



קשר KESHER

Friday 22 August 2025
כ"ח אב ה'תשפ"ה

The Yavneh Academy Journey

Chaim Cowen, Deputy Principal & Head of Jewish Studies

A number of years back, I was on the phone to a mother whose child had recently joined Yavneh from interstate. She was excited about the new learning that her child was bringing home which already had surpassed her own Jewish literacy, and simultaneously lamented about her inability to join her child's journey of learning. It was at that moment that the notion of the Yavneh Academy was conceived – the creation of a space geared towards families and alumni of our College, which would allow members of the wider "village" who are not students at Yavneh to tap into our incredible resources to develop their skills and knowledge in Torah as well as find deeper inspiration and meaning in their Judaism.

When we launched the idea to parents, and sought expressions of interest in joining the Yavneh Academy committee earlier this year, we were overwhelmed by the amount of responses we received, and a dedicated group of parents and alumni aligned around the vision and goals of this project, which included:

- Inspiring Yavneh parents and alumni in their Yiddishkeit;
- Connecting parents to Yavneh's teachers;
- Fostering partnership between Yavneh, its parent body and alumni;
- Exposing parents and alumni to learning innovations and innovators at Yavneh; and
- Carving out a reputation for Yavneh as venue for serious Torah learning.

Over the course of the last term and a half of the Yavneh Academy, we have enjoyed the company of almost 100 participants (many of whom are repeat attendees) from our College community, and beyond (who, by the way, are very welcome!) as they have joined presentations by Yavneh teachers, heads of department, our

דבר תורה
פרשת ראה

principal as well as visiting scholars. Topics on offer ranged from skills based (Hebrew 101, the Lifnai v'Lifnim method, accessing the machzor) to contemporary (the Iran war, pre-Chagim learning, antisemitism) to areas of interest (Jewish medical ethics, philosophy, history, meditation) and beyond.

This project is currently in its infancy, and we are excited to steer it in directions that will provide a valued service to our community, and further strengthen its core objectives. At this stage, the committee has discussed running our weekly evening program only in the winter terms (Terms 2 and 3 of the school year), which means that we will conclude the current learning schedule at the end of this term. For the summer program, which we aim to commence in Term 4, we will be looking to pivot in a manner that will open our Academy to those families and alumni whose lifestyle didn't suit the format of the winter series. Stay tuned for updates, or better yet, be a part of crafting the next stage, by getting in touch with your ideas! As a school, our core focus is our students. Beyond the benefit it provides families, the Yavneh Academy enhances the community in which our students live, the adults with whom they interact and provides them with ongoing connection for the alumni that they will become. If you haven't yet joined a session – and even if you have! – check out our offerings at www.tinyurl.com/lycacademy and sign up to join, we'd love to see you there!

Shabbat Shalom

פרשת ראה

Shabbat Times 

Light candles 5:32pm

Shabbat ends 6:31pm



LEIBLER
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COLLEGE



Term 3
Adult Learning Series
 Weekly Evening Sessions
VCE Study Centre 7:30pm
 2 Nagle Ave, Elsternwick

בט

POSTPONED

Wednesday 27 August
 ג' אלול 7:30pm

Forced or Embraced? Unravelling Jewish Identity in the Second Temple Period
 with Mrs Sonia Slonim



Wednesday 3 September
 י' אלול 7:30pm

The Craziest Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict You Have Never Heard Of & Why It Just Might Work
 with Rabbi Zach Gomo



Wednesday 10 September
 י"ז אלול 7:30pm

Jewish Meditation as a Path Towards Teshuva
 with Rabbi Noam Sender



Monday 15 September
 כ"ב אלול 7:30pm

Open Your Machzor: Insights & Inspiration from Rosh Hashanah Prayers
 with Mrs Avigail Wonder



RSVP: tinyurl.com/lycacademy



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Mezuzah Moments in JKG

Lorena Perl & Devora Levin, JK Gimmel Educators

In JK Gimmel, we have been learning about what the Sofer does- a specially trained scribe who writes a Torah, a Mezuzah, Tefilin and a Megillah. The children were shown a real Klaf (parchment) made from skin from a Kosher animal. The Klaf is a fundamental part of the Mezuzah and we were so appreciative to welcome Ari's Aba- Sam who is a Sofer. He showed us a Klaf and demonstrated writing Hebrew letters with great care and concentration.



