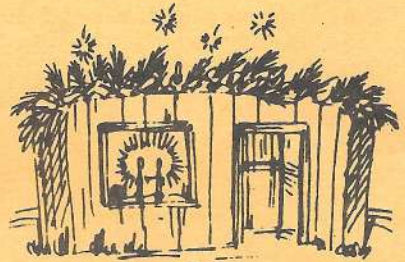
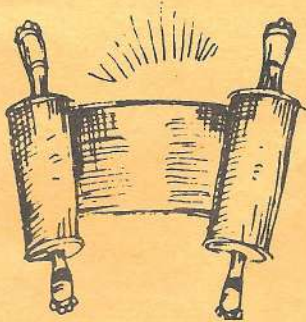


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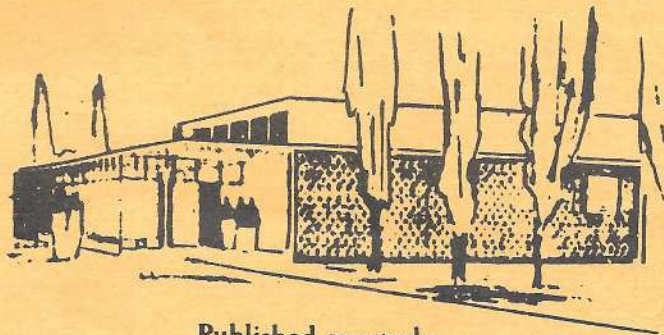
the centre

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS



Journal of the Strathfield & District Hebrew Congregation

ק"ם שערי ציון



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Sept 1980
Elul 5740



From the Rabbi

It's an interesting fact that the Torah readings on Rosh Hashanah deal with the children-parent relationship - and offer solutions to the age-old "generation gap" problem.

On the first day we read of the birth of Isaac and on the second day the famous story of his father Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to G-d, in his belief that this was G-d's will. The readings from the prophets continue in this vein with the story on the first day of the birth and childhood of the prophet Samuel and on the second day the prophecy of Rachel weeping for her exiled children.

I believe our Rabbis were trying to teach us a vital message when they scheduled these readings for Rosh Hashanah. If we are to be assured of a happy, successful and meaningful New Year, then we must do all in our power to strengthen and encourage our relationship with, and the commitment of, the younger generation.

I do not think that I have to develop this theme into a lengthy article - the point is obvious and I am sure that all reasonable people would agree with my conclusions that we must do all in our power to bring the youth back to an awareness of their people and religion. This is not only necessary for the survival of Judaism, but is also necessary to present a value system for the younger generation that has stood the test of time and that can ensure a more meaningful future than most youth today seem destined for.

But tacit or even verbal agreement is not sufficient. I would like to appeal for a practical response from parents. I appeal this year to all committed and devoted parents to allow their children the opportunity to "taste" their Judaism, to set them on a path that will enable them to find in their own backyard the answers to life's purpose and meaning, so that no more of our intelligent and searching young people will have to tread all sorts of dangerous and treacherous foreign paths and life-styles in their quest for meaning and happiness.

I appeal to all parents and even grandparents to make an all-out effort to bring their children and grandchildren, nephews and nieces of all ages, to Shule over the High Holyday period. If it means keeping the children away from school on these days - then do so. Let our children learn to appreciate their heritage, their holidays. If they do not have to attend school on their neighbours' holidays, then they should be taught to act accordingly on their own holydays. Non-Jewish teachers and headmasters in our area have in past years expressed not only their approval, but their admiration for parents who take such an attitude. Let us show that we ourselves realise the importance of such actions.

Bring the younger generation along to Shule. Use this opportunity to talk to them. Explain to them over these days about the prayers, about the Holydays. Organise family Yom Tov meals. Light the Festival candles; say Kiddush at such meals. Make a positive practical effort to spend these coming High Holydays as a meaningful educational experience. I can then assure you that in this way our prayers will be answered and we can be assured of a Kesiva Vechasima Tovv - a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year and future for all Jewry.

See you in Shule!

Mordechai Gutnick

Rabbi.

*The Holydays
are approaching
— now is the
time to belong
to a Shule*

Strathfield & District Hebrew Congregation

invite you to be a
Synagogue member —
and attend services on
the Holydays
(and during the year)

SEATS FOR THE HIGH HOLYDAYS CAN STILL BE RESERVED
BY PHONING THE HONORARY TREASURER, DR E. FITCHMAN,
ON 642.8530 IMMEDIATELY.

Information about membership can be received
by writing to the Synagogue Board of Management
at 19 Florence St., Strathfield, 2135.

IF YOU HAVE ANY ARTICLES, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, OR ANY ADVERT-
ISEMENTS THAT YOU WISH TO PUBLISH IN THE CENTRE WRITE TO
THE CENTRE: Strathfield Synagogue
19 Florence St., Strathfield.

The President's Column

THE 21ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 27TH JULY, 1980 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rabbi Gutnick, Rebbetzin, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 21st Annual General Meeting and present to you my 3rd annual report.

We extend greetings of welcome home to Rabbi Gutnick and family who recently returned from an overseas trip. Greetings and welcome home also to Mr. & Mrs. H. Lippey on their return from overseas, as well as to Mrs. I. Weiss, Dr. & Mrs. Moses Snr., Mr. S. Levett and Mr. & Mrs. G. Cohen.

This year's A.G.M. is distinctly different from many others in the past, in that after many years of near austerity, I have the pleasure and privilege to report a considerable increase in activities and a great improvement in our financial position.

YOLANDA KRAMER KINDERGARTEN

One of this year's most outstanding activities, and one that may have started a new era of achievement and confidence is the transfer of the Yolanda Kramer Kindergarten to the good management of our own Kindergarten Committee. Since the takeover, the number of children enrolled has increased significantly, and some 37 children are enrolled at present. Yet we should not adopt an attitude of complacency, but pursue a policy of development and extended activities. Feasibility studies will show that there is potential and scope for further development of the Kindy. We have the facilities and licence for a total of 60 children and we should fully exploit this good fortune.

Rent being paid at present to the Synagogue by the Kindergarten Management covers telephone, power, rates, cleaning, playground and other maintenance work, and of course teaching staff salaries. But more funds would improve equipment, the facilities and eventually the airconditioning of premises.

