



From Lag B'Omer to Yom Yerushalayim:

Ten Days of Simcha for Israel's 60th Anniversary

Rabbi Fred Morgan



Lag B'Omer, the 33rd day in the counting of the Omer, traditionally breaks the period of semi-mourning between Pesach and Shavuot that resulted from Roman persecution of the Jews in ancient Judea/Palestine. Yom Yerushalayim is a modern celebration that came into being following the reunification of Jerusalem during the "Six Day War" in 1967.

This year TBI is taking advantage of these two special dates in the Hebrew calendar by devoting the ten days between them to our very own celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary. We're calling it *Ten Days of Simcha for Israel's 60th*: ten days of unique religious and cultural events and activities, food, singing and dancing, touring and sight-seeing focused on the wonder that is modern Israel.

We've aimed to incorporate something for everyone. Whatever your age or interests, whatever your level of support for Israel, this festival offers you a chance to share with other members of our community and have a great time in the process. It is also a unique opportunity to enjoy your synagogue in a totally different way, as the community centre we are striving to be.

Our members often express to me their frustration at the way that Israel is described in the media, its policies dissected and its actions criticized without an attempt at even-handedness or sympathy for its impossible position in the Middle East. How rarely is the miracle of Israel's existence acknowledged. The world at large overlooks its remarkable achievements and cultural vitality. This is our opportunity to redress the balance and reaffirm our gratitude for what Israel offers us, while enjoying ourselves with friends and family.

Here is a sample of what we're offering:

- At the end of Lag B'Omer, our amaz-

ing **'Shabbat Alive!'** service to welcome Shabbat, with our junior singers accompanied by keyboard and drum and a taste of Israel (23 May)

- For babies and toddlers (with their parents and grandparents), an Israel-style **'Shabbat Mishpacha'** with Rabbi Gevurtz (24 May)
- For kids under bar-mitzvah age and their families, a **'MATAN in Israel'** family day (1 June)
- For Young TBI's 20s-30s, an **Israeli Oneg Shabbat dinner** (23 May)
- For teenagers and adults, the State Zionist Council's festival at Gandel Besen House (25 May) and a bring-a-dish-for-eight celebratory **Oneg Shabbat dinner at TBI** (30 May)
- For those turning 60 this year (and those who celebrate with them), a **special aliyah** on 31st May and a 60th birthday cake at the kiddush
- For families with dancing feet, learn to **dance Israeli style**, with the doyen of Israeli dance teachers, Shefi Shapiro (26 May)
- For literary types, an evening with Dr Dvir Abramovich introducing the novelist **Amos Oz and the poet Yehuda Amichai** (28 May)
- For gastronomes, an evening learning new recipes and enjoying **Israeli cuisine** with Yossi Cohen (numbers limited, 27 May)
- For **cinema** buffs, one of Israel's most

recent films (29 May)

- And, to conclude, for older children and adults a gigantic, splendiferous **'Virtual Tour of Israel'** to welcome in Yom Yerushalayim! (1 June)

Complete details of the Ten Days of Simcha are found elsewhere in this issue of Temple Time and at the synagogue. With all this on offer over the Ten Days, there's bound to be something to interest you personally. So please, put the dates in your diary now, and we'll see you 'from Lag B'Omer to Yom Yerushalayim' at Temple Beth Israel!

Chag sameach

Student Rabbi and Student Cantor

In June, the TBI community will welcome the arrival of two interns who will be spending three months in our community.

Student Cantor Jason Cantor will dedicate his entire time to the TBI family, assisting in all pastoral work and contributing to our worship, social and limnud programming.

Student Rabbi Jonathan Prosnit is arriving as the VUPJ intern and will share his time between the congregations of the VUPJ and The King David School.

We look forward to learning from them both as they share their knowledge and experience. Please make them both welcome!



FROM THE PRESIDENT ROGER MENDELSON

No one likes bills

Do you remember the days when receiving your daily post was cause for some excitement? There would be postcards from abroad, unexpected invitations and news from relatives and friends overseas.

Not so today. The internet and email have put paid to that. Opening mail is now a gloomy affair. Now, one is met with a collection of bills, computer generated 'special offers' and, if the postcode is from South Caulfield, letters pleading for money.

I am reminded of this because May is the month when we send out accounts to our members.

This presents a real dichotomy because our focus is very much on making people happy. Indeed, if the practice of Judaism does not lead to greater happiness and fulfilment, then there would be little point in doing it.

Unfortunately, there is no way around this issue. We are a communal organisation and are totally reliant on our community to fund not just our activities but our very existence. We receive no external funding from any organisations and indeed, we contribute to other organisations, such as the JCCV and the Union for Progressive Judaism, through our subscriptions.

Our membership fees cover only approximately 68% of our running costs and our running costs are kept lean and mean. The considerable services we provide for which we charge a fee, are charged at significantly below the real cost of providing them. The reason for this is that young couples about to get married or *b'nei mitzvah* families are usually at a stage where every dollar in their family budget counts.

This year we have had to increase our membership fees and charges at a rate exceeding the CPI increase, in order to go some way toward bridging the gap.

As you take out your cheque book to pay our account, consider this one question: *How would you feel if TBI did not exist?*

Without TBI, there would be effectively no real Progressive Jewish presence in Melbourne. We were the springboard from which sprang the three other, smaller congregations, together with The King David School.

Would you or your children or grandchildren continue to be Jewish if there were no Progressive institution? Please think about that and be prompt and generous this year when paying your subscription.

Siddur Project

The Siddur project is bubbling along and is basically on target. The new Siddur, when finalised, will be named 'The Robert Raynor Siddur', in honour of the late Robert Raynor, whose generosity to TBI has

enabled us to very largely rid ourselves of our burden of debt. We are working closely with the VUPJ because we believe that it is important that all Victorian Progressive congregations ultimately end up with the same Siddur.

Anyone who has read the 75 year history of TBI will have noted the recurring lament about lack of numbers at Shabbat services.

This is certainly not the case today. During February, we averaged 311 per service, whilst in March, which included several long week-ends, we still managed a respectable 241 per service.

I doubt if any other synagogue in Australia would consistently achieve attendance figures like ours. Even our Erev Shabbat (Friday nights) averages about 110 per service. This is indicative of a very active Jewish community.

