

VICTORY PARK HEBREW CONGREGATION

OCTOBER
2016

TISHREI
5777



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2016 Committee

Chairman: Jeffrey Sher
Treasurer: Anthony Fineberg
Secretary: Mel Stamelman
Alan Lewis
Michael Sandler
Ellis Falkof
Steve Fittinghoff
Dana Kassel
Russel Koton
Gary Machet
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Gary Ermann



Baking & Brocha

Ladies

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Jo Goldberg
Andy Koton
Mel Falkof
Les Lewis
Nadia Auerbach
Anna Fittinghoff
Lara Marks
Shirley Koton
Marion Zeller
Shana Rosenthal
Dana Kassel
Sue Fleischman
Esther Reuben
Tzippi Damelin
Leigh Wainer
Sherri Kobrin
Keeley Ermann
Laetitia Berman
Lorien Gimpel



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Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein

Dear Friends,

No one can do good deeds on our behalf. Rosh Hashana is when we take responsibility for our lives. It is a time for honest reflection, and for taking real ownership of our actions. We can't outsource the fulfilment of mitzvot to someone else, like a work assignment or a delivery. No rabbi or rebbetzin, or "more observant" person can keep kosher or observe Shabbat or give tzedaka for us. The responsibility is ours and ours alone.

Now we can understand the famous words of Pirkei Avot (1:14), "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" According to Rashi (France, 1040-1105), the Mishna means: 'If I do not fulfil the mitzvot myself, who will fulfil them for me?' If I do not take responsibility for my actions, who will?

Indeed, the only things we can truly own are the mitzvot that we do. Ultimately everything we accumulate during our lives – all of our achievements and titles and wealth – we leave behind. Nothing goes with us to the next world except the good that we did while we were in this world. The mitzvot we do are completely ours and ours

alone. They go with us to the next world, and if we don't carry them out, who will?

Rosh Hashana is also about inspiration. Everyone wants to be inspired. Inspiration is a precious gift, but where does it come from? The natural inclination is to look to external sources for inspiration – a great sermon or a piece of beautiful music sung by the chazan and choir. "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" – Rabbeinu Yona (Spain, 1200-1263) says this means: 'If I do not inspire myself to do the mitzvot, who will inspire me?' In other words, we need to look within ourselves for inspiration because inspired living can only be sustainable if it's not dependent on external forces which are out of our control.

Fortunately we are not alone in this journey. Through the Torah, Hashem has given us incredible resources to find inspiration. One way is through learning Torah, which can be an ongoing source of inspiration in our daily lives. The same goes for when we pray to Hashem. It's not about sitting back in our comfortable (or not so comfortable) seats in shul waiting for the chazzan or the choir or the rabbi to move us. The only way to create a real relationship with G-d is to dig

deep within ourselves; to build a strong internal connection through our G-d-given soul. This applies to all mitzvot.

Real inspiration comes from within. There are so many people who are waiting for inspiration from externals – waiting for their spouse or their children or their parents, or their school or their rabbi to inspire them. The message of the Mishna is that we cannot wait. We cannot afford to take this most precious of life's gifts, inspiration, and put it in other people's hands. We need to empower ourselves, we need to find inspiration within ourselves because nobody can do it for us.

Let this be a year of true personal responsibility and inspiration for us all! And may Hashem bless everyone at Victory Park Shul, together with our entire special South African Jewish community, with a good and sweet year!



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The Chairman: Jeffrey Sher

As I sit down and contemplate what to say when writing my report for the past year, I am overwhelmed by both current and world affairs. The state of world affairs is beyond belief. From Brexit, to numerous terrorist attacks in Europe and the United States, our problems at home pale into insignificance. The presidential election in the USA has, in my mind, put two very poor candidates in the running to be president of a world super power and this scares many people worldwide.

These worldwide events have for a change taken the eyes of the world off Israel and thank G D things seem to be ok in the Holy land.

The municipal elections have seen a momentous change in the political landscape. For the first time ever the ANC has received less than 60% of the vote. A clear trend has emerged, in that support for the ANC is primarily in the rural areas and in almost all major metropolitan areas the ANC has lost support. The fact that two major Metros have new DA controlled councils reinforces this view. We can only hope and pray that the level of service delivery will increase under these councils.

I am really glad when I look back at our own affairs - we can be proud that our "State of Shul affairs" is positive and we are in a good space in all matters.

During the past year we were fortunate to have many Bar Mitzvahs and Bat Mitzvahs that were celebrated in our Shul. The ongoing programmes run by Rabbi Uzvolk and Karen Sandler are proving to be a success and we are getting many more bookings for the future. As we speak three parents have already booked Barmitzvahs for 2019 (yes 2019). On a weekly basis we wish members and their families who have had a simcha all of the best. We hope we have not forgotten anyone in this process. If you have a simcha please call Adrienne in the office and let her have the news so that we can share it with the community. This also applies to the yahrzeit dates that we publish in the vort each week. I find that members come to shul for a yahrzeit but we are not aware of the date. Please would all members check with Adrienne that we have the most up-to-date information.

I am really pleased to report that of the 14 committee members at present, there are

7 younger members who have joined the committee this year. We welcome their input and new ideas. To the older members who have stood down we thank you for all your effort in the past and hope we can count on your advice when we need it.

To the dedicated ladies of the baking club, what more can we say than Thank You. The compliments that we get from the families and their friends who have had a simcha says it all.

We would like to encourage members of the community who wish to sponsor a brocha to make contact with the ladies or me and we will gladly work out a cost for you.

In past years we have had to talk about the lack of a minyan at daily services. I am glad to say that this year's attendances are significantly better. We are having a minyan almost every day and to all the men who are helping "well done and Mazeltov on becoming a Minyanair". To the Rabbi a big thank you for your efforts in this matter.

To all those members and families who are not well we wish you all a Refua Sheleima. If anyone is aware of members who are not

well, please inform Rabbi Uzvolk so that they can be added to the Refua Sheleima list.

2017 is a significant year in the history of the shul. It is our 50th Anniversary. On the 16th February 2017 we will have a dinner to commemorate this historic milestone. Please reserve the date. From Rosh Hashanah this year and for the rest of the Jewish year we will have as our theme the 50th Anniversary. 2017 is also the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem during the 6 day war. We are in contact with the Israeli embassy to see if we can associate our activities with those of the city of Jerusalem.

At this time of the year when we enter into the month of Elul and begin our own introspection it is beholden on us to give some thought to those who are less fortunate than we are. If anyone is aware of those in our community who need assistance please let either the Rabbi or the chairman know so that the community can assist where possible?

My thanks to all who were involved in producing this wonderful magazine as well as to those who supported us by taking an advert, inserting a greeting or sponsoring a page. A special thank you to Marion Zeller

for all her hard work in putting this magazine together.

