

*Shanah Tovah Umetukah  
a Sweet and Happy  
New Year 5784.*



Building Israel Since 1901

The Jewish National Fund of Queensland ( JNF ) wishes its members friends and the Jewish Community a

**SWEET AND HAPPY  
NEW YEAR 5784**

JNF QLD thanks everyone for your ongoing support of JNF AUSTRALIA projects in Israel and want you to know that the people of Israel

***appreciate everything we  
are doing to help Israel***



## JNF QUEENSLAND MITZVAH DAY

We are pleased to let everyone know that after a break of a few years due to covid JNF QLD Mitzvah Day is back in 2023

**JNF QLD Mitzvah Day enjoyed wonderful success over past years and in 2023 THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF QUEENSLAND together with MITZVAH DAY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA is once again inviting all members of the Jewish Community and its friends to participate and join in Mitzvah Day**

**Mt Gravatt Jewish Cemetery  
Sunday 10 September At 9am**

We will generally clean up the areas surrounding the tombstones especially those overgrown with weeds to give respect to the departed the greatest Mitzvah of all.

All who have taken part in our previous JNF Mitzvah Days will recall what a great success they were and how good it made everyone feel — so come along and join in and be part of what has become a tradition for our community.

**All are welcome, including all communal organisations.**

*Bring gardening tools of all types;  
rubbish bags, secateurs, gloves, rakes, brooms, shovels, etc.*

But don't forget to bring most important thing – enthusiasm,  
and know that your effort and contribution is appreciated!

For further information, please contact the Mitzvah Day Coordinator:

**David Jacobs 0412 578 368 [brisbanejnf@jnf.org.au](mailto:brisbanejnf@jnf.org.au)**

**Bruce Frey 0414 552 770 [brucefrey@exemail.com.au](mailto:brucefrey@exemail.com.au)**

RELIGION

## Here's what it took to become an orthodox female rabbi



*Within the orthodox tradition, there are still limits on how women can offer leadership, but the very existence of female orthodox rabbis is the sign of a revolution underway. (Photo courtesy of Jane Halsam)*

ABC RELIGION AND ETHICS

BY NOMI KALTMANN

The inaugural president and founder of the Australian branch of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA Australia).

**In June 2023, I flew to New York with my newborn daughter to receive my ordination as an orthodox female rabbi. My graduation as a rabbi had been the culmination of four years of study done in my hometown in Melbourne.** During that time, I completed tests, wrote assignments, learned copious amounts of Torah in both Aramaic and Hebrew, and completed a certification in chaplaincy, allowing me to be a hospital and prison chaplain in Australia.

### **Why did I devote four years of my life studying to be a rabbi?**

In orthodox Judaism, being an ordained male rabbi opens up a world of opportunities. You can lead from the pulpit of a synagogue; you can teach classes; you can visit the sick, counsel those who require advice, and help create community. Your role as a spiritual and faith leader is clearly understood.

However, the wife of a rabbi is called a Rebbetzin. Your title is denoted from being married to a rabbi. Some Rebbetzins do brilliant communal work and are very knowledgeable and love to teach Torah. Others do not. There is no qualification for a Rebbetzin. If your husband is a rabbi, you are one.

But I fell between these worlds. My husband is not a rabbi and has no interest in becoming one. If I was male, there is no doubt that I would have chosen a career in the rabbinate. And yet, despite wanting to teach, learn, and contribute, there is no formal leadership role for women within orthodox tradition, other than being a wife of the rabbi.

For me, being Jewish is not just a religion — it is a way of life. I love my faith. It girds me and provides a blueprint for a beautiful life. In my professional life I am a lawyer and journalist; I hold undergraduate degrees in law and arts, and a postgraduate degree in legal practice. And yet, despite having excellent Jewish knowledge, growing up as a woman in this ancient religion, there was very little opportunity for me or any other woman to hold positions of leadership, unless it is through our husbands.

All this changed in 2009, when I was 17-years-old, with the ordination of orthodox Judaism's first female rabbi, now my friend and mentor, Rabba Sara Hurwitz. Rabbi Avi Weiss, a New York based rabbi, best known for his work rescuing Jews from the former Soviet Union, ordained her after she spent four years of studying the foundational texts that shape Jewish life under his supervision: the laws of kosher, Shabbat, family life, mourning and death, and conversion.

In an ancient religion, it's not surprising that the ordination of orthodox Judaism's first female rabbi caused enormous waves. Some women were elated that there was finally a pathway towards ordination. Others were fiercely critical of this new movement, demanding that the genie be put back in the bottle and the ordination be rescinded.

But Hurwitz and Weiss would go on to found a rabbinical school in Riverdale, New York called Yeshivat Maharat, which is dedicated to providing a four-year ordination program for women around the world, who, like me, want to be a female rabbi within the orthodox system, but have previously had no way to do so.

## For the love of Torah

The term "orthodox female rabbi" is itself a kind of misnomer. Orthodox Judaism, which prides itself on adherence to ancient tradition, means that life is very predictable. My home is kosher; each week my family and I attend synagogue for Shabbat; there is a thrum to the ritual and routines of each week as the Jewish months and festivals roll past.

But despite a deep love of tradition and Judaism, it was only in the last one hundred years that Jewish women began having access to Jewish texts through Jewish schools for women. I have a better Jewish education than any of my female forebears, and yet I wanted more. So after many years of consideration, I enrolled in Yeshivat Maharat and became the first Australian woman to complete the four year ordination program — and one of only 64 women from around the world to have been ordained through their program.

The study was not easy. Grappling with ancient texts in Aramaic and Hebrew was difficult enough, but then came the pandemic which made it impossible to see any of my rabbinical school colleagues in person. There was the steady stream of exams and assignments, as well as the 5:30am starts so I could join in on classes taking place in New York. And that's quite apart from the daily demands of raising four children.

But I did it because I love studying Torah. Yeshivat Maharat has changed the landscape for orthodox Jewish women. Tuition to their rabbinical ordination program is free, and all accepted participants receive a stipend. Yeshivat Maharat invest in their women, no matter their location, so that women feel included and seen in the orthodox Jewish tradition. It's a revolutionary break in that tradition, but many graduates of Yeshivat Maharat find jobs in the pulpit, in education or as hospital chaplains. It's rewarding work. And communities around the world are embracing the trend.

Within the orthodox tradition, there are still limitations on how I can practice my leadership role. For example, I will not count towards a prayer quorum or as a witness in a Jewish court of law — but none of this bothers me. My very existence as a female orthodox rabbi is the sign of a revolution underway, and I join 64 other women in working to include Jewish women integrally within Jewish life and leadership.

ANTI SEMITISM  
IN SCHOOLS

**At school I was picked on for being Jewish. It's no better today.**



*School bullying is an issue that has never gone away.*

THE AGE

BY NICOLE PRECEL

**School grounds can feel like unsafe places. It's something I'm aware of because I am an education reporter - but also because I am Jewish.**

At school I had coins tossed at my feet, in the anticipation that as a Jew I'd stingily pick them up and pocket them.

I was careful whom I told about my real identity – to certain people I classed Shabbat as **“Friday night dinner”**. I'd pretend I had plans on Saturday mornings instead of disclosing the real reason: that I was actually going to synagogue to prepare for my Bat Mitzvah. This as a 12-year-old girl.

As we negotiated the trials of adolescence there lurked the feeling that we needed to hide our identity, knowing our families were murdered because of

who they were and the worry that we'd be targeted because of it.

Being Jewish is a spectrum, some have ancestry but don't identify, some may be atheist but culturally Jewish, or religious and anti-Israel. To bullies, none of that matters.

When he went to school my husband Andrew, who only found out about his Jewish ancestry as a teenager, was called “An-Jew”. Other students told him that they'd kill and rape his Jewish grandmother who narrowly escaped the Holocaust. They were jokes, of course.

It's worrying that in the almost 20 years since I went to school, things have not changed. In some cases they are worse.

My experience pales in comparison to the emails and stories I received last week after sharing with Sunday Age readers the story of three Jewish students who were pulled out of school because of antisemitism. Some of them were hate emails, but others were people willing to share their own experiences.



