

# CHAVERIM

Winter  
2004 Issue



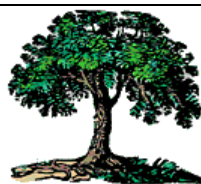
Chaverim is the official newsletter  
of the Hobart Synagogue

Hobart Chaverim, PO Box 128, Hobart, Tasmania 7001

June-July 2004 / Sivan-Tammuz 5764

## IN THIS ISSUE.....

<b>PRESIDENT'S PIECE</b>	2
<b>MAZAL TOV</b>	2
<b>MUSIC WEEKEND</b>	3
<b>SICK LIST</b>	3
<b>THEME NIGHTS</b>	3
<b>TODAH RABA....</b>	4
<b>THE PESACH EXPERIENCE</b>	4
<b>KOSHER KORNER UPDATE</b>	5
<b>SOME THOUGHTS ON KASHRUT BY RABBI RICHARD D AGLER</b>	5
<b>NEWS FROM SEAN LADIGES</b>	6
<b>FAREWELLS</b>	8
<b>NEWS FROM THE BOARD</b>	8
<b>MORE NEWS FROM SEAN - TUESDAY, 11 MAY 2004</b>	9
<b>NCJW – INAUGURAL MEETING</b>	10
<b>A MESSAGE FROM NCJWA ENVIRONMENT CHAIR RUTH BERAN</b>	11
<b>JEWISH NOTE AT ROYAL WEDDING BY ALANA ROSENBAUM</b>	13
<b>ENVIRONMENT PRIORITY BY GILAD SKOLNICK</b>	14
<b>FIRE SAFETY REPORT BY DANIEL ALBERT</b>	15
<b>RESPONSE TO MERCURY ARTICLE BY JOSH LANDIS</b>	16
<b>NETZER WINTER CAMP GOES FEDERAL</b>	18
<b>10 THINGS WE CAN DO TO HELP SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT</b>	20



Help us save the trees! Are you on our mailing list to receive "Chaverim" by email? If not, please send us an email at [shule@hobart.org](mailto:shule@hobart.org) and we'll do the rest! Every hard copy less that we send out saves us \$\$\$ ... and of course helps to save another tree. We can only print hard copies in black and white, but your emailed copy will be in full glorious colour!

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE

We're now into winter (I'm sitting here warm and snug writing this on the first [official] day of winter!) Admittedly, it is harder to prise ourselves away from our heaters and /or fires but be assured ... there's still plenty going on in our community. Debbie Garrick has resurrected our "Theme" events – please see our webpage – [www.hobartsynagogue.org](http://www.hobartsynagogue.org) and the June diary/calendar sheet for full details of date, time and venue. "Theme" events and speakers are being organized for July and August.

NCJW [National Council for Jewish Women] is getting started (please see NCJW article within this "Chaverim") and there's the Hobart Synagogue Ladies Group too – please contact Sandy Graetzer (☎6223 7993) in August for news of that Group's next meeting.

Our BIG news for this edition is our "Music Event" on Sunday 27 June 2004 at 11.30am in the Hobart *shul*. Please come along and hear some wonderful music/singing ..... The Tasmanian Song Company, Len Mahemoff accompanied by Robyn Lenn, and a music 'talk' by Myer Fredman. You will see the programme on the 'flyer' in this "Chaverim" ... please put the 'flyer' in a prominent place in your home as a reminder of this wonderful concert.

Len Mahemoff is the Federal Bequest Director of the JNF; what is not generally known is that he has a truly magnificent voice! He sings in Sydney and we are very fortunate that recently he has been practicing with Robyn Lenn as his accompanist: what luck that they're both in Hobart at the same time!!

Enough from me ..... I hope you enjoy this edition of "Chaverim" and I should like to conclude by once again thanking everyone throughout our small community for helping in so many ways to make all our lives better and brighter.

Shalom

Caroline

### Mazal Tov

Mazel Tov to Len and Renee Freedman on their recent wedding anniversary ...

Happy Birthday to Renee in early June and Marjorie Negrin who celebrated her birthday in late May.

Mazel Tov to Sandy and Stephen on their recent wedding anniversary

Your President (Caroline Heard) along with Board Member David Clark, attended the Ministerial Announcement "on site" at the (previously named) "Windsor Court" redevelopment.... The new name for the complex will be "WALFORD Terraces", a name which has been chosen by the State Housing Department for the redeveloped site. This name honours Bernard Walford who was instrumental in obtaining the Governor-of-the-day's approval for a Jewish Burial Ground in 1828. Co-incidentally, Bernard Walford died shortly thereafter and became the first Jew to be buried there.

## MUSIC WEEKEND

Sunday 27 June 2004 at 11.30am

please be seated by 11.20am

Venue: Hobart Synagogue  
59 Argyle Street Hobart

Cost: \$10 per head  
\$8 per head for concession card holders

Volunteers needed on the day  
please contact Caroline Heard on  
0418 129 233

### Sick List

Once again, Thank You to our Community Care Co-Ordinator, Sandy Graetzer who reports, amazingly for this time of the year, that everyone seems to be quite well.

