

*Rabbi Report* דיעה מהרב

## A MONTH OF MEMORY

With Anzac Day, we launched a month filled with remembrances of significant passages both for Australia and for the Jewish people. Anzac Day is the closest thing Australia has to a secular holy day. Last year, I watched the Anzac Day parade through tears as I watched the very elderly veterans of World War II march proudly by. Where would the world be today if not for those willing to put their lives at risk? And what of all those who never came back? As Archibald McLeish wrote so movingly in his poem *The Young Dead Soldiers*, "Our deaths are not ours, they are yours, They will mean what you make them." It is a fine time of the year to take a magnifying glass to our society and contemplate what is in need of healing.

Less than one week after Anzac Day, we will arrive at *Yom HaZicharon LaShoah v'LaG'vurah*—the Day of Remembrance for the Shoah and for the Heroism. This year, the observance has been moved to 3:30 p.m. to make it easier for the survivors in our community to attend. We honour their presence in our midst, and we are determined never to allow the world to forget what human beings are capable of.

On May 8, we will observe *Yom HaZicharon*—Israel's memorial day. Just as Anzac Day is sacred to Australians, *Yom HaZicharon* is sacred to Israelis. Israel continues to pay a terribly high price for its right to exist as a Jewish state.

Finally, on May 15, the Adelaide Jewish community will come together to celebrate *Yom Ha'atzma'ut*—Israeli Independence Day. This too is a day for remembering, as we reflect back on how important Israel is in our lives. Our relationship with the Jewish state is not simple, but that is a sign of how significant it is to each of us. At least for that day, we'll leave misgivings behind, lift a glass, and celebrate. After so many heavy weeks of remembering, it's the least we can do.

**Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky**

*Tot Shabbat on May 28*

This month, Tot Shabbat will take place on  
**SHABBAT MORNING AT 9:45 A.M.**

In honour of the upcoming holiday of Shavuot, we'll celebrate the Torah. We'll take it out of the ark and spend a little time getting to know it. Plus, we'll have lots of singing and celebration. Looking forward to it!

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- ◆ Abraham Institute
- ◆ Brigitte Yallen

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## Congregational News

### BIRTHDAYS

### ימי הולדת

Happy birthday to the following members:  
Denise Barouche [April]  
Ric Zuckerman  
Rob Conwell  
Hannah Gold  
Ian Aarons  
Robert Pearlman  
Mark Bloustien  
Nathan Nirens  
Jonathon Wysoke  
Laura Morris  
Jody Bund  
Carmel Zoanetti  
Gerry Bloustien  
Callum Gillespie  
Kath & Nic Cozens

### DONATIONS RECEIVED

### תרומות שהתקבלו

Thank you to the following members who have made Yahrziet donations:

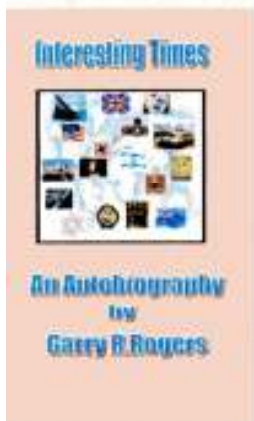
Donor	In Memory of
Ilana Culshaw	Johann Salomon Peisach
Dina Fox	Benjamin Modianot, & Marcel Bourlas
Janet Hiller	Coleman Lachman
Michael Hanzalik	Milan Hanzalik
Joe Musry	Daisy Musry

General donations:

Pam Mendels

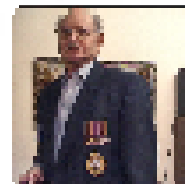
### Interesting Times

Authored by Garry Robert Rogers



List Price \$9.99  
5.5"x8.5"  
Black & White on White Paper  
214 Pages  
ISBN-13: 978-1456556334  
ISBN-10:1456556334  
BISAC: History/ Holocaust

**An Autobiography of our long time Congregant Garry Rogers published by CreateSpace. For Sale at \$10. Proceeds to Beit Shalom Libcon.**



The story of a ten year old Jewish boy in Nazi Germany, his joining a Children's Transport to England, being interned as an Enemy Alien; Joining The British Forces. Landing in France on D-Day and entering Germany as the conquering hero. Along the way there are many adventures, happy and sad.

