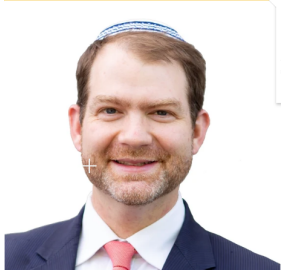


Weekly Newsletter

TGIS: Thank G-d It's Shabbat



Beit Midrash Morasha
@ Arthur's Road
בית מדרש מורשה



Shalom Friends!

It has been just over a week after the fire and although in many ways we are still reeling from the shock, we also have had a chance to take stock, to see where we are and work towards where we want to be.

As Hayley Rubin told us at our community debriefing last night, a traumatic event such as this can take six months to a year to truly integrate into our consciousness and make peace with, but an important part of the healing process is to tell our stories, to share with others our experience of that terrible night a week ago, and thus to begin to accept that this very shocking and sad event actually did happen.

Of course, this does not spell the end for our community. Not even close. We are blessed with an incredible team in our chairman, trustees, committee members, professional staff and volunteers, and it has been more than impressive to see how much has been achieved, and with such excellence. I will expand on that further, but I will note that as much as it is not the end, it is the end of an era. The Arthur's Road Shul as we knew it is no more, and we grieve for it. The Sifrei Torah that we read from, held, kissed and danced with will be read no more. But at the same time we must know that we are continuing with strength, committed to the rebuild and committed to running a strong community in our temporary home(s) in the interim.

It is a delicate balancing act, acknowledging the magnitude of our loss and the difficulties we will face, whilst also remaining in a space of hope, positivity and gratitude which is equally authentic. This was best encapsulated for me by a community member who said to me, at the end of last week's very beautiful Shabbat, "Last Wednesday morning I felt that the world had ended. Now I feel that it has not."

Indeed it has not, and we have so much going for us. We will be based in Weizmann hall for the next month, and we have teams working on making it beautiful and welcoming. We will have inspiring davening, great children's service, and supervision of the children playing, a delicious Kiddush bracha, and two special guests! Chief Rabbi Goldstein is joining us for Shabbat, speaking on Friday night and on Shabbat day before Mussaf, and Saul Singer, author of "Start Up Nation", will address us after the Kiddush Bracha.

I will be making my usual pilgrimage to Bnei Akiva camp next week - instead of a full Sunday-to-Friday, it will be a little shorter, but I will ensure that I am as available as possible for all Morasha members and matters whilst checking in on our younger members who are madrichim and channichim at the camp, as well as giving them all the message that we are continuing with strength.

My two minute video for Sidrat Vayigash is called "Hidden Holiness" and you can find it [here](#).

I also made a little [video](#) explaining that we're at Weizmann for now.

We have no fewer than 10 teams working on all that needs to happen during this transition phase; we have people dealing with insurance and cleanup of the Shul, we have people exploring options for venues for our Shul in the meantime, we have security discussions and catering groups, we have a Sifrei Torah subcommittee and we are working on raising the funds that we will need to sustain us in this time and assist in the rebuilding, beyond the insurance costs. We will be consulting broadly regarding the rebuild itself, but that is still a little way away. In the meantime, the three best ways in which you can help us are:

1. Come! Attend! Be with us for Shabbat and during the week. Your support means a great deal to us, and the stronger we are together during the time, the more vibrant and sustainable our long-term vision.
2. Volunteer! We can't use everyone all the time, but if you call Wendy or Susan on the new office number of 079 4697496 and say what it is that you can do, we will make a note and call in your help when necessary.
3. Be Patient! We have great people working on all that needs to be done, and nothing (to our knowledge) is being neglected. However the process can, at times, be frustratingly slow. Know that we are doing all that we can and will continue working on behalf of this very special community.

May Hashem bless us all with a beautiful Shabbat together!

Aviva, Shalva, Azriel, Tzuriya and I wish you a Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Sam Thurgood

—

Message from Evan Robins

A week can be a long time. Massive thanks to the Rabbi, Committee, Trustees and members for continuing to work incredibly hard for our community as we begin to emerge from crisis mode.