**PLEASE SEND "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" AND YOUR NEWS, VIEWS & SCHMOOZE FOR JEWS TO:  
PO BOX 128, HOBART Tas 7001  
OR EMAIL TO: shule@hobart.org.**

### Theme Nights

"Theme" events will be starting again ... the first will be the showing of the film "Relentless: The Search for Peace in Israel" on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2004 at 7.30pm at 93 Lord Street, Sandy Bay (\$2 per person donation will be appreciated)

More "Theme" events are planned for July and August and these will be noted on the July and August diary/ calendar sheets which will be prepared and sent out (either hard copy or via email or on our webpage)

A "Fond Farewell" to Emma Bedford who had been in Hobart since the end of January, studying at St Michael's Collegiate School. Emma had joined many of our "events" and in the short time she spent in Hobart made many friends within this community. We wish you well, Emma, now that you're home [hope the journey wasn't too tedious!] and we hope that you won't lose touch with us down here in "The Apple Isle" ... good luck!

## Todah Raba....

- Thank You to Ann Elias for conducting a radio interview with Launceston radio station Heart-FM – our fame spreads ‘near and far’ ! Also, it was lovely to see you, Ann, at one of our recent “Ladies” functions
- Sandy Graetzer hosted a Hobart Synagogue Ladies Group Meeting, at which Debbie Garrick spoke about her recent trip to Antarctica. Debbie had taken some wonderful [digital] photos whilst away and by the miracle of modern technology [most of which escapes your Editor!] we could see these on the TV screen. Thank you to both Debbie and Sandy for a great afternoon.
- Bill Stuart would like to thank everyone in the Hobart Jewish Community for sending him the bowl of fruit following his recent operation, and further good wishes during his convalescence. Glad to see you up and about again, Bill !
- Thank You to Mhoira Lauer for her generous contribution of time and talent regarding art work for various projects, etc.
- Thank You to our hosts for “Pot Luck” events over the past few months and a Thank You in advance to our hosts for the next few months. Without your help and support we would be unable to meet after our Friday night\* Progressive service [\*usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month – please check the diary/calendar page ... either hard-copy or via the webpage [www.hobartsynagogue.org](http://www.hobartsynagogue.org) ]
- Thank You to those of you who have already contributed recipes to our NCJW project ... but we need MORE ! Please send them to: NCJW/Recipe Co-Ordinator, 692 Summerleas Road, KINGSTON, Tas 7050
- A HUGE Thank You to Roz Chapman for once again putting this newsletter together ... a lot of hard work and her personal time goes into producing “Chaverim” and we are truly indebted to you, Roz.
- Thank you to PML for their assistance in printing and mailing the newsletter

## THE PESACH EXPERIENCE

Comment received during Pesach week ..... can you identify with this!!!!

“Yes, I am looking forward to some nice crusty bread, some pizza, gravy on my veggies, a meat pie, and some noodles - not necessarily all at once but boy oh boy, the thought makes my mouth water. It is amazing how much stuff is off-limits. Teenaged son was funny - he said he'd make me some noodles and wouldn't say anything to anybody, but I told him I was happy to go without and that I wasn't doing it just because "I'm not allowed to" - if I really wanted to eat bread nothing bad would happen to me. But if I did that, what would be the point of being Jewish!

Actually lusting after hot crusty bread dipped in gravy is part of the Pesach experience....”

## **KOSHER KORNER UPDATE**

The news just keeps getting better and better! To put you in the picture, when Coles Supermarket at Sandy Bay in Hobart first agreed to try "kosher" items, a "promotional" area was used so that the management could gauge the success (or otherwise) of the venture. After a month or so, I know that there was a little consternation within our community because the "kosher" items were moved ... to Aisle 9. However, this should be viewed as a very POSITIVE sign: the current location is a PERMANENT one which proves that Coles' management is happy with sales of "kosher" items and means to keep this section in the store.

I have been told that within a few weeks, instead of Coles at Sandy Bay re-ordering items from individual suppliers, items will be available from a central Coles Melbourne warehouse. There will be a greater range of items and a list of kosher products will be available for us to look at. There is a new manager at Coles Sandy Bay and he welcomes the opportunity of working with us to ensure that popular "kosher" items are stocked in the available space.

Please also look in the "dairy" section for other kosher lines, such as herring, smoked salmon, etc. In addition, I can confirm that Coles at Sandy Bay does stock BECEL Regular margarine.

In conclusion, let's remember that we help Israel and its struggling economy EVERY TIME we purchase just ONE item which comes from Israel !

The "kosher" section will be a real boon, not only to locals but also to interstate and international visitors coming here on self-catering holidays. Thank You to the staff and management of Coles at Sandy Bay for all their continuing help.

## **Some thoughts on Kashrut by Rabbi Richard D Agler**

Long before the best selling book of similar name, the Torah taught, that in significant measure, "we are what we eat." The laws of Kashrut are often dismissed as being "outmoded health regulations." That is not what they are. Taken together they are ethical, social and spiritual prods. They have the power to guide us and shape us in these vital ways.

And they needn't be observed "all or nothing." You are not a "hypocrite" if you eat one way at home and another way outside. ANY of the laws of Kashrut observed with the right spirit is a mitzvah and a net "plus." Just resolving to keep one more can be enormously powerful. We should not be intimidated by anyone who says differently.

How to begin? I'll give you what might be the easiest possible way. The next time you are in a restaurant simply order something that is Jewishly permitted—on purpose, with intention. Chicken, duck, beef, lamb—even if they are not prepared kosher at least they are permitted. Or go one further: order fish, pasta, vegetarian, sushi, salad, dairy. Which usually do not need any special preparation to be kosher.

