



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE
- SYDNEY -
ק"ק בית ישראל

The GREAT VINE

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Dominic Perrottet MP
Premier of New South Wales



Rosh Hashanah 2022

It is with great pleasure that I send my best wishes to all those observing Rosh Hashanah in New South Wales.

This is a precious time for the 50,000-strong Jewish community in our state, when family and friends come together for prayer, reflection, and festivities to herald in the new year. It's a time for looking forward with hope to a brighter future while reflecting on the lessons of the last year, that brings into focus important values of strengthening family bonds and deepening our sense of community.

These values, shared by so many people of good faith in New South Wales, are central to our state's prosperity and success, and so, on behalf of the NSW Government, we extend our most sincere wishes for a fruitful and joyous celebration of Rosh Hashanah.

L'shana tovah u'metukah – for a good and sweet year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dom - 12/1".

Dominic Perrottet MP
Premier

תשפ"ג



Office of The
CHIEF RABBI

The Chief Rabbi's Rosh Hashanah Message 5783

In his book entitled 'Messy', the economist Tim Harford tells a remarkable story about the pianist Keith Jarrett. In January 1975, arriving at the Cologne Opera House to play a Jazz concert for 1400 people, Jarrett was horrified not to find the grand piano he had been expecting. The piano was far too small to achieve any quality of sound, the keys were sticking, the pedals didn't work and the felt was worn away in the upper register. Jarrett explained that the event would have to be cancelled, but the inexperienced concert promoter begged him to reconsider. After much pleading, Jarrett took pity on the young promoter and agreed to perform on the unplayable piano.

A moment of musical history followed. Forced to adapt and improvise, Jarrett energetically achieved the necessary volume from the defective piano. He avoided the tinny high notes and focused instead on the middle register. Remarkably, Jarrett brought the house down and the recording of this concert became the best-selling solo jazz album and the best-selling piano album of all time.

In some respects, our post-pandemic experience feels like being asked to perform on an unplayable piano. During an exceptionally challenging period, we longed for a time when we could step back out onto the stage of our lives, free of restrictions. Baruch Hashem, this has indeed transpired, but the world we have returned to is not the one we expected. The enduring impact of the pandemic and the devastating invasion of Ukraine have been compounded by political instability both at home and abroad. Many people are struggling financially. Significant aspects of our national infrastructure, from healthcare to travel, seem to be in turmoil. Many societies are polarised and fractious. We are far from where we want to be.

Rabbi Joseph B Soloveitchik differentiated between the concepts of 'goral' (fate) and 'yiud' (destiny). Our fate is the hand of cards that we are dealt; our destiny is the way we choose to play it. Responding positively to the external forces beyond our control, we have the capacity to carve out a glorious destiny by adapting, learning from our challenges and becoming stronger because of them.

In Parashat Noach, Hashem declares, "When I cause clouds to cloud over the earth, then the rainbow will be seen amongst the clouds." The most spectacular rainbows, bathing the heavens in an arc of beautiful colour, are not created despite the clouds, but precisely because of them.

Like a rainbow of spectacular beauty breaking through the darkest of storm clouds, you have responded to the pandemic with an unprecedented outpouring of lovingkindness, fundraising and volunteering. However, as we consider our shared purpose over these High Holydays, many serious challenges remain. This is a time to focus on our spirituality and the real purpose of our existence, to redouble our commitment to our families, as well as to our communities and to society, and to do more for the most vulnerable. In this spirit, we will succeed in not only playing the unplayable piano, but also in creating something of immeasurable and lasting value.

Valerie and I extend our heartfelt wishes to you all for a happy, peaceful and fulfilling New Year.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



Acknowledgment of country

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.

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ANZAC Day Ceremony.

From
The
President

David P. Lewis



Great Steps Forward

After a very tough final six months of 2021 due to Covid, we have taken great strides forward as we rebuild our services and fully re-engage with our community.

Your Board continued to meet virtually for most of 2022 and even given that restriction, we have managed to significantly improve so much at The Great. I am heartened by the many messages we receive from both members and visitors thanking our Ministers and staff for the kindness they experience when visiting The Great.

We have many international and interstate members and as international travel recommences; we look forward to welcoming them back to our wonderful services.

Rabbi Chazzan Menachem Feldman

There is no doubt that our most significant development has been the appointment of Rabbi Chazzan Menachem Feldman as our full-time chazzan. Rabbi Elton strongly recommended Rabbi Feldman to the Board and we are most grateful for his foresight.

Rabbi Feldman joined The Great on 20 March and I know you will all agree that both he and Rebbetzin Mushki Feldman have already endeared themselves to our community with their warmth and unbridled enthusiasm.

I simply cannot wait for Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur starting next month as our new chazzan has been working with our choir on our traditional repertoire.

Thank You to our Team

Rabbi Elton and Hinda have once again been outstanding to our community. 2021 was a particularly difficult time for the congregation with the suspension of services at the synagogue for long periods and Rabbi Elton's leadership during this time is so much appreciated.

Rabbi Phil and Abra left us in February this year and they have commenced roles in the USA closer to their families. We thank them for their wonderful work at The Great over a very challenging time and wish them well for the future.

Rabbi Richter provides The Great with world-class leining. During my travels I have had the opportunity to hear many others perform this most important mitzvah, and Rabbi Richter really is "world-class".

The Executive team changed last year with the retirement of Simon Havas and the elevation of Eli Green to the position of Treasurer – a very demanding role. Eli has commenced a significant overhaul and modernisation of our financial processes, an onerous yet enormously beneficial initiative that will serve The Great for years to come. Max Freedman, our Senior Vice-President; and Lauren Ryder, Junior Vice-
Continued overleaf.





Rabbi Kaplan, Rabbi Elton, Israeli Ambassador, David Lewis.



Michael Gold and David Lewis, Anzac Day Ceremony.

President, remained in their roles and again worked tirelessly for the community.

Our long-serving Board members Darryl Green, Fay Frischer, and Benjamin Hansen have each been a tower of strength, joined by Toby Hammerman, our JBOD delegate with Jack Pinczewski assisting with government affairs and our on-going Heritage Floor Space application.

As always, our General Manager, Lynn Niselow, has worked relentlessly managing our office. During this year we lost both our accounts manager, Judith Indyk, and Ezra Wexler who has moved to an outstanding new role. We miss them and wish them well with their new career moves.

Lynn is managing our transition to new office practices with Eli Green and together with Ilana Modell and Justin Green, we are in excellent hands!

The Foundation

During the year we formally launched The Great Synagogue Foundation, and I am honoured to thank Garry Browne AM for both accepting the role of Chair of The Foundation and for his ongoing management. We have already raised

significant funds and in the next few months we will recognise those who have been early contributors.

Disabled Access

Last year I noted that we were working on disabled access to all levels of the Shule. Covid has delayed us and as a result progress has been slow. Notwithstanding, we continue to work through all issues and hope that this initiative will commence during the next twelve months.

The AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum

The Board has approved a proposal for increased maintenance, development, and display of our extensive collection. The museum collection comprises an estimated 800 items, excluding the archival records such as Marriages, Births, and Burials. During the next twelve months our Honorary Archivist, Dr Jana Vytrhlik, has been engaged to firstly preserve and prepare a knowledge base for the Museum collection. Jana has already commenced work and will develop exhibitions and related events, and maximise the Jewish Community access to our collection.

Conclusion

Finally, I look forward to serving our wonderful community and hope that I will have the opportunity to continue to improve the fantastic Shule that we all love so much.

Once again, Caroline and I wish you and your families a happy and healthy new year and this time we are confident that we can say:

See you in Shule!



Rabbi Elton at the wedding of Jarrod Tucker and Sevilla Kornfeld.

*From
The
Rabbi*

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton



*Blowing shofar
online during Ellul.*

Building a Beautiful Community

This has been a year in which we have learned to take the blows and bounce back. As I was writing this message last year, I was looking forward to busy High Holidays in shule. The Delta outbreak took that away from us, but I found it deeply inspiring to work to secure the Government's permission to assemble in parks on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur for Shofar and prayer. Those occasions, as thousands of people gathered all over Sydney, including Hyde Park and Rushcutters Bay Park where I officiated, were very powerful and lifted everyone's spirits.

Services in the synagogue resumed shortly after Succot, albeit with the masking and distancing restrictions we had come to know all too well. Chanukah saw another successful Youth Shabbat, beautifully organised by Rabbi Phil Kaplan, but soon after he told us that he, Abra and Roe were returning to the United States. I am grateful to him for his wonderful work at The Great as a rabbi and a chazzan, as well as for his friendship. Hinda and I wish the whole family every success in New Orleans.

We were very fortunate to welcome a new chazzan, Rabbi Menachem Feldman shortly after Purim. He has already made an incredible start as cantor and Assistant Rabbi, leading amazing services with our outstanding choir and connecting with congregants of all ages. I am looking forward to many years working alongside Rabbi Feldman and Mushki and seeing Leah and

Ari grow up at The Great.

Even when services were curtailed, a huge amount of work was going on in the background. In particular the launch of the Foundation marked a new stage in the synagogue's long-term prosperity. I am very grateful to all the donors so far, and to the Foundation Board for all their work.

I am lucky to have a Board who all work so hard and are all so committed to the welfare of the community and I want to thank them publicly for all they do. The office team of Lynn Niselow, Ilana Moddel and Justin Green has worked amazingly well, especially as Judith Indyk and Ezra Wexler, two valued members of the team, moved on. We welcomed onto the professional staff Jana Vytrhlik as curator of the AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum, after several years as an outstanding guest curator.

We owe so much to our volunteers: the Women's Auxiliary; Steve Schach and Toby Hammerman; our Gabbai and Assistant Gabbai; Sharon Schach who chairs Great Women; and everyone else who helps us in myriad ways.

From a standing start, 5782 became very busy indeed, with services, classes, concerts, events for kids and adults and above all joy and celebrations. You can see many of the highlights in this magazine.

When we reached Pesach, life was more or less normal again and I decided to express my vision

Continued overleaf.





Rabbi Elton and Sari Browne OAM at the Mark Moran Remembrance Day Service.

for the future of the synagogue in my sermon on the first day of Pesach. I found a guide in a verse we sing as we carry round the Torah on Shabbat before it is placed back in the Ark: 'bow down to the Lord in the beauty of holiness'.

What is the beauty of holiness? Our shule possesses a great deal of physical beauty. We hear beautiful music from our chazzan and choir. These are certainly aspects of the beauty of holiness. But there is another aspect too, one that goes much wider. The rabbis take the words from the Song of Songs, 'you are beautiful, my love, you are beautiful', and tell us what they really mean:

You are beautiful through mitzvot, beautiful through deeds of loving kindness, . . . through prayer, through reciting the Shema through the *mezuzah*, through tefillin, through sukkah and lulav and etrog.

The beauty of holiness is about beautiful deeds, beautiful attitudes, beautiful values. We become holy and we become beautiful in the same way: by conducting ourselves well, in our relationships with God and with each other.

For me, the purpose of The Great Synagogue, the reason we exist and ought to exist, is to generate and sustain the beauty of holiness. To put it another way, The Great Synagogue exists to create a beautiful community.

To do that we must begin with values. The Great Synagogue is already, and must remain, a community driven by fundamental commitments, to warmth, inclusivity and relationships, where everyone feels welcomed, everyone knows that they matter, everyone perceives that they are cared for. We have to be a place that appreciates diversity, where we value our differences because they bring joy and strength. We should be a congregation without judgmentalism and which avoids hierarchy. All that matters in the esteem in which we hold each other is a person's character and their own contribution.

We have always been a community committed to the Jewish tradition, an Orthodox congregation, which we combine with our own heritage and unique customs. They have to be continually renewed and refreshed, because as the Jewish-Austrian composer Gustav Mahler said, 'tradition is not the worship of ashes but the preservation of fire'. Our job is to tend and increase that fire. We are all on a journey towards deeper engagement with Torah and mitzvot. We embrace a Judaism that is in dialogue with the outside world because we believe that openness enriches and enhances



The Elton family: Lizzie, Rabbi Benjamin, Hinda and Salo.

our religious and communal lives.

These are our values and they have to be our culture as well, because culture is values as expressed in behaviour. People will notice what we do much more than what we say and that means placing people at the centre of our concern. Although we are called The Great Synagogue, we are a union of hearts, not a physical structure. We are a congregation with a building, not a building with a congregation. We are blessed to possess an amazing space, but we do not worship it, we worship in it and it exists to enhance our community and its prayers.

'Building a beautiful community' can be the golden thread that runs through everything we do. I want it to inspire every member of the congregation, everyone who serves the congregation, and others who wish to join the congregation and become part of this endeavour. I believe it can generate new enthusiasm to belong, volunteer and contribute and remind those of us who lead or work for the synagogue why we are doing what we are doing. Whatever we are doing in and for The Great Synagogue, we have to know that we are creating a beautiful community.

As we embark on this High Holiday season, a time for introspection and reinvigoration, I hope you will join me in committing ourselves and our community to this vision. Hinda, Lizzie, Salo and I wish the whole congregation a happy and healthy 5783 and we look forward to seeing you in shule!



What a difference a year makes!

From
The
General
Manager

Lynn Niselow



This time last year we were all in lockdown trying to imagine how we were going to celebrate the High Holidays, isolating away from family and friends, without the privilege of being able to attend services in our beautiful shule. It felt unrelenting. We'd been through this before, we'd spent Pesach in isolation and the idea of isolating again over the High Holidays was daunting. But we managed and we got through it.

There is still Covid around and this year the flu. Gratefully though, we are all managing, we're out and about spending time with family and friends and above all we're back in shule.

It is wonderful to see services resuming and the shule return to our new normal. With services back in person, semachot are being celebrated. There have been bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs and weddings and we look forward to many more in the upcoming months.

Live at Yours has put on several concerts, all of which have been well attended. It's truly fantastic to see so many people visiting our shule. The school tours have also resumed and in the past year we've had more than a thousand students from various schools visit our shule, to learn about The Great and to hear from Rabbi Elton.

There have been some changes in the office too as both Judith and Ezra have moved on from The Great. We acknowledge and thank them for their contribution and miss their presence in the office. The incredible team of Ilana and Justin have risen to the occasion. We are so lucky to have them and thank them for their dedication and commitment.

We are looking forward to celebrating the High Holidays in shule, all of us together at last. In our

beautiful sanctuary, with services which will be led by our Chief Minister, our chazzan and the extraordinary choir led by choirmaster Justin Green. And to get there, the office will plan and curate, we will put our heads together and our small and special team will work hard



Ezra Wexler with Eli Levi and their daughter Riva at Zelig's Brit Milah.

to ensure that everything works, that the shule looks beautiful, spick and span and all the moving parts are aligned so that all the hard work that our rabbi, the chazzan and Justin have put in will ensure that this year's High Holidays are very special. We look forward to our Succot as well as Simchat Torah dinners and as always these will be meaningful celebratory evenings.

I wish you and your families Shana Tova Umetuka, with blessings for a sweet, harmonious, healthy and happy year.



From Sydney to New Orleans!

The Next Step for the Kaplan Family



Rabbi Kaplan before the Jaku State Memorial.

Over the past two and a half years, the synagogue was immensely fortunate to enjoy the presence of Rabbi Phil Kaplan as Associate Rabbi and chazzan and his beautiful family, Abra and Roe.

