

Ark WEEKLY

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MAZEL TOV



A big Mazel Tov to Stephanie & Eitan and proud grandparents Rosie & Dov Potaznik on the safe arrival of their baby boy / grandson

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

WEDDING CELEBRATION



ARK wishes a huge Mazel Tov to Gemma and Mark on their chuppah on Sunday. Mazel Tov also to the parents Kerry & Eli Goldfinger and Elizabeth & Antonio Grasso.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ARK

Hamentashen Bake

*Please note change of date to 22nd March, same as the Pre-Purim Kiddush.



**ARK Centre
together with
NCJWA Vic**



**invite you to join our
HAMENTASHEN BAKE**



**FRIDAY 22nd March
Time : 5.45PM
Followed by service at 6.15pm
Venue : ARK Centre**

All queries: office@arkcentre.com.au

Register your attendance:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CQEGQ>



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY ERDI FOUNDATION

Register Here

PRE-PURIM KIDDUSH



SHABBAT DINNER

Shabbat Dinner

Friday 5th April 2024

Join us, for a sit down shabbat dinner with
Special guest , Dassi Erlich



Dassi Erlich's story is of a courageous survivor learning to move beyond the horror she grew up with and finding her own way. A high-profile lobbyist, justice campaigner and advocate for sexual abuse survivors. Dassi will share her story giving extraordinary insight into a secretive sect little known to the outside world and share the harsh upbringing she experienced which made her such a target for the predatory Leifer.

Service to commence at 6.15pm

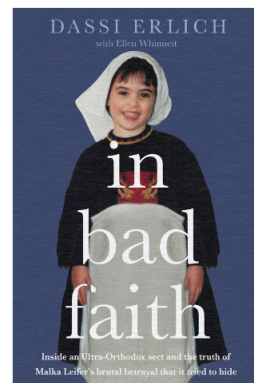
Followed by dinner at 6.45pm

Cost for dinner :

- \$80 ARK members
- \$90 non-members
- \$25 Adults under 30 years old

Please click on the link to book

<https://www.trybooking.com/CPYQB>



Books available for
purchase
via the booking link
and will be
distributed
at the dinner

Book tickets here

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI GABI



This week is Parshat Pekudai. It ends the book of Shemot on a high as Moshe finishes off building the Mishkan. After many weeks of dedicated effort building the place for G-d's presence in the desert, the sanctuary is finally complete. It's an incredible time of joy for the Jewish people. When they come together to inaugurate the Mishkan, it's the culmination of all their hard work.

Why was it so important for G-d to have a dedicated place to gather in the desert? Of course, we recognise the fact that G-d is truly everywhere and needs no specific place to gather. And yet, the building of the Mishkan, and later the Temple, were seismic events. They involved the Jewish people. While G-d did not require a place to gather, it was important that the people felt G-d's presence.

One can think of it almost as temperature control. If the cooling is on, one might not realize how hot they are. But as soon as it's turned off, it is impossible not to notice. The same is true with having a physical space which they associated with G-d. While rationally they knew that G-d was all around them, without a dedicated place to pray, request things, and prepare the daily rituals, it was possible to forget about G-d. The Mishkan did not allow for such an accident to occur.

And in the 21st century, a synagogue plays a similar role. Shules are called "Mikdash Me'at" which translates as "a small Temple". Why? Because they emulate the form of a temple in that they are a dedicated space to gather. When we gather together, it is powerful. We can feel the connection. We feel that G-d joins us in our building. We feel that our prayers and request have extra poignancy, and extra resonance. We are stronger when we are together in a specific place with a specific purpose.

And in the wake of October 7, I have found that many more Jews are coming to Shule. They are seeking out that connection. They are wanting to pray for our brothers and sisters in Israel. They feel they have the opportunity to connect, with a communal desire for peace and better times ahead.

Since October 7, with rising antisemitism around the globe and in Australia, we have cherished our sacred spaces. We feel that the space allows us to breathe a little bit easier. We are in the company of family and friends. And although we may not always agree, we can agree that through joining together we are more powerful. When we come together, we are stronger.

