



# TEMPLE

The magazine of The Temple Beth Israel Community

# קול ישראל TIME

MAY-JUNE 2009 / SHAVUOT EDITION IYAR-TAMMUZ 5769

## Shavuot @ TBI

Thursday 28 May

### For young families:

#### Shavuot Mishpacha from 4 pm

Join us for a fun filled Shavuot celebration especially for children!

We will make Mt. Sinai out of ice cream (Mt. Sinai has never been so yummy!), paint special Shavuot decorations and join our rabbis for stories and songs.

### For adults young and old from 7 pm

Get mellow with wine and cheese then at 7:30 pm enjoy our Shavuot service.

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot follow at 8 pm on the topic:

*'Tough Choices: seeking balance in our lives'*

Explore how we prioritise and make choices in key areas of our lives from a Jewish perspective with the rabbis of TBI.

Finally, cheesecake tasting and our annual cheesecake competition with prize giving! We expect to conclude around 10:45 pm

## Friday 29 May

Shavuot morning service begins at 10 am and includes Yizkor and the reading of the Ten Commandments plus a special blessing for all babies in our community born in the last year. BYO baby!



## Temple Beth Israel Annual Shavuot Cheesecake Competition

Win fame and fortune  
at our annual  
**Shavuot Cheesecake Competition!**  
on Thursday 28 May

Join us for our tikkun program from 7 pm  
and enjoy the cheesecake tasting!  
The winning cheesecake (judged by popular  
vote) will win a gift voucher from  
the **Sunflower Bookshop!**

Bring your cheesecake on the night  
and please let us know you are bringing  
a cheesecake by calling on 9510 1488  
by Monday 25 May

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT BRIAN SAMUEL

### A brief appraisal

When I wrote my first article back in November I indicated, with tongue in cheek, that I had been elected at the same time as President Obama. I noticed in the press this week he was celebrating his first 100 days but we at TBI are always ahead of the pack and by the time you have read this I will have served some two hundred days. I thought that it would be a good idea to appraise a couple of the main items we, as a Board, have reviewed over that period.

#### RETIREMENT OF ALAN SAMUEL

Alan will have completed fifteen years of service upon his retirement. Running a synagogue is, in many respects, more difficult than running a business. For starters he has 2,500 presidents to answer to on all sorts of issues. Keeping everyone happy requires a skill that very few possess and Alan has earned respect from both congre-

gants and his peers. I am sure you will join me in wishing Alan well in his retirement. [See page 5]

With Alan's the impending departure, our Va'ad has spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the administration of the synagogue. This is an ongoing responsibility of any Board but it is more feasible to conduct a major review upon the retirement of the senior officer to determine what characteristics and skills are required for his replacement. We are very fortunate to have two highly skilled individuals on our Board equipped for the task, Vice President, Robert Hershan and fellow board member, Dorothy Graff. They were charged with undertaking a comprehensive review of all staff and their processes and make appropriate recommendations. Their initial report was so thorough and professional, we asked them to extend the review to the rabbinical staff in their relationship with the administrative function of the organisation.

We tasked them with the responsibility of preparing a job specification for the new administrator, advertising the position, selecting the right candidate and presenting them for final selection. The whole process was conducted so professionally that it has made my first two hundred days a breeze.

#### NEW EXECUTIVE MANAGER APPOINTED

To those of you on the email list you will have already been advised that we have appointed Art Feinman as our new Executive Manager who commences at TBI on 18 May. Art brings great skills in the areas of finance and process management.

Over the next twelve months we will see significant change in our administrative functions. I have had several conversations with Art and in addition to providing him with a mountain of reading material, we have been meeting weekly to help him in the induction process. Please welcome Art into the TBI family.

#### TBI AND THE GFC

On the financial side, we have completed another successful year. TBI is a little bit like the current Australian economy. It is in a very healthy state thanks to my predecessor but the future is bleak and uncertain.

Our financial year finishes at the end of May and your Board has spent many hours preparing a budget for next year. We have taken a very conservative approach and, like the economists who are predicting ten per cent unemployment by the end of the year, we are anticipating a slightly higher number of membership losses which will have a serious detrimental effect on our congregation.

I am sure you have read in the Jewish News and over the internet the effect of the Global Financial Crisis on the Jewish communities in the USA. Whilst we are in a better position, it would be foolish to budget for anything less than a worst case scenario. We do not employ large numbers of people and, unlike business, we do not lay off staff to enhance our shareholders returns. We have programs to run and a commitment to increase our standing within the community. As you will have seen from your membership invoices we have chosen not to increase our fees for the first time in many years. However, it is more important than ever that we continue to seek your support. We ask you to seriously consider making a donation similar to what would have been a fee increase. If things turn out positive, I assure you your contribution will not be wasted.

It is almost twenty years since our last major upgrade and some of our equipment is getting very close to requiring urgent replacement. The standard joke on *Yom Tov* is whether the shul is too hot or too cold. Come Kol Nidrei we should pray for weather that requires neither heating nor cooling.

Have a happy *Shavuot!*

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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.



## 1984 and other memories

**1**984 was the year in which Advance Australia Fair was made Australia's national anthem. It was also the year in which the ice-skaters, Torvill and Dean, scored 12 perfect 6s for their interpretation of Ravel's *Bolero* in the Winter Olympics; I remember watching it on TV.

In 1984 *Terms of Endearment* took the Oscar for Best Picture, and Virgin Airlines flew its inaugural flight across the Atlantic. In June, Indian troops stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest temple of the Sikhs, killing an estimated 2000 people, and in October, the Indian Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, was assassinated by her Sikh body guards in reprisal. A leakage at a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, killed approximately 8000 people in one of the worst industrial accidents in history.

Bishop Desmond Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, and Hezbollah car-bombed the US Embassy in Beirut, killing 22 people. The Soviet Union boycotted the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, and President Ronald Reagan, during a voice check for a radio broadcast, remarked, 'My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes.'

In 1984 *Medicare* was introduced in Australia, as was the one-dollar coin. Brothels were legalized in Victoria. George Orwell's book 1984 was shifted from the fiction to the history shelves in bookstores around the world, and the three 'Party slogans' of George Orwell's Big Brother were adopted as the official logo of the United Nations: *War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength*.

No, that last one must be from my imagination. Everything else remains vivid in my memory (apart from the Australian events; I learned those later).

### ORDINATION

Alongside all these other happenings 1984 was the year that I was ordained as a 'rabbi and teacher in Israel' by Rabbi Albert Friedlander z"l, the Dean of the Leo Baeck College in London. Five new rabbis were ordained that day, 1 July, at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue across the road in St John's Wood from Lord's Cricket Ground (the British equivalent of the MCG), before a congregation of 1200. Of the five, one is serving a congregation in the States, two are Progressive rabbis in Germany, I'm in Melbourne and only one remains in the

UK. In sum, we're a microcosm of the global society over the past 25 years.

### CELEBRATION

I'm marking my 25 years in the rabbinate with a few special events, and I'd be delighted to have you join me for any of them that take your fancy. On Sunday 21 June at 3pm at St Michael's school in Capen Street, the Council of Christians and Jews, which I am honoured to serve as an Honorary President, has invited me to present a talk on a subject at once controversial and close to my heart: 'Pursuing interfaith dialogue: from security to redemption'. The talk will be followed by the Council's AGM.

With this issue of Temple Time you should have received an invitation to two events taking place at TBI over the weekend closest to the date of my ordination. Following the service on Shabbat morning 4 July the synagogue is inviting you to a celebratory Kiddush, which we expect will go on a bit longer than the usual Kiddush and include a light lunch and a few extras. The next day, 5 July, at 3pm, I'll be joined by the ABC broadcaster and author Rachael Kohn 'in conversation'. Rachael and I will discuss the changes that have occurred over the past 25 years in religious expressions and attitudes generally and within the Jewish world, and we may also take a glance George Orwell-style into the future. The afternoon will include time for comments and questions from the floor, and light refreshments will be served. This should be a wonderful occasion to socialise and enjoy a Sunday afternoon out in mid-winter, as well as a chance to eavesdrop on a stimulating conversation.

