

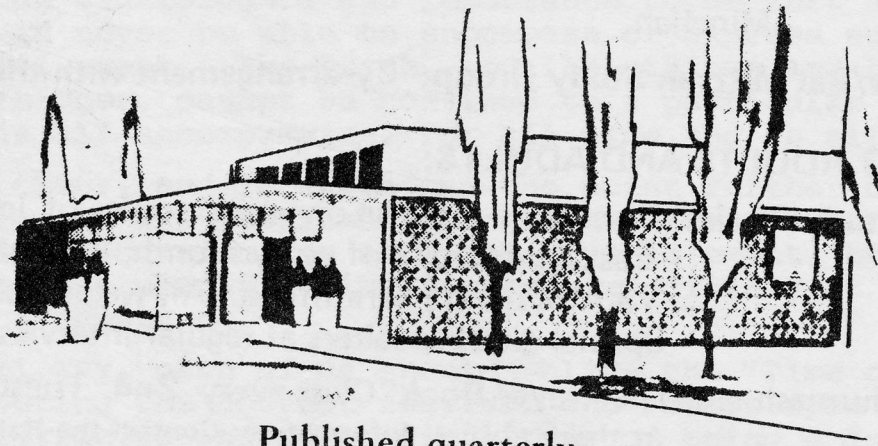
ב"ה

the centre

Journal of the

Strathfield & District Hebrew Congregation

ק"מ שער י ציון



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April-June 1978
Nissan-Sivan 5738

STRATHFIELD WAR MEMORIAL SYNAGOGUE

19 Florence Street, Strathfield, 2135

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

WEEKDAYS:

Sunday: Shacharit

Mon. & Thurs.: Shacharit

Rosh Chodesh, Chol Hamoed, Minor

Festivals & Fast Days: Shacharit

Information: Contact the Rabbi,

Special family services are held on regular occasions. Watch the synagogue column in the Aust. Jewish Times for full details.

SHABBAT:

Eve of Shabbat: Friday, Kabbalat Shabbat,
Winter 6.30pm

Shabbat Morning: Shacharit 9.00am,
Torah 9.45am
Musaph 10.30am
Kiddush after the service.

Shabbat Afternoon: Minchah, Shalosh Seudot,
Maariv & Havdalah beginning
15 minutes before sunset.

JEWISH EDUCATION FACILITIES

CHILDREN

Yeshivah-Yalonda Kramer Kindergarten: Daily. Mon to Fri 9.00am to 3.00pm

Strathfield Hebrew Centre – Talmud Torah: Sunday 9.00am to 12:30.
Tuesday 4.15pm to 5.30pm

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Classes: By arrangement with the Rabbi.

YOUTH:

Youth Shiur: Ethics of the Fathers". Shabbat afternoon a half hour before Minchah.

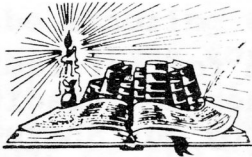
Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah Study Group: By arrangement with the Rabbi.

YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS:

Adult Study Circle: Discussion evening on varied topics of Jewish interest.
Last Wednesday of every month, 8pm at the Rabbi's
73 Albyn Rd., Strathfield. All welcome.
Special guest speakers at regular intervals.

"The Chumash and The Prayer Book" Class every 2nd Tuesday night, 8.00pm
at the Rabbi's. Information: Contact the Rabbi, 642.4803

Talmud Shiur: Massechet Pesachim. Sunday 7.30am at the Synagogue.



From the Rabbi

In my recent letter to all our members, I issued a request for each of us to set aside more time for attending and supporting our Shule and its activities. Some have responded positively to this appeal, some have not. However, I am sure that all must agree in principle with my premise that something more is needed in life than just the pursuit of wealth and easy living, and that inspiration for a meaningful life can be gained from a greater awareness of our Jewish heritage.

Unfortunately, as with most good resolutions that we set for ourselves at one time or another, some strong catalyst is needed to assist in implementing a change in habit and lifestyle. Sometimes, while awaiting just such a catalyst, we find that time and opportunity have slipped away - we have waited too long and "have missed the boat".

The message of the Shavuot festival which we are about to celebrate can help us to understand and conquer this very human trait.

Judaism has many practical rituals, beautiful customs and traditions. Some have said that it is this very active personal participation by each individual that is responsible for the continued existence of our unique way of life. One would assume, therefore, that in celebrating the festival of Shavuoth, the anniversary of the dramatic giving and acceptance of our Torah and its teachings, we would have instituted the most beautiful Mitzvot and traditions to celebrate and remind us of this momentous event. The celebrations and rituals of Pesach, Succot Rosh Hashanah and even Yom Kippur should pale in comparison with those associated with the anniversary of our being given and accepting our eternal heritage and religion. But the festival of Shavuot has no special ritual of its own. Only a few customs of relatively minor significance have evolved over the years.

Yet it is this very fact that illustrates the importance of this anniversary. Though we celebrate the calendar date of the anniversary of our receiving the Torah as a festival, the lifestyle that it teaches, which was to become the basis of civilized living for all of mankind, should be of such significance and importance to us that any ritual or ceremony would never be able to encompass or express such a notable and consequential event. The Torah, and the ethical and holy lifestyle that it teaches, cannot be confined to a particular ritual or festival - it is all-encompassing, for all time and in all circumstances.