To the Rabbi and Rebbetzin thank you for all that you have done in the past year. To Michael Sandler we would like to express our thanks for his efforts as our Chazzan during the year. We are pleased to welcome Adam Davis as our Chazzan for Yom Tov. Adam was the Chazzan in our Shul many years ago. To Adrienne in the office many thanks for all your help. To our three staff Isaac, Thabiso and Bismark thank you for all your assistance during the year.

We wish those members that are travelling far and wide to spend Yom Tov with family an enjoyable time, we look forward to your safe return.

Special thanks to my wife Zandra and my family for their continued support.

Zandra and I wish you all a Shana Tova U M'tuka - may we all be inscribed for a good and peaceful year.

Ward Councillor: Tim Truluck

The 2016 elections have finally come and gone. The delay until August made it a really long and tiring campaign. But what a result they brought. A new mayor, new energy, and a chance to really turn the city around and get it working again.

Whatever the outcome, I was returned as the Ward Councillor for Victory Park and the rest of Ward 117. There will be some exciting new developments in the area soon. A Braamfontein Spruit Activity Trail, upgrades along the river banks, new leases for the scouts/guides and Environment Centre and a new development proposal

for the old Parkhurst Soccer and Bowling club.

I would like to wish you good health, happiness, peace and prosperity. Today and all through the year! L'shanah Tovah!



The Rabbi: Zusman Uzvolk

As I write this message, the results of the 2016 elections are still being counted. What is clear, so far, is that a high percentage of the voters are not satisfied with the current government. What are the voters not happy with? Is it that they would prefer a different economic policy? Are the voters looking for a different Minister of Education? What is it?

Before answering, I acknowledge that I am grateful to the current government for ensuring my rights to express my own opinions freely and safely. I am also appreciative of the fact that the actual voting, which took place on the 3rd of August, was well run. We felt safe and absolutely unintimidated in casting our votes.

So, what is it that so many of the population would like to see different? I hear people speaking about inefficiency and poor service delivery. Is that it?

To me, there are two words which lie at the core: Accountability and Corruption. These two words might even be connected.

Accountability means taking responsibility. People make mistakes and I think that society, in general, are willing to forgive wrong doings. The public, however, wants people to own up to their mistakes. Not to pass the buck.

What do I mean by corruption? Firstly, the legal process must bind all the citizens of this country equally. The consequences of our behaviour needs to be uniform.

Secondly, corruption in terms of money. The money allocated to the different budgets of education, national security, roads, sports, etc., etc. These vast funds must be handled with honesty and transparency.

Corruption is a huge demotivator. The common citizen feels "If he could get away with it, then so could I." "Why should I work so hard, if he or she got so much money just because of knowing the right people?"

What is the Jewish message in all of this? The idea of accountability is, in fact, what defines an adult. An adult is called Bar or Bat Mitzvah because they become

responsible and accountable for their behaviour. By contrast, a child is not held responsible for his or her activities.

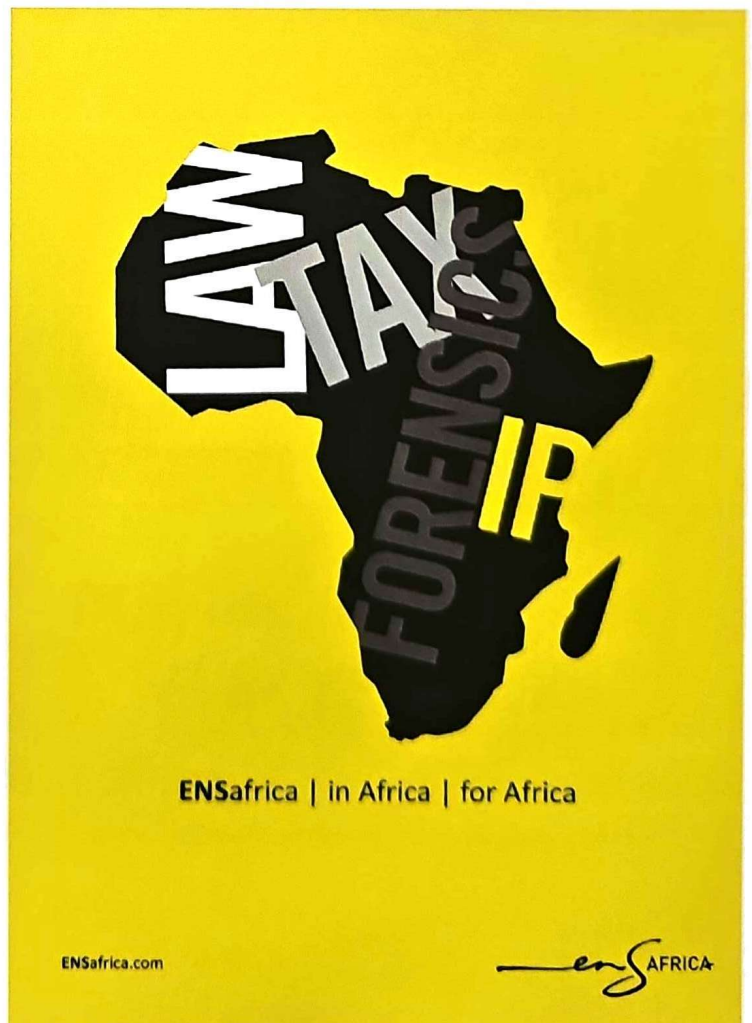
Corruption in terms of money is major. On Rosh Hashana we read (Tehillim 24) "Who will ascend the mountain of Hashem?" Who is the one who merits to come close to Hashem? The one who Davens with fervour and intensity? The one who puts on Tefillin every day? The one who gives lots of Charity? The one who learns lots of Torah? The verse continues: those with clean (innocent) hands; those who have not stolen money!!!

This idea that innocence in terms of money precedes other acts of devotion, is also expressed in Parshat Teruma, which deals with building the Mishkan, is preceded by the Parsha of Mishpatim which deals issues of rightful ownership of money.

We also need to realize that we Jews are the ones that the rest of society looks up to, especially in these areas. Our behaviour in matters of accountability and financial integrity, filters and reverberates throughout society.

Back to the vote. I pray that the winning party builds a safe and secure country for all South Africans. That the new leadership it is able to realize the rich potential which South Africa has to offer, so that we will all be even better off.

Laia and the family join me in wishing you all a Ketivah va' cha'timah Tova, Leshana Tova Umetuka



Dear Friends

A few weeks ago Johannesburg was privileged to host Mrs Rachel Fraenkel - the heroic mother of one of "the three kidnapped boys". Here is one of the thoughts she shared with us:

She said that she is regularly asked how she continues; how she is not consumed with grief.