Additional and much appreciated contributions towards the welfare of the Kindy, has been the result of efforts by the Kindergarten Parents' Committee which has conducted varied activities, such as street stalls and raffles. The proceeds of their activities are providing the Kindergarten with many extra needs including toys, books etc. Further we are very much indebted to Mrs. Rose Josephs, a former directress of this Kindergarten, and who is now with the Department of Youth & Community Services, for her early help and advice in the setting up of the format of the Kindergarten. Mr. A. Kohn's total and dedicated involvement with the Kindergarten's operations, besides being its Honorary Treasurer, has won him the esteem and appreciation of the entire Community. I also extend

thanks to our present directress, Mrs. Debbie Rooz, to her assistant Miss Rachel Michalovich and to the new part-time helper, Mrs. Ellen Meyer, for their competence and efficiency. Thanks and congratulations to the Kindergarten's Management Committee consisting of: Mr. A. Kohn (Treasurer), Mrs. F. Fitchman (Secretary) and myself as President, and to the Committee members consisting of Rabbi M. Gutnick, Mr. Ian Lacey and Mr. B. Edelstein for their concerted effort throughout the year and hopefully further continued endeavours in the ensuing year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Proceeding from this point to Sunday School matters, the Rabbi reports regularly on its activities and progress. Generally, class attendance has decreased, due to the fact that there are not enough new children at present of the required age to fill the vacuum created by outgoing students. Not much can be done under these circumstances, but we shall endeavour to attract more young families whose children may augment the numbers to a more satisfactory level. Rabbi Gutnick reports further that 32 children are enrolled at present and there is an average attendance of 27/28 on any particular Sunday. Absences are followed up by personal phone calls to the parents concerned, though there are not any cases of chronic absenteeism. It is simply a matter of different children being away each Sunday for all sorts of reasons, ranging from illness to family picnics. There are plans for a parents'/teachers' evening scheduled for the last week of this term, to co-incide with Education Week and an all-out effort will be made to make the parents more aware of the fact that even if we had the best of teachers we cannot succeed without the assistance of the parents.

Another area of concern is the difficulty in obtaining teachers. The Board has suggested subsidizing the teachers' pay in order to attract teachers of high standards. However, on behalf of both parents and students of the Sunday School, I express sincere appreciation for the Rabbi's and Mrs. Gutnick's personal high standard of teaching. Thanks also to Miss Iris Kohn who is doing a wonderful job with Grade 1, our youngest class.

Other Sunday School activities co-ordinated by the Rabbi and Rebbetzin are the annual Picnic Day Prize-Giving, the Purim Party, the Succot Party and the Demonstration Seder, all of which are much enjoyed by both children and parents.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

The past few months have seen a very welcome increase in synagogue attendance by members. However, it is still an area that leaves much to be desired. I take this opportunity to suggest that members make a genuine effort to set aside a little of their time and to come along on Friday evenings and where possible on Saturday mornings and afternoons.

In an endeavour to attract primarily the younger people to the Synagogue, Rabbi Gutnick is hoping to organize on 27th September a reunion of all the Bar and Bat Mitzvah boys and girls who celebrated these occasions since he has been in Strathfield. They will be invited by personal letter to participate, the boys given an aliyah and a Kiddush will be arranged for after the service in the Shule's Succah.

Two young men who are worthy of a hearty thank you are, Ron Kohn and Charles Steif who, throughout the year, help with the Synagogue services. I would like to see more young men joining them.

Many thanks to Mr. Reuben Moalem for helping with the services during the Rabbi's absence.

NEWSLETTER

The Rabbi's trip overseas has interfered with the publication of the Newsletter "THE CENTRE", however we now hope to be able to forward it to our members on a regular basis once again.

Yahrzeit

Rabbi Gutnick is also working on a new Yahrzeit list that will enable us to send out notices reminding members of a forthcoming Yahrzeit noting also that a service may be held on that date.

PLAQUES

Memorial plaques are being procured for the late Rabbi Tapoohi and the late Mr. Lew Hyman.

FUNCTIONS

Reflecting on the major annual function, I wish to wholeheartedly thank the Hatanim, Mr. Ron Speiser and Dr. Jack Moses and their families for their generosity and participation in the success of last year's Simchat Torah Seudah.

THE COMMUNAL SEDER

I extend thanks to Mr. A. Kohn, Mr. Bob Drisin, Mrs. Toni Steif and all the other people involved in the organizing of our first, highly successful Communal Seder last Pesach, at which 120 guests gathered, mainly from the Russian Community. The Seder was ably conducted by Rabbi Ben Zion Melecki of Melbourne, in the absence of Rabbi Gutnick. Translation from English to Russian by Mr. Bob Drisin provided the Russian guests with a better understanding of the Festival.

Among the new members we have gained this year, we found in Miss Rosetta Meinrath a most valuable and diligent worker. In the relatively short time she has been with us, she has already established herself as a very reliable and efficient Honorary Secretary.

The co-operation of the other Board members is also highly appreciated and acknowledged. Their support throughout the year has made my task much easier. They were in alphabetical order:-

Mr. E. DAHL	Mr. I. PROSSER
Mrs. F. FITCHMAN	Mr. A. SCHNEIDER
Mr. S. LEVETT	Mr. A. SHAFFIR

We regret the resignation of Mr. Ron SPEISER from the Board of Management. It was prompted by his wife's illness. We all wish and pray for a full and speedy recovery of Mrs. V. Speiser.

Proposed new members for the Board of Management this year are:-

Mr. H. LIPPEY
Mr. B. DRISIN

NEW MEMBERS

We welcomed the following new members this year:-

Mr. & Mrs. G. AARON
Mr. & Mrs. V. DUBOSARSKY
Mr. D. DAHL
Mr. D. GRUNER
Dr. & Mrs. A. GREENBERG
Miss R. MEINRATH
Mr. & Mrs. A. WEINSTOCK

DONATIONS

Thanks and appreciation to our distinguished Member, Mr. David GRUNER for his noble generosity in arranging to bequest half of his estate to the Synagogue. The other half is to go to the J.N.F. May he live to 120. Thanks to all the other members for their generosity in whatever form it may have been.

At the same time it gives me great pleasure to announce that a donation of \$500-00 was presented by our Board to this year's U.I.A. Appeal.

