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Committee Members



Left to right

Back Row: Jeff Sher, Peter Berman, Rabbi Uzvolk, Paul Freinkel
Middle Row: Jolene Goldberg, Adrienne Skikna, Joanne Goldberg, Lorien Gimpel
Front Row: Stephen Goldberg, Jonathan Gimpel, Wayne Tichauer, Shaun Rosenthal
Absent: Stephen Goldberg; Gary Ermann



**The Victory Park Shul committee wishes
our entire community a Shana Tova Umetuka.**

**May 5783 usher in a sweet new year of peace,
good health and happiness for all.**

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein

Rosh Hashanah - a time to create yourself

There's a natural human need to predict the future. We want to know what's going to happen. We feel this need most acutely over Rosh Hashanah, when we have a deep sense of our vulnerability, and reflect on Hashem's decrees for us in the year ahead.

The problem is that when we are preoccupied with prediction, we think passively. We wonder what the future holds, looking on helplessly, pondering what is in store for us. It's vital that we turn this on its head. Rather than passively anticipating the year ahead, we need to create it ourselves, as if on a blank canvas.

There's a lot out of our control — in the hands of Hashem. But who we are, the values and qualities of the families we nurture and the community we build — this is all in our hands.

Rosh Hashanah is all about creating ourselves. It is the anniversary of the creation of the first human beings, Adam and Eve. And it is the time of year we — as part of our Divine mandate to be creators like Hashem — create ourselves anew. We ask ourselves the question — not what will happen in the year ahead, but — who do we want to be in the year ahead? What kind of person do we aspire to be? What are the traits we wish to develop? As we reflect on the past and repent for our wrongdoings, we also think about

we resolve to be better — closer to Hashem and the people around us, wiser, more generous and compassionate, more refined, more selfless, more faithful, more connected.

And that impacts not just us, but our families, our friends, our community, and even the world at large. The journey of self-creation begins with us then ripples outwards in ever-expanding circles of impact.

It starts with us. And it starts now. Fortunately, Hashem has given us the tools to achieve this — to create ourselves and our families and our communities: the wisdom and mitzvahs of the Torah. The Midrash tells us that Hashem gave us the mitzvahs to purify and refine us. They guide us on a path of self-transformation and self-realisation — a path of creating ourselves and our families through who we are, how we live and what we do.

Through learning Torah and doing mitzvahs, we find our Divine purpose and meaning, we learn to be people of faith and compassion and kindness and wisdom. We learn how to nurture a family of love and loyalty, of kindness and integrity. We learn how to build a community and a society of warmth and care and inclusivity, reflecting the values that Hashem has given us.

Rosh Hashanah is when we set ourselves to the task of self-creation. But the truth is, it's not just once a year. We are given the energy and impetus and opportunity to create ourselves each week, with the Divine gift of Shabbat.

This is the theme of my new book, *Shabbat. A Day To Create Yourself*. My aim in writing it was to offer a completely fresh perspective on Shabbat, exploring the ways in which Shabbat is more than just a day of rest — that it is a day that completely transforms us. The book explores how practical aspects of the day — what we do and what we refrain from doing — give us the tools to create the best version of ourselves and our world; how Shabbat is a Divine formula to live optimally and joyfully — and curate the kind of life we yearn for.

Writing it has been a real journey of discovery for me personally, and I hope it will be equally eye-opening for those who read it.

I wish all the wonderful people of the a good and meaningful Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and great success on your journey of self-creation in the year ahead. May Hashem bless all our efforts, and inscribe and seal our special community, and all of Klal Yisrael, with a sweet, healthy, prosperous and peaceful 5783.

With blessings,

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein



Rabbi Azriel Uzvolk

BS"D

Following the Plague of Hail, the Torah relates that the Wheat and Rye did not break for they were soft. Along those lines, the Talmud (Ta'anit 20) instructs that a person should be as soft as a reed and not hard as a cedar".
(During the days of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, when we seek to right the wrongs in our relationships, It is important to remember this directive)
The idea that being flexible is not only advantageous but often necessary was best summarized by Betty Greene when she said "Bending beats breaking."

Now, what about being adaptable when it comes to Shul?

Reflecting back on the past few years at Victory Park, things have changed. Laia and myself first experienced Rosh Hashana with the Victory Pak community in 2007. At the time there was a Chazan (Harel Amid) and Choir. Together they led the services every single Shabbat and Yom Tov.

The Shul was full on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Remember what it was like to walk to and from Shul with the streets of Victory Park cordoned off for walking.? (also, along memory lane, do you remember the Shul ice machine?)
One of the constants in the Shul has been Jeffery Sher. He has been on every Shul committee since our arrival. (Most times, it was in the capacity of Chairman.)

This is the last year with Jeff and Zandra at Victory Park and while we wish them Behatzlacha on their Aliya, we realize that Israel's gain is our loss. I want to take this opportunity of thanking Jeff for his tireless commitment and dedication to our Shul.
I also want to welcome and commend our new chairman, Peter Berman, and the new committee for accepting the responsibility of the continued running of our Shul.

We are facing change. What will that change bring? May we, as a Shul, Change? In Judaism, change is restricted to specific parameters. We do embrace the new and we remain firmly rooted in the old. On the one hand, we need to view the Torah and its laws as brand new and on the other hand, we are constantly instructed to remember.
How do we translate that to the future direction of our Shul? Our community has changed. Our numbers have decreased. Shul has been off the radar for many. Covid legitimized and even praised not coming to Shul. We need to find creative ways to welcome people back to Shul.

Till now, things were predictable but now, the future is not what it used to be. What will that change bring? There are pessimists and optimists. (need I say more?). Let me just remind you of the words of Thomas L. Friedman who said: "Pessimists are usually right, and optimists are usually wrong but all the great changes have been accomplished by optimists."

Laia and I invite you to embrace and be active participants in the great changes ahead.

Our Children, Laia, and I take this opportunity of wishing you a prosperous, Peaceful, Healthy and Happy year. Shana Tova Umetukah.

In Friendship, Rabbi Zusman Y.



Shana Tova!
Happy New Year!
שנה טובה



BS"D

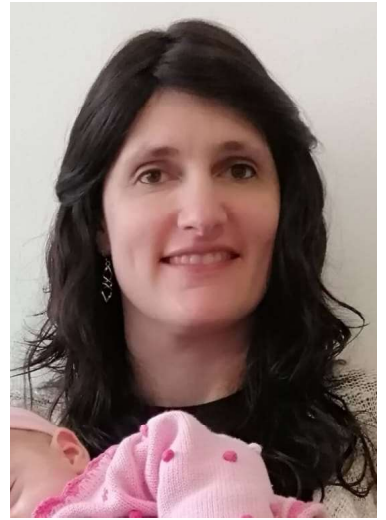
Rebbetzin Laia Uzvolk

Dear Friends

Trying to reflect on the year gone by, I looked for highlights which shaped my growth. Experiences that have me standing here a year later, hopefully, a better person.

Attempting to raise our younger generation is a completely different reality from our older children. Today's youngsters are so much more entitled. Trying to instill in them the desire to let the Torah call the shots instead of their own whims, is a delicate tightrope.

It was during 'The Three Weeks' when one of our children was into a serious building project. It was almost 'The 9 Days', the most intense Jewish national mourning period, when building is avoided. My husband and I were discussing how to deal with this scenario. Do we tell the child that his current 'raison d'etra' should be put on hold for religious reasons? To say the least, that was not going to strengthen his relationship with Hashem! On the other hand, Halacha (Jewish Law) is not something we pick and choose. Should we ask a Rav (an impartial



Here's the miracle:

We were still contemplating and had not yet said a word to our young artisan. Out of the blue our child came to tell us that he had consulted with his building guru and that this is not going to be a quick process. After the cement is laid, we must wait NINE DAYS for it to dry before proceeding!!!! Did you hear that? NINE Days! Not eight or ten ... nine! Exactly the amount of time that Hashem asked us not to build!

Hashem empowered this child to do what is right happily. And He gave his parents (and the child) a huge hug!

We wanted to do what was right on all levels: we sought to follow the Halacha, as well as to 'build' our child's creativity in conjunction with his relationship with Hashem.

We opened the conversation, and Hashem joined the dialogue!

Two quotes come to mind:

"Open an opening for Me like the point of a needle and I will open an opening for you like the opening of a ballroom" (Midrash, Shir HaShirim)

"In the path in which a person wants to go, so they will lead him" (Gemora, Makot).

Who are the 'they' who are leading? A friend of mine once shared a beautiful explanation: Our thoughts are so powerful that they create angels to fulfil them. (Thus we are told, "Tracht gut vet zein gut" – think good and it will be good ... because those are the types of angels and their missions which we'll create!)

Back to our original quote. "In the way in which a person prefers to go, they – the angels s/he created with those chosen thoughts- will lead him." It is those angels' jobs to make those words a reality.

We are living through the labour pains of the birth of the Messianic Era. It is harsh. It hurts. And we don't have to go it alone! Hashem is constantly there to hold our hands. We just must want to invite Him into the conversation!

When we choose His Map and try to live according to the Torah's ways, He is the GPS. He is so there that we frequently don't even realise the miracles with which He smoothed the way. All the Divine Providence involved often only appears when, and if, we use hindsight.

So, practically speaking, how do we invite Hashem into our lives?

Firstly, speak to Him. Just like that - ask His opinion and bounce your ideas off Him. Call Him to join the conversation in your head. He will find a way to answer. (Sometimes via a building guru!)