*Anti-bullying programs are not working, some say.*

One reader wrote that he was verbally and physically abused from the very first day of primary school right through to the end of grade 6.

***“Thirteen years of terror that I had to learn to live with,”*** he said.

***“Trying to report any incident was not a good idea as it was not just fellow students who put their boots in, but teachers as well.”***

A 15-year-old student at a state school in Melbourne’s south-east said she had experienced and witnessed “extreme antisemitism” at her school.

When she was in year 7 Nazi symbols were drawn on face masks and over the school, but she said this year had been the worst.

She was in a classroom with three other students who started talking about student backgrounds.

***“They knew I was Jewish and started talking about how Hitler did right, and my great-grandparents should’ve died like the rest of their family, so I wouldn’t be in that moment, then and there,”*** she said.

***“I told the teacher. The girl afterwards told me to my face that ‘she doesn’t like them Jews because they are scammers and liars’.”***

The school asked the student to write her a letter to apologise, but she said she had ChatGPT write it.

***“There was also an instance where a boy said he wanted to gas me and my Jewish classmate out of nowhere,”*** she said.

The teachers were also antisemitic, she said.

***“This school praises itself for having children from 85 countries and yet this form of racism is overused.”***

It’s a real concern for many Victorian Jewish families, who steadily weigh up whether they send their children to state school because they worry their child will be targeted.

Jewish Community Council of Victoria president Daniel Aghion said they were aware of a small number of antisemitic incidents in Victoria schools, but any incident of antisemitism was one too many.

Even so, he didn’t think there was an undercurrent of antisemitism in state schools, and they were instead unrelated incidents.

The organisation has engaged with government, Catholic and independent schools and worked with the Department of Education, Courage to Care and the Jewish Museum of Australia to roll out an optional training program for school staff about antisemitism, which has been available since April.

He said while a teenage student’s cruel taunt about gassing may seem no different from commenting on a student’s weight or haircut, “for the recipient, it means so much more”.

***“What it is saying is: you are an ‘other’, who should not exist.”***

“That’s why it’s so heinous and that’s why ... it’s not acceptable in any way it sits, even in an unthinking schoolyard taunt.”

A Department of Education spokesperson said it takes antisemitic behaviour extremely seriously, that Holocaust education was mandatory in years 9 and 10, and taught in other year levels through texts in subjects like English.

The spokesperson said teachers must report any incident that impacts on student wellbeing and safety. The hotline for students and parents to report racism, the BullyStoppers initiative, included a guidance for schools to prevent racist bullying, a partnership with the Gandel Foundation and the Courage to Care’s Upstander Programs, which offers tools to tackle racism, bullying and prejudice.

After my story last week, I also received an email from an Asian student in year 9 at another secondary school who said she was called an “Asian slave” and “Asian eyes”, and asked, “do you know where my shoes come from? You must work in factories.”

Telling her coordinator didn’t make a difference.

“The bullying didn’t stop to the point I could no longer go to school, so I would secretly wag school,” she said.

She asked for the students to be removed, but was told it couldn’t be done and that they’d continue logging it.

“They moved on like it was all okay. I went into therapy twice a week,” she said.

She doesn’t feel the school did enough to protect her, that her experience wasn’t “bad enough” to contact their parents about it.

It’s these experiences, and the lack of action, this “othering” that has really significant consequences.

I hope my two-year-old son doesn’t feel he has to hide who he is. It’s hard not to be concerned about whether he will experience the same antisemitism in school that these students faced, or that I faced as a child.

Racism and prejudice, in any form, against any minority, needs to be stamped out. It requires leadership and education, and that can start in the schoolyard.

*Nicole Precel is an education reporter.*



2:52

Inside Auschwitz: holocaust's horrific impact

*Archive vision shows the devastation of the holocaust and of Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.*

## POINT OF VIEW

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# Israel's Pain Is Our Pain



BY **SOLOMON D STEVENS PHD**

Dr. Solomon D. Stevens is a retired professor of political science who is now living in Charleston, SC, USA with his wife, Michelle Groen, who is from Brisbane. Dr. Stevens' publications include Challenges to Peace in the Middle East.

He now works as a political columnist and has published pieces in SHALOM MAGAZINE, the Australian Jewish News, the Baltimore Jewish Times, and other publications around the world.

Israel is hurting now, and we all share the distress of our brothers and sisters. The country's political institutions are in crisis, and the social bonds that once held Israel together are straining. We can only hope that somehow these troubles will be resolved because our fate is inexorably linked to the fate of Israel. We are all Israel.

**What is going on? The trigger event for the problems was the passage of a bill by the Knesset to drastically curtail the powers of the judiciary, effectively allowing even a bare majority to pass any law it wishes without worrying about the High Court striking it down. A related proposal would also effectively give the ruling coalition the power to appoint judges of the High Court. While it is perfectly reasonable for Israel to pursue some form of judicial reform, these changes would essentially destroy the existence of an independent judiciary.**

The new coalition ruling Israel is now acting as if it has a mandate to remake the country in its own image. It has proposed a barrage of initiatives designed to promote policies favored by the ultra-orthodox, including a proposal to exempt ultra-orthodox (Haredi) Jews from the otherwise universal military service required of citizens. And Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has proposed a dramatic increase in funding for Haredi schools, which focus on religious studies

and do not teach maths or science. These proposals are, needless to say, controversial. And people on both sides of these issues feel very strongly about their opinions.

But it is even more complicated than it might seem. As we all know, Australia has a Constitution, but Israel does not. The Founders of Israel had to move quickly to establish the Jewish state, so a Constitution was not written at first, but Israel's Declaration of Independence seems to promise a "Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than October 1, 1948." That Constitution was never written.

It is possible that the new state was just facing so many challenges in its early years that the writing a Constitution simply had to be set aside. But one of the reasons for a lack of a Constitution may be, as was revealed in a recent article in Mosaic, that David Ben-Gurion himself opposed the writing of a Constitution, recommending that Israel follow the example of Great Britain and accept parliamentary supremacy. Ben-Gurion stated quite clearly in a speech only recently translated into English for the first time and printed in Mosaic, that he believed straightforward majority rule would be sufficient for Israel

Ben-Gurion was a great man, but his perspective on this may not have been the best. The current situation in Israel is the direct result of not having a Constitution. A government that lacks a written constitution and judicial review lacks basic protections for the rights of the minority. In Australia, as Moon and Sharman (both formerly from University of Western Australia) point out in their book *Australian Politics and Government*, that by the time of the federation debates in the 1890's, the self-governing Australian colonies had already made substantial modifications to the British system. And the new national government established in 1901 implemented "the existence of a constitutional document that had special status as a higher law, with the possibility

of constitutional challenge in some areas through judicial review." Australians can be proud of the way in which they took the best from their British heritage but improved on the model that had come down to them. Israel never finalized the Constitution that it seemed to understand it needed.

One result of this is that the Israeli High Court took things into its own hands. In the 1990's the High Court began to treat its Basic Laws as if they were a Constitution and established its own version of judicial review, but this was done by judicial fiat and not by the people. The Court tried to will an approximation of a Constitution into existence. It saw a problem that needed to be solved but made the mistake of trying to correct the problem itself. So here we are. It's a dilemma of frightening proportions. On the one hand, Israel needs a Constitution and judicial review to protect the rights of everyone not in the majority. On the other hand, the ruling coalition should not do away with judicial review just because it was established by the Court.

The current problems in Israel cannot be remedied by legislative fiat (decree) just because they were brought into existence by judicial fiat.

Israelis seem to understand that more public discussion and debate is needed before changes this fundamental are proposed. It might even make sense to take these issues directly to the people in the form of a referendum. In Australia, changes in the Constitution require a multi-stage process, requiring a majority vote in a referendum of all Australians of voting age and support from a majority of the states. None of this is currently required in Israel.

The judiciary in Israel needs reform, but what has happened is not mere reform; it amounts to a fundamental change

in the fabric of Israeli life, and many believe it happened without adequate public discussion and debate. People are in the streets. There are strikes, and even division in the military. Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has joined a growing number of people in saying that civil war is a possibility there.

