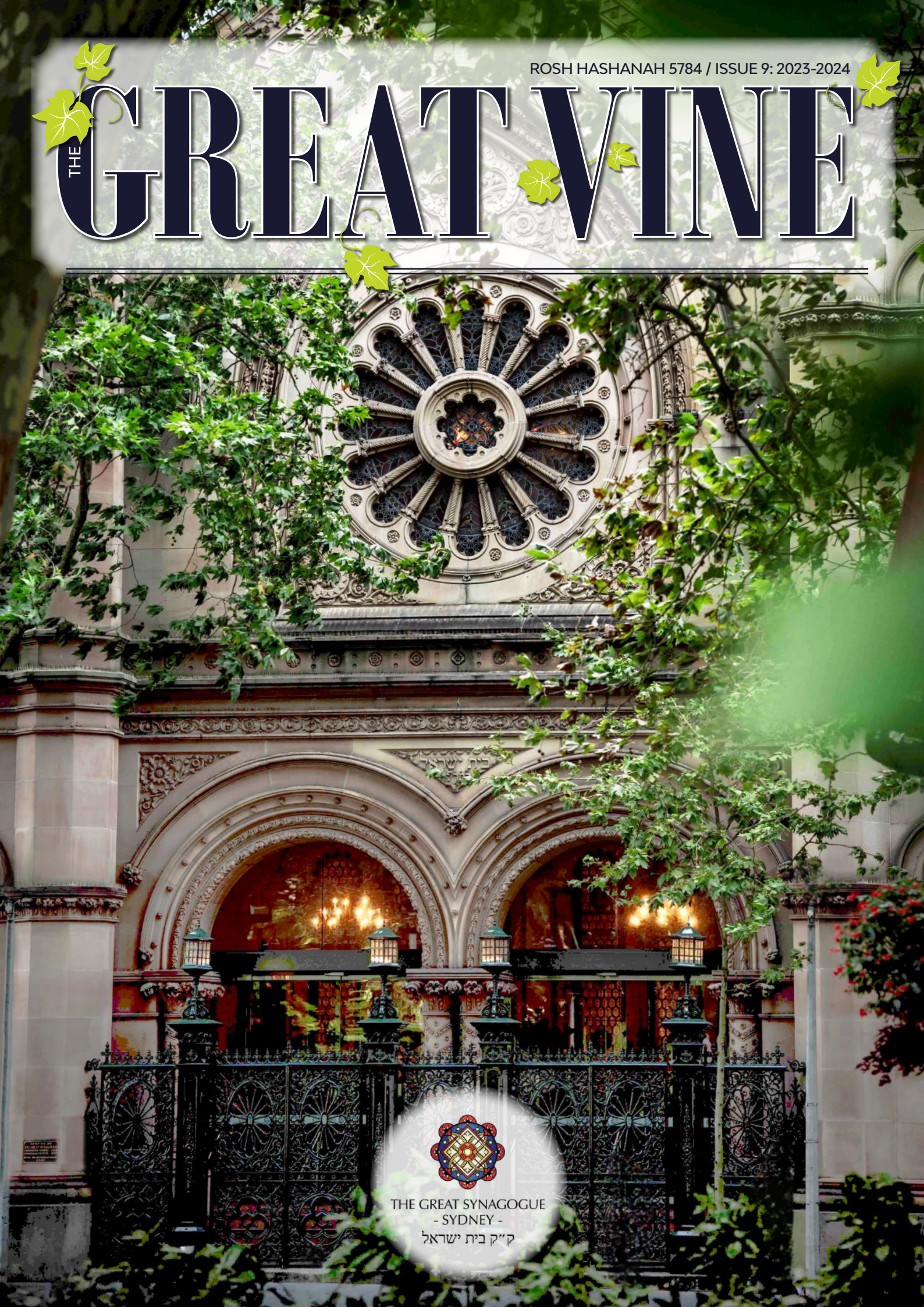


ROSH HASHANAH 5784 / ISSUE 9: 2023-2024

THE GREAT VINE



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE
- SYDNEY -
ק"ק בית ישראל



Office of The
CHIEF RABBI

The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5784

The term 'Yamim Noraim' (Days of Awe) contains within it the key to transformative living.

Unetaneh Tokef, at the heart of our High Holyday Musaph prayers, commences: "Let us now proclaim the power of this day, for it is awe-inspiring..."

Awe is an emotion that is often elusive and fleeting, but when experienced, it can be unforgettable and life-altering.

Dacher Keltner, Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, defines awe as the experience of "vast mysteries." In a widely acclaimed paper, written together with the noted social psychologist, Jonathan Haidt, Keltner identifies five spheres of experience which give rise to the feeling of awe.

1. Threat. When we encounter someone or something which has the power of life and death, such as a powerful natural disaster.
2. Beauty. When we see a striking piece of art or place of rare natural splendour.
3. Ability. When we appreciate in someone or something, an extraordinary talent.
4. Virtue. When we experience extraordinary acts of goodness which inspire us.
5. Supernatural Causality. When we feel the manifestation of the Divine in our lives.

Fascinatingly, these spheres of experience combine in the most extraordinary way on our Days of Awe.

Standing before our Creator on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, we meditate upon our mortality and the gift of life. We are struck by the beauty of the sea of white in our Shuls and the rousing melodies of our prayers. We recognise in Hashem the capacity to help shape our lives and His boundless virtue to forgive us, no matter how frequently we err. Above all, our Days of Awe enable us to experience the hand of Hashem on our shoulders, comforting us, guiding us, and pushing us to fulfil our potential.

Significantly, in an extraordinary series of studies, Professor Keltner showed that people who had reported experiencing more awe in their lives, were more charitable and more altruistic. Reflecting on these studies, he wrote, "awe imbues people with a different sense of themselves, one that is smaller, more humble and part of something larger. In the great balancing act of our social lives, between the gratification of self-interest and a concern for others, fleeting experiences of awe redefine the self in terms of the collective, and orient our actions towards the needs of those around us." No wonder, therefore, that our Unetaneh Tokef prayer concludes with a call to engage in prayer, penitence and charity.

With this in mind, may our forthcoming Yamim Noraim, filled with heartfelt introspection and awe, inspire us to be more compassionate, more giving and more connected to our fellows. Let us strive to live each day with a renewed sense of purpose and a deep appreciation for the awe-inspiring moments that await us.

Valerie and I wish you all a shana tova umetukah, filled with awe and bountiful blessings.



Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis KBE





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Our Synagogue stands on the traditional lands of the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation. We acknowledge and give thanks to the Elders and Traditional Custodians who have cared for this land for thousands of years. May we walk with care on this land which has provided a home for our Jewish community. We offer respect to the descendants of the first peoples whose presence and cultures are vital to the nation we share.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Solid Foundations & Renewal



David Lewis

Over the last twelve months your Board has been incredibly busy finally free of Covid, and the restrictions it imposed, progressing with our agenda of renewal coupled with building on the solid foundations we inherited.

Our community is growing and we have continued to improve our financial security thereby enabling improvement in all services to members.

Spirituality & Warmth

There is no doubt in my mind that The Great offers the most amazing warmth and generosity of spirit to everyone who joins us. We are a welcoming community and I am not only proud to serve this community, I am also so grateful that we all make such an effort to welcome everyone to our Shul. After all, that is precisely what a synagogue should be – a spiritually uplifting place where everyone is welcomed and accepted.

Our services over the past twelve months have been well attended and inspiring and I look forward to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with great excitement and anticipation.

Heritage Floor Space (HFS)

The HFS Scheme is an outstanding initiative and one that is of material benefit to the retention of Sydney's heritage buildings and, most importantly, the principal enabler of the maintenance of these buildings for future generations. The fundamental principle of the HFS Scheme is to ensure that new development in the city contributes to the maintenance of our heritage

buildings. The Great Synagogue is, of course, a heritage building.

This scheme is the successor to the sale of "air rights". The Great benefitted from that scheme back in 1989.

In September 2022. I represented both the Catholic Archdiocese and Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney along with The Great in making submissions to the Council City of Sydney requesting a change in the regulations relating to HFS. The prior regulations significantly reduced our potential award of HFS.

I am delighted to report that Council agreed with our representations and earlier this year they changed the "rules" relating to non-rateable buildings consistent with our representations.

The result will be that The Great will be a major beneficiary of the HFS Scheme and we will receive significant funds later this year.

Major Building Works

During this year we have also progressed with many of our building plans. Given that we are a heritage building, there are many heritage issues with which we must comply and therefore our progress is cautious.

Major roof renovations are underway in conjunction with sandstone regeneration, planning of the air-conditioning of the sanctuary has advanced and of course we have plans for the potential movement of the Bimah, subject to ongoing consultation with members.

All of these are exciting works that we have either commenced or, in the case of the Bimah, a decision is yet to be made on whether this will proceed.

Our Magnificent Green Gates

In March this year we reconsecrated our magnificent Elizabeth Street "Green Gates" after a loving restoration managed by our former President David Newman and documented by our Curator Dr Jana Vytrhlik and Zac Levi. (See Curator's Corner section of our website).

The Federal Government, Safer Communities Grant, signed back in 2018, covered several safety items including security cameras and alarm systems however, the vast majority of the funds and effort was expended on our iconic "Green Gates".

The Gates were removed between 5-12 September 2021 and re-installed on the 12th and 19th July 2022, however painting was not completed until November last year. Specialist heritage metalworker and restorer, John Toner from Scobie McIntosh, was engaged to carry out the restoration in accordance with the Heritage Act. The extent of the deterioration since 1878 was massive, requiring weekly meetings and supervision on site.

The Great Team

Whilst I will save my formal "thank you" to our full Great team for the AGM, once again I am extremely grateful to Rabbi Elton and Hinda together with Rabbi Feldman and Mushki for their tireless dedication to The Great.

I hope you all notice the fun we have up on the Bimah on Shabbat mornings. Rabbis Elton, Richter and Feldman are a delight to spend time with and I trust that this is clearly reflected in our services from start to finish.

Your Board has remained stable this past year and they have continued to work hard in this demanding role with each of us managing our respective portfolios. Toby Hammerman, who has been a wonderful addition to our team, has taken on the additional responsibility for both our Museum and our historical records.

Our Treasurer, Eli Green, has continued the significant overhaul and modernisation of our financial processes, and you will see the results of his excellent work at our AGM next month. Max Freedman, our Senior Vice-President has chaired the Bimah committee and Lauren Ryder, Junior Vice-President, has again worked tirelessly for the community on all things related to Great Women.



Lynn Niselow, our forever calm General Manager, manages an ever-changing landscape and we are very grateful to her and her amazing team. Our Choirmaster, Justin Green, resigned late last year to pursue new opportunities after lengthy service to The Great and we thanked him for his dedication. Josh Weinstock has now stepped into this role and has been outstanding.



Fay Frischer's portfolio is pastoral care and she diligently manages contact with so many of our members for their birthdays, anniversaries and general care – a massive task.



Benjamin Hansen has provided critical advice on staff contractual matters, Jack Pinczewski is a wonderful adviser on all things political whilst Darryl Green is currently assisting with several government grant applications.

Live @ The Great

As you are all aware, we have held many concerts in conjunction with Vlad & Eleanor who have created a wonderful initiative known as 'Live @ Yours'. In recent times they have sold out all seats at our concerts and have achieved rave reviews.



In mid-September we have the iconic jazz musician James Morrison at The Great to cap off a wonderful year of music in our Shul.

Conclusion

We have an exciting year ahead and I look forward to helping you all to continue enjoying The Great Synagogue.



Once again, Caroline and I wish you and your families Shana Tova; a happy and healthy new year. 🌸



KEDEM!

Renewal as in Days of Old

Elton Family

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton

Kedem is more than just a brand of Kiddush wine.

Almost all Hebrew words are based on a three-letter root (called a shoresh), in this case ק-ד-ם (KDM). Kedem is both a common and a complex word in Hebrew with different forms and a variety of vocalisations that can mean 'east' or 'ancient' (kedem), 'before' (kodem) or 'forwards' (kadimah).

That is why we say when the Torah is put back into the Ark 'chadesh yamenu kekedem' (renew us as in days of old), and why there is a synagogue in Sydney and there was previously an Israeli political party both called Kadimah - it is a rallying cry to press forward. With its dual sense of past and future, tradition and anticipation, kedem is a very powerful term and I believe it is a fitting banner for The Great Synagogue.

We are living in a historical moment when it is essential to look back and look forwards. There has never been a more important time for imaginative thinking. Great world events are catalysts; they speed up trends which are already underway. That was certainly true of Covid. In half a century, historians will look back and see that just as the First and Second World Wars accelerated existing changes, the same was true of the pandemic.

Remarkably, this is the first Great Vine article I have been able to write since 2019 which reflects on an entire year of in-person activity, including regular

services at The Great Synagogue. Covid had an enormous impact on us all, not only while people were becoming unwell, but also long after the disease passed and is still permanently on the communal landscape. Synagogues, like every other institution, must adapt to new realities. We have to be well-suited to the present and future. What does not change are the basics of human nature, and to discover those, we look into our past. We are all looking for meaning and connection that synagogues and communities have always provided. While some of the means and modes may change, we are still uniquely well-placed to provide that.

To do so, we have to take the best of what and who we have been and offer it in a way that resonates today. At The Great we have a particularly rich tradition of enlightened and intelligent Orthodoxy, communal inclusivity, beautiful services and social responsibility that the Sydney community and the Jewish world needs more than ever. Our task is to present these values in a way that remains compelling to our contemporaries. That is where imaginative thinking is required. We will not jettison distinctive elements of the Jewish tradition or our own synagogue tradition, but we will excavate them more deeply so we can maintain, restore and utilise everything that is most valuable.

Looking back on 5783 I can say that this is what we have been trying to do and it

is working. We are experiencing renewal as in days of old. That is evident from the contents of this magazine. If we look at the number of bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and children's events, if we look at the conversion class, at the new members, at women's events, at our concert series, at donations to the Foundation and many other aspects of our activity over the past year, we see energy and vibrancy.

What these articles do not describe are the regular services that are the fabric of The Great Synagogue and central to our purpose. Our weekday, Friday night, Shabbat morning and Yom Tov services are all stronger and busier. On a Shabbat with a special event, such as a communal lunch, we are welcoming more members and guests, greeting old and new faces and adding extra chairs in the Israel Green Auditorium to welcome additional people into our community. On a Shabbat without any particular event, we have more people in shule coming to mark an occasion, or simply to enjoy a regular religious and social experience. I am sure this is helped by the outstanding quality of our chazzan and choir, and I want to thank them very much for their contribution. I pay tribute to our former choirmaster, Justin Green, and his replacement Joshua Weinstock, who has already made his mark as part of a wonderful beginning in his new role.

The Shule relies on so many people to function well. As well as serving as our chazzan, Rabbi Feldman has taken the lead on children's events, which have been stronger this year than at any time during my experience at The Great. He also assists and deputises for me on the whole range of ministerial and rabbinic duties and he and Mushki have become much-loved as part of our congregation. Mushki, in particular, is making an outstanding contribution to women's events. Our general manager Lynn and the office staff keep a complex operation running smoothly and offer excellent support to the members as well as the ministers and Board. Our curator Jana Vytrhlik expertly looks after our museum collection to preserve these important objects for this congregation and the wider community.

The Shule could not thrive without volunteers and the Board, led by our



Tea in the Rabbi's Succah



Rabbi Elton signs the Book of Condolence for HM The Queen at Government House on behalf of the NSW Jewish community

President David Lewis, is the busiest and most involved of our cadre of volunteers. Each Board member takes on important projects to guarantee the communal and financial wellbeing of the congregation. There is a strong partnership between the synagogue and the Foundation, chaired by Garry Browne AM. Thanks to the work of the Foundation, we are now within sight of financial stability in perpetuity.



Rabbis Apple, Belfer & Elton



Wedding

Our many other volunteers are warmly appreciated, including the Women's Auxiliary and their work on Kiddushim, our Gabbaim including two recent recruits, the ushers and guides at special events and members who come in to assist the office at very busy times. My wife Hinda is an extraordinary volunteer for The Shule and always has been. She has prepared dozens of bat mitzvah girls, taught scores of brides-to-be, hosted hundreds of Shabbat and Yom Tov meals, greeted thousands of members and visitors in shule, and has balanced those many and varied responsibilities with her professional life and parenthood. I am very grateful to her.



Conversion Class



Learning

In an important sense, all our members are volunteers. They choose to join and maintain their membership, to attend services, make offerings, hold their semachot with us and call on our services in times of need and sadness. These are all the essential elements for a living and flourishing community, and I am so glad that at The Great Synagogue they are all in place. There is a lot more still to do and there always will be, but as we look into the new year, our motto will be kedem!

We will treasure the best of what we are and have been and we will move forward into a renewed future. Shana tova to us all! 🌸



Local Police Visit



A YEAR OF JOY

Rabbi Menachem and Mushki Feldman



With the chief Justice of New South Wales

As I reflect on the year gone by, my heart is filled with immense joy. We look back with great pride at all the wonderful things that were achieved over the course of year 5783.

One of the things that sets our shule apart from the rest is that not only are we the spiritual home for our own members, but we have the privilege to serve as a beacon of light and source of inspiration to so many people across Sydney and far beyond. Just this year alone,

there were literally thousands of people who merited to walk through our gates and behold the beauty and splendour that is The Great Synagogue. These included members of the shule as well as their extended families and friends, guests from across Australia and many tourists from overseas. We welcomed visitors of all shapes and sizes, from political dignitaries to religious leaders, university students to accomplished professionals, world-famous musicians and artists to audiences, critics and fans,

senior educators to school children, community activists to academics and the list goes on.

Our walls bore witness to thousands of magical encounters, each of which were special and memorable in their own way. Most touching, however, was the opportunity I had to stand hand-in-hand with our precious members during life's key moments and milestones. Personally, to be present together with you, at your family simchas and joyous occasions, as well as moments of personal loss and sorrow, is a great gift that never fails to be a humbling source of true inspiration.