Rachel explains that sadness and grief are feelings. "One can grieve, but one does not have to become the grief!"

She goes on to describe how each one of us has a landscape within us, a multifaceted work of art: There are dark, painful parts. And there are bright, brilliant scenes. However, if one were to take black paint and smear it all over the entire multicoloured canvas of our lives, it would be both silly and ungrateful!

As hurtful as the tzores are, to allow them to overshadow all the positivity and joy of the blessings in our lives is shortsighted and unappreciative.

How courageously powerful from a mother with a broken heart!

Shlomo Hamelech - King Solomon obm- tells us, "There's a time for everything under the sun...a time to laugh and a time to cry..."

This same King Shlomo once commissioned a jeweller to make him a ring. He asked him to engrave it with an acronym of a Gimmel, a Zayin and a Yud. Thus, he declared, whenever he would look at his ring he would remember that "Gum Ze Ya'avov" - "This too shall pass". At times when things are going really well and he's flying with fame and fortune... he will remember that "This too shall pass". And when times are tough and troublesome..."This too shall pass."

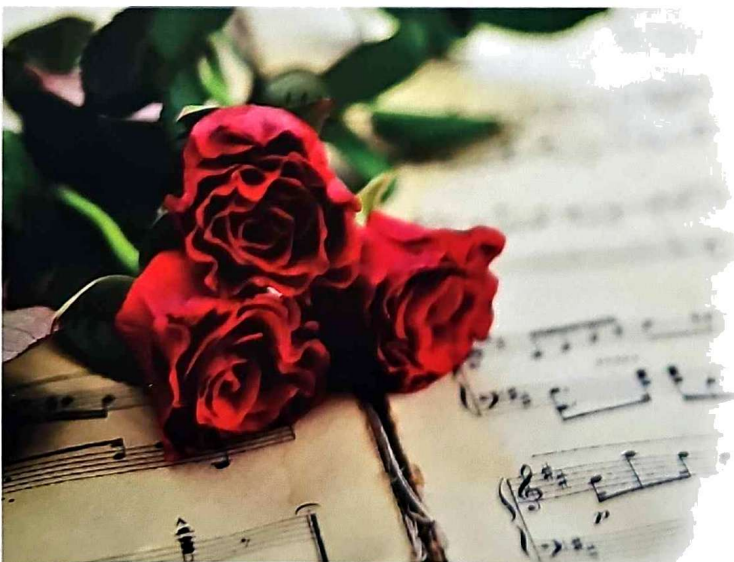
After hearing Rachel Fraenkel's analogy of the inner landscape within us, this story has new meaning. Not only will the situation pass, but when engulfed in the thick darkness of a trial, I have the ability to shift my gaze to a different site. How powerful it is to know and feel that any particular scene, no matter how harsh it might be, can and will pass. I can choose

to shift my focus from this stifling
blackness to another, brighter segment
within my landscape. Despite the
consuming pain, I can choose to live!

Each of us has our own canvas designed
solely for our personal growth. May we
have the courage and fortitude to shift our
focus and choose life.

I bless us all that this year we will live in
Messianic Times and will only have light,
colourful inner landscapes.

My family join me in wishing you and
yours a Ketiva Vechatima Tova. L'Shana
Tova Umetuka to you and your loved
ones



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As we embark on our historic 50th year of the shul I would like to pay homage to those who have held this prestigious position before me. As the esteemed gentlemen can confirm, being the chairman of a shul is no easy feat. There is always someone who believes that they know something better and believe we could have done something in a different way.

A very important part of our shul's on-going relations is with the King David schools on the campus where our Shul is housed. From the Pre-primary school to the High school the shul has always had good and cordial relations. A special thank you must go to the principals of the high school who have always helped the shul in every way possible.

Long may this partnership continue.

2017 is also a very special year in the history of our beloved city of Jerusalem. 7th June 2017 will be 50 years to the day that the city was retaken by Israeli forces and has remained the undivided capital of the State of Israel ever since. We hope to participate in celebrations during June of next year.

I would like to thank Dr. Jack Mink for his incisive piece on the days leading up to and the retaking of the city. I would like to thank David Serebro, the first chairman of the shul, for his piece on the early days in the shul.

On 16th February 2017 we will be holding a dinner in the school hall to which all members past and present are invited. Costs have not yet been finalised but I can assure you that the anniversary committee has gone out of its way to ensure that the cost will be affordable and we encourage as many people as possible to attend the dinner. Our guest of honour will be Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein.

We are looking into creating an **ANNIVERSARY WALL** in the foyer of the shul. It will comprise of a tree of life on which members will be able to buy a "leaf" to remember their loved ones. Further details to follow.

May our congregation continue to grow and prosper in the next 50 years and beyond.

Jeffrey R. Sher
Chairman



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Happy Rosh Hashana

May your New Year
be filled with health,
happiness and success



Pre- Primary School: Lynda Romain

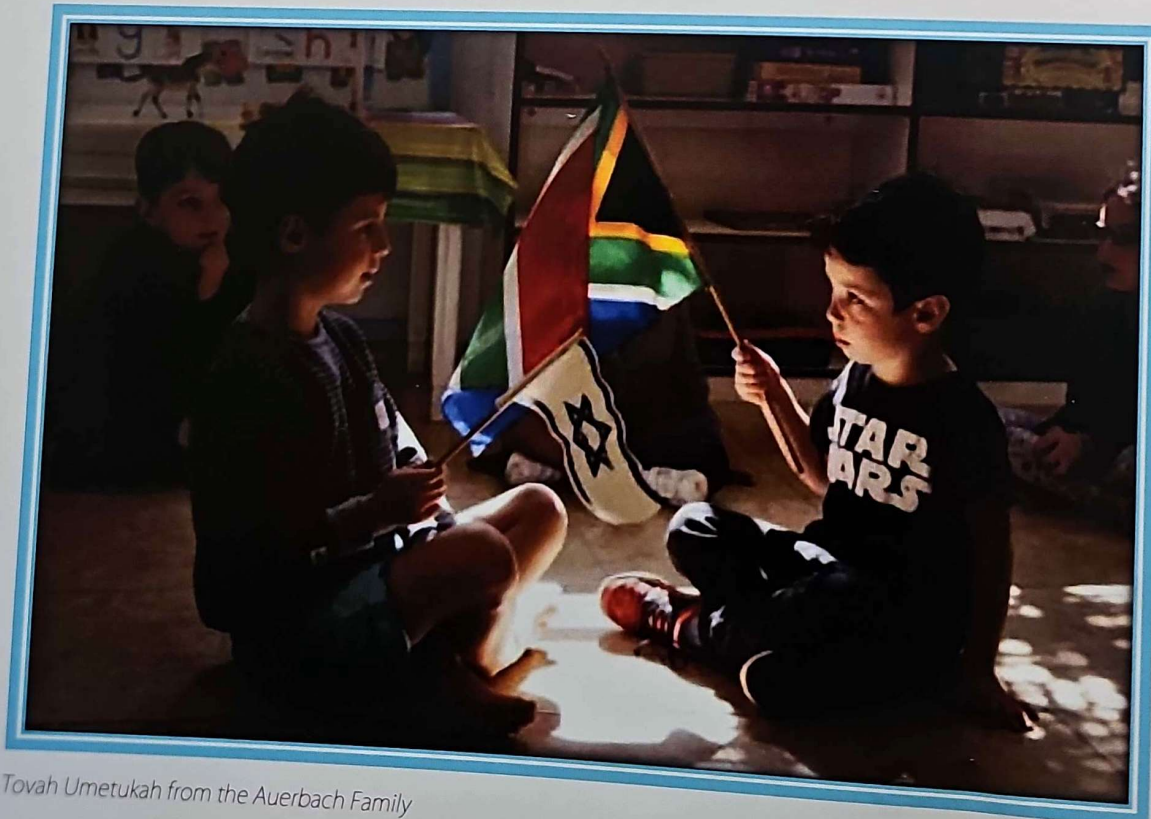
Our sages tell us that the true measure of a person is how hard we try. "The reward is according to the effort" (Ethics of Our Fathers, 5:23). This is one of the key pillars of our school – individual recognition. Our children are our gold medal champions.