And this week, more than other years, I felt resonance of the importance of Moshe inaugurating the Mishkan. The Jewish people were present. They felt the spirituality of the moment. They were active participants rather than passive observers. Each had given and

donated their time, possessions, and money. It was an exercise in community building. And to be able to do it as one nation and one people was powerful.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Gabi

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Oseh Shalom a prayer for peace

עוֹשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם בְּמִרְמָיו הוּא
יַעֲשֶׂה שָׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל
יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן

*Oseh shalom bimromav, hu'yaseh shalom
aleinu, va'akol yisrael. Vimru: amen.*

May the One who creates peace in
the heavens bring peace to us and to
all of Israel. And we say: Amen.

my JEWISH LEARNING

Yahrzeit



Wishing long life to all those affected by the tragedy in Israel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday to these members of our community for the upcoming week;

Naomi Feldman
Alexandra Lehrer
Amy Rosenberg
Tayla Goldsmith
Raphael Kallenbach
David Schwartz
Terry Better
Larry Kallenbach
Daniel Lichtenstein
Tali Blumenkranc
Anne Josefsberg

CANDLE LIGHTING



Kabbalat Shabbat

Service commences approx. 6.15pm concludes by 6.45pm.

Kiddush commences at 5.45pm

Shabbat Morning

Service commences at **10.00 am** sharp.

Candle Lighting

Friday 15th March (Adar II 5, 5784) at **7:21pm**

Shabbat Ends

Saturday 16th March (Adar II 6, 5784) at **8.16pm**

Parasha : Pekudei

FOOTY TIPPING COMPETITION

Footy is back and that means so is ARK Footy Tipping Comp! Please join up and feel free to share with your family.



JOIN US !
ESPN footy tips

https://www.footytips.com.au/comps/ark_centre_2024



JOIN HERE

AWARD FOR RABBI GABI



Kol Hakavod to Rabbi Gabi who recently attended the 2024 Alumni Awards at Deakin University where he was presented with the Young Alumni Excellence Award. These awards recognise and acknowledge Deakin Alumni who have achieved outstanding success in their communities. Rabbi Gabi is pictured here with John Stanhope AM, Chancellor of Deakin University.

CORRECTION FROM LAST WEEK'S NEWSLETTER

We apologise for incorrect information provided in last weeks newsletter regarding the visit to the ARK Centre by the French Ambassador & the French Consul.
Please see corrected information below

FRENCH EVENT



(L- R) Viv Parry, French Ambassador, Pierre-Andre Imbert, French Consul Myriam Boisbouvier-Wyllie, Rabbi Gabi

On Wednesday February 28th, the Honorary Consul of France, Melbourne, Myriam Boisbouvier-Wyllie together with the Association of French Teachers Victoria, Vice President, Lucie Dickens, launched an important resource for VCE students studying French in Victoria. Two years in the making, this extensive manual is centred around the Holocaust Lived Experience of Melbourne Holocaust Survivor, Esther Wise who was present on the day.

The newly arrived French Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Pierre-Andre Imbert spoke at length about how important this resource will be in creating an understanding of the Holocaust for high school students studying French; as seen through the eyes of Esther when she was just their age.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS SHABBAT

Infertility Awareness Shabbat 15-16 March

One in six families in our community struggle with the heartache of infertility. Together, this Shabbat, we can shine a light on infertility and show those struggling that they are not alone.

If you or someone you know needs some extra support on a fertility journey please reach out. AJFN is here to help with financial, emotional and spiritual support.



The Australian Jewish Fertility Network
www.ajfn.org.au



JEWISH MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA
Panel Discussion



Image: Edwin Long, 1878, *Queen Esther*. National Gallery of Victoria, p.307.1-1

The Women of Purim: Voices Unveiled

Join the JMA for a celebration and discussion of the powerful women of Purim. Esther's courage and compassion combined with Vashti's defiance and dignity make the Purim story of triumph over adversity even more complex and captivating.

Tickets include entry to the JMA's current exhibitions and public spaces.

When: Thursday 14 March, 6pm

Where: Jewish Museum of Australia,
26 Alma Road, St Kilda



Get tickets

jewishmuseum.com.au

OR scan the QR code



**JEWISH
MUSEUM of
AUSTRALIA**

Gandel Centre of Judaica

[Tickets and information here](#)

NATIONAL JEWISH FERTILITY NETWORK'S
Inaugural event

THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH FERTILITY NETWORK'S INAUGURAL MELBOURNE COMMUNITY *Event*

One in six families in our community struggle with the heartache of infertility. AJFN's financial, emotional, and spiritual support is more than just support; it is a lifeline. Together, we can give these families hope and the chance to create not only a life but a lifetime of treasured memories.

Join us for an evening filled with miracles as we play our part in building the next generation. Featuring:



AN EXCLUSIVE VIEWING OF AJFN'S
DOCUMENTARY 1 IN 6: JANINE & SHIMON'S
RAW AND EMOTIVE IVF JOURNEY



DR. DANIEL LANTSBERG
FERTILITY SPECIALIST
MELBOURNE IVF

INCREDIBLE PRIZES
TO BE WON!

