

# THE GREAT VINE

ISSUE #5 ROSH HASHANAH 5780 / 2019-2020



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE  
SYDNEY



GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
SYDNEY

Message from

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC  
Governor of New South Wales**

On behalf of the people of New South Wales, I send warm greetings to The Great Synagogue and the Jewish community on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah.

On many occasions during my time as a Judge, I attended The Great Synagogue annual service to open the Law Term. The beauty of the building, the glorious music and the warmth of the community made an indelible impression, as did the wisdom of the sermons delivered on those occasions.

The Jewish community has made a significant contribution to the civic life of our State and nation since 1788. Some of the earliest depictions of our city feature synagogues, the parent congregations of today's Great Synagogue.

Institutions of the Jewish community, including in the fields of health, aged care, religious worship, education and heritage continue to be examples of excellence and commitment to service.

New Year is time to take stock of the past twelve months and make positive resolutions for the future. May we all enjoy "a good and sweet year" - Shana tova umetuka!

**Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC  
Governor of New South Wales**



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## Acknowledgment of Country

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



# THE GREAT - after 141 years,

Justice Stephen Rothman AM, President

**It has been a great honour to serve The Great Synagogue as President for almost five years and before that as Vice President.**

My first task as Vice President was to assist the then President, Michael Gold OAM, and Vice-President, Max Freedman, in deciding to appoint a Chazzan, subsequently choosing Josh Weinberger.

While President, the Board has chosen a new Chief Minister, Rabbi Elton; then a new General Manager, Lynn Niselow; and more recently a new Assistant Rabbi, Rabbi Phil (as he prefers to be known). It seems one of my last tasks will be once more, to come full circle in selecting a new Chazzan!

It has been neither an endless nor a fruitless task, but a great pleasure to see the transformation of the Shule and its reputation. The Great Synagogue continues to be regarded as the Mother Congregation of Australian Jewry and the hub of contact with the NSW Jewish Community for religious and other purposes. Its reputation has been extended such that we are seen as a warm, inclusive community, offering friendship and an intelligent, socially aware and welcoming brand of modern Orthodox Judaism. Much of this has been due to the hard work and intellect of Rabbi Elton and Hinda.

In July we said farewell to Chazzan



Weinberger and his family as they made Aliyah, and that was an opportunity to recognise the tremendous contribution his outstanding voice and religious commitment made to our services,

and his work as a Minister of the Congregation. We wish Josh, Gila and their girls all the best in Israel.

The Executive has worked extremely well as a team, but will change at this





# SYNAGOGUE

## still a work in progress

AGM. Ken Gresham will not be standing as Treasurer in order to concentrate his efforts on the Foundation we have established. This is our most urgent and important task, the success of which will ensure our long-term viability.

Similarly, Caroline Lewis will not be standing as Vice-President, to allow a seamless succession in Honorary Officers and continuity of the values she was so instrumental in achieving. Her talents will continue to be utilised by The Great Synagogue, as she will chair one, or more, of the committees, the work of which is essential for the future of The Great Synagogue and guarantees the continuation of the values we have established.

It seems insufficient to extend our gratitude to each of them, on my own behalf and on behalf of the whole congregation, for all the hours and effort they have expended for us, and the contribution each has made to the success of The Great. Nevertheless, we owe them that and much more.

Max Freedman will continue to bring his wisdom to the Executive and to expend his efforts on our behalf and his continued contribution is much appreciated.

There are many others to thank, but I include that in my AGM Report.

We have much to celebrate and still much to achieve. This will take energy and funds. We have a very bright future

ahead: youth programmes; excellent services; and the real benefits of the warm and caring community that all of us have the opportunity to enjoy.

We are also in the process of improving security and we wish to make our services even more inclusive and enjoyable. Once we secure our financial future, there are significant physical alterations that can be undertaken to make every service more

the Inner City. But the real difference is you!

I thank all of you for your participation and urge an even greater level of involvement – so you too can feel the satisfaction that comes with the enjoyment of the company of like-minded community members; the friendship; the intellectual and emotional stimulation and companionship; and the satisfaction of

**The Great Synagogue continues to be regarded as the Mother Congregation of Australian Jewry and the hub of contact with the NSW Jewish Community for religious and other purposes.**

inclusive. No alterations will be made without members' consultation. There are also further minor alterations in the service that can make it more inclusive and participatory.

Then there are the physical facilities that can make The Great an even Greater Synagogue and hub of activity – the heart of the Jewish Community in

seeing first-hand the successes as they occur.

Modern society and modern technology can be very isolating. Yet mankind is a social being. Join us more often to enjoy real social contact as a member of our friendly and growing community! L'Shana Tova!



# FROM THE RABBI: Stronger and warmer

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton



**Thriving shules are places of warmth and connection, with other people and with our faith and its traditions. They provide a variety of ways for people with different interests to engage with Judaism and other Jews, and the services they offer are of the highest quality. That is what we are trying to achieve at The Great Synagogue, and every year I feel we are realising our aim more completely.**

When Hinda, Lizzie and I returned from a holiday in the United States in June, on our first week back I was struck by the warmth in the Shule on Shabbat morning. There was a palpable sense of love and connection from and between the congregation. That made it a joy to come home, and it is something we can be very proud of, and we have to ensure keeps growing.

The past year has featured many highlights. For me an outstanding

feature has been the success of our programs for young families. Rabbi Richter's weekly children's service has always been excellent, and recently Hinda added a monthly Tot Shabbat for under fours. They have now broadened out into other activities which have attracted many enthusiastic participants, on Simchat Torah, Purim, Shavuot, and a Sunday morning summer picnic.

The Jewish Enrichment Program

run by Michael Sassoon provides pre bar and bat mitzvah education in non-Jewish schools and builds a connection with The Great. Young Great organises events for 20s and 30s, always attracting a strong crowd for an enjoyable evening. Hinda and I enjoy inviting the congregation to our home, either for an open-house or for Shabbat and Yom tov hospitality. We have spent many happy meals with members over the past year.

Everyone enjoys the monthly communal Shabbat lunches, which builds the social side of the Shule and gives us a chance to hear from a range of visiting speakers. I want to thank the Women's Auxiliary who contribute to the sponsorship and lay out the lunch.





They also provide us with Kiddush unless it is otherwise sponsored, do other work for the Shule and hold other events through the year. An important annual event is the Women of Worth Shabbat, which was a hit once more in July. All women's activities will in future come under the umbrella of Great Women, allowing fruitful co-ordination among all the initiatives. For those who are older or unwell, pastoral care remains a top priority for the clergy, and we are enthusiastically supported by the Pastoral Care Committee.

Services this year have been impressive and enjoyable. Chazzan Weinberger burnished his reputation as an outstanding cantor and the Choir went from strength to strength under the direction of Justin Green. Shabbat and Yom Tov mornings are always a treat, and Festival Evening Services have become a highlight of Pesach, Shavuot and Succot. The Chazzan and Choir produced a CD this year, which you will be able to buy from the Synagogue shop or online. Weekday morning, lunchtime and Shabbat Maariv and Mincha services are all in a healthy state, although we always welcome new faces. Rabbi Richter continues to lein impeccably, Ezra Wexler has contributed much towards weekday services, and our Gabbai, Steve Schach, makes Shabbat, Yom Tov, the Law Service and other events run smoothly.

Education comes in many forms, from a post bar and bat mitzvah group that I run, to courses held in conjunction with the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, the one-on-one study I am engaged with, Lunch and Learn, Shabbat morning Rashi and the Book Club. The exhibition launched this year at the AM Rosenblum Museum, curated by Jana Vytrhlik and showing the story of the building is outstanding. I published a short book on the Synagogue's architecture, which like the CD you can purchase from the Shule. On the heritage front, the Antiques Valuation Day was well-run, popular and tremendous fun.



The Great has strengthened its position as a focal point for the Jewish and wider community. When the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh was attacked, the Sydney memorial meeting took place at our Shule. This year the Kristallnacht commemoration was at The Great, and we also hosted dinners for the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney and a farewell dinner for the Governor of New South Wales.

All of this activity, and the atmosphere that goes along with it, have brought us new successes. The membership continues to rise, and just after Pesach we celebrated two hundred new members since my arrival. That means that on average we are gaining more than one new member every week. Happily we have many semachot to celebrate: births, benei mitzvah and weddings.

We said staff farewells this year. Linny Gompes, our General Manager left for family reasons. She was always totally committed to the community and always a friendly presence in the office, who developed an excellent rapport with members. Lynn Niselow now takes that role and has already made an impressive impact. I want to thank Linny, Lynn and all the office staff for their tremendous contribution. I also want to thank the President, Executive and Board for the extraordinary amount of voluntary work they contribute to our congregation, and all volunteers in every capacity. I cannot express how much Hinda contributes to our community, and I am deeply grateful for everything she does.



We all felt the loss when we said goodbye to Rev Josh Weinberger, who served as Chazzan for five years. We will miss his outstanding voice and sweet personality, and we wish Josh, Gila and the girls every happiness as they make Aliyah. Chazzan Chaim Stern, an outstanding young cantor from Israel will lead our Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services, supported by the Synagogue Choir.

In July we were pleased to welcome a new Assistant Rabbi, Rabbi Phil Kaplan and his wife Abra. Rabbi Phil came to assist over last High Holidays and I am delighted he is now joining the clergy team. Rabbi Phil is also a trained chazzan and will lead many of the services over the year. He will also be involved in youth, education and pastoral work, and he and Abra will be trying to meet and host as many members of the congregation as they can.

The High Holidays are a time for confirming what is good in our lives and building on it. The same is true for a shule. We can look back on the past year with satisfaction but without complacency. The work goes on and I am excited to continue. Hinda, Lizzie and I wish the entire congregation a happy and sweet new year and we look forward to seeing you in shule. Shana tova!



# FAREWELL REFLECTIONS

Rev Josh Weinberger

**As I sit down to write my final *Great Vine* message as the Cantor of The Great Synagogue I am overcome with gratitude for the wonderful memories that have been created. I've met so many special people that belong to this truly inviting and warm community. I have had the great honour to be a part of many semachot and the privilege to assist those in need during the hard times in their lives. I had no idea that I would end up being a minister of a synagogue but I am immensely grateful that this opportunity came my way. My role as minister and cantor has taught me a great deal and I will treasure this experience as my family and I embark on a new adventure in Israel.**

When I commenced working at the Great in 2014 I was just a young cantor. I will always be thankful to former president Michael Gold and current Vice President Max Freeman for taking a chance on an up-and-comer. Initially my role was only part-time, singing



*Weekday Schacharit.*

on Shabbat, until Justice Rothman and the Board saw it fit to make me a full-time minister. I thank Stephen and the Board immensely for their belief that I would be able to undertake and succeed in such an important role for the community.

In 2014 the Synagogue underwent a period of transition in its leadership with the departure of Rabbi Lawrence. There was some uncertainty as to the future of the Synagogue until Rabbi Elton was appointed Chief Minister, a decision that could not have worked out better. He, along with Hinda, have transformed the Synagogue and the community with their vision, energy and enthusiasm. His commitment to the community knows no limits. Rabbi Elton has been a pleasure to work with day in

and day out. I want to thank him for his friendship and especially his guidance to a newbie in the ministerial world.

One of the foremost reasons that I wanted to work for the Great was the opportunity to work with a choir. It has been my distinct pleasure to work with the choir of the Great over the years, in all its forms and especially with its conductors Robert Teicher and currently, Justin Green. When I started Robert welcomed me with open arms and helped me learn the repertoire. We created a wonderful rapport. Justin has elevated the choir with his work ethic, discipline and musical capabilities. I have loved working with Justin and I really feel together we have taken the musicality of the service to a new level.

I wouldn't be able to do my job





# FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER

Lynn Niselow



The office team - Ezra Wexler, Lynn Niselow, Ilana Moddel and Justin Green.

without the love and support of my wife, Gila. There are countless nights where I have been at an event, rehearsal, shiva minyan or meeting and had to forgo my duties as a parent to attend to my duties as a minister. She is the bedrock of our family and a constant source of inspiration and support. Thank you Gila.

