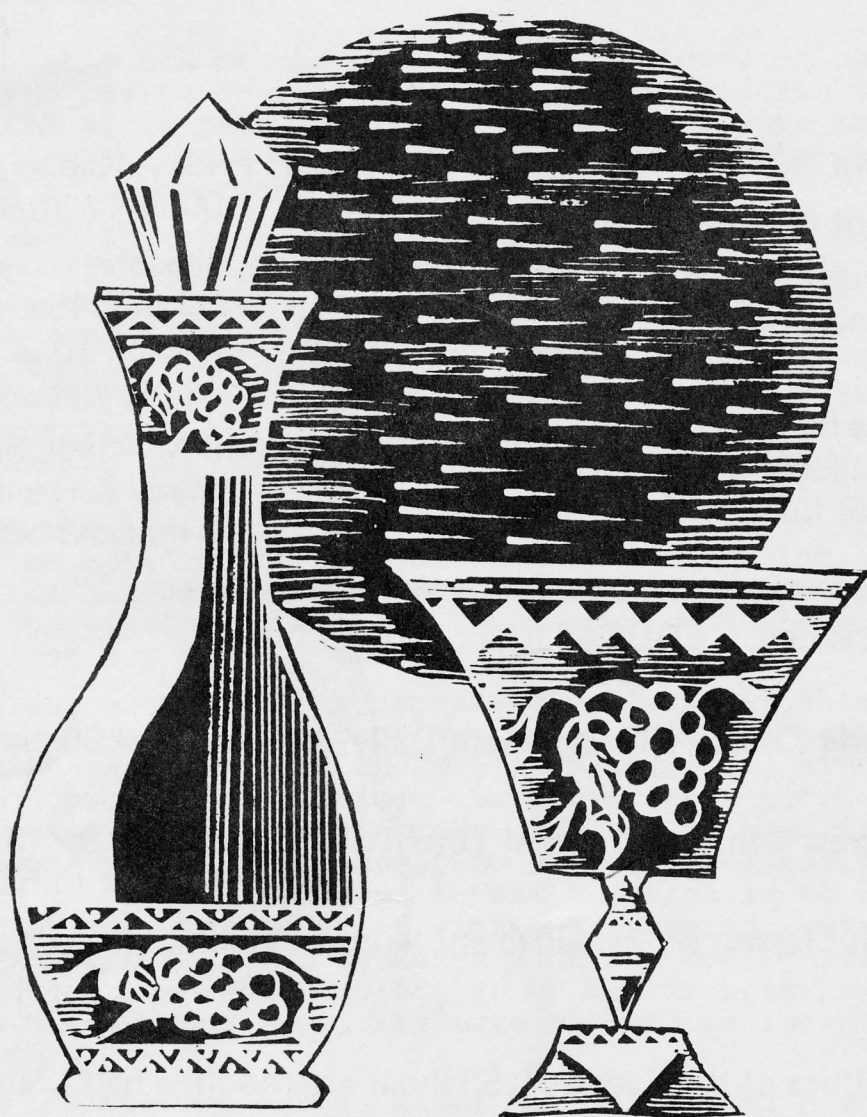


the centre ב"ה



Journal of the

Strathfield & District Hebrew Congregation

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STRATHFIELD WAR MEMORIAL SYNAGOGUE

19 Florence Street, Strathfield, 2135

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

WEEKDAYS:

Sunday: Shacharit 8.00am

Mon. & Thurs.: Shacharit 6.45am

Rosh Chodesh, Chol Hamoed, Minor

Festivals & Fast Days: Shacharit: 6.40am

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, 7.00pm (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 4.00pm to 5.15pm

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: Sunday morning 11.00am to 12.

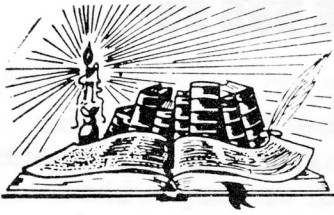
YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS:

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 Tuesday night, 7.45pm at the Rabbi's.

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

Ulpan Ivrit: Thursdays 7.30pm in the Communal Centre. Learn modern Hebrew.



From the Rabbi

Pesach is probably one of the best kept and beloved of our festivals. Even people who may be apathetic, and maybe even hostile, to our religion and rituals the whole year around gather together with their families to celebrate our deliverance from ancient Egyptian slavery, and our beginnings as an independent people.