Later in the year there will be an opportunity to explore some of the major areas of Jewish thought in greater depth. We are devoting three Sunday limmud sessions, 10.30am to noon, to the topic, *Twenty-five years on: changes in Jewish thinking about God/ Torah/ Israel*. The dates are 15, 22 and 29 November. Judaism's approaches to these three themes have undergone substantial changes over the past quarter century, and a glance at the book *New Under the Sun: Jewish Australians on Religion, Politics &*

*Culture*, shows that we are still far from a common understanding today. These discussions should be a great way to end the year and conclude my 25th anniversary celebrations. I do hope to see you for at least one of them, if not all three!

### SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

A person lives through a lot over 25 years. Depending on how we label and count them, this is the fourth economic crisis the synagogue (whichever synagogue) and I have lived through over this quarter century. Experience teaches me that it's really important that we face the recession together. The temptation, especially for those of us unfortunate enough to lose jobs or income, is to pull away, to seek refuge in some small space and give up involvement with the community. I encourage you not to give in to this temptation. The synagogue may in fact be able to help with moral support (not to be underestimated), networking and possibly more practical support, too. We certainly don't want to add to anyone's problems or anxieties. If you're in difficulty, please get in touch and let's talk about it. I want to remind everyone that we never turn people away from membership for financial reasons. Those who are stretched financially may be able to contribute in other ways.

### FAREWELL

Saying farewell to a close colleague and friend is always special and bitter-sweet. When I came to TBI nearly 12 years ago, I relied entirely on Alan Samuel to ease my passage and induct me into the unique (and sometimes unexpected) ways of our community. Alan has been a wonderful mentor, guide, co-conspirator and resource. He is an encyclopedia (sorry – a wikipedia) of TBI law and lore, and a most generous and accommodating workmate. Most of all, he loves Judaism and the Jewish people, and what more could a rabbi hope for in his Executive Director? Alan, thank you for your *menschlichkeit!* To you and Dianne: enjoy your retirement!

*Fred Morgan*



## RABBI GERSH ZYLBERMAN

### Shavuot Affirmative Action

Of the three pilgrimage festivals, *Pesach*, *Shavuot* and *Sukkot*, poor old Shavuot has a habit of getting a little overlooked. It's not that there's anything intrinsically wrong with *Shavuot*, God forbid. It's just that over the years it seems to have dropped off the radar for a lot of people.

Of course, in ancient times each of these three festivals was marked, as their collective description implies, by a pilgrimage to Jerusalem where special sacrifices were offered by the Priests in The Temple. And each of these three festivals corresponds to an important phase in the agricultural cycle in the Land of Israel and reflects the thanksgiving our people had for the abundant harvest that emerged at that particular time of year. But following the destruction of The Temple and the development of Jewish communities far beyond the borders of our ancient homeland, the agricultural link receded to the background. Instead, layers of historical and spiritual meaning came more to the fore: *Pesach* as the time for reflecting on redemption from Egypt; *Shavuot* for reliving the revelation at Sinai; *Sukkot* for recalling the forty years wandering in the wilderness before entering the Land.

With this background in mind I often wonder why *Shavuot* seems to have the lowest profile of the three and why for so many people it seems to have gone missing in action. Perhaps a response lies here: unlike *Pesach*, *Shavuot* has no *Seder*, no *haggadah* and no pre-festival *chametz* hunting. Unlike *Sukkot*, *Shavuot* has no temporary hut to make, decorate and dwell in, no species to hold, raise and shake. And unlike *Pesach* and *Sukkot*, which are both week-long biblical festivals, *Shavuot* has only one day. Perhaps all of these factors contribute to *Shavuot's* relative obscurity.

But while *Shavuot* may be missing some of the elements that make *Pesach* and *Sukkot* more popular, *Shavuot* has some compelling elements of its own. For one thing the medieval kabbalists instituted the *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, a program of studying a selection of Jewish wisdom through the night until dawn when tradition tells us the Torah was given. Each year we come together for a night of discussion and debate, learning and schmoozing. For another thing the Jewish *Bobbas* of Eastern Europe came up with some very impressive

(and tasty) dairy recipes. While *Pesach* has *matzah* balls, *Shavuot* has cheese blintzes. But beyond dairy-infused study, *Shavuot* is also a time for us to hear the recitation of the Ten Commandments and to feel as though we have each received Torah anew. It's a time to reconnect with the wisdom that our people developed through the millennia in response to the world around us and the Divine voice calling to us. It's a time to redouble our efforts to keep learning about Judaism and how Judaism can help us live meaningful lives in a complicated world.

So, this year, let's give *Shavuot* another look. Join in the *Tikkun*. Come along to *Shavuot* morning services. Enjoy the company and the learning. And, if you need to, bring some lactase tablets!

*Rabbi Gersh Zylberman*

### Farewell to Alan Samuel

TBI's Executive Director, Alan Samuel, leaves us for a well-earned retirement in June 2009 after 15 years of tireless service.

Alan will be called to the Torah on **Shabbat 30 May at 10 am.**

There will be an opportunity to personally farewell and thank Alan later that afternoon at the special **afternoon tea from 4:30 pm** in Slome Hall, followed by Alan & Dianne's favourite service, **havdalah, at 6pm.**

*Alan has requested that, in lieu of gifts, donations may be made to either the Progressive Jewish Cultural Fund (PJCF) or impact for women. To make a telephone donation, please call the Temple office on 9510-1488, or you can ask for a donation form to be sent to you.*

### TBI's New Executive Manager: Art Feinman



Temple Beth Israel's new Executive Manager, Art Feinman, takes up his new position with our congregation on Monday 18 May 2009.

Art migrated to Australia with his family several years ago and has been working as a strategic business manager. He is highly qualified in business administration and financial management.

Art and his family have been active members of the Kehilat Nitzan Conservative (Masorti) community in Melbourne and, until recently, Art served as Vice President of the congregation.

Please welcome him into our community, and make yourself known to him when you meet him in the office or around the synagogue building.

## It's been a good run

Kathy Kaplan

**A**s a Past President of Temple Beth Israel, and at the request of the current President, Brian Samuel, it is my genuine pleasure, on Brian's behalf and that of the TBI rabbis and Board, to invite you to thank and farewell Alan Samuel on his retirement.

When Alan retires on Friday 12 June, he will have been Executive Director of Temple Beth Israel for two days short of 15 years! During this time, Alan has been, together with our rabbis, the 'face' of TBI to our own synagogue community and the broader Australian Jewish community as well. Very few members have not had personal contact with him. Indeed, as Brian Samuel wrote in his April *Temple Time* column, Alan 'is the TBI version of Wikipedia. Everything that there is to know about who is who, etc, just refer to Alan.'

Alan's dedication to our community has been extraordinary. We all know that a 'standard' week for Alan is usually 55 or more hours. We also all know that, until this year when he started to try to 'wean' himself from work, he attended most *Erev Shabbat* and *Shabbat* services and all *Yom Tovim* and *Chaggim* services on top of his 'standard' week. Tallying this up, Alan has given nearly seven full time years of service to the Temple as a volunteer and has only taken two days sick leave in all that time – truly remarkable!

Since his appointment in June 1994, Alan has worked with eight presidents, 10 rabbis and has overseen more than 414 *bnei mitzvot*, 168 weddings and, sadly, 1150 funerals. Alan has met *every* visiting rabbi, student rabbi, student cantor, *shlichim* and other overseas guests at the airport. Together with Dianne, he has taken them to Healesville Sanctuary, to Sovereign Hill and to other places of interest in Victoria – and all in his own time (and not factored into the statistics above).

But Alan's work didn't stop there. He has also been the Executive Director of the Victorian Union of Progressive Judaism (VUPJ) and of Bet-Olam Jewish Funerals (for which he also acts as Funeral Director). He has spent many, many hours with grieving families at hospitals, supporting them until they were ready for their loved ones to be moved from their death beds.