Secondly, look for His advice. What do I mean? We need to do what we need to do. And then hand over. For example, I might try to get through to someone three times on their phone which doesn't get answered. The person I'm calling could be sitting right next to their phone and it does not ring. Hashem Knows it's better for us not to speak right now. I need to hand over and trust that gum zu Itova – this too is for the best- even if it doesn't feel like it! Not so easy at the time. However, if we look back at the scenario with hindsight, we will often see the Divine Providence at play.

My biggest blessing is my ongoing dialogue with Hashem. I am never alone. By inviting Him into the conversation I am free to do what He Guides me to do, whilst handing over the reins to the Driver with 20/20 vision. That does not necessarily make the journey fun. It does make it far easier!

The Rabbi and our family (far and near) join me in wishing you Shana Tova Umetuka. May you and yours be showered with all that is only revealed good on every level.

If any of us have upset you in any way, please inform us so we may make amends.

If anyone would like to join our Yom Tov table, please be in touch.

Looking forward to sharing your dialogues and their miracles,

Love, Laia

Our Chairman - Peter Berman

When thinking about where we were a just a year ago, it fills me with happiness, relief, and cautious optimism about what lies ahead for our community and indeed for Victory Park Shul.

We have a special 'something' here, an x-factor of sorts, which encourages me to believe that we will get back to where we need to be.

I am honoured to share this platform with the Victory Park Shul Committee for 2022. We are blessed to have a powerful and exciting team with ambition, and a vision that I would like to share with you.

We firmly believe that the future of our shul lies in the youth and the women of our community. What exactly does this mean?

Naturally, the youth are the future of our community, and we need to ensure that the baton is passed on in the correct fashion. They must be equipped to manage every part of what it means to lead the community and that time starts now. Through minyan attendance, youth programmes, shiurim, a youth shul and so much more! Budgets, building plans and meetings are well under way and we will certainly keep you posted. We ask for your support in this regard by encouraging your kids to understand that the shul should and can be the absolute epicenter of any Jewish community, and our plan is to make VP shul a place where your kids want to be.

The ladies are the unsung heroes of our shul. Our brochas and baking committee are famous- literally! We are blessed to have such a powerful group and I thank you again for everything you do. I have no doubt that you will continue to play such a pivotal role, and look forward to hearing more about the shiurim, ladies' initiatives and so much more.

As I mentioned over Shavuot, we pay tribute and thanks to the outgoing committee/s, with special reference to Jeff Sher, a stalwart member and chairman of the shul for the longest time. We thank you all!

We realize that the road ahead is a challenging one, but we are up for the task. Due to your buy-in, we are starting to witness a subtle, yet meaningful momentum shift. Its important to the celebrate small victories along the way. Lag BÓmer, Shavuot, 'First Fridays', midweek morning coffee, Thursday Mincha/Maariv Lchaim have all received a great response thus far. This is a work in progress, and we will endeavor to improve and add to these projects as we go.

BH, Covid is now behind us. Getting back to shul the world over has proven to be a challenge. I appeal to everyone to come back- we need you. I can assure you; you will be greeted with a smile and a hug or a handshake (or fist pump if you prefer). We have seen and heard such ruach returning on a Friday night specifically. PG this continues in the right direction.

A daily Minyan speaks volumes to the success of a shul. Our new roster is taking s hape beautifully. Quite plainly, our aim is to be THE shul of the Northwest. We have a massive advantage in the form of our school and shul on the same campus. One of our goals is for the school and shul to start 'speaking' to each other. To this end, we have had exciting and productive meetings with SABJE and all 4 heads of school on the campus. The results of which will start coming through soon. Everyone is now on the same page; of that you can be sure. This bodes well for the sustainability of both Victory Park shul and school.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish one and all a Shana Tovah Umetukah.

May Hashem Bless us all with a sweet new year, with PG only simchas and brochas.

Thank you



Kitchen & Housekeeping Staff



Left to right: Thapelo Mogotsi; Isaac Mogotsi; Paulina Setlhare; Bismark Mkhwanazi

Thank you to this dedicated team for all the work that they do for our community.



L' Shana Tova

*Wishing the community a New Year
filled with happiness and health!*

Tel: 011 442 6623 | 217th Avenue | Parktown North



O H R S O M

As we got onto the plane, embarking on a 9 month journey of growth, fun and new experiences, we had no idea what was truly in store for us. We were introduced to new people, new environments and a very new way of thinking. We have spent the last 7 months based in central Jerusalem and from there we have visited many other places in Israel and abroad. We have met every type of Jew that you could imagine, seen things that most people never get to see in their lifetime and most importantly, have each grown immensely.

Our year has been filled with activities such as the scuba diving course in Eilat, internships across Israel, a 2 week Kibbutz experience in the North, a 3 week journey through India, a month of volunteering on ambulances all over Israel as well as a 2 week experience volunteering in the army.

Throughout all of these amazing activities and adventures, the main focus of our programme remains our Jewish learning and growth. We have been privileged to spend a good portion of our time in Yeshiva and seminary, have constant one-on-one learning with mentors, and we have also had the opportunity to hear remarkable Jewish influencers and speakers. We have been lucky enough to have enjoyed Purim, Pesach, Shavuot and many other Chagim in Israel this year. Our weeks are always filled with inspiration and learning, leading up to powerful shabboses where we all come together at the Ohrsom center to experience an amazing Friday night service and fun shabbos meals.

We are all very fortunate to have had this opportunity and are so lucky to be a part of the ever-growing OHR SOM family where we have all found a new love for the land of Israel, our rich heritage and the importance of Judaism and yidishkeit in our lives. We have learnt that being a Jew means so much more than following Halacha - it is a way of life, a set of values and morals and an indescribable feeling of gratitude, love, and connection to all Jews alike.

We have had an incredibly meaningful Elul thus far leading up to Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. We are so excited to be able to spend these special Chagim in Israel, all the while thinking of our Victory Park community back home. We wish everyone a Shana Tovah Umetukah!

Love from Evan Koton, Danni De Aguiar, Isabella Goldberg, India Milne, Paris Obel and Aerin Cohen



Israel June 2022

And we were off.....

Touching down in Tel Aviv, the excitement of seeing our daughter who has been there on a Gap year, the prospect of spending quality time with dear family and friends, and the added bonus of Stephen's sister flying in from Sydney to meet us was almost too much to bear.

The undulating rhythm of the train, snaking its way through the Judean hills, delivering us to Jerusalem, the City of Gold. The clanging of the trams down Jaffa Street, the warm sun beaming down, the slippery steps of Jerusalem stone, discovering old Shuls tucked away in the alleys and side streets, all alluding to a bygone era.

The jostling of the Machane Yehude market pre-Shabbat, the freshest, most mouth watering food displays, mounds of olives, cheeses of all varieties, not knowing which delicious tub of mezze or warm freshly baked bread to scoop up next. Eating the best Club sarmie @ Crave just off Ben Yehuda Street, was a highlight and still evokes salivating memories. Dining on the quaint pedestrian Bezalel Street in the shadow of Bezalel Academy, home to the original School of Architecture, evoked memories of Parisian cobbled walkways. Winding our way through the Russian Compound steeped in Tzarist majesty, down through the Jaffa Gate, wondering through the Armenian Quarter as we eagerly await our first glimpse of the wondrousness of the Kotel. One cannot help but picture what life was like thousands of years ago, the bustling activity which took place around the Temple. And the heroics of our brave soldiers who so proudly stood before the Wall after the liberation of Jerusalem in '67. Emotional times indeed.

Tel Aviv, the NYC of the Middle East, pulsating with energy, good vibes, and superb food. Sampling the delightful treats on offer during our tour of the Levinsky market, the yummiest shwarma in the Carmel Shuk, sipping cold Rose and eating crumbed artichokes @ Gazetta Bar on Bimah Square, the best Shnitzel Laffa EVER @ Hakutzim, the tenderist juiciest shish kebabs at Ha—Akim, and dining alfresco at Puaa in Yafo, is a sensory delight on every level.

We were blessed to celebrate a beautiful wedding with old friends in Pardes Hanah, and spend special time with dear family in Haifa. Our final Shabbat back in Jerusalem. Kabbalat Shabbat at the Kotel, was a moment I will never forget and will be etched in my memory forever. The sheer scale of different sects, secular and army people, interwoven together constituting the fabric of Jewish life, coming together with a common goal to welcome in the Shabbat. Dancing and singing together, such joy!

Our delish Shabbos dinner, courtesy of the Machane Yehude shuk, spent with our daughter Belle and her friends, in their apartment was magical.

We missed our flight home, but nothing could dampen our spirits. Blessed beyond to have had such a wonderful time filled with love and laughter, loads of fun, and oh!!! The food.

On our return I was asked numerous times how I found Israel, its changes, modernisation etc, and my answer was exactly the same to everyone. This trip just reaffirmed why I have had a 40 year love affair with my beloved Eretz.

Joanne Goldberg



High School Head - Andrew Baker

Message to Victory Park Hebrew Community for Rosh Hashannah

In a recent meeting with the new leadership of the Shul Committee it became very apparent to me how important the relationship between Shul and School is on our beautiful Campus. We need to be united in our quest to serve our special community and work together for the common good of all at Victory Park. At this time of Rosh Hashannah, it is my privilege to share a message with all the members of our Shul Community.

In the words of Chief Rabbi Mirvis “ Each of us strives to carve out a destiny true to our own particular tradition. At the same time, each one of us is an integral part of our shared society.

I find that there is an increased tendency for people to define themselves according to the differences between them and others. Yes, it is important for each of us to have our own particular identity and to have pride in who we are. But, at the same time, we must nurture our connections with others and discover unity in diversity. As radical extremism sweeps through our fragile world, we need to emphasize the values and aspirations which bind us together.

Empathy is a key component of a moral society and cultural differences bring a collective strength that benefits all of humanity.

