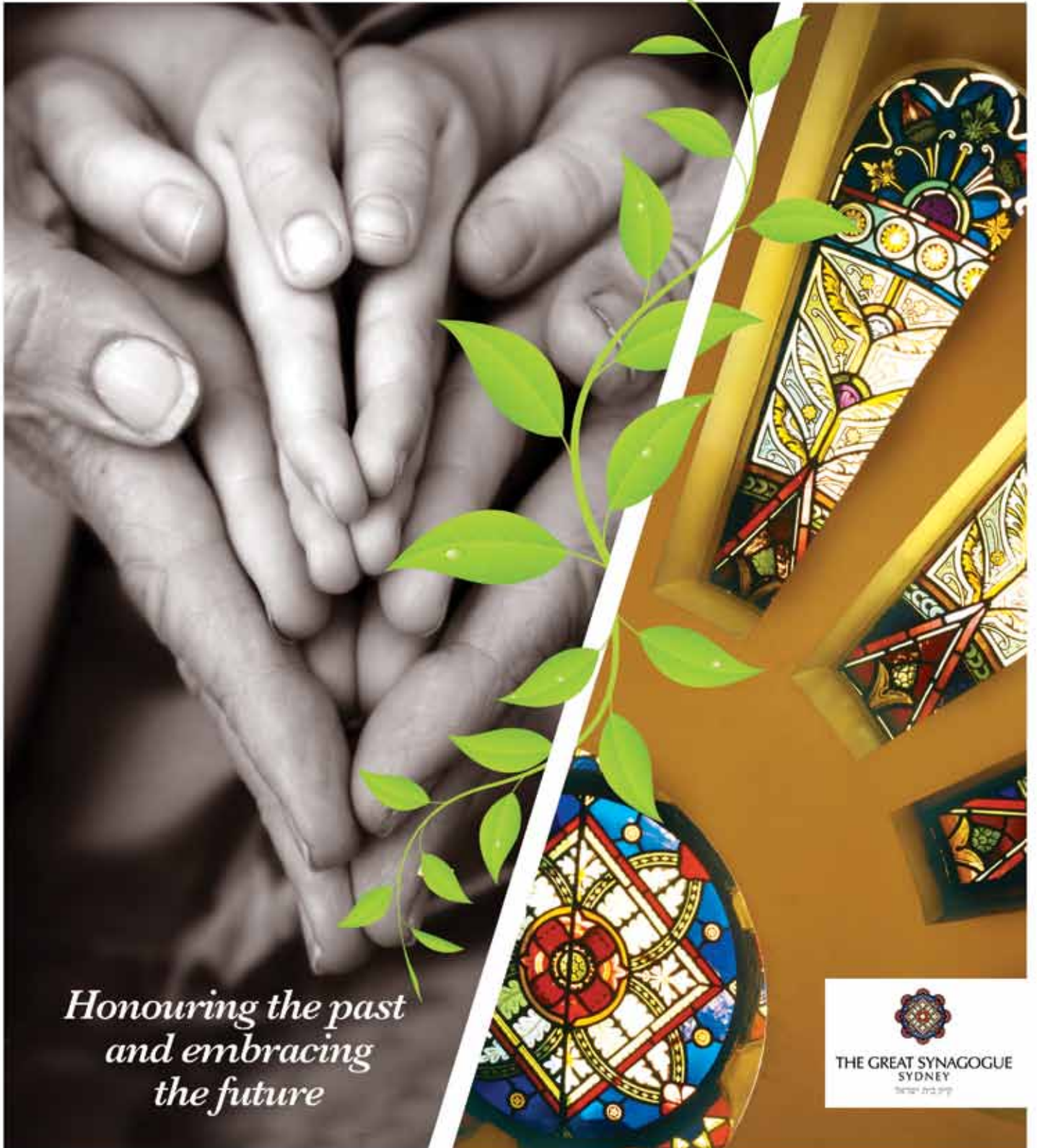


The GREAT VINE

ISSUE #1

ROSH HASHANAH 5776/2014/2015



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and embracing
the future*



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE
SYDNEY

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Contents

THE GREAT VINE SYNAGOGUE JOURNAL 2015

4

NEW YEAR MESSAGES

Justice Stephen Rothman AM, President
Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis
Rabbi Raymond Apple, our Rabbi Emeritus.
Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton

64

OBITUARIES

Anna Reich

11

OUR TEAM

Rabbi Danny Yaffe, Young Adult Division
Rebbetzin Sara-Tova Yaffe
Arielle Gold & Leah Gelman, Youth Leaders
Rabbi Yacov Richter
TGS Kids' Shabbat Services
Cantor Joshua Weinberger
Minister David Hilton
Samantha Freiman, Board Member

68

RECIPES

Monday Morning Cooking Club
Egg & Onion
Flommen tsimmes brisket
Ulynik

42

TREASURES

Moses Joseph Cup, Alan Landis
George Judah
Cohen's Monogram: a chance
discovery, Jana Vytrhlik

16

EVENTS

TGS Youth and Young Jewish
Professionals Network
Chanukah, Pesach & Purim
Celebrations
Annual Law Service
Rabbi Mirvis Visit
ANZAC Service 2015

37

COMMUNITY

Maccabi Football "Mum's Army"
Australia Day Honours
The Courage of Strangers, Andrew Havas

34

TRAVELS

Our Israel Trip, Paul &
Yvonne Kinney

50

RELATIONSHIPS

Turn every
First Date into
a Second Date

31

VOLUNTEERS

Guided Tours of The Great Synagogue,
Melissa Havas
Grandma Extraordinaire, Denise Sher

24

REFLECTIONS

A view from the pulpit, John Lenn
The story of the Tulagi, Joe Kensell
Thoughts on Chanukah, Ros Fischl

74

HIGH HOLY DAYS

At a Glance
Service Times

52

MAZEL TOV!

Anniversaries
Weddings
Births
Bar Mitzvahs
Bat Mitzvahs
Birthdays



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE
SYDNEY

ק"ק בית ישראל

A Year for Planning: A Year of Change with Continuity

Justice Stephen Rothman AM, President



The Great Synagogue, Sydney is a magnificent, historic and iconic structure long admired by all who enter its sanctuary and loved by its members. It is one of the handful of awe-inspiring synagogues in the world.

Some years ago the Synagogue was faced with the proposition that it should merge with a suburban (eastern suburbs) synagogue and conduct its affairs in the suburbs, except on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The membership of the Synagogue overwhelmingly rejected that proposal.

The membership of the Synagogue, and the Sydney Jewish community, supports the continued invigoration of Jewish life in the city and understands that The Great Synagogue is uniquely positioned to lead that invigoration.

Our central location means that we are accessible to Jews from around the city, both the substantial and increasing number that live within easy walking distance and who need a Synagogue and those further afield who can reach the city quickly by road or rail.

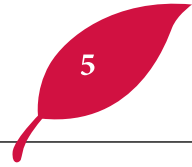
The Great Synagogue can, and in the view of the Board will, become the most vibrant Jewish centre in Sydney, not only on Shabbat and Yom Tov, but also on weekdays in a way possible for no other single Synagogue in the city.

The Aim

It is the aim of the Board to make The Great Synagogue a hub for Sydney Jewry; a role we want to fulfil.

The aim of the activities over the last 12 months and to be implemented over the next period is to start the process of reaching out to all Jews living or working close to the Synagogue or who wish to travel to it; to build their connection to synagogue life, to The Great Synagogue in particular; and, in so doing, to ensure the future of both The Great Synagogue and the community.

This can only be achieved by offering more than the traditional resources of the Synagogue. We will offer services and classes



7 days a week. We will also build the Synagogue as a centre for Jewish life in the city, providing a range of activities each day of the week and build a community and generate passion for The Great Synagogue, for Judaism and for Jewish life.

We envisage a centre to which parents can drop their children, while the parents work. Or a centre where parents can utilise the services of the crèche while one parent goes to an interesting and invigorating class on Jewish learning and the other perhaps spends 45 minutes at the gym. Perhaps they will enjoy brunch at a café; attend a meeting of a book club; or some other activity before returning home.

The need is great. Synagogues are not attracting large numbers either for services or classes. Many young students in the community cannot attend Jewish day schools, which have, at least to a degree, placed themselves beyond the reach of all but the wealthy and those who receive the limited supply of subsidies. There is a real need for Jewish education of these students. Young adults are not being as well served by existing institutions as they can be, and there is a

desperate need for better engagement to sustain the future of the community.

The task of the Board is to facilitate these changes within a responsible budget and bearing in mind that our operating losses are only partially ameliorated by the interest earned on our investments.

These are the tasks upon which we have embarked.

A Young, Modern and Orthodox Rabbinic Team

The first and most important task in the provision of the services that we see as necessary to invigorate the Synagogue was the engagement of a Chief Minister and sufficient staff to engage and build a relationship with the current members and other members of Sydney Jewry.

That was the largest “ball in the air”. Finding a Rabbi was not particularly difficult. Finding a Rabbi that will be able to implement the kind of changes that we envisage while continuing the traditions that we wish to keep was much more difficult.

After a thorough worldwide search we narrowed the list of persons who could fill the role to less than a handful.

The recommendation for the appointment of Rabbi Dr Ben Elton, our new Chief Minister and his wife Hinda, was unanimously adopted and supported by the members at an Extraordinary General Meeting. The process was a transparent one and one in which the members had an opportunity to provide their feedback on Rabbi Elton’s candidacy. I have dealt with these issues in the more formal Report for the AGM.

The choice, Rabbi Elton and his wife Hinda, is a choice of a couple passionately committed to Jewish life and committed over the long term to build a community and a place of great warmth, supportive relationships and religious meaning. Rabbi Elton has a background in the civil service in the UK, a PhD in Jewish history and understands the essence of running a community with compassion as well as financial control. His experience and learning in rabbinical studies emanates from the United States and he brings a combination of administrative skill, personability and initiative. His vision is to make The Great Synagogue the most exciting Jewish community in Sydney. He is assisted in that aim by Hinda, who is

an educator by training.

They are supported by a new Youth Rabbi. Rabbi Danny Yaffe and his wife Sara Tova, while supporting Rabbi Elton generally, are on a particular mission to create a brand of young adult, high-end events in the city under a unique banner that will develop and grow into a younger sustainable community, contributing greatly to the generational continuity at The Great, in which they pride themselves.

Already we have seen the development of a bar and bat mitzvah program and the resurgence of activities. A great example of these activities is the Friday Night Live program of dinners for young adults. But the goal is not simply to deal with young adults; it is to create a continuous cycle of services – from birth to young families – right here in the city.

These new additions continue to be ably assisted by Reverend David Hilton, Cantor Josh Weinberger and Rabbi Yacov Richter, who not only provide the traditional classic choral tradition of The Great, but also combine it with latest melodies and the conduct of an ever improving children’s program during

Continued Page 6

Continued from Page 5

the services and beyond.

That Children's program is assisted by the engagement of two Youth leaders, Arielle Gold and Leah Gelman.

By the time of the AGM, the new Executive will have been in office for approximately 8 months. The changes that are necessary to improve and to rejuvenate The Great Synagogue as the centre of Jewish life in Sydney will be seen over a period of time. There are more necessary changes to be made.

Administration and Member Support

We have trialled and at the time of writing will shortly be introducing a new computer program to improve our knowledge of and communication with the membership and to assist in invigorating the administration.

Each of these activities, and the continuing activity, will depend upon the support of each of you and your willingness to "give it a go". No doubt, during the implementation of these changes, there will be hiccups. But the team on the Board and in the office will persevere to ensure these changes are implemented and are working.

Many of these changes have cost and will cost money. Some depend on the availability of appropriate space. For example, the plan for a crèche will depend on the availability of appropriate space. Further, the improvements to the standards of the Kiddush and the availability for revamping of recreation areas depend on money and space. We have the space for the Cheder (3 classes, Years 4, 5, and 6) but it needs a lift.

We are in the process of revamping the Committee system. Each Board member will take a portfolio and the Committee will oversee the changes in particular areas.

Ultimately, these changes are about servicing you and they require your support. If you are willing and able to assist, please give me or one of the Executive members a call. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

As time consuming as these changes have been, particularly for the Executive team, the depth of the changes and the vision at their completion is also enlivening. We ask you to join us on this adventure.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Shule. ❁

THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF

THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE

HAVE PLEASURE IN INVITING YOU TO ATTEND

THE INAUGURATION OF

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton

AS CHIEF MINISTER


THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2015

CEREMONY COMMENCES AT 6.00PM AND CONCLUDES AT 7:30PM

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF RABBI EPHRAIM MIRVIS

On my visit to Sydney last year I was delighted to visit the Great Synagogue, about which I had heard so much. My visit gave me the opportunity to meet wonderful people and see one of the world's great Jewish houses of worship.

The Great Synagogue is an exquisite building. A brief look at the architecture conjures a wonderful sense of great majesty, proud history and glorious Jewish tradition. It is a significant monument to the Jewish community - as one newspaper declared when it was built in 1878, it is, "*a place of worship which, for lavish adornment and superb finish, has no equal in the city of Sydney.*" That splendour has remained undiminished for nearly 140 years.

Yet, the building itself is ultimately merely a shell. While the Synagogue has changed relatively little, at least externally, since 1878, the community within it has experienced changes, while continuing always to be a vital and veritable beacon of Jewish life.

That journey is analogous to one we are called upon to take between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Through sincere introspection and self-examination over the High Holydays, we can develop and improve ourselves for the year ahead. Of course, the way that we appear to others is important up to a point, but we do not change much externally from year to year. More importantly, each one of us can effect that meaningful change internally.

The measure of a successful High Holyday period is a willingness to acknowledge that we are not perfect and can improve ourselves (teshuva), that we must appeal to a higher power for assistance (tefilla) and that by giving of ourselves to others, we will contribute to improving the world around us (tzedaka). These are goals which can prove to be challenging but which we can all realistically achieve.

During the coming year, The Great Synagogue enters into a new phase of spiritual leadership. I extend every best wish to Rabbi Ben Elton for success in all his endeavours at The Great Synagogue and for Australian Jewry.

While we cherish the wonderful history of The Great Synagogue, may we also merit, as individuals and families, to look forward to a future of further success and simcha, as we continue to go mechayil el chayil - from strength to strength.

Ketiva Vechatima Tovah - May you all be written and sealed in the Book of Life for the coming year.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



A life *without our toys*

Rabbi Raymond Apple, our Rabbi Emeritus.



As the years roll by I tend, like all ageing people, to roll back the memories and think of my childhood. Without warning, I summon up an episode which obviously happened decades ago. We were living in Melbourne. It was about the time of the beginning of World War II. Little Raymond was having his photograph taken. Cruel posterity: where is that photo now? Who knows?

But I vividly recollect that I had to wear my sailor suit. All nice little boys of that generation had sailor suits (I guess the custom dated from the

time of King George V). I had my curly dark hair brushed and combed so well that I still recall how much the operation hurt, even though most of my hair has now gone and what little I still have is mostly grey.

The photographer must have come to our house, because Grandma, my mother's mother, the only grandparent I ever knew, was on hand. I know exactly what Grandma said: "Raymond looks like a wedding cake!" Presumably a compliment. Wedding cakes were the fashionable analogy at that period.

In those days having your photo taken was a major event in your life. So I was more than ordinarily interested in reading somewhere about the experience of Rabbi Shimon Schwab of New York. To set the scene I have to tell you that prewar German Jewish orthodoxy was transplanted from then peaceful places like Frankfort upon Main to a range of congregations in other parts of the world. My friend, Professor Clive Kessler, a descendant of one of those families, can give you details.

The acknowledged historian of this movement was Hermann Schwab, who produced a sheaf of evocative writings during his many years in London from 1934 to 1962. The Schwab name was also associated with K'hal Adass Yeshurun in New York, whose publications were graced by the writing of Rabbi Shimon Schwab.

