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STRATHFIELD AND DISTRICT HEBREW CONGREGATION

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ק"ק שַׁעְרֵי צִיּוֹן

Strathfield & District Hebrew Congregation

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

SERVICES:

SHABBAT: Kabbalat Shabbat: (Friday): 6.30 p.m. (Summer 7 p.m.)

Shacharit: (Shabbat): 9.00a.m.

Before the reading from the Torah, Rabbi Gutnick delivers a talk on the portion of the week.

Minchah, followed by Shalosh-seudos — a half hour before sunset.

EDUCATION:

YOLANDA KRAMER KINDERGARTEN: for pre-schoolers — 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. daily.

For information phone the Directress, Mrs Debbie Rooze, 642.3550.

SUNDAY HEBREW SCHOOL: for school age children. — 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Sundays. For information and enrolments contact the Rabbi (642.4803).

ADULT STUDY CIRCLE: "Pathways through the Bible" — Class given by Rabbi Gutnick at 73 Albyn Rd., Strathfield, on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. (No previous knowledge of Hebrew necessary) Class resumes Tues. Nov. 3rd.

"Ethics of the Fathers" — Mishnah class delivered every Saturday afternoon in the Synagogue 45 minutes before Minchah.

FOR SICK VISITS, BAR/BAT MITZVAH LESSONS, OR ANY MINISTERIAL DUTIES PLEASE CONTACT RABBI MORDECHAI GUTNICK AT 642.4803.



From the Rabbi

At our annual general meeting I listed the many services and facilities that our Shule offers. A summary of this list appears elsewhere in this journal, but one thing stands out very clearly - that our Synagogue and its activities and facilities can, and probably will, be vitally necessary at one time or another for even the most non-committed or nominal member.

Some may need the facilities of our Hebrew School for their children, others may make use of our kindergarten. Some may need the Rabbi for any of a wide range of ministerial duties - from a funeral (G-d forbid) to teaching a son for Bar Mitzvah. The Shule may be seen as a place for regular prayer, as a place to say a Kaddish on a Yahrtzeit, or as a place to marry-off a daughter. Perhaps some may only use it on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Other may enjoy the intellectual stimulation of an adult study class, others may enjoy the opportunity of a social gathering in a Jewish atmosphere.

However, in order for the synagogue to be there for whatever purpose found necessary, then it is vital that it be supported for 365 days of the year. Its existance when needed cannot be taken for granted. It is necessary to support all its activities and facilities in order for any single, personally appealing, or necessary, activity to also be available.

We are fortunate that our synagogue building is undergoing dramatic renovations and improvements - a new Bimah has already been erected, new permanent seating has been approved. Such mundane aspects of our development are enjoying considerable success. Let us also work now towards ensuring the strengthening of our synagogue's real purpose - acting as a thriving community centre catering for all the religious and social needs of the community.

As we approach the High Holydays, when even the most non-committed Jew traditionally associates with a Synagogue and understands the necessity of its activities and facilities, then let us resolve to involve ourselves and support all aspects of the Synagogue. This will ensure the encouragement and involvement necessary to ensure the active and viable future of our Jewish community here in the inner Western suburbs.

On a more personal level; the approach of the High Holydays needs to awaken appropriate emotions and resolutions within us.

In the not too distant past, this time of the year heralded dramatic changes within the Jewish community. There was a feeling of awe and seriousness in the air. It was a time of introspection and retrospection. A time when people cared a little more about each other. A time when one seriously improved relations between onself

and G-d as well. A time for looking a little past tomorrow and planning for a better and more meaningful future for oneself and one's family.

Unfortunately, it appears as if few of us have the time or the motivation for such healthy soul-searching or serious planning in today's world - though we now need it more than ever if we are to bring some order, purpose and meaning in to the world and into our own lives.

May I suggest that you do set aside the coming Holydays as days when, come what may, we should try to seriously and honestly make a stock taking and review of our lives our goals and dreams, and turn to our ancient heritage for guidance, so that our lives can be influenced to become a little more purposeful and meaningful.

May I further urge that part of your New Year's resolutions involve and active and practical commitment to our people and our Jewish way of life. Such things as Shabbat candles, mezuzot on the doors of the home, Jewish books in the home library are suggestions for some of our currently less committed members. More regular attendance at synagogue; a greater interest in studying and learning Jewish matters and ideas; a greater awareness about, and a greater resolve to assist, the needs of our community and of our people and Holy Land - all these are simple ideas and actions that can help us lead a more Jewish, and thus more satisfying and meaningful, life.

The Rebbetzin, the children, and I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year - a year that will see peace in the world and particularly in Israel.