Judaism and spirituality – a second pillar is something we pride ourselves on.

A key to success in the spiritual Olympics is the recognition that God sends us challenges, tailor-made for our specific set of circumstances and station in life. When the coach raises the high-jump bar, is he trying to make life difficult – or is he drawing out the athlete's potential? Of course the coach wants the athlete to succeed! And if he's a good coach, he knows the right time and amount to raise

the bar. Granted, the athlete might fail to clear that height. But the coach knows that with enough concentration and effort, the athlete will succeed. Our teachers always ensure the children are driven to reach their full potential and realise their gifts.

We always say that our size is our strength and when we look at what differentiates us, every child at our school is unique and each one has their own lifelong dream. Incredible effort, preparation and total dedication for years are put into the hope of standing on the podium to be recognized as the gold-medal winners of life.



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Primary School: Rabbi Ricky Seeff

The world is abuzz with the concept of change. Businesses and organisations talk about change management, innovation and progressive thinking. Book shelves are packed with self-help books designed and written to help us change for the better.

Why the obsession with change?

There is a profound depth to this desire to change. In Jewish thought every human being is comprised of two essential components – body and soul. The body in its essence is physical. It grows physically but does not in and of itself desire to grow. [Sometimes it grows in ways we would prefer it didn't]. It just exists.

The Soul is made of different matter. The Soul is spiritual. The Soul only has one purpose on this earth. To develop, improve, become even more spiritual, perfect itself and come closer to its source – to Hashem. It is the Soul that is desperately yearning for growth. It is this insatiable drive that fuels human beings to succeed and want to advance. When the Soul is impeded, when a person feels like he/she is stagnating and not progressing it often results in depression. This depression is an expression of the Soul's inability to advance and perform its mission.

There is an inherent challenge here. We often misconstrue the yearning to change and develop that stems from the Soul as a desire to advance our social standing. To become more famous, more wealthy and more successful in a material sense. These may be worthwhile pursuits and are not always negative but the Soul wants more. The Soul wants a life of purpose and spirituality that transcends this world. The Soul wants perfection.

This realisation and the correct spiritual calibration happens on Rosh Hashanah. We take stock of our lives and values. We begin to take steps to change. We begin to channel our desire to improve in the right direction. The direction of the Soul.

Baruch Hashem our school and campus is continually improving. We are changing for the better one year at a time, and we look forward to continued growth together with the Victory Park Shul community. We take this opportunity as a school to wish the Rabbi, committee and congregants a year of blessing, happiness and meaningful and inspiring change

bove attorneys

Anna T.

**May you all be inscribed
in the book of life for a
year of peace happiness
health and prosperity**

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High School: Andrew Baker

Being part of a vibrant learning community and working with teenagers on a daily basis is a blessing indeed. Our School has a strong ethos that centres around the fact that we are a Jewish Day School situated in the Northern suburbs of Johannesburg. Daily prayers, Hebrew and Jewish Studies (including Beit Midrash) form the core of our teaching programme which is enhanced by our celebration of the various chagim and our involvement in community events. The Shul is central to the school and we are very fortunate to have a Shul on our Campus that is integrated with the School itself.

The religious values are central to our teaching and underpin our Mission statement as we aim to produce graduates who are menschen, confident and equipped to pursue any opportunity they wish to, who are proud of their Jewish heritage and its traditions, who have a love for learning, and a determination to contribute to their society.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a G'Mar Chatima Tova – a good, healthy and prosperous new year. Shana Tova!

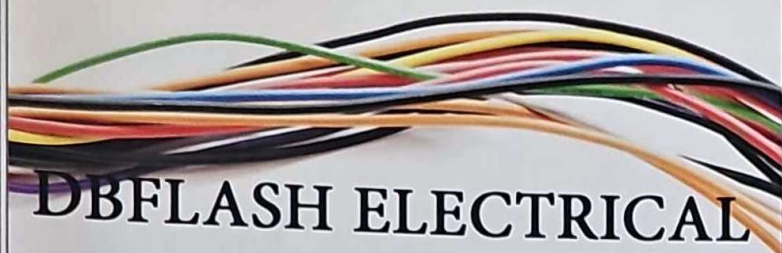
Humble Beginnings

Bereishit: In the beginning some 50 years ago a minyan met in the foyer of the King David Primary School to hold our first Friday evening maariv service. No pomp or ceremony. None of us envisaged that some 10 years later, August 1976, we would consecrate our permanent home.

Maariv continued for a few years and then we decided to start a Shabbath Shachrit service. Every Friday I would meet with Cornelius to setup the shul in the school hall. It wasn't easy getting a commitment of 10 men to make the minyan but we persevered, and eventually had a regular Shabbath minyan.

Some 10 years later a decision was made to build our present day shul, and from there the story tells itself.

David Serebro
VPHC First Chairman



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Journey to becoming a Scribe: Rabbi Uzvolk

This year has been monumental for me personally in that I embarked on the journey of becoming a "Soffer STa"M", literally a scribe of Sifrei Torah, Tefillin and Mezuzot.

I have always enjoyed working with my hands and am quite artistic. As a child, my late father OB"M would take me to numerous art exhibitions. While still at school, my mother enrolled me in adult art classes. I remember fondly the pride that my father would express when fetching me with my paintings from those classes.