60 years ago in 1954 Rabbi Schwab penned and published a Yamim Nora'im message which he called "Life Without our Toys". He looked back to his childhood and described how at the age of four he and two younger brothers had their picture taken by a professional photographer at his studio.

Drawing a lesson from the incident, Rabbi Schwab reminds us that nothing lasts forever: not the laughter (or the tears), not the toys (or the tragedies).



The studio had an array of toys so that the children would look happy.

But then, says Rabbi Schwab, came the first disappointment of his life. When it was time to go home, the photographer took the toys away. This photographer was obviously no kind uncle who brought gifts, but a mean-minded adult who took toys away from small children! This was Rabbi Schwab's first experience of what he calls "the cruel, unsolicited reality of the

world of grown-ups".

Drawing a lesson from the incident, Rabbi Schwab reminds us that nothing lasts forever: not the laughter (or the tears), not the toys (or the tragedies). Whatever the moment, there comes a time to say goodbye... a time to give up one's toys, and to put one's hand into God's; a time to move on, even if it means leaving our toys behind.

Life gives us many boons. Whilst they are ours we have to rejoice,

to count our blessings. When they leave us we cry - but we need to be brave enough to go ahead without them. All honour to Rabbi Schwab for putting into words the thoughts that, were I wiser, I would have worked out for myself from that youthful day in Melbourne when I had my photo taken.

From Jerusalem, Marian and I send the congregation of The Great Synagogue our affectionate New Year

greetings. We were delighted to meet up again with many of you when we were in Sydney early in the year, and I was proud to have Justice Rothman officially launch a book of mine at The Great.

We wish you all a good year of health and happiness and hope you get the message about life without our toys. Shanah Tovah, and Lehitra'ot, whether in Australia or Israel. 🌸

Our Vision for The Great Synagogue

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton

Hinda and I are incredibly excited to be joining The Great Synagogue community. I enjoyed my time here in July and everyone I met, and now we both want to begin to build long-lasting relationships. For now, let us introduce ourselves and share something of our vision.

I was born in Manchester, studied History at Cambridge and received a PhD from the University of London for my thesis on the history of the British Chief Rabbinate. Rabbi Apple was very helpful as I went about my research. I worked for a Member of Parliament for a couple of years and then joined the Civil Service as a policy adviser in the Ministry of Justice. For several years I was a lay leader of a small synagogue in London, Alei Zion. In 2011 I left Government work to learn in New York. I studied at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah for four years, as well as holding Visiting Scholarships at New York and Columbia Universities. I served on the clergy in synagogues in Washington DC and New York, and for the past two years I have been one of the Rabbis at Lincoln Square Synagogue in Manhattan.

Hinda was brought up in West Hartford Connecticut. She attended seminary in Israel and studied Classics at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. There she was very involved in youth work in a major synagogue, Shaar Hashomayim, and a smaller, student-led congregation, the Ghetto Shul. She came to New York after graduation as a Fellow at the Tikvah Fund (where we met), during that time she taught Latin and Greek at a leading Jewish high school and since then has been



teaching in after-school Hebrew programs, in Chicago and New York. She recently completed training as a yoga teacher. She hopes to teach in a variety of settings in Sydney, and of course you will see her in shul and at the Kiddush.

The Ethics of the Fathers teaches that the world is built on the study of Torah, the worship of God and acts of loving kindness. Hinda and I are both passionately committed to building a community that reflects all these values. We want The Great Synagogue to be a place of great warmth, supportive relationships and religious meaning. There will be a great range of classes and events, and I hope you will come along and try one or more. If there is something you would like me to teach, just let me know. Hinda and I look forward to welcoming you to our home for meals on Shabbat and Yom Tov. We want to be there for you in good times and challenging times. Building on the wonderful work of my predecessors and with the amazing team of Ministers and lay leaders, we want to make The Great Synagogue the most exciting Jewish community in this city, with the best services, the best learning and the best events. We look forward to growing with you!

With blessings,
Hinda and Rabbi Ben Elton ❁

Young Adult Division

Rabbi Danny Yaffe

I was born in Leeds and attended Menorah Primary School in Leeds until the age of 13. After my Bar Mitzvah I chose to follow a Rabbinical path and continued my studies at Rabbinical Preparatory School in Manchester for the next two years before being accepted to study at Yeshiva Gedola Rabbinical College of Manchester. I entered the Rabbinical College of America in Morristown New Jersey, and after two years, as per the curriculum of my Rabbinical course, I was sent to Sydney, Australia in order to complete voluntary community service as part of my rabbinical work experience. The community in which I served was a non-profit young adult organisation based in Sydney, which aimed to service young adults from the ages of 18-39. I worked with a range of students entering and finishing university, young professionals, as well as young couples within this age demographic. At the completion of that year, I entered Tiferes Menachem in Los Angeles, under the directorship of Rabbi Shmuckler and received my Teudas Smicha from HaRav Dovid Shuchat, Moreh Do'Asrah of Toronto, Canada.

In 2009 I returned to Australia to take up the role of Assistant Rabbi of Young Adult Chabad where I had served previously. I married Sara-Tova (nee Levi) and we currently have two beautiful children, a daughter called Menucha Rivka and a son called Moshe Baruch.

I specialise in creating niche programming and event projects which are appealing to the young adult demographic with a flavour of Judaism. In addition to this, I deliver captivating, practical and witty Torah lessons, as well as conducting one-on-one learning sessions. My life experience together with the eight plus years of Rabbinical studies, have given me a wealth of knowledge in dealing with various Halachic matters.

I have many strong friendships and personal connections established with various community



members over many years and in particular young adults. I believe the building of the 'congregant-Rabbi' relationship is the most important role of a Rabbi, as well as advocating for strong leadership by empowering individuals to aspire to become leaders in their own rights. ❁

Women's Involvement

Rebbetzin Sara-Tova Yaffe

(B.A, M.A, Dip. Lf Coach & Counselling)

I was born in Sydney, Australia before moving with my parents to Perth, WA. I attended Carmel School and Perth College. During my years in Perth, I took part in volunteer and youth organisations, both Jewish and non-Jewish due to my passion for community involvement. I received awards from various government departments, including being a Finalist in the Active Achievement Category in the WA Youth Awards which recognises outstanding young Western Australians. I was accepted into Machon Alte, Centre for Women's Education in Tzfat, Israel, where I went on to become a counsellor for incoming students, returning three times to continue my studies and work for the seminary. The desire to broaden my community work led me to Gothenburg, Sweden, where I worked for four months running girls and women's programs whilst teaching in the Jewish school.

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Sydney with a double major in Classical Hebrew and Drama, as well as a Masters of Teaching (Secondary Education).

I hold a Diploma of Life Coaching and Counselling from the Refuah Institute, New York, an affiliate of the International Coaching Federation.

More recently I have been actively involved in women's programmes and events at Young Adult Chabad in Bondi. Rebbetzin Sara-Tova is registered with the NSW Beth Din to teach Pre-Marriage Courses, as well as mentoring and teaching those converting to Judaism.

I am a qualified Educator, Life Coach, and Counsellor - with considerable experience in



mentoring and supporting young people and adults. I am a confident public speaker and communicator, capable of building a rapport with people of all ages, whilst understanding their specific and unique needs. ❁

GSY Fun

Arielle Gold & Leah Gelman

The Great Synagogue Youth has been busy this year bringing to life some of the wonderful holidays in the Jewish calendar, running activities to build ruach (spirit) in our younger members.

Our Purim celebrations didn't miss a beat with fun drumming activities, cartoonists, face painting and dress ups, which saw young and old come together to have a great time and hear the Megilla. The drums came in handy, along with some noisy Ra'ashans being spun, during the Megilla reading to block out Haman's name. There were smiles all round!

Our annual Pesach Picnic had lots of laughs and spills with sack races (in garbage bags), a piñata and our family favourite, who can make the best pyramid out of toothpicks and marshmallows!

Every week during Shabbat, the children's services have



been filled with fun games and activities for everyone to enjoy, learning about the parasha of the week in a fun and informal way. We look forward to have more young people join in our range of fun activities throughout the year. ❀

TGS Kids' Shabbat Services

Rabbi Yacov Richter

I have been involved with The Great Synagogue since 2004 when I started reading the Torah as a Rabbinical Student. I was interviewed for the role by Rabbi Raymond Apple who insisted on hearing my reading first. I was married in Israel in 2006 and returned with a small family two years later to teach.

I restarted at The Great Synagogue, this time bringing my children along for Rabbi Garber's wonderful children's service. We have now been making the trek from Bondi every Shabbat for over three years.

After Rabbi Garber returned to England I was asked to fill in and take on the children's service which I have been enjoying for almost two years.

Our Children's service is one of the best in Sydney. We start each Shabbat with a prayer service for the kids where they get to learn new prayers. We are currently working on teaching the kids Yigdal. The children learn about the current Parsha or Yom Tov and have fun games and stories related to them. The service ends with a delicious Kiddush followed by a raffle. ❀



Choral Tradition

Cantor Joshua Weinberger

I joined The Great Synagogue in 2014. My love of music started at a young age, performing in school and on the stage since the age of ten. My love for Cantorial music began when I regularly sang solos in the synagogues that my father, a regular leader of services and the possessor of a fine voice, officiated.

After my HSC, I studied for 1½ years in Yeshivat Har Etzion in Israel. I then stayed a further 18 months to study at the prestigious Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute, headed by world renowned Cantor, Naftali Herstick. It was at the institute that I advanced my knowledge of Cantorial repertoire and understanding of Nusach (traditional prayer modes). I also had the opportunity to study with Raymond Goldstein, the composer and arranger in residence at the institute and The Great Synagogue in Jerusalem.

As the Cantor at The Great Synagogue, my role is to enhance the spirituality of services through music on behalf of the congregation, introducing a new repertoire for the choir and cantor, as well as assisting in officiating at weddings and at events where music is required. I have been engaged to sing at many major communal events and proudly represent The Great Synagogue in doing so.

I hope to make the services more participatory, especially the Friday night services, through supplying the community with recordings of new pieces so that they may join in and sing along. I am also endeavouring to put on a concert in the coming year.

My repertoire spans many genres and languages, including traditional Hebrew liturgy, Opera, Lieder, Broadway, Israeli and many more.

I have completed a Bachelor of Commerce with



a major in marketing and management.

I am married to Gila who recently completed her masters in clinical psychology. We have just welcomed little Adira into our family and couldn't be happier. ❁

Caring for our Community

Reverend David Hilton

Stephanie and I came to Sydney in 2008 when I became Chazzan of the Synagogue and it has been my privilege to be at Minister at the Great for seven years now. We believe in making personal connections, warmth and hospitality. We want to develop programs to help people become more involved in our community and tradition, whether that is preparing for the holidays, hearing and seeing Jewish cuisine from around the world or improving Hebrew reading.



If you are going through a difficult time in hospital, after a bereavement or at any other time, I want to be there for you.

It remains a huge honour to lead services on weekdays, Shabbat and yom tov. I am excited to be working with our wonderful new Chazzan, Josh Weinberger who has so much talent and energy.

During the gap between Chief Ministers I took responsibility for most clergy functions, now we have a whole team in place with Rabbi Elton and Rabbi Yaffe, I am looking forward to being part of a fully staffed congregation offering all the events, activities and services which our community needs and deserves to a high level of excellence.

This is an incredibly exciting time to be part of The Great Synagogue, it is going to be a true shana tova!



SPOTLIGHT

New to the Board

Samantha Freiman



At age 11, my parents allowed me to elect which Synagogue I wanted to have my Bat Mitzvah at. After much thought, I decided to choose The Great Synagogue. My family and I have been members ever since.

I am joining the Board because I care about the Synagogue and its future. As a young person, I hope to be able to provide insight and perspective from a younger generation, in order to encourage and engage a dynamic membership and keeping us at the forefront of Jewish life in Sydney.

In 2014 I completed a Juris Doctor (graduate law degree) at the University of Sydney, and studied International and Global Studies undergraduate.

I am currently completing my practical legal training, working in property conveyancing and will start an in-house legal role in corporate governance and compliance next month. In December I start a graduate role in Business Recovery & Insolvency.

Aside from that, I am running Moishe House Sydney with my two housemates. 🌸

TGS Youth and Young Jewish Professionals Network

Rabbi Danny and Rebbetzin Sara-Tova

Fusing Rabbinical knowledge, educational programmes, interactive workshops, mentoring, as well as events-planning and hosting, our team aims to bring a youthful and exciting energy to TGS.

We have created a range of young adult, high end, sophisticated events in the city under a unique banner that will develop and grow into a younger sustainable community. This will contribute greatly to the continuity of The Great Synagogue. Our goal is to lead and mentor this growing young community, assisting and guiding them according to the traditions of TGS and our Jewish heritage.

Already up until now, we have initiated a monthly Friday Night Live for Young Adults, which is a themed Shabbat Kiddush aimed at creating a fun way to socialise on Shabbat night, especially for those coming straight from work! Attendance has been impressive and we are looking forward to upcoming "Friday Night Lives". We have developed a consistent networking and socialising environment for Young Jewish Adults hosted at The Great Synagogue, and regularly host private Shabbat Dinners of 15-20 young adults. Building relationships and connections with our young adults is at the core of our being and the essence of every event. Each individual that attends is an important member of our wider family.

So what's next?

On August 27th TGS Young Adult Division launched their own brand called YJPN - Young Jewish Professionals Network.



YJPN is dedicated to developing a young community within the TGS structure based in the city, delivering exclusive events, whilst maintaining the warmth, tradition and direction that we so value at TGS.

In addition, we have been developing various programmes for the community which will contribute greatly to the resurgence and growth of the community, such as an exciting and innovating Bat and Bar Mitzvah Program. Rebbetzin Sara-Tova will lead the 'iBat' program, launching in January 2016, which takes the age old lessons of our



ancestors and combines it with our modern day lives as specific to girls aged 11-13. We are also working closely with TGS Kids and the Youth Directors to bring a refreshing engaging children's service to our community, as well as an annual Summer Day Camp and Sunday Cheder.

Our goal is to create continuous programmes for every lifecycle event and those in between, from birth to young families - right here in the city. 🌸

For more information on TGS Youth or its activities, contact Rabbi Danny Yaffe - RabbiDanny@GreatSynagogue.org.au

Chanukah Celebrations

The Great Synagogue cohosted two fabulous Chanukah celebrations last year at Westfields Sydney and Bondi Junction.

The Westfield Sydney event was a cocktail function for city workers, young adults and corporates who came together to share canapes, drinks and some live music by local band 33 Degrees.

Westfield Bondi Junction was the backdrop for our family Chanukah event with a clown show, live music and jam donuts for everyone.

Candle lighting ceremonies were the central feature for both events and both were hugely successful. ❁



Pesach & Purim Celebrations

Annual Pesach Picnic

While the thought of Pesach always conjures up thoughts of Seders and matzah, at The Great Synagogue our Annual Pesach Picnic is always the highlight for many of our members. This year we enjoyed wonderful weather in which we ate, drank and played. Fun was had by all with our sack (well, really garbage bag) race, piñata and construction of pyramids from toothpicks and marshmallows.

The Lion King Purim Party

Our Purim festivities drummed up a great crowd this year with our Lion King themed Purim Party. The main feature of the party was a drumming circle which allowed kids and adults alike the opportunity to find their inner musician. The drums also came in handy being banged during the Megilla reading when Haman's name was read aloud.



Annual Law Service

11 February 2015

Hilary May Black



The Great Synagogue has a long tradition of marking the start of Law Term each year, along with other religious institutions in Sydney, with a dinner featuring outstanding guest speakers such as the Governor-General Quentin Bryce in 2011 and Chief Justice James Allsop in 2014.

