



VPHC



# ROSH HASHANAH

## 5784

2023

# Victory Park Shul

HEBREW CONGREGATION



PKF OCTAGON

To a fruitful  
and *sweet*  
New Year.

To the people that drive us -  
wishing our clients, associates  
and team a Shana Tova and  
well over the fast.

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# Index

Committee Members	1
Chief Rabbi Goldstein	2
Rabbi Azriel Uzvolk	3
Rebbetzin Laia Uzvolk	4 - 5
Our Chairman - Peter Berman	6
Kitchen & Housekeeping Staff	7
Shany Uzvolk	8 - 9
Purim 2023	10
High School Head - Andrew Baker	11
Primary School Head - Kevin Lees	12
Lag B' Omer 2023	13
Advertising	14
Messages from the Community	15 - 16
Jeff Sher - Hello From Israel	17 - 18
Ruby Gimpel - Shorashim / Giggles	19
Pre-Primary Head - Jodi Goldberg	20
Calendar Sept - Oct 2023	21 - 22
Ladies Guild	23 - 24
Recipes	25
Phoenix Berstein's Family Tree Project	26
Roy Shires - Kol Nidrei: Composition for Cello and Orchestra by Max Bruch	27
Jeff Sher – Street Names in Israel	28
Bar / Bat Mitzvah's	29 - 30
Shabbat & Shavout at Shul 2023	31
In Loving Memory of Maryann Sachs	32
Ariel Head – Andrea Ben	33
Roy Shires – Vignettes of Rosh Hashanah	34 - 35
Sukkot 2022 / In Loving Memory of Shirkey Koton	36
Mazeltov	37
Advertising	38
Tishrei 5784	39



# Committee Members



Left to right: Wayne Tichauer, Jonathan Gimpel, Paul Freinkel, Rabbi Uzvolk, Peter Berman, Lorien Gimpel, Joanne Goldberg, Jolene Goldberg, Adrienne Skikna



Wishing the Victory Park congregation a Shana Tova U'Metuka and an easy and meaningful fast over Yom Kippur.

May Hashem inscribe and seal our special community for a sweet, healthy, prosperous and peaceful 5784.

Victory Park Shul committee

# Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein

## Are you a customer or partner?

As you page through this magazine, you'll be struck by the hard work and dedication of your rabbi and shul committee and administrators; how they are running your community with professionalism, compassion and energy. As you do so, you may feel like a consumer of a great product. (You may even have some complaints?)

It's tempting to view your shul as a service provider, and you, the member, as its paying customer. Membership fees are paid for the many wonderful services received - a wise, understanding rabbi and rebbetzin who are there for us when we need them, in good times and challenging times, giving us spiritual guidance and support; a nice brocha on Shabbos morning, and a warm, welcoming place to have our simchas; maybe a chazan and a choir that make the services enjoyable to listen to.

This mindset of a customer works for goods and services purchased in the commercial marketplace. But a shul is different. I would like to suggest a completely different paradigm - become a partner.

Being a partner means not passively consuming benefits - it means taking an active role to make your shul thrive. A partner is personally invested in the outcome. A partner feels responsible to solve problems, to look for opportunities.

One of Judaism's most radical ideas is that we are called on to be "G-d's partners in creation". G-d doesn't want us to be passive bystanders. He wants us to come forward and create a better world as His partners. He doesn't want us to be passive recipients of His goodness and kindness. He wants us to be active partners through our mitzvahs, our Torah learning, our davening, our good deeds.

We are all Hashem's partners, which makes us each other's partners. Helping to build and sustain a great shul is part of our role as G-d's partners in creating a better world. Start by reading this magazine, as a partner not a customer. Don't sit back passively assessing your shul's performance. Read with an eye on how you can get involved - to make a real difference. As a partner you will do anything to make your shul a thriving place of emotional and spiritual connection, energy and inspiration - a truly vibrant community.

It's not just the rabbi and rebbetzin who should visit the sick, or share comfort at a shiva house, or be involved with Torah learning and building community. We shouldn't watch the chazan and choir like spectators at a concert. Lean in to the davening. Pray with intent and feel the presence of Hashem. Join the chesed activities of your shul - whether it's making meals or visiting the sick, or reaching out to fellow congregants with messages of love and support. These mitzvahs are for all of us to do.

To be a partner also means contributing financially. People are sometimes uncomfortable talking about money. But shuls cannot function without funding. The Torah guides us to give 10% of our earnings to tzedaka - to provide for the needy, and fund worthy causes and vital communal institutions, especially our shuls. (I have written an important essay about the vision, values and practicalities of this great mitzvah. The essay will be available in booklet form at your shul over Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Look out for it.)

A thriving South African Jewish community depends on thriving shuls. We are blessed to have outstanding rabbis and rebbetzins, shul committees and staff, chazans and choirs. Don't be their customers. Become their partners, and together we will create a brighter future.

May Hashem bless the precious . . . Victory Park shul and inscribe all its wonderful people, together with our entire community, with a good and sweet year,

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein

The Chief Rabbi's new year's message, with all the details about tzedaka and the 10% principle, will be available in shul, and to download after Yom Tov at [chiefrabbi.co.za](http://chiefrabbi.co.za)



# Rabbi Uzvolk

Looking back at 5783, I feel the need to express a few thank yous. To our Chairman, Peter Berman, who, together with a supporting committee, has smoothly navigated a tricky transition within our Shul. The vibe in our community is palpable and PG we will see and experience continued positive growth.

A special thank you to Joanne Goldberg who has taken on the role of head of the catering committee. Even though there are not many people who come to shul for food or socializing, still... Jo, we are all grateful to you and the team for the variety, the quality, the good taste, and the gentle manner with which you go about the catering.

I want to thank and compliment the daily minyanairs. You gents, who come day in and day out are the ones who ensure that our community is alive and viable. It is because of these gentlemen, that, even a stranger, can find a minyan in which to say Kaddish, bench Gommel, or pray for the sick.

Thank you, Laia for holding the fort at home during those daily, trying, prime times.

My message comes from an insight of the Chozeh of Lublin. (c. 1745 - August 15, 1815)

A leading figure in the early Hasidic movement in Poland.

The Torah refers to Rosh Hashanah as "The day of the (Shofar) blast " Yom Truah". True, we blow the Shofar on R"H but why call it Yom Truah?

In what way does the Truah define the day?

The Chozeh explains that while Truah means a blast, it also means FRIENDSHIP.

Here are two examples " Iemaan achai VE-REH-AIY" and "Shalom veh- Reiut".

Reh-aiy means my friends. Reiut means friendship.

It is friendship, companionship, and closeness that categorize our Rosh Hashanah, the head of our year.

What Hashem wants from us on this Holy day is friendship. Hashem asks of us "Yom Truah yiheyeh lachem". Make this day a day of friendship. Be kind to one another!

It sounds so simple, but it appears to be way too difficult.

Reflecting on this past year, we have witnessed very upsetting discord in Israel.

Many of the kids in our Jewish schools feel that they are bullied.

Kids and grown-ups feel that schools and communities are "clicky".

All Hashem asks is "May this (and every day) be a day of friendship. Friendship, closeness, loyalty, and care for one another, are the apples and honey which ensure a good sweet year ahead.

Leh Shana Tova Umetukah



# Rebbetzin Laia Uzvolk

Dear Friends

This year, like every year in galut, in exile, before Moshiach comes, has had its ups and downs. Boruch Hashem there were so many simchas, achievements and exciting experiences. There's been so much growth and 're-Jew-venation'. We have lived thousands of happy moments and made myriads of memories. Boruch Hashem!

And, yet, sadly the happenings in our community over this past month have temporarily blocked those wonderful thoughts and feelings. So many of us are shocked and saddened by the tragic loss of Maryann Sachs. My husband and I have spent many of our days at the Milpark. At one stage we had four Victory Parkers lodging there! As well as friends from the broader Jewish community.

It's been a very hard month. Very heavy and depleting.

And then Hashem sent me a gift I'd like to share with you.

When I went to Chaim Sarchi's shiva house (the young father from Hatzolah who had the aneurysm) this story was shared:

A couple of years ago on Lag B'Omer, there was a tragedy in Meiron. (Hundreds of thousands gather there annually at the grave of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, to pray and celebrate this special day. That year one of the supports broke and tens of joyous participants were killed.

The mother of one of the young boys who didn't survive spoke recently.

She told of how for many long months she was searching for an answer to, 'Why?!' She went to the leading Rabbis. She had therapy. She read, she asked. She couldn't get past the 'Why?!'.

