

Ark

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TIMES



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WELCOME TO ARK CENTRE

ARK Centre, a Modern Orthodox Jewish Community Centre with a synagogue at its heart, both physically and metaphorically, has made a huge difference to the lives of hundreds of Jewish families around it.

ARK Centre began ten years ago without fanfare, in very humble surroundings. Initially the founding members met in a classroom at East Hawthorn's Bialik College, using a portable Aron HaKodesh, and later using the school hall as numbers increased. As we became bigger and busier we rented a home in the neighbourhood, where we hosted exciting services, amazing dinners to celebrate Jewish Festivals, and set the tone for the inclusive warm atmosphere that still underlies all that ARK Centre does.

Nearly four years ago, just in time for Pesach, we moved into our own dedicated building at 7 Cato Street, East Hawthorn, enabling us to become a real hub for members and friends to connect to their heritage, celebrate chagim, celebrations and sad times too.

A number of those who come to ARK Centre would never, or certainly rarely, attend any synagogue, but here they have found a haven, where they are accepted, welcomed, and learn to ask the questions they may not have known they were seeking the answers to. We love to welcome children, who feel so at home they can sometimes be heard from one end of the building to the other, all part of the complete Jewish experience.

Central to our ethos is providing Authentic Orthodox Judaism for the 21st Century. In the main this translates as offering a broad spectrum of events, activities and programs – over and above synagogue services – to a broad spectrum of people. It's that breadth and scope that makes us not just a shule, but a comprehensive community centre.

It's also that vision and commitment that means we ask the hard questions – of ourselves and of the established leadership. We steadfastly believe that in order to address the continuing trend of lack of identification with our religion, that has been very well documented for many years now, we must provide both authenticity in our adherence to halachah and Orthodox Judaism and at the same time, with equal vehemence, balance that with relevance and meaning to people whose lives, awareness, social and moral conscious are very much anchored in contemporary, secular life. For those who seek connection via a community that is forever striving to achieve that balance, we exist because of you and for you. And for those who have questions, have heard something about ARK Centre

that doesn't 'make sense', who don't understand why we place emphasis and importance on the issues that we do, we encourage you to contact us or better yet, come to a service or a shiur and find out for yourself.

ARK Centre strives to provide a place where everyone, no matter their age, or reason for being there, feels they belong in this place that provides religious, spiritual, emotional and gastronomic nourishment.

People come to ARK Centre because they find here a warm inclusive environment where they can attend Shabbat and Yom Tov services, celebrate milestones such as Bar and Batmitzvot, weddings, birthdays and acknowledge the sad events of life. Added to these, they come for our events, lectures, parties and programs that go well beyond the traditional Jewish experience, all in an atmosphere both formal and informal of learning, engaging and debating. Here everyone can come to be involved, learn, sing, dance, eat and be challenged through discussion and debate.

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FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

RABBI GABI KALTMAN



“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” ANNE FRANK

When a new year rolls around it always seems like the previous year has flown by and the inevitable question of where has the time gone comes to mind. Whenever Rosh Hashanah feels like it is again on the horizon I like to personally take stock of my year. What did I achieve, what did I not yet manage to complete and also assess what changes I need to implement into my life for the year ahead.

In the past year I can certainly say that there have been many highlights. Without a doubt, becoming inducted as the Rabbi and Rebbetzin with Mushka at ARK Centre has been a major highlight.

It's been a year full of lots of great events and fun programs. Bar and Bat Mitvahs, weddings and other life events. Uplifting Friday night services and shabbatonim and deep, relevant Torah classes.

We are both humbled to be a part of this amazing community and to continue our work in contributing to the loving, involved and remarkable community that is our Jewish hub in East Hawthorn.

Since joining this Centre in 2017, Mushka, our children and I have felt nothing but love and support. It is our pleasure to continue to give back to this

rich community that has so much to offer and contribute across so many areas.

Another highlight was the completion of my Masters of Social Work, a culmination of over 2 years of hard work, studying, assessments and many days and hours of placement. This degree has opened my eyes to the poverty and distress that so many Australians endure on a daily basis and has strengthened my resolve to continue to give back to those less fortunate in the best ways that I can.

The past year has also been very difficult as the atrocities and hate that appear to emanate from so many places have seemed to come closer to home. America witnessed two Synagogue shootings resulting in the death of innocent congregants in houses of worship and, closer to home,



we witnessed the attacks against churches in Sri Lanka and mosques in Christchurch.

In the face of such terror and such hate it is almost impossible to fathom what drives such actions. We live in the most prosperous time that humankind has ever seen. The medical advances are immense and people no longer die from preventable diseases and there is enough food created in the world that no one should have to go hungry anymore.

There is always still room for improvement in the world, but I have faith that the areas that need greater progress, have the brightest minds working on them and together we can all continue to contribute to creating a better society for all.

Living in a country like Australia can sometimes allow us to become complacent. All the good things that one desires are easily accessible at one's fingertips. Instead of appreciating what we have, we may start to take it for granted and instead of having gratitude, the complaints manifest.

With anti-Semitism on the rise across the world and the ugliness of hate rearing its head in full force, we have to be vigilant and ensure that we safeguard against hate

both here and overseas. From casual comments which disrespect others, to allowing our platforms to be manipulated by those that seek to sow discord and disharmony we must stay alert.

As Jews, we know all too well what it is like to be a persecuted minority and we have to ensure that we speak out against this kind of bigotry and hate.

In addition to the usual festivities, the year ahead holds special significance as the first in the new decade.

Thinking in a ten-year time frame really makes you look at long term goals, and gives you time to assess the intermediate steps to reaching your goal. It takes

the focus off the day to day comings and goings and occasional setbacks we might have. It certainly is easier to look at a bump in the road and feel less pressured about it when you are looking at a 10-year time frame rather than one of a number of months!

In such an exciting era of growth and possibility we do not want to be seen as the generation that did not use our potential to contribute and give back to those less fortunate.

From a personal perspective, one will reflect the usual questions such as: Where do you want to be living in 5890? What would you like your home to be like in ten years? Your friends? Your family?



What kind of job do you want to have? Who do you want to be sharing your life with?

From a community perspective, our ten year goals include growing our community, attracting new people, welcoming a diverse crowd, engaging more young people and running programs and events that nourish our spiritual and physical needs.

Rosh Hashanah, with the sound of the shofar, is a wakeup call that the year has flown by, but there is still much that needs to be done and still much that we can personally do.

I know that in the coming year ahead, 5880, I will try to work on myself as much as possible and contribute to the causes that are near and dear to my heart. Likewise, I implore all of you to take a moment to reflect and see what your personal abilities allow you to positively contribute to the world around you both for the year and decade ahead.