This year, The Great Synagogue's Board of Management updated the format of the event from a formal dinner to a choral Service followed by a networking cocktail party. Over 200 members of The Great Synagogue, the NSW Judiciary, the Bar and legal profession filled the Synagogue for the event. Attended by the Chief Justice



Tom Bathurst, the President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Margaret Beazley and the Attorney General, Brad Hazzard, it proved to be an outstanding success.

The service commenced with gowned members of the Federal Court, NSW Supreme Court and Federal Magistrates Court, barristers and lawyers forming an impressive procession into the Synagogue before assembled guests. Many were first time visitors to The Great Synagogue and were very impressed by the unique interior of the shul sanctuary.

The Service was led by Reverend David Hilton with members of The Great Synagogue and the legal profession reading prayers from the bimah on the pursuit of justice and the responsibilities of the legal profession and their role as community leaders. Guests particularly enjoyed traditional songs and tunes from cantor Josh Weinberger and the Synagogue choir. Guest Rabbi Stephen Boroda gave a topical drosha about the interaction between Jewish law and criminal law issues such as those being investigated by the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. The evening concluded with guests mingling and enjoying drinks and canapes in the beautiful sanctuary. ❁

The Great features in Sydney Open

The Great Synagogue was buzzing last November, as more than 1460 people visited during Sydney Open. Sydney Open is a bi-annual event of Sydney Living Museums (the Historic Houses Trust) in which dozens of buildings throughout the CBD are opened for visitors.

People streamed through the shule in groups, as volunteer guides talked about the building, its architecture, history and Jewish life generally.

Nearly sixty buildings were approached to be open outside of normal business hours, including the AMP building and the Commonwealth Bank in Martin Place.

As always, The Great Synagogue, which has participated in the open day from its inception, was one of the most visited venues.

People said they were excited to have the opportunity of seeing the inside of the shule and learning about its architectural details as well as being able to talk to the guides about Jewish life, history and customs. ❁



Pictured: Susan Bures - Tour Guide



On the Shabbat of Saturday 25 October 2014, The Great Synagogue joined 340 cities across the world and thousands of people keeping some element of Shabbat. The Great Synagogue held a “Shabbat Illuminated” which culminated in a giant Kiddush following our normal Shabbat morning service.

This year 465 countries have signed up to participate in keeping Shabbat on October 23-24 and The Great will be hosting an event. ❁

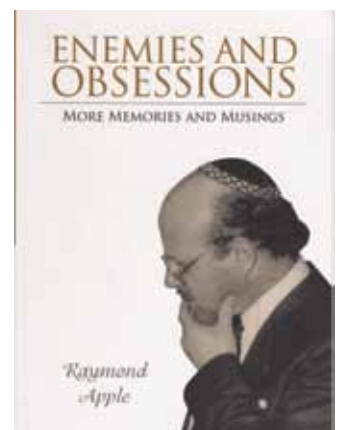
Rabbi Mirvis visit

It was a meeting anchored in history when the Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth spoke at The Great Synagogue in November 2014.

Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis participated in Mincha and engaged in a lively question and answer session with around 50 members and visitors taking time out of their busy day.

He commented on the historic link between The Great - the ‘mother congregation’ of Australian Jewry - and the office of the the Chief Rabbi which for more than a century has been the Halachic ‘go-to’ authority for the Antipodes. ❁

In January-February Rabbi Raymond and Marian Apple were in Australia to visit family and friends. They had a Shabbat at The Great Synagogue where it was evident that the rabbi and congregation enjoyed each other’s presence. The rabbi’s new book, “Enemies and Obsessions”, was officially launched at The Great a few days earlier by the Synagogue President, Justice Stephen Rothman. Members of the Shul came to a variety of



lectures and talks given by the rabbi, and the Apples enjoyed meeting up again with many old friends. ❁

ANZAC Service 2015

"...the tumult and the shouting dies..."

Michael Santer JP, Event Project Manager



It has been several months since the staging of the Anzac Centenary Service, however the event is still very much in the minds and hearts of all who attended. It was indeed an event to remember!

More than 1100 members of the Jewish and wider community attended the Centenary Anzac Commemoration Service, held at The Great Synagogue on 3rd May 2015. Indeed, many generations were in attendance from all walks of life and from all corners of the community.

Significantly, the Service was seen as a "must attend" event by our country's leaders, communal leaders, religious leaders and past and present members of the military.

The event was under the very capable control of Garry Browne AM, who was asked to serve as Chair of the event through his connection with The Great Synagogue and his broad experience with running a Rotary International District Conference.

It was fitting that three generations of the Browne family were involved in the Service, Garry as Chair, Garry's father Wesley who received a special citation from NAJEX during the service for his services to the community and Joshua Browne, Garry's son, who played an important role in managing the online database of invited guests.

Some 12 months of research went into the planning and execution of the event. An event committee was established, with representatives from the Australian Jewish Historical Society, the Centenary of Anzac Jewish program, The Great



Synagogue, JCA, the Sydney Jewish Museum, NAJEX and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. The Australian Jewish War Memorial and JNF Australia also came on board as sponsors.

The Service ran for one and three-quarter hours and was staged with military precision to ensure that everything went according to plan.

Special guest speakers at the event included The Prime Minister, The Hon. Tony Abbott, His Excellency, General The Hon. David Hurley, Governor of NSW and The Hon. Michael Ronaldson, Minister for Veterans Affairs.

In a fitting tribute, there was a presentation to Mr Wesley Browne OAM of the NAJEX Centenary of an Anzac Award. Mr Browne's citation stated,



“In recognition of Wesley’s lifetime of outstanding and selfless dedication to the Jewish community and to his fellow Australians, in accordance with the noble spirit of Anzac, particularly through ex-service welfare.

‘Wesley Browne, tzadik and mensch, we salute you.’

A former WW2 active service member of the RAAF, Wesley Browne has been publicly honoured for service to Legacy and NAJEX. He was also Foundation Chairman of the Spirit of Australia.

Speaking after the event, Garry Browne said, “The Service was a very special way to honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country – and those who were lucky enough to survive.”



“In planning the Event, we wanted to include young Australians and to that end we had Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and leaders from 3rd Rose Bay Judean Scout Group, a combined Jewish Schools Choir and prefects from Jewish Schools all involved on the day.”

There were some very emotive moments during

the Service. Beautiful memorial Candles were lit by Mrs Maadi Einfeld, Group Captain Prof. Lisa Jackson Pulver, Major Tanya Haber and Miss Paige Bloch.

A highlight of the Service was a special audio visual screened on a huge custom screen erected above the Bimah. During the Service, the names of the 38 diggers at Gallipoli who gave their lives for their country were read out. The Prime Minister, Governor, Communal leaders, members of the Military and Service organisations laid wreaths in front of

the Bimah.

The event was made possible partly through State and Federal Government grants and by the generosity of communal organisations and members of the community.

Mr Browne said he was most grateful for the support of the Event Committee in helping to bring the Service to life.

One thing is very certain, the Centenary of Anzac Commemorative Service will be remembered as a marquee event in the Jewish community for many years to come. ❁

A view from *the pulpit*

John Lenn

In the absence of Rev David Hilton and Chazan Josh Weinberger, I had the rare experience of addressing the congregation from the pulpit on Shabbat Chanukah, 20 December 2014.

The occasion was made all the more poignant by the presence in the synagogue of many members of my family, students and friends. Most notably my father, Ernest Lenn, was able to attend the service thanks to the splendid logistical skills of past-president Michael Gold.

Standing in that splendid vantage point I did not feel weighed down by a sense of history but, rather, elevated by it as I paid public tribute to



my rabbinic heroes, our Emeritus Rabbi Raymond Apple (whose presence we hope to enjoy again and again in the same pulpit) and Rabbi Dr Israel Porush (eulogised by Rabbi Apple as “a prince among rabbis ... a rabbinic aristocrat”). I also mentioned Rabbi Leib Falk, whose memory we honour every Chanukah by lighting the exquisite silver *chanukiah* that he fashioned with his own hands and Rabbi Francis Lyon Cohen, who was responsible for much of the sacred music that has thrilled and inspired us over the last century.

In October 1923, the same Rabbi Cohen attended an afternoon tea at the home of my grandparents, Henry and Leah Lenn, in celebration of the bar mitzvah of their son. Rabbi Cohen was quite well acquainted with that little boy, who had been in the habit of walking to shule on Shabbos morning with his

mother from their house in Paddington.

The boy was Ernest Lenn who, remarkably, stepped across the threshold of our synagogue again in December 2014 to commemorate his 91st bar mitzvah anniversary. With the exception of the long-life light bulbs, the audio-visual equipment and the Modern Hebrew pronunciation, the setting would have been almost identical. A small table had been set up on the floor of the synagogue – just in front of the Falk *chanukiah* – where a *sefer Torah* was placed. Ernie was called up, my brother Robert recited the *brachot* and Rabbi Yacov Richter read the parsha as beautifully as he invariably does. The congregation sang *Siman tov umazel tov*.

A delightful moment occurred when Leon Symon, who had worked for Ernie in the early 1950's, descended from

the bimah and said hello after his call-up. They had not seen each other for 65 years. Ernie commented that “Leon was a nice boy”.

As the view from the pulpit was so impressive and the acoustics so pleasing I took the opportunity to observe that we had, shortly before, blessed “those who bring lamps for lighting and wine for Kiddush and Havdalah as well as those who occupy themselves faithfully with the wants of the congregation”. All who spend time in the building during the working week giving of their time as volunteers are well aware that the place is a hive of activity filled with Jews, Christians and Moslems, young and old, who come to tour, to learn and to participate in a range of cultural events.

However, although we must give thanks to the NSW Government and the Heritage Commission for making sure the gold paint on the walls and

the tiles on the floor are always in good repair, we need also to face the stark reality that a synagogue without well-attended services of worship is nothing but a museum. Where are all the bar mitzvah boys and married couples of the past that could be here with their families commemorating their anniversaries?

With the efforts of our new President, who needs our full support, and our incoming senior rabbi with – we hope – his charisma and inclusiveness, The Great Synagogue now has a perfect opportunity to embark on a season of participation, renewal and refreshment. Let it be our wish and our goal to ensure that all who return home for Shabbat lunch, when asked “how was shule today?” by those members of their families who did not attend synagogue should reply “Shule was good. I enjoyed it.” ❁

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The story of *the Tulagi*

by Joe Kensell

After three years overseas as the only Australian deck officer in British Petroleum's fleet of 154 ships, I returned home in 1963 and joined the Australian owned Burns Philp ship *Tulagi* as Third Mate.

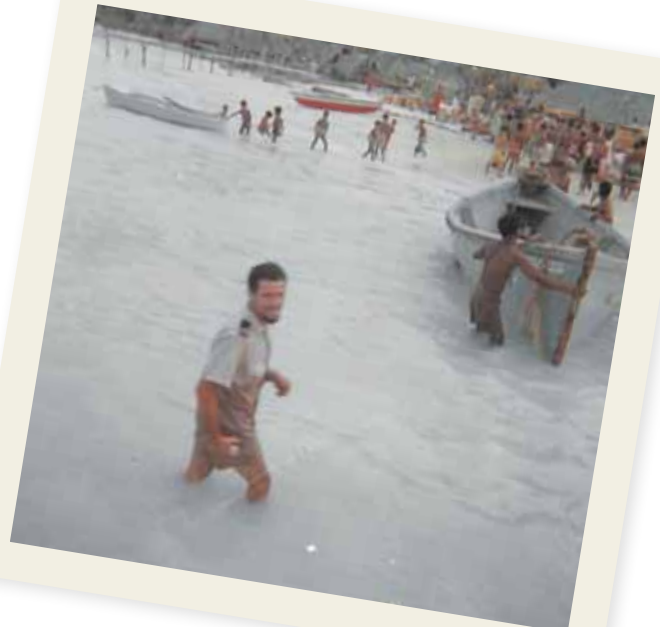
The *Tulagi* had just been chartered to the British Government to take the Administrator around the Gilbert and Ellis Islands. It was also used to move native labourers to and from the Lever Bros and Burns Philp copra plantations on Washington and Fanning Islands in the Line Islands.

After visiting the ship's normal ports of call of Norfolk Island, the New Hebrides and the Solomon Islands we then sailed to Tarawa, the capital of the

Gilbert and Ellis Islands. Here we discharged the cargo of various grocery items, building materials and most important, four pallets of precious bagged soil. Basically being a sand atoll there is very little actual earth on Tarawa and the arrival of this small shipment was eagerly awaited by the Administration. In fact, at the local cemetery, after a coffin was placed in the grave only a minimum ritual amount of dirt was placed on top and the balance of void space was filled with empty glass bottles.

The ship set sail and would anchor off the island (atoll), in some cases up to five miles off-shore due to the poor surveys, and the Administrator and his staff would be taken ashore in a surfboat which was towed by one of the launches. We deck officers along with the ship's two apprentices took it in turns to be part of the landing party as we would anchor a buoy just outside the surf

Down in one of the surfboats at Tarawa trying to fix where the timber being discharged has started to spew before landing properly in the boat.



The Tulagi sailing into Sydney past the Opera House.



break and attach a rope which one of us would swim ashore with and tie to a tree. Unless there was good surf running, the surf boat would then be pulled ashore using the line and the local natives would then carry the Administrator and his staff onto the dry land, along with a portable two-way radio. Then on completion of the official business, the rope would be used to pull the boat back clear of the surf and then tow it back to the *Tulagi*.

At a couple of the bigger islands which had radio contact with Tarawa the locals had arranged a "feast" for the Administrator. Usual food offered was barbecued flying fish along with kava which was hand made by the tribe's female virgins crushing the plant roots. I can definitely advise that the real thing is potent, as only the only time I tried

it, much to the natives' amusement I lost the use of my legs for several hours after partaking of only a small amount!!

After having completed the initial part of the voyage and with the requisite number of male natives, we then sailed to the Line Islands where we anchored off Christmas Island. This is the largest coral atoll in the world and the extremities are called London and Paris as the distance around the atoll is close on the equivalent of the distance apart of the two cities. As the Island was the main base for both English and American atom bomb tests, there were a number of military personnel based there and a British Air Force doctor extracted a tooth for me which had developed an abscess. We topped up with fresh water here by it being brought out to the ship in an army road tanker

sitting in a landing barge.

We then sailed to Washington Island where we disembarked their complement of new recruits and boarded those that had completed their period of service. Then off to Fanning Island where a similar operation took place.

This time, besides the male passengers, we also had their families, most of whom had never seen a Caucasian. Being pure Polynesian they had little body hair, basically only under the arm pits and the pubic hair. As my watch period on the Bridge was from 0800 till 1200 morning and night, no matter how I tried it was impossible to stop the teenagers watching me shave around 0730 each morning. Very disturbing for a 25 year old male as the females only wore a skirt! I finished the trip to the Solomons no longer



having any singlets or t-shirts left, as I gave them all away in order to stop cutting myself looking in the mirror to shave and just seeing nubile young ladies.

Outside of the memories, the only physical memento that I have of that trip is a shark tooth sword from the island of Arorae, a similar one is in the Prime Minister's office in Canberra. Funnily enough, when I went to Honiara in 1979 to start a new shipping service from Australia to the Solomons, I actually ran into some of the natives that we had brought down 16 years before who remembered me. ❀

Thoughts on *Chanukah*

Ros Fischl, OAM Governor, The Great Synagogue



The very first Chanukah that I recall was my Bat mitzvah ceremony held here in our beautiful sanctuary one Sunday morning in December, never mind how many years ago!

We were about 13 years old in those days, and there were thirty five of us seated in rows of seven in the men's centre pews, the only time we had been allowed into that sacred male space! Rabbi Porush read some appropriate words and we dutifully stood up in our rows and recited a

verse in Hebrew and English. That was it! No individual attention, let alone an appearance on the bimah on Shabbat morning, as the girls have today. No blessings on the bimah by the President, just a group blessing over all of us. Yes, times have certainly changed. At our celebration afterwards in the Israel Green Auditorium we were each allowed only three of our family to attend. I had my parents and my oldest aunt – my two brothers were not allowed to come. Not a very memorable family occasion on the whole! We have learned a lot since those days and now the girls have many choices and celebrations equivalent to a boys.