### Rosters

#### SHAMUS

May 6 Shaun Dwyer  
May 7 Dorothy Staska  
  
May 13 Ruth Gilbert  
May 14 Janet Henrie  
  
May 20 Ron Hoenig  
May 21 Dorothy Staska  
  
May 27 Ruth Gilbert  
May 28 Ron Hoenig

#### BIMAH

May 6 Bernice Cohen  
May 7 Annetay H-Sapir  
  
May 13 Alison Dwyer  
May 14 Alison Marcus  
  
May 20 Larry Lockshin  
May 21 Kitty Goode  
  
May 27 Ron Somers  
May 28 Ella Pak Poy

### UPDATES

#### COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Beit Shalom's online calendar has been updated to include all our community events. If you need to know when something is happening check it out: <http://www.bshalomadel.com/calendar.php?>

For updated details of events within the Jewish community please visit our website:

*Yahrzeits אזכרה***May 6-7**

Peter Fischer

27 Nisan—1 May

Brother of Margie Fischer

Raya Rozenvaig

27 Nisan—1 May

Mother of Maya Vyshovsky

Leonie Lubin

28 Nisan—2 May

Sister of Marie Lipert

Ida Silver

29 Nisan—3 May

Congregant of Beit Shalom

Madge Burns

29 Nisan—3 May

Mother of Alison Marcus

**May 13-14**

Mark Bloustien

5 Iyar—9 May

Grandfather of Mark Bloustien

Milton Knopoff

5 Iyar—9 May

Father of Steven Knopoff

Mina Meschemberg

5 Iyar—9 May

Mother of Jacques Meschemberg

Isaac Abrahamson

9 Iyar—13 May

Father of Brian Abrahamson

Leopold Schwarz

9 Iyar—13 May

Grandfather of Julie Gelman

Melanie Prager

10 Iyar—14 May

Grandmother of Danielle James

**May 20-21**

Albert Stennet

14 Iyar—18 May

Congregant of Beit Shalom

Walter Rodney

15 Iyar—19 May

Congregant of Beit Shalom

Irma Ninio

16 Iyar—20 May

Mother of Henry Ninio

Henrik Rusnak

16 Iyar -2- May

Grandfather of Jordanna Meschemberg

Thea Kaiser

17 Iyar—21 May

Mother of Eva Phillips

**May 27-28**

Hedy Narcys

22 Iyar—26 May

Congregant of Beit Shalom

**June 3-4**

Jacques Ninio

25 Iyar -29 May

Father of Henry Ninio

Solomon Ash

28 Iyar—1 June

Father of Beatrice Forstick

David &amp; Sara Wolf

28 Iyar—1 June

Congregants of Beit Shalom

Joe Samuels

1 Sivan—3 June

Father of Myra Waddell

Arthur Burns

2 Sivan—4 June

Father of Alison Marcus

Anny Barouche

2 Sivan—4 June

Wife of Victor Barouche, mother of Ralph &amp; Trish Bund, grandmother of Richard Bund

Susan Sapir

2 Sivan—4 June

Aunt of Ori Sapir

***MAZEL TOV***

Congratulations to Nathan & Nicky Bolton on the birth of their son, Elijah Levi Bolton on 23rd March 2011. We welcome Elijah to the Beit Shalom family.