Rabbi Phil first spent time with us over the High Holidays of 2018 and then returned as Associate Rabbi before Rosh Hashana 2019. Between his appointment and his arrival, Chazzan Josh Weinberger let us know that he would be making aliyah and so we asked Rabbi Phil to act also as chazzan. We were lucky that he had training as a cantor as well as a rabbi and was gifted with a fine voice. He led our Shabbat and festival services beautifully during his time with us, working very well with the choir and making our services a delight for regulars and visitors alike.

Of course, he was appointed as a rabbi and as such, he has made a huge impact, teaching a Melton course, a Hebrew class with a devoted following, restarting a bar and bat mitzvah program now in its third year and a hugely successful conversion class. He brought two Youth Shabbatot back to the shule, which were a great pleasure for the children and the rest of the congregation. His sermons were sincere and thoughtful and sometimes deeply moving.

Abra attracted and inspired many women to her Rosh Chodesh sessions and joined with Rabbi Phil in welcoming members of our community to their home. We celebrated with the Kaplans over these two and a half years, welcoming Roe and holding his brit milah on the bimah.

In early 2022 Rabbi Phil announced he would be returning to the United States, where he and Abra always intended to make their long-term home. They soon shared that he had been appointed the Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in New Orleans, where they are bound to make a massive and positive impact and become greatly loved. They have begun work there and welcomed their second son, Shamaya Ber. We wish them every joy and success in the future.

Here are some words from Rabbi Phil's valedictory sermon:

I would like to share with you the ways in which I have grown in my time here, what I have learned and my blessings for the future. Bringing people together, especially for something important, like creating a vibrant Jewish community, requires phone calls and emails and devoted time building relationships through teaching and hosting meals and more. And



En Route to New Orleans.



Leading morning services.

above all, it takes love. In my time here I learned how to use my words to make clear my love for Judaism and to make clear my love for all of you. In the moments when I did this most successfully and when it came to me most naturally, I found my greatest successes.

A rabbi's job isn't to do everything themselves. This is not only impossible but also it is not helpful. A rabbi needs to empower and provide opportunities to his community to build their tabernacle with their own hands. This is something I've learned in my time here and I hope that I have contributed in a small way to some of you feeling capable and more confident to learn, grow and contribute to your community.

Thank you to this wonderful community. For loving and embracing me and my family. For allowing me to be your rabbi and for helping me learn how to be a better rabbi. I won't be in Sydney anymore, but I will always keep an eye on the bright future that is surely in store for The Great Synagogue. May this community go from strength to strength and may everyone in it be blessed with God's many blessings.

A Great Whirlwind

What a year this has been for us! A year of whirlwind and exciting and positive change for our family.

Moving houses, neighbourhoods, jobs, shules and community all at once, has been, without a doubt, one of the biggest adventures of our lives. I want to thank Rabbi Elton and Hinda for the constant support, guidance, mentorship, friendship and care you have shown us from day one. Together - we make a Great team!

We feel truly blessed and humbled by the love, kindness and generosity that all of you at The Great Synagogue have shown us in our time here so far. We are ever so grateful to you all for your warm welcome and we look forward to a long-lasting and bright future together.

How lucky we are to be able to celebrate, daven and sing together in one of the world's most magnificent houses of worship, creating magical music and an enchanting spiritual experience for our members every Shabbos and Yom Tov - it's like a dream come true!

I want to thank my 'partners in song' Justin and the choir, for their unparalleled devotion and world-class performance. I feel like the service just gets better and better every week - and we are only getting started. You guys are the best and I could not do it without you! May we continue to share the beauty of our sacred heritage with the community for many years to come.

As the chazzan and Assistant Rabbi, I have had the pleasure of participating in so much great communal work, whether it be co-officiating at weddings, simchas and lifecycle events together with the rabbi, arranging educational and youth programs such as the bar and bat mitzvah clubs and Yom Tov children's services, personal home and hospital visits, as well as representing The Great Synagogue at communal memorials, concerts and other city-wide ceremonies and celebrations, the more we do the more we realise is yet to be achieved.

We have the joy of hosting regular Shabbos and Yom Tov meals at our home and we look forward to eventually welcoming and celebrating with



The Feldman family: Rabbi Menachim, Mushki, Leah and Ari.

each and every member (though it may take one or two Shabboses...).

We hope to bring many new and exciting initiatives to the community in the future as well as maintain and strengthen the golden legacy and timeless traditions unique to The Great Synagogue.

Mushki and the kids join me in wishing you all a Shana Tova Umetuka! (a good and sweet year). May the coming year bring with it Hashem's blessings in abundance, may we each be granted health, happiness, peace, nachas from our loved ones, prosperity and good fortune. May we only share in simchas together and may this year be one of exponential growth and success for our shule and for the community at large.

Lechaim!

*From
Chazzan Rabbi
Menachem
Feldman*



From
Justin Green,
Choirmaster

Justin Green

Choral Collaborations



The Great Synagogue choir reaches the hearts of the congregation whatever the circumstances. Even though we could not sing at High Holiday services at the start of 5782, we recorded a distanced, multi-tracked music video of one of the congregants' favourite pieces, *Ki Anu Amecha*, which has since garnered over a thousand views on YouTube. This year we are aiming for a full resumption of participation in services and repertoire with our tremendous new chazzan, Rabbi Menachem Feldman and we know the community is looking forward to the unmatched thrill of traditional services once again.

In December, we had the privilege of singing in enlarged ensemble form (around twenty choristers) at the State Memorial Service for the late Eddie Jaku OAM, who supported the synagogue for many decades with his wife Flore who also just recently passed. We were honoured to participate and in so doing, also pay respect to Eddie, Flore and their family.

Over Chanukah, Wolper Hospital inpatients were cheered by a video made of us by Ruth and Harry Guth. The images of smiling patients enjoying the show on their televisions were truly special. God willing, this year our public in-person performances and other media will certainly reach an ever-larger audience.

In February we enjoyed the novelty of singing the famous Kol Nidrei with Rabbi Phil Kaplan at one of the popular *Live at the Great* concerts that have drawn a wider community of culture-seekers to the hidden wonders of The Great. Our brief turn was an aperitif for the stunning main performance, featuring the arrangement by Max Bruch of the Kol Nidrei for cello and piano. Rabbi Phil unfortunately left us soon after for America, however his bestowal of various boutique whiskies

as a parting gift to the choir softened the blow to some degree.

The headline news of 2022 is surely the arrival of Rabbi Menachem Feldman as the new chazzan. Not often does a new talent like this come along. Australia Day saw him take to the bimah with uncommon panache. He combines an agile talent and musical sensitivity with a 'can-do' attitude, enriching the choral soil with new and revived pieces (with significant doses of Raymond Goldstein and Yossele Rosenblatt). Our Adon Olam 'in the round' has also quickly become the norm on Shabbat mornings, sending everyone whistling their way to Kiddush.

This August we took part in a gala concert with Rabbi Feldman's treasured mentor from Jerusalem and doyen of choral shule music, Raymond Goldstein. We also look forward to performing at Moriah College with other communal choirs just prior to Rosh Hashana, the choir's first real High Holiday performance in three years.

Our ranks have been expanded since last year by Ezra Hersch, a composition student, and Gilad Serafim, whose appreciative attitude (and basso profundo) is a joy. On the more experienced side we have Jacques Klein, who has sung for decades and Marcus Einfeld, whose twinkly presence is a boon to the congregation at large. Of course, Michael Lewis decided to retire - we miss him dearly but now he can sit in his actual seat!



Australian Aliya is a success!

Everywhere you go in Israel you come across ex-Australians. They are doctors and developers, caterers and kibbutzniks... even rabbis. Most have learnt to cope with Hebrew though many keep their Aussie drawl.

Their success can't just be because it is such a huge effort to go back to the Antipodes. It has something to do with Australia and with Australian Jewry. Something like ten per cent of the Australian Jewish community has made aliyah. Ninety per cent are left "down under" and a great resource of human potential still remains in Australia. Jewish life in Australia is far from facing extinction.

What sort of place is Australia? Vast in size, laid-back in attitude. The sun, sea and surf make life easy. In contrast, the bush and the back-blocks make life rather hard. There is no shortage of problems. Unfortunately, a slew of intolerant opinions has come in with the immigration waves and there are sporadic outbreaks of racism and antisemitism. The pressure and pace of modern living have not left Australia unscathed and some find the rat-race tough. But on the whole, Australia is rightly called "the lucky country".

You can forgive the superficiality of football, beer, betting and racing. Not that there is no science, music, education, art or economic entrepreneurship. Cultural life is vibrant. Australian universities are amongst the world's finest. Jews are probably the best educated, best organized and most highly mobilized sector of the Australian people.

Australia isn't a place that you would willingly desert. You have to be an idealist to move elsewhere, which is one of the main reasons why Australian aliyah is a success. Australian olim

bring an array of ideas, skills and energies though they fret that Israelis are unaware of cricket or Aussie Rules and they think Israeli tea and beer are too weak.

Nostalgic Aussies travel from afar to attend the Australian Embassy's Anzac Day and Beersheva commemorations, where they can sing "Advance Australia Fair" together with "Hatikvah". Some even wear their Australian medals at these events (I do too, though for the rest of the year my medals repose in a bedside drawer).

Australian Jewry is relatively small in size, ninth or so in the league of World Jewry. But it's top of the league in terms of love for Israel and devotion to Jewish identity.

Jewish education is a growth industry. There are articulate writers and solid scholars, but few leaders with prophetic quality. Despite that defect, if you want to live Jewishly in Australia (even including Talmud study and Orthodox observance), you have every opportunity. The international Jewish visitors who come to Australia can hardly believe their eyes. Other communities are moribund and hardly able to stay alive, but Australian Jewry is still growing and flexing its muscles. Australian Jewry has far more Kiddush than Kaddish. When you come across Australian olim you see the evidence: Australian aliyah is a success.

*From
Rabbi
Raymond
Apple
Rabbi Emeritus*



Every year we are delighted to welcome dozens of new members of the congregation. Each one has a story and a unique journey that led them to The Great. Here we share a few.

New Members

2021-2022



Sophie and Jacob Sharff

Sophie and Jacob were married at The Great in 2015. Sophie was part of the shule community through her parents, longstanding members Henry and Judy Newman. Jacob’s sister, Julie, was also recently married at the shule.

Having a strong connection to their Jewish roots and heritage is important to Sophie and Jacob and their extended family. Jacob was born in Israel and came to Australia with his family at a very young age and Sophie was born in Sydney. Professionally, Jacob is an actuary and Sophie is a lawyer.

Together, they have two young daughters who attend their local Jewish school and they love

hearing their girls learn about the Jewish way of life, reciting prayers, singing songs and asking deep questions about Judaism.

They decided to join The Great as members in order to continue to nurture and grow their children’s involvement with the community and to support the shule, with its rich history and customs.

They’ve found The Great to be a warm, welcoming and open community for their young family, particularly under the leadership of Rabbi Elton and Hinda and are looking forward to being more involved in the shule community.



Jarrod and Sevilla Tucker

On 27 March 2022, we married our beshert at The Great Synagogue. The beautiful synagogue provided the perfect backdrop for our chuppah, however its connection to our marriage goes deeper than just a backdrop.

In 2016, Jarrod moved from Perth to Sydney. New in town, he attended a variety of events targeted towards young adults and professionals. One of the standout events was regular lunches designed to introduce junior lawyers to senior lawyers, barristers and judges within the Jewish community. Jarrod thoroughly enjoyed these lunches and it also provided an opportunity to develop a relationship with Rabbi Elton.

Two years later, when Jarrod needed some relationship advice, he reached out to Rabbi Elton. Rabbi Elton wisely said “just do it”. It wasn’t too long after that, that Jarrod proposed to Sevilla and the wedding planning commenced.

Rabbi Elton was a key ingredient in our “love story” and we wanted him to be part of our special day. When it came to deciding where to have our

chuppah, The Great Synagogue was the perfect option. Not only is The Great Synagogue one of Sydney’s heritage-listed architectural wonders, but a place where Judaism is both worshipped and celebrated. We both treasure our Judaism so it seemed very fitting to have our chuppah in the synagogue.

Organising the day was made easy by Ezra Wexler and the office team. Rabbi Elton and Hinda provided detailed guidance on Jewish rituals in the lead up to our wedding and marriage classes, preparing us for our next stage of our life.

Our magical day arrived and it was just as special as we imagined. The synagogue was full with our family and friends and Rabbi Feldman brought an energetic and festive atmosphere with his beautiful voice. Before we knew it, the glass was smashed and we heard...MAZAL TOV!

Going to synagogue is a place of prayer, where one connects to God. Getting married in The Great Synagogue helped us feel closer to God as we embarked on our journey together as husband and wife.

New Members

Richard Davey and Soraya Calavassy

Before becoming members of The Great, we 'shule-shopped'. We knew that we wanted to join a synagogue with a rabbi and community that felt right, so we visited several shules to determine the place for us.

The moment we set foot in The Great, we knew it was 'the one'. From the beauty, to its history, to the amazing chazzan, The Great had a lasting impact on us both.

The ties to The Great run deeper than that. Richard has a strong family connection to The Great, with his parents, both his maternal and paternal grandparents, and his maternal great-grandparents all being married at The Great. It was an incredibly special moment when Rabbi Elton showed us the marriage records of Richard's

great-grandparents who were married there in 1924 by Rabbi Cohen.

Being part of an open, accepting and welcoming community is an amazing thing. We've made friends, shared many laughs and there is always a friendly face, a smile for new members and a piece of cake at Kiddush! We've gone from being a little daunted initially, to now feeling incredibly comfortable and like part of the furniture - we credit the warmth of Rabbi Elton and Hinda for making it so easy!

We are undeniably happy that our journey has taken us to The Great and we know that it will be a part of our lives for many years to come, with (hopefully!) many simchas ahead!



Gilad and Jaquerli Serafim

The warm and welcoming community of The Great Synagogue touched us as we attended for the first time earlier this year.

The choir was a highlight for me from the first Shabbat we attended. The acoustic echoes of the liturgy and prayer made me want to join the choir and to have choirmaster Justin Green leading the group and allowing me to join has cemented my commitment to The Great.

Jaquerli's experience has been excellent and the learning process with the classes held by Rabbi Elton provides valuable spiritual and practical growth.

We were both born in Brazil and met here in Australia. We have been married for over 28 years and have three young-adult children. We attended other shules in Sydney, but becoming members of The Great has allowed us to re-

enforce the roots on our spiritual journey. Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton has been a great teacher of Judaism and Torah studies. Our Chazzan Rabbi Menachem Feldman has inspired us through music and prayer, bringing tremendous energy and connection to God in each service.

The warmth and embracing gestures of the members and administration, like David Lewis and his wife Caroline, have helped us decide to become members of The Great. There are so many beautiful people at The Great and it is always special to meet everyone. We look forward to the services and events each week. Shabbat at The Great is joyful and spiritually elevating and the regular Kiddush after the service is a great way to meet everyone in a relaxed atmosphere. It has been an awe-inspiring experience for both of us!



