyik & Anita Marks • Anthony & Naomi Arrow • Jacob & Steffi Bando • Gregory & Elena Barger • Victor & Sally Barnes • Naomi Barson • Eve Bartrop • R Benjamin • Phillip & Sandy Benjamin • Ric & Leora Benjamin & family • Helene Boon • Yakov & Raissa Borovik • Elaine Bourne • Cherrie Brand, Linda Solomon, Samantha Bartels • Dorothy Bresner • Hilda Brous • Ann Brown • Martin Brumer • Inge Brunswick • Denise Chadwick • Eve Cohen • Raymond & Mary Cohen • Peter & Mirri Curtis • Susie Cymbalist • Jocelyn Dean & Stephen Dean • Lea Donald • George & Marlene Dryen • Mary Dunn • Andrew & Lorraine Dvash • Joshua Fast • John & Jenny Fast • Katy Fellner • Marga Finkelstein • Yariv & Lauren Freed, Daniel, Josh, Timmy • Howard & Lorraine Freeman • Bob & Vera Freidin • Mr & Mrs M Frid • Eva Friend • Les Fuerst • Steven Funk in honour of Peter Kolliner • Gabriel Gitlits • Daniel, Brandon & Nikki Goldman • Max Goodman • Liselotte Graetzer • Harry Greenberg • Robyn Griffin • Felicity Guthrie • Paul Hall • Zara Halprin • Mary Harber • Fella Harbig • Gary Hartmann • Caroline Heard • Di Hersh • Ian Heyman • Marilyn Hyams • Barbara Jacob • Tom Jacob • Simon Jakobovits • Andrew & Penny Jakobovits, Laura & Adam • Dana Jurkowski • Joshua & Minnie Kahan • Masza Kaye • Monty & Leila Kleiman • Nicholas Kolliner • Peter & Barbie Kolliner • Andrrew & Diana Kopatsy • Lily Kornhauser • Kurt & Judy Langfelder • Marion Lawrence • Rose Levant • Greg Levine & Barbara Kamler • Hal & Roslyn Levy • Basja Levy • Marion Lippmann • Lewis & Eve Lustsig • Ernie & Malvina Malinek • Brian & Jeanette Mandie • Edwina Marshall • Leigh & Sandra Masel • Andrew Maver • John & Ruth Maver • Inge Mohrer • Miriam Morris • Ruth Mote • Elaine Nassau • Paul & Dot Nathan • Evi Nelson • Margaret Poll • Peter & Bette Pulver • Yehuda & Rena Rabin • Michael Rich & Nicole Phillips • Margot Rogers • Howard Rogers • Betty Rose • Paula Rosin • Kitty Ross • Ken & Ruth Rossdale • Zilla Roth • Mr & Mrs P Rubenstein • Michael Rudzki • S Rudzki • Adam & Yoko Ryan • David Ryan • Saul & Lauren Ryan • Colin Sakinofsky & Vanessa Gautier • Sam & Sheryl Salcman • David Same • Joshua Same & Tara Stern • Brian Samuel • Rebecca Samuel • Deborah & Stephen Sandler • Libby Segal • Mim Segal • Sara Segal • Bernard Shafer • Simon & Ellen Shafer • Simon Spivak • Jeff Stanton • Keith & Ursula Steinhardt • Mr & Mrs D Stern • Irene Stern • Sam & Frances Stiglec • Geoffrey Sward • Miri Sward • Henry Taub • Stephen & Ros Teleki • Susan Tescher • John & Tanya Tescher • Chester Troy & Betty Marks • Morris & Freda Trytell • M Van Engel • L Vary • Bella, Julien & Paul Velleman • Danny & Lisa Velleman, Dylan & Meagan • Jeff & Correne Wassertheil • John & Ruth Wexler • Arnold & Evelyn Wittner • Robert & Kathy Zucker

With thanks to those who gave a Yarhzeit donation this month. All yarhzeits are recorded on the weekly Shabbat synagogue supplement.

PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CULTURAL FUND *(TAX DEDUCTIBLE)*

• Albert & Carol Bentata • Naomi Fooks • Dorothy Graff • Harry Greenberg • Robert & Yvonne Hershan • Zeleck & Shirley Kaminsky • Lili Kiffer • Sue Rubenstein • Ian & Shayndel Samuel • Ruth Siegel • Joe & Eve Stupel • Albert Zylberman

Donations in honour of the birth of Noa Zylberman, daughter of Rabbis Rayna Gevurtz & Gersh Zylberman

• Anonymous • Dorothy & Evelyn Bresner • H & A Fajerman • Ian Heyman • David Irons & Joanne Loewy Irons • Andrew & Penny Jakobovits • Margit Korn • Rena Langberg • Lindsay & Rosy Matthews • Paul & Dot Nathan • Uri & Nili Palti • Grete Pearce • Rubin & Ursula Piekarski • S & N Richwol • Mim Segal • Sam Sharman • Karen Wayne• Daniel Weinstock