Martin Luther King Jr said: We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers.

Close to three thousand years ago, the Book of Psalms put it this way: “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity.”

The festival of Rosh Hashana, our New Year, which could hardly be more Jewish, celebrates the birth of mankind. Communities will come together in festive spirit with song and devotion and, at the heart of our prayers we will cry out to the Almighty: Remember all nations for life and for good, thus emphasising our concern for all mankind.”



King David High School Victory Park is blessed to be united with the Victory Park Hebrew Community in the celebration of Rosh Hashanah. My wishes to Rabbi Uzvolk, Mr Peter Berman, the Shul Committee and the entire Shul Community on the threshold of the New Year, may it bring blessings to us all and, my best wishes for a good and pleasant year, spiritually and materially.

May Hashem bless the entire Jewish community with a year filled with only good health, success, and optimism for the future.

Shanah Tovah
Andrew C. Baker

Primary School Head - Kevin Lees

Rosh Hashana – The 'Head of the New Year'.

Self-awareness and self-reflection are pillars at this time and they oblige us to continue to strive to become the best versions of ourselves.

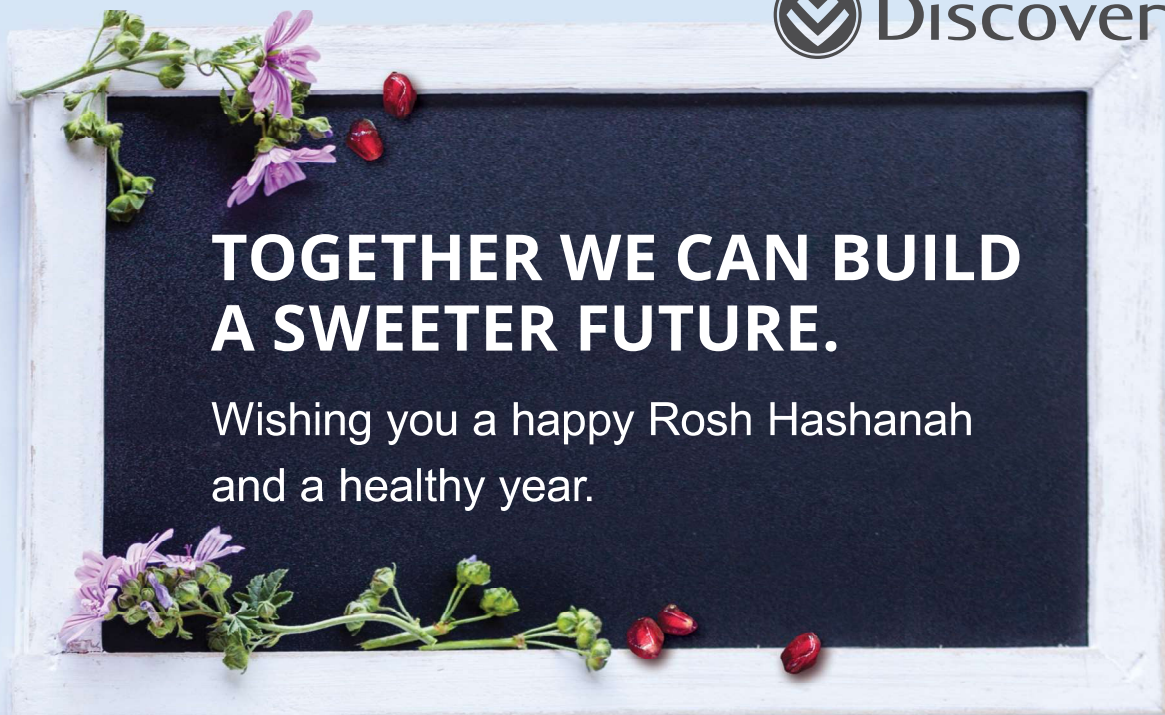
2022 has been a momentous year for our school as we have seen a return to 'normality' with the ease of COVID restrictions and the subsequent return to community engagement. Our school continues to flourish and produce pupils who are ready to meet the demands of an ever-changing and unpredictable world.

The year has afforded our children numerous academic, sporting and cultural opportunities for growth and development as they journey towards the best version of themselves. Likewise, the foundation of Jewish life and studies at KDVPP continues to offer a significant sense of connection and spiritual growth.

It is a tremendous privilege for our school to be involved with the Victory Park Hebrew congregation. How our pupils, staff and parents are embraced by the community is deeply appreciated. My sincere thanks to Rabbi Uzvolk and Peter Berman for their ongoing support and partnership. I wish all people reading this a sweet, happy and healthy new year and may you all be inscribed and sealed in 'The Book of Life.



**Shana Tova,
Kevin Lees**



Hadracha 2022

I had the amazing opportunity to go on Hadracha recently through the Bnei Akiva program. I had never been to Israel before so it was all very exciting and overwhelming at the same time. 3 weeks in Israel with no teachers and no Parents – what 16 year old would turn this down?

What I initially thought would be one big party actually turned into the most amazing and meaningful experience of my life and something I will remember forever.

My entire experience in Israel was a unique and spiritual one, with 150 grade 10 students from Joburg and Cape Town all striving to look deeper into our Jewish roots and connections to Israel made us all bond from day 1.

We were guided by some incredible and motivating madrichim who took us around Israel. We got to explore the Holy Land from North to South, visiting well-known destinations such as Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Eilat and Tzvat.

We woke up early and went to bed late, our days were filled with adventure and learning as we were either touring museums, visiting ancient towns or eating falafel and laffa in the shuk.

I made a lot of friends on this trip that I know I will have a connection with for years to come.

One of my many highlights on Hadracha was laying tefillin at the Kotel, exploring the Old City of Jerusalem and trying to navigate my way around the Shuk Machaneh Yehuda.

Spending 3 weeks in Israel, I learnt a lot about myself and came to realize the appreciation and passion I have for my Faith and Yiddishkeit.

I highly recommend this journey for all grade 10's – honestly a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Daniel Berman



LEWIS ATTORNEYS WISHES THE COMMUNITY A SWEET, HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR



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Calendar Sept - Oct 2022

Shana Tova

*Wishing one and all a
happy New Year and well
over the fast.*

*Anthony, Stephanie, Zack
& Micah Fineberg*

Wishing all a Chag
Sameach & a good
meaningful fast.
Love David & Louella
Friedland & Minnie Ritz

*We pray that all our community will
enjoy good health, much happiness
and abundant blessings in the year
ahead.*

Alf & Freida Abrahamsohn

Shana tova u'metukah to all. May
we all have a happy and healthy
new year. Many thanks to Rabbi
and Rebbetzin Uzvolk for your
never-ending support and
commitment to the VP community.
With love from Lee Mendelsohn,
Jake, Hannah and Jesse Berkowitz

*Barry and Tzippy Damelin and family wish the Rabbi,
Laia and family, friends and the congregation Ketiva ve
chatima tovah. Shana Tovah to all.*

Carol and Stanley Arenson
extend best wishes to the
entire community for a
healthy, peaceful and
enjoyable New Year.

*Wishing our dear family and
friends a shana tova u
metukah. May the year
ahead be filled with good
health, happiness and
Hashem's richest blessings.
Fondest Love Stephen &
Joanne Goldberg and
Family*

SHANA TOVAH. MAY YOU ALL BE
BLESSED WITH A YEAR THAT'S
SWEET AND SPECIAL IN EVERY WAY.
DAVID AND GAIL FRIEDMAN

Wishing all our friends and
the community a happy
New Year and well over the
Fast.
Love The Kassel Family

*Wishing our family, friends and
community
a year of joy, hope, happiness and
good health. Wishing you all a Shana
Tova Tikateivu.
Love from the Berman Family.*

*Alan and Lesley Lewis wish
everyone a
healthy, wonderful year.*

Wishing everyone in this
special community a year
full of health, happiness
and only good things.
Shana Tova
The Hurvitz Family

*Shana Tovah to the
whole community from
Eli and Joy Ovadia and
Family.*

Happy New Year. May
your year be filled with
sweetness.
The Ermann Family

*Wishing everyone a Chag
Sameach.
The Rosenthal Family.*

*Wishing our family, friends
and the community a
Happy New Year and well
over the Fast. From Russel
& Andy Koton and
Family*

Wishing my children,
grandchildren, great
grandchildren, family, friends,
the Rabbi, his family and the
community Shana Tova and well
over the Fast. Lucky Miller

*Wishing you a prosperous
and successful year, Shana
Tova Umetuka Taichataivu
Vetaichataimu. Love from all
the Uzvolks.*

*Wishing our family and friends
Shana Tova and a happy and
healthy New Year and well over the
fast. Love Stan & Karen Nathan
and Family*

A very prosperous and
happy new year and
well over the fast to all.
Jill and Maurice Sack
and family.

*Sincere good wishes for a
happy, healthy, peaceful New
Year and well over the fast.
Les & Iona Samowitz and
Family*

All the best. Wishing everyone a
wonderful Yomtov and a great year
to follow.
From the Tichauer Family

*Wishing the entire
community a sweet, happy
and healthy year ahead
filled with many blessings.
Love from The Gimpel
family.*

To the Rabbi, Laia our special
family and friends Shana Tova
and well over the Fast. May
you be inscribed for a sweet
year filled with good health,
peace and prosperity.
Mike and Lynn Strimling
and family

*Wishing our friends and the
community Happy New Year and
well over the Fast.
From Dov and Sue Fleishman and
Family.*

*Shana Tova Umetuka. Wishing our family and friends
a happy New Year. From Stuart, Marion, Emma and
Rafael Zeller*

*Wishing the Rabbi and
Family and the Victory Park
community shana tova
umetuka and well over the fast.
Love from the Rubin Family*

Ben and Maryann Sachs and
family extend our good wishes
to the entire Victory Park
Community, the Rabbi, Laia and
family. L'Shana Tova and well
over the Fast.