Finally, I would like to thank the community for all their kind words of support since the announcement of our departure. It has been my distinct pleasure to act as your Shaliach Tzibur (messenger of the congregation) for five wonderful years. I feel that the years ahead are going to be very exciting for the community with Rabbi Kaplan joining the ranks. Rabbi Elton, Hinda, Rabbi Kaplan and Abra will undoubtedly lead the community into a new, exciting future.

So, on behalf of myself, Gila, Adira, Lital and Maayan we wish you all a Shana Tova Umetuka. May we see each other again soon!

In May I joined The Great Synagogue as General Manager and what a Great privilege it has been so far.

From day one it has felt like home. Having been warmly welcomed by the President and the board whose advice and guidance is invaluable, by Rabbi and Hinda as well as the office team - Ilana, Ezra, Judith and Justin - I am inspired by their dedication and enthusiasm. We also recently welcomed Rabbi Phil and Abra Kaplan and I know they too are going to be a valuable addition to our Great Synagogue family.

We have many exciting initiatives planned for the upcoming year to engage both future and current members of our community. I hope you will help us to spread the word to family and friends. Examples of these are,

\* Young Great and Great Professionals: lectures, dinners/get together for current and potential new members to share ideas and network.

\* Great Women: the umbrella body under which various subcommittees such as WOW, the Womens' Auxiliary, Young Great Women and others will create events and activities for women of all ages and catering to different interests.

There are many more projects to follow.

I look forward to continuing my work alongside the Board, Ministers and office team, and engaging with you our Great community.

On behalf of myself and the team at The Great Synagogue I wish you all Shana Tova Umetuka, a Happy, Healthy and Sweet new year.



# WELCOME

## Rabbi Phil and Abra Kaplan!

### This July we welcomed a new Minister, Rabbi Phil Kaplan and his wife Abra.

After an extensive worldwide search and a visit from Rabbi Kaplan and Abra during last year's High Holidays, Rabbi Phil was offered the position of Assistant Rabbi. Rabbi Phil and Abra bring huge talent, energy and dynamism to our congregation. Rabbi Phil is well-trained as a teacher, cantor and in pastoral care. Abra will be joining with Rabbi Phil in being a friendly face in shule and welcoming members to their home.

Rabbi Phil shares some thoughts on arrival.

'Now Abra and I have arrived in Sydney I'm excited to share with The Great my thoughts and hopes for the beginning of our time together.

When I officially received semikha, or rabbinic ordination, from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in June it was a moment of great pride and excitement for myself and my family, both looking backwards and forwards. It was a long journey to this achievement, and it made my role as Assistant Rabbi at The Great feel closer and more tangible than ever.

Thank God, this huge milestone was quickly followed by another even more joyous. As many of you know, Abra and I married a week later in New York. We were so excited to have Rabbi Elton and Hinda in attendance at our simcha and we now look forward to celebrating with the entire congregation.

One of the things we're most looking forward to after getting settled in our new home is welcoming the



Meeting the locals.

Congregation for a chanukat habayit, or housewarming party, and thereafter opening our home for festive Shabbat and Yom Tov meals. Hospitality is a core Jewish value that we hope to embody in our new life as a married couple, and we look forward to seeing many of you at our table in the coming years.

As I begin my role at the Great, there are three aspects of Shule life in particular that I'm excited to be a part of and support as a member of the clergy: the Pastoral Care Committee, youth programming for Festivals, and the Young Great. I look forward to working with lay leadership to strengthen and grow these important initiatives.

I'm also looking forward to establishing more learning opportunities for

the congregation. One idea I've had is to teach a series leading up to the High Holidays focusing on the special mitzvot specific to Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot, but first and foremost, I want to teach what people are most interested in learning. To that end, I hope to hear your suggestions and engage in conversation about the needs of the community.

As I embark on my Rabbinate, I feel so blessed and privileged that my first formal Rabbinical position will be among a community that reveres our tradition while remaining so warm and inclusive. I'm so looking forward to seeing you in Shule and around the community.





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# HOW OLD AM I?

## Don't ask!



Raymond Apple, Emeritus Rabbi

You'll have to work out for yourselves how old (or young) I am. It all has to do with synagogues. When I was appointed to the Hampstead Synagogue in London my induction address apologized for my being so young. I probably added, though I'm not sure, that if my youthfulness was a problem, time would cure it. I do know that I had already been in the pulpit for a few years and at the Bayswater Synagogue (where I began sixty years ago in 1960), I was probably the second youngest person there: the youngest was my wife (actually that's not quite true, since we had a good group of teenagers).

We moved across the world to Sydney and stayed at The Great Synagogue for 32 years. My predecessor had just retired so they called me "the young Rabbi". By the time I left, somebody else was "the young Rabbi". How old was I? All I'll say is that I had no contract with the Shule and I was over 65 when I retired: the rest I won't tell you or don't remember. For a while I went to the Or Chadash congregation in suburban Bondi, and told them one Shabbat that looking around I saw I was the oldest person there.

You see, how old (or young) I was kept changing, but now I think about it I seem to have another complication. I have personal recollections of things which today's generation regards as impossibly ancient. For example, how as a boy in Habonim the tears ran down my face when we sang Hatikvah in 1947 after the United Nations voted for the

partition of Palestine.

I am also old enough to have a feeling for tradition. I miss the courtesy and the manners that I was brought up with. I even miss the efficiency of the then postal system and the excitement of opening envelopes and reading the letters. Email is quicker but less fun.

The word "excitement" however is not just a piece of anecdote. I am young enough to look forward to tomorrow, excited when new things happen, curious to know what the future will bring. I see my local Shule so full of children that I know Judaism is alive and the Jewish people are vibrant.

I know when my birthday is, but I struggle with it. If I were a little boy I would have a cake with candles to light and then blow out. But I'm not a little boy, I don't eat much cake, I see no sense in the candle ritual, and I'm not sure that I believe in birthdays. In the Torah the only birthday is Pharaoh's. Maybe birthdays were a non-Jewish idea. Possibly the prophet Hosea thought that Jews did celebrate birthdays, but I am not certain whether Hosea is much of a role model in the light of his family troubles.

I can find references to Rabbis marking 50th, 60th, 70th and even 80th and 90th birthdays. They don't go much further because Pirkei Avot says that when you reach 100 you're as good as dead anyhow. Sixty is significant as the age when one ceases to be liable to karet, and if this means dying young it suggests that sixty is when your youth ends and you become middle-aged

- a valid conclusion since 120, the age when Moses died, is twice sixty.

Some people didn't want to be reminded of the date of their birth - Jeremiah cursed the day he was born - though others rejoiced if the date had a special flavor. No wonder I'm mixed up. So is the Psalmist, who says 80 is the age of gevurah, special strength, but this might be a euphemism that really means weakness.

Old age is certainly closer to life's end than its beginning. Kohelet says the day of death is better than the day of one's birth. The Midrash agrees and wonders why people celebrate birth more than death. At birth you never know what storms lie ahead; at death you know at least that you've come through the storms and can laugh at them.

What are old people supposed to do - weep because the journey is ending, or laugh because the future might still be fun? Maybe both. In Moses-talk I have a while ahead of me. Only God knows how far I will go on that road. If I reach 120, fine; if I don't, I hope I can find enough good things to do in the time ahead. Regardless, I hope I have done something worthwhile for the world. The writer of the Books of Maccabees says, "If I have done well, and as befits the subject, it is what I desired, and if have done ill, it is what I could attain to."

Whenever the day of judgment comes, I hope I can face God honorably. He will know how to face me. I hope it will be with a smile and a laugh. I always liked a joke, but I've tried not to be one.



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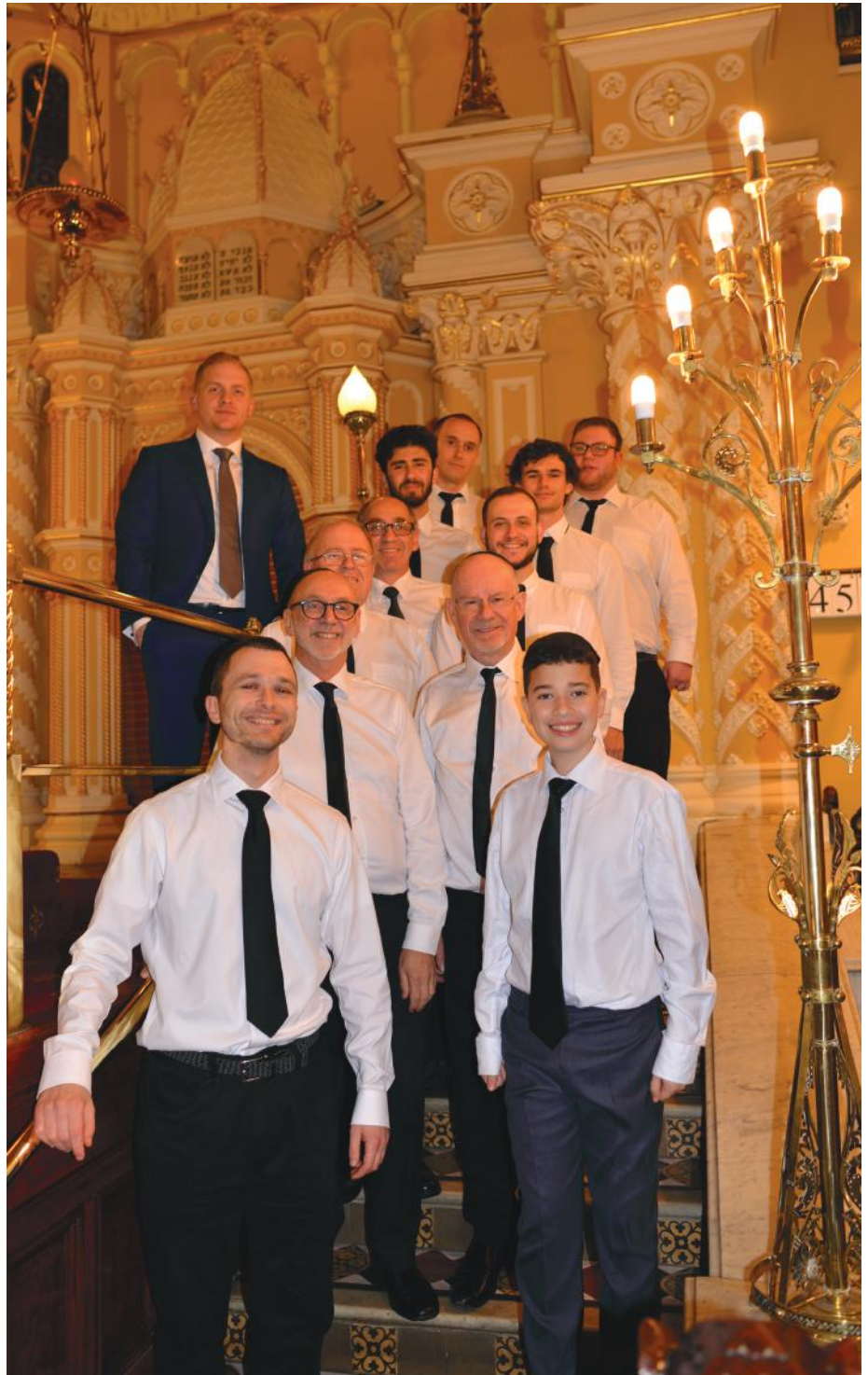


# Heavenly Music

The Great Synagogue Choir - Justin Green, Choirmaster

Our shule choir has seen many new faces appearing in the loft over the last year, including Michael Lewis, Josh Winestock, Jojo Ginges, Jackson Ryder, Ben Saffir and Adam Wasiel. They joined our long-standing members: Alex Walter, Rob Green, Simon Levenston, and David Politzer. This is a healthy number. However we will always welcome to our ranks stout men of all ages who would like to begin their Saturday mornings with a good sing. Simply contact the shule – you will not regret it!