We've now entered our second year at The Great Synagogue and Mushki and I truly feel this is home and you, dear members, are family to us. I hope our mutual friendship continues to grow and prosper for many years to come and may we keep sharing life's blessings together as we continue to grow as a community.

I have also had the great fortune to represent The Great Synagogue at many functions, ceremonies & concerts throughout the wider Sydney Jewish community. It is indeed a special honour to be able to spread the music and spirit of The Great to so many audiences across all ages and backgrounds and even to those who don't (yet) attend regularly.



We give praise of thanks to Hashem, firstly, for the gift of being part of the fabric of such a magnificent community. Secondly, I wish to thank Rabbi Elton and Rebbetzin Hinda for being such good friends and mentors to both Mushki and me. Rabbi, I feel truly lucky to enjoy such a rewarding partnership with you in our holy work together. To Lynn and all the dear members of staff, thank you for being such inspirational and dedicated teammates in everything that we do for the community. You make The Great Synagogue such a dynamic, cohesive and powerful work environment. To David Lewis and the Board, your vision, care and support is truly exemplary. It is due to such great leadership as yours that our shule is able constantly to climb to new heights. With Hashem's help we will see our beloved synagogue propelled forward into a truly bright future, both physically and spiritually.

This year I welcomed my newest 'partner in song,' our new young and talented choirmaster Josh Weinstock. Josh, you have been an absolute champion and a great leader of the choir. We have all tremendously enjoyed your contribution so far. Your unique musicality and spirit, together with your determination and charm, brings our sound to new and improved levels of quality. To our dear choristers I say thank you for being such loyal, professional and positive members of the musical team. Your musicianship and dedication are something I cherish, as are our friendship and comradery. You have no idea how much your voices and smiles infuse each service with divine energy and touch the hearts of the entire community.

In conclusion, Mushki and I would like to wish the whole congregation and indeed all of Am Yisrael a "K'tiva Vachatima Tova, L'Shana Tova Umetuka". May you all be inscribed and sealed in the book of good life. May this new year 5784 bring with it infinite blessings for all of us and our loved ones. May Hashem bless The Great Synagogue to continue to grow and succeed in every area possible and may our precious spiritual home continue to be a source of great light to all of Sydney and the entire world. 🌸

THE GABBAI TEAM

Steve Schach

A gabbai (master of ceremonies) needs to be on duty every Shabbat and Yom Tov morning to ensure that the service runs smoothly. I have had the honour of serving The Great Synagogue as gabbai since October 2016, but if I am unavailable for any reason, Toby Hammerman has always expertly stepped up to the plate.

However, Toby and I were scheduled to be overseas for the same six weeks in May/June this year, leaving the congregation without a gabbai. Rabbi Elton had the brilliant idea of recruiting Rich Davey and Dave Dunn to serve as gabbai'im during our absence. I had seven weeks in which to train them, so I prepared a lesson for each of the seven Shabbatot. To my delight, during lesson one they both asked questions from lesson seven; it was abundantly clear from the start that they were born to be gabbai'im! Further evidence of their aptitude for gabbai'ut is the way they decided to learn the name of each congregant.

Not only did they serve with great distinction while Toby and I were away, but they have chosen to continue as gabbai'im, allowing us all to sit back in our seats and admire the effortless way Rich and Dave perform their role. With Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur approaching, we have a team of gabbai'im who will work together to run our beautiful services. 🌸



Steve Schach



Toby Hammerman



David Dunn



Richard Davey

CONNECT & BELONG

Lynn Niselow,
General Manager



Lynn Niselow

What an incredible year we've had. A year where we're back to our 'new normal' following Covid and the changes we've adapted to.

We strive to build connection and in doing so we create memories. Our very essence of being is that we are connected to one another and our beautiful Shule. It is who we are as a people.

This is evident when we reflect on what we've achieved in the past year. From the memorable children's programs over Purim and Shavuot to second night Pesach Seder, always a highlight when we join together with our Rabbis for a truly heimishe Seder.

There have been many weddings and Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Rosh Chodesh shiurim, wonderful communal lunches with interesting speakers, lectures and a full program of concerts curated by Maestro Vladimir Fanshil of Live at Yours. It's always a joy to see the Shule so full of not only Great Synagogue members, but also members of the greater community who come to listen to music and walk away touched not only by the concert but the majesty and beauty of our Great Synagogue.

We have on average at least two school groups that visit each month as well as several tour groups. We plan to build on this in the coming year.

Recognising what we have accomplished, with a new team of staff learning the procedures, and so many new initiatives.

Nothing ever happens without an incredible group of people.

Ilana Moddel, our longstanding star of the admin team. There are not enough superlatives to describe what an incredible colleague Ilana is and how much we value and adore her.

Nicola Woolfrey, has been temping for us for the past six months, she is capable warm and accommodating and has supported the team to keep everything in balance.

Recently Dalya Will joined The Great, she has fitted in as if she's always been a part of the team and is proving to be a great colleague. I thank them all for their dedication and commitment.

My thanks go to the President and members of the Board for their support and guidance. I would like to thank each of them individually for their continued assistance. To the Chair of Great Women, and to the special women of the Women's Auxiliary who continue to give so very generously of themselves and their time to The Great. Our volunteers, be they the Board or committee members, all give of their time and expertise and work tirelessly for our beautiful Shule.

To Rabbi and Menachem who continue to lead our community, a huge thank you for your guidance and support.

As we approach the High Holidays the planning is in place. We look forward to the services, kiddushim, dinners and kids' events but most of all to everyone being together at The Great, all here for the same reason, our connection to our Shule and its people.

I wish you and your families Shana Tova Umetuka, the sweetest of years filled with the richest of joy and blessings. 🌸



Ilana Moddel

I have been at The Great since 2010. My husband Daniel's family have a longstanding and strong connection to The Great and over my many years here, I have built my own deep connection to the community and Synagogue. I have two beautiful children, Noah and Zara who feel very much at home at The Great, having spent many school holiday days in the office 'helping Mum'.



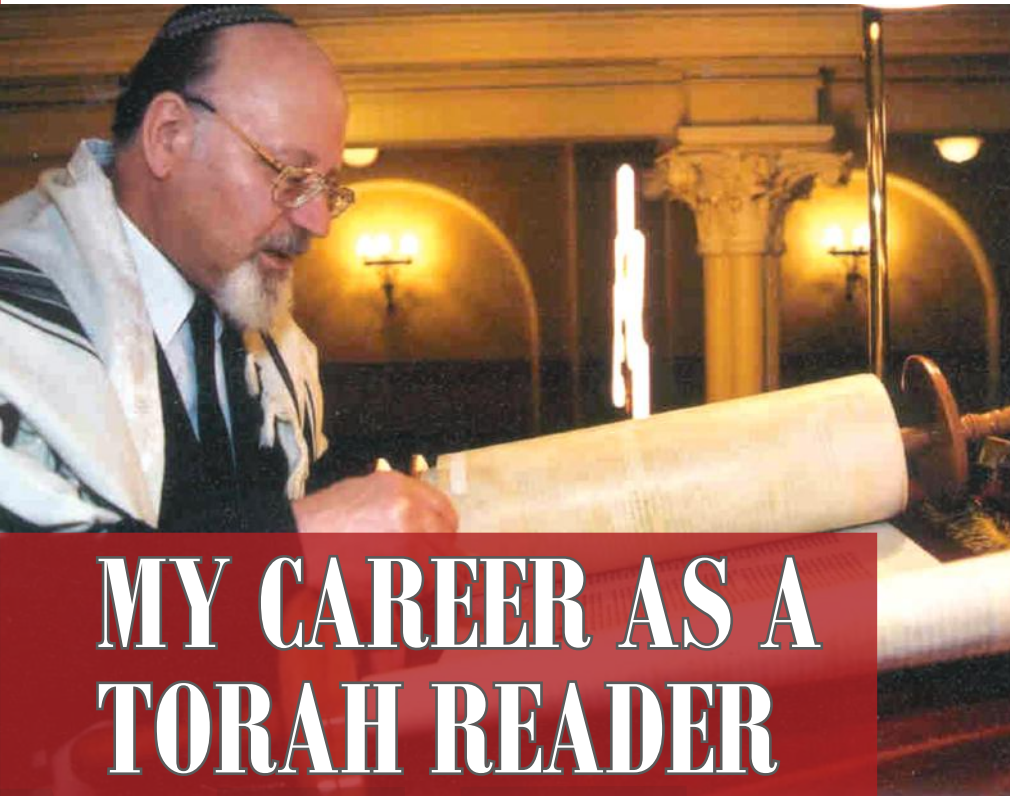
Nicola Woolfrey

My background is in producing, business leadership and events, and I have been helping out in the office with our events, systems and processes, and general office administration since March. As a mother to two boys I have a passion for creating joyful experiences and contributing positively to the planet for future generations.



Dalya Will

I was married and part of the Youth Committee at The Great. I now return with skills in marketing, membership and administration. I look forward to working at The Great to ensure that the inspiration of The Great continues throughout generations.



MY CAREER AS A TORAH READER

Rabbi Dr Raymond Apple AO RFD, Emeritus Rabbi

My barmitzva teacher in Melbourne was the poet-philosopher Dr Samuel Billigheimer, who had been head of the communal Lehrhaus in Mannheim in southern Germany. Arriving in Australia just prior to World War II, Billigheimer had to become a schoolmaster once again, teaching languages at Caulfield Grammar School and conducting Jewish Education Board classes at various locations.

His teaching method for Torah reading started with a visual introduction to the shapes of the Torah neumes or tropes. In later years, whenever I taught the leining (Torah chant) to bar mitzvah boys (including two grandsons whom I taught by Skype) I used the Billigheimer method.

A.W. Binder, author of a book titled "Biblical Chant", called the Torah notes 'a speech melody', which partially explains how I, lacking musical ability, could lein in tune and get good results from my pupils. I think I sound OK when I lein, though you would squirm at my Hazzanut. When a choir had the misfortune of being led in by me, they wanted me led out - to execution!

My Torah-reader career began in strange circumstances. As a student at Jews' College in London I responded to the request of the rabbi of the Western Synagogue in Marble Arch for someone to lein "Tazria-Metzora". The problem was that I had never looked at this double sidra, it was Friday morning and they needed the person the following day. Not realising what I had undertaken, I was surprised that none of the other students showed any interest in the task. Somehow, I struggled through. I later got a shabbat job as Baal Keriah at the Bayswater Synagogue for a guinea a time. When I joined the rabbinate, I had five years at one shule (that same Bayswater) and seven at another (Hampstead), leining regularly at each shule and later in Sydney at The Great Synagogue - making a total of forty-five years as a leiner!

I knew what the notes looked like, but I had to learn several versions - for the Torah, the Haftarot, the High Holydays and the Megillot, apart from special tunes for the Song of the Sea and the journeys of the Children of Israel, as well as

the 'upper' and 'lower' versions of the Ten Commandments. The notes always looked the same but there were differences between the Ashkenazi and Sephardi styles as well as subdivisions within each.

All of my experience was in the English/Germanic mode, different from the Eastern European and Israeli styles. When I made aliyah, I was the odd man out, but not the only one, since our shule has members who use the Yemenite mode. These days I sit quietly and tell the Torah reader how good he is. If the gabbai asks if anyone present can lein, I fail to hear the question.

The origin of the notes is probably in hand signals given by the person standing beside the leiner. An Australian TV producer once asked me for the musical scores for an Easter program on the Dead Sea Scrolls; I didn't tell her that I couldn't guarantee that my version of the Torah notes was what they used at Qumran.

The hand signals were turned into a written system by the medieval Massorettes (textual experts). The notations are an aid to memory; they indicate correct accentuation; they bring drama into the narrative; they give the services a musical quality. When I read Megillat Esther, I leined the story in an array of voices, becoming in turn the villainous Haman and his conspiring wife Zeresh, the sweet heroine Esther, the strident queen Vashti, the carousing king Ahasuerus and the scholarly Mordechai. On the High Holydays, in contrast, I became solemn and even rather august.

The rule in the Talmud is that the scriptures should be intoned tunefully. All the biblical books have musical renditions except Mishlei, Ezra, Nehemiah and Chronicles, which are not part of the synagogue lectionary. The Talmud says there are halls in heaven that open only to the sound of song. I fear that I will never be admitted to the heavenly music halls though I might satisfy them that I can lein in tune. 🌸

MAKING GREAT MUSIC



In concert



*New Choirmaster
Joshua Weinstock*

The Choir at The Great continues to rise to ever higher standards. After making an impressive contribution over several years as a chorister and as the Choirmaster, Justin Green stepped down to pursue other career opportunities.

We were delighted that Joshua Weinstock expressed interest in that role and has now made it his own, with his outstanding musicality, rapport with the Chazzan and congregation, his hard work and collaborative approach. New members have joined the Choir recently, and they have added both to the sound and the camaraderie.

The Choir sings beautifully with Rabbi Feldman every Shabbat and Yom Tov, who inspires them to rise higher and higher. They are continually refreshing and adding to the repertoire while maintaining all the old favourites. In addition there have been some special events, including the Festival evening services, a Yom Yerushalayim concert at Mizrahi in Bondi and a guest appearance in the Live at The Great concert series.

We are sure to have an outstanding series of choral services over the High Holidays, in the wonderful and long-standing tradition of The Great Synagogue. 🌸



Chazzan & choir at Chanukah



Sacks scholars with Lady Sacks

RABBI SACKS SCHOLARSHIP

2023-2024

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks was one of the outstanding Jewish religious and intellectual figures of the last half century. The Great Synagogue hosted him several times, sadly before my time as Chief Minister. The Sydney Jewish community was able on those occasions to experience his brilliance at first hand. That was something I was able to do as I grew up and lived as a young adult in England. I have very powerful memories of his giving the Neilah Sermon at St John's Wood Synagogue, and then leading the congregation in Neilah itself.

When he passed away three years ago at a relatively early age it was a great blow to the Jewish world. After a period of reflection, the Rabbi Sacks Legacy Trust was created to perpetuate and promote Rabbi Sacks' ideas. His writings are being preserved and distributed in a range of languages and tailored to audiences of different ages and backgrounds.

One of the major projects of the Trust is the create annual cohorts of Rabbi Sacks scholars to contribute to the study and teaching of Rabbi Sacks' ideas. Earlier this year I was lucky to

be invited to be part of the inaugural group of scholars, and in July we went to Jerusalem for a five-day conference.

The twenty-five colleagues I joined for the scholarship are all very impressive men and women with a range of roles and backgrounds. They come from the UK, Israel, South Africa and the United States. Two of us are from Australia; I was joined by Simon Lawrence, who is a senior Jewish educator at Carmel School in Perth. The Scholars work as community rabbis, rebbitzens, teachers, academics, community professionals and organisers, editors and writers.

The conference was very intense, and lasted each day from 7am to 10pm, although on the last night we finished at 1am! There was a wonderful atmosphere of support and collaboration and strong bonds were formed. Each Scholar must undertake a major project on the Rabbi Sacks legacy, and we developed our ideas over the course of the conference. I plan to write an article on Rabbi Sacks' vision of inclusive Orthodoxy and how it relates to other ideas of Jewish community,

and how it remains relevant. There will be monthly Zoom seminars for the Scholars, which will last from 11pm to 1am Sydney time, so if you see me bleary eyed on occasion it is either sleepless children or the Rabbi Sacks Scholarship to blame!

As well as working on the ideas of Rabbi Sacks we also heard about the current situation in Israel and challenges in the wider Jewish world. It was very special to spend time with Lady Sacks and some people who worked very closely with Rabbi Sacks over the years. Strangely, in the absence of the central individual, with all his presence and charisma, Rabbi Sacks' thought took on an even greater status, as a free-standing contribution to Jewish philosophy and theology, separated from specific people and events. I am sure you will be hearing more of Rabbi Sacks' ideas from me over the coming year as I immerse myself in his thought. Rabbi Sacks has left us but his ideas live on, and all the Scholars, including myself, look forward to doing what we can to disseminating and developing them over this coming year and beyond. 🌻



Rabbi Sacks at The Great Synagogue



Sacks Scholars at the Lord Sacks Forest in Jerusalem

WEDDINGS



Daniel Garba & Natacha Maloon



Lisa Kappel & Tom Goldstein



Joel Temple & Jenna Chertow



David Dunn & Tayler Matthews



David Politzer & Rebecca Spicer



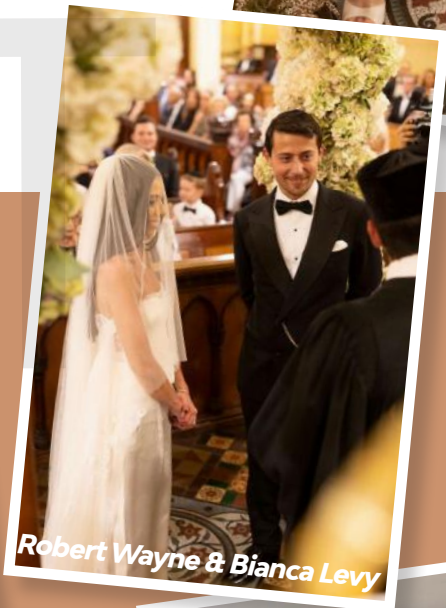
Sam Kharvin & Artur Shariev



Asher Dinnen & Dominique Doyle



Ariel Lumbraso & Tanya Ma



Robert Wayne & Bianca Levy



Ben Feilich & Amy Gruskin



Daniel Heilprin & Tia Gelman



Bella & Sam

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Oliver Bloom

It was a very proud moment for Oliver to have his Bar Mitzvah at The Great Synagogue to join the long line of his parents, grandparents, great grandparents extending all the way back to the first President, George Myers.