However, we must not be complacent because there is much more to do. During any particular weekly cycle, these figures represent only 15% of our total membership. This is really our big challenge.

In a world where people's lives are so frantic and where traffic and lack of time are real issues, how do we convince more of our members that attending Erev Shabbat or Shabbat morning services regularly provides such a special and rewarding time? The depressing option of wandering around a charmless shopping mall simply cannot compete. In a pacey world, Shabbat is probably more needed than at any other time during our long history.

Pesach is now behind us and we are moving forward with celebration of Israel's 60th birthday and Shavuot. Please mark your diaries and join us in some of these events. B'Shalom!

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Temple Beth Israel acknowledges that we are assembled on land whose traditional custodians are the people of the Kulin Nation.

Temple Beth Israel is proud to be affiliated with the Union for Progressive Judaism.

IN THIS ISSUE

Meet our interns

Shavuot

Progressive world: Synagogue Life
Matan: Resilience in our children's school day.



Late for an important date

Have you ever slept in past your alarm clock and missed an important appointment? According to a *midrash* that's exactly (more or less) what happened to our ancestors the day they were supposed to present themselves to receive the Torah from God on Mount Sinai.

Apparently they all slept in and God had to wake them up! And so, according to a tradition, probably introduced by the medieval kabbalists of Sfat, we are bidden to stay up all night studying to rectify the situation and show our gratitude for receiving the Torah. If we can't make it all night then at least we try to get past midnight.

The tradition of studying Torah all night gave rise to the 'Tikkun Leil Shavuot' which is actually the name of a compilation of Jewish literature that could be described as our people's 'cliff notes', containing samples from a variety of our different Jewish texts that emerged through the centuries.

Each year at TBI we gather to study well past our bedtimes and over the years have delved into a wide range of topics. This year we have modeled the program on the 2020 summit in Canberra. Of course we'll be looking at the main focus areas from a specifically Jewish perspective. What will Judaism look like in 2020? What will the main issues be for us in the years ahead? It should be a fascinating night of learning and discussion. I encourage you to look out for the information box in this Temple Time edition for specific details and, of course, to come along (even if you need to go home before dawn – we won't lock the doors!)

Apart from studying late into the night, the well known custom associated with Shavuot is, of course, to consume dairy products – usually in the form of cheesecake or cheese blintzes. There are numerous explanations for this custom, including: that the Torah nurtures us as milk nurtures infants; that dairy products reflect the agricultural reality of late springtime in Israel; and that, since our people had not yet received the Torah, they did not know how to kill animals using kosher slaughter and so were limited to dairy and parve products. Whatever the reason, in Israel, it's certainly become a wonderful time to try out all the latest yoghurts and other dairy products on the market. Here at TBI it's become a fabulous time for the annual cheesecake/blintz competition. Last year's offerings were amazing! We hope this year's will be even better!

But there is one aspect of this dairy frenzy that I find fascinating: we Jews celebrate this lactose-filled festival despite the fact that we are among the ethnic groups that have the highest rates of lactose intolerance! Shavuot is certainly a great time to find out whether you or your loved ones are lactose intolerant. In adulthood, 60-80% of Ashkenazi Jews develop lactose intolerance which means that by adulthood most of us can no longer digest the natural sugar in milk products due to a deficiency of an enzyme called lactase. By comparison only 2-15% of Northern Europeans develop lactose intolerance while 95-100% of Africans and Asians do so. So many people develop lactose intolerance that one might argue that adults who are able to digest lactose are the unusual ones! The symptoms of lactose intolerance are unpleasant for the sufferers—and for the people around them (Google 'lactose intolerance' to find out more). Hopefully some of this year's cheesecake contestants will try to make a tofu version...

Whether you want to join us for the learning or the cheesecake or the lactose intolerance challenge, I do hope you'll come along. Chag Sameach!

Rabbi Gersh Zylberman

Looking forward to a summer job

Student rabbi Jonathan Prosnit

I couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to spend the summer in Melbourne. I'm eagerly looking forward to my summer working with the VUPJ and Temple Beth Israel, I've heard many dynamic things about the community and look forward to becoming a part of it.



I'm entering my third year of Rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College in New York. So far, I've worked primarily in the Religious School at a small congregation

in Greenwich Village working with pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah classes and with the synagogue's confirmation class. Next year I'll be the student rabbi at a small synagogue in East Liverpool, Ohio.

Prior to entering Rabbinical school I worked in New York City politics, as a community liaison and legislative aide. I worked on a variety of different issues, including education, voting rights and community organizing. I see my career in the rabbinate as connected to community building and citizen development. I've also worked as an ESL teacher in Santiago, Chile and ran an afterschool program in Boston.

I've lived in Israel twice, once after I

finished High School as a member of the Zionist Youth Organization, Young Judaea and again last year as a first year Rabbinical student in Jerusalem. I've become very connected to the Israeli and World movements for Progressive Judaism, visiting and connecting with synagogues all over the globe. I lived in Chile and Argentina and became very close with the communities in those two Latin American countries. I look forward to fostering many positive relationships with the VUPJ, this "summer" in Melbourne.

I am the oldest of three boys, one of my brothers currently lives in Boston and the other is a volunteer in Israel. I enjoy being outside – especially playing tennis, golf, and basketball. I also like to read and attend the theater. I'm not married and don't have any kids, but my girlfriend hopes to be able to visit sometime in August.

I can't wait to arrive in Australia, I'm very excited about the opportunity to work with and learn from such a vibrant Jewish community.

Resilience in our children's school day

Monica Hyams

As parents, there may be times we have to respond to our child's bullying, harassment, discrimination and sometimes even violence. Underlying issues the child may be subject to helps us to work closely with the school community to create safe and secure communities. Having nurtured a strong sense of self and enabling your child/ren to feel a member of an their Jewish community is often vital to him/her overcoming a sense of persecution.