Since last year, part of my goal has been to improve the general culture of rehearsals for our group. The choristers have made this a relatively easy task because of their natural musicianship, their love of singing together, and their depth of ensemble experience and knowledge. Almost all of our choristers have advanced musical training and are active with other ensembles (do not let this intimidate you if you are thinking of joining!). Robert and Alex have sung with the Philharmonia choirs for many years; we also have composers, guitarists, French hornists, double bassists, violinists, trombonists and flautists in our ranks. This depth and diversity is a true asset in creating rounded musical performances. Congregants on Shabbat are always complimentary about our sound and about the way the Choir enhances their experience in shule. Speaking for the Choir, this acknowledgement is extremely gratifying and inspiring.





If you are a regular shule-goer you may have heard subtle changes in the feel of some familiar pieces. These may be the result of re-arrangements of SATB (Soprano-Alto-Tenor-Bass) scores to suit an all-male TTBB (Tenor-Tenor-Baritone-Bass) choir. This re-arrangement is something that I will continue to work on, as it represents better acoustic organisation and provides a fuller sound; a result of the adult male frequencies being placed where they are most comfortable, harmonically speaking.

Since the last Vine was published our festival evening services have revived. We hallelujahed through the High Holidays, choralled through the cricket season, regaled the judiciary in February, presented odd treats on Shabbat mornings, and have generally been a constant feature of Shabbat mornings. The constant from our perspective of course has been our beloved Chazan, Rev. Josh Weinberger, whose soaring voice and personal warmth have kept us all coming back for more. He will be sorely missed by all of us. On behalf of the members of the choir past and present, I would like to say a huge Thank you and Yashar Koach to Josh for adding something very special to The Great Synagogue community. Our 'album' recording of June 2019 will be a permanent reminder of the enjoyment we have had making music together (as well as a valuable historical document of the Weinberger sound c. 2019).

This year we welcome back Rabbi Phil Kaplan and his resonant baritone. Come Spring, we will see the appearance of Israeli guest Chazan Chaim Stern, and we look forward to joining forces with him to provide a sensational high holiday experience for all.

Lastly I would like to personally thank Rabbi Elton for sharing his indefatigable enthusiasm, leadership, and his pleasant light baritone. Thank you too to the Board, staff and community of the Great, without whom we wouldn't function. Looking ahead, our aim as always is to produce solid choral performances to uplift Shabbat and Festival services. See you in shule!

## Chazzan Chaim Stern - High Holiday Cantor



We are lucky to welcome to lead our 2019 High Holiday services, Chazzan Chaim Stern, a brilliant young cantor making a big impression in services and concerts in Israel. Chaim is also a serving member of the IDF in the Intelligence Corps. He has a thrilling tenor voice and is a graduate of the Petach Tikvah Cantorial School, as well as studying in Yeshivot. We are looking forward to being inspired by him!

# BIRTHS



Camilla Ann Leibman, at her baby naming. Ilana and Daniel Leibman.



Arki Abrams - Natasha and Adam Abrams.



Anina and Adam Lazar - Arianne and Asher Lazar.



Alex Baddiel - Sarah and Pinty Baddiel. (Horry Grandson).



Maya Tali Abbott - Zoe and Josh Abbott.



Ahuvia Sneh - Yonatan and Rachmana Sneh, Grandparents Judith and Owen Sperling.





Ora Garson - Danielle and Yitshak Garson.



Jorgian Horry - Josh and Tania Horry.



Daniel Harry and Ava Jade Pisk - Kim and David Pisk.



Hanna Rosa Marks - Carly and Joshua Marks.



Jordie and Zoe Tischman - Greg and Gabi Tischman.



Louis Edward Schoulal - Eliana and James Schoulal.



Stella Beryl Volpe - Lana and Nick Volpe.





Mazal Tov!!

# BAR MITZVAHS



Noah Samuel.



Jamie Holdcraft.



Jordan Krauss.



Jackson Ryder.





Josh Fraser.



Asher Indyk.



Harrison Ratner.



Sebastien Messman.



Jeremy Rotenstein.





# WEDDINGS



Julie Drexler and Andy Stone with Aaron.



Amy Goldman and Ryan Kaplan.



Phil and Abra Kaplan.



# SOME OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

Over the past year we have been delighted to welcome dozens of new members. Here are the stories of just a few. Welcome!



*Benjamin Hansen.*

## **Benjamin Hansen**

"Born in Denmark of Czech and Danish background, I got involved in Bnei Akiva and community life at a young age. I joined and became the conductor of the choir of the Copenhagen Synagogue for several years.

After a year in Israel, I became Rosh Bnei Akiva taking the organization through a growth period. Later I travelled to the US studying Hotel Management at Cornell University, and spent few years in Dallas on a

hotel management program. In 1985 I made Aliyah and worked for the Hilton in Jerusalem for several years before being posted to the Hilton in Sydney in 1990. I am currently the Director of Human Resources at The Fresh Collective hospitality company.

I joined The Great as a member in 2018. The Great has been a wonderful experience and I look forward to contributing further to Jewish community life in Sydney in general, and to The Great in particular."

## **Ricki Moritz**

"We were introduced to The Great Synagogue in June 2018 when researching the path for our elder son's Bar mitzvah. A soccer mum passed on Michael Sassoon's details. She raved about what a wonderful teacher Michael was. After meeting Michael we understood what she meant. Michael is one of the kindest and most understanding people. He discussed the options with us for Jamie's Bar Mitzvah and made sure that the journey Jamie embarked on was meaningful, enjoyable and spiritual. It was not before long Jamie was having weekly Bar Mitzvah lessons with Michael and so our journey began. It was Michael

who introduced us to Rabbi Elton and The Great Synagogue. Once again, the warmth and kindness offered to us by Rabbi Elton and Hinda made us feel a real part of The Great's family. We will always remember how Jamie's Bar mitzvah journey led us to The Great Synagogue.... and how grateful we are.

Mark, Jamie, Luca and I, our friends and family were so impressed by Rabbi Elton's fresh modern approach and inclusiveness. The beauty, warmth and richness of the gorgeous Great Synagogue also made our experience very memorable."

## **Yoni Malka**

"I have been in Sydney as a postgraduate law student from France. I was completely non-religious, knew almost no prayers and no tradition, yet had decided to come to shule for Shabbat. I met Rabbi Elton and the lovely members of the congregation, who made the experience incredibly comfortable; I then started coming more regularly, until I eventually made every morning prayer throughout the week!

If you had told me a little bit over a year

*Continued page 22.*

Continued from page 21.



Eliza Chalmers.



Yoni Malka.

ago, that I would be attending morning prayers at a Sydney synagogue, neither my family and friends nor I would have believed you. And yet here I am, and was the 200th new member of The Great Synagogue, feeling better than ever and grateful for what has truly been a life-changing experience!"



Marc, Ricki, Jamie, Luca Holdcroft

### Eliza Chalmers

"When I first came to The Great Synagogue, I was immediately impressed by the community's friendliness led by Rabbi Elton and Hinda. I specifically remember how nice it felt to have Hinda come up to me and introduce herself during the service. The Great Synagogue is an incredibly welcoming and inclusive space. Whether it's visitors from other places or visitors from other synagogues, everyone is welcomed with open arms.

I believe so wholeheartedly in this attitude I became a member.

Hinda invited me to the Young Great Purim event and I became a regular attendee to the events. I joined the Young Great committee at the start of the year and have enjoyed becoming more involved with the synagogue and the community. It is such a pleasure to be able to give back to the synagogue where I feel most at home. "





**Since the last edition of The Great Vine we have welcomed these new members:**

Benjamin Per Hansen  
 Rebecca Havas  
 Penny Hurst  
 Lisa Jackson Pulver  
 Avril Green  
 Arnold Green  
 Shelley Cohen  
 Andrew Cohen  
 Ryan Catzel  
 Laurence Catzel  
 Dr Joseph Pollak  
 Susie Owen  
 Nathan Young  
 Carla Lazarus  
 Nicole Green  
 Ryan Kaplan  
 Amy Goldman  
 David Burman  
 Karyn Lewis-Burman  
 Ivor Charles Wolk

Ronni Chalmers  
 Eliza Chalmers  
 Ricki Moritz  
 Julie Drexler  
 Andy Stone  
 Paul Levitt  
 Alex Walter  
 Greg Fisher  
 Danny Skrabal  
 Rachel Skrabal  
 Yael Katz  
 Dana Finger  
 Ruben Cohen Hallaleh  
 Kareen Livingstone  
 Julian Symon  
 Carolyn Owen  
 Tomas Lopata  
 Donna Lopata  
 Robert Green  
 Jonathan Kristeller

Moises Querub  
 Jonathan Malka  
 Moshe Goldberg  
 Glen Poswell  
 Sydney Jacobs  
 Ruth Eckstein  
 Gary Eckstein  
 Shmuel Oddo  
 Adam Wasiel  
 Jacob Cohen  
 Lizzie Elton  
 Romy Lessem  
 Cade Lessem  
 Rony Yousef  
 Lioudmila Zvedeniouk  
 Wendy Symonds  
 Gail Abrahams  
 Sara Ratner  
 Adam Ratner  
 Judah Ratner

Hannah Ratner  
 Marissa Hurst  
 Shane Hurst  
 Liam Frankham  
 Jonah Rothman  
 Rafi Symonds  
 Shaharit Shmuel-Hay  
 Finando Layarda  
 Jamie Rothman  
 Ashira Symonds  
 Maayan Symonds  
 Alessia Frankham  
 Raphael Symonds  
 Nava Frankham  
 Cassandra Sten  
 Bev Shroot  
 Sagy Nathan  
 Louis Nathan  
 Neve Nathan

**ARE YOU: RETIRING SOON?  
 ARE YOU: RECENTLY RETIRED?**

There is more to retirement than money.  
 Think about all that **FREE TIME** you will have.  
 What will you do with it?  
 The answer may not be simple.  
 If you would like some **COACHING ASSISTANCE** then contact:  
[www.64plus.com.au](http://www.64plus.com.au); or Jon at: [jon@64plus.com.au](mailto:jon@64plus.com.au)

**THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE SYDNEY**  
 תלמוד ודור

*The Great launches its new Foundation*  
**LeDor VaDor: From Generation To Generation**

The Great Synagogue has been part of the Sydney landscape for more than one hundred and forty years and a part of our lives for so many simchas and milestones.

Now we have renewed and reinvigorated the Shule with new spiritual and lay leadership, we want to harness our success with the help and support of the entire community, who hold this icon in their hearts and memories.

We are looking for your support so we can pass from generation to generation the spirit and heart of our community.

Be a part of the future of The Great Synagogue and donate to create a secure centre for our Jewish community, for your children and grandchildren.

All donations whether committed initially or by equal payments over a period of up to five years or by bequest will be recognised and kept intact. In keeping with the terms of the trust deed we will only use the earnings from your donation.

2019/2020 donations will be nominated exclusively as founder members and appropriately recognised.

For a confidential chat about how you and your family can become part of the future of The Great Synagogue call or email the Trust Chairman Ken Gresham 0414 966 755 or [ken@greshamworld.com](mailto:ken@greshamworld.com) or a member of the Shule Executive.



# GREAT KIDS

The expansion and success of our children's programs has been a big feature of 2018-19. The Shabbat and Yom Tov Children's Services and Tot Shabbat, parties for Simchat Torah and Shavuot, and pictured here a summer picnic and Purim Party. Our children's programs now come under the younger division of Young Great.



Purim.





Summer picnic.