Some absolve Prime Minister Netanyahu from responsibility in all of this, saying he is just the captive of a right-wing coalition that could fall apart at any moment were he not to make concessions to those with their own agendas. Others believe that Netanyahu supports these radical reforms, partly in order for him to find a way to protect himself from his own legal troubles. We cannot know with certainty what any individual's motivations are. But we do know that the result of the so-called reforms has been divisive.

As the Israel Democracy Institute makes clear, **"In Israel, the Supreme Court is the only restraint on the political majority."** And democracy is more than simple majority rule; majorities can be oppressive and even tyrannical. Democracy exists to give expression to a majority while, at the same time, protecting the rights of the minority. This is what we now see threatened in Israel.

And the troubles in Israel could potentially get worse. In September, the High Court is going to review the law that was just passed for the purpose of curtailing the power of the Court. Will the Court overturn a law designed to limit its own power? This is a paradox that could further complicate an already tense situation. And Prime Minister Netanyahu has not confirmed that he would obey the Court's ruling.

We stand with all of our brothers and sisters in Israel and pray for calm and wisdom to prevail as the community works to find a way through the current crisis.



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**THE Australian Jewish News**



**NOMINATIONS  
CLOSE 30 SEP**



## JNF AUSTRALIA ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2023 SOROKA MEDICAL CENTRE

**“Build it modestly and make the grounds a healing oasis for the hard-working people of the Negev” *David Ben-Gurion***

These were the instructions given to the leadership of Soroka in the 1950’s. This year, on Israel’s 75th anniversary, JNF Australia is partnering with Soroka Medical Centre to revitalise the grounds of this centre and transform the landscape and outdoor spaces into the beautiful healing oasis that Ben-Gurion envisioned.

Established in 1959, Soroka was a single building, housing only vital medical services for the residents of Be’er Sheva, then a small but growing community. Soroka is now the largest hospital in southern Israel and the primary medical centre for the 1.2 million residents (including 400,000 children) of the Negev. It is a strategic asset of the State of Israel and plays a crucial role as THE frontline hospital of the South, treating soldiers and victims of terror.

### INSIDE THE JNF AUSTRALIA PROJECT

*Three main areas to be developed:*

The main entrance to provide a beautiful, accessible space for all who enter the medical centre

A healing garden at the Children’s Hospital for the benefit of Soroka’s youngest patients

A therapeutic and treatment garden in the Child Development Institute where young patients with chronic issues receive ongoing treatment.

**Please show your support and donate at**  
<https://jnf.org.au/soroka/#blbxqld>

*Thank you for your ongoing partnership with JNF Australia.*  
With your support we are continuing to grow Israel's future—our future –  
in the Negev – leaving a mutual legacy for generations to come!

## SOROKA'S VITAL STATS

**1.2 MILLION PEOPLE**

Soroka is the primary medical centre for Israel's South.



**250,000 EMERGENCY VISITS**

Soroka's Emergency Department is the busiest in the country

**17,000 BIRTHS**

A bus load of babies are born at Soroka every day.



**40,000 PEDIATRIC ED VISITS**

Tens of thousands visit the clinics and outpatient facilities of the Children's Hospital.

**REHABILITATION OF 3000 CHILDREN**

Each year, the Child Development Institute receives 1500 referrals and treats 3000 kids with a variety of needs.



HOLOCAUST

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## **Two sisters were saved from the Nazis and one was lost. Until now**



Shayna Slotar receiving the JNF Sylvia Smaller-Winnikow Award.

**THE AGE**

BY **BENJAMIN PREISS**

## My grandmother Sonja's life story, particularly her escape from Nazi Germany, lies at the heart of my family's collective identity.

I had long accepted that the voices of her murdered family were permanently silenced. I was wrong.

**My grandmother, Sonja Cowan, insisted she wanted no gifts for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

Instead, she requested donations to World Jewish Relief, to support children whose lives have been shattered by tyranny and conflict.

"I've been through it," Sonja said, in her particular German-Scottish intonation. "I know exactly what it's like."

Thankfully, she agreed to a party at her daughter's home.



*Sonja Cowan with her family at the celebration of her 100th birthday. From left to right back row: Allan Preiss, Gideon Preiss, Hilary Gould, Romy Preiss and Benjamin Preiss. Front row: Lorraine Cowan and Sandra Cowan.*

So, a few weeks ago, friends and four generations of Sonja's family gathered to celebrate her remarkable milestone and evasion of Adolf Hitler's genocidal grasp.

There was a table piled with bagels, cheese and cakes. We gave speeches and sang Yiddish songs late into the afternoon. Sonja held her two precious great-grandchildren close.

Sonja's life story, particularly her escape from Nazi Germany in 1939, lies at the heart of my family's collective identity. But until a few years ago, I accepted that the voices of her murdered family were permanently silenced.

I was wrong.

I would learn the hero at the heart of my grandmother's survival was a woman cast into the margins of her past: Sonja's mother.

### **Gone with a handshake**

Sonja was born in 1923 in Berlin, the middle child of religious Jewish migrants from Poland. Her older sister was Lotte, Ursel her youngest.

Sonja barely remembers her father. He died when she was 18 months old and her mother was pregnant with Ursel.

But even today, my grandmother's memory is sharp. She told me how one morning, when she was about four years old, her grandmother gave her money to fetch a loaf of bread from a nearby shop. But Sonja caved to temptation and bought a chocolate bar instead.

As she sat down to unwrap the ill-gotten treat, a German shepherd bounded from a neighbouring greengrocer's and snatched it from her hands.

Sonja's grandmother came out and asked about the bread. "I pointed to the chocolate and the dog eating it," Sonja said. "That's when she gives me a smack on the bottom."

Soon after she was denied the joy of eating that chocolate bar, the Nazis would rob Sonja of her teenage years and closest family.

Sonja has always described her mother, Taube Ibermann, known as Toni, as a distant figure who worked long hours at a Berlin market selling skirts, scarves and gloves. “I don’t remember her cooking at all,” Sonja said. “My mother was never home.”



*Sonja Cowan (right) with her elder sister, Lotte, in the 1920s..*

I had always been more interested in Sonja’s older sister, captivated by the black-and-white photographs of Lotte on the wall of my childhood home — the girl with a bob haircut and eyes so dark they were almost black. My eyes.

Sonja has memories of Lotte taking care of her and walking her home from kindergarten. In those early years, they were often together.

Sonja cannot recall the adults in her orbit talking about Hitler when he became Germany’s chancellor in 1933, but hostility to Jews became painfully apparent. Jews were banned from many public places and Nazis appeared on the streets, where Jews were vulnerable to harassment.

“Everyone was a Nazi,” Sonja recalled. “They all wore uniforms — the girls and the boys.”

By her early teens, Sonja had been expelled from her public school and forced into a Jews-only school. Jewish

teachers, even those who openly prized their German identities, began vanishing without explanation.

By 1938, Sonja’s family clearly had no future in Germany. Wealthier aunts and uncles were leaving for North and South America.

Sonja was sent to the nearby town of Steckelsdorf, where the Bachad religious youth movement was training Jewish children in agriculture in the hope of fleeing to Palestine. She harvested tomatoes and asparagus. She made friends. They prayed and sang Hebrew songs every Sabbath.

By August 1939, Sonja had been in Steckelsdorf several months when the leaders called her name at an assembly and ordered her to return to Berlin. She was not going to Palestine but to Britain. The British government had agreed to accept a limited number of unaccompanied Jewish refugees aged under 17 in an evacuation called the Kinder transport.

Sonja’s younger sister, Ursel, had already escaped by this means. Now it was Sonja’s turn. She was 16 and would be ineligible if she waited much longer.

The Kindertransport saved 10,000 children from Europe, but Lotte was too old to join the evacuation and stayed behind in Germany.

In Berlin, Sonja hurriedly packed clothes into a small brown suitcase with her mother, and they left for the train station. “I didn’t think about it, but she must have thought, ‘when am I going to see my daughter again?’,” Sonja said. “I don’t know. We never mentioned it.”

On the platform, the smaller children, some just infants, wailed as their parents bundled them onto the train. Toni did not hug Sonja or smother her in kisses. Sonja just remembers a handshake and Toni saying: “I’ll see you in Eretz [the land of Israel].”