The message is clear, and in extending the point further one can say that this is true of all important things in life. We don't have to wait for the right occasion, or some cataclysmic event, but that which is right and correct should be implemented immediately at any time, and under any circumstance.

In our own small way, each of us should relive the "Time of the Giving of the Torah" during the Shavuot festival and accept upon ourselves the everyday privileges and responsibilities of being a Jew in a more tangible way. Not just for a day or two a year, or while performing just one or two of the more well-known rituals, but in a manner that will be reflected always in one's life. Greater support and attendance

of our Shule, greater commitment to Jewish education for our family, a genuine attempt to bringing a few more Jewish values and traditions into our homes, are all ways of immediately channeling our Shavuot resolutions into tangible , instant reality.

In this way we can ensure the continued perpetuation of our heritage on this 3290th anniversary of our commitment to its teachings and ideals. and the time will surely come when each one of us will be able to celebrate this Harvest Festival as part of a committed and vibrant nation in our Holy Land of Israel.

With sincere blessings for a happy and meaningful Yom Tov.

Modcheh Gutnick
Rabbi.

The President's Column

It is with considerable pleasure that I take this opportunity of reporting to the community on a number of matters of interest.

Firstly, I believe that a momentous chapter in the history of our community has come to an end this month when our friends and esteemed members, Mr and Mrs Aron Shaw moved out of our district to a new home in Bondi. Their devoted involvement with this community has stretched back to more than a quarter of a century. They have served with immense enthusiasm and have contributed in many ways towards the establishment of all aspects of our community's endeavours. We wish them Mazel Tov and good health , with Nachas from their children and grandchildren, and a long and happy life in their new home.

We have also had to say farewell to Mr and Mrs E. Lowbeer, long-time active and devoted members of our community. To them we also extend our heartfelt wishes for health and happiness in their new home.

Despite our obvious concern over the loss of two such devoted members I never-the-less am optimistic concerning the future. During the last year we have welcomed at least eight new families as financial members, and we are currently at work trying to attract the support and commitment of quite a few more local Jewish families. A complete list of new members is printed elsewhere in this Journal and to all of them we extend the hope that we can look forward to a long and happy association with you all. We hope that you will join in and share our endeavours to make this community thrive as a sound spiritual, social and cultural centre.

I have great pleasure in announcing the successful finish to the extensions of the Minister's residence, a project that has long been deemed necessary. Rabbi Gutnick and his family, who currently occupy the residence, have expressed their thanks to all those who have made the project possible. I take this opportunity of joining the Rabbi and Rebbetzin and Board of Management to thank Mr Kramer and Mr Politzer for the light fittings, Mr Norm Brown for the several days work spent in installing the wiring and electrical fittings, Mr Nagel and Mrs Weiss

for the flooring timber, Mr Lou Hyman for supplying the carpet and lino, Mr David Hyman for his interior decorating, and Mr Bob Drisin and Mr Michael Korsh for their assistance and advice. Further, I wish to thank all those members who have assisted generously towards covering the cost of the project. (We are still short of the required sum and donations can be sent to our Honorary Treasurer, Dr E. Fitchman.) I cannot finish the report on this project without singling out Mr Arthur Kohn for his immense involvement in all aspects of the extensions. The time and expense he personally incurred have shown once again the colossal dedication that he has for the Synagogue and the community.

I would also like to add my appeal to the Rabbi's recent pastoral letter where he requested that every member set aside a few hours, even if only monthly, to boost their attendance of Synagogue services. This after-all is the pivotal point of our community and it is up to each and every member to ensure that the doors of the synagogue remain open, and that its interior is filled. I hope to welcome all of you in Shule a lot more often.

I would like to conclude on a more personal note. First of all on behalf of my wife and my family I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Rabbi and Rebbetzin for their hospitality on the first night of Pesach. The hospitality shown by both of them, and in particular our Rebbetzin, is well known within the community, and we thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality and the traditional seder proceedings in the very pleasant festive atmosphere. The memory of that evening will linger on in our memories as it no doubt will in the minds of the many other guests present.

Finally, I take this opportunity of inviting all friends and members of our community to honour us with their presence at the Chanukat Habayit (Dedication of the Home) of our new home. It will be held on Sunday 18th June 1978, between 2 and 4 p.m. Our Rabbi will bless the home and affix the Mezuzot and, as we have not sent out any formal invitations, we hope that you will all accept this as a personal invitation to join us on this happy occasion. All are welcome to our new home on the 18th of June at No. 6, Wattle St., Enfield.

Sam Steiff,
President,
Strathfield Hebrew Congregation.

THE STRATHFIELD & DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION
LADIES AUXILIARY

takes pleasure to invite you to their

Annual Ball

to take place on Saturday, 1st July, 1978
at the Strathfield Synagogue Communal Hall
19 Florence Street, Strathfield
at 8.30 p.m.

BAND: JOE COLE
TICKETS: \$25.00 PER COUPLE
(B.Y.O.G.)

R.S.V.P. 20-6-78
642-3232 J. NAGEL
642-8530 F. FITCHMAN