Alan's support of the Union of Progressive Judaism (UPJ) in the Australian, New Zealand and Asian region was publicly,

and appropriately, recognised at the UPJ's conference late last year.

Australia's only Executive Director to have successfully attained the qualification FTA (Fellow of Temple Administrators) through NATA (National Association (USA) of Temple Administrators) required him to undertake extensive study and the completion of a significant paper entitled *Jewish Ethics and a Synagogue's Executive Director*.

Alan would be the first to say that he couldn't have done his job without the support of his staff, especially without Rhonda Nirens' assistance. He is also acutely aware that, without the support and encouragement of Dianne and his boys, Stephen and Michael, he would not have achieved nearly as much as he has for our community, much of which cannot be shown on any 'bottom line' number.

Alan is a JP, a friend to many, and an all-round good guy. TBI congregants will miss him, his warmth, his support and his genuine care and concern for others.

Please join the TBI community as we farewell both Shabbat and Alan. I know that Alan would love you to be able to share this special day with him.

Alan has requested that, in lieu of gifts, donations be made to either the PJCF or to *impact for women inc*, both of which are tax deductible. The PJCF supports TBI by providing funds to cover its educational and cultural programs, while *impact* (a charity for which Alan is the Public Officer) cares for Victorian women and children in hiding as a result of domestic violence. You can ring the Temple with your donation or drop it into the office.

If you care to write a personal message to Alan, please email it to [kkaplan@bialik.vic.edu.au](mailto:kkaplan@bialik.vic.edu.au) or mail it to Kathy Kaplan, PO Box 422 Hawthorn, so that I can compile it into a book to present to Alan. Please get your contribution to me by Monday 18 May so that I have time to do this.

Kathy Kaplan

## A privilege and an honour

**I**t has been an honour to have served the members of this great congregation for 15 years.



It's been an amazing experience. I've sometimes wondered what it would have been like if had been given this opportunity earlier in my career and my conclusion

has always been that, without all the other experiences gained along the way, I would not have been ready for this work. It became a vocation for me.

In my view, synagogue management does not deal in the dollar profit – as long as we have the cash to operate – but rather, in the social profit which is gained by assisting our members in whatever way we can. There has been an abundance of reward simply in knowing people and helping them wherever I, or my staff, could do so.

I thank all the rabbis and members of staff with whom I have served. Their efforts have contributed greatly to my ability to do what was required. I pay particular tribute to Rhonda Nirens, who has been a right hand; and to Kathy Kaplan, who pushed me to work towards my Fellowship in Temple Administration.

Most particularly, I thank my family, especially my wife, Dianne, who has been so generous in providing the opportunity for me to fulfil this role, and who herself spent endless hours in this building in support.

Rabbi Morgan once wrote, 'everyday living requires ongoing ethical decision making. By viewing every human interaction as an ethical dilemma...the ethical guidelines recommended by our tradition become internalised in the way we normally think and work.'

I have endeavoured to apply this to every interaction and decision required of me and I hope that I have achieved the standard of conscious and ethical behaviour to which I have aspired.

We look forward to seeing many familiar faces in shul, or join us for a coffee in Glenhuntly Road!

ALAN SAMUEL



Temple Beth Israel  
Host and Hostess Luncheon  
proudly present

Lord Mayor of  
The City of Melbourne  
Robert Doyle



Wednesday 8 July  
Slome Hall, Temple Beth Israel  
82 Alma Road, St Kilda  
under the patronage of Lady Anna Cowen

All guests must be seated by 12 pm  
Fully catered sit down lunch, two courses with wine,  
tea/coffee to follow  
Hostess \$45 / Patroness \$75  
Limited seating so please book early  
Bookings and enquiries with Sue Silver 9510 1488

### ROBERT DOYLE

Robert is Chairman of the Melbourne Hospital Foundation and a Trustee of the Shrine of Remembrance. He is an Ambassador for Odyssey House, a drug and alcohol abuse rehabilitation facility and an Ambassador for SecondBite, an organisation committed to making a positive difference by sourcing fresh food that would otherwise go to waste and distributing to the disadvantaged.

A Member of Victoria's Parliament for 14 years, Robert was Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the Liberal Party. Robert has extensive experience of regulatory, legislative and legal frameworks, as well as all aspects of public policy.

## Cantorial Intern Jason Kaufman returns!



Occasionally, if you're lucky, once in a lifetime, unique and exciting experiences present themselves to you; very rarely do you get a chance to repeat them. Thanks to the generosity of many in the VUPJ, I am very happy to repeat my once in a lifetime experience of last year and return to Melbourne, this time to serve as VUPJ cantorial intern.

Last winter, serving as student cantor of Temple Beth Israel was an incredible experience. As a cantorial student at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, I was so fortunate to have worked with the TBI clergy and administration.

Since leaving Melbourne almost a year ago, I have never really felt like I have left the TBI community. I have stayed in close contact with many in Australia and have loved hearing how TBI and the TBI choirs have been progressing. With the Australian heat wave of this past summer, and the tragedy of the fires that followed, I have been following Australian news sources and have mourned the horrific losses from afar.

It gives me great joy to return to TBI and build upon the the work of last winter, while simultaneously starting new experiences with the other constituents of the VUPJ. I will be spending significant time preparing for *Mizmor Shir* with the various musicians of TBI.

This year's *Mizmor Shir* concert will be entitled *Melodies of the Machzor*. The *Machzor* contains some of the most beautiful music and fascinating texts of Jewish tradition. Jewish composers have masterfully set these texts to music, infusing our prayerbook with the awe and wonder that only music can do.

### DO YOU WANT TO SING? JOIN A CHOIR!

There are many choirs at TBI and a place for every congregant of every musical and vocal level.

Find out which TBI choir would fit you best: **Ruach** (contact Sue Morgan); **Junior**

**Chazzanim** for teenagers (contact rabbi. zylberman); and **TBI choir** (contact Joe Stupel). Call 9510-1488 for details.

I'm eager to begin what I know will be a fulfilling and inspirational new experience.



'Melodies of the Machzor'  
Sunday 16 August, 7 pm  
Slome Hall, Temple Beth Israel

## Parliament of World's Religions How to get involved

Sue Keren-Black will give a presentation to the TBI Social Justice Group about the Parliament of World Religions and how groups and individuals can get involved on various levels and in different kinds of activities.

All interested individuals are welcome.

Wednesday 3 June at 7:45 pm  
Temple Beth Israel

## Welcoming back another home grown rabbi



Newly ordained Rabbi Gersh Lazarow is on his way back to Melbourne with wife Michelle and their two children, Sam and Livia. Congratulations on his ordination to Gersh and Michelle, and to the Lazarow and Gorog families who are excitedly awaiting their return.

Rabbi Lazarow will be taking up a full time position with The King David School.

# Parliament of the World's Religions seeks volunteers

**I**n December 2009, Melbourne will host the Parliament of the World's Religions (PWR) - the world's largest interreligious gathering.

An estimated 8,000 – 10,000 people from the world's diverse religious and spiritual communities are expected to attend this seven-day event. Participants will share beliefs and practices, engage in interfaith dialogue and address critical issues facing the global community.

## MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

The theme is *Make a World of Difference, Hearing Each Other, Healing the Earth* and topics for discussion will include climate change, the situation of indigenous peoples and poverty.

As Sydney can attest after the 2000 Olympics, and Melbourne with the 2006 Commonwealth Games, the importance of volunteers at such a world event cannot be underestimated. The success of the event relies to a significant degree on the enthusiasm, assistance and expertise of a large team of volunteers.

To make it a memorable event for everyone involved, the organisers want to recruit up to 1500 volunteers from around the world, to assist the estimated 8,000+ attendees.

The search for volunteers has already begun and applications are now being accepted for Parliament of World's Religion in December 2009.

Volunteers will be well trained and work under the guidance of Volunteer Coordinators as well as a dedicated troupe of team leaders.