BAR AND BAT MITZVAHS

Congratulations and Mazel Tov to all the boys and girls and their parents who celebrated their Bar & Bat Mitzvahs during the past year.

They were:-

Daniel AARON	Ilana LUTMAN
Peter BUCHMAN	Robert MEYER
Lewis COHEN	Stephen MERTEN
Gregory FITCHMAN	Ian WOLFE

LADIES AUXILIARY

We commend our Ladies Auxiliary President Mrs. S. Cohen and all the ladies of the Auxiliary for another splendid effort in organizing the Annual Ball as well as the Dinner Dance. Both functions were well attended and resulted in social and financial successes. Special thanks to Mrs. Lemberg for giving much of her time in securing a very successful and profitable annual ball Brochure.

Appreciation and thanks is further extended to all the ladies who helped in making this year's Annual Fete another success. Special thanks go to the Fete's Chairlady, Mrs. F. Fitchman, for her time and energy expended in this worthy task. A share of the praise must go to Mr. A. Kohn and Mr. A. Schneider for their help in the setting up and assisting throughout the day.

Many thanks to the ladies of the Tikvah and Negba Wizo groups who, year after year, organise Fashion Parades, Street Stalls and other schemes. A commendable effort that assists both Israel and the local Community.

A lady who deserves a very strong utterance of praise is the President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Sue Cohen. Under her leadership the ladies acted concertedly and commendably in fulfilling the various tasks. May they all be rewarded with perfect health for their deeds.

I feel that it would be very fair to single out the outgoing Treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Greta Dahl, as a most prominent member of our Community. I'd like to sincerely thank her on behalf of the whole Community, for her outstanding contribution and excellent service by way of getting involved in every activity of importance. As foundation members Mrs. Dahl and her husband, Mr. Edward Dahl, (a former President of this Congregation), were instrumental in the establishment and growth of the Community. Mr. and Mrs. Dahl's anticipated moving from the Strathfield area has come as disheartening news to all of us.

THANKS

I thank our Honorary Auditor and Board Member, Mr. B. Edelstein for another very fine Auditor's Report and Financial Statement folders. His service to the Community is highly appreciated.

Our keen recognition and thanks to our Honorary Treasurer, Dr. E. Fitchman who for many years has so skilfully managed the Community's financial matters. I describe his work as meticulous and magnificent.

Many thanks to Mr. Ian Lacey who for almost 20 years has served this Community as Honorary Solicitor, Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Management. Although the family has moved from our area, we are hopeful that their ties with Strathfield won't be cut off in the immediate future.

KIDDUSHIM:

Thanks to Mrs. Toni STEIF, Miss Iris KOHN and Miss Sharon STEIF for preparing the weekly Seudat Shlishit for the past consecutive three years, as well as other minor Kiddushim.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations and Mazel Tov to the family L. PENN on the marriage of their son Ian, and to the family ADLER on the marriage of their daughter.

BEREAVEMENTS

We are deeply saddened, and convey sincere condolences to the family HYMAN on the tragic passing of their Father and Husband, and to the family DAHL on the tragic passing of their Mother and Grandmother, and to the family STIMLER on the passing of their Mother and Grandmother.

REPAIRS

I wish to thank Mr. Kohn and Mr. Levett for assisting and supervising major drainage works across the grounds as well as the laying of many tons of topsoil.

I wish to thank the Sydney Jewish Press for the interest shown in delegating a member of its Staff to cover our A.G.M. I hope our mutual good relationship in the past will be carried over to the future.

In conclusion, it is my sincere wish that the incoming Board be blessed with further success in the year ahead.

SAM STEIF, J.P.
PRESIDENT.

YOU CAN ARRANGE TO PERPETUATE
THE MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE
BY PURCHASING A PLAQUE
IN THE FOYER OF THE
SYNAGOGUE. CONTACT THE
TREASURER DR E FITCHMAN
AT 642.8530, FOR DETAILS.

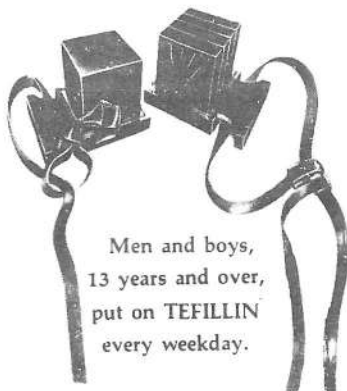
FOR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
SAYING OF KADDISH, MINYAN
AND/OR ALIYAH ON SHABBAT
PRECEDING A YAHRTZEIT
CONTACT THE RABBI AT
642.4803.

**JOIN YOUR FELLOW JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
IN THE WORLD-WIDE MITZVAH CAMPAIGN**

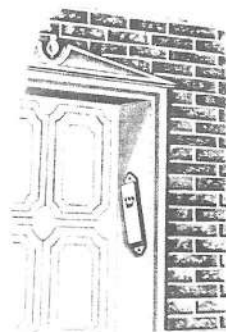
Make your life and home a little more Jewish by following these suggestions.



Study **TORAH** every day
and every night.



Men and boys,
13 years and over,
put on **TEFILLIN**
every weekday.



Affix a **MEZUZAH** on
every right doorpost
in every Jewish home.



Give **TZEDOKOH**
(charity) every weekday.



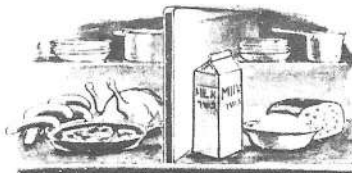
Every home should have
basic **JEWISH HOLY BOOKS**
(at least a Chumash, Siddur,
Tehillim, etc.).



All women, including young
girls from about the age of 3 & up,
should light **CANDLE(S)** every
SHABBOS & YOM TOV EVE,
at the proper time and recite the
appropriate blessing(s).



For a happy, healthy and
united family, keep the
tradition of **FAMILY PURITY**.



Observe **KASHRUTH** at
home and outside.

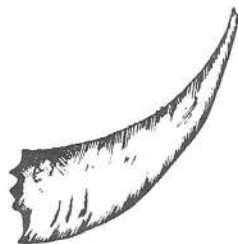
CHILDREN ! Colour-in this page a send it to the Centre, Strathfield
Hebrew Cong., 19 Florence St., Strathfield and the nicest entry will
win a beautiful new book.

