



Shabbat Bamidbar

18/19 May 2018 • 5 Sivan 5778

## Becoming “a light unto the nations”

In this week's parashah, Moses is commanded to take a detailed census of each of these tribes. However, there was to be one exception – the Levites (B'Midbar 2:49). Counting them was prohibited. Rather, the Levites were instructed to take care of the the tabernacle housing the tablets that Moses brought down from Sinai. It was their duty to break down the mishkan and to and to re-erect it during their journey. The Levites were to work on behalf of the community, preserving the communal relationship with God.

God instructs the Levites to take the place of the first born of Israel: "I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. The Levites are to be Mine" (B'Midbar 3:11-13). When we investigate the status of the first-born son, we find the identical sentiment: "Sanctify to Me all the first-born males. The first offspring of every womb belongs to Me". (Shemot 13:13-14). Why does God choose to claim one of each of our offspring as God's own? Why did the Levites take their place?

“At the time that I smote every first born in the land of Egypt, I consecrated every first born in Israel... to be Mine”. We left Egypt only after the first-born son of the Egyptians was killed. The cost of our freedom was another family's trauma. We remain eternally in debt. For this reason, God demands our first born to oversee God's service on behalf of all the people Israel. We are never allowed to forget the price of our freedom.

However, after the unanimous acceptance of Torah at Sinai, this burden moved from each of the households of Israel to only the Levites. When Moses returned from the mount and witnessed the dancing around the golden calf, he provided an ultimatum: “Whoever is for God, come here”. (Shemot 32:26). Moses' fellow Levites came to his side. From this time forward the Levites accepted the mantle of representing the entire people with their commitment to live with kedushah, holiness, service to God.

Just as the Levites were to motivate the rest of the Israelites in service to God, the Israelites have been called to be a “Kingdom of Priests and a holy nation (Vaykira 19:6)” and thereby become “a light unto the nations”. As the Levites are the smallest of the tribes, so we are among the smallest of peoples. As their rituals and rights were distinct from all the other tribes, so our rites, rituals, and memories ensure that we are distinct. Just as the Levites were to take responsibility for the condition of the entire people, so our role is to accept responsibility for the entire world.

Being a Jew means living with this responsibility. We either live according to this responsibility, or do not. The loss of the Egyptian first-born so that we could experience freedom forces each and every one of us to value our own lives and the lives of our children even more. The Levites were witnesses to us, as we are called to witness to the world that to live is a privilege, to serve an obligation.

*Shabbat Shalom,*

Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins

## MAZAL TOV

**Sharon Motro & Michael Keogh** on their **auf ruf** (*Neuweg*)

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday 4:43pm

Saturday 5:40pm

**TORAH** (*page 769*)

Numbers 1:1 - 4:20

**HAFTARAH** (*page 787*)

Hosea 2:1 - 2:22

## SHABBAT SERVICES

### Erev Shabbat

- 6:15pm - Masorti Service (*Neuweg*)
- 6:15pm - *Shabbat Live* (*Main Sanctuary*)

### Shabbat Morning

- 9:00am - Masorti service (*Neuweg*)
- 10:00am - Progressive service (*Main Sanctuary*)

### Morning Minyan

- Morning Minyan is on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:45am however this Monday, Shavuot services start at 9:00am on Monday and include Yizkor.

### Renewal Shavuot

- *Jewish Meditation, Music & Soup* from 8:00pm - Saturday 19th May

### Renewal Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday 1st June from 6:15pm



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



Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio



Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth



Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff



Rev. Sam Zwarenstein  
Director of Communal Engagement

## CELEBRATE SHAVUOT AT EMANUEL

**Dangerous Dilemmas** - this Saturday 19th May from 6:15pm - midnight

Join us as we grapple with four ethical dilemmas introduced by our clergy and discussed by you in an evening of lively learning. Includes dinner and dessert.

**Renewal Shavuot** - Meditation, Music and Soup - Saturday 19th May from 8pm

Join us for an inspirational evening of meditation and music on the Festival of Revelation. Facilitated by Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff with guest musician, Joel Ehrlich.

**Shavuot services 1st day (New Sanctuary)** - Sunday May 20th 9:00am

**Ice cream Sunday** - Sunday 20th May from 4:30pm  
Join us for our family celebration of Shavuot: activities, fun for the family and ice cream sundaes!

**Shavuot services 2nd night** - Sunday 20th May from 6:15pm  
(New Sanctuary)

**ShavuHOT** - Sunday 20th May from 6:45: join us for curries and to celebrate the Jewish community of India - culture, food and music.

**Shavuot 2nd day services including Yizkor (New Sanctuary)** - Monday May 21st 9:00am

## NOTICE OF 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Seventy Eighth Annual General Meeting Of Emanuel Synagogue

will be held this

Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 6:30pm

## Join Jew-Natal

**Thinking of starting or adding to your family?**

Come join a new group with others who are in this stage of life...

**Topics will include:**

- Traditions on Naming • Rituals to do at home • Brit/Baby Naming
- Transmitting traditions from generation to generation (or how to involve grandparents and other extended family members)

Please RSVP to [info@emanuel.org.au](mailto:info@emanuel.org.au)

# WHAT'S ON

## Rabbi Lea Mühlstein, President of ARZENU

This Friday 18th May, we welcome Rabbi Lea Mühlstein, International Chair of ARZENU– the Federation of Reform and Progressive Religious Zionists. In her role, Lea works to represent the interests of ARZENU's constituent groups in 14 countries around the world, as well Progressive Jews more generally, within the governing bodies of the Israel's National Institutions.