Our New Members 2021-2022

Jonathan Abrams

Jodine Wolman

Elle Curran

David Dunn

Tayler Matthews

Jarrod Tucker

Sevilla Kornfeld

Rabbi Shua Solomon

Viola Bolot

Sophia Bolot

Olivia Bolot

Stuart Frydmann

Jenessa Hetesi

Taylor Inberg nee Saul

Liam O'Callaghan

Daliah Smith

Richard Davey

Soraya Calavassy

David Levi

Gleuto Serafim

Jaquerli Serafim

Ben Krcmar

Dana Krcmar

Laura Cook

Lisa Edinger-Reeve

Alice Hubbers

Zelig Wexlevi

Solmon Elton

Jordan Shamir

Soraiya Husain

Sophie Sharff

Jacob Sharff

Julie Klein

Michael Klein

Phillip Behr

Joshua Moses

Anika Ranchhod

Merelyn Chalmers

Gregory Sernack

Samantha Khavin

Arthur Shariev

Tia Heilprin

Daniel Heilprin

Asher Dinnen

Dominique Doyle



Bar & Bat Mitzvahs



Benjy Utian



Josh Lopata



Estelle Fragar



Joel Greenfield



Eitan Gottheiner



Eliana Joseph



Harry Haigh and mum Amanda



Oren Burch



Samuel Goodman



Owen Hurst





Dana Bar-Eli and Ben Krcmar

Weddings



Yael Katz and Phillip Behr



Jessica Wasilewsky and Eric Dein



Taylor Saul and Phillip Inberg



Julie Scharff and Michael Klein



Sevilla Kornfeld and Jarrod Tucker





David Lewis, Garry Browne and Rabbi Elton



Foundation launch.

Forward the Foundation

The Great Synagogue Foundation was launched and took off this year, with several major donations helping us make major progress to ensuring the financial stability of the synagogue in perpetuity.

The first major Foundation event of the year was the unveiling of a plaque in the synagogue in memory of Lionel Green. The Green family has made a one-million-dollar donation from Lionel's estate, which has placed the Foundation on a very firm footing. Lionel is remembered with great fondness by the congregation and now he will have an impact on his beloved synagogue forever. We are grateful to Lionel's family for their support and generosity.

The official launch of the Foundation took place at a highly successful concert in the synagogue, showcasing our building not only as a place of prayer but as a heritage icon and an outstanding venue for the Jewish and the wider community. The evening began with word from the Foundation's chair, Garry Browne AM and here are some of his remarks:

Our forefathers had great insight and wisdom



Foundation Chair Garry Browne with Synagogue President David Lewis.

not only to build and establish this most beautiful synagogue but also to create and nurture a Jewish community that is strong and vibrant and a very prominent part of the broader Australian community. From its earliest days, The Great was always going to be special and it soon became the beating heart of Sydney's Jewish community. Today, The Great's family enjoys a home that is warm and inclusive, one that creates a wonderful environment for the Jewish community for all ages and interests. The Great represents Judaism in the best way it can to the wider community, serving families and individuals from around Sydney and beyond. The Great is much more than just another synagogue.... it is a national treasure.

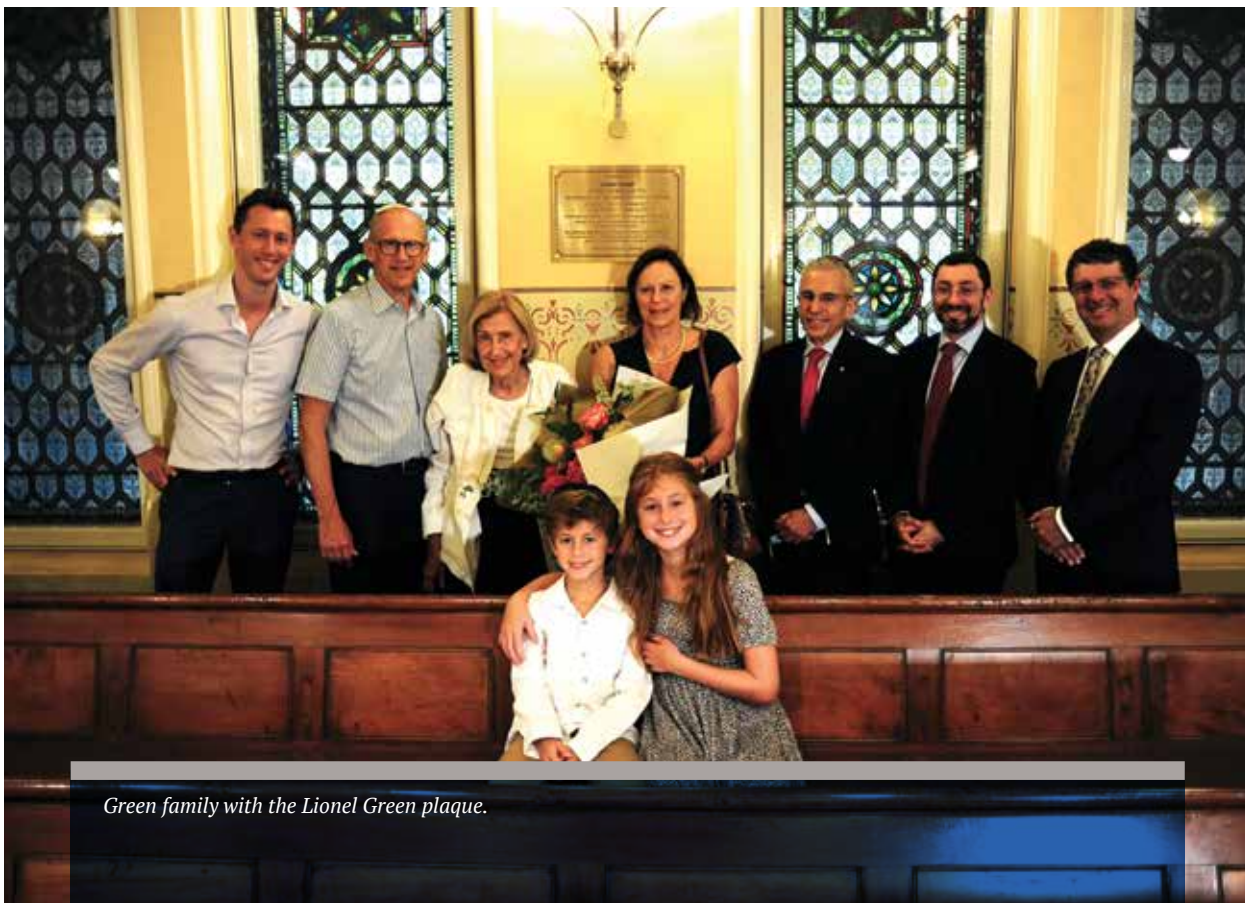
The Great Synagogue Foundation was first raised as a concept by Ken Gresham, who was the Treasurer of the synagogue for several years and who passed away prior to its approval. This idea was brought to fruition with gusto by our Past President, Justice Stephen Rothman AM, which was no mean feat. It has been established to ensure the financial viability and continuity of The Great Synagogue and our community. Your support of the Foundation means securing the future of the Sydney Jewish community for our children, their children and for generations to come.

On behalf of those who helped establish The Great Synagogue and those of us who today are its family, I



ask you to join us to ensure this wonderful, cherished shule maintains its rightful place in the future.

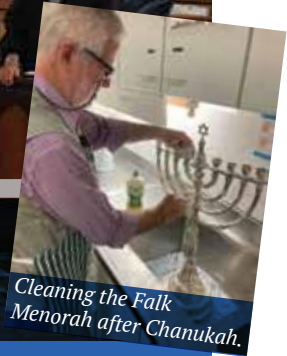
Several more major donations have already been received and there will be a series of functions over the coming year to engage interest, recognise donations and seek new contributions. The synagogue board has approved several dedication opportunities within the sanctuary. If you would like to discuss options for a donation and dedication, please email Garry Browne on donors@greatsynagoguefoundation.org.au.



Green family with the Lionel Green plaque.



Rabbi Kaplan lights the Falk Menorah.



Cleaning the Falk Menorah after Chanukah.

Festivals & Special Events

There have been many beautiful, profound and enjoyable occasions at The Great this year, celebrating the chagim and other special events. Chanukah was one of the first opportunities we had to gather as a community after the lockdown at the end of 2021. There was a wonderful choral service with the lighting of the Falk menorah and a gala Kiddush to follow.

Later in the summer, the synagogue hosted the incoming councillors of the City of Sydney at a Friday evening service and traditional Shabbat dinner, which created and developed important connections between the synagogue and local government.

Purim was celebrated in shule and at a delightful kids' party with Magic Craig, at the home of Rabbi



City of Sydney Council Dinner.



Purim kids party.



Purim kids party.



Shavuot greenery,

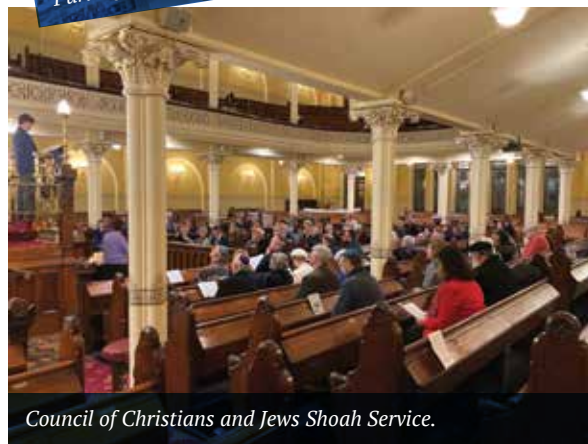


Purim gift bags for the kids.

Elton and Hinda. For Pesach, the blue vestments appeared, including two new cloths described elsewhere in this magazine. The second night seder was an even bigger success than last year, with a wonderful service led by the rabbi and chazzan, great food and a warm atmosphere.

On a more sombre note, the Council of Christians and Jews held its annual Shoah Memorial Service, with the Mater Chorale and guest speaker Rev Dr Patrick McNerney.

Shavuot was extremely busy. The highlights were the decoration of the synagogue with foliage, the packed dinner and learning event



Council of Christians and Jews Shoah Service.

at Rabbi Elton and Hinda's house on the first night and the choral service and fish and chips Kiddush on the second night. However, the very best moment came as fifty kids poured onto the bimah on the first morning to hear the Ten Commandments before going to the Sky Room for an ice cream party.



Purim morning.



Table at the Communal Seder.



The Ark for Pesach.





Rabbi Elton addresses the State Memorial Service for Eddie Jaku OAM.

State Memorial Service for Eddie Jaku OAM



Norman Seligman from the Sydney Jewish Museum.



Michael Jaku.

One of the most extraordinary members of The Great Synagogue, the Jewish community and Australian society passed away this year. Eddie Jaku OAM, survivor of Auschwitz and Holocaust educator, made a massive impact on the world through his meetings with students and others, his TED Talk that became a global sensation and his book “The Happiest Man on Earth” which became a bestseller in dozens of countries around the world.

We are very proud to have been Eddie’s synagogue, alongside his wife Flore, their sons Andre and Michael and their wives, children and grandchildren. The synagogue was very honoured to be asked to lead the State Memorial Service at Sydney Town Hall, where Rabbi Elton, Rabbi Kaplan and the Great Synagogue choir officiated. This rare and extraordinary tribute from the Government and people of New South Wales was a deeply moving and powerful occasion. It was attended by the Governor, the Premier, many other dignitaries from Australian society and the Jewish community.

In his address at the State Memorial Service Rabbi Elton said,

Today we remember an extraordinary life that culminated in a very extraordinary old age. Eddie Jaku OAM, a man who did so much good in the world through talking, has fallen silent and others must talk for him and about him. How does one eulogise the

happiest man on earth? His famous self-description tells us about the true greatness of Eddie Jaku. That a man who had suffered as he did, who continued to grieve for his family and suffer nightmares from his experiences, could describe himself in those terms is a testimony to his heroic spirit, that triumphed and conquered and then inspired. Those who heard his talks and more recently read his book, were not just affected, they were often changed forever.

He was born in Leipzig in 1920 into a large family. After his bar mitzvah he was barred from the local high school as a Jew and was sent to Tuttlingen to study engineering. He graduated in 1938 as the top apprentice toolmaker. On 9 November 1938 Eddie travelled back to Leipzig to surprise his parents on their twentieth wedding anniversary. He found the house deserted except for his dachshund Lulu because his family had gone into hiding. He slept in the house overnight and was woken at 5 am when Nazis broke in, beat him severely and killed Lulu. That was his Kristallnacht.

He was sent to Buchenwald and was imprisoned in camps in Belgium and France between 1939 and 1941. He escaped and lived in hiding with his family but they were arrested by Belgian police in 1943 and sent to Auschwitz. They lived for nine days on a train surviving on just two cups of water a day in severely cold conditions. On arrival at Auschwitz Josef Mengele was performing the selection. Initially Eddie tried to join his parents but was pulled out. They



Rabbi Elton and Rabbi Kaplan welcome Premier Dominic Perrotet and Gabrielle Upton, MP.

went to the gas chambers and he was sent to work. He never stopped missing his parents, especially his mother and would tell his young audiences, "If you have the opportunity today, please go home and tell your mother how much you love her. Do this for your mother. And do it for your new friend, Eddie, who cannot tell it to his mother."

His skills in engineering saved his life as he was a useful craftsman. He was close to despair but his close friend Kurt Hirschfeld and the experience of friendship itself, kept him going. He endured the forced death march of January 1945 as the Russians were closing in. He escaped, was recaptured and put to work. Again, he escaped, this time to a cave where he was found by American soldiers in June 1945. He had been surviving on slugs and snails. He was emaciated and extremely sick. He returned to Belgium and found his sister Henni.

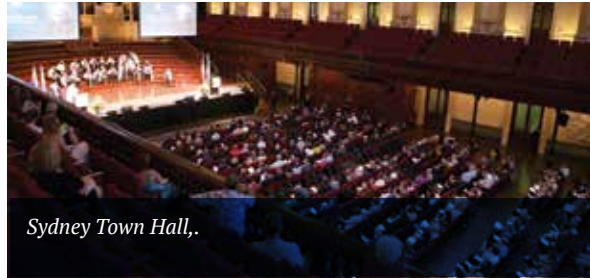
One day collecting his ration coupons from the Brussels town hall, he fell in love with the woman handing out the papers. That was Flore and they married in 1946. Eddie was not a happy man until the birth of their first son Michael in 1948. In 1950 the family came to Australia and Andre was born in 1952.

In 1972 Eddie began to be able to talk about his experiences. He said 'I feel it is my duty to tell my story. I know if my mother were here, she would say: Do it for me. Try to make the world a better place.' He dedicated himself to telling the story of the Holocaust as he experienced it, tirelessly and with total dedication, often through the Sydney Jewish Museum, which he loved and helped to found. He was devoted to education and inspiring the young. Whatever he said and wrote was full of wisdom, principle, morality, happiness and above all a refusal to hate, feel jealousy or envy but rather to embrace friendship and love.

The effects of Eddie's life and work will be felt for decades to come. He wrote, "Your efforts today will affect people you will never know. It is your choice whether that effect is positive or negative. You can choose every day, every minute, to act in a way that may uplift a stranger, or else drag them down. The choice is easy. And it is yours to make." I am not sure

it is always an easy choice, but Eddie made it look easy and the whole world was enriched as a result.

In July 2022, just a few months after Eddie's death, Flore, his wife of over seven decades, also passed away. A remarkable couple are now together again and a family and community remember an extraordinary team, who together made such an impact. We remember Flore personally elsewhere in this issue of *The Great Vine*.