And so it should be.

Back to more recent Chanukah events...

I recall that we have had several grand scale events, such as Chanukah in Hyde Park, with a cast of thousands, several times, each time involving a whole crew of organisers for months on end. One Chanukah on Shark Island, with fond memories of the very elderly, now the late Catherine Gluck, who was determined not to miss it, despite the very hot weather, and whose generosity has enabled us to develop many youth programs.

As well there were several concerts catering for very different musical appetites, one of which featured Jimmy Barnes and sent Rabbi Apple into fast retreat by the nearest exit! Or so it was reported to me, as I happened to be away that particular Chanukah, my absence perhaps wisely timed. A few smaller and less ambitious celebrations, with our own talented congregants participating, and children's fun in Rushcutters Bay and elsewhere.

It's all been done, and mostly done very well. But what have we gained by it in the long term?

We may not have gained

many new members, which was one of the purported aims, but we have brought our congregants together with outsiders in public places and held our heads high as Jews, celebrating our difference from those who celebrate Christmas or other religious festivals.

We enjoyed explaining our customs to the public who showed interest and sang our songs together in brother and sisterhood.

Sadly, the days when we as a community could hold a big public event in the city without harassment or danger have long past.

Security has become paramount and very costly and Hyde Park would be almost impossible to secure for such an activity. And so we have smaller gatherings in Westfield, and light a Menorah and sing some songs. Modest, but still an expression of our commitment literally to be a light unto the nations, and to show that light.

Rabbi Apple in his latest Chanukah message says that the Chanukah lights are to be looked at and not to be used. We are also encouraged to meditate on the lights after we kindle them. These two laws tell us that we need both the gift of sight and of insight.

Rabbi Apple goes on to explain that we have to look to the future optimistically despite the situation around us, that is to understand that we are part of a bigger picture, and that we should not lose our faith.

He gives the example of the Cohen who put aside the oil for the Ner Tamid, the eternal light, even though the enemy was at the Temple gate and destruction was inevitable.

It was that very small amount of pure oil that began the miracle of the Chanukah lights, which lasted for eight days after the Maccabees' victory over the enemy.

And so to Chanukah 5775.....

The first candle was lit last night as dark descended, and as I meditated on that sole candle I asked myself what I as an individual could do to make a difference in the coming year to those who are less fortunate than myself. I could give comfort to the ill, a phone call, a visit, a kind word to a person recently bereaved, all the little things that cost nothing but mean such a lot.

Two candles will be lit tonight, which will signify the light that my parents

brought into my life, their caring, their wisdom, their selflessness, their legacy as true *menschen*.

Three candles will remind me that there are three ways of looking at the world... through a negative prism, which only brings misery; a positive prism, which helps bring cheer, but may sometimes lead to disappointment; and the third is through the prism of common sense, something that can be applied to every situation, and which keeps us from becoming over emotional or excited and doing or saying something out of character, which we may later regret. A realistic perspective is needed for every situation.

Four lights and Four Questions...

Q.1 What are four qualities that are essential in the forming of a mature person?

Q.2 How can we instill these qualities in our children and grandchildren?

Q.3 Why is it so difficult for young people today to find suitable role models?

Q.4 Are teachers then expected to be substitute parents?

For me the fifth night of Chanukah will be very

Continued Page 30

Continued from Page 29

special. These five candles represent our five beautiful grandchildren, in order of age... Harrison, Saffron, Rocklan, Olive and our new baby Toby. We feel very blessed indeed to have them, and give thanks to Hashem for the light they bring to our life.

Six candles make me think of six reasons to be happy

- our relatively good health and agility
- our relative safety living in our democratic society, a long way from war zones
- our Jewish heritage which enriches our lives
- being congregants of The Great Synagogue and enjoying its magnificent beauty and its age old traditions
- living in this wonderful city with its natural beauty and cultural offerings
- having so many good friends and close family

to be part of our lives....and for all these we give thanks once again

The lucky number seven.... seven candles which we hope will bring good luck and reward for effort for all of those we care deeply about

Eight candles, a full Chanukiah with its bright lights signifying eight special days of remembrance and reflection on the past injustices inflicted on our people, but inspiring us from the example of our unsung heroes to go forward with renewed hope and energy, finding new resources within ourselves to meet the challenges of the future.

I know that as Chanukah 5776 comes and you light your candles day by day, each of you will find your very own significance in this act of bringing light to the world around you.

Chag Sameach. ❁



WELCOME TO OUR NEW HEBREW SCHOOL

Starting Sunday 1st February 2016

Shacharit 8.30am - 11.15am

Breakfast is included

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There will be a special Benei Mitzvah program for boys and girls.

Classes will be taught by the rabbis of the synagogue and other trained professionals.

There will also be learning for adults.



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE

SYDNEY

קניק בית ישראל

GUIDED TOURS OF The Great Synagogue

Melissa Havas



I commenced guiding at The Great Synagogue just a few months ago, following in the footsteps of my father, Monty Lewis. Monty loved the shul, and went every Shabbat morning. My father was an inspiration to me, having set the example of serving the community in a variety of ways. As well as his involvement

in the synagogue, he was a member of B'nai B'rith, holding many executive positions including Council President. I followed him, becoming president of the Syd Einfeld Unit. To my knowledge being the only daughter to follow a parent in a B'nai B'rith leadership role.

So far the experience

has been wonderful; I am enjoying learning about the shul and its rich history, much of which is new to me.

The synagogue is a magnificent building, I am always inspired whilst inside. I have been assisted by several other guides whilst learning, which has been tremendous. Answering many of the questions asked by the visitors can be tricky. I have met some

fascinating people during this time.

I relished the idea of guiding once I had retired and hoped dad would mentor me, alas this was not to be, he passed away before my retirement. Dad commenced guiding in approximately 1990 and stopped in 2013, shortly before he passed away. Dad loved guiding and found the experience both challenging and rewarding.

He always said he learned so much from guiding. He was an avid reader and cherished the challenge of being asked difficult questions which invariably happens in these situations. When unable to answer a question he would research the history of the Shul, its architecture and Jewish life so as to be better informed should the questions arise again.

Since my retirement last year I spend my time volunteering with another organization, looking after grandchildren, and generally enjoying life. ❀

SPOTLIGHT

Grandma Extraordinaire

Denise Sher



I have been a volunteer for many years. I started helping with the Kiddush about 18 years ago when I was regularly coming to shule after my son's Bar



Denise Sher and her grandchildren: Front row : Scarlet Sher, Reuben Sher, Cassidy Sher, baby of Tova and Barry Kogan, Denise Sher, Lillian Sher, Adam Guthrie
Top row: Ezra Sher, Joshua Guthrie, Amelia Kogan, Kobe Bloom, Oliver Bloom

Mitzvah. One of the ladies from the Women's Auxiliary told me one morning they were really short of helpers that morning and I said I would be happy to help. So of course the following week the lady in charge of the Kiddush approached me and from that time on I was there every week helping.

My family has a long association with the synagogue – firstly my great grandfather, George Myers was the first president.

My parents, David and Ida Weingott were very involved in GSY Youth over many years in the 60s and when my father retired he helped with synagogue tours and also with records in the office.

So it seemed the normal progression to be a volunteer for the synagogue. After helping with the Kiddush each week for a couple of years I was asked to take over the role of Kiddush convenor.

This involves organising the food each week and making sure there are enough people each week helping. I also co-

ordinate all the kiddushim that are sponsored by the families of Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Wedding call ups, special birthdays and baby namings, etc.

My week involves working as a carer $3\frac{1}{2}$ days a week, one day (Wednesday) babysitting for one or more of my grandchildren and ordering food for the Kiddush. Then contacting the shule and organising the set up for the Kiddush. My week is very busy and this also includes Friday night dinner every second week for my family including children and grandchildren totalling 9 adults and 10 children soon to be 11.

I have also served on the Services Committee for many years. This has involved going to meetings every couple of months with discussing involving improving services and organising a variety of necessities for festivals.

As part of the Women's Auxiliary and the Services Committee I have enjoyed being a volunteer even though it is quite time consuming. 🌸

Our Israel Trip

Yvonne & Paul Kinney

In April this year Yvonne and Paul Kinney joined the JNF to explore Israel's "Anzac Trail" and witnessed the history of both the ANZACS and the IDF first hand.

Arriving at the airport in Tel Aviv it felt like we had done a marathon. It was a long trip and after arriving at Ben Gurion airport in the middle of the night we were very tired. Our initial impression of Tel Aviv was "old", very, very old" although we saw lots of modern buildings, which we later realised had incredible, interesting geometric shapes.

We joined our tour group from the Jewish National Fund (JNF) "2015 Anzac Mission" the next day with a "meet and greet" and then onto the bus. First stop was the Kinneret area and the Hula Valley. It was just beautiful. The nature reserve has lots of picnic areas and lovely spots as it is inhabited by different types of birds and animals. This is then surrounded with examples of history past, such as Old Gesher kibbutz near the Jordan border.

We then travelled all the way up to the Lebanese border and met young Israeli Defence Force soldiers using tanks to defend the border and later, Israeli "cowboys" who farm right near it.

The tour in Safed was very interesting. The town features many narrow streets, some with Dutch names and ancient synagogues with interiors to match. One synagogue had a very old bris milah cradle and chair which, I believe, is still in use. Later we visited Acco. At the old British prison we saw the wall of photos of the martyrs and the deathly gallows. Next stop were the Templers



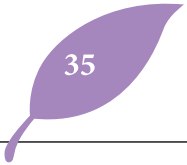
An ANZAC Memorial

Tunnels with their ancient weaponry and the incredible ceilings.

The next morning started with Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) at the JNF Australian Yizkor (Remembrance) Forest with guest speaker, former government minister and member of the Knesset, Major General (res) Yossi Peled. The visit to the newly constructed children's museum "Yad Chana and Bachan" was very moving. It tells the story of the Holocaust from a child's point of view and is aimed at educating children from about 9 years of age with personal accounts from child survivors, their bewilderment and sense of abandonment and how they survived the most ruthless, degrading series of events.

The first time we arrived in Jerusalem, the city of David, was breath taking. We went on a taste testing tour of Mechane Yehuda shuk. It just assaulted all your senses, the colours, the smells of the spices and the people. We enjoyed falafel with the most delicious hummus.

During our first Shabbat we met with an expert on the First World War and the Anzacs, Kelvin



“It just assaulted all your senses; the colours, the smells of the spices, the people...”

The Negev desert near Ben Gurion Tomb.



The Anzac Day ceremony at Mt Scopus WW1 Cemetery

Allenby Park WW1 cemetery in Be'er Sheb

Crombie, in the Mt Zion Hotel. The next morning I went to a Shabbat service at Shira Ha Chavi. It's amazing as the men and women were taking turns, both reading from the Torah, and yes, it is an orthodox shule.

Now, as I have said, our tour was called the Anzac Tour in Israel 2015, and from this point we travelled the Anzac trail which is about 100kms long. This route was

taken by our mounted infantry in their journey to capture Beersheba through very dry desert country with wadis (huge gullies) but also tracked near water because of the horses' need for water. We followed their arduous trip through Tel el-Jemmi, to Nahal Assaf, then Eshkol Park (Shallel) and continuing through Tel el-Fara and Reservoirs view point.

Our tour guide Shlomo

introduced us to the JNF Australia's contribution to the countryside from parks, to restorations of ancient Jewish sites, the mosaic of the floor of a synagogue, to water treatment plants and memorials to our fallen soldiers. We got on and off the bus quite often to take in the sights from the Alumin lookout, Be'eri and the Habsor Bridge.

There are so many new developments funded

by the JNF in the area, such as the Besor, you can see why the desert has blossomed! No trip to this part of the country would be complete without visiting Ben Gurion's desert home. It is modest to say the least and simple with no extra frills in the kitchen or bathroom, but the gardens bloom with lots of flowers. The gravesite of David

Continued page 36

Continued from page 35



A spice stall in a Jerusalem suk.



Paul near a trench at Ammunition Hill.

and Paula Ben Gurion, in the desert, is brought to life through the flowers and trees surrounding the gravesite, which overlooks the grand Negev desert.

Our trip continued with a visit to a Bedouin tent, with a camel ride in the late afternoon, and dinner in the tent. This all happened around the Bir 'sluj area and the following day we travelled onto Bir Mashash. We were back travelling the Anzac trail, seeing the Beit Eshel to Turkish Bridge then onto the Chauvel lookout, getting an overview of the battle zone of Beersheba. Three and a half kilometres of flat, slightly rolling ground with the odd gully to hinder our soldiers, not to mention they had limited water for days, hence the need to capture Beersheba and keep the wells intact.

Our part was to walk the last few kilometres into the city and meet a delegation of school children from the Kfar Mamon School, a group of young IDF soldiers and a young man dressed as a light horse ANZAC soldier. Together we walked into the city of Beersheba finishing at the Allenby Park memorial garden, established by the JNF, and the First World War Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery of the Australian soldiers. We participated in a small Anzac ceremony held

for the fallen and, with the IDF soldiers, placed flowers near the head stones of these soldiers who were so young.

The last couple of days blended together, starting with the very solemn, Yom Hazikaron (Israel's Memorial Day where we remember the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism) ceremony at Gush Etzion where the three young boys were taken last year, to the Yarkon in Tel Aviv to the Anzac Memorial and to see the memorial honouring the Australian athletes who died on the bridge that fateful day.

Our last day of the tour, the 24th of April, back in Jerusalem, we went to an ANZAC Day ceremony at Mt Scopus First World War cemetery and met up with Rabbi Apple who was in the official party and who later conducted Kaddish. It was very moving to do this on Israeli soil. The last part of our tour was a visit to Ammunition Hill, a site established with the help of the JNF, which commemorates the battle for Jerusalem during 1967 Six-Day War. These Israeli soldiers were so very brave. 🌸

For more details of the JNF 2015 Anzac Mission to Israel visit the JNF website at:

<https://jnf.org.au/>

Maccabi Football

“Mum’s Army”

David Lewis

Many of you may not know that The Great Synagogue has an all-conquering Maccabi-based Women’s football team playing in the Division 3 Eastern Suburbs Leagues!

Our own Vice President, Caroline Lewis, is one of the founding players in this team that also boasts TGS members, daughter Juliet Lewis, Dalia Bloom (daughter of Denise Sher), Danielle Blumberg (daughter of former TGS Board member Michael & Rochelle Goot) and Danielle Jaku-Greenfield (grand-daughter of Eddie & Flore Jaku).

Caroline (pictured) reformed this team on return from London in 2012 and since then they have achieved the distinction of three league titles and two promotions. In 2012 they won Division 5 and then in 2013 & 2014 were Division 4 League Champions. This season they are building on those successes having been promoted to Division 3.

Their achievements are all the more remarkable given that they have played all their football in All-Age competitions against girls aged in their early 20s. Save for Juliet, all members of the team are over 35 with their combined children numbering now in excess of 40!

This family flavour has also been enhanced by 2012-14 coach and now team mentor David Lewis and current coach Lloyd Millett.

Dalia Bloom has been the major goal scorer with 8 goals this season rapidly approaching the standards set in 2014 (14) and 2013 (13).