By avoiding the foods our tradition excludes, we make a statement of affirmation. A Statement that says, my heritage is important to me, in matters great and small. It is a powerful statement to make and it can be made quietly just to yourself and if you wish, and if they are perceptive, your dining partners.

And as with all good resolutions, we can grow from there.

(Sermon Outline Notes by Rabbi Richard D. Agler \* January 3, 2003 - 1 Shevat, 5763  
Congregation B'nai Israel of Boca Raton, Florida, USA)

## NEWS FROM SEAN LADIGES

Hi everyone, I'm having a really great time here. At the moment there is a big security scare, so things are quiet and I'm not allowed out of the flat, but usually I'm busy all the time. I went to Tel Aviv for the weekend and visited my aunt, but I spent Friday in Jerusalem and went to the Old City and was next to the Kotel (wailing wall) at the start of Shabbat. That was pretty amazing. Here are just a few photos from my time so far in Israel.

The first photo is from our trip into the south a few weeks ago. The ruins are of a tribe called the Nabateans, who lived in the desert more than a thousand years ago.

The second photo is from Purim, which is a Jewish festival where everyone gets dressed up and parties. This was so much fun in Israel because nearly everyone in the streets walks around in costume and there are really great parties every night for most of a week.

The third photo is most of the group playing cards in our living room. The flat is situated in a great place- it's on Emek Refaim, which is one of the big shopping streets of Jerusalem, and it's only a 15 minute walk to where we are studying, and a 20 minute walk to the old city. There is also a really nice park just near our flat.

The fourth photo is the dome of the rock. The fifth photo is of a wall we're about to do a mural on. This is my group project community action I am doing. The school was set up by an urban kibbutz in one of the more poverty stricken neighbourhoods of Jerusalem. We are doing a big painting of Noah's ark on the wall. I hope the kids will like it.

The last painting is of a waterfall at Ein Gedi. We went there on the last section of the hike. I thought it was so beautiful, so I had to put in a photo. Anyway, I'll write more soon.

Love Sean. (P.S. Send me a reply of what you are up to)



Remember to check our website ...[www.hobartsynagogue.org](http://www.hobartsynagogue.org) regularly for calendar updates, interesting info, etc. etc.



See Shaun's update later in this issue for finished mural

## Farewells

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of Edith Gaster some months ago. Edith, accompanied by her son Tom, came to Hobart regularly each January for Hobart Tennis Week. Everyone who knew Edith would wish Tom "Long Life" .....

Nearer to home, and much more recently, we are extremely sorry to report the untimely passing of Geoff Boughey, husband of Gloria. May we wish you and all your families "Long Life" .... Everyone who knew Geoff will miss his booming laugh and wry sense of humour .... Vale. Gloria would like to thank all her friends within this community for the lovely flowers and cards sent to her during this sad time. She looks forward to seeing everyone soon ....

Mr. Maurice Glover passed away in Hobart On Shabbat 3 April/12 Nisan. Although the Glovers were not known to many of us in recent years, the family had a close association with the Hobart Hebrew Congregation and his father Harry was President from 1928 to 1931. In the book "A few from Afar", Rabbi L.M.Goldman mentions J, H, and M. Glover as being supporters of the Congregation in the 1920's and 30's.

Mr. Glover's son, Leon made the arrangements for his father's funeral, and was sadly required to do likewise two weeks later for his mother, Mrs Stella Glover.

Looking through the names of those times, it seems almost certain that with Mr. and Mrs. Glover's passing, the last links to that era have been severed. I would like to record my only meeting with Mr. Glover a few years ago when Leon brought him to Shule on Shabbat and he made a bee line to one of the seats, proclaiming proudly that "This is where I used to sit with my father!" (David Clark)

## News from the Board

Some of the topics discussed at our last Board meeting were:

- A new name for Windsor Court – Walford Terraces
- Designs considered for a new carpet downstairs in our shul and possible sanding and sealing in a lighter colour of the downstairs floor boards in shul
- Earlier start for Friday night services .... Especially in winter
- Correction of lettering on Memorial Board
- Arrangement of readers for [progressive] services
- Music Weekend – 25/27 June 2004
- Donation of our music organ to a new Seventh Day Adventist Congregation
- Showing of Israeli film "Relentless" in Hobart
- Fire evacuation procedure
- Plans for future "theme" events
- Security in our shul

Roz Chapman's shop at 56 High Street, New Norfolk will soon be opening - July 1<sup>st</sup> in fact and one thing of interest is that it will have a Judaica section! Although embryonic at present, stock includes menorahs, tallits, kiddush cups and ornaments. For those with small children and pets, of interest will be the selection of electric and battery operated menorahs for Chanukah. Roz is also seeking suppliers of candles for Shabbat, Havdalah and Yartzeit.

## More News from Sean - Tuesday, 11 May 2004

Hi everyone,

Here are a couple of photos of the mural we are doing at a religious school in Jerusalem.

Take care,

Love,  
Sean



## Grave News .....

Recently the Board was informed by Southern Regional Cemetery Trust that the Trust recently incurred additional expense by the unnecessary digging of an "extra" grave prior to a Jewish burial. Everyone is reminded that if an initial decision regarding the digging of a grave is changed, then the family/estate of the deceased person will be liable for the extra costs.

## **NCJW – Inaugural Meeting**

National Council of Jewish Women ... Inaugural Meeting held on Sunday 30 May 2004.