Sydney Town Hall,.



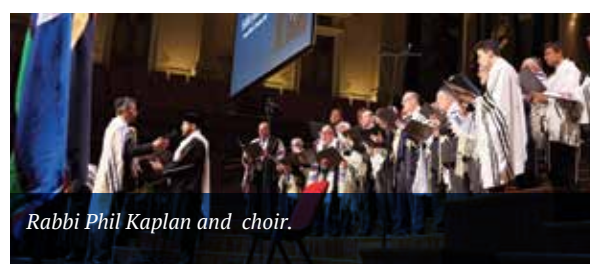
Jaku family.



Lesli Berger, President of the Board of Deputies.



Premier Dominic Perrotet.



Rabbi Phil Kaplan and choir.



Danielle and Marc Jaku.



A sweeter and happier New year to everyone! Stephen & Susie Kopp



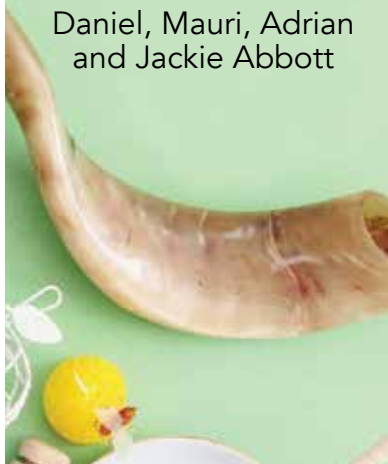
Wishing our friends and family a healthy, happy and prosperous year ahead filled with more pleasures and mitzvahs. Robyn, Garry, Joshua, Ari and Sam



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 the entire congregation a happy, healthy and sweet New Year. Daniel, Mauri, Adrian and Jackie Abbott



New Year's Greetings

Wishing the Ministers, the Board and the entire congregation Shana Tova. Sari Browne OAM and family.



To our 'Great family', wishing you a safe Fast and a New Year spent in good health and happy times. Chag Sameach. Caroline, David, Juliet Lewis, Charlotte & Robbie Weiss



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



Wishing our rabbis and their families, and all our friends at TGS, Shana Tova, a healthy and rewarding year, filled with blessings. Ros and Alex Fischl and family



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



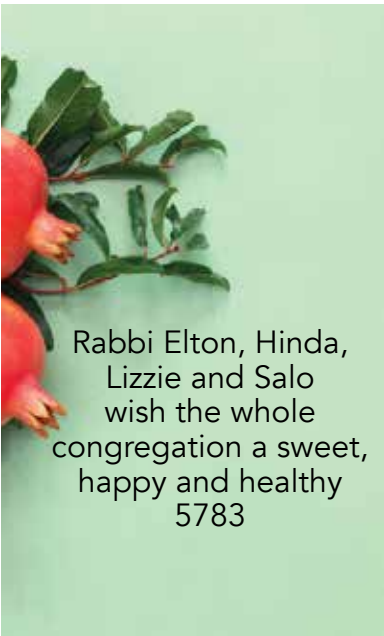
Wishing our "Great Family and Friends" a sweet, HEALTHY, prosperous and peaceful New Year. Well over the fast. Jake, Sue, Ben & Alexis Selinger



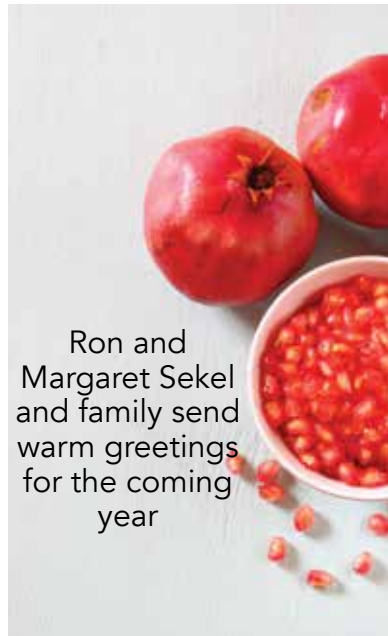
Wishing all our friends in the "Great" community and beyond, Shana Tova, a happy and sweet New Year!!! David Newman and Family



Rabbi Elton, Hinda, Lizzie and Salo wish the whole congregation a sweet, happy and healthy 5783



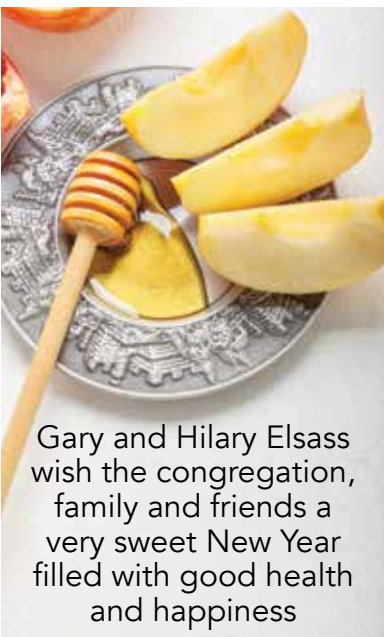
Ron and Margaret Sekel and family send warm greetings for the coming year



Simone and Darryl Green wish family and friends a happy and healthy New Year and well over the fast



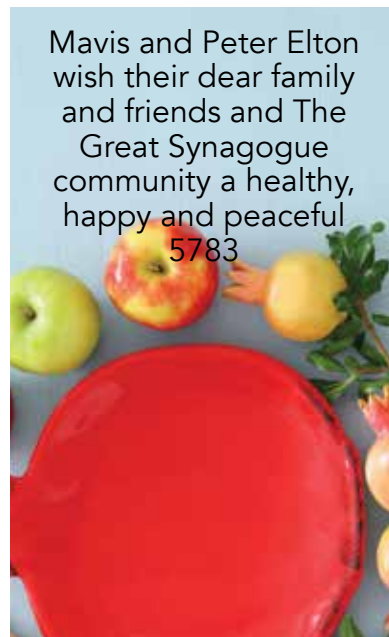
Gary and Hilary Elsass wish the congregation, family and friends a very sweet New Year filled with good health and happiness



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



Mavis and Peter Elton wish their dear family and friends and The Great Synagogue community a healthy, happy and peaceful 5783





Sunny and Michael Gold express their warmest Yomtov wishes to all



The Havas family would like to wish the congregation restful and peaceful High Holy Days



Wishing everyone at The Great community a very sweet, happy and healthy New Year! L'Shana Tova Um'tukah From Lauren, Jackson and Mikaela Ryder



Wishing my TGS family a wonderful sweet Rosh Hashanah. Jenessa Hetesi



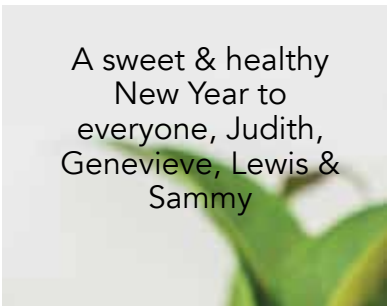
Wishing everybody a happy and peaceful Yomtov. Brigitte Rola-Janicki



Wishing all our family and friends Shana Tova and well over the Fast. Steve and Sharon Schach



Wishing all our congregants Shana Tova and good health! Women's Auxiliary



A sweet & healthy New Year to everyone, Judith, Genevieve, Lewis & Sammy

New Year's Greetings



Chag Sameach To All, Jane Levi, Eli, Ezra, Riva and Zelig



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



Wishing our wonderful Great Synagogue family, Shana Tova Umetuka, a Happy, Healthy and Sweet year. Best wishes Lynn Niselow



Wishing everyone at The Great Shanah Tova U'Metuka. Yigal & Benjamin



Morning coffee.

Great Women: Returning Even Stronger!

From
Sharon Schach,
Chair of Great
Women



What a joy it is to be able to emerge from the past two years of Covid restrictions and lockdowns and to begin to plan and hold in-person events once again!

Great Women are thrilled to be doing just that. In March, Rabbi Elton once again conducted an outstanding and well-received Kaddish class for women. This was in fact the fifth such series, for a total of over fifty women participating and learning not only the words of the Kaddish, but also the history and meaning of Kaddish.

To celebrate this milestone, a morning tea was held in June for participants of all the previous Kaddish classes. This wonderful event was held at The Great Synagogue and thirty women attended. We had an outstanding speaker, TGS member Dr. Caron Blumenthal, who is a scientist and clinical and research dietitian. She spoke on how our diet affects our health. This led to a lively discussion with many questions asked and answered.

Great Women have had several opportunities to address the congregation from the pulpit following Shabbat services. In March we celebrated International Women's Day, an annual event which recognises the achievements of women in all spheres of life. Fay Frischer provided an insight into the background, celebration and development of this global recognition in her

talk. On the first Shabbat in May, we marked Yom HaAtzmaut and Mother's Day and Sharon Schach combined the two events in a tribute to Golda Meir.

Our board member Fay Frischer has initiated coffee get-togethers for women. The first such event was held in May and was very well attended and warmly received. Fay will be organizing more of these in the future. It is a wonderful way for the women of the congregation to get to know each other in a relaxed and friendly environment.

Mushki Feldman, the wife of our Chazzan Rabbi Menachem Feldman, is excited to be at The Great Synagogue and has many ideas and plans for Great Women activities. These include a challah bake and various Rosh Chodesh events. We had just begun a Rosh Chodesh group when Covid struck and we are delighted to be initiating plans once again. We welcome Mushki and look forward to exciting events with her.

The Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary continues to do outstanding work. Shabbat

Continued overleaf.



Kaddish class morning tea.

kiddushim play an integral part in our shule experience. It's a special time when after services each week, or over a Yomtov, we meet up with friends and members of The Great family, a time to chat and enjoy each other's company. For the past several decades, the majority of our Shabbat morning Kiddushim have been catered by The Great Synagogue Women's Auxiliary. This dedicated group of volunteers, currently led by Denise Sher and Ros Brennan, is in the shule kitchen long before most of us arrive for services. There they prepare and then set up the most beautiful and generously-catered kiddushim for all of us to enjoy. The Women's Auxiliary also organizes an annual outing to the Archibald Exhibition and a highlight of the year is a Succot morning tea. The entire congregation thanks them for their dedication.

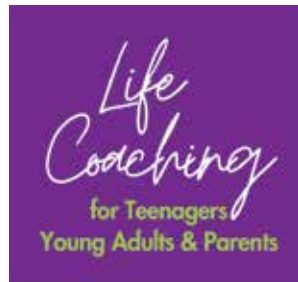
Great Women looks forward to seeing you at our many planned activities over the coming



Challah Bake.

year! If you would like to volunteer or if you have ideas for future events, please do not hesitate to contact me via the synagogue office or sharon@greatsynagogue.org.au

Shanah Tovah to all!



Recognised & Honoured: The Order of Australia

This year we were delighted to celebrate with two of our members honoured with the Order of Australia.

In the Australia Day Honours, Professor Mark Hertzberg was made a Member of the Order for significant service to haematology, to tertiary education and to research. He has been a leading light in the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group, Head of Clinical Haematology at Prince of Wales Hospital, a Professor at the Universities of Sydney and New South Wales and President of Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand.

On receiving the honour, Mark said, 'I am very flattered, privileged and honoured. I am grateful to my friends, family and of course to my colleagues. I have been extremely fortunate for all of the opportunities that have been offered over the years for good clinical trials and drugs to Australian patients. These have all given me wonderful insights and helped us in a small way, in collaboration with my colleagues. It is a team effort. I have been lucky to work with wonderful people. It has been a lifetime's worth of wonderful opportunities and people'.



Mark Hertzberg AM.

For the Queen's Birthday, Alan Landis was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the decorative and fine arts. He is a Life Fellow of the Powerhouse Museum, Past President of the Antique Dealers



Alan Landis OAM.

Association of NSW and honorary curator of the Sydney Jewish Museum and of particular importance to us, an indispensable adviser, support and guide as we manage The Great Synagogue collection and the AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum. He also organised our antiques valuation day in 2018. He is in shule almost every Shabbat, often for the very start!

Alan said, 'My philosophy in life has always been to share knowledge and enthusiasm and as such, I owe this great honour to many people. I have always been passionate about the Powerhouse Museum, decorative arts institutions and helping charities raise funds for important causes, encouraging learning and collecting beautiful objects. I am also proud to be an honorary curator to the Sydney Jewish Museum since its inception in 1979.'

In his sermon on Order of Australia Shabbat, addressing all recipients of awards in the Order, Rabbi Elton said, 'as we celebrate our Order of Australia recipients, we thank you all for what you have done and continue to do for us and for Australia. You are the best of us and establish the model which we should all strive to emulate. May God help you to continue and increase your work, and inspire us and many others to join you, for the good of our nation and all its people'.

Menucha Monuments

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9030 0356

Pull-out
Poster

NOISY FIND THE LETTERS

Some letters of the alphabet are missing. Can you find the missing letters and work out the word they spell?

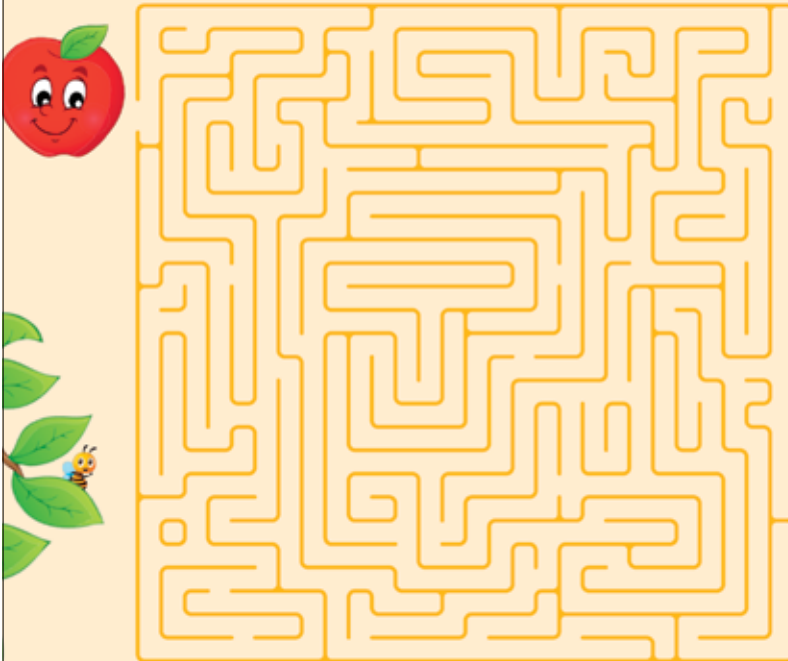
x d l a
b i c v e
p m w j z
t u g k y
n

The word is _____!

How many bees can you count on these pages? _____

SWEET MAZE

Can you get the apple to the honey pot?