Having the right to feel safe and be respected is expected regardless of a child's religious beliefs, culture, appearance and such variables. Feeling safe is the right of every child. That is a given in Australian society. As Jews we are responsible for ensuring the same rights for others. It is understood that standing on the side and simply "doing nothing" as a victim is bullied is as harmful to the victim as acting out. As Jews we cannot possibly stand aside when we witness bullying. The commentators of the Torah--particularly of the Holiness Code of Leviticus 19:2 instruct us that people can be completely unworthy without actually disobeying the laws. One of his examples includes the individual who never does anything illegal but who cheats in business. The Torah directs us to develop a pure and wholesome character and the stories about the patriarchs help us to understand what kind of a person a Jew should strive to be (Nachmanides 13th Century, Spain) and being a bystander is opposed to the Jewish way.

We must teach our children to actively help protect fellow students from bullying in the playground. Offering the hand of friendship and assistance to the victim is a mitzvah. Not only is this a mitzvah, it is expected of us as individuals. Developing a strong sense of Jewish identity is pivotal to

the being able to identify harmful behaviours and to establish a communal approach to these concerns. Children can learn what is right and what is wrong. They can begin to identify the use of power- the bully takes advantage of his/her power and the victim is seemingly powerless. Power in relationships is best understood by children when they feel their perspective will be both heard and respected. Bullying, harassment and discriminatory behaviours are evident in our wider society and as parents, our contact with schools and shul will help children pave way for broader change.

Change empowers individuals, school communities, congregations and families to move forward. It does so because it provides options and a 'way out' of old patterns. For children, this is a very liberating feeling if they feel caught and bound up by patterns in behaviour which disallows them to really be themselves. Jewish settings such as shul, youth movement and other groups support the child with a solid underpinning of community support. This gives the individual a sense of purpose and a place to feel a part of- to be heard. As children develop resilience and are guided to manage the difficult stages in their lives, we would hope that they would find that shul offers them a different way to see themselves. Indeed they may discover that being involved in their community allows another aspect of their character to surface. Nahmanides taught us that there are laws of omission as well as commission and that we can

act wrongly without direct intent or poor actions, simply by the omission of action. He reminded us that the Torah directs us to do mitzvot because living a Jewish life and being involved in Jewish learning is central to being a good person. Take the time to listen to your child's concerns and work with your community- school or religious, in an effort to support positive changes. As our children spend so much time at school, we ought to best support them as they learn resilience by surrounding them with communities in which they can feel empowered and respected.

The Jewish **JECO** Coalition

Sunday 25 May, 3 pm

Two-hour guided tour
of the '7 Star' JECO show-house
in Camberwell.

Lots of ideas for greening your home
Entry \$5

Sunday 29 June

The Sustainable Jewish Living Expo
Details/booking: Michael 0407 333 868

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Synagogue life – Tel Aviv-style

Peter Kohn

From the exterior, Beit Daniel, the Centre for Progressive Judaism in Tel Aviv, exudes a placid, sandstone elegance, punctuated by the squeal of children at play—it might as well be a Friday morning in Caulfield, Golders Green or northwestern Chicago.

As the taxi pulls up, a fleeting thought occurs that this is a pleasant, Jewish neighbourhood, until the mind snaps out of *galut* mode with the reminder that these are, for the most part, Jewish neighbourhoods, in the world's most Jewish metropolis.

Since Beit Daniel was founded 17 years ago, Rabbi Meir Azari has led a synagogue that has brought Jews in from the margins. Its congregants are less likely to be wayward Orthodox Jews or recently transplanted *galutniks*, than secular Jews looking for a beit kneset and some spirituality in their lives.

A tiny Reform group called Kedem had been struggling against the monopoly of the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate for a permit to build a synagogue since 1966. Decades later, a landmark decision by Israel's Supreme Court allocated the land on which Beit Daniel was built, over the objections of the Tel Aviv city council, the Israeli Government and Orthodox groups and political parties that refuse to recognise other streams of Judaism.

Beit Daniel was founded by veteran former World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) president Gerard Daniel and his late wife Ruth. The couple, who met in Tel Aviv after they fled Nazi Germany, had a vision for an authentically Israeli Jew-

ish movement, which Rabbi Azari would later share.

Rabbi Azari understands the view from the diaspora, which focuses on Jerusalem and on kibbutz life. The centrality of Jerusalem in Jewry's big picture is reflected in the fact that the WUPJ has its world headquarters in the Israeli capital. But as a congregational rabbi in Tel Aviv, his priority has been grass-roots Jewish life in the city by the sea.

The formula works. As evidence, Rabbi Azari proffers life-cycle statistics—Beit Daniel performs around 400 weddings a year, 200 b'nei mitzvah with an average of three each Shabbat; it runs a network of 13 pre-schools around Tel Aviv, there is an active Beit Midrash, a senior citizens' program, and 10 000 young people attend seminars of the congregation's Noar Telem youth movement.

'Our philosophy is not to build private institutions but to integrate with what is already there in the public sector. So instead of building a school to teach maths and English, we work with the public schools

to conduct seminars on specifically Jewish themes.'

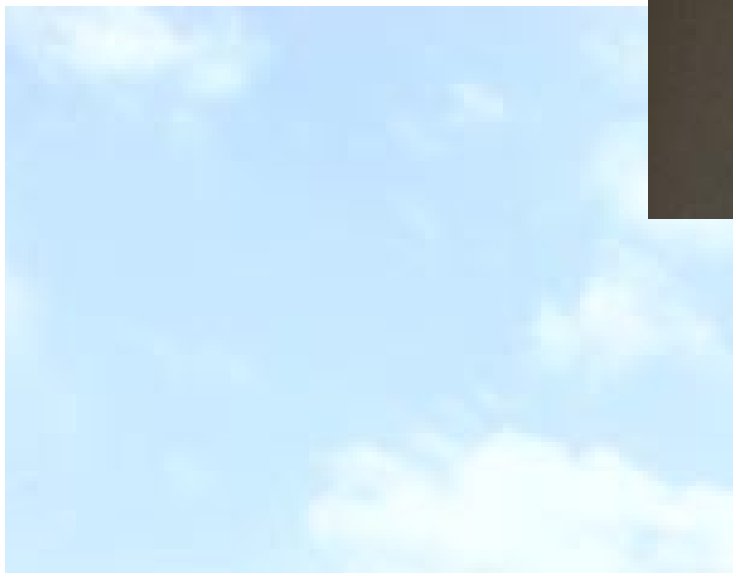
Beit Daniel's role 'is not to provide a place where people can identify as Jews. They already do that here in their everyday lives. For us, the challenge is to fill needs not met just by living day-to-day in Israel.'