Wishing you all a healthy and
prosperous New Year and a
meaningful fast.
Melanie and Ellis Falkof

Farewell from Jeff Sher

My perspective of being a Gabbai in the shul. Jeffrey R Sher

I have been involved with shul affairs since I was 12 years old. As the oldest of four brothers my parent said that the year before our Bar Mitzvah was the time that we had to get to know about shul and how it works. I did not come from a religious home, but my mother said that at 12 it was time to begin to understand who we are as a nation, and what it means to become Bar Mitzvah. I began my learning curve with the late Reverend Harry Smith, who was the Shammash at the Greenside shul. I owe this very humble man a debt of gratitude that I can only repay by being the best Gabbai I can. Who was to know at that young age that I would become so involved with shul affairs that today I regard myself as a fully-fledged Gabbai. I have found over the years that running of the shul has become second nature to me and I distinctly see the shul as my second home.

What is noticeably clear to me is that being a Gabbai is a calling. It involves an understanding of the Halacha, as well as an understanding of what the shul members want and need. Most importantly it means that you need to know everything about your members - because if you forget just one small item or forget a yahrzeit or any other event important to a member it can cause a freibel that can take weeks if not months to repairs. But as with all freibel's we always work it out. I have also learnt that it is crucial that the Rabbi and Gabbai work together as duties albeit quite different often overlap. Often the Gabbai is more in tune with what is going on with the members in the Shul. I have recently learnt that some large shuls overseas now employ full-time paid Gabbai's to do the job, as there are not many people who are willing to do it.

Being so involved in the Shul has always been easy for me as I am a very organised person. Crucial to the role of Gabbai is working and planning weeks in advance. Every member expects that the shul will always be ready and organised for them when they need it – and that is the job of the Gabbai.

How has this worked for me at Victory Park shul.

In January of 1982 Zandra and I got married and joined the Victory Park Shul with my in-laws. At that stage I was not involved as there was a large committee, who together with Rabbi Baumgarten were in control of the shul. I slowly got involved with Herbie Lang, Sam Raff, Irwin Gutkind, Stan Arenson and Rabbi Baumgarten amongst others. I owe each of these gentlemen a debt of gratitude for allowing me to see how they ran the shul, and I was quickly able to grasp what was needed and develop my own way of running the shul.

Over the years I took on more responsibility, and ultimately this saw me taking on all the Gabbai duties in our shul for the past 20 years or so.

It has always been a pleasure to assist families in organising their Bar & Bat Mitzvahs, help families plan their Ufruf and all other events that have come my way. The biggest challenge is the planning and running of the services over the High Holidays. Many hours of planning are put in and many different duties done in the weeks leading up to Rosh Hashanah. From changing the Torah cover and Parochet, ensuring we have spare Machzorim for those who may have forgotten to bring their own and ensuring that as many men are given an Aliyah or a Pesicha over the three days of YOM TOV. Prior to Pesach there are also numerous tasks that need to be organised and planned for. Even though Pesach is eight days, and the High Holidays are only three days the amount of work for the High Holidays is a lot more than for Pesach. Each Yom Tov during the years possess its own challenges. Yet, despite all the preparation for a Yom Tom it is all over very quickly and one must get back to regular daily activities.

One of the biggest challenges any Gabbai faces is the changing nature of the community and its needs. What was important and inviolate many years ago may have changed and may need to be revisited in a new light now. Halacha has and will always play an important role in the life of a Gabbai but we need to be aware of the needs of the community.

Where to from here?

This will be my last Yom Tov as the Gabbai of an incredibly special shul. I have gotten to know all the members and their families over the years and have had much Naches in celebrating the good times with them, as well as supporting during the sad times. Prior to Covid I am immensely proud to say that while I was the Chairman of the shul, I do not think that I missed more than a handful of funerals in my years of service to the shul.

Early in 2023 Zandra and I will be making Aliyah and making a new home for ourselves in Netanya, Israel. I will miss this incredibly special shul and all its members. I leave with many pleasant memories and friend of our 40-year association with the shul.

Zandra and I wish the Rabbi and his family as well as all the members of the community all the best for the future, and I hope and pray that Victory Park Shul continues to grow and thrive under the new leadership.

Yehuda Rachmiel Halevi
Rosh Hashanah 5783



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Children's Service

Dear friends,

Growing up, without a doubt my most memorable, fun, growing experiences took place on the field, in the Gaga ball or 123 block areas. I can't begin to explain the excitement that I would feel in the weeks leading up to the Chaggim! The whole children service experience was like no other, on many levels; whether it be winning gaga ball, being the best hider or collecting the most fizzers- it was just a great time!

Unfortunately this was all paused due to the pandemic. Our old children service takers started new chapters. Children and youth lost the appreciation for real fun. The background screaming, laughing, and singing was lacking in the Shul for too long.

However, I'm excited to be apart of the reigniting of "children service like the good old days!" It is with many thanks to the dream team of children service takers and the committee, that the spirit of joyful, happy children and youth, will once again be an excitement kids will feel, counting down the days till children service!

For the upcoming Chaggim, you can be expecting to hear constant background fun, kids running around – very involved in treasure hunts, obstacle courses and field games. Sweets, treats and prizes. But most importantly, the incredible, joyous, fun, team building atmosphere in the Shul once again!

I encourage you, to encourage your friends, to encourage their friends, to step out of your comfort zone and allow our hard work to pay off- bringing a true Yom Tov vibe to children and youth this coming year!

Wishing you a Shana Tova Umetuka, And see you all soon!



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Pre-Primary Head - Jodi Goldberg

The month of Elul is one of the most exciting times in the Pre-Primary school. The classrooms are bustling with Rosh Hashanah songs and stories and the children are engaged, learning all about the Mitzvot of Rosh Hashanah. Each day, the children listen to the Shofar being blown, reminding them that it is time to “wake up” our hearts and our minds to get ready for a brand-new year.

This is a special time for us all. A time for reflection and new beginnings. As I look back on the year, I can't help but feel grateful to have been afforded my new role as principal of King David Victory Park, Pre-Primary School. More than a school, KDVPPP is my home away from home. My staff, the parent body and most importantly, the children, make up our family at the top of the hill. The continuous support and care I have felt this year has been heartwarming, and the incredible collaboration between all four schools allows me the privilege of being a part of something bigger.

One of our purpose and values at King David is “To Instill Jewish Values”. Having the Shul on our campus has played a pivotal role in teaching the children this value. On many occasions, the children have been given the opportunity to go to the Shul and develop a meaningful connection with Rabbi Uzvolk, who is always so nurturing and kind and takes his time getting to know the children, by bringing Judaism to life and inspiring a love for Torah and Tefillah in each of them.

They are reminded to keep doing Mitzvot, to be kind to others, and to learn the importance of forgiveness. It's so wonderful to witness the remarkable growth in the children as they embark on their journey into the new year. As a school and as a community, we need to view the upcoming year with optimism and positivity, focusing on the present with good intentions and beholding what lies ahead in the future.

I want to wish Rabbi Uzvolk and the entire Victory Park community a Shana Tova Umetuka and to thank you for your ongoing support and kindness this year. I am so proud to be a part of this wonderful family of “Parkers”. Let us continue to learn and grow together in the years to come.



Calender Sept - Oct 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
September 18 Selichot 12.00am Shacharit 8.00am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	September 19 Selichot followed by Shacharit 6.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	September 20 Selichot followed by Shacharit 6.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	September Selichot followed by Shacharit Maariv
September 25 Erev Rosh Hashanna Selichot followed by Shacharit followed by Hatarat Nedarim 7.15am Candle Lighting before 5.47pm Mincha 6.00pm Maariv 6.15pm	September 26 Rosh Hashanna 1st day Shachrit 8.00am Shofar 11.00am Tashlich followed by Mincha 5.30pm Maariv 6.15pm Candle Lighting after 6.37pm	September 27 Rosh Hashanna 2nd day Shachrit 8.00am Shofar 11.00am Mincha 6.00pm Maariv & end of Yom Tov 6.37pm	September Fast of Gedalia Fast begins Selichot followed by Shacharit Mincha & Maariv Fast ends
October 2 Selichot followed by Shachrit 8.00am Help Build shul Succah Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	October 3 Selichot followed by Shachrit 6.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	October 4 Erev Yom Kippur Kaporot Selichot followed by Shacharit 6.45am Mincha 3.00pm Candle Lighting & Fast begins 5.51pm Kol Nidrei 6.15pm	October Yom Kippur Shachrit Yizkor Mincha Neilah Maariv & Fast ends
October 9 Erev Succoth Shachrit 8.00am Candle Lighting before 5.53pm Mincha 6.00pm Maariv 6.15pm	October 10 Succoth 1st day Shachrit 9.00am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha 6.00pm Maariv 6.15pm Candle Lighting after 6.43pm	October 11 Succoth 2nd day Shachrit 9.00am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha 6.00pm Maariv & end of Yom Tov 6.44pm	October Chol Hamoed Shachrit Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha & Maariv
October 16 Hashana Rabba Shachrit 7.15am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Candle Lighting before 5.57pm Mincha 6.00pm Maariv 6.15pm	October 17 Shemini Atzeret Shachrit 9.00am Yizkor 10.45 and Geshem Eat in Succah Mincha 6.00pm Maariv and Hakkafot 6.15pm Candle Lighting after 6.47pm	October 18 Simchat Torah Shachrit 8.30am followed by Hakkafot Mincha 6.00pm Maariv & end of Yom Tov 6.48pm	October Shachrit Mincha & Maariv