I look forward to seeing you in Shule and joining in prayer together to ask the A-mighty for just such a year.

Mondecher 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 BE RESERVED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE HONORARY TREASURER DR E. FITCHMAN ON SUNDAYS, 6th AND 13th SEPTEMBER, FROM 10a.m. TO 12 noon, AT THE SYNAGOGUE, OR BY RINGING 642. 8530.

The President's Column

THE 22ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 26TH JULY, 1981
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Rabbi and Mrs. Gutnick, members of the Board, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Mrs. Sue Cohen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that for the fourth time I have the honour to bid you welcome to The Strathfield and District Hebrew Congregation's Annual General Meeting and to deliver my President's Report. I am pleased to report that the immediate past year has been a good and prosperous one. Most fund raising activities have had satisfactory results, considering that only a few made themselves available for the immense work involved. I extend my thanks and appreciation to those dedicated few and express the hope that in the new year more members would spare a little of their time on, and for, their community.

We are very fortunate to have the continued services of our experienced and very able senior Hon. Treasurer Dr. E. Fitchman. It is good to know that our hard-earned money is kept or spent in a manner that is in the community's best interests.

Our thanks are extended to Bentley, Wheeler, Cartledge & Co., Chartered Accountants, and to our member and friend, Mr. Bernard Edelstein, Hon. Auditor, for the magnificent financial statements. In the same context I thank the Hon. Treasurer of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. Ellen Meyer for her good services to the community. We are very much indebted to the President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. Sue Cohen, and to all her hard working ladies for their valuable services for our Congregation.

To Rabbi Gutnick I extend the Board's and the community's sincere appreciation for another year of true leadership and for his wisdom and counsel. Thanks to Mrs. Gutnick for again organising a successful Shabbaton and for her involvement in many other important community activities.

We further extend our deepest appreciation and thanks to Mrs. Fritzi Fitchman for organising, managing and conducting one of the most exhaustive functions of the year, the Annual Fete. We thank her and all the other members and friends who aided and helped her in her effort. We thank our Hon. legal advisers, Solicitors Messrs. Lacey and Speiser for their valuable services throughout the year. We thank our Kindergarten teaching staff, Mrs. D. Rooz and Mrs. E. Meyer for their genuine effort to make our Kindergarten one of the best in the district. Many thanks to the Kindergarten Parents' Committee for their contribution and co-operation with the Kindergarten.

I extend thanks to Mrs. Steif, Sharon Steif and Iris Kohn for preparing Shalosh Seudot throughout the year and for other small functions. Thanks to Charles Steif and Ron Kohn for helping with the Shabbat services in the Synagogue.

We are grateful to last year's Hatanim Messrs. Levett and Dahl for giving us all a good time at Simchat Torah. Again this year as in the past, the Mayor of Ashfield, Alderman Lew Herman has provided us with the necessary palm branches for our Succah. We thank him very much for the courtesy.

A very gratifying development in the past few years has been the steady and progressive decrease in our Bank Overdraft. This was made possible mainly through rent received from the leasing of our premises and facilities to the Yolanda Kramer Kindergarten.

Having made such outstanding progress in the past, we can face the future with confidence, and we are indeed planning for bigger and better things. Priority is to be given to the seats in the Synagogue. The present chairs are very old and no longer serviceable. We are at present looking at a number of offers and quotes from various manufacturers, and the Board will soon make a decision on what is most suitable and most reasonable. We are also looking at the replacement of the partition in the Synagogue, towards which we have already a pledge for a certain amount of money. Thanks to one of our most outstanding and respected members and long time supporter, we have already given the "go ahead" with the erection of a centre Bimah (an elevated platform on which the call-up and the reading takes place).

It shall be built in memory of the late and highly esteemed foundation member, Mr. E. NAGEL, by his Widow Mrs. J. NAGEL, entirely at her expense. This is a very noble effort, and I could not think of a more deserving project. The late Mr. Nagel was loved and respected by young and old because he was a man who loved and respected everyone. We extend our sincere appreciation and best wishes of long life and perfect health to Mrs. Nagel, her children and their families.

An old and very beautiful silver pointer has been donated to the Synagogue by Mr. Arthur KOHN. It is an everlasting gift. We are very grateful and may it hopefully serve in the Strathfield Synagogue for many years and generations. Further, we are very much indebted to Mr. Kohn for his indispensable services to the community, including his outstanding services as the Yolanda Kramer Kindergarten's Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Kohn's children follow in his footsteps - his son Ron is an invaluable help with the Shabbat and Holiday services, and his daughter Iris is a skilled Sunday School teacher.