Feature Pages

ROSH HASHANAH CUSTOMS

EXPRESSING GOOD WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Medieval German Jewry instituted the custom of expressing special greetings and good wishes when leaving the synagogue on Rosh HaShanah night. The following was the traditional verbal greeting: "May you be inscribed for a good year" (*Tur, Orach Chaim* 582). This practice was extended in the fifteenth century to the entire month of Elul. Letters and messages written in that month generally included an expression of good wishes for the new year. Out of this practice emerged the modern custom of mailing special New Year cards prior to Rosh HaShanah:



WHITE PAROCHET

It is customary to cover the ark and the lectern with a white cover and cloth in the period between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. White, a symbol of forgiveness (Isa. 1:18), is appropriate at this time. The Talmud also mentions a custom of wearing white garments on Rosh HaShanah as a symbol of forgiveness and continuity of life (*Jer. Rosh HaShanah* 1:3).



APPLE AND HONEY

It is customary to dip a slice of apple into honey and to recite a special prayer: "May it be thy will to renew unto us a good and sweet year."

As a special encouragement to Jews during the fateful days of judgment, the talmudic rabbis favored the introduction of customs which serve as symbolic omens of a happy year to come. Thus was the custom of wearing white garments which we previously mentioned. Abaye (4th cent.) listed several food items which he recommended for Rosh HaShanah because their names (in Aramaic) connote a continuity of good fortune and an end of misfortune (*Horyot* 12a). It was customary in some medieval Franco-Jewish communities to eat white grapes and figs. The head of a sheep was another traditional item because it serves as a reminder of the Akedah (the binding of Isaac). Fish, too, was a proper Rosh HaShanah dish in many countries because of its symbolism of fertility. The custom of eating sweets on Rosh HaShanah was alluded to in the order of Nehemiah to the assembly: "Go your way, eat the fat and drink the sweet . . ." (*Neh.* 8:10).



TASHLICH

After the Minchah service of the first day of Rosh HaShanah, one goes to a running stream to cast away his sins. The inspiration for this symbolic ceremony, as well as the name of the ritual, is derived from a verse in Micah: "He will again have compassion upon us, he will subdue our iniquities and you will cast [*tashlich*] all their sins into the depth of the sea" (7:19). The "casting away" is graphically symbolized by shaking out one's pocket as the special Tashlich prayer is recited. If the first day of Rosh HaShanah occurs on a Saturday, the ritual is performed on the second day in order to avoid an inadvertent desecration of the Sabbath by the carrying of prayerbooks to the river.

The earliest source of the ritual of Tashlich is Maharil (15th cent.). He linked it to the midrashic allegorical account of Satan's effort to prevent Abraham from sacrificing Isaac by converting himself into a river and thus blocking the road to Mount Moriah. According to his interpretation, the purpose of Tashlich is to recall the incident of the Akedah.

The Tashlich ceremony won the immediate acclaim of kabbalists. As a result of the warm endorsement of Rabbi Isaac Luria (16th cent.), the practice, which had originated in Germany, was also adopted by the Sephardim.

THE DAYS OF PENITENCE

MEMORIAL LIGHTS

It is customary to light a candle in memory of deceased parents for the atonement of their souls. This practice was instituted by Ashkenazic communities in the Middle Ages. In some localities the memorial candle was lit in the synagogue. However, most Jews light it at home.

It is customary to bless one's children before one leaves the home for the evening services. The text of the blessing is printed in most prayerbooks.

A KITTLE

It is customary to wear a *kittle* (white robe) on Yom Kippur because white is a symbol of forgiveness. The kittle also reminds one of shrouds and therefore stimulates penitence.

One puts a talit over the kittle and keeps it on throughout the evening service.



KAPPAROT

One of the most controversial pre-Yom Kippur customs is the ritual of Kapparot (forgiveness). One circles a white fowl around his head as he recites: "This is my substitute . . . this fowl will die and I will enter upon a good and long life . . ." The fowl is slaughtered and its cost is given to charity. The innards of the fowl are fed to birds in a spirit of compassion for all living creatures.

The custom of Kapparot dates back at least to the ninth century. The geonim were not sure of its rationale and assumed that the custom reflected a symbolic transfer of fate from the individual to an animal. A twelfth-century scholar conjectured that the ritual of Kapparot was designed as a reenactment of the biblical rite of Azazel (Lev. 16:8; *Machzor Vitry* 373).

An ancient custom similar to Kapparot existed in the talmudic era. Abaye (3rd–4th cent.) discussed Sabbath laws relating to a *parpisa* (a perforated pot) which is deposited on the ground and in which greenery is growing (*Shabbat* 81b). Rashi quotes a geonic responsum which explains the use of the *parpisa*. It was customary to plant beans or other vegetables in a palm basket filled with earth and manure. The planting was done about three weeks before Rosh HaShanah, one basket for each minor in the family. On the eve of Rosh HaShanah, each member took his own basket, circled it around his head seven times, and recited: "This is my substitute, this is my exchange, this will replace me." The basket was then thrown into the river. This custom appears to have been an ancient progenitor of two current customs, Tashlich and Kapparot.

The Yom Kippur Eve practice of throwing the innards of a fowl to the birds to feed on is mentioned in the Talmud (*Chulin* 95b). There is no indication, however, that the custom was associated with the ritual of Kapparot.

The propriety of Kapparot has been seriously questioned. Nachmanides denounced the custom for its smell of heathenism (*Orchot Chaim, Hilchot Erev Yom Kippurim*). Rabbi Solomon Adret (13th–14th cent.) prohibited the ritual in Barcelona (Responsum 392). Rabbi Joseph Caro (16th cent.) also opposed it (*Orach Chaim* 605). Rema, however, approved it. It has increasingly become the custom in modern times to use money instead of a fowl and to contribute the money to charity.



SUKKOT CUSTOMS

A TEMPORARY ABODE

The sukkah, a memorial to the movable sukkot in the desert, must not take on the appearance of a permanent home. A solid ceiling disqualifies a sukkah. The covering is designed to screen out the sun but it must not block the visibility of the stars. Despite the temporary nature of the sukkah, it must be sturdy enough to withstand ordinary winds and to last at least for seven days.