I was always fascinated by the "art" of the Hebrew letters of the Aleph Beit, but I was put off from pursuing a career in STa"M for two reasons. One, I was told, erroneously, that Left Handed people were not allowed to write "STam". (It is true that a right handed person may not write STa"M with his left hand. However, a left handed person must write with his left hand, NOT with his right hand.)

Secondly, I believed, and still do, that Jewish education was and is the front line of Jewish existence. I reasoned to myself, "How could I afford to focus on letters on

parchment, when I have the ability to tend to souls?"

It was this rationale that took me to the classroom, even after qualifying with a BSC in Computer science and Economics. I taught. I taught from 1995 until 2015! I became a Melammed.

At some point I had to admit that I did not have enough time to devote to my students, my Talmidim. I have, Ka"H, a large, wonderful, family and a community to look after. I became frustrated as a teacher. I began looking at other options for additional income and I strongly considered returning to computer programming. My late father-in-law, Rabbi Bernhard OB"M, indicated, in his non-judgemental way, that it would be preferable for me to look for a Holy means of making a living. He quoted the verse "Yishlach ezrecha Mikodesh" Tehillim 20. Which means, G-d will send your help from Holy sources.

I decided to look seriously at what it would take to become a Soffer and I discovered that left handed people could qualify. I embarked on the journey and I thank my



CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
September 25 Selichot 12.00am Shachrit 8.00am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	September 26 Selichot followed by Shachrit 5.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	September 27 Selichot followed by 5.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	September 28 Selichot followed by Shachrit 5.30am Maariv 6.00pm
October 2 Erev Rosh Hashanna Selichot followed by Shachrit followed by Hatarat Nedarim 7.15am Candle Lighting 5.50pm Mincha 6.00pm Maariv 6.15pm	October 3 Rosh Hashanna 1st day Shachrit 8.00am Shofar 11.00am Tashlich 5.15pm Mincha 5.45pm Maariv 6.15pm Candle Lighting after 6.40pm	October 4 Rosh Hashanna 2nd day Shachrit 8.00am Shofar 11.00am Mincha 5.50pm Maariv & end of Yom Tov 6.40pm	October 5 Fast of Gedalia Fast begins 4.34am Selichot followed by Shachrit 5.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Fast ends 6.28pm
October 9 Selichot followed by Shachrit 8.00am Help Build shul Succah Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	October 10 Selichot followed by Shachrit 5.30 Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	October 11 Erev Yom Kippur Kaporot Selichot followed by Shachrit 5.45am Mincha 3.00pm Candle Lighting & Fast begins 5.54pm Kol Nidrei 6.15pm	October 12 Yom Kippur Shachrit 8.00am Yizkor 11.00am Mincha 4.00pm Neilah 5.15pm Maariv & Fast ends 6.44pm
October 16 Erev Succoth Shachrit 8.00am Candle Lighting before 5.57pm Mincha 6.00pm Maariv 6.15pm	October 17 Succoth 1st day Shachrit 9.00am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha 6.00pm Maariv 6.15pm Candle Lighting after 6.47pm	October 18 Succoth 2nd day Shachrit 9.00am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha 6.00pm Maariv & end of Yom Tov 6.48pm	October 19 Chol Hamoed Shachrit 5.45am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm
October 23 Hashana Rabba Shachrit 7.15am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Candle Lighting before 6.11pm Mincha 6.00pm Maariv 6.15pm	October 24 Shemini Atzeret Eat in Succah Shachrit 9.00am Yizkor 10.45 and Geshem Mincha 6.00pm Maariv and Hakafot 6.15pm Candle Lighting after 6.52pm	October 25 Simchat Torah Shachrit 8.30am followed by Hakafot Mincha 6.00pm Maariv & end of Yom Tov 6.52pm	October 26 Shachrit 6.00am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm

2016

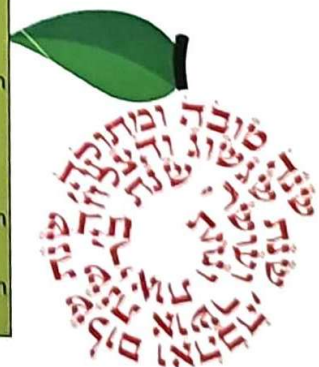
NOTES:

We do not say Tachnun from Yom Kippur until 2nd Marcheshvan

All Hazkarot for Yarzeits during this period must be made before Yom Kippur

Tashlich will take place at the river where Zonda Avenue and Danya Road meet

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
September 29 Selichot followed by Shachrit 5.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	September 30 Selichot followed by Shachrit 5.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 5.49pm	October 1 Parsha Nitzavim Shachrit 9.00am Mincha & Oneg 5.40pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.39pm
October 6 Selichot followed by Shachrit 5.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	October 7 Selichot followed by Shachrit 5.30am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 5.52pm	October 8 Parsha Vayelach Shachrit 9.00am SHABBATH SHUVA Mincha & Oneg 5.40pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.42pm
October 13 Shachrit 6.00am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	October 14 Shachrit 6.00am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 5.56pm	October 15 Shachrit Parsha Haazinu Shachrit 9.00am Mincha & Oneg 5.45pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.46pm
October 20 Chol Hamoed Shachrit 5.45am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	October 21 Chol Hamoed Shachrit 5.45am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 6.00pm	October 22 Shachrit Shabbath Chol Hamoed KOHELET Eat in Succah Shachrit 9.00am Mincha & Oneg 5.50pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.50pm
October 27 Shachrit 6.00am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm	October 28 Shachrit 6.00am Mincha & Maariv 6.00pm Candle Lighting before 6.04pm	October 29 Parsha Bereshit Shachrit 9.00am Shabbath Mevarchim Mincha & Oneg 5.55pm Shabbat Maariv & Motzei Shabbat 6.55pm





View from the Bimah: Michael Sandler

Long ago when I was just a kid, when my chin was as smooth as my head is now, the way we categorised someone's level of religiousness was by how often he went to shul. If he'd never seen the inside of a shul, he was a *nógoodnik*, to be marvelled at and pitied. If he only came, when forced in an arm-lock by his mother, to attend his cousins *barmitzvahs*, he was considered estranged. If he went three times a year, he was average. If he went every Friday night he was old school traditional. If he went Friday nights and Saturday mornings he was a pillar of the community. And if he went to shul on *Yontivs* too, he was as *frum* as the Rabbi's children, please G-d, amen.

Going to shul was the celebrity spokesman for the *mitzvahs*; the public face of our mysterious heritage. It was common knowledge that there were people out there who went to shul every day, but what they did there was never made clear. There's no *brocha* during the week.