Notes: We do not say Tachnum from Yom Kippur until 2nd Marcheshvan. / All Hazkarot for Yarzets during this period

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
21 September 6.30am Selichot followed by Shacharit 6.00pm Mincha & Maariv	22 September 6.30am Selichot followed by Shacharit 6.00pm Mincha & Maariv	23 September 6.30am Selichot followed by Shacharit Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 5.46pm	24 September 9.00am Parsha Nitzavim Shacharit PUBLIC HOLIDAY Mincha & Oneg 5.35pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.36pm
28 September 4.42am Selichot followed by Shacharit 6.30am 5.45pm 6.24pm Mincha & Maariv	29 September 6.30am Selichot followed by Shacharit 6.00pm Mincha & Maariv	30 September 6.30am Selichot followed by Shacharit Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 5.49pm	1 OCTOBER 9.00am Parsha Vayelach Shacharit SHABBATH SHUVA Mincha & Oneg 5.40pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.39pm
5 October 8.00am Shacharit 11.00am 4.00pm 5.15pm 6.41pm Mincha & Maariv	6 October 7.00am Shacharit 6.00pm Mincha & Maariv	7 October 7.00am Shacharit Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 5.52pm	8 OCTOBER 9.00am Parsha Haazinu Shacharit Mincha & Oneg 5.45pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.42pm
12 October 6.45am Chol Hamoed Shachrit Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah 6.00pm Mincha & Maariv	13 October 6.45am Chol Hamoed Shachrit Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah 6.00pm Mincha & Maariv	14 October 6.45am Chol Hamoed Shachrit Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 5.56pm	15 OCTOBER Shabbath Chol Hamoed KOHELET Eat in Succah 9.00am Shachrit Mincha & Oneg 5.50pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.46pm
19 October 7.00am Shachrit 6.00pm Mincha & Maariv	20 October 7.00am Shachrit 6.00pm Mincha & Maariv	21 October 7.00am Shachrit Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 6.00pm	22 October Parsha Bereshit 9.00am Shachrit Mincha & Oneg 5.50pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.50pm

and must be made before Yom Kippur. / Tashlich will take place at the river where Zonda Avenue and Danya Road meet

Ladies Guild



Left to right: Lorien Gimpel, Jo Goldberg, Tish Berman, Sue Fleishman, Tzippy Damelin, Esther Rubin, Sherri Kobrin.
Absent: Stephanie Fineberg, Dana Kassel, Andy Koton, Anna Fittinghoff, Mel Falkof, Annelize Tichauer, Jolene Goldberg, Marion Zeller

A thank you to all members of Ladies Guild for baking, Brocha and decor. And to all those who step in to assist when needed. A huge team effort that is greatly appreciated and valued.

Kitchen Company

The ladies of the Victory Park Baking Club are delighted to announce that we are back in the business of baking after a long and trying time away. And it feels as if an old friendship has been rekindled!

We have many barmis, batis, shul dinners, brochas coming up. So we are hard at work planning, prepping and presenting. Our Shavuoth Dinner was a lively and uplifting occasion with congregants happy to be socializing in the shul after so long apart. A recent Barmi Brocha received the following compliment '...the most spectacular delicious spread...'

We are blessed with an outstanding team of dedicated bakers and Brocha ladies whose contributions are greatly valued. A very rewarding moment is when we are busy measuring and mixing in the kitchen and someone pops in to say 'it smells delicious in here!'

We'd like to invite all ladies interested to join the Victory Park Baking Club. Any effort is appreciated. So come along and have your heart and soul warmed. Wishing one and all L'shanah tovah tikatevu - a happy and healthy New Year - and well over the fast.

To end off . . . a cheerful story about The Apron

The History of' APRONS

I don't think most kids today know what an apron is. The principle use of Mom's or Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses and aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, she wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls.

In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, she walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes. Send this to those who would know (and love) the story about aprons.

REMEMBER:

Mom's and Grandma's used to set hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

They would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs were on that apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron - but love

by Stephanie Fineberg



DELICIOUS KAFTA (Meatballs)

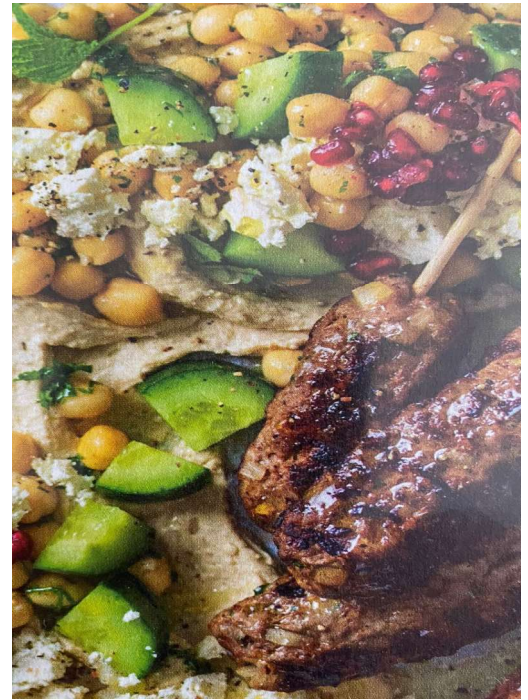
This is a Middle Eastern take on the classic meatball dish. These can be used as a burger, made smaller and used in a stew, or on a kebab stick. They freeze beautifully raw, I always have a tub in my freezer, defrost them the night before, and you'll always have something yummy on tap!!!

- 2 kgs lean beef or lamb mince
- 1 onion finely chopped, and lightly sautéed
- A handful each of fresh mint and parsley finely chopped
- 2 eggs to bind
- Salt and pepper

Mix all together and shape to form either burgers, or they can be moulded around a kebab stick. (If sticks are wooden soak in water for half an hour to prevent burning whilst cooking)

If grilling or braaiing, dust with a little flour to prevent sticking, alternatively place on a baking sheet in the oven. Cook till nice and golden, don't let them dry out.

Serve with warmed pita or flat breads, hummus, tahina, Israeli salad, pickles and sprinkle with za'atar spice.



BBQ CHICKEN WINGS

- serve hot or cold

Very easy and delish to have as a munch in the fridge!

20 chicken wings baked in the oven for half an hour, to drain excess water and fat.

(Discard the water and fat)

Mix:

- ¼ cup soya sauce
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup tomato sauce
- 2 cloves crushed garlic
- (Chilli optional)

Dip and coat the wings thoroughly in the sauce, using it all up, and bake wings for a further 45 mins – 1 hour.

CHOCOLATE PUDDING CAKE

This rich and decadent dessert is easy to make, keeps well in the freezer and can be made Parev.

Oven 180 Deg C

- 100g nuts, toasted and coarsely chopped
- 250 g dark chocolate broken into bits
- 250 g unsalted butter cubed
- 8 egg yolks at room temperature
- 1 ¼ cups castor sugar
- 5 egg whites at room temperature, stiffly beaten
- 2 T brandy (optional)

Melt chocolate and butter in a double boiler or in the microwave.

Beat yolks and sugar till thick pale and fluffy.

Gently add in the melted choc mixture.

Fold in the whipped egg whites.

Pour ¾ of the batter into 23cm springform tin and bake for 25-30 minutes till set.

Cool in tin.

Fold brandy into remaining batter, and refrigerate until needed.

Pour over cooled cake, sprinkle with nuts and freeze.

Serve with sifted cocoa and cream/ice cream.



Recipe's by: Joanne Goldberg

My Gap Year in Israel

Sitting on the aeroplane returning from my gap year in Israel, with not much else to do, I thought of the answers to the questions I knew would be heading my way in no time . . . Did I enjoy it? Did I prefer living in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv? What is my favorite restaurant? Do I favour falafel or shawarma? However, in my opinion the best question to be asked is; what was my favorite part of my gap year? My response is always, no matter how cliched, the people I met. From my roommates from around the world to the different types of Israelis I interacted with- it was the people that enriched my year abroad.

I went on Aardvark Israel - a 10 month internship based program, which taught us the importance of independence and the beauties and complications of Israel. We went on weekly tiyulim (trips) touring the country and learning about its history in unique ways. The participants on the program included Jewish teenagers from The States, Australia, the UK, Norway, Argentina and many more. It was such a special experience to be in a room filled with international people and to be able to chat about our families' traditions for Shabbat or Rosh Hashanah. Learning about the similarities and differences that we have. How we eat our challah, what our favourite holiday is, what our best topping on matzah is, the purim costume we are most proud of etc. I felt such pride telling them all about the beautiful community we have in South Africa. Although most people were shocked about there being Jews in Africa, they all left Israel having added a Shabbat dinner at the Gimpel's to their bucket lists.

Aardvark also held a very interesting weekly activity which they called "Faces of Israel". We would get speakers from all different walks of life talking about their Israel experience and how their identity is perceived living there. Some of the speakers included a second generation Ethiopian Jew and her struggles of living in our homeland, someone who made Aliyah from the former USSR, a lone soldier from America and his challenges in the IDF. It is not often that people will be able to say they have sat in a room with a Palestinian man, an Ultra-orthodox Rabbi, a reform lady Rabbi and a politically left-leaning IDF soldier, but this platform was made accessible to us through Faces of Israel. The list goes on and on but these activities gave us a platform to have broad conversations about Israel and Israelis from first hand experience.

In addition, I cannot forget about the absolute characters I met around where I was living. The loudest fruit vendor at Mahaneh Yehuda who always smiled and struck up a conversation with my roommate and I when we went grocery shopping. Or anyone with a remotely South African accent I would approach hoping for a taste of home. Therefore, for these reasons and many more it was the people that were my favorite part of my gap year and what made it so memorable.