And eventually Hashem helped fill her vacuum. She learned that the Thirteen Principles (of the Jewish) Faith all state, 'Ani Maamin - I believe!' They don't say, 'Ani Maivin - I understand'! No, I definitely don't understand at all! And how it hurts! And it aches!

And simultaneously I also do believe. I believe this is part of Hashem's vast eternal plan. I believe that Hashem only does what is best all around, even when it really does not feel like it! I believe and know Hashem is holding each one of us.

This mother has channelled her pain into an amazing campaign in her son's merit. The 'Ani Ma'amin Campaign', spreading hope and strength.

When we were in high school my friend described two beautiful images which I've shared with many of you over the years:

Life is like an intricate tapestry. In this world we only see it from behind. It is full of complicated patterns and a mess of colours. There are knots and very many loose ends.

Only when we turn the completed tapestry around are we able to make sense of it. Everything falls into place and we see the beauty, the justice and the wisdom.

Only in the World of Truth, after 120 years, will we be enlightened with the obvious knowledge of the necessity, goodness and blessing in all that we experience on our journey 'Down Here'.

The second image my friend shared is that of a child flying a kite. A tiny flick of the wrist, mere millimetres of movement, can cause the kite to move a massive distance of kilometres way up in the sky.

Our simple doings down here in the World of Action cause massive shifts in the Heavenly Worlds.

We may return change miscalculated by the tired teller. It may be lighting a candle at a specific time. Perhaps smiling at someone who really bugs you, or maybe making that irritating or pride-compromising call. I might give of my money, my time or my talent....

No matter how big or small, how easy or difficult for me, each action I take in this World has huge repercussions Upstairs. And I get to choose whether they are positive or not.

We know for certain that Maryann obm has the complete view of Truth. She is in a good place at peace with it all. Although she probably wishes that we weren't so blinded by the pain in this world of concealment. And yet, she also sees the benefit and perfection in our pain!

We also know that she, who is now known as Miriam bat Nachman obm, is basically stagnant with the inability to change her position Up There. (Even though I'm sure it is a special spot built by the actions in the lifetime of our gentle, kind, good friend!)

Here's where the kite comes in: Any action of goodness and kindness, any Mitzvah which we do in her merit Down Here, creates angels which escort her ever closer to Hashem's 'Throne' Up There. Indeed our limited, physical acts can carry her infinitely higher in the spiritual realms.

We can choose to become her limbs. Thus we are doing something practical to help our friend.

Spiritual goodness spreads like wild fire. All those angels we create will also strengthen Ben and their family. They will also comfort us. And...bring us closer to Moshiach's arrival, when we will physically be reunited with our loved ones. Yes, that's one of our Principles of Faith.

And I don't understand! And I do believe!

We also wish Irwin and the Teichner families strength at this heart-rending time. May our Mitzvos help Judy, Yehudit bat Ita, and all of you.

Our family joins me in thanking Peter and his dedicated committee for the palpable vibe pumping VP. Boruch Hashem!

We also welcome our shinshinyot, Oriya and Tair, and thank Paul, Jolene and the entire committee for this new reality. PG we look forward to a new young heartbeat!

We wish each and all of you a Ketiva Vechatima Tova. May you be inscribed and sealed for all that is ONLY REVEALED GOOD on every level, physically, spiritually, emotionally and all beautifully fused together.

As we are human, please forgive any/all of us if we have hurt you in any way. Please reach out so we can make amends.

Please also let us know if someone would appreciate an invite over Yom Tov (or Shabbos! )  
PG looking forward to growing with you in 5784 and beyond!

Shana Tova Umetuka!

With love and revealed blessings,

Laia

*Shana Tova*





# Our Chairman - Peter Berman

## “Renovation”

Definition: repairing, renewing the act or process of repairing, renewing, or restoring to good condition.

If I were to sum up the past 12 months at our shul, this is the word which comes to mind.

Allow me to elaborate.

- The brand new and long-awaited windows, paint job, new ceiling boards, waterproofing and additional lighting have materially changed the look and feel of the shul. We are yet to complete the upstairs section, and as soon as funds allow, we will do so.
- We are in the middle of a build at Rabbis Uzvolk's house, to ensure the property is correctly maintained. This is an item which has been on the agenda for some time.
- We have had a clean-up of the shul office and have plans ready to go to extend the library and create a great new space for our youth.
- The children's playground is continuously being tweaked and upgraded

But the renovation not only refers to the physical projects per above.

A mandate which we continue to follow is the focus on the youth and women of our shul. To that end, we officially welcomed our Shinshiniyot. We have no doubt this will elevate the ruach amongst the youth and create the required continuity critically needed for the future of our shul.

Our ladies committee, baking club, lady's guild, and catering team continue to outdo themselves. Their reputation for putting on the best brochas in JHB remains intact, and in fact has taken it up a further notch. Thank you, ladies, and well done.

Music has also returned to our shul in a big way. The frequency of performance by our Chazzan and choir is becoming more of a regular feature and through simchas, First Fridays and generous donations, the feedback has been very positive.

The hosting of events continues to be the heartbeat of our shul. From First Fridays, whisky club, simchas, yomtovs, welcomes and farewells, the effort and success is plain for all to see.

I would like to acknowledge Rabbi Uzvolk. Rabbi, your commitment to the community and for just being 'there' when we need you doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you for all you do and we are proud to have you as our Rabbi.

Minyanim remains a benchmark of success for any shul, and our progress has been good. We are not quite where we would like it to be. Thank you sincerely to all those who consistently make up the minyanim, and may I appeal to even more gentlemen to come forward. Attending even one service a week makes a huge difference.

A critical element of any shul is to ensure that the finances remain in good standing, and Victory Park is no different. Thank you for your generous donations

It is my honour to pay tribute to the phenomenal shul committee for another successful year I am immensely pleased to have made such progress and PG we only see more of the same in the year/s to come.

All the activity, effort and success are only achieved through hard work, and it is my privilege to work so closely with you all. Thank you

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 in our gem of a shul in the 'Park of Victory'.

Thank you



# Kitchen & Housekeeping Staff



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!*

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# Shnay Uzvolk

BS"D

To My Victory Park Family

Every so often I'll be at a shabbat table or a kumzitz and we'll be singing Yedid Nefesh or Miiizmor Le' David to the same tune that we as a community sing every Shabbas afternoon at Sudat Shlishit. Often I have a huge smile as I find my six year old self sitting in the hall reading all the names on the boards on the cream brick walls. I find myself listening to all the politics and genius ideas being discussed at the table. From there the memories flow, from children's service to the choir, to all the faces of the past and from there to you. I've had the opportunity to visit many communities and shuls over these past few years but there's still nothing like home.

I want to share an experience I had this past Pesach. Here's some background. I have a friend, Yossi, who was originally born in Columbia and whose family now lives in Tzfat. He was with me in Yeshiva when I was in Tzfat in 2020. He currently works at the Chabad House in Cozumel, Mexico. (He runs their restaurants.) He reached out to me to ask if I'd be interested in coming to Cozumel for Pesach to help the Chabad House run all their programs, all expenses on them. (travel, housing, food etc. . .) At the time I had a few other really cool opportunities I was interested in. The reason I wasn't so set on Cozumel is because it's fully Hebrew and I wouldn't be able to bring any friends along. It meant going solo. (Yossi has a pretty packed schedule and wasn't going to be able to be around often.) After going back and forth I committed. The same day my tickets were booked I got a call from another friend asking if I'd be interested in going with a few of my friends to run a seder in Dubai. I was a little annoyed, but everything is always for the best.

Pesach in Cozumel was one of the most growth-full experiences I've had. Firstly, I'd had this preconceived notion that I should never travel solo because it's not as fun and not as safe. While that is true, every situation is different and should be assessed. We have so many rules and habits that we've created for ourselves, from the way we brush our teeth to the way we get dressed. Rules are very important because they keep us grounded. However often these rules and habits actually hinder our growth and success. It's very important to reassess our rule book every so often and make sure that it's helping us and not the contrary.

