

Bellville Hebrew Nursery School in the 1950s

Attached to the Communal Hall of the Bellville Community, at the far end, was a kitchen and a room. This room was used as a nursery school in the mornings and for *cheder* (Hebrew School) in the afternoons. It looked out onto a playground.



The first nursery-school teacher was an Israeli by the name of Sara. She introduced the children to the *chagim* (the Jewish Holidays) and Jewish traditions. Along with Sara, Bella Levine also taught there. Mickey Spiro used to help occasionally.

- Here is Sara in 1956 with: Back row: David Rink and Stephen Sacks
- Next row: Gail Loon (now Lustig) Linda Ruskin (now Sacks) Arnold Conyer – and at the window, Lorraine surname not remembered.
- Front row with their backs to us, Vernon Goss and Estelle Glickman (now Lifson)

(Note the Hebrew Script on the blackboard – from the *cheder* classes?)

The playground had, of course, the usual things found there such as swings, slide, Jungle Jim, sandpit etc. However, there was one addition, in the late 1950s, which proved very popular, especially amongst the boys. That was a Vanguard motor car which was given to the nursery school by Bobby Goodleser who had a used car lot.



Here we see **Sara** with her little charges in the playground.

Standing: Clifford Horowitz, Vernon Goss, Rodney Goldberg, Estele Glickman (now Lifson) Linda Ruskin (now Sacks) Peter Baron, Karen Friedberg, Louis Kessler, Gail Loon (now Lustig) and an unidentified girl on the slide.

Fridays were special days at nursery school. There was a 'main' table that had candles. One or two of the children were chosen to sit at the table and say the *brachot* (blessings). There were children who did not like to be chosen, for the simple reason that they were each given a very small wine glass filled with grape juice. The other children were given much bigger glasses of the juice!

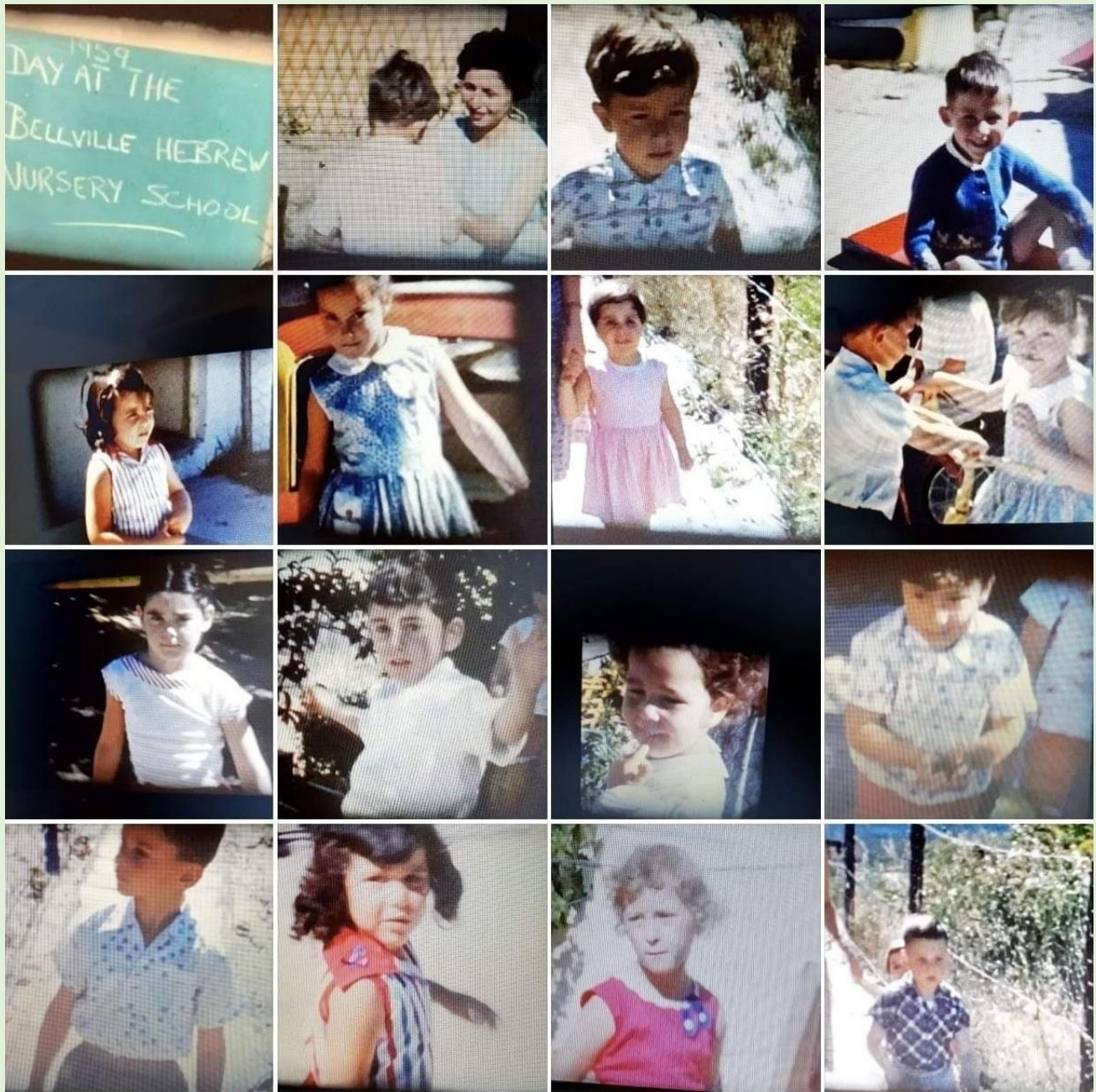
In the box!



In this picture we see on the left of the box, with dark hair, Stan Abel, on top of the box on the right Estelle Glickman (now Lifson) and inside the box, Vernon Goss, unidentified person, David Rink, Linda Ruskin (now Sacks) Peter Barron and far right at the back Arnold Conyer.

In about 1957, another room was built at the far end of the playground, and from then on the nursery school was located here. **Betty Frumer** was the teacher until she left in about 1964 to go on Aliya.

In this compilation of a day at the Bellville Hebrew Nursery School with **Betty Frumer** in 1959 we see:



Top row: Betty Frumer, Brian Berger, Rafi Weiner,

2: Karen Spiro, Glenda Levy, Ros Loon, Wendy Levy

3: Ruth Horowitz, Allan Groll, Maxine Goldberg, David Barron

4: Jerome Lang, Janine Weinberg, Angela Srubis, Stan Loon

I won't end with the cliché: 'Those were the days'.