As a warm-up in the pre-season, the team was also



Dalia Bloom

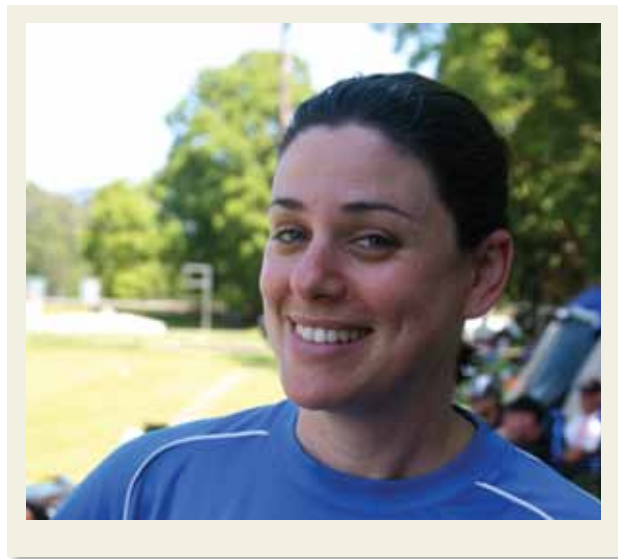


Caroline Lewis

Continued from page 37



Juliet Lewis



Dan Blumberg.



Coach David Lewis.

the winner of the inaugural Johnny Warren Over-35 Women's Cup in Jamberoo NSW.

The Maccabiah Games is scheduled for 2017 in Israel and the team hopes that an Over-35s Women's competition can at last be included in the sporting calendar. If that is the case then The Great Synagogue may just provide the bulk of the players to that team!

"They call us the 'Mum's Army,'" Caroline commented, "but we win with maturity on our side!"

As the matriarch, it has not only been a wonderful experience bringing a team of talented sportswomen together, but it also brings a semblance of sanity into their otherwise crazy busy lives. We also honour the husbands who step in to give our girls the 'time off' to enjoy a team sport and value the close bonds that have been built out of belonging to something special." ❁

Australia Day Honours



Photo: Henry Benjamin

Dr Ronald JOFFE AM

For significant service to neurological medicine as a physician, teacher and advocate. Visiting Medical Officer in Neurology, Department of Neurology, Royal North Shore Hospital, since 1979. Senior Lecturer in Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney, 'many years'. Founding Member, Movement Disorder Society of Australia, 1988; has held a range of positions for the Foundation since 1988. Fellow, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, since 1977. Member, Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists, since 1974; Council Member Lecturer and Advisor, Parkinson's Disease Association. Neurologist in Private Practice, St Leonard's, Sydney, since 1979. Visiting Medical Officer in Neurology, Concord Hospital, 1974-1979.

"It has been a great privilege to have practiced my medicine with some wonderful people. This award is a great honour."



Maxwell David KAHN OAM

For service to aged care. Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home Honorary Secretary, since 2000. Chairman, Admissions Committee, since 2000. Recipient, Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home Foundation Award, 2007. Involved in planning of Randwick campus, completed 2006. Convenor, Annual Montefiore Fete, 1989-2005. Chairman of the Admissions Committee since 2000.

"One of the highlights of my life was being a member of the team which built the Montefiore Home in Randwick," Max Kahn told J-Wire. He added: "We never had a disagreement and worked together cohesively to ensure we met the opening deadline in 2008. I was also part of the team, which revolutionised the admissions process in order to make it easily understood for all."



Associate Professor David Zachary LUBOWSKI OAM

For significant service to medicine in the field of colorectal surgery as a clinician and researcher, and to professional organisations.

Chairman, Department of Surgery, St George Private Hospital, 1996-2002. Conjoint Professor, St George and Sutherland Clinical School, University of New South Wales, over 20 years. Clinical Researcher and Author, over 90 articles and publications for various leading medical publications, many years ongoing. Research Fellow, St Mark's Hospital London, 1985-1987. Visiting Professor, Royal Society of Medicine London, 1998. Surgeon, Sydney Colorectal Associates, ongoing. Fellow, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, current; Council Member, Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery, 1993-1999. Foundation Member, Colorectal Surgical Society of Australia and New Zealand, 1988; Councillor, 1997-2006; Inaugural Member, Research Committee. Chairman, Sydney Colorectal Surgical Society, 1997-1999; Vice-Chairman, 1995-1997; Council Member, 1993-1995. Member, Surgical Research Society of Australasia, current; Editor, Colorectal Section, 'Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery', many years. Member, European Association of Coloproctology, many years. Board Member, Colorectal Foundation (now the Bowel Cancer Foundation), 2002-2010. Member, National Assessor's Panel for Cancer Research grants, Cancer Council Victoria, several years.

"I accept this as recognition that the colorectal taboo is nowhere as serious as it was a decade ago but still not enough people are being screened. We need widespread endorsement and more government support to bring the gravity of colorectal cancer to the attention of the public." He said that 13,000 Australians develop colorectal cancer each year. "Half of them will die," he added saying, "if 6000 were to die in a war there be a public outrage."

**Courage
to Care**

ORDINARY PEOPLE - EXTRAORDINARY ACTS

The Courage of Strangers

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Andrew Havas

"I was seven years old when my family immigrated to Australia. It was 1957 after the Hungarian revolution and we were seeking a new life – a life free from Communism and warring. I was sent to Darlinghurst Public School, which at the time was one of the roughest schools in Sydney. There was never a day in my life I wasn't bullied, often returning home with a torn shirt or no shoes. I was called derogatory names and ridiculed because I spoke and dressed differently. On reflection, I realise these experiences shaped the man I am today and then set my determination to enact positive change in the lives of others."

I am a man of family with an amazing wife and two remarkable boys who have growing families of their own. When I was younger, I served in the Australian Army and went on to forge a successful management career in Telstra and IBM. In 1996, I joined B'nai B'rith and became the founding President of the newly formed Syd Einfeld Unit. Not long after, I established Courage to Care in NSW, a unique and timely exhibition and educational program using stories of rescue from World War II to address issues about social tolerance and positive social action.

Courage to Care is a community outreach initiative of B'nai B'rith that demonstrates the importance of standing up to bullying & prejudice whenever it occurs. In its 16 years, we have held

44 exhibitions, from Perth to Brisbane and in every corner of country NSW and Victoria. More than 201,500 people have attended, including 110,500 students, who have participated in the two-hour workshops. Courage to Care empowers the people usually overlooked in situations involving prejudice and discrimination – that is, the bystanders. The program now encompasses the Queensland Police and is manned by 150 of the most dedicated volunteers.

Now in retirement, I am busier than ever before. Courage to Care is going from strength to strength with the program in increasing demand, particularly in areas of social unrest. Most Australians share an immigrant heritage; it is imperative we seek to overcome divisiveness, discrimination and racism. That is my personal



goal and one that is shared by the numerous Courage to Care volunteers who willingly give their time and their stories to the betterment of Australian society.

In 2009, I received a Medal for the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to the community through the promotion of cultural diversity and understanding. It was a humbling experience and a recognition I bear with great responsibility. 🌸





Moses *Joseph Cup*

Alan Landis

Recently, on a visit to re-evaluate and update the unique and highly important silver collection of The Great Synagogue, I made a major discovery.

A large double-handled, footed, inscribed baluster-shaped cup has been in the collection for many years however it is unknown how it came to be in the synagogue.

The cup bears the inscription “Moses Joseph Esquire” in addition to a testimonial by the members of the Sydney Hebrew Congregation and “as a mark of their esteem and respect for the zeal and ability evinced by him as President during a series of years A M 5609”

The cup is of major importance not just to The Great Synagogue, but to Australian Jewry, as Moses Joseph was one of the first presidents of the York Street Synagogue and a major force in establishing the local Jewish community.

The importance of this cup cannot be underestimated for a number of reasons, the



The cup is of major importance not just to The Great Synagogue, but to Australian Jewry.

population of New South Wales and particularly Sydney at this time (1840) was approximately 45,000 and a high percentage were convicts who certainly would not have had the money necessary to commission an item of silver, certainly not of this size and value. Another factor of its importance was that it was locally made.

Very few local silversmiths would have had the necessary skills to produce such a piece and of course there was a shortage of raw material (silver sheet) to make it.

Thus the majority of silver presentation pieces prior to 1850 were either imported from England, China or India. This depended also on the time frame to purchase or order such a piece. Flatware or cutlery could much more easily be re-

fashioned or melted down into a new piece.

This cup being locally made would suggest a spontaneous commission for presentation, as mentioned above, as to come from overseas would take several months to order, be made and shipped.

The cup was always thought to have been made by a local maker and Joel John Cohen, being one of the more important Sydney based silversmiths and a Jew, was a logical suggestion. His premises were located at the appropriately named "Temple of Fashion" at 479 George Street Sydney. Cohen had arrived in Sydney in 1839 and died in 1853.

The silver collection belonging to The Great Synagogue naturally has a majority of religious based pieces; yadim, breast

plates, rimmonim, crowns and Kiddush cups, but one item, a silver inscribed bell confused me, so I asked Brittany Frelander, the AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum Curator to bring me both the two handled cup and the bell as they both had inscriptions relating to Moses Joseph.

I was working in the museum's office on the second floor on the computer. The dimensions of both the bell and the cup caused reason for further analysis. The diameter of the rim of the cup and the shape of the bell suggested a perfect fit. Well, I doubt a louder scream of delight had emanated from the office for many years when I placed the bell/lid on the Cup. Brittany rushed in from an adjoining office to see if I had had a heart attack. Thank heavens no, just a beaming smile of excitement. The Hebrew date on

the lid and the western calendar date of 1849 on the cup, perfectly tied up and although it bore no makers' mark, as mentioned previously, very few local makers could have produced such a significant large item.

John Wade, a former Curator at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney and a former Editor of the Australian Society Magazine, suggested I refer to the Magnum Opus of Australian Silver, a two volume profusely illustrated reference written by John Hawkins, the major dealer in Australian silver before 1900.

A very similar two handled covered cup was to be found by this same maker JJ Cohen, just confirming this highly significant discovery and a great treasure for the museum and the Australian Jewish community. ❁

George Judah Cohen's Monogram: *a chance discovery*

Jana Vytrhlik

While The Great Synagogue in Sydney is renowned for historical records and a collection of significant Judaica objects, the Sydney Jewish Museum in Darlinghurst has been building extensive archives of the Holocaust survivors' letters, photographs and memorabilia. However, it was a recent acquisition by the Sydney Jewish Museum, which brought these two collections unexpectedly very close together. It also led to a surprising discovery concerning the provenance of one of The Great Synagogue's Judaica treasures.

Earlier in 2015, the Sydney Jewish Museum acquired a pair of antique Sèvres-style porcelain plates, once in possession of George Judah Cohen (1842 – 1937), the legendary personality of Australian Jewry. The decorative plates feature a central panel depicting a magnificent French chateau enclosed by cobalt blue and gilt border and topped with a striking monogram in entwined golden lines. (fig 1) Turning the plates over, a neat hand-written inscription reads 'Manufactured expressly for George J. Cohen, Sydney 1880' (fig 2) Consequently, deciphering the elaborate monogram on the front design was relatively straightforward. In a distinctive style of the late



Fig. 1 One of a pair of decorative porcelain plates featuring monogram G J R C, attributed to George Judah Rebecca Cohen, Sèvres-style, 1880, d. 240 mm. Sydney Jewish Museum Collection M2014/022:001

19th century, the fine golden lines and foliage intertwine to shape ornate letters G J C. Somewhat more obscure yet still noticeable, is the fourth letter R to the left, an initial undoubtedly referring to his beloved wife Rebecca. In 1880 the couple returned to Sydney from Maitland to live in their Potts Point house. Known for their interest in antiques and collection of European paintings, it is conceivable that the occasion was marked by commissioning beautiful display porcelain plates from the famous European manufacturer. (fig 3)

Soon after researching the provenance of the latter porcelain, I visited The Great Synagogue's exhibition 'A Stitch in Time' which presents the exceptional collection of traditional textiles from the AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum. Developed

by Brittany Freeland, the former curator at the Great Synagogue, the display introduces traditional Jewish textiles which have been largely produced in Sydney and donated to the synagogue over the last 150 years. The diversity of historic vestments is remarkable – from large Ark curtains, wedding canopies and Torah mantles to smaller ritual pieces and ceremonial textiles. All items have been lovingly embroidered, woven, quilted or cross stitched and decorated to commemorate a particular family occasion or community event.

It was however one of the more personal items which caught my attention in the 'A Stitch in Time' exhibition. Amongst the group of tallit bags I noticed a burgundy velvet piece with elegant gold embroidered design at the edges. Hand embroidered in flat gold cord, the large initials at the centre form a distinct monogram decorated with tiny golden beads. The exhibition label interprets the initials as H and C, and provides no other attribution. Almost instantly I was reminded of the monogram on the porcelain plates from the Sydney Jewish Museum, which were mentioned earlier in this article. On closer inspection of the tallit bag – (fig. 4) – we can read three partly overlying letters in a decorative script which could be deciphered as G J C. It is therefore perhaps possible to suggest that this particular textile item also belonged to George Judah Cohen, a prominent official of The Great Synagogue for a significant period of his life in Sydney. A tallit bag being a very personal item for an observant Jew, it is understandable, that in this instance, the initial of Cohen's wife or letter R was not included in the embroidered design.

George Judah Cohen, a famed Jewish patriarch, businessman and acknowledged leader of the community at the turn of the 19th/20th Century had very close links with The Great Synagogue and participated in many communal and religious services. Most importantly, he was elected its third President in 1882 and subsequently re-elected several times until 1920. George Judah Cohen's life and achievements are well documented with the AM Rosenblum Museum's notable collection of artefacts, records and memorabilia pertinent to his contributions. These include the rare, early Australian silver mounted Emu egg pen and ink stand, which was engraved and presented to Cohen in 1879 by his previous synagogue, the Maitland Hebrew Congregation at the time of his approaching



Fig. 2 'Manufactured expressly for George J. Cohen Sydney 1880'. Detail of reverse of the Decorative porcelain plate, Sèvres-style, 1880, d. 240 mm. Sydney Jewish Museum Collection M2014/022:001a



Fig. 3 One of a pair of decorative porcelain plates featuring monogram G J R C, attributed to George Judah Rebecca Cohen, Sèvres-style, 1880, d. 240 mm. Sydney Jewish Museum Collection M2014/022:002

move to Sydney. Amongst other treasures at The Great Synagogue is also an outstanding portrait of G.J. Cohen, painted by Jerrold Nathan, a renowned Australian artist (fig.6), along with a bible dated 1870 and, a prayer book from 1914 which once belonged to Cohen.

It is hoped that the proposed attribution of the burgundy tallit bag to the famous patriarch will enrich

Continued Page 46

Continued from Page 45

The Great Synagogue Museum's collection of his personal memorabilia. It may also bring into focus his religious life which went in hand with his public and business achievements during the important period of development of the Jewish community in Australia at the turn of the 19th and 20th century. It is only fitting that Cohen's achievements have also been recognized by major national collecting institutions. For instance, the State Library of NSW holds the exceptional illuminated address presented to Cohen as he left to visit Europe in 1903, and the privately published edition of George Judah Cohen's Memoir, shortly after his death in 1937. In 1925 George Lambert, an Archibald Prize winning artist, painted a portrait of Cohen as a distinguished businessman. The artwork is now in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, and prominently displayed in one of their public galleries. George Judah Cohen's important legacy of charity, piety and excellent business practices is thus being safeguarded and lives on through these precious objects for future generations of Australians of all persuasions. ❁

About the author:

Jana Vytrhlik is currently researching the silver Judaica collection from The Great Synagogue for her PhD thesis at the Art History Department of the University of Sydney. She is also Curator at the Sydney Jewish Museum.