Sylvia Samuels

Some of my favourite memories consist of sitting in shul with my family, learning and playing in the children's service and of course asking the page turner for apple lollies.

When I was little, sitting in shul with my family, I dreamt of the day that I would get up on the bimah, read my D'var Torah, and celebrate becoming a Jewish woman.

Last year on Friday the 21st of October 2022 my long awaited dream came true I became Bat Mitzvah! It was a wonderful shabbat, but of course there was preparation before I could celebrate.

First, I started learning with Hinda Young. She taught me about becoming a strong Jewish woman and what that meant, and also taught me many texts from the Torah. Hinda also helped me write my D'var Torah. Then of course, we had to plan my service and my party. Lucky for me that meant a lot of shopping, not so lucky for my parents though!

Of course, then there were a whole bunch of logistics, but that was not my job. My Bat Mitzvah was a memorable celebration filled with Judaism, joy and pride. I was so happy celebrating my Bat Mitzvah at The Great Synagogue, because the synagogue is filled with happy memories from when I was little.



Sophie Bolot

Zeke Burch

To me, my Bar Mitzvah was a very special celebration that will stay in my heart until I die. While my back was facing everyone and I was singing, I was feeling a deep connection to my Jewish heritage. My lessons with John taught me a lot about the history of Judaism and the Hebrew language.

Sophia Bolot

Sophia marked the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah at The Great Synagogue with a special Shabbat candle lighting ceremony followed by celebrations in Jerusalem at the Kotel.

Her candle lighting at The Great was particularly poignant as her D'var Torah was all about Rivka as a matriarch from the Torah and there Sophia was, lighting candles with her mother, sister and grandmothers on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

The service was so beautiful and it was wonderful to see the Synagogue filled with so many of her friends, all in awe of its beauty and the occasion. We are deeply grateful to Rebbetzin Hinda, Rabbi Elton and The Great. 🌟

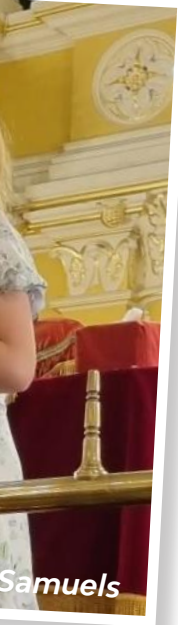


Sylvia



Oliver





Samuels



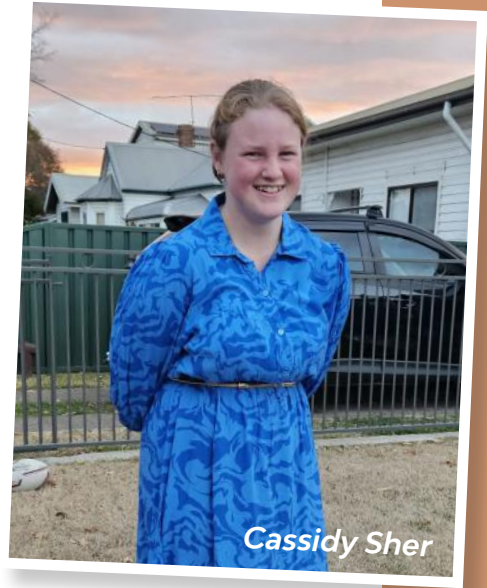
Austin Ben Mayor



Marli Green



er Bloom



Cassidy Sher



Zac Fraser



Zeke Burch



Hannah Ratner



HIGH HOLIDAYS WITH THE GREAT FAMILY

Barbara and Max Freedman and family wish all members of The Great community a happy and healthy New Year. Shana Tova.



The Board of the Great Synagogue wishes all of their members Shana Tova, a Happy Healthy 5784.



Avril and Joe Symon wish a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to our family, friends and congregants. Wishing you all well in the fast.



Wishing our Rabbis and their families, and all the congregation of TGS, Shana Tova, a healthy and rewarding year, filled with blessings.

Ros and Alex Fischl and family



!!שנה טובה ומתוקה!!
A sweeter and happier New year to everyone!

Stephen & Susie Kopp



Sari Browne OAM wishes her family, friends and the entire congregation, a sweet, happy and healthy 5784

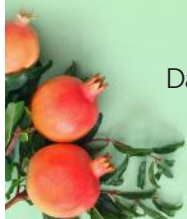


Ron and Margaret Sekel and family send warm greetings for the coming year.



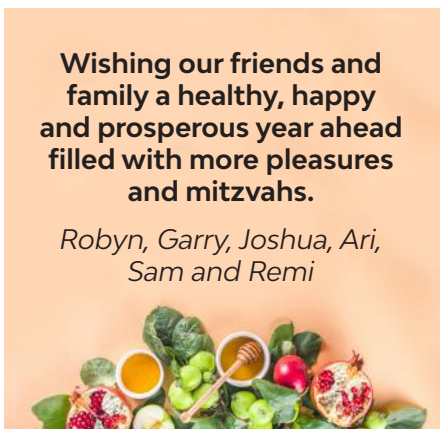
Wishing the entire congregation a happy, healthy and sweet New Year.

Daniel, Mauri, Adrian and Jackie Abbott



Wishing our friends and family a healthy, happy and prosperous year ahead filled with more pleasures and mitzvahs.

Robyn, Garry, Joshua, Ari, Sam and Remi



David Hartstein and Judith Cowan and family wish all their family and members of the congregation a happy and healthy New Year and well over the fast.



To our 'Great family', wishing you a safe Fast and a New Year spent in good health and happy times. Chag Sameach.

David Lewis and Caroline Lewis OAM, Juliet Lewis, Charlotte & Robbie Weiss.



Wishing all our family and friends Shana Tova and well over the Fast

Steve and Sharon Schach



Wishing our "Great Family and Friends" a sweet, HEALTHY, prosperous and peaceful New Year. Well over the Fast.

Jake, Sue, Ben & Alexis





Best wishes to all for a good and sweet new year

Rabbi Menachem, Rebbetzin Mushki, Leah & Ari Feldman



The Havas Family would like to wish the congregation a restful and peaceful High Holy Days.

Happy, healthy, sweet New Year to everyone.


From The Women's Auxiliary




Simone and Darryl Green wish family and friends a happy and healthy new year and well over the fast.


Justice Stephen & Sandra Rothman and family wish all friends and congregants a healthy, happy New Year - one of peace, prosperity, health and happiness.

L'SHANA TOVA U'M'TUCHA V'GMAR CHATIMAH TOVA




A sweet & healthy New Year to everyone.


Judith, Genevieve, Lewis and Sammy



Wishing our dear children and grandchildren and all The Great family a healthy, happy and peaceful year.

Chag sameach Mavis and Peter Elton

Gary and Hilary Elsass wish the congregation, family and friends a very sweet New Year filled with good health and happiness.



Sunny and Michael Gold express their warmest Yomtov wishes to all.



Wishing all our friends in the "Great" community and beyond, Shana Tova, a happy and sweet New Year!!!

David Newman and Family




Rabbi Elton, Hinda, Lizzie and Salo wish the whole congregation a sweet, happy and healthy 5784.

Wishing everybody a happy and peaceful Yomtov.

Brigitte Rola-Janicki



Wishing everyone at The Great community a very sweet, happy and healthy New Year! L'Shana Tova Um'tukah.

Lauren, Jackson and Mikaela Ryder




The Chazzan & Choir wish the entire community "Shana Tova." Looking forward to uplifting High Holiday services and beyond!!



Wishing everyone at The Great Shana Tova U'Metuka.

Yigal & Benjamin

Chag Sameach To All.

Jane Levi, Eli, Ezra, Riva and Zelig



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Sharon Schach

Great Women has had an eventful year, and we are eagerly awaiting an even busier 5784!

First, I want to express our gratitude to the Women's Auxiliary for their dedication and hard work in catering our Shabbat morning kiddushim. While we are in the synagogue praying, they are in the kitchen early in the morning, preparing delicious food for us to enjoy after the service. With the support of the Board, new and even more delicious and innovative menus are being planned.

The Women's Auxiliary also did a fantastic job decorating the succah for Sukkot. We had a lovely morning tea in the succah, which was well-attended. Rebbitzin Mushki Feldman gave a talk, introducing herself and sharing her background before moving to Sydney. We were then treated to beautiful singing by Mushki and her husband, our Chazzan Rabbi Menachem Feldman.

Additionally, the Women's Auxiliary organised a tour of the Archibald, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

During the past year, our tireless board member, Fay Frischer, implemented a new initiative for Great Women. Fay noticed during her birthday calls to members that there

was a desire for women to connect with each other. Thus, our coffee clubs were born! We currently have two of these clubs, meeting once a month for coffee and stimulating discussions on various topics. Some of our meetings have delved into our family histories, which have been absolutely fascinating. Any women interested in joining a coffee club should get in touch with Fay. It's important to note that these groups require a commitment to attend regularly, rather than just dropping in occasionally. Fay is also exploring the possibility of creating similar groups for men in our congregation.

On the culinary front, we had two wonderful evenings. The first was a challah-baking evening at Rebbitzin Mushki's home, where we all learned how to make our own dough, which we then took home to bake. On another evening, I conducted a gefilte fish demonstration in the synagogue kitchen. Everyone had a great time, and they even got to take home a delicious sample.

Mushki also organised a recent Paint & Sip evening, where around thirty five women enjoyed a dinner and a shiur by artist Micaela Ezra. Micaela then taught us how to paint our own watercolour Birkat haBayit, a blessing for the home. Each woman took home her own framed work of art.



Lastly, we have celebrated Rosh Chodesh together, marking the beginning of the Jewish month, with a shiur by women, for women after the Shabbat morning Kiddush. We thank our member Jacki Gluck and Rebbetzin Mushki for leading these meaningful shiurim, another opportunity for our Great Women community to come together and rejoice.

We are excited for the year ahead and all the fantastic events and initiatives that Great Women has planned. 🌸



Ladies Night Out
with *Rebbetzin Mushki Feldman*

Paint & Sip

Join us for this special evening of inspiration, creativity & community!

Paint & frame your own Bikat Habayit with
SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST
Micaela Ezra

5 July

6.30pm
enter via Castlereagh Street

\$25 per person

To book go to greatsynagogue.org.au/community/greatwomen

All art equipment, a glass of wine and light refreshments included





WOW 2023



Caroline Lewis

What an incredible WOW Day we had! On Sunday 12 March, coinciding with the week of International Women's Day, we had the shule buzzing all day with the sights and sounds of more than a hundred women, chatting and hugging, laughing and crying, singing and dancing, eating and drinking, watching and listening, oohing and aahing!

The annual 'Women of Worth', after four years' hiatus, was back celebrating women's resilience, passion and spirit. It brought more than a dozen speakers to our fabulous program, designed by ex-VP Caroline Lewis, co-hosted with VP Lauren Ryder and their amazing team of volunteers: Agnes Geyer, Judith Jaffé, Lianne Graf, Nina Blair, Rachel Bickovsky, Sharon Schach & Simone Green. In addition, we had help all day from the lovely Darryl Green, Luca Quaglia, Steve Schach & Robbie Geyer, who supported us with registration, coffee-making and shlepping duties.

With a focus on empowering and sharing stories, experiences and knowledge, the range of topics was varied and extensive - and the criteria for acceptance was each session had to be totally WOW!

The 'Fashion & Fearlessness' panel facilitated by **Shirli Kirschner**, tech co-founder, included **Caroline**

Lewis, a previous 80s advertising executive, **Jordi Levin**, a former Miss Universe finalist and **Nikki Kinstlinger** former fashion editor, now full-time mum.

The 'Finding My Belonging' panel, facilitated by **Devorah Wainer**, human rights lecturer at University of Sydney. Brought together by **Kirsten McKenzie Shteinman**, Tassie convert and yoga instructor, **Rachel Bickovsky**, who is childless-by-choice and **Judy Singer**, a multi-generational neurodivergent. They each shared their challenging stories of finding acceptance and their place in the community.

Krav Maga devotee, **Natalie Levy** showed us how to protect and defend ourselves by tapping into our inner strength and showing us some new tactics - using our voice and our bodies as our best defence.

Personal trainer Naomi Blair gave a fun demonstration for stretching our tight muscles mid-way.

The highlight of the day was New York-based singer **Miriam Waks/Mimi Larue** launching as kol isha/ 'voice of a woman' who told the story of her reconnection to her Jewish roots and she had us up dancing in the aisles!

The topic of 'Finance & Freedom' was addressed by **Michelle Gianferrari**,

who gave us some invaluable tips, knowledge & fantastic insights into managing our finances.

We wrapped up the day with a great session about 'Frenemies & Friendship' with psychologist **Amanda Gordon**, who explained the psychology of female friendship over the ages and sparked some controversial Q & A.

The food was also a highlight of the day, including Guylian chocolates sponsored by **Robyn and Garry Browne**, amid the background sounds of live jazz from talented teens, **Jackson Ryder** on keyboard and vocalist **Leah Reinhart**.

The afternoon High Tea was generously sponsored by **Sharon Schach** and it gave us another chance to catch up and chat over a glass of bubbly, a selection of cakes and biscuits and all things sweet! The day came to a wonderful, warm closure with a group photo, giving us a Great memory!

We had so many wonderful comments and compliments. Amazingly, 40% of attendees were non-members from other communities and areas, happy to come on their own to make friends or bring friends.

We're already planning 2024, so watch this space for dates and book early! 🌸



TESTIMONIALS

"Thank you! The day was superbly organised with an excellent line up of speakers and a good, thoughtful mix of content. All with a wonderful spirit of generosity and care. Thank you so much to everyone who made it happen."

"The day was great, the speakers fantastic, the food was really, really good. Compliments to the organisers. No complaints - it was a WOW day."

"It exceeded all expectations! Many thanks to everyone involved in the organisation & who volunteered on the day."

"As a carer of my darling husband with dementia, this event has helped me recharge my batteries both mentally and physically. Everyone was so friendly. Thank you to the organisers and speakers. It was so enjoyable and interesting."



Photos Courtesy
Nadine Saacks



CRACKING THE CODE

Sari Browne OAM JP



T: Marin Place Ladies Bazaar
L: Sari Browne



Bookmark from the Bazaar

"I was chatting to Rabbi Apple and suggested in passing, that women should be more prominent in the running of the Synagogue. A big statement, and I was then challenged to take action"

Women have always been the backbone of The Great Synagogue and the Women's Auxiliary its Foundation stone.

From the time when the Sydney Hebrew Ladies Bazaar raised £4,800 from their street stalls in both Pitt and George Streets (now Martin Place) which started in 1875, until today, women have shown their initiative, capability and leadership. What few people know is that this effort by women raised much-needed money to help build The Great Synagogue.

Apart from the activities of the Sydney Hebrew Ladies' Bazaar, women were involved in many other organisations, such as the Hebrew Benevolent Society and the Hebrew Ladies' Maternity Society, The Sacred Vestments Guild which cared for the vestments of The Great Synagogue, to name a few.

It was the initiative of Rabbi Porush's wife Bertha Porush, who showed leadership and foresight and managed to bring all these organisations together under the one umbrella and called it The Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary. This was no mean feat. You could say she had cracked the code.

The inaugural meeting took place on 1 April 1941. A strong mandate and sound values were established in the beginning and with a committee elected that was dedicated and focused on serving The Great Synagogue. They worked in harmony and showed diligence towards the cause, something that is still evident today.

During World War II, the Auxiliary's focus was directed towards the war effort. The Auxiliary participated in work with the Red Cross, the collection and provision of comforts for the armed forces, organising hospitality for both Australian and American servicemen and women and giving assistance to war victims. Sending clothes overseas (to London after the Blitz) and contributing to the various patriotic funds. Most of this work was carried out at the Maccabean Hall, where the women met and sewed, thousands of pairs of pyjamas, and camouflage netting to Army specifications.

Despite the ceaseless calls for war work, the Synagogue was in no way neglected. The Auxiliary looked after the Succah, the floral decorations of the Synagogue on Shavuot, the Festival celebrations for the youth, Kiddushim on Shabbat and the rich

collection of sacred vestments. In addition to regular activities, it was decided to hold Demonstration Seders, Purim parties, fancy dress functions and Succot parties. Breakfast was provided for the children of the Tefilla Club and catering for GSY functions when called upon.

The practice of presenting prayer books to Bar Mitzvah boys and Bat Mitzvah girls was initiated by the Auxiliary and in 1954, it was decided to present a challah cloth to brides.

In 1961, Mrs. Porush again showed foresight and leadership by forming a Junior Women's Auxiliary to assist the Senior Auxiliary. One in particular, Mrs. Nina Glasser, who passed away in March 2023, daughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Falk, was the youngest member of the Senior Auxiliary and also joined the Junior Auxiliary, which showed true the commitment to continuity. Nina was the last surviving member of the Senior Women's Auxiliary.

The Junior Women's Auxiliary carried on with all the activities and attended to the needs of the Synagogue that were required, until 1969 when they assumed all the activities of both Senior and Junior Auxiliaries. Following this change, I was elected President of the Women's Auxiliary and was blessed to have around me a committee of women who were enthusiastic, energetic, living the values and focused on supporting all aspects of The Great Synagogue.

Under my leadership, we extended the activities of the Women's Auxiliary with increased involvement in the community, without sacrificing the

obligations and commitment to the Synagogue. The Women's Auxiliary has always been affiliated with the NSW National Council of Women.

In 1970, the Women's Auxiliary participated in the Captain Cook Bi-Centenary celebrations, by setting up a model Succah in the Sydney Town Hall as our contribution to the Pageant of Endeavour, attended by Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Anne.

The Auxiliary also participated in the celebrations for the seventieth, ninetieth and centenary of the Synagogue, giving practical assistance and played an integral role in the activities.

I was chatting to Rabbi Apple and suggested in passing that women should be more prominent in the running of the Synagogue. A big statement, and I was then challenged to take action, when he said, "Why don't you do something about it!" That meant cracking the code. A significant task.