Shana

Great



ROSH HASHANAH FIND A WORD

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

CHALLAH
 TZIMMES
 SHOFAR
 SHANA TOVA
 CANDLES

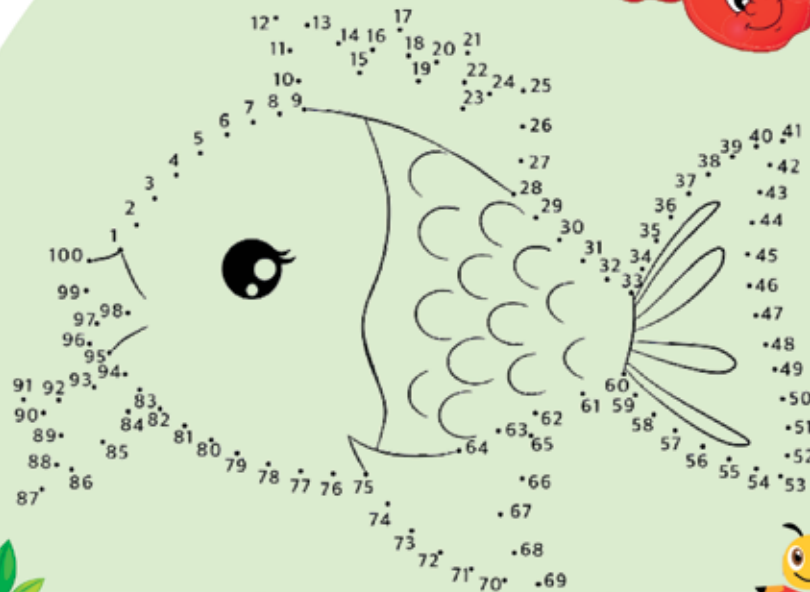
SYNAGOGUE
 POMEGRANATES
 PATIENCE
 FORGIVENESS
 NEW YEAR

MEALS
 FISH
 APPLES
 HONEY
 TORAH



FISHY DOT TO DOT

Do you know why we eat fish on Rosh Hashanah?





Education for All

Conversion Class.

Education at The Great Synagogue now takes place in more forms than ever before. There are classes at the shule or in a private home, either during the day or in the evening. There are classes on Zoom, education delivered by video and education for schools of all faiths when they come to see the synagogue.

The conversion class continues to be very

popular and successful, with many individuals and couples being assisted along their chosen path. The Kaddish class for women is always meaningful and an amazing bonding experience for those involved. We welcome distinguished scholars from Sydney and abroad to present at a weekday Lunch and Learn. Shacharit on a Thursday is always followed by breakfast and



Kaddish class.



Shule tour for Kellyville group.



Lunch and Learning with Rabbi Gutnick.



St Patrick's Marist College, Dundas.

a small shiur. Rabbi Elton has taken part in fascinating discussions with overseas scholars, brought into our members' homes through Zoom.

Rabbi Elton and Rabbi Feldman are always keen to hear what members would be interested in learning, either in a group or individually. Please be in touch!

NEW COURSE
by Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton

THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE - SYDNEY - קהילת בית ישראל

THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH TRADITION

11am Tuesdays
at The Great Synagogue

For the 6 weeks between Pesach to Shavuot
26.4.2022 - 31.5.2022

To RSVP - admin@greatsynagogue.org.au



New video series with Rabbi Elton starting in 2022

ASK the RABBI

Do you have a question about anything Jewish?
Send your question to admin@greatsynagogue.org.au for the chance to have it answered
Please tell us if you would like to remain anonymous.

THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE - SYDNEY
קהילת בית ישראל

Best question per month receives a prize!

THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE - SYDNEY - קהילת בית ישראל

RABBI ELTON & FRIENDS

COMING UP ON ZOOM IN 2022

CONVERSATIONS WITH REMARKABLE CONTEMPORARIES

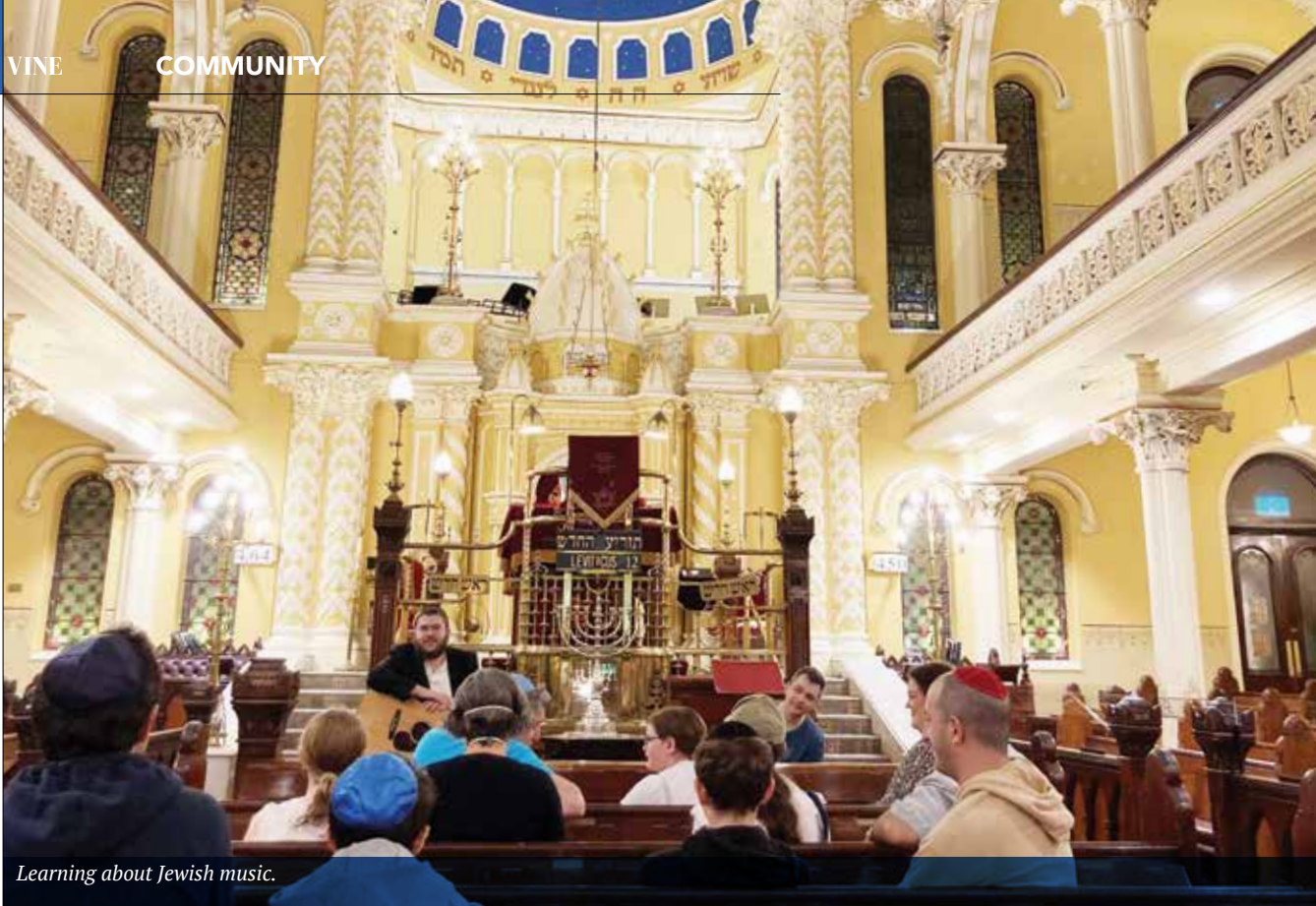
FIRST SESSION
FEBRUARY
RABBI DR SAMUEL LEBENS, PHILOSOPHER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

SECOND SESSION
MARCH
RABBI ALBY CHAIT MBE, COVID HERO, LEEDS UNITED HEBREW CONGEGATION

THIRD SESSION
APRIL
DR TOBY GREENE, ZIONISM SCHOLAR AT BAR ILAN UNIVERSITY

FOURTH SESSION
MAY
DR EDWARD BARING, HISTORIAN OF IDEAS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

SESSIONS WILL BE ADVERTISED INDIVIDUALLY CLOSER TO THEIR SESSION DATES



Learning about Jewish music.

Bar & Bat Mitzvah Program



Finding our name's first letter in the Torah.



Our bar and bat mitzvah program proceeded for a third successful year, passing from Rabbi Phil to Rabbi Elton and Rabbi Feldman.

The students are joined by one or both parents so they enjoy a fun family-learning experience as they approach their special milestone.

The program is based around experiential activities: a demonstration chuppah; making

challah and challah covers; preparing two different types of cheesecake for Shavuot; listening to Jewish music and singing along; looking at kosher fish; looking into a Sefer Torah and more.

The program will run next year too, so if your son or daughter is between 11 and 13, contact the synagogue office to discuss the details and register your child.



Challah bake.

Hi Rabbi Kaplan & Sharon,
 Thank you for a great morning of Jewish learning and baking. Here is Owen's challah - straight out of the oven. It's delicious!
 Thanks again
 Marissa & Owen



Making challah covers.



Making cheesecake for Shavuot.



Dear Rabbi Phil,
 Many thanks to you and Sharon for a fun, informative session today. Maggie and I both really enjoyed it - and her siblings are all very excited to try the challah!
 Please pass on our thanks to Sharon.





The shule full for Simon Tedeschi and George Washingmachine.

Live at The Great

One of the most enjoyable regular events outside our religious services are the concerts organised by Vladimir Fanshil and Live at The Great.

The first half of 2022 saw three amazing concerts: *Kol Nidrei* with Konstantin Shamray on piano and Umberto Clerici on cello, with Rabbi Phil Kaplan and The Great Synagogue choir in February; that was followed by *Bach to Bolling* with cellist Teije Hylkema and the Black Tulip Jazz trio; and in July we heard *Enigmatic Gershwin* with Simon Tedeschi



Nexus Quartet.



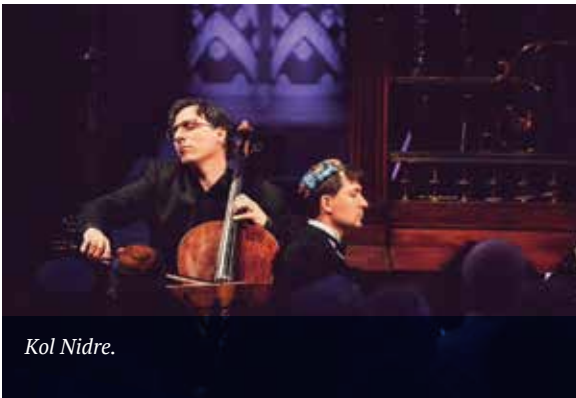
Kol Nidre.



Simon Tedeschi and George Washingmachine.



Nexus Quartet.



Kol Nidre.

(piano) and George Washingmachine (violin and vocals).

There will be more concerts with Live at The Great in the coming months and we are also coming to the attention of other concert producers, so there will be plenty of music in our sanctuary in the future.



Simon Tedeschi and George Washingmachine.



Nexus Quartet.



Nexus Quartet.



Nexus Quartet.



Working on the columns.

David Newman,
Chair of the
Building
Committee

Restoring the Synagogue Gates

Just before the consecration of the 'New Synagogue, Sydney' in 1878, probably the most magnificent set of gates in the colony of New South Wales was transported by horse and dray about two hundred metres from 32 Park Street, the foundry of Fletcher Bros., Ironmongers and Stove manufacturers, to 187A Elizabeth Street.

They did not feature on the original drawings of the synagogue's architect, Thomas Rowe, but reading between the lines of early correspondence, they may have been commissioned by a member of the Board, late in the construction process. Fletcher Bros. also supplied the ladies' gallery balustrade, consisting of wrought iron cast panels topped with a large cedar rail.

The column faces and gates along Elizabeth Street are excellent examples of Victorian wrought and cast-iron elegance. The best results in cast iron depend on the quality of the moulds reflecting the designers' patterns and the iron's ability to flow into the very small cavities, creating the finest details. For over one hundred and forty years, those who walked through the portico of Sydney's The Great Synagogue often stopped and marvelled at the magnificent and mighty, dark green iron gates.

How many of us have photographs of our families standing in front of the gates, their

decoration becoming sought-after backdrop for many happy occasions? In my case, there is a photo of four generations taken in 1947, when I was three years old.

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared in 1999 by Peter Phillips, honorary architect, noted the times the gates were painted and repaired. In the early 1970s, the Synagogue Board commissioned repairs to the gates and columns in situ. Unfortunately, over the years, further deterioration continued. In 2020, during the High Holydays, the northern pair of gates was found to be difficult to open and close. An investigation, shortly after, showed that the cast iron hoops that hold the columns and that support the top gate hinge, had rusted away, with considerable rust deterioration in the other columns.

Zoltan Kovacs, heritage consultant, together with architect George Bensen, prepared and submitted a Heritage Application. Approval



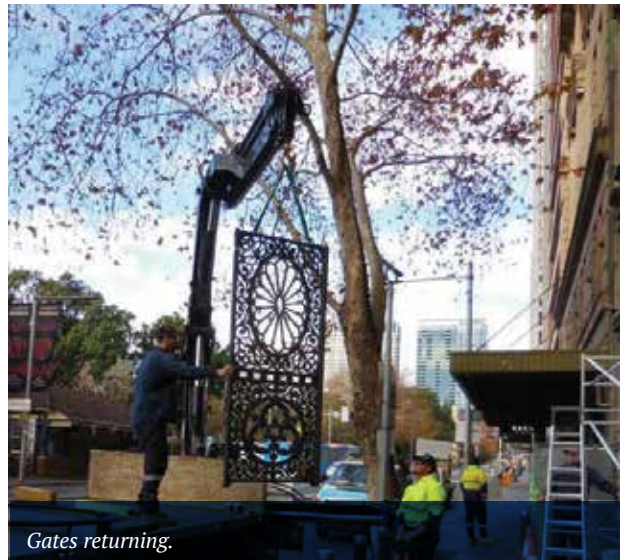
View of Fletcher Bros and the rear of the synagogue.



Making repairs.



Condition of the gates.



Gates returning.

was received some months later, allowing the synagogue to contract with Scobie McIntosh Pty Limited, through the expertise of their director John Toner, for the removal, restoration and re-installation of the gates. This process was funded by a security grant from the Federal Government, secured by the Board, and in particular the then President, Stephen Rothman.

On 5 September 2021, following completion of the portico glass screens and erection of the temporary gates, The Great Synagogue heritage gates and columns were dismantled and loaded onto a crane truck for the Caringbah factory of Scobie McIntosh. After delivery to Abrasive Services, we could then see exactly what the job required, with repairs, modifications and painting.

The gates and columns have been reinstalled in their original positions, with, I am advised by John Toner, a millimetre tolerance. They are not yet quite complete. The lights will be glazed with identical

heritage glass and all four light posts will be cast to match. The issue of security to our Elizabeth Street entry has been of prime importance, integrating fire safety with the requirements of congregants to enter and exit. Consideration of these issues has been coordinated by our General Manager, Lynn Niselow.

I must commend the team that has consisted of John Toner, Steve Fynn, the synagogue's maintenance electrician, Howard Kacen of H&T Security and the office under Lynn Niselow. I was also fortunate to have our Museum Curator, Jana Vytrhlik and her digital documenter, Zac Levi, to assist in recording the work and asking John Toner to explain some of the intricacies of the rectification.

Nothing can be truer than "teamwork makes the dream work". Thank you all for being part of sharing the blessings of this adventure with me.





New cloths.

The Yad.

Beautifying the Synagogue

We know we have one of the most beautiful synagogues in the world. That is maintained not only through the building itself but through the items that are used in the service. This year we have received three wonderful donations that maintain and enhance the glory of The Great.