Fig.4 Embroidered Tallit bag featuring monogram G J C, now attributed to George Judah Cohen, 19th century. AM Rosenblum Museum Collection TGS M2007.11.1 (currently on display in the 'A Stitch in Time' exhibition at The Great Synagogue)



Fig. 5 Illuminated address which was presented to George Judah Cohen in February 1903 on the occasion of travelling overseas. AM Rosenblum Museum Collection TGS M1986.1.1

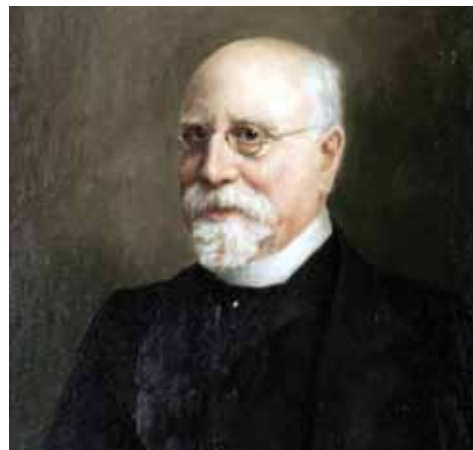


Fig. 6 George Judah Cohen portrait by Jerrold Nathan ca. 1935 AM Rosenblum Museum Collection TGS

New Year's Greetings

L'Shana Tova Great Synagogue
Leslie & Ginny Green



New Year's Greetings

Hinda and Rabbi Ben Elton wish the entire Great Synagogue family a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Caroline, David, Charlotte, Juliet and Naomi Lewis wish all their family and friends a very happy, 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.
Sue, Jake and Ben Selinger*

Wishing all our family and friends a happy, healthy, rewarding Rosh Hashanah and the year ahead. Rosalind and Alex Fischl, together with Tracy, Michael, Harrison and Toby, Dan, Michelle, Saffron, Rocklan and Olive

Welcoming our new rabbinic team, Rabbi Dr Ben Elton and Hinda, Rabbi Danny Yaffe and Sarah Tova, Rabbi Yacov Richter, Rev David Hilton and Stephanie, Chazzan Josh Weinberger and Gila, and wishing them and their families, L'Shana Tova Tikatevu ve'Techatemu.

Rosalind and Alex Fischl and family

Shana Tova from Trish & clan Campbell-Hardwick

Lauren and Brett Levin wish the community Shana Tova.

Barbara and Max Freedman wish all their family and friends a very happy and healthy new year.

Sara and Ken Gresham and family wish all their friends, family and congregants of The Great Synagogue a very happy and healthy New Year and well over the Fast.

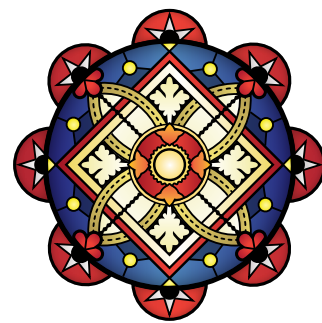


New Year's Greetings

Sandra and Stephen Rothman and family wish their family and friends and all the congregation a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous 5776.

*Wishing you and your family a happy and sweet New Year. May you be blessed with good health, peace and prosperity.
Andrew and Samantha Binetter*

Hilary, Julian and Lauren Black wish the congregation, family and friends a very happy, healthy New Year and well over the fast.



Tania Samuels wishes family, friends, TGS staff & community Shana Tova, a wonderful 5776

Judith Cowan and David, Eleanor and Isabel Hartstein wish all their family and friends a very happy, healthy new year and well over the fast.



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

Wishing all our family and friends happy healthy and a prosperous New Year - Robyn, Garry, Josh and Sam Browne.



Turn every First Date into a Second Date

J-Junction

Your mum tells you you're great. Your mates think you're a nice person. But you know what? In the cutthroat modern world of dating, being just a mensch is not enough.

While you don't have to be a supermodel or own a super yacht, there are some major dating techniques that you would be amiss to miss and they all revolve around being a good communicator - making the other person feel special, heard and understood.

After all, isn't that what we're looking for? The most successful date is when you come home thinking, "YES - that person was so easy to be with and they totally GOT me."

Wouldn't you like to be the object of someone's swooning in that way?

Nothing drives me more bananas than when people encourage each other with trite truisms such as "if they don't like you for you, they're not worth it", or "just be yourself" - as

if that's all we need to do to fall in love and have a healthy modern marriage.

We need so much more, so when people tell you there's nothing you need to work on, it's completely untrue.

In the early days of dating, if you don't have some awareness of fundamental dating communication skills, then you'll come across as mediocre. Don't get offended - I've been there too - and am still constantly working on myself for the benefit of my partner.

What you need to be is your BEST self. That means self aware, polite, present, attentive and focused on the person you are with not on yourself.

Are you only talking about yourself? Have



you asked your date about their aspirations - or even their weekend plans? What is your attitude like on a date - are you approaching it with over-zeal or skepticism?

These are all questions that you need to ask yourself to ensure you're making a good impression - whether it's date 1 or date 100. If you think these things don't matter - or you're not aware of them, then you're risking making a negative impression - and you (or your friends) will never know why.

Here is a list of sneaky behaviours that are blocking your chances of a call back. Read on and change them pronto - and tell me if you don't fall into an awesome relationship stat!

1. Being boring

No- one and no life is boring - but the way we deliver our stories can be. Here is how you can check.

- Are you emphasising every detail?

- Have you been the only one talking for the last 10 minutes?
- Is your date starting to yawn, have their eyes started to glaze over or are they looking at their watch?

Learn the art of the pause, of tempo and of verbal tennis (asking questions and trading insights back and forth) and even talking about paint drying could be a stellar conversation.

2. Being self centred

The amount of dating stories I hear where one party only talk about themselves is just baffling. I think it actually comes from nerves and a desire to fill the space with empty conversation. However, think of your role on the date as a courtier, not the court jester. Focus on making your date feel special.

- Do they have a drink?
- Are you paying attention to what they say?
- Are you asking questions about them and show you've been

listening to what they've been saying?

Watch every time you divert the conversation back to yourself and give yourself a mental slap.

3. Being closed

Yes I know - protection. You've been disappointed and hurt before. But how boring is that? If you think that some magical person is going to come and unhinge your heart's shackles to make you open up, you're wasting everyone's time. Give people something to work with and offer your honest thoughts and feelings in a positive way. Share a few stories about your past. Release all fear of judgment and start to communicate in more than one word answers. If being out with you is like pulling teeth, I promise your prospects would rather go to a dentist.

Other mojo killers can include

- Not knowing how to communicate via text,
- Getting weird during the early phases of a relationship
- Expecting too much (or the wrong things) when



you just hook up

I have much more to share about how to navigate the dating scene. If you would like a FREE Dating Audit (I promise I'll be honest but nice!), then email michelle@j-junction.org.au or hit me up on alina@alinabcoaching.com. You will love it!

We will quickly get to the bottom of what you're doing well, where you're killing your chances and the immediate things you need to do to seriously lift your game (and get those love interest call-backs) pronto. 🌸

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Robert & Debbie Sleigh
Steven & Kate Lewis

30th Wedding Anniversaries

David & Caroline Lewis
John & Ruth Nemesh
Stephen & Jackie Klotz
Leslie & Jessica Brener

40th Wedding Anniversaries

Neville & Louella Israel
Leon & Elisabeth Wicks
Leslie & Ruth Lilian
Jonathan & Sumi Solomon
Maurice & Cheryl Sallick
Phillip & Joanne Meisner
Adam & Cheryl Lazar
Victor & Linda Sekel
Andrew & Melissa Havas
Steve & Sharon Schach
Jerry & Gita Adler
Alfred & Lorraine Rose
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Robert & Shirley Silverton
Michael & Sunny Gold
Michael & Judy Green

60th Wedding Anniversaries

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David & Kay Don
Errol & Pamela Brown
David & Hilda Herrman
Edward & Bella Morrison

Weddings

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Zachary Steven TIRRELL & Rachel Victoria GINGES
Greg Dean MILNER & Nicole Sarah NEUFELD
Adam OFRI & Cara ROSENBERG
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Anthony Charles DRUC & Galina PINSKI
Craig Perry MEYEROWITZ & Anna NOVOCHENOK



Adam Ofri & Cara Rosenberg



Zac Tirrel and Rachel Ginges



Simone Gerry and Darryl Green



Larry Wagenheim and Natalie Hausman



Greg Milner and Nikki Neufeld



Asher Lazar and Ariane Boxall



L'Chaim for Shui & Sheva

Sheva and myself were happily married in Miami, Florida on March 24 this year. Although we had a beautiful wedding I looked forward to sharing our simcha with my Sydney friends and once we arrived back in Sydney had a beautiful L'chaim at The Great Synagogue on April 26. It was beautiful sharing our Simcha with our old friends from The Great, many whom I hadn't seen since my Bar Mitzvah at the Shul. The Great has a special place in my heart as I spent every Shabbos for the first 15 years of my life (and many Weekdays too, driving the office staff crazy!) at The Great and with its wonderful and vibrant community.

Sheva and I would like to once again thank The Great for hosting us for our beautiful Simcha!

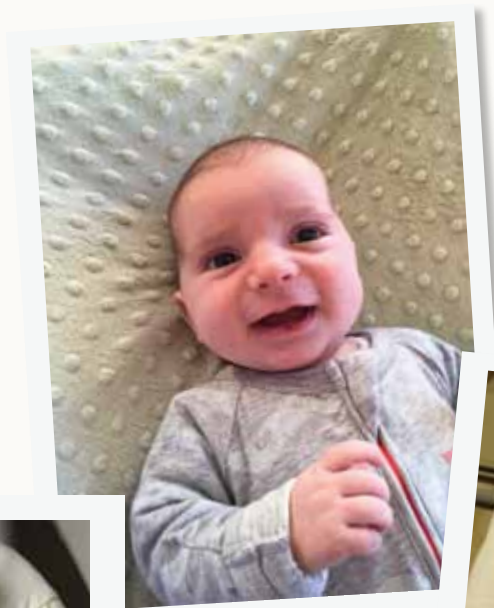
Shui Kastel



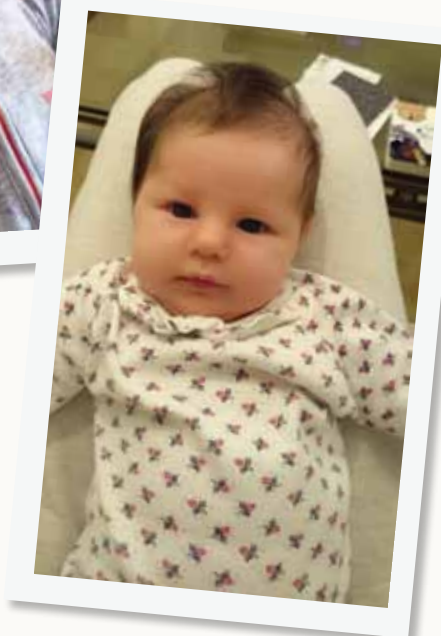
Births



Addison Havas
25/6/2014



Adam Modell



Lola Ruby Wine
8/7/2014



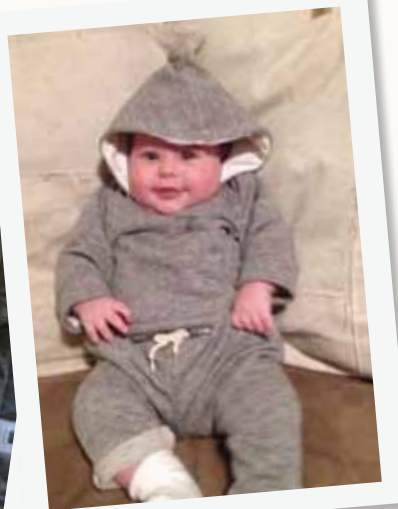
Jack Ethan Kogan 17/6/15



Mali Francis Hammerman
15/5/2015



Ari Shrabal 2/2/2015



Ashira Symonds



Adira Weinberger
8/3/2015

Births



Audrey Schoulal



Milabella Jessie J Kacen 20/1/2015



Reuben Aryeh Sher



Tzvi Hirsch Richter



Toby Nate Fischl



Emma Zoe Blumberg
19/2/2015



Moshe Baruch Yaffe
17/12/14



Noa Schneider



Olivia Chiert
20/7/2014

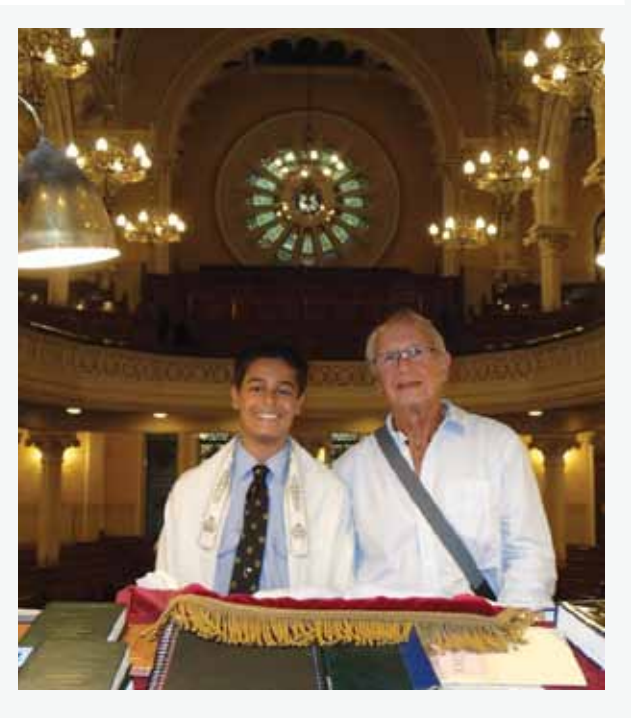
Bar & Bat Mitzvahs

BAR MITZVAHS

Joshua GOLDSMITH	26 APRIL
Oren Shimon LEWIN	16 AUGUST
Ronan DAVIS	19 JANUARY
Elliot ROTENSTEIN	7 FEBRUARY
Ben POSWELL	14 FEBRUARY
Jonah GREEN	21 MARCH

BAT MITZVAHS

Claudia Faye BURMAN	1 NOVEMBER
Renee Leisha SERNACK	24 JANUARY
Jessica TURTLEDOVE	7 JUNE



Jonah Green



Ben Poswell



Mazel Tov!



Ronan Davis



Elliot Rotenstein



Claudia Burman

Reliving our Bar Mitzvahs 47 Years On

Darryl Green & Simon Horry

It was 1968. Rabbi Porush was in the pulpit. Norman Goodman was secretary and he was my Bar Mitzvah teacher.

On the day, forty seven years ago, Simon Horry sat with his dad in a two seater; I sat with my dad in a two seater ... the four of us right in front of the bimah. These Bar Mitzvah seats were used to ensure the Bar Mitzvah boy and his dad had a seat in the event the Shule was full.

The best part of a year was spent preparing for our Bar Mitzvahs. Cheder on Sundays and lessons with Norm preparing for the Shabbat reading and singing. Rabbi Michael Mandel was Simon's teacher.

Last year I accepted my cousin's challenge to do as he did and sing my Bar Mitzvah Haftarah in celebration of my ixtieth ... I've had trouble with the "S" word.

Simon and I agreed to jointly re-enact our Bar Mitzvah at Shule. Unfortunately our fathers were not present physically to join us but we both know our parents were proud in Shamaiyim looking down.

Norman Goodman made me a cassette tape of my Haftarah that I wanted to use for this year's event. I know it was careless of me, but I misplaced it and needed an alternate source of learning. From both of us, it is thanks to Reverend David Hilton who provided us excellent tuition. I have difficulty in understanding how I took a year to learn my portion 47 years ago or how I managed the same this year in a matter of weeks.

So my sixtieth rolled around on Thursday. I had asked for a low key affair. It was a normal work day except for lunch with my daughter then dinner and a show with my gorgeous new bride of six weeks. The ticking over of another decade ended up quite different to the traumatic event I had anticipated.

While I don't have a clear memory, I think I was



Simon on his Bar Mitzvah Day.

nervous when I was 13. Last Saturday I was not nervous but mindful I may embarrass myself if I made any major blunders.

Then the Shabbat...

