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1. Workshop on "The Two Bibles", 21 September

All members are invited to the workshop on "The Two Bibles" to be held on Thursday, 21 September at 7.30 pm. It will be in Room 16.125 at the Mt Lawley campus of Edith Cowan University at 2 Bradford Street, Mount Lawley. The lead speakers for the workshop will be Dr James Trotter, Lecturer in Hebrew Scriptures at Murdoch University and Rabbi Dovid Freilich, spiritual leader and rabbi of the Perth Hebrew Congregation. Both speakers have agreed that the topic to be addressed will be "Dietary Laws: Keeping Kosher".

2. Spielberg Movie Preview Well Attended

Our film evening held in the lounge at the Jewish Centre on 27 July was a great success. Around 50 members and friends came along to our very first CCJWA film screening. In introducing the film CCJWA publicity officer Graham Nielsen said that two particular objectives of the Council are, to promote the study of and research into historical, political, economic, social, religious and racial causes of conflicts between Christians and Jews; and to provide a forum for the discussion of issues of common interest or concern between Christians and Jews. He said that it was hoped to address both of these very important objectives with the showing of "The Last Days".

Co-produced by Steven Spielberg's *Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation*, this documentary speaks with five survivors of the Holocaust, all of them originally from Hungary. Incredibly, it wasn't until 1944 that Hitler's SS came for the Jews of Hungary - a last ditch effort in liquidation at the point when the Nazis had clearly lost the war. In just eight weeks, 480 000 Hungarian Jews were deported. The producer, James Moll, takes us through those last days of the war with newsreel footage, German camp footage, and newly discovered colour footage shot by American GIs after the liberation of the camps. Moll briefly interviews three of these soldiers but it's the five survivors who are his main focus. They recount their stories: lost parents, brothers, sisters, things, and they recall events.

Before the screening a brief study guide was distributed and the audience was asked to think about some of the points and discuss them after the film. However, after the screening, CCJWA deputy chairperson Norm Hoffman, in gauging the impact of the film on the audience, sensibly suggested that group discussions would not be necessary. Instead many people remained behind and informally reviewed the film over refreshments.

The success of the evening and feedback since clearly indicate an ongoing demand for such activities. The executive is considering making the videocassette available for loan through the auspices of the Holocaust Museum in Perth.

If you would like to find out more about the work of the *Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation* they are on the Internet at this address: <http://www.vhf.org/>

3. Update on Year 2000 Program

- ◇ **Annual General Meeting** - Planning is well in hand for this important final event in our calendar. It will be held on Sunday 19 November, on a theme of Food & Festivals. Once more it will be at the Redemptorist Monastery Retreat Centre, cnr. Camellia & Vincent Streets in North Perth.

4. Overseas News

Interfaith Conference in Indonesia

August 11, 2000 IIA – The Israel Interfaith Association co-sponsored a conference initiated by The Institute for Inter-Faith Dialogue in Indonesia (Interfidei). The conference was held between 6-10 August 2000 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, with some forty participants, under the title "The Contemporary Challenges to the Abrahamic Religions". Three members represented the Israel Interfaith Association and two of them lectured in the main panels on Identity (Shlomo Alon: "The Problem of Identity in Judaism") and Plurality (Yehuda Stolov: "Plurality - A Jewish View"). They also met with the keynote speaker of the conference, Mr. Djohan Effendi, Secretary of State. They exchanged ideas for the development of relations between Indonesia and Israel on an interfaith dialogue level.

Holocaust Remembrance Day – Yom HaShoah

May 1, 2000 – In Israel the public commemoration of Yom HaShoah will commence tonight with a ceremony in Warsaw Square at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial museum in Jerusalem. President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Ehud Barak will participate in the event. Six Holocaust survivors will bear torches and lighting memorial fires to commemorate the six million Jews that were killed. Chief Rabbis Eliahu Bakshi-Doron and Yisrael Lau will say Kaddish and recite psalms. Restaurants and places of entertainment will be closed by law from sundown tonight until Tuesday morning. At 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning, sirens will sound throughout the country, traffic will halt and people will stand in silence for two minutes to pay tribute to Holocaust victims. Following the siren, a second ceremony will take place at Yad Vashem to be attended by Prime Minister Barak, members of the Knesset, the Supreme Court and other dignitaries. Meanwhile, President Weizman and Minister of Education Yossi Sarid, accompanied by more than 20 Members of the Knesset, are traveling to Poland to join thousands of Jewish youth from around the world at the March of the Living slated to take place on Tuesday. The victims of the Holocaust will also be remembered in many cities around the world in Jewish communities and synagogues as well as in Christian churches.

5. New on Our Web Site

If you've visited the CCJWA web site lately you will have found (or will soon find) a number of new features. Along with copies of recent newsletters, including this issue, you will find an article (a free download) by Ruth Rosenberg titled *Christian-Jewish Reconciliation*. Ruth, a Melbourne journalist, tells the story of a small group of dedicated volunteers which has been working for many years at the grass-roots level on the business of Christian-Jewish reconciliation in Australia. The article makes most interesting and challenging reading.

Our plan is to develop a library of downloadable articles on our web site. If readers come across items worth sharing in such a way they are invited to let us know and we will obtain permission for them to be placed on the web site.

The CCJWA web site is to be found at: <http://www.ccjwa.iinet.net.au>

6. Newsletter Submissions, Feedback, and Subscriptions

The CCJWA Newsletter is produced by the executive committee and is distributed quarterly by 'snail mail', e-mail and fax. It is principally distributed to CCJWA members but copies are also made available to congregations of the five faith communities directly supporting our work.

We welcome submissions, feedback and subscription requests. Please contact:

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