A quick update:

- Cause of fire: Foul play has been ruled out. The professionals have indicated to us that the overwhelming likelihood is that the fire was caused by an electrical fault in the roof.
- Site clear-up: Asbestos was found in the roof. Immediate and urgent steps were taken to ensure that no harm followed. Items from the Shul have been taken off-site for cleaning, and the asbestos experts have been extremely clear that, due to the steps that have been taken, no one is at any risk from the asbestos, provided that they do not enter the Shul grounds unauthorised. This cleanup should be completed by the first week of January.
- Next steps on the site: Once the site has been made safe, structurally damaged areas will be demolished and examined. After this, insurance will finalise an estimate of the extent of the damage and our level of insurance. We should know where we stand during the first quarter of next year.
- Or new temporary home: Over the Holiday period and until further notice the Weizmann Hall will be our base (thank you Herzlia). We are exploring options for the way forward, including the option to remain at Weizmann.
- Visitors: Morasha's warmth, welcoming and hospitality continues. Please welcome and invite visitors and holiday makers to join our services.
- Fund raising: We require funds to get us through this period and for the rebuild. Please continue to support our refreshed Charidy campaign. The local, national and global support we have received has been nothing short of remarkable and is hugely appreciated.

Shabbat Shalom

—

Updated Charidy Communication

#MorashaChai Community Torah Project

We are rebuilding our community through the writing of a Sefer Torah - and we want you to be a part of it!

On Wednesday 5 December, the morning after the fire, as we prayed in the courtyard of our destroyed Shul and bereft of our Sifrei Torah, we initiated and commissioned the writing of a new Sefer Torah. No Shul should have to be without a Sefer Torah for even one minute.

On Monday 10 December we began the writing of the Torah at a moving and magnificent ceremony where hundreds of Jewish children from across Cape Town came together to buy a letter in the Torah that will be the **MorashaChai Community Torah**.

Every letter in the MorashaChai Community Torah will be written by means of a donation to our emergency fund, and so **for every R18 that you donate, you will have sponsored a letter in the Torah**. This is your opportunity to have a share in a Torah that will be read, celebrated, and raised as a symbol of Jewish resilience and the Jewish future for years to come.

There are **304 805 letters in the Sefer Torah**, and at R18 a letter, this maps almost exactly to our **fundraising goal of R5 500 000**.

It is well documented that communities that survive crises, such as the one that the Morasha community is currently enduring, are those that have economic sufficiency. This emergency campaign is therefore absolutely essential to ensuring the continuity and ongoing success of Morasha which plays such a distinct, critical and high impact role in the broader Cape Town Jewish community [see “About Us” below].

The funds raised will be used as follows:

- **R 750 000** towards the purchasing of the MorashaChai Community Torah including adornments;
- **R 1 250 000** towards extraordinary costs incurred, including costs of temporarily relocating and sustaining our community through this crisis and to ensure community continuity through our period of dislocation;
- **R 3 500 000** to seed our rebuilding fund to cover rebuild costs which invariably exceed available insurances and costs associated with the planning and management of the rebuild. **All donations already received, including those made privately by EFT outside of the Charidy website will be retroactively included in this project as having contributed to the writing of the MorashaChai Community Torah.**

Every participant in this campaign will receive a **certificate of acknowledgment** stating how many letters in the MorashaChai Community Torah they contributed towards writing and how, in so doing, they also contributed to the sustenance and rebuilding of Morasha.

Larger contributors will also be honoured in the following ways:

Category	Rand Amount*	Torah Adornment
-----------------	---------------------	------------------------

Crowns of Torah	PoA	Inscription on the crown and mantle to adorn the Torah
Shields of Torah	180 000	Inscription on the breastplate and mantle to adorn the Torah
Pillars of Torah	100 000	Inscription on the Eitz Chayim of the Torah and mantle to adorn the Torah
Strongholds of Torah	54 000	Inscription on the Yad to adorn the Torah and to be used for reading the Torah
Patrons of Torah	18 000	Allocated a Parsha on the Acknowledgement Board in the rebuilt Shul**
Protectors of Torah	5 400	Acknowledgement Board in the rebuilt Shul
Friends of Torah	1 800	Acknowledgement Board in the rebuilt Shul

* Amount actually pledged (i.e. excluding the 1:1 amount matched by our matchers)

** For a variety of reasons it is not possible for patrons to specify their allocated Parsha. We will allocate these at our discretion. Within reason and without any obligation on our part we will do what we can after the campaign has ended to accommodate special requests on a fair and equitable basis.

