

For security and catering purposes please register your interest for any of the discussion evenings with the Synagogue office on 9866 2255.



*Melbourne Hebrew  
Congregation*

**ADMISSION**

Members – \$6      Non-members – \$10

**MELBOURNE HEBREW CONGREGATION**

Chief Minister – Rabbi Ian Goodhardt

Rabbi Dovid Rubinfeld

President – Norman Faifer

**DISCUSSION SERIES COMMITTEE, 2002**

Dr. David Cohen (Chairperson),

Nicole Barnett, Andrew Barnett,

Lorette Brown, Dr. C. Margot Sims Cohen,

Barry Goldenberg, Peter Philipp,

Lou Segal, Gavin Silbert



**2002**

Sunday Evening  
**DISCUSSION  
SERIES**



Melbourne Hebrew Congregation Inc.

ABN: 39 003 125 142

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MHC5687

DESIGN & PRODUCTION BY PHOTOSYNTHESIS (03) 9877 4455



*The Melbourne Hebrew Congregation presents an exciting new series of discussion evenings. These focus on six major issues facing Jews today. We invite all members, their families and friends to participate actively in each of these quality events.*

*At the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation, education is a vital part of the synagogue's activities.*

*This is the seventh annual series of a program designed to challenge and engage members in cultural and educational discussions in a social setting.*

*Enjoy stimulating discussions in our open forum environment. Deliciously catered suppers will be served at each evening.*

# 2002

## Sunday Evening DISCUSSION SERIES

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**17 MARCH**

7.45pm for 8pm

**1 REFUGEES: SHOULD AUSTRALIA ACCEPT BOAT PEOPLE?**

Venue: 51 Hopetoun Road,  
Toorak 3142

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**28 APRIL**

7.45pm for 8pm

**2 SHOULD WE FEAR ISLAM?**

Venue: Apartment No. 221,  
461 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne 3002

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**19 MAY**

7.45pm for 8pm

**3 HAS JUDAISM KEPT PACE WITH CHANGING GENDER ROLES?**

Venue: 1 Myvore Court,  
Toorak 3142

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**23 JUNE**

7.45pm for 8pm

**4 WHEN WILL THE SCHOOLS DEAL WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM?**

Venue: 288 Alma Road,  
North Caulfield 3161

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**11 AUGUST**

7.45pm for 8pm

**5 ASSIMILATION OF JEWS IN AUSTRALIA IS INEVITABLE**

Venue: 204 Kooyong Road,  
Toorak 3142

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**20 OCTOBER**

7.45pm for 8pm

**6 IS OUR SHULE GIVING VALUE FOR MONEY?**

Venue: 1 Wannon Court,  
Toorak 3142

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Sunday, 17th March

Discussion Series 2002

# 1 REFUGEES: SHOULD AUSTRALIA ACCEPT BOAT PEOPLE?

## DESCRIPTION

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- What is a refugee?
- Does the 'illegality' of their entry really matter?
- What are the obligations under the United Nations charter concerning asylum seekers?
- Do we have an ethical/moral obligation to accept refugees?
- Is there a Jewish view concerning boat people?
- Can we have a future outlook on refugees without considering history (e.g., White Australia Policy, exclusion of Jewish refugees)?
- How do refugees affect our standards of living? Are refugees likely to become a burden on our society?

## SPEAKERS

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*Jack Fajgenbaum, QC, was formerly a Senior Lecturer in Law at Monash University and Fulbright Scholar. He is one of the counsel who represented the asylum seekers on board the Tampa who were seeking admission into Australia.*

*Professor Andrew Markus is Director of the Australian Centre for the Study of Jewish Civilisation at Monash University. He has published widely in the fields of Australian race relations, immigration history and the Holocaust.*

*Robert Samuel is a Trade Commissioner for Austrade. He is the Vice President of Jews for Ethnic Tolerance (JET), the Young Adults division of the B'nai Brith Anti Defamation Commission in NSW.*

