



# EAST MELBOURNE HEBREW Congregation

ROSH HASHANAH 5770 | SEPTEMBER 2009

## Our Shule

East Melbourne Hebrew  
Congregation

*The Melbourne city  
Synagogue*

488 Albert East  
Melbourne 3002

03 9662 1372

[office@melbournecitysynagogue.com](mailto:office@melbournecitysynagogue.com)

[rabbi@melbournecitysynagogue.com](mailto:rabbi@melbournecitysynagogue.com)

Welcome to the East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation - the Jewish Heart of the City and the gateway to Jewish Melbourne. Known as the Melbourne City Synagogue, it is modern orthodox and the only Shule in the inner city area. The historic and architecturally significant synagogue is within walking distance from the city's hotels, hospitals and universities and serves as the City's Jewish Centre.

Whether you are a local or a tourist, you will find the Synagogue and its congregation to be a warm inviting place to spend some time. Feel free to join our services or activities, tour the premises during office hours or just touch base. We are here to help you with your Jewish and religious needs and look forward to personally welcoming you to the Synagogue.

### Our Activities Include:

- Shabbat Services
- Weekday Services
- Festival Programs
- Hospital & Nursing Home Visits
- University Chaplaincy
- Adult Education & Discussion Groups
- Youth Shabbatonim
- Tourist and School tours/seminars
- Counseling Services
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah Programs

## From the Desk of the Rabbi

Dear Congregant,

Some of us have a hard time praying.

This Purim a good friend and author Dr Howard Goldenberg came and addressed our service. One of the things he writes in his book is as follows:

'Invariably i feel a deeper sense of my Jewish self in the wilderness places where i work. This is the psalmist experience.... the moment when, surprised by joy, the...city visitor comes to a deep sense of rightness in being in this created place. In the outback, any person with a spiritual faculty will experience everyday epiphanies.

I feel a great calling in these words. Last summer I somewhat uncharacteristically found myself spending a few days and nights in some of the most beautiful Victorian countryside, which provided great insight into the statement Mah rabu Maasecha hashem – How great is your handiwork O'Lord. But Judaism goes even further. Solomon the wise taught us 'Bchol derochecha deeiHU – In all your ways you should know G-d.' Everything in the world is an expression of the Infinite G-d. Not only the Great Spirit and G-dliness associated with nature and the pure but also to the essential G-dliness that exists in every space and time. But alas so often we choose to be blind. This Rosh Hashanah let us resolve to finally open our eyes and allow ourselves to see. Somehow, I think praying will then become a little easier.

Together with my wife Rachel, we wish you and your family טובה ומתוקה טובה-לשנה טובה וחתימה טובה - That you may be inscribed and sealed for a good sweet year.

**Rabbi Dovid Gutnick**

## Message from the President

Dear Member,

On behalf of the Board of Management at East Melbourne Shule, I take this opportunity to wish you a happy and healthy new year.

As we head into the New Year we reflect on what has been quite a successful year at the shule. Of particular note is the increase in services and activities during the week. We now have a service every day of the week during the winter months with many new people affiliating themselves with the shule. Just this past Monday, I wandered into the shule at lunchtime and was overwhelmed by the amount of people that were using the shule to pray Minchah, eat lunch or just to shmooze with the Rabbi. However we still have our work cut out in several other areas, including attendance to Shabbat services.

This past Sunday we had an example of the great spirit that our shule thrives on, with a special gathering of shule members who put their heads together to implement plans for the next year at our shule. Anyone who feels they can offer something to our great synagogue, whether with our new library and museum, financial support, or just Shabbat synagogue attendance, should not hesitate in contact myself, the Rabbi or John Margis in the office.

We are enclosing Yizkor and kiddush Forms for you to complete and return prior to the festivals.

I look forward to seeing you in Shule.

Shanah Tovah

**Danny Segal**

President

East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation

## Service Times

### SHABBAT SERVICE TIMES

Friday evening:  
Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv: 6:00 pm

Shabbat Morning:  
Shacharit followed by Kiddush: 9:30 am

### WEEKDAY SERVICE TIMES

Rosh Chodesh: First day of Jewish Month –  
7:30 am followed by breakfast

Minchah : Mon –Thurs  
during winter months i.e. non DST 1:20 pm

Rabbi's Shiur: Mondays - 12:30pm

## Office Hours

Office manager: Mr John Margis

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9:30am-1:30am

The Office will not be open on public or  
Jewish Holidays.

Messages left on the answering machine  
or synagogue email will be attended to by  
the next working day.