**To volunteer for The Parliament of World's Religions – Melbourne 2009 visit [www.parliamentofreligions.org](http://www.parliamentofreligions.org) and click on 'Volunteer in Melbourne'.**

*Below: celebrating the diversity of faith and cooperation*



## Melbourne Harmony Festival

TBI volunteers braved the elements on a cold, wet Melbourne Sunday to participate in the Festival Day in Alma Park in March.

Organised by a group of differing Faith groups as a Pre-Parliament of World's Religions event, this was an interfaith, multi-cultural and environmental celebration. There were soccer competitions, art exhibitions, music and dance from different communities, ethnic foods, cultural and interfaith stalls and displays. It embodied an important value of Progressive Judaism: *tikkun olam* - improving the world.

Thanks to the volunteers who were so generous with their time. (photo courtesy Jeff Nirens)

JADWIGA HOLCDORF



*Photos courtesy of Ian Moore*

## TBI Community Second Seder

Another very successful, enjoyable, noisy, and fun-filled *Seder* was held in Slome Hall on Thursday 9 April 2009.

The Hall was filled to capacity, the food was delicious and plentiful and the *Seder* service led by Rabbi Morgan was inclusive, informative and allowed for lots of fun and laughter.

Join us next year for a stress-free, all-family, all-fun *Seder* at TBI!

### Yom Hashoah

Yom Hashoah was commemorated at Temple Beth Israel on Monday evening 20 April with an intimate and reflective service in the Friedlander Synagogue.



The TBI memorial service is held annually and timed to precede the Victorian commemorative event. Congregants were invited to light the six candles in memory of the six million and to share readings with the small gathering of congregants.

The service was brief and led with great sensitivity by Rabbi Fred Morgan and Bruce Levin.



*Photos courtesy Dot Nathan*



*Photos courtesy Joe Lewit*



### A visit to the Holocaust Centre

The VUPJ Introduction to Judaism course is a fascinating 12-month journey covering the history, culture, religion, ethics and heritage of the Jewish people, with an emphasis on how our past and our traditions impact the way we live contemporary Jewish lives.

Led by VUPJ rabbis and educators, the course includes hands-on experiences with multi-media learning, discussion and field trips.

One Sunday afternoon in April, the class visited the Holocaust Centre with Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black of the Leo Baeck Centre. They toured the museum with dedicated guides, explored the many interactive exhibits and left with a deeper understanding of one of the most significant experiences in Jewish history and tragedies of humankind.

**The new intake commences in late July. Enrolment is by interview with a rabbi only, so please call now to make an appointment if you wish to join the class. 9510-1488.**

### Tuesday Talk

Tuesday Talk is a fortnightly Jewish current affairs conversation especially for those who are retired. Bring some lunch, or tea, coffee and biscuits supplied, and join in fun, informative and in-depth discussions of topics of Jewish interest in the news.

Tuesday Talk is led by Rabbi Morgan, who has been leading this popular discussion group for more than 10 years.

Occasionally special guest presenters step in to offer their views on specific issues, and in April we were very pleased to welcome Justice Howard Nathan to speak with us. Justice Nathan's unique style combines his vast experience and knowledge with a wicked sense of humour, which both entertained and informed.

**Come along on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 12 - 1 pm, with Rabbi Fred Morgan and guest presenters.**



## TBI Friendship Club celebrates 10 years!

From small and hopeful beginnings, the Friendship Club has blossomed into one of the great success stories for Temple Beth Israel. And it is all due to the efforts and skill of a band of dedicated, talented and tireless volunteers!



The Friendship Club threw a party on 6 May 2009 to celebrate, and more than 100 participants flocked into Slome Hall for the occasion. As always, the Bring and Buy Table groaned under the weight of exquisite hand-made textile items. The food was delicious, the service prompt and friendly, the conversation electric and the performers engaging and entertaining.

Happy birthday to the Friendship Club, and congratulations to those who make it happen.



### Manly discussion is the topic of the day

The VUPJ Men's Group has been meeting monthly since 1992, to discuss issues as wide-ranging as Jewish texts, political and social issues and always finishing the evening around the supper table. Convenor and TBI member Albert Bentata anticipates that they will never run out of

topics of conversation. The group is not fixed, with new participants attending over the course of the year. All Jewish men who are members of one of our VUPJ congregations are always welcome.

**Further information: Albert Bentata on 9555-2527**

*Photo courtesy Reuben Urban*



### Total involvement

Mazal tov to one of our staunchest members, **Irene Benjamin**, who will be celebrating her birthday in May.

Irene has made the Temple her second home and she has a long history of total commitment to the life of our Temple, giving her prodigious energy towards activities such as the Women's Guild, the organisation of the epic Bi-Monthly Luncheon, a stint on the Board of Management and now as a member of the Friendship Club.



*Photo courtesy Reuben Urban*

### Impact for Women

On Sunday 26 April an enthusiastic group of around 20 people gathered in our Slome Hall for a couple of hours of wrapping presents!

The volunteers were preparing special gift packs for the women and children who spent Mothers' Day in women's shelters to escape domestic violence in their homes. The gift packs included handbags, purses and personal products, and all of these goods were donated by supporters of *impact*.

To find out more about the work of *impact*, check [www.impactforwomen.org.au/](http://www.impactforwomen.org.au/)

## Nostalgia and Mt Sinai

Monica Hyams



This was posted on the Lego nostalgia site by an engineer in United States on 3 January 2008:

*'This set has a special place in my memory. I don't recall having it per se, but among the few bits of childhood flotsam and jetsam that have followed me into adult life there are some unmistakable traces of this set. I definitely have the yellow front part that used to hold the propeller, and accompanying them some ... red plates of comparable age. So at some point, in some of the hardest times for my mom and my dad, they clearly saw fit to put this toy into my hands. I miss my dad, who passed away in 2004, but I know he'd be pleased to see those old bricks in my now-four-year-old's creative hands.'*

This piece was Lego model # 613: the Bi-plane.

The Torah we received at Mt Sinai gave us 613 commandments.

*Shavuot* has a special time in our memories because of its significance. Perhaps for some of us, just like this man, we don't remember having certain items – in our case Jewish items or symbols – in our childhood, but there 'are some unmistakable traces of this...' our heritage, in our lives now.

We try and match up the age of items to place them in our lives. However, our Jewish heritage is ageless. The Torah still lives and its 613 commandments still provide us with a guide to living the best life possible. So when this engineer posted this reflection, he probably didn't think that it would reach people in a Jewish way! When he said: 'So at some point, in some of the hardest times for my mom and my dad, they clearly saw fit to put this toy into my hands', he knew his dad would have been pleased to see the old bricks in the hands of the next generation.

He was literally clutching onto something from his past which gave him a sense of security within the present as he looked at his child's future.

In hard times, we can always find the means to give our children what they must have to best equip themselves as they develop their own Jewish identities.

I think of my grandparents who were Holocaust survivors and came to Australia to start again with no family at all other than a very distant cousin. I look at my children and gain such joy when the *tzitzit* they hold in their hands are the very same their

grandfathers both held. Holding on to the little pieces, the fragments that, together, bind us as a Jewish people. The fabric of 613 commandments which keep us together and keep Judaism a living model. 'The unmistakable traces' of our heritage.

If we look at the Torah as handed down at Mt Sinai we find a set of guidelines – a user's guide to life with 613 ways to develop a moral basis. An iPod Touch has almost as many guidelines but you can use it without having all the applications activated. It just isn't using it to its full potential. The package of IKEA furniture can be assembled without referring to all the steps but it may not be as sturdy or last the test of time.

But we were instructed very clearly on Mt Sinai to live the lessons in order to make Jewish life withstand the wear and tear, to make the world a better place: a world of justice and loving kindness, the best possible place for all people.

Whilst there are no tangible symbols for *Shavuot* such as those we have for *Rosh Hashanah* and *Chanukah* etc, we have a very comprehensive symbol – the Torah, and it is on *Shavuot* we stay up all night to study.