A small group (could it be that winter ills and chills kept some of you home?) met at the home of Debbie Garrick to discuss set up and strategies for this new group of Tasmanian Jewish women. Three “positions” were created, as follows:

President: Caroline Heard  
Treasurer: Patsy Zadik  
Secretary: Debbie Garrick

Meetings will be every two months\* and a plan will be developed, to evolve from spring onwards, to have interesting “events” for all the family to come and enjoy ..... And hopefully help US help OTHERS ... in Hobart, nationally and in Israel.

[\* Next REGULAR meeting will be Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2004 at the home of Caroline Heard – 192 Summerleas Road, FERN TREE – from 2.30pm ... if you wish to “car-pool” please call 6239 1590 for further details]

One way YOU can help raise funds is to buy “NCJW JNF” certificates. A certificate costs a minimum of \$10 (of course, you may wish to donate more!) and is an excellent way to remember someone’s birthday, life-cycle event, etc. In addition, there are “Yizkor” certificates which are suitable when remembering a loved one’s Yahrzeit. Please contact Caroline for further details.

One major project is to be our “Recipe/Cook Book” and you are urged to keep sending your favourite recipes. The categories are:

Hors d’oeuvres \* Soups \* Fish \* Meat \* Chicken \* Vegetarian \* Desserts \* Cakes & Biscuits \* Enticing extras !

Thank You to those of you who have already contributed recipes ... but we need MORE ! Please send them to: NCJW/Recipe Co-Ordinator, 692 Summerleas Road, KINGSTON, Tas 7050

Having already given details above regarding our next REGULAR meeting, there will be an “extra” meeting .....

Date: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2004  
Venue: 54 View Street, Sandy Bay  
Time: 2.30pm

Guest Speaker will be Robyn Lenn, President of NCJW who will be visiting Hobart with her daughter, Stephanie. In addition, we will have Len Mahemoff from the JNF also in Hobart that week-end and he has agreed to “sing for his afternoon cuppa”!!

Please come along for a wonderful afternoon ... and make our interstate visitors very welcome!

NCJW Tasmania is a new group, offering friendship and a lot more, so if you’ve been thinking of joining us ..... please come along. See what we do and be part of tzedekah ... you’ll feel better by making others feel better!

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA

A message from NCJWA Environment Chair Ruth Beran

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 5 JUNE 2004

### BACKGROUND

World Environment Day is celebrated around the world as the day when people take stock of their environment. The date recognizes the commencement of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which was held in Stockholm in 1972.

The general aims adopted for World Environment Day are:

- to raise community awareness of environmental issues and their importance;
- to encourage the community to act responsibly towards the environment; and
- to involve the community in actions which show concern for the environment, both for World Environment Day and in the future.

The World Environment Day theme selected for 2004 is

### **Wanted! Seas and Oceans Dead or Alive?**

The theme asks that we make a choice as to how we want to treat the Earth's seas and oceans. It also calls on each and every one of us to act. Do we want to keep seas and oceans healthy and alive, or polluted and dead?

World Environment Day is an opportunity for Australians to show their commitment to the environment at a personal level: at home, at school, at work and in their day to day life.

There are many personal actions each one of us can take every day. They are simple, free and quick. Yet overall they will make an effective and positive contribution to the environment.

### THINGS I CAN DO

- I can buy products that are recycled, recyclable, reliable, refillable, reusable.
- I can make rubbish-free packed lunches for my kids.
- I can photocopy on both sides of the paper.
- I can buy products in bulk. I can favour items with the least amount of packaging.
- I can refuse plastic bags and always take my own shopping bag.
- I can ask for recycled paper.
- I can use mugs and glasses instead of paper cups.
- I can buy beverages in recyclable containers.
- I can recycle motor oil, tyres, and scrap metal.
- I can read labels and research what's in the products I buy.
- I can compost all my biodegradable and organic kitchen and garden refuse.
- I can create an organic food garden in my backyard.
- I can make my home energy efficient.
- I can not heat unused rooms.
- I can use shutters or curtains on cold winter nights and hot summer days.
- I can wear a sweater instead of using heaters.
- I won't keep the refrigerator too cold.
- I can make sure the refrigerator doors are closed.
- I can use the clothes line rather than a dryer.
- I can turn off electric lights when not needed.
- I will not let water run when it is not in use.
- I can walk or ride a bicycle.
- I will never pour chemicals into the stormwater system.
- I can Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- After walking in the bush or on the beach I will always take my rubbish home.
- I can find out which of my plants is an environmental weed.
- I will never dump my aquarium fish or plants in local streams.
- I will never discard hooks, line or rubbish at sea.
- I can become a member of a "Friends of"/Coast Action or Landcare group.
- I can adopt a street/park/beach/creek or stream and keep it litter free.

## NATIONAL COUNCIL of JEWISH WOMEN Tasmanian Section

It is with great pride that we report our first fund-raising venture ... a JNF Certificate to commemorate the planting of 18 trees in Israel in honour of Tasmania's Mary Donaldson who became Crown Princess Mary on her marriage to Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark

### 18 JNF TREES IN ISRAEL IN MARY'S HONOUR

The Jewish National Fund will plant 18 trees in Israel in honour of Mary Donaldson, the Tasmanian Lawyer who will wed Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark on Friday. Fellow Tasmanian Carol Samuelson will present a JNF certificate to representatives of the royal family this week while she is in Copenhagen to perform with the Tasmania-based Derwent Valley Concert Band. Donated by National Council of Jewish Women's Tasmanian chapter, the 18 trees will bear a plaque with Mary's name on it. "The trees are being planted by the NCJW in honour of the wedding," said Len Mahemoff, the JNF's federal bequests director, adding that the number 18 corresponds to the Hebrew word "chai" meaning life. The JNF hoped Carol could make the presentation at the official dinner the night before the wedding.