# JEWISH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Michael Sassoon



*Pita Mix Excursion with (l to r) Nathan, Niv and Moreh Michael Sassoon.*



*Students win prizes regularly for excellent learning.*







*Eating through our learning at the JEP Pita Mix Excursion.*

**In our jam-packed third year partnering with BJE and Reddam House, The Great Synagogue's Jewish Enrichment Program has never been richer with learning opportunities, prizes for both marvellous questions and thoughtful answers and a lot of fun. Students have enjoyed exploring different areas of their Judaism at a much deeper level than they have in previous years.**

We have also continued to build our wonderful, extended JEP family, as parents, grandparents and siblings attended our first Shabbaton of the year together with our students at the Shule. Speaking of family, our teaching ranks have also grown to include Gil Hergass and Suzette Samra at Rose Bay Public School and Reddam House, respectively. We look forward to meeting our Rabbis from The Great this year as they visit our schools for Q & A sessions with our students, as well.

So what exactly have we been up to in the classroom? Our theme taking us through the year is the Jewish

lifecycle, exploring Bar and Bat Mitzvah and beyond – we will even have a mock chuppah at The Great later this year to explore this very important milestone. We encountered Purim and Pesach head-on, with a Purim Megillah challenge, Mishloach Manot packing, Purim Seudah, and “Escape from Egypt” mini-activities. The first group to the finish line chose the first prize packs. In keeping with our Hebrew Reading component, this year we included Pesach Seder songs in the mix to liven up family Seder tables (alongside the Shema and other core prayers, of course).

In Term 2 we also learnt about Shavuot, Torah, and Klei Kodesh (holy items); our students now know just how much is required to “honour your father and mother” – they just may feel too daunted to tell you if quizzed! The centerpiece of our learning in Term 2 has been our Kashrut unit. We used top-tier education technology to watch and be quizzed on what goes on behind the scenes at a kosher restaurant. The best fun, however, was eating through our learning with manager Niv Barhom and Mashgiach Nathan Platt at our Pita

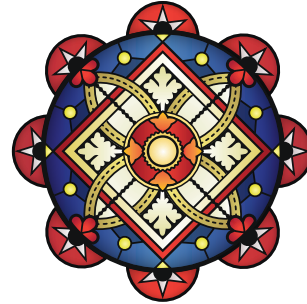
Mix Restaurant Excursion. Last year's students may have soaked up their Great Night Shopping Excursion, but the chance to learn directly from Niv and Nathan as we munched away happily on Pita Mix's best and tastiest was simply the perfect way to round out the unit.

What else is in store for the second half of the year? With the help of Ezra and The Great's dedicated team, the JEP will be hosting a pizza and movie night, a Sukkot 'Great Shake and Bake' excursion, and two more Shabbatonim. All this as we learn about Shabbat, Prayer, High Holidays and the Synagogue Space (exploring synagogues and holy sites from around the world). Of course, we also take a closer look at our upcoming event in the Jewish lifecycle: what it means to become Bar and Bat Mitzvah and what's inside our individual Torah portions.

With so much fun learning lined up, the JEP welcomes students who wish to join in at any point. If you have, or know of children who would like to be a part of our family, please contact any of our friendly team at The Great Synagogue on [admin@greatsynagogue.org.au](mailto:admin@greatsynagogue.org.au) or 02 9267 2477 today!

# *New Year's Greetings*

*Sara and Ken Gresham together with Aylie and Tom Brutman, Jonathan, Daniel and Noah wish all the community Shana Tova and well over the fast.*



*Wishing you a wonderful sweet and healthy new year.  
L'Shana Tova ! -  
Daniel & Mauri Abbott*

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



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



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

*Wishing the Ministers, the Board and the entire congregation,  
L'Shonah Tovah.  
Wesley Browne OAM and Sari Browne OAM*



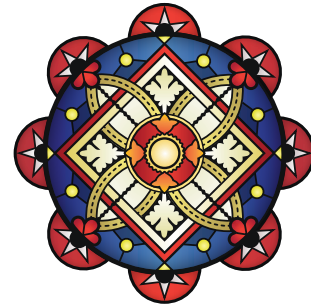
*Shana Tova from Louis and Neve Nathan and their family too.*

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

*Chag Sameach everyone.  
Jane Levi, Eli Levi and  
Ezra Wexler*



*Wishing all members of our Great Synagogue family a happy, healthy and rewarding New Year celebrating many happy simchas together Ros and Alex Fischl and family*



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

*Susan and David, along with Daniel, Julia and Joel Brieger wish all the members of The Great Synagogue a happy and healthy New Year.*



*Shana Tova from the YG Committee, Ezra, Josh, Shoshi, Joe, Eliza, Eli, Jules and Craig*

*Wishing our family, "Great Family" and friends a sweet, healthy, prosperous and peaceful New Year. Well over the fast.  
Sue, Jake and Ben Selinger*

# *New Year's Greetings*

*Happy New Year and well over the Fast to our friends & family, Caroline, David & Juliet Lewis and Charlotte & Robbie Weiss*



*Ron and Margaret Sekel wish all their family and friends health and happiness for the coming year.*

*Wishing the entire Great community and all their loved ones a shana tova. May the new year be happy, healthy and sweet - filled with blessings and semachot!  
Abra and Rabbi Phil Kaplan*



*Justice Stephen & Sandra Rothman and family wish all friends and congregants a healthy, happy New Year - one of peace, prosperity, health and happiness. L'SHANA TOVA U'M'TUCHA V'GMAR CHATIMAH TOVA*



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

*Mavis and Peter Elton wish their family and The Great Synagogue family a sweet, healthy and peaceful New Year*



*To Great congregants, God's Shana Tova Blessings and Love, from Clans Campbell-Hardwick and Purcell.*

*Gary and Hilary Elsass and family wish the congregation, friends and family a sweet new year.*



*The Havas family would like to wish the congregation a restful and peaceful Rosh Hashanah.*



*Wishing our family and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year - Robyn and Garry Browne and family*

*Dr Michael Paul and Dr Barbara Grandy wish the members of the Great Synagogue a Happy and Healthy Shana Tova*



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

*Rabbi Elton, Hinda and Lizzie wish the whole congregation a sweet New Year and look forward to seeing everyone in shule!*



# YOUNG GREAT 20s & 30s



Craig Shulman, YG Chair



Succot.





Lunch and Learn with Greg Weiss.

**YG is the 20s and 30s section of Young Great, and has again worked this past year to make The Great an appealing community for young professional members and young professionals working in the Sydney CBD. YG aims to be a welcoming, forward thinking, and cultured community embodying the cosmopolitan membership and location of The Great. This year, our identity has been further solidified through a donation from Eli Green for a logo which encapsulates these values.**

Once again, the YG committee's enthusiasm has paid dividends with us putting on events that are warm, authentic and provide a true point of difference. We have continued to use The Great's city location to provide convenient and enjoyable events after work during the week. An early example of this was hosting Shakshukah and Sangriah in the Sukkah during Succot which put resident chef Ezra Wexler to good use and gave me a good opportunity to show off my family's secret sangria recipe. We had a high turnout with no shakshuka left and plenty of new faces.

We are also making good use

of the synagogue's special spaces. Shakshukah and Sangriah in the Sukkah used the beautiful open-air Sky Room and for the second year in a row we hosted 'DIY Donuts' in the Portico for Chanukah. All attendees once again enjoyed the opportunity to inject their donut with their own special brand of sweetness on a nice summer's day.

For Purim we also returned to our friends down the road at the Ramblin' Rascal Tavern for some post-work celebratory drinks following Megillah reading. Fun was had by all, and we were very honoured to have a community member anonymously sponsor the event. The committee appreciates the

generosity and recognition of YG's efforts and will welcome any other interest in sponsorship of future YG initiatives.

To round out the year we got ambitious in July and hosted two events. We held an intimate 'Bastille Day' themed Friday Night Dinner and a Lunchtime Lecture hosted by career development expert Greg Weiss.

YG continues to welcome young Jews who grew up in Sydney and elsewhere. We recognise and are proud to be a part of a cosmopolitan community that brings together Jews who have been a part of the Great for several generations and those who have only recently made Sydney home after moving from interstate or international locations.

Looking forward, we welcome Rabbi Phil to the Great and are excited at the opportunity of having both him and Abra around. We expect that their involvement will build on the tremendous achievements of the committee this year. A special thank you goes out to all committee members – Ezra, Jules, Eli, Eliza, Josh, and Joe. YG also bids farewell to Josh, Gila and the family and wish them well in Israel. Josh, thanks for your willingness over the past 3 years to go beyond your office hours to make sure that we were able to make YG events as good as possible. You will be missed!

# GREAT WOMEN



WOW weekend success

This year will see the creation of Great Women, which will co-ordinate and support our women's involvement in programs, activities and events. This will umbrella the Women's Auxiliary, WOW, '12 Over 12' and other female-led events and learning.

## Women's Auxiliary

Women's activities continued and grew this year. The Women's Auxiliary, led by Ros Brennan and her committee, maintained their wonderful work for the Shule – setting out and contributing to the weekly Kiddush and Monthly Communal Lunch, decorating the Succah and holding the Succot Morning Tea, visiting the Archibald

Exhibition, and presenting engaged couples with a challah cloth and Great Synagogue Birkon.

## WOW Women of Worth

The inaugural Women of Worth (WOW) Weekend took place in 2018 and was such a huge success, WOW 2019 had to be equally so! It was again organised by Caroline Lewis



Women's Auxiliary Succot Tea.

and Lauren Ryder with speakers and panels, some controversial and all very thought-provoking. The feedback was so positive. Look out for WOW2020!

The engaging theme around 'Friendship, Family, Fearlessness, Fun, Faith, Food, Fashion and the Future', empowered and energised women of





Great Women Committee.



Succot Tea Guest Speaker Judy Levitan, with WA President Ros Brennan.



WOW goes to the theatre.

all ages and stages and attracted cross-generational and cross-communal participants. Designed not to fund-raise, but to spirit-raise, we had the support of communal organisations who were on board promoting the weekend and involving their members in the program.

Weekend activities started with a delicious communal lunch preceding Registration, and concluded with a celebratory champagne high tea. Speakers included:

‘Speed Friend-ing’ with Juliet Lewis to start the weekend making new friends and finding old ones;

Justine Sless, Melbourne comedian sharing her exploration of her Jewish roots as an adult;

Physio Rebecca Reicher connecting us without pelvic floors so we can laugh – and sneeze – with confidence;

Judith Levitan sharing her journey towards becoming the first Orthodox woman in NSW to receive ordination (semicha).

Danielle Chiel & Bobbi Mahlab making a difference in so many women’s lives through mentoring and empowerment;

Michaela Kalowski quizzing three  
Continued page 36.







*Continued from page 35.*

generations of family: Myrna Kangisser, Robyn Bernitz, Danielle Goodman & Megan Bernitz on "Things My Mother Never Told Me";

Challenging discussions on Sexual Consent with Dr Ellie Freedman interviewed by Hilary May Black;

Rita Bratanis & Zehava Heinrich interviewing one another on the trials and tribulations of being migrants returning to Australia 30 years apart;

'Taking Control of End of Life Choices' panel with medical experts Susan Hertzberg, Dr. Judith Lacey & Simone Green RN facilitated by Dr Yvonne Selecki;

Young Madeleine Buchner's big initiative, Little Dreamers for young carers, which won her JCA's Shark Tank;

Caroline Lewis said: "This year's line-up gave us so many fresh ideas, new experiences and different perspectives with plenty of time to pause and reflect, develop and share new connections which left us all feeling more connected, revitalised and replenished."

In April, and keep the enthusiasm high, WOW organised a pre-theatre dinner hosted in Sharon Schach's home before attending the sell-out performance at the Ensemble Theatre of 'The Appleton Ladies' Potato Race', including a Q&A with the producers and actors. Thirty women attended and came together to enjoy a wonderful evening of connection, food and theatre.



Sharon Schach will lead the new Great Women committee and is keen to hear from any women who want to get involved. Contact Sharon on [sharon@greatsynagogue.org.au](mailto:sharon@greatsynagogue.org.au)



# '12 Over 12':

## A Great Chance finally to have a Bat Mitzvah!

This article was originally published in the *Sydney Jewish Report*

Caroline Lewis

Call me selfish, but I'd never had a Batmitzvah and I really wanted to have one. I wanted to walk up onto the Bimah, surrounded by friends and family, and to experience the role of a woman in a Shul service. So, with the approval of Rabbi Elton, and the support of Shelley Einfeld, Eli Levi and Judith Levitan of the Sydney Women's Tefilah Group, I set about creating a new initiative at The Great Synagogue, coinciding with the 'Women Of Worth' (WOW) Weekend.

