Lamed classes started in November for over thirty people willing to deepen their knowledge on Judaism.

After an opening lecture by Dr. Gustavo Perednik, we already enjoyed the participation of Israeli Ambassador Daniel Kutner, Professor David Yavo, Rabbi Doctor Ernesto Yattah, and Rabbi Professor Diana Villa.

On Mitzvah Day we donated blood and gathered over 1800 kilos of food and basic cleaning and personal care items to be distributed to four hundred needed families.

Special groups of Sunday School and Bnei Mitzvah children were formed to help in social diners throughout four weekends.
At the beginning of December, our Our Kehilah accompanied the family of our beloved Honorary President Joseph Bohrer Z"L during his wake and burial, showing our unity not only in good but especially in sad moments.

Some weeks later, we welcomed Israeli Ambassador Daniel Kutner for another Lamed meeting, shared a debate with young adults from MAROM, and filled our hearts with light in Channukah.

Our jazanim Roberto and Clarisa started 2017 attending the Jazanim Seminar held in Barcelona.

We also celebrated Luca’s Bar Mitzvah and shared a virtual meeting with Ernesto Yattah for a new Lamed session.

After winter holidays, our premises bubbled with students again. Sunday School gathers weekly over thirty children aged five to eleven. We have ten boys and girls preparing their Bnei Mitzvah this year, and twenty-five new students attending our “Introduction to Judaism” classes, the first step in the Guiur process.
February was a month vibrant with activity: twins Tami and Ioel celebrated their Bnei Mitzvah, we enjoyed a piano concert by Tobias Brukman, and welcomed a group of youngsters from Central Synagogue in New York. However, the main event in February was the visit of Rabbi Sofer Gustavo Surazsky, who delighted us with his Torah sweing and Sofrut shiurim for children and adults, as he continued to work on our new Sefer Torah.
In March, we had our **Purim theater and Meguilat Esther reading**.

We also held a new meeting for NOAM, a MAROM debate on feminism and the role of women in Judaism, and took part in an interreligious conference.

By the end of the month, parents and children from **Sunday School** cooked challah for the Kehillah, and we all laughed with Argentinian comic Rudy Chernicoff.
April bloomed with activities and visitors. Sunday School children took part in the 2017 Hazemer Festival. Children rehearsed for weeks before recording their song, and finally sang it in a crowded theater.

As her baby grows healthy and strong, our morah resumed Hebrew lessons for the advanced group. A new group of beginners will start classes after summer holidays.

For Pesach, a swarm of volunteers helped arranging everything for an amazing Seder. One hundred and forty people, including visitors from Argentina, Israel, France, Portugal and the USA told our children how Pharaoh eventually freed our people thousands of years ago.

MAROM held their own Seder in our premises as well, and within a couple of days, everything was “back to normal” to welcome forty visitors from Congregation Beth Israel of Portland, and twenty five visitors from Congregation Beth Elohim of Boston.

Israel’s syrens on Iom haShoah and Iom haZikaron marked the last days of April and the beginning of May, as we joined international campaign #Stop for a Minute.

At the beginning of May we celebrated Maurizio’s Bar Mitzvah and shared a virtual meeting with Rabbi Professor Diana Villa for a new Lamed session.
More recently, Dr. Fernando Carderera –2012-2017 Spanish Ambassador in Israel– joined us for yet another Lamed meeting and shared his view on present life in Israel.

As next Masorti Beit Din session in Madrid gets closer, a new group of Hallachah studies has started. Weekly meetings are open both to Beit Din candidates as well as to anyone willing to discuss and learn more on Halachah.

Our Tikun Leil Shavuot is already around the corner. We already prepared a nice list of activities for all the Kehillah members and foreign visitors that will join us. Music, studies, games and coffee for a night of non-stop activities.

Last but not least, we recently made a major announcement: after several years of hard work and persistent negotiations, “Asociación Emuná” –led by Bet-El– signed an agreement to build a Jewish cemetery in Madrid.

This long-expected news was released simultaneously both to our Kehillah members and friends, as well as to all other Jewish institutions in Spain.

This cemetery will reflect the reality of the Jewish society in Madrid and Spain, in which different streams of Judaism intermingle. The whole project will be exposed to our Kehillah members and friends by the end of May.