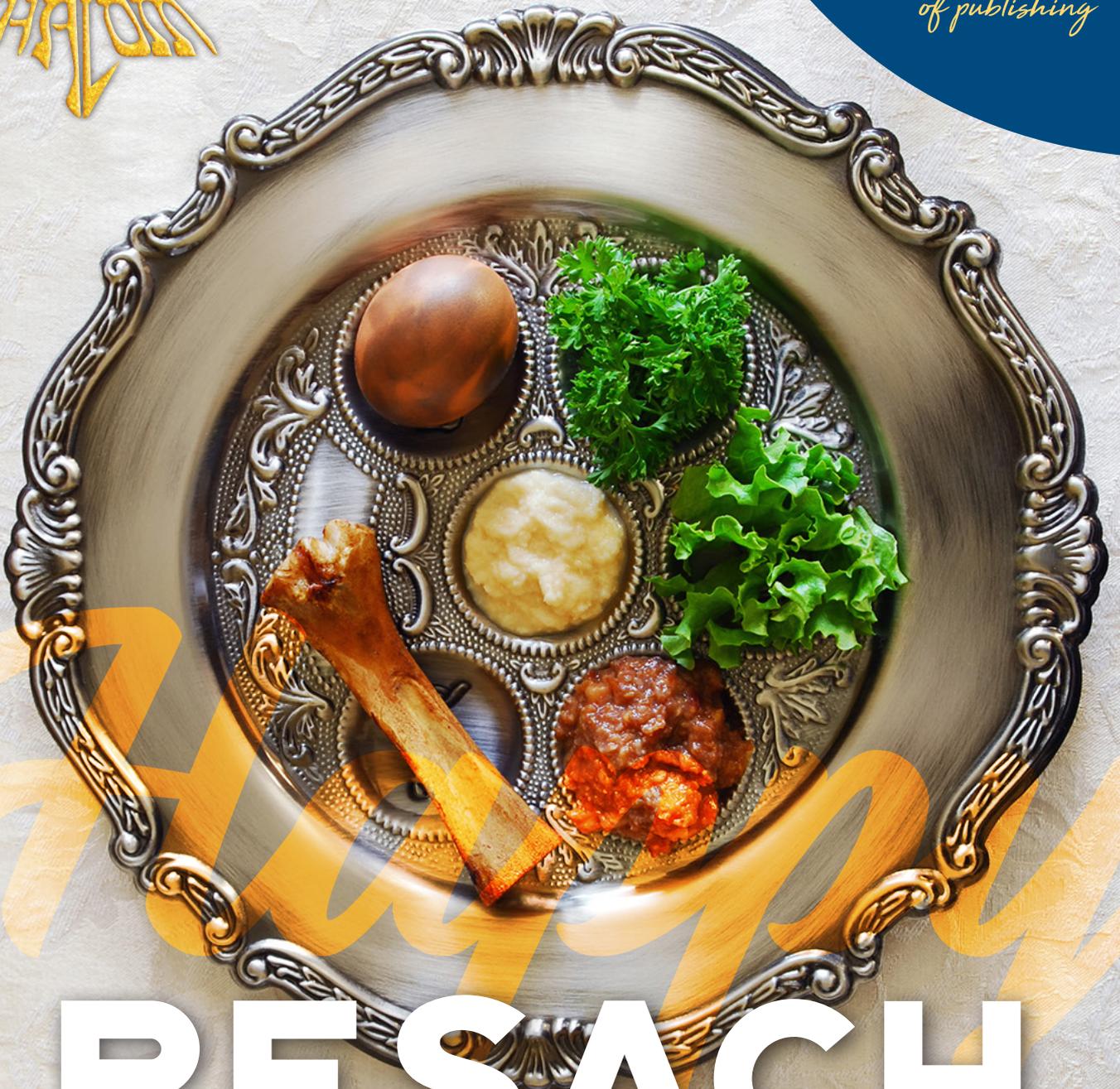




1964-2020

*Celebrating 56 years
of publishing*



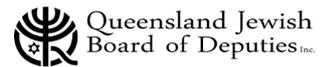
PESACH

CHAG SAMEACH



APRIL 2020

Community response to COVID-19



These are extraordinary times for everyone. We are all living under the strain of upended daily routines, concerns for our loved ones, and a situation that is both uncertain and rapidly evolving.

One of the key functions of the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies (QJBD) and our sub-committee Communal Security Group (CSG) has always been to ensure that the community is resilient and prepared for challenging times.

The QJBD has engaged in regular consultation with our synagogues, school, care facilities, service providers and other institutions to assist and coordinate in the adoption of prudent measures to best protect members of our community, our society, and to deal with potential long-term implications should this situation continue for an extended period of time. The Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) has been meeting regularly via teleconference to facilitate cooperation between all groups across Australia.

IDENTIFYING OUR MOST VULNERABLE

While Jewish organisations are well-placed to handle any difficult situation concerning their members, employees and other stakeholders, we are mindful of those in our community who are not. These include those who are elderly, unwell yet live independently, as well as those in public housing.

ANYONE WHO IS CONSIDERED TO BE AT-RISK - DEFINED BY DHHS TO INCLUDE PEOPLE AGED 70+ AND THOSE WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS SUCH AS HEART AND LUNG DISEASE.

The strength of our community comes from our sense of mutual responsibility for one another. So we must remember it is the most vulnerable who may begin to feel particularly isolated and anxious, and whose needs will be greatest in terms of obtaining basic household items and medicines.

We are fortunate to have outstanding Jewish volunteers and professionals in care-providing organisations who are ready to assist anyone in need.

For those members of our community who are having difficulties with shopping, obtaining medicines, or are experiencing emotional or psychological distress, we encourage you to please reach out to us (contact details below). We will direct inquiries to the individual or organisation in our community who is best placed to offer assistance.