A lot of Israelis travel the world after they finish their army service. Most travel through South America. The Chabad in Cozumel has a very small community. There are about seventy thousand residents on the Island of which maybe 150 are Jewish. Rabbi Dudi set up his Chabad to accommodate all the Israeli travellers passing through. It's the only Jewish established on the island. The school, the shul. If you need anything Jewish orientated, he's your guy. He has three kosher restaurants, a bakery, a shop and nightly programs. The weekly highlight is for sure Shabbas. From the singing in shul, the huge meals, the fabrengans and seudat shlishis with niggunim on the beach at sunset. He has a few bochrin who are with him the whole year who go around the island finding Israelis, put on tefillin with them etc. . . Over Pesach the Chabad House had over 2500 travellers pass through. Our Seder had over 800 people at it. Every other meal had an average of about 250 people On the Friday night after Pesach, unknown to the rabbi, the registration link wasn't working properly and only 50 people signed up - 200 showed up. There are quite a few American families who come for Pesach as well. During the week we helped with whatever they needed. It's not so simple making Pesach for so many people on an island with no kosher products. The rabbi plans far in advance so that he can ship everything in. Being that it's Mexico you pray it all arrives.



Pesach without matza wouldn't be so much fun. During the week myself and the Israeli group of bochrim who were there helped with organising and preparing everything the Chabad needed for Pesach. Our main job was interacting and learning with everyone that walked through the doors. I've never had the experience of meeting so many people and getting to know some really well and then watching them disappear a day later and moving on to the next. It was really incredible.

Watching how alive Yidishkeit is on this tiny Island was probably the biggest lesson I took out of the whole thing. The Rabbi and his family don't water anything down for any of the hundreds of people that pass through. Everyone leaves feeling energised and uplifted. Some of these people were experiencing Shabbas for the first time. I remember the rabbi once told one of us "Don't try and blend into being of them. They better at being who they are than we will ever be. The reason they came here is because they attracted to us. Give them an authentic experience."

I think that sometimes as a South African and maybe more specifically those of us not living in Glenhazel and its surrounding areas could feel that Yidishkeit is declining and getting outdated. That there is nothing exciting happening. It's important to zoom out and realise that Yidishkeit is possibly the biggest and loudest it's ever been. Chabad is now the biggest franchise in the world with over 5500 Centres. There are hundreds of projects and programs. Yidishkeit is booming!

Every community has completely different strengths. Some are more learning orientated, some are more family oriented, some are more serious, some are bigger and some are smaller, the list goes on. Our community is very special. It has a very rich history and foundation which were laid by our parents and grandparents. Over time our strengths have changed. The most important thing is the present. We are a small family orientated community situated in one of the most beautiful parts of Joburg. We are a community made up of families and individuals from different backgrounds and values but together we form the VP community.

It's important to be conscious of the fact that it is what we make it. Often we think that we could just sit on the side. We have to realise that as an individual or a family, we are either part of the problem or part of the solution and that there is no middle ground. It's our job to show up, to continue to make our shul what it is. Just by being present you lay a brick into the future of our community. Sometimes we think that we could just leave and when we decide to show up again things will be the same as they were when we left them. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!  
Love Shnay Uzvolk



# Purim 2023



# High School Head - Andrew Baker

## Message to Victory Park Hebrew Congregation for Rosh Hashanah

Soon it will be Rosh Chodesh Elul and we will hear the shofar sounding in our school every morning as we lead up to Rosh Hashanah. In preparation for the High Holidays, we blow the shofar each morning throughout the month of Elul, the final month of the Jewish year. Every morning, the shofar reminds us of the holiness of Rosh Hashanah, marking the start of the New Year that lies ahead.

There is a great deal of symbolism tied in with the legal requirements for what constitutes a proper shofar. The shofar of Rosh Hashanah, whose purpose it is to rouse the Divine in the listener, may not be constructed of an artificial instrument. It must be an instrument in its natural form and naturally hollow, through whom sound is produced by human breath, which G-d breathes into human beings. This pure and natural sound symbolises the lives it calls Jews to lead. What is more, the most desirable shofar is the bent horn of a ram. The ram reminds one of Abraham's willing sacrifice of that which was most precious to him. The curve in the horn mirrors the contrition of the one who repents.

Maimonides suggests that the shofar is a reminder for us to do teshuvah, or repentance. It serves as a wake-up call from our human ways and encourages us to do mitzvot. The sound of the shofar awakens our desire to become closer to G-d, a yearning for meaning and fulfillment, and reminds us of the ram slaughtered by our father Abraham in a test from G-d to demonstrate his loyalty and commitment. This is still only an earthly explanation for a Divine Commandment.

As I hear the strains of the Tekiah, Shevarim, Teruah and Tekiah Gedolah through my open office window, I am reminded of the wonderful privilege to be able to lead a school in our community. 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 congregation 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.

Shanah Tovah  
Andrew C. Baker  
HEADMASTER  
KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL VICTORY PARK



# Primary School Head - Kevin Lees

Dear Friends and Community Members,

As we celebrate the dawn of a new year with Rosh Hashanah, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and excitement. The pages of the calendar turn, and with them come new opportunities for growth, learning and reflection. We deeply value the connection between our school and your community, and it is a privilege for us to enjoy such a wonderful bond.

The theme of Rosh Hashanah resonates with our educational journey at KDVPP. Just as the shofar's sound calls us to awaken and introspect, our students are urged to explore the vast landscapes of knowledge and character. We believe in fostering an environment that nurtures not only academic excellence but also the development of values that define us as compassionate and responsible individuals.

True growth requires a blend of academic learning, personal exploration, and a strong sense of community. Just as a tree needs strong roots to thrive, our students flourish when they are grounded in a supportive and nurturing environment. Together, we water the seeds of curiosity, resilience, and creativity, watching them blossom into well-rounded individuals who are equipped to face challenges and embrace successes.

As we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, let us be reminded of the power of unity and the importance of working hand in hand towards shared goals. Our schools and shuls are not just buildings; they are a living, breathing community that thrives on the bonds we forge with one another.

My sincere thanks to Rabbi Uzvolk and Peter Berman for their outstanding ongoing support and partnership. On behalf of the entire KDVPP family, I extend warm wishes to each of you for a Shanah Tovah Umetukah- a good and sweet year filled with blessings.

Kevin Lees - Head of School, King David Primary School  
Victory Park



# Lag B' Omer 2023





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A SWEET, HAPPY  
AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR



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# Rosh Hashanah Greetings

We wish all our friends and family Chag Sameach and well over the fast.  
Anthony & Steph  
Fiineberg

Wishing a good peaceful year ahead with blessings of strength and health.  
Fast well.  
Love David Louella  
Friedland and family

May this be a year of abundant blessings, peace, contentment, good health and happiness for all in our Community.  
Alf and Freida Abrahamsohn

WISHING THE CONGREGATION A  
HEALTHY + HAPPY NEW YEAR -

L'Shana Tovah tikatevu  
CHAG SAMEACH!

Graeme, Lisa, Zac and Lily Todes

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.

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 dear family and friends a shana tovah u metukah. May the year ahead be filled with good health, happiness and Hashem's richest blessings.  
Fondest Love Stephen & Joanne Goldberg and 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 you one and all a blessed new year and well over the Fast and that you are enriched with all of the blessings that you wish yourself and your loved ones.

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

Leslie, Belinda, Justin, Zoe and Sherri Kobrin

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

Sincere good wishes for a happy, healthy, peaceful New Year and well over the fast.  
Les & Iona Samowitz and 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 family, friends and the community a Happy New Year and well over the Fast. From Russel & Andy Koton and Family

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

Wishing Rabbi and Laia, our family and friends Shana Tova. with love from  
Herman and Ettie Kaplan

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.

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

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

May the coming year bring contentment, fulfillment, and smiles to all. Brachot in abundance.  
Joan Bernhard

Wishing everone in this special community a year full of health, happiness and only good things.

The Hurvitz Family

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

Wishing Rabbi and Laia, our family and friends Shana Tova.  
with love from  
Herman and Ettie Kaplan

Wishing everyone a Chag Sameach  
The Rosenthal Family.

# Hello From Israel

Shalom from Netanya

27 July 2023

It is now five months since we arrived in Israel. Thank G-D we have settled down nicely and have become members of the Young Israel Shul of North Netanya. The membership is primarily Anglo speaking with the bulk coming from the UK, many from the USA and about five formers South Africans, there are a few Israelis as well.

This has been an exciting time for us and I would like to share with you some of the differences between shul in South Africa and Israel. I have decided to pen this letter on Tisha B'Av so let me start with the day.

Tisha B' Av: We have just completed the fast of Tisha B' Av. One of the most solemn days in the Jewish Calendar. There is a very solemn feeling in the air.

Even though the day is not a holiday many people take off and lots of business are closed. Attendance in shul last night was as full as Yom Kippur. People who do not regularly come, were in Shul. In the morning, after the daily davening, and when it was time to say the Kinnot, I was surprised as to how many men and women stayed for the full time. The service was two hours 45 minutes. This is longer than most Shabbat morning services. What was also amazing was that many secular Israelis decided to fast today as a sign of solidarity due to the issues that are happening in the Knesset at present. This is something that is not usual for secular Israelis. The feelings I felt today make me excited to see how Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be. Hopefully it will be a little cooler than at present. At 11h30 today it was 34°C.