Sonja never saw her mother again.

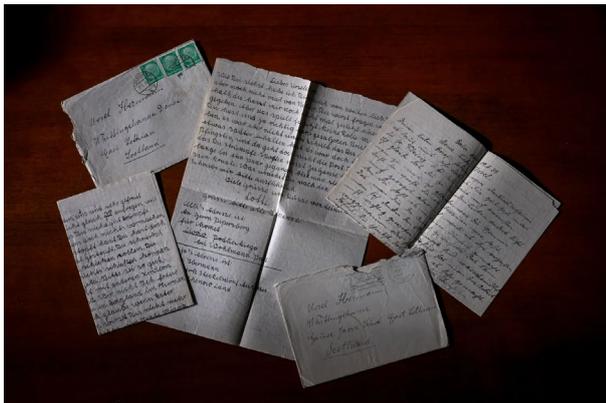
## The hidden letters

For most of my life, it seemed a few photos and my grandmother's memories were the only traces Toni and Lotte had left behind; just two among six million Jews erased from the Earth.

But several years ago, Sonja's nephew, who lives in Taiwan, visited Melbourne with a bundle of letters that had lain hidden for decades. They were addressed to his mother, Ursel, and Sonja herself. They were written by Toni and Lotte.

Sonja's nephew felt they should now be hers. And anyway, they were in German and needed to be translated.

My family may never know why Ursel concealed these letters until she died in 1999. I believe grief and trauma shaped her life in ways we cannot comprehend.



*Wartime letters from Toni and Lotte Ibermann to Sonja Cowan and Ursel Walker. They remained hidden in Ursel's keeping until her death in 1999.*

*CREDIT: EDDIE JIM*

I began transcribing the letters with Sonja, as she read them aloud and then translated them from German. When her eyesight deteriorated, I had the rest translated professionally.

In the lines of the delicately folded paper, I saw a mother desperately trying to parent her two children from an impossible distance.

Sonja had been reunited with Ursel in Scotland by late 1939 at the Whittingehame Farm School, which took in Kindertransport children.

Throughout 1939 and 1940, Toni wrote dozens of letters. In almost every correspondence, she pleads: "Please write me everything in detail."

A mother's affection leaps from the pages. "Many warm greetings and kisses from your mother who loves you," she wrote to Sonja.

I cannot reconcile the tenderness Toni expressed for her children with the coolness of her final goodbye in Sonja's memory. Perhaps Toni wanted to ease the pain of that awful separation? Or maybe Sonja's recollection of Toni as a remote character has helped her survive the devastating loss of a mother willing to do the unthinkable to save her child?

Lotte's writing is quite different. It is spicy and teems with sibling tension. She chides Ursel for asking for a "parcel". "We don't have any money," Lotte wrote. "Please be so good and don't compare yourself to other children."



*Whittingehame House in Scotland. During World War II, Jewish children rescued from Europe lived on the grounds and learnt farming, hoping to later migrate to Palestine.*

I wonder if Lotte had envied her younger sisters and felt she was missing the adventure. "Are there many Jews in Scotland?" she asks. "You must already be very brown. You go to the sea so often."

Occasionally, Toni offered a glimpse of her despondence. In April 1940, she wrote about her loneliness days before the Jewish festival of Passover and her despair at the prospect of being alone for the ritual meal.

"I can tell you I am very worried about [how] I will spend Seder. I am so wretched because I am alone and last year we were all together."

The letters gave me an intimate connection to my lost relatives. I had to know what had happened to them.

## 'Keep asking questions'

I began contacting Jewish history experts who handballed me between colleagues until I found Michael Wermke, professor of religious education at the University of Jena in Germany. He specialises in Jewish life in Nazi Germany.

I emailed him during the depths of lockdown, and he responded almost immediately. We began corresponding, sometimes multiple times a week.

When databases drew a blank and my search seemed hopeless, Wermke urged me on. "Don't hold back, keep asking questions," he said.

I sent him copies of the letters. He explained that Sonja's survival was only possible because of Toni's determination. He believes Toni sent Sonja to Steckelsdorf hoping she would escape to Palestine, but changed course when Britain became a more certain option.



Toni Ibermann with her daughters (from left) Ursel, Lotte and Sonja in 1938.

Wermke said Toni must have urged and even hassled community leaders to secure places for Sonja and Ursel on the

Kindertransport. "She had no money," he said. "She had only herself."

This fight to save her children and remain involved in their lives was a form of resistance against Nazi oppression. "It's very important to show this," Wermke said. "They were not only hapless victims."

For a while, Toni appeared to hold hope the family would be reunited. In July 1939, she wrote to Ursel instructing her to remain in Britain rather than trying to reach Palestine alone. "If you go to Eretz [the land of Israel] earlier, it will be a long time until we see each other," Toni warned.

However, the last letter we have from Toni was sent in May 1940. About this time her life took another bleak turn.

Late last year, I requested a report about Toni and Lotte from the Wiener Holocaust Library. When it landed, the thrill of discovery gave way to the crushing realisation of tragedy. The library

- 18 -

15. TRANSPORTLISTE		BERLIN	
Lfd. Nr.	Name u. Vorname	geb. am	Beruf
553	Jakobsohn Georg Israel	23. 7.79	Schauspiel.
554	Scharliński Erich Isr.	30. 8.78	Arbeiter
555	Scharliński Jera Sara	1. 6.37	ohne
556	Scharliński Charotte Sara	20.10.13	ohne
557	Scharliński Kurt Israhel	26. 7.15	Arbeiter
558	Elsig Juda	6. 6.77	Arbeiter
559	Kesig Frieda Sara	29. 8.30	ohne
560	Elsig Erich Israhel	25. 4.07	Arbeiter
561	Finkenstein Margarete Sara	12. 3.06	ohne
562	Josef Edith Sara	3. 3.06	ohne
563	Wisoch Aielgunde Sara	15. 2.85	ohne
564	Wirsch Ilse Sara	13.11.05	Arbeiterin
565	Grünspahn Alfred Israhel	7. 7.98	ohne
566	Cytryn Lusen Israhel	7. 7.98	Arbeiter
567	Cytryn Henny Sara	12. 1.90	ohne
568	Becker Gertrud Sara	11. 7.74	ohne
569	Becker Elsa Sara	28.11.03	ohne
570	Becker Manfred Isr.	26. 3.08	Arbeiter
571	Becker Irma Sara	2. 6.10	ohne
572	Loewenstein Elise Sara	23. 4.32	ohne
573	Förster Friedrich Isr.	11. 5.92	Kaufmann
574	Förster Lilli Sara	3. 7.09	Korrespondentin
575	Simonson Georg Isr.	30.12.01	Kaufmann
576	Kaufmann Sophie Sara	6. 9.37	ohne
577	Lewkowitz Alfred Isr.	3. 3.98	Flechter
578	Lewkowitz Cypra Sara	14.10.97	ohne
579	Lewkowitz Dagobert Isr.	20.10.33	ohne
580	Hohenstein Leo Israhel	20. 3.34	Arbeiter
581	Hohenstein Gerda Sara	5. 2.79	ohne
582	Menke Ripka Sara	3. 8.88	ohne
583	Steinberg Emilie Sara	18. 7.75	ohne
584	Beilitzer Regina Sara	5. 8.75	ohne
585	Ringer Sara	25. 1.01	Arbeiterin
586	Ringer Marion Sara	29. 1.33	ohne
587	Miloslawski Henriette Sara	23. 3.90	ohne
588	Miloslawski Martin Isr.	18. 8.92	Arbeiter
589	Miloslawski Egon Isr.	5. 1.23	Arbeiter
590	Miloslawski Arnold Isr.	21.11.23	ohne
591	Zacharias Ella Sara	23. 9.84	ohne
592	Zacharias Erna Sara	1. 5.96	Näherin
593	Rebach Sally Isr.	4. 8.81	Arbeiter
594	Schanzer Simon Isr.	21. 3.83	Arbeiter
595	Schanzer Ingaborg Sara	9. 6.30	Arbeiterin
596	Schanzer Ruth Sara	23.12.25	ohne
597	Schanzer Betty Sara	25. 8.29	Kind
598	Boemann Dauba Sara	24.11.91	Näherin
599	Boemann Lotte Sara	5. 2.22	Näherin
600	Baran Max Israhel	17. 6.84	Kaufmann

A German deportation document listing "Dauba" (Taub, known as Toni) and Lotte Ibermann as seamstresses at numbers 598 and 599.

found identity cards revealing Toni was sent to work for the German company, Siemens, in Berlin, which has since expressed deep regret for its use of slave labour during the Holocaust. Lotte was sent there soon after.

