

The Menorah

בסייד

Volume 5, Number 10

April 2009, Nissan 5769

In this Edition

- President's Report**
- Rabbi's Report**
- Hall Hire**
- Upcoming Events at the NEJC**
- UJEB Report**
- Women's Circle Calendar**
- NEJC Family News**
- Committee Reports**
- Activity Page**
- NEJC Playgroup**



Let all who are hungry come and eat

*Wishing you a wonderful
Passover holiday*



**NORTH EASTERN JEWISH
WAR MEMORIAL CENTRE INC.**

15TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the
15th Annual General Meeting of the
NEJWC Inc. will be held
on Sunday 5 April 2009 at 8pm.
The meeting will be held at 6 High Street, Doncaster.

Visit www.nejc.com.au to view this Menorah in FULL COLOUR



Tammy Goldwasser and Wayne Blumenthal's Wedding by Ruth Goldwasser

“I thought I would send you these photos as they show the wedding ceremony in the North Eastern Centre at Tammy and Wayne's wedding in December 2008. We were delighted to have the ceremony at the lovely shule and to have all our family there with Rabbi Glasman officiating. He made the occasion very special, he knew all of us and spent time making our guests feel welcome and comfortable. Comments were that he was very personable and friendly. The way that the chuppah was arranged was unique and really fantastic with Tammy and Wayne facing the front so everyone had a wonderful view of the couple during the ceremony. The size of the shule was perfect as the downstairs was full and guests were able to spill over to upstairs as well.”





President's Report

The Centre is once again on the move and quite a few changes have taken place over the past few months and in particular I refer to the upgrading of facilities.

The kitchen has been gutted and remodelled which has modernised and enhanced this important facility which is used on a regular basis for the preparation of Shabbat morning kiddushim and the many communal meals held at the centre.

Our thanks go out to Ben Alexander, Michael Katzew, Issy Allen and Mark Fielding for their tireless efforts in completing this project.

In addition to the kitchen, we have also commenced upgrading the toilets which is still a "work in progress".

The Centre has also upgraded the Scout Hall area as this facility has been rented by Ceberano Martial Arts Academy which commenced classes at the beginning of February. They hold classes during the week and train Monday to Thursday up to 8.30pm.

The shul has also been given a "new look" as the mechitza has been in place for some time now to accommodate our Ladies downstairs. It will only be used for regular Shabbat services and will be taken down for Yom Tov or other special occasions. We thank our Male congregants who have now relocated to other seats.

We have been holding all the regular minyanim including yartzeits and my personal thanks go out to our dedicated members who are always willing to make themselves available to attend the services to ensure that we have a minyan. Their commitment provides continuity for our shul services.

We also say a big "Thank You" to the women of our centre who have always made their presence felt in participating in the shul services and assisting in making all our functions so successful.

The bushfire tragedy that engulfed Victoria a few weeks ago touched us all, and in addition to many personal contributions already given, the JNF asked all the shules to dedicate the offerings made when called to the Torah on a special Shabbat, to be allocated to them for the planting of trees in Victoria. The response from our congregants was fabulous and many offerings were made over and above those called to the Torah and over \$600 was pledged. Well done.

Security has always been an important aspect at the Centre and we should be constantly aware of the need to be vigilant and request that our members do their utmost to assist as well. What can you do?

You can help by:

- Ensuring that the door is properly closed when you leave the building by "testing" to see that the catch has engaged
- Make sure that the main gates are closed if you are the last to leave
- Do not leave bags or parcels lying around unattended
- Advise the office when you have a meeting at the centre
- Advise the office if you are meeting non members, tradesmen etc
- Most important – DO NOT congregate outside after the conclusion of the service

Pesach is only a few weeks away and on behalf of myself and the Board of Management we wish you all Chag Semeach.

Milton Shenker
President



Rabbi's Report

The Centre has seen much activity since Rosh Hashana notwithstanding a quiet period over the summer. With help from the Board of Management, Rebbetzin Sara and I have been busy at the Centre providing various programs and activities for varying age groups.

The Playgroup is progressing well with mothers and their children (0-5 yrs) enjoying the newly purchased equipment. Playgroup mothers also get together for social events (without the kids) every couple of months just to enjoy a ladies night out. A special thanks to their kind husbands who stay home and babysit during these times.