Daily Birchat Kohanim: This special prayer only happens on Yom Tov in the Diaspora. In Israel we do this daily, and it brings a special feeling in the shul. As a Levi I am actively involved every day in this service. We have on average three Kohanim during the week and on Shabbat about seven. On Yom Tov there is a very impressive Birchat Kohanim service at the Kotel, attended by thousands of people who make the trip from all over Israel and the world to witness this special prayer.

Greetings: The good old-fashioned greeting of Yom Tov in South Africa has a vastly different meaning here in Israel. In South African you only use this as a greeting on a festival. Here the words simply mean "have a good day" and it can be heard hundreds of times a day, every day. The greeting on a holiday here would be Chag Sameach. Even the greeting at the end of Shabbat, Shavua Tov, is heard here on Sunday and sometimes Monday, again here it means "have a good week".

Davening: Davening in Israel is an experience on its own! An interesting fact is that in most shuls that there is no chazan and members of the Shul organise with the gabbai to daven this includes Shabbat and Yom Tov, I do know we are getting a chazan for the High holidays, In our shul we daven the regular Ashkenazi Nusach with some additional prayer added in. For example, before Tachanun we add in some Vidui prayers, which outside of Israel are said on the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, it is also part of the Sephardic service. Also, after the psalm of the day we add in Ein Keilokeinu and the five paragraphs thereafter. At the end of every service the Chazan says Baruchu repeated by the community.

The saying of communal Tehillim in the morning is also common in Israel. I have joined our shul group, which has about seven men who say the daily psalms verse by verse. My Hebrew will improve as I try to keep up with the others.

Davening: The davening pace here is a whole new experience. I believed that I davened at a fair pace back in Victory Park, but the speed of some men is so fast it is sometimes hard to keep up. They daven so fast I believe they cannot be saying all the words as it seems impossible to say the words that fast. Well, each to his own.

Another example, just after we arrived and had not yet moved into our apartment, on Friday night I did not want to walk all the way to shul, so I decided to go the French Minyan at the hotel nearby. Not only was the siddur in French and Hebrew but the Nusach follows the Sephardic Nusach. I was lost for a while before I was able to find the place. This has never happened to me before. With the Sephardim there is lots of clapping and singing. In most Sephardic shul there is no official chazan for Shabbat, all members participate, and it just flows around the shul seamlessly.

Minhagim: All shuls have their minhagim and rules and it takes some getting used to when you visit another Shul. The one noticeable variation is when you visit a Sephardic shul. I have been to two such shuls. What is amazing is that the Shalich Tzibbur says every word aloud. They express themselves very much during the davening. It is amazing to see the variety of services even though we are all praying to Hashem.



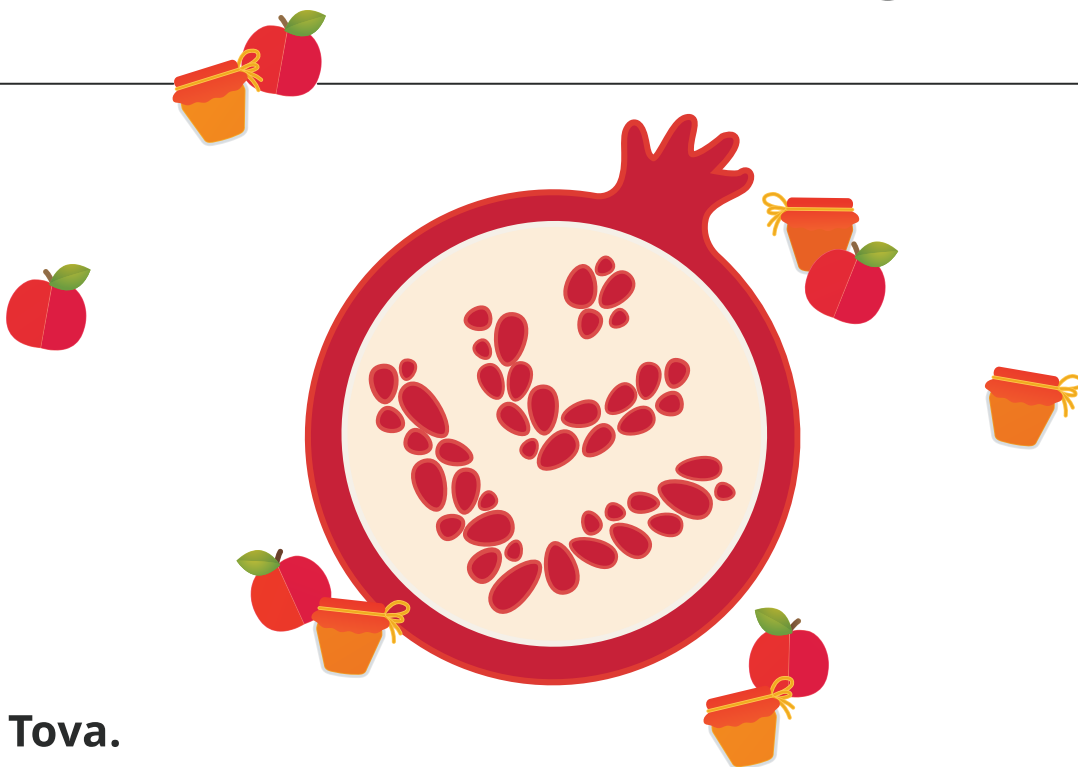
### Some other interesting facts I have come across here in Netanya.

- 1) There are more Russians, French and Anglo speakers in Netanya than there are Israelis. French and Russian is everywhere to be seen in the city. Both the Russians and French have chosen Netanya as a favourite city. Sometimes you do not see English signs only the other three languages.
- 2) Contrary to popular belief both Zandra and I have found the average Israeli very helpfully and accommodating. When you say you are an Oleh Chadash (new immigrant) they are more than willing to help.
- 3) The French have made a huge impression of the standard of food here in Netanya. Most bakeries are French owned or operated. The variety of food they have to offer is fantastic. I for one really enjoy the pastries and croissants. A croissant made with real butter far exceeds anything we get in South Africa.
- 4) The number of old people in Netanya and Israel is amazing, people well into their 80's and 90's who are active, go shopping and do all sorts of activities. In the second paragraph of the Shema it says " May your days and the days of your children be many on the land . . . ". it is said that THE LAND means the land of Israel.
- 5) The number of people who smoke in Israel is very high. What is amazing is that it is primarily the older people.
- 6) The number of men and women with tattoos is amazing I have never so many people with tattoos as what I have seen here - young and old.

That is all for now. As we approach our first Rosh Hashanah in Israel, Zandra and I wish all the members of our shul a Shana Tova and well over the fast. Anyone coming to Israel please give us a call and we will be happy to meet and greet you.

Shalom from Netanya

Jeffrey Sher  
0546684407



## Shana Tova.

Wishing all our Jewish clients  
a sweet and healthy New Year.

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# Shorashim - By Ruby Gimpel

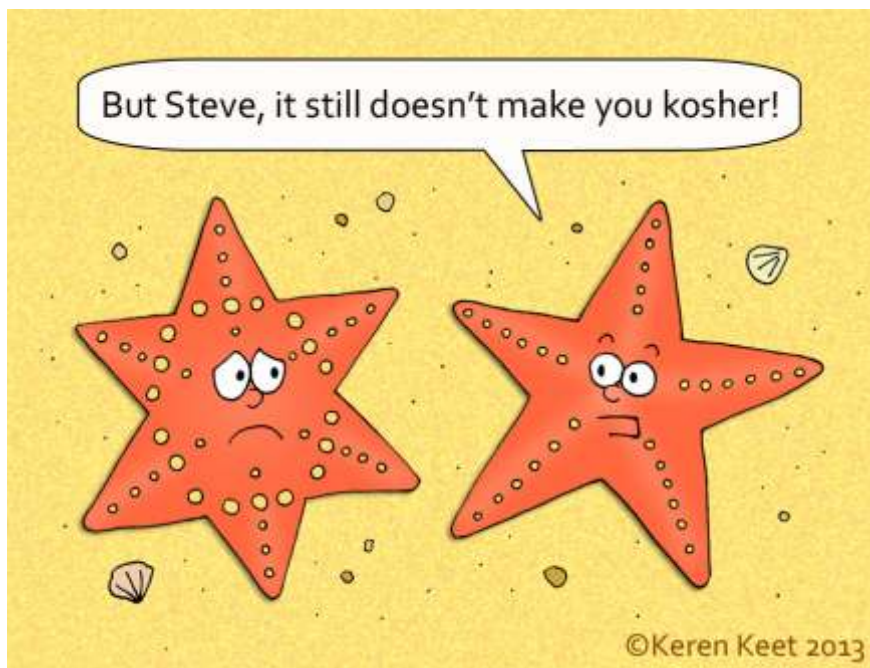
I was one of the fortunate Shorashim maddies this July holidays. For those who do not know, Shorashim is a three week Habonim Dror Southern Africa programme for grade 10s, in which we tour the whole of Israel and learn about our Jewish ties to the land while embracing the intricacies of Israel first hand. It was an honour and privilege to return to Israel as a madricha (counsellor) for the first time. The role reversal from visiting the country only as a channicha (camper), for the majority of my life, to getting the chance to show my channichim around, was so powerful.