The Rabbi can always be contacted on his  
mobile phone 0430 384 948.

# High Holidays 5770/2009 Calendar & Service Times

### ROSH HASHANAH

Friday 18th September, Rosh Hashana

1st Night

Light Candles: 5:55 pm

Maariv: 6.00 pm

Saturday 19th September, Rosh Hashana 1st Day

Shacharit: 9:00 am

Torah Reading: 10:30pm

Light Candles after: 6:52 pm

Maariv: 6.30 pm

Sunday 20th September,

Rosh Hashana 2nd Day

Shacharit: 9.00 am

Shofar: 11.30 pm

Minchah Tashlich: 2.00 pm

Rosh Hashana concludes: 6.53 pm

### FAST OF GEDALIAH

Monday, 21st September

Fast begins: 4:54 am

Fast concludes: 6:42 pm

### SHABBAT SHUVAH

Friday 25th September

Light Candles: 6:01 pm

Maariv: 6.30 pm

Saturday 26th September

Shacharit: 9.30 am

Shabbat concludes: 6:59 pm

### YOM KIPPUR

Sunday 27th September, Kol Nidre

Light Candles and Fast begins: 6:02 pm

Kol Nidre and Maariv: 6:15 pm

Monday 28th September, Yom Kippur

Shacharit: 9.00 am

Torah Reading: approx. 11.00 am

Yizkor: approx. 12.00 pm

Fast concludes: 7:00 pm

### SUKKOT

Friday 2nd October, Shabbat/Sukkot 1st Night

Light Candles: 6:07 pm

Maariv: 6.30 pm

Saturday 3rd October, Sukkot/Shabbat 1st Day

Shacharit: 9.30 am followed by kiddush in sukkah

Maariv: 6.30 pm

Light Candles after: 6:23 pm

*Daylight Savings commences*

Sunday 4th October, Sukkot 2nd Day

Shacharit: 9.30 am followed by Kiddush in Sukkah

Shake the Lulav and Etrog

Sukkot concludes: 8:06 pm

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> to Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> October, Chol Hamoed

Sukkot

Minchah: 1:45pm

Lunch and drinks available daily after 12:30pm

Our Sukkah remains accessible daily for the

public

For after hours access please contact Rabbi

Gutnick on 0430 384 948

### SHEMINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH

Friday 9th October, Shemini Atzeret/Shabbat

Light Candles: 7:13 pm

Maariv: 7.00 pm

Saturday 10th October, Shemini Atzeret/Shabbat

Shacharit: 9.30 am

Yizkor: approx. 11.00

Light Candles after: 8:12 pm

Maariv: 7.30 pm (followed by Dancing with Torah)

Sunday 11th October, Simchat Torah

Shacharit: 9.30 am (Hakafot)

Hakafot: 10.30 pm

Simchat Torah concludes: 8:12 pm

### SHABBAT BEREISHIT

Friday 16th October

Light Candles: 7:20 pm

Maariv: 7.00 pm

Saturday 17th October

Shacharit: 9.30 am

Shabbat concludes: 8:19 pm

### Chatan Torah and Chatan Bereishit

We have great pleasure in announcing that Paul Glass and Jack Strom have accepted the honours of Chatan Torah and Chatan Bereishit. We look forward to you joining us in Shul on Simchat Torah where due honor will be showered upon our special Chatanim and their families.

On Simchat Torah day following the service, there will be a special kiddush honoring both these gentleman and their families

# Yizkor Form 2009

To make a memorial offering on Yom Kippur during yizkor, please fill in this form and return it with a donation to EMHC, 488 Albert St East Melbourne 3002

I /we (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

hereby offer \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of:

(1) HEBREW NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ENGLISH NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(2) HEBREW NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ENGLISH NAME \_\_\_\_\_

(3) HEBREW NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ENGLISH NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please attach more names if required.)**

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card: Visa/Mastercard**

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**Expiry Date**    \_\_ \_\_ / \_\_ \_\_

or post a cheque payable to EMHC to

488 Albert Street, East Melbourne, 3002.

## Yahrtzeits (Elul-Tishrei)

We wish the families of the following, who have their yahrzeit in the coming two months, a long life and may the Neshamot (souls) of their loved ones continue to have an Aliyah (ascent in the spiritual realms).