We decorate the synagogue with branches and flowers because Mount Sinai blossomed with flowers on the day the Torah was received. *Shavuot* is also associated with the harvest of wheat and fruits. We eat dairy foods because, when we received the Torah at Mount Sinai, the Jews immediately became obligated in the laws of *Sh'chitah*, the slaughter of animals. There was no time to prepare kosher meat so they ate dairy instead.

This is part of the user's guide to living a Jewish life!



The Lego Bi Plane, model 613, had a set of instructions and a number of pieces which, once connected made a plane. All that is left of this engineer's plane are a few pieces which his four year old son plays with. These few pieces give this man a connection with his past and it has formed a bridge of time between his heritage and future generations.

*Shavuot* is a time for us to recall the giving of the Torah and all its lessons. Ultimately, even at the hardest of times, we are obliged to pass on the commandments to the next generation with the tools to live their Jewish lives – the bits of childhood that have followed us all into adult life, the unmistakable traces of growing up as Jews.

### Honouring the educators

Saturday 30 May, 10 am  
Temple Beth Israel

A Shabbat service to honour all those in our community who are involved in the teaching profession.

Please join us.

# A step at a time: Our community's approach to reconciliation

Sue Morgan and Denise Same

Since last year's monumental Sorry Day apology by Kevin Rudd several Reconciliation Groups have sprung up, each with its own flavour and goals.

For all these groups, it has been a challenge to find a meaningful way forward. Why should TBI's Social Justice Group be interested in forging our own link with the local Aboriginal community? Having supported Asylum Seekers and refugees from overseas (Afghanistan, Iran, Sudan and Burma) and local homeless groups (helping at the Sacred Heart Mission) we now believe it is time to meet our neighbours, the original custodians of this beautiful land. We want to explore what we have in common and what we might share.

Last November we held a very successful event at TBI at which Betty Pike, an Aboriginal Elder from WA, told us her moving story and how it inspired her to write an allegorical children's book, *A River Dreaming*. Alongside her, Dr Howard Goldenberg intrigued us with poignant tales of his human encounters during locum practitioner periods in Aboriginal areas. It was a delightful evening!

A small group of us has continued to explore further ways forward, including working with local organisations such as the Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation and Inner South Community Health. We invite you to join us at one or more of the following events:

## WALKING BIRRARUNG

Guided tour along the Yarra with an Aboriginal guide ending up at the Koori Heritage Centre in the City. It sounds really interesting and we'd love you and your family to come along.

**When:** Sunday 14 June at 10 am.

**Cost:** \$22 pp. includes a visit to the Koori Heritage Centre. This is a special price!

**Book:** required by 29 May at TBI office on tel 9510-1488

## AN EVENING OF STORY

Aunty Jacko, a local Aboriginal Elder who is warm and wise, will speak about her life. A light supper will be served to facilitate informal conversation after the presentation.

**Where:** The home of Denise Same  
Call 9510-1488 for details

**When:** Wednesday 20 May at 7pm

**Cost:** Gold coin donation

**Book:** by Monday 18 May  
with Denise on 0425-823-222

## BBO IN ST KILDA

This is a weekly event which provides food for local Aboriginal people each Monday.

There is a need for volunteers to help cook and, possibly at a later stage, to offer transport. A few of our members are already attending.

**When:** Mondays, 12 - 2.30 pm

**Details:** Dani on 0418 125 555 for further information and to volunteer

We hope that if we extend a hand of friendship, there will be rewards on both sides. We have much to learn. Please join us in this exciting process.



## Help knit up a storm

**The Temple Beth Israel Knitting Circle is in urgent need of 8 ply acrylic wool!**

Any and all colours, including black, will do for these intrepid knitters. Your yarn will be magically transformed into baby blankets and clothes and distributed through the Royal Women's hospital to mothers in need.

If you've got any 8 ply wool, whether it's a single, lonely ball in a drawer or a pallet full, please **drop it into the TBI office** so we can put it into the hands of our Knitting Circle, or **call 9510 -1488 and we can arrange to have it picked up.**



**JCMA**  
Jewish Christian Muslim  
Association of Australia

## Faith in a secular society

Sixth Residential Conference of Jews, Christians and Muslims in Australia

An opportunity to experience four days of Inter-Religious Dialogue in the contemporary Australian context

Monday 6 – Thursday 9 July 2009

Conference Centre, Pallotti College,  
80 McNamaras Rd, Millgrove  
Single \$350, Couple \$600

Children 13-16 \$60, Children under 13 Free  
All enquiries are welcome

Applications must be received by  
Friday 29 May, 2009

JCMA Office, GPO Box 598 Melbourne Vic 3001  
Fax 9650 8383 phone 9650 3294  
or email [jcmavic@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jcmavic@yahoo.com.au)

*published as a community service*



## POSITION AVAILABLE

With the retirement of Bet-Olam Director, Alan Samuel, a casual position has opened for a Funeral Director for the Progressive Jewish funeral service to join new Director, Rhonda Nirens, and Lin Matthews.

This is an unusual and attractive opportunity for someone who is semi-retired or retired to express their involvement with the Progressive Jewish community in a caring and satisfying way.

We require the successful candidate to work alternate weekends and to show compassion and empathy in this role in a comforting and sincere manner. Own car is essential and availability to assist with arranging funerals at other times would be an advantage.

Full training will be provided for this remunerated position

**For further details or to submit an application, please contact Alan Samuel or Rhonda Nirens on tel. 9510-1488 or email [alan.samuel@tbi.org.au](mailto:alan.samuel@tbi.org.au) or [rhonda.nirens@tbi.org.au](mailto:rhonda.nirens@tbi.org.au)**



## Limmud at TBI

Bookings and enquiries for all limmud and social programs on 9510 1488.



Photo: Reuben Urban

### LIMMUD ON SUNDAYS

Adult learning on Sundays, 10.30 am – 12 noon, with TBI rabbis and guest lecturers. Gold coin donation.

#### MYSTERIES OF THE SEFER TORAH

**17, 31 May with Rabbi Morgan**

The scroll of the Torah is filled with all sorts of strange and mysterious things: letters written smaller and larger than the norm, dotted letters, inverted *nuns*, 'jots and tittles', and many other curiosities that we will investigate by delving into the scroll itself. We'll also be looking at how a scroll is written and comparing the scroll with printed versions of the Torah. An investigation filled with surprises, we guarantee that you'll never look at a sefer Torah in the same way again.

#### ISRAEL: THE LAND, ITS SYMBOLISM AND JEWISH IDENTITY

**14, 21, 28 June with Miriam Feldheim**

Session 1. Two landmark cases on land ownership in Israel, Qadam v. Katzir and the Adalah petition, delving into some background material on basic laws on land ownership and the role of the High Court in protecting human rights.

Session 2. Leviticus 25 and the laws regarding aliens resident within the ancient Biblical State will be our starting point in investigating Biblical concepts of justice and ideas of how this relates to the modern understanding of equality.

We will touch on the concept of land for redemption.

Session 3. Zionism, the importance of the land, JNF land purchases and the attitudes to the Arab population. In particular we will discuss the role of JNF in the 21st century and the heated debates in Israel on these issues.

#### MODERN DISCOVERIES IN BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY

**12, 19, 26 July with Rabbi Levi**

Three sessions on one of his favourite topics, biblical archeology.

#### THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A JEWISH PAST

**9, 16, 23, 30 August with Rabbi Fred Morgan**

Four sessions exploring the fifth book of Torah.

#### INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

The next intake of this fascinating 12-month journey through Jewish history, culture, ethics and religion commences in July.

Entry to the course is by interview with a rabbi only. If you are interested in participating in the coming intake, please call the office now to make a date to see one of the rabbis.

**Tel. 9510-1488**

### ONGOING LIMMUD OPPORTUNITIES

#### NISHMAT COL CHAI MEDITATION

Jewish meditation, chanting, discussion on first Wednesday monthly with Eva Light in her home. Open to beginner and experienced meditators. **Contact Eva Light on [literite@bigpond.com](mailto:literite@bigpond.com) for details.**

#### TUESDAY TALK

**19 May, 2, 16 June, 7, 21 July at 12 noon**

Join Rabbi Morgan on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month for lively discussion on contemporary events in the Jewish world. BYO lunch. Gold coin for refreshments.