HEALTH ADVICE

IF YOU DEVELOP A FEVER, A COUGH, A SORE THROAT OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH OR HAVE HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH AN INFECTED PERSON, SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION FROM YOUR DOCTOR. OPTIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE ARE:

- If you are seriously unwell and it is an emergency, call 000 immediately
- Call your GP or the Government Corona Hotline 1 800 020 080
- Call your nearest hospital Emergency Department
- Call Healthdirect 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84)

Government advice is to stay at home if you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as headache and slight runny nose, until you recover.

For more information, please visit the Queensland Government [COVID-19 link](#).

Community response to COVID-19

Call for volunteers

We are also calling for healthy members of our community to come forward to volunteer in the provision of basic assistance to our community. This may include delivering groceries to the elderly or simply placing phone calls for those in need.

If you are able to volunteer in some capacity, we ask you to please send your details to the contacts listed below and we will work with our affiliate bodies and care providers to match volunteers to community needs. Alternately, contact your Rabbi or communal leaders if you're able to help.

Contacts

QJBD

Paul Myers | President QJBD
M: 0403 062 007
E: paul.myers@qjbd.org

JCareQld Inc.

Howard Posner | President JCareQld Inc.
M: 0424 335 969
E: jcareqld@gmail.com



Holocaust education becomes compulsory in Victorian state schools in bid to tackle rising anti-Semitism

By ABC News On Line 26 February 2020

Victoria's Education Minister says high school students are receiving sub-standard education about the Holocaust, as the Government makes learning about the atrocities of World War II compulsory for years 9 and 10 students.



PHOTO: Education Minister James Merlino said it was shocking that many teenagers would not be able to explain what the Holocaust was. (Wikimedia)

James Merlino said all government secondary schools would be made to teach students about the Holocaust, in which Nazi Germany killed more than 6 million Jews and members of other persecuted groups.

The Holocaust is in the current Victorian curriculum but is not taught in all schools, and Mr Merlino said it was often not taught as well as it could be. He said he hoped more education about the Holocaust would help address racism and prejudice.

"Anti-Semitism is on the rise right around the globe, and sadly we're not immune from it in our own Victorian community," Mr Merlino told the ABC.

"Most kids today wouldn't be able to explain what the Holocaust was, and I think it's vital that each generation understands the horror of the Holocaust to ensure it doesn't happen again. "time last year," Mr Burgess told an audience of diplomats and intelligence officers."

"The character of terrorism will continue to evolve and we believe that it will take on a more dispersed and diversified face."

Holocaust education becomes compulsory in Victorian state schools in bid to tackle rising anti-Semitism

By ABC News On Line 26 February 2020

ASIO director-general Mike Burgess said neo-Nazis were emerging as one of Australia's most challenging security threats.

The nation's top intelligence chief said "small cells" of right-wing extremists were regularly gathering to salute Nazi flags, inspect weapons and disperse their "hateful ideology", and warned right-wing extremism had come into "sharp, terrible focus" since the Christchurch massacre.

Mr Merlino said he was particularly concerned about casual racism among young people.

"It's on the sporting field, it's in the playground.

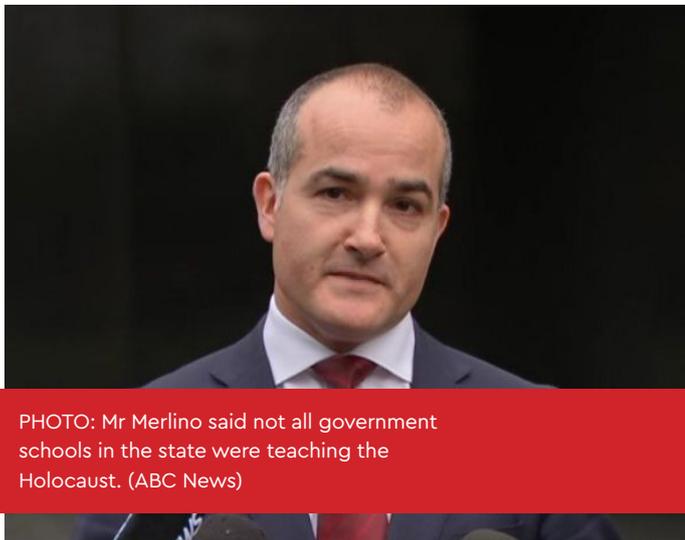


PHOTO: Mr Merlino said not all government schools in the state were teaching the Holocaust. (ABC News)

We need to tackle this head on.

"If you want to change society you do it in our schools." Lessons from the Holocaust 'frighteningly relevant today'

The Government will work with the Victorian Jewish community and the Gandel Philanthropy fund to develop new teaching resources based on adaptations of existing resources from Israel's Yad Vashem memorial and lesson plans produced by the World Holocaust Memorial Centre in Jerusalem.

Not-for-profit organisation Courage to Care, which uses the Holocaust to teach students about bystander behaviour, will receive government funding to establish an ethnic or religious vilification hotline for schools, students and parents.

The organisation will also establish a new student advisory group to look at what can be done to make schools more inclusive.

Jewish Holocaust Centre director Jayne Josem said lessons from the Holocaust were "frighteningly relevant today".

"Which is why this announcement is so significant," she said.

Ms Josem said the sight of a Nazi flag flying over a home in north-west Victoria last month was extremely distressing for survivors of the Holocaust living in Australia.

"You can't imagine what that must feel like to them," she said.

"Learning more about the Holocaust and equipping teachers to face this challenging subject gets students to reflect on the world they live in today."

Mr Merlino said he was glad a parliamentary inquiry was underway into Victoria's anti-vilification laws.



PHOTO: Jewish Holocaust Centre director Jayne Josem said lessons from the Holocaust were "frighteningly relevant today". (ABC News: Jayne Josem)

The inquiry was announced after Reason Party MP Fiona Patten proposed amendments to extend the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act, and could lead to Nazi memorabilia and flags being banned in Victoria. – **ABC NEWS**

Neo-Nazis among Australia's most challenging security threats, ASIO boss Mike Burgess warns

By Andrew Greene Defence Correspondent ABC news – First posted 24 February 2020

NEO-NAZIS ARE EMERGING AS ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST CHALLENGING SECURITY THREATS, ACCORDING TO THE COUNTRY'S TOP INTELLIGENCE CHIEF



PHOTO: The United States isn't alone in the rise of white nationalists, Australia's spy chief has warned.