It's time to get to work!

Shana Tova,

Rabbi Gabi

THE YEAR THAT WAS

LISA NAPHTALI



Over the past several years ARK Centre has become more than just a Shule and just a Centre. It has become a hub, a central point where people seeking connection and authenticity can come daily, weekly and/or annually and feel at home.

Like any home and any family, relationships change and evolve. That's certainly true of our relationship with the community. What has brought immense nachas to those who have been part of this Centre for some time is that ARK Centre has become an adjective. I now hear people saying that things are done in 'an ARK Centre kind of way'. That is, doing things a little bit differently, with good humour, a sense of informality, with respect, understanding and appreciation of our traditions and of the individual.

Arriving at this point has not been without its challenges or setbacks. Being at the more progressive end of the Orthodox spectrum means that we have had difficult

discussions, tackled serious concerns facing our community; we have inadvertently offended some people, we have raised subjects that some have told us are better left as they have always been. At the same time, however, in being an outspoken voice and advocate for today's Modern Orthodox ARK Centre community means that we have been part of serious and tangible change in the Melbourne landscape. The work that our Centre and our rabbinic leadership do with our colleagues and contemporaries has never been more important.

At least weekly I hear someone lament that a close friend or loved one is no longer part of the Jewish community because they couldn't

see how it's relevant to them. And in the very next breath they say, I wish they'd just come here and see what a Jewish Centre can be. And to all of them, all of you, we say - WELCOME! Come and have a look and see what we do over here.

Forging this path means that change is a very necessary part of what we do. And just as we see changes emerging and evolving in the broader community so too have we seen change internally. In June 2019, we saw Rabbi Shneur Reti-Waks leave his congregational rabbi role and become the ARK Centre Music Director. The way that he has led ARK Centre, his time and style, has become ingrained in our ethos. While some say 'all good things must come to an end' in this case I believe that the saying 'leave them wanting more' is more apt.

The community does want more from us and it is with full hearts that we welcomed Rabbi Gabi Katlmann and Rebbetzin Mushka Kantor Kaltmann in stepping up from their previous role into the full time congregational leadership capacity.

This dynamic duo believes in every facet of the ARK Centre Vision and Mission and under their leadership, with the support of our one-of-a-kind community, the future is as bright as it has ever been. There is no time to rest of any laurels, but rather to forge ahead and deliver what we always set out to be... authentic, meaningful and relevant to today's 21st Century Jews.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming Lynn Herson as ARK Coordinator in January 2019. Lynn brings a wealth of experience in admin, is warm and delightful person to have in the office.

You will see positive changes and you will hear more from ARK Centre over the coming



weeks and months. And what you'll hear will, we hope and pray, resonate with how you're feeling as a Jew, as an Australian and as a human being in the rather challenging times we find ourselves living in.

As someone who has seen a considerable amount of change personally and professionally over the past 12 months. I can understand why some of you might have questions and perhaps even some trepidation about the future.

Do not be concerned. Rather, thank G-d that there is a place you can come to feel welcomed, appreciated, wanted and accepted.

We look forward to sharing a truly meaningful Yom Tov with you and to everything that will come next for all of us.

Shanah Tovah



HAPPENINGS @ ARK CENTRE

TISHA B'AV

ARK Centre observes this most sombre of dates by not only reading the traditional book of Eicha, Lamentations, but by usually hosting a speaker of interest. This year one of our stalwart members, Dr Barry Teperman, spoke about his experiences of donating his time and expertise in New Guinea, a country whose people often receive sub-standard medical care. Barry, and a group of other like-minded medical colleagues, collect medical supplies over a year, and once a year travel to the Highlands where they treat people and distribute the supplies where they are most needed. Barry talked about seeing medical conditions that are almost unheard of in Australia and linking what he saw to what we learn and read about on Tisha B'Av.



sight bringing nachas to the parents and grandparents and, importantly, setting the foundation for the development of the next generation's Jewish identity.

Rabbi Shneur gave the drosha on First Day, finding so much to say about the meaning of Rosh Hashanah, explanations of customs and laws and finding a way of giving meaning to a festival that many had celebrated all their lives without really knowing why.

Rabbi Gabi gave the drosha on Second Day. He brought a new, young perspective to an ancient festival, leaving everyone with a greater understanding and interest in Rosh Hashanah.

In the week before Rosh Hashanah Rebbetzin Mushka hosted a large group of women in her home for an evening of group learning, covering many aspects of the Festival to make it more relevant and interesting for everyone. The discussion was lively and the evening was topped off by the group baking honey cake, one of the enduring symbols of the Festival.



ROSH HASHANAH

The Yamim Noraim, the High Holydays, are a momentous time. On Rosh Hashanah the shule was full of anticipation. Rabbi Shneur and Rabbi Gabi led the services with passion, warmth and beautiful singing, aided by the ARKApella singers. The services were inclusive, full of explanations, and inspiration. Everyone was moved and joined in with the singing and prayers, while the children were entertained by a strong group of leaders, coming into shule to hear the Shofar blown.

From the ARK Centre's early beginnings to today we pride ourselves on welcoming the children, and seeing so many kids sitting in front of the Aron HaKodesh was a truly wonderful

YOM KIPPUR

Yom Kippur at ARK Centre is an experience of a community coming together to share a spiritual day, starting with Rabbi Shneur's soulful interpretation of Kol Nidrei with the congregation in an engrossed silence for the duration.

With Rabbi Shneur and Rabbi Gabi leading the prayers, the day was one of meaning, significance and a remarkable sense of belonging that permeated the entire building. The droshas answered some questions while leaving others for everyone to ponder over the coming weeks and months.

All the services were beautiful, musical, with the accompaniment of the wonderful ARKApella singers, and deeply spiritual

And, of course, the tradition continued with the now essential break the fast dinner featuring the amazing food of Chef Dan.

SUCCOT

The succah was full of people, young, older and even older, enjoying the Erev Succot family fun with music. The sound of instruments being played and young voices singing was a true delight. The succah was overflowing and everyone had an amazing time both at the party and the services the next day.

Rebbetzin Mushka and Rabbi Gabi hosted a "Succot Soul and Soup" in the succah where a great time was had by everyone who attended, and where their hunger for knowledge was matched by their appreciation of the soup.



SIMCHAT TORAH

Everyone looks forward to Simchat Torah, the joy, a few drinks for the adults, and the feeling of a new beginning after the weeks of the less light-hearted festivals.

Our Chatan Torah and Chatan Bereshit this year were Michael Greiman and Jay Ivany, who brought their families and friends to celebrate with them. It was a great ARK Centre

party and capped of the Yamim Noraim period with excitement, celebration and meaning.