In 1974, at an extraordinary meeting the rules were changed so there could be one female member of the Board. The scene was set for a woman to join the board; however, it needed a woman to stand and be elected at the AGM. At the AGM of The Great Synagogue in 1975, Mrs. Jill Balkind was nominated to stand for the board, sadly she was unsuccessful. In 1976, the following year at the AGM, Mrs. Joselyn Goldberg was nominated and stood for the Board, and she was also unsuccessful. With the amount of effort and work to get to this point, I decided to nominate and try and crack the code.

In 1977, at the AGM, I was successful and elected to the board. It had taken three attempts by women to join The Great Synagogue Board and I was incredibly honoured and fortunate to be the first woman to be elected in ninety-nine years. It was an historic occasion.

Having had a rewarding experience and adding what I believe was value to the Board, I decided it was time for other women to join. Since my time, at least ten women have been elected to the board.

It is important to note that there are other women leaders that have cracked the code, our first female President, Ros Fischl OAM was elected in 2005 and Caroline Lewis OAM was the first female Vice President, elected 2015.

How proud I feel, to see so many other Women Leaders who have cracked the code and moved towards gender equality. 🌸

Photos Courtesy TGS Photo Library



Young Women's Auxillary with Rabbi Porush



PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

Barbara Whitten and the team at Anywhere Travel have been providing personalised expert travel services to the community for 41 years

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Eleanor Lyons
 Vladamir Fanshil
 Chad Pashut
 Courtney Colborne
 Evelyn Smith-Romeo
 Alexander Sperling
 Elsa Glover
 Stuart Rowan
 Robert Wayne
 Bianca Levy
 Michael Hartmann
 Melanie Hartmann
 Mark Werman
 David Politzer
 Rebecca Spicer
 Natacha Maloon
 Daniel Garb
 Emma Gray
 Lisa Kappel
 Tom Goldstein
 Anthony Milch
 Lilly Patchett
 Samuel Milch
 Charlotte Harper
 Craig Reichman
 Diane Alperstein
 Isabella Edinger-Reeve
 Sam Freydin
 Lindy Barnett
 Peter Green
 Marilyn Wolfman
 Marcus Einfeid
 Sonja Kriss



Di Alperstein

Originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, my husband Steve and I emigrated to Sydney in 1979. We lived in Pymble on the North Shore where we brought up our three children, Michael, Rebecca and Simon, our latecomer. When we followed our married children across to the east, I left behind my familiar old shule, the North Shore Synagogue and found it difficult to find a replacement.

It was Simon, as a member of the choir, who led me to The Great Synagogue. Initially, I unabashedly came along to hear him sing, but then, after an introduction to Rabbi Elton and the incredibly welcoming shule members, had no doubt that I'd like to join. It's a wonderful feeling to belong to a congregation again, especially one with such a magnificent presence and illustrious history in Sydney.

I'm a teacher by profession and have taught at Macquarie University for over twenty years in the School of Education. I've also taught at tertiary level all over the world, in Cape Town, Jerusalem, Calgary in Canada and finally Sydney. I still tutor at Macquarie on a part-time basis, vowing each semester to give it up. Perhaps this is the moment.

I've enjoyed long distance running all my adult life having come from South Africa, with its passion for ultra-marathons such as the Comrades. I still run and have discovered the joys of trail running where the scenic views have taken the place of burning up the road. I look forward to many years ahead as a member of the shule.



Lindy Barnett

I arrived in Australia eighteen hours before the Covid lockdown, having left behind a life in Israel. Not having lived in Sydney since the early eighties, there was little that was familiar so trawling the websites of the local shules seemed like a good idea. Like everyone else, I had plenty of time on my hands.

The Great Synagogue drew me in from the get-go and after the lockdown ended, I decided to attend the Kaddish class with Rabbi Elton. It was a marvellous way to meet other women and to uncover the mystery of the Kaddish itself. This foray into learning led to attending lunchtime lectures, joining the coffee club and prompted questions that seemed best answered by joining with others in the shule community. The communal gathering for the Chagim at shule dissipated any sense of isolation I may have felt being away from family and the pleasure of joining the Eltons for some of the festivals in their home has been a treat.

Recently I have found my own special group... rather than Tuesdays with Morrie, it is Thursdays with the morning minyan. Having been overseas this past month I have missed starting the day with Shacharit and the boys.

I've often thought that being a Jew in Israel is easy as you just wake up and breathe in the air but the commitment it takes in the diaspora is different so thank you to everyone at the synagogue who has encouraged and given my life new meaning. I have been blessed.



Melanie & Michael Hartmann

Originally from Harare, Zimbabwe, where they met and married, Melanie and Michael moved to Hong Kong with their two children, Robyn and David, in 1983.

Michael practised as a barrister before joining the Hong Kong judiciary, retiring as a judge of the Court of Appeal and a non-permanent judge of the Court of Final Appeal.

Melanie worked for many years as the personal assistant to the chairman of a major local bank, the Bank of East Asia.

With both of their children (and their grandchildren) settled in Sydney, Melanie and Michael made the decision to join them here and both say that being happily settled in Rose Bay, they are delighted with the decision to make the move!

Michael was for many years a trustee of the Ohel Leah Synagogue in Hong Kong and has been asked to continue in an advisory role. He will also be returning to Hong Kong from time to time to undertake certain judicial work. But Australia now is home!



Fanshil family: Eleanor, Vladimir, Floria & Bella

We are honoured and delighted to be officially part of The Great community.

We love how welcome so many of you have made us feel and it's been a pleasure to get to know so many of you personally! I'd like to highlight that our president, David Lewis, travelled from London to catch up with us in Antwerp last summer whilst Eleanor was performing at the Opera House there - now that's community with a capital K.

When we first walked into the beautiful sanctuary as a potential venue for post-covid concerts we had no idea that it would eventually be the shule we call our own and that that relationship would blossom into our community which we cherish so much after having lived in Europe for 15 years without one!

Floria, our 6-year-old daughter, immensely enjoys the kids service so much that she led us to shabbat one weekend when we didn't plan on going out!

We look forward to coming together for many of life's most important occasions and celebrating life in our beautiful sanctuary together as a community.

With our deepest thanks to Rabbi Elton, David Lewis, Rabbi Feldman and Lynn Niselow for your warmth and welcome! 🌸

"It's a wonderful feeling to belong to a congregation again, especially one with such a magnificent presence and illustrious history in Sydney."

Di Alperstein

"Thank you to everyone at the synagogue who has encouraged and given my life new meaning. I have been blessed."

Lindy Barnett

"We love how welcome so many of you have made us feel and it's been a pleasure to get to know so many of you personally!"

Fanshil Family



KIDS' CORNER



WORD SCRAMBLE

Can you unscramble these words?

CLHATSHI	DIUHKIDS
YNOHE	ARZMHOC
RYAPRE	FSAHRO
TESEW	SCLAEDN
LAHCHLA	EPLSAP



WORD SEARCH

- APPLE
- TEKIA
- TERUA
- WATER
- HONEY
- CANDLE
- SHOFAR
- SYMBOL
- YOMTOV
- PRAYER
- CHALLAH
- TEFILLA
- HOLIDAY
- TISHREI
- CHARITY
- LITERGY
- MELACHA
- TRUMPET
- TZEDUKA
- TESHUVA
- NEW YEAR
- TASHLIKH
- ZIKARON
- YOMHADIN
- SHEVARIM
- RAMSHORN
- ATONEMENT
- YAMIM NORAIM

B G N H T E P M U R T T A U R E T I
 Q C T I S H R E I O R W A Z F G A R
 Y C A F A M G A V A U E M N F E P X
 K S I N J V P D M F R X C K K I P B
 L L H I D S U S W A C H V O V A L Y
 I Q M E G L H H F F A Y E N O H E S
 U S P K V O E O S L Y A D I L O H Y
 F A S R R A H T L E A T R M L Y W A
 W K S N A S R A Q L T T L N E O R M
 S A O C W Y H I L Z T E K I A M N I
 Y D T B D C E I M Z A Z N Y G H Q M
 M E H Q C T F R I T A J Q T D A A N
 B Z K X Z E Y K O A D H H I S D W O
 O T I F T P A N P D G X C R F I A R
 L Q L M G R E L X F O U O A K N T A
 Z D H K O M Z B W C W P D H L E E I
 S A S N E N E W Y E A R I C Z E R M
 J T A N E K L C Y O M T O V C B M X
 I Y T F O G W H L I M O X Y O Z K D
 N M O L I T E R G Y M S F M X M T A





Do you know what this fruit is and why we eat it on Rosh Hashanah?



MAKE YOUR OWN SHOFAR

Do you want to make your very own Shofar?

You will need:

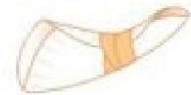
- 1 large paper plate
- Stapler
- Masking tape

Here's how:

- 1 Roll the paper plate into a cone and staple it into place at the wider end.



- 2 Bend the paper plate cone to look like a horn shape. Use the masking tape to hold the bend in place in the middle.



- 3 Then wrap the whole Shofar in more masking tape to give it texture and stability.



- 4 Paint or decorate your Shofar and once it's dry, blast away,

A real Shofar is made from a ram's horn.

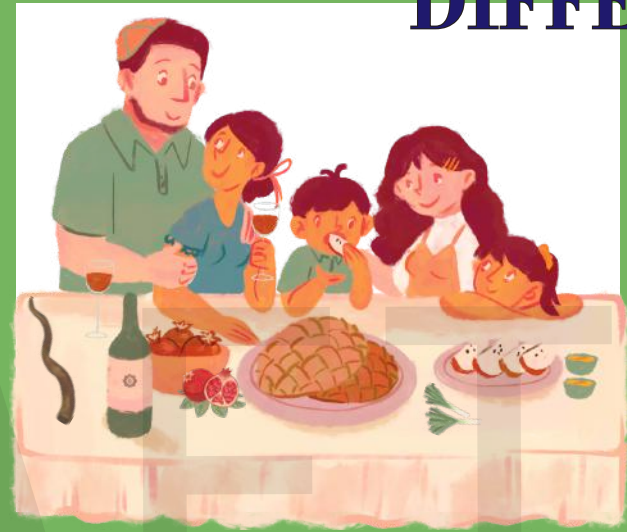


Can you name the four Shofar Blasts and play them on your new Shofar?

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Can you spot all 10 differences in these two pictures?

Some are easy, some are hard, so look closely to find them all!



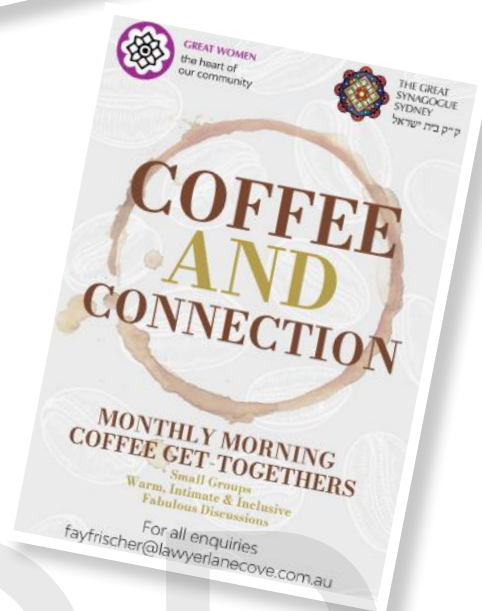
Can you get the bee to her friends at the hive?



APPLE MAZE



CARE AND CONNECTION



Board member Fay Frischer heads up the member Engagement Portfolio. The purpose of this Portfolio has been to implement and embrace activities and services to enhance the experience of community membership. From cradle to coffin TGS strives to provide a welcoming environment for its members.

Birthday calls: A number of years ago Fay instigated a policy of telephoning congregants on or as close as possible to their birthdays. Everyone needs to feel they belong and are remembered at such times.

A sideline of this contact has been the discovery of how outdated our records have become as to vital information relevant to each member. There are many congregants whose mobile and landlines have changed. On many occasions our members have forgotten to inform the office of these changes.

Just as important has been the contact on a personal level. Many congregants like to chat and this can often highlight their health problems such as hospitalization, falls, major accidents. This information is passed on to Rabbi who in turn will make contact.

Pastoral Care Committee for members over 79 years of age: The Committee currently comprises 4 members: Ros Fischl, Sue Selinger, Michael Gold and Fay Frischer.

A few times a year the Committee members telephone the congregants over 79 years of age to wish them Chag Sameach. This is the opportunity to touch base and check on our members.

Coffee club (women): Operating under the umbrella of the Great Women, Fay started 2 coffee club meetings with Sharon Schach.

These get togethers started out as a coffee morning at a café and now meet as much as possible in our members' homes. The purpose had been to integrate the women and provide a socializing platform. Our meetings are held monthly.

We pick a topic and research it. For a number of meetings we discussed the individual members' ancestry and our ladies have brought along family memorabilia as an aide. We have discussed food for the particular Yom Tov coming up (Chanukah, Pesach). We looked at Jewish women and of course Dr Fanny Reading was selected for discussion.

The first group boasts of up to twelve women and the second group has about six ladies with the numbers increasing. 🌸



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE SYDNEY קהילת בית ישראל

BOOK CLUB

(est. 2016)

We are keen readers of books by Jewish writers and/or with Jewish themes.

Our meetings are still currently being held on Zoom.

Please consider joining us, to enjoy lively and stimulating discussions.

Issues raised range from the authors, their style, as well as the content of their fiction and non-fiction works.

Here's a selection of books chosen over the past year, all worth a read:







Register your interest with Michael msgold@bigpond.net.au



YEAR IN REVIEW

SHARON AND MUSHKI PRESENTS

HERRING FEST 2023

SCHMALZE HERRING DANISH HERRING CHOPPED HERRING MUSTARD HERRING

SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY AT KIDDUSH

If you have an outstanding herring recipe you'd like to make, or you'd like to come and help us prepare, contact: sharon@greatsynagogue.org.au

Great Synagogue of Australia

LEARN HEBREW AT THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE WITH RABBI MENACHEM FELDMAN

including HEBREW ALPHABET HEBREW READING & CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW

COURSE NOW OPEN

JOIN THE CLASS AT 5.30PM-6.30PM

- MON, 13 FEB
- MON, 20 FEB
- MON, 27 FEB

Entry via Castlereagh St

NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY

A great chance to improve your Hebrew skills in an informal, interactive, social & friendly setting.

REGISTRATION MUST BE PROVIDED

RSVP Rabbi Menachem Feldman rabbifeldman@greatsynagogue.org.au

You are invited to

FIRST NIGHT SEDER

IN THE HOMES OF OUR RABBIS

WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2023

Join RABBI ELTON & HINDA'S FAMILY OR RABBI FELDMAN & MUSHKI'S FAMILY

PLACES ARE LIMITED. RSVP TO THE OFFICE BY 30 MARCH FOR CATERING AND LOCATION DETAILS

E.admin@greatsynagogue.org.au P. 9261 2477

Join us at The Great Synagogue

SECOND NIGHT Pesach Seder

Thursday 6 APRIL 2023

ADULT	CHILD	FAMILY
\$200	\$50	\$200
(Under 12)		(2 children under 12)

Spaces are limited, booking essential by 3 APRIL at greatsynagogue.org.au/seder23

SPONSORSHIPS WELCOME

MONTHLY COMMUNITY SHABBAT LUNCH

EAT | SHMOOZE | ENJOY in the Israel Green Auditorium

Join us for Lunch 25 FEBRUARY

TO CONGRATULATE & CELEBRATE ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN HONOURED IN THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

GREAT SYNAGOGUE MUSICAL FRIDAY NIGHT

Join us for pre-Shabbat drinks at 5.30pm followed by a LIVELY MUSICAL KABBALAT SHABBAT with our Chazan Rabbi Menachem and The Great Synagogue Choir

Service starts at 6.00pm

17 MAY 2023

Enter via Elizabeth St

THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE INVITES YOU TO A

Shavuot DINNER

THURSDAY 25 MAY

5:30pm CHORAL SERVICE

6:15pm DAIRY DINNER & LEARNING WITH RABBI ELTON

DINNER IS FREE OF CHARGE PLEASE RSVP BY 19 MAY admin@greatsynagogue.org.au

PLEASE JOIN THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE

SATURDAY MAY 27 10:30AM

SHAVUOT KIDS FUN

ICE CREAM PARTY BASKET DECORATING RAFFLE & GIFT BAGS FOR EVERYONE

FOLLOWED BY FIRST PRIZE PROCESSION THROUGH THE SYNAGOGUE

ENQUIRIES ADMIN@GREATSYNAGOGUE.ORG.AU

MARKING ANZAC DAY AT THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE

SHABBAT 22.04.23

Lest We Forget

WE INVITE THE CONGREGATION TO MAKE OFFERINGS AND LAY A ROSE AT OUR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE after Shabbat Service and before the Communal Lunch

Please contact the office by Thursday 20th April to make an offering and to inform us if you wish to lay a rose and in whose memory.

E.admin@greatsynagogue.org.au P. 9261 2477

ISRAEL SHABBAT 29.04.23

AT THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE

This week we will mark YOM HA'ATZMAUT & 75 YEARS OF ISRAEL

THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE OF AUSTRALIA

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA SHABBAT & COMMUNAL LUNCH

in the Israel Green Auditorium

JOIN US ON SHABBAT 29 JULY

TO CONGRATULATE & CELEBRATE ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN HONOURED AND CELEBRATE WITH OUR TGS 2023 RECIPIENTS

PETER PHILLIPS AO & CAROLINE LEWIS OAM

THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE OF AUSTRALIA

LECTURE 2023 ON ZOOM

DR JONATHAN LEWIS

THE AUSTRALIAN CHAPLAINS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Based upon his PhD research, retired Judge Dr Jonathan Lewis OAM has published the first study of Jewish Chaplains in the British Armed Forces, from his inception until today.