## President's Report ידיעה מיושב הראש

The Passover holiday is coming to an end and I for one am ready to bring on the bread! But this year has been full of joy, laughter and a bit of sadness. One of my favourite Jewish dishes is gefilte fish. My grandmother made gefilte fish every year for Passover whilst growing up and it was the best! She always made enough for everyone to take home leftovers which in my house were fervently sought after by my brother, father and myself. Because I had a grandmother who made her own gefilte fish, I was pretty spoiled for the real deal. So when I moved down under, I asked for the recipe. Over the years I have followed Gammy's instructions as close as possible but have to substitute some of the fish which doesn't seem to make much of a difference, apart from the colour - mine goes orange because I like to include ocean trout. But this year I got a whole new level of joy out of making gefilte fish. My son and I do a lot of cooking together and these traditional fish balls seemed like the perfect opportunity for Ethan to get into the Passover spirit. So, a couple days before Passover, Ethan and I stood in our kitchen and chopped all 3 kilos of fish in the food processor. Then he really got his hands in it whilst mixing in the matza meal, eggs, onion and seasoning. But the best part (besides eating it) was standing over the stove top and forming the fish into balls to drop into the stock. Gefilte fish takes a bit of effort to make so it was a lot more fun getting to share the experience with my son!

After enjoying a few days of gefilte fish, matza and horseradish sandwiches for lunch, my family headed out for our annual "Easter" weekend away which, as usual, fell during Passover. We have had the pleasure of sharing our Passover traditions with any number of non-Jewish friends and family over the years. We get to explain why we are abstaining from eating those hot cross buns and instead opt for matza with - tuna, mackerel (new breakfast favourite), peanut butter, butter, jam and so on. This year we went camping with friends and Ethan was lucky enough to befriend a little girl who shared her Easter eggs with hm. No dipping those chocolate eggs in saltwater!

Shalom,  
Alison Dwyer  
President

# Wine Auction

# Saturday Aug 6th

MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR  
CALENDAR

## Torah Portions חלקים מהתורה

DATE	PARASHAH	TORAH	HAFTARAH
MAY 7	Emor	Leviticus 21:1-24:23	Ezekiel 44:15-31
MAY 14	Behar	Leviticus 25:1-24:23	Jeremiah 32:6-27
MAY 21	Bechikkotai	Leviticus 26:3-27:34	Jeremiasah 16:19-17:14
MAY 28	Bemidbar	Numbers 1:1-4:20	Hosea 2:1-22

*Adelaide woman make important donation to Yad Vashem*

Brigitte Flatau-Yallen has donated two portraits and a wealth of archival material shedding light on German-Jewish life as the Nazis rose to power for safekeeping to Yad Vashem.

At a moving ceremony yesterday in Jerusalem, Adelaide-based Flatau-Yallen, whose family fled Germany in the 1930s and eventually made their way (via Spain and France) to the United States said, "I'm so grateful that you've given my family mementos a home. It puts my mind at ease... it gives me a wonderful feeling." The two portraits are now on display in the Holocaust History Museum at Yad Vashem in the section of the Museum that portrays Jewish life in Germany on the eve of the war.

Among the documents donated today are the visas the family received to enter the United States, letters that illustrate their efforts to try and get papers for family members still in Europe, information about Kurt Flatau's [Brigitte's father] career as a film producer and publicist, the portraits of Brigitte and her grandfather, Bernhard (painted by the Jewish artist Joseph Oppenheimer), and a letter from Stefan Zweig, suggesting, in 1933, that due to antisemitic sentiment in Germany, it would be better to leave his name off of publicity material for a new film based on his work.



Brigitte Flatau-Yallen

Flatau-Yallen attended the event with her daughter and son-in-law, Katherine and Prof. Matthew Goode.



**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN  
S. A. SECTION,**

Our Next Meeting Will Be Held  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2011**

at 11.30 am  
at the  
Rose Harrison Hall,  
39/41 Hackney Rd. Hackney

Our guest speaker will be

**MARGIE FISCHER**

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

**יובל נישואים**

Mazel Tov the following couples:

- John & Ali Sulan
- Garry & Lisa Rogers
- Dorothy & Paul Staska
- Sarah & David Popelka-Filcoff
- Simona & Roy Fisher
- Tom & Marianne Sag



## *Eulogy Ric Zuckerman ז"ל*

Once upon a time a young aspiring academic named Fred cast his eyes upon an a red headed Irish girl in his graduate school Russian History class and told his friend Mike “Who is that Irish girl? I’m going to marry her”. Of course the red head was no Irish girl, her name was Lorre Shapiro and she was engaged to a Frenchman. Undeterred the somewhat overweight Fred set his goal, morphed into a new 50 pound lighter and charming Ric. Those of you who knew Ric know no obstacle could stand in the way of him achieving his goal. And so on 28 December 1968 Ric and Lorre were married.

