

2023 President's Report

I would like to thank our Rabbinical team including Chazzan Ronny Kowadlo and stand in Rabbi, Rabbi Gavriel Fogelgarn, paid staff, volunteers, committee representatives, Trustees, our daily minyan attendees, and my fellow board members for their service to Elwood Shule during 2023.

I'm full of optimism for the future of Elwood Shule heading into 2024 and beyond.

Just days before Rosh Hashanah 2022, Rabbi Effy and Shayna Mushka Block joined Elwood Shule full of enthusiasm, unfortunately in April 2023 the Rabbi & Rebbetzin & the Shule decided to part ways. I would like to thank the Rabbi and Rebbetzin for the contribution during their short tenure.

Advertising began to find another spiritual leader. In the interim Rabbi Gavriel Fogelgarn agreed to become the interim Rabbi until an appointment was made.

The High Holydays were a challenge but with the assistance of Rabbi Dovid Rubinfeld, Rabbi Gavriel Fogelgarn, Chazzan Ronny Kowadlo and Chazzan Mordechai Levin the enthusiasm in the Shule was reignited. Following the YomTov's there was much positive feedback.

Many applications for the Rabbinical position were received. An exhaustive interview process has been conducted, including interviews, auditions, and feedback from members.

A decision on the successful candidate will be announced in November.

It is the aim of the Board that once a Rabbi is appointed that current and some new social outreach programs will begin moving forward with vigour.

The hall redevelopment has progressed, an estimation has been provided for the works and a tender process has commenced to find a suitable builder.

Our finances remain stable, and I would like to thank our members who continued to pay their yearly memberships to keep our Shule open 365 days a year.

Looking forward, I hope that more people, especially younger people will attend our Shabbat services and events.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Israel during these difficult and traumatic days. We have contributed financially to organisations that we believe are making an immediate and direct impact to assist the people of Israel.

We pray for Israel, their dedicated leaders, and the brave IDF personnel— who are courageously serving in harm's way.

Thank you to everyone for attending tonight.

Mark Kuran.

President