We started off in Tel Aviv, enjoying the beach and exploring the bustling city before making our way to the Negev desert to see the vast barren land and how people have made this space their home - even in such harsh climates. After the desert, we visited Eilat to enjoy the beautiful seaside and enjoy a classic Israeli heatwave. We then spent some time in Jerusalem learning about Jewish history and how far we have come as a nation. We went to Sar-El, a programme involving volunteering for the IDF, and ended our trip exploring the beautiful north of Israel, including kayaking in the Jordan river, a dip in the Kineret and some sightseeing in Haifa.

It was truly a life changing trip and I cannot wait to reunite with my chanichim this year on Habonim machaneh!



## Giggles



# Pre-Primary Head - Jodi Goldberg

I can't believe how quickly time has flown this year and that we are already celebrating another new year- another Rosh Hashanah. There has been such excitement in the Pre-Primary school over the past few weeks. The children are singing their Rosh Hashanah songs and learning about the symbolism that Rosh Hashanah brings. They learn to celebrate the good things that they experienced through the year as well as to ponder their hopes and dreams for the new year to come. Learning about Rosh Hashanah contributes to a child's sense of identity. It helps them to understand that they are a part of a bigger community, with shared values and beliefs, fostering a sense of belonging and pride.

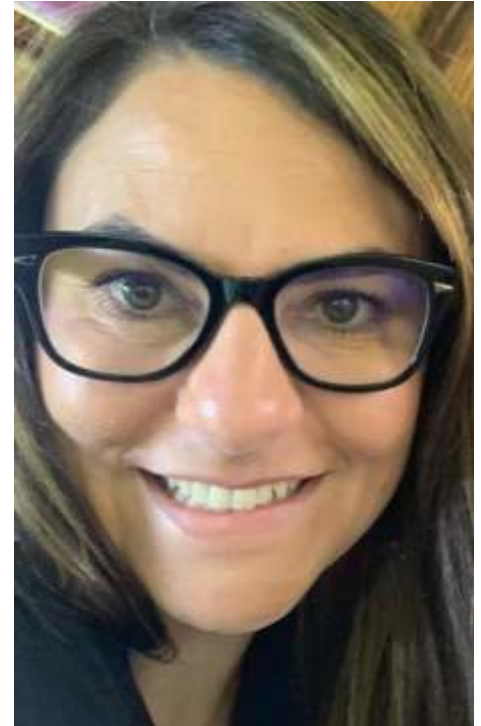
Rosh Hashanah emphasizes themes of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Teaching children about these values encourages them to consider their actions, take responsibility for their mistakes, and strive for self-improvement. These ethical teachings can have a positive impact on their behaviour and character development. Learning to say "I'm sorry" and "I forgive you" becomes a valuable lesson which is taught during this time. Another lesson which is taught is the Mitzvah of giving to those less fortunate. This knowledge fosters tolerance, respect and an understanding of the diversity that exists in the world.

The children also become immersed in learning about the symbols which accompany the holiday. Every day in the month of Elul, they listen to the shofar being blown- "waking us up" and reminding us that the new year is upon us. They learn about eating apples dipped in honey- for a sweet year. They make and eat round challahs with raisins to represent the unending cycle of life- a cycle in which there is no beginning or end.

They are taught that having the head of a fish on our table commemorates the head of the year and that we hope for a year in which we lead with strength, rather than being at the tail end of things.

I have always found that around the time of Rosh Hashannah, there is a noticeable growth in all the children- physically as well as emotionally. This serves as a reminder that the children are almost ready to move on to the next phase of their school journey.

I would like to thank Rabbi Uzvolk for his constant support and guidance in teaching the children valuable lessons through the year. Watching him interact with the children serves as a reminder of how fortunate we are at KDVP to have such a remarkable sense of community. I would also like to wish him and his family, as well as the Victory Park Shul community a Shana Tova Umetuka. May it be a year filled with sweetness, health and happiness.







DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
13 6.30am	September Selichot followed by Shacharit	14 6.30am	September Erev Rosh Hashanna Selichot followed by Shacharit followed by Hatarat Nedarim
5.45pm	Mincha & Maariv	5.45pm	<b>Candle Lighting before</b> Mincha Maariv
		5.43pm 5.45pm 6.00pm	15 September Rosh Hashanah 1st day Shacharit 8.00am Mincha 5.45pm Maariv 6.00pm <b>Candle Lighting after</b> *6.33pm
20 6.30am	September Selichot followed by Shacharit	21 6.30am	September Selichot followed by Shacharit
6.00pm	Mincha & Maariv	6.00pm	<b>Candle Lighting before</b> Mincha & Maariv
		5.46pm 6.00pm	22 September SHABBATH SHUVA Shacharit 9.00am Mincha & Oneg 5.35pm Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.35pm
27 7.00am	September Shacharit	28 7.00am	September Erev Succoth Shachrit
6.00pm	Mincha & Maariv	6.00pm	<b>Candle Lighting before</b> Mincha Maariv
		5.49pm 6.00pm 6.15pm	29 September Sukkot 1st day Shachrit 9.00am Mincha 6.00pm Maariv 6.15pm <b>Candle Lighting after</b> *6.38pm
4 6.45am	October Chol Hamoed Shachrit	5 6.45am	October Hashana Rabba Shachrit Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah
6.00pm	Mincha & Maariv	6.00pm	<b>Candle Lighting before</b> Mincha Maariv
		5.52pm 6.00pm 6.15pm	6 October Shemini Atzeret Shachrit 8.45am Yizkor 10.45 and Geshem Eat in Succah Mincha 6.00pm Maariv and Hakkafot 6.15pm <b>Candle Lighting after</b> *6.42pm
11 7.00am	October Shachrit	12 7.00am	October Shachrit
6.00pm	Mincha & Maariv	6.00pm	<b>Candle Lighting before</b> Mincha & Maariv
		5.55m 6.00pm	13 October Parsha Bereshit Shachrit 9.00am Mincha & Oneg 5.45pm Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.46pm
			14

# Ladies Guild

As the High Holy Days draw near, many of us experience that familiar feeling of "What should we cook?", and the age old saying, when discussing Yom Tov with friends: "What you making?"

While we all fall back on our tried and tested recipes, and of course family favourites, it is often with great excitement we eagerly add a new salad or dessert to our repertoire. Hope the following pages are filled with inspiration, and that some will find a place on your Yom Tov table.....

## NEVER FAIL CRUNCHIES

by Tzippy Damelin

One cup of each of the following: Flour, Sugar, Coconut

2 cups of Jungle Oats

1 tsp cinnamon

Mix together

Melt one cup of margarine or butter with 1 Tbs of syrup and 1 tsp of bicarb.

Mix above with dry ingredients. Mixture must be moist

Press into large baking tin and use a rolling pin to flatten evenly.

Bake at 160 degrees for 20 mins until light brown.

Switch off oven. Take out of oven and cut into squares

Put back in the oven for 5 mins to harden

Cool in tin.



## Notes of thanks

16 September 2022

Dear Jeff, Joanne, the whole VP Ladies' Guild, Adrienne and Isaac

David and I (and Jamie) want to say an enormous thank you to all of you for the most amazing Brocha for Jamie's Barmitzvah on Saturday!

Everything was wonderful and we are so so grateful! The food was all absolutely delicious and there was as you had said more than plenty. You displayed everything so beautifully and we were just so delighted how it all turned out.

It has been such a pleasure dealing with all of you. Each one of you has been so kind, gracious and accommodating and we are all so appreciative.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!  
Warm Regards  
Candy and David Abrahamsohn

Dear Chair and members of the Ladies' Guild

We have recently become members of the Victory Park shul.