Ric promised Lorre that they would travel everywhere. I don’t think Australia was what she had in mind.

After a fortuitous discovery about the Okhrana archives newly opened at Hoover Institution at Stanford they moved to California in 1971. Herbert Hoover had been given the archives of the Secret Police in Paris in the 1920’s but he had agreed that they would not be made public until after the death of the donor who lived a long long time. Thus in 1970 they had just recently been made available.

In 1972 Ric and Lorre took a travel break, threw caution to the wind and headed to Europe for two months with the last of their savings. Meanwhile poor Lorre had typed his 700 page thesis three times and worn herself and the electric typewriter out.

In 1973 Ric received his PhD but there were no jobs for Russian historians though he

got some part-time work at California State University at San Jose teaching 4 different courses including American History. During this time he heard about the job in Adelaide and applied. He also undertook a change of career via full-time study at Berkeley to become an archivist . On January 20<sup>th</sup> 1975 they were awakened at 4 am by a telephone call and an American voice belonging to Norm Etherington asked if Ric would accept the position at the University of Adelaide which he had applied for two years before. Ric replied as only he could “Mike, cut the crap”. When he finally realised the offer was for real he was given 1 day to decide. For the dedicated Ric there was really no choice as he wanted to be a historian more than anything in the world. For Lorre it was to be another stage in their adventure and they arrived in Adelaide on 27 March 1975. So footloose and fancy free they traveled to Australia via holidays in Hawaii and Fiji. Little did Lorre know that their sojourn would be permanent.

Adelaide and the University of Adelaide were love at first sight for Ric. The house at 62 Labrina Ave. was not!!! He relished his career, worked on his manuscript and rescued Lorre from the 1880 house by building built in wardrobes as the first stage in modernising it. Before Michael was born in 1978 the house had been made liveable; gone was the outside toilet, the salt damp, and the plumbing that disintegrated plus the electricity that dated from Thomas Edison’s time while Ric and Lorre had painted and wallpapered it in 100 degree weather naturally listening to his new found love the cricket. The kitchen, with cupboards stained by Ric, was completely modernised and part of a family room.

For this devoted fisherman the icing on the cake was the purchase of his first boat, Tomboy II. Of course that didn’t mean he caught any fish!

Study leave in 1979 took them across the US and to France and Russia. By the time Nicola was born in 1982 Ric had his permanent position and the book was off to the publisher. Another study leave took them again to the US and France. Alas here the fairy tale story fractures.

These hard years involved lots of rejection which took immense toll on him until undeterred finally he achieved publication of his manuscript *The Tsarist Secret Police in Russian Society* by Macmillan Press. Nevertheless Ric and Lorre were ultimately able to further extend their house and build a beautiful swimming pool to share with their beautiful children and famous dog Sacha.

Around 1990 the house was improved and decorated once again, a never ending story. Then Study leave took them to the US and to a fabulous holiday in France with both children who have wonderful memories of the Dday beaches, the Bayeux tapestry and Mt. St. Michel as well as the Musee d’Orsay in Paris, the Eiffel Tower of course and Anne Frank’s house in Amsterdam. None will ever forget Leuven Belgium where Ric spoke at a conference and they spent many fascinating days. So the dreams of travel were fulfilled.

The second book *The Russian Secret Police Abroad* found a publisher very quickly. Ric then became an Associate Professor.



