



## Being mindful of others

In this week's parasha, we read; "V'ger lo toneh v'lo til'chatzenu ki geirim hayitem b'erezt mitzrayim" (You shall not wrong a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt) - Exodus 22:20.

It is interesting to note that the reason given for not oppressing the stranger isn't that it is wrong to persecute or mistreat them, but rather that we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Why is the justification for not oppressing the stranger the fact that we were strangers in the land of Egypt?

Rashi explains that if you vex the stranger, he can vex you too, by saying; "You also descend from strangers". He adds in a quote from Mechilta d'Rabbi Yishmael (a collection of halachic midrashim focusing on the book of Exodus), which reads; "Do not reproach your fellow man for a fault which is also yours". A more modern version of that would be; "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones". While this is a good lesson, it doesn't explain why the reason for not oppressing the stranger is because we were strangers in the land of Egypt.

When we add to Rashi's teachings, the teachings of Rabbeinu Bahya (13th and 14th century Spanish commentator and author), we discover a clearer explanation to our quandary. He explains that the word "toneh" refers to disadvantaging the stranger with words, and "til'chatzenu" refers to physically disadvantaging the stranger by robbing them of their own money. He goes on further to explain that on a number of occasions the Torah mentions the need to treat a stranger fairly because the stranger is alone in a country in which they have no roots and no family to protect them. Rabbeinu Bahya teaches that the Hebrew word for stranger "ger" is derived from the word "gargir", an isolated berry at the far end of a solitary branch.

The way we sometimes treat strangers replicates that perception, we place them (physically, emotionally, and socially) at the end of the branch, far away from us. Therefore, we have a tendency to take advantage of their situation, we treat them as if they have no one to protect them, so we can do what we want.

Rabbeinu Bahya explains that God warns us not to think that the stranger has no one to turn to, as God will be there to fight for the stranger. Furthermore, it is a reminder that we of all people should have empathy and consideration for others, because we had been taken advantage of when we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Just

*continued over...*

## MAZAL TOV

**Jesse Carpenter**  
on his **Bar Mitzvah**  
(*New Sanctuary*)

**Katherine & Anthony Boskowitz** on the **naming** of their daughter, **Matilda**  
(*Neuweg*)

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday 7:43pm

Saturday 8:40pm

**TORAH** (page 456)

Exodus 21:1 - 24:18

**HAFTARAH** (page 480)

Jeremiah 34:8 - 34:22;

33:25 - 33:26

## SHABBAT SERVICES

### Erev Shabbat

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

### Shabbat Morning

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

Renewal Shabbat service  
February 9 from 9:00am  
in Neuweg

Morning minyan will  
resume at 9:00am this  
Sunday with the  
World Wide Wrap

*Thank you to the  
Carpenter family for  
sponsoring the kiddush.*

as God took care of us in our time of need, when we had no one else to turn to, it will be God who serves as the protector of other strangers when they have no one else to turn to.

It is, therefore, our duty, as a responsible and accountable light unto the nations, to be mindful and considerate of others, to not make them feel isolated and alone, and to empathise with and support them. We do this not just because it is the correct thing to do, but also because we were strangers in the land of Egypt. We know how it feels to be oppressed and taken advantage of, and so we should know that it is expected of us to do the right thing.

*Shabbat Shalom,*

Reverend Sam Zwarenstein

## Renewal Kabbalat Shabbat at the Beach with Music & Picnic

February 22nd from 7:00pm

with live music on the sand followed by a picnic on the grass. Children welcome.

Please email for the location in Sydney:

[orna@emmanuel.org.au](mailto:orna@emmanuel.org.au)

## Jewnatal

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. This is also a wonderful opportunity to meet those who are about to welcome a new bundle of joy in their lives.

The next series begins on Sunday, 10 February from 3:00pm - 4:00pm. Please call the office on 9389 6444 for details.

Emanuel Synagogue and Plus61J present  
Israel, Jews & the Middle East through film  
Wednesday February 20 from 7:00pm  
Lama Films Presents  
**Children of the Sun** ילדי השמש  
A film by Ran Tal  
tinyurl.com/sun-film



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

## *Kef Kids -*

**Thursdays from 4:00pm-5:30pm starting February 7th**

Kef Kids is an educational program for children in years K-5 - an exciting, fun way for kids to connect with Judaism and their community.

***Jewish Meditation Class - Tuesday nights in March 7:30pm-9:00pm***

in Neuweg with Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff - no charge. All welcome.

***Conversations about Israel - every Monday from 10:00am-11:30am***

Every Monday, join Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins or guest speakers to examine the complex issues facing contemporary Israel.

