

What's on

EDUCATION & LECTURES

The Dignity of Difference: The Council of Christians and Jews (Victoria) will host discussions on Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' book, *The Dignity of Difference*, led by Rabbi Jonathan Keren Black and Reverend Dr Paul Tonson on Thursdays, March 31, April 7 and 14, and Tuesday, April 19, 7.30pm, at the Leo Baeck Centre, 31 Harp Road, Kew. Gold coin donation. Inquiries: (03) 9817 3848.

Holocaust Centre lecture: Justice Howard Nathan will discuss "War crimes tribunals" on Tuesday, April 5, 8pm, at 13 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick. Entry by donation. Inquiries: (03) 9528 1985.

Darsheini: Steven Praver, professor of physics at the University of Melbourne, will discuss "Kabbalah and cosmos" on Sunday, April 10, 8-10pm, at 44 Aroona Road, Caulfield. Cost: \$10/\$5. Inquiries: Melanie (03) 9905 2207, darsheini@arts.monash.edu.au.

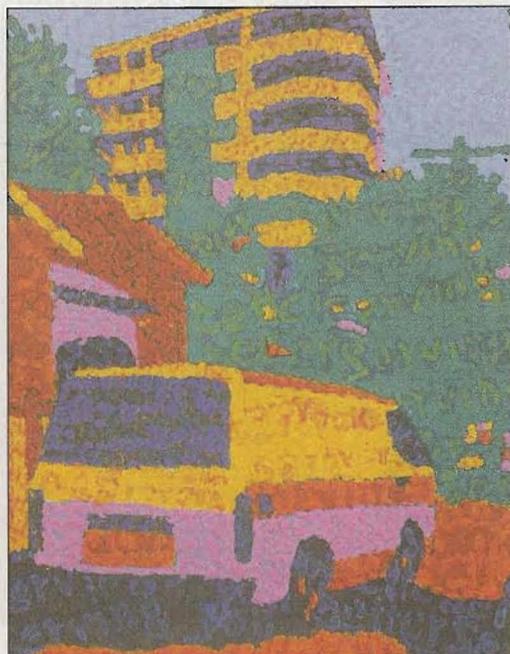
CULTURE & SOCIAL

Open House: Psychologist Louise Dyskin will discuss the art of communicating with family and friends at the seniors' group on Tuesday, March 29, 1.30pm, at South Caulfield Hebrew Congregation, 47 Leopold Street, Caulfield South. Inquiries: Sonia (03) 9571 0592.

Meditation evening: Carmella Flescher will hold a free introduction to medical QiGong on Thursdays, March 31 and April 21, 7.30-10pm,

PICK OF THE WEEK

PAINTING EXHIBITION



Rachel Rovay's *Vertical Village* (detail).

PAINTINGS by Rachel Rovay, which use colour and obscured text to depict the urban landscape from a socioeconomic perspective, are currently on display in *A Sense of Place II* at the Jewish Museum of Australia, 26 Alma Road, St Kilda. The exhibition will run until Sunday, April 3. Inquiries: (03) 9534 0083.

Kilda. Cost: \$10 including tea. Bookings: (03) 9272 5633.

Fashion show: Magen David Adom will host a lunch and fashion show by Irresistible on Wednesday, April 6, 11am, at Lincoln of Toorak. Donation: \$45 hostess, \$65 patron. Bookings: (03) 9272 5633.

TBI Friendship Club: Cantors Rhondda Hall and Bruce Levin will perform songs from popular operettas and musicals for 55s and over on Wednesday, April 6, 11.30am-1.30pm, at Temple Beth Israel, 76 Alma Road, St Kilda. Cost: \$7 including lunch. Inquiries: (03) 9510 1488.

Darsheini: Celebrate Purim with Rachel Berger and Solenua on Sunday, March 27, 8pm, at 388 Dandenong Road, Caulfield. Inquiries: Melanie Landau (03) 9527 9890

What's on items should be emailed to jgoldberg@jewishnews.net.au or faxed to (03) 9527 2224 by 10am Thursday, a week prior to publication.

TV GUIDE

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN
Foxtel, Showtime Greats,
Thursday, March 25, 5.05pm
Gene Wilder stars in Mel Brooks'

THE FOX FILES

ANGIE FOX



A Jewish surfing safari

ACCORDING to the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census there are 89,893 Jews living in Australia. Of those, 12 surf. My husband was one of them.

That made me a Jewish surfer widow.

Now, my Jewish surfer husband (JSH) wasn't taken by a shark, or even swept into the belly of a large whale, as was the fate of another JSH, Jonah. He's alive and sometimes even well.

But there are many recreational pastimes that Jewish men traditionally do not partake in: eating pork, working on the Sabbath, any complicated form of manual labour (i.e. changing a tyre or light globe), or activities involving gardening shears and lawnmowers. At least not well, anyway.

And, apparently, Jewish men don't surf. So it seemed my unfortunate lot in life to be saddled with a JSH. Imagine the litany of extra

Of course, I was then forced to drive everywhere because, naturally, it is dangerous to operate heavy machinery when one cannot turn one's head to the left ... or right. Which gave rise to one of life's greatest ironies: men make women drive, and then yell at them for nearly mowing down pedestrians, touch-parking and scratching every available panel on the side of any pillar or post within a 10-kilometre radius.

Even with health insurance, the dentist fees – to heal his ailing jaw, a result of referred neck and shoulder pain – were exorbitant.

But what really kept me up at night was the constant stress that one day, while willing away the hours at home cooking, cleaning, starching his wetsuits and picking up the Shabbes candles – which he used to wax his surfboard – I would receive the call. No, not that call.