Throughout the Yamim Noraim Gabbi Saar-Shalom, aided by a group of willing volunteers, provided an exciting, fun and interesting youth program during the services. Gabbi mixed up games and singing with some more educational games about what these Festivals are about and why we come to ARK Centre to pray, especially at this time of year.

MINISTERIAL VISIT

We were honoured that the then Minister for Multicultural Affairs, The Hon Robin Scott MP visited ARK Centre in October. We believe it's very important to forge a working relationship with government and we look forward to ongoing collaboration in the future.



SERVICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE PITTSBURGH MASSACRE

Following the horrendous shooting at the Tree of Life - Or L'Simcha Congregation - Pittsburgh, members of ARK Centre, together with others from the broader Melbourne community and some visiting Melbourne, who felt compelled to come together to mourn and to pay respects to those who lost their lives. As Rabbi Shneur said during the evening, there isn't necessarily a way to make sense of the tragedy but coming together can help us all to grieve and to honour those who were murdered in this act of terror. As we gathered in shule there was clearly a solemnity and a sadness



and, at the same time, a sense of comfort and even gratitude for being able to come together, in having a place to come and to meet safely, and collectively struggle with the difficult emotions that emerged.

MITZVAH DAY

The Jewish community comes together in many different ways to mark Mitzvah Day, an initiative that originated in the UK in the belief that we can all make a positive difference to our world by taking action - together. On a single day, Mitzvah Day, the community takes part in a range of initiatives to improve the world, participating in activities such as collecting and distributing food, befriending isolated people, sending gifts to people in need and many other things. ARK Centre families donated toiletries and toys to assist the m.a.d woman foundation in their endeavour to provide care packages to women and children fleeing from domestic violence.



CHANNUKAH

Chanukah is one of Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka's favourite festivals, and ARK Centre hosted a wide variety of events to attract an equally wide variety of interests and ages.

ARK Centre kicked off our Chanukah celebrations with a Whisky Night "Club Chai", hosted by Dov and Rosie Potaznik, where everyone learned about the history and culture of whisky, and where there were a number of very welcome donations of whisky to be used over coming shabbatot at ARK Centre. At the event Dov donated signed and framed Buddy Franklin memorabilia which was later raffled off at Purim. Our thanks to Dov and Rosie for opening their home and for putting on a wonderful event - we hope the first of many.



Rebbetzin Mushka hosted a "Next Level" Chanukah party at Antique Bar which was a couple's painting night, with candle lighting and lots of delicious treats to mark the holiday. The evening had a true celebratory atmosphere which was most appropriate for the time of year.

PURIM

The community gathered on Erev Purim to hear Rabbi Shneur read the Megillah accompanied, as is the tradition, by much noise and whistles every time Haman's name was read.

On the Friday evening we hosted a fantastic Purim themed Kabbalat Shabbat filled with craft activities, a wonderful storyteller from PJ Library, a busy, messy but successful hamentashen bake as well as





craft activities aplenty. Having sated their creative juices families enjoyed a delicious Kiddush spread. And all this before a super

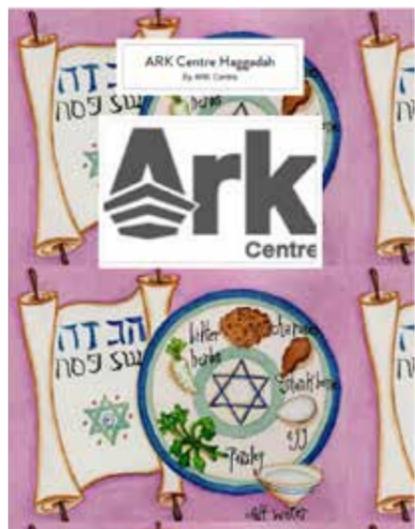
high energy Kabbalat Shabbat service full of song and a ruach (spirit) that could have almost raised the roof.

PESACH

Pesach is a time for Jews around the world to connect with their families, their heritage and age-old traditions. There is significant evidence from the recent Gen17 survey of the Jewish community that suggests that almost come what may, Pesach is a festival that most Jews feel a desire to participate in. That fierce determination to maintain connection is heart-warming not in the least because it is the very reason ARK Centre exists.

And it is why we continue to host our traditional Communal 2nd Night Seder. We thank our group of volunteers who have turned their well-honed skills in preparations into an art form. The Seder plates are prepared, tables set and deserts made during a super fun and remarkably efficient afternoon before the chag commences.

One unbreakable tradition is to fill the room with as many plastic frogs as possible, many of which somehow find themselves stuck to the ceiling. If you look carefully you may see many



of them still there from this year... and even one from the year before!

Second Seder is always a fun and interesting night at ARK Centre, with explanations and readings from everyone who can or wants to participate. Lots of singing and the enduring story of Pesach is told once more, leaving warm lasting memories and the anticipation of what will be for next year.

SHAVUOT

Bialik College Principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner spoke at this year's Tikkun Leil Shavuot, after a delicious milchig Kiddush, about the real story behind Sodom and Gemorrah. It was a riveting talk, with many from the large attendance joining in with questions and comments.



Sunday morning was all about the kids with a unique youth-focused service and a very special reading of the Ten Commandments from Rabbi Gabi. The kids all went up on the bimah to hear the Commandments and to be blessed by Rabbi Gabi.

Of course, all the children showed their appreciation by really enjoying the ice-cream party after the service.

Shavuot was Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka's first official chag as Rabbi and Rebbetzin of ARK Centre and it couldn't have been more successful. Both of them brought all their warmth, yiddishkeit and knowledge to make everyone feel welcome and part of the festival. Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka bring a wonderful energy to all they do in our community and they receive a very warm response in return.

AV'S UPSHERIN

Here at ARK Centre we love a good party, and what better occasion to celebrate than a son's third birthday and his ceremonial upsherin, his first haircut. The ARK Centre community, friends and family of Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka filled the Centre with joy. With plenty of food, lots of conversation and some very moving words from Rabbi Gabi about the significance of an upsherin, and very happy smiles from Av, the evening was a real pleasure to attend.



ROSH CHODESH

Every month on Rosh Chodesh, the start of a new month, students from Years 8 and 9 from the nearby Bialik College, come to ARK Centre to sing and hear Rabbi Gabi speak about the month to come, which festivals might occur that month and anything of significance or interest.

Dr Barry Teperman has been instrumental in organising the ARK Centre members to come to a regular monthly Rosh Chodesh Shacharit (morning) Service at ARK Centre. He, in his words, "rounds up the troops", and encourages attendance with the promise of poppyseed cake. Rosh Chodesh minyanim are open to all and as Dr. Barry says - "phylacteries optional".

