

Rosh Chodesh Elul 5780

Dear Shaarei Tefillah Mispalelim,

As Chodesh Elul draws closer, it means that Rosh Hashana & Yomim Noroim are just around the corner.

Looking back over the past year it has certainly not been the year we expected.

5780 the beginning of a new decade certainly promised much excitement.

Thinking back to December last year, the Siyum Hashas seems a bit of a dream. Dancing at the Melbourne Siyum Hashas with 1000 other people, watching the 100,000 people participate in the Siyum in the US and then experiencing our own special vibes with our Siyum at Shaarei – what a start!

The calendar year started well. A new Daf Hayomi Shiur led by Rabbi Abba Levin attracted almost a minyan of participants. A very successful summer youth program led by our devoted madrichim, engaging and connecting with the youth of our community. New initiatives from the Senior Madrichot attracting many girls to our Shul.

But then in mid-March came COVID!

Over the past five months (besides for a short period of time) our doors have unfortunately been closed. Unable to hold Minyonim, Shiurim or general learning in our Shul.

However, this has not stopped the community from staying connected.

Since lockdown the kehillah has continued to thrive....

Daily Shiurim including the two Daf Shiurim, the newly formed Sukka Chaburah and the Kitzur Shiur. The twice a week Mishna Berurah Shiur and Mesilas Yeshorim Shiur as well as numerous other Shiurim. Weekly youth programs, the exciting Avos Ubonim learning and raffle together with the special pick up treat, Ladies Shiurim and Girls programs

This may not have been what we had planned, however it was up to us to make the best of the situation. We didn't just survive, we thrived!

It gives me great chizuk to see how strong and committed so many of our mispalelim have been during these challenging times. Chazal teach that the reward is in proportion to the difficulty of the task – we are certainly due great reward for all of our efforts.

I have put together a program that will IY'H help each and every member of our wonderful kehillah prepare themselves and their family to come into Yomim Noroim stronger than ever. It is my hope that the kehillah will support these programs and invest the time needed so that YOU will be able to reap the rewards.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you or someone you know needs any special assistance and I will do my best to assist.

Wishing the Kehillah a Gut Chodesh and a Kesiva V'Chasima Tova

בברכת כל טוב



Rabbi Ariele Berlin