Ric Zuckerman  
President 1991– 1993  
1998—1999

*Eulogy Ric Zuckerman ז"ל*

The dreams of fishing however were turning to a nightmare. Tomboy II had dry rot and both children plus Lorre were roped into working with their dad for long hours to fix the boat up to his high standard. He never stopped until he'd done the perfect repair. It's was a miracle that Michael and Nicola ever went fishing again with him. As for Lorre she never wanted to go out on the boat with Captain Bligh. Still to renew the fairytale she gave him the gift of a brand new boat in 2003 and he in turn named it the Lorre Ann. His joy in that boat was unbounded and he treated many friends to great fishing trips, of course without catching any fish – not true!

As determined as ever to make sure things were done properly and thoroughly at the university Ric undertook to institute a course on genocide and ethnic cleansing including the holocaust an area which he found sorely lacking in the students' education. This was another of his highly successful endeavours.

The children had Bar and Bat Mitzvahs in 1991 and 1995 and successful educational times at Pembroke. They grew into exceptional adults under the guidance of their father Ric. In keeping with his goal setting and his clear vision he kept them on the straight and narrow and encouraged them in their career paths. The reward was a wonderful relationship with his accomplished children and then two fabulous grandchildren. Ric absolutely delighted in his grandson Eli and little Hannah gave him great joy in the short time he knew her.

Meanwhile despite having had 2 back surgeries more travel in 2005 had taken Ric and Lorre to Israel, Switzerland, Spain and Hawaii. You see he never let Lorre down.

Unfortunately in August 2005 he had his stroke and it's fair to say that his health decline began about this time. Still he bought Lorre a completely new and magnificent kitchen as a 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary present in 2008 for their Prospect home. And amazingly he still managed to take Lorre on the trip of a lifetime in 2009 across the Canadian Rockies and also on a cruise to Alaska. The incomparable scenery thrilled them both.

But in later 2009 things began to go downhill. Although he struggled very hard to improve himself physically he could not overcome his weak heart. So the fairy tale of adventure with the incredible determined goal achieving Ric was at an end.

I can honestly say that Ric was a larger than life charming, funny and amazing individual for whom I always had great admiration and love. He had a clear vision of where he was headed, knew how to achieve his goals, always kept his promises and as an academic, husband and father did amazing things. Our life together had its ups and downs but much of our journey together was amazing. After 42 years of marriage I've had to say goodbye to my loving husband. However he will always live on in my heart and be my inspiration. Goodbye Ric, I love **you**.

Lorre Zuckerman

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## RIC ZUCKERMAN

If you've attended past funerals I've conducted, you'll know that I always include a reading by Alvin Fine that begins with the words, "Birth is a beginning, and death a destination." The poem then goes on to state, "From childhood to maturity and youth to age." I couldn't see myself reading this poem today: Ric packed a great deal of living into his years, but he did not live to see old age. As we celebrate his wonderful life here today, we also grieve that his life was cut so very short and that he left us too soon.

On Friday, I sat around the kitchen table as Lorre, Leslie, Michael and Nicola shared many wonderful stories -- most of which are probably not appropriate to share with you in this setting. The room was filled with laughter as his family recalled this exuberant soul who spoke the truth even at inconvenient moments and gave 110% all the time. I found it hard to shake the image of Ric in tights and tutu in one of the synagogue's Purim shpiels and resolved to track down the videotape as soon as I could. I remembered the story Ric told me of his confrontation with a smugly anti-Semitic faculty member at the University of Adelaide. "I grabbed him by the tie and told him to get out. He never bothered me again." And then there was the story of the day notorious Holocaust-denier Frederick Tobin showed up in Ric's course on Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing. Utterly unfazed, Ric asked Tobin to stand up and said to his students, "I want you to see what a Nazi looks like."

## *Eulogy Ric Zuckerman ז,ל*

This brave and brazen man is the Ric we remember and celebrate today. But we are also haunted by a different Ric, who suffered through these last few years. As that same poem reads, "From defeat to defeat to defeat." During that time, he didn't want to hear the stories of how life had been. He just wanted to get better so that he could live that life once again. I visited Ric in just about every hospital around Adelaide as he tried to fight against the odds and get at least a little bit better. On one recent hospitalization, he and Lorre ranked hospitals based on their amenities. They agreed that refrigerators in the rooms were definitely a plus. It was so very sad to see his life shrink to the size of the four walls of his lounge room.