The Sofer writes a Mezuzah with a feather Kulmus and the ink. We learned that a Mezuzah starts with the letter Shin and contains the Shema- reminding us to love Hashem with all our heart. We explored how a Mezuzah is placed on the doorposts of every Jewish house. The children practiced writing with a feather and wrote their own Klaf using real ink. This activity provided the children to use their fine motor skills and practice proper pencil grip- Just like a real Sofer! We placed their Klaf in their own Mezuzah which they created using various art mediums.



Teaching children about core Jewish traditions helps build a strong foundation of identity, belonging, and purpose. The Mezuzah reminds the children that they are part of something meaningful- and that their values are carried with them each day, and can help them grow into confident, compassionate and resilient individuals.

Ryan Batchelor MP

Last Friday we welcomed Ryan Batchelor MP to formally open our recently refurbished ELC.

With the help of the Building Blocks Improvement Grant funded by the Victorian Government, our ELC has recently undergone refurbishments to facilitate improvements to the quality of the learning environment.



From Kinder room furnishings, sliding doors between kinder rooms and outdoor shade and grass, we have already witnessed the improvement made to our centre.



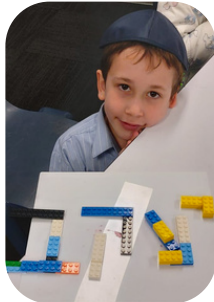
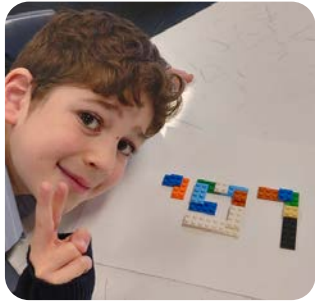
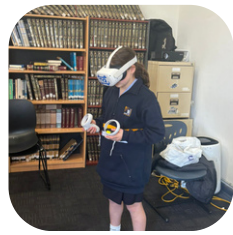
Primary J-Life Update: Elul Preparations

Sara Amzalak, Head of Jewish Life & Learning (Primary)

With the month of Elul coming up, JLife Primary are involved in a number of Chessed and Tzedakah projects. Students are currently decorating cards and bags for CCare and Smiles on Seniors for Rosh Hashanah. We will also be collecting honey for CCare and the Year 6 JLife captains will also be running a sweet treat Tzedaka fundraiser at the end of term. – stay tuned for more details.

A Tzedakah box making competition is also starting – see flyer for details and we will be holding our annual Elul Tzedakah raffle.

Clubs again are going strong, with VR club on Wednesday where students have been exploring and touring the Beit HaMikdash. The challenge at Jewish lego masters last week was to form the Hebrew letters that make up their name – the results speak for themselves!



Year 2 Talk Recycling!

Sonia Layton & Sue Crothers, Primary General Studies

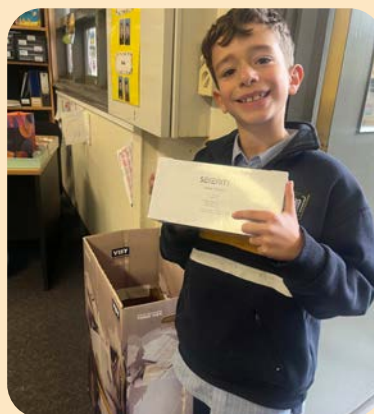


Year Two's interest was sparked after reading a text about recycling in their Reading Comprehension lesson. The story got us thinking about what we can recycle at school and home, and how we can help care for our planet.

Here's what some of Year 2 had to say:

- "We re-use the empty pickle tins to make pot plants." – Yardena
- "When we finish with empty boxes, my mum takes them to work to re-use them to make things." – Zak
- "We take the recycling bottles that have the symbol to the recycling place and get 10c for every bottle." – Leora
- "We take the empty wrapping paper tube, cut it up and then put it in the recycling bin" – Jay
- "I recycle at home by putting paper and cardboard in the recycle bin and drawing on both sides of the paper." – Aya
- "I started recycling when I saw my dad holding a box. I asked him,
- "Where are you going with that box?" Dad said, "I am going to the recycling bin." He taught me what recycling is!" – Abi
- "I can save paper by making paper planes, when I'm done with a piece of paper." – Raph
- "I recycle to make new things from something old." – Jeremy

We learned about the Three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – and now we're looking for ways to use them every day at home and school.

