



▲ (l-r) Shaynie, Steven, Gabe and Shelley Lewin

Keeping memories alive

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Our family are always with us and using these *talleisim* reminds us of this.

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Gabe Lewin, a Year 8 Mount Scopus College student, chose to make a donation to the Jewish Holocaust Centre (JHC) in lieu of gifts for his bar mitzvah. Gabe made his choice as ‘the Holocaust is an important part of my family history. All of my great-grandparents are Holocaust survivors.’ One of Gabe’s earliest memories of learning about the Holocaust for the first time was in Grade 4, when he learnt about the Holocaust in class, and later performed at the Yom Hashoah commemoration in Melbourne.

Gabe’s name was thoughtfully chosen by his parents, Steven and Shelley. Gabe’s full name is Gabe Sam Lewin and his Hebrew name is Aron. Sevek (Sam) Blum was Shelley’s maternal grandfather and Aron Swiderski was her paternal grandfather. Both were from Poland and survived Auschwitz. Szaja (Sam) Lewin, Steven’s paternal grandfather, was from Poland and fled to Russia before the war.

Gabe’s bar mitzvah was held at Chabad Glen Eira on 8 September 2018. This day was made even more special as Gabe’s great-grandfathers’ *talleisim* were draped on the *bimah*; they had also been used to create the *chuppah* for Gabe’s parent’s wedding. Shelley says, “Our family are always with us and using these *talleisim* reminds us of this.”

Thank you Gabe and family for your beautiful gift. We wish you all *Mazal tov* and hope you celebrate many more *simchas*.