In the midst of such disheartening times, there were a few bright spots. One for sure was the arrival of Michael's daughter Hannah. Ric's eyes would gleam with joy as he said, "She's gorgeous." His connection with his grandson Eli was important to both of them. Eli told his grandfather over the phone that he loved him even when Ric was no longer able to reply. Another bright spot was that Ric's family and friends would not give up on him and continued to show their care and concern in many ways.

The point of Alvin Fine's poem is that life is a journey. As he writes, "Looking backward or ahead, we see that victory lies not at some high place along the way, but in having made the journey, stage by stage, a sacred pilgrimage." We cannot know in advance when we will reach the end of that journey, and sometimes the end comes much sooner than we have expected or would have wished. Such was certainly the case with Ric. But that doesn't in any way erase the sacredness of the journey that was his life. It was a life well lived -- full of joy and celebration, packed with close friendships and pride in the accomplishments of his children and of his students as well. Without his dedication, our synagogue Beit Shalom would have been a very different place. I do not have a glass to lift this morning, but if I did, I could think of no better blessing upon Ric's memory than "L'chayim -- to life!"

*Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky*

## **JEWISH GENEALOGY & HISTORY SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

**NEXT MEETING:** will be held on **SUNDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2011**

**VENUE:** Home of Margot Bailey, 1/41 Fisk Avenue, Glengowrie, 5044.  
**TIME:** 2.30pm.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Jan Gould  
**SUBJECT:** "Centenary Celebrations of the Broken Hill Synagogue and stories of some of the families who lived there."



Jan was born in Adelaide in 1934. Her paternal grandfather, Barnett Gould, arrived in Broken Hill in 1912, after leaving Russian Poland for Limerick and then Manchester. Jan's family moved to Broken Hill in 1939, when Jan was four years old. They lived there for seven years before returning to Adelaide.

Jan worked with people with Intellectual disabilities.

Afternoon tea will be served.

Members free, Non-members \$5, Concession \$3.

Non-members wishing to attend please reply to

President Margot Bailey: phone 8295 1220 or email: [kwbailey@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kwbailey@optusnet.com.au)

by 15<sup>th</sup> May.

MEMBERS APOLOGIES to MARGOT PLEASE.

***The orthodox narrative about Judaism must be confronted, challenged, refuted: vocally, diligently, persistently; may this be the first step***

The pluralist agenda of the liberal Jewish movements, while admirable in principle, can sometimes lead us to be less vocal about why we differ from Orthodox Judaism, and why that difference is important.

Liberal Judaism makes a powerful claim, and the claim is that Orthodox Judaism is, at its core, wrong. Orthodox Judaism is built around a narrative that contains a foundational error: “The Torah was written by God and given to Moses on Mount Sinai”. This statement, and the orthodox religious narrative that emerges from it, has been disproven by generations of Biblical scholars, archaeologists, sociologists of religion, and historians. These scholars have demonstrated “beyond a reasonable doubt,” in the late Rabbi Louis Jacobs’ words, that the traditional, orthodox understanding of Jewish history is false. The origins of Judaism are much more complicated than that.

Why, then, do we still allow that discredited understanding to remain the dominant and default narrative in the Jewish world? Why do we allow it to be repeated in the public marketplace without censure? Why do we stay silent before those who believe it, rather than make clear the untenability of their position?

I want to suggest three reasons: complacency about the narrative’s danger; fear of disunity; and concern about assimilation.

We are complacent about the Orthodox narrative because our eyes are blinkered to the damage that it has already done, and the dangers that it holds.

The Orthodox narrative is the main rationale and driving force behind Israel’s mistaken settlement enterprise of the past 40 years. This is obvious when one thinks about the national religious movement (“God gave us this land”), but it’s also true, if less obvious, when one examines the tacit consent given by the non-orthodox majority to this ill-starred experiment. Many non-observant Jews believe the Orthodox narrative, and therefore have a grudging respect for those who live their lives by it. This Jewish guilt is particularly prevalent in the Sephardi community, where vast numbers of non-observant Jews vote for Shas because, in part, of a belief that they keep the flame of “real Judaism” burning. But it’s not confined to Sephardim.