And so '12 Over 12' was born: 12 women over the age of 12 celebrating and marking their bat mitzvah in a meaningful way. It didn't take long to fill the spots, as many women had been overlooked for their bat mitzvah. For these women, when they were 12 it wasn't deemed fashionable for girls to have a bat mitzvah, or a ritual to mark a Jewish coming of age was seen as an opportunity only for boys.

These 12 women wanted to find a way to experience it, and brought with them their own stories to our lesson with facilitator Judith Levitan.

The ages of the women ranged from 31 to 84 years, and the reasons for marking their bat mitzvahs were broad and deep. For me, it was for my mum, who was on the Kindertransport at age 13. In 1938 my mum watched Kristallnacht in her city of Vienna before escaping the Nazi invasion. She had rarely celebrated her birthdays and a bat mitzvah was definitely not on the cards. When I thought about what she was doing at 12, I wanted to stand up there for her, and for all the women during that era who weren't able to celebrate their childhood – let alone



*The women of 12 Over 12.*

participate in a milestone like this.

Some of my '12 Over 12' peers also wanted to honour their parents or loved ones, many lost in the Holocaust; and others in the group, including two women who had completed

group of such wonderful women."

During the Sydney Women's Tefilah Group-led Mincha service, each woman was given a role to perform in the running of the service. More than twenty-five male supporters were

**For these women, when they were 12 it wasn't deemed fashionable for girls to have a bat mitzvah,**

conversions to Judaism, saw having a bat mitzvah as their chance to engage in a deeply meaningful religious experience. All of us came with our own expectations, and all left feeling elated.

Our oldest participant, Ruth Port, commented afterwards: "I truly don't have sufficient words to explain what a wonderful, emotional, enjoyable, delightful and supportive experience it was for me to have celebrated my bat mitzvah with a

permitted to sit in the ladies' gallery to observe, but not participate in the service. It was a wonderful feeling having our supporters there, lollies raining down on us on the Bimah as we danced in a circle to 'Siman Tov u'Mazal Tov'.

For those of us having our bat mitzvah, though, it was such a joyous experience and I hope to continue studying with my amazing 2019 group of '12 Over 12's', now we are bat mitzvah!



# SPECIAL EVENTS



*Kristallnacht to XXXcan't read correctionXXXXXX*

### The Shule has hosted a series of special, sad and celebratory events this year.

We were honoured to be one of the very few New South Wales institutions that was able to host the Governor of New South Wales, General David Hurley and his wife, Linda Hurley, for a farewell event. They came to dinner with leaders of the Jewish community.

After the horrific attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh The Great was the focal point for commemoration

for the entire Sydney Jewish community.

This year we also acted as hosts for the annual Kristallnacht Commemoration. Among the participants were Rabbi Elton, Rev Weinberger and our member, survivor Eddie Jaku OAM.

Our monthly communal lunches are always a big success, and appropriately themed, including for Australia Day.

The dinner on first night Succot sold out and packed the Succah. The Women's Auxiliary and Ilana Modell produced fantastic decorations.

We hosted a brilliant and popular concert for the Australian Piano Quartet.

Valuation Day, organised by Alan Landis and Judy Menczel attracted a large crowd anxious to know more about their heirlooms. Experts Alan Landis, Jolyon Warwick James and Karen Deakin were on hand to help. Graham Barnett gave tours of the Shule, Judy Menczel presented an award-winning film, Scott Whitmont sold children's books, David Lewis gave





Chazzan Joshua Weinberger singing at the Kristallnacht Memorial.



Jewish-Catholic Dinner.

a talk and there was delicious catering.

Once again we hosted an interfaith dialogue dinner for the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney and representatives from the Catholic and Jewish communities.



The experts on Valuation Day.



Australia Day Communal Lunch.



Dinner for the retiring Governor, 8th April, 2019.



Succot Dinner.





*We Are All Sydney.*



*Pittsburgh Memorial.*



*Australian Piano Quartet.*



# A Glance at the TORAH

John Lenn

## One of our most experienced Bar Mitzvah teachers writes about the Torah and its scroll.

The Torah, the holiest book of the Jewish People, is hand-written on parchment, usually the skin of a young goat, by a learned scribe using a feather as a pen. The finished book, known as a Sefer Torah, is a scroll tens of metres long, which we wrap in an embroidered, velvet mantle, decorate with silver ornaments and keep in the synagogue's Holy Ark. The Torah is written completely without punctuation, vowels or instructions. It begins with Creation and takes us on a journey through early Jewish history and the formulation of our religious laws, concluding with the death of Moses. We take one year to read the Torah from start to finish, reaching the end during the Simchat Torah morning service and recommencing immediately.

Every Torah scroll has an identical text. If even a slight mistake in the text is noticed, the scroll must be returned to a scribe for correction. The Torah is divided into five main sections known as the Five Books of Moses. Their 'English' names - mostly handed down to us from the Greek - and their Hebrew names are:

- Genesis - Bereshit
- Exodus - Shemot

- Leviticus - Vayikra
- Numbers - Bamidbar
- Deuteronomy - Devarim

These books, in their turn, are divided into smaller portions known as parshiyot, one of which is usually read each week. Occasionally we read a double parasha and sometimes festivals occur on Shabbat, so the normal schedule is modified. Each book shares its name with its first parasha. The parasha itself is named after the first word of significance, for example, Bereshit starts with the words "In the beginning" and Noach with "These are the generations of Noah". Every parasha is further divided into seven parts, known as aliyot. The first of these aliyot is further divided into three parts, which are read on Shabbat afternoon, Monday morning and Thursday morning. The entire weekly portion is read on the following Shabbat morning. Festival readings have their own patterns.

Worshippers who are celebrating or commemorating an event are 'called up' to participate in the reading of the Torah. To be called to the Torah is to 'have an aliyah'. We normally call first to the Torah a Kohen, a descendant of Aaron, Moses' brother, the first high priest. Then we call a Levite, a member



Rabbi Aryeh Leib Solomon and Mr Max Lemberg z"l write a Sefer Torah.

of a secondary priestly caste. The third and subsequent call ups will be Israelites, members of the group comprising all other Jews.



Rabbi Yacov Richter

Reading from the Torah with accuracy can be challenging even for a learned person, so it is customary for the synagogue to employ a highly trained person to read the Torah on behalf of those who are called up. Every public reading of the Torah must be done without error. If ever a mistake in pronunciation is heard, it must be corrected. For this reason we always have someone standing near the reader to verify that the words have been chanted accurately.

The Great Synagogue these days is blessed to have the services of Rabbi Yacov Richter. Born and raised in Canada, Rabbi Richter received his ordination at the Yeshiva Gedola Rabbinical College of Sydney, where I served as administrator. Rabbi Richter's precise, sensitive and melodious leining (Torah reading) gives constant joy and inspiration to the congregation and earns high praise from learned visitors at our services.

# Learning and Growing: EDUCATION

There are educational opportunities for all ages at The Great. As well as the pre-bar and bat mitzvah classes run through the Jewish enrichment Program, there are post-bar and bat mitzvah classes with Rabbi Elton, Rashi on a Shabbat morning, special lectures on Shabbat and Yom Tov and the Falk Lecture. This year The Great hosted a very successful course run with the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.



Teaching about Succot.



Rabbi Elton teaching the Melton Course.



Lunch and Learn for Yom Haatzmaut with Rabbi Shua Solomon.



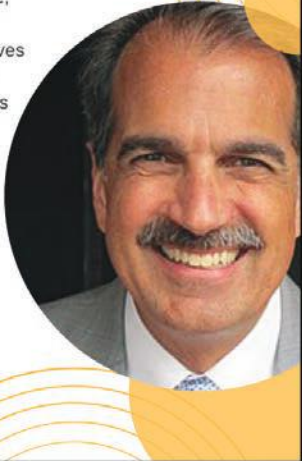

**Eighth Day Pesach**  
**27 APRIL 2019**  
 After the Service

**Prof. Gary A. Rendsburg**

**The Genius of Pesach**

Gary A. Rendsburg is a professor of biblical studies, Hebrew language, and ancient Judaism at Rutgers University in New Jersey. He serves as the Blanche and Irving Laurie Chair of Jewish History at Rutgers University.


His main research interests are the literature of the bible, the history of ancient Israel, the historical development of the Hebrew language, the relationship between ancient Egypt and ancient Israel, the Dead Sea Scrolls and medieval Hebrew manuscripts.


THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE SYDNEY

RABBI ELTON'S SHABBAT HAGADOL DRASHA

**WHY BURN CHAMETZ BEFORE PESACH?**



SHABBAT 13TH APRIL, 2019  
 IN THE SYNAGOGUE,  
 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SERVICE



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE SYDNEY

**SHAVUOT 5779**  
 AT THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE

**TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT**  
 IN THE HOME OF HINDA AND RABBI ELTON

**SERVICE & SUPPER**  
**SATURDAY**  
**8 JUNE**  
**6PM**




WITH GUEST SPEAKER  
 PROF. DAVID NEWMAN OBE  
 BEN GURION UNIVERSITY



THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE SYDNEY

Contact the office to RSVP and for address details.  
 9267 2477 or admin@greatsynagogue.org.au


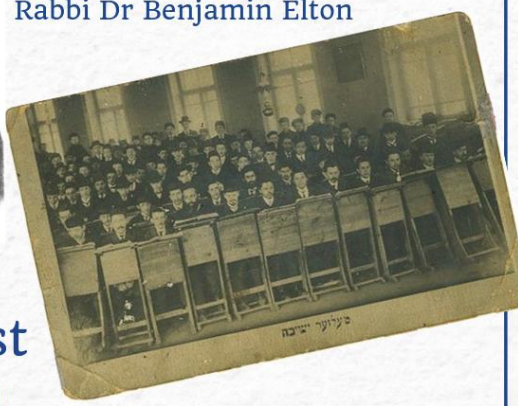
THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE SYDNEY



**THE FALK LECTURE 2019**

**TELZ: THE YESHIVA OF RABBI FALK**

With Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton

**Sunday**  
**4 August**  
**3:00pm**

**at The Great Synagogue**  
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# AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum: NEW TREASURES

Jana Vytrhlik, Guest Curator



*Detail of elaborate embroidery, velvet, gold fringe, bullion, sequins. Torah curtain, Parochet, London, 1878. Restored for the 140th anniversary of The Great Synagogue (1878-2018). Courtesy of an anonymous donor.*

Since its opening in 1982, the AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum has been growing little by little, building up a reputation as one of the most significant collections of Australian Judaica. Treasured silver ornaments and embroidered textiles, books, letters, photographs, certificates, memorabilia and artworks are the foundation of the collection. Through the generosity of The Great's congregants it was again enriched with wonderful new acquisitions over the past year. As diverse as the donations were, they all link to the Synagogue. Whether connected with the recent history or a long-gone event, they all preserve our story for the future. And often they provide a lot of excitement. Here we share some of the treasures.

When a cardboard roll arrived by post, nobody was prepared for the splash of colour inside. In the 1970s the world-renowned Vienna-born Australian artist Louis Kahan (1905-2012) designed stained glass windows for the Synagogue. After the project was realised, he put the sketches away and forgot about them. More than four decades later, his family discovered them and the designs found their way to The Great.