Maybe the reason for the obvious universal acceptance and retention of the "Seder night" and its customs and rituals even in the most unexpected quarters, is due to the unique involvement of our children. Who doesn't remember when they were children and the excitement and anticipation that preceeded the strange customs and foods of this beautiful festival? But, on a more sophisticated level, the beauty of the festival lies in the encouragement given to the children to participate and to ask questions. Indeed the very essence of the Seder night is, as the Torah expresses it, "When your son will ask you...". The whole format of the seder is based on coaxing and encouraging the children to ask questions - even by introducing strange customs and rituals exclusively for this purpose. The father is then to use this opportunity to answer - to recount the history, traditions, and teachings of our people.

Even the ancient author of the Hagadah realised that this was, however, no easy task. He included quite prominently this bridging of "the generation gap" and, based on the Biblical passages, divided the process into four. He categorises the different attitudes of youth into four types of sons: the wise son, the wicked son, the simple son, and the son who is too young (though not necessarily in years) to ask. Each is to be encouraged to ask, and each is to be answered. Even the wicked son must be dealt with and answered. Despite his taunts and smugness he is to be reckoned with and not ignored. For, after all, is he not at the seder table? Is he not at least willing to question, to discuss and hopefully even willing to learn from his father's answers?

The renowned Lubavitcher Rabbi, Rabbi M. Schneerson, once pointed out that despite the usual tendency to observe at least something of the Pesach festival - even by the wicked son - there is however a recent cause for concern. Unfortunately there has been a prevalence in recent times for a fifth son to be identified. This is the fifth son who is not even present at the seder table. There are numerous reasons for his absence. Maybe he doesn't even know what a Seder table is. Or maybe he is tired of the type of seder table that he would have to sit at. The type that, he realises, is only a very weak imitation of what a true festival, a true religious experience, should be: something that extends to the whole year, and is not just confined to this one night.

When Pesach is celebrated in 1977, it is our obligation to try to attract the fifth son back to the seder table. This must be done by positive work and action a whole year through. This means strengthening our Synagogue, our educational facilities, encouraging active discussion and practice of our tradition and heritage. We must recreate an environment and feeling so that our wandering sons and daughters will return home. This must be our resolution on Pesach 1977.

With blessings for a happy & Kosher Pesach.

Rabbi Mordechai Gutnick.

The President's Column

Once again it is my pleasure to speak to you from the pages of our Journal. Since my last article in our last edition much has happened in the community, as is outlined in these pages, and we hope that the future holds many more successful happenings in the day-to-day affairs of the community.

Once again, though, it is my duty as president to remind and point out that we cannot rest on past successes and accomplishments. It is the duty of every Jew in our district to actively support and encourage the work that our Rabbi and Rebbetzen, your Board of Management, and the Ladies Auxiliary, are all doing to ensure a viable and thriving community. The Shule offers numerous facilities, please take advantage of them. Attend services, and send our attendances up even further than the commendable figures that we have seen in recent months. Now that the festival of Pesach is approaching, and most of the services are on the week-ends of April 2nd and 3rd and April 9th and 10th, there should be no excuse for there not being record attendances.

Support the adult education classes and our functions and activities, after all we are your community.

We have begun a refurbishing of the Shule. Plans include new carpets generously donated by Mr Lou Hyman, and the go-ahead has been given for the purchase of permanent benches. Your board is actively working, please help them to help you!

With best wishes for a Happy Pesach
Aron Shaw.

Communal Settings

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES have been well-attended since the summer holidays, particularly on Friday nights. Its good to see the younger children present and some of our young teenagers are continuing to participate in leading various parts of the services. Notable budding "Chazanim" are Richard Dahl, Charles Steiff and young Ron Kohn, with guest appearances from Ian Hyman, Peter Cowen and Stephen Brown.

WEEK-DAY MORNING MINYANIM are still going strong, despite a temporary lapse for a few weeks recently on Sunday mornings. You can avail yourself of the opportunity to keep a "Yahrzeit", say a "Kaddish" or just join in the Minyan. Services are held Sundays at 8.00am and Monday and Thursdays at 6.45am. Special minyanim are also held on the mornings of Rosh Chodesh, fast days and "minor" festivals as well. Of course we will also try to arrange evening minyanim if you have a "Yahrzeit". Contact the Rabbi for details. While on the topic of morning minyanim, we must also commend once again some of our younger members for their support and help in making a minyan. These include Peretz Moses, a regular, and David Schneider, Richard Dahl, the Hyman brothers, and Ian Jacobs. We can always do with more regulars to absolutely assure a minyan without any trouble, so if you can come along once a week or even once a month you'll be doing a big Mitzvah.

