

Toorak Uniting Church

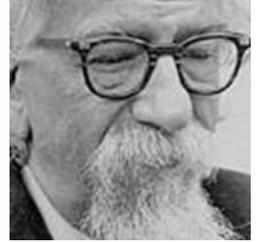
Update 08 April 2018

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Phone: 9829 0300
Sunday services 9am & 10.15am

Still Thinking — Abraham Joshua Heschel — Christopher Page

Abraham Joshua Heschel (January 11, 1907 – December 23, 1972) was a Polish-born American rabbi and one of the leading Jewish theologians and Jewish philosophers of the 20th century. Heschel, a professor of Jewish mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, authored a number of widely read books on Jewish philosophy and was active in the civil rights movement.



After a traditional yeshiva education and studying for Orthodox rabbinical ordination semicha, Heschel pursued his doctorate at the University of Berlin and a liberal rabbinic ordination. There he studied under some of the finest Jewish educators of the time. Heschel later taught Talmud at the Hochschule. He joined a Yiddish poetry group, Jung Vilna, and in 1933, published a volume of Yiddish poems, dedicated to his father.

In late October 1938, when Heschel was living in a rented room in the home of a Jewish family in Frankfurt, he was arrested by the Gestapo and deported to Poland. He spent ten months lecturing on Jewish philosophy and Torah at Warsaw's Institute for Jewish Studies.[3] Six weeks before the German invasion of Poland, Heschel left Warsaw for London with the help of Julian Morgenstern, president of Hebrew Union College, who had been working to obtain visas for Jewish scholars in Europe.

Heschel's sister Esther was killed in a German bombing. His mother was murdered by the Nazis, and two other sisters, Gittel and Devorah, died in Nazi concentration camps. He never returned to Germany, Austria or Poland. He once wrote, "If I should go to Poland or Germany, every stone, every tree would remind me of contempt, hatred, murder, of children killed, of mothers burned alive, of human beings asphyxiated."

Heschel arrived in New York City in March 1940. He served on the faculty of Hebrew Union College (HUC), the main seminary of Reform Judaism, in Cincinnati for five years. In 1946, he took a position at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) in New York City, the main seminary of Conservative Judaism. He served as professor of Jewish ethics and Mysticism until his death in 1972.

He wrote:

"Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement.get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed.

So...faith is not the clinging to a shrine but an endless pilgrimage of the heart... for wonder rather than doubt is the root of all knowledge.

Never once in my life did I ask God for success or wisdom or power or fame. I asked for wonder, and he gave it to me."

God is not a hypothesis derived from logical assumptions, but an immediate insight, self-evident as light. He is not something to be sought in the darkness with the light of reason. He is the light.

In our thoughts and prayers—

Ted Billson and Margaret.

Compassion staff in Indonesia and the children and families they serve.

Immediately following the service today, the ashes of Marjorie Taylor will be interred in the Memorial Garden. The congregation is welcome to attend.

A Day of Beautiful Things

**Toorak Uniting Church Hall
Saturday 12th May, 10am–4pm
(GOLD COIN DONATION)**

Also Exhibiting 10am-4pm **Fri 11th May**
Habitat Uniting Church, Cnr Burke & Mont Albert Rds, Canterbury

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KINROSS

The Language of Landscape and Objects 15 Apr-11 May. A solo exhibition of paintings, sketches & narratives by Lisa West McNeice. Special Event: Sun 29 Apr, 2-4pm: Poetry Reading Performance by artist & collaborators

Diary Dates

Tue	17 Apr	4.30pm	Management Team meeting	Wettenhall Rm
Tue	17 Apr	7.30pm	Finance Committee meeting	Office Conf Rm
Thu	19 Apr	10.00am	Morn. Gp. Spkr: Charmaine Cornford	Faichney Rm
Thu	26 Apr	10.00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	St John's
Thu	26 Apr	7.30pm	Church Council meeting	Faichney Rm
	13-20 May		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
Tue	15 May	4.30pm	Management Team meeting	Wettenhall Rm
Thu	17 May	10.00am	Morning Group. Speaker:	Faichney Rm
Thu	17 May	12.00pm	Prayers for Christian Unity + Lunch	St Peter's
Sun	20 May	TBC	Congregational Meeting	TBC
Thu	24 May	7.30pm	Church Council meeting	Church (D.C.)
Thu	31 May	10.00am	Prayers for Christian Unity	Church
Tue	19 Jun	4.30pm	Management Team meeting	Wettenhall Rm
Thu	21 Jun	10.00am	Morning Group. Speaker:	Faichney Rm

WANTED

A number of TUC's recently purchased water glasses have gone missing. If you are able to assist with their return we would be very grateful.