Shul was a place you attended. You went to shul. You stood up when everyone else did, sat down when everyone else did, and tried to keep vaguely to the right page

number for appearance's sake. Mainly by discreetly glancing over the shoulder of the guy in front of you. You waited politely until the service was finished, then you went home and took off your scratchy smart clothes. Before they had time to get crumpled on your bedroom floor the experience was forgotten. Shul wasn't a place where you did anything. You didn't participate in shul you endured it.

The main reason was of course the language barrier. If those buzzing words had more meaning to us than background hum there'd have been no need for maternal guilt or arm-locks. When you hear and understand the scorching poetry of the Men of the Great Assembly it cannot fail to heat the chambers of your heart. But if it may as well be gibberish you will of course be unmoved.

When I started becoming *frum* I recalled the idea of *davening* as the measure of religious commitment, and put huge effort into understanding and pronouncing the unfamiliar holy words properly. Nowadays the fruits of that toil are physical – flowing pronunciation and even simple pleasure in



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Chag Sameach from



CAPRICORN

sending the words off my tongue – and intellectual – knowing what the words mean and their place in my daily adventure with Hashem. The hardest part now is emotional – honestly feeling like a participant in a genuine dialogue between creation and Creator.

mistake it for the only or most important part of religious life, but it can be the front and the first part. Investing time and attention into whatever stage of davening you're at will not be wasted. Let's all carry on trying to improve our closeness to Hashem as part of His chosen nation.

Whatever level you are on, davening is hard. But it's worth the effort. We shouldn't

What our Kids Said

Mommy - What do we eat on Rosh Hashana?

Ricky Jaches- Popcorn!

Mommy - Why do we eat popcorn?

Ricky - Because it's Shabbos

What happens on Rosh Hashana
Chaya Uzvolk "OK. Let me sing you a song." Paroh woke up in the middle of the night, there were frogs on his nose and frogs on his toes"

So what does Rosh Hashana mean?

Daniel Berman "A time of forgiveness over the new year."

Josh Berman "A happy new year"

Jesse Berman "is when you buy me a big giant batman toy"

What is the most exciting part of Rosh Hashanna?

Mendy Uzvolk "I don't know."

What do you like most about Rosh Hashanah?

Mendy UZvolk "I don't like Rosh Hashanna!"

Ricky Koton says he likes Rosh Hashanah because he loves eating apples dipped in honey & he also loves being together with his family & friends.

Emma Zeller: Zeida Jeff, who is the boss of the shul?

Zeida: Hashem is the big boss but I'm the boss in shul

Emma: Yes you are the boss because you have a big tummy

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MEDITERRANEAN FELAFEL SALAD

Serves 10-12 as a starter

Ingredients

- 2 x punnets ready roasted vegetables from Freshfellas
- 1 punnet marinated red and yellow peppers from Friends (don't drain)
- 1 punnet marinated brinjals from Friends (don't drain)
- 1 English cucumber halved lengthways, pips scraped out and sliced into half-moons
- 1 punnet baby tomatoes
- 1 punnet baby corn
- 1 punnet small mushrooms
- 1 packet baby potatoes parboiled and halved
- 12-15 Felafel balls from FRIENDS – halved

Method

Heat oven to 200 °C

Place corn, tomatoes and whole mushrooms on a baking tray, drizzle with olive oil, salt and cayenne pepper. Roast for 10 minutes.

Roast halved baby potatoes drizzled with oil and sprinkled with garlic salt, till brown and crispy.

Toss ALL the veggies together with the falafel balls and place on a large platter, drizzle with the following dressing:

2 cartons Friends tahina

½ cup lemon juice

¼ cup oil

¼ cup peri peri oil

Garlic salt and pepper to taste

Chopped parsley

(adjust dressing to your taste go easy on the peri peri oil)

Serve with warmed or toasted pita breads

B'TEI AVON!

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to the Victory Park Community



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at Sunninghill Radiology



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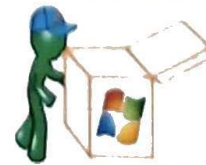
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The Unification of Jerusalem: Dr Jack Mink

Leshana Haba Biyerushalayim, Leshana Haba Biyerushalayim Leshana Haba Biyerushalayim and with this well-known phrase we end off the Yom Kippur service after Neilah. But it's not only now that we say it, it's been uttered for over 20 centuries in our more recent history

It's the essence and core of our religion and belief and shows our strong links and ties to this ancient city. Never mind what the cynical anti-Semites and often self-hating anti-Zionist Jews have to say, Jerusalem is Jewish, it is ours and will always be the eternal Capital of the Jewish State. By a wonderful co-incidence the coming Jewish New Year is the 50th Anniversary of both the re-unification of Jerusalem and the establishment of our Victory Park Hebrew Congregation and on this blessed co-incidence I want to give you a brief account of how the former event took place

Briefly in 1967 the Arab States united under the leadership of Abdul Gamal Nasser. The Egyptian Dictator (or President) had planned another onslaught onto the little Jewish State but the latter had not been

asleep and the IDF, its military, had been preparing for this eventuality for a long time. The Israeli Air Force in a brilliant sudden operation on the morning of the 5th June 1967 struck and completely destroyed the "Mighty" Egyptian Air Force and other Arab Air Forces

Israel had also sent a message to the Jordanian King Hussein telling him to stay out of the war but his reply was to start bombing and shelling Israel and this was the cue given to the IDF to move – the Liberation of Jerusalem was on

By the end of the second day – 6th June – the Old City was surrounded by the IDF – The Jerusalem Brigade together with a Paratroop Battalion commanded by Col. Motta Gur had cleaned out the surrounding areas and most of the West Bank was overrun.

On June 7th the IDF entered the Lion's Gate on the Eastern side of the Old City Wall, soon liberated the Western Wall and the Temple Mount. All of Israel trembled, cheered and wept when Motta Gur announced the "Temple Mount is ours".



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Rabbi Maj-Gen Shlomo Goren – the Chief IDF Chaplain was with the first paratroopers who advanced to the Western Wall. They wept and prayed there, the Rabbi blew the Shofar, soldiers said Tehilim and later Kaddish and Hallel and a special Yizkor Memorial to their fallen Comrades-in-Arms. The Magen David flag flew there for the first time ever. Can anyone forget some of those iconic pictures taken that day?

Never again will Jews be forbidden to pray at their holy religious places, the Western Wall and hopefully places on the holy Mount – still a very contentious issue till this day

Jordan, until then, for 19 years and before and many other conquerors and rulers like the Crusaders and Muslim despots had forbidden Jews to pray or pay homage and conduct pilgrimage there.

Never again will Jews be deprived of their religious right to be in Jerusalem, the Temple of the City and long, ever long, may we rightfully say

LESHANAH HABA BIYERUSHALAYIM



Chief Chaplain of IDF Rabbi Shlomo Goren blowing the Shofar at the Wall



Soldiers standing next to the Western Wall after its Liberation.