*Continued on page 46*



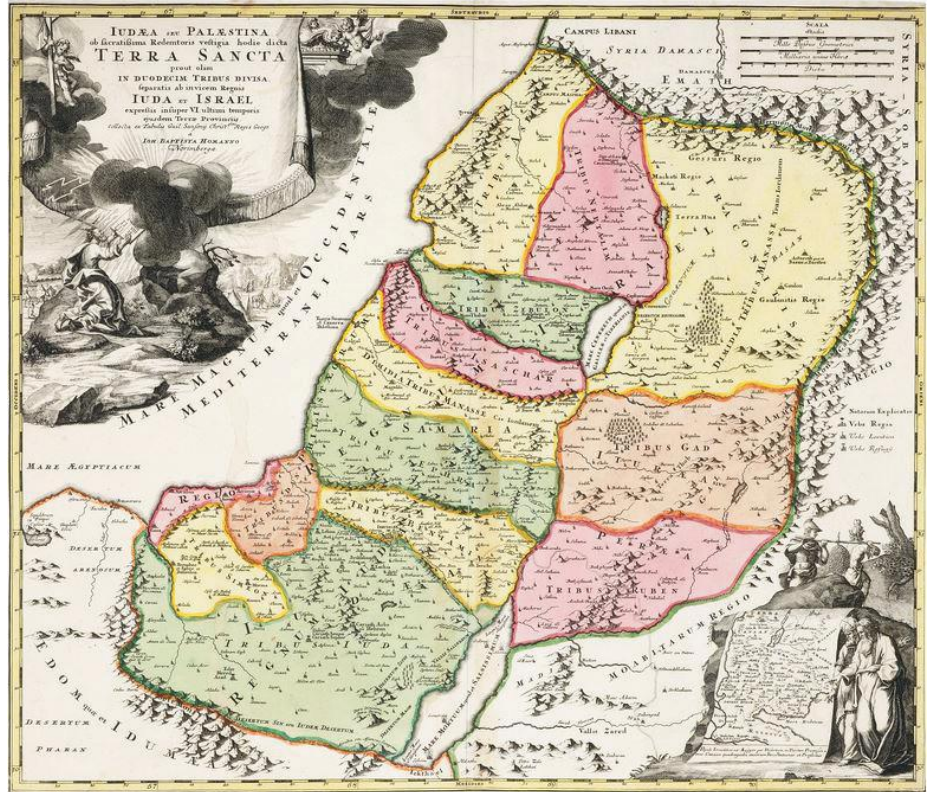
Continued from page 45.

From time to time, a viable opportunity comes our way and the Board agreed to purchase an important historical item which would otherwise be lost to oblivion. In 2017, an American entity announced that they were in possession of a mammoth photo-archive from the major Australian newspapers, dating back to the 1950s. After a laboured visual-manual thematic search for 'things Jewish', the US owners found over one hundred black and white photographs, and they are now enhancing our vintage photo-collection. We are planning to digitise the originals and run a series of 'who is it?' events to identify all the pictured people.

Celebrating a anniversary is usually time of increased generosity and the one hundred and fortieth was no different. The collection received a substantial financial injection for restoration of one of the most important textiles, the precious velvet Parochet which embellished the Ark in the year of the Synagogue's dedication. It is currently on display in the museum exhibition. You can also view another new special acquisition, a rare large map showing the mid-eighteenth century Judea. It is on display in the newly refurbished Falk Library.

We were also fortunate to receive a generous donation of six folios of historical Australian newspapers, documenting – in picture and words – every detail of the consecration of The Great Synagogue, and associated events in 1878. Rarely seen before, it has been a much welcomed addition to the documents we already possessed.

We don't expect all donations to be as spectacular as an antique map. It could be an unassuming document or picture which brings a missing link to a story, or a revelation to a researcher. Such was, for example the donation of family memorabilia by Sandra Cohen. This included



Decorative map of the Holy Land Terra Sancta extending into Egypt. Hand coloured copper engraving, Nuremberg, c. 1741. Courtesy of an anonymous donor.

## Opening of the Great Synagogue, Sydney.

MONDAY, the 4th March, was a memorable day among the Hebrew people of Australia, for there was opened in Sydney one of the most beautiful temples to the living God in the Southern Hemisphere—the great Hebrew Synagogue, Hyde Park, between Elizabeth and Castlereagh streets. This grand structure is an ornament to the city. It was erected at the cost of tens of thousands of pounds at great sacrifice, for, wealthy as the Jewish people are, their numbers are small and the building is very costly.

To celebrate the opening the preparations were perfect, and the ceremonies were of a character which has rarely been the lot of the people of Sydney to witness. To do honour and pay respect to our fellow colonists and friends of the Jewish faith, there assembled not only the wealth, rank, and, may we add, the beauty of the city, but representatives of politics, literature, and the churches of nearly all denominations. The Honourable John Hay, President of the Legislative Council, and Mrs. Hay, Sir G. W. Allen, Speaker of the Legislative

Details of The Illustrated Australian News, March 1878 and Town and Country Journal, April 1878. Donated by Alan Landis and Judith Mencil.





Louis Kahan, *Designs for The Great Synagogue, level 3 stained glass windows, c. 1970, pencil, pen, watercolour. Donated by Dena Kahan, daughter.*



Rare historical photographs from the Australian press of the 1950s – 1970s, featuring The Great Synagogue and its people.

the 1918 original ketubah (marriage certificate) of her parents, signed by Francis L. Cohen, the prominent

Rabbi of The Great. Similarly, a small pile of treasured papers from her grandparents made the donor,

Sara Landa-Wrublewski, realise how important each story is and how imperative it is to preserve it. Her grandfather, The Hon. Abram Landa was a prominent politician during the critical years for the needed assistance to the Jews of Europe.

On behalf of The Great Synagogue and the AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum, we are extending our appreciation to all donors, past, present and future.

Did you know that The Great Synagogue is a Deductible Gift Recipient?

<https://www.greatsynagogue.org.au/information/collection> or

<https://www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/cultural-gifts-program>

## HIRING THE SPACE AT THE SYNAGOGUE FOR FUNCTIONS

### Sanctuary

The sanctuary is a breathtaking sight to behold. The magnificent Ark, beautiful stained glass windows, star-studded ceiling make the sanctuary the most beautiful Jewish space in Australia. It is the perfect venue for a dream wedding ceremony, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Brit Milah or baby naming. The superb acoustics make it the ultimate concert venue. We have hosted acclaimed performers including the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

Capacity: 562 Men's Section. 566 Ladies' Gallery. 1128 Total

### Israel Green Auditorium

The Israel Green auditorium is an ideal venue for an intimate function or Simcha. It boasts a fully equipped commercial kitchen and a stage with all essential sound equipment.

Capacity: 120 seated at round tables . 250 cocktail capacity (standing). 144 theatre seating

### Sky Room

The sky room is located on the top floor of the synagogue and features a retractable roof that allows for a complete view of the sky. It also features a small kitchen for limited catering. This is a great option for small functions especially during the warmer months.

Capacity: 60 at round tables. 80 at rectangular tables. 100 theatre style seating. 120 cocktail capacity (standing)



### Board Room

Our Board Room is ideal for meetings, lectures and classes.

Capacity: 20 seated at Board table. 25 seated in theatre style. 30 cocktail capacity (standing)

**Please contact the synagogue for information on pricing and hire conditions**  
[ilana@greatsynagogue.org.au](mailto:ilana@greatsynagogue.org.au)



# GREAT BOOKS: THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE BOOK CLUB

Words from a few of those, who enjoy the Club:

*I thoroughly enjoy our Great Book Club.*

*I really enjoy the company of the members and certainly appreciate their opinions and input, when discussing the selected book.*

*Although semi-retired, I lead an extremely busy life. However, the Book Club has ensured that I allocate a portion of my time to reading.*

*A big thank you to Michael Gold, the coordinator, who gives up a considerable amount of time to seeing that 'it all happens', and who is always looking to welcome newcomers.*

*Anne Andrews*

*Our Great Synagogue Book Club continues to go from strength to strength.*

*Originally an initiative of Rabbi Elton and Chazzan Josh Weinberg in early 2016, the Club has grown in numbers and enthusiasm.*

*Members (and the numbers vary) meet in the evenings in different homes, approximately every two months, to discuss the particular book, nominated in advance, for that meeting.*

*All the books chosen generally have a Jewish theme and/or author, and their titles demonstrate a wide variety of interests.*

*The meetings provide both mental and social interaction, which is certainly good for us all.*

*Judy and Owen Sperling*

*Our Club serves two purposes.*

*It brings keen readers together for an exchange of ideas and interpretations of different styles of books, which have been suggested by its members, or others.*

*The range of interest varies from historical drama, comedy, to modern dilemmas, non-fiction and personal memoir.*

*Everyone is given plenty of time to finish the chosen book.*

*It is also an opportunity for Great Synagogue members and their friends to gather for a schmooze and supper, and catch up with like-minded people.*

*Ros and Alex Fischl*

*Wishing everyone good  
humour for the coming year*

*– Rodney Marks, comedian.com.au*



Here's some Great Book Club trivia for you...

The Great Book Club held its first meeting on 18 February 2016. Twenty individuals are currently on the Club's 'books'. Forty months later, we're reading our 20th book.

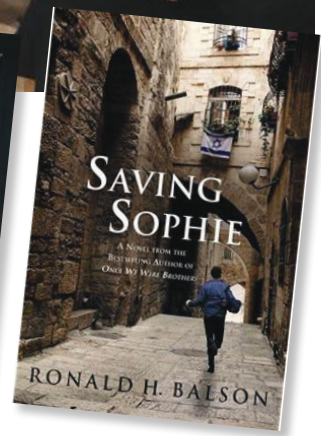
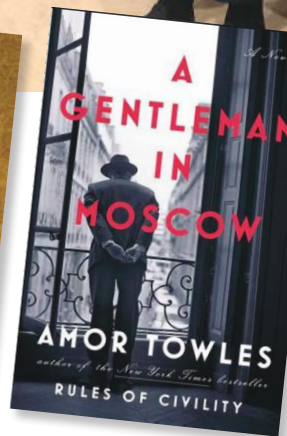
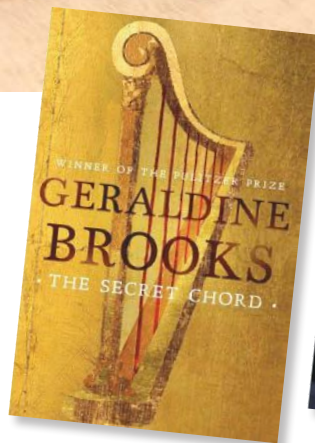
We invite you to join us at any meeting. See notice of the current selected book and meeting date in The Great News.

We recommend any of the wide variety of books we've read and discussed, thus far, in the life of the Club:

- Saving Sophie** by Ronald Balson
- The Secret Chord** by Geraldine Brooks
- A Marriage of Opposites** by Alice Hoffman
- A Pigeon and a Boy** by Meir Shalev
- An Improbable Friendship** by Anthony David
- The Mystics of Mile End** by Sigal Samuel
- The Waiting Room** by Leah Kaminsky
- An Officer and a Spy** by Robert Harris
- The Drowned and the Saved** by Primo Levi
- Once We Were Brothers** by Ronald Balson
- Good Living Street** by Tim Bonyhady
- Judas** by Amos Oz
- If all the Seas were Ink** by Ilana Kurshan
- The Undoing Project** by Michael Lewis
- You Gotta Have Balls** by Lily Brett
- The Weight of Ink** by Rachel Kadish
- The Probability of Love** by Hannah Rothchild
- Sapiens, A Brief History of Humankind** by Yuval Harari
- A Gentleman in Moscow** by Amor Towles
- Invented Lives** by Andrea Goldsmith



Book Club.





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# IN MEMORIAM

Each year we sadly have to say goodbye to members as they pass away. Since the last edition of The Great Vine there were two losses which were perhaps especially significant for the congregation, our former President, Herman Eisenberg AM, and our oldest member, Louise Rosenberg OAM.

**Herman Eisenberg** was born in Cairo in 1927. As a young man he was a



bodybuilder, sprayed with bronze paint to flex his muscles, and a party boy who hosted at home and locked his parents in their bedroom while he danced the night away.