It is a strategy he sees as typically Tel Aviv. 'It's an Israeli concept and it focuses on outreach. It's very different from the work that's probably done in your congregation in Melbourne. Within a few kilometres of here live several million Jews, so my work is not only to help those at the core but at the margins.'

Beit Daniel worked with the Tel Aviv city council and a private foundation to establish Mishkenot Ruth Daniel, a facility in the heart of eclectic neighbouring Yafo, which opened in 2006. It is a neighbourhood community centre that provides locals—Arabs and Jews, affluent and disadvantaged, Sephardi and Ashkenazi—with a place for gathering, learning and social action, and visitors to Israel with a synagogue, an education program and accommodation.

Rabbi Azari is frank about Reform's early efforts in Israel. It tried to import an American model that did not speak to Israelis, and which compartmentalised the Jewish experience to a certain place and a time of the week or year. For Rabbi Azari, Jewish progressivism 'did not start with Moses Mendelssohn but with Hillel. Judaism was Reform always - and it began here.

This is an edited version of a feature article that appeared in the Australian Jewish News.



Left: Beit Daniel, Tel Aviv's Progressive congregation.

Top: Rabbi Meir Azari, Focusing on outreach.

Ready to launch!

New, fully updated Temple Beth Israel website is live now!

Take a look!

www.tbi.org.au

Everything happening at TBI, updated regularly.



Shavuot celebrations @ TBI

Sunday 8 June

Shavuot Mishpacha in MRC, 5:15 pm

A Shavuot celebration specially for families with young children
A wonderful opportunity to celebrate the centrality of the holy Torah in our lives as Jewish families. And since it is traditional to eat dairy on Shavuot we will wrap up with an ice cream sundae bar! Who can make the best Mt. Sinai out of ice cream?



Cheese and wine, 7 pm

Preparation for Shavuot for adults and an opportunity for casual conversation

Shavuot Ma'ariv service, 7:30 pm

In the main sanctuary

Cheesecake kiddush, 8 pm

with Shavuot Cheesecake Competition!

Tikkun Leil Shavuot, 8:15 pm

Sinai Summit 2020:

How sacred values shape our future

10 topics over 4 sessions, presented by our rabbis and expert guests - take your pick!

8:15 pm	Welcome and orientation
8:30 pm	Sustainability and climate change Creativity in the arts Health
9:20 pm	Productivity through education Rural issues and migrants Indigenous affairs
10:10 pm	Communities and families Governance Economy and Business
11 pm	Our future in the world



Monday 9 June

10 am Shacharit service

Includes Yizkor, reading of the Ten Commandments from Torah and the Hallel Psalms

Win fame and fortune at the TBI Shavuot
Cheesecake competition!

Bring your cheesecake to TBI on

Sunday 8 June, 8 pm

To whet your appetite, we present last
year's two winning entries.



Cholesterol City Cheesecake by Kath Cozens

Base: Line 29cm tin with baking paper. Line with 250g granita and fruit biscuits (crushed), 1/2 tsp ground cardamom, 100g melted butter.

Mixture: 275g softened cream cheese, 1/2 cup soft brown sugar, 1/4 cup condensed milk, 1/2 cup sour cream, 2 tsp vanilla essence, 1 tsp custard powder, 4 eggs.

Preheat oven to 180C. Beat cream cheese and sugar until creamy. Add condensed milk, vanilla, custard powder and sour cream. Beat until stiff and smooth. Beat in eggs one at a time. Pour mixture into tin and bake for 40 minutes.

Topping: 30g butter, 2 tsp apricot jam, 1 tsp vanilla vodka last year, 2 red apples cored and thinly sliced, not peeled. Heat all but apples in a wide, non-stick frying pan. Stir over medium heat until sugar dissolves. Simmer apple slices in one layer 3-8 minute. Allow to cool. Lay overlapping slices over cheesecake. Bake for a further 15-20 minutes. Simmer remaining syrup and brush over cheesecake as a glaze and then chill.

White Chocolate Cheesecake by Yossi Cohen

Base: 250g crushed biscuits, 200 g melted butter, 1 tsp cinnamon. Mix and flatten into 26cm baking tin.

Filling: 125ml pure cream, 450g white chocolate, 750g cream cheese, 125g sugar, 7 eggs.

Pre heat oven to 180C and place a tin with boiling water at the bottom of the oven.

Boil the pure cream, remove from heat, add the white chocolate and melt while stirring until smooth. Mix the cream cheese, eggs and the sugar until smooth, add the chocolate mixture, stir for two minutes and pour over the base layer.

Bake for 20 min then lower the temperature to 150C and bake for another 20 min, lower to 130C and bake for another 20 min and then lower to 100C and bake for 30-40 minutes. Allow to cool before putting it in the fridge.

LIMMUD @ TBI Lifelong Jewish learning

LIMMUD ON SUNDAYS @ TBI

Adult learning for members and friends,
Sundays, 10.30 am – 12 noon.
Presented by TBI rabbis and guest lecturers.
Gold coin donation.

THE MUSIC OF THE SYNAGOGUE

6 and 13 July
With our cantorial intern, Jason
Kaufman

Come ready to listen, explore and extend your knowledge of synagogue music and its place in our worship and ritual.

JOSEPH BEYOND THE DREAM COAT

20 and 27 July
With our rabbinic intern, Jonathan
Prosnit

Joseph is the central figure in the last chapters in the book of Genesis. Favorite son, hated brother, a dreamer and a prisoner, Pharaoh's chief of staff, saviour of a nation, Joseph has become a figure of cultural significance far beyond the Bible. This series will attempt to dive into the inner workings of Joseph by a close text study of different Genesis texts and a variety of different artistic and poetic interpretations of the character of Joseph.

SHALOM INDIA

3 and 24 August, commencing 10 am
(no Bet Midrash these two mornings)
With Rabbi Fred Morgan

A review of the recent three-week tour of outstanding religious and cultural sites of India, led by Rabbi Fred and Sue Morgan. Rabbi Morgan will illustrate his talks with slide presentations.

