

What's happening in 2010/5770

Please help yourself to the smorgasbord of activities at EMHC. In addition to being open for every Friday night, Shabbat morning and Festival, we also have a number of regular and unique activities planned for this year. All activities are open to men, women and even children, regardless of level of observance or commitment. Here is a short list of some of our activities planned for the first half of the year or in the process of being planned for the second half of 2010.



EXPLORING OUR ROOTS

Last year a number of our congregants took to the Australian Bush to learn about the land and its History. This has led to the blossoming of a wonderful relationship between members of the aboriginal community and our own EMHC. If you would like to participate in this year's excursion on Sunday April 11th, please give the office a call on 9662 1372 ASAP. Spaces are very limited.

- **PURIM ON HORSE AND CARRIAGE:** Sunday February 28th at 11:00am. \$10 adults, \$7 children. Concessions available.
- **COMMUNAL PESACH SEDER:** Traditional and much lauded haymische communal Pesach Seder. This year with Segal and Glass vocal accompaniment and Rabbi Gutnick's explanations. Professionally catered. March 29 at 7:30pm. \$65 Adults, \$50 Children and concession.
- **EXPLORING OUR ROOTS:** Walk and Talk on Country exploring Aboriginal and Jewish Heritage in Country Victoria Including Colac, Camperdown and surrounding areas. With Aboriginal Parks Victoria Ranger John Clarke. \$10 cover for travel and petrol.
- **MONDAY AFTERNOON LUNCH AND LEARN:** Every Monday from 12:45pm a delightful lunch matched by a stimulating shiur with Rabbi Gutnick join several other doctors lawyers and other professionals during lunch time for this spiritually and physically nourishing regular event.
- **NEW TORAH DEDICATION:** A generous donor is in the process of completing the purchase of a new Torah scroll for the shule. This is not only a historic occasion (our historians are in the process of researching when the last time a new Torah was purchased for the Shule but also a chance to establish a new era for our Synagogue. It will culminate with a massive celebration planned for the end of this year or the beginning of next year. If anyone is able to assist the shule with the planning for this unprecedented event, please contact President Danny Segal on 0417592500
- **LADIES LUNCHEON:** After a one year pause the popular ladies luncheon is set to take place in October of this year. Anyone wishing to assist in the planning is urged to contact Jenny Segal on 0419314027.

Contacts and information

Minister: Rabbi Dovid Gutnick
President: Danny Segal
Office administrator: John Margis

Call for information: (03) 9662 1372
 488 Albert St. E. Melbourne 3002
www.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.



The City Shule News

Welcome

Join EMHC for Purim and Pesach

In my childhood I had this recurring dream. It's the grand final, (not being played on Shabbos obviously) I'm playing at full Forward for the Fitzroy football club, (remember it's a dream) were down by five points, the ball is in my hands and the siren has just gone. A goal and we win the premiership. The crowd is awestruck; everything has lead up to this moment; the gruelling preseason training, the preseason, the regular season, the finals, the grand final and now this. Think how much depends on this kick; corporate sponsors, members, fans, teammates, support staff. And always just as I'm about to kick for goal I wake up...

There is this quote in the Talmud that is really intriguing. "chayov odom Lomar Bishvili Nivrah Haolam" - 'a person is obligated to say that all the world was created for my sake.' Now it may appear that this is a statement of self obsession and aggrandizement. What the statement really means is this: So many years, occurrences, generations of people, acts, and evolutions have occurred in the history of the world and its creation. All for me and for this moment. Which moment? Right now as you read these lines. Think of how much rides on you and your next move. How humbled we should be by our unimaginable significance. How empowered we should be by our staggering responsibility.

I write this to you as members and supporters of East Melbourne Shule because I think it is particularly noticeable in our shule family. Some congregations have thousands of members and at times it is hard to appreciate this Talmudic axiom. But at East Melbourne our numerical paucity is to our great advantage. Every person who makes that effort to come to shule makes a world of difference. Every offering or donation made tips the scales and keeps our doors open for the future year. Every voluntary act resounds around our tight knit community and uplifts someone else.

In other words what the Talmud tells us uniquely as members of East Melbourne is that for a century and a half, a building has stood, a congregation has existed, services have been run precisely for this moment that I/You walk through the doors of this great Synagogue and connect to our G-d and our people.

So as we enter a new calendar year and approach the festivals of Pesach and Purim I urge you to consider your true significance and join in. Attend the weekly Shabbat services, join our unique Purim event on 28th of Feb or participate in our much lauded Pesach Seder experience on Monday the 29th of March. If you've got your Pesach covered please consider donating to the Shule to cover someone who can't. And of course there's always plenty of other work at the shule for volunteers to lend their talents toward.