Sponsor letters for yourself, members of your family, friends, and everyone whom you want to have a share in this special Mitzva. By doing this, you will not only be an integral part of a beloved Torah, but will **give life and hope** to a wonderful community who have lost our spiritual home.

Question: *Why did you change the timeline and nature of your campaign?*

Answer: We launched our initial campaign in under 24 hours, knowing very little other than that our need was desperate and critically important. We set a goal together with (in hindsight) an overly ambitious and very limited time frame of a single week. In that week it has become clear that we are the recipients of incredible generosity that continues unabated, but also that there is **substantial interest in the MorashaChai Community Sefer Torah Project.** We therefore decided to extend our timeframe and combine our Emergency Charidy campaign with the MorashaChai Community Sefer Torah Project into a single focused campaign so as to

afford everyone the opportunity to participate.

About Us: We are a warm and beautiful community in Sea Point, in one of Hashem's most beautiful cities. An eclectic mix of people - young and old, rich and poor, learned and beginners - but all united in our love of Hashem, Torah, Israel, the Jewish people - and the world. You are guaranteed a warm welcome and a unique experience of connection from the moment you enter our doors. We are quirky, unique, honest and fun, and provide a spiritual homes for hundreds in Cape Town, and hundreds more who visit from around the world. Our strong partnerships with Bnei Akiva and Mizrahi reflect our positions as the standard bearers of religious-zionist modern orthodoxy in Cape Town. Whether you are looking for a fascinating shiur, inspiring davening, fun children's service, a delicious kiddush bracha, or the beauty of tradition - you will find it at Morasha.

Torah Reading Page Numbers - Parashat Vayigash

	Artscroll	Living Torah	Hirsch	Hertz
Torah	250	222	188	169
Maftir	266	238	197	177
Haftorah	1144	1086	841	178

Shabbat Times - Parashat Vayigash

Earliest Candles	6:23pm
Latest Candles	7:15pm
Mincha Maariv	6:30pm
Shabbat Shacharit	8:45am
Shabbat Mincha	7:00pm
Shabbat Ends	8:32pm

Weekday Times

Shacharit (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday)	6:50am
Shacharit (Monday, Thursday)	6:40am
Shacharit (Sunday and Public Holidays)	8:00am
Shacharit (Rosh Chodesh)	6:30am
Mincha followed by Maariv	6:30pm

Announcements - Parashat Vayigash

The Rabbi, Rebbetzin, Chairman and Committee wish you Shabbat Shalom.

In the announcements, we must add:

Please note that all daily and Shabbat services will take place at the usual time in the Weizmann Hall. Entrance during the week - 40 Kloof Road. Over Shabbat, 65 Regent Road entrance also available.

We welcome Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein, Rebbetzin Goldstein and family to Morasha. Rabbi Goldstein who will be addressing the community on Friday night and before Mussaf on Shabbat morning.

We welcome Saul and Wendy Singer from Israel. Saul is the co-author of the best seller Start Up Nation. Saul will be speaking after the kiddush bracha.

Mazal Tov to Godfrey and Michelle Shev on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Alyssa, daughter of David and Mandy Donninger.

Ron and Shirley Kafel are contributing towards the kiddush bracha to celebrate Ron's birthday on 17 December, Shirley's birthday on 30 December and their anniversary on 24 December.

Please join the learning programme in honour of the Sifrei Torah burned in the fire that consumed our beloved Shul. Imagine the Simcha at the Siyum of Tanach, Mishna and Talmud. Please login to <http://hadranalach.com/692> and be part of a worldwide movement to replace the Torah that was lost.

The Haftorah will be recited by Neill Snape.

Come and meet Ashira Altman at 10:15am this Shabbat for a fabulous children's service.