Written by Ruby Gimpel





Anton and Nikki Meyberg, Yonatan, the Batty girl - Gabriella Ora and Dalya.



Jake Goldberg's Barmitzva



In June we were privileged to attend the marriage of our granddaughter, Ora to Yaakov Schefres, in Chicago.



Ivy, Mia and Sari Krimotat - Joy and Eli Ovadias third grand daughter



Gabriel our grandson and Steve's son, recently graduated with a BSc from Michigan State University. Following in his Dad's footsteps, he will now study for a Masters degree in Maths Education. - Tzippy and Barry Damelin

We have been active and dedicated foundation members of the Victory Park Hebrew Congregation since 1975. Our oldest son, Steve, Ora's dad, celebrated his Barmitzva at our wonderful Shul in 1981 - Barry and Tzippy Damelin



Jackie Epstein's Grandson - Nate Epstein



Eva and Neil Berelowitz's Baby Granddaughter - Eliana Goldstein



Tal, grandson of Barry and Tzippy, graduated as a Senior, from Ida Crown School, in Chicago. He will participate in a Masa Programme in Israel for the 2022/23 academic year.



Marriage of Shai Friedland and Jess Hurwitz



Jesse Berkowitz, from his Barmitzvah



Marriage of Ronit Berger to Gil Reouveni



Joshua Berman's Barmitzvah



Baby Emma, Dana & Ben Kassel's granddaughter



Lior Hyman's Barmitzvah



Wedding of Dr Stephanie Ovadia and Jarred Angel



Ella Passman's Batmitzvah



Sherril Goldberg's grandson Jonah Blake Kaplan



Minnie Ritz with Ben Friedland, on her 101st birthday



Stan, Carol and GREAT grandson Daniel Ilan



Barmitzvah of Jason Davis - Grandson of Jeff & Sharon Gomer.



Tony Lutrin with his family on his 80th birthday. Bev and Tony Lutrin wish all "Victory Parkers" a good and sweet New Year.



Toby and Denise Bernstein on the occasion of Toby's 80th birthday.



Maryann & Ben Sachs on the occasion of his 76th birthday



Ricky Koton's Barmitzvah

JWRP Tour 2022

Keeping my Jewish Momentum

In May 2022 I boarded a plane that I had been planning to board for about 5 years. I was off to Israel to participate in the Momentum programme with 400 women from all over the world. An introspective and personal opportunity to reconnect with my Jewish roots, birth-right, and values.

I tried to keep my expectation low, because not only was this trip long in the taking, but so many women had raved about it, making it seem almost implausible.

Adamant that the next 7 days would not make me frum, I embarked on this journey with immense stress that I hadn't made enough lists for school lunch, extra mural lifts, and supper. Because everyone would starve and be stranded without me to manage them.

This notion was very quickly dispelled.

The trip was a gift that I gave to myself. It was the first time in my life that I was free enough of responsibility to leave home for a week. In Israel, each activity and every step on the itinerary brought a deeper love for this magical country. The concept that this metropolis was simply a desert 70 years ago is inconceivable.

From delicious shwarma on Tel Aviv's bustling beachfront, to the mystic pathways of Tsfat, through the winding cobblestone of the old city, and literally, actually floating on water in the dead sea (smeared all over with skin enhancing mud). Each experience topped the next.

When I returned home, everyone asked for the highlight of the trip. How could I possibly be so discerning as to choose.

And then, the Rabbi asked me to talk at the Shavuot dinner. I assumed that this was because no one else would. I chose the Shema. The morning prayer that grounds the day.

I hadn't really thought about what I was going to say in this talk, I had a few sketchy ideas which would carry me through. Then I arrived at the dinner to find that several other women who had not only eagerly accepted the invitation to talk (sorry for the previous assumption Rabbi!), but they all had cue cards and Siddurim with prepared speeches. Oy vey.

When I could not postpone my turn any longer, I spoke about the Shema. To listen.

I spoke about my trip and how I was overcome with emotion when driving into Jerusalem. On Friday morning, after our lectures, we were each presented with a personalised Siddur with a tab showing us the prayer to say at the Kotel. I put the Siddur in my backpack, where I knew it would remain. We then went onto a rooftop overlooking the old city of Jerusalem, the Dome of the Rock, and the Kotel. After a thousand selfies of ourselves we went down to the Kotel.

We were told to walk in silence.

I don't know what happened. As I walked the emotion welled up in me and by the time I reached the Kotel I could hardly see through my tears. I stood there in the reality that 40 years ago I had visited with my parents and sister. I gave brochas to my children and those of my sister, who my parents never got to know.

I thought of my current life and gave brochas to my friends, their families, my kids' teachers, my dogs, my clients, and almost anyone else I could think of. Overwhelmed by how many people I have to bless and feel grateful for in my life.

Most importantly, I gave the biggest brocha to my incredible husband - my anchor, who encouraged me to go on this trip, encourages me in every aspect of my life, and who, I have no doubt, threw away every pre-trip list I made to help him, the minute my plane took off.

I looked around and watched the women in silence. Some of them reading from the Siddur, some covering their eyes, all praying. Jewish women from all over the world. Asking, thanking, begging, praying. And I was one of them. How many Jewish women had stood here before? How many would stand here in the years to come? I was a tiny thread in this enormous tapestry of Jewish women standing before the Kotel with pure intentions, holding my Jewish Heritage. I am part of the most unimaginable network fostering an entire nation, one person at a time.

Eventually I found a gap to touch the wall. I put my hand against the cold stone and laid my head on my hand. Shutting off the physical world around me, exactly as one does when saying the Shema.

And I listened.

And I cried some more.

It was time to give someone else a chance, so I moved away and looked for my people. The group of 10 women who had chosen to share this experience at this time. 10 South African King David school moms from all around Joburg. We looked at one another crying, and we laughed, and then we cried a bit more, and we laughed, and we hugged each other.

No judgements and no explanations.

Some spoke about their feelings but most of us stood in silence. Elbert Hubbard said: He (she) who does not understand your silence, will probably not understand your words.

We understood one another's silence.

As the bus drove away, I looked out the window taking in the white stones and ancient feel of the old city. I sat quietly reflecting on the morning and realised that I had listened to myself for the very first time.

Shana Tova

Elana Freinkel

The Chaim Herzog Museum of the Jewish Soldier in World War Two

The Chaim Herzog Museum of the Jewish Soldier in World War Two is due to open to the Israeli public at the beginning of 2023. It is situated in Latrun, Israel at Yad la Shiryon - the Armored Corps Memorial Site and Museum - a site steeped in Jewish History. It has been built to tell the important and neglected chapter in the history of Jewish people regarding the contribution of Jewish soldiers who helped defeat the Nazi regime. It will honour the 1 500 000 Jewish men and women who were recruited into, or volunteered with the Allied Armed Forces, the Partisans and the resistance movements. It will perpetuate the memory of the 250 000 Jewish soldiers who gave their lives during the War. It is important to note that no other nation among the Allied countries contributed such a high percentage of soldiers and no other nation suffered as many casualties in the defeat of the Nazi regime.

Brigadier General Zikva Kan Tor, director of the museum, has devoted his retirement to establish the Museum. In his words "While the world was fighting for its freedom, territories and borders, the Jewish people were fighting for their survival".

The Museum is named after the sixth president of Israel, Chaim Herzog who himself partook in the war. Having joined the British Army, he operated primarily in Germany as a tank commander in the Armoured Corps. He was commissioned into the Intelligence Corps in 1943 and participated in the liberation of several Nazi concentration camps as well as identifying a captured German soldier, Heinrich Himmler.

The South African Jewish community played a prominent role in the war. 10 000 Jews volunteered with the Allied Forces, and they represented the highest proportion of volunteers in comparison to any other group.

During the Covid pandemic, I was contacted by Brigadier General Zvika Kan Tor to help assist the museum in documenting the Jewish South Africans who partook in the war effort. A website had been developed to honor all those who partook in the war. At that time, only a handful of South Africans had been commemorated. To date, more than 1500 South Africans have been commemorated on the website ranging from privates to Major Generals. All the South African soldiers who died in the war have been honored, as well as those who received awards and decorations such as Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.), Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.), the Military Cross and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Many incredible stories have been uncovered of these brave men and women. A major problem in collating profiles has been the lack of awareness and knowledge of families whose parents fought in the war. In many cases, some of the soldiers only told their families of their experiences many years after the war and many did not inform their families at all of their experiences.

I originally visited the museum site in August 2021. At the time the building was still under construction. The garden, which is unique in that no green foliage is present, was in the process of being planted prior to the Shmita. I had the privilege of visiting the Museum at the end of August 2022 to attend the first function of the Museum. The audience were told about the design and permanent exhibitions which will include an exhibition hall devoted to the Allied Forces – USA, British and Commonwealth Forces, an exhibition hall devoted to the largest tank battle ever fought at Kursk, an exhibition hall devoted to the Ghetto fighters and partisans and finally the establishment of the Israel Defence Force. A most enlightening talk on the artist Arthur Szyk was delivered by Irvin Ungar, an American pulpit rabbi who is the foremost expert on the artist. Szyk, a Polish Jew, known as the 'fighting artist' gained popularity in the United States primarily through his political caricatures, in which, following the outbreak of World War II, he savaged the policies and personalities of the leaders of the Axis powers.



In 2017 'The Arthus Szyk Collection' of original paintings, illustrations and sketches was acquired by the University of California Berkley. An original painting was donated by Ungar to the Chaim Herzog Museum of the Jewish Soldier of World War Two.