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST 5:00PM

ZOOM Link <https://tinyurl.com/FalkLecture23>

Brought to you by The Great Synagogue, Sydney Co-hosted by AJHS and NAJEX

CONVICT SHABBAT

WELCOMING ALL JEWISH DESCENDANTS OF CONVICTS TO

COMPLIMENTARY COMMUNAL LUNCH 17 JUNE 2023

SPECIAL SERMON BY RABBI SHUA SOLOMON

LUNCH GUEST SPEAKER CONVICT HISTORIAN BETH HISE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO ORGANISE A FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER PLEASE CONTACT THE SYNAGOGUE

Benjamin Elton

Secret Jews in England: 1500-1656

10-12 JUNE 2023

LIMMUD IN YOUR LOUNGE

full program at limmudoz.org.au



CHILDREN'S EVENTS





THE GREAT VINE
STEP RIGHT UP!
Purim
CARNIVAL
 HOT DOGS
 POPCORN, FAIRY FLOSS
TUESDAY 7TH MARCH
 FREE ADMISSION / 5:00PM - 7:00PM
 DRUM CIRCLE, LIVE MUSIC
 PHOTOBOOTH & FACE PAINTING
 & MISHLOACH MANOT
 PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED
 & MEGILLAH READING



LIVE AT YOURS

Vladimir Fanshil

What a blessed year it has been for Live at The Great!

We've been overjoyed to see our beloved shule overflowing with vibrant audiences to experience Australia's finest artists.

An architectural marvel such as The Great Synagogue is such a colossal, permanent structure with its muscular columns and ornate foundations. Music is the exact opposite. It lives only in the moment and fills those that are present to experience it, which makes it the most transient humane art form. The coming together of these two elements is like a beautiful soul filling a body and we've found that there's an unspoken magic in their meeting point of the transient and monumental. What resonates even more is that as Jews, we feel a great sense of pride in welcoming audiences to our Jewish space to experience something that reflects our glorious creator.

We're proud to have presented Australia's most incredible artists: James Morrison; The Grigoryan brothers; Konstantin Shamray; Andrew Haveron; Stef Farrands; Umberto Clerici; Kristian Winther; Gumaroy Newman First Nations elder; Les McLeod; and following this New Year, pianist Alexander Gavrylyuk. We can't wait to return with a similar line-up of the finest artists to spiritually charge The Great through vibrations.

We deeply appreciate the hard work of all those at The Great who invested their ruach to make this year a success and we thank our wonderful community members who continuously support our concerts! 🌸



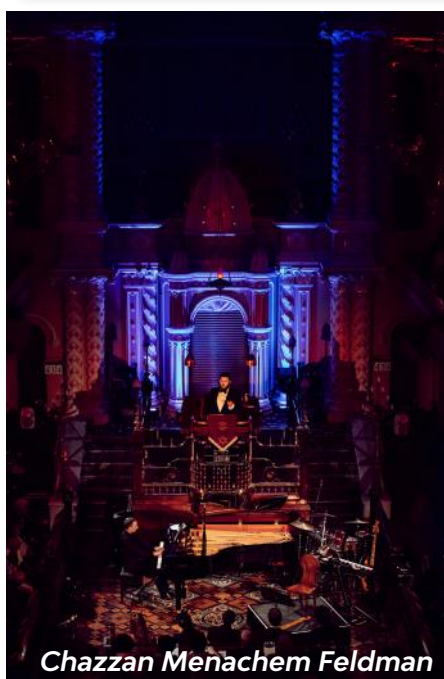
Australian Guitar Quartet



Vivaldi Vs Piazzola



Chutney



Chazzan Menachem Feldman



Chazzan Feldman & Chutney



Packed house



Australian Guitar Quartet



Grigoryan Brothers



Vladimir Fanshill



Vivaldi Vs Piazzola



Vivaldi Vs Piazzola



Vivaldi Vs Piazzola



Australian Guitar Quartet



Menachem Feldman with Chutney



LAW SERVICE





GRENCORP MARINE

Ahead in marine coatings



Merelyn Chalmers, Monday
Morning Cooking Club

"For me, tradition is multi-layered. The traditional foods of the chagim bind me to my community and turn our home into a sensory experience of Yiddishkeit. It is the link between the old world and the new, honouring the grandparents I never knew and the parents I no longer have. I hold dearly onto the memories and flavours of my childhood, but also create new, more modern food traditions, like these baked apples, which my own children will (hopefully) always associate with my Rosh Hashanah table."

Ingredients

- 8 granny smith apples
- 125ml (½ cup) water
- 230g (1 cup) caster (superfine) sugar
- 2 tbs golden syrup (light treacle)
- grated zest and juice of 1½ lemons

"Our mother's mother, Bobbie (grandma) Esther, lived with us when I was a child. She was from Warsaw or Vasha as she called it. She was warm hearted, energetic and hard working. She was a cook at a time when she prepared the food provided by the families for their simchas. Her cooking was wholesome and heart-warming. It was tasty and made a little go a long way. She made cholent and kugel, borsht and chicken soup, of course. There were knishes and kreplach and kishkie, helzel and kneidlach. Then there was kuchen and strudel, rogelach and babka and wonderful challah. It was all delicious and reminded people of the heim.

Best of all were the dishes she prepared for Yomtov, Pesach sponge cakes that were so light they could almost float away, fiery ingbar and gingery eingemachts.

And so, to tzimmes which was rich and luscious. We have never had a

Stuffing

- 30g (1 oz) unsalted butter
- 40g (¼ cup) brown sugar
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 16 g (1 cup) sultanas (golden raisins)

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. You will need a baking dish that fits the apples snugly in 1 layer.
2. Remove the core from the apples with an apple corer, score around the middle with a paring knife & set aside.
3. To make the stuffing, in a bowl, stir together the butter, brown sugar & cinnamon, then mix through the sultanas. Stuff each apple tightly with the mixture, mounding some on top & place in the baking dish.
4. Combine the water, caster sugar, golden syrup, lemon zest & juice in a small saucepan & stir over medium heat until the sugar dissolves. Taste & add more lemon juice if desired. Pour over the apples, taking care to not break up the mounds of stuffing.
5. Bake uncovered for 45 minutes or until the apples are soft but still holding their shape. Allow to cool slightly and serve warm with some of the syrup. (Serves 8) 🌟

BAKED APPLES

It's all about the food

The tradition of sitting around a table with family and friends, reminds us of who we are and connects us to both the past and the future.

recipe for anything she made and if you asked her, it was 'a bissel this' or 'a bissel that'. So, this recipe is the one my mother used.

Ingredients

- 2lb carrots cubed
- 2lbs potatoes cut in chunks
- 2lb brisket cubed
- Golden syrup - lots
- Salt and white pepper
- Cornflour
- Stock

Dumpling

- 6oz/150 g self-raising flour
- 3oz/75g margarine or chicken fat if you don't worry about cholesterol!
- Salt to taste and water to mix

1. Put carrots, meat & 2 tbs of syrup into a pan with salt & pepper & cover with stock or water.
2. Bring to the boil & simmer for about 2 hours until the meat & carrots are tender. Top up with syrup & stock to keep mixture covered.
3. Make the dumpling by rubbing

the fat into the flour & adding salt. Add water to bind. Let it rest.

4. Arrange the meat & carrots in a teppel or casserole dish & add the dumpling rolled into balls the size of golf balls.
5. Thicken the juices from the mixture with cornflour added to some of the stock.
6. Arrange the potatoes on top
7. Add the stock & more syrup
8. Cover & cook in a slow oven for about 3 hours or overnight.
9. Top up with stock & syrup as necessary.
10. Uncover for the last part of cooking so potatoes brown & sauce thickens.

Tzimmes freezes well and reheats even better. Some people put the meat in as one piece and the dumpling as one big klop. We prefer it as above as it is easier to serve.

There are so many memories associated with food, but I could never eat bobbie's fisnogi also known as p'tchah! 🌟



There is always a bustling of activity in our kitchen as Rosh Hashana approaches. My most favourite memories of Rosh Hashana are from when my nanna was with us - three generations in the kitchen.

My nanna was in charge of making the traditional food - something I haven't quite got the talent for. She would be busy freshly peeling the apples, salting the livers and ensuring the kneidlach were not too dense. The entire household would be immersed in preparations for Rosh Hashana, but in that clamour, the three pillars of the family—my mum, my nanna, and I—created a symphony of tradition, love, and warmth.

Nanna was the conductor of this culinary orchestra; her energy was contagious, and her eyes sparkled with a wisdom that transcended generations. At her side, my mum was the tireless virtuoso performing a seemingly endless ballet around the kitchen. She was always on the move, bustling from one end of the kitchen to the other and making sure the honey cake was baking at just the right temperature. She was the perfectionist, always ensuring

THREE GENERATIONS

A Memory of Rosh Hashana Preparation

Sue Inberg and Lisa Pillemer



that every detail was flawless for the celebration of the New Year.

As for me, I was a young apprentice in this ritual, yearning to learn, contribute and be part of this beloved annual tradition. While I lacked the culinary finesse of my mum and nanna, I filled my role with enthusiasm, washing the apples, setting the table and doing my best to assist wherever possible. Despite my limited skills, I was welcomed with loving smiles and encouraging words that spurred me on.

The kitchen was alive with more than the clatter of pots and pans—it was filled with stories. Nanna would reminisce about Rosh Hashana celebrations from her childhood as we prepared the symbolic foods, each recipe holding memories from generations past. My mum, not to be outdone, would share tales of her own childhood Rosh Hashana

preparations, making us laugh with anecdotes of mishaps and lessons learned. This was more than a meal preparation; it was a journey through our family history.

These memories of preparing for Rosh Hashana with my mum and nanna are imprinted on my heart. More than a testament of family tradition and Jewish heritage, they are a testament to the powerful bond between us. And though the kitchen may have been filled with the aroma of delicious food, it was the love, laughter and togetherness that truly nourished us. 🌸

TZIMMES

The way my Grandmother made it!

Mavis Elton



Bobbie Esther

SEPHARDIC CUSTOMS

My family's Sephardic customs for Rosh Hashana are aligned to the Iraqi customs, while there are different symbolic foods for other communities, for example the Moroccan Jews. The most entertaining part, however, is that my grandfather's prayer book has some wonderful English translations that have no correlation to the Hebrew, but rather to the English words. So, our Rosh Hashana dinners involve reading the Hebrew, the actual translation & the modified interpretations.

Dates - The Hebrew word for date is tamar, sharing the Hebrew root 'yitamu'- to be consumed. We pray that our enemies & those who hate us & seek our harm should be consumed. *Alternate translation: 'as we eat this date, may we date the new year that is beginning as one of happiness & blessing & peace for all men.'*



Lianne Graf

Spinach/Silver Beet/Beetroot - The Hebrew word for spinach is sallka, sharing the Hebrew root "lesalek" - to be removed. We pray that our enemies should be removed. *Alternate translation: 'as we bite this beet, may those who have beaten us or sought our harm, beat to cover in the coming year.'*

And everyone's favourite: Chives/ Shallots/Leek - The Hebrew word for chives is karti, sharing the Hebrew root 'karet' - to be decimated. We pray that our enemies should be decimated. *And the more peaceful alternate translation: "as we eat this leek, may our luck never lack in the year to come."* 🌸



THE HONOUR IS OURS

Order of Australia Recipients 2023

Susan Bures AM



Caroline Lewis OAM

Caroline, the smiling face of The Great Synagogue, who welcomes everyone in the women's gallery each Shabbat with warmth and humour, has recently been awarded an OAM in the King's Honours List.



Alan Landis OAM

Alan Landis OAM says his mantra in life has always been to help and educate others about beautiful things. An antique dealer with specialist interests in Wedgwood, silver, Australiana and especially Judaica, Alan has been instrumental in valuing The Great Synagogue's collection and was curator of our museum from 1979 to 2020 and the Sydney Jewish Museum since its foundation.

He has valued the contents of the Hobart and Cremorne synagogues, Government House, Elizabeth Bay House and Vaucluse House and has been a Life Fellow of the Powerhouse Museum since 2005 for his generosity through donations and valuations.

The Australiana Fund, which purchases items for Vice-Regal residences like the Lodge in Canberra and Government House and many state galleries, has received donations from Alan, especially important Australiana items.

During his career he has founded and served on the executive of three collector societies, Wedgwood, Silver, and Australiana. He gives lectures and conducts valuations, always refusing remuneration, to raise money for St John Ambulance, Red Cross, CWA and other causes including The Great.

Australian Jewish history has been his paramount fascination and he has discovered some interesting objects including a wooden souvenir box with a view of The Great Synagogue probably made when the synagogue first opened in 1878 and a watercolour of the synagogue from 1923.

"An antique dealer told me when I started in business, we do not own pieces. We are merely custodians". By helping to inform people and organisations how to preserve their inheritance Alan Landis serves his community well.

This richly deserved honour pays tribute to Caroline's unceasing work for the Jewish community, in particular The Great Synagogue, where she joined the board in 2004. She made it her mission to change what she, and many others, regarded as the stuffy environment of the shule and encourage more female participation. When Rosalind Fischl became the first female president in 2005, Caroline worked to support her vision. Later Caroline, as Vice-President of the shule, she was very involved with welcoming and supporting Rabbi Elton, as she had done with Rabbi Lawrence prior.

She went on to engage in a raft of activities familiar to the congregation: driving the 140th anniversary activities; the 'Women of Worth' (WOW) events, and '12 Over 12' initiative for women to finally celebrate their Bat Mitzvah. Caroline took the initiative to update the shule branding and communications, developing weekly newsletters, the annual Great Vine magazine and upgrading the website. In addition, Caroline volunteered at Jewish House and Jewish Care and fostered an HSC student.

Outside of her community work, Caroline was an account manager in a graphic design agency, becoming a partner there at 25. 15 years later, she set up her own consultancy however in 2014, she pivoted her career, studying counselling and coaching. Fulfilling her passion to support adolescents to reach their potential, Caroline created The SELF Project, life coaching teens and young adults to greater confidence, resilience and independence.



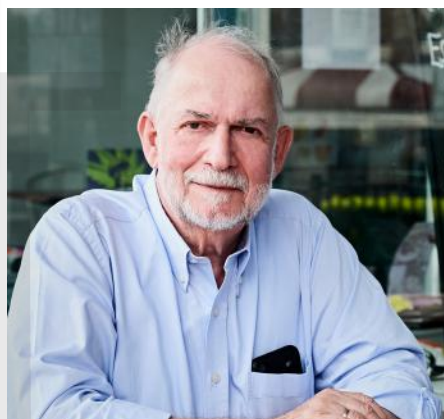
Peter Phillips AO

Peter Phillips AO was nominated for his award by his ICOMOS colleagues in Australia, especially for his nine-year term on the International Board, three of those as Secretary General – the first Australian to hold this position. ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, is only one of the organisations that have benefitted from Peter’s knowledge and skills; others include the Heritage Council of NSW, the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (of which he has been a Life Fellow since 2011) and the National Trust.

His citation is for “distinguished service to heritage conservation, to architecture and to professional organisations”, but The Great Synagogue knows him best as its own Heritage Architect, following in the footsteps of his father Orwell (the shule’s honorary architect) and his great-grandfather Louis Phillips, Treasurer of the Building Committee – both later Presidents of the synagogue. Louis’ papers, now in the Mitchell Library, formed the basis for Peter’s major university thesis on

The Great from its foundation to its completion in 1878.

After his father’s death in 1997, Peter became The Great’s honorary architect. His major projects have included the tower stonework conservation (a Centenary of Federation project) and the conservation of tiled floors and improvements to ventilation, done under a National Estate grant in 2007. He also managed the repainting of the sanctuary and associated repairs to plasterwork and ironwork. More recently he has been looking at the relocation of the bimah (to its original position in the centre) and assisting with joinery details for the installation of air conditioning.



Uri Windt OAM

Plus61J Media was founded in 2014 by Uri Windt OAM because he believed it was important to “broaden the conversation” within the Jewish community. But it is only one of several vital social justice initiatives Uri has founded.

Born in Israel but raised in Australia, Uri spent his working life in the union movement and the public sector. He describes himself as having a lifelong passion for equity, fairness and social justice and explains that Jewish identity “has been a central part of my being”.

Through the 1990s he focused on employment and training, creating the Marrickville Training Centre, which now delivers employment, training, and youth programs to more than 17,000 people annually.

After the dismantling of the Commonwealth Employment Service and termination of the Skillshare program, Uri was among the pioneers and founding directors of Australia’s first social franchise – JOB Futures (now CoAct). He was also appointed by the NSW Government to chair the Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development (ACCORD).

Concern about social equality and the position of Indigenous Australians led Uri to co-found Filling the Gap, which provides access to free dental care for thousands of First Nations people, many of whom previously waited twelve months to see a dentist. Another synagogue member, David Rosenwax AM, was also part of this initiative.

Over the past 15 years, Uri has become more heavily involved in the Jewish community, particularly the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (where he established an interfaith dialogue group), the Shalom Institute and the environment peacebuilding organisation Ecopeace. 🌱

The Order of Australia recognises Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement.





In Memoriam

HON MARGARET DAVIS

Margaret Alayne Elizabeth Alexandra was born on 23 September 1933. Margaret learned to play the piano from the age of four and had a beautiful singing voice. When she left school, she went on to have singing lessons at the Conservatorium. Margaret was a member of The Great Synagogue Youth, participated in most of the annual revues, often singing the lead role and later sang in the choir.

Margaret met Neil at parties held in the homes of their young Jewish friends. Sparks flew and it wasn't long before they were engaged. They were married in the autumn of 1955 at The Great Synagogue. That was followed by the arrival of their three children - Susan, Robyn and Philip. Margaret

was a pharmacist and the family ran several pharmacies.