Join Junie-Punie for great Children's Services every Shabbat - share brachot, Parsha of the week and special Children's stories. All ages up to Grade R.

The Fast of 10 Tevet takes place on Tuesday 18 December. The Fast begins at 3:59 and ends at 20:16.

Please note the new Shul telephone number is 079 469 7496.

You can contribute to our Shul emergency fund here: <https://www.charidy.com/morashachai>
Encourage your friends and contacts!



Yahrzeits

The Yahrzeit begins the evening before the date

Michele Stodel	Sister	Saturday 15 December
Aubrey Silver	Wife	Sunday 16 December
Ilana Sacks	Mother	Sunday 16 December
Peta Feldman	Father-in-law	Tuesday 18 December
Derick Berold	Sister	Tuesday 18 December
Lucille Melamed	Father-in-law	Tuesday 18 December
Mark Gawronsky	Grandfather	Thursday 20 December
Frooma Kroomer	Father	Thursday 20 December
Mike Lang	Brother	Friday 21 December
Brian Sher	Mother	Friday 21 December

Birthdays

Tony Feldman	Friday 14 December
Gabriel Gillis	Friday 14 December
Gabrielle Sepel	Friday 14 December
Brian Sher	Friday 14 December
Emma Trappler	Friday 14 December
Melissa Moritz	Saturday 15 December
Talia Scher	Saturday 15 December
Rabbanit Debbie Suiza	Saturday 15 December
Rhona Kestan	Sunday 16 December
Charlene Mayers	Monday 17 December
Lilach Sachs	Monday 17 December
Darryl Mink	Tuesday 18 December
David I Samuels	Tuesday 18 December
Brent Greenblatt	Wednesday 19 December
Andy Kopelowitz	Wednesday 19 December
Steven Nathan	Thursday 20 December
Tehila Netter	Thursday 20 December
Mia Salkinder	Thursday 20 December
Danni Shochot	Thursday 20 December
Rabbi Sam Thurgood	Thursday 20 December

Anniversaries

Cus and Irma Kesler	Friday 14 December
Robert and Merle Lewenson	Saturday 15 December
Michael and Helen Lieberman	Saturday 15 December
David and Anat Shevel	Saturday 15 December
Steven and Karen Nathan	Sunday 16 December
Roydon and Elaine Sacks	Sunday 16 December
Dean and Pippa Noik	Tuesday 18 December
Hilton and Rhea Russon	Tuesday 18 December
Richard and Charlotte Thurgood	Tuesday 18 December
Bernard and Ilana Sacks	Thursday 20 December

Weekly Learning

DAY	TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	PLACE
Shabbat Morning	10 mins before shiur	Children's Learning	Rabbi Thurgood	Shul
Shabbat Morning	After Brocha	Parsha of the Week	Rabbi Thurgood	Shul
Shabbat Afternoon	After Mincha	Seudah Shlishit	Various	Shul
Sunday	8:40-9:10am	Sefer Igrot Moshe	Rabbi Thurgood	Shul
Sunday	8:00-9:00pm	Weekly Dirshu review	Rabbi Thurgood	Shul
Monday - Friday	7:35-8:05am	Sefer HaChinnuch	Rabbi Thurgood	Shul
Monday - Wednesday	30 mins before Mincha	Chumash with Rashi: Every Parsha from 5th aliyah	Rabbi Thurgood	Shul
Tuesday	8:00-10:00pm	Yeshiva of Cape Town learning sessions	Bachurim	Shul
Wednesday	8:00-9:00pm	Women's weekly Gemora shiur	Rabbi Thurgood	Private Home

Security - Parashat Miketz

We thank team 3 for doing security duty this Shabbat.

If you are not able to do your duty, please swap with someone else.

Meet the Family

Every week, we feature a member or family of Beit Midrash Morasha and tell you a little about them. If you would like to be featured, or if you have a suggestion of someone whom you would like featured, please let us know!

CONTACT US

E: info@morasha.co.za

T: 021 434 8680

F: 021 434 3014

BANK DETAILS

First National Bank

Sea Point Branch 201809

Current Account

Number: 50240085164

FACEBOOK



Click the button above