The Women's Circle concluded with Hynda Feldman's fantastic Rosh Hashana recipes just before Rosh Hashana last year. The new Women's Circle schedule for 2009 looks great and promises to be thoroughly enjoyed by those who will be attending. Thanks to Rebbetzin Sara for running the Playgroup and organizing the Women Circle.

The Centre's Chanukah celebration was fantastic. We had a particularly good turnout considering that Chanukah was so late into the summer this year. It was especially gratifying for all present to see the children having such a wonderful time with all the booths and other Jewish activities designed for them. Thanks to Betar for supplying youth leaders to assist in the Chanukah party.

The weekly shiurim are going well. There is much lively discussion and debate about themes surrounding the weekly Torah portion, as well as over selected passages from one of the classic Jewish works – "Ethics of the Fathers". The classes are thoroughly enjoyed by all who participate. During February and early March, the shiurim focussed on Jewish prayer which was very well attended over the three week course.

The NEJC website (www.nejc.com.au) is continually updated. After having learned webmaster skills which are necessary to update a website, I have been nicknamed the "reb-master" – a title in which I take much pride. Events and programs are uploaded onto the site every week and you can also view a weekly 2 minute video on a Jewish thought for the week by clicking on the link on the home page.

I'd particularly like to thank the ongoing President of the Centre, Milton Shenker, for his continual and unwavering commitment to the Centre in both the religious and lay areas. Milton, together with all members of the Board of Management should be applauded for the work they do in ensuring the smooth operation and continual growth of the North Eastern Jewish Centre.

And last, but certainly not least, I'd like to thank my dear wife, Rebbetzin Sara for her continued and ongoing support. Behind every good rabbi stands a good Rebbetzin. I will leave it to others to decide whether I am a good rabbi, but I know with absolute certainty that Sara is a brilliant Rebbetzin who has invested, and continually invests so much time and effort into the Centre whilst at the same time providing the utmost care to her husband and beautiful children. Thank you Sara.

May you all have a wonderful and inspiring Pesach.

Did you know that the NEJC Halls are for Hire.....

Have you been thinking of planning a child's birthday party, community group meeting, large anniversary or birthday party and don't know where to look?

The North Eastern Jewish Centre is happy to hire out the main hall, multi-purpose hall, youth hall, coffee shop, board room and class rooms at very attractive and competitive rates. There is **no** charge to members for Hall Hire for religious simchas.

Hall hire fees include use of tables and chairs. We also have a newly renovated meat kitchen and separate milk kitchen for hire as well. All food brought into the Centre must be glat kosher and approved by Rabbi Glasman.

For more information contact Elaine at the Centre Office on 9816 3516.



NEJC Main Hall set up for a Shabbaton



Newly refurbished "meat" kitchen



After 39½ years of wandering in the desert, Mrs. Moses secretly asks for directions.

2009 NEJC Batmitzvah Program

Following a highly successful Bat Mitzvah ceremony at the Centre in 2008, we are now planning the next Bat Mitzvah program for 2010. If you have any girls amongst your family or friends who will be turning 11-12 during 2009/10, please contact the Centre during office hours or email

Rebbetzin Sara directly at
saraglasman@yahoo.com.au.

Upcoming Events at the NEJC

April

1st - Friendship Club
5th - UJEB Model Seder
- **NEJC AGM - 8pm - Join us for a PUNCH Supper at the AGM**
8th - Erev Pesach
18th-Cholent Shabbos

May

12th - Lag B'Omer
23rd - Cholent Shabbos
24th - Women's Circle – Personal Reflections of a Cult Buster

June

20th - Cholent Shabbos

July

18th - Cholent Shabbos
19th - Women's Circle– Natural and Conventional Medicine

August

15th - Cholent Shabbos

September

12th - Cholent Shabbos
13th - Women's Circle - Rosh Hashanah Gift Cards

October

25th - Sausage Sizzle

On-Going Events

Shiurim

Rabbi Glasman holds regular Monday night shiurs at the North Eastern Jewish Centre.

8:00-8:45 pm is a shiur on the Torah portion with commentaries.

8:45-9:30 pm is a shiur on Pirkei Avot - Jewish Ethics. These are both ongoing.

Betar

Betar runs activities for our Youth every Sunday from 2:00pm - 4:00pm at the Centre.

Betar also runs Leadership Courses for Yr 10's. For more information about Betar please contact Eytan Epstein on 0414 541 637.