ASIO director general Mike Burgess said "small cells" of right-wing extremists were regularly gathering to salute Nazi flags, inspect weapons and to disperse their "hateful ideology".

In a rare public address from inside ASIO's heavily fortified Canberra headquarters, Mr Burgess said foreign espionage and interference activities against Australia were higher now than at any time during the Cold War.

While delivering ASIO's annual threat assessment, the director-general warned a terrorist attack on Australia was still "probable" and it was "truly disturbing" to see extremists trying to recruit children as young as 13 or 14.

And he said "violent Islamic extremism", embodied by Islamic State and al'Qaida, remained ASIO's top concern.

"The number of terrorism leads we are investigating right now has doubled since this time last year," Mr Burgess told an audience of diplomats and intelligence officers.

"The character of terrorism will continue to evolve and we believe that it will take on a more dispersed and diversified face."

Mr Burgess said right-wing extremism had been in "ASIO's sights for some time", but had obviously come into "sharp, terrible focus" following last year's Christchurch mass shooting.

"In Australia, the extreme right-wing threat is real and it is growing," he said.

Neo-Nazis among Australia's most challenging security threats, ASIO boss Mike Burgess warns

By Andrew Greene Defence Correspondent ABC news –
First posted 24 February 2020

"In suburbs around Australia, small cells regularly meet to salute Nazi flags, inspect weapons, train in combat and share their hateful ideology," he said.

Far right-wing groups are now more organised and security conscious than they were in previous years according to the ASIO boss, who has revealed Australian extremists are seeking to connect with like-minded individuals in other parts of the world.

In a previously undisclosed case from earlier this year, ASIO advice led to an Australian being blocked from leaving the country to "fight with an extreme right-wing group on a foreign battlefield". "While these are small in number at this time in comparison to what we saw with foreign fighters heading to the Middle East, any development like this is very concerning," Mr Burgess observed.

"Meanwhile, extreme right-wing online forums such as The Base proliferate on the internet, and attract international memberships, including from Australians."



PHOTO: Intelligence bosses, including Mike Burgess, have been increasingly speaking out about the threat of foreign interference to Australia.

The ASIO boss said his organisation expected such groups would "remain an enduring threat, making more use of online propaganda to spread their messages of hate".

"While we would expect any right-wing-extremist-inspired attack in Australia to be low capability — i.e. a knife, gun or vehicle attack — more sophisticated attacks are possible."

Neo-Nazis among Australia's most challenging security threats, ASIO boss Mike Burgess warns

By Andrew Greene Defence Correspondent ABC news –
First posted 24 February 2020

FOREIGN ESPIONAGE AND INTERFERENCE AT NEW HEIGHTS

During his wide-ranging address, Mr Burgess declared the level of threat faced in Australia from foreign espionage and interference activities was "currently unprecedented".

"It is higher now than it was at the height of the Cold War," he said.

"Indeed, some of the tactics being used against us are so sophisticated, they sound like they've sprung from the pages of a Cold War thriller."

For the first time, the intelligence chief disclosed the case of an unspecified foreign intelligence service that had sent a sleeper agent to Australia.

"The agent lay dormant for many years, quietly building community and business links, all the while secretly maintaining contact with his offshore handlers," Mr Burgess revealed.

"The agent started feeding his spymasters information about Australia-based expatriate dissidents, which directly led to harassment of the dissidents in Australia and their relatives overseas."

According to Mr Burgess, the agent received "significant cash payments" in exchange for providing "on-the-ground logistical support for spies who travelled to Australia to conduct intelligence activities".

"These are the sort of insidious activities ASIO works to detect and disrupt every day," Mr Burgess said, while confirming ASIO had disrupted the operation.

POLITICIAN ACCUSES CHINA OF INTERFERENCE

While Mr Burgess did not point the finger for foreign interference at any one country, Centre Alliance senator Rex Patrick accused China of being a major culprit.

"I do think it is appropriate and it is now time to start naming the states that are involved in conducting some of this foreign interference," he said.

"I have no doubt in my mind that China is one of the big players in this space and the Government needs to call that out."

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton said Australia faced threats from a range of sources.

"I don't care what country it is we're talking about, whether it's China or Russia or Iran, if people pose a threat to our country they will be dealt with according to the level of that threat," he said.

"If we have people who are interfering with our diaspora communities here in Australia or they're interfering with the democratic process, or they're stealing intellectual property, they can expect to face the full force of the law regardless of whether they're a state actor or a sophisticated non-state actor." – **ABC NEWS**

A Personal Message from World WIZO Chairperson and President

Dear Chaverot,

"We hope this letter finds you and your families healthy and safe. We know you are thinking of us, and we are of you. We are all one WIZO, all one world.

We'd like to update you about important initiatives WIZO is taking in helping Israel through this extremely difficult period.

Although we have been forced to shut down most of our services, WIZO continues to do what matters by utilizing our experience and expertise to offer special services that benefit thousands of Israelis who have been thrown into sudden and severe distress.

A prime example is our various counseling and telephone hotlines, which have been diversified and expanded, knowing that so many more people will need our help than ever before. Here are some examples:

Women's rights at work: WIZO's hotline on the rights of women in the workplace has had a 50% increase in calls, and the demand will surely increase as the crisis develops. The main issues affecting the callers are receiving wages in cases of inability to get to work (isolation, quarantine), unpaid leave from work, and worker's rights during emergencies in general.

Family law: In normal times, WIZO offers counselling in the area of family law in 30 legal bureaus around the country. During the crisis, WIZO is offering this service by phone.

Parental counseling: Since the closure of day care centers and schools in Israel, WIZO's Parents Helpline has been flooded with calls seeking guidance and tools to deal with a variety of parental and family issues in the shadow of the Corona crisis. Hot topics include dealing with stress, behavioral changes, ways to spend time together and more.

