

Woman To Woman

with Rebbetzin Sarah Gutnick

In this column I usually try to impart a message of specific importance to women, and this column will not be an exception. However, this time I am not merely writing a general message, but one of crucial importance to the women of our community.

Shavuot, the time of the giving of the Torah, has special meaning for women, as the Midrash tells us that the women-folk were approached first when the Children of Israel were asked to accept the Torah. They were to be responsible for educating the children and for allowing the home to be permeated with Jewish ideals. Women must therefore seek special inspiration from this festival.

When the Children of Israel left Egypt they were told to count 49 days. Each day they were to improve themselves, to raise themselves from the level of degraded slaves to a free nation willing to accept a divine Torah. The counting of the 49 days teaches us the importance of time in our lives. After all, what is the difference whether we mark the passage of time or not? It will still pass. But the lesson is that we were commanded to affect the passage of time by filling it with content. It is in our hands to fill the passing time with worthwhile deeds, or to allow it to pass by completely wasted. In simple terms it is our duty to make every moment count - making each moment of our lives better than the last.

Just tonight I attended a meeting of our Ladies Auxiliary and, sadly, few of our younger women members were present. The atmosphere was somewhat pessimistic. The older women are tired, they have worked long and hard to continue the good record of our Auxiliary, but they would like to see more involvement by all our women, particularly the younger ones who are, after all, receiving the benefit of our Cheder and our kindergarten, as well as all our other facilities.

So, when Shavuot is here once again, all of us must take stock, re-affirm our roles as the foremost activists for all things Jewish. There is time for everything, so long as we do not forget our priorities. Today has to be a little better than yesterday, and tomorrow we should set aside more time for the Ladies Auxiliary, for work for Israel and for Judaism in general, than we did today. With this attitude the pessimism of tonight's meeting will be shown to be unfounded and our community will continue to thrive so that we can continue to derive benefit from our many activities and facilities.

I hope that we will see a record attendance at the Annual General Meeting and more of us will show greater commitment and dedication than they did tonight.

Have a happy holyday.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STRATHFIELD
SYNAGOGUE LADIES AUXILIARY WILL BE HELD ON
SUNDAY, JULY 9th 1978, AT 8p.m. IN THE COMMUNAL
HALL, 19 FLORENCE STREET STRATHFIELD.

Communal Settings

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES have received an added boost lately due to the marked increase in the number of young children present. Many of the little ones attending are shaming the adults with their enthusiasm and constant attendance. Could it be that despite the apparent apathy by a lot of the adult generation our children will still remain loyal and dedicated. But will your child be among them? Won't you encourage them by coming along as well.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS of the Synagogue and the Ladies Auxiliary are scheduled in the next month or two. It will be interesting to see this years attendances. Everyone seems to have plenty of time for all sorts of activities and hopefully members will see fit to make time to show interest in their Shule and its activities. Please watch out for the announcements as the date for the respective meetings draw closer.

NEW MEMBERS who have joined our community in the past year are extended a warm welcome. They include:

Mr Harold Con of Haberfield; Mr & Mrs L. Cowan of Concord;
Mr D. Efraemson of Drummoyne; Mr & Mrs G. Kalmar of Ashfield;
Mr & Mrs D. Green of Enfield; Mr & Mrs I. Lewin of Homebush;
Mr & Mrs S. Naiger of Homebush; Mr I. Prosser of Five Dock.

A number of other new families have moved into the district and hopefully will soon show their support and solidarity by becoming financial members of the community in the near future.

RABBI & MRS GUTNICK and their family will be travelling overseas next month on leave. While in Israel they will be attending the wedding of the Rebbetzin's brother in Jerusalem. We wish them a Tzeitchem LeShalom and hope to see them back with us refreshed and in good health.

The ADULT STUDY CIRCLE and other classes and shiurim will be in recess while the Rabbi and Rebbetzin are away. A new series will begin upon their return. Watch for details.

THE LAST LECTURE OF THE ADULT STUDY CIRCLE'S monthly lecture evening was presented by Mr Ian Lacey and discussed Jewish migration over the centuries. It attracted a large crowd and lively discussion ensued. With such interest being shown by members of our community then the new series should continue successfully.

THE YESHIVAH YALONDA KRAMER KINDERGARTEN'S Parents' Committee recently held a very successful meeting. New Chairperson is Mrs D. Edelstein and Secretary/Treasurer Mrs L. Slade. Future fund-raising activities were planned and it was decided to organise a childrens' afternoon. All indications point to a successful beginning for the new Committee.

THE NEW YOUTH GROUP for 14 to 17 year-olds in the Southern and Western suburbs, called NEGBA, recently held its second function in our Communal Hall. The enthusiasm of the young people who attended will ensure the success of the group and we are told that membership is growing daily. The older MAARAVI group for the older age group is also functioning very successfully, with both its social and cultural functions.

THE TALMUD TORAH now has 44 children enrolled and is functioning smoothly. Mrs Y. Schneider has, by popular demand, joined the teaching staff which now consists of Rabbi & Mrs Gutnick, Mr J. Lutman, Mr Ron Weiser, Miss R. Braham and Miss I. Kohn. It is believed that all parents of children in the district have been contacted regarding their childrens' attending Cheder, however if anyone knows of any Jewish children not attending would they please contact the Rabbi.

Social & Personal

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Dr & Mrs P. Sakinofsky, recent arrivals from South Africa, on the birth of their second son. Mazel Tov and lots of Nachas.

BARMITZVAHS

Conratulations and Mazel Tovs to the families of Ron Kohn, Allan Merten and Pablo Klecken who are to celebrate their BarMitzvahs in the near future.

WEDDINGS.

Mazel Tov to our member Mr Mordechai Aron on his recent marriage to Miss Rivkah Gerandasi. We wish them much happiness in their new home in Bondi.

BON VOYAGE & TZEITCHEM LESHALOM

Best wishes to Rabbi & Mrs Gutnick & Family on their proposed trip to the U.S.A., Canada and Israel.

WELCOME BACK.

Welcome home to our Vice-president Mr Ian Lacey and family from their trip to Israel.

BEREAVEMENTS.

Sincerest condolences to the Hyman families on the passing of their father and grandfather Mr M. Hyman, אב

Sincerest condolences to the Lewin family on the tragic passing of their son and brother, אב

Sincerest condolences to Dr & Mrs G. Melman on the tragic passing of their nephew David Goldman אב

REMEMBER

S H A V U O T S E R V I C E S

1st DAY:

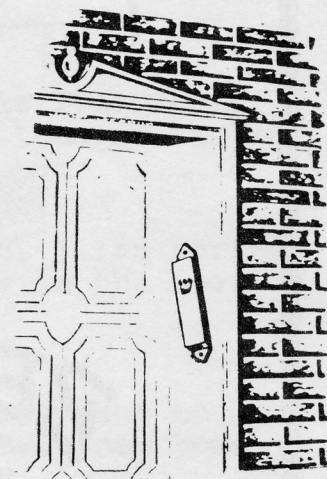
Saturday eve: June 10th,
Minchah/Ma'ariv: 4.45pm
Sunday, June 11th,
Shacharit, 9.00am.

2nd DAY:

Sunday eve: June 11th,
Minchah/Ma'ariv: 4.45pm
Monday, June 12th,
Shacharit, 9.00am
YIZKOR: 10.15am.



Women, including young girls from about three and up, should light candle(s), Erev Shabbos and Yom Tov, at the proper time and recite the proper blessing(s).



Affix a Mezuzah on the Right Doorpost of every room.

THE CENTRE

Published by the
Strathfield and District Hebrew Congregation
19 Florence St., Strathfield 2135.