Margaret was always politically minded even as a young woman, her greatest inspiration being Sir Robert Menzies. Margaret and Neil joined the Liberal Party in 1957. In 1962 Margaret was elected as the local Alderman for Bankstown Municipal Council and in 1967, she was selected by the Liberal Party to join the upper house of the Legislative Council making her the youngest Jewish member in State Parliament at the age of thirty-three. Margaret thrived in her parliamentary career and loved every moment of it. Margaret was also very involved in the Jewish community as past President of NCJWA NSW (1979-1980).



When Margaret retired from State Parliament, she and Neil moved to Wollongong and then to Elizabeth Bay before finally settling on the Central Coast where they both continued to support the Liberal Party.

After Neil passed away, Margaret moved to the Abby Nursing Home in the Southern Highlands to be closer to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Margaret was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award marking sixty-five years' service to the Liberal Party. 🌸



Many congregants of The Great Synagogue loved and remember beautiful Nina Glasser.

Nina was born in Sydney on 19 December 1924. Her parents were Fanny and Rabbi Leib Isaac Falk of The Great Synagogue. Nina had three older brothers, David, Gerald and Balfour, who adored their beautiful sister.

When Nina was fifteen, she met dashing twenty-one-year-old Neil Glasser at The Great Synagogue. The friendship blossomed into a romance and soon they were dating. In 1946, Nina and Neil were married at The Great Synagogue. It was a large

wedding with Nina's father Rabbi Falk officiating. Nina and Neil were happily married for seventy-four years. They had three children, Debbie, Sharna and Jody. Nina and Neil not only raised their family but built successful businesses.

Nina had an incredible eye for good business opportunities and Neil was an entrepreneurial genius. They travelled extensively around the world, combining business and pleasure.

Throughout their lives, Nina and Neil generously supported Israel, the Sydney Jewish community and the wider community. Over the years they were generous benefactors of The Great Synagogue. The silver cast sculpture of Moses and biblical figures that stands at the top of the stairs to the Israel Green Auditorium was gifted by Nina and Neil and it was with much pleasure that they donated a significant sum in celebration of Neil's 91st birthday. Nina was a member

of The Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary where she had many friends.

Nina kept a well-run home and was a fun mother who gave her children legendary birthday parties. Nina and Neil also hosted many Seder nights for extended family and friends. Sukkot was a favourite time for the family, gathering for meals in the sukkah that Nina and Jody built on the veranda and Sharna and Debbie decorated.

One last momentous trip that Nina and Neil took was to Buckingham Palace. Nina proudly witnessed Queen Elizabeth II investing Neil as a member of the Royal Victorian Order for his services to the Crown as Director of Promotions of Sydney's Queen Victoria Building. But the true queen of Neil's heart was always Nina.

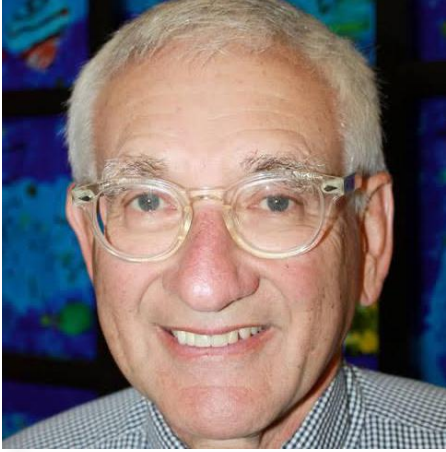
Nina is remembered for her graciousness, generosity, wisdom and beauty. Her memory will be forever cherished. 🌸

In Memoriam NINA GLASSER



In Memoriam

GRAHAM EINFELD OAM



Graeme was born on 6 April 1944 to Ann and Louis Coleman Einfeld. His mother was a Yarmovsky and his father was the son of Rev Marcus Einfeld, who served The Great Synagogue as Chazzan from 1909 until his death in 1937. When Graeme was just two and his older brother Max four, their father died. With some assistance from the family, Ann raised her two sons alone. Graeme went on to UNSW where he gained a Bachelor of Commerce degree and became a successful accountant.

He met his wife Janice at Maccabi

Squash, where he was President. They married in 1969. Greg was born in 1971 and Benjy followed in 1974. Their house was full of fun and laughter.

Graeme was a major communal worker. As his sons entered Moriah, he was invited onto the board and served for nineteen years, including as Treasurer for fourteen and Vice President for two. He was instrumental in the work that enabled Moriah to transfer to its Queens Park campus. After Moriah, Graeme was involved at Wolper. He served there from 1994 to 2015 as Treasurer and as President from 2004 to 2009. He transformed Wolper from being a surgical hospital losing money to a rehabilitation and palliative care hospital that flourished

and made a profit that could be used for appropriate and beneficial projects. His communal work was recognised by the award of the OAM.

Graham and Janice had a wonderful marriage lasting forty-three years until Janice died of breast cancer. A little time after Janice passed away, Graeme met Yvonne through Benjy's wife Lauren. They had nine and a half very happy years together. Graeme was immensely supportive of Yvonne and took great care of her.

Just a couple of weeks before he passed away, Graeme came to shule for the last time and was called to the Torah. It was a moving moment that no one who was there will forget. 🌻

In Memoriam

NORMAN SYMON

Norman was born in Sydney on 14 March 1934. His parents had emigrated from Palestine and he lived in Bondi Junction for most of his childhood. There were some tough times during the Depression and WW2, but Norman made it through. He later attended boarding school at Knox Grammar, where he excelled at debating, swimming and rugby. His early love of, and talent for, sport also saw him captain the NSW Maccabi swimming and water polo teams.

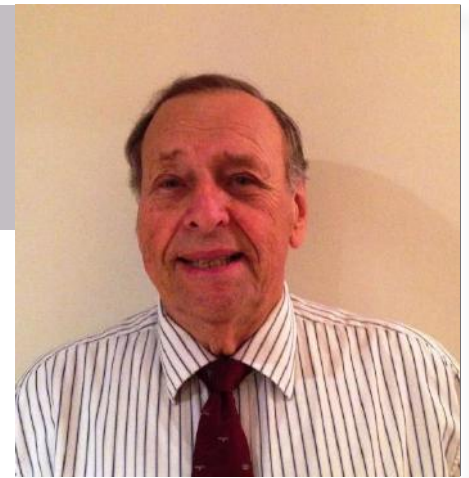
After completing high school, Norman entered the army as a national serviceman. He loved soldiering and ultimately retired as a Major and Officer Commanding of the 130 Signals Squadron at Bradley's Head. Norman served overseas in Vietnam and Papua New Guinea. He was decorated with the Efficiency Decoration and later, the Reserve Forces Decoration,

as well as being awarded numerous service medals, including the Vietnam Medal.

Norman was a family man. His greatest love and best friend until his last breath was his wife, Wendy. They married at The Great Synagogue in 1960 and subsequently had three sons, David, Robert and Scott. Norman was an outstanding dad, devoted, steadfast and wise, who was adored and respected by his sons and grandsons.

After he left the ADF, Norman made good use of his army experience by building a successful family business that manufactured and distributed military uniform products, camping & outdoor equipment and related items.

Outside of work, Norman was involved with various organisations and activities. He particularly loved freemasonry. At different times, he



was the Master of three separate Masonic Lodges and was ultimately conferred the rank of Past Assistant Grand Master by the Grand Lodge of NSW. He was also instrumental on the boards of various charitable organisations. Being keen on continuing his association with military affairs, in his later years he served on the boards of both the Royal United Services Institute and the NSW Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women. Norman served as Vice-President of NAJEX until last year, an office he had held for many years prior to that. 🌻

THE FIRST JAHRZET OBSERVANCE AFTER 106 YEARS

Michael Lewis – for Bernat Schwimmer,
Erno Somogy & Judy Lewis

Just over four years ago, our daughter, Katharine, received an email from one of her Moriah College colleagues, Michael Perl, telling her that he had become involved in the restoration of a large Jewish cemetery in Budapest. Judy, Katharine's mother, was born in Budapest as had been Michael's father and Michael wanted to know if Katharine (and Judy) had any ancestors buried there. Michael soon had a list of names and was able to refer to the cemetery's plan and find the location of the graves of several of them.

A few months later, Judy and I visited Budapest, where Judy's cousin Peter lived, having returned from Sydney. He organised a visit to the Kozma St Cemetery so that we could search for the graves. The cemetery had become completely overgrown with creepers which had become tree-like. A cemetery worker found us and directed us to two graves which happened to be on the side of the access road. They belonged to two of Judy's great-grandmothers. All the other graves were inaccessible. After a bit of cleaning, the stones were readable. This was a wonderful discovery.

We now realised that details about Judy's family which she had in bits and pieces, in photographs, in documents and story, might be put together. I had some time available and discovered the internet site JewishGen, Jewish Genealogy, which had, in English,

many Hungarian Jewish records. There were approximately 100,000 records at the time which I used to build family trees.

Judy then supplied a DNA sample to Ancestry and to MyHeritage.com. I transferred the family tree information. The DNA matches were both successful and extremely frustrating. We had a match with a first cousin and with an American family, who shared the strange Jewish surname, Dodeles, the maiden name of the grandmother with whom Judy grew up. This resulted in our being able to work out the grandmother's parents, grandparents and place of origin. That was a major win. Otherwise, it was a complete blank.

The major benefit of joining a genealogy service was that not only digitised information was available but also, scanned microfiche of the original documents. I became expert in decoding handwritten birth, marriage and death records – in Hungarian – which I do not know. But names are names, and column headings can be looked up using Google.

1918. február 2.

EGYEN

A HÁBORU KÖRÜL

«Es gab kein Volk, das in unserem Freiheits-Kampfe eine grössere Treue und Energie entwickelt hätte als die Juden.»
Szemere Bertalan 1849-iki magyar miniszterelnök szavai Kossuth Lajosról írt németnyelvű könyvében. — (Ludwig Kossuth, Hamburg, 1853. 76. lap.)

•••

Hősi halottak a 30. honvédezedben.

Hősi halált haltak: Breier Lipót szabó Paks, 1915. V. 22. Zahora körül. Braun Imre betűszedő Veszény, 1916. III. 10. Rarance. Bleier László tanuló Kiskunfélegyháza, 1916. I. 11. Rarance. Büchler József keresk. segéd J.-F.-Szt.-György 1916. I. 19. Biel Árpád szabó Budapest, 1916. VIII. 12. Magura. Deucht Jenő m. hiv. Ujpest, 1916. VIII. 14. Magura. Enten Ferenc nyomdász Budapest, 1916. VIII. 5. Csimbas. Herczeg Éliás asztalos Szond, 1916. I. 20. Rarance. Herschkovics Ábrahám kereskedő Ivaskofalú, 1917. III. 18. Mária Valéria k. Kohn Andor keresk. Budapest, 1916. I. 11. Rarance. Lusztig Imre vasutas Baja, 1916. VIII. 13. Magura. Liebschütz László kereskedő Budapest, 1916. X. 29. Kirlibaba. Menczer Árpád kereskedő Budapest 1916. VII. 6. Kirlibaba. Pető Lajos kereskedő Hercegszántó, 1916. VIII. 28. Majno. Schwimmer Bernát bérkocsis Budapest, 1916. VIII. 15. Magura. Schönteil József pincér Budapest 1917. V. 25. Mária Valéria k. Kohn Andor keresk. Budapest, 1916. VIII. 13. Magura.

In all of this new flood of information and genealogical understanding, deduced from looking at thousands of source records, we still had a major gap – the death details of my father-in-law, Bernát Schwimmer, Ernő Somogy's father. Erno had a photograph of his father, taken with his two sons before going to war and a letter written from a military camp to his wife Jenny, both in 1916. Nothing else.

He knew his father's Hebrew name but no details of his death except the year, 1916. Erno was six when his father died and became an orphan when his mother died in 1920. In the same year he was adopted by relatives, who changed his surname from Schwimmer to Seligmann and later placed him in an orphanage. Erno, after World War Two, 'Hungarianised' his surname to Somogyi and later, on naturalisation in Australia, changed it to Somogy.

With my newly found familiarity with searching lists and documents, I went looking through the English Austro-Hungarian World War One casualty

EMBEDDED SECRETS

Judith Jaffé

Do you want to know a secret?
 Will you find it in this sonnet?
 Who were the Jews of Portugal,
 Whose pain was once immeasurable?
 Convert! Death by fire! Or choose to flee
 To Constantinople by the sea,
 Except a few who sought to hide,
 In craggy, misty mountain sides.
 At Belmonte Synagoga I was humbled,
 "Come to lunch," an old man beckoned.
 For 500 years his forebears loved Saint Esther's ways,
 They thought they were the world's last Jews,
 Until a stranger sang their Shema,
 Like millions of Jews everywhere. 🌸



lists. I could find no record. In World War One, soldiers either came home or were officially accounted for, in casualty, prisoner of war and other lists. Nothing!

A few months ago, I tried using Facebook Jewish genealogy groups, using Bernat's name and getting interest but no information. Finally, I scanned his last letter and the envelope, which had postmarks and dates. Almost immediately, a lady who read Hungarian came back with a result from the search of a Hungarian newspaper dated 1918.

The relevant entry starts in blue, underlined and finishes with 'Magura'. This is a list of Jewish soldiers who died for Austria-Hungary - 'Heroic Dead' from the 30th Budapest Home Guard Regiment. The lady also pointed me to the official civil death record, which was not entered till 1938.

So, on his one-hundred-and-sixth *yahrzeit* and now for years to come, Bernat Schwimmer is finally remembered, by his descendant, his

granddaughter, Judy (Somogy) Lewis. Her father Erno's inability to observe his father's *yahrzeit* is remedied.

Bernat Schwimmer – Moshe ben Yaacov – Sixteenth of Av. 🌸



THE VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

- Not Merely a Moral Imperative



Justice Stephen Rothman AM



"The Australian community needs to support the Voice, which will have immense practical and positive effects for the future of Australia."

West of Gosford there is a land on which there once lived an Aboriginal people. Their language was slightly different from the surrounding peoples, as was their culture. There is no living descendant of that people. Some, of course, died from natural causes, some of which were brought to Australia by settlers. Most, however, were killed in hunting parties, mostly organised after church on Sundays – much like the English fox hunt. The above story is not exceptional. Our First Nations people have been massacred, kidnapped, denied their culture and dispossessed of their land.

But there is more to the Voice than moral imperative or assuaging guilt. It has a practical benefit. In the course of research relating to sentencing, domestic violence and gang warfare, I have followed studies on social exclusion by Professor R.F. Baumeister. In one paper he described the findings in the following way:

'Rejected or excluded people exhibit poor self-regulation in many spheres... Although there are some exceptions, such as the intellectually vigorous culture maintained by Jews during the centuries of

*discrimination and ghettoization, many groups who felt excluded or rejected by society have shown patterns similar to those we find in our laboratory studies: high aggression, self-defeating behaviours, reduced prosocial contributions to society as a whole, poor performance in intellectual spheres and impaired self-regulation.'*¹

The experience or example of Jewish community does not disprove these studies – the Jewish community is the exception that proves the rule. The Jewish community has, over the centuries, developed countermeasures to the exclusions meted out by general society. In the two hundred and thirty-five years that First Nations people have suffered at the hands of European settlement, they have not had the resources to develop similar institutions and conduct.

An examination of the programs that have been successful in redressing some of the disadvantage of Aboriginal Australia confirms the importance of this issue. Two of the most successful programs in New South Wales have been the programs initiated in Redfern, which wholly reversed the statistics on indigenous criminal conduct, incarceration, employment and education. This program, which involved both the police and local elders, gave the youth in Redfern a sense of belonging, of empowerment and of being valued. Similar programs have been utilised through the use of football programs in north-west New South Wales, with similar results.

The Voice is not a panacea. It will not end the social exclusion of First Nations people. Yet it is a recognition of Australia's history, a recognition that First Nations people have been excluded, in large measure, from an otherwise rich and diverse society. This proposed

Constitutional change envisages that First Nations people will be permitted to provide representation on issues which affect them that will ensure that the level of social exclusion is diminished, ever so slightly, and governments of every persuasion can still provide the resources to First Nations people to introduce the kind of "counter social exclusion" facilities that are needed.

The Constitutional proposal involves only one requirement: representation of First Nations people. It does not provide a right of veto. It most likely does involve a duty, by those to whom the representation is made, to consider what has been represented. But it does not require agreement. Nor does it create another chamber.

The Constitution is designed for general principles. The details are in statutes - and must be. Otherwise, it would be next to impossible to alter the details. In the case of the Voice, the details will be debated in Parliament and will be debated after consultation with First Nations people.

The representatives of First Nations will be elected in a process overseen by the Australian Electoral Commission, which operates independently of government. If there are difficulties in relation to the election of representatives of our First Nations, then it is absolutely essential that the details as to elections be dealt with by statutes and not in the Constitution.

There are some two hundred and forty First Nations language groups - there are bound to be teething problems, but those problems do not detract from the need for the Voice both on moral and practical grounds nor its efficaciousness.

The Constitutional proposal will not hinder any other steps that governments may take. Those steps,

dealing directly with educational resources, youth engagement, the overrepresentation in incarceration and living standards, are essential. Yet, the difficulties at which such steps are aimed are symptoms and the Voice will allow the direct measures to be more effective.

This Constitutional alteration neither cedes land nor affects land rights. Whether there is a treaty and what would be the terms of such a treaty is neither advanced nor compromised by acceptance of the Voice.

As we have seen recently, the existence of First Nations members of Parliament does not equate with representation of First Nations peoples. Such members represent their electorate - not their race.

The Australian Constitution was adopted after a vote in each then colony. People who have immigrated here and those that were party to that vote have chosen, democratically or voluntarily, to live under the Constitution and in our society. First Nations people were denied that vote and are the only people

in this country who have had the Constitution imposed upon them, without any choice or participation. They have a right to demand to be heard, to be recognised by the Constitution and to a Voice.