### NEW TREE CERTIFICATES

We now have tree certificates for many occasions. If you have a birth in the family, wish to send one to a friend for a special occasion [birthday, anniversary, bar- and bat-mitzvahs, etc.] there's a special one "to fit the occasion". Also for Yahrzeits [Yizkor Certificate] and another one is a very special Certificate for Weddings. If you require a tree certificate for any occasion, please ring **Caroline Heard on (03) 6239 1590** and she will be able to advise you of what is available

## Some Interesting Thoughts by Jewish Celebrities

Let me tell you the one thing I have against Moses. He took us forty years into the desert in order to bring us to the one place in the Middle East that has no oil!

*Golda Meir*

Too bad that all the people who know how to run this country are busy driving taxis and cutting hair.

*George Burns*

I don't want any yes-men around me. I want everybody to tell me the truth even if it costs them their jobs...

*Sam Goldwyn*

My father never lived to see his dream come true of an all-Yiddish-speaking Canada.

*David Steinberg*

The time is at hand when the wearing of a prayer shawl and skullcap will not bar a man from the White House, unless, of course, the man is Jewish.

*Jules Farber*

It's so simple to be wise. . Just think of something stupid to say and then don't say it

*Sam Levenson*

## JEWISH NOTE AT ROYAL WEDDING by Alana Rosenbaum

Together with salmon and gum trees, Carol Samuelson and her daughter Aviva are among hundreds of Tasmanian exports to have flown to Denmark last week as Crown Prince Frederik prepared to marry Hobart lawyer Mary Donaldson. The Samuelsons are members of Hobart's small Jewish community. Both are also part of the Derwent Valley Concert Band, a 65-piece orchestra that was invited to perform in Copenhagen in recognition of the bride's Tasmanian heritage.

Carol Samuelson, 49, said the band was initially asked to submit music, only to be invited in January to appear in person. Despite the challenges of raising \$200,000 in three months, she said it was an invitation that the closely-knit group of musicians could not pass up. "It was amazing. We are used to being invited overseas but not to something like this," Samuelson told the *Australian Jewish News* from Hobart on the eve of her departure.

She said the band carefully selected its repertoire to include the aptly-titled *Queen of the South*, composed in 1925 by Alex F Lithgow as a tribute to Tasmania. In recognition of Donaldson's heritage, Australia presented the couple – who met at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000 – with trees from Tasmania, including huon pines, snow gums and cider gums.

Governor-General Michael Jeffery also travelled to Copenhagen this week, where he treated the bride and groom, along with Prince Frederik's parents, Queen Margrethe and Prince Henrik, to an Australian dinner that featured Tasmanian salmon, barramundi from the Northern Territory and Darrell Lea liquorice, flown in especially for the occasion.

At the wedding itself, guests were to drink a brew of the Danish beer Carlsberg made from Tasmanian hops. The hybrid is called Carlsberg Crown. Samuelson, who says she could read music before she could read words, has played the clarinet with the band on and off since its inception a decade ago. Her daughter, Aviva, 13, who plays the flute, joined about two years ago. "It's good to have her in the band," said Samuelson, who has spent most of her life in Tasmania. "We have a few brothers and sisters in the band and a few couples who got married after meeting in the band."

Samuelson said the Derwent Valley Concert Band has a busy schedule in the Danish capital which includes an appearance at the Tivoli Gardens theme park and a procession to the wedding on Friday afternoon. Despite being a veteran performer, Samuelson – who will visit Israel with her daughter en route home to Australia next week – said the royal fanfare had placed her under pressure. "It's a bit scary, really. What if I do something wrong at the wedding?"

It is with the kind permission of the Australian Jewish News (reporter: Alana Rosenbaum, editor: Dan Goldberg) that we reproduce this article which appeared in the recent Melbourne and Sydney editions of that paper.

Our Israeli student friend, Daphna Yalon now has a webpage. Daphna is seeking sponsorship for her time in Australia and you can read "all about her" by visiting her webpage .... Just go to our own website [www.hobartsynagogue.org](http://www.hobartsynagogue.org) and follow the link ....

## **Environment Priority** by Gilad Skolnick

There is one country in the world that ended the 20th century with more trees than it began with; a country that has devoted over a century to reforestation and greening the land. And I'm not talking about the United States or Liechtenstein.

In the beginning of the 1900s, this country's indigenous forests were just about completely eliminated by centuries of neglect, with hundreds of years of warfare, grazing and logging taking a heavy toll on environmental resources. When it declared independence, there were fewer than five million trees in the entire expanse of the country. Today it boasts over 200 million trees.

It was a desolate barren land covered in deserts, forgotten and ignored by many. It's particularly rare in this day and age, in a world where just about every country is tearing apart their forests to have one country with very limited resources, devote its time to restore its beauty to what it was centuries ago.

Mark Twain in the 1800s, visited this place and described it as, "a desolate country whose soil is rich enough, but is given over wholly to weeds... a silent mournful expanse... a desolation." Not so, anymore.