*Ruth Gershov is a Holocaust refugee who was hidden disguised as a boy during World War II, then taken into concentration camp from where she was stolen. At the age of 21/2, she came with her family to Australia on visas. She holds strong views opposing free entry of asylum seekers into Australia.*

## CHAIR

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*David Grace, Q.C.*

## TIME

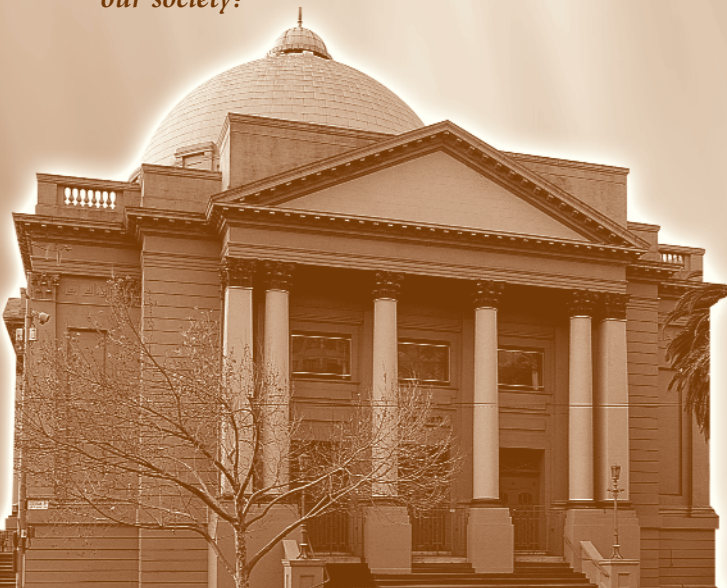
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*7.45 for 8.00pm start*

## VENUE

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*Home of Barbara and Barry Landau,  
51 Hopetoun Road, Toorak 3142*



## 2 SHOULD WE FEAR ISLAM?

### DESCRIPTION

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- *Islam and Judaism: what are the fundamental differences?*
- *Do Islamic views about the sanctity of life threaten world peace?*
- *How can we build peaceful co-existence between Jews and Muslims?*
- *Should we love all people equally?*

### SPEAKERS

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*Rabbi Dr. Shalom Coleman, C.B.E., AM is an orthodox rabbi. He is a public speaker and commentator on both Jewish and secular affairs. He is the emeritus chief rabbi of the Perth Hebrew Congregation.*

*Sheikh Fehmi El-Imam, AM has been the Imam of the Omar Ibn-Al Khattab Mosque in Melbourne since its inception in 1957, when he co-founded "The Islamic Society of Victoria". He was awarded the Order of the Member of Australia (AM) for his work in interfaith and cross-cultural relations and for the development of harmony, peace and understanding throughout Australian society.*

### CHAIR

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*Dr Howard Goldenberg*

### TIME

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*7.45 for 8.00pm start*

### VENUE

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*Home of Diane & Mervyn Jacobson, Kingstoun,  
Apt. No. 221, 461 St Kilda Road, Melbourne 3002*



Sunday, 19th May

Discussion Series 2002

# 3 HAS JUDAISM KEPT PACE WITH CHANGING GENDER ROLES?

## DESCRIPTION

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- *Has Judaism kept pace with changes in society?*
- *What part can women play in Jewish services and rituals?*
- *Should barmitzvah and batmitzvah ceremonies be different from each other?*
- *What roles overlap between men and women?*
- *Do we need to change Halachah to cater for women?*

## SPEAKERS

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*Jordie Hyman is co-ordinator of the Orthodox Jewish Women's Network (OWN), a group of women committed to creating and providing opportunities for women to experience greater involvement in Orthodox Judaism.*

*Timmy Rubin has travelled the road from hippie to Chassid. She manages a Mikvah, as well as being a qualified teacher, works with children with hearing impairments and is also a Prison Chaplain.*

*Lilian Frank, A.M., M.B.E., is a well-known journalist and commentator on social issues in Australian society. She is involved in a range of charitable causes, both Jewish and non-Jewish. Expect a surprise!*