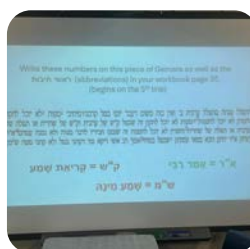


Year 6 Chumash Journey

Gedaliah Levin, Jewish Studies Teacher

As the Year 6s are well into their final semester of Primary School, their Torah study is accelerating at a remarkable rate. Our study of Chumash in 6A this term has focused on the end of Parashat Vayishlach with the death of Rachel and Yitzchak and Eisav's rather confusing family tree. Both Year 6 classes will soon be celebrating a Siyum on Parashat Vayishlach as well as completing the first 'L'havin' workbook for this year. While everyone enjoys a good party, the message of the Siyum is that we are never satisfied with just one section of Torah; rather we must continue learning with even greater enthusiasm and curiosity.

Prior to the departure of the Tzevet earlier this month, Year 6 were privileged to have several sessions with them, learning in a more informal setting and enjoying their youthful energy. While we are certainly missing Tzviki, Nachshon, Niv and Nofar, we look forward the new Tzevet arriving soon so we can continue to gain inspiration and take in the aura of Eretz Yisrael. Our Tisha B'Av learning incorporated a project about different tragedies throughout Jewish history. Students researched the eras of the Maranos, the Cantonists, the Crusades and the Holocaust, with specific focus on the traumatic impact these tragedies wrought on children.



The Year 6 Gemara journey continues with deeper discussions and debates about Tefillah, and whether or not someone can make up a Tefillah that was missed out. After a series of questions, analysis, comparisons and quotes from Tanach, the Gemara reaches the conclusion that one can make up a missed tefillah if it was skipped by accident. But no such allowance is granted if one deliberately missed Tefillah. One of the students asked, how can we be sure if someone is being honest with themselves that they missed the Tefillah by accident? This sparked an engaging conversation about honesty and sincerity in praying to Hashem.

This week 6B were very privileged to be visited by my wife Morah Esti and our baby Yaakov. Morah Esti was a much beloved JS teacher at Yavneh from 2009-2019 and she enjoyed meeting the current Year 6s and figuring out whose siblings she had taught. Baby Yaakov brought smiles to everyone's faces as he joined the learning in his own unique way.

I wish Year 6 continued Hatzlacha in their Torah learning and all for their school endeavours.

Shabbat Shalom
Rabbi Levin

אלול ELUL

PRIMARY

TZEDAKAH BOX

MAKING COMPETITION

צדקה

תפילה

תשובה

TZEDAKAH

DECORATE THE BOX TO THE THEME OF THE CHARITY YOU WILL BE DONATING THE TZEDAKAH TO

Place on the downstairs white bench

From - MONDAY 25th AUGUST - א' אלול

Until - MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER - כ"ב אלול

Don't forget to write your name and year level



Book Week!



Year 5 Chumash Siyum



TERM 3
LUNCHTIME
CLUBS
12:30 – 1:00pm

MONDAY Jewish Diamond Art
 Years 3 – 6 in Room 31

WEDNESDAY VR Club
 Years 5 and 6 in Beit Midrash

THURSDAY Art with Teacher Samara
 Choir with Morah Sarah Finch
 Years 4 – 6 in the Art Room
 Years 3 – 6 in the Music House

FRIDAY Jewish Lego Masters
 Years 1 – 3 in Room 31

Year 7 Experience Day

Last Friday Secondary welcomed our Year 6 students onto their Campus! The Year 9 students led a scavenger hunt that allowed the Year 6's to familiarise themselves with the layout of the school, meet staff and explore Secondary!



The Vonnies



This week, students from Years 5–8 took part in The Vonnies, a public speaking event that showcased courage, clarity, and critical thinking. Each participant was given a unique topic to explore and present, with external adjudicators offering professional feedback and encouragement. The evening was filled with inspiring speeches, confident delivery, and a celebration of student voice. Mazal Tov to our winners: Gideon K (Junior Division) and Noah K (Senior Division), whose thoughtful presentations stood out among a strong field of speakers. Kol Hakavod to all participants for embracing the challenge and sharing their ideas with poise and passion!