PREPARATION FOR THE DAYS OF AWE

14 and 21 September
With Rabbi Fred Morgan

Preparing the spirit and the mind.

EICHAH AND TISHA B'AV

Sunday 10 August

Study session for Tisha B'Av. See the forthcoming issue of Temple Time for details.

SHERIDAN HALL SHMOOZE

Mondays, 7 April, 5 May at 2 – 3 pm.
With Rabbi Morgan at Sheridan Hall
Rabbi Morgan continues these popular monthly sessions at Sheridan Hall, corner of Northcote Avenue & Hawthorn Road.

BEIT MIDRASH (STUDY HALL)

Bet Midrash precedes Sunday morning limmud sessions for one hour, 9:15 - 10:15 am except where indicated.

The Bet Midrash provides an opportunity to learn texts one-to-one with other participants in the program, resourced and guided by the rabbis of TBI. Designed for those who are eager to deepen their appreciation for the Jewish textual tradition through close readings and intensive discussion.

WHEN Each session self-contained, come as often as you like.

WITH our TBI rabbis and student interns

COST Gold coin donation

COFFEE WITH THE RABBI

Weekly on Tuesdays during the Matan Religion School Term and presented by the rabbis of TBI and guests

Stop by TBI on your way home from work or school. Coffee with the rabbi will run every Tuesday afternoon, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, during the Matan term to encourage Matan parents to join us. All welcome!

MEN'S GROUP

An opportunity for Jewish men to gather for discussion on issues of concern. Meeting monthly in private homes. Contact Albert on 9555-2527 for details



Great ways to perform mitzvot!

Join our Social Justice Group and contribute your enthusiasm/creative thoughts/potential projects. We meet once a month on a Wednesday evening and would love to have your input.

Addressing poverty in rural Victoria

The SJG has formed a sub-committee that will work with JewishAid, Vicrelief Foodbank and Connect for Kids (Berry Street).

The aim is to establish a connection between TBI community and a rural town that is struggling with the effects of the drought.

The project aims to help create a supportive connection with a rural community. This might involve sharing our skills and expertise as members of this congregation, both young and old in creative and empowering ways. We will work in close consultation with community representatives. The project will be long term and if it is successful will become a pilot program under the umbrella of Jewish Aid.

Reconciliation

In 1938, in the wake of Kristallnacht, the Australian Aborigines' League (AAL) took to the doors of the German Consulate in Melbourne. 'The world was silent—except here on this island continent of barely seven million people, a group, an ancient people, took action. We salute them because we, as an ancient people, appreciate their action.' Holocaust Centre president Shmuel Rosenkranz

SJG recently convened a reconciliation meeting for the 'Get Up' initiative. We agreed that some issues can be solved from the Prime Minister's desk but others require deeper change, from the grassroots up. It takes reaching out to our friends and making new ones. It takes not only a change of policy, or an apology, but a change of culture.

The evening was informative and has prompted further meetings with Aboriginal elders to continue the momentum.



All the fun of the Fair...



The King's Carnival was once again one of the best and most successful days in the King David School calendar.

It was a fantastic day out for friends and families. Rabbis Gevurtz and Zylberman and their two girls joined the King David School community along with many other members of the TBI family to eat, play, make things, dance, watch friends perform on stage, and of course, to schmooze.

Members of the TBI Board managed to create a veritable sea of balloons through the fete, giving away hundreds of helium filled balloons to families.

SHABBAT ALIVE!

On the **fourth erev Shabbat** monthly, welcome Shabbat with drums and cymbals, guitars, singing, vibrant rhythms and the energy of our junior chazzanim!

A service for everyone who enjoys some *va-va-voom* in their Shabbat experience.

23 May, 27 June, 25 July



Young TBI dinners

Add some shmooze and spice to your Shabbat experience! Join a diverse group of younger TBI members for a Shabbat meal.

Fourth Friday monthly following Shabbat Alive!

No need to RSVP.

23 May, 27 June, 25 July

NETZER MINYAN



Netzer-led Shabbat service upstairs on the first Friday monthly at 6:15 pm.

Relaxed kabbalat shabbat service, Netzer style, with guitar accompaniment for our brachot. Please join us.

TBI Bubs 'n Bagels

First and third Tuesday monthly

15 April, 6, 20 May

10:30 – 11:30 am at Temple Beth Israel

contact rabbi.gevurtz@tbi.org.au or call 9510-1488



John-Michael Howson is a writer of hit stage musicals, author, journalist and entertainment industry commentator. He has covered the international and Hollywood film scene for 25 years, interviewing scores of top names.

John-Michael has starred in cabaret, appeared in films and stage productions and is also heard on radio around Australia.

*Temple Beth Israel
Host and Hostess Luncheon
proudly present*

John Michael Howson

*sharing a lifetime of experience
in show business!*

*Tuesday 22 July, 2008, 12 noon
Slome Hall, Temple Beth Israel
82 Alma Road, St Kilda*

*Fully catered buffet lunch,
two courses with wine
tea/coffee to follow*

Guest \$35

Host or Hostess \$45

Donor \$75

*Bookings and enquiries
with Sue Silver 9510 1488*

Mizmor Shir

a celebration
of Jewish music
at TBI



Saturday 23 August
7:30 pm

Featuring all our musical
groups, cantorial soloists
and our visiting
cantorial student
Jason Kaufman

Diarise now!
More details to follow

Ten days of simcha for Israel's 60th



A fantastic ten-day program of Israel-focused events has been organised in the very midst of the Omer culminating on Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day). Some are age-related, others are open to all and each one will offer enjoyable learning opportunities. Be tempted!



ISRAELI DANCING!

MONDAY 26 MAY, 7:30 – 9 PM

Shefi Shapiro with lead and teach an evening of Israeli dancing!

\$5 per adult, children 10 – 13 free

And finally...

A VIRTUAL TOUR OF ISRAEL!

SUNDAY 1 JUNE AT 5 PM

From Ben Gurion airport and passport control on a whirlwind tour of sights, sounds, tastes and smells.

ISRAELI COOKING

TUESDAY 27 MAY, 7:30 – 9 PM

Shaliach Yossi Cohen will help you discover new recipes. You help prepare the meal and then enjoy it!