If anyone reading this article knows of men or women who served in the Armed Forces during the Second World War, they can visit the Museum website to see if they are listed. Alternately they can contact me directly.

The Museum link is:
https://www.jwmww2.org/About_The_Museum
 Naomi Schamroth
 Email: nrapeport@global.co.za



Ariel Head - Andrea Ben

Wow! What a year it has been! And the last few weeks have been the most exciting we have experienced at King David Ariel.

One of the greatest gifts I have been given is the chance to spend my days with children. Children's Neshomas are so much more connected to Hashem than ours are. They are completely untainted by the cynicism to which we, as adults, have been become accustomed. This is why a child's faith is so easy to nurture, because they believe in the unquestionable existence and goodness of Hashem. "Where is Hashem?", I ask them, "He is everywhere!", they answer. "Why do we Daven?", I inquire, "Because Hashem always listens to our prayers," they innocently reply.

Since Ariel opened its doors in 2018, our student numbers have grown from 31 to 128 and the staff complement has grown from 13 to 35. King David Ariel is now a 'fully fledged' Primary School offering Grades One to Seven. This year sees our first year of Grade 7 learner's mainstream.

When you enter the gate at Road Number Three in Victory Park you walk into the state-of-the-art school, King David Ariel. The warmth that one feels when entering the door of the school is palpable. Ariel is a nurturing, intimate school where the potential of each student is recognized and where every child can be a child.

Jewish Education plays an integral role in educating the future leaders of tomorrow. Torah values are imbued as each Chag is celebrated at our school. We celebrated our very special Grade 2 Siddur Ceremony at the Victory Park Shul which was definitely one of the highlights of this year.

This New Year, let us strive not to look down on ourselves or give into despair. No matter how bad things may appear to be in the country, in the world or in our personal lives, let us try and think more positively. Let us be the positive change we seek.

This does not mean being naïve to the problems out there, but rather shifting our perspectives and appreciating our many blessings, of which there are so very many.

Wishing the entire Victory Park community a Shana Tova and a great year ahead in which we are all blessed with Hashem's richest blessings.



Outstanding Achievements



Sadie Goldberg, Rafela Bean & Ava Hurvitz won Gold at the SABOD Dance Competition that took place in May 2022



Daniel Berman's performance of the song "Therapy" in the KDVP High School Production - "A Ticket to Broadway"



Joshua Berman played for the under 14A rugby team for St David Marist Inanda



Jesse Berman's stand up comedy performance at the KDVP Primary School Talent Show



Lior Hyman at the Maccabi games for swimming



Anthony Fineberg & Shaun Rosenthal at their 10th Sani2c



Ariella Hurvitz, Kayla, Sofia & Remi won gold at the ACRO Dance Fusion Competition that took place in August 2022



Peter Berman & Gavin Mofsowitz at Wines to Whales



Danni Shapiro & Paul Freinkel at Wines to Whales



Aaron Fleishman Graduated from IE Business School in Madrid, Spain with a Masters in Finance and is now completing another masters at IE School of Science and Technology.



Pastel Drawing done by Esti Hurvitz



Barry Sharp & Jonathan Hurvitz at Wines to Whales

IS HASHEM CRUEL?

Yes, I think so. But who am I to say? What am I? I am a contradiction. And so is every other Jewish person. You see, we are made up of two souls within us. Two life forces. Two conflicting, antithetical, diabolically opposite life forces. No wonder we are all in therapy. And rightly so.

Our one soul is called our animal soul, our “nefesh behamis”. Your parents are right when they called you a “wildechaya” (pronounced vilda-chaya). It is our nature and our egocentrism. It is our drive to live, and to live the most pleasurable life possible. Our other soul is called our G-dly soul, our “nefesh elokus”. It is our essence and our altruism. It is our drive to be attached to Hashem at all times and to live the most holy life possible. Each soul thinks the other is trying to sabotage it, and rightly so. Did I mention contradiction? Maybe more like insanity.

So yes, I think Hashem is cruel. I also think Hashem is merciful and loving. And by I, I mean my animal soul. Because the majority of my consciousness and understanding is my animal soul. My G-dly soul, by contrast, completely disagrees – it knows Hashem to be ALL good ALL OF THE TIME, even if that good is not a revealed good but a hidden good, disguised in our world as bad, hardship, challenging, heartache etc. etc. But above all, all of me knows enough to know I don't understand.

Chassidus has taught me that I am finite, fortunately or unfortunately. And Hashem is infinite. Therefore, there is no way that I could even possibly begin to understand Hashem, His ways, His thoughts or His wisdom. But what I can do, is listen to what He says and connect to Him in the way He has guided us. In other words, to learn His Torah and do His mitzvos.

Because it's my animal soul. It's not my essence. My essence knows the truth, and that's the main thing. And the more I work on it, the more my animal soul comes on board, which is the second main thing.

So I give us all a brocha that with this coming new year, we should be able to tolerate our animal soul, be kind and compassionate to it, and at the same time connect with our G-dly soul and increase in our Torah and mitzvos. And eventually we will begin the process of and (maybe one day) actually start transforming our animal soul.

Wishing you all a kesivah ve'chasimah tova.

Efrat Sher

PS. If you would like to learn more of this kind of Chassidus, please join me for a weekly shiur learning Tanya, the blueprint of Chabad Chassidus.

(Ladies only. More details to follow after the chaggim.)

Barmitzvah & Batmitzvah Program 2022



Barmitzvah Club by Joshua Confait

Imagine for a moment about 16 boys aged around 12 running around Acrobranch and loudly scaling the trees. Imagine them playing ten-pin bowling with voices raised and competition fierce. Imagine them pounding away to the beat at the Purim Drum Café and then try and imagine them sitting quietly at a Shabbos shiur with the Rabbi. This is the Victory Park Barmitzvah group.

We are a group of boys preparing to be barmitzvah in 2022 and 2023 and while we do this we're having a bunch of fun together. We meet once a month for a group Shabbos shiur on a Saturday afternoon as well as once a month for a fun-filled action-packed adventure to develop and strengthen our friendships and for us to bond together as a group. While these outings are always fun, there's always still a lesson attached for us to try and learn.

The barmi group started in 2022 and we have many more exciting and interesting things to do in the future like visiting the Holocaust Museum, going on a chesed outing and so much more. I've really enjoyed being part of this group this year and I can't wait to see what we get up to, what we learn and what we can give back to the VP community in the future.

by Joshua Confait



Giggles

Four Jewish brothers left home for college. They became successful doctors, attorneys, architects. Some years later they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the gifts that they were able to give to their elderly mother who lived far away in another city.

The first said "I had a big house built for Mama".

The second said: "I had a hundred thousand dollar theatre built in the house".

The Third said : "I had my Mercedes dealer deliver her an SL600 with a chauffeur".

The Fourth said: Listen to this: You know how Mama loved reading the Torah. And you know too, she can't read anymore because she can't see very well. I met this Rabbi who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire Torah. It took twenty rabbis 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000-00 a year for 20 years to the temple. Let me tell you . . . It was worth it. All Mama has to do is name a chapter and verse, and the parrot will recite it.

The other brothers were impressed.

After the holidays Mom sent out her Thank You notes.

She wrote:

Milton, the house you built is so huge, I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway.

Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home. I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes . . . And the driver you hired is a Nazi. The thought was good. Thanks.

Martin. You gave me an expensive theatre with Dolby sound. It could hold 50 people, but all my friends are dead. I've lost my hearing and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same.

Dearest Mervyn: you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you.

By Brenda Gluck



Dealing with Covid, lockdown and grade 4 It's not easy being a kid these days especially when we were in the crazy covid times with lockdown. I mean we weren't allowed to see family , or have play dates and we had to do online school in the dining room. Life was hard for everyone.

My dad didn't go into the office and my mom was sort of my teacher too. In lockdown my mother went a bit crazy - the woman made my brothers and me do so many chores around the house and we didn't even get paid for it. The Chutzpah! She made us help around the house- we had to do things like feed the dogs, clean our rooms , make our own beds and unload the dishwasher. . . . but don't feel sorry for us. . . . if you think that's bad? . . .my dad had to mow the lawn! But now with lockdown finished I'm finding grade 4 has become a lot easier now that we are back at school. But I do have to admit that the teachers do give us too much homework. I mean we wake up , go to school, come home and have more work to dolike 6 pages of Singapore maths - how is that even fair. it's so hard that my own parents can't even help me. With all this homework we don't get any me time, or time to do the important things in life like playing Minecraft with friends on our iPads or going on Instagram .

When I got covid , I was the only one in my family who got it - it was actually nice because I got to stay in my mom and dads room all by myself. But I did miss them, I only saw them at supper when they video called me. I had quit a bit of time to actually make up some jokes that I can put in my joke book. . . .

What type of movie do the Romans like watching?

Romance

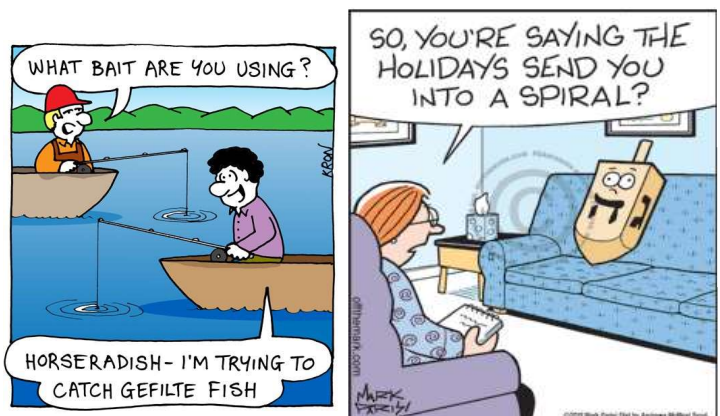
What is a skeletons favourite snack?