Large sections of the Jewish people, particularly in Israel, have tolerated the right-wing settlement agenda because they respect the beliefs of orthodox settlers. The time has come to challenge those beliefs more assertively. Fundamentalist orthodox ideology is based on historically incorrect claims and dubious assumptions about Jewish history. It’s time we said so.

To be clear: I’m not denying the Jewish people’s historical connection with the land of Israel, nor am I questioning our right to political self-determination on part of that land. What I am denying is the fundamentalist narrative that sees the connection as divinely ordained, and the subsequent use of that divine narrative to justify political actions.

Israel is increasingly controlled by those who are guided by the orthodox narrative. It’s not just the settlements, but also the place of non-Jews in Israeli society, the legitimacy of non-orthodox Jewish streams, the rights of minorities, educational subsidies, and a dozen other issues. Israel’s current government is a terrifying coalition of those who believe and live by the orthodox narrative, and what I call the “orthophiles”: non-observant Jews who may not live by the practices of orthodoxy, but nevertheless believe or respect the orthodox narrative. This coalition of the orthodox and the orthophiles is leading Israel towards several abysses at once.

Liberal Jews in both Israel and the Diaspora must try to stop this cultural and political coalition before it is too late, and one way we can do that is by challenging the core claims of the orthodox narrative.

A second reason that we allow the orthodox narrative to hold center stage is our own fear of Jewish disunity. We tread on eggshells for fear of saying that others’ opinions might be “wrong” or “false”. We nod our heads when we hear absurd and historically ridiculous statements spouted by orthodox friends, because we believe in everyone’s right to their own opinion, and because we want to be nice. We think it’s important to be united as a people, so we swallow our pride and allow the orthodox narrative to become the default Jewish position.

Ironically, it is Orthodox Judaism that is the main force leading to the destruction of the Jewish people’s unity. For decades, orthodox Jews have ignored the concerns of Liberal Jews, discriminated against our converts, insulted our rabbis, and used our money against us; yet we still smile weakly at them and cling to the hope that they’ll make nice. No. This is not about the unity of the Jewish people any more; it’s about the vision of the Jewish people. No longer can we allow that vision to be sacrificed on the altar of unity.

The third reason we tolerate the orthodox narrative as default is because we are concerned about assimilation, and deep down we wonder if the narrative, even if it’s false, might help stem the tide of Jews leaving the Jewish people. We are right to be concerned about assimilation, and we need to roll up our sleeves and develop passionate but liberal arguments for why Jewishness is a wonderful and enriching prism through which to live life. The fight against assimilation is certainly harder without the orthodox narrative, but we dare not sacrifice truth for Jewish continuity.

All this is not to say that we should cease being pluralist. Liberal Jews must continue to talk with and learn from each other, wherever they are on the denominational spectrum.

We must also talk with and learn from thinking orthodox Jews who are open to such dialogues, and there are many. But pluralism, dialogue, and mutual learning must no longer be allowed to obscure the genuine disputes about history and ideology that separate us, and we liberal Jews must be more prepared to dispute the fundamentalist orthodox position in our dialogues with orthodox friends and colleagues.

A new world Jewish movement is needed: a movement of Jews who are no longer prepared to remain quiet and cede Jewishness to a fundamentalist, incorrect orthodox narrative. This orthodox narrative must be confronted, challenged, refuted: vocally, diligently, persistently. May this be the first step.

*Dr Alex Sinclair is the director of programs in Israel Education for the Jewish Theological Seminary. He lives in Modiin, Israel.*

Adelaide Progressive Jewish Congregation



# Abraham Institute

PROMOTING TOLERANCE &

## ISRAEL: THE HISTORY, CULTURE AND PEOPLE

A comprehensive survey of this fascinating land from Biblical times to the present.