\$15 (for ingredients), drinks free!

ISRAELI LITERATURE

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY, 7:30 – 9 PM

A unique literary evening focusing on Yehuda Amichai and Amos Oz, presented by Dr Dvir Abramovich of Melbourne University.

\$5 admission, includes refreshments.



- A virtual tour of Eretz Yisrael
- Archeological dig (spades provided)
- Visit to the Kotel (write your own message)
- Ulpan Cafe (food, music and language)
- Address on "Jerusalem, city of three faiths", by guest speaker Rabbi Ehud Bandel, Jerusalem resident, head of the Masorti (Conservative) movement of Israel and very active in Rabbis for Human Rights.

OUR SHABBAT CELEBRATIONS FOR ISRAEL'S 60TH

FRIDAY 23 MAY, 6:15 PM

Shabbat Alive service, with our Junior Chazzanim setting the pace for a vibrant evening of celebration, followed by a Young TBI Oneg Shabbat Israeli dinner.

SATURDAY 24 MAY, 9 AM

Shabbat Mishpacha service for young families, with a fun, Israeli flavour.

FRIDAY 30 MAY, 6:15 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat service with singers 'Kol Simcha' including Israeli songs and followed by an Oneg dinner featuring guest speaker.

SATURDAY 31 MAY, 10 AM

Our Shacharit Shabbat service with special aliyot offered to all those celebrating their 60th birthday during Israel's 60th year.

ANZAC Day is more than ANZAC biscuits

Carol Bentata

ANZAC Day has always been special to me. I think my grandmother is to blame. She would sit at the kitchen table with her knitting and talk about her brothers and sisters – all twelve of them. She would talk about the excitement and revelry when Australia became a nation. ‘You don’t know how lucky you are to live in a nation’ she would say. ‘In my young days, it was a hotch potch of states.’ Then the conversation would move to her older sisters’ children who lived in ‘West Australia’ as she still called it.

The boys grew up on horses and when Australia was fourteen years old and her nephews were of age (or not – one was fifteen) they rode their horses into town to enlist in the Light Horse. She kept their photos, straight, proud, baby faced boys in plumed hats, who vanished at Gallipoli and in France, leaving only fading sepia prints in her album. ‘Never forget them’, she would say. ‘They never found their bodies’.

World War II followed and her sons and sons-in-law enlisted. As a small child I helped Nana sort the wool to make scarves and socks ‘for our boys’ – not just hers, all soldiers were ‘our boys’. My larrikin, boisterous uncle Bill, the prankster with a heart of gold, marched off to do his bit. He saw service in New Guinea and North Africa. He returned home a mental and physical wreck, a permanent invalid, with all his spark gone.

As I grew up, the wars seemed to keep coming, Korea, Malaya, Vietnam or peace keeping events in the Sinai, Cyprus, Rhodesia, Kosovo then war in Iraq. I am the grandmother now telling my grandchildren the stories of their predecessors.

The same rituals survive in families all over Australia making ANZAC Day a greater unifying force than Australia Day. Australians remember with love and pride the men and women who returned and those who did not. I have another significant stream of memory and pride – the nurses who served and who returned to staff the great Melbourne hospitals. Nearly all of them had the same story, ‘she was engaged to a soldier but he never returned’. They devoted their lives to their patients and the nurses they trained in their turn became their heirs of the traditions. ANZAC Day does not glorify war, it regrets it.

And we can recall the numbers of Jews who enlisted and went off as ANZACS as we watch the march every year and see the banners go past with names every Jew

can recognize – Beersheba, Rosh Hanikra, Gaza, Acco and the cities of North Africa: Tobruk, El Alamein where the Germans were turned back.

The mathematics of the wars is sobering. One source said that of Australia’s population of three million men, women and children in 1914, 60 000 men lost their lives. The sociologists have written many papers about the effects this loss had on Australian society, but the true cost can never be counted. A baby nation, Australia has ‘punched above its weight for over a century’, and it keeps on doing so. When you go to an ANZAC Dawn service you will feel the ghosts all around you. You feel them and they know you remember. For me, these gentle ghosts do speak through the reading on page 692 of the Prayer Book. I cannot read it without tears:

The young soldiers do not speak. Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses, who has not heard them? They have a silence that speaks for them at night and when the clock counts. They say: we are young. We have died. Remember us.

They say: we have done what we could but until it is finished no one can know what our lives gave.

They say: our deaths are not ours; they are yours; they will mean what you make them.

They say: whether our lives and our deaths are for peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say; it is you who must say this.

They say: we leave you our deaths. Give them meaning.

We were young, they say. We have died. Remember us.

Smachot

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome all those who have joined our congregation between 1 January to 7 May 2008

• Eden Altman • Linda Bader & Colin McDowell, with their children Jeremy & Alexander • Mark Blatman, with his children Chase & Kelly • Andrew & Jennifer Bowen, with their children Samuel & Lucy • Alan & Rayleen Chanesman • Zeev Faine & Sinead Humphreys • Mark Foxman with his children Celine & Aaron • Carmen Gartenmann • Ricki Hershburgh with her children Arran & Rory • Julie Howard & Edward Jane, with their son Joshua • Alexander Joy • Maree Katranski • Wayne & Tamara Lasky • Alan Levi & Sara Kirsner • Tabatha & Julian Herzel, and their children Max & Ruby • Daniel & Monique Majman with their daughter Juliette • Anna Margolis with her daughter Ilana • Moshe & Rebecca Menahem with their children Tal, Aria & Danyelle • Ran & Deborah Meretz, and their children Tal, Arielle & Guy • Nic Morris & Claire Simm • Martin & Alida Splitter, and their sons Nicholas, Jeremy & Benjamin • Rod Rabinov • David Tepper • Eric Trainor & Janette Zalcmán • Michael & Josephine Weinstein • Cynthia Weinstein • Dianne Weinstein • Samantha Wray & Peter Hansen, and their daughter Noa

RECENT BIRTHS

We welcome the new babies who have expanded our congregational family!

