

WEST STREET SHUL

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RAV: Rabbi Craig Kacev

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Dear Congregants of West Street Shul,

The time has come again to put into perspective the year gone by. In many ways it has been a difficult time for the Shul and for South Africa in general. The rising petrol price, increased food prices, interest rates and increased cost of electricity and rates has left many people financially stretched. There is great unease which has been increased by the collapse of long standing American Financial institutions. The Shul also finds itself financially stretched. Nevertheless we have managed to maintain the Shul building and property, the standard of the brochas, and engage the services of leiners.

Our stalwart "in-house" daveners and leiners have made an immeasurable contribution.

I do not want to mention individual names, but all of you daven expertly and with dedication. Thank you.

The representatives of Bnei Akiva, Steven and Tova hold Gurim meetings every second week. The children eagerly look forward to this activity. In addition, Steven's leining is a pleasure to listen to.

Thanks go also to those members who have been able to sponsor brochas and so help the Shul to offer the delicacies which have become legendary. For this I also want to thank Cindy, Adele, and Freda, Doris and Maggie and all the ladies who give of their time.

The committee: Rabbi, Lawrence, Max, Maurice, Frank, Garth, Cindy, Adele, Freda, have given valuable input over the past year which keeps the Shul on track. Kol hakavod.

Maurice, the newsletter has become a much anticipated means of communication. Thanks go to you and Warren for keeping it going.

Rabbi Kacev always presents well-researched droshas and congregants look forward to the continuity of the theme. Mazaltov to the Kacev family on the recent Batmitzvah of Elisheva.

The West Street family has shared simchas and sorrows this past year, and has shown the unity for which it is known.

The security situation in Johannesburg has not improved and the Shul has participated financially in the formation of Houghton CAP. This is a necessity of the times we find ourselves in.

The building of the mosque on the adjoining property will be going ahead.

We do not anticipate any problems and have been assured that parking facilities will be incorporated into the building plan.

In this respect we are aligned with the Kotel in Israel, which also has a mosque adjacent to it.

Israel celebrated 60 years of Statehood. The mood was jubilant, but the euphoria did not last. Two unprecedented attacks on civilians took place in Jerusalem where building machines were used to cause death and injury.

Rockets continue to fall on Sderot, and the prisoner exchange with Lebanon yielded two coffins.

Purim, Yom Ha'aztmaut, Shavuot, were all celebrated by the West Street Family with a festive meal.

West Street got together for a night of Rugby fever and the excitement of a winning team.

Hamburgers, beers, popcorn and green jerseys added to the festive atmosphere.

The weekday minyanim, morning and evening continue to be hit and miss. If each one of you would commit to one day a week, we could make a minyan with peace of mind.

Remember, you expect to find a minyan when you have yartzeit – afford others the same courtesy. To the stalwarts who find a way to get to shul whatever the weather, traffic and work pressures, a sincere and heartfelt Yasherkoach

We are aware of our members who have been through illness in the past year, and it is with gratitude to H' that we see them back amongst us in Shul.

Renovations to the kitchen have begun. Hopefully these will be finished soon and will give the Shul a fresh new look.

We have a lot to be thankful for – Modim anachnu lach.

Thank you to you all for your loyalty to West Street Shul, and we look forward to a new and wonderful year together.

May you all be written and inscribed for a Year of Health, Success and Peace.

Yours sincerely

Ronnie Kaplan
(Chairman)