A friendly reminder: the deadline for Update notices is 12pm (noon) Thurs.

Users of church property (incl. tea & coffee facilities, rooms, tables, chairs, crockery, PA system, etc) **must make arrangements through the Office.**

This includes ANY requests of James please.

This is especially important for managing multiple events on the church property, and is critical at busy times in the TUC calendar.

DIRECT DEBIT OFFERINGS

Church Council reminds members of the congregation of a former request regarding the collection of offerings during the church service. **If you have made arrangements to use a Direct Debit system, please take one of the laminated cards from the small box on the table at the rear of the church, to place in the offering plate at the appropriate time.** This will help the Elders on duty and also be a witness to our visitors of freewill giving.

Do you remember when you first came to Toorak Uniting? Were you made to feel welcome? Would you like to greet people as they arrive at TUC? If so, please join our volunteer Welcome Team. Contact June De Vere on 9813 5242

Attention kitchen users: Please take care with freezing food, gently moving the drawers and ensuring that the **freezer is securely shut** before you leave. Thanks.

Re Sammy Stamp: Thank you to so many of you who saved your used stamps and delivered them to TUC in Feb. Despite the fact that many envelopes these days are stampless, together you produced an amazing amount for us to take into the Central Church Office, for the dedicated volunteers there to sort through and prepare for sale. They do a wonderful job and I have included here the grants that they have given out, and the amount of money they have raised from “Sammy Stamp”. I am hoping that *now* you have all got into the habit and automatically will keep your used stamps. I hope we’ll do a collection drive again around Christmas time. It’s a really easy way to help our less fortunate friends, and perhaps some of you who missed out on the opportunity this time will start saving stamps too, and we’ll have even bigger bags to take into the city next year. Thanking you again – and in anticipation, June DeVere.

Below is the list of grants approved during 2017: Total \$49,350 (Last year \$52,860).

Echuca/Moama Uniting Church (U.C.) assisting their breakfast & lunch programme.	\$2,250
UnitingWorld – peace in Sth Sudan; water project in PNG; training ministers in China; overcoming poverty in India	\$4,000
St. Andrews UC Mildura – Andy’s Café; meals to the needy	\$3,000
SHARE Lenten Offering – towards Aboriginal Ministry Training and Live Church Streaming.	\$4,000
Co-ordinate – assist in training workshop for Indigenous Bible Translators, Northern Territory.	\$3,000
SHARE Queensland/N.S.W. Cyclone/Flood Appeal.	\$5,000
The Vanuatu Prevention of Blindness Project.	\$1,000
Mission Liaison Group – transporting goods overseas	\$2,000
High St. UC, Frankston – N. India Woman & Child Clinics	\$2,000
Leongatha UC – U-Music program for disabled young adults	\$2,000
UnitingWorld – Livelihood Programs in West Timor	\$2,000
UnitingCare Prahran Mission – Winter Breakfast & Emergency Relief Program	\$2,000
Wise Choices for Life – Ugandan Reproductive Health Training Program	\$2,000
Frontier Services – Outback Links Program in S. Australia	\$3,000
Uniting Vic/Tas. Ltd. – Uniting Harrison Arts Project	\$3,000
National Council of Churches – Act for Peace Appeal	\$2,500
UnitingWorld – Water Taps (PNG), Toilets (various countries)	\$3,600
Preston U.C. – set up Hospitality & Friendship Programme	\$3,000
Strathdon/Parkmore Faith Community - hymn books purchase	\$960
TOTAL 2017	\$50,310
Total of grants since 1977	\$873,133

Welcome to Toorak Uniting Church. We welcome all people irrespective of race, religion, political views, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or age. Wherever you are on your faith journey, wherever you have come from and wherever you are going to; whatever you believe, whatever you do not believe, you are welcome here at TUC. Please come and join us after the service for fellowship and a cup of tea or coffee.