Domestic violence: WIZO's Helpline for Men in the Cycle of Violence, which handles about 1,000 calls each year, puts WIZO at the forefront of dealing with men's role in domestic violence. In times of crisis and distress, especially when families find themselves isolated at home, this service is even more acutely needed, and WIZO has greatly expanded the Helpline's capacity and hours of service.

Chaverot: Our true measure is how we act in times of distress and emergency. Today, as throughout the past 100 years, WIZO continues to rise to every challenge.

Wishing you all good health,

Anita Friedman

Esther Mor

Chairperson, World WIZO

President, World WIZO"



WIZO.
Doing What
Matters

You're invited to Support WIZO Aviva's Fundraiser "the Phantom Third Seder"

It's a Clayton's Seder!

The Seder you have when you're not having a Seder.
Don't want to listen to Uncle Motti kvetch about his lumbago?
Had one too many of Aunty Gittel's rubbery Matzo Balls?
No problem!
Just send a donation and we'll be happy not to see you.



Head to the link below to donate
www.eventbrite.com.au/e/95556577295

New Release from SCRIBE PUBLICATIONS

Up the Down Staircase – Bel Kaufman

Our reissue of Bel Kaufman's classic 1964 novel timelessly depicts the shambolic joys and myriad frustrations of a young teacher. With an introduction by Diane Ravitch and a foreword by Gabbie Stroud.

Sylvia Barrett arrives at New York City's Calvin Coolidge High fresh from earning literature degrees at Hunter College and eager to shape young minds. Instead she encounters broken windows, a lack of supplies, a stifling bureaucracy, and students with no interest in Chaucer. Her bumpy yet ultimately rewarding journey is depicted through an extraordinary collection of correspondence — sternly worded yet nonsensical administrative memos, furtive notes of wisdom from teacher to teacher, 'polio consent slips', and student homework assignments that unwittingly speak from the heart.

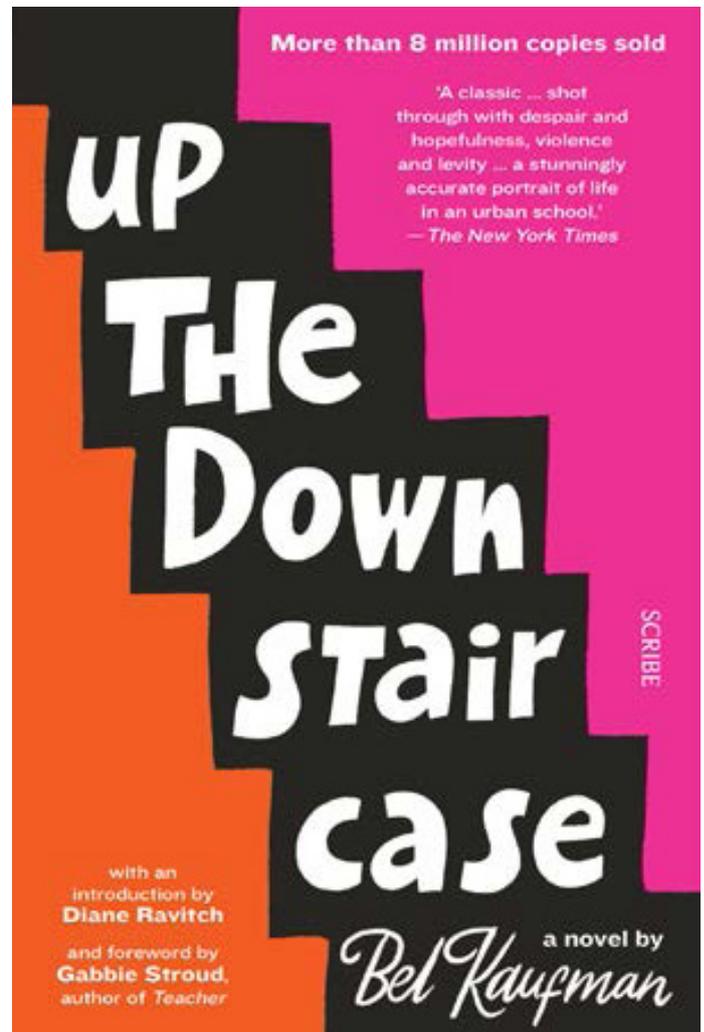
Up the Down Staircase stands as the seminal novel of a beleaguered public school system that is redeemed by teachers who love to teach and students who long to be recognised. It is poignant, devastating, laugh-out-loud funny, and — in our current moment of debate around the future of education — more relevant than ever.

"The most enduring account we have of teachers' lives ... Empathetic and aware."

The New Yorker

"The seminal book on the hardships and joys of teaching."

The New York Times



BEL KAUFMAN was an author and schoolteacher. Born in Berlin in 1911, she spent her childhood in Odessa and emigrated with her family to the Bronx when she was twelve. Her grandfather was the famous Yiddish humourist Sholem Aleichem. In addition to *Up the Down Staircase*, she is also the author of the novel *Love, Etc.* She died in 2014. DIANE RAVITCH is the author of *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*. Australian author GABBIE STROUD was a primary-school teacher from 1999 to 2015. Now a freelance writer, her debut novel, *Measuring Up*, was published by Scribe in

J'Accuse! Our Dreyfus and theirs

By Ben Cohen



Capt. Alfred Dreyfus being stripped of rank in the French military ("Le traître : Dégradation d'Alfred Dreyfus"), Jan. 13, 1895. Credit: Henri Meyer, National Library of France (Bibliothèque Nationale de France).

Over two months since its shellacking in the United Kingdom's general elections, the Labour Party continues to remind British voters of why they chose the "anyone-but-Jeremy-Corbyn" option.

Last week, it was the turn of John McDonnell—Corbyn's main lieutenant and a stalwart of the party's far-left—to plumb the depths of illogical, offensive and plain ignorant political rhetoric. Speaking immediately after a visit to Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, in the grim surroundings of south London's Belmarsh prison, McDonnell produced an unforgettable soundbite. Just not in the way he intended.