BITING OFF THE PITUM

A curious custom of comparatively recent origin (ca. 18th cent.) is the practice of some women to bite off the apex of the etrog after its ritual use has been completed. It was rumored that this action was conducive to the bearing of a male child.

Contemporary sages who took note of the practice conjectured that its therapeutic qualities were based on the tradition that the fruit which Eve had proffered to Adam was an etrog. Eve had sinned by eating the etrog. Her pious daughters atone for her sin by biting off the pitum but refraining from tasting the fruit. They are thus entitled to a heavenly reward, particularly if they follow up the demonstration of their restraint with a generous contribution to charity.

The obligation of Jewish women to atone for the sin of Eve is mentioned in midrashic literature. Rashi quoted *Bereshit Rabbah* to the effect that the duty of lighting Sabbath candles devolved on women because they must atone for Eve, who by her transgression had extinguished the light of the world (*Shabbat* 32a, Rashi, *Iske Reshit*). Women who light candles are rewarded with scholarly children (*Shabbat* 23b). A similar reward was expected by women who atoned for Eve by biting off the pitum.

SEVEN USHPIZIN

The belief that seven heavenly guests (*ushpizin*) visit the sukkah at mealtime was mentioned for the first time in the Zohar. "When Jews leave their homes to enter a sukkah, in accordance with the command of the Almighty, they are worthy of receiving the holy presence. The seven faithful shepherds come down from paradise and enter the sukkah as guests of the host." Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, and David are the honored guests. The leadership of the heavenly delegation changes from day to day. Abraham heads the group on the first day. Isaac is the leader on the second day, and so on successively until it is David's turn on the seventh day.

wizo news

WIZO IN STRATHFIELD 1979-1980

I am very pleased to have the opportunity, through our Journal, to write on the activities of WIZO in our community. It is quite surprising to find in this relatively small area two very active groups working successfully, despite the moving away to the East and to the North of a number of valuable members. Both Wizo Negba, the senior group, under Mrs. Elizabeth Ziegler, and its lusty offspring, Tikva under the leadership of Susan Buchman, are doing a fine job under rather difficult circumstances.

WIZO TIKVA: They are excelling in their social parties. They had two Fashion Parades (Hostesses Eva Lemberg and Kryz Merten), their annual Dinner Dance at Susy Curtis', and also Card Parties (Hostesses Mardi Van Dyke and Susy Buchman). Tikva also conduct Street Stalls and Theatre Parties. They were very well represented at the Wizo State Council Annual Fashion Show and take a successful part in the yearly Bazaar in Waverley, this success being greatly due to Sylvia Rose who brings a great load of clothing (from Sports Fashions) along. Our annual Bazaar here in Strathfield demands collectors and sales personnel at the stalls, and here Tikva also plays an important part.

WIZO NEGBA: Though its social activities are shrinking from year to year, mainly due to loss of membership through moving away, Negba still contributes generously to the general fund of Wizo in N.S.W. The group seems to be specialising in establishing Scholarships for underprivileged children in Israel. A most successful Wedding Anniversary was recently celebrated at the home and in honour of Fanny and Lou Brem. Four scholarships were established at this occasion of their 40th anniversary, one donated by the generous couple themselves. Negba also held a few card parties, the hostesses being Liza Lewin, Ronny Baumert, Elly Kadner and Sylvia Aisic. The group also organised its traditional function in aid of a candidate in the yearly JNF Queen Competition with a guest speaker and the showing of Israeli films, with a gratifying result. Of course, Negba was also a partner in the Strathfield Bazaar, which deserves a special mentioning since in the many years of participating the ladies concerned have not become younger. Both they are still able to pull their weight.

To read about it makes it all look so easy. But let me stress the enormous effort behind these activities. There is inspired leadership, there is continuous planning in many meetings, there are hundreds of 'phone calls to be made, there is baking, cooking, carrying, and many details involved. The dedication of these fine women is wonderful.

This is not all. Though fundraising for Israel has, by necessity, become Wizo's main endeavour, we are not neglecting our other aims.

We do our best to instil Jewish women with the love for Israel and for Judaism by, at State level, Lectures, Bible Nights and Seminars. Thus our approach has been strongly promoting the unity of Jewish women all over the world, and has become an important factor in Jewish family life.

In conclusion: L'SHANA TOVA to you all.

Fritzi Fitchman.

Ladies Auxiliary Chit Chat

Although we had fewer social functions than usual recently we have nevertheless enjoyed a successful year.

This coming year should prove to be just as successful as we have a wonderful group of ladies on our committee. The elections held at our Annual General Meeting on 7th July resulted in the following Committee members:-

President:	Susan Cohen
Vice President:	Rebbetzin Gutnick
Treasurer:	Ellen Meyer
Minutes Secretary:	Rosetta Meinrath
Social Secretaries:	Yola Schneider (correspondence & major functions)
	Raeli Cowan (minor functions)
	Toni Steif (shalosh seudot & kiddushim)
	Ruth Lutman (children's functions)

Our first function this year was held on 2nd August. It was our Annual Ball where nearly 100 people enjoyed the ever popular Joe Cole Band and a fully catered meal supplied by Andre Vermes of Shalom College.

Our first meeting was held on 12th August at the home of Rebbetzin Gutnick and was very well attended. We hope to see just as many and more attending future meetings.

Future functions will include a street stall in November and hopefully a barbecue early in 1981, followed by our ever popular Fete which will again be in the very capable hands of Fritzi Fitchman.

We are extremely sorry to see a number of our hard workers moving eastwards, particularly Josie Lacey, Greta Dahl and Irma Levett. However, we extend a hearty welcome to all our new members. We hope to see you at our next meeting - watch the "Jewish Times" for dates and venues.

S. Cohen
President.

YOLANDA KRAMER KINDERGARTEN

19 Florence Street, Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135. Phone: 642 3550

THE YOLANDA KRAMER KINDERGARTEN has been flourishing during the past two terms of this year and all signs point to a very successful future. The Kindergarten now has an enrolment of over 35 children; 50% are Jewish children. As has been reported elsewhere in this Journal the affairs of the kindergarten are being very capably managed by a Management Committee consisting of representatives of our community and parents of the children. The rent finally being received from the use of our premises is helping to pay off the mortgage on our building.

Our staff, who are all Jewish, consist of our very capable Directress, Mrs. D. Rooz, her assistant Miss Rachel Michalovich and a part-time helper Mrs. Ellen Meyer.