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תשפ"ו 2026
**Prep Experience
Morning**

Visit to Classroom
Thursday 28 August ד' אלול

Join us!

tinyurl.com/lycprep



Year 10 Zionist Camp!



Juniors Impress At Interschools

Aaron Fetter, *Head of Sports (Secondary)*

In recent weeks, Year 7 and 8 students have excelled in a variety of sports at the Beachside District Winter Round Robins. Hours of focused team training during PE lessons prepared students for the lofty level of competition. In addition to the pleasing results, the determination, togetherness and spirit displayed by Yavneh students proved a source of great pride for the whole school community.

Yavneh's talents in table tennis were on full display, with all boys' teams winning their divisions and thus qualifying for Regionals in October – a magnificent feat! A special thanks to experienced Maccabi coach Ken Dawber whose masterclasses supported students in fast tracking their skill development and knowledge of the game, ultimately playing an integral part in their success.

Despite competing against schools with basketball academies and elite athletic profiles, Yavneh students played to their strengths and left it all out on the court in an effort filled with heart and grit. The boys' teams were expertly mentored by Yavneh's own Music Department maestro and basketball guru Nick Karasavvidis. The year 7 girls team exceeded even their own expectations, narrowly missing a finals spot, winning their first two group games, before falling valiantly to strong opposition in the finals-deciding fixtures. The passion, cohesion and skill demonstrated by each member of the team was developed and supported throughout an intensive training block run by coach Gili Smolboard, courtesy of the Maccabi Pathways Program.

On the futsal courts, both our boys and girls teams competed strongly, with a plethora of team and individual highlights, such as Caleb F's stunning strike and Lior V's hat-trick.

Finally, the Year 7 Footy team had a remarkable run at Regionals, claiming comprehensive victories in two of their three group matches to finish second in their pool. Asher W, Shua S, and Levi T were the multiple goal-kickers on the day, while Charlie B, Zac A, Gidi G and Gabriel B-D were others who put in standout performances.

The Secondary PE department congratulates all students for their dedication, teamwork, and achievements in Interschool Sport so far this term.

Guest Speaker: Mr Yusuf Hana

Zach Gomo, *Secondary Jewish Studies*

This week, select Year 11 and 12 students had the rare privilege of hearing from the talented artist Mr Yusuf Hana. Born in Egypt to a Muslim father of Turkish descent and an Ethiopian mother, Yusuf's early life was shaped by rich cultural and religious influences. After spending time in an Islamist organisation, he was conscripted into the Egyptian Army and sent to the Egypt-Gaza border. There, Yusuf encountered Israeli soldiers whose friendliness and generosity challenged his perspective on Israelis and Jews.



This encounter prompted deep reflection, and Yusuf shared his confusion with his mother, who revealed for the first time that she had Jewish origins—a revelation that further reshaped Yusuf's understanding of identity and faith. His questioning of former beliefs led to life-threatening consequences, including an attempt on Yusuf's life by relatives who poisoned his tea.

Fleeing Egypt, Yusuf eventually settled in Australia, where he, his wife, and their five children have embraced the Jewish community. Yusuf shared with our students his deep love for Judaism, the Jewish people, and Israel, encouraging them to take pride in who they are and what they represent—now, more than ever.



Key upcoming PE dates:

- September 3: Maccabi Soccer Cup – Boys & Girls teams
- September 11: Beachside Districts Track & Field
- October 21: Year 7 Regional Table Tennis
- October 31: Year 8 Regional Table Tennis

CAPTAINS' CORNER PARASHA QUIZ

STUDENT OF THE WEEK:
Caleb E

Year: 12

Nicknames: Eppez, Dabbu, Tubby Custard, Custard, Custy, Kale

Most underrated tuckshop item:
Greek Salad and frozen grapes

Likes: Being Student of the week, Sushi, Footy, Carlton, Ms Muddapah, Clash Royale

Dislikes: Collingwood, meatballs.

Life Lesson: Don't boo teachers



AFL QUIZ

1. Which AFL team has won the most premierships in history?
2. What is the name of the medal awarded to the best player in the AFL Grand Final?
3. What is the maximum number of points a team can score from a single kick?
4. Which AFL team is nicknamed "The Power"?
5. What is the name of the AFL's annual Indigenous round?