#### MEN'S GROUP

An opportunity for Jewish men to gather for discussion on issues of concern. Meeting monthly in private homes, on **17 May & 21 June at 8 pm**. Contact Albert on 9555-2527 for details.

#### SHERIDAN HALL SHMOOZE

Join Rabbi Morgan on **1 June & 6 July at 3:30 pm** and the first Monday of every month for an informal shmooze on the current topics of the day, at Sheridan Hall. Non-residents are welcome to participate, at 6 Northcote Avenue, Caulfield.

#### COFFEE & CHAT WITH THE RABBI

**Weekly on Tuesdays during the Matan teaching term at 4:30 pm.**

Stop by TBI on your way home from work or school, or stay after dropping off your kids to Matan classes. Chat with the rabbis about current events, shul activities, religious issues or whatever is on your mind. No cost, refreshments available.

#### HEBREW CLASSES: ALEF IS NOT TOUGH

**Beginners' Hebrew classes with Karen Rosauer, Thursdays at 7:30 pm**

You will be able to recognise all the letters and have a basic understanding of Hebrew word structures and an elementary vocabulary of key prayer terms.

Dates of the next course on 9510-1488

#### HEBREW CLASSES: ALEF IS NOT ENOUGH

**Intermediate Hebrew classes with Albert Bentata, Thursdays at 7:30 pm**

Building on the fundamentals to establish a more comprehensive understanding.

Dates of the next course on 9510-1488

## TBI SOCIAL NETWORK

### DROP IN & CHAT/CRAFT CIRCLE @ TBI

Conversation, light refreshments, BYO tabletop games or join our knitting circle. Second and fourth Wednesday of the month, **20 May, 10 & 24 June at 10:30 am**. \$2 for refreshments.

### LIVING WITH DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

Meeting every six weeks or so, offers companionship, support and provides helpful information to carers. **Monday 22 June at 7:30 – 9 pm**.

### VA'AD MISHPACHA

Join *Va'ad Mishpacha*, a group dedicated to expanding and enriching our family programming. Call Rabbi Gevurtz on 95101488 or [rabbi.gevurtz@tbi.org.au](mailto:rabbi.gevurtz@tbi.org.au)

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Entertainment & social interaction on the first and third Wednesday each month. 11am to 1:30pm. \$8 includes lunch & raffle ticket.

### YOUNG TBI DINNERS

Join a diverse group of younger TBI members on the fourth erev Shabbat monthly for a Shabbat meal. **22 May & 26 June**. Check Young TBI group on Facebook. No need to RSVP.

## WORSHIP OPTIONS @ TBI

### GESHER L'TEFILLAH

On the second Shabbat monthly at 9:45 am in the Magid Resource Centre, an intimate self-led gathering with Torah study instead of a sermon. All welcome. **13 June & 11 July**.

### NETZER-LED MINYAN

Netzer-led Shabbat service upstairs in the MRC on the first Friday monthly at 6:15 pm. Relaxed *kabbalat Shabbat* service, with guitar accompaniment for our brachot. Please join us **5 June & 3 July**

### SHABBAT ALIVE!

On the fourth erev Shabbat monthly, welcome Shabbat with drums and cymbals, guitars, singing, vibrant rhythms and the energy of our *Junior Chazzanim!* **22 May & 26 June**.

### SHABBAT MISHPACHA

**NOTE! 2nd Saturday of each month.**

A Shabbat service geared to young children up to grade 2 and their families on Shabbat mornings, 9–9:30 am in the Sanctuary with Rabbi Rayna Gevurtz. **13 June & 11 July**



Join Rabbi Gevurtz **Wednesday 20 May, 7:30 pm** in a private home to welcome the Hebrew month of Sivan.

Each month the women of our congregation are invited to come together and rejoice in the new month with sacred learning, in depth conversation and, of course, a little nosh.

For more information and location, email [rabbi.gevurtz@tbi.org.au](mailto:rabbi.gevurtz@tbi.org.au) or call the office at 9510-1488.



## BEYOND MATURITY BLUES

*Are you 50+ and feeling low?  
Is your parent in aged care?  
Are you caring for someone at home?*

***Come to a free information session  
by two peer educators at TBI***

**Sunday 14 June 2009, 4 pm  
Slome Hall, 76-82 Alma Road St Kilda**

Trained educators will lead participants through an interactive session on depression.

Feedback and questions encouraged. Light refreshments will be provided.



**RSVP to TBI office on 9510-1488.**

*An initiative of the TBI Caring Community Circle*

## Smachot

*Celebrating the milestones in our congregational family*

### NEW MEMBERS

*We welcome these new members of the TBI family:*

• Philip & Debra Dalidakis with their daughters Zoe & Asha • Neville & Jessica Kruss with their children Jenna & Shannon • Emily Field with her son Benjamin • Lorraine Fabb • Mandy Sharp with her son Jaydyn Danaher • Luke & Joanna Wajsbrem with their daughters Shelley & Juliet • Lance & Kerry Rubin • Geoffrey Edelsten & Brynne Gordon.

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

*Mazal tov on their wedding anniversaries, 17 May - 28 June:*

• Sir Zelman & Lady Anna Cowen (64th) • Morel & Lala Saunders (64th) • Myer & Rebecca Brott (61st) • Max & Nora Bruch (59th) • Rudolf & Sylvia Cherny (58th) • Leslie & Adrienne Lustig (57th) • Hal & Roslyn Levy (56th) • Morris & Helen Sher (52nd) • Ray & Daniele Magid (40th) • Gary & Susan Hearst (40th) • Alan & Anne Faiman (40th) • Jeff & Marion Simmelmann (36th) • Eric & Rhona Herz (36th) • Reuben & Pat Urban (35th) •

David & Ingrid Gold (35th) • John & Tanya Tescher (25th) • Jonathan Mushin & Michelle Beck (15th) • Israel & Meshi Zilberman (10th)

### MAY & JUNE B'NEI MITZVAH

*Mazal tov to families celebrating b'nei mitzvah:*

Jazzy Bade-Boon (2 May) • Sabrina Lewis (16 May) • Jeremy Bader-McDowell (6 June) • Daniel Orbach (13 June) • Jamie Moshinsky (20 June)

### RECENT BA'ALEI KRIYAT TORAH

*4 April - 9 May*

Jazzy Bade-Boon, Kath Cozins, Rhondda Hall, Bruce Levin, Arielle Meretz, Olivia Metter, Rabbi Fred Morgan, Theodore Rosenthal, Josh Teichman, Rabbi Gersh Zylberman

### SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

*Mazal tov on celebrating a special birthday, 17 May - 28 June:*

• Simon Arkles • Irene Benjamin • Jack Bock • Serena Cohen • Nicholas Cozens • Susie Cymbalist • Marie Davis • George Dryen • Jenny Fast • Nina Fih • Sue Freadman • Adam Frederick • Indiana Gesundheit • David Gold • Frank Goldstein • Leon Gouzenfiter • Geoffrey Green • Bonnie Greenberg • Alexander Grinstein • Suzanne Hain • Joshua Hain • Dorothea

Heymann • Ruth Holan • Symon Hyman • Mirella Jajesnica • Magdi Jakobovits • Ivan Jarny • Emelie Josephs • Peter Kahan • Masza Kaye • Lili Kiffer • Sam Kirsner • Edith Kohn • Georgina Korman • Alan Kozica • Mark Kuperholz • Judith Lawrence • Philip Levy • Ross Liebmann • Lynette Linden • Violet Loewenstein • Ron Lowe • Hans Lutwak • Tomas Maine • Jeanette Mandie • Judy Margis • Oliver Mendelsohn • Tal Meretz • Robin Michelson • Michael Moses • Tammy Musman • Danny Olesh • Nili Palti • Lesley Pilcer • Miriam Rabinov • Greta Redlich • Phillip Rosenwax • Ruth Rossdale • Anthony Rotman • Jaclyn Rotman • Lotte Roubicek • Pamela Ruskin • Adam Ryan • Nadine Salcman • Roma Samuel • Jacqui Scanlan • Peter Selton • Joe Shneider • Sophie Snow • Beryl Southwick • Keith Steinhardt • Tanya Tescher • George Upton • Gabby Urban • Eva Weisl • Lionel Werbeloff • Russell Wiese • Raphael Zylberman

### MAZAL TOV

To TBI member **Amanda Walker**, whose company *Lord of the Fries* recently won an award from PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) for Australia's best veggie burger.