"I think this is one of the most important and significant political trials of this generation, in fact longer," said McDonnell, referring to the possibility that Assange will be extradited to the United States to face 18 charges related to national security violations, of which 17 are covered by the Espionage Act. Warming to his subject, McDonnell then ventured, "I think it's the Dreyfus case of our age."

Perhaps McDonnell believed that this comparison would send journalists scurrying onto Google for a quick refresher course on "Dreyfus," and that he would consequently be congratulated for having offered such a thoughtful, historically resonant observation. No such luck.

Diligently performing their duties as representatives of the Jewish community, organizations including the Community Security Trust and the Holocaust Educational Trust swiftly countered McDonnell's claim. Whatever Assange might be, they said, he is no Dreyfus.

This, by the way, is not a slight towards Assange. Even if you temporarily forget McDonnell's breathtaking gall in appropriating one of the seminal episodes of modern anti-Semitism to make his point that Assange is facing a show trial, on a purely empirical level, the comparison with Dreyfus is hopeless.

Firstly, no one would dispute—least of all Assange himself—that WikiLeaks' disclosures were done for the purpose of exposing and embarrassing the Western alliance. Always eager for as much publicity as he could get, the key point is that

J'Accuse! Our Dreyfus and theirs

By Ben Cohen

Assange did these things of his own volition in the aggressive pursuit of a political mission. By contrast, one of the more heartbreaking aspects of the ordeal of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus was that he didn't leak secrets to the enemy, nor compromise the lives of allies, nor conspire to weaken France in any way before he was drummed out of the French Army in a grotesque ceremony of humiliation. Other than faithfully discharging his responsibilities as an officer in the French artillery, Dreyfus didn't actually do anything to warrant the charges of treason that were deliberately and falsely laid at his door in 1894.

But then—and this may be what John McDonnell simply didn't grasp—the Dreyfus case was never about Dreyfus as an individual. Dreyfus was not, as is Assange, one of a handful of famous whistleblowers in an ongoing conflict with the security establishment. One did not become a Dreyfusard (a supporter of Dreyfus) to portray this falsely convicted man as a speaker of truth to power, shining a beacon of light upon the murky secrets of the state. One became a Dreyfusard because Dreyfus was punished for what he was, not for what he did or didn't do.

This basic fact was well understood by the great French writer Emile Zola, among the most eloquent defenders of Dreyfus. "I accuse General [Jean-Baptiste] Billot of having held in his hands the unquestionable evidence of Dreyfus's innocence and of suppressing it, guilty of this crime that injures humanity and justice, with a political aim and to save the compromised Chief of High Command," Zola wrote in his famous text *J'Accuse!* And if it was easy to frame the only Jewish officer on the army General Staff, it was because—as the rabidly anti-Semitic newspaper *La Civiltà Cattolica* put it at the time—what was really on trial in the Dreyfus case was the "treacherous character" of the "deicidal people" to whom he belonged.

Unquestionably, Dreyfus suffered terribly as a man prior to his being officially exonerated in 1906, but his fate came to him because he was a Jew in the wrong place at the wrong time. In that ugly environment, stoked by anti-Semites determined to roll back the clock on a century of Jewish emancipation, any Jew would have done.

These truths have already been pointed out to McDonnell by commentators in Britain. Writing in the left-wing *New Statesman* weekly, Karen Pollock of the Holocaust Educational Trust argued that McDonnell's comparison "downplays the institutionalized anti-Semitism, hatred and degradation that embodies what happened to Dreyfus and is particularly ludicrous when Assange himself has perpetuated anti-Semitic conspiracy theories."

However, unsurprisingly for a man who decided against immediate resignation after helping his party to sink to a historic electoral low, McDonnell is sticking to his guns. "It was quite clear what I meant," he countered the following day, clearly bruised from the criticism. "Just like the Dreyfus case, the legal action against Julian Assange is a major political trial in which the establishment is out to victimize an innocent."

WHY, THOUGH, CHOOSE DREYFUS SPECIFICALLY AS AN ANALOGOUS CASE, IF THE ONLY PURPOSE IS TO MAKE A GENERIC POINT ABOUT SOMEONE'S ALLEGED INNOCENCE? WHY NOT PICK ANOTHER EXAMPLE CLOSER TO HOME? AS A LONGTIME SUPPORTER OF IRISH REPUBLICANISM, MCDONNELL IS DOUBTLESS AWARE OF THE HIGH-PROFILE TERRORISM TRIALS OF THE 1970S, WHEN BRITISH COURTS LOCKED UP ENTIRELY INNOCENT IRISH PEOPLE AFTER FRAMING THEM FOR ATROCITIES THAT WERE COMMITTED BY THE IRA. WHY NOT INVOKE THESE? HERE'S WHY. FOR MUCH OF THE LEFT, THE HISTORY OF JEWISH SUFFERING IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE UNIVERSALIZED AND "DE-JUDAIZED" FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES IN WAYS THAT WOULD BE CONDEMNED AS GROSSLY INSENSITIVE IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SUBJECT WAS AFRICAN-AMERICAN SLAVERY INSTEAD. THE VERSION OF ALFRED DREYFUS THAT JOHN MCDONNELL GIVES US IS A DREYFUS WHOSE JEWISH IDENTITY IS SO INCIDENTAL, IT DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO BE MENTIONED.

If our history is to be openly and shamelessly manipulated in this way, you can be forgiven for wondering whether it's worth talking about at all.

Ben Cohen is a New York City-based journalist and author who writes a weekly column on Jewish and international affairs for JNS. – **J – Wire**

Queen Ester, Captain Feathersword,
Ironmen, Kings and Crocodiles turned up to
Celebrate Purim at Gan Gani!



PURIM CELEBRATED AT **GAN GANI KINDERGARTEN**

We made groggers, just like in the story of Sammy Spider's first Purim. Some made crowns and groggers, while others marched in the Purim Parade.

Everyone had a turn to make hamantaschen filled with jam. They were just delicious!

What a fun day!