• **Zara Brina & Yasmin Keren** (twin daughters for Liana & Neil Freeman, granddaughters for Lorraine & Howard Freeman) • **Allegra Gorog** (daughter to Danny & Lindy Gorog, granddaughter for Tom & Jenny Gorog) • **Samuel** (son for Brett & Liron Samuel, grandon for Brian & Jenny Samuel) • **Miliana Bele Vagana** (daughter for Nelly & Simon Vagana)

RECENT WEDDINGS

Mazal tov to the following couples:
Simon Wollan & Arianna Wilson

MAY/JUNE B'NEI MITZVAH

Mazal tov to those families celebrating a bar or bat mitzvah:

Natasha Jones • Andrew Thurin • Joel Lesman • Zachariah Gesundheit • Robert Needleman • Alon Scheidlinger

RECENT BA'ALEI KRIYAT TORAH

(29 March–17 May)

• Jess Broons • Bruce Levin • Evi Morawetz
• Gemma Morgan • Stephanie Palti • Adam
Towns

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

(19 May – 30 June) *Mazal tov on their
wedding anniversaries to:*

• Natalie Lewit & Jason Rose (5th) •
Andrew & Diana Kopatsy (10th) • Jack
& Sandy Malka (15th) • Les Lesman &
Oonagh Thomas (15th) • Danny & Donna
Gesundheit (20th) • Phillip & Grace Bando
(20th) • Fred & Ann Seligmann (25th) •
Joel & Julie Shulkin (25th) • Leon & Lilo
Steinkoler (25th) • Eric & Rhona Herz
(35th) • Jeff & Marion Simmelmann (35th)
• Steven & Anne Jerrard (35th) • Hal &
Roslyn Levy (55th) • Mr & Mrs Myer
Brott (60th)

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

(19 May – 30 June) *Mazal tov on
celebrating a special birthday to:*

• Jenny Aghion • Victor Barnes • Sue
Blashki • Andrea Bliss • Dorothy Bresner
• Libby Brooke • Susie Cymbalist • Susie
Davies-Splitter • Marie Davis • Laura Drey-
fus • George Dryen • Nina Fih • Michelle
Fleischer • Malcolm Fox • Sue Freadman
• Susan Friedman • Tonya Gladstone •
Karen Gordon • Daniel Graetzer • Tamara
Havloujian • Dorothea Heymann • Symon
Hyman • Tom Jacobi • Magdi Jakobovits
• Vivienne Kahan • Masza Kaye • Edith
Kohn • Abram Landau • Tahlia Lauter •
Michael Lawrence • Charlotte Layton •
Ashley Levin • Philip Levy • Amit Levy •
Mary Lewis • Ross Liebmann • Ian Lock •
Hans Lutwak • Mary Mahemoff • Marcus
Mandie • Ruth Marks • Andrew Markus •
Alex Mathew • Richard Melzak • George
Mihaly • Edward Morris • Sarah Morton •
Ruth Nathan • Neville Page • Lara Piterman
• Miriam Rabinov • Sylvia Radolnik • Greta
Redlich • Ruth Rossdale • Pamela Ruskin •
Dianne Samuel • Roma Samuel • Andrea
Scanlan • Peter Selton • Harold Shafer •
Stephen Sharp • Anne Sharpe • Jonathan
Slome • Dylan Smith • Robert Steinhardt
• Keith Steinhardt • Lillian Tarry • Stephen
Teleki • George Upton • Manya Van Aken •
Eva Weisl • Vivian Weldon • Bronia Witorz
• David Wittner • Margaret Ziffer

DONATIONS TO TBI GENERAL FUND

(17 March to 18 April) *With thanks for your generous donations:*

• Richard Asznovicz • Gerda Bandman • Phillip & Grace Bando • Ellen Bando • Jacob
& Steffi Bando • Janine Baum • Henry & Raquella Birner • Barry Broons & Joanna
Lehrer-Broons • Mr & Mrs Myer Brott • Joseph Brown • Max & Nora Bruch • Patricia
Cashmore • Brian & Annette Chaitman • Peter & Judi Cohen • Ann Dorey • George
& Marlene Dryen • David & Raquel Duarte • Graham & Stella Edgar • Abrasha Feigin
• Vera Finkel • Helen Fisher • Fleur Freadman • Bob & Vera Freidin • Helena Frosh •
Ethel Goldin • Ruth Goldtwig • Anneliese Gries • Griffin & Klinger Families • Joanne
Gubieski • Paul Hall • Esther Hartman • Gary & Susan Hearst • June Helmer • June
Helmer • Alexandra Hershan • Robert & Yvonne Hershan • Gabriel Hoenig • Barbara
Jacob • John Kaufman • Leah Kaye • George & Yolanda Klempfner • Ernst & Edith
Kohn • Frieda Kolieb • Peter & Barbie Kolliner • Rena Langerg • Richard & Liz Leder
• Daniel Lehrer • Harry Lehrer • Robert Lehrer, Theo & Madeleine • Norman &
Suzanne Levin • Basja Levy • Sharon Levy • Larry & Helen Light • Marion Lippmann
• Margaret Llewellyn • Heather Lustig • Eve Markov • Stan & Eva Marks • Stan & Eva
Marks • Lindsay & Rosy Matthews • Rosemary Michael • Rosemary Michael • Marcus
Moss • Theo Moss • Peter & Molly Nathan • Brian & Marilyn Parkin • Edith Peer •
Margaret Poll • Peter & Bette Pulver • Rena Rabin • Bronia Raynor • Judy Rich • Irvin
Rockman • Harry & Deanna Ross • Ken Rossdale • Michael & Rose Rosta • Zilla Roth
• Dion & Miriam Rudzki • Adam & Yoko Ryan • Peter & Judi Schiff • Robert & Rita
Schulberg • Robert & Rita Schulberg • Robert & Rita Schulberg • Amanda Shelton •
Jonathan Shiff • John Silberberg • Jack & Lesley Silberscher • Leon & Laura Silver • Ben
Simon • Joan Snyder • Norman & Sue Sonenberg • Michael & Cheryl Spivakovsky •
Rose Stach • Magdee Taryan • Alice Tiomkin • Chester Troy & Betty Marks • Rachel
Wildberg • Annemarie Winter

*With thanks to those who gave a Yahrzeit donation this month. All yahrzeits are recorded
on the weekly Shabbat synagogue supplement.*

PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CULTURAL FUND (TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

• Leonard & Carolyn Abrahams • Jean Berah • Philip & Andrea Bliss • John & Jenny
Fast • Barry & Pam Fradkin • Maria Jo Herpe • Robert & Yvonne Hershan • Michael
Lawrence • Marion Lippmann • Margaret Llewellyn • Justice Howard Nathan • John
& Margot Rogers • Adan & Yoko Ryan • Ian & Shayndel Samuel • Joshua & Karen
Samuel • Oscar Sokolski • Magdee Taryan

COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS (TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

Margaret Llewellyn

MAZAL TOV

to **Marion Lippmann** on receiving a B'nai
B'rith Menorah Award for her work in the
community.