*Dr David Bernshaw is an oncologist who is an outspoken and well-informed critic of many practices in Jewish circles, which he has witnessed first-hand throughout the world.*

## TIME

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*7.45 for 8.00pm start*

## VENUE

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*Home of Karen & Danny Schnall,  
1 Myvore Court, Toorak 3142*



# 4 WHEN WILL THE SCHOOLS DEAL WITH THE DRUG PROBLEM?

## DESCRIPTION

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- Coping with teenage children
- Legalisation: will this take drugs off the streets?
- Your own child has a heroin addiction. How can you be helped?
- Why do our Jewish day-schools decline to discuss the drug problems?
- Jewish day schools increasingly practise a "zero tolerance" policy. Is this to be commended or condemned?
- Does this policy address the problem?

## SPEAKERS

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*Les Twentyman* works with "street children" and is employed by Open Family Australia. Their mission is "to improve the well-being and self-worth of alienated and excluded street children with the view to reconnecting them to the community."

*Roselie Freeman* is a psychologist in private practice who specialises in working as a counsellor with young people who have experienced drug and alcohol problems.

*Greg Denham* is Project Officer-in-Charge, Drug Education, for the Victoria Police. He will discuss recent trends in illicit drug use, law enforcement policies of the Victorian police and refer to some constructive school approaches to rehabilitation.

## CHAIR

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*Dr Victor Wayne*

## TIME

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7.45 for 8.00pm start

## VENUE

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Home of Roslyn & Richard Rogers,  
288 Alma Road, North Caulfield 3161



# 5 ASSIMILATION OF JEWS IN AUSTRALIA IS INEVITABLE

## DESCRIPTION

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- 250,000 Australian Christians have a Jewish grandparent. Would easing conversion rules reverse the trend?
- Is outreach everybody's responsibility?
- Is orthodox Judaism pushing Jews towards Liberal Judaism?
- Can Jewish families survive for generations intact as Jews?

## SPEAKERS

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*Rabbi Raymond Apple, AM, has been the Senior Minister of the Great Synagogue in Sydney since 1972, as well as being a Judge/Member and Registrar of the Sydney Beth Din. He is Past President of the Council of Christians and Jews (NSW) and widely known for his activities and writings on religion, education and history.*

*Rabbi John Levi, AM, is the Rabbi Emeritus of the Liberal Jewish Community, Melbourne and Co-Chairman of the Council of Christians and Jews (Victoria). He is widely known for his activities and writings, especially in the field of Australian Jewish history – his latest book (a new edition of Australian Genesis) is to be re-launched in March 2002.*

## CHAIR

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*Gavin Silbert*

## TIME

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*7.45 for 8.00pm start*

## VENUE

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*Home of Mandie & Stephen Mandie,  
204 Kooyong Road, Toorak 3142.*



# 6 IS OUR SHULE GIVING VALUE FOR MONEY?

## DESCRIPTION

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- What represents value for money in a shule?
- What constitutes a consumer? (Regular attendance versus two days a year?)
- What should the shule be doing to offer better value?
- Do we know what our consumers want?
- Is it correct to view Melbourne Jewry as a market?
- Can religion be "hip"?
- Can our shule compete with Chabad?
- Is it possible to please the majority of consumers at the expense of a few?

## SPEAKERS

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*Norman Faifer is a Master Builder and Quantity Surveyor who holds higher degrees in Building and Construction Technology. He is currently President (2000 - 2002) of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation and a third generation member of the congregation.*

*Barry Landau is a businessman who had an orthodox Jewish upbringing. He is past Vice-President of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation and considers that the survival of all mainstream congregations is under threat in the current environment.*

*Dr C. Margot Sims Cohen teaches advanced communication strategies to managers of industry, reading and writing skills to middle school students; provides career guidance and résumé development to people in the workforce. Her approach to life and work is heavily influenced by the fact that she is a born and bred New York comparison shopper.*

## CHAIR

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*The Hon. Justice Alan Goldberg*

## TIME

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*7.45 for 8.00pm start*

## VENUE

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*Home of Kathy Rozner,  
1 Wannon Court, Toorak 3142*