## Correspondence

**L**etters on any issue which has bearing on the Progressive Jewish community or to the TBI community, in particular, are welcome.

*The following letter was submitted to the Australian Jewish News at the end of April.*

### INTERFAITH WORK

I'd like to revisit the subject of Jewish participation in interfaith work, a subject that has raised much angst in the AJN over the past couple of months. The question is whether there is any value to engaging in dialogue with other faiths. In this regard, two events have taken place over the past week that I believe shed some light on this question.

Last week I attended an unusual gathering at St Francis Church in the City. It was a Holocaust Memorial Service 'for Christians and all people of good will who are committed to remembrance, repentance, and human dignity.' More than 100

people joined in the service, mostly from the Catholic and Uniting Church traditions, though several people from the Jewish community also attended. The service takes place every year at a different venue. It includes readings, prayers, hymns and survivor testimony.

This Christian service was quite different from the *Yom Hasboah* service that my synagogue holds every year prior to the Blackwood Hall gathering, as one would expect. Yet, like other commemorations it keeps the memory of the *Shoah* alive, not just within the Jewish community but also among caring Christians.

It would be easy to be cynical and dismiss the service as mere showmanship, but the sincerity of those who took part was very evident; as was their willingness to engage with the memory of the Holocaust and the

complicated role of Christianity within it.

For the first time this year, the organisers of the service invited a Jewish representative to recite the *Kaddish* prayer in Hebrew before the congregation. I was honoured to be that representative. As I spoke the words of the *Kaddish*, so hallowed in Jewish life, I was overwhelmed by the realisation that, after centuries of teachings of Christian contempt towards Judaism and just 64 years after the Shoah, here was I, a Jew, intoning the *Kaddish* in a church before a predominantly Christian gathering. It was a remarkable feeling and it depended entirely on the decades of interfaith work that preceded the evening.

The second event is more intimate. It involves a family in my synagogue. The wife is Jewish, the husband is Presbyterian, and the two children are being raised totally within their Jewish faith with the enthusiastic support of their father (he said at his son's bar-mitzvah, 'In all my 50+ years as a Presby-

## Donations to support our congregation

*With thanks for your generous donations received 30 March to 24 April 2009*

### TBI GENERAL FUND

• Alwyn & Kaye Abraham • David & Jenny Arkles • Richard Asznovicz • Michael & Susie Balint • Gerda Bandman • Jacob & Steffi Bando • Phillip & Grace Bando • Barry & Cheryl Batagol • Phillip & Sandy Benjamin • Albert & Carol Bentata • Arthur & Bina Best • Arnold & Mary Bram • Dorothy Bresner & Evelyn Bresner • Myer & Rebecca Brott • Joseph & Estelle Brown • George Cass • Halina Chazan • Raymond & Mary Cohen • Ula Curry • Peter & Mirri Curtis • Judy Cyngler • Melissa & David Cyngler • Les & Monica Davidovits • Ann Dorey • George & Marlene Dryen • Andrew & Lorraine Dvash • Graham & Stella Edgar • Howard & Yvonne Elton • Enid Elton • Abrasha Feigin • Warren Fineberg & Vivienne Elton • Max & Pat Fink • Vera Finkel • Lisa Finkelstein • Erika Fisher • Barry & Pam Fradkin • Fleur Freadman • Helena Frosh • Susanna Geiro • Ethel Goldin • Frank & Fliss Goldstein • Greg & Nellie Goodvach • Tom & Jenny Gorog • Robert & Jan Green • Danielle Gross • Leslie Gross & Dianne Erlichman • Alain & Judi Grossbard • Garry & Julie Grossbard • Felicity Guthrie • Paul Hall • Esther Hartman • Gary & Susan Hearst •

June Helmer • Sharon & Daryl Herbert • Ian Heyman • John Hillel • Gabriel Hoenig • Michele Huppert • Ronald Hurwitz • Ruth Inwald • Ironman 4x4 Pty Ltd • Magdi Jakobovits • Andrew & Penny Jakobovits • Michael & Danielle Jelinek • Brian & Anneke Kangisser • John Kaufman • Warren Kaye • Leah Kaye • Debbie Kiffer • Nene King • George & Yolanda Klempfner • Ernst & Edith Kohn • Katrina Kolt • Margit Korn • Rena Langberg • Graham & Michele Lasky • Richard & Liz Leder • Len & Deanna Levin • Hal & Roslyn Levy • Mr & Mrs D Lewis • Larry & Helen Light • Marion Lippmann • Lewis & Eve Lustig • Arnold & Dani Mahemoff • Richard Margolis • Eve Markov • Stan & Eva Marks • Roger & Sue Mendelson • Alan & Esther Michael • Harold & Doreen Miller • Henry & Stella Mitchell • Evi Morawetz • Theo Moss • Marcus Moss • Carl & Madeleine Muller • Edith Peer • Margaret Poll • Mark Pomeroy & Clare Devine • Peter & Bette Pulver • Bronnia Raynor • Elsie Rhodes • Elizabeth Ridge • Ken & Ruth Rossdale • Pamela Ruskin • Adam & Yoko Ryan • Edith Sadlon • Ian & Shayndel Samuel • Robert & Rita Schulberg

terian, I have never felt more Jewish!").

The husband died this week after a long and difficult illness. Through the manner of his life and his death he had touched hundreds of people in our community. The family asked whether there was some way that he could be given a burial that reflected his Christian tradition but also acknowledged his deep respect for the Judaism of his wife and children.

There is no problem within Jewish teaching about a Jew reciting Psalms and the *Kaddish* prayer in memory of a righteous gentile, as this man was. (It happens often when a well-known public figure dies.) The challenge was to find a Christian minister who would lead an appropriately open and embracing burial service. The family was able to find such a minister and create with her just the right tone of acceptance and faith.

I had known the minister for years through our mutual involvement in inter-

faith activities. As a result of these interactions, I had an appreciation for what this man's Christian background required, and the minister who led the service was sensitive to the needs of his Jewish family. This was interfaith understanding expressing itself at a very deep, very human level. And it would have been inconceivable without years of contact and what was in effect preparation that had preceded the moment.

Those who argue against interfaith dialogue generally take a short-term view of its benefits. Interfaith work is obviously not for everyone. But why criticise those who find it worthwhile and gain satisfaction from doing it? We never know what benefits it may bring us – all of us – tomorrow.