I would like to express our thanks for the work that the Ladies' Guild do.

Their catering, whether for brochas or simchas or whatever task that they perform are a treat and well appreciated.

You really make it a pleasure to look forward to a brocha after a stunning Shul Service.

Kol Hakavod. Mazeltov  
Kind Regards  
Sharon Gomer





## Baking Tips from the Ladies Guild

1. Use room temperature ingredients
2. Use fresh baking powder and yeast
3. Be ACCURATE. A scale is most accurate for measuring
4. Use a spatula for smoothing over batters
5. Butter is best for flavour and oil is best for moisture retention
6. Guidelines for baking times: If recipe calls for 30-35 minutes, start checking for doneness at 30 minutes. Open oven door slowly to prevent a gush of cold air. Without pulling rack out insert a skewer. Cake is done when skewer comes out clean.
7. Special occasions should be celebrated with cake!



## INSTANT PUDDING FRIDGE TART

This dessert is successfully made milk or parev.

Substitute milk for almond or oat milk and biscuits and chocolate for parev option.

- 1 box vanilla instant pudding made according to the box instructions using milk of choice, and leave to set in the fridge.
- 1 box butterscotch instant pudding prepared as above
- 1 box chocolate instant pudding prepared as above
- 2 pkts tennis / chocolate biscuits or parev version
- Grated Chocolate white and milk (or Chocolate biscuits) for sprinkling or parev version

In a rectangular dish start with a layer or tennis biscuits and spread with the set chocolate mixture, and sprinkle with milk chocolate.

Top with a layer of biscuits and spread the butterscotch mix over and sprinkle with milk chocolate.

Add a final layer of biscuits and spread vanilla mix over and sprinkle with a mix of milk and white choc.

Cover and refrigerate till needed.



## FRESH GREEN CRUNCH SALAD

- Florets of 1 head of broccoli coarsely chopped
- Bunch asparagus blanched
- 1 English cucumber halved and thinly sliced
- 2 green apples peeled cored and sliced into matchsticks
- 1 cup edamame beans
- 1 cup peas
- 1 packet green leaves of choice (rocket spinach and watercress)
- 1 pkt seed and nut mix

Vinaigrette:

- Half cup canola oil
- Half cup white vinegar
- Half cup castor sugar or xylitol salt and pepper to taste.

Whisk then add 1 cup finely shredded basil

TIP: When prepping apples, once julienned I add them to the vinaigrette to prevent them turning brown.

When ready dress salad.

Recipe's by: Joanne Goldberg

# Phoenix Bernstein's Family Tree Project

A Jewel in the Dust  
By Jacqui Bernstein

ANU- Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv has been running the My Family Story, a Jewish heritage program sponsored by the Grosskopf family in memory of Manuel Hirsch Grosskopf, for over 28 years.

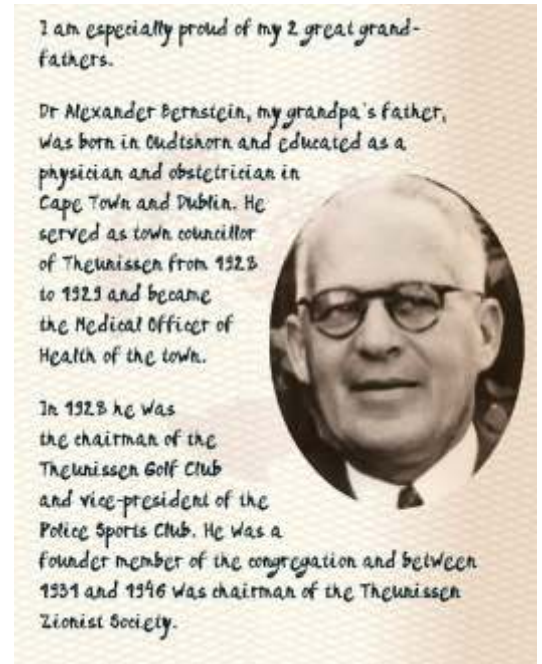
The programme engages thousands of young Jewish students from 26 countries in discovering and expressing their family history through art. The programme aims to connect the students to their personal and collective Jewish identity through a yearlong curriculum that involves research and creativity. They are provoked to dig deeper and to find the story that makes them unique. After months of research on their family stories, students make a creative display that tells their family story. The most outstanding creative displays are filmed and displayed in a now permanent digital exhibition.

The programme celebrates the diversity and richness of Jewish culture and fosters a sense of belonging and pride amongst the participants. It also encourages inter-generational dialogue and learning as the students explore their roots and stories.

My son Phoenix was one of the participants this year from King David Victory Park Primary School. He does not know his Israeli father very well but this project inspired him to reach out to learn about his paternal family history. His father's ancestors were from the small Bene Israel Jewish community in India. He also discovered that his great-great grandfather was a chazan at the Kneset Eliyahu in Mumbai.

Phoenix was fascinated by the stories of his roots and the diversity of his heritage, contrasting so starkly with my pale Lithuanian roots. He decided to build a model of the synagogue in Mumbai that symbolises his connection to both the East and the North parts of his roots - He wanted their story to be heard. He wanted to share the story of the Indian Jews and honour their legacy. He wanted to express his pride and curiosity for both sides of his identity.

His project was chosen as one of 5 finalists from English-speaking countries and the museum sponsored his flight to Israel and an unforgettable 2-day programme and awards ceremony. We joined 22 kids from around the world: finalists from North and South America, the Former Soviet Union and Europe, South Africa, Australia, and Israel. Their stories were amazing and the kids managed to communicate across the language barriers.



ANU- Museum of the Jewish People (formerly Beit Hatfutsot) is the largest, most comprehensive and, in my opinion, most beautiful Jewish museum in the world. They sponsored a trip to Park Canada in the Judean Lowlands to learn about our earliest roots from Roman times and a trip to Jerusalem: the Jewish Quarter and Western Wall. The following day we were treated to exploring the fascinating, world class museum and the Awards Ceremony for the finalists.

He was selected as a first place winner from the English-speaking country finalists. He went to the stage and made an acceptance speech with great maturity and aplomb.

Overcome by emotion, I watched him from the audience. He walked taller, proud of his heritage, his art and his unconventional beginnings. He had found his place in the world, his connection to his people, his voice to tell his story.

This is his journey now, and I couldn't be more proud.

Watch his video submission here:

<https://mfs.anumuseum.org.il/en/projects/a-jewel-in-the-dust/>



## Kol Nidrei: Composition for Cello and Orchestra by Max Bruch

(In memory of Maryann Sachs)

Max Bruch was a German Composer (1838-1920) whose most popular and most frequently performed works are his Violin Concerto No. 1 (his most famous work), Scottish Fantasia and Kol Nidrei.

Although a Protestant, he had an interest in Jewish music. His music teacher introduced him to Abraham Jacob Lichtenstein who served as cantor-in-chief of Berlin. He thus became acquainted with Kol Nidrei's melody.

Bruch spent three years, 1880-83, in Liverpool as Principal Conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Bruch's Kol Nidrei is written as an Adagio incorporating two melodies: Kol Nidrei and an extract of Lord Byron's poem, 'Weep For Those That Wept' by Babel's stream. It was first performed in Liverpool in 1881, Bruch conducting.

Performances of his music were restricted by the Nazis as he was considered a "possible Jew".

The date of the composition of the Jewish prayer of Kol Nidrei in Aramaic is unknown but already existed in Geonic times. The melody to which we are accustomed probably evolved over an extended period.

Here are two YouTube versions of Bruch's Kol Nidrei, Op 47, for cello and orchestra.

#1 with Mischa Maisky with the Frankfurt Orchestra is a bit of a show stopper as Maisky has a somewhat personality. (11 minutes)  
<https://youtu.be/XGzOozXt4ek>

#2 is highly rated but is audio only. With the late great Jacqueline Du Pre, her husband, Daniel Barenboim, conducting the Israel Philharmonic. (12 minutes) <https://youtu.be/i91RX2LhY8s>

In 1967, Du Pre went to Israel with Barenboim where she converted to Judaism and married Barenboim at the Kotel. She performed around Israel for the IDF during the Six Day War. She suffered from severe MS and was forced to stop performing at the age of 28. She died at the age of 42 and is buried in the Golders Green Jewish Cemetery.

By Roy Shires

# Street Names in Israel

2 August 2023

I have decided to write this short article on the street names here in Israel. After the various street name changes in South Africa very often people do not know who the streets are named after and often aren't sure which streets they are. I find it amazing that after all the years and the events that have happened to the Jews in Israel, and before that in Palestine, the Israeli government has not changed all the street names. Here are some examples of people or nations that have not been kind to the Jews, but we keep the street names because of their significance.