Herman's wife Lydia described him as the Clark Gable of Egypt. They went out for about a year and then came the Egyptian Revolution in 1956 and they chose to marry in order to stay together. Along with other Jews and Europeans, Herman and Lydia left in haste with few possessions. Herman would poignantly refer to "the night we left Egypt" at every Seder.

Arriving in a new land, Herman's story was a classic of migrant success. He approached Remington for a job. They told him he'd never sell anything – he was short and dark with a moustache. He suggested they give him one week's trial on no pay - and he

remained with them for forty-six years. His retirement was much to the relief of younger staff, as Herman remained the top performing salesperson in the company year on year winning the prize for number one across the company's Asia Pacific region.

Herman was dedicated to his family and to good causes. After Lydia became ill, Herman looked after her with devotion until she passed away in 2009. He loved his family and his family responsibilities always came first.

Herman was known for his tireless charity work. He sat on the Board of The Great Synagogue for twenty-two years and was President during the Apple-Lawrence transition. He was a man of deep religious commitment, who could always recite the first paragraph of the Shema by heart.

In recognition of his voluntary work and leadership, Herman was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia. He brought great dignity to the Presidency. He suited (and very much enjoyed) the top hat.

**Louise Rosenberg** was a phenomenon, who died at the age of exactly 104 and a half.

Louise was born in Mosman in 1914. Her family, the Weingots had been in Australia since the time of the 1850s gold rush, and Louise still had the ship ticket that brought them here.

In 1938, Louise was taken by her father to Palestine to meet her cousin Werner/Moishe Rosenberg. The couple returned to Australia in 1942 with their daughter Ruth Marianne, living for several years in the Blue Mountains. Later, she and Moishe divorced and Louise came to Sydney and joined The Great Synagogue. She was a member of the Women's Auxiliary and contributed regularly to the Synagogue Journal.

She was truly beloved at The Great.

Morris Forbes encouraged her to get involved with the Australian Jewish Historical Society. Louise was the Honorary Secretary of the AJHS



for twenty-two years (1967-1989). She knew the Society Journal so well that she could go to a required article without the need to consult the index. She contributed reports, articles and reviews for many years.

Louise wrote three books: Of Folk Tales and Jewish Folk; True Blue Jews; and Collected Essays of the Adult Study Group, which she edited. As a historian she safeguarded our memories and enhanced our insight.

Until remarkably recently Louise still had her sharp mind. She loved to read, walk her dogs and to solve problems. For a while she kept five bull terriers at one time and loved them.

Louise had her favourite expressions: 'no complaints'; and 'my tomorrows will be better than my yesterdays'. She told the nurses when she was in hospital that they were 'a thing of beauty and a joy forever'. She was a very positive person and loved by all who knew her.



# Celebrating Nina and Neil Glasser MVO: LEDOR VADOR, from generation to generation

Debbie Sleigh

On 28 September last year, my father, Neil Glasser MVO (Member of The Royal Victorian Order) celebrated his 100th Birthday with my mother Nina by his side and with his loving family.

This year was the celebration of Mum and Dad's 73rd wedding anniversary. Dad married his Nina at The Great on 2 July 1946 with Mum's father, my zeida Rabbi Falk presiding.

Mum and Dad have a tradition of celebrating their significant anniversaries with donations to the Shule. In the mezzanine of The Great Synagogue is the beautiful silver Moses statue bequeathed by Mum and Dad to The Great on the occasion of their Diamond wedding anniversary – in loving memory of Rabbi and Fanny Falk. They also made a generous donation to the Shule to celebrate Dad's 91st birthday.

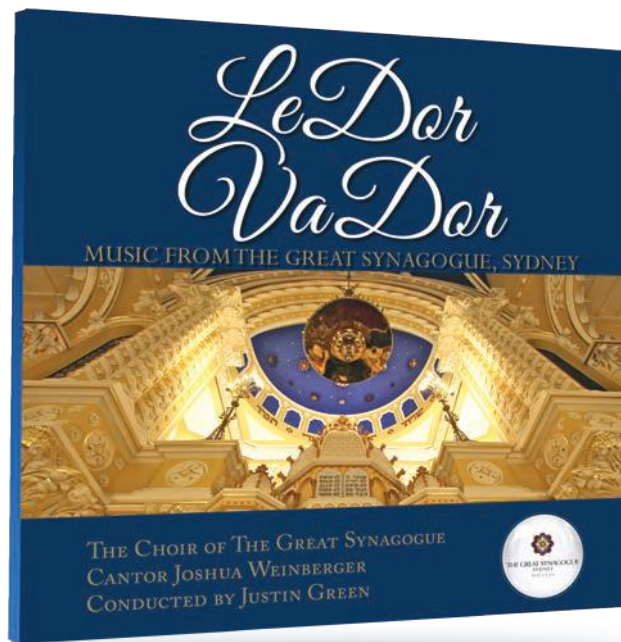
Dad was an entrepreneur extraordinaire and he and Mum have had an extraordinary life, travelling the world often. During the 1980s Dad was Director of Promotions of the Queen Victoria Building. He created or

acquired many historical adornments that now grace the QVB, including the Royal Clock hanging from its vaulted ceiling, and one of Sydney's most famous landmarks, the imposing statue of Queen Victoria situated on the forecourt next to Sydney Town Hall.

Rabbi Apple, Emeritus Rabbi of The

Great Synagogue, has written a short contribution to be included in the second edition of Dad's memoirs *Never Wear A Watch*.

'Generosity has been Neil's second name all his life. The family know what he did for them. But countless others, whether high-ups like Sir Roden Cutler





or thousands of ordinary people, have their own reasons to be thankful for his thoughtfulness.

'He has his favourite people; top of the list is certainly the Queen, whose feeling for Neil is represented by his MVO. He has his favourite places, especially in Sydney, the QVB, which would never have recaptured the affection of the people of Sydney without Neil; the Town Hall; and certainly The Great Synagogue. When Neil came to Shule the place had an electric feeling. When the Shule needed help and support, no-one but Neil had so many brilliant and visionary ideas. To this day I regret that I did not take up a Neil idea to make the Rabbi Falk Memorial Library – named for Nina's father – one of the wonders of the world.

'Neil and Nina have enriched so many lives, not least their own. I am proud to salute them.'

In celebration of Mum and Dad, on behalf of the Glasser family, and following the tradition set by Dad, I have sponsored a CD of Cantor Josh Weinberger and The Great Synagogue Choir singing highlights from services at The Great. It is called Ledor Vador, from generation to generation, symbolising our family's involvement with the Shule, and it is also Josh's best-loved piece. Copies are available from the Shule and online. All money from sales will go to The Great Synagogue.



Nina and Neil with their three children, Sharna, Jody and Debbie. They also have seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren

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ת"ס



# Hammerman Descendants REUNITE

Toby Hammerman

**Two of our long-standing members, Peter and Toby Hammerman (who is also our Assistant Gabbai) assembled a near-complete family reunion this Pesach. Here is their story.**

80 years after fleeing Nazi Germany, almost all of the living descendants of four siblings who left Germany between 1933 and 1939 gathered for a momentous family reunion in the Yarra Valley, near Melbourne. Joint organisers of the event, brothers Toby and Peter Hammerman from Sydney and sisters Pauline Rockman OAM and Sandra Jedwab from Melbourne, said:

‘The ninety-three participants at the reunion are all descendants of one of four siblings: Bernhard Hammerman OAM, formerly a furrier in Sydney; Chaya Weil an early pioneer in Israel; Dr Adi (Michael) Hammerman a Melbourne dentist; and Mulli (Clare) Chester a Jeweller in Sydney’s Kings Cross, formerly from Israel, now residing at the Montefiore Home.’

The Family reunion, over four days, was an opportunity for the second

generation of Hammermans to renew friendships and for the third and fourth generations to create new bonds. Participants enjoyed family bonding activities, a film about family history, a flying fox adventure, a bush walk in the Sherbrooke forest and a drumming workshop. The highlight was a Seder with a Haggadah incorporating stories of family members’ escapes from

**‘The ninety-three participants at the reunion are all descendants of one of four siblings: Bernhard Hammerman OAM, formerly a furrier in Sydney; Chaya Weil an early pioneer in Israel; Dr Adi (Michael) Hammerman a Melbourne dentist; and Mulli (Clare) Chester a Jeweller in Sydney’s Kings Cross, formerly from Israel, now residing at the Montefiore Home.’**

persecution in Germany and their journeys to freedom in Australia, Israel and the USA. Prior to lighting Shabbat and Chag candles, Yahrzeit lamps were lit for family members no longer with us.

Family members were reminded that the parents of the four siblings, Samuel and Betty Hammerman, came to Australia after their fur shop, in

Berlin, was vandalised on Kristallnacht. They were born in the city of Kalusz, Galicia (now Ukraine) in the late 1890s and moved to Berlin at the turn of the twentieth century, where they opened a successful fur business. The horrors of fascism in Berlin during the 1930s and the Nürnberg Laws increasingly restricted the livelihood of German Jews and eventually forced Samuel and

Betty and their four children, Bernhard, Chaya, Adi and Mulli, to flee Germany. Bernhard, the elder son, escaped to London in 1933 after intervening to help an elderly Jewish milkman who was bullied by a group of young Nazi Brownshirt thugs.

Four years later, with the help of the British Jewish Refugee Committee, he





obtained a passage to Australia, while his sister Chaya, a member of the Zionist movement Ha-Bonim, left for Palestine after receiving agricultural training in Yugoslavia. In August 1938, Bernard arranged an Australian landing permit for his younger brother, Adi, who joined

him in Sydney in September that year.

The Reunion was perhaps best summed up by Lauri Zimin from Brooklyn, USA (the wife of Roni Zimin, a great-grandson of Samuel and Betty), who wrote, 'I am truly grateful for being part of this beautiful extended family.

I thank you all for an unforgettable experience and hope you are all aware of how rare and exceptional a family has been built up over the generations - I have never seen anything like it. It was especially amazing to see the youngest generation connect.'



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# My Connections with THE GREAT

Jaclyn Leiba Gluck

**I have always felt a spiritual connection with my paternal grandfather Rabbi Leib Aisack Falk (z"l) who was a minister of The Great Synagogue for nearly thirty-five years. I was born six months after his sudden death and was given the Hebrew/Yiddish middle name Leiba to honour his memory. At his funeral on the 6th May 1957, his colleague, Rabbi Porush, said:**

“Three monuments will always remind us of the Rabbis great love for the Synagogue. The memorial lamp and the menorah, which he made with, his own hands. His library of 7000 books, the finest in the Southern Hemisphere.”

My family are indeed fortunate that even after more than sixty years since his passing, these are the constant reminders of his presence at the Synagogue. Prayer services take place every day in The Rabbi Leib Aisack Falk Memorial Library. The silver memorial lamp that shines on the mezzanine floor, dedicated in memory of the service men that died in both World Wars. The silver Chanukah Falk Menorah that stands in front of the bimah and has stood permanently in the Synagogue since 1952.

My earliest memories of The Great Synagogue were as a child following each Hebrew word in the Singer’s siddur as I prayed on Shabbat. My mother Joyce Falk, now 97 years old, has the same seat that was passed down in our family from her

Australian-born matriarchs, her great-grandmother Rebecca Rosenfeld and her grandmother Marian Lazarus. The earliest record of seat holders in The Great Synagogue is in 1890 when our family is listed with one male and two female seats, twelve years after the Synagogue opened in 1878. No wonder the front row seat has such a great view!

I remember as a child gazing up at all the stars on the ceiling and wondering which Jewish Michelangelo had painted them. I enjoyed seeing the familiar faces of the groups of families that came to Shul on the Yom Tovim. I would hear the voice of Rev. Gluck daven from the Bimah and the Choir sing all the familiar tunes and I recall as a young girl, glancing down at the Gluck boys and wondering why Joseph Gluck looked different from his brothers. I never dreamed that one day I would marry him and that his brother, the famous Chazzan Johnny Gluck, would travel from his position in The Great Synagogue in Johannesburg to sing under our chuppah. Rabbi Apple



*Reverend L.A. Falk when he arrived in Sydney in 1922 (age 33).*

called it the wedding of the century! (The joining of two Great Synagogue ministerial families). We were married on the Monday night of the Queen’s Birthday long weekend at the request of my father in law Rev. Gluck as he had three weddings to officiate on the Sunday!