THE MONTHLY ADULT STUDY CIRCLE lecture series has proven successful. But more people are urged to take advantage of it and the regular Tuesday night class at the Rabbi's. Gather with your friends, and make new ones, in the congenial atmosphere, and actively join in the talks and discussions or just sit and listen. The monthly lecture is held on the last Wednesday of the month at 8pm at the Rabbi's, and the next one is on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30th, and the topic is "Pesach Today". An informative evening is promised - both practical and interesting.

THE ANNUAL MARKET DAY looks like being another success, but your active participation can assure this. Once again there are fantastic "Metzias" and its first come first serve.

THE PURIM BAR-B-QUE was a real non-event this year - and proved to be a great success. Organisers were very pleased with the outcome of the "non-function" idea and the support it received. Ruth Lutman is to be commended for her behind-the-scenes activity, and our active "members" in the Eastern side of town, namely Miriam Briggs and Debbie Beston, deserve special credit. The raffle associated with the function was drawn at the children's Fancy Dress Party and our own Fritzi Htchman won the fabulous freezer.

PURIM SERVICES at the Synagogue were celebrated with a capacity crowd. Despite the wet weather a tremendous crowd of children were present and gave Haman his just deserts. Refreshments for the children were supplied by the Ladies Auxiliary.

THE PURIM FANCY DRESS PARTY for the children on the Sunday following Purim was a great success. The presentations by the children were very well received and the range of beautiful costumes had to be seen to be believed. They ranged from a Chassid and his (her) bride (our Rabbi and Rabbitzin's son and daughter naturally) to a Megillah (the Beck girls) which won first prize, and there were even the seven "Kibbutz" dwarfs (the Lutmans and Briggses).

TALMUD TORAH CLASSES on Sunday now have over 45 children enrolled, and our Tuesday classes are becoming more and more popular, with already 13 children enrolled and more enrolling every week. Parents are urged to ensure regular punctual attendance. We have a very good staff but they need the co-operation of the parents. The daily kindergarten has vacancies for any Jewish pre-school age children. Transport can be arranged from surrounding areas. Contact the Directoress of the Kindergarten, Mrs Joseph, at 642.3550 (9 to 3 daily).

PESACH is a family holiday and we are sure that shule will be well attended. Try and make it with the family at least once over the festival. It's another way to ensure a meaningful festival. Remember also that Yizkor (Memorial Service) is on Sunday April 10 th.

Woman To Woman

with Rebbetzin Sarah Gutnick

Although you, the woman, do not conduct the Pesach Seder, it is you who prepares for it, and therefore should be knowledgeable in the laws and customs pertaining to all aspects of this holiday.

PREPARATIONS: The preparations for Pesach begin many weeks in advance, when a thorough house cleaning operation takes place to ensure that there is no chametz (bread, and the like) in any corner of the house, under the rug, in the baby's cot, or in the front pocket of your apron. Finally, the big housekeeping test - when the father searches throughout the house for chametz on the night before the first Seder. Hopefully, the only chametz he will find will be the ten pieces of bread purposely placed for this search. For the search the following is needed: a wax candle to light up the area, a large wooden spoon and a feather with which to remove the bread, and a bag into which the whole lot is placed and burnt early the next morning with any other leftover chametz.

Special attention must be given to the kitchen to make sure that it is spotless and fit to begin your cooking for Pesach. Scour well and cover the kitchen table and all working surfaces. Clean and kasher your stove according to the Rabbi's directions, or change the burners. Scrub the refrigerator and freezer and line the shelves. Wash and line with paper any shelves and drawers which will house the Pesach dishes. It is preferable to use special Pesach dishes, cutlery and cooking utensils, but the Rabbi's advice can be sought regarding "Kashering" dishes used all year round.

Lock up or seal off the cupboards where non-Passover foods and dishes are stored, so that they won't come to be used by accident. Just as one may not eat Chometz on Pesach, it is likewise forbidden to possess Chometz during Pesach. Therefore contact the Rabbi by Thursday night, March 31st, to effect the sale of any left-over Chometz goods to a non-Jew. Otherwise it is not permitted to have any benefit from this food even after Pesach.

THE SEDER: The Seder is very much a family orientated gathering, where friends and relatives sit and discuss the momentous exodus from Egypt. This is a time when we open our doors wide to the poor and invite them in to share the experience of the Seder with you and your family and friends.

ITEMS FOR YOUR SEDER SHOPPING LIST: to be used by all those at the Seder.

MATZAH: Three matzot are needed for the celebrant, plus enough for each person present to eat the required amount (about a 6inch by 4inch piece). It is preferable to use SHMURAH MATZAH for the Seder. This is Matzah, baked by hand in the ancient traditional method. The Rabbi has Shmurah Matzah, baked in Israel, available if you wish to have some.