- King George Street      named after King George V
- Allenby Street          named after Field Marshall Allenby
- Sultan Suleiman Street    named after Suleiman the Magnificent

What is noticeable in Israel in that there are no First avenues, Second streets etc. All the streets are named after people and places from all over the world. Many streets are named after men and women who were early Zionists and pioneers. People that unfortunately most of the public have no idea who they were and the impact they had on our land. It is only once you begin to look them up that you see what effects these people had on the Israeli / Jewish way of life in early Palestine, later to become Israel.

Besides the obvious here are some street names in every city.

- Moshe Sharett            2nd Prime minister of Israel
- HaRav Kook              1st Chief Rabbi of Israel
- Menachem Ussishkin    Former president of the JNF responsible for much of land acquisition in Israel
- Meir Dizengoff          1st Mayor of Tel Aviv
- Zeev Jabotinsky        Revisionist Zionist leader, author, poet, orator, soldier, and founder of the Jewish Self-Defence Organization in Odesa
- Moshe Smilansky        A pioneer of the First Aliyah, a Zionist leader who advocated peaceful coexistence with the Arabs in Mandatory Palestine
- Shaul Tchernichowhky   One of Israel most famous Hebrew poets
- Yosef Brenner            An Israeli immigrant murdered in the 1921 Jaffa riots.
- Yochanan HaSandler     A rabbi who lived in the second century.
- Arthur Balfour          Author of the Balfour declaration, the document proposed a homeland for the Jewish people.
- HaRav Reines            Lithuanian Orthodox rabbi and the founder of the Mizrachi Religious Zionist Movement
- David Pinkas             A Zionist activist and Israeli politician. A signatory of the Israeli declaration of independence

Hope you enjoyed this.

Shalom from Queen of Sheba Street, Netanya, Israel

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Jeffrey Sher



# Bar / Bat Mitzvahs



Ben Tichauer



Mendy Uzvolk



Adam Yonathan Hurwitz



Jamie Abrahamsohn



Asher Shmeyatsky



Ethan Jankolowitz



Joshua Confait





Rael Fine



Matt Flaum



Gabriel Bertoldi



Misha-Lee Freinkel



Batmitvah Ceremony

xxx, Haley Levine, Shiraz Shapiro, Taylor Knelson-Riechmann, Yali Shapiro, Talia Confait, Jazmin Goldberg



Talia Confait



Ariella Hurvitz

# Shabbat & Shavout at Shul 2023



# In loving memory of Maryann Sachs

I met Maryann at Shul, where I have met and made wonderful friends! At first acquaintances, we became close friends, as we had so much in common. We were both "old school" teachers, we enjoyed the same books and movies, had similar tastes in clothes and food and above all shared a love of being part of our special shul and community.

Behind her softly spoken and quiet demeanour, Maryann was a true "Eishet Chayil" and a lady to her fingertips. She was a devoted wife to her beloved Ben, a wonderful mom to Nadine, Daniella, Adam and their spouses and a special gran to her three grandchildren in Australia, whom she missed terribly.

Maryann was a supportive and caring friend to both Barry and myself, Steve and Len and their families. I could depend on both Ben and Maryann whatever time of day or night. Nothing was too much trouble for her.

She regularly visited elderly relatives in Sandringham Gardens and often invited them for meals. She was a hospitable hostess and enjoyed inviting friends and family to her Shabbat and Yomtov table. Both Ben and her made one so welcome in their home.

Maryann never missed a Shiva visit or contributing to meals when needed. She was a dedicated teacher, respected by her colleagues and loved by all the children who were lucky enough to have passed through her hands. She was devastated when she had to take early retirement as she felt that she still had so much to give.

Maryann loved her Shul friends and so enjoyed being part of the Ladies Committee. I had nagged her for years to help with baking in the shul kitchen and Shabbos brochas. Eventually when she joined us, she was sad that she had not been active before.

I have lost a cherished friend. Her untimely, tragic death has been almost impossible to comprehend. May her precious memory be a blessing to all who loved and knew her.

Tzippy Damelin



# Ariel Head - Andrea Ben

Rosh Hashanah can be seen from a child's perspective as a time of celebration and reflection. It is a special holiday filled with traditions and meaningful customs. Children often look forward to Rosh Hashanah for several reasons.

Firstly, there is the excitement of a new year beginning. Just like adults, children might set their own goals or resolutions for the coming year, such as being kinder or studying harder. It can be a time for them to reflect on their actions and think about how to make positive changes.

Secondly, Rosh Hashanah is known for its delicious food. Many families gather together to enjoy festive meals, which often include traditional dishes like apples and honey, symbolizing a sweet year ahead. Children might eagerly anticipate these special treats and the joy of sharing them with loved ones.

Lastly Rosh Hashanah is a time for family and community. Children enjoy spending time with their relatives, playing games and participating in holiday activities. It is a chance to strengthen bonds and create lasting memories.

King David Ariel, which is a Jewish remedial school, has grown exponentially over the years. King David Ariel's goal is to mainstream children through teaching them skills and strategies as well as providing a nurturing Jewish environment to accomplish this. We have many children that have mainstreamed to date and are blessed to have outstanding resources and the highest quality of remedially trained teachers and therapists with state-of-the-art programmes, strategies and facilities.

Jewish Education plays an integral role at our school. Torah values are imbued as each Chag is celebrated at our school. We celebrated our very special Grade 2 Siddur Ceremony with King David Victory Park Primary at the Victory Park Shul which was one of the highlights of this year.

From a child's perspective, Rosh Hashanah is a time of anticipation, celebration, and reflection. It combines the joy of family and community with the excitement of a new beginning. As one of my Grade One students told me, 'Miss Ben, I love Rosh Hashanah because I can eat apples dipped in honey to make my new year sweet and it will bring sweet blessings to my family and I.'

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

Warm Regards

Andrea Ben



# Vignettes of Rosh Hashanah

(In memory of Maryann Sachs)

## RESCUE OF THE DANISH JEWS

One of the most recognisable lines in all of Shakespeare, from Hamlet, reads "there is something rotten in the state of Denmark". But, during the Days of Awe in 1943, at the height of the Holocaust, the goodness and heroism of mankind was affirmed.

During those days of darkness, Denmark was notable by its resistance to deport its Jews who numbered approximately 8000. On 28 September 1943, two days before Rosh Hashanah, a German attaché to Denmark, Georg Duckwitz, secretly informed the Danish Resistance that his Nazi party were about to deport all Danish Jews to concentration camps. The arrests of Jews was planned to take place on Rosh Hashanah as the Nazis knew that Jews would be in their synagogues or at home during the festival. Acting Chief Rabbi Melchior, at daily services, urged all his congregants to go home and spread the word that all Jews go into hiding. Families hid in the homes of Christian friends, on farms and even at their local hospitals, where doctors and other hospital staff collaborated in concealing their identities.

Neutral Sweden had, informally, agreed to accept the Jews as refugees. On that same day, 28 September, the much beloved, kindly, and soft-spoken Niels Bohr, Nobel laureate in Physics for 1922 (structure of the atom and quantum physics) fled with his family to Sweden in a boat. He had been a target for arrest as he was considered to be Jewish. He had been raised as a Lutheran, but was, in practice, an atheist. His mother, Ellen neé Adler, was from a prominent, influential and philanthropic Jewish family). On arrival in Sweden, Bohr was asked to fly immediately to the USA to join the Manhattan Project (to produce the atomic bomb) in Los Alamos. He refused to fly to Britain and then on to the USA until King Gustav V of Sweden announced publically that Sweden would indeed accept the Danish Jews. The king did so on 2 October. Whether Bohr really made a difference will never be known. He did join the Manhattan project but purely in a fatherly advisory role and to offer psychological support. He, himself, was a pacifist and opposed the actual use of nuclear bombs and was the very first recipient, in 1957, of the Atoms for Peace Award, which was conferred on him by President Eisenhower. The majority, 7200, of the Danish Jews were covertly transported to fishing villages along the coast of Denmark and sailed at night in fishing boats and other small vessels across the choppy straight, the Øresund, between Denmark and Sweden, over the next few days. At its narrowest, the distance is 4km and the trip took one hour. Twenty three perished at sea.



The Øresund



Niels Bohr



Fishing boat displayed at Yad Vashem

Five to six hundred did not leave and were interred at Theresienstadt concentration camp but, thanks to pressure from the Danish parliament and Red Cross, food was allowed in and all but about 50 survived.