RABBI FRED MORGAN  
SENIOR RABBI, TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

• Benn Selby • Otto & Gerda Shelton • Morris & Helen Sher • Jonathan Shiff • John Silberberg • Jack & Lesley Silberscher • Leon & Laura Silver • Norman & Sue Sonenberg • Michael & Cheryl Spivakovsky • Rose Stach • Alex & Janet Starr • Irene Stern • Magdee Taryan • Betty Frey Taylor • Lorraine Topol • Luke & Joanna Wajsbrem • Barry & Nancy Wicks • Rachel Wildberg • Jeffrey Willetts • Annemarie Winter • David Zarfaty • Oscar & Lore Zent • Ilse Ziffer • Ruth Zimmerman • Harry Zipper

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

### PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CULTURAL FUND (TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

• Ellen Bando • Irene Benjamin • Jean Berah • Philip & Andrea Bliss • Damien Blumenkranc • Ilse Breth • Jeffrey & Ann Brown • Eva Felts • Sara Finch • Barry & Pam Fradkin • Felicity Guthrie • Maria Jo Herpe • Ross & Monica Hyams • Alwynne Jona • Margit Korn • Michael & Lyn Lawrence • Joe Lewit & Ruja Varon • Marion Lippmann • Lyn Lutchner • Lindsay & Rosy Matthews • Howard Nathan • Ruben & Ursula Piekarski • Daniel & Neomy Reuben • Bella Shannon • Stan & Eva Skrabal • Oscar Sokolski • Sam & Frances Stiglec • Magdee Taryan • Luke & Joanna Wajsbrem • Lewis & Deborah Woolf

### COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS (TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

• David & Jenny Arkles • Phillip & Sandy Benjamin • Ann Dorey • Eve Markov • Roger & Sue Mendelson • Theo Moss • Ian & Shayndel Samuel

## Bereavements

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

• **Cenci Bihary** (grandmother of Judi Cohen, great grandmother of Braham, Tammy, Danielle & Yossi) • **Martha Gries** (wife of Heinz, mother of Bernard) • **Thelma Katherine Holt** • **Henry Horn** (husband of Nola, father of Dominique, Anna & Simon) • **Heather Lustig** • **Tom Reed** (husband of Deborah, father of John & Sarah) • **Haritomeny Rozenberg** (mother of Pearl & Athena) • **Adrienne Shinberg** (wife of Simon, mother of Judy-Ann & Debra-Lee) • **Ted Van Gelder** (father of Lyn, Kaye & Rhonda)

# May-June 2009 at TBI

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>23 Iyar 5769 38 Day of Omer</p> <p>10:30 am Limmud on Sundays 'Mysteries of the Torah' with Rabbi Morgan 7:30 pm 'Jerusalem, a love story' with Dana Bar-Zuri 8 pm Men's Group</p> <p>17 May</p>	<p>24 Iyar 39 Day of Omer</p>	<p>25 Iyar 40 Day of Omer</p> <p>12 noon Tuesday Talk 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee with the Rabbi <i>No Introduction to Judaism class</i></p> <p>19</p>	<p>26 Iyar 41 Day of Omer</p> <p>11 am Friendship Club</p>	<p>27 Iyar 42 Day of Omer</p> <p><i>UPJ Executive and Presidents meeting commences</i></p>	<p>28 Iyar 43 Day of Omer Yom Yerushalayim</p> <p><i>UPJ meeting continues</i> 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service with Junior Chazanim 7:30 pm UPJ Conference dinner 7:30 pm Young TBI dinner (Slome)</p> <p>22</p>	<p>29 Iyar 44 Day of Omer Shabbat Bamidbar</p> <p><i>UPJ meeting continues</i> 10 am Shabbat Shacharit service</p> <p>23</p>
<p>1 Sivan 5769 Rosh Chodesh 45 Day of Omer</p> <p><i>UPJ meeting ends</i></p> <p>24</p>	<p>2 Sivan 46 Day of Omer</p>	<p>3 Sivan 47 Day of Omer</p> <p>4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee with the Rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism</p> <p>26</p>	<p>4 Sivan 48 Day of Omer</p> <p>10:30 am Drop In &amp; Chat/Knitting Circle 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters</p> <p>27</p>	<p>5 Sivan 49 Day of Omer Erev Shavuot</p> <p>4:15 pm Shavuot Mishpacha fun and family service 7 pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot</p> <p>28</p>	<p>6 Sivan Shavuot (Yizkor)</p> <p>10 am Shavuot festival service 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service</p> <p>29</p>	<p>7 Sivan Shabbat Shavuot</p> <p>10 am Shabbat Shacharit service honouring our Educators and special farewell to Alan Samuel on his retirement 4:30 pm Alan Samuel farewell afternoon tea and havdallah</p> <p>30</p>
<p>8 Sivan</p> <p>10:30 am Limmud on Sundays 'Mysteries of the Torah' with Rabbi Morgan</p> <p>31</p>	<p>9 Sivan</p> <p>2 pm Sheridan Hall Shmooze</p> <p>1 June</p>	<p>10 Sivan</p> <p>12 noon Tuesday Talk 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee with the Rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism</p> <p>2</p>	<p>11 Sivan</p> <p>11 am Friendship Club 7:30 pm Social Justice Group meeting (all welcome)</p> <p>3</p>	<p>12 Sivan</p>	<p>13 Sivan</p> <p>6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service 6:15 pm Netzer-led alternative minyan (MRC)</p> <p>5</p>	<p>14 Sivan Shabbat Naso</p> <p>10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Bar mitzvah of Jeremy Bader McDowell</p> <p>6</p>
<p>15 Sivan</p> <p>7</p>	<p>16 Sivan</p> <p><i>Public Holiday Queen's birthday</i></p> <p>8</p>	<p>17 Sivan</p> <p><i>No Matan No Coffee with the Rabbi</i> 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism</p> <p>9</p>	<p>18 Sivan</p> <p>10:30 am Drop In &amp; Chat/Knitting Circle 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters</p> <p>10</p>	<p>19 Sivan</p> <p>7:30 pm TBI Board meeting</p> <p>11</p>	<p>20 Sivan</p> <p>6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service</p> <p>12</p>	<p>21 Sivan Shabbat Behaalotcha</p> <p>9 am Shabbat Mishpacha 9:45 am Geshet alternative minyan (MRC) 10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Bar mitzvah of Daniel Orbach</p> <p>13</p>
<p>22 Sivan</p> <p>10:30 am Limmud on Sundays 'Land, symbolism and Jewish identities' with Miriam Feldheim 4:30 pm Seminar on Beyond Maturity Blues (Slome Hall)</p> <p>14</p>	<p>23 Sivan</p> <p>15</p>	<p>24 Sivan</p> <p>4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee with the Rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism</p> <p>16</p>	<p>25 Sivan</p> <p>11 am Friendship Club</p> <p>17</p>	<p>26 Sivan</p> <p>18</p>	<p>27 Sivan</p> <p>6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service</p> <p>19</p>	<p>28 Sivan Shabbat Shelach</p> <p>10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Bar mitzvah of Jamie Moshinsky</p> <p>20</p>
<p>29 Sivan</p> <p>10:30 am Limmud on Sundays 'Land, symbolism and Jewish identities' with Miriam Feldheim 8 pm Men's Group</p> <p>21</p>	<p>30 Sivan Rosh Chodesh</p> <p>7:30 pm Dementia Support Group meeting (Friedlander)</p> <p>22</p>	<p>1 Tammuz 5769 Rosh Chodesh</p> <p>4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee with the Rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism</p> <p>23</p>	<p>2 Tammuz</p> <p>10:30 am Drop In &amp; Chat/Knitting Circle 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters</p> <p>24</p>	<p>3 Tammuz</p> <p>25</p>	<p>4 Tammuz</p> <p>6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service with Junior Chazanim 7:30 pm Young TBI dinner (Slome)</p> <p>26</p>	<p>5 Tammuz Shabbat Korach</p> <p>10 am Shabbat Shacharit service</p> <p>27</p>
<p>6 Tammuz</p> <p>10:30 am Limmud on Sundays 'Land, symbolism and Jewish identities' with Miriam Feldheim</p> <p>28</p>	<p>7 Tammuz</p> <p>29</p>	<p>8 Tammuz</p> <p><i>No Matan No Coffee with the Rabbi</i> 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism</p> <p>30</p>	<p>9 Tammuz</p> <p>11 am Friendship Club</p> <p>1 July</p>	<p>10 Tammuz</p> <p>2</p>	<p>11 Tammuz</p> <p>6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service 6:15 pm Netzer-led alternative minyan</p> <p>3</p>	<p>12 Tammuz Shabbat Chukat Balak</p> <p>10 am Shabbat Shacharit service Celebrating Rabbi Fred Morgan's 25th Anniversary of Ordination with a special full kiddush to follow the service.</p> <p>4</p>