For their fortieth wedding anniversary, Joe and Jacki Gluck donated a red Torah mantle. This will be used from Succot until Pesach to cover the Gluck Torah, donated in memory of Chazzan Gluck by his family, including his son Joe. The mantle features the symbols of the Twelve Tribes, recalling the red mantle made by Rabbi Falk, Jacki's grandfather, that displays the ten tribal symbols on silver plaques.

When Rabbi Kaplan left, he very generously donated a cover for the chazzan's lectern on the bimah. He graced the bimah for the two and a half years with us and he chose his favourite of our vestment colours – blue. Every Pesach it will appear and we will remember him, his family and his contribution fondly.

To match the Kaplan cover, Rabbi Elton and his family donated a cloth to cover the Sefer Torah between readings, in memory of his uncle, David Wolfman, who passed away in November 2020. David's wife Marilyn was in Sydney for Pesach and was able to see the cloth being used for the first time.

This year our member Zac Levi embarked on an exciting project, which he describes here:



Gluck mantle.

Over the past few months, I have taken up an interest in silversmithing. Working alongside the curator at The Great Synagogue, Jana Vyrhlik, I have been lucky to work with some of the synagogue silver in the museum collection. This gave me an idea of using my new skills to create a silver Yad, a Torah pointer.

I combined contemporary fabrication methods and traditional handcrafted techniques. Coming from a 3D visualisation background, I thought of creating a Yad in the shape of the hand of our Chief Minister. To achieve an exact copy of Rabbi Elton's hand, I produced a 3D scan in a process called photogrammetry, followed by wax casting, a traditional silver technique, for the Yad's handle. Final soldering and polishing then completed the process.

In the tradition of Rabbi Falk, The Great's multi-talented craftsman and silversmith, I will present my own piece of silver to The Great Synagogue in memory of Reverend Aaron Alexander Levi 1823-1883, my third great-grandfather.

We are grateful for all donations and hope to receive more in the future, to keep our synagogue the jewel that it is.



Joe Gluck leading Shacharit.

The Davening Auxiliary

We are lucky to have a wonderful chazzan and choir at The Great and Rabbi Elton also leads services as required, but we also have a skilled and dedicated 'Davening Auxiliary' which keeps our services to a high standard.

Joe Gluck is the son of our beloved late Chazzan Rev. Isidor Gluck. Joe not only leads services at every weekday morning service, he also stays in the city for Shabbat when the chazzan is away and we need someone to lead Shacharit and Mussaf. He spends the High Holidays with us too when his Shacharit and Mincha are meaningful and enjoyable.

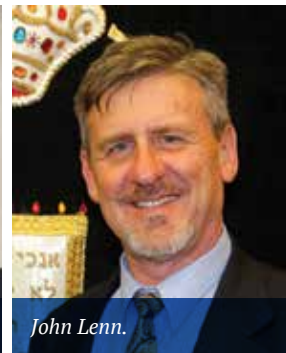
For the past five years Ezra Wexler was a huge asset to our services. He read Torah each Monday and Thursday morning as well as other weekday occasions, Mussaf on a weekday Rosh Chodesh and very often at weekday Mincha. He recently left The Great for a new appointment and as well as leaving a huge hole in the office, we will really miss him in shule. The Falk Library will not be the same without him!

Almost every Shabbat morning our Gabbai Steve Schach also leads the first part of Shacharit, the Brachot and Pesukei deZimra, before the chazzan takes over for the key part of Shacharit. When John Lenn is with us, he often leads either Brachot and Pesukei deZimra or Shacharit itself, always tunefully and with dignity.

Finally, we have an up-and-coming Jackson Ryder, who learned Shabbat Mussaf for his bar



Steve Schach.



John Lenn.



Ezra Wexler leining.

mitzvah and is now able to substitute for the chazzan, when necessary, as he sings beautifully with the choir of which he is a regular member.

Thanks to all of them! If anyone else would like to lead part of a service the ministers would be happy to help you and expand our Davening Auxiliary.





Joe Symon giving a talk to students.



Julianne Michaels

Keeping the Lessons of the Holocaust Alive

Most have heard of the Gandel survey that showed that one in four people did not know about the Holocaust. While this is a very disappointing situation, Courage to Care works to ensure that this is not the case for students in NSW, Queensland and the ACT. Our vision is changing people’s behaviour for a more harmonious society.

Since 1998 Courage to Care has worked tirelessly to create awareness of the dangers of prejudice, racism and discrimination, educating to challenge attitudes and behaviours, demonstrating that every individual can make a difference and transforming “bystander” behaviour to “upstander”. Courage to Care celebrates the lives of men and women who chose to stand up and confront discrimination and injustice – ordinary people who were extraordinary in their bravery and impact.

How does Courage to Care do this? We deliver our message and the tools to change behaviours through our professional and respected Classroom Program and our bi-annual Exhibition, this year held in July and August in Port Macquarie and later this year in Canberra. It is a positive program delivered by volunteers. The programs use examples from the past to plant the seeds of awareness, understanding and empathy for others.

There are three distinct parts to our programs: firstly, an introductory historical presentation provides background to WWII and the Holocaust, with a particular focus on the role of the rescuer; then, a Holocaust survivor, ‘living historian’, shares their experiences with students, emphasising the story of their rescue and support provided by others, the support which enabled them to survive; finally, an interactive workshop invites students to examine the roles of the bystander

and upstander. Students discuss some of the roadblocks to becoming an upstander and become aware of their own ability to make a difference in their own worlds.

Right from inception, Courage to Care has been delivered by a team of passionate, dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers are our lifeblood and without them, we simply couldn’t do what we do. From schools to workplaces, our volunteers create real change. Volunteers act as presenters, guides, facilitators and organisers. Our survivor speakers – Holocaust survivors or custodians of their stories – share their inspiring personal testimony about the ways in which their rescuers showed the Courage to Care.

A common belief brings us together. Our volunteers come from a range of backgrounds, age groups and beliefs but they all have a common purpose – to stand up for what is right, to stand up against social injustice, discrimination and bullying.

This is why I volunteer and sit on the Board of Courage to Care. I know I can make a difference – please join me. We welcome volunteers from all walks of life with a passion to make a positive difference. Whether it is volunteers who want to participate in delivering the education programs or the children of Holocaust survivors who want to keep the story of their survivor parent alive. In addition to ongoing training, volunteers have the opportunity to work with a team of dedicated, skilled and passionate people and build on personal strengths while developing new professional skills and friendships. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers to join our team.

To discover how you can help motivate others to become upstanders in the community, contact Juliane Michaels (juliane@couragetocare.com.au)



Avril and Joe Symon.



Maccabiah team.

Maccabiah 21

The 19th Australian Delegation to Israel has had an incredible Maccabiah Games with strong results across all divisions in both team and individual sports. The medal tally put us in fourth place with 23 gold, 32 silver and 44 bronze medals, a total of 99 medals. We took third place, above Argentina, in number of medals in total. However they achieved a few more in the gold which placed them above our team.

This tour has been the most successful to date and is a true reflection of the total dedication, commitment and hard work shown by our management, coaches and incredible athletes. It is humbling, rewarding and indeed an honour for us all to see the culmination of three years' work, resulting in the largest team ever to leave our shores and return with the most successes ever achieved both on and off the field.

From the dedicated medical/physio teams that were onsite at every event to ensure everyone was in peak condition to the media team that covered every single aspect of the games and captured over 50,000 photos with over 1 million views across all our media channels and to the regional managers and their assistants who ensured everything ran smoothly and always on hand to resolve any issues that arose. The coaches and team managers kept the teams focused on their mission and dream, competing to the best of their ability and always exemplifying respect and good sportsmanship.

A huge part of the games is the opportunity to meet and greet and compete against other Jews from Israel and the diaspora, creating life-long



Lauren Ehrlich,
Australian
Flagbearer



friendships and memories that will last a lifetime. We believe we have achieved this in abundance as well as living and fulfilling our "one team one dream" motto that has resonated so well throughout the games both prior, during and no doubt post the games itself.

It was a pleasure for us to lead this incredible team to be Maccabi-proud and view its great success and we hope that memories and friendships are just the beginning and can be renewed as we soon begin the preparation for the 20th Australian delegation at the 22nd Maccabiah Games in 2025.



*Toby
Hammerman
(proud
grandfather)*



Bar Mitzvah by Zoom: A saga of adaption and innovation

Like many of his contemporaries, our grandson Eitan Jack Gottheiner had been diligently preparing for his bar mitzvah. Reflecting the religious traditions of both parents, lessons were arranged with Rabbi Roebuck of North Shore Temple Emanuel and Eitan also attended the bar and bat mitzvah classes with Rabbi Phil and Rabbi Elton at The Great Synagogue.

The ceremony was planned to be at The Great on 24 July 2021 as it coincided with the bar mitzvah anniversaries of his paternal grandfather Barry Gottheiner and also of his maternal great-grandfather Jack Freedman, former President of this shule.

Eitan had mastered the Maftir, Haftarah for Parashat Va'etchanan and also intended to lead the congregation in Aleynu and Anim Zmirot. Then Covid struck and new plans had to be made. Regulations prevented the ceremony from taking place in shule and his parents, Neil and Cigalle Gottheiner, had to consider delaying or finding an innovative alternative.

It was decided to do a Zoom bar mitzvah on Motzaei Shabbat and that way, all the guests from interstate and those from Israel, USA and South Africa could participate.

Instead of the planned Friday night family dinner, our son-in-law and chef Neil conducted a Zoom challah-baking lesson on the Thursday evening. Pre-prepared dough was delivered to all Sydney guests and Neil patiently stepped everyone through the process and later we all displayed our varied results.

To help celebrate the bar mitzvah event on the night, a beautifully-presented dinner pack was delivered to all guests. It contained a bottle of wine, cheese, olives and other homemade goodies. Also, lollies to throw at the screen at the appropriate time. We also included a home-made Havdalah pack of fresh sweet-smelling spices, lavender from our garden and twisted candles.

The evening commenced with Havdalah sung with piano accompaniment by Rabbi Roebuck, then a heartfelt speech to the bar mitzvah boy by

Rabbi Elton. Eitan recited the Maftir and Haftarah and his two sisters, friends and grandparents all had a part to play.

Eitan prepared a Devar Torah about his parasha, in which he said:

“I am emotionally overwhelmed and privileged today to join my grandfather Barry Gottheiner and my great-grandfather Jack Freedman who both celebrated their bar mitzvot on Shabbat Va’etchanan. My zaide Jack, a former President of this shule, had his bar mitzvah in 1931 and Papa Barry, here with us today, a former Board member of the Emanuel Synagogue, read the same Parasha in 1960. So, it is not only a great honour that I continue this amazing family tradition in celebrating my bar mitzvah today but also in studying the content of my parasha, I realise there are some important lessons for me a young Jew growing up in 2021.

Va’etchanan contains some of the most important sections of the whole Torah. In the Parasha, Moses stresses to the Israelites the importance of keeping God’s commandments when they enter the Land of Israel. Moses then repeats the Ten Commandments and we hear the Shema and the famous words V’ahavta et Hashem Elokecha - You shall love the Lord your God.

I found the use of the term “love” to describe our relationship to God very interesting.

Rabbi Sacks, of recent blessed memory, comments that we are commanded to make God the centre of our lives and he explains that this “love” is more than an emotion. It is an ideal that we surround ourselves with. The love of God is expressed by constantly speaking about it with our children, men wear it on their arms and heads in the form of tefillin and we place it as mezuzot “on the doorposts” of all the rooms in our homes (Devarim 6:9).

It also says in this week’s parasha: “Be sure to keep the commandments, decrees and laws that the Lord your God has commanded you.” Moses reminded us of how we need to stick to the rules. But for me the next verse “Do what is right and good in the eyes of the Lord...” (Devarim 6:17-18) is the bit that really speaks to me.



The Talmud (Bava Metzia 108a) explains: “And you shall do that which is right and good in the eyes of the Lord” means that one should ensure that every action is right and good, even beyond what the rules say. It is about doing “the right and the good” – what people sometimes call being a mensch.

I am extremely fortunate that I come from an extended family of menschen who have instilled in me the values, not only of love of my Jewish heritage as described in the Shema and the Ten Commandments, but also the good values of community service and individual wellbeing! The assorted mix of a teacher, two social workers, a company director, a speech pathologist and a chef who are my parents and grandparents, have always taught me and my sisters to do “the right thing” and live up to those values.

Rabbi Sacks says the parasha tells us that “We need to develop a conscience that does not permit us to wrong, harm or hurt someone”.

I hope that I will also be able to be a mensch and always do what is “right and good”.



**What do you wish you asked your grandparents?
In 5783 tell your story to your grandchildren.**

Karly Marks & Joshua Marks – Documentary filmmakers – www.doco.tv

The Entertainment Quarter, Bdg 17, 122 Lang Road, Moore Park NSW 2021





Caroline Lewis

Seder at the Lewises!

Every year we celebrate one of the Seder nights with a Go Big or Go Home approach and, determined to include as many as possible around one table, we invited twenty nine friends and family, young and not so. We were to start at 6pm and pre-warned them of the format with a memo emailed to get them prepared, engaged and excited.

*“We’re looking forward to sharing our tent with you and making the journey through the desert not feel like 40 years. Although the journey to the **dessert** may take a little longer!”*

We highlighted the serious stuff about how “the Seder encourages everyone’s active participation through continually questioning, seeing new things, learning and being actively present...In today’s world, we need to take the time to add, share and compare our own experiences and what we observe around us now and in each individual personally.”

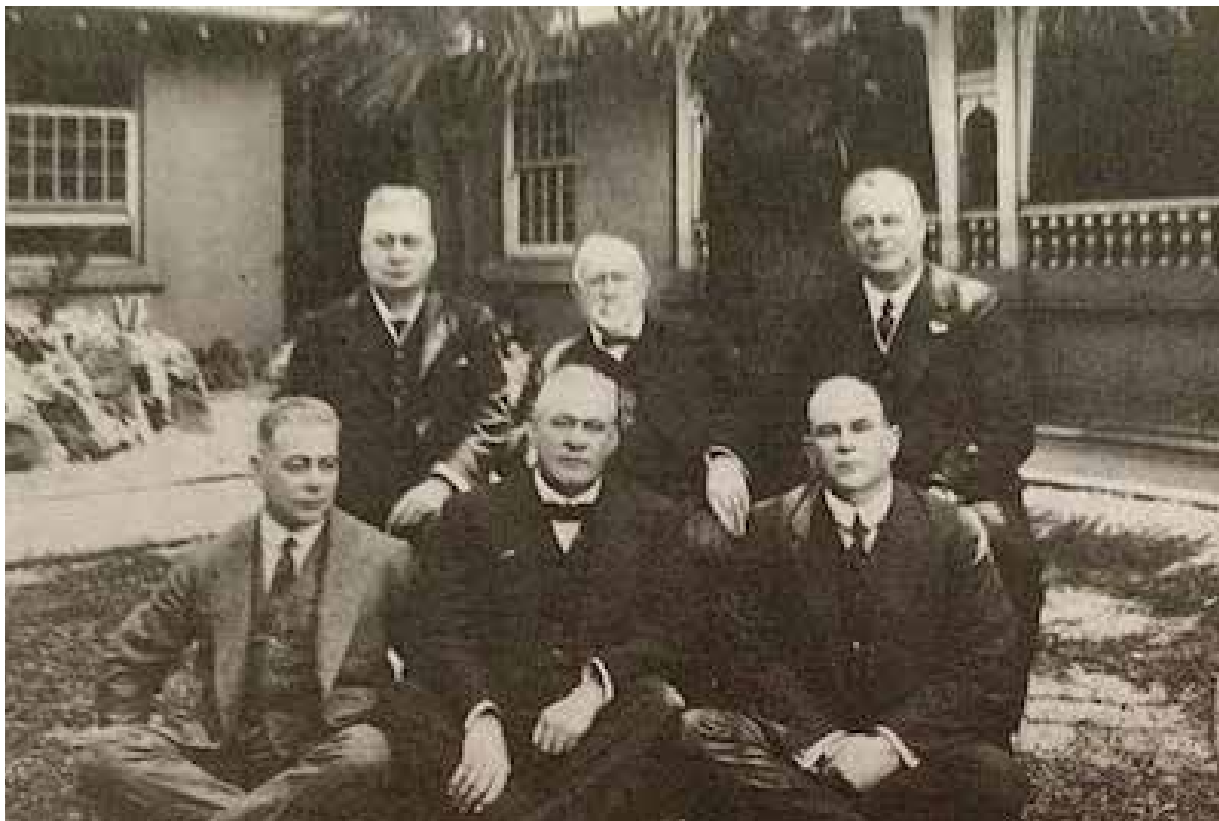
We asked each guest to come dressed in their favourite ‘Exodus Outfit’, something comfortable they’d most likely leave home in for a forty year trip. (We got some fantastic efforts!) Also, to bring

an item to add to the Seder plate that represented ‘emergence from slavery’, (our friend Lloyd brought a Watford Football Club cap!) And lastly, a list of their ‘Top Ten Plagues for 2022’ for us to compare notes and vote as the best.