At Yad Vashem, German attaché Duckwitz and the Danish Resistance movement are each honoured as "righteous among the nations". The heroism of the Danish people in those days of darkness is also symbolised at Yad Vashem by the display of a Danish fishing boat. In Jerusalem there is a Denmark Square.

PS. Niels Bohr was the keynote speaker at the dedication ceremony for the opening of the Physics Department at Weizmann institute in 1958. He received very many prestigious scientific awards, and offered refuge at his Physics Institute in Copenhagen to many Jewish and non-Jewish scientists during the Nazi era. He was a good friend of Albert Einstein and their debates are legendary. His third son Aage Bohr, also won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1975. Niels Bohr has been called a "secular angel".

by Roy Shires

### MOSCOW JEWS CELEBRATE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL- ROSH HASHANAH 1948

In September 1948, four months after the State of Israel was established, Golda Myerson (hebraicized to Meir in 1956) arrived in Moscow as Israel's first ambassador to the USSR, a post she held for only a few months. Soviet Jewry was not able to either freely practice their religion or openly celebrate Israel's founding (14 May 1948). Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin, believed they owed no allegiance to Israel as they were full and equal citizens of the Soviet Union. During the oppressive years of Soviet rule, the only synagogue that openly held services was the beautiful Central Choral Synagogue in Moscow. Normally a mere 2000 attended on Rosh Hashanah but when it became known that Golda would be attending, a crowd of 50,000 thronged the street outside. This was the Jewish population's way of celebrating and expressing their pride in the establishment of Israel.

At a diplomatic function, soon thereafter, the Soviet foreign minister's wife, Mrs Molotov, discreetly urged Golda to attend the synagogue frequently. She spoke to her in Yiddish! Polina Molotov was Jewish. For reasons best known to Stalin, she was arrested in December for treason and forced to divorce Molotov. I was in Moscow in 1997, at an American organised diabetes conference and attended the Kabbalat Shabbat service at the Choral Synagogue.

P.S. #1. A Molotov cocktail is an unsophisticated petrol bomb which was, mockingly, named after Foreign Minister Molotov by the Finns.  
 #2. Golda Meir was born Golda Mabowich in 1898 in Kyiv (Kiev) Ukraine. The family immigrated to the USA eight years later. She grew up and was educated in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she became a teacher. There she married Morris Myerson and then settled in Palestine. Apart from her short spell as Plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, she served as Labour and then Foreign Affairs minister before succeeding Levi Eshkol to become Prime Minister (1969-74). She passed away in 1978, aged 80 years.



Golda Meir, Choral synagogue, Moscow -1948

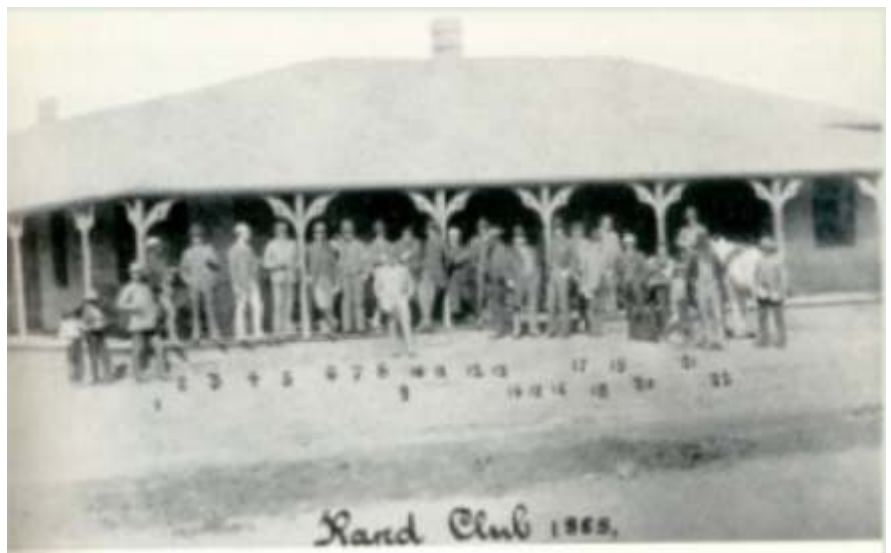


Israel 1976 - The two "Iron Ladies"

### THE FIRST ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE IN JOHANNESBURG

On 10 July 1887, a year after Johannesburg's founding, the Witwatersrand Hebrew Congregation was founded at a meeting in B.Wainstein's shop. Johannesburg's first Rosh Hashanah service was held in 1887, one year after the city's founding at its largest venue, The Rand Club, attended by 500 worshippers.

The first synagogue opened in 1890 – the President Street Synagogue. This was followed by The Park Station Synagogue in 1892 by Paul Kruger on land which he had awarded for its construction. The Great Synagogue (Wolmarans Street Synagogue) opened in 1914, under Chief Rabbi Landau. Sammy Marks provided the bricks.



The first Rosh Hashanah service in Johannesburg was held at the newly built Rand Club in 1887

by Roy Shires

# Sukkot 2022



## In loving memory of Shirley Koton



# MazeltoV!



Naming of the Friedland Twins



Natanya Feigin and Natan Bauer's wedding



Madison Cave - Grand daughter to Derek and Sandy Cave



David & Louella Freidland's Twin Granddaughters - Nava & Kayla



Leon Fine's Grandchildren Yehuda & Ben Tzion Chaim Fine



Dave & Louella Friedland Dave's 80th Louella's 70th & 40th Wedding Anniversary



Carli Myer's Marriage to Amir Laufert





**Shana Tova from our  
Sweet Family to Yours!**

# Tishrei 5784

ABRAHAMSOHN	Alfred	Father	22nd ELUL	8th September
COPANS	Arline	Father	23rd ELUL	9th September
DAMELIN	Barry	Mother	23rd ELUL	9th September
TRIEBWASSER	Sheryl	Father	23rd ELUL	9th September
FRIEDLAND	Louella	Uncle	27th ELUL	13th September
RAFF	Sheila	Mother	28th ELUL	14th September
GORDON	David	Brother	29th ELUL	15th September
KRAWITZ	Jack	Wife	2nd TISHREI	17th September
KRAWITZ	Leon	Mother	2nd TISHREI	17th September
BERGER	Lel	Father	3rd TISHREI	18th September
MEYBERG	David	Father-in-law	3rd TISHREI	18th September
ARENSON	Carol	Mother	4th TISHREI	19th September
MOLL	Michelle	Father	5th TISHREI	20th September
SCHNAID	Linda	Husband	6th TISHREI	21st September
SCHNAID	Caron	Father	6th TISHREI	21st September
DAMELIN	Barry	Father	7th TISHREI	22nd September
COPANS	Arline	Mother	8th TISHREI	23rd September
GLAZER	Basil	Mother	8th TISHREI	23rd September
UZVOLK	Laia	Father	8th TISHREI	23rd September
EPSTEIN	Jeffrey	Father	9th TISHREI	24th September
COLLIE	Monty	Mother	13th TISHREI	28th September
SCHNAID	Linda	Father	15th TISHREI	30th September
SCHNAID	Caron	Grandfather	15th TISHREI	30th September
FRIEDLAND	David	Mother	16th TISHREI	1st October
OVADIA	Eli	Mother	16th TISHREI	1st October
FRIEDLAND	Louella	Father	17th TISHREI	2nd October
BERNSTEIN	Toby & De	Sister-in-law	17th TISHREI	2nd October
HURVITZ	Jonathan	Mother	17th TISHREI	2nd October
SHER	Jeffrey	Grandmother	19th TISHREI	4th October
STRIMLING	Michael	Mother	20th TISHREI	5th October
BLOCK	Michael	Grandmother	21st TISHREI	6th October
MARKS	Gillian	Son	21st TISHREI	6th October
MARKS	Lara	Brother	21st TISHREI	6th October
HYMAN	Maxine	Brother	21st TISHREI	6th October
BENATER	Ilana	Grandfather	24th TISHREI	9th October
FLAUM	Joelene	Grandfather	24th TISHREI	9th October
GORDON	David	Mother	24th TISHREI	9th October
FIHRER	Joan	Father	25th TISHREI	10th October
MILLER	Shelli	Father	26th TISHREI	11th October
KLAWANSKY	Tickey	Father	27th TISHREI	12th October



HAPPY

ROSH

HASHANAH



Teljoy

sasfin

# Shanah Tova U'metukah

Like apples and honey, some

partnerships are written in the books.

Here's to a year of good health and  
continued growth together.

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