### **Our Jewish Story: Our Land, Our People - every Monday from 10:00am-11:30am**

Join Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins and guest speakers for a fascinating examination of the complex issues facing contemporary Israel. *Monday May 21 - no class due to Shavuot. Monday May 28 - The Embassy, Trump and the Rapture*

***Please note: there are no Hebrew classes this week due to Shavuot***

## **Kabbalah Course**

### **72 Name Meditation**

5 Tuesday nights at 8:00pm-9:30pm

with Avraham Leader and Rabbi Dr. Orna Triguboff. We will learn how the 72 Name can expand consciousness and inspire you. Classes consist of text study (English provided) and meditation. Classes will be recorded so you can join online too.

Cost: \$60 Emanuel members,

\$75 non-members.

To book: [www.trybooking.com/VHWP](http://www.trybooking.com/VHWP)

## **A Night with the Music of Simon & Garfunkel and Cat Stevens**

**May 27 from 7:30pm**

Come and spend an evening with friends in our '70s lounge (Neueweg). Enjoy a light supper and our talented musicians as they bring us a selection from these amazing artists.

Don't miss out - book now: [tinyurl.com/garfunkel-night](http://tinyurl.com/garfunkel-night)

## **Help Share The Dignity**

We are having a campaign in support of *Share The Dignity*, a women's charity that makes a real, on-the-ground difference to homeless women and victims of domestic violence. Please help by donating pads, tampons and personal hygiene products for women experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Small dignities make a big difference. There is a box in the Neueweg Sanctuary for donations.

## **Brunch with the Rabbi**

**Each Sunday during term from 9:45am**

Join us each Sunday morning during term for a light brunch followed by a discussion with the clergy and special guests. Every week a different, engaging topic to debate and enjoy. This week,

*No session this week due to Shavuot*

# IN MEMORY

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

*Shiva:* Peggy Josephine Morris

*Shloshim:* Edward Simon, Ruth Wallach, Frank Wolf, Jack Greene, Gloria Meyer, Sonia Davis, Edith Kopcsanyi, Lewis Rischin, Bernard Jacoby, Jacob Hasan, Rabbi Aaron Panken

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

\* Memorial Light

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**Aaron Aaron** (Reuben Aaron)  
**Matilda Angel** (Valerie Newstead)  
**Harry Cohen** (Martin Cohen)  
**Ronald Cohen** (Wendy Cohen)  
**Dinah Conyer** (Devorah Wainer)  
**Jeny Cymerman** (Maurice Linker)  
**Bella (Bunny) Davis** (Garry Davis)  
**Frank Etten Davis** (Ethel Davis, Mark Davis)  
**Joshua Harry Ellis** (Suzanne Cremen)  
**Louis Jacob Fisher** (Susanne Fisher)  
**Elizabeth Fleischer** (John Fleischer)  
**Magda Giesser** (Deborah Adler)  
**Celina Glick** (Barry Glick)  
\* **Louis Goldberg**  
**Lewis Golomb** (Marcia Scudder)  
**Leah Goodman** (Jillian Mansell)  
**Bronia Hatfield** (John Roth)  
**Fortune Heman** (Rachel Adler, Peter Ryner)  
**Herbert Hill** (James Hill)  
**Sadie Hollander** (Shirley Hollander)  
**Charles Felix Hollander** (Shirley Hollander)  
**Roy Innes** (Gordon Innes)  
**Shirley Lily Jaffee** (Diane Geffrey)  
**Ruth Kane** (Michelle Bassin, Sandra Bassin)  
**Paul Klein** (Stephen Klein)  
**Therese (Terry) Koval** (Simon Buchen)  
**Yetta Krawitz** (Aubrey Krawitz)

**Eli Clement Levy** (Lindsay Levy, Michal Levy)  
\* **Eva Levy**  
\* **Sarah Lieberman**  
**Elvira Lobelson** (Carol Beecher, Marcelle Urwand)  
**Helene Maehrischel** (Suzy Wolanski)  
**Saul Leopold Magril** (Claire Goldstein)  
**Sarah (Sally) Marks** (Bettina Davis)  
\* **Dora Meyers**  
**Norman Mikardo** (David Mikardo)  
\* **Jonas Mikler**  
\* **Alfred Opper**  
**Raisa Orjelick** (Roberta Haski)  
**Eric Perl** (Peter Perl)  
**Phillip Querido** (Frankie Blou)  
**George Reich** (Victoria Reich)  
**Alice Huppert Reisz** (Elizabeth Sharota)  
**Harry Ruttenberg** (Brian Ruttenberg)  
**Vera Simkovic** (Suzanna Helia)  
**Lilly Somogy** (Judith Somogy)  
\* **David Toben** (Ann Toben)  
**Perl Bat Tuvyah** (Peter Clyne)  
**Theresa Vince** (Andrew Hilton, Michelle Hilton)  
**Anna Weber** (Andrew Weber)  
**Leslie White** (Elizabeth Stoliar, Edith White)  
**Charles Zwi** (Ruth Zwi)

**Shoah remembrance:** Arana Hirsch was born in Kezmarok, Czechoslovakia in 1892 and she lived there until 1942 when she was murdered during the Holocaust.