



Remembering Miriam

In Parashat Chukat we read about the death of Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron. Imagine being born into that family! One brother, Moses, is the great prophet, leader of the Jewish people, a powerful figure on the stage of history who changed the destiny of an entire nation and guided their journey to the Promised Land. The other brother, Aaron, the High Priest, responsible for the spiritual life of the people, creating a link between them and their God, also a leader, a strong and powerful force in his own right. And then there is the third sibling, Miriam. She was the older sister who protected her brother Moses as he was cast into the waters of the Nile. She was the one who intervened to ensure that he would be cared for by her mother as well as the Pharaoh's daughter, she watched over him and sheltered him. Then, when the people leave Egypt and have passed through the split waters, it is Miriam who takes up her timbrel and leads the women in song, a joyful dance and musical expression of the freedom they were now blessed to enjoy. She encouraged all the community to join together in celebration. And then, through the desert wanderings, Miriam sat with the people, she tended to their needs, she was a listening ear, a nurturing presence. Miriam is described as a prophet. Just like her brother Moses, she too delivers the word of God. But Miriam's voice is different; she expresses her love for God and her connection in a way which is unlike that of her powerful brothers.

In the portion we are told of Miriam's death and in the very next sentence says that community is without water. Based on this juxtaposition of verses, the Rabbis suggest that there is a connection. They describe a magical well which followed the people through the desert, providing them with water. But the well was only there because of the merit of Miriam. It was her presence and prophecy which blessed them with the water to sustain their bodies as she sustained their spirits and when she died, legend says, the well did too. The people were without their soul, their heart, their nurturer. Miriam was the one who sat with them, she cried with them, she laughed with them. She nurtured and loved them. She was the one who listened to their troubles, who reached out and held their hands, who was there in the daily moments of their lives. Unlike Moses and Aaron who were occupied with the work on the grand stage, connecting with God, creating the link between the heavens and earth, dealing with the politics of leadership. Miriam was there with the people, hearing their stories, listening to their struggles and helping them with the tribulations of daily life. It is she who is the heart and soul of the people, it is she who nurtures their spirits, who feeds their being, who leads not from above but from amongst her people. Her role is no less important than that of her very impressive brothers, yet too often we focus on them, the events of the world stage and we don't notice Miriam, working diligently

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MAZAL TOV

Adam & Luc Marshall-Weinberg on the naming of their daughter, **Gabrielle Maya**

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday 4:44pm

Saturday 5:20pm

TORAH (page 860)

Numbers 19:1 - 22:1

HAFTARAH (page 876)

Judges 11:1 - 11:33

SHABBAT SERVICES

Erev Shabbat

- 6:15pm Masorti service (*Neuweg*)
- 6:15pm *Shabbat Live* (*New Sanctuary*)

Shabbat Morning

- 9:00am - Masorti service (*New Sanctuary*)
- 10:00am - Progressive service (*Neuweg*)
- *Thank you to the Marshall-Weinberg family for sponsoring the Masorti kiddush*
- *Thank you to Nora's Kitchen volunteers for preparing the Progressive kiddush.*

amongst her people, also tending to their needs, bringing the presence of God to their lives. So this Shabbat Chukat is a time to focus on Miriam and to see what lessons she teaches us, what legacy she leaves to inspire our lives.

Firstly, Miriam calls to us to celebrate moments, to express the joy we feel, to mark precious and beautiful times in a sacred and holy way. When the Israelites were freed from slavery Miriam sang and danced, she allowed her whole being to burst with the love and delight she felt, freedom's song was given voice through her. She encouraged everyone to be in the moment, to celebrate life's journey together and to stop to honour the significant times. She teaches us to be thankful and grateful for what we have and to celebrate special moments in our lives together with community.

Miriam also reminds us that sometimes the greatest acts happen quietly and gently around us. She reached out to others, she listened to their stories, she sat with people in their pain and soothed their wounded souls. Miriam's deeds remind us of the significance and importance of our daily encounters with one another, our interactions which can make a difference in one another's lives. So many people touch our lives, people who are there for us, who stand beside us, who reach out to hold us when we need it and too often they go unnoticed, unrecognized. We value the big gestures, but Miriam's story reminds us of the significance and importance of those people who are there for us every day, who are with us in our struggles, our suffering and our joy.

So this Shabbat when we remember Miriam and her life we are called to see, notice and hear the people around us who nurture us. To be grateful and thankful for their presence in our lives and to recognise the significance of caring for and meeting one another and the holiness of those encounters. And remembering to celebrate, laugh, cry, sing and dance together.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio

Film Screening **FOOD FIGHTER**

The incredible story of OzHarvest Founder and CEO Ronni Kahn, the inspirational film follows Ronni for 2.5 years on her mission to tackle food waste and feed those in need.

Sunday 21 July
from 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Followed by a Q&A with Ronni Kahn and director, Dan Goldberg

Book now: tinyurl.com/foodfighter

Kabbalah Meditation

An opportunity to learn meditation in a Jewish context. With Rabbi Dr. Orna Triguboff, accompanied by musician Emanuel Lieberfreund.

Friday mornings 9:30am August 9, 16, 23 & 30



*Rabbi Jeffrey B. Kamins OAM
Arno & Hella Seefeldt Rabbinic Chair*



Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio



Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth



*Rev. Sam Zwarenstein
Director of Communal Engagement*



Cantor George Mordecai



Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff

WHAT'S ON

Conversations about Israel - Monday 10:00am-11:30am

This **Monday July 15** - Guest speaker Israeli journalist, Orly Noy - *An Iranian Israeli Response to Zionism*.