RIDDLES

1. I'm full of keys but I can't open a door. What am I?
2. I fly without wings, I cry without eyes. Wherever I go, darkness flies. What am I?
3. What has one eye but can't see?

EMOJI QUIZ

Guess the TV Show!

1. 🧑🏻♂️ 🚲 🏠 🚗
2. 🚲 🧑🏻♂️ 📞 🤖
3. 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️ 🚗 🚗
4. 🍕 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️
5. 🎵 🌐 🧑🏻♂️ 🎵
6. 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️
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8. 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️
9. 🍔 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️ 🧑🏻♂️

1. At the beginning of the parsha, what choice does Moshe place before Bnei Yisrael?
2. Where were the blessings and curses to be given once the people entered the Land of Israel?
3. What are Bnei Yisrael commanded to do with the idols and places of worship of the nations they conquer?
4. What sign distinguishes kosher land animals? What about fish?
5. The Torah commands not to "add to" or "diminish from" the mitzvot. Give an example.
6. What is the Torah's warning about a prophet or dreamer who performs signs but tells the people to worship other gods?
7. How often must Bnei Yisrael give ma'aser to support the Levi, the stranger, the orphan, and the widow?
8. What mitzvah teaches compassion toward the poor and requires releasing loans every seventh year?
9. What Shalosh Regalim are mentioned in the parsha?
10. What does the parsha emphasize about where korbanot must be brought?



1. Essendon and Carlton (tied at 16 premierships each)
2. The Norm Smith Medal
3. 6 points (a goal)
4. Port Adelaide
5. Sir Doug Nicholls Round
6. Only in the place that Hashem will choose (eventually the Beit HaMikdash in Yerushalayim) — not on private altars (12:5–6, 11).

AFL Answers:

1. The Walking Dead
2. Stranger Things
3. Scooby-Doo, Where Are You!
4. The Simpsons
5. America's Got Talent (or The Voice)
6. 7 Rings of Power
7. Friends
8. Spider-Man: The Animated Series (or Marvel's Spider-Man)
9. Bob's Burgers

Riddle Answers:

1. Piano
2. Clouds
3. A needle

1. The choice between blessing and curse — blessing if they follow Hashem's mitzvot, curse if they do not (Devarim 11:26–28).
2. On Har Geizim (blessings) and Har Eival (curses) (11:29).
3. Destroy them completely — smash their altars, break their pillars, burn their asherah trees, erase their gods' names (12:2–3).
4. Land animals must chew their cud and have split hooves; fish must have fins and scales (14:5, 9).
5. For example, not adding a fifth species to the four species on Sukkot, or not taking away one of the tzitzit strings (13:1).
6. He is a false prophet and must be rejected, even if his signs come true, because Hashem is testing the people (13:2–6).
7. Every third year, in addition to the regular tithes (14:28–29).
8. The Shmita year (Shemittat Kesafim — release of debts) (15:1–2).
9. Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot (16:1–17).
10. Only in the place that Hashem will choose (eventually the Beit HaMikdash in Yerushalayim) — not on private altars (12:5–6, 11).



Make sure you're following us on socials!
@yavneh_official

Upcoming Dates 2025:

SEPTEMBER:

Monday 1: Primary Parent Teacher Conferences
Tuesday 2: Secondary Parent Teacher Conferences
Thursday 4: Years 4 -6 Father's Day Tefillah
Monday 8: Secondary Parent Teacher Conferences
Tuesday 9: Primary Parent Teacher Conferences
Friday 19: Last Day term 3.

Mazal Tavs

Mazal Tov Michi and Benjamin **Swersky** and family on the birth of a baby daughter and sister to Evie.

Mazal Tov to Daniel **Rosenbaum** and family on the occasion of his Barmitzvah.

Mazal Tov to Ivy **Zilberman** and family on the occasion of her Batmitzvah.

Mazal Tov to Judah **Tempelhof** and family on the occasion of his Barmitzvah.

Mazal Tov to Melanie **Sput** and family on the occasion of her daughter's Batmitzvah.

Condolences

Condolences to the **Braun** family on the passing of **Mrs Judith Braun** ז"ל, Wife of Hersh Yaacov **Braun** ז"ל, Mother of nathan Braun, Helen Shnider and Esther Esterman ז"ל.

