

The President, Rebecca Silk, together with the Board, Rabbis and staff of TBI, welcomes you to our community.

SHABBAT PINCHAS

Parashah: Numbers 26:52-65 (page 1202)
Haftarah: 1 Kings 18:46-19:21 (page 1275)

KABBALAT SHABBAT

MAIN SYNAGOGUE

6pm Kabbalat Panim

6.15pm Friday Night Shabbat Service

Board member: Rebecca Silk and Barry Wicks
Shammash: Rhonda Nirens
Siddur Presentation: Tom Gaster
Shira: Cantor Michel Laloum and the Ruach Community Choir

FAMILY SHABBAT

FRIEDLANDER SYNAGOGUE

6.15pm Friday Night Family Service

Board member: Helen Shardey
Shira: Max Jared Einsohn

SLOME HALL

7.15pm Community Dinner

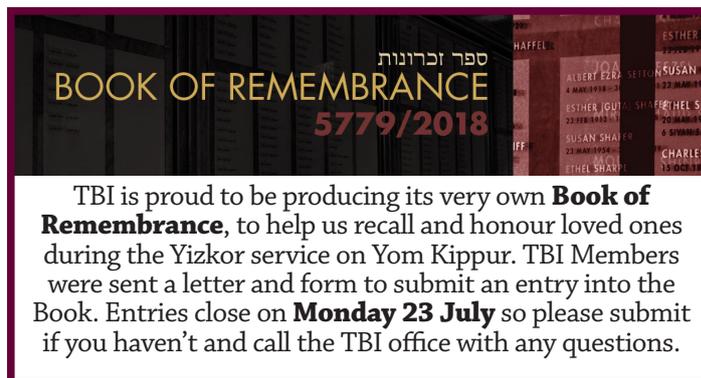
Please bring a *milchig/pareve* dish to share.

SHACHARIT SHABBAT

MAIN SYNAGOGUE

10am Saturday Morning Shabbat Service

Board members: Robert Hershan, Rebecca Silk, Gary Lewis, Helen Shardey and John Hillel
Shammashim: Dot Nathan and Laurie Krauss
Darshanit: Rabbi Kim Ettlinger
Shira: Cantor Michel Laloum and the Ruach Community Choir
Torah readers: Caroline Paz and Rena Langberg



We kindly ask that phones and cameras not be used during services*

DRASH FOR SHABBAT PINCHAS BY RABBI JEFFREY KAMINS, EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE, WOOLLAHRA, NSW

Parashah Pinchas continues the story of Aaron's grandson Pinchas. At the end of Balak, we read that Pinchas, upon witnessing an egregious act of apostasy between an Israelite man and a Midianite woman, takes immediate extrajudicial action, executing them on the spot. This week we hear God's word in response, "[Pinchas] has turned back My wrath from the Israelites by displaying among them his passion for Me, so that I did not wipe out the Israelite people in My passion. Say, therefore, 'I grant him My pact of Peace.'" Both God and Pinchas are depicted as characters of zealotry. Despite the Torah's seeming endorsement of Pinchas' act of zealotry, Jews throughout the centuries have questioned Pinchas' act in particular and zealous behaviour as a Torah principle.

Those who endorse Pinchas' action and zealousness for God argue as Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch did: "anyone who wages war on the enemies of what is good and true is a champion of the Covenant of Peace on earth even while engaged in war." Of course, what is good and true is defined within the very scripture that allows one to kill in its pursuit. The Etz Chayim Chumash points out that, "The tradition generally considers moral threats to be more dangerous for national survival than physical threats. Although the Egyptians and the Edomites threatened Israel's physical existence, we are commanded not to hate them. We are told to wipe out the Midianites, however, for they tried to undermine Israel's moral standing." Thus, one sees justifications in the tradition for zealotry, including the execution of the other.

However, for others, upholding one's moral standing by taking action that is either immoral, against the law, or both is problematic. Accordingly, an entire other tradition arose in Judaism, one that over time has become the preponderant position. The rabbis of the Talmud established so many rules that a person ready to take zealous action had to follow that, for all intents and purposes, that one who claimed to kill for God was classified as a zealot. In addition to this restriction in

Jewish law, they added the following homiletic teachings. The early rabbis noted that Pinchas' name in the opening of this parashah is spelled in the Torah scroll with a small "yud", the yud being the first letter of God's name as well. From that they learned that one who commits violent acts, even for a "good cause", has diminished his own Godly nature. Similarly, the "vav" in shalom, speaking of the covenant of peace promised Pesach, is written with a broken stem. This suggests that peace achieved through force is not complete or sustainable.

While the minority position endorsing zealotry in Judaism still exists, the majority finds such action abhorrent. Pinchas' actions are considered to be "of that time" and it is noted that he is assigned to the priesthood partly to disarm him.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow takes this one step further. Commenting on the fact that God's anger precedes Pinchas' act of zealotry and that this week's parashah clearly states that God's plague ceased in response to Pinchas's act, Waskow suggests that even God understood zealotry had no place in life's drama. According to Waskow, God understood Pinchas's act as an "Imitation of God". It was as if Pinchas held up a mirror to God, changing God's own perspective. God then stopped the plague and made a covenant of peace with Pinchas that bound each of them.

Pinchas is the ancestor of the priestly line, and his covenant of peace extends to us, for we Jews call ourselves "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation". The acts of zealotry and violence still done in the name of God are the greatest desecrations of God's name. We may challenge all the other extremists out there with righteous anger, but we should question why we still condone a shrine and heroic status to our own zealous murderers. Reading Parashah Pinchas during the period of the three weeks between the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av, a time of national introspection, we should recall the words of the prophet Zechariah, "With truth, justice and peace shall you judge in your gates."

* TBI services are now streamed live and archived on our website tbi.org.au for the benefit of the community. If you are positioned near the front