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Rabbi Nachman Bernhard Z"L was a household name in the South African Jewish community for so many reasons, perhaps foremost being his commitment to Torah, teaching and sharing its profound messages with so many people around the world.

In his honour and memory, a unique project has been launched to publish a Chumash – The Torah – inviting as many as possible to participate, enabling many more homes to house a copy, to learn from it and fulfil his vision of enabling more people to live their lives according to the Torah's principles.



This project will enable many homes to house a copy of 'The Torah', to learn from it and fulfill Rabbi Bernhard's vision of enabling more people to live their lives according to the Torah's principles.

Adrian Gore
Publication Chairman



It was the Rebbe's wish that every Jewish household have Torah books particularly a Chumash. Join us as we embark on this bold and inspiring project – the publication of a user friendly Chumash here in South Africa.

Rabbi David Masinter
Chabad House/Miracle Drive



If you know of someone who cannot afford a Chumash, please email me in confidence at superose@global.co.za so that we can endeavour to arrange a Chumash for them.

Dennis Rosenthal
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chabad house
Driven by Miracle Drive

OUR EXPERIENCES

ISABELLA KATZ

What I thought about the bati programme, well where do I begin?

It was an amazing experience for me. It was so fun and Morah Kareen was so caring, funny and super fun to spend every Friday with. It really was an enlightening journey and I loved every minute. I enjoyed learning what is required in being a young Jewish woman.

MELISSA KRAWITZ

For me the bat mitzvah program was interesting and inspiring. It made me proud not only to go through the process but achieve a meaningful understanding of what it means to be a Jewish woman.

SARAH ROSENTHAL

The bati program was a great experience. I learnt about my past and a lot more about Judaism. I am now a woman and I have the responsibilities of a woman and I'm glad to know and understand more about what is expected of me.

ZARA WOOLFSON

I thought my bat mitzvah experience was a very positive journey. Where I learnt to become a young Jewish lady with responsibility and as well I learnt how to act the proper way with respect. I learnt the mitzvot of a Jewish woman and realised it's not that easy and you can't learn it all in one day.

GIA FRIEDMAN

I think the bati program was so much fun! I developed a love of learning with the best people around me, I couldn't ask for anything better. One of the main reasons I did my bat mitzvah program with Morah Kareen is because I love her and I am so happy I did because she has given me a great knowledge of what it is to be a Jewish lady.

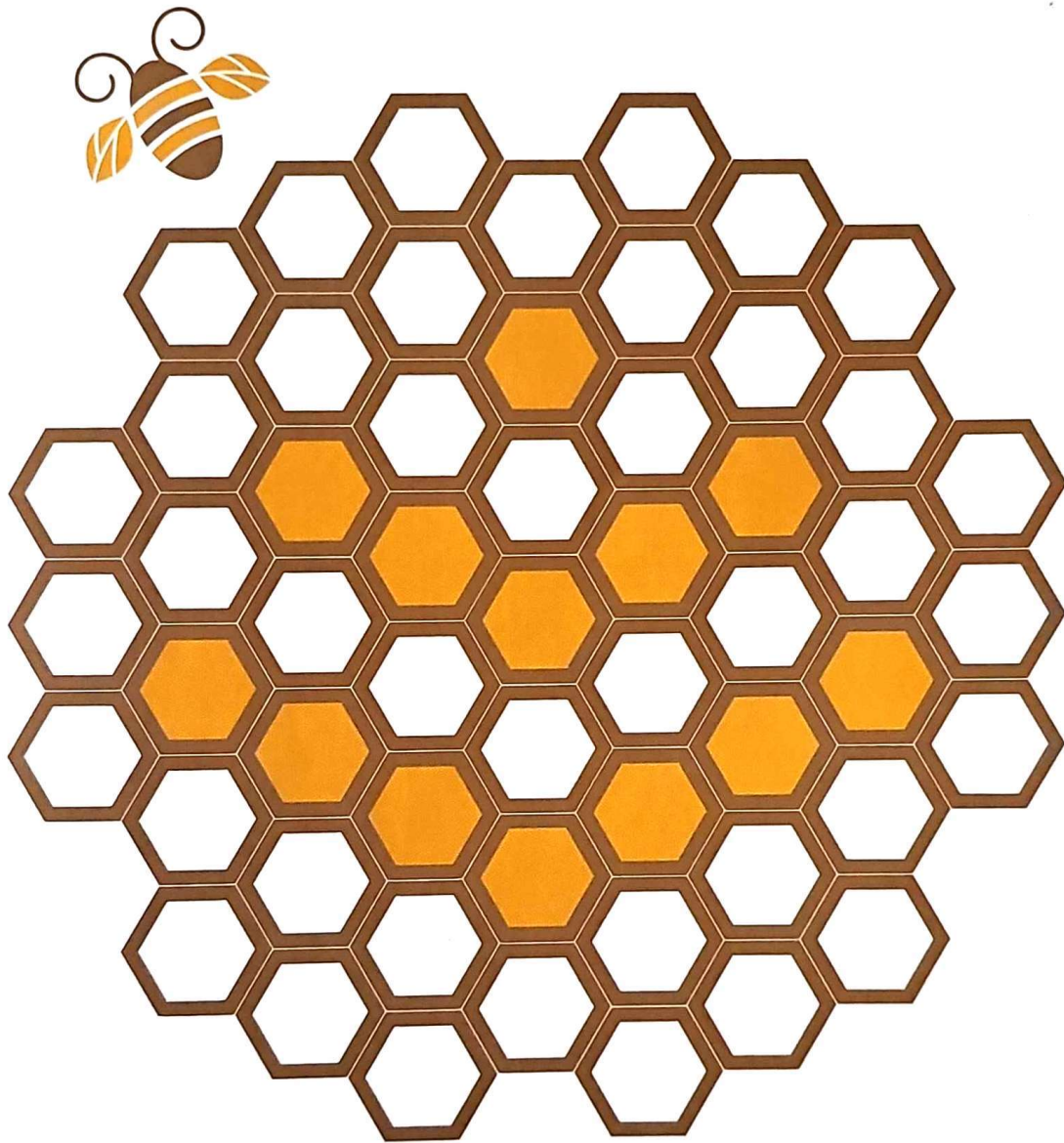
ASHLEIGH HENEGAN

I loved how Morah Kareen was so calm when she taught! I loved her teaching techniques! The program was interesting and fun!

JOELIE ERMANN

I loved it and enjoyed learning about the responsibilities of being a woman. I enjoyed learning in a group with my friends. My shul bat mitzvah ceremony was so special and meaningful.





Shanah Tovah

Wishing all our clients the sweetest year yet.