RABBI IN RESIDENCE

For the past several years the ARK has been delighted to continue to foster a warm and special relationship with Rabbi Yehoshua Grunstein from Ohr Torah Stone in Alon Shvut in Israel. Rabbi Grunstein has made several visits to Australia to spend time at ARK Centre, and always shows huge support for our philosophy and the way we practise our Judaism here. He timed a visit in July this year specifically to coincide with Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka's induction, where we were honoured to have him deliver the Keynote Address.



A MESSAGE FROM RABBI SHNEUR



Dear friends

The past decade has been the most rewarding experience, having been honoured to lead the ARK Centre community. Through happiness and sadness the connections were inspiring. I have danced at your weddings and cried in your hours of grief.

Though I have recently stepped down from the role of Rabbi at ARK Centre, as you all know my great passion is meaningful spiritual connection. And my most natural medium is music. I am therefore so excited to have assumed a new role at ARK Centre as Music Director, which despite its fancy name simply means for me to find more and more ways for us to connect through Jewish music. Whether in the form of a Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat morning, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Chuppah, Hora, a

birthday, wedding anniversary, or a Tuesday night cocktail party, my mission is to bring music and inspiration to each occasion.

Judaism has had a long history of religious music. When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea the first thing we are told immediately after is that Miriam turned it on with song, instruments, and dance. Apparently the men were at the bar. At the moment of greatest exultation, an entire people safely freed from 400 years of slavery, watching their captors vanishing before their eyes, and the thing they feel like doing most is music.

Once they entered the land of Israel and built the Temple, half the Tribe of Levi, 5% of the entire population became the dedicated in house musos! They are mentioned in the Torah innumerable times usually with the

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI SHNEUR

injunction for the rest of the nation to support them with food, lodging, and of course cash in hand, an old Jewish tradition.

They were the unsung heroes of Temple life, and few today are even aware of the huge emphasis the Torah places on the value of music in spiritual worship. Instead people tend to think that the stars of the Temple were the priests. In fact, they were the butchers who reflected the Plan B of God who allows animal sacrifice only because they were so primitive. The true stars, the inspiration of the temple were the Levis whose music resonated throughout the temple. Given it was mainly marble and stone I am sure that God maximised the acoustics and it would no doubt have been quite the sound.

And of course King David is famously the ultimate example of music being the most profound element in Jewish religious life and worship. It doesn't get more obvious than the fact that our entire liturgy today is based on one person's songs, King David.

I look forward to the infinite possibilities of our future musical connections.

Shneur



SHABBAT @ ARK CENTRE

SHABBAT AT ARK CENTRE

Over the past many years ARK Centre has earned a reputation for the most warm, fun and inclusive Kabbalat Shabbat services in Melbourne. On an average Kabbalat Shabbat evening you can find scores of people of all ages gathering together to eat, schmooze, enjoy a lechaim, and pray, bringing in the Shabbat with much joy and singing.

Our approach to Shabbat is simple – it is the time in the week to come together to connect, to celebrate the Shabbat and our traditions and to be engaged spiritually. Families come to be together after a long week, to see their friends, to chat and talk and even sometimes debate, to learn, to switch off... to connect.

Over the course of the year we are pleased to host a range of guests.

We have had the pleasure of several members of the community giving a guest Dvar Torah (sermon), reading the Haftarah or undertaking a part of the leining (reading of the Torah). This year we've heard from Gabbi Sar-Shalom, David Naphtali, Phillippe Zimmet, Harry Rosenberg, Johnny Wolf, Steven Salamon, Jeff Shenker, Michael Naphtali, Ashley Krongold and many others participating in services. If you're interested in giving a drosha, davening or leining please contact Rabbi Gabi to schedule a suitable date.

On Friday evenings we regularly host guest speakers who share thoughts and experiences across a broad range of topics.

We heard from Hugh Cattermole, COO of Jewish Care, who movingly recounted his experience of being a non-Jew not just in his job at Jewish Care but his extraordinary trip with March

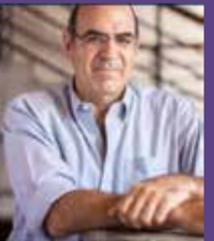
of the Living to Poland and Israel. There was hardly a dry eye in the shule.

We've been addressed by Josh Burns, now the Member for Macnamara, who spoke about his upbringing and the importance he places on his Jewish identity.



Eyal Sher addressed the community about his experience with the Director of the Israel Festival about the cultural significance of the Festival is and how relevant it is to the Israeli landscape.

Following the awful events in Christchurch, ARK Centre reached out to ICV President Mohamed Mohideen and invited him to our Centre as a show of support and solidarity



We were delighted to host Sally Capp, Lord Mayor of Melbourne who came to our Kabbalat Shabbat service and stayed on for a most interesting and entertaining Shabbat dinner. She answered lots of questions, not only from the adults present but some of the younger members also. The Lord Mayor is an ardent supporter of the Jewish community and it was an honour to host her, together with her husband Andrew Sutherland, at our Centre and hear their stories, perspectives and a few jokes as well.

against acts of terror of any kind. Bringing members of his family and close friends, the congregation heard his views on extremism and his passion in finding ways to unite people rather than divide them.



SPECIAL SHABBATOT

Throughout the Jewish year ARK Centre links Festival and special occasions with Shabbat.

Of course, most Jewish festivals are linked with food in some way, and at ARK Centre we try to make the most of

this old custom and tradition. Chef Dan, our volunteers and of course everyone who loves to come to ARK, joins in this highly anticipated part of what we offer.

At Channukah there were donuts aplenty, with a variety of fillings and flavours.



On Yom Ha'atzmaut it was a feast of wonderful Israeli food, and a particularly special warm and celebratory atmosphere, with a slightly more sombre moment when we commemorated Yom Hazikaron in memory of those who have fallen

defending the State of Israel in its many wars.

In Israel Lag BaOmer it is a time of bonfires and other ancient traditions. Here at ARK Centre we had a makeshift imitation bonfire, fabulous barbeque food and a very moving service with guest speaker Kathy Kaplan from Impact who talked about the very real and prevalent issue, within and external to our community, of domestic violence. The talk was powerful and left everyone better informed and tuned into to the reality of the issue.