Joe Kensell had discovered the hiding place of a two-seater Bar Mitzvah chair, moth balled for decades. It was proudly waiting for Simon and I in front of the Bimah. Its rear section is the seat and its front section the book stand which are connected by two metal brackets. The left bracket's screws were almost popping out and doing little while the right bracket was, well, not there at all. The result was the front book section had a lean which would have been more

Continued Page 60

Simon and Eleanor Horry.



Continued from Page 59

pronounced had I not been pressing my shoe against it. John Lenn came over and said “You’ve been here 5 minutes and you’ve already broken it”!

So Simon and I are sitting in this two-seater that has shrunk since we were thirteen. This Bar Mitzvah chair has a plaque “Donated by Israel Green – 1959”. One of several poignant moments for me. It was not simply that Israel Green was my Grandpa’s brother but Uncle Issy gave me Machzorim for my Bar Mitzvah that I still use.

Both Simon and I were

soaking up the feeling of sitting here again 47 years later. We both felt emotional and that was significantly enhanced by doing it together. In the preceding weeks we each claimed to have the harder task. Simon had neither the trop (music) nor the vowels for his Torah reading; my brachas and Haftarah was longer. We were both reassuring each other that we would be fine. As Simon has celebrated previous anniversaries by reading the Haftarah, I said he could score me. Without having heard me he said he scored me 10/10

“for having the guts!”

Then it’s show time. Simon’s up first to read Shevii the seventh portion. I follow for Maftir with Simon reading that from the Torah. David Hilton stands beside me as I sing my brachas and Haftarah squeezing my wrist at appropriate places to indicate I need to take a pause. Having spent the previous few days worrying I might not be prepared in time, I found I was prepared (just) and the experience was such an enjoyable one.

Simon, his wife Eleanor, along with their extended

family and friends were in Shule to share the simcha. We all could feel the ambience of a happy, shared occasion.

This affair continued. Kiddish with birthday cake and certificate presentations followed David and Stephanie Hilton’s gifting of a special lunch for us and our entourage. While David’s culinary skills always delight, the connectivity and intimacy of family and friends to celebrate our milestone meant, for me, that the Bar Mitzvah anniversary was much more significant than the birthday. 🌸

Generations of Celebrations

Renee Sernack's Bat Mitzvah

Max Sernack (99) and his little brother Sidney Sernack (97) had lots to smile about!

They were the proud grandfather and great uncle who came together to celebrate Renee Sernack's Bat Mitzvah. This was one of three celebrations that took place on this occasion at the Montefiore Home, Randwick, on the Sunday proceeding the formal Bat Mitzvah ceremony at The Great.

Renee Sernack is the fifth generation of family to celebrate a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at The Great and is very proud of the fact as the Sernack family has had a very long association with The Great. From its inception, Mordecai Moses, a first fleet relative was the first Shamus at the York St Synagogue and a forerunner to The Great.

Here is an extract from Sidney Sernack's soon-to-be-released book on the history of Jewish life in Sydney through his eyes – although he is now vision-impaired and legally blind.

“Mordechai Moses was born in Poland in about 1777 and later in life he migrated to England. There he was arrested under suspicion of possessing plates that would enable him to produce counterfeit bank notes. In December 1835 he was sentenced to fourteen years for forgery and arrived in Australia on the convict ship “Moffat” on 30 August 1836. He became the Shamus at the York Street Synagogue where he was recognised for his writings and during his lifetime he was regarded as an eminent citizen of Australia. Rabbi Apple confirmed the writings of Mordechai Moses are still in The Great Synagogue Library.” ❁



Always great mates, Max and Sidney on leave World War II.

Special Birthdays

- Emily Klotz 25
 Joshua Freiman 25
 Martin Solomon 30
 Marc Kacen 30
 Lauren Ryder 35
 Marc Inberg 35
 Daniel Abbott 35
 Ilana Lazar 35
 Kate Wine 35
 Adam Pisk 35
 Nicholas Diamond 40
 Daniel Whitten 40
 Karen Goot 40
 Samantha Binetter 40
 Dinah Utian 40
 Vanessa Levy Mesman 40
 Benjamin Goot 40
 Dr Eleanor (Ellie) Freedman 45
 Dr Douglas Samuel 45
 Natasha Abulafia 45
 Adam Rosenblum 45
 Barry Grossman 45
 Dr Phillip Cremer 50
 Arianne Schneider 50
 Rosalie Hirsch 50
 Mark Schneider 50
 Lianne Graf 50
 Nicole Symonds 50
 Joel Werman 50
 Martin Border 55
 Joanna Herrman 55
 Clyllyn Sperling 55
 Robyn Browne 55
 Prof Michael Kohn 55
 Judyth Barripp 55
 Carole Symonds 55
 Robert Weiss 55
 Melinda Berliner 55
 Michael Herrman 55
 Alan Landis 60
 Jonathan Solomon 60
 Simon Horry 60
 Darryl Green 60
 Susan Akerman 60
 Dr David Moddel 60
 Barbara Solomon 60
 Sharon Green 60
 Howard Kacen 60
 Michelle Seery 60
 Prof David Lubowski OAM 60
 Dr Ronald Meyer 65
 Tim Cohen 65
 Brian Pearson 65
 Peter Phillips 65
 Karen Pisk 65
- Neil Morgan 65
 Lesley Borenstein 65
 John Lenn 65
 Esther Cossman 65
 Ruth Lilian OAM 65
 Dr David Rosenfeld 65
 Dennis Broit 65
 Stephen Mednick 65
 Judith Mendoza-Jones 65
 Dr Henry Newman 65
 Susan Klein 65
 Bruce Woolf 65
 Aviva Rosenfeld 65
 Carolyn Rosenberg 65
 Dr Allan Rosenberg 65
 Robynanne Woolf 65
 Gabriel Bloom 65
 Warren Faust 65
 David Michaels 65
 Dr George Jacobs 65
 Barbara May Cohen 65
 Dr Leon Wicks 70
 Geoffrey Frumar 70
 Sorin Dascalu 70
 Kenneth Wolf 70
 Judith McLallen 70
 Fabio Caviglia 70
 Barbara Goodman 70
 Rosalind Fischl OAM 70
 Elizabeth Robinson 70
 Rochelle Goot 70
 Pamela Sackville 70
 Susan Nicolas 70
 Linda Butler 70
 Anne Andrews 70
 Beth Berman 70
 Steven Jurke 70
 Philip Mendoza-Jones 70
 Nessa Joseph 75
 Maurice Kiss 75
 Gillian Samuel 75
 Carol Chirlan 75
 Prof Peter Zelas OAM 75
 Jacqueline McCauley 75
 Dr Stevie Whitmont 75
 Wendy Symon 75
 Jean Trevor 75
 Pamela Jacobs 75
 Harley Cremer 75
 Sandra Marx 75
 Shoshana Israel 75
 Allan Rosenthal 75
 Dr Peter Eisman 75
 Dorothy Fletcher 75
 Beverley Birnbaum 75
- Allan Robinson 75
 Stephen Marks 75
 Gary Marx 75
 Louis Nicolas 75
 Prof David Richmond AM 75
 Janice Kaplan 75
 David Scheinberg 75
 Shirley Silverton 75
 Shirley Roozendaal 80
 Shirley Ehrlich 80
 Warwick Abadee 80
 Shirley Herman 80
 John Roozendaal 80
 William Wigoder 80
 Faye Michael 80
 Pamela Brown 80
 Sari Browne OAM 80
 Shirley Newman 80
 Rachel Goldberg 80
 John Wolff 80
 Diana-Rose Orr 80
 Kay Don 80
 George Spitzer 80
 Neville Israel 80
 Shirley Maybloom 80
 Hillary Waldman 80
 Loretta Don 80
 Rodney Rosenblum AM 80
 David Levenston 80
 Bella Morrison 80
 David Emanuel 80
 Edward Swirsky 80
 Marilyn Davis 80
 Harry Jackson 85
 Naomi Lewis 85
 Leonora Bassin 85
 Leslie Brener AM 85
 Benita Barnett 85
 Ruth Hodes 85
 Alfred Rodney 85
 Dita Vogel 85
 Ross Goldstein 85
 Shirley Cohen 85
 Jacqueline Alexander 85
 Lionel Green 85
 Geoffrey Basser 85
 Anne Cohen 85
 Trudy Moddel 85
 Shirley Solomon 85
 Leonard Werman 85
 Leon Portrate 85
 Estelle Hartstein 85
 Valerie Cohen 85
 Carmen Mednick 85
 Jack Woolf 85
- Nathan Spatt 90
 Janette Owen 90
 Dr Leonard Green OAM 90
 Leon Fine 90
 Win Rubens 90
 Fred Street AM 90
 Joe Symon 90
 Trudy Davis 90
 Nina Glasser 90
 Wesley Browne OAM 90
 Neil Cohen 90
 Sybil Joel 90
 Ruth Solomons 90
 Leah Meisner 95
 Dr Keith Lazarus 95
 Edward Jaku OAM 95
 Jacob Belfer 95
 Dr Bruce Symonds 95
 Neil Glasser MVO 96
 Max Sernack 98
 Etlā Goot 101
 Louise Rosenberg OAM 101
 Ernest Lenn 104



Etlā Goot 101



Louise Rosenberg 101 OAM

The Power of the Jewish Woman

Rebbetzin Sara-Tova Yaffe

One of the most common questions that arise at our Shabbat table, is 'What is the role of the Jewish Woman?' In our modern era, where the woman is encouraged to take on roles both in the workplace and in the home, it may leave the woman asking, 'What does Judaism have to say about my role, mission and place in this world?'

In Judaism, the woman is referred to as 'akeret habayit', literally meaning 'the foundation or cornerstone of the home'. It is she who largely determines the character, atmosphere and ambiance of the entire home and family.

It is the Jewish woman that determines and guides the 'Jewish character' of her home, not only on Shabbat and Festivals, but on the ordinary weekdays. The Jewish woman infuses the spiritual and mundane activities with meaning, enthusiasm and sensitivity. It is the Jewish

woman that ensures the home becomes an abode for G-dliness and spirituality; a home where G-d feels welcome, and who's presence is felt.

The Jewish woman guides the relationship between husband and wife; she sanctifies the relationship by immersion into holy Mikvah waters and brings an awareness of the third partner of creation, 'G-d', into the marriage.

It is the Jewish woman that instills into her offspring, from their most tender age, the love and fear of G-d, permeating them with the joy and passion of doing good deeds and helping others.

We have been entrusted with and are completely in charge of the foods and beverages that come into our kitchen and appear on our dining room tables. We have been given the great privilege of ushering in the holy Shabbat by lighting the candles on Friday, in ample time before sunset.

Thus, the Jewish woman actually and symbolically brightens up her home with peace and harmony every single week.

It is largely in the Jewish woman's merit that G-d bestows the blessing of true happiness on her husband and children and the entire household.

In addition to such mitzvot as candle-lighting, separating challah from the dough, and others which the Torah entrusted primarily to Jewish daughters, there are many matters which lie in the woman's domain.

In all that has been said above, the Jewish woman, wife and mother – the Akeret Habayit – has a primary role, second to none. It is largely – and in many respects exclusively – her great task and privilege to give her home and family its truly Jewish atmosphere.

Perhaps as a preface to all that has been said, we must not forget that the very 'Jewishness' and religious identity of a person is dependent on the mother, the Jewish

woman. This very fact indicates the woman's primary role in preserving Jewish identity and values.

This is the great task and mission which G-d gave to Jewish women – to observe and disseminate the observance of these vital institutions of Jewish family life. The above stated does not mean that the Jewish woman's place is solely in the home and that she should not follow a career. Rather, it is the realisation that the primary role of the Jewish woman is to be the mainstay of her home and family – the home and family unit being the nucleus of the Jewish community.

Modern day psychologists are affirming more and more what the Torah has always taught us: that a secure and loving home built on solid moral and ethical values is the basic building block of society. It is our obligation, responsibility and privilege as Jewish women, to fulfill this vital role that G-d has bestowed upon each and every one of us. ❀

Anna Reich

1920-2015

daughter, Sylvia Eisman



Anna Reich

Anna Reich was a survivor of the Holocaust, but was never defined by it. The story of her new, post-Holocaust life really begins with her words “What a wonderful country is Australia.” She was deeply grateful for the freedom to live in a peaceful country, and could hardly believe her eyes when, in 1952, she witnessed Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies arriving at the Ryde Town Hall without bodyguards to make a relaxed speech.

Australia offered her opportunity and reward for hard work, and with determined optimism, that is just what she did.

Anna and her husband Edmund (originally Mendel, and affectionately “Mundek”) formed a great team, and began to build a life of optimistic endeavour through long hours, hard work and creative flair.

In 1952 the AnnaRich for Fashion and Quality boutique opened its doors in Eastwood. The upmarket and imported garments which included some by Norman Hartnell, a designer for Queen Elizabeth, were all sold out within 48 hours. This small beginning grew into a chain of successful stores in the Eastwood, Ryde and Hornsby areas and enjoyed the patronage of many high-profile clients.

Anna’s unique fashion sense and style was greatly admired and she brought a modern trend into Australia. Her personal elegance inspired confidence, and certainly contributed to her success in the fashion world.

“She could elevate a simple scarf into a piece of art when she wore it,” granddaughter Kathryn said.

Australia had gained a new citizen who

wanted to give back to this country.

Anna’s entrepreneurial spirit changed the Eastwood shopping area when, in 1962, she and Edmund built the Eastwood Arcade and a bridge linking it to the council car park. During all these years of building a business Anna was a devoted caring mother, who made sure that every educational opportunity was available for her children Sylvia and Gregory. Her high standards were the template for her family life as well as her business. She retired from the fashion business in 1976.

Anna’s happy life in Australia might not have turned out this way, save for what she described as a miracle – the remarkable good fortune to come under the care and protection of Oskar Schindler. This was a time when humanity hid its face; where bystanders were the rule, and rescuers the exception.

Her remarkable story of survival, while retaining her humanity and enduring spirit, begins in Krakow, Poland. The younger daughter of Lola and Wolf Lipshutz, she was born on September 14, 1920. Despite Krakow being



An exhibition about Jewish designers featuring Anna Reich’s label Anna Rich.

a centre of Jewish spiritual life, Anna enjoyed a secular lifestyle and education. Her aspiration to become a doctor was thwarted by quotas restricting certain groups, including Jews. Dux of her primary school, she went on to high school, studying economics and commerce. In her late teens she persistently door-knocked, and succeeded in obtaining a position as an administrator for a large

Continued on Page 66

Continued from Page 65

paper company. Years later she recalled how proud she was to give her first pay packet to her mother, as the family was struggling.

In September 1939 Poland was invaded, and the job was lost. The Krakow-Podgurze ghetto was established by the Nazis, and Anna married Mendel Reich, her childhood sweetheart, in the ghetto in 1940. Anna recalled that on the way to her wedding she was stopped and forced to mend socks for the Nazis, making her late. A couple of years later both were forcibly removed to Krakow's new concentration camp, Plaszow, a forced labour camp where she worked in the locksmith barrack.

Meanwhile Anna's mother and sister were sent on a transport to the Treblinka extermination camp, and her grandmother shot in her hospital bed. Anna was only 20, and spent almost 70 years trying to suppress and forget what she called the "inhumanity of the time".

As the Russian front slowly approached, Plaszow was evacuated of slave labourers in late 1942, and Anna transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. There she experienced one of the "miracles" that saved her – while in the gas chamber a window was

Meanwhile Anna's mother and sister were sent on a transport to the Treblinka extermination camp, and her grandmother shot in her hospital bed.

broken, and her group was withdrawn. Another was a friend giving her four tiny potato balls, which she said gave her the will to live when she had all but given in.

The greatest miracle was being transported to Brunnlitz to work in the munitions factory as one of the fortunate few on Schindler's list. Anna is not sure how this came about, but he saved her and the generations to follow. Knowing that not one grenade she produced would be effective was satisfying. Edmund was also on the list, coming from the Gross-Rosen concentration camp. They remained in Schindler's factory until it was liberated by the Russians in April 1945.