Ribs

What did the pepper say to the salt?

Your so insulting

Written by Jesse Berman



Kids Talk

Questions:

1. What sounds does the shofar make?
2. What do we eat on Rosh Hashanah?
3. Why do we eat them



Ava Hurvitz / Age:5

- 1) Tekia, Shevarim, Tekia Gadollah
- 2) Apples and honey and round challah with raisins
- 3) To make the new year sweet



Margaret Morris / Age: 5

1. Tekia, Hashofar, Tekia Gadollah
2. Apples and honey, challah, pomegranate and a head of the fish
3. Cos we want the new year to be sweet



Sadie Goldberg / Age: 5

1. Tekia, Tekia dola, trua and shevarim
2. Apples dipped in honey and a round challah with raisins inside
3. It's a mitzvah and for a sweet new year



Jayce Goldberg / Age: 4

1. Tevarim, Tekia
2. Apples dipped in honey and honeyround challah also dipped in
3. Cos they sweet and yummy



Noa Cohen / Age: 5

1. Tekia, Shevarim, Terua, Tekia Gadollah
2. Apples dipped in honey and a round challah
3. Cos it's a sweet new year and so the kindness can never stop



*Thank-you to
Leeat Confait*

Shul Building and Maintenance Vision

The Shul committee has identified 4 projects that will enhance our shul experience.

These include the following:

1. The Kids playground

This project behind the sukkah is underway. The first phase of a concrete terrace with rubberized flooring is complete. The next step includes painting a wall mural on the boundary fence, the procurement of new equipment, a lighting installation etc.

2. The Shul upgrades

This substantial project is hopefully to be done together with the school and the SABJE as the school use the shul daily and this project would make it a better place for all. The upgrades include reglaze windows, improve lighting (already underway), internal and external painting, waterproofing and repair of lobby ceiling.

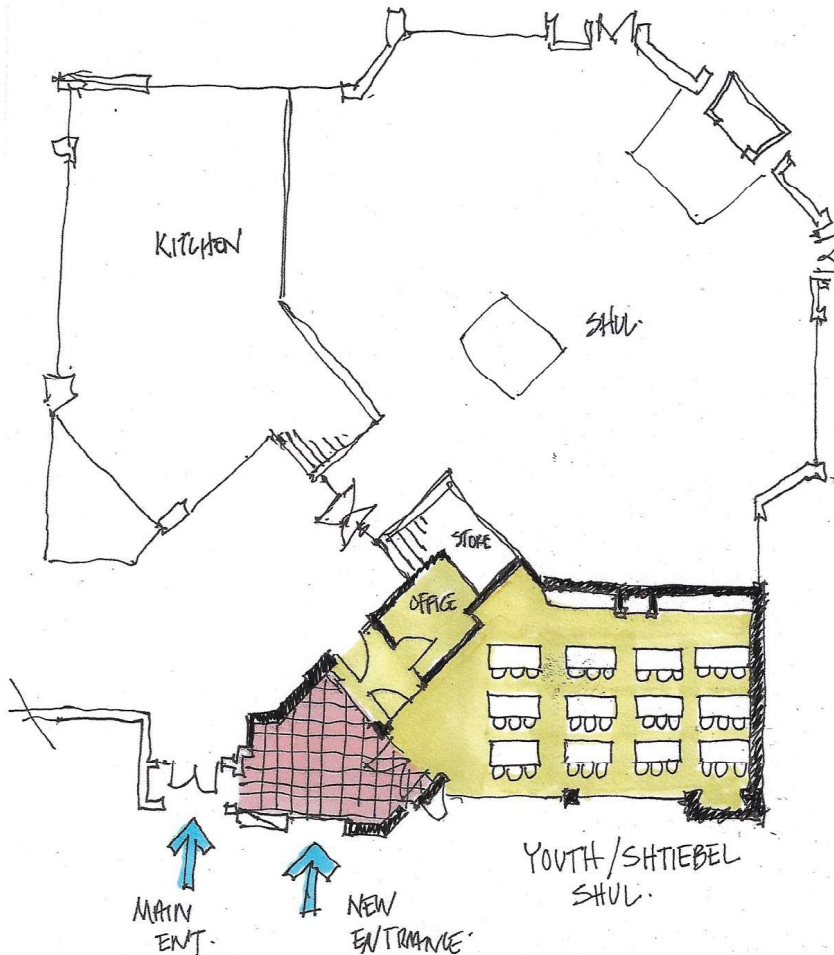
3. Kitchen upgrades

Our kitchen forms an important part of our shul experience and there are several upgrades needed to enhance this facility.

4. A new Youth / Shtiebel Shul

There are exciting plans to create a new youth shul in the existing library and offices. See sketch below. The idea is to create a small multi-purpose shul with a new external entrance from the courtyard next to the front door. This space can accommodate 36 people at desks or 72 people cinema style. It is ideal for talks/ shiurim / meetings and smaller community activities.

Although these are ambitious projects and will all require various forms of funding, we have already begun to build this vision into a reality. This is achievable especially when working together with all concerned parties. Looking forward to what the new year has in store for us all.



VP Youth Beit Midrash & Youth Community

We are blessed to be part of a vibrant Jewish community in the North West of Johannesburg Centred around King David Victory Park and Ariel. As a shul we are working hard together with SABJE to create a Jewish community home outside of school hours and on Shabbat for kids of all ages - Nursery, Primary and High School.

This year kicked off with a wonderful drum cafe Purim Party, a Lag Ba Omer Bonfire of note and high schoolers organising and implementing their own Shavuot Tikun Leil. To maintain and build on this momentum, we are building a youth shul and playground and have raised funds to recruit a young couple to live in the community, to work in the school, and to lead and to implement a social and learning programme from inside the school and the shul.

As a community, we will only flourish when our youth are flourishing. We as a committee are doing everything we can to make that happen.



The Division of Informal Jewish Education invites dynamic and motivated applicants for the position of Dynamic Youth Leader/Couple

The King David Victory Park (KDVP) campus is looking for a dynamic individual/couple to coordinate, create, and engage KDVP youth activities on campus during the week and Shabbatot.

This individual/couple would be part of the Division of Informal Jewish Education (DIJE) team at the KDVP campus. On Shabbat, this individual/couple would run the youth programming from Pre-school – High school students.

Experience/qualifications:

- Outgoing and confident to engage with students of all ages
- Experience in Informal Education and/or Jewish Community leadership
- Experience in leading, managing, and mobilising teams
- Self-motivated, inspirational, and creative
- Strong administrative and organisational skills
- Strong background in Jewish learning and knowledge
- Someone who is Orthodox and Torah Observant

A Curriculum Vitae and contact information of two references should be emailed to sevitj@sabje.co.za

(Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted)

Closing Date for Application: 28 Nov 2022



Tishrei 5783

CONGREGANT		Yahrzeit	DATE OF Yahrzeit	
KRAWITZ	Jack	Wife	2nd TISHREI	27th SEPTEMBER
KRAWITZ	Leon	Mother	2nd TISHREI	27th SEPTEMBER
BERGER	Lel	Father	3rd TISHREI	28th SEPTEMBER
MEYBERG	David	Father-in-law	3rd TISHREI	28th SEPTEMBER
ARENSON	Carol	Mother	4th TISHREI	29th SEPTEMBER
SCHNAID	Linda	Husband	6th TISHREI	1st OCTOBER
SCHNAID	Caron	Father	6th TISHREI	1st OCTOBER
DAMELIN	Barry	Father	7th TISHREI	2nd OCTOBER
COPANS	Arline	Mother	8th TISHREI	3rd OCTOBER
GLAZER	Basil	Mother	8th TISHREI	3rd OCTOBER
UZVOLK	Laia	Father	8th TISHREI	3rd OCTOBER
EPSTEIN	Jeffrey	Father	9th TISHREI	4th OCTOBER
COLLIE	Monty	Mother	13th TISHREI	8th OCTOBER
SCHNAID	Linda	Father	15th TISHREI	10th OCTOBER
SCHNAID	Caron	Grandfather	15th TISHREI	10th OCTOBER
FRIEDLAND	David	Mother	16th TISHREI	11th OCTOBER
OVADIA	Eli	Mother	16th TISHREI	11th OCTOBER
FRIEDLAND	Louella	Father	17th TISHREI	12th OCTOBER
BERNSTEIN	Toby & Denise	Sister-in-law	17th TISHREI	12th OCTOBER
RITZ	Minnie	Husband	17th TISHREI	12th OCTOBER
HURVITZ	Jonathan	Mother	17th TISHREI	12th OCTOBER
SHER	Jeffrey	Grandmother	19th TISHREI	14th OCTOBER
STRIMLING	Michael	Mother	20th TISHREI	15th OCTOBER
BLOCK	Michael	Grandmother	21st TISHREI	16th OCTOBER
MARKS	Gillian	Son	21st TISHREI	16th OCTOBER
MARKS	Lara	Brother	21st TISHREI	16th OCTOBER
HYMAN	Maxine	Brother	21st TISHREI	16th OCTOBER
BENATER	Ilana	Grandfather	24th TISHREI	19th OCTOBER
FLAUM	Joelene	Grandfather	24th TISHREI	19th OCTOBER
GORDON	David	Mother	24th TISHREI	19th OCTOBER
FIHRER	Joan	Father	25th TISHREI	20th OCTOBER
MILLER	Shelli	Father	26th TISHREI	21st OCTOBER
KLAWANSKY	Tickey	Father	27th TISHREI	22nd OCTOBER