- Mr J Davis, 1 Elul
- Chaya Tzarna Sternfein, 2 Elul
- Mrs Chana Golda Spigelman, 3 Elul
- Mr Samuel Jacobs, 4 Elul,
- Mr Max Silberthau, 4 Elul
- Mr John Rothfled, 5 Elul
- Mr Ludwig Schifftan, 6 Elul
- Lolka (Lea) Grunfeld, 7 Elul
- Mr Yankel Rosenbaum, 9 Elul
- Lillian Lieder QC, 9 Elul
- Mr Arthur Symons, 9 Elul
- Mrs Morley, 11 Elul
- Mrs Helene Jedwab, 12 Elul
- Mrs Bernice Robin, 12 Elul
- Mr Hirshel Ryza, 12 Elul
- Mr Morris Revelman 13 Elul
- Mrs Bourne, 15 Elul
- Mrs. Miriam Levy, 15 Elul
- Mr Abe Rawicki, 18 Elul
- Rabbi Moshe Honig, 18 Elul
- Mr Simon Yescovitch, 20 Elul
- Mrs Sara Lieder,
- Julie Power, 21 Elul
- Miss Julia Morris, 22 Elul
- Mr Sydney Revelman, 22 Elul
- Mr Ian Abraham, 23 Elul
- Mrs Annie Markham, 24 Elul
- Mr Cecil Harris, 27 Elul
- Ms Mara (Miriam) Goodman, 28 Elul

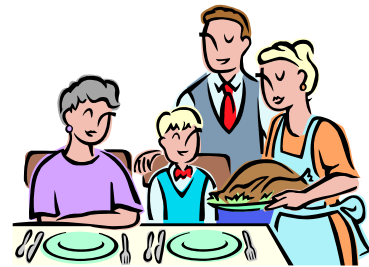
- Mr Israel Faiman, 1 Tishrei
- Mrs Miriam Rosenberg, 2 Tishrei
- Mr Karol Berhang, 7 Tishrei
- Mr Michael Silberthau, 7 Tishrei
- Mr Ignagy Maschler, 10 Tishrei
- Miss Zara Revelman, 11 Tishrei
- Mr Chaskel Kurop, 11 Tishrei
- Mr Victor Kaufman, 13 Tishrei
- Mrs Fanny Efron, 13 Tishrei
- Mrs I. Kleiman, 13 Tishrei
- Mr Melle Kaplan, 15 Tishrei
- Mr Sam Yescovitch, 17 Tishrei
- Dr Morris C. Davis, 18 Tishrei
- Mr Isaac Resenberg, 19 Tishrei
- Mr Izzy Lew, 20 Tishrei
- Mr David Morley, 22 Tishrei
- Mrs Nellie Jacobs, 25 Tishrei
- Mr Ben Abrahams, 25 Tishrei
- Mrs Golda Morris, 25 Tishrei
- Miss Julie Gavartin, 26 Tishrei
- Sir John Monash, 27 Tishrei
- Mrs Sophia Davis, 28 Tishrei
- Mr. Isador Levy, 28 Tishrei

# High Holiday Kiddush Sponsorship

*Kiddush will be provided after services at East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation during all of the High Holyday period.*

We would be very grateful for kiddush sponsorships on the following dates at \$90 per kiddush:-

- First day Rosh HaShana, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September
- Second day Rosh HaShana, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September
- Breaking the Fast, Yom Kippur, Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> September
- First day Sukkot, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October
- Second day Sukkot, Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October
- Chol HaMoed Sukkot, 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October
- Shemini Atzeret, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October
- Simchat Torah evening, Saturday night 10<sup>th</sup> October
- Simchat Torah, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October



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Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Date to be sponsored**     \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion (e.g., yahrzeit, birthday, anniversary)

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Enclosed is my cheque payable to  
East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation

Please charge the amount of \$..... to my  
Visa / Mastercard

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Return to East Melbourne Synagogue 488 Albert Street East Melbourne 3002*

# Congregation News

## Mazal Tov! Wedding of Sam and Alya

In a lovely ceremony Sam Koronczyk and Alya Nussbaum had their wedding at East Melbourne Shule in June. We wish them all the best for the future and a *binyan adei ad al yesodei hatorah vehamtzvot* – an everlasting edifice built upon the foundation of Torah and Mitzvot. Mazal Tov to the Nussbaum and Koronczyk families.

## Mazal Tov! It's a boy – Gutnicks

Mazal Tov to Rabbi Dovid and Rachel Gutnick on the birth of their newborn son Eliyahu in July. The beautiful birth took place in the shule amongst a bevy of rabbis and other distinguished persons. May he grow to be a fine G-d fearing and successful member of our people. A hearty Mazal Tov to their entire family.