In 1970 I had my Bat Mitzvah at The Great. There was only a small group of girls that year. We had lessons with Rabbi Porush every Sunday morning for nine months and sat for a one-and-a-half hour written exam. We then spent the final six weeks learning our part for the ceremony in the Shul. Unfortunately,

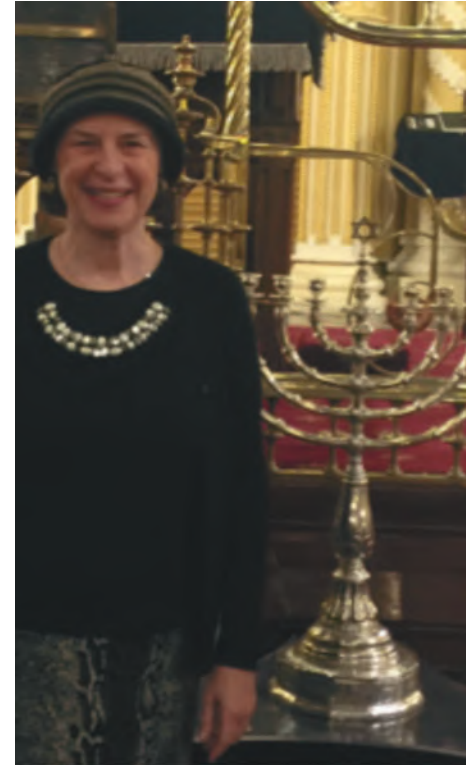




*Jaclyn Leiba Falk with her Batmitzvah class in 1970 (First Row, First on the right).*



*Jaclyn and Joseph Gluck at their wedding at The Great Synagogue in 1980.*



*Jaclyn Gluck with the Falk Menorah.*

our Bat Mitzvah service had to compete with the sound of the Salvation Army band playing Christmas carols outside the Shul in Elizabeth Street that day!

After I attended the inaugural Counterpoint seminar in Australia in 1974 and then the AUJS Academy tour to Israel in 1975, my level of Shabbat observance increased and so I would only attend Shuls within walking distance to my home in Dover Heights.

I kept my connection to The Great by volunteering as a Youth leader for GSY (Great Synagogue Youth). We held annual overnight camps, which attracted children from all over Australia. Nathan Gluck, my future brother in law, was a junior leader and he and I performed at a Great Synagogue Melave Malkah in 1978. I was not happy with my performance that night so when his brother Joe asked if I wanted to go to the late-night movies I readily agreed and the rest is history.

Recently Joe has been asked to fill in as the emergency Chazzan for

three different Chazanim on the High Holidays. It was a dream come true to daven on the Bimah that his father occupied for 25 years.

When Rabbi Elton joined The Great in September 2016, Joe and I both felt an instant liking to him as a Rabbi. This was the same feeling my elderly mother Joyce had who when hospitalised, told the nurses "I only want to be visited by my Rabbi!" He has a sharp intellect, appreciation of Synagogue liturgy, knowledge of history, tolerant nature, warm personality and sense of humour. Such a perfect match for The Great! The Great has a very dedicated Board of Management and their commitment, leadership and support of the Rabbi and Hinda has fostered a revival.

Joe and I came for the one hundred and fortieth year celebration and I attended the WOW weekend. We have celebrated Purim and Chanukah events too. We have commemorated the Yahrzeits of Rev. and Mrs Gluck with a sponsored lunch and this year we were

in Shul on Shabbat for my grandfather's Yahrzeit. We wish we could daven at the Great more often, but it would be like walking the City to Surf each time!

We enjoy seeing the familiar faces that have been members since our youth and we have met new people who are regular attendees. What a privilege it is to daven in such a beautiful Shul surrounded by so much history. No Synagogue in Sydney can surpass the majesty of the High Holiday service. There are Great families who have been in the Synagogue for generations – we are all connected and share a common past – may we all be blessed with a Great future!

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THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE  
SYDNEY

ק"ק בית ישראל

ב"ה

# High Holiday Service Times, Tishrei 5780 - 2019

<i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	<i>Sunday 29 Sept</i>	<i>First Day Succot</i>	<i>Monday 14 Oct</i>
Candlelighting	5.36 pm	Shacharit	8.45 am
Ma'ariv	6.00 pm	Lulav, Hallel and Torah reading	9.30 am
<i>First Day Rosh Hashanah</i>	<i>Monday 30 Sept</i>	Kiddush	12.00 pm
Shacharit	7.45 am	Candlelighting	After 7.47 pm
Torah reading	9.15 am	Mincha, Choral Ma'ariv and Kiddush	6.45 pm
Sermon (please note earlier time)	10.15 am	<i>Second Day Succot</i>	<i>Tuesday 15 Oct</i>
Shofar	10.30 am	Shacharit	8.45 am
Musaf	10.45 am	Lulav, Hallel and Torah reading	9.30 am
End of Services	Approx. 1.30 pm	Kiddush	12.00 pm
Mincha	1.35 pm	Yom Tov ends	7.48 pm
Candlelighting for Second Day	After 6.35 pm	<i>Hoshanah Rabbah</i>	<i>Sunday 20 Oct</i>
Ma'ariv	6.30 pm	Candlelighting	Before 6.53 pm
<i>Second Day Rosh Hashanah</i>	<i>Tuesday 1 Oct</i>	Ma'ariv and Kiddush	6.00 pm
Shacharit	7.45 am	<i>Shemini Atzeret</i>	<i>Monday 21 Oct</i>
Torah reading	9.15 am	Shacharit	8.45 am
Sermon (please note earlier time)	10.15 am	Hallel followed by Torah reading	9.30 am
Shofar	10.30 am	Yizkor (Memorial Service)	Approx. 10.30 am
Musaf	10.45 am	<i>Simchat Torah (evening)</i>	<i>Monday 21 Oct</i>
End of Services	Approx. 1.30 pm	Children and Family Program including	
Mincha	Approx. 1.35 pm	Dancing and Dinner	5.30 pm - 7.00 pm
Yom Tov ends	6.36 pm	Mincha, Ma'ariv, Hakafot and Dancing	6.45 pm
<i>Fast of Gedaliah</i>	<i>Wednesday 2 Oct</i>	Dinner for the Honourees	7.45 pm
Fast begins	4.13 am	Candlelighting	After 7.52 pm
Fast ends	6.26 pm	<i>Simchat Torah (morning)</i>	<i>Tuesday 22 Oct</i>
<i>Shabbat Shuvah</i>	<i>Friday 4 Oct</i>	Shacharit	8.45 am
Candlelighting	5.40 pm	Hallel, Dancing and Torah reading	9.30 am
Kabbalat Shabbat, Ma'ariv and Kiddush	6.00 pm	Kiddush followed by Mincha	Approx. 1.00 pm
<i>Shabbat Shuvah</i>	<i>Saturday 5 Oct</i>	Yom Tov ends	7.54 pm
Shacharit	8.45 am		
Shabbat Shuvah, Drasha, Kiddush and			
Mincha	11.00 am		
Shabbat ends	6.39 pm		
<i>Kol Nidrei</i>	<i>Tuesday 8 Oct</i>		
Candlelighting and Fast begins	6.43 pm		
Kol Nidrei service	6.30 pm		
<i>Yom Kippur</i>	<i>Wednesday 9 Oct</i>		
Shacharit	8.45 am		
Torah reading	10.45 am		
Sermon	11.45 am		
Yizkor (Memorial Service)	Approx. 12 noon		
Musaf	12.15 pm		
Mincha, Jonah read in English by			
members of the congregation,			
and Ask the Rabbi	4.15 pm		
Sermon and Ne'ilah	6.15 pm		
Ma'ariv and Shofar (Fast ends)	7.42 pm		
<i>Erev Succot</i>	<i>Sunday 13 Oct</i>		
Candlelighting	Before 6.47 pm		
Ma'ariv	6.30 pm		
Communal Dinner	6.45 pm		

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

## Youth Programs

### Rosh Hashanah (both days)

0 - 2	9.30 am - 12.45 am	Board Room (behind the Shule)
3 - 5	10.00 am - 12.45 pm	Children's Senior Room (Third floor)
6 - 11	10.00 am - 12.45 pm	Israel Green Auditorium
Teen	11.00 am - 12.00 pm	The Teen Sky Lounge will be open in the Succah between 9.00 am and 1.00pm.

### Yom Kippur

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

0 - 2	10.00 am - 1.30 pm	Board Room (behind the Shule)
3 - 5	11.00 am - 12.45 pm	Children's Senior Room (Third floor)
6 - 11	11.00 am - 12.45 pm	Israel Green Auditorium
Teen	11.00 am - 12.00 pm	The Teen Sky Lounge will be open in the Succah between 9.00 am and 1.00pm.

### Succot

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





# Officials of The Great Synagogue 2018-2019

**Ministers**

Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton  
*Chief Minister*

Rev Joshua Weinberger  
*Cantor (until July 2019)*

Rabbi Phil Kaplan  
*Minister (since July 2019)*

**Honorary Ministers**

Rabbi Dr Raymond Apple AO RFD  
*Rabbi Emeritus*

Rabbi Mendel Kastel OAM  
*Rabbinic Fellow*

**Religious Officiants and Educators**

Rabbi Yakov Richter  
*Torah Reader and Children's Service*

Michael Sassoon  
*Community Educator*

Hinda Young  
*Tot Shabbat*

**Choirmaster**

Justin Green

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David Newman  
*Board Member*

Lauren Ryder  
*Board Member*

Norton Whitmont OAM  
*Life Member (leave of absence)*

Craig Shulman  
*Observer*

**Governors**

Herman Eisenberg AM (passed away  
December 2018)

Rosalind Fischl OAM

Jake Selinger

**Office Staff**

Lenny Gompes  
*General Manager (until April 2019)*

Lynn Niselow  
*General Manager (since April 2019)*

Judith Indyk  
*Accounts Manager*

Justin Green  
*Administrator*

Ilana Moddel  
*Administrator*

Ezra Wexler  
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**Honorary Officials**

Steve Schach  
*Gabbai*

Toby Hammerman  
*Assistant Gabbai*

Joe Kensell  
*Volunteer Archivist*

Ros Brennan  
*President of The Women's Auxiliary*

Win Rubens  
*President of the Judaica Textile Group*

Craig Shulman  
*Chair, YG:Young Great*

Jana Vytrhlik  
*Guest Curator, AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum*

**Useful contacts**

Synagogue office  
9267 2477

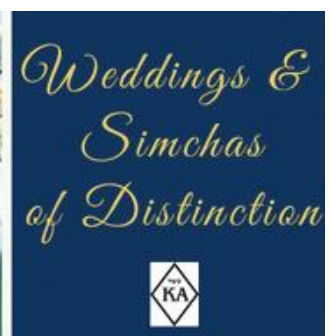
Denise Sher – Kiddushim  
0408 411 510

Rabbi Yakov Richter  
[ydrichter@hotmail.com](mailto:ydrichter@hotmail.com)

**The Great Vine**

Crunch Brand – designers  
[brent@crunchbrand.com.au](mailto:brent@crunchbrand.com.au)  
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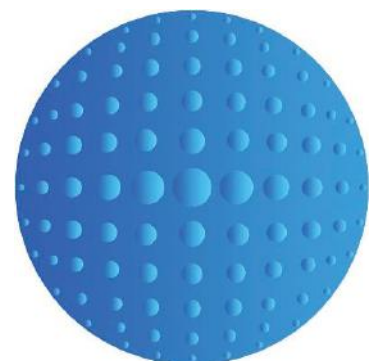


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Contact David P. Lewis  
Chairman

Omnis Software Limited

88 Pitt Street Redfern NSW 2016 t: +61 2 9555 4777 e: David@Omnis.net