Twain's description of this place reminds me of how the land looks in the end of "The Lorax" by Dr. Suess, a place which has been scrapped to the bone of any natural resources.

In the meantime, this nation has been working hard to reintroduce to the land animals that were hunted to extinction. Many animals mentioned in old texts could no longer be found here when independence was declared half a century ago, also victims of centuries of neglect and over-hunting.

The Fallow Deer was gone from here and was thought to be completely extinct until a herd of 25 was found in the '50s in Iran, according to the World Wildlife Fund. By 1972, the Oryx was completely extinct in the wild, and WWF reported the Roe Deer was hunted to extinction over 50 years ago as well. This nation has been on a continuous mission to restore its land to its diverse wildlife, so far succeeding in reintroducing all these animals into the wild, many of which can now only be found in the wild, in this place.

Today there are 116 different species of land animals in the country, compared with 140 in all of Europe, a landmass 300 times bigger. This country also boasts 373 nature reserves, which make up 16 percent of its land area. Species now being raised for future release into the wild include the White Oryx, Ostrich, Persian Fallow Deer, Roe Deer and Asiatic Wild Ass, a feat that was once thought to be completely futile.

I'm very happy to see that this country, already plagued by terrorism and a struggling economy, is willing to devote so much time, energy and money to helping the environment. Able to both care about its people and its surroundings suggests that this country is a model to us all on protecting our dwindling natural resources.

When it comes to fossil fuels, this country has made a concerted effort to use renewable energy. The world's largest solar power station is currently under construction here, according to [www.distributedpowersolutions.com](http://www.distributedpowersolutions.com), while just about every home sports a solar panel used to heat water.

As countless animals are reintroduced into the land, while dozens upon dozens of animals are becoming extinct daily in the rest of the world, I am inspired -- inspired that there are places out there that make the environment a priority, and do not use the economy or a struggle against terror as an excuse.

This country is none other than Israel, a country once just about completely denuded of its natural treasures. The United States, and the rest of the world for that matter, should look at Israel as a guide, leading all of humanity into an age of greater environmental awareness.

(Originally appeared in the Massachusetts Daily Collegian)

## **FIRE SAFETY REPORT by Daniel Albert**

At the last AGM members asked the Board to investigate the issue of fire safety. In response to this, the Board commissioned a report from the Tasmania Fire Service. Below are the recommendations in the report and the Board's response to the recommendations.

*Recommendation: Fire extinguishers are to be serviced each six months and pressure-tested each 6 years by a suitably qualified service provider. A qualified service provider is one who holds a permit to carry out work on fire extinguishers issued by the Tasmania Fire Service.*

Board's Response: Arrangements have been made to have fire extinguishers inspected and tested every six months. The first inspection has been undertaken.

*Recommendation: As this building has limited means of escape in the event of a fire, the following additional safety measures, although not legislative requirements, are strongly recommended:*

- a) To protect the path of egress of the occupants of the building, additional smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling of the main entrance and also on the ceiling above the stairs leading to the Mezzanine floor level.*
- b) To protect those items of historical value contained in the Boardroom, it is recommended that one additional smoke alarm be installed in the Boardroom.*

Board's Response: The additional smoke alarms have been installed.

*Recommendation: To clearly indicate the path of exit should loss of power occur during a fire, emergency lighting with provision for battery back-up should be installed in the following locations;*

- a) Over the stairs leading to the mezzanine floor level, and*
- b) In the main entrance*

Board's Response: The emergency lighting has been installed.

*Recommendation: Emergency Procedures. To allow for the safe evacuation of the building in the event of fire, emergency procedures detailing what actions should be taken in the event of a fire should be prepared.*

Board's Response: An emergency procedure is being developed. Drafts have been discussed at the last two Board meetings. It is hoped that the Board will sign-off on an emergency procedure at the June meeting. Copies of the procedure will be put up in the Shule and made available to members.

*Recommendation: The doors forming the path of travel to the exit, should be readily openable without a key from the side that faces a person seeking egress, by a single hand downward action. A lever type handles is acceptable for this application. The latching device may be lockable from the outside but not on the inside, meaning that persons wishing to escape the building may exit but persons trying to enter the building can not.*

Board's Response: The lock on the front door has been changed to meet the specifications detailed in this recommendation.

The report dealt with the building. There is still the issue of what happens if the building catches fire and someone is at the back of the building and unable to walk down the side of the building to get out.

There is, at present, a gate at the back leading to the police property which could be used to escape a fire. The gate is however kept locked (for security reasons). To allow the gate to be used if there is a fire, an emergency key holder, containing a key, will be installed next to the gate. As these are not available in Hobart, one has been ordered and will be installed when received.

Daniel Albert

## Response to Mercury Article by Josh Landis

The following is an article written by Josh Landis, Executive Officer of the ECAJ...in response to the 3 May 2004 article by Greg Barns "No Need to Fear Gay Marriages" in *The Mercury*.

Not only did Greg Barns' piece show an incredible misunderstanding of Zionism, bordering on the willfully neglectful, but his references to Zionist practices in Israel had nothing whatsoever to do with his purported subject: Christian attitudes towards homosexual marriage.

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On 3 May 2004, an opinion piece was published in *The Mercury* by Greg Barns entitled "No need to fear gay marriages". Mr Barns was one of the national leaders of the Australian Republican Movement. However the article displayed none of the political sensitivities one associates with our national leaders.