UJEB Report by Marcel Saxone

We are off to a fine start this year, with enrolments up and plans for a computer to enrich the learning for kids at all levels. The teachers are extraordinarily creative in their lesson planning and access to a computer and the internet will open this up even further. Parents currently arrive to collect their children accompanied by the wonderful smells of Hamantaschen cooking or seeing the kids on a scavenger hunt. These activities are great fun and the kids love it. We are all looking forward to our UJEB **Purim Party on Sunday 8th March** and the **Model Seder on Sunday 5th April**. These special occasions can be a great opportunity to come and have a look at the UJEB program, so if you know anyone who might be interested in UJEB for their preschool and primary school aged children, encourage them to contact the Principal Mrs Esther Raitman on ph: 0408 408 770 for more details. We are lucky to have such a dedicated UJEB program at Doncaster and families come from all over the northern and eastern suburbs to join in. And the parents enjoy it too – not only do they get Sunday mornings off, but there are also regular get-togethers for a coffee and chat to support each other and the kids.

SHMURAH MATZO

Do you receive a piece of Shmurah Matzo at Pesach? As a Centre member you are entitled to receive a piece of this special handmade Matzo.

Please contact Elaine at the Centre Office on 9816 3516 to have your name and address placed on the delivery list.

If you have moved in the last year, please contact the office with your new address details to update our records.

Catering for Functions— Your Assistance required

The centre is looking to build a register of people to assist with the preparation of food for our Centre function's. Your help would only be required once or twice a year.

You don't need to be a great cook—just someone willing to help, learn new skills from others and share in good conversation. It really is an enjoyable time out from your own duties and your time would be gratefully appreciated by all at your Centre. Without your assistance, costs of functions will be increased due to this work being outsourced.

If interested, please email your contact details to Elaine at nejc@bigpond.com .

T'03



NEJC Women's Circle – 2009

March 15
Sushi - Food Safari Style

Sushi. Whether you love it or hate it - it's great to know how to make it. Batya Slater, a sushi extraordinaire who starred on the SBS cooking program "The Food Safari Show" presents sushi-making demonstrations to a wide range of audiences across Melbourne. Join Batya as she guides you through a step by step demonstration on how to make two kinds of mouth watering sushi that will keep your guests coming back for more!
Cost: \$5

May 24
Personal Reflections of a Cultbuster

Cults and other addictions can be a parent's worst nightmare and we all say "It won't happen to us" - but it does. Raphael Aron, director of the Gateway Family Counselling Centre, is a key figure in the social services field both locally and internationally, and is a much sought after speaker on drug and other addictions. Raphael's previous book "Cults: Too Good to be True" - Harper Collins, has become the definitive work on cults in Australia. Join Raphael as he takes you through a breathtaking journey of his personal experiences in his rescuing and deprogramming of cult victims.

July 19
Natural and Conventional Medicine – Can They Work Together?

Much has been written about the advantages of both natural and conventional medicine, but should they be combined? Enjoy a fascinating presentation addressing this issue by Dr. Mark Glasman. Dr. Glasman graduated from Melbourne University in 1979 and has demonstrated a keen and active interest in complementary medicine throughout his medical career, as well as completing a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychiatry in 2002. Dr. Glasman is the proud father of five wonderful children, including the rabbi of the North Eastern Jewish Centre.

September 13
Rosh Hashana Card Designs

Do you remember the fantastic jewellery making presentation in 2007? Even if you missed out, professional art instructor Melanie Rosenzweig is back by popular demand! Melanie, known for her creative and artistic expressions, is highly sought after for her interactive workshops and presentations. Join her before Rosh Hashana this year and create your very own, personalized Rosh Hashana greeting card. Whether it's for family, friends, workmates or associates, you'll be sure to bring a Rosh Hashana smile to some faces this year!
Cost: \$7.50 Each person will make 10 cards and envelopes

October 25
Women's Circle Sausage Sizzle

As you go into summer mode, what better way to enjoy a social get-together than delighting over a delicious barbecue. Not a meat eater? Don't worry – enjoy tasty vegetarian dishes and salads as well. Great people, great food and great fun!
Cost: \$5

All sessions begin at 7:30 PM
6 High St. Doncaster
For more information please call Sara Glasman on 9848 6840

EMAILS FROM THE OFFICE

Elaine is updating her email mailing list. If you would like to receive information emails from the Centre, please contact the office on 9816 3516 or nejc@bigpond.com