Although the company does not have records of Toni and Lotte working there, it confirmed there were up to 100,000 forced labourers at Siemens, some of whom were undocumented. They were segregated from the broader workforce.

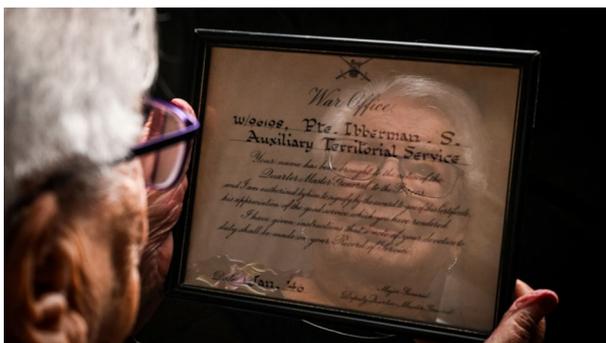
In October 1941, Toni and Lotte were deported to the Lodz ghetto in Poland, where Jews were cut off from the rest of the city and forced into atrocious conditions. Many of its inhabitants succumbed to starvation and disease.

According to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, about 210,000 people were forced to live in the Lodz ghetto.

The Nazis again used forced labour and by July 1942, there were 74 workshops in the ghetto, many producing textiles for military uniforms.

The deportation to Lodz is the last trace I have found of Toni and Lotte's existence.

They would never know that Sonja engaged in her own kind of resistance soon after leaving the Whittingehame Farm School. After turning 18 ½, she joined the British army's Auxiliary Territorial Service. Sonja was designated an "enemy alien" and restricted to limited duties, working as a store woman.



Sonja Cowan with a certificate of merit from the British Army that she earned during World War II.  
CREDIT: EDDIE JIM

She found acceptance in the army, but also loneliness. "When I had my 21st birthday, I sat there on my own, and I never had a letter or call or anybody wishing me a happy birthday. Nobody," Sonja said, wistfully. "That's when I felt really alone."

After the war ended, Sonja never got the chance to tell Toni and Lotte about how she answered the door in her dressing gown to find a dapper returned Jewish soldier called Ralph Cohen (later changed to Cowan) unannounced at her Glasgow apartment, hoping to meet the beautiful young woman he'd heard about.

"I was just about to wash my hair," she told me with a glint in her eyes. "He said, 'I'm a hairdresser, I'll do it for you.'" And he did, running his fingers through Sonja's hair in the kitchenette sink.

Toni and Lotte were not there to dab away tears at seeing Sonja in her borrowed wedding dress when she married Ralph. In 1947, Sonja gave birth to the first of three daughters in Glasgow whose cheeks Toni and Lotte would never pinch.



Sonja and Ralph Cowan on their wedding day in Glasgow.



*Sonja and her daughters, Lorraine Cowan, Hilary Gould and Sandra Cowan. CREDIT: EDDIE JIM*

When Ralph suggested they move to Australia in 1962 for better work opportunities and warmer weather, Sonja agreed, even though she had barely heard of the place.

And today, her daughters never tire of laughing at how Sonja danced all night to jazz bands on the boat to Australia while they were green with seasickness.

Later, Sonja started working at the Red Tulip factory in Prahran, with plenty of chocolate and no German shepherds to steal it.

I was born in 1979 — the first of her four grandchildren — and her house became like a second home. When my children were born, she demanded yet more hugs and kisses from them — there are never enough.

As dusk settled on Sonja's birthday party, her restless great-grandchildren rolled around at her feet as guests began to leave.

Despite her failing eyesight, Sonja was struck by the big extended family that had wrapped around her after spending so much of her youth alone.

"I really felt like somebody."

Yet, I somehow felt the absence of Toni and Lotte at that party. So, I'll keep searching for them because so many questions remain.

What happened after the letters stopped? Who might they have become had their lives not been tragically cut short?

Toni's words will be urging me on, imploring me to look for every detail.



The Jewish National Fund (JNF) has been Building Israel since 1901.

The JNF of Australia is a prominent and trusted communal organisation celebrating over 120 years of life-changing, environmental and social welfare projects, and building communities in Israel all the while maintaining a tangible link between the Jewish People and Israel.

Today JNF Australia is working to ensure that the people of Israel who live in the underdeveloped periphery of the country, particularly in the Negev, have a brighter future and can also share in the Israel's success story and ensure its ongoing sustainability.

JNF Australia is a separate entity and independent of JNF organisations in other countries, including in Israel.

However each JNF organisation wherever situated are linked, by a shared history, emotion and mission to further their mutual purposes and objectives for the people of Israel.

As David Ben Gurion said, **“JNF is an everlasting Jewish fund for the entire Jewish people. It lives and lasts not because of work well done in the past, but because of vital work in the present and, even more importantly, because of the great, important tasks still awaiting it in the future.”**

Every JNF project is a unique and wonderful way of identifying with Israel and its people and provides all of its supporters an opportunity to solidify their link with the people of Israel.

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For more information about JNF go the **JNF Australia website [jnf.org.au](http://jnf.org.au) or contact JNF Queensland President David Jacobs on 0412 578 368**

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## EDUCATION REPORT

The Courage to Care Program (C2C) aims to promote social harmony and reduce prejudice by inspiring/empowering children and adults to be UPSTANDERS rather than bystanders, when they witness discrimination. C2C uses stories of rescue during the Holocaust to plant the seeds of awareness, understanding and empathy for others.

The first half of Term 3 of the school year saw our team present to **670 students** from a range of year levels at a variety of schools throughout SE-Qld

St Catherine's Primary School at Wishart welcomed us on 31st July where we presented to 66 Year 6 students. Our storyteller **Rochy Miller** was asked many thoughtful questions by the inquisitive students during the Q&A, and one student remarked: ***"We should learn from the past and change the future"***.

We held six sessions over two days at Matthew Flinders Anglican College at Buderim on the Sunshine Coast on 1st & 2nd August. Survivor **Peter Baruch** shared his testimony with 132 Year 9 students, with one reflecting, ***"Courage to Care taught me about having a voice, being an up-stander, and making a difference"***.

On 3rd August our team visited All Hallows' School in Brisbane City for the third time this year, with Survivor **Peter Kraus** sharing his story with 52 Year 10 students. The students were very interested in Peter's testimony and stayed after the session to ask additional questions about his life. On 4th August our team travelled to Glasshouse Christian College at Beerwah, presenting to 100 Year 9 students. A student commented on their experience: ***"It was a professionally run program and the volunteers cared about what they were sharing and empowering us to make a difference."***

On 14th and 15th August, we visited West Moreton Anglican College at Ipswich, presenting to 165 Year 10 students, with one commenting the program ***"Helped me understand others' perspectives and I will stand up when I can"***. Marsden State High School welcomed us on 17th August to present to 50 Year 10 students, who listened intently to **Rochy** share her mother **Bobba's** story of survival, and were interested and responsive in the workshop facilitation. On 18th August we presented for the first time at Coomera Anglican College to 105 Year 6 students, who were so enthralled by **Peter Baruch's** story and so impressed by the program that one student remarked, ***"It was my best school day ever!"***

We are always keen for more committed and passionate people to join our team of dedicated volunteers. Anyone interested is invited to observe the program in action and if they would like to proceed then full training and mentoring is provided. If you or someone you know in Brisbane, Gold or Sunshine Coast may be interested in this inspiring volunteering opportunity, please email [queensland@couragetocare.com.au](mailto:queensland@couragetocare.com.au).