Shabbat In the Circle - Shabbat Morning July 20 from 9:30am

We will begin at 9:30am with the study of Hassidic and other mystical texts then discuss how we can apply them in our daily lives. This will be followed at 10:15am by a collaborative musical gathering based on the Shabbat morning service incorporating melodies, poems and dance to enhance our Shabbat.

Jew Natal - new monthly sessions start July 21st from 3:00pm - 4:30pm.

Calling all expecting couples, regardless of whether this is your first, second or more! Join Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth for a series of informal sessions, designed as preparation for birth in a Jewish context. Call the office on 9389 6444 for details.

The Lost Princess - weekly from Thursday July the 25th at 7.15pm

Cantor George Mordecai will start a new series of classes. To kick off we will study *The Lost Princess*, a deeply insightful story from Rabbi Nahman, with music and meditation.

Havdallah Live! - feeling the light - July 27 at 6.15pm.

Discover the beauty of havdallah with Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio, Cantor George Mordecai and musicians including Ben Adler, Emanuel Lieberfreund, Michelle Goldman & David Goldman.

LUNCH 'N' LEARN

Reverend Sam Zwarenstein
looks at

Self Care

*Why we need to focus on ourselves
before attending to others.*

**This Saturday July 13
after services**

Plus61J and Emanuel Synagogue present
Israel, Jews & the Middle East through Film

Ajami

Wednesday July 17 from 7:00pm

Palestinian Scandar Copti and Israeli, Yaron Shani collaborated on this drama which examines how the troubled relationship between their countries colours everyday life. Nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

Beyond the Tribe

28 JULY 2019

BONDI PAVILION | BONDI BEACH

Are you a dreamer? Do you need help shaping your vision for a better Australia?

Come and be inspired to build the Australia of your dreams at this first of its kind event in Sydney for the Jewish Community. Hear from world class speakers and engage in workshops from a range of topics from climate to refugees to local heroes.

More details and booking:

emanuel.org.au/SJS

Presented together with Stand Up,
Plus61J and Shalom

IN MEMORY

There are mourners in our community to whom we extend our sincerest sympathies on the death of their loved ones.

Shiva: Joseph Neustat

Shloshim: Evelyn Perl, Devra Frelander, Leonard Collins, David Rosswick, Sylvia Weissenberg, George Greenfield, Margalith Spindler, Clara Fredilis, George Shelton, Moira Garvie, Leonard Robuck, Eva Gottlieb, Zdenek Weiss

This week we observe the Yahrzeits of (observed by):

* Memorial Light

Cecily Alfred (Laura Alfred)

Nino Abraham Barda (Felix Barda,
Joseph Barda, Manou Heman)

Paul Beran (Danny Beran, Roger Beran)

Nicola Sue Berman

(David & Sandra Berman)

Elizabeth (Bette) Caley

(Carolyn Crawford, Gus Lehrer)

Miriam Cowen (Pamela Sackville)

Danny David (Marla Bozic)

* **Rose De Vahl Davis**

(Graham De Vahl Davis)

Minnie Dyke (Lilian Berley)

Josef Edelstein (Elisha Edelstein)

Elwyn Eizenberg (Caroline Haski)

Diana Encel (Sarah Encel)

Paul Engel (Eva Engel)

Rosalia Epstein (Agnes Spencer)

Addy Fisher (Michael Fisher)

Wanda Freeman (Anthony Freeman)

Sanyi Freeth (Vera Goldberg)

Willie Glaser (Peter Glaser)

Arnold Goldman (Susie Klein)

Sam Hellig (Lesley-Ann Hellig)

* **Jeanette Herrman**

John Hilton (Jeffrey Hilton)

Dov Huberman (Roi Huberman)

Nathan Katz (Ivor Katz)

Alfred Kobor (Michaela Kobor)

* **Leon Kohan**

Ashley Levi (Vicky Ryba, Mark Levi,
Tom Levi, Kimberly Levi, Peter Ryba,
Edith Ryba)

Rebbetzin Yaffa Levy (Karen Knoll)

Ann Lieberman (David Lieberman)

Harry Loeb (Renee Schneider)

Lionel Margo (Robin Margo)

Hyman Marks (Bettina Davis)

Ann Miller (Vivienne Miller)

Pearl Newhouse (Daniel Newhouse)

Jack Nimon (Maxine Klarinet)

David Ossher (Nicola Ossher)

* **Miriam (Minnie) Pelerman**

Dinah Przednowek (Lucy Taksa)

Solomon Richards (Anthea Hemphill)

Jordan Rogers (Rosalie Rogers)

Leah-Dana Rogers (Rosalie Rogers)

Mair Rosenberg (Marcelle Freiman)

Reuvein Rotem (Tanya Igra)

Ida Schwarz (Susanne Freeman,
Ronald Schwarz)

Rebecca Segal (John Segal)

Ida Segal (John Segal)

* **Louis Smith**

* **Wally Stern** (Val Stern)

* **Dennis Tavill** (Suzanne Tavill)

Adi Trijbetz (Bob Trijbetz)

David Varkonyi (Edith Varkonyi)

Stephan Vince (Andrew Hilton)

John Vince (Margaret Rutstein)

Helly Wagner (Toni Kleiner)

Gideon Wolman (Yoav Porat)

Robert Zaccai (Lynnette Zaccai)

Judith Zaretsky (Julian Lavigne,
Nita Lavigne)

Shoah Remembrance: Ithak Goldfarb was born in Bessarabia, Romania in 1935 and lived there until 1941 when he was murdered during the Holocaust.