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 our children, grandchildren, family, friends, the Rabbi, his family and the community Shana Tova and well over the Fast. Jeffrey, Zandra and Gregory Sher

Wishing all our family and friends Shana Tova and well over the fast. Dan, Laura and Naphtali Sher

Wishing our family, friends and community Shana Tova and well over the Fast.

From Stuart, Marion, Emma and Rafael Zeller

Wishing the Victory Park community, our friends and family a healthy and happy New Year and a meaningful fast. The Rosenthals

Wishing all our family and friends Shana Tova and a meaningful Fast. Stephen and Anna Fittinghoff

Michael & Ilona Stein and family wish all congregants Shana Tova and well over the Fast.

Wishing our family and friends a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Mel and Anne Stamelman

Chag Sameach!

Peter, Tish, Daniel, Joshua and Jesse Berman

Wishing you one and all a blessed new year and well over the Fast and that you are enriched with all the blessings you wish for yourself and your loved ones. Leslie Belinda Justin and Sherri Kobrin

Wishing the Victory Park community a Shana Tova Umetuka from the Nossel Family

Wishing you a healthy and happy year ahead. Gavin, Evelyn, Dean and Chad Rayd

Shana Tovah from Eli and Joy Ovadia and Family

Shana tova umetuka, and well over the fast. Elaine & Ephraim Dove

We wish all a special year of health and happiness. Maurice and Jill Sack and family

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

Alan and Lesley Lewis wish the entire community a healthy, happy and fulfilled year.

To all our friends who have made us so welcome in Victory Park. Thank You and a Shana Tovah to you all. May we all continue the sweet friendships living in this beautiful Victory Park community. Love, Clive, Jacqui, Silvie and Abigail.

Wishing all our family and friends and the community Shana Tova and thanks to the community for a job well done. The Klass family

With blessings of health, joy and love to our Rabbi and community. From Michael, Kareen, Binyamin, Rafaela and Yeshara Sandler

Our sincere and good wishes for a peaceful 5777, filled with wonderful blessings. Carol & Stanley Arenson

Best wishes for abundant blessings to all in the New Year. With warm regards. Alf and Freida Abrahamsohn

Wishing you a blessed New Year and well over the fast. L'Shanah Tovah! With love the Wainer family

Shanah tovah u'metukah from Lee, Jake, Hannah and Jesse Berkowitz

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

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

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

Shana Tova Umetuka & fast well. David and Louella Friedland & family and Minnie Ritz

Wishing all a Shana Tova Vemetuka, a year of health. Ami and Steve Mendelsohn

Shanah tovah tikatevu v'tichatemu. Wishing the community a happy and healthy year. Love Jonny and Loren Traub and family

Wishing the Victory Park Community, Shana Tova and a Gmar Fatima Tova. With love and best wishes The Phillips Family

Wishing the entire congregation, Rabbi and family a k'tiva ve'chatima tova. From Louis and Clara Oscherowitz

Wishing our family and friends, the Rabbi and the community Shana Tova and Well over the Fast. From Mannie and Marilyn Chaimowitz and Family.

Shana Tova and well over the Fast from Ari and Lisa Meyerthal and Family

L Shanah Tovah. May your year be filled with sweetness. The Ermann Family

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

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

Wishing our family and friends Shana Tova and a happy and healthy New Year and well over the fast. Love the Nathan 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

Shana Tova to the Victory Park Community. Colin & Naomi Schamroth and Family

Shana Tova and well over the Fast. May you be inscribed for a sweet year filled with good health, peace and prosperity. Mike, Lynne, Barri, Romy and Jonti Strimling.

Mazeltovs!



Sarah Rosenthal with her winning submission in the *My Family Story* Competition. Sarah was one of two winners from KDVP Primary School. She was flown to Israel to represent South Africa and the King David Schools in the *My Family Story* Art Exhibition & International Competition in Israel and got the opportunity to meet students from all around the world.



CONGREGANT		Yahrzeit	DATE OF Yahrzeit	
RAFF	Sheila	Mother	28th ELUL	1st October
GORDON	David	Brother	29th ELUL	2nd October
KRAWITZ	Jack	Wife	2nd TISHREI	4th October
KRAWITZ	Leon	Mother	2nd TISHREI	4th October
OSCHEROWITZ	Louis	Father	2nd TISHREI	4th October
BERGER	Lal	Father	3rd TISHREI	5th October
ARENSON	Carol	Mother	4th TISHREI	6th October
SCHNAID	Linda	Husband	6th TISHREI	8th October
SCHNAID	Caron	Father	6th TISHREI	8th October
DAMELIN	Barry	Father	7th TISHREI	9th October
GLADSTONE	Lauren	Great Grandmother	7th TISHREI	9th October
COPANS	Arlene	Mother	8th TISHREI	10th October
GLAZER	Basil	Mother	8th TISHREI	10th October
LANG	Jerome	Father	8th TISHREI	10th October
ROME	Maureen	Mother	8th TISHREI	10th October
UZVOLK	Laia	Father	8th TISHREI	10th October
EPSTEIN	Jeffrey	Father	9th TISHREI	11th October
COLLIE	Monty	Mother	13th TISHREI	15th October
SCHNAID	Linda	Father	15th TISHREI	17th October
SCHNAID	Caron	Grandfather	15th TISHREI	17th October
FRIEDLAND	David	Mother	16th TISHREI	18th October
OVADIA	Eli	Mother	16th TISHREI	18th October
FRIEDLAND	Louella	Father	17th TISHREI	19th October
BERNSTEIN	Toby & Denise	Sister-in-law	17th TISHREI	19th October
RITZ	Minnie	Husband	17th TISHREI	19th October
PEIN	Marilyn	Father	19th TISHREI	21st October
SHER	Jeffrey	Grandmother	19th TISHREI	21st October
STRIMLING	Michael	Mother	20th TISHREI	22nd October
BLOCK	Michael	Grandmother	21st TISHREI	23rd October
MARKS	Gillian	Son	21st TISHREI	23rd October
MARKS	Lara	Brother	21st TISHREI	23rd October
HYMAN	Maxine	Brother	21st TISHREI	23rd October
BENATER	Ilana	Grandfather	24th TISHREI	26th October
BLACHER	Dave	Father	24th TISHREI	26th October
GORDON	David	Mother	24th TISHREI	26th October
FIHRER	Joan	Father	25th TISHREI	27th October
MILLER	Shelli	Father	26th TISHREI	28th October
GLADSTONE	Alvin	Father	27th TISHREI	29th October
KLAWANSKY	Tickey	Father	27th TISHREI	29th October
GLADSTONE	Lauren	Mother	28th TISHREI	30th October



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HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH

May your New Year be filled with health, happiness and sweet moments for you and your family.

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