Rebbetzin Gutnick is co-ordinating a new curriculum aimed at further up-grading the Jewish educational content of the kindergarten curriculum which will be in addition to the Jewish songs, prayers, history and festival stories which Mrs. Rooz has capably presented until now. The ordinary day-to-day activities of the kindergarten have also included excursions by the children to a number of places of interest.

AN ANSWER TO THE N.S.W. BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION
- by Rabbi M. Gutnick

A number of members of our community have commented quite heatedly on the recent article in the Australian Jewish Times which quoted from the Annual Report of the President of the NSW Board of Jewish Education. Mr. Frankfurter accused our community of "not taking sufficient and concerted steps to consolidate Jewish attendance" at the kindergarten. The article further states that "Mr. Frankfurter reports that the board was obliged to terminate its association with Strathfield's Yolanda Kramer Kindergarten because of board's policy in requiring a certain percentage of Jewish children."

It is not my intent, nor perhaps is it correct for me, to publicly record the facts which lead up to the management of the kindergarten being eventually taken over by our community. Suffice to say that the community felt that, if the community was being called upon to become more and more actively involved in the kindergarten's welfare, then it was felt that the community may as well assume full control—and, indeed, as subsequent events prove, this was carried out in a highly successful manner.

The point of this comment, however, is simply to record my personal congratulations and even pride in the manner in which our Board of Management and members of our community responded to the entire situation. Two years ago it became apparent that it was necessary to bolster enrolments considerably if the Strathfield Synagogue was to continue to receive the fees and government subsidies which were so

necessary for the kindergarten, and indeed the synagogue, to continue to exist and remain financially viable. It was not until this year however that this was able to become a reality and this was due to members and parents of our community who have ably rallied to the task. At the same time every effort was made, and is being made, to ensure a high standard in the Jewish educational content of our kindergarten. I firmly believe that the success of the kindergarten is of course due substantially to the facilities and the dedicated staff, but is also due in no small measure, to the more than sufficient and concerted efforts of members of our community. The directress and management committee have also been most careful in ensuring a good ratio of Jewish children - currently 50%-which, as we are informed by very reliable sources, is as good, or even better a ratio than the Jewish enrolment at one of the Board of Education's other kindergartens which it is still maintaining. Perhaps Mr. Frankfurter's words may have been a little more acceptable had he said that "the Board feared" that there would be a lack of potential for Jewish children and that the required percentage may not be maintained. However the report quotes an alleged existing situation which is simply not the case in fact. It also highlights an apparent inconsistency in the Board's own policies.

If, due to the fact that things did not quite work out for the Board of Jewish Education as was originally envisaged, the Board therefore now finds it impossible to appreciate and recognise the events that occurred as an honest and dedicated effort by a small community to provide its children with the best Jewish education possible under difficult circumstances, then the Board of Jewish Education should at least be understanding enough not to issue bad publicity and criticism which is quite unbecoming and does not serve to further the cause of Jewish education in any constructive manner.

I would like to assure Mr. Frankfurter and the community in general that our community deeply appreciate the time and effort that both the Yeshivah College and the Board of Jewish Education invested in our kindergarten in Strathfield, as I myself have conveyed in past correspondence. If by force of circumstance the local community has now had to assume full independent control in order to achieve the goals deemed necessary by the synagogue's Board of Management, it has done so fully cognisant of the fact that every effort must be made to maintain the Jewishness of a kindergarten maintained and run by a Synagogue.

THE YOLANDA KRAMER KINDERGARTEN IS OPEN DAILY FROM
8.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. AND CATERS TO CHILDREN OF
PRE-SCHOOL AGE.

FOR INFORMATION AND ENROLMENTS CONTACT:

The Directress, Mrs Debbie Rooz at 642.3550.

Communal Settings

NEW LIFE GOVERNOR OF OUR COMMUNITY is Mr. Ian Lacey who was extended this honour at the last general meeting of the Synagogue members in appreciation for his many years of involvement as a Board member, Chairman and Vice President as well as Honorary Solicitor of our community. Both Ian Lacey and his wife Josie will be missed now that they have moved east but we are assured that we will see them quite often and their ties with Strathfield are as strong as ever. Mr. Lacey's name joins those of Mr. Aron Shaw, Mr. Sid Einfeld and Mr. Philip Goran on the Life Governor's plaque in the Communal Hall.

THE NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR 1980-81 elected at this year's General Meeting are as follows:

Messrs. Sam Steif - President; A. Schneider - Vice-President; E. Fitchman - Hon. Treasurer; Miss R. Meinrath - Hon. Secretary; Board Members: Messrs. E. Dahl, B. Drisin, B. Edelstein, Mrs. F. Fitchman, Messrs. S. Levett, H. Lippey, I. Prosser, A. Shaffir.

THIS YEAR'S CHATTAN TORAH AND CHATTAN BEREISHIT are Mr. E. Dahl and Mr. S. Levett. The Levett and Dahl families will shortly be moving east after many, many years of active service and involvement in our community. The community will no doubt turn out in full force to honour these two gentlemen at the Communal Simchat Torah Dinner on Thursday night, 2nd October after Hakafot which begin at 6.30 p.m.

WE ALSO SAY GOODBYE TO A NUMBER OF FAMILIES such as the Casper family and soon to Dr. and Mrs. Sakinofsky and family who are moving North (yes, there's a Jewish community in that direction too!) At the same time we welcome back Dr. and Mrs. Besser and family and also welcome all those families and individuals who have joined us and have become members in recent months as enumerated in the President's Report in this edition.

THE HEBREW SCHOOL'S OPEN DAY on the last Sunday of the term attracted a good number of parents. A special Hebrew reading competition was held between the top classes. Children had to read a prepared and an unseen passage.

Winners were: 1st Prize - Daniel Lutman and Jacquie Melman.
2nd Prize - Anthony Melman and Sarah Phillips
3rd Prize - Rachel Lewy

Congratulations to all who took part. The overall standard was very good and all children were involved and participated actively.

A PARENTS MEETING FOR THE HEBREW SCHOOL was held in conjunction with the Ladies Auxiliary meeting on 12th August. Rabbi Gutnick addressed those present and asked for more active encouragement and involvement by the parents in their children's activities and Jewish education. He stressed the importance of parental interest and example if the children were to really gain from their limited Jewish education.