For those affected by the Voice, it will have a dramatic, empowering effect, which will provide a sense of belonging to society, of being accepted by society, and that they are understood, and their past exclusion recognised. To the rest of us, it will have no practical impact on our lives.

The Australian community needs to support the Voice: the vast majority of indigenous people after twelve years of consultation do. It is a moral imperative, it is a first step toward inclusion and empowerment of First Nations people, which will have immense practical and positive effects for them and for the future of Australia. 🌟



Launch of Statements from the Soul

DAVID SOLOMONS

- Interview with an Artist



David was interviewed recently by his daughters, Michele Levine and Rebecca Gregor for this article.

"Painting is a process I immerse myself wholeheartedly, trying to capture the atmosphere, colours, emotion, elements of the composition."

What is your connection with The Great?

My grandmother Esther Solomons started taking my brother, Simon and me when I was five years old to The Great every Shabbat. I sit in my late father's seat, G49B. I served on the Board for a short time and I feel a very strong emotional and spiritual attachment to The Great.

What drew you to art?

I am a visual learner and I have always been able to reproduce what I see onto paper or when making furniture. However, it was not until around 2017-2018 when I was on a liquidation assignment in George Street, Sydney on the way to The Rocks area with a colleague that it all started. My colleague noticed the Julian Ashton Art School almost next door to the

café that was in liquidation. She said, "You have always been talking about sketching and painting in your retirement, go and enrol". So, she dragged me upstairs to the office and I enrolled immediately into the watercolour class taught by a master artist Owen Thompson and a life drawing class taught by Sally Ryan (a current Archibald 2023 finalist). A trip to Italy followed in 2018, where, in Bellagio on Lake Como, I painted by myself for almost two weeks, sketching and painting the wonderful scenery and from that moment on, I was hooked.

What do you love about painting?

Painting is a way of sharing how I feel about a particular location. This location could be a landscape, a seascape or

a cityscape. It could be an object or a person or group of people doing a particular activity. One needs to have an emotional attachment to the motif as I find it difficult to paint something when I don't have any feelings towards it. So, intention is the single most important aspect of my painting. I find painting is very meditative and therapeutic...it nourishes my soul and as my wife can attest, I get thoroughly absorbed in the painting process. So, when I am not painting 'en plein air' or painting in my studio I have my favourite music blaring.

Who has inspired you?

My heroes are J.M.W. Turner, John Singer Sargent and Winslow Homer. I am literally blown away by how these artists could quickly capture a scene

with materials of their era. I learn an incredible amount by studying their paintings in general, their design, their brush strokes, or as I describe it, their calligraphy and their colour mixtures on the artwork itself.

The contemporary artists that I admire are Joseph Zbukvic, Thomas Schaller, Alvaro Castagnet, Chan Dissanayake and Herman Pekel. All but Thomas Schaller are Australian watercolour artists and are regarded among the best in the world.

How did you learn to paint?

After I spent approximately a year at Julian Ashton's Art School, I was very fortunate to work with master artist and teacher John Haycraft, who assisted me enormously in understanding composition, value and colour as well as the importance of 'en plein air' painting. This was augmented with working with Thomas Schaller and Chan Dissanayake.

Now, I have commenced studying oil painting under the master artist and teacher John Wilson who paints in the style of the Australian Impressionists like Arthur Streeton.

Why do you like watercolour as a medium?

I have always liked watercolour paintings. I love their transparency and immediacy. I can usually paint a picture in 2 hours after I have made a compositional and value study then redraw it onto watercolour paper. Occasionally, I will revisit it in a day or so to make any final adjustments if required. Watercolour is an ideal medium for 'en plein air' painting and especially when travelling. With watercolour painting you rarely use white paint - you achieve white by leaving areas unpainted. When you paint in watercolour you travel from light to dark as the paint is transparent.

Why have you started painting in oils?

I was encouraged by my wife, Sandra and a very good friend and fellow artist, Dan Kezelman whose father Bernard Kezelman occupied the seat to the left of my father's seat. Dan and I would sit next to each other on Pesach, Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, squeezed up against the old metal dividers that were removed a very long time ago. When painting



Boats



Horses

with oils you paint from dark to light and from thin to thick. That is why my watercolour artists have told me that I have gone to the dark side. I have managed to paint oils now in about five hours so that I can go 'plein air' painting and paint in oil paints.

What have been the highlights of your art life?

The highlights to date have been selling my first painting, painting my first commission, holding two exhibitions in the past six months and entering a portrait into the 2022 Archibald of the late Associate Professor Dr Dennis Kuchar. 🌸

Photos Courtesy David Solomons



Dennis Kuchar

INHERITANCE

- Seven Pieces of Silver

Rachel Bickovsky

They were always packed first. Other than the children, these were their most precious and treasured items.

What to take?

- when they had to flee,
- when they were no longer safe,
- when there was virtually no time,
- when they were panicked.

What was taken?

Seven pieces of silver. Each piece an item with its own intrinsic worth, beauty and history but together more than the sum of their parts.

A lifetime of remembrances:

Generations of observance & ritual & Countless unfulfilled aspirations & wishes.

A pair of candlesticks:

Handcrafted in 1921, given by my maternal grandmother to my mother and then to me. They would be the first things I would reach for if I had to leave the house unexpectedly. They are the oldest material connection to family and tradition. Now, with no mother, through them I feel a direct link to my grandparents, especially my grandmother, a woman I never met but with whom I share a face and a name.

A shaving bowl:

Now 94 years old, the bowl was a present to my father on his bar mitzvah. I doubt my father was shaving when he was 13 but the gift was clearly symbolic of him having reached his manhood within Judaism. The piece is small and plain, its only adornment my father's initials engraved in a delicate but not ornate style.

A shaving brush:

The "spoon" to the above "dish", it was paired with the bowl. The hairs of the brush are well worn and very short. How old was my father when he started shaving? How did he feel about it? I never really knew him.



A business card holder:

Also given to my father on his bar mitzvah. An object that he would never use, my father never having work in which he had need of a business card. This piece is also simple and neat with an executive look that befits its function. It too is engraved with my father's initials.

Two Kiddush cups:

The larger one was handmade in 1920 in London. Though the larger of the two, this cup is still small measuring only 10.5cm in height. This and the smaller cup have also been passed on by my maternal grandparents.

How many and whose hands have held this cup? How often did those hands hold the cup, the frequency being one demonstration of their owners' adherence to and observance of their faith?

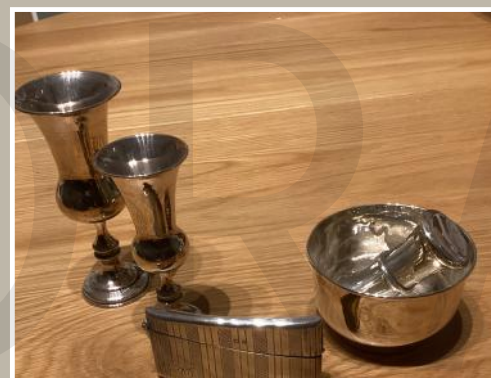
A menorah:

My parents bought this menorah in London in the early 1950s. With the candlesticks, the menorah takes pride of place on my sideboard. Its position means it is one of the first things that anyone sees when they come into my home and screams "a Jew lives here". I did not consider these effects, at least not consciously when choosing where to place these pieces. However, I now recognise that the decision on placement was probably anything but unintentional. The menorah taking pride of place is a metaphor for the significance that I live my life being Jewish. I will not hide who I am.

These seven pieces of silver remind me that I am descended from a family that steadfastly followed and observed their faith. They also remind me of the deep sadness I feel not to have observed and celebrated these traditions and festivals with family and community, not to have truly belonged. 🌸



Silver Candlesticks



Silver shaving bowl, shaving brush, business card holder and two Kiddush cups



Silver Menorah

Photos Courtesy Rachel Bickovsky.



Renée Geyer

Photo: Anna Bertoli



RENEE GEYER (1953 - 2023)

Robbie and Agnes Geyer

***Australia's own Queen of Soul.
The finest white soul singer,
male or female, that Australia
has produced.***

Much has been said and written about Renée Geyer and her 'rich, soulful, passionate and husky vocal delivery'. Tributes flowed as soon as her death was announced on January 17, 2023. Renée has been described as 'the finest white soul singer, male or female, that Australia has produced' and 'Australia's own Queen of Soul'. Renée, in her words, was 'a white Jewish girl from Australia sounding like a 65-year-old black man from Alabama'.

Renée's career spanned more than half a century and fifteen studio albums. She was performing up to a couple of weeks before her untimely death at the age of sixty-nine. It's a Man's World was her first hit single. Other early big hits included Stares and Whispers and Heading in the Right Direction from the album Ready to Deal which was the first Australian album co-written and co-produced by a woman. Renée was a trailblazer. Say I Love You was Renée's biggest hit reaching number five on the Australian Charts.

During her time in the USA, Renée was a sought-after backing vocalist working with Joe Cocker, Sting, Neil Diamond, Julio Iglesias and Bonnie Raitt. She had a lasting friendship and collaboration with Paul Kelly. The hit Difficult Woman which he wrote

for Renée, illustrated how well he understood her. Although nominated multiple times, she never won an Aria. Renée finally received recognition when Michael Gudinski inducted her into the Aria Hall of Fame in 2005 and called her 'the greatest female singer of my lifetime in Australia - yes you're a difficult woman, but you're bloody fantastic.' Renée was the first woman to be inducted into the Victoria Music Hall of Fame in 2013 and received the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award at the Australian Women in Music Awards in 2018.

In her last interview, for The Australian Women's Weekly, Renée said 'I don't know what I'd do if I didn't do this... I need to open my mouth and sing'. Perhaps her family history will go some way to explain the origin of her God-given gift and her need to sing. Renée was always attracted to music. Our father Ede (Edward) was a lover of classical music. Beethoven, Mahler, Bartok and Goldmark, opera and cantorial music, could always be heard in our home. Ede sang in synagogue choirs in Budapest as a child, in Melbourne in the 1950s and after retirement in our very own The Great Synagogue choir.

Our mother Ella (Gabriella Perl) had a strong history of chazanut in the family. Her father Solomon Perl was

a professional cantor in Bratislava in Slovakia. (Solomon, his wife Regina and members of the family were murdered during the Holocaust. Ella, her brothers and some cousins survived concentration camps.) Two of our uncles, Eliezer and Baruch Perl, and two cousins, Jonathan Fettman and Michael Deutsch, also became professional cantors (Baruch at the former South Head Synagogue and Michael at the Emanuel Synagogue for over fifty years). From a young age, Renée heard both Michael and Baruch sing. Perhaps genes, the family history of chazanut, the collective history of Jewish suffering and the rich cantorial traditions, influenced Renée in her ability to create and perform her powerful and soulful interpretations of music.

The music industry paid their tributes to Renée in a memorial concert held on 4th April 2023 at the National Theatre in St Kilda. Amongst those who poured their hearts into their performances were Paul Kelly and Renée's band members (who had raced to her bedside to sing their farewells). After the formalities, our family mingled with her musical family to share anecdotes. The event helped our family have some closure. Vale Renée. 🌸

Photo Courtesy Mushroom 25



A TIMELESS LEGACY:

- The Great Synagogue and the Whitten Family

“Through the Whitten family’s journey, The Great Synagogue remains a timeless beacon, bridging the past, present, and future together —an unbreakable legacy where love, tradition, and faith intertwine, inspiring generations to come.”



In the heart of the city, The Great Synagogue symbolises enduring tradition and love for the Whitten family, weaving cherished memories across generations for over seventy years.

Ray Whitten’s earliest memories within the sanctuary go back to precious moments shared with his late father, Maurice Whitten, nearly seven decades ago. Maurice’s own marriage to Lorraine (nee Shaw) within the sacred walls of The Great Synagogue in November 1946 marked the convergence of love and tradition that would endure.

A treasured heirloom, a weathered siddur bearing the name ‘Leon Wittenberg 1931’ serves as a poignant connection to Ray’s late grandfather, whose spirit remains intertwined with the essence of the shule.

The Great Synagogue played a pivotal role in their lives, hosting Ray and his brother David’s bar mitzvahs and witnessing Ray’s union with his beloved Barbara in May 1972. This connection continued as the next generation celebrated their own bar mitzvahs and weddings within its sacred embrace.

Now, after more than five decades of marriage, Ray and Barbara stand as a testament to the enduring power of love within The Great Synagogue’s hallowed walls, blessed with five cherished grandchildren.

Through the Whitten family’s journey, The Great Synagogue remains a timeless beacon, bridging the past, present, and future together —an unbreakable legacy where love, tradition, and faith intertwine, inspiring generations to come.

Proudly involved in The Great community, Ray, a well-known member of Sydney’s legal fraternity, and Barbara, a stalwart of the Australian travel industry for forty-one years, co-establishing Anywhere Travel with the late Ruth Weinstock, find joy in giving back. Barbara’s passion extends to offering travel advice to the community, enriching lives with her passion for exploration. 🌸

Photos Courtesy Whitten Family



Sarajevo Great Synagogue

OLD SYNAGOGUES, NEW GRANDDAUGHTERS

Darryl and Simone Green

"We then flew to Israel for the main show, arriving in time to pick up our granddaughters from gan (kindergarten) in Tel Aviv."

COVID-induced border closures prevented Simone and me from visiting our granddaughter born and living in Tel Aviv and a second granddaughter born a while later. This year we got to hold the girls for the first time, taking a route through the Balkans and on to Israel.

We spent a week in the old town of Dubrovnik in Croatia where we visited the oldest Sephardic synagogue in the world still in use today and the second oldest synagogue in Europe, established in 1352. The guide selling tickets at the entrance to the synagogue told us a rabbi comes from the capital, Zagreb, to conduct services on the High Holy Days.

Sarajevo, the capital of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the Bosnian War took place between 1992 and 1995, had many buildings still scarred by bullets and other munitions.

We walked over the Latin Bridge in Sarajevo where the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914, an event that sparked World War 1.

Sephardi Jews fleeing the expulsion from Spain and Portugal in the 1490s settled in Sarajevo in 1565. In 1581 residential quarters and a synagogue were built for Jewish refugees. The Old Jewish Synagogue, also known as the Great Synagogue, was damaged by fire and rebuilt several times in the following centuries. The synagogue was ransacked and demolished in 1941 to be used as a prison for Jews

and as a storehouse at the end of the war. It was subsequently restored and in 1966 then turned into the Jewish Museum. The building was damaged again by shells fired on Sarajevo during the Bosnian War. It was made good in 2003.

Driving south from Sarajevo as we passed through Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we were surprised to see streets lined with the Israeli flag and billboards advertising Israel's 75th anniversary.

We then flew to Israel for the main show, arriving in time to pick up our granddaughters from gan (kindergarten) in Tel Aviv. The photo shows daughter-in-law Nina, Ruth, son Daniel, Simone, Darryl and Mila. 🌸

Photos Courtesy Darryl Green



Zelda Esther Green



Tel Aviv - Nina, Ruth, Daniel,
Simone, Darryl, Mila



Sephardic Synagogue

THE LIFE OF HAROLD EMMANUEL COLLINS

- A Survivor of Gallipoli and the Last
Surviving Jewish ANZAC (1892-1992)

Julie Edwards, Jane Levi and Zac Levi



Harold Collins with his nephew George Levi

This is the story of a truly happy, positive, and very brave Jewish man. Harold Emanuel Collins was the fifth child of ten of Jane and Solomon George Collins, born on 22 April 1892. The family resided in a large terrace house on Bent Street in Paddington, Sydney, where life at the turn of the century was very tough.

The size of the family had its problems, but these were compounded by Solomon George Collins' struggle with alcoholism. Unfortunately, Jane and Solomon's marriage ended in a lengthy and highly publicised divorce in 1914. Jane continued to live with and love her ten children unconditionally.

Harold was educated at Paddington Public School until he was 12 years old when he had to leave school in 1904 to find work to help support the family.

A highlight of the family's life at that time was Harold's bar mitzvah at The Great Synagogue in 1905, with Rabbi Francis Lyon Cohen serving as his examining minister.

Before the outbreak of World War I, Harold obtained a first aid certificate and a silver medal from the Red Cross, which proved valuable when he joined the First Australian Imperial Force. Despite his mother's pleas for him not to enlist, Harold joined the AIF. After numerous unsuccessful attempts to gain his mother's support and blessing, she snapped and said, 'Oh well, then go to hell!' Harold later wrote in his war diary, 'I certainly did just that!'

On April 25, 1915, Harold was deployed to Gallipoli in the 1st Field Ambulance, Reinforcement 1, as a stretcher bearer. Harold's diaries and an extensive collection of photographs served as a testament to the experience of Gallipoli and his war experience. He was a prolific writer, vividly describing the horrors of war, death, and destruction that surrounded him. Despite the atrocities he witnessed, Harold remained optimistic and always sought out the positive aspects of his situation. He referred to the little dugout he occupied as a 'nice little place all to myself. Along with bully beef, biscuits, cheese, jam, and onions, he exclaimed, 'What more could one want?' He expressed great satisfaction in having a nail to hang his hat on and a small shelf for his prized possessions, such as his watch and his siddur.

One of the most distressing moments he recounted was witnessing a hospital ship sinking: 'I saw a terrible sight today. A submarine sank HMS Triumph... I have seen dead men lying about by the hundred, have seen men's arms and legs torn off, but nothing has made me feel like crying as I did when I saw that stately and majestic battleship go down.'

Due to a hernia, which Harold developed from his work as a stretcher bearer, Harold was sent to England for medical treatment. Afterwards, he joined the RAF and continued to serve. Harold also participated in the Battle of the Somme, a subject he never spoke about. For his gallantry, Harold received many war medals from the Australian and French governments.

In December 1919, after five years of dedicated service to Australia, Harold returned home to Sydney, looking forward to a peaceful and happy life. Harold had successfully served his country and he had returned in relatively good health for what he had been through.

