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THE WEEK AT ARK

BACKGAMMON NIGHT



Over 30 people battled it out on Tuesday evening for bragging rights to be the March ARK Backgammon Champion. Doron Kushlin skillfully out maneuvered his opponents to emerge as our winner, followed by runner up Jeremy Davis. Stay tuned for the next event. The game night everyone is talking about.

Thank you to the Erdi Foundation for their continued support.

YPO DINNER



Last Shabbat ARK hosted a YPO Dinner for the Melbourne chapter of the organisation. Holocaust survivor Esther Wise shared her story of survival and resilience with the audience. An elegant evening of hope and learning for the visitors.

Thank you to Kelly and Steven Smorgon for facilitating the event.

FRENCH EVENT



On Wednesday, in collaboration with the Association of French Teachers in Victoria, we introduced a 'Never Forget' toolkit for educators inspired by the remarkable life of French Holocaust survivor Esther Wise.

Esther's extraordinary journey of survival can now be accessed by teachers and students alike. This toolkit will enrich the curriculum for year 9 to 12 students across the state.

We were honoured with the presence of the French Ambassador to Australia His Excellency Jean-Pierre Thébault who officially launched the new curriculum.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ARK

ROSH CHODESH



PLEASE JOIN US FOR ROSH CHODESH

MONDAY, March 11 / Adar 2

Time: 7.30am - 8.15am

Enjoy light refreshments afterwards



Hamentashen Bake

Come and make delicious Hamentashen. All your favourite fillings.
How many can you make?



**ARK Centre
together with
NCJWA Vic**



invite you to join our
HAMENTASHEN BAKE



**Wednesday 20th March
Time : 7.00PM
Cost : \$18 / pp
Venue : ARK Centre**

Bookings essential!

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

All queries: office@arkcentre.com.au

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

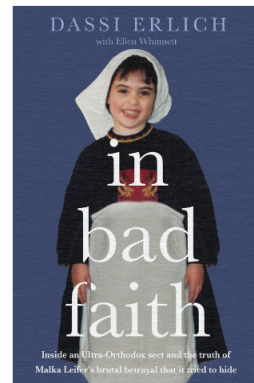
Followed by dinner at 6.45pm

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 we read Parshat Vaykahel. The people of Israel are offered a once in a lifetime opportunity: to contribute from their own freewill and generosity anything they would like to help construct the Mishkan (Tabernacle). Famously, while Moshe was expecting just a few donations, the level of generosity from the people of Israel was unprecedented!

The people were extremely generous, donating expensive items from gold and silver to precious stones and colored wools and clothing! The generosity of spirit takes Moshe by surprise, and he is soon inundated by the sheer number of donations so he tells the people of Israel to stop donating as he has more than enough.

As the rabbi of a synagogue, I can tell you that donations of this level would be an absolute dream! Usually fundraising is carefully planned out with set targets and goals to encourage people to help meet the funds needed.

However, in this week's Parsha we see what happens when people feel strongly to be generous and motivated by their desire to be part of the building of a Sanctuary for G-d's presence.

People give because they are inspired to be a part of this important cause, knowing that their contributions will help to create a communal space that will benefit every single person who is part of the people of Israel.

There is a myriad of reasons why people feel generous enough to be compelled to give.

Often, people will want to give to causes that are close to their hearts. If they have experienced the benefit of an organisation people may also feel inclined to give. Donors may also give because of historical reasons, such a connection to a parent or family members, which makes the cause enticing.

However, the Mishkan was inspired by the freewill of all the people of Israel.

The Jewish people were not obligated to give.

There was no expectation that there would be a minimum contribution. Rather, they were invited to contribute if they felt so inclined, knowing that their contribution would help create a Jewish future, one in which they had a central location for G-d to manifest in their midst.

Based on the generosity of the Jewish people, it's clear that they

thought this was an important cause.

While we know that G-d is always around us, sometimes it can be hard to visualise how that presence manifests, especially because humans are such visual beings.

It is for this reason that newspapers and magazines use artwork and photographs to accompany their articles.

Seeing a central location for G-d's dwelling solidified the visual that G-d was truly dwelling amongst the people. It's little wonder that so many people felt inclined to give!

The challenge for us in the 21st century is how to replicate this feeling of knowing that G-d is always amongst us, while knowing that we no longer have a central location where we can see those visual reminders.

It's the reason that we have in-built times of reflection such as Shabbat. They help to remind us of G-d's presence in our lives each week!

Shabbat Shalom and enjoy the long weekend!

Rabbi Gabi

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Oseh Shalom a prayer for peace

עוֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְמֵי הוּא
יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם 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 Ron Hall on the passing of his brother Fred Hall

Lisa Pinch on the yahrzeit of her father **Cyril Lutchner**
Atida Naphtali on the yahrzeit of her mother **Rae Lachman**
George Castan on the yahrzeit of his mother **Annia Castan**

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;

David Mandel
Janice Broder
David Tofler
Rhoda Franks
Mark Mandel
Ariella Vyater
Max Blumenkranc
Jesse Coppel
Ann Greiman
Bronte Feldman
Zoe Better
Andrea Zilberman

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 8th March (Adar I 28, 5784) at 7:31pm

Shabbat Ends

Saturday 9th March (Adar I 29, 5784) at 8.27pm

Parasha : Vayak'hel

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 footytips

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



JOIN HERE

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

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

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 (AAAHC)

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 AAAHC – 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](#)

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](#)

[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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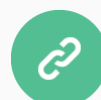
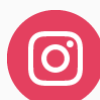
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