## Mazal Tov! It's a boy – Jacob's

We extend warm Mazal Tov wishes to Martyn and Justine Jacobs on the birth of their son Joshua Eli. May he grow to be a fine G-d fearing and successful member of our people. A hearty Mazal Tov to their entire family.

## Happy birthday Jenny Segal

Who would believe Jenny Segal has brought up her half century. Mazal Tov on this milestone and may you be blessed with much Nachas from your family and friends.

## "Beruchim Habaim"- Welcome Albert

A warm welcome back to Dr Albert Rothstien who has recently returned from tramping across north America. Apparently Albert won over friends wherever he went and I think we can consider ourselves lucky that he came back all together.

## Tzetchem Lshalom – Bon Voyage - Pohl

Due to a breach in security Darion and Nicola Pohl have managed to escape from our congregation. We wish them all the best in their sojourn in Great Britain and look forward to their return in the not too distant future.

## Refuah Sheleimah – Mr Lloyd Samuel

Best wishes for a continued recovery to Board member and long time shule supporter Lloyd Samuel. Our thoughts remain with Lloyd who lost his father last

summer and is still saying kaddish for him. We look forward to seeing him back in shule in the not too distant future.

## Refuah Sheleimah – Mr Hymie Wald

Our resident Cohen has not been in peak health over the last little while and we wish him a complete and total recovery.

## Refuah Sheleimah – Mrs Miriam Ovadiah

Best Wishes for a speedy recovery for Mrs Miriam Ovadia who although too ill to come to shule regularly remains in our hearts constantly

## The passing of Juan Hurwitz O"H

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Arwin Hurwitz and family on the passing of his brother Juan. *Tehey Nishmato Tzerurah Bitzror Hachaim* – May his soul be bound in the bond of eternal life.

## The passing of Lillian Plotkin O"H

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Helen Katz and her family on the passing of her dear Mother Lillian – Shoshanah. *Tehey Nishmatah Tzerurah Bitzror Hachaim* – May her soul be bound in the bond of eternal life.

## The passing of Victor Smorgon O"H

Victor Smorgon, philanthropist and a major supporter of our Synagogue passed away last month. We wish his entire family including the Bardas and Koadlow extended families our sincere condolences. *Tehey Nishmato Tzerurah Bitzror Hachaim* – May his soul be bound in the bond of eternal life.

## The passing of Theodore Moss O"H

With much Sadness we mourn the untimely passing of Theodore Moss, a distinguished member of our congregation. We offer sincere condolences to his entire family. *Tehey Nishmato Tzerurah Bitzror Hachaim* – May his soul be bound in the bond of eternal life.

## The Passing Of Joseph Brown AO OBE

Just as we go to print we have heard the sad news of the passing of Joseph Brown AO OBE. A great Philanthropist and supporter of our shule. We offer sincere condolences to his entire family. *Tehey Nishmato Tzerurah Bitzror Hachaim* – May his soul be bound in the bond of eternal life.

## Quotable Quote

*"Your fellow is your mirror: If your own face is clean, the image you see will also be pure;*

*Should you however look upon your fellow man and see a blemish, it is your own imperfection that you are perceiving."*

- Rabbi Israel Baal  
Shem Tov

## Its OK to be Imperfect

*Steven was walking briskly past the large building, not seeing it, his thoughts focused instead on the busy day ahead of him. From somewhere inside a soft melody, barely distinguishable, drifted out an open window and caught him totally unawares. He stopped in his tracks and listened. What was that? Why did it sound so familiar?*

*He opened the large front door and stepped slowly over the threshold of the building, his ears attuned to the sounds. Where was he? It was a synagogue. The melody, he now remembered, he'd heard before, standing beside his grandfather so many long years ago.*

*The memories of Rosh Hashanah and Zeide came rushing back with an impact that he would never have believed possible. He looked around, a little embarrassed. What should he do? Should he leave as logic dictated, his work waiting for him? Or should he stay, as his heart was inexplicably urging him? But, he'd left his Jewish learning behind so many years ago. He was afraid to even pick up a prayer book, concerned that he would look foolish to the others.*

*He was torn because he did not want to seem imperfect or inexperienced or unknowledgeable. He was afraid to take the step of staying because he was unsure of himself and what he knew and whether it was appropriate.*

*Whatever Steven decided in the end to do is not the point here. What is important is that we can learn a very wonderful and uniquely Jewish lesson from this story.*

The lesson is that it's okay to be imperfect. A funny thing to say, isn't it? Especially as we approach the High Holidays, the time of year that is most intense for all Jews, no matter what our level of observance may be. The time of year when we are supposed to review our deeds of the past twelve months and look ahead, with determination and conviction, to better ourselves in the year ahead.