WED 3 APRIL
7:15 FOR 7:30PM

Proud Sponsors

EVOLUTION
CAPITAL

MelbourneIVF
A MEMBER OF VIVUS HEALTH

Detector Inspector

GAIA
natural baby



It's more than a life, it's a lifetime.

Please join the Australian Jewish Fertility Network as they present to the community how they support all Jewish Australians on their fertility journey with financial, emotional and spiritual support. Raising awareness and educating the community about infertility in the Jewish community. Ensuring that no Jewish Australian is ever alone on their fertility journey.

[Register Here](#)

ALLIANCE AGAINST ANTISEMITISM in HEALTH CARE
AAAHC - SURVEY

Experiences of antisemitism for healthcare professionals and students since October 7 – survey request from the Alliance Against Antisemitism in Healthcare (AAHC)

The AAACH is a recently formed group, seeking to understand experiences for Jewish health professionals and students in their workplace and place of study, since October 7 to guide responses at a legal and political level. We would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete this ~ 3-minute survey (via the link or QR code below) to inform conversations our with politicians. There is an option at the end to share personal experiences which can be kept anonymous. Additionally, you may provide your details if you are happy to be contacted to talk more about your experiences.

For more information, or for support, please contact us via email: alliance.aahc@gmail.com
Please feel free to forward the link to other Jewish healthcare professionals and students.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NXP3HYH>



ALLIANCE AGAINST ANTISEMITISM in HEALTH CARE

We're a group of doctors who are concerned about the rise in antisemitism in the healthcare system. We created AAHC – the Alliance Against Antisemitism in Health Care, in order to address this.

We have done a pilot survey of over 150 health professionals and discovered that around a third have experienced antisemitism in the workplace, more than half are feeling as though they need to hide their Jewish identity in the workplace. A significant proportion of those who have experienced antisemitism feel unable to escalate it.

We are asking for your help in reaching a wider range of those working in the healthcare sector, particularly nursing and other allied health staff. We want to collate the results to be able to lobby politicians to effect real change in our hospital systems.

Those affected please complete the survey accessed via the link. We have also included an email link so that we can provide support for those who wish to have advice and assistance if they are experiencing workplace issues.

[Survey Link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NXP3HYH)

JEAP APP

CSG & Hatzolah App



JEAP is the Jewish Emergency Application giving you instant access to the two Victorian Jewish Community First Response groups.

At the push of a button, access CSG for security-related incidents and Hatzolah for medical emergencies to obtain fastest response 'when every second counts'.

We encourage all our members to download this App and hope that you never need to use it.

[Download App](#)

KITE FLYING WORKSHOP

City of Boroondara



KITE FLYING AROUND THE WORLD

Date/time: Wednesday 20 March, 4.30pm
to 6pm

Venue: Craig Family Centre, 7 Samarinda
Ave, Ashburton

Cost: Free

Booking is essential: [Eventbrite](#)

Enquiries:

communityevents@boroondara.vic.gov.au



Make and decorate your own kite as well as learn about kites from around the world. Hear about the celebration of Uttarayan in India, where thousands of kites fly from the rooftops, the amazing kite fighting competitions of Afghanistan and the symbolism of flying kites in China.

A delicious afternoon tea will be provided, exploring treats from various cultures. If weather permits, we will have the opportunity to learn to fly our kites together.

This workshop is run by a kite making and flying expert who has 25 years' experience in running workshops, making kites and exhibiting in kite festivals all over the world.

Cost Free: Bookings essential



Kite flying around the world

Celebrate Cultural Diversity Week in Boroondara - making your own kite and learn about kite flying in countries around the world.

Eventbrite / Mar 20

[Register and information](#)

COMEDY FESTIVAL
Michael Shafar

MICHAEL SHAFAR

lots to say

*"Shafar circumnavigates the line
between edgy and offensive
with beautiful finesse"*

★★★★☆ *The Age*

28 MARCH - 21 APRIL 9:30PM (8:30PM SUNDAY)
QT MELBOURNE, 133 RUSSELL STREET
TICKETS: COMEDYFESTIVAL.COM.AU



ARK members enter code **ARK** for 20% off tickets to any of his shows.

[Book here](#)

[The SOCIAL BLUEPRINT](#)



THE SOCIAL BLUEPRINT

Jewish Connections Through Community | Business | Social

TheSocialBlueprint.org.au

The Social Blueprint offers real connections, real help and real benefits for all Victorian Jewish community needs in order to unlock the potential of our community.

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