Ostensibly Barns' article is a critique of the position of conservative Christians (especially Tasmanian Liberal Senator, Guy Barnett) in undermining homosexual marriage, which Barns describes as a breach of human rights. Yet Barns gave equal space to a damning description of Zionists, whose so-called 'trampling on the rights of Palestinians' is treated as being equally injurious to human rights.

According to Barns, Zionists are undermining the progress of mankind. They are religious zealots who prevent justice, lasting peace and the spread of democracy in the Middle East. Zionists are therefore "enemies of the open, tolerant, liberal society".

Clearly such accusations are not only demonstrably false, according to Zionist principles and practice, but are also incredibly hurtful. One does not expect such potentially wilful, or certainly negligently, inaccurate editorialising. In the interest of rectifying any misunderstandings of Zionism, I felt Greg Barns' article required a response that stated the truth about Israel and its founding movement.

I sent a response to the editor of the *Mercury* in mid May, on behalf of the Australian Jewish community, backed by the Hobart Hebrew Congregation. I have received no reply. My article has not been published. I do not contend that this is prima facie evidence of discrimination. However I do hold that a responsible media should seek to correct articles proportionally to their mistakes, to ensure their audience is well informed and not misled. Is that too much to ask?

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Zionism is an aspirational movement, the central premise of which is that Jews have the same right to a homeland as any other people. Zionism is a broad movement, encompassing religious, social and political manifestations. Greg Barns ("No need to fear gay marriages" May 3) displayed no understanding or appreciation of Zionism, something that could have been rectified had he done even basic research before launching into his polemic.

It is well known that there are 22 Arab countries, many more Muslim countries, that Vatican city is wholly Catholic and that the preponderance of Western societies are majority Christian countries. Why is it that the movement for Jewish self-determination, Zionism, is so vilified by Greg Barns? Israel is one-third the size of Tasmania, one one-hundredth the size of the Arab world, and has roughly six million citizens.

It is false to state that Zionists, the people who founded and continue to build and/or support the State of Israel, reject human rights. Israel, the Zionist state, is an open, pluralist society that counts itself among the few democracies of the world. Zionists include Holocaust survivors, fleeing from the world's most brutal regime and its attempt to ethnically cleanse Jews. These refugees created what is now the most multicultural nation on Earth. Israel, the world's only Jewish nation (with a 20% Arab minority who exercise the right to vote), allows gay rights, abortion and dissent, has an active independent judiciary, a myriad of political parties and boasts the largest per capita volume of independent, critical, media in the world. It is a shining example of economic success, borne from the largest per capita number of absorbed refugees in the world.

It is a lie to argue that Israel is anything other than an open, tolerant, liberal democratic society. Since its foundation, Israel has been a democracy. Albert Einstein was offered the job of Israel's first President, something one would think that the former head of Australia's Republican Movement, Greg Barns, would have remembered. It is wrong to pretend that the Zionist movement rejects Palestinian rights, human rights or is quasi-religious. Integral to Zionism is democracy, freedom and the rule of law. This has repeatedly been lauded by Israel's Arab citizens, who enjoy a standard of living many times greater than any of the surrounding Arab nations.

In the 1980s and '90s, Israel absorbed, housed, fed and found employment for one million Jews forced to flee a crumbling and repressive USSR which for decades had denied their right to practice Judaism: an increase of 25% of the existing Israeli population. Imagine if Australia accepted 5 million people in ten years!

While one may disagree with the policies of Israel's current government, one can not reasonably argue that Israel's Prime Minister, the Israeli public, or the Zionist movement, have rejected the notion of Palestinian statehood. Four of the last five Israeli Prime Ministers has offered a Palestinian state in one form or another. Each offer by Israel has been rejected by Yasser Arafat and these rejections have been followed up with terrorism.

We in Australia enjoy considerable freedom to write whatever we like, on virtually any subject. This freedom is even greater in Israel, reflecting the principles of representative government which our two countries share. While Mr Barns is free to criticise Israel or Zionism as much as he likes, it is surely expected that he do some basic research before he offhandedly disavows an entire movement. Mr Barns has done his audience a disservice. Zionism is a responsible, honourable movement and one which supporters of democracy and multiculturalism would do well to learn from.

Instead of bashing Israel, Greg Barns would be better advised to critique the human rights abusing nations surrounding it.

Josh Landis is the Executive Officer of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry

## ALL AGES-ALL STATES-ALL MOVEMENTS

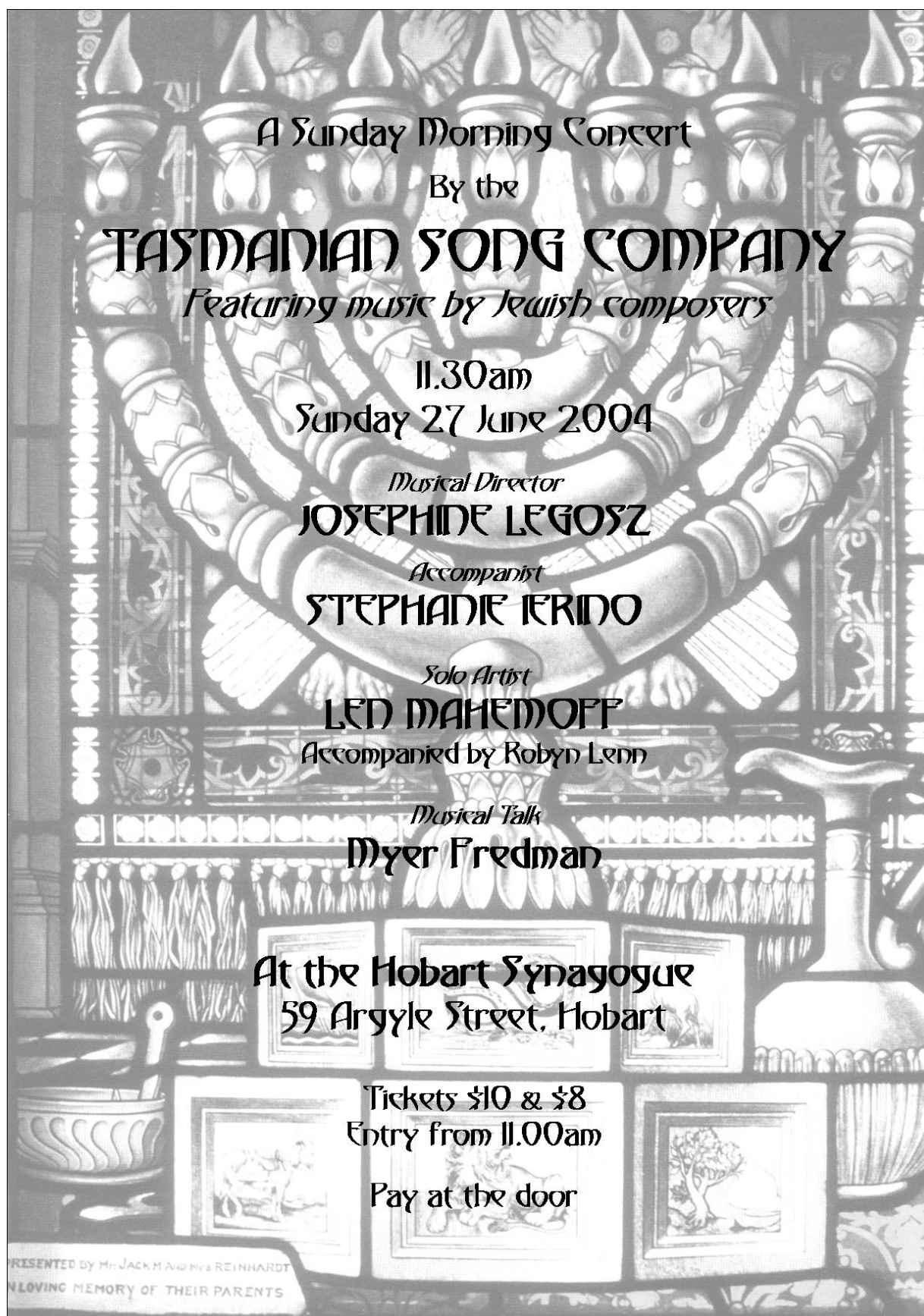
# Netzer Winter Camp goes Federal

This winter, Netzers annual camp will have a major difference – its going to be federal, meaning all age groups, all states, Australia wide. Machaneh Mushlam (perfect camp) promises to be an amazing experience for all involved – a truly unique experience of one movement, all together, in that special camp environment.

Youth Movements provide an ideal opportunity for children to connect to their Judaism while having an incredible amount of fun. Netzer Camps provides children with an opportunity to spend time in an environment that nurtures and cares – allowing them to be themselves in a Jewish, Reform Zionist atmosphere.



If you are looking for a safe, educational and fun activity for your children, make sure you are signed up for Machaneh Mushlam. July 5<sup>th</sup> – July 11<sup>th</sup> (leaving July 4<sup>th</sup> from NSW) at Licola Campsite, VIC. Camp forms are now available and can be received by calling Deon on 0401 016 927 or e-mail [deon@netzer.org.au](mailto:deon@netzer.org.au)



A Sunday Morning Concert  
By the  
**TASMANIAN SONG COMPANY**  
*Featuring music by Jewish composers*

11.30am  
Sunday 27 June 2004

*Musical Director*  
**JOSEPHINE LEGOSZ**

*Accompanist*  
**STEPHANIE IERINO**

*Solo Artist*  
**LEN MAHEMOFF**  
Accompanied by Robyn Lenn

*Musical Talk*  
**Myer Fredman**

At the Hobart Synagogue  
59 Argyle Street, Hobart

Tickets \$10 & \$8  
Entry from 11.00am  
Pay at the door

PRESENTED BY MR JACK M AND MRS REINHARDT  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF THEIR PARENTS

## **It's World Environment Day on 5 June, so let's help the environment by making small changes to our daily lives.**

Below are 10 things we can do to help save the environment. By pledging to carry out just one of them, we will each do our little bit to lessen global warming, save water or reduce the growing problem of rubbish. The pledge is to carry them out over a whole year. Every little change we make on a permanent basis will make a difference.

- I will replace one light bulb in my house with an energy saving version.
- I will hang out, rather than tumble dry, one load of washing per week.
- I will put a 'water hippo' in my cistern to reduce the amount of water used per flush.
- I will replace one two-mile car journey per week by walking, cycling or taking a bus.
- I will plant one tree either in my garden or as part of a community forest.
- I will start re-using plastic bags when shopping.
- I will switch off my television, rather than leave it on stand-by.
- I will take showers instead of baths.
- I will turn the thermostat on my heating down by one degree centigrade.
- I will turn the tap off when I brush my teeth.