*Courage to Care's Rochy Miller, Maxine Cheilyk, Gideon Cheilyk, Peta Briner and Delwyn Cameron with teacher and students at Glasshouse Christian College.*



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# Highlights

- Visit the most recent JNF projects
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- Hula Nature Reserve
- The ANU Museum
- The City of David and Kotel
- The Jerusalem Light and Sound show
- The Ramon Airforce Base
- A jeep ride in the desert
- The Peace Wall
- Meet dignitaries and KKL supporters from around the world
- Enjoy local food and live music
- Celebrate Israel's 75th birthday





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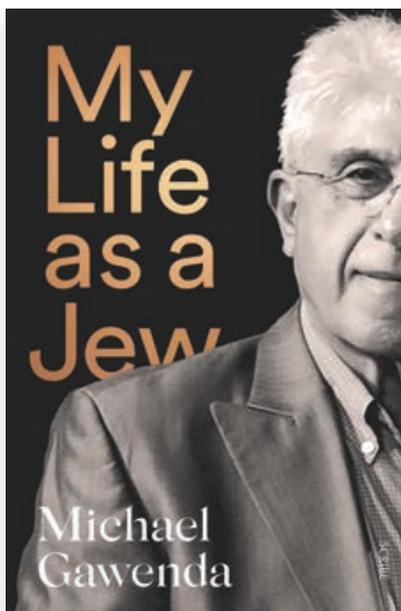
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Michael Gawenda

## My Life as a Jew



MICHAEL GAWENDA is one of Australia's best-known journalists and authors. In a career spanning four decades, he was a political reporter, a foreign correspondent based in London and in Washington, a columnist, a feature writer, and a senior editor at *Time Magazine*. He was editor and editor-in-chief of *The Age* from 1997 to 2004. Michael Gawenda has won numerous journalism awards, including three Walkley awards. He was the inaugural director of the Centre for Advancing Journalism at the University of Melbourne, and is the author of four books.

A multi-award-winning journalist and former editor-in-chief of a major Australian newspaper searingly explores his Jewish identity at a time when a substantial — and growing — part of the left is opposed to the very existence of Israel as a Jewish state.

Born in a displaced persons' camp two years after the end of the Holocaust, Michael Gawenda spent his childhood and teenage years in a left-wing non-Zionist Jewish youth group in Melbourne. This shaped the sort of Jew he became — a secular Jew who loved the Yiddish language and Yiddish culture.

Gawenda went on to become a public figure during his 40 years as a journalist, including his role as editor-in-chief of *The Age* — the only Jewish editor-in-chief in the newspaper's history. Throughout this time, and since, he became dismayed and pained by the growing hostility of the left to Israel and to Jews like him who were not prepared to declare themselves as anti-Zionists. This has also forced him to examine his own Jewish identity and his relationships with his Jewish friends, and to forensically examine the basis of the critiques of Israel.

At a time of rising anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, *My Life as a Jew* is a controversial book. It is also a vital book. It should be read by activists for Israel and Zionism, as well as for the Palestinians. It should be read by readers of all political stripes. It should be read by journalists, as it is in part about journalism and its failings. And it should also be read by people interested in the remarkable life and career of its author, Michael Gawenda.

RRP: \$32.99  
234 x 153mm paperback, 288pp  
ISBN: 9781761380471

RIGHTS HELD: World



ISABEL KERSHNER

# The Land of Hope and Fear

Israel's battle for its inner soul

A correspondent who has spent thirty years in Israel presents a rich, wide-ranging portrait of the Israeli people at a critical juncture in their country's history.

Despite Israel's determined staying power in a hostile environment, its military might, and the innovation it fosters in businesses globally, the country is more divided than ever. The old guard — socialist secular elites and idealists — are a dying breed, and the state's democratic foundations are being challenged. A dynamic and exuberant country of nine million, Israel now largely comprises native-born Hebrew speakers, and yet any permanent sense of security and normalcy is elusive.

In *The Land of Hope and Fear*, we meet Israelis — Jews and Arabs, religious and secular, Eastern and Western, liberals and zealots — plagued by perennial conflict and existential threats. Its citizens remain deeply polarised politically, socially, and ideologically, even as they undergo generational change and redefine what it is to be an Israeli. Who are these people, and to what do they aspire?

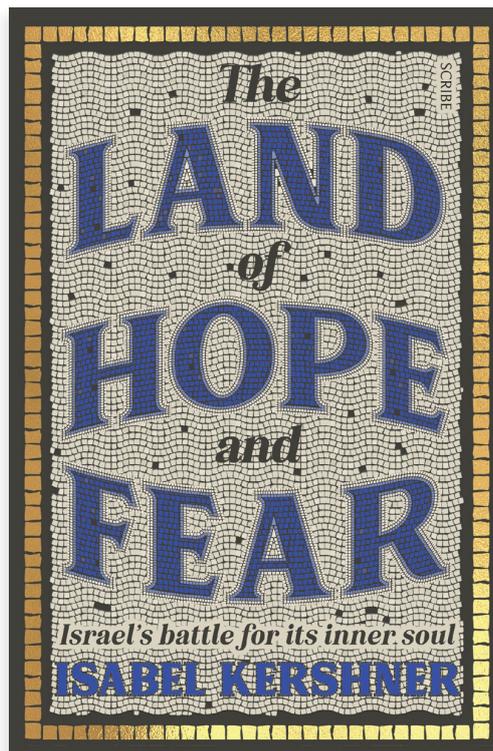
In moving narratives and with on-the-ground reporting, Isabel Kershner reveals the core of what holds Israel together and the forces that threaten its future, through the lens of real people, laying bare the question, Who is an Israeli?

'Once I started reading *The Land of Hope and Fear*, I couldn't put it down until I finished. For someone living in this country, it felt nonetheless as if I was learning about it for the first time. With masterful style, Isabel Kershner peels off all the outer layers of society's multifaceted aspects as these are seen by an onlooker, revealing them through the personal stories and eyes of the individuals themselves hidden behind their typologies. Israel in its tumultuous eighth decade is laid bare, its inner strengths and weaknesses enmeshed in a vibrant dynamic that both promises and forewarns.'

SARI NUSSEIBEH, AUTHOR OF *ONCE UPON A COUNTRY*

'For all those looking for a book that provides an understanding of what Israel has become as it approaches its 75th year, this is it! *The Land of Hope and Fear* is a rich and wondrous tale told through the agonising and uplifting stories of Israel's many tribes — Jewish and Arab, religious and secular, new immigrants and veterans, soldiers and settlers. Isabel Kershner brings a keen eye and a vivid style to her unique portrait of the Sabra nation.'

MARTIN INDYK, AUTHOR OF *MASTER OF THE GAME*, AND FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL



TITLE	THE LAND OF HOPE AND FEAR
SUBTITLE	ISRAEL'S BATTLE FOR ITS INNER SOUL
AUTHOR	ISABEL KERSHNER
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CATEGORY	CURRENT AFFAIRS/HISTORY
ISBN	9781761380259
PRICE	A\$35.00
FORMAT	234mm x 153mm, PAPERBACK



ISABEL KERSHNER was born and raised in Manchester, England, and graduated from Oxford University with a degree in Oriental Studies. After working for a political-risk consultancy in London, she migrated to Israel. In

2007, she became a correspondent for *The New York Times* in Jerusalem, covering both Israeli and Palestinian politics and society. Previously, she was a senior editor for the Middle East and Palestinian affairs at *The Jerusalem Report*. She is the author of *Barrier: the seam of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict*. She has been living with her family in Jerusalem since 1990.



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ANNE SARZIN



## THE ANGEL OF KINGS CROSS

*The Life and Times of Dr Fanny Reading*

### “THE ANGEL OF KINGS CROSS” *The Life and Times of Fanny Reading*

Author  
Dr. Anne Sarzin.

Published by  
Australian Scholarly  
Publishing Pty Ltd

**This compendium which traces Dr Fanny Reading’s (Rubinowich) life of ninety years from cradle to grave, demonstrates a triumph of gritty determination over adversity.**

The infectious positivity which can spring from the example of one person is palpable and visible throughout the book. This trait can relate to defining Fanny Reading’s selflessness in her medical practice, especially that centred around Kings Cross where she cared particularly for the lower socio-economic group, to her incredible work in initiating and progressing the structure which for the past 90+ years, continues to be known as the NCJW.(National Council of Jewish Women).