Colleen Goldblatt Director
Teacher M/T Group
Jewish Studies Coordinator



Laurie Rosenblum OAM

1924- 2020

Well known and respected former communal identity Laurie Rosenblum, formerly of Brisbane but recently of Sydney, passed away in February 2020.

Below is the eulogy given by Russell Goldberg at Laurie's funeral, in Brisbane, on the 27th of February.

I first met Laurie 40 years ago when the family billeted me at a Maccabi carnival but we really became friends 5 days later when eager not to wake the family after arriving back late one night, I broke in through a window ... & he thinking I was an intruder, lunged at me with a baseball bat. He still smiled when recalling that incident the last time I saw him.

Laurie was born in Johannesburg in 1924 to parents Rachel who was from Rostov in Russia & Israel or Isi, a cabinet maker from Grodno in Belarus.

At age 2 Laurie moved to a humble home in Sydney's Belmore with his 3 brothers Alec, Felix & Arnold. At the time the suburb was surrounded by bushland & the 3 boys had great fun exploring & playing near the river – a love of nature which stayed with Laurie all his life.

The day Kingsford-Smith landed back in Australia, the boys hiked to the airport to watch him land.

Still, they were depression-era kids & Friday's chicken soup while fresh, usually had feathers in it & being the youngest, Laurie was always the last one in queue for the same bathtub of water. Isi did spoil his sons though with a special treat when he took them to the SCG Bodyline test to watch Bradman bat – something Laurie never forgot. Of all his brothers, Laurie loved Alec dearly & looked up to everything he did. While Laurie was studying at Sydney Boys High, Alec fought a rear-guard action in Malaysia against the Japanese & after being shot, floated on debris back to Singapore which had just fallen to Japan. He was imprisoned in a POW camp. The bullet in his leg was removed by Weary Dunlop.

When news got back to Australia the event changed Laurie's life forever – he was incensed & vowed to enter the war as soon as possible. He rose to the rank of Sergeant, became the first Australian trained to use radar, served in Darwin during the bombing & was blown out of a jeep by a Mitsubishi Zero leaving a permanent spinal injury - which possibly explained his reluctance to buy the Mitsubishi air conditioner I later recommended.

IT WAS HIS WORK IN THE FIELD INTELLIGENCE UNIT THOUGH WHERE LAURIE BEST SHOWED HIS SKILLS – HIS IQ WAS 146. LANDING IN HIROSHIMA AFTER THE BOMB WAS DROPPED, HE HAD TO ENGAGE THE LOCALS, LOCATE JAPANESE WEAPONRY, RE-ESTABLISH INFRASTRUCTURE & MOST IMPORTANTLY OVER 2 YEARS, REFORM THE EDUCATION SYSTEM & HELP ESTABLISH DEMOCRACY.

Laurie developed a great respect for the Japanese people & was fluent in the language – which he was happy to demonstrate 50 years later in Japanese restaurants or on confused, unsuspecting Chinese tourists in the Botanical Gardens!

Like most vets of that time, Laurie got on with it after the war & suffered PTSD. A few years ago he started opening up on his war experiences & one day told me he'd had the best sleep in a long time – the first without nightmares since 1945! Successive Australian governments refused to recognise that Laurie's BCOF unit served overseas & Laurie led the fight for 70 years to achieve recognition for that force together with pension entitlements – a fact he was extremely proud of.

After the war Laurie married the love of his life Hilma – he was 23, she 19. Hilma was beautiful, artistic & a vital support to Laurie in public life. Active in the community, serving as secretary at the shule, she also provided the consummate family home & with Laurie, raised Lorraine, Greg, Richelle & after Richelle passed away at age 6 from a hole in the heart, Yvette. Laurie & Hilma were married for 61 years!

Laurie Rosenblum OAM 1924- 2020

Shortly after getting married though, Laurie & Hilma moved to Brisbane to work in the family business. Laurie was struck by the number of Holocaust survivors in the community needing all sorts of help & decided to do something about it. He became active in welfare, education & social justice. He eventually became President of Qld Jewish Board of Deputies, a post he held for 50 years. He was also made Lifetime Vice-President at ECAJ.

He drove social reform outside the Jewish community working closely at all levels of State & Federal Government – he & another person pushed change to give Aboriginal people the right to vote. He started inter-faith groups, lectured at schools & universities & introduced anti-vilification legislation. He worked with the Lutheran Church globally to remove all of their anti-Jewish references. Two of Laurie's activities raised his profile within Israel.

FIRST IN THE LATE 60'S, HE COMPILED A DOSSIER ON THE LEAGUE OF RIGHTS, AN ANTI-JEWISH GROUP WITH ROOTS IN THE COUNTRY PARTY. HE THEN USED INFLUENCE WITH PREMIER JOH BJELKE-PETERSON TO DISMANTLE THEIR NATIONAL POWER BASE.

Secondly in the early 70's, he co-ordinated & led a physical attack on the re-emerging Nazi party in Australia, destroying their infrastructure & forcing them back under ground. Following this action, Laurie received death threats for a number of years & bomb hoaxes at the family home.

The early 70's saw the rise of terrorism with airline hijackings & tragedy at 1972 Munich Olympics. While threats existed in Australia, intelligence communication between Israel & Australia was poor.

Laurie was approached by the Israeli Ambassador & after a wonderful dinner cooked by Hilma, was offered a trip to Israel. Upon arriving he was taken to Mossad headquarters & given the chance to complete an intensive anti-terrorism course – no obligation & he had the option to leave & enjoy a paid holiday. Laurie did the course & upon

returning, debriefed ASIO. He was part of a cell of 6 people & remained a conduit between the 2 organisations for 38 years. This remained a secret until it was declassified around 7 years ago. All the while, Laurie drove a successful business a Royal Art running marketing, buying & sales. Many years later the business was sold to a truck driver he'd hired who was just starting out. He thought the guy showed promise & deserved a go – Gerry Harvey.

Yvette remembers Laurie always spending time with the family before dinner & many great family holidays, driving 2 hours down the dirt road to the Gold Coast. They stayed in wonderful beachside apartments, spoiled the kids with presents & dined out with them most nights. Yvette loved dancing by standing on her Dad's feet at The Captain's Table restaurant, which of course had a dance floor.