"MA'ARAVI" THE BNAI BRITH YOUNG ADULTS GROUP based in the southern and western suburbs are currently conducting a series of lectures on Chassidic Music in the home of Rabbi Gutnick. Quite a few of our young people are actively involved in this group and its membership and activities are growing steadily. Membership is open to all Jewish young adults in the Southern and Western Suburbs - call 704974 for information. Next activity in our area is scheduled for Succot in the Rabbi's succah at 73 Albyn Road, Strathfield on Sunday afternoon, 28th September, at 3.30 p.m.

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MEETING OF RECENT JEWISH IMMIGRANTS FROM RUSSIA was held on Saturday evening, 30th August at the home of the Rabbi and Rebbetzin. It was aimed at getting to know the many Jewish Russian families who have recently moved into our area. Guests for the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Olshansky of Bondi, recent immigrants themselves, who spoke of their involvement and commitment to Judaism since their arrival here. The evening also gave many of the recent immigrants a chance to find out about our Shule and activities and we hope to see many of them at services and functions over the High Holydays.

A REUNION OF BOYS AND GIRLS who have been Bar/Bat Mitzvah in our shule during the past five years is scheduled for the Shabbat of Succot, 27th September. We hope to have a good attendance of the many young men and women concerned with a special youth service and kiddush to take place beginning at 9.00 a.m. Everyone is asked to come along and assist in encouraging the involvement of our younger generation.

DON'T FORGET TO COME ALONG ON SUCCOT
AND FULFIL THE MITZVAH OF TAKING THE
LULAV AND ETROG AND EATING IN THE SUCCA.

(For times of services see back cover.)

Social & Personal

CONGRATULATIONS to all the families involved in the Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and weddings held since the printing of our last journal, as enumerated in the President's Report. In addition to these, we extend the following wishes:

ENGAGEMENT: Heartiest Mazal Tov to the Neumann family of Belfield on the engagement of Arthur.

BIRTH: Mazal Tov to board member Ian Prosser on his becoming an uncle recently. Best wishes to his sister and the rest of the family.

BON VOYAGE: Best wishes of Tzeitchem LeShalom to Mrs. T. Steif and Mrs. J. Nagel who will be spending the High Holydays overseas with their respective families. Both ladies have asked us to convey their best wishes for a Shanah Tovah to the whole community. Mrs. Nagel will be visiting her sister in Canada and Mrs. Steif will be visiting her family in Israel that she has not seen for some 30 years.

BEREAVEMENT

The entire community extends its heartfelt condolences to the Speiser family on the untimely passing of
Vivienne Speiser נ"ו

Дорогие братья из России, живущие с нами по соседству. Пожалуйста помните, что Рош Хашана (Еврейский Новый год) приближается.

Добра пожаловать вам и вашим семьям в синагогу в Стратфилде. (19 FLORENCE STR., STRATHFIELD)

СЛУЖБА НА РОШ ХАШАНА:

СРЕДА, 10 СЕНТЯБРЯ 6.30 ВЕЧЕРА.

ЧЕТВЕРТ, 11 СЕНТЯБРЯ С 8.15 УТРА ДО 13.00.

ПЯТНИЦА, 12 СЕНТЯБРЯ С 8.15 УТРА ДО 13.00.

ЙОМ КИПУР:

ПЯТНИЦА ВЕЧЕРИМ, 19 СЕНТЯБРЯ С 17.45

СУББОТА - ВЕСЬ ДЕНЬ.

Kindergarten a boon to Strathfield area

For the first time since it was started eight years ago, Strathfield Synagogue's Yolanda Kramer Kindergarten is a money making venture, synagogue president Sam Steif said last week.

This is because the kindergarten is now under the control of the synagogue itself, he said.

Presenting his report to the congregation's 21st annual meeting, Mr Steif said that the kindergarten had originally been controlled by the Yeshiva and later by the NSW Board of Jewish Education.

The new management,

which began in the first term of 1980, marked a "new era of achievement and confidence," he said.

"I have the pleasure and privilege to report a considerable increase in activities and a veritable improvement in our financial position," he said.

The kindergarten now has 37 children.

The congregation's

statement of income and expenditure showed that rent from the kindergarten had soared from \$265 in 1979 to more than \$3000 this year.

Mr Steif warned that the congregation should not adopt an attitude of complacency, but pursue a policy of development and extended activities.

While Mr Steif expressed

pleasure at the improvements in the kindergarten, he reported that the congregation's Sunday school classes had not progressed.

Attendances had decreased because there were not enough new children of the required age to fill the "vacuum" created by students leaving.

Mr Steif said that plans were in hand for a parent-teacher evening during the Education Week.

He expressed "sincere appreciation" to the congregation's chief minister Rabbi Mordechai Gutnick and Mrs Gutnick for their high teaching standards.

Mr Steif said that synagogue attendances "leave much to be desired."

SUPPORT FOR RABBI

The Strathfield Synagogue and its board of management has expressed full confidence in its chief minister, Rabbi Mordechai Gutnick.

This was expressed in a motion of confidence at the congregation's 21st annual meeting.

Treasurer, Dr Edward Fitchman said a recent article in the Jewish Times had caused embarrassment to both Rabbi Gutnick and the Strathfield Jewish community.

"We at Strathfield Synagogue emphatically declared that Rabbi Gutnick has our full support," Dr Fitchman said.

"He is our esteemed spiritual head and we hold him and his family in the highest regard.

"We are truly sorry he was drawn into this public controversy," Dr Fitchman added.

Retiring chairman, Ian Lacey, said there was no doubt the Strathfield Jewish community stands behind its rabbi.

"We are proud of Rabbi Gutnick's contribution and look forward to years of similar work," Mr Lacey said.

The Australian Jewish Times, Thurs., July 10, 1980

STRATHFIELD SEEKS MORE MEMBERSHIP

Strathfield Synagogue will launch a membership drive this year, president Sam Steif said on Monday.

Mr Steif will outline the plan to the congregation's annual general meeting on July 27.

He said this week that the congregation has lost a number of families to the Eastern Suburbs in recent times.

The synagogue intends to make a concerted effort to attract young families and newly-arrived Russian immigrants, he said.