One is obligated to say that all this was created for you. All the activities and opportunities within our community and our religion were planned for you. So go ahead and kick the goal.

*Rabbi Dovid Gutnick
 East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation*



EMHC ROOTS Historical Project

Our shule has the richest of histories. Many of our members are third or fourth generation at the shule. Many illustrious families have been and continue to be involved in our shule,

A small committee has been formed to explore the history of the personalities and families that have made up the East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation since its formation. This committee is seeking testimonies, archive material, photographs, documents etc. that can help form a historical database and collection which eventually will form a display at our shule. If you have something to offer please contact Nerrida by email:

nerrida.pohl@gmail.com

Update



- Mazal Tov to John and Judy Margis on the Borth of a grand-daughter Coco Sofia
- Mazal Tov to Andrew and Amanda Rettig on their wedding at East Melbourne Synagogue. May they build a 'Bayis neeman byisrael' together.
- Condolences and long life to Maya Lazarus on the passing of her mother.
- Ling Life to the Moss Family for the consecration of Theo Moss A'H.

EMHC Announcements

- Thank you to Ruth Kayser for the exquisite display cabinet which will be used to display EMHC souvenirs and artifacts..
- Thank you to Theo Black for clearing out the choir loft in preparation of carpet laying.
- Thank you to Joel Goldhrisch for the donation of new computer equipment for the Shule office.
- Thank you to Morton Skolnik for a generous donation upon visiting our Shule last month.
- Bon Voyage to Elliot Jacobs who is spending his post school year in the holy land.
- Refuah Sheleimah — wishes for a complete recovery to Lloyd Samuel on his recent operation
- Refuah Sheleimah - Wishes for a complete recovery to David Graham.)
- Mazal Tov to Rachel Gutnick on the occasion of her brothers wedding in Vienna.



Mazal Tov

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

A hearty Mazal Tov to **Bob and Ruth Kayser** on their fiftieth wedding anniversary which took place this January the 17th. Bob and Ruth were married in Elwood Shule by none other then a very young and handsome Rabbi Chaim Gutnick, the Zaida of our own Rabbi Dovid Gutnick. (see photo above)

In honour of their anniversary they have donated a ornate display cabinet for the Shule foyer.

Ruth remembers coming to the shule as a small child with her parents, the Ehrlich's, and has been an active participant and supporter of so many of our Shule's activities in particular in the area of textiles, curtains, cloths and embroidery.

We wish them both much continued happiness together and *nachas* from their Children and Grandchildren.

Purim Laws

1. LISTEN TO THE MEGILLAH. To relive the miraculous events of Purim, **listen to the reading of the Megillah** twice: once on Purim eve, Saturday night, February 27, and again on Purim day, February 28, 2010. To properly fulfill the mitzvah, it is crucial to hear every single word of the Megillah. At certain points in the reading where Haman's name is mentioned, it is customary to twirl *graggers* (Purim noisemakers) and stamp one's feet to "eradicate" his evil name. Tell the children Purim is the only time when it's a mitzvah to make noise!

2. GIFTS TO THE POOR: Concern for the needy is a year-round responsibility; but on Purim it is a special mitzvah to remember the poor. **Give charity to at least two**, (but preferably more) **needy individuals on Purim day, February 28, 2010.** The mitzvah is best fulfilled by giving directly to the needy. If, however, you cannot find poor people, place at least two coins into a charity box. As with the other mitzvahs of Purim, even small children should fulfil this mitzvah.

3. FOOD GIFTS. On Purim we emphasize the importance of Jewish unity and friendship by sending gifts of food to friends. **On Purim day, February 28, 2010, send a gift of at least two kinds of ready-to-eat foods (e.g., pastry, fruit, beverage), to at least one friend.** Men should send to men and women to women. It is preferable that the gifts are delivered via a third party. Children, in addition to sending their own gifts of food to their friends, make enthusiastic messengers.

4. PURIM FEAST. Purim should be celebrated with a **special festive meal on Purim Day**, at which family and friends gather together to rejoice in the Purim spirit. It is a mitzvah to drink [wine or other inebriating drinks](#) at this meal.

Charity Passover

Every year at the Pesach Seder we read the words "Who is needy let them join us here". Our policy is to make sure that everyone is at a Seder table on the first night of Pesach. Please assist us in allowing those in need to partake in our communal seder. In this mailout you will find a Pesach donation form. Please consider donating so we can help those in need. You will also find a *yizkor* offering form. *Yizkor* is read on the last day of Pesach.

On a related note, if you know of anyone who is lacking for this Pesach please contact the Rabbi on 0430 384 948. All matters will be treated discretely and confidentially.