**Monday February 4 - Professor Boaz Golany - Vice President, Technion  
*Tikkun Olam: Solving global water and food security problems. Israel's lead in entrepreneurial solutions to complex problems***

## Learn (or improve your) Hebrew in 2019

Classes are Monday evenings during term  
starting February from 6:00pm-7:00pm

Register now at [emanuel.org.au/engage/learn\\_hebrew](http://emanuel.org.au/engage/learn_hebrew)

## **WORLD WIDE WRAP SUNDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2019 FROM 9AM**

**Join with our people. Participate in the Mitzvah.**

**Experience the Wonder and Joy of Tefillin.**

There'll be extra sets and personal tefillin trainers to help you through the process. Afterwards, please join us for a delicious bagel breakfast and learning session. Male or female, first timers or old hands - join us and be a part of this lovely experience.

**Rabbi Gad Krebs (Kehillat Masada) in conversation  
with Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins**

Sunday February 3rd from 5:00pm-6:30pm

### **COMMUNITY**

**An Orthodox Rabbi's perspective**

*Can we reach agreement on some of the issues that have challenged the relationship between Orthodox and non-Orthodox communities? What will be the major issues facing the Sydney Jewish community in the coming year?*

Members \$15 Non-members \$25 including light refreshments

Book now: [tinyurl.com/community2019](http://tinyurl.com/community2019)

**In  
conversation**

## **Lunch 'n' Learn**

**Join us on February 9th after services**

For a special presentation by Dudu Gotlib, Netzer & Community Shaliach  
***Countdown to the Israeli Elections***

# IN MEMORY

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

- Shiva:* Heather Rosing, Peter Fleischer, Harry Smith, Golda Prince, Harvey Cohen, Susan Susskind, Samuel Nitchingham
- Shloshim:* Michael Toben, Shula Endrey-Walder Annalise Braakensiek, Evrille Bortz, Mildred Teitler, Hettie Angel, Amos Oz, Henriette (Jetty) Jaszgagi

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

\* Memorial Light

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- Siegfried (Fred) Bachmayer**  
(Bernice Bachmayer, David Bachmayer)
- Charles Joseph Berg** (Vivienne Sharpe)
- Ignatz Broch** (Toni Kleiner)
- Christine Celermajer**  
(David Celermajer)
- \* **Arthur Cohen**
- \* **Samuel Coleman**
- \* **Edith Collman-Rosenberg**
- Eliezer Dan** (Tova Goldstein)
- \* **Katzka Davis**
- Bernard Fiegel** (Paul Fiegel)
- Jean Fiegel** (Paul Fiegel)
- Albert Gertler** (Robert Gertler, Vera Jacoby)
- Marie Gold** (Brian Gold)
- Elaine Hershcopf** (Susan Banki)
- Violet Hougie** (Allan Aaron, Anne Gale)
- Zena Housepeters** (Marlene Epstein)
- \* **Anna Kadisch** (John Mikler)
- Edmund Korn** (Yvonne Korn, Anita Moss Korn)
- \* **Isidore Krumholz**
- Vera Joyce Lawrence** (Wendy Cohen)
- \* **Esther Margaret Lehmann**  
(Gerald Lehmann)
- Bernice Leibowitz** (Anthony Leibowitz)
- \* **Millicent (Millie) Levenson**
- Elemer Lorentz** (Ivan Lorentz)
- Frank Martin** (David Martin, Valda Martin)
- Regina Merkur** (Toni Kleiner)
- Renee Miller** (Deborah Warnock)
- \* **Evelyn Mintz** (Peter Mintz)
- Abraham Joseph Nathanson**  
(Michael Nathanson)
- \* **Harris Ocrame**
- Benjamin David Penny** (Gary Penny)
- \* **Ronald Quilter-Fienberg** (Kim Gotlieb)
- Myra Reynolds** (Barbara Holmes)
- George Joseph Rischin** (Phyllis Glasser)
- Brian Rosenthal** (Deanne Rosenthal)
- Queenie Sebel** (Roger Sebel)
- Norman Skikna** (Avril Janks)
- \* **Leonard Spray**
- Irma Stahler** (Jeffrey Steinweg)
- Janet Stern** (Shirley Rotenstein)
- Genia Taksa** (Lucy Taksa, Michael Taksa)
- Efim Taksa** (Lucy Taksa, Michael Taksa)
- \* **Arthur Thieman**
- Alex Varga** (Ruth Kliman)
- Oscar Weil** (Kerrie Weil, Trudy Weil)
- \* **Esther Zines**

**Shoah Remembrance:** Johana Blau was born in 1900 in Ujhely, Hungary and lived in Zemplin, Czechoslovakia until she was murdered in 1942 in Poland during the Holocaust.