Crossword solutions February Temple Time

ACROSS: 2 ArabLeague • 5 Kotel • 8 Haganah • 13 Sabra • 14 LeagueOfNations • 17 TheGoodFence • 18 Acre • 19 Seven • 20 Hatikvah • 22 SixDayWar • 26 Arabic • 27 United Nations • 29 Herzl • 31 DeadSea • 33 Technion • 35 Shekel • 37 Balfour • 40 Egged • 41 Haifa • 42 Tzahal

DOWN: 1 JerusalemPost • 3 ChaimWeizmann • 4 Massada • 6 LawofReturn • 7 GolanHeights • 9 GreenLine • 10 Muslim • 11 MosheDayan • 12 DavidBenGurion • 15 NetzerOlami • 16 YomKippurWar • 17 TelAviv • 21 Kinneret • 23 Suleiman • 24 Kibbutz • 25 Knesset • 28 AlAqsa • 30 Moshav • 32 Solomon • 34 Hebrew • 36 Eilat • 38 RedSea • 39 Jaffa

March–April 2008 at TBI

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Adar II 5768 **March 9**	**3 Adar II** *Office closed for public holiday* **10**	**4 Adar II** 4 pm Matan Term 1 begins 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism **11**	**5 Adar II** 10:30 am Drop In & Chat 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters **12**	**6 Adar II** 7 pm Hebrew: 'Alef isn't tough' with Karen Rosauer 7:30 pm TBI Board meeting **13**	**7 Adar II** 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service Guests from NCJW **14**	**8 Adar II** **Shabbat Vayikra** 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Batmitzvah: Jessie Zucker **15**
9 Adar II 6:30 pm TBI community film night at the Classic "Hey, hey, it's Esther Blueberger" 8 pm Men's Group meeting **16**	**10 Adar II** **17**	**11 Adar II** 10:30 am Bubs 'n Bagels 4 pm Matan Term 1 begins 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 6:30 pm Ruach rehearsal 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism **18**	**12 Adar II** 11:30 am Friendship Club 7 pm Netzer Moetzah **19**	**13 Adar II** 7 pm Purim & Punch and Young TBI Pub night Nibblies, punch, megillah reading. **20**	**14 Adar II** **Purim** *Office closed* 11 am Purim Carnival for the whole family! Carnival sideshows, refreshments, spiel, fashion parade & entertainment 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service **21**	**15 Adar II** **Shabbat Tzav** 9 am Shabbat Mishpacha 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service B'nei mitzvah:Joseph Green & Toby Benjamin 8:15 pm Purim Cabaret Buffet dinner with first class entertainment (child-free event) **22**
16 Adar II 10:30 am Matan family welcome and orientation day **23**	**17 Adar II** *Office closed for public holiday* **24**	**18 Adar II** **25**	**19 Adar II** 10:30 am Drop In & Chat 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters **26**	**20 Adar II** **27**	**21 Adar II** 6:15 pm 'Shabbat Alive!' erev Shabbat service with junior chazzanim 7:30 pm Young TBI oneg Shabbat dinner **28**	**22 Adar II** **Shabbat Shemini** 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Barmitzvah: Adam Towns **29**
23 Adar II 10:30 am Limmud on Sundays: Woman in tradition and in the modern State of Israel - the issue of Agunah with Rabbi Gevurtz and guests 11 am – 4 pm King's Carnival, the annual KDS fete at 117 Kooyong Road, Armadale **30**	**24 Adar II** 8:30 pm Living with Dementia Jewish support meeting **31**	**25 Adar II** 10:30 am Bubs 'n Bagels 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism **1 April**	**26 Adar II** 11:30 am Friendship Club 7:30 pm Meditation at TBI with Eva Light 7 pm Netzer Moetzah **2**	**27 Adar II** **3**	**28 Adar II** 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service Babynaming of Jorjia Rangi Marie Johanna Haeata **4**	**29 Adar II** **Shabbat Tazria** 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Batmitzvah: Stephanie Palti **5**
1 Nisan 5768 10:30 am Limmud on Sundays: Woman in tradition and in the modern State of Israel - the issue of Agunah with Rabbi Gevurtz, Malvina Malinek and Geulah Solomon **6**	**2 Nisan** 2 pm Sheridan Hall Shmooze **7**	**3 Nisan** 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism **8**	**4 Nisan** *KDS model seders in Slome* 10:30 am Drop In & Chat 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters **9**	**5 Nisan** *KDS model seders in Slome* 7:30 pm TBI Board meeting 7:30 pm Hebrew: 'Siddur Comprehension' with Albert Bentata **10**	**6 Nisan** 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service **11**	**7 Nisan** **Shabbat Metzorah** 10 am Gesher minyan 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Batmitzvah: Jess Broons **12**