SHABBATONS

ARK Centre host a monthly Shabbaton where we hear from speakers from a range of organisations and walks of life. The purpose of these Shabbatons is to encourage people to come to shule to learn and hear something they wouldn't otherwise encounter, and to participate in the service in a different way to the weekly Shabbat morning services. In doing so the community is opened up not just to the subject the guest speaker talks about but also to the Shabbat morning service and its

traditions... including a delicious sit-down lunch following the service. Some of the speakers this year included Josh Goldstat who spoke about his journey from the Maccabiah bridge collapse to his Gold Medal performance at the recent Maccabiah Games; we had a Grandparents Shabbat with books



for youngsters on the beauty of Shabbat read aloud for all to enjoy; we heard from Laura Pierce, Navah Jachimowicz and Claire Morton about their experiences on the JNF Education Tour in Israel in January and from Michael Barnett from Aleph Melbourne about his experiences

growing up in Melbourne and coming to terms with his identity.

We have a number of very interesting speakers scheduled for the rest of the year and look forward to welcoming you to the Centre to hear from them.



Our Shabbatons are made possible by the generous support of The Eva and Les Erdi Humanitarian Charitable Foundation.

AN OFFICIAL WELCOME



Sunday July 14, 11 Tammuz 5779, saw a truly momentous day in ARK Centre's history. Rabbis, Members of State and Federal Parliament, Community Leaders, ARK Centre members, donors and dear friends and family gathered to celebrate the official induction of Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka as the ARK Centre Rabbi and Rebbetzin.

It was an evening that offered a genuine demonstration of what makes the Centre, and indeed the Melbourne Jewish community such a privilege to be part of. On a cold and blustery day over 250 people joined to induct a young couple as they commence their journey as Melbourne's newest Jewish leadership team.

After a brief introduction from Gretchen Grodski, The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Treasurer of Australia and Member for Kooyong, the electorate in which the ARK Centre is located, commenced the evening's formalities with warm and passionate words about the relevance and value of our Jewish community. In talking about Rabbis and Rebbetzins he pointed to the importance of the role spiritual leaders play from birth through to death in the Jewish lifecycle and

how he, not as a politician but as a Jew, is so excited to see what the future has in store for ARK Centre with Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka at the helm.

Michael Naphtali AM, Co-Founder of ARK Centre and MC of the evening was forthright in his discussion of ARK Centre's history. He acknowledged that as a growing 'disruptive start-up' ARK Centre had made some mistakes, learned a lot along the way and is now poised for an exciting next chapter. In trademark style he wasn't shy about addressing the tougher issues, the 'pil baheder' (elephant in the room) as he put it - Orthodox conversion. He acknowledged that some in the room, some in the community, had been offended by work that ARK Centre had done in the area. He was clear that causing offence was never the intention. But he was resolute that working with like-minded colleagues to affect the very necessary change was nothing to ever apologise for. He thanked the community for their support and he shared how the success the community has already experienced will only grow, please G-d, as Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin

Mushka continue and expand on what they have already achieved at ARK Centre.

In performing the official induction, Rabbi Philip Heilbrunn OAM, President of the Rabbinic Council of Victoria, set the tone for what was to follow. Rabbi Heilbrunn spoke about Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka in glowing tones and wished them every success in their roles.

After being presented with a tallit and being formally inducted as Rabbi of ARK Centre, Rabbi Gabi delivered a powerful address that included some of his personal history and the guiding principle he is taking forward. He spoke about his aspiration to act as an example of love and inclusion and to address the rising issues of radicalisation and racial intolerance.

Our international Guest Speaker Rabbi Yehoshua Grunstein from Ohr Torah Stone, Israel addressed Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka and extolled the virtues they bring to our Centre. He encouraged them to focus on the individual as much as the community and to help them find relevance and meaning in Judaism in today's world.

Mr John Kennedy MP, Member for Hawthorn and representing the Minister for Multicultural Affairs The Hon Richard Wynn MP, spoke briefly about how pleased he was to be in the Synagogue and wished Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka every success in their new roles. He even spoke a few words in Hebrew much to everyone's delight.

As the outgoing Senior Rabbi, and now Part Time Musical Director of ARK Centre, Rabbi Shneur Reti-Waks shared from his heart in his preferred way - through song. After the energetic performance that enchanted the crowd, Joan Lurie offered her words of thanks to Rabbi Shneur for all his efforts and all he brought to ARK Centre as Rabbi for nine years. Her words were truly heartfelt and moving as she summed up how we were all feeling.

As the evening came to a close after the recitation of the Prayer for Australia by Donna Kallenbach, the Prayer for Israel by David Mandel, the singing of the Australian and Israeli national anthems and davening Maariv, many people simply didn't want to leave.

Most of the speakers during the evening addressed, in one way or another, the divides that affect us as Jews, as Australians, as citizens of the world. In coming together to celebrate the beginning of the new era at ARK Centre, the community at large demonstrated relevance, meaning, mutual love and respect, tolerance and indeed excitement at all the future promise we see with Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka.



B'NEI MITVAH PROGRAM



One of the highlights of our year is the ARK Centre B'Nei Mitzvah Program. Each year a new group comes in to ARK Centre and participate in a great range of activities designed to help them learn about themselves as Jews in the year before their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Rabbi Gabi and Rebbetzin Mushka have designed a Program that engages the minds and souls of these young people. We bring in a range of guest speakers over the course of the Program as well as taking participants on exciting and interesting excursion and leading in-house creative sessions.

In 2018 we saw a number of highlights that culminated

in a Graduation witnessed by kvelling parents and grandparents.

In 2019 the Program design was refined and over two terms the B'Nei Mitzvah participants were part of some inspiring and thought provoking sessions that opened them up to a range of subjects, ideas and experiences that can help shape their views on the world around them and how they see themselves fitting in to it today and into the future as they come up to becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah.

Over the past two terms they've had a session with a Sofer (scribe), thrown themselves into Krav Maga

and Laughing Yoga, made Hamentashen to be donated to those in need via C-Care, held a chocolate Seder, went on a Kosher tour, learned about recycling and Tikkun Olam, heard from a White Ribbon ambassador, the boys dyed Tzitzit and the girls went on a tour of the mikveh to name just a few of the wonderful sessions.

Seeing these young minds and hearts being opened not just to topics of interest but also to their roles and responsibilities as Jews in today's world fills our hearts not just with nachas but pride as we watch the emerging consciousness of the next generation.



PASTORAL CARE @ ARK CENTRE



At ARK Centre our commitment to Pastoral Care is seen in our dedication to anyone in our community who finds themselves in need. It may be that there is an elderly person who has become isolated due to illness or lack of ability to go out as they once could, it could be a parent faced with the challenges that come with a newborn, it could be someone who is unwell and in need of some additional support, it could be a bereaved person struggling with the loss of a loved one, it could be someone facing a new reality after a change of life circumstance such a divorce or sudden unemployment.

Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers welcome the opportunity to assist anyone in the community who finds themselves needing some assistance. We have a group of wonderful individuals who make the time to visit the elderly or unwell, who can arrange Kosher meals for those who are injured or need assistance and who willingly and eagerly make themselves available to help people who need it. And we take this opportunity to thank each and every volunteer involved in Pastoral Care activities for their ongoing efforts and involvement.

Over the course of our lifetimes many of us will find ourselves in a situation where we need help. Asking for it can be the largest barrier to getting that assistance. And so we encourage all our members and friends to get in touch if you, a loved one or dear friend is in need of support. It might be that having a cup of tea or a chat with a friendly person could be beneficial. At certain times of the year it might be that if you can't make it to Shul for any reason, then the Rabbi can visit so the mitzvah of hearing the shofah on Rosh Hashanah or hearing the megillah on Purim is fulfilled.

We believe that engagement and involvement comes in a myriad of ways and so when there are times that people cannot make it to the Centre we welcome the opportunity to come to you.

For any Pastoral Care enquiries please contact the office on 8658 4044 or via office@arkcentre.com.au. Your enquiry will be received with compassion and any information you provide will be treated with the strictest confidence.

THE ARK: COMBINING THE MIND AND THE HEART

RABBI YEHOASHUA GRUNSTEIN



It is hard to find a shule of any sort that a Bima doesn't stand at its center, as well as the Torah reading done on it being no less than the chronological center of the services on a Shabbat/Holiday/Monday/Thursday/Fast Days [Tractate Bava Kama 82b.]

Indeed, one of the most beautiful descriptions of this familiar scene is taken from the opening of the 2nd Temple on Rosh-Hashanah of then:

ויאספו כל העם כאיש אחד אל הרחוב אשר לפני שער המים ויאמרו לעזרא הספר להביא את ספר תורת משה אשר צוה יקוק את ישראל...לשמע ביום אחד לחדש השביעי: ויקרא בו לפני הרחוב ויפתח עזרא הספר לעיני כל העם כי מעל כל העם היה וכפתחו עמדו כל העם: (נחמיה ח/א-ה).

All the people gathered as one man to the square that was before the Water Gate, and they said to Ezra the scholar to bring the scroll of the Law of Moses... And he read in it before the square that was before the Water Gate... And Ezra opened the scroll before the eyes of the entire people, for he was above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood. [Book of Nechemya Chapter 8, verses 1-5].

Having said that, what are we trying to accomplish when the sing-song "lainer" reads from the Torah, with those getting Aliyot standing at his side, with Gabbaim ensuring the ongoing flow of it?

On the surface, laining is a form of publicly teaching Torah to the congregation. As such, the Code of Jewish Law [OC 146/4] suggests that one can sit during laining, as one does when learning Torah, with the verse above [i.e.- and when he opened it, all the people stood] is not to be taken literally but rather figuratively that they listened attentively [Gr"a ibid d"h ומחמירין ויש].

However, while not obligatory, the Rama [bid] does bring the custom of the Maharam of Rothenburg to actually stand during the Torah reading, as is the simple understanding of the verses from Nechemia above. If indeed laining is just teaching/learning Torah, why would we stand if in any other class or lecture we sit? Explains the Bac"h [ibid 141]:

...מפני שצריך האדם להעלות בדעתו כששומע הקריאה מפי הקורא כאלו קבלה אותה שעה מהר סיני ובהר סיני היו כל ישראל עומדין,

...since during the Torah reading a person has to feel like we just received the Torah from Sinai, and at Sinai all the Jews stood.

According to the Bac"h, when we lain, we are attempting to re-enact the scene and feeling of receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai! At that time, the Jewish people didn't just learn Torah from G-d and Moshe, but rather went through an experience of a rendezvous with G-d, amidst the thunder/lightening and shofar blowing. Thus, the Jerusalem Talmud (Megilla 4/1) adds the following laws to our laining:

רבי שמואל בר רב יצחק עאל לכנישתא חד בר נש קאים מתרגם סמיך לעמודא אמר ליה: "אסור לך כשם שניתנה

באימה ויראה, כך אנו צריכין לנהוג בה באימה ויראה. "רבי חגי א"ר שמואל בר רב יצחק עאל לכנישתא. חמא חונה קאים מתרגם ולא מקים בר נש תחתוי. אמר ליה אסיר לך כשם שניתנה על ידי סרסור כך אנו צריכין לנהוג בה על ידי סרסור.

R' Shmuel son of R' Yizchak went to shul. A gentleman would interpret the Torah reading, and rested his body on the Bima. They told him; "that's forbidden; just like the Torah was given in awe and trepidation, so too we have to treat [the Torah reading] with awe and trepidation. R' Chagi/R' Shmuel son of Yizchak went to shul. Chama was interpreting the Torah reading without another reader there. They said to him; "That's forbidden; just like the Torah was given by virtue of a messenger [i.e.- Moshe], so too we [in the Torah reading] have to act.

These laws all lead us to creating not just a place to learn Torah, but an experience of learning it that mimics the manner in which G-d gave us the Torah back at Sinai.

When trying to influence and inspire a congregation to adhere and observe the Jewish lifestyle, it seems clear that we can't just teach the Torah in a dry/frontal fashion, but rather, combining the two points of view above, ensure that we both learn it and experience it so that it flows over from our laining to our homes, offices and more.

Anyone entering ARK Centre can observe rather naturally how the team leading it combines the two: classes are offered as well as...refreshments, Friday night services are held...but with a proper Kiddush as well, and services are Davened bedecked with many songs, ensuring the constant combination of the mind and heart in the celebration of the most important and beautiful gift we ever received; Judaism.





did you know?

Since we began in early 2017...

we have held **120 cooking workshops**

engaged **1650 volunteers**

provided **6550 meals**

helped over **1500 families**



Please enjoy some of our favourite OVK recipes

Best ever OVK apple cake

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup caster sugar
- 1/2 cup soft brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/8 cup orange juice
- 1.5 cups SR flour
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 medium apples, peeled and sliced thinly

Method

- Preheat oven to 160 degrees fan forced.
- Line a small round baking tin with baking paper.
- In a large bowl or in mixer, whisk the eggs and sugar until creamy.
- Add in the vanilla essence, oil and orange juice until just combined.
- Add in the SR flour, cinnamon and salt, mixing for a further few minutes.
- Pour mixture in to tin, and then top with apples.
- Bake until golden, approx. 40 minutes or until firm.
- Once cool remove from pan, dust with icing sugar.