Laurie & Hilma who passed in 2009, are survived by 3 generations: Lorraine the eldest who passed away 2 years ago & her husband Baron had 3 children – Simon, Richelle & Josh. Simon & his wife Nicole have 2 kids Noah & Eve. Richelle also has 2 Aiden & Casey. Gershon the 2nd eldest lives in Israel with his wife Sarah & son Aaron. While Yvette & I are in Sydney with our kids Scotty, Kelly & Steph.

LAURIE RECEIVED NUMEROUS RECOGNITIONS INCLUDING THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA. FOR A SELECT FEW, A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IS RECOGNISED BY THE ISRAEL STATE MEDAL – LAURIE HAD 5! ONE OF HIS FAVOURITE KEEPSAKES WAS THE YITZHAK RABIN AWARD PERSONALLY PRESENTED TO HIM BY RABIN.

In its simplest form, some say the role of Judaism is to bring light to the world moving through concentric circles ... First the family must be happy, loved & safe ... then the community needs to be protected, nurtured & evolve ... then the world. Laurie certainly achieved this & also became an inspiration for others to follow. He lives on in the determination, passion for social justice, love & good humour he created around him. His children, grandchildren & great grandkids can feel proud & fortunate.

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If you know of any survivor who is struggling in their old age, who needs support and care and who may not be aware of the existence and purpose of our organisation we would like to hear from you.



We remember all the survivors and although many have passed the few remaining provide us with an inspiration **TO NEVER ALLOW THE SHOAH TO OCCUR AGAIN.**



JCareQld is a charitable association that provides care to the **Queensland Jewish Community**

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with visits, transport, social contact, arranging medical help, liaison with Claims Conference, and some limited financial assistance.



Particularly the elderly but also the young who need assistance.



PLEASE CONTACT 

Brisbane and Queensland

JCareQld:

Howard Posner

Tel: 0424335969 • Email: jcareqld@gmail.com

Gold Coast and Northern NSW

JCareQld Gold Coast:

Barbara Stewart-Kann

Tel: 0412 377 488 • Email: bkann@bigpond.net.au



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Coronavirus – The Moral Aspect



Job spoke for all of us when he said, "You see a calamity and are afraid" (Job 6:21).

We all see a calamity unfolding before us and we are all afraid. Some call it an epidemic, others a pandemic. It is a panic-demic.

The travel industry is collapsing, schools and universities are closing, there are ghost towns everywhere, life is in lockdown.

The first instinct of some people is to find a scapegoat. Iran is characteristically blaming it on America. Westerners think Asiatics are the ones who are guilty. What ridiculous prejudices!

Those who prefer Biblical thinking recall that scriptural texts constantly link suffering with sin.

It must be God punishing a sinful generation! That was the approach of Job's friends: "Is not your wickedness great? Are not your iniquities without end?" (Job 22:5).

That's God's policemen speaking – and their thinking is skewed.

Why the virus started is a complicated issue. There are many constellations behind the history of Covid-19. Even climatic factors might be involved since this is all happening in a between-seasons period.

We can't cast blame unless we have the information to back it up and even then we have to recognise that it is not a mere academic issue; real people are suffering real pain.

Facile stereotypes won't make anyone feel better.

Here are six things to do:

- 1** The first thing can be framed in Biblical language "venishmar'tem me'od lenafshotechem", "Look after your life carefully" (Deut. 4:15). Follow the advice of the experts even if it means not kissing the mezuzah and not shaking hands. If you need to be quarantined, endure it stoically and keep away from crowds, not only at sport matches but maybe even in shule.
- 2** Support and appreciate the medical profession. Not only in the medical research and development areas. They are in every sense a real line of defence against the enemies that assail every human being's body and mind.
- 3** Don't put up with fake information that blames the ordinary individual or groups of them even though they have different looks and likes.
- 4** Pray that God's wisdom will guide those who seek ways to contain and control the transmission of the virus, and that His Providence will protect His world and its inhabitants. Psalm 91 is a good prayer to say.
- 5** Accept a pastoral responsibility for those who are suffering, and their families.
- 6** Mould societies in which love, loyalty, support and helpfulness will be the guiding notes, helping the world towards ethical climate change.

Rabbi Raymond Apple was for many years Australia's highest profile rabbi and the leading spokesman on Jewish religious issues. After serving congregations in London, Rabbi Apple was chief minister of the Great Synagogue, Sydney, for 32 years. He also held many public roles, particularly in the fields of chaplaincy, interfaith dialogue and Freemasonry, and is the recipient of several national and civic honours. Now retired, he lives in Jerusalem and blogs at www.oztorah.com