Fanny Reading was an ardent Zionist, a proud Jewess and feminist, and gave unstintingly of herself to both Jewish and non Jewish charitable organisations. In addition she took great pride in being an Australian and with the rise of nazism which lead into World War II, was involved in coordinating the NCJW’s war effort which included amongst other activities, “sewing, knitting and netting(camouflage nets) for the Australian Comforts Fund and Red Cross.” The fund raising of the War Shops in Sydney and Melbourne plus the Kiosk in Martin Place cannot be understated either. She was a true and passionate patriot.

Her involvement with Youth Aliyah was also not insignificant with her taking the role of Vice-President. She was passionate in her attempts to help the youth in Israel especially those children who survived the Shoah, many of whom were orphaned.

When the National Press Pty. Ltd., “SMITH’S WEEKLY” trumpeted that monies raised ostensibly for humanitarian purposes, were in fact being channelled to support terrorist organisations against the British in the then Palestine, she took this personally, and shouldered the responsibility of suing the paper for defamation. Anne Sarzin’s report of the trial is in itself incredibly gripping and by itself, well worth the read. In the concluding remarks by Justice Herron one can only be struck by the frustrating, and almost perverse and diametrically opposite judgment of 1949 with the current impasse between the Knesset and the Israeli high Court of today.

Historical pearls can be found throughout the book, such as the mention of Benzion Netanyahu, the father of Bibi who was Jabotinsky’s executive assistant,. This and many other historical facts, truly are a reflection of the research which went into the construction of this book.

Anne Sarzin has created and woven a wonderful tapestry around a Jewish woman, born in Russia in 1884 who also suffered the deprivations of a new immigrant in her new country, Australia.

**Sarzin’s easy style of writing displays a superb grasp of the English language. I consider this book a “must read” not only for the historical content which portrays the life of one of our most eminent Jewish communal leaders but also for tracing the genesis of the NCJW.**

*Dr A.M.Briner OAM*

## COMMUNAL NEWS



Israeli ambassador Amir Maimon recently visited the new Queensland Holocaust Museum in Brisbane during August

**Queensland Holocaust Museum Visit**  
By Rachel Treisman - *Australian Jewish news*

### 'A wonderful tribute'

*'It was very moving to see the ambassador's reaction to the museum because we've created something unique'*

Israeli ambassador Amir Maimon recently visited the new Queensland Holocaust Museum in Brisbane during August.

Maimon said the museum, which opened in July this year, surpassed his expectations.

*"The museum is a wonderful tribute to the Holocaust told so beautifully through the voices and stories of Queensland survivors,"* he said.

*"It is a moving and professionally organised museum that will help educate visitors about the horrific period in history and educate them about the evils of antisemitism."*

*"I do hope that the necessary authorities in Brisbane and the state authorities will make sure that every high school student will be visiting this museum, but it's not just for high school students. It's also for all Queensland citizens."*

Museum chair Jason Steinberg said the ambassador's feedback was heartwarming.

*"It was very moving to see the ambassador's reaction to the museum because we've created something unique in a very special subterranean space in the middle of Brisbane city,"* Steinberg said.

*"To date, we've had more than 550 visitors come to the museum since we opened in July and their feedback has been overwhelming because, for the first time, they are learning about what life was like for Queensland Jews before, during and after the Holocaust."*

Maimon commended the growing Jewish community in Brisbane.

*"As someone who represents a small country, but also a small nation, if it was only for the numbers, I probably wouldn't be here as the official representative of the State of Israel ... It's not about what you have, it's what you do with what you have, and the Jewish community in Brisbane did an amazing job,"* he told The AJN.

*"I really encourage all to visit."*



**Congratulations to  
Emily Dekel**  
from Brisbane who recently  
successfully completed Marva  
(an 8-week experience in the  
IDF – Israeli Defence Forces).

*Over 200 started this experience but less than 30 finished it of which Emily was one – Well done !!*

Marva is a two-month Israel Defence Forces basic training program for young Jews from the Diaspora which offers an opportunity to experience the IDF and Israeli life.

Every week, the program focuses on a different aspect of Israeli army life.

Participants travel around the country visiting IDF bases and experiencing the life of a soldier while learning about the army and Israel itself.

Marva is indeed a unique 8 weeks opportunity to experience the beauty and challenges of Israel through the eyes of the IDF.

Through hiking the land, living in field conditions and going through lessons and lectures, participants learn hands-on the issues of the country.

Marva helps to strengthen ties to Israel, whether a tourist or a potential new immigrant. It is a group experience like no other.



The program is based in the south of Israel on a Gadna base, but participants will spend considerable time in various other parts of the country, including Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the Galilee and more.

Through hikes, lectures, lessons and physical activities, participants partake in real-life training exercises and live in actual army conditions.

Hard military-style discipline is enforced in all activities, making this experience challenging and satisfactory.



# Jewish Help in Need Society of Queensland

Jewish Help in Need Society of Queensland is a registered not-for-profit Charity which provides financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to members of the Jewish Community in Queensland.

**Interest free loans are available  
for those in dire financial need and assistance.**

**Confidentiality is respected at all times.**

**Contacts: Lee McNamee 0417 723 399  
leemcnam@gmail.com**

**Peter Goldsmith 0409 765 394  
pgoldsmth@bigpond.net.au**

\* If a loan is to be given, it shall be interest free and subject to the borrower entering into a Loan Agreement which stipulates the amount of the loan and the amount and frequency of the repayments. Depending on the size of the loan, a Guarantor may also be required to enter into the Loan Agreement.





# Jewish Help in Need Society of Queensland

The Society is a registered not-for-profit charity, established in 1968, and provides financial assistance in the form of grants or no-interest loans to deserving Jewish residents in Queensland in accordance with the terms of its Constitution.

Notice of Annual General Meeting  
Jewish Help in Need Society of Queensland  
**Tuesday 12 September 2023**  
**At 7.30 pm**

## *Agenda:*

- Welcome/Present/Apologies
- Minutes of 2022 AGM
- Business from 2022 AGM
- Correspondence
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers
- President, Directors (2), Treasurer and Secretary
- Appointment of Auditor
- General Business

Details of the location of the meeting, membership applications, nomination forms and proxy/voting forms are available on request from the Secretary.

Secretary:  
**Carolyn Goldsmith**  
**Mobile: 0407145739**  
**cfgold@bigpond.net.au**



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**77** years

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have passed since the Holocaust, an act of unimaginable evil and a continued stain on human history.

Although we can never forget and should constantly revisit this memory we can be proud that Judaism and Yiddishkeit has survived and continues to flourish today.

IN THIS SPECIAL YEAR WE WISH TO RAISE OUR PROFILE TO EXTEND OUR HELP AND SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST AMONGST US, PARTICULARLY HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN QUEENSLAND.

**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**

**We can assist**



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.



**Brisbane and Queensland JCareQld:**

Howard Posner  
Tel: 0424335969 • Email: Jcareqld@gmail.com

**NCJWA Gold Coast / Gold Coast Jewish Community Services Inc.**

Barbara Stewart-Kann  
Tel: 0412 377 488 • Email: bkann@bigpond.net.au

PLEASE CONTACT 



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 **Aging**

 **Disability assistance**

 **Mental Health**

 **Family trauma**

 **Shoah survivor  
assistance**

 **Education**

[www.jcareqld.com](http://www.jcareqld.com)



Email: [jcareqld@gmail.com](mailto:jcareqld@gmail.com)

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Email: [jcareqld@gmail.com](mailto:jcareqld@gmail.com)

JCareQld is a charitable association that provides help to members of the Queensland Jewish Community.