Olio pasta with mushrooms & sage

Ingredients

- Curly pasta 2 x 500g packet
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 300ml olive oil
- 600g mushrooms, sliced
- 1 bunch sage leaves, shredded
- 1 lemon, juiced
- salt/pepper to season

Method

- Cook the pasta according to instructions and drain well.
- In a large pot on medium heat, saute the garlic in a little olive oil until softened and slightly brown. Be careful not to burn.
- Add approx. 150ml of olive oil together with the mushrooms and cook further few minutes until soft.
- Add in the remainder of the olive oil and stir through well.
- Stir in the sage leaves and lemon juice.
- Season with salt and pepper.
- Add cooked pasta to the pot and toss well
- Serve immediately.

where do we make our meals?

Meals for 18 families are prepared by volunteers mid-week in the state of the art commercial kosher kitchen, here at the Ark Centre.

Meals for another 10 families are made weekly, through our OVK cooking program at Bialik College where Year 8 & 9 students prepare additional meals for families on a Friday afternoon.

As part of OVK giving we also provide families in our community with pantry boxes full of essential household staples and festive ingredients to celebrate Jewish Festivals.

where does our food go?

We are fortunate to be partnered with Jewish Care. Our meals are distributed to families within the Victorian Jewish community that are supported by Jewish Care, enabling the meals to reach families directly.

Our recipients present with a broad range of circumstances that have contributed to or impacted upon their access to food. Meals are provided to cover their immediate needs while Jewish Care helps them to put more sustainable measures into place.

join us

Our volunteers are the key reason we are able to do what we do. Help us make a difference to those going through tough times by joining us for a session.

You will have lots of fun and may even make a new friend or two.... consider being one of our regulars!

Sign up via our website.



The OVK team: Lisa, Galit, Jo, Romy & Emily



SMACHOT @ ARK CENTRE

Over the course of the year, we celebrate a wide variety of smachot, ranging from Bar and Bat mitzvot, weddings, funerals, special birthdays and Upsherin ceremonies. Our philosophy is to make everyone welcome and to do our best to cater to everyone's needs and requests. We believe Judaism should be an inclusive and welcoming environment and we do our very best to make sure that is reflected in everything that we do.



VOLUNTEERS

ARK Centre has some of the most dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers you'll find. To each and every person who gives of their time and effort we thank you for all that you do – we couldn't do all we do at ARK Centre without the help and support of volunteers.

There is always more we'd love to do and we need to do. If you're interested in volunteering we'd love to hear from you. We have some great volunteer programs or if you have your own ideas then please get in touch!

Events Volunteer Group

At ARK Centre we pride ourselves on delivering new, different and interesting events during the year. Behind the scenes there is a dedicated group of volunteers who come up with great ideas, canvass their own social circles for what needs and wants exist in the community, help set up and plan our events. Many of those who volunteer in this capacity, under the dedicated leadership of Donna Kallenbach, have done so for a number of years. Others have become involved more recently. We welcome and embrace everyone who has some time, a little energy and a lot of warmth to help bring ARK Centre events to life. If you have a great idea you'd love to see happen at ARK Centre or you're interested in learning more please get in touch with the office.

Security

The need for security at a Jewish Centre is unquestionable. We are fortunate to have a number of committed and trained individuals who guard the Centre, on rotation, on Friday nights and on Chagim, under the leadership of our Security Liaison Theo Axarlis. To each and every person who helps keep us safe we say an enormous thank you.

We do, however, need more volunteers, so if you have CSG training or would be interested in being trained, we'd love to hear from you and add you to our roster.

Pastoral Care

ARK Centre's commitment to Pastoral Care is unwavering. In order to assist those who are in need we encourage members of the community to join our volunteer roster. Those who have become involved already tell us their visits are very rewarding not least because they are helping those who are in a difficult situation participate in, and feel part of, the ARK Centre community. If you're interested in becoming involved or learning more about being a Pastoral Care Volunteer, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

For more information on all volunteering opportunities please contact the office via office@arkcentre.com.au



ARK CATERING



Over the past few years working as the Chef of Ark Catering I have seen great developments

in both local and imported foods in Melbourne. The rise of popularity of celebrity chefs such as Yotam Ottolenghi has increased interest in Middle Eastern cooking, and with that, the demand for international products. I love the fact that you can now source most products from Israel in Melbourne so we can create a more authentic Middle Eastern culinary experience. This allows me to work with interesting and bold flavours as well as spices which were previously rarely found outside of Israel. People are now more conscious of the healthy choices which are present in Mediterranean diets, such as the health properties of olive oil and fresh produce.

Fresh produce has always been the foundation of my

ethos as a Chef. I have made efforts in finding the best local products available. One exciting discovery has been a small potato farm called Spud Sisters. These two sisters come from three generations of potato farmers and are passionate about all things spuds. Their farm is close to Ballarat with rich red fertile volcanic soil, perfect for growing potatoes. They follow sustainable farming methods, raising their potatoes from certified seeds and using natural methods of pest and disease control. They provide a range of potatoes and also advice on which are best suited for particular styles of cooking. For example, for wedges or chips I need dry floury potatoes such as russets or maris piper that are picked out of the ground as close as possible to the delivery time so the potatoes come out as crispy as possible. Their farming methods mean the potatoes have an authentic flavour which potatoes used to have before the intensive farming seen today. Perhaps



my Dutch heritage also has something to do with my desire to get the most out of the humble spud.

Running a Kosher kitchen, we often have to return to basics and produce our food from scratch, which I see as an opportunity to make food that is much closer to the source and less processed than other catering operations. With high quality ingredients, a chef's job is to bring the most out of the produce allowing their natural flavours to shine through without over processing. The combination of supporting great local businesses and the access to amazing international products has made Ark Catering a high quality food offering for the community.



KEEP IN TOUCH!

For all information, photos and links to events, and news about what's coming up follow us on Facebook and Instagram so you won't miss anything happening @ ARK Centre.



RECIPE

Sinia

Sinia is a dish originating from Lebanon, though like any good dish, there is always a debate surrounding its true origins. Regardless of where it's from in the region, it's delicious and simple to create. One of the main ingredients is Tahina.

I'm a big fan of Tahina and always happy to add it to any dish as it's a healthy and easy way to add flavour and texture.

I'm going to try and give you a simplified version to make it super easy and quick to make, as well as deconstructing this dish in order to make it more versatile for different dietary requirements.

Base for the dish (for one person – just multiply by the number of people for a larger serve)



PUMPKIN BASE

Pumpkin

- Cut the pumpkin into a 250gm piece with the skin on
- Mix with oil and season with salt
- Roast at 180c for 20min or until tender and caramelised on top.