Footy Vodcast!



Please share your Mazal Tavs with us! - marketing@yavneh.vic.edu.au



**Strengthening our community.
Protecting our way of life.**

CSG Victoria
Annual Appeal August 2025
<https://donate.csqvic.com.au/2025appeal>



The **Yavneh Academy**
תן לי יבנה וחכמיה

**Term 3
Adult Learning Series**
Weekly Evening Sessions
VCE Study Centre
2 Nagle Ave, Elsternwick

Uncover the unexpected!

**Wednesday
3 September**
י' אלול
7:30pm

**The Craziest Solution to the
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**
You Have Never Heard Of
& Why It Just Might Work
with
Rabbi Zach Gomo



**Strengthen your connection
to Torah & Community**

Join us!

RSVP: tinyurl.com/lycacademy



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Niche Player of the Week

Noah G, Year 8 Student
Danny Ballard

Danny Ballard is a defender for Sunderland.

He scored 1 goal against West Ham last weekend.

Ballard also kept a clean sheet versus West Ham. He is Sunderland's best defender.

Ballard got 11 Prem Fantasy points and 30 Supercoach points.



ELC Kinder Open Day

Ta'am Shel Yavneh



Simcha & Song

Thursday 30 October חשון 9:15am - 10:00am

We invite you and your little one to join us for a musical session!

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/simchansong>



Ethiopian National Project

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הפרויקט הלאומי לקהילה האתיופית בישראל



ENSURING THE FULL AND SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION
OF ETHIOPIAN-ISRAELIS INTO ISRAELI SOCIETY

A Holistic Approach



Targeted

Targeted, holistic interventions are key to ENP's success



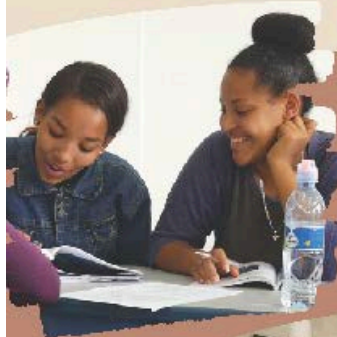
Evaluates

ENP ensures, learns, adapts and grows.



Inclusive

Ethiopian-Israelis play a leading role in ENP, bottom up and top down



ENP's SPACE (School Performance and Community Empowerment)

The program offers small-group, personalized learning with school partnerships, nutritious lunches, and strong support from experienced staff and parents, including emotional care during wartime.



ENP Current Nationwide Impact

- **2,453** SPACE participants, with a personalized response for each.
- **13 cities** across Israel, from Beersheva to Beit Shean.
- Greater numbers reaching higher matriculation.
- Increased confidence, higher aspirations, greater resilience.

ENP'S NEXT STEPS:

- **6,000** Participants
- **40** cities
- **5th through 12th grade**
- **\$2,000** per participant

Welcome to the ENP Family!

Connect with us at @ENPIsrael on all social media platforms

Website
www.enp.org.il

Contact Us
Grace Rodnitzki
Director of International Relations
972 - 074-746-6905
info@enp.org.il

AN INCLUSIBLE BY STARS AND THE MOON

SHREK The Musical

24 - 31 AUGUST
ALEXANDER THEATRE, CLAYTON

Based on the Dreamworks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig
Book and Lyrics by DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE Music by JEANINE TESORI
Originally produced on Broadway by DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS AND NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS
Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Musical Theatre)
Directed by LAUREN M. KENNA Choreographer CHARLOTTE GREENSLADE
Set & Prop Design HARRY GILL Costume Design JESSAMINE MOFFETT
Lighting Design SIDNEY YOUNGER Props, Hair & Makeup BRISA ALLEN

STARSANDTHEMOON.ORG

INTRODUCING ILLUMINATE BY ERDI FOUNDATION

A powerful MJCF initiative, designed to spark meaningful giving and bring light to countless lives every week.

How it works:

- 01** Subscribe to the Illuminate platform.
- 02** Choose donation amount.
- 03** The automated system will donate the money to MJCF at candle lighting time each week.

Every Friday at candle lighting time, **Jewish Women** will now have the opportunity to give **charity** in the most meaningful way, seamlessly, spiritually, and with purpose.

Share kindness. Spread light. Transform lives.



@illuminate.mjcf

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