Mr Steif said that as members' children complete their kindergarten education, the more "affluent" families move to the east so that the children can enrol in Jewish day schools

But despite the loss of members, Mr Steif will report to the annual meeting of a year of prosperity.

The Yolanda Kramer Kindergarten is under the synagogue's control and numbers have dramatically increased.

Some 40 children are enrolled.

The synagogue's board of management is likely to be re-elected unopposed, except for vice-president, Ian Lacey, who has moved to the Eastern Suburbs.

EFFORT

"I take this opportunity to suggest that members make a genuine effort to set aside a little of their time to come along on Friday evenings and where possible Saturday mornings," he said.

Strathfield Synagogue made a surplus of more than \$2,000 in the past 12 months, compared to a deficit of almost \$2,500 the year before.

Income improved by \$2,500, thanks to an increase of \$400 in seat rentals (total \$1,000), more than a \$1,000 in offerings (total \$3,000) and proceeds from the kindergarten.

Sam Steif was re-elected president for his fourth term.

Executive: Alf Schneider (vice-president), Dr Edward Fitchman (treasurer), Rosetta Meinrath (secretary), Stan Levett, Fritz Fitchman, Edward Dahl, Henry Lippey, Ian Prosser, Bob Drisin, Bernard Edelstein and Alexander Shafir (board members).

THE STRATHFIELD JEWISH COMMUNITY WELCOMES THE NEW POLICY OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH TIMES THAT WILL ENSURE PUBLICITY FOR THE ACTIVITIES AND ENDEAVOURS OF THE SMALLER SUBURBAN CONGREGATIONS.

(Above are some extracts from recent editions)



Simchat Torah

CHATTAN TORAH - MR EDWARD DAHL
and
CHATTAN BEREISHIT - MR STAN LEVETT
CORDIALLY INVITE THE COMMUNITY
TO THE ANNUAL SIMCHAT TORAH SEUDAH
TO BE HELD AFTER HAKAFOT
ON THURSDAY NIGHT, 2nd OCTOBER, 1980,
BEGINNING AT 6.30 p.m.

The festivities will be held
in the Politzer-Isman Hall
adjoining the Synagogue, after
services in the Synagogue.

COME WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY AND JOIN
THE FUN AND FESTIVITIES.

Parents of our Hebrew School Children please note:
New term begins on SUNDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER, at 9 a.m. SHARP.

NEXT LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7th, AT 8 p.m.
Venue: Ruth Lutman's, 1 Cotswald Rd., Strathfield.

FOR VISITS TO THE SICK PLEASE INFORM RABBI GUTNICK OF DETAILS
Phone: 642.4803.

STRATHFIELD HEBREW CONGREGATION:
REGULAR SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday, Kabbalat Shabbat: 6.30p.m.
Shabbat, Shacharit: 9 a.m.
Minchah, followed by Shalosh
seudot and Ma'ariv: a half hour
before sunset.

FOR INFORMATION ON ADULT STUDY CLASSES CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED
CONTACT RABBI GUTNICK.

קִּיק שְׁעָרֵי צִיּוֹן

Strathfield & District Hebrew Congregation

19 Florence Street, Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135. Phone: 642 3550

SERVICES FOR

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

1980

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SELICHOT, Sunday, Sept. 7 7.30 a.m.

ROSH HASHANAH EVE,

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10:

Candle Lighting 5.26 p.m.

Ma'ariv 6.30 p.m.

ROSH HASHANAH, 1st and 2nd DAYS:

THURSDAY, Sept. 11 & FRIDAY, Sept. 12:

Shacharit 8.00 a.m.

Reading of the Torah 9.45 a.m.

Sermon 11.00 a.m.

Shofar 11.15 a.m.

Musaph 11.30 a.m.

Tashlich (Thursday) 4.00 p.m.

Minchah 5.45 p.m.

Ma'ariv 6.30 p.m.

Candle Lighting (Thursday) 6.15 p.m.

(Candle Lighting for Shabbat .. 5.27 p.m.)

Kabbalat Shabbat (Friday) 6.30 p.m.

SHABBAT SHUVAH,

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13:

Shacharit 9.00 a.m.

Minchah, followed by Shalosh

Seudos 5.30 p.m.

Shabbat terminates 6.16 p.m.

FAST OF GEDALIAH,

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14:

Selichot and Shacharit 8.00 a.m.

Fast terminates 6.17 p.m.

YOM KIPPUR EVE, (KOL NIDREI)

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19:

Candle Lighting and fast

commences 5.32 p.m.

Kol Nidrei 5.45 sharp

YOM KIPPUR,

SATURDAY, SEPT. 20:

Shacharit 8.30 a.m.

Reading of the Torah 10.15 a.m.

Sermon 11.30 a.m.

Yizkor (Memorial Service) 11.45 a.m.

Musaph 12 Noon

Minchah 3.45 p.m.

Neilah 5.15 p.m.

Fast terminates 6.21 p.m.

SUCCOT EVE,

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24:

Candle Lighting 5.36 p.m.

Ma'ariv and Kiddush in Succah 6.30 p.m.

SUCCOT, 1st and 2nd DAYS:

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25 and

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26:

Shacharit 9.00 a.m.

Minchah 6.00 p.m.

Ma'ariv 6.30 p.m.

Candle Lighting (Fri. Sept. 26) 5.37 p.m.

SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED,

SEPT. 27:

Shacharit 9.00 a.m.

Minchah and Shalosh Seudos

in Succah 5.45 p.m.

Shabbat terminates 6.26 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28:

Children's Succot Party 11.00 a.m.

HOSHANAH RABBA,

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1:

Shacharit 6.30 a.m.

Candle Lighting 5.41 p.m.

Ma'ariv (Shmini Atzeret Eve) 6.30 p.m.

SHMINI ATZERET,

THURSDAY, OCT. 2:

Shacharit 9.00 a.m.

Yizkor (Memorial Service) 10.30 a.m.

SIMCHAT TORAH EVE,

THURSDAY, OCT. 2:

Candle Lighting 5.31 p.m.

Hakafot followed by Communal

Dinner 6.30 p.m.

SIMCHAT TORAH,

FRIDAY, OCT. 3:

Shacharit 9.00 a.m.

Candle Lighting for Shabbat 5.42 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat 6.30 p.m.