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From the President

The German-Jewish composer Hanns Eisler together with Bertolt Brecht penned the famous song "Das Solidaritätslied" which begins with the refrain "vorwärts und nicht vergessen" meaning "forward without forgetting". This motto is very relevant to our congregation after our recent Annual General Meeting. At that meeting the members present decided to forge a new future for the congregation with every member taking an active part, whilst respecting our Jewish traditions.

There has been something of a revolution - sometimes quiet - sometimes stormy - over the past few years at Beit Knesset Shalom which has seen our mission transformed.

Back in 2000 we changed our name from Temple Shalom to Beit Knesset Shalom Synagogue; in 2006 we adopted a new siddur "Mikdash M'at" and included

more Hebrew in our services; in 2009 we altered our constitution and became an incorporated association; and in 2010 we dropped the term Progressive and replaced it with Masorti (Conservative).

"We needed to create some excitement and give people a reason to belong," said President Dawn Cohen. "We were trapped in the dilemma, 'How do you move forward while honouring and remembering the past?' Vorwärts und nicht vergessen?"

We wanted to respect our traditions and observe halakha," she said, "even though we knew that some members of the congregation would question our actions."

Like all congregations in Brisbane we have seen a slow decline in membership over the past three decades. Many Jews who marry non-Jews leave the faith. The location of our synagogue is far from the residences of

the vast majority of our congregation.

Many also view the costs of synagogue membership and religious education a luxury they can no longer afford in today's economic climate.

Whilst we still have a viable membership, assembling a minyan for prayer services is sometimes difficult.

The new Board of Directors intends to focus on rejuvenation. We have over the past few years had a number of Special General Meetings which were somewhat difficult conversations about the future direction of our congregation.

The painful decision to leave the progressive movement had the support of the vast majority of the congregation and was passed unanimously at a Special General Meeting.

As the newly elected President of Beit Knesset Shalom Synagogue it gives me great delight and relief at the potential for a brighter future, but

I must stress the seriousness with which the congregation must commit itself to the shul and its traditions. Each and every member needs to stand up and be counted.



HAPPY

CHANUKAH

Chanukah Celebration Dinner With International Chef Shalom Bitton

Celebrate the victory of the Maccabees over the Ancient Syrian - Greeks more than 21 centuries ago. To celebrate, we light the Menorah for the 8 days of Chanukah and we eat foods fried in oil (olive) e.g. potato latkes and doughnuts and distribute Chanukah gelt to our children.

***Saturday 4 December 2010 at
6.00pm.***

We are honoured to have an International Chef ("now an Aussie") prepare our food for the evening.

The buffet feast will include:

French Onion Soup with Croutons; Wild Mushroom Risotto in White Wine; Roasted Tomatoes with Garlic and Herb Gratin; Broccoli and Caramelised Onion Quiche; Fish Fillets Poached in Tomato Salsa Moroccan Style; Latkes with Sour Cream and Apple sauce; Chai Latte Panna Cotta with Orange Caramel; Chocolate Brownies; Tea and Coffee served with Sufganiyot and Honey and Lemon Syrup.

Adults: \$40.00

Pensioners: \$30.00

Children: \$1 per year of age (0-12years).

Family Rate: \$100

Please book and pre-pay by sending a cheque to:

The Treasurer

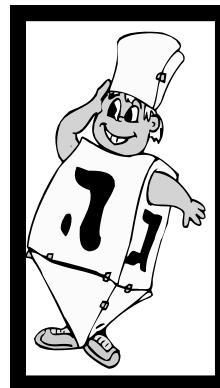
Richard Wineberg

44/52-62 Newstead Terrace,

Newstead 4066)

No later than Friday 26 November 2010.

חנוכה



BOARD NEWS

In an effort to ensure the future viability of our congregation and its premises the Board is looking at a number of initiatives designed to reduce our overheads.

Several of these include the reduction of our insurance premiums not detrimental to our needs. We will still have full coverage of our assets and public liability. We are also disconnecting the phone in the synagogue. If anyone needs to contact persons who are in attendance at the shul urgently then they should phone Phil on 0414 967 517 but not for any other matters. All other matters should be referred to info@bks.org.au.

CHOIR NEWS

Our synagogue choir has performed at The Woodford Folk Festival, Lennon's Hotel, The Irish, Dutch and Greek Clubs and at many communal events. Now members of the choir together with An Coisir Ghàidhlig Gleann Innes - The Gaelic Choir of Glen Innes - will combine their talents to perform at The Celtic Festival Year of the Irish in 2011. The choir will perform at the official opening and closing ceremonies and at various events around Glen Innes as well as the Festival at The Standing Stones.

Choir members are also participating in St Andrew's Day dinners and suppers in Glen Innes as part of Scotland's national day celebrations. Locals are looking forward to Leo's rendition of the Address to a Haggis by Robert Burns.



Celebrate Tu B'Shvat

טו בשבט

**Saturday 22 January
2010.**

*Special Seder and Kiddush follows
the service.*

\$10.00 per head.

*Please also bring a plate of food to
share with everyone.*

*Please bring a plate of fruit,
nuts or vegetarian food to the
Tu B'Shvat Seder.*

*Phone Georgie on 32455496
if you require assistance with
choices.*

Services Schedule

Saturday 4 December	6pm	Wensley Cohen	Chanukah 4th Light Tonight Shabbat Mevarchim
Saturday 18 December	10am	Justin Green	Vayechi
Saturday 8 January	10am	Wensley Cohen	Bo
Saturday 22 January	10am	Justin Green	Yitro Tu B'Shvat Luncheon
Saturday 5 February	10am	Wensley Cohen	Terumah Rosh Chodesh
Saturday 19 February	10am	Justin Green	Ki Tisa

Beit Knesset Shalom
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**Commemorate a birth,
B'nei Mitzvah,
wedding, anniversary, or
other simchah – or
establish a memorial for a
departed loved one – with
an engraved leaf on the
Tree of Life situated in
the shul. Each leaf on the
Tree of Life costs from
between \$150.00—
\$500.00.**

**Contact The Hon
Treasurer for further de-
tails.**

**Man plans and God laughs.
(Mann tracht und Gott lacht)
Yiddish Proverb.**

**We're on the web
www.bks.org.au**

**The farther backward you
can look, the farther forward
you can see.
Winston Churchill**

**I never did anything alone.
Whatever was accomplished
in this country was
accomplished collectively.
Golda Meir**

*The Board of Directors
and
Members of the
Synagogue Guild
wish all members
of Beit Knesset Shalom
and Friends
a very*



HAPPY CHANUKAH

- Please note that at all our events vegetarian and gluten free meals are available by prior arrangement only.
- Please also note that information about events and services is current at the time of publication of this newsletter. Times may change and you should check www.bks.org.au under events and services for updates.