On arrival our guests were asked to leave their shoes at the front door and settle in the lounge room, which we’d set up with cushions all over the floor, to sit on and recline for the service which was held there till dinner was served.

*Our eldest daughter, Charlotte created a **Chocolate Seder Plate** which included chocolate symbols that helped us remember the story of Passover:*

Zeroa – (a ‘Drumstick’ pack printout out and shaped into a cone)



Sue Inberg

Seven Generations at The Great

My late parents, Shirley [nee Goldstein] and Neil Cohen were members of The Great Synagogue with their families on both sides.

Shirley’s family were the Gilberts, the Sonenfelds and the Goldsteins. Neil’s family were the Harts,

the Lawrences, and the Cohens. Shirley and Neil were married at The Great on 9 August 1950. The longest association with The Great is the connection with Neil’s family.

The first of his family to arrive in Australia from England was his great-great-grandparents Henry and Hannah Hart who settled in Yass c. 1841. Henry built and operated the Royal Hotel from 1849 to 1878. The hotel still stands today, and Gary and I always stop by on our road trips through Yass.

I would like to record the unfortunate tragedy of Henry’s sister Julia, her husband Abraham Meyer and six of their infant children who all perished in the wreck of the Dunbar off Sydney Heads on 20 August 1857 on their way back from a trip to England.

Henry and Hannah’s son, Asher Hart (my great-grandfather) was educated at Sydney University and was one of the first chemists in Parramatta. My grandmother, Mona Cohen would recount stories of her six-week summer holidays in Manly travelling there by horse and buggy!

SHANA TOVAH

MAY YOUR YEAR BE FULL OF PEACE, PROSPERITY AND GOOD HEALTH

—
Have a wonderful Rosh Hashanah!

From Lauren Ryder and the team at Leading Edge Global

www.leading-edge.global



Shirley and Neil Cohen on their wedding day in 1950.

In 1853 Neil's great-great-grandparents, Samuel and Rosetta Cohen sailed from England and arrived in Sydney in December of that year. Samuel Cohen was a religious man and observant Jew and "scholar of high order." After arriving in Sydney, they settled initially in a house on the corner of Pitt and Market Streets. They were adventurous and moved first to Newcastle and then to Ulmarra (near Grafton) on the Clarence River. Samuel arranged for a Sefer Torah to be sent to him from the York Street Synagogue and held communal worship in his home for the Jewish families living in the surrounding area.

All the thirteen children were of outstanding ability but their fifth child, John Jacob Cohen was to become the best known of them becoming a judge and Member for Petersham in the NSW Legislative Assembly and Speaker of the House.

Gary and I were able to visit their home "Silverweir" built in 1872 at 17 River Street, Ulmarra. It is in exceptionally good condition and is still used as a private residence.

In the early 1900s Samuel and Rosetta returned to Sydney. They made their home at 49 Macleay Street, Potts Point. In his retirement, Samuel became active in numerous communal organisations including a member of the Jewish Board of Education and President of The Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home for twenty one years.



Shirley and Neil Cohen with Gary and Sue Inberg in 2015.



The latest generation, Sandro Inberg with his parents Taylor and Phillip.

Currently, Gary is Vice President of the Home.

When my mother, Shirley was growing up she loved attending shule services with her granny Sarah (nee Gilbert) Sonenfeld and her mother Ettie Goldstein.

My grandfather, Lyle Goldstein was a good friend of Rabbi Falk. They shared a common interest in designing and making silverware. Rabbi Falk made his beautiful Chanukiah in my grandfather's silverware factory.

My family is proud to be associated with The Great Synagogue for seven generations and hope this continues for many more generations.

In Memoriam



Flore and Eddie Jaku with their sons Michael and Andre.

Flore Jaku

Flore was born in Salonica on 28 September 1923. The family left Salonica when Flore was a little girl and settled in Brussels. Her first language was Ladino, Judaeo-Spanish, but she knew and remembered no Greek until she took a TAFE course in her eighties, when she came top of the class.

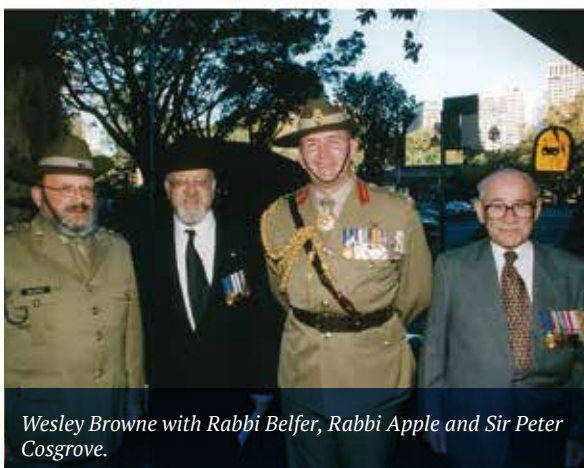
The Germans invaded Brussels when Flore was sixteen and she was spirited away to Paris when she managed to live more or less openly for the duration of the war. Flore saw the liberation and returned to Brussels where she resumed her work in a local government office.

She was handing out food ration coupons to the

people they called ‘the prisoners’, the Holocaust survivors, when a young man called Eddie asked her to come with him to Australia. She and her friends thought it was a crazy idea at first, but of course she and Eddie came to Australia, brought by the Joint.

Eddie and Flore married in 1946, then Michael was born. They arrived in Sydney in 1950 where Andre was born. Flore always worked, either with Eddie in joint ventures, whether a garage, a dealership or real estate, or from home, taking in piecemeal – embroidery, alterations, repairs. She was computer literate early on, and even more recently was the one who typed and sent the replies to the emails that Eddie received. Although Eddie was the Treasurer of the Association of Australian Jewish Holocaust Survivors, it was Flore who prepared the accounts. She was married to a man with a huge presence, but he couldn’t have managed without her, from what tie he wore to co-running the businesses that kept the family secure.

Flore Jaku was a gifted and accomplished woman, beloved of her family and friends, who delighted in literature and the arts. She was quieter than her husband, but she was a powerhouse of activity and achievement. At the hardest times she was stoic and uncomplaining, with a great sense of humour, and she will be deeply missed.



Wesley Browne with Rabbi Belfer, Rabbi Apple and Sir Peter Cosgrove.

Wesley Browne OAM

Wesley Browne, known to his friends as Wes, was born to Roy and Belle Browne on 15 October 1924. He adored his parents and older brother Adrien and they instilled in him the meaning of family values that guided him throughout his

life. Protecting and nurturing his family, and other families, together with unswerving loyalty to friends and business colleagues were the hallmarks of his long life.

Wesley joined Stuart Alexander in 1941 which was the beginning of a journey which saw him serve in the business for over sixty years and a rags to riches story from messenger boy to managing director and Chairman.

Wesley signed up for service to the Royal Australian Air Force on his eighteenth birthday. After joining the RAAF he was found to be colour blind, which ruled him out of becoming a pilot and so he was assigned to become a trainee wireless operator. Wesley always believed he was born lucky. Not becoming a pilot meant he returned home after the war when many of his colleagues and friends did not.

In 1955 Wesley was introduced to a nurse. When Wesley went to collect her for their first date, the front door opened and he said “my name is Wesley”

In Memoriam

and she said “my name is Sari”; but he misheard her and thought she said “sorry” and so he apologised as well! Sari and Wesley were married in The Great Synagogue in 1956, a wonderful story of love, devotion, commitment, and partnership which endured for over sixty six years. They have been involved in all aspects of synagogue life and contributed to all facets of synagogue life from the board level to congregation.

Wesley served Legacy widows group for over sixty years and he cared for many families and widows, and he treated them like they were part of his own. Every year on ANZAC day you would see Wesley marching proudly in his regiment, after which he would then return to the legacy widows’ group and vigorously cheer them on from the sidelines.

In 1994 Wesley was awarded an Order of Orange Nassau from the Dutch government, one of their highest awards not only for building trade between Australia and Netherlands but for the support he gave to Dutch returned-service people. He later received an OAM in 1996 for his services

to various community organisations, including NAJEX

Wesley was President of NAJEX and later on FAJAX. He was instrumental in bringing the Russians who had immigrated to Australia into the fold, and they were able to stand by those of NAJEX even though they had not fought for Australia.

He was most proud of all his family, they were an integral and important part of his life, and he was always conscious to ensure they were provided for and looked after. His five grandchildren adored him and they spent many an hour listening to his stories.

Wesley’s life was well lived and dominated by the debt he felt he owed to his comrades who never returned from the war. While many in his family died so young, he lived to the age of 97. Through his actions and behaviour in this long life he taught us it is not the recognition you receive; it is the impact you make and the legacy you leave that is important.

Lea Portrate OAM

Lea was born on 14 October 1930 to her parents Bella and Israel Green OBE. She was the third of four children along with Maurice, Ette and Eleonore. Her father, Izzie Green as he was affectionately known, was President of the shule from 1953 to 1958 and again from 1961 to 1964.

Following in her parents’ footsteps, Lea and husband Leon were “serial volunteers” to the Jewish community throughout their lives. Lea was a permanent fixture in the Women’s Auxiliary managing and preparing Kiddushim for decades. Every Shabbat morning from 8am she would be found pouring out the wine in the auditorium named in honour of her father. After that she could always be found in her seat in the gallery, until recently next to Eleonore.

She forged a career in early child education and after she retired, she volunteered at Scarba House for Children run by the Benevolent Society and also volunteered at Jannawi Family Centre, a centre to support children who have experienced trauma through violence. Lea volunteered at the Montefiore Home from



Lea Portrate OAM.

1983 and Jewish Care for many years right up until last year when her mobility became more compromised.

All this good work for the broader community didn’t go unnoticed. Lea was awarded the Medal of The Order of Australia by the Commonwealth Government in 2021. She never did any of her good deeds for recognition and her humility showed even when receiving this award. She was a sweet and special lady and she leaves a tremendous hole in our Shabbat morning congregation.





Jack Symonds Swims the English Channel

Eating disorders and depression are two serious issues that Jack Symonds cares passionately about. In order to raise awareness and generate funds for the Butterfly Foundation and the Black Dog Institute, our member Jack Symonds this year swam the English Channel, raising over a quarter of a million dollars in the process.

Jack is currently based in London, and is the great-grandson of Saul Symonds (President 1939-44 and 1945-50) and son of Morris Symonds, who recently served on the Board.

This was an amazing effort with extraordinary results and the whole community can be very proud.

A River Through Our Lives

Judith Jaffe

*The Great Synagogue of Sydney,
Runs like a river through our lives,
Generations of family Sharing sorrows, joys,
simchas, sighs,
Generations Greatly blessed
Brit milah. Batmizvah. Kaddish Prayer,
On the Bimah babies named.
Couples married under chupah.
Right in the heart of the city Our Great
Synagogue stands and serves,
Lovingly, 'tis a sanctuary,
That nourishes and it nurtures spirits, souls.
Warms hearts,
Welcomes all,
Throughout seasons, years, evermore.*

Rita Johanna Jaffé nee Bernstein with baby Judith.



Judith Jaffé with baby Genevieve.



Genevieve Mills with baby Samuel Nathan.

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Jana Vytrhlik
Curator, AM
Rosenblum
Jewish Museum

Fig. 1 Ark curtain detail, c. 1900. Velvet, padded embroidery in gold bullion. The curtain was in use in the synagogue until 2007 when it became too fragile and was moved to the museum collection. The green colour signifies Shavuot commemorating both the wheat harvest and the revelation of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

GOLDEN THREADS:

Our Synagogue Textile Collection

The Great's pieces of gold embroidery selected for the 2022 Festival of Goldwork represent works crafted in Sydney and included a large green Ark curtain, made in the early years of the 1900s, a blue richly ornated Torah mantle of similar age, and a 1915 personalised velvet Tallit bag.

Late last year, members of the Embroiderer's Guild NSW visited The Great Synagogue and viewed the ceremonial textiles collection. Preparing for their major annual event, the Guild had chosen three of The Great's gold embroidered artefacts to be part of the *Festival of Goldwork*. Jewish tradition has a rich association with some of the most exquisite golden thread embroideries, although often it is Christian ecclesiastical vestments that are honoured with such superlatives. The *Goldwork* exhibition in Gallery 76 in Concord West provides a timely occasion to raise the awareness of this rich Jewish heritage.

Historically, most of the artisan crafts trace their origins to some aspect of religious faith. A passage from the Book of Exodus describes the making of an elaborate garment worn by the High Priest Aaron. 'They are to make the *ephod* of finely spun linen embroidered with gold, and with blue, purple, and scarlet yarn.' (Ex 28:6). Called to the special task was the first known Jewish craftsman, the biblical Bezalel. He was blessed with excellent skills and soon, his divine assignments extended from making the sacred vestments to

the crafting of silver, gold and brass ornaments for the Tabernacle. Interestingly, we learn of the prescribed material, colour, measurements and even technology used by the gifted artisan, but only a few design details are revealed. On the bright side, this allows ensuing artists more scope for imagination and creativity.

Marking a special occasion in a Jewish family or community life by donating a ceremonial object to a synagogue has been a widespread custom. The gifts usually record the name and date and

Fig. 2 Torah mantle detail, c. 1900. Velvet with gold embroidery and metallic fringe. Attributed to Sophia Elizabeth Steffanoni (1873-1906).



Fig. 3 Tallit (prayer shawl) bag, c. 1915. Velvet, gold thread and beads embroidered cypher, only recently identified by the curator as belonging to George Judah Cohen (1842-1937), the renowned Jewish leader and benefactor.



sometimes highlight the occasion of the donation, so the provenance of even the earliest pieces can be established.