**We offer assistance with issues of aging, mental health, family trauma, disability assistance, and Shoah survivor assistance.**

**We have volunteer professionals, including family therapists, social workers and psychologists, as well as access to Claims conferencing for Shoah Survivors, NSW Jewishcare Sight Impaired Services including free access to current news and affairs.**

**Our volunteers are also available to assist with transporting people with mobility issues to social events, shopping, and Shule.**

**If you think you might need our services, or know someone who might, please contact :**



**HOWARD POSNER : 0424 335 969  
JCAREQLD EMAIL : [jcareqld@gmail.com](mailto:jcareqld@gmail.com)  
JCAREQLD HELPLINE :1300 133 660**



**Gold Coast Jewish Community Services / NCJWA Gold Coast Inc.  
BARBARA STEWART-KANN : 0412 377 488**



**Reaching out  
to support members of the  
Jewish community in Queensland.**



## THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF QLD (JNF QLD)

**has moved its office:**

**JNF QLD President** David Jacobs

**Vice President** Bruce Frey

**Office Manager** Rebecca Frey

If you have any queries or wish to discuss anything about JNF QLD  
please feel free to contact **David Jacobs JNF QLD President on 0412 578 368**

The new contact details are:

**Phone:** 3392 9830

**Mobile:** 0412 578 368

**Postal address:** PO BOX 3015 Yeronga 4104

**Email:** [jnfqld@jnf.org.au](mailto:jnfqld@jnf.org.au)



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**[www.gangani.net.au](http://www.gangani.net.au)**

 07 3327 0600

 [admin@gangani.net.au](mailto:admin@gangani.net.au)

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## A PROMISE TODAY FOR ISRAEL'S TOMORROW

**A gift in your Will to JNF will ensure your legacy lives on with Israel, forever.**

Your bequest will directly support vital projects, helping to grow future generations in Israel.

For a confidential discussion please contact:

**Romy Dinte**  
Planned Giving Manager  
P 02 9386 9559 E [romy@jnf.org.au](mailto:romy@jnf.org.au)



### Managing Editor

David Jacobs

### Designer

Camila Sister  
[camilasisterdesign.com](http://camilasisterdesign.com)

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### To Contact Us

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### Mobile

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### Website

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# BRISBANE HEBREW CONGREGATION



**THE BRISBANE SYNAGOGUE**  
98 Margaret Street, Brisbane

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 3705 0312**

Sick Visitations Phone Rabbi Jaffe: 0419 136 451

[www.brishc.com](http://www.brishc.com)

## Brisbane Chevra Kadisha

Should the need arise please call our 24/7  
**EMERGENCY NUMBER**  
**0406 169 511**

for the person on call to assist you.

For other enquiries:

**Graham Eshensky**

President

M 0433 414 762

**Bernie Goldman**

Treasurer

M 0419 652 441

**Paul Gould**

Vice President

M 0422 638 663

**Rabbi Levi Jaffe**

M 0419 136 451

**TzuriShaddai (Domenic)**

DeMartini-Scacheri

Secretary

M 0431 581 086

**George Hartnett Metropolitan Funerals**

When making contact, please refer to Jewish  
community / Brisbane Chevra Kadisha requirements  
Ph 3356 4277

[BCK.NET.AU](http://BCK.NET.AU)

PO BOX 1296 TOOWONG QLD 4066



**Beit Or v'Shalom**  
בית אור ושלום

### SERVICES

10 am every Shabbat

Cheder

9:30am – 12 noon every second Sunday

Enquiries Phone: 0404 034 060

13 Koolatah Street Carina QLD 4152

[www.beitorvshalom.org.au](http://www.beitorvshalom.org.au)

Beit Or v'Shalom is proudly affiliated with



## GIVAT ZION

South Brisbane Hebrew Congregation

### SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 6:15pm | Sat 9:15am

**Children's Service on the first  
Shabbat of each month**

commencing at 10.20am

46 BUNYA STREET, GREENSLOPES

Ph: (07) 3397 9025



**QUEENSLAND JEWISH**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES INC.

**24/7 CRISIS HELP**

**1300 544 357**

**ARI HEBER COMMUNITY LIAISON**

PHONE: 0423 194 737

PO BOX 1202 STAFFORD CITY QLD 4053

[ARI@QJCS.ORG.AU](mailto:ARI@QJCS.ORG.AU) • [WWW.QJCS.ORG.AU](http://WWW.QJCS.ORG.AU)



## MISHKAN ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

2 Moxon Road Burbank, QLD 4156

### Regular Services

**Friday Evening:**

(Summer time)

**Saturday Morning:**

**Saturday Afternoon:**

**Saturday evening:**

**Sunday Morning:**

**Monday evening:**

**Kabalat 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

Shlomo Cohen

**President**

Email: [Shlomocohen357@hotmail.com](mailto:Shlomocohen357@hotmail.com)

Mobile: 0411 150 896



## ORGANISATIONS

### QUEENSLAND

Jewish National Fund Qld	07 3392 9830   0412 578 368
www.jnf.org.au	jnfqld@jnf.org.au
United Israel Appeal Qld	07 3229 4462
www.uiaaustralia.org.au	
State Zionist Council Qld	07 3229 4462
www.szcqld.org.au	www.zfa.com.au
Maccabi Qld	0402 428 213
Wizo Qld	0417 788 449
Sylvia Lipski (Exec Director)	sylvialipski@gmail.com
Qld Jewish Board of Deputies	0411 239 396
www.jewishqld.com	
CSG 24 Hour Hotline	1300 000 274
BETAR Daniel Mendels	0468 396 594
www.betar.org.au	qld@betar.org.au
AUJS President - Carmi More	
www.aujs.com.au	cmore@aujs.com.au
Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce	07 3847 0259 brisbane@aicc.org.au
QAJEX	lorisr@hotmail.com
Qld Jewish Community Services	0423 194 737
JCare Qld	1300 133 660 jcareqld@gmail.com

### 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

### BRISBANE

Brisbane Hebrew Congregation	07 3705 0312
www.brishc.com	
United Board of Hebrew Education (UBHE) Cheder	
Laurence Terret	0423 536 079
Beit Or v'Shalom	0404 034 060
www.beitorvshalom.org.au	
Chabad Brisbane	07 3843 6770
www.chabadbrisbane.com	
Chevra Kadisha	0406 169 511
www.bck.net.au	
Communal Centre Burbank	
Lewis	0419 705 417
Gan Gani Kindergarten & Preschool	07 3378 9233
NCJWA – Brisbane Section	ncjwbne@gmail.com www.ncjwa.org.au
President Sheila Levine	0418 744 854
QLD Kosher Kitchen	0430 321 314 dvorahjaffe@bigpond.com
Rose's Army	07 3345 9509
Sinai College	07 3349 9088
www.sinaicollege.qld.edu.au	

### GOLD COAST

NCJWA GOLD COAST	0412 377 488
President: Barbara Stewart-Kann OAM	ncjwagoldcoast@gmail.com www.ncjwa.org.au
Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation	07 5570 1851
www.goldcoasthc.org.au	
Friends of Hebrew University	07 5539 0632
www.austfhu.org.au	
Magen David Adom	07 5539 0632
www.magendavidadom.org.au	mdaqlld@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

## QLD STATEWIDE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### ALL COMMUNITY DIARY BOOKINGS

calendar@qjbd.org

### BRISBANE – REGULAR EVENTS

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 7:30pm – 1st Monday of each month
www.ncjwa.org.au	
Barbara Stewart- Kann OAM	0412 377 488
President	ncjwagoldcoast@gmail.com
Temple Shalom	Office 07 5570 1716
Services	Erev Shabbat 6:30pm Shabbat Morning 10am Oneg Shabbat 2nd Friday each month following services Seiudat Shabbat Last Shabbat each month follow- ing 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 Talmud Torah Chader Sunday 9:30 - 11:30am
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**HAVE SOMETHING YOU  
WOULD LIKE FEATURED IN**  
*Communal News*

[shalomjnf@westnet.com.au](mailto:shalomjnf@westnet.com.au)

## OCTOBER 2023 DEADLINE

FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2023

Submission, letters and articles may be edited for publication.

COPY MUST BE PROOFED & PREFERRED BY EMAIL

[shalomjnf@westnet.com.au](mailto:shalomjnf@westnet.com.au)

When submitting photo by email make sure:

1. Set your camera to take high resolution shots (no less than 3 megapixels)
2. Email them as an attachment same size (high resolution) & not reduced for web (or screen) viewing or placed in word document