The first two terms will cover such momentous events as:

- ⇒ the life of Jesus,
- ⇒ the destruction of the Second Temple
- ⇒ the Zealots last stand at Masada,
- ⇒ the construction of the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa,
- ⇒ the Crusader Era,
- ⇒ the development of Kabbalah, Jewish mystical teachings,
- ⇒ the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.

During the third term, the course will explore such contemporary issues as: the environment, immigration and refugees, and the ongoing struggle between Israelis and Palestinians.

Featured speakers include:

- **Dr. Josephine Laffin**, Catholic Theological College,
- **Dr. Vicki Balabanski**, Uniting College for Leadership and Ministry
- **Dr. Selen Morkoc**, Burc College

Paul Forgasz\* from Monash University will give the keynote lecture:

## *Can the Bible be Trusted*

ON

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2011 AT 2 PM**

at

Rose Harrison Hall, Beit Shalom Synagogue

For more information, contact Beit Shalom Synagogue at (08) 8362-8281  
Or email: [bshalom@bshalomadel.com](mailto:bshalom@bshalomadel.com)

\*Paul Forgasz's visit has been generously sponsored by the Australia and New Zealand Union For Progressive Judaism



# Beit Shalom Calendar

## May 2011    Nisan/Iyar 5771



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10:30 am Cheder	30 7.30 pm Introduction to Judaism	31	<i>Upcoming Events for your Diary: Shavout Oneg – June 10th Service June 8th 10:30 am</i>			
1 3:30 p.m. Yom HaShoah	2 7.30 pm Introduction to Judaism	3	4 11.30 am NCJW	5 10.30 am—1.30 pm Chaverim Club	6  6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7  10.30 am Shabbat
8 10:30 am Cheder 7:00 p.m. Yom HaZicharon at AHC	9 7.30 pm Introduction to Judaism	10	11	12 10.30 am—1.30 pm Chaverim Club 7	13  6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	14  10.30 am Shabbat Service
15 10:30 am Cheder Evening: Israeli Independence Day	16 7.30 pm Introduction to Judaism	17 Bagels Club –RHH	18	19 10.30 am—1.30 pm Chaverim Club	20  6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	21  10.30 am Shabbat Service
22 10:30 am Cheder	23 7.30 pm Introduction to Judaism	24	25 7:30 pm Board Meeting	26 10.30 am—1.30 pm Chaverim Club	27  6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	28  9:45 a.m. Tot Shabbat 10.30 am Traditional Shabbat Service

**ADELAIDE PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION**

**DIRECTORY מַדְרִיךְ**

**PRESIDENT:**

Alison Dwyer ..... 0409561974  
..... andadelaide@gmail.com

**TREASURER:**

Ron Somers ..... 8295 3577  
..... pam.rachootin@gmail.com

**SISTERHOOD:**

Janet Henrie ..... 83633623  
..... jhenrie56@gmail.com

**JUDAICA SHOP:**

Merrilyn Ades ..... 8362 8281  
..... merades@internode.on.net

**ARCHIVIST:**

Ilana Culshaw ..... 8362 8281

**RABBI**

Shoshana Kaminsky  
Mobile ..... 0435050415  
..... rabbisbk@tpg.com.au

**MAGAZINE EDITOR:**

Lesley Willis ..... 8362 8281  
..... bshalom@bshalomadel.com

**SECRETARY:**

Lesley Willis ..... 8362 8281

**LIBRARIAN:**

Elizabeth Bor ..... 8362 8281

**CHOIR CO-ORDINATOR:**

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**HONORARY SHAMUS**

Dorothy Staska, Ron Hoenig  
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Shaun Dwyer ..... 8362 8281

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PO Box 47  
STEPNEY SA 5069

Phone: [08] 8362 8281  
Fax: [08]8362 8260

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[www://bshalomadel.com.au](http://www://bshalomadel.com.au)



39-41 HACKNEY ROAD, HACKNEY PO BOX 47, STEPNEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5069  
TELEPHONE (08) 8362 8281

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