The most common ceremonial textiles in the museum date from the late nineteenth and early-to-mid twentieth centuries and include Torah mantles for covering the scrolls and curtains for the Ark. Some of them are of local production but the majority were commissioned in London or Israel, or brought from continental Europe. The mantles have principally followed the Anglo-Sephardic tradition of cylindrical body with a strong flat top. The Ashkenazi technique, with

two rectangular fabric pieces, is rather rare. In contrast to the group of mantles however, stronger Ashkenazic composition and symbolism can be identified in case of the Ark curtains.

Living up to the ideals that a collection is as good as its research and public showing, it is rewarding that The Great's ceremonial textiles shared the glitter with the recent *Festival of Goldwork* (July-September), <https://embroiderersguildnsw.org.au/> - ensuring another sparkling way to mark the fortieth anniversary of the AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum.





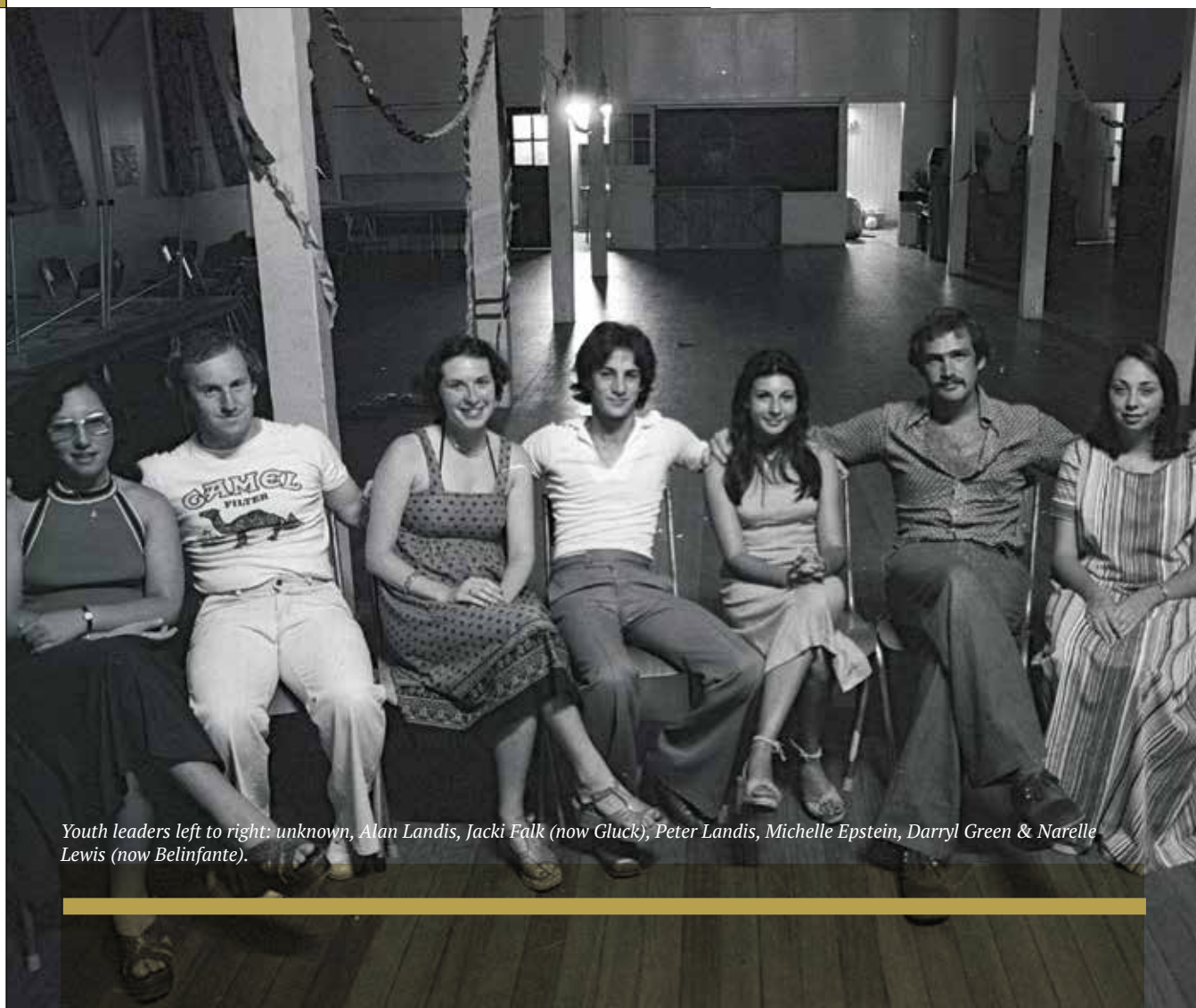
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Youth leaders left to right: unknown, Alan Landis, Jacki Falk (now Gluck), Peter Landis, Michelle Epstein, Darryl Green & Narelle Lewis (now Belinfante).

Darryl Green

GSY Camp 1976

In my university days, I had a darkroom at home and developed my own negative film. A couple of years ago, I found lots of negatives from those times, including many from a January 1976 GSY camp, that were never printed because as a student, I could not afford the paper and chemicals.

Lockdown gave me an opportunity to scan and digitise those negatives, most that I've never seen till now.

Forty-six years later, many of those camp attendees still feature in The Great Synagogue family such as Alan Landis our recent Order of Australia recipient and Jacki Falk (now Gluck).

Also in this camp record were Morrie Lewis and his wife Joy, both active GSY organisers. I have fond, or at least strong, memories of Morrie being a chaperone at GSY dances. These were held in the Israel Green Auditorium. He would be, dare I say it, hiding up on the



Arrowed, left to right: Wanda McPherson, Pam Fisher (now Seidman), Nathan Gluck, Mark Solomon (now Rabbi) & Joy Lewis.

mezzanine. Should anyone lean in for a kiss, they found hard lollies hitting the back of their heads. But I digress.

Here is a selection of images of the 1976 GSY camp at 40 Duffy Avenue Thornleigh:



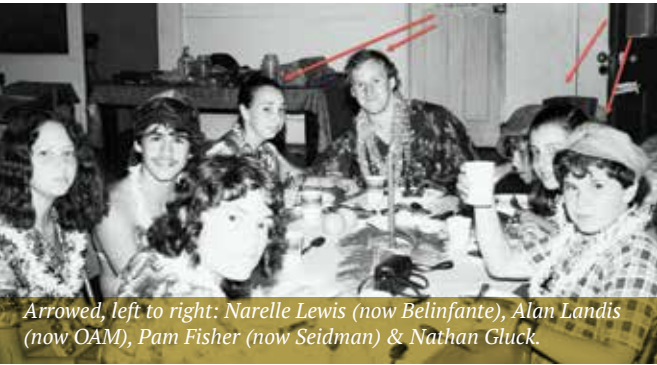
Costume night. Arrowed is one camper dressed as a rabbi who did not become one. The other, Mark Solomon, is not dressed as a rabbi ... and became one!



Alan Landis back right and campers.



Rabbi Raymond Apple giving a shiur.



Arrowed, left to right: Narelle Lewis (now Belinfante), Alan Landis (now OAM), Pam Fisher (now Seidman) & Nathan Gluck.



Arrowed, left to right: Wanda McPherson, Morrie Lewis, Mel Fox & Norman Goodman.



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New Board Members

This year the Board welcomed two outstanding new members: Toby Hammerman and Jack Pinczewski.



Toby Hammerman

Toby has deep roots and a strong commitment to our shule. He said this about joining the Board:

As with many of our congregants my connection with The Great goes back many generations.

Early records show that my great-grandfather, the first rabbi of Adelaide, Rev A. Tobias Boas, after whom I was named, delivered a sermon from our pulpit in 1910 and again in 1913. His daughter, my grandmother Esther, was married in our shul to Philip Moses and since then, together with my wife Judy's family, some eighty or so marriages up to the present day have been celebrated. Jack Freedman, a former president, my father-in-law, and now Max, Judy's twin brother, have both served our community for many years. My father Bernhard Hammerman OAM also contributed significantly to the cultural life of the synagogue.

Following my retirement from the Australian Government Aged Care Quality Agency, it was now time for me to step up and join the Board.

Prior to my aged care role, I was the CEO of the Sydney Jewish Museum and lived in Israel with my family for 15 years. I have a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of NSW and a Master of Social Work from Haifa University. I am Assistant Gabbai, helping out when our regular Gabbai is unavailable.

I am extremely impressed with the direction our shule has taken in recent years and look forward to contributing to the further expansion of a welcoming, inclusive and socially progressive community.



Jack Pinczewski

Jack Pinczewski joined the Board as an active member and Friday night regular with particular skills in governmental relations. Jack summed himself up in these words:

Jack Pinczewski is a nice Jewish boy. His mother wishes he would call her more often. Sometimes comes along to shule out of a sense of moral obligation and because the rabbi plies him with free whisky. While a law student at the Australian National University in Canberra, he worked for the Israeli Embassy but it didn't work out. Then after moving back to Sydney, he worked for a Prime Minister and that didn't work out. Then he took some time off to travel the world and worked for a NSW State Minister and that didn't work out either so now he works in international finance and so far, it's working. He spends some of his time climbing boulders. As a result of this he is going to the Maccabiah Games in Israel in July. He spends the balance of his time climbing the corporate ladder. As a result of this he is currently single. He looks forward to working on the Board to make The Great Synagogue the greatest synagogue.

We want as much talent on the Board as possible, with a diverse range of members of all ages and backgrounds. If anyone wishes to explore standing for election to the Board, or working on one of the Board's subcommittees, the President is always keen to have a chat and discuss the different options.

Board Members of The Great Synagogue 2021-2022



David Lewis
President



Max Freedman
Senior Vice President



Lauren Ryder
Vice President



Eli Green
Treasurer



Fay Frischer
Board Member



Darryl Green
Board Member



Jack Pinczewski
Board Member



Toby Hammerman
Board Member



Benjamin Hansen
Board Member



David Newman
*Chair of the Building
Committee and
Observer*



Officials of The Great Synagogue 2021-22

Ministers

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton	<i>Chief Minister and Senior Rabbi</i>
Rabbi Phil Kaplan	<i>Minister and Associate Rabbi (until March 2022)</i>
Rabbi Menachem Feldman	<i>Cantor and Assistant Rabbi (from March 2022)</i>

Honorary Ministers

Rabbi Dr Raymond Apple AO RFD	<i>Rabbi Emeritus</i>
Rabbi Mendel Kastel OAM	<i>Rabbinic Fellow</i>

Religious Officiants and Educators

Rabbi Yakov Richter	<i>Torah Reader and Children's Service</i>
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Choir

Justin Green	<i>Choirmaster</i>
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Board of Management

David Lewis	<i>President</i>
Max Freedman	<i>Senior Vice President</i>
Lauren Ryder	<i>Vice President</i>
Eli Green	<i>Treasurer</i>
Fay Frischer	<i>Board Member</i>
Darryl Green	<i>Board Member</i>
Toby Hammerman	<i>Board Member</i>
Benjamin Hansen	<i>Board Member</i>
Jack Pinczewski	<i>Board Member</i>
Norton Whitmont OAM	<i>Life Member (leave of absence)</i>

David Newman
Observer and Building Committee Chair

Governors

Rosalind Fischl OAM
Jake Selinger

Office Staff

Lynn Niselow	<i>General Manager</i>
Judith Indyk	<i>Accounts Manager (until June 2022)</i>
Justin Green	<i>Administrator</i>
Ilana Moddel	<i>Administrator</i>
Ezra Wexler	<i>Administrator (until July 2022)</i>

AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum

Jana Vytrhlik *Curator*

Honorary Officials

Steve Schach	<i>Gabai</i>
Toby Hammerman	<i>Assistant Gabbai</i>
Sharon Schach	<i>Chair, Great Women</i>
Ros Brennan	<i>President of The Women's Auxiliary</i>

Useful contacts

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THE GREAT
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EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Candlelighting
Mincha and Ma'ariv

SUNDAY 25 SEPT

5.34pm
5.30pm

FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Shacharit
Torah reading
Sermon (please note earlier time)
Shofar
Musaf
End of Services
Mincha
Candlelighting for Second Day
Ma'ariv

MONDAY 26 SEPT

7.45am
9.15am
10.15am
10.30am
10.45am
Approx. 1.30pm
1.35pm
After 6.33pm
6.30pm

SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Shacharit
Torah reading
Sermon (please note earlier time)
Shofar
Musaf
End of Services
Mincha
Yom Tov ends

TUESDAY 27 SEPT

7.45am
9.15am
10.15am
10.30am
10.45am
Approx. 1.30pm
Approx. 1.35pm
6.36pm

FAST OF GEDALIAH

Fast begins
Fast ends

WEDNESDAY 28 SEPT

4.22am
6.23pm

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Candlelighting
Kabbalat Shabbat, Ma'ariv and
Kiddush

FRIDAY 30 SEPT

5.37pm
5.30pm

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Shacharit
Shabbat Shuvah Drasha, Kiddush and
Mincha
Shabbat ends

SATURDAY 1 OCT

8.45am
11.00am
6.36pm

KOL NIDREI

Candlelighting and Fast begins
Kol Nidrei service

TUESDAY 4 OCT

6.40pm
6.45pm

YOM KIPPUR

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

WEDNESDAY 5 OCT

8.45am
10.45am
11.45am
Approx. 12 noon
12.15pm
4.15pm
6.15pm
7.39pm

EREV SUCCOT

Candlelighting
Mincha, Choral Ma'ariv and Kiddush

SUNDAY 9 OCT

6.44pm
6.30pm

FIRST DAY SUCCOT

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

MONDAY 10 OCT

8.45am
9.30am
12.00pm
After 7.43pm
6.30pm

SECOND DAY SUCCOT

Shacharit
Lulav, Hallel and Torah reading
Kiddush
Yom Tov ends

TUESDAY 11 OCT

8.45am
9.30am
12.00pm
7.44pm

HOSHANAH RABBAH

Joint Shacharit with Mizrahi Synagogue
Candlelighting
Mincha, Ma'ariv and Kiddush

SUNDAY 16 OCT

8.00am
6.49pm
6.00pm

SHEMINI ATZERET

Shacharit
Hallel followed by Torah reading
Yizkor (Memorial Service)

MONDAY 17 OCT

8.45am
9.30am
Approx. 10.30am

SIMCHAT TORAH (EVENING)

Children and Family Program including
Dancing and Dinner
Dinner for the Honourees
Candlelighting
Ma'ariv, Hakafot, Dancing and Dessert

MONDAY 17 OCT

5.30pm - 7.00pm
6.30pm
After 7.50pm
7.50pm

SIMCHAT TORAH (MORNING)

Shacharit
Hallel, Hakafot, Dancing and Torah reading
Kiddush followed by Mincha
Yom Tov ends

TUESDAY 18 OCT

8.45am
9.30am
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

ROSH HASHANAH (both days)

0-2 9.30am - 12.45pm BOARD ROOM (behind the Shule)
3-5 10.00am - 12.45pm CHILDREN'S SENIOR ROOM (third floor)
6-11 10.00am - 12.45pm ISRAEL GREEN AUDITORIUM
Teens 11.00am - 12.00pm The Teen Sky Lounge will be open in the Succah between 9.00am and 1.00pm.

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 SENIOR ROOM (third floor)
6-11 11.00am - 12.45pm ISRAEL GREEN AUDITORIUM
Teens 11.00am - 12.00pm 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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