Anna and Edmund went to Berlin where there was a large Red Cross agency to search for survivors. Only two aunts had survived. All others from her large extended family had perished, as had Edmund's family save one brother in Russia, whose survivor's guilt haunted him all his life.

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration facilitating refugees to emigrate was also in Berlin. Anna and Edmund stayed in the city until 1950, where their daughter Sylvia was born. That year, with 480 other refugees, they boarded the Castel Bianco, a crowded converted freighter, eventually arriving at Melbourne, then the migrant hostel at Bonegilla, near Albury-Wodonga.

With her husband and daughter unwell, Anna decided that this was not the place to stay and travelled to Sydney, where she found accommodation in Ryde. So began her new life with her small family.

Later in life her generosity of spirit and tireless energy contributed to supporting many charities with fashion parades. One was the Royal Deaf and



Ann Reich

Blind Children's Society which honoured her with life membership. She was persuaded to comper some of these parades herself, having been told her charming accent would only add to the appeal. She was reluctant, as English was not her first language, but it was a triumph.

Anna enjoyed recognition for her contribution to fashion at the 2012-2013 exhibition Dressing Sydney at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Following this she received so many letters from past clients relating how much they enjoyed and still enjoy wearing the garments she selected so astutely for them. This gave her much joy and satisfaction.

The years following were devoted to family and charities, as now there was time to enjoy her grandchildren. Edmund died in 1992, but Anna continued to embrace life, playing bridge, driving until she was 93 and giving love and wise counsel to her children and grandchildren who were her *raison d'être*.

Anna moved into the Montefiore Home in Randwick just before her 92nd birthday, but never one to hand over the reins she continued

1	Abraham Joseph	24. 7.07	Schreibkraft
2	Abzug Samuel	10. 6.04	ang.Metallverarb.
3	Abzug Samuel	9. 6.25	Schreibkraft
4	Berlinerblau Leoi	25.12.22	Schlosserges.
5	Oestreicher Jakob	7. 5.17	Tischler
6	Youn Feftail	11. 9.13	ang.Metallverarb.
7	Adler Alexander	75. 8.23	Glaser
8	Bialywiec Alexander	4. 6.23	Feiler-Schlosserges.
9	Abman Josef	20.10.12	Schlosserges.
59110	Baldinger Isak	11.11.22	Wasserleit. Ges.
1	Hert David	24. 6.23	ang.Metallverarb.
2	Gorsion Hal Lech	22.8.21	ang.Metallverarb.
3	Blackfischer Jacob	17. 7.09	ang.Metallverarb.
4	Blatt Henryk	31. 5.20	Kutscher
5	Bringer David	18.10.21	ang. Automechanik
6	Kornblau Jakob	20. 7.08	ang.Metallverarb.
7	Goldberg Alfred	3. 4.17	ang.Metallverarb.
8	Grauer Wilhelm	3.12.14	Verkaufsschloßer
9	Gröb Oskar	23. 4.14	Maschinenbediener
59120	Kukorin Emma	6. 8.17	Schlosserges.
1	Kocher Sieje	6. 7.18	Schneiderges.
2	Kober Ignacy	11. 5.15	ang.Metallverarb.
3	Kortzinger Sigler	16. 9.18	Meiler- Lackiererm
4	Landendorfer Isak	7. 4.23	ang.Metallverarb.
5	Friedman Leon	27. 4.02	Elektrikermeister
6	Lejzon David	1. 8.27	Hilfsarbeiter
7	Lejzon David	15. 3.23	Hilfsarbeiter
8	Lejzon David	19.12.25	Hilfsarbeiter

The NSW State Library holds a copy of one of Oskar Schindler's lists of protected Jewish employees. (NSW State Library)

to manage her business until relatively recently. She had a keen sense of humour and could tell a risqué joke with style. She enjoyed her mobile and iPad, Skyping her grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the US until a day before her passing.

Anna was a dedicated supporter of Jewish causes and Israel throughout her life, but never constrained by racial or religious boundaries. She embraced humanity, always telling her children that people are essentially good.

Anna's love for her children and grandchildren was her inspiration to thrive, and her belief that life was to be lived to the full are the things that define her. Her love for Australia and its blessings continued all her life. ❀

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Egg & Onion

Egg and onion has been part of my parents' Shabbat dinner for as long as I can remember and it is now part of mine.

Monday Morning Cooking Club

Ingredients

3 brown onions, diced
185 ml ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup) vegetable oil
12 eggs

It makes me smile to think how Mum always served a scoop of egg and onion (using an ice-cream scoop!) on a piece of lettuce on each plate. We were taught the recipe by our wonderful Greek housekeeper, Pat, who had learnt the recipe from my grandmother and aunts.

Method

Put the onions and oil in a large frying pan and fry for about 20 minutes, or until golden brown and very soft. Meanwhile, boil the eggs for 8–10 minutes until hard-boiled.

Remove the pan from the heat, drain and then cover the eggs with cold water. When just cool enough to handle, peel the eggs and grate into a large bowl using the coarse side of a grater.

Spoon the onions onto the egg, leaving most of the oil in the pan. Season generously with salt and pepper, and combine the onions and egg with your hands or a wooden spoon, tasting as you go. If too dry, add a little oil from the pan. The mixture should stick together if pressed with your hand, but should not be overly oily.

Cover with plastic wrap until ready to serve, pressing the wrap onto the surface of the egg and onion so it doesn't dry out. Keep at room temperature and serve with challah or bagels.

Serves 12 as a starter.



We are continuing our search across the global Jewish community to preserve and share treasured recipes for our next book. If you or someone you know (here or overseas) has some tried and tested (and fabulous!) recipes please email us at info@mondaymorningcookingclub.com.au

Flammen tsimmes brisket

We always ate this sweet brisket at Pesach and Rosh Hashanah.

Jacqui Wasilewsky - Monday Morning Cooking Club

Ingredients

1 tablespoon vegetable oil
 2 kg (4 lb 8 oz) piece fresh beef brisket
 2 onions, halved and sliced into wedges
 1 kg (2 lb 4 oz) waxy potatoes (such as kipfler), peeled and thickly sliced
 400 g (1 3/4 cups) pitted prunes
 sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
 175 g (1/2 cup) golden syrup (light treacle)
 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Method

You will need a saucepan large enough to hold the brisket. Heat the oil in the pan and brown the brisket on both sides. Add the onion, potato, three-quarters of the prunes and 2 teaspoons of salt. Cover with boiling water and half the golden syrup. Bring to the boil, partially cover, then simmer until quite tender, at least 1 1/4 hours.

Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F/Gas 4).

Take the meat out of the liquid and place in an ovenproof dish. Strain and reserve the liquid, and spoon the onion, potato and prunes on top of the brisket. Pour enough liquid into the dish so that it comes halfway up the meat. Top with the remaining prunes and golden syrup. Sprinkle over 1/2 teaspoon of salt and plenty of pepper. Roast, uncovered, basting every 15 minutes or so,

for 1–1 1/2 hours, or until the meat is fork tender. To serve, sprinkle with the lemon juice. *Serves 8.*

About Jacqui

Opposed to the apartheid regime in South Africa in the 1970s, my parents immigrated to Australia. I was only eleven when we arrived, and Sydney has been my home ever since.

My parents both enjoy good food and wine but being doctors, they decided it was better for their health to follow a low-fat diet. Notwithstanding, all the women in my family became good cooks, always exchanging recipes and experimenting.

My interest in cooking, though, came from my dad. In the early years Mum, while studying to be a pathologist, was always working weekends so Dad took up cooking as a hobby, making amazing curries and Creole and Cajun dishes – all from scratch.

I would spend days with him seeking out hard-to-find herbs and spices. We started cooking together each Sunday and still do so, decades later. My husband, Hilton, and I have three children.

My father's and my passion for cooking now spans three generations, creating a special bond in the kitchen.



Originally from my grandmother, who was quite secretive with her recipes, my mother learned it by simply watching and copying. Due to ill health, my mother can no longer cook, but we all think and talk about her when I make this dish. It has a particular sweetness for me that goes far beyond its taste.



Uzynik

(Polish Potato Cake)

Jacqui Wasilewsky - Monday Morning Cooking Club

Ingredients

250 ml (1 cup) vegetable oil
12 pontiac potatoes, peeled and grated
(4 heaped cups)
2 eggs, beaten
2 onions, grated
90 g (O cup) fine matzo meal (or flour)
1–2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon pepper

Every year that my mother makes this at Passover (for almost fifty guests) it is a little different – some years a little overcooked and deliciously crunchy, other years softer and oilier with just a little crunch around the edges.

Method

Preheat the oven to 200°C. Pour the oil into a large deep baking dish (about 40 x 30 cm) and place in the oven to heat.

Squeeze the grated potatoes with your hands until dry. Place in a bowl with the eggs, onions and matzo meal and mix together.

Season to taste with the salt and pepper. Carefully remove the hot baking dish from the oven and spoon the mixture into the oil, spreading it out to cover the base.

Bake for 1 hour 15 minutes until golden. Allow to cool, then cut into large squares. Reheat in a 200°C oven until piping hot, brown and sizzling.

Serves 12.



High Holy Days *at a Glance*



Rosh Hashanah:

Rosh Hashanah literally means 'Head of the Year' in Hebrew. It is the beginning of ten days of earnest reflection and prayers when we repent the sins we have committed in the past year and pledge to do better in the year to come. The spirit of this day is therefore solemn, and we spend much of the day in prayer.

Rosh Hashanah is observed on the 1st and 2nd days of Tishrei, which is the seventh month of the Jewish year. Tradition holds that one day is not enough for all the searching of the heart that is called for.

Rosh Hashanah is also considered to be the birthday of the world, the birthday of Adam (the first man), the day on which Sarah first learned that she would have Isaac, and the day Isaac was born. It is also the day on which Hannah learned that she would have a child.



Fast of Gedaliah:

The Fast of Gedaliah (Tzom Gedaliah) commemorates the assassination of Gedaliah ben Achikam, who was the governor of Israel appointed by Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylonia, after he had captured Jerusalem and destroyed the (First) Temple. The murder of Gedaliah is often compared with the destruction of the Temple, because it cost so many Jewish lives and brought the end of Jewish settlement in Israel for many years.



Yom Kippur:

Yom Kippur means the 'Day of Atonement'. That is, the day when we try to make up for any wrong things we have done. It is a day of fasting which starts at sunset on the 10th Tishrei and finishes when night falls on the 11th Tishrei.

Yom Kippur is also called 'The Sabbath of Sabbaths'. It is the most holy day in the Jewish year. It is the day when God decides what will happen to every Jewish person in the year ahead.

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Sukkot:

'Sukkah' is the Hebrew word for 'booth' or 'tabernacle'. 'Sukkot', the plural, is the name of the festival of booths. It refers to the huts in which the Israelites dwelled during their years in the desert after leaving Egypt.

Sukkot marks the end of the High Holydays, with their serious focus on repentance. It is therefore a joyous festival, one of the Three Pilgrim Festivals.

Sukkot begins two weeks after Rosh Hashanah, on the eve of the 15th day of Tishrei, and is observed for seven days, until the 22nd Tishrei.



Hoshanah Rabbah:

Hoshanah Rabbah is the special name for the seventh day of Sukkot. It is the end of the serious time in the Jewish year that starts with Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year). Hoshanah Rabbah is the last day of this time of judgement as we believe that right up until the end of this day, God may change his judgment about what will happen to us during the coming year.

Although important, Hoshana Rabbah is not a yom tov or Shabbat (day on which work is forbidden). We are still allowed to work and do everyday activities, like go to school, cook, drive in cars and so on.



Shemini Atzeret:

Shemini Atzeret means 'eighth [day of] assembly' and occurs on the 22nd day of Tishrei, which also coincides with the 8th (and final) day of the Sukkot festival. However, it is a full holyday (on which work is not permitted) in its own right as God commanded its observance in the Torah even separately from the observance of Sukkot, as it is written in the Book of Numbers (BaMidbar): 'On the eighth day you shall hold a solemn gathering; you shall not work at your occupation.'

Outside Israel, the 2nd day of Shemini Atzeret is known by the special name of Simchat Torah ('Rejoicing of the Law'), but inside Israel Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are observed on the same day. Because they are celebrated on the same day, in Israel Shemini Atzeret tends to be neglected in favour of the much more exuberant celebration of Simchat Torah.



Simchat Torah:

It is the festival where we finish reading the Torah and start again from the beginning. Its name means 'Rejoicing of the Torah' [being happy about the Torah].

Just like during the seven days of Sukkot and on Shemini Atzeret, on Simchat Torah people make hakafot (walk or dance in circles) around the bimah of the synagogue carrying the lulav and etrog.

On Simchat Torah the hakafot include special dancing with the Torahs held up in the air. Children often join in and ride on their fathers' shoulders during this.

For Service Times at a Glance see page 76.

High Holy Days

Service Times at a Glance

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday 13 September, 2015
Candlelighting: 5:25pm
Mincha and Ma'ariv: 5:40pm

1st Day Rosh Hashanah

Monday 14 September, 2015
Shacharit: 7:45am
Sermon: 10:00am
Mincha followed by Tashlich: 1:30pm
Candlelighting for Second Day after 6:24pm
Ma'ariv: 6:30pm (enter via Elizabeth Street)

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday 15 September, 2015
Shacharit: 7:45am
Sermon: 10:00am
Mincha: 1:30pm
Yom Tov Ends: 6:25pm

Fast of Gedaliah

Wednesday 16 September, 2015
Fast from dawn 4:38 am to 6:13 pm

Shabbat Shuva

Saturday 19 September, 2015
Candlelighting: 5:40pm
Shacharit: 8:45am
Drasha followed by Kiddush & Mincha: 11:00am
Shabbat ends: 6:27pm

Kol Nidrei (Erev Yom Kippur)

Tuesday 22 September, 2015
Mincha: 12:30pm (enter via Castlereagh St)
Candlelighting and Fast begins: 5:31pm
Kol Nidrei Service: 5:45pm

Yom Kippur

Wednesday 23 September, 2015
Shacharit: 8:00am
Sermon 11:10am
Yizkor: Approx 11:30am
Mincha followed by Ask the Rabbi: 2:45pm
Sermon and Ne'ilah: 5:00pm
Ma'ariv and Shofar (Fast ends): 6:30pm

Erev Sukkot

Sunday 27 September, 2015
Candlelighting: 5:35pm
Mincha and Ma'ariv: 5:45pm

1st Day Sukkot

Monday 28 September, 2015
Shacharit: 8:45am
Mincha and Ma'ariv: 5:45pm
Candlelighting after 6:34pm

2nd Day Sukkot

Tuesday 29 September, 2015
Shacharit: 8:45am
Mincha and Ma'ariv: 5:45pm
Yom Tov ends: 6:40pm

Hoshanah Rabbah

Sunday 4 October, 2015
Shacharit and Breakfast: 8:30am (enter via Castlereagh St)
Mincha and Ma'ariv: 6:40pm
Candlelighting: 6:40pm

Shemini Atzeret

Monday 5 October, 2015
Shacharit: 8:45am
Yizkor: Approx 10:30am

Simchat Torah (evening)

Monday 5 October, 2015
Mincha followed by festivities: 7:00pm
Candlelighting after 7:39pm

Simchat Torah (morning)

Tuesday 6 October, 2015
Shacharit: 8:45am
Hallel and Hakafot: 9:20am
Kiddush followed by Mincha: 1:00pm
Yom Tov ends: 7:40pm

Weekday morning services between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (with Selichot), and on Chol Hamoed Sukkot, will take place at 6.45 am. Entry from Castlereagh Street.

Children's and Youth Services will be available as will crèche services. Please contact the Synagogue for details.



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The Hon.
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