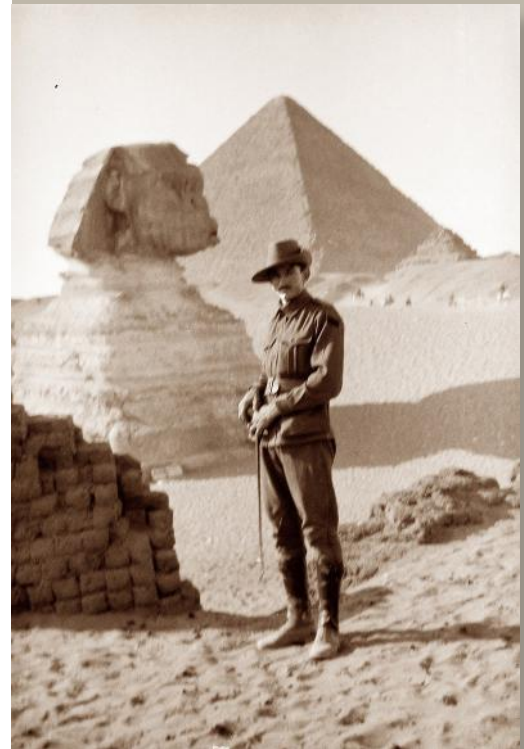
In 1922, Harold met Ettie Young, a lovely young Jewish woman and

they fell in love. They were married by Rabbi Francis Lyon Cohen at The Great Synagogue in Sydney in 1923. Over the following years, Harold pursued various occupations, including owning a knitting factory, working as a house painter and selling insurance. In 1940, after seventeen years of married life, Harold and Ettie were blessed with a beautiful daughter whom they named Julia (one of the authors of this article) after Ettie's late mother. Harold, Ettie, and the large extended family were very happy indeed.

In 1970, sadly Harold became a widower with the passing of his dear Ettie. Animal welfare became one of Harold's great passions. For many years, he sold raffle tickets and badges to support the RSPCA. Harold's friendly and warm personality contributed to his great success in raising funds for the organisation. He continued to pursue this interest until the age of 98. Unfortunately, while assisting an elderly woman into a taxi on a rainy day in Sydney in 1991, Harold slipped and broke his hip. He spent time at Concord Hospital, the hospital where returned servicemen and women were sent. Harold was fortunate to be treated and nursed to health by Dr Agnes Kainer-Geyer, known to many at The Great Synagogue. He returned home to his apartment in Redfern where he led a quiet but happy life. Harold's mobility after his accident was greatly compromised, but he never lost his sense of humour, his love of reading and his keen interest in local and global politics.

Harold passed away on 18 January 1992, just three months short of his one-hundredth birthday. He was the last Jewish ANZAC. Fond recollections of Harold endure among those who had the privilege of knowing him, especially his grandchildren, Sophie, Ben and Arran and his great-granddaughter, Jessica. Harold is remembered as a vivacious, friendly, and compassionate individual. Indeed, his memory lives on. 🌸

"Despite the atrocities he witnessed, Harold remained optimistic and always sought out the positive aspects of his situation."



Harold Collins in Egypt



Harold Collins



CHUPPAH RECORD HOLDERS

Lyn Salzberger

My late husband Heinz Salzberger and I hold the record for being the oldest congregants to be married in the shule. We were married by Rabbi Lawrence, Rabbi Kastel, Rabbi Garber & Rev David Hilton.

I go back 3 generations in the shule. My paternal grandparents Doris Lazarus and Alec Gilbert and maternal grandparents Leah Nable and Harry Hyman married at The Great, as did my parents Esther Hyman and Dr Cecil Gilbert in 1942.

Under the chuppah with us were Heinz's nephew and his wife with whom I am very close and I am in contact with Heinz's niece and family in Melbourne.

My darling husband passed away last year and unfortunately the grief and pain are still with me. I am blessed to have cherished memories of him.

Heinz was so proud of his Jewish heritage and a true Zionist. He, his siblings and parents were fortunate to escape Vienna to Shanghai and then to Sydney.

Photos Courtesy Lyn Salzberger



Heinz and Lynette

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS & JEWS NSW

- Commemorating the Eightieth Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 30 May 2023

Anna Berger

I'm the current President of the NSW Council of Christians and Jews. The position of President alternates between our Christian and Jewish Committee of Management members. Right now, it's the Jews' turn. My term ends in November. My successor for the next two years will be a Christian.

Our mission is: To create opportunities to develop mutual respect and understanding between Christians and Jews by sharing ideas, commemorations and celebrations, building an appreciation of diversity and harmony in the wider community.

This memorial has special personal resonance for me as the daughter of two Holocaust survivors, although not from Poland. My parents' immediate families were large. In 1942, they numbered fifty-five souls, from my grandparents to newborn cousins. After liberation in 1945, there were just eight. This is my family story but one that is typical of my generation of Holocaust descendants.

Professor Emeritus Konrad Kwiet was our distinguished speaker on the night. This photos were taken in our beautiful shule. 🌸



TORCH RELAY STORIES

- The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay

Garry Browne AM

This story starts in Paris, France. As an Ambassador for Legacy Australia, I was invited to be part of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay, which celebrates one hundred years of Legacy in Australia.

I was incredibly proud to also be in attendance for the ANZAC Day dawn event held at Villers-Bretonneux. Max and Barbara Freedman were also in attendance that morning and we all agreed it was solemn, emotional and an unbelievable honour to be present where so many of our Anzacs had fallen. As we arrived at 3am at the Australian cemetery where the service was conducted, in weather conditions that were a cold 5°C and pouring with rain, we couldn't help thinking that this was nothing in comparison to what it must have been for our fallen heroes.

My dad, Wesley Browne OAM was a returned service person. He joined the Airforce on his eighteenth birthday following his brother and father who had served. He applied to be an aircraft pilot, however after it was identified he was colour blind, he was sent to the signal unit for training, where he became a Leading Aircraftman (LAC). He served in Morotai New Guinea, where he remained until the end of the war. His view was, had he become a pilot he probably would not have returned. He felt an enormous debt of gratitude to those who laid down their lives for our country and that he did return and was able to express that sentiment by joining Legacy, being introduced by his father-in-law Norman Goldberg, a legatee who helped those veteran families that lost loved ones and who was a member of The Great Synagogue choir for over fifty years. During my father's over sixty years with the organisation, he became the President of Sydney Legacy and was a Board member for many years.

As a young man I developed a keen interest in military history especially as my family members had served in both World Wars including my father, my uncle and both my grandfathers.

Much of my youth was spent with younger legatees (who lost their father or a family member) participating in so many wonderful activities that helped us all as young Australians develop a recognition of how important service to our country was and is today.

This is what brought me to the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay and why this event has left an indelible mark on me. As an Ambassador, I travelled with the Legacy team to Pozieres for the official launch of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay, where I was privileged to be a torch bearer.

On Anzac Day, we joined the dawn service and official proceedings at the Australian National Memorial in Villers-Bretonneux and later that afternoon at the Bullecourt Town Memorial for the French-led ceremony. The following day, we travelled to Leper in Belgium, where The Last Post at Menin Gate was held.

When the Legacy Torch Relay arrived in London, we were given a warm welcome by the Australian High Commission at Australia House which included many guests from other high commissions, the military, the UK Government and those interested in supporting Legacy. It was an inspiring evening in readiness for the relay commencement.

Prior to the relay launch a group of us were privileged to have an audience with the King. Australian Victorian Cross recipient Daniel Keighran presented His Majesty with a Legacy Centenary Commemorative Torch to thank him for the support. This was a deeply inspiring experience.



Our amazing service personnel from the Australian Army, Royal Australian Air Force and Royal Australian Navy lent their support to Legacy Australia and they too were on hand. It was a privilege to be amongst those personnel, both active and reservists, who serve our country.

To mark the conclusion of the European leg of the Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023, London Legacy hosted a Gala Ball at the Lansdowne Club, bringing together honoured guests, torch bearers and major sponsors. There were moving speeches by Legacy beneficiaries, Dr Brendon Nelson and Eric Easterbrook OAM, Chairman of the Board of Legacy Australia. It was a great way to conclude the London leg and send the torch on its way to Australia, where it will be visiting over one hundred cities and towns, including each Legacy Club across Australia, in total traveling over fifty thousand kilometres.

It has been an emotional and amazing experience and one I will never forget. It connects my past and that of my family to the present and allows us to focus on the future.

The Legacy Torch will continue to burn brightly and will deliver continued support to those in need into the future. The relay will finish in Melbourne on 14 October 2023. 🌟

A.M. ROSENBLUM JEWISH MUSEUM

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Jana Vytrhlik, Curator

Thanks to generous donations from The Great Synagogue's members, our museum collection has been steadily growing. After a few quiet years during the pandemic, we are introducing some of the new acquisitions. Their origins are as diverse and rich as the story of our synagogue and the congregation, but they all have one thing in common. The gifts were all presented by the descendants of longstanding members of The Great Synagogue's congregation, some going back to the early days of the first synagogue built in the colony.

To mark the birth-centenary of the Rev. Aaron Alexander Levi (1823-1883), who was a minister at the York Street Synagogue, his great-great-great-grandson, Zac Levi, presented the synagogue with a silver Torah pointer, a yad. Using a live model's arm, the emerging silversmith designed and crafted a modern-day piece of Judaica silverware. It highlights the historical continuation of our congregation across many generations. Besides his duties at the synagogue, Aaron Levi served as headmaster at the first Sydney Hebrew Academy. He was highly regarded by his students who remembered him as a thorough-hearted and self-sacrificing Jew.

Music has always had a special place in The Great Synagogue and the list of accomplished composers, choirmasters and chazanim goes as far back as the consecration of the York Street Synagogue in 1844. It was therefore with great excitement that we welcomed the family of Ralph Levy, a well-remembered choirmaster at the

synagogue during the 1950s. His son, Philip Levy, presented an original vinyl recording of traditional choral music, as performed at The Great Synagogue and recorded by the ABC in 1953. The rare music document includes the voices of soloists Rev. Aaron Kezelman, tenor, Ruth Portrate and Harry Croot, performing the traditional Kaddish, The Anthem 'My God' and other choral arrangements.

The theme of The Great Synagogue's music was also – unexpectedly – on the mind of the next donor who shared their precious family memorabilia. 93-year-old Naomi Good of Batemans Bay travelled to the synagogue in December with a large envelope filled with old photographs. But it was the shule she wished to see first, and as soon as she entered the sanctuary, all the music memories came back. Naomi was a young teen when she joined The Great's mixed choir in the 1940s. At the helm was Werner Baer, the head of music at the ABC who fled the Nazis from Berlin only a few years earlier. Naomi used to sit in the gallery with other girls, attending services, fascinated by the grown-up ladies' large hats.

If you look closely at the large formal gathering of people, you may notice



Oil painting of a Rabbi c.1900

not one, but two pairs of bride and groom and one proud mother in the front centre. A search of the records later confirmed that on 1 August 1906, Mignon Florentine Cooper married Phineas B. Benjamin, a hairdresser and Marion Keane married Joseph Kieffer Cooper, a tobacconist. Marion and Joseph were Naomi's great-grandparents. As many children followed, some of them attended Rabbi Porush's classes and had their bar/bat mitzvahs at the synagogue.

We close our survey of new acquisitions with two portraits of a rabbi. While they have some aspects in common, such as showing a traditional rabbi in ceremonial tallit with a sacred text, they also differ. They were both donated by descendant children of our long-standing members, fulfilling their respective mothers' special wishes for the artwork to be presented to their shule. The large and older painting, although signed, has not yet been attributed. On the other hand, the fine tapestry work was created over several years by Louise Nicholls, née Rosenberg, a former student of Rabbi Porush. 🌸



Naomi's Great-Grandmother's Wedding



Yad by Zac Levi



Naomi Good with photo of her great grandmother



Presenting the Choir recording



Tapestry of a Rabbi

HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE TIMES

TISHREI 5784 - 2023



THE GREAT
SYNAGOGUE
SYDNEY
ק"ק בית ישראל

ב"ה

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Candlelighting
Mincha and Ma'ariv

FRIDAY 15 SEPT

5.27pm
5.30pm

FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Shacharit
Torah reading
Sermon
Musaf
End of Services
Mincha
Candlelighting for Second Day
Ma'ariv

SHABBAT 16 SEPT

8.30am
9.45am
10.30am
10.45am
Approx. 1.00pm
1.05pm
After 6.25pm
6.30pm

SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Shacharit
Torah reading
Sermon
Shofar
Musaf
End of Services
Mincha
Yom Tov ends

SUNDAY 17 SEPT

8.30am
9.45am
10.30am
10.45am
11.00am
Approx. 1.30pm
1.35pm
6.26pm

FAST OF GEDALIAH

Fast begins
Fast ends

MONDAY 18 SEPT

4.37am
6.16pm

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Candlelighting
Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv

FRIDAY 22 SEPT

5.31pm
5.30pm

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Shacharit
Shabbat Shuvah Drasha, Kiddush and
Mincha
Shabbat ends

SATURDAY 23 SEPT

8.45am
11.00am
6.30pm

KOL NIDREI

Candlelighting and Fast begins
Kol Nidrei service

SUNDAY 24 SEPT

5.33pm
5.45pm

YOM KIPPUR

Shacharit
Torah reading
Sermon
Yizkor (Memorial Service)
Musaf
Ask the Rabbi
Mincha
Sermon and Ne'ilah
Ma'ariv and Shofar (Fast ends)

MONDAY 25 SEPT

8.45am
11.00am
12 noon
Approx. 12.15pm
12.30pm
3.00pm
3.30pm
5.00pm
6.32pm

EREV SUCCOT

Candlelighting
Mincha, Choral Ma'ariv and Kiddush

FRIDAY 29 SEPT

5.36pm
5.30pm

FIRST DAY SUCCOT

Shacharit
Lulav, Hallel and Torah reading
Kiddush
Candlelighting
Ma'ariv followed by Communal Dinner

SHABBAT 30 SEPT

8.45am
9.30am
12 noon
After 6.35pm
6.30pm

SECOND DAY SUCCOT

Shacharit
Lulav, Hallel and Torah reading
Kiddush
Yom Tov ends

SUNDAY 1 OCT

8.45am
9.30am
12 noon
7.36pm

HOSHANAH RABBAH

Shacharit
Candlelighting
Mincha, Ma'ariv and Kiddush

FRIDAY 6 OCT

6.30am
6.42pm
6.00pm

SHEMINI ATZERET

Shacharit
Hallel followed by Torah reading
Yizkor (Memorial Service)

SHABBAT 7 OCT

8.45am
9.30am
Approx. 10.30am

SIMCHAT TORAH (EVENING)

Mincha and Dinner for the Honourees
Candlelighting
Ma'ariv, Hakafot, Dancing and Dessert

SATURDAY 7 OCT

6.15pm
After 7.41pm
7.45pm

SIMCHAT TORAH (MORNING)

Shacharit
Hallel, Hakafot, Dancing and Torah reading

SUNDAY 8 OCT

8.45am
9.30am

KOL HANAARIM: ALL THE CHILDREN

Children called to the Torah and Dancing
Children's Entertainment
Children's Lunch

10.30am
11.00am
11.30am

Kiddush followed by Mincha
Yom Tov ends

Approx. 1.00pm
7.50pm

Weekday morning services between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and on Chol Hamoed Succot, will take place at 6.45 am. Enter via Castlereagh Street.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH

- 0-2** 9.30am - 12.45pm BOARD ROOM *(behind the Shule)*
- 3-5** 10.00am - 12.45pm CHILDREN'S ROOM *(third floor)*
- 6-11** 10.00am - 12.45pm ISRAEL GREEN AUDITORIUM
- Teens** The Teen Sky Lounge will be open in the Succah between 9.00am and 1.00pm.

SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH

- 3-11** 10.00am - 12.45pm CHILDREN'S ROOM *(third floor)*

KOL NIDREI

There will be children's services and programs during the Kol Nidrei service.

YOM KIPPUR *(food will be available for pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah children)*

- 0-2** 10.00am - 1.30am BOARD ROOM *(behind the Shule)*
- 3-5** 11.00am - 12.45pm CHILDREN'S ROOM *(third floor)*
- 6-11** 11.00am - 12.45pm ISRAEL GREEN AUDITORIUM
- Teens** The Teen Sky Lounge will be open in the Succah between 9.00 am and 1.00pm.

SUCCOT

There will be children's services all days of Succot beginning after Torah reading.

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(until July 2023)

Yvonne Kinney
President of The Women's Auxiliary
(from July 2023)

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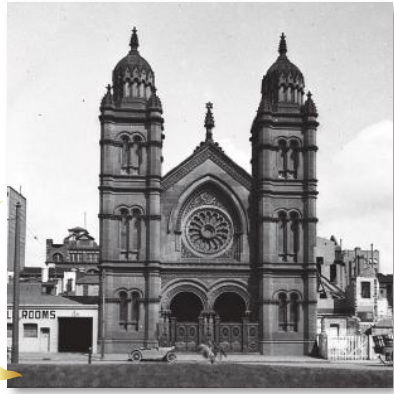


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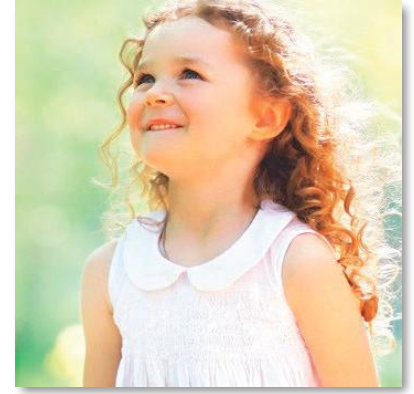
YESTERDAY



Today



TOMORROW



Thank you!

The Great plays a special part in the lives of so many people, both within our community and beyond.

We thank all our donors for a fantastic 5783 and we look forward to new conversations about our community's future.

Wishing everyone a prosperous and healthy 5784!