The happy group who take care of
The King David School Uniform Shop
are seeking additional part time and/or
volunteer staff to assist at the
Orrong Road campus.

Enquiries should be directed
to Sue on 0417 503 729

Bereavements

*We remember these recently deceased and offer
sincere condolences to their families:*

• Samuel Bartak (husband of Olga, father of
John, Anne, David & Ruth) • Paul Bennet
(husband of Judy, father of Carrie, Leon-
ard & Robert) • Catherine (Katy) Fellner
(grandmother of Naomi Pizzo) • Alan
Friedman (husband of Rosemary, father of
Barbara, Susan & Graham) • Thea Kimla
• Emily King (mother of Peter & Nene) •
Robert Raynor (husband of Bronia Raynor)
• Manfred Sherwin (husband of Ilse, father
of Elaine and Ron) • David Vickers (hus-
band of Shirley, father of Rachel)

May/June 2008 at TBI



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13 Iyar 5768 28 day of Omer 8 pm Men's Group meeting 18 May	14 Iyar 29 day of Omer	15 Iyar 30 day of Omer 10:30 am Bubs'n Bagels 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism 19	16 Iyar 31 day of Omer 11:30 am Friendship Club 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 21	17 Iyar 32 day of Omer 7:30 pm Siddur Hebrew: 'Alef isn't enough' with Albert Bentata 22	18 Iyar 33 day of Omer 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service Shabbat Alive with junior chazzanim Young TBI Oneg Shabbat Israeli dinner 23	19 Iyar 34 day of Omer Shabbat Bechukkotai 9 am Shabbat Mishpacha 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Barmitzvah of Andrew Thurin 24
20 Iyar 35 day of Omer <i>SZC Shuk Hashishim family day in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary, at Gandel Besen, 15 Mayfield Street, East St Kilda</i> 25	21 Iyar 36 day of Omer 7:30 pm Israeli Dancing in Slome Hall. Shefi Shapiro will be leading and dancing - one for the whole family 26	22 Iyar 37 day of Omer 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism 7:30 pm Israeli cuisine with Yossi to discover new recipes 27	23 Iyar 38 day of Omer 10:30 am Drop In & Chat 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters 8 pm A literary evening with Amos Oz and Yehuda Amichai, presented by Dr Dvir Abramovich 28	24 Iyar 39 day of Omer 7:30 pm A recent gem of Israeli cinema. Movie and refreshments in Magid Resource Centre 29	25 Iyar 40 day of Omer 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service 30	26 Iyar 41 day of Omer Shabbat Bamidbar 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Barmitzvah of Joel Lesman Guest Speaker: Benji Maor 31
27 Iyar 42 day of Omer 10:30 am Matan Family Day 5 pm A Virtual Tour of Israel in celebration of Yom Yerushalayim 1 June	28 Iyar 43 day of Omer Yom Yerushalayim 2 pm Sheridan Hall Shmooze 2	29 Iyar 44 day of Omer 10:30 am Bubs'n Bagels 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism 3	1 Sivan 5768 45 day of Omer 11:30 am Friendship Club 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 4	2 Sivan 46 day of Omer	3 Sivan 47 day of Omer 6:15 pm Netzer-style alternative minyan in MRC 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service 6	4 Sivan 48 day of Omer Shabbat Naso 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Barmitzvah of Zachariah Gesundheit 7
5 Sivan 49 day of Omer Erev Shavuot 5:15 pm Shavuot Mishpacha 7 pm Cheese & Wine 7:30 pm Erev Shavuot service 8:15 pm Sinai 2020 Summit Tikkun Leil Shavuot 8	6 Sivan Shavuot <i>Office closed</i> 10 am Shavuot festival service 9	7 Sivan 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism 10	8 Sivan 10:30 am Drop In & Chat 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters 11	9 Sivan	10 Sivan 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service 13	11 Sivan Shabbat Beha'alotcha 10 am Geshet alternative service 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service 14
12 Sivan 8 pm Men's Group meeting 15	13 Sivan	14 Sivan 10:30 am Bubs'n Bagels 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 6:30 pm Ruach rehearsal 7:30 pm Introduction of Judaism class 17	15 Sivan 11:30 am Friendship Club 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 18	16 Sivan 7:30 pm TBI Board of Management meeting 19	17 Sivan 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service 20	18 Sivan Shabbat Shelach 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Barmitzvah: Robert Needleman 21
19 Sivan	20 Sivan 7:30 pm Living with Dementia Jewish support group meeting 23	21 Sivan 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 7:30 pm Introduction to Judaism class 24	22 Sivan 10:30 am Drop In & Chat 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 8 pm Maccabi Toastmasters 25	23 Sivan	24 Sivan 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service Young TBI Oneg Shabbat dinner 27	25 Sivan Shabbat Korach 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Barmitzvah: Alon Scheidlinger 28
26 Sivan	27 Sivan	28 Sivan 10:30 am Bubs'n Bagels 4 pm Matan 4:30 pm Coffee & Chat with the rabbi 6:30 pm Ruach rehearsal 7:30 pm Introduction of Judaism class 1	29 Sivan 11:30 am Friendship Club 7 pm Netzer Moetzah 2	30 Sivan	1 Tammuz 5768 6:15 pm Netzer-style alternative minyan in MRC 6:15 pm Erev Shabbat service 4	2 Tammuz Shabbat Chukkat 10 am Shacharit Shabbat service Barmitzvah: Steven Lustig 5