SWEET POTATO BASE

250-350g sweet potato

- Cook in boiling water (skin on) for 12 minutes and allow to cool
- Cut in half and rub with oil and salt.
- Roast at 180c until caramelised on top and starts to shrink (the sweetness comes out when the water within reduces)

SPICE MIX

10g cumin powder
10g coriander powder
10g cinnamon powder
10g Baharat mix

TOPPINGS

Tahina – 100g tahini

- Mix with water until smooth and runny enough to be drizzled on the dish
- Add juice of half a lemon, teaspoon of minced garlic and a good pinch of salt
- Mix well and set aside.

VEGETARIAN

Cauliflower

- Wash and break half cauliflower head into small florets
- Mix with olive oil (canola is ok too)
- Season with salt and big pinch of sinia spice mix and roast at 180c for 15 minutes or until dark brown on the outside but still holds texture.

MEAT

This recipe is enough for 2-3 servings. You can freeze any left overs and use at a later date.

250g lamb mince
250g beef mince
2 onions chopped
2 cloves of garlic minced
250ml chicken stock
Pinch of salt
Pinch of cracked black pepper
100ml olive oil
40g sinia spice mix (save some for garnish)

COOKING METHOD

- Heat the oil in a deep pan
- Add the onions and sauté until golden brown
- Add the garlic and sauté (be sure not to burn)
- Add the spice mix and mix
- Add the minced meat bit by bit – you don't want to cool the pan down too quickly

- Mix everything together well and add the chicken stock.
- Use the liquid to break the lumps of meat until it is a smooth mince like Bolognese.
- Add more water if necessary
- Let it cook on low heat for 20 minutes and season (if there is too much liquid you can cook it more until the consistency is right.)

TO CONSTRUCT

- On a plate, place the base piece (pumpkin or sweet potato)
- Top with 150g of the minced meat or roast cauliflower, drizzle with tahina (don't cover everything fully, you want to still be able to see what's underneath)
- Scatter 6 halved cherry tomatoes
- Sprinkle roasted almond flakes
- Sprinkle fresh spring onion or parsley
- Add a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil
- Sprinkle some Sinia spice on top and serve



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– Mignon Hondow, PA to Managing Director, Bunnings 

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I wish to donate _____ (number) chairs at \$250 each = \$ _____ to the ARK Centre Library Fund.

Please acknowledge _____ (name) on the Honour Board.

Please make cheque out to Auburn Road Centre Library Fund.

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WE REMEMBER...

... those who went before us and enriched our lives. You can commemorate family members and other loved ones who are no longer with us by inscribing them on the ARK Centre Yizkor Board.



Please fill in the form below to arrange plaques for those you wish to commemorate.

The cost of \$600 includes the plaque, an invitation to a Yartzelt service each year and recitation of Kaddish if you are unable to attend.

I wish to donate _____ (number) plaques at \$600 each = \$ _____ to the Auburn Road Centre Inc. to commemorate _____ (name) on the Yizkor Board.

Please make out cheque to Auburn Road Centre.

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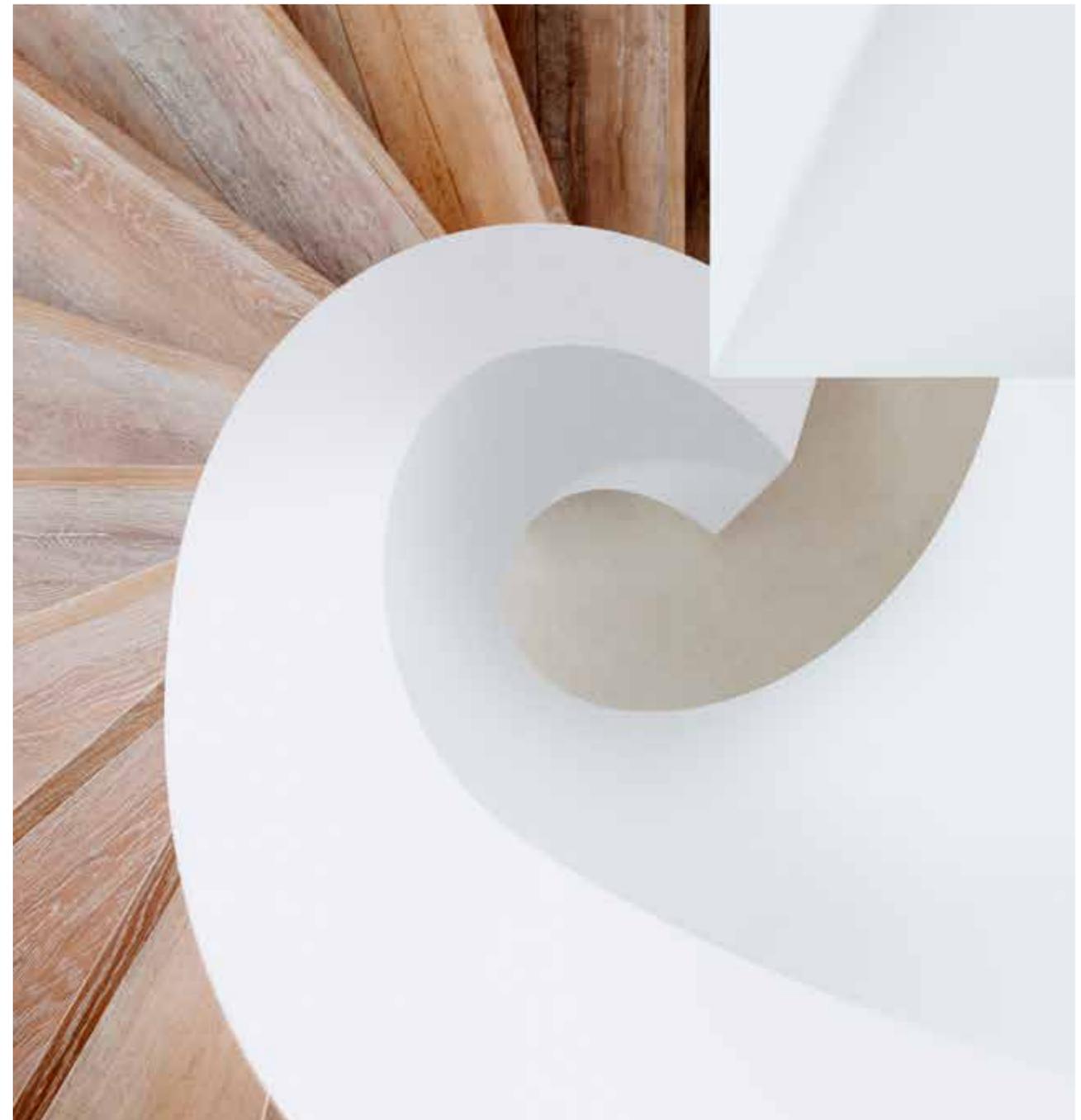
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