It's a tall order – a very tall order. "It's okay to be imperfect" is meant to reassure us that we must do our best, even if we don't achieve perfection in our first attempt, or even the second or third. Each first step we take leads ultimately to another step and another, until before we know it, we have gone further than we ever thought we could.

There are those who might say to themselves like Steven in the story above: I don't pray the entire year so why should I go to synagogue on Rosh Hashanah? How good can my prayers really be if I can't read Hebrew? Do I really think my imperfect supplications can make a difference?

Every year, questions like these trouble so many sincere Jewish hearts. Whatever our level of religious observance -- from one end of the



spectrum to the other -- we can easily feel an uncomfortable inconsistency between the pitched fervor of our prayers during the High Holidays and our less inspired yearly conduct.

But these very feelings serve as a wake-up call to us -- to resolve to do the best we can do, regardless of how imperfect it may be. What is required of us is that we take the first step, however tiny it is, toward improving ourselves.

Undoubtedly the greatest Jew in the history of the world was Moses. He led a nation of slaves out of Egyptian bondage to ultimately become the chosen people. In the splendour of our complete tradition, no human being attained his lofty status.

Every single time we conclude reading from the Torah, Jews throughout the ages have stood to celebrate the legacy that Moses left us with the words "V'zot Hatorah asher sum Moshe L'nei Bnei Yisroel" -- "This is the Torah which Moses placed before the children of Israel." (Deuteronomy 4:44)

The biblical commentator Kli Yakar (Rabbi Solomon Luntschitz, 1550-1619) explains this verse to be a reference to Moses' inability to effectively establish three Cities of Refuge as a haven for those in need. Only after Joshua's conquest of Israel and his designation of three additional cities of refuge could Moses' three Cities of Refuge which he designated on the Trans-Jordan (as discussed in the previous verses in Deuteronomy) take effect. "This is the Torah (i.e. lesson) which Moses placed before the children of Israel" -- the importance of starting a mitzvah although one may not be able to carry it out to its conclusion.

Although Moses' resume was saturated with effective leadership skills, the Torah refers to his greatest gift to the Jews as a project that was only ultimately completed by his successor, Joshua.

According to the Kli Yakar, despite our imperfections and lack of any visible success, we still continue to strive to attain a higher level, to continue to add to our storehouse of good deeds. This is the courage that G-d and the Jewish people have celebrated for thousands of years.

Breaking past records and surpassing goals are indeed great victories and opportunities for jubilation. Judaism, however, has never been obsessed with the stardom of finishing in first place, but rather with exerting your own very personal best. Perfection never became the yardstick of all Jewish success. Our barometer of triumph has always been measured by our effort in overcoming our own personal challenges. To cross the finish line effectively means to outperform your own fixed standards of performance and inhibitions.

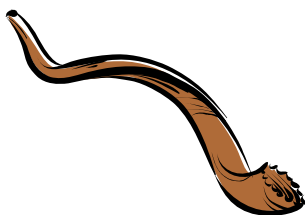
Moses' example teaches us that in life our approach should not be the attitude that it's either everything or nothing. The most faultless person in history, who spoke face to face with G-d, began the City of Refuge project but he never witnessed its completion. He was matchless in his achievements and the Torah acknowledges his sincerity, not by his lack of accomplishments in not creating three fully functioning cities of refuge in his lifetime but rather by his doing everything in his power to leave this world in a better state.

When we set out to run a marathon, we do so with the idea of finishing the race. But if we can't, no one looks down on us. The most important thing is that we at least turned up at the race and gave it our best. That is what counts.

The High Holidays are an excellent time to begin to take our own first steps. We may not know the prayers perfectly. We may not read Hebrew. We just have to start. No one will look down on us. Because every Jew already has irrevocable ties to our Jewish nation. We've each already begun our journey, no matter where we started. Whether we complete our task in life is not something we know at the outset, but each step forward we take is a precious link in the personal chain of tradition and continuity that we are individually and collectively creating.

May this New Year to come be filled with blessings for you and those dear to you. And may you have the privilege of taking your first step on your personal journey toward being the best that you can be.

*By Rabbi Areyeh Kaltman  
Columbus Ohio*



כתיבה וחתימה טובה, לשנה טובה ומתוקה  
*Wishing you and your family  
a happy, healthy and sweet new year.*