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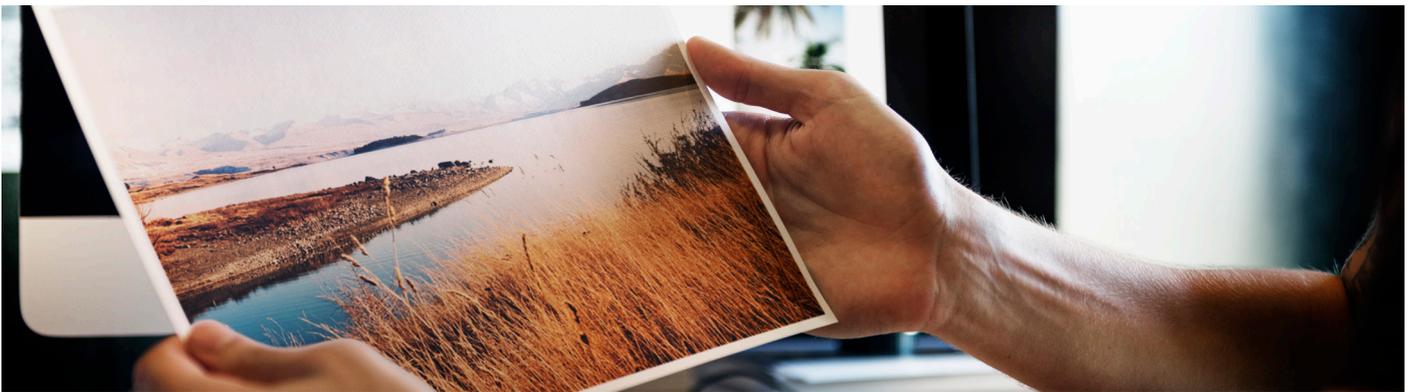
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<p>Payment Options:</p> <p>1. Direct deposit or bank transfer to Brisbane Chevra Kadisha BSB 064-002 Account 00270838. Existing members: If there are no changes to your details, just fill out what the payment is for (eg Membership 'family name') and the name of the person paying. New members and existing members with changes: Make payment as above and complete and email this form to treasurer@bck.net.au or just email the new or changed details</p> <p>2. If you do not wish to pay by direct deposit or bank transfer: Please complete this form and mail with your cheque payable to Brisbane Chevra Kadisha to: Treasurer BCK, PO Box 1296 Toowong DC Qld 4066.</p>	
<p>Please support the Brisbane Chevra Kadisha by: Annual membership, donations & bequests, planning for the future, making your wishes known, ensuring details of your Jewish name and heritage are known.</p> <p>Funeral and monument costs are substantial (refer http://bck.net.au). We suggest community members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with trusted advisers to organise finances and insurances • Join the Chevra: We perform many duties when a Jewish person passes away and BCK (Tahara/Chapel) fees are part of overall funeral / burial costs. The BCK fee component is reduced for members (5 years continuous) • Work through the Chevra to pre-purchase a burial plot at Mt Gravatt Cemetery's Jewish Section • Consider the 'Guardian Plan' (https://www.guardianplan.com.au), accessible through George Hartnett Metropolitan Funerals, as a way to pre-pay future funeral fees at today's prices. 	

The Chevra is run by volunteers who meet with family, coordinate with George Hartnett Metropolitan Funerals and Brisbane City Council cemetery management, conduct Tahara, supervise the funeral and burial, assist with arrangements for a monument. We work with cemetery management to manage the Jewish section at Mt Gravatt. We operate the Jewish Chapel, maintain the Anzac Memorial Garden and Martyrs' Memorial and retain a watching brief over the Jewish section at the historic Toowong cemetery.

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BRISBANE HEBREW CONGREGATION



THE BRISBANE SYNAGOGUE
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Regular Services

Shabbas, Friday evening: Ma'ariv 6pm

Shabbat Morning: 9am

Shabbas Discussions: Shiurim (Study Group)

Conducted by Rabbi Levi Jaffe 8.30am to 9:00am
each Shabbas prior to service.

Kiddush is held after Shabbat morning service.

Weekday Services: Mon and Thurs at 6am

Synagogue Office Tel: 07 3229 3412

Sick Visitations Phone Rabbi Jaffe: 0419 136 451

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for the person on call to assist you.

For other enquiries:

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Regular Services

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Saturday Afternoon:

Saturday evening:

Sunday Morning:

Monday evening:

Kabat Shabbat 6:30pm

Maariv 7:00pm

Shacharit 8:00am

Mincha 17:30 followed by Shiur until Maariv

Maariv 7:00pm

Shacharit 7:30am

Monday Evening: Shiur 6:30pm, covering the weekly Torah portion, the festivals and our sages

Eli Saranga

Chairman

Shlomo Cohen

President

Email: sarangaeli@gmail.com

Mobile: 0434 724 052

Email: Shlomocohen357@hotmail.com

Mobile: 0411 150 896

ORGANISATIONS

QUEENSLAND

Jewish National Fund Qld	07 3807 9212
www.jnf.org.au	jnfqld@jnf.org.au
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www.aujs.com.au	crosenberg@aujs.com.au
Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce	07 3821 4460
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Qld Jewish Community Services	0423 194 737
JCare Qld	1300 133 660
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Jewish Help in Need Society of Qld	
Lee McNamee 0417 723 399	Peter Goldsmith 0409 765 394
Courage to Care	0427 380 235
Kayla Szumer	kayla@couragetocare.com.au

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GOLD COAST

Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation	07 5570 1851
www.goldcoasthc.org.au	
Gold Coast Jewish Community Council	0432 893 862
Friends of Hebrew University	07 5539 0632
www.austfhu.org.au	
Magen David Adom	07 5539 0632
www.magendavidadom.org.au	mdaqld@hotmail.com
Temple Shalom Gold Coast	07 5570 1716
www.templeshalomgoldcoast.org	
Sar - El David Samson	0429 236 160
Gold Coast Chevra Kadisha	
Robbie Ventura	07 5596 6919

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BRISBANE - REGULAR EVENTS

Community Diary Bookings	Kathy Gould
	07 3411 3664
	0402 497 413
	kathygould45@msn.com
WIZO Aviva	2nd Tuesday each Month (n)
	07 3715 6562
	wizoqld@gmail.com
NCJWA Meeting	3rd Monday 7:30pm

GOLD COAST - REGULAR EVENTS

NCJWA Gold Coast	Monthly Meetings
www.ncjwa.org.au	7:30pm - 1st Monday of each month
	0412 377 488 goldcoast@ncjwa.org.au
Temple Shalom Services	Office 07 5570 1716
	Erev Shabbat 6:30pm Shabbat Morning 10am
	Oneg Shabbat 2nd Friday each month following services
	Se'udat Shabbat Last Shabbat each month following Torah Service
	Groovy Movers Exercise
	Mon & Wed 10am-12 Noon
	Friday 8-10 am
Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation	All enquiries call 07 5570 1851
Services	Friday Night Live
	Uplifting Service every Friday Night starting 5:30pm
	Shabbat Kiddish
	Following the service every Shabbat at 9am
	Kabbala and Jewish Mysticism
	Journey of the Soul,
	Monday evening at 7:30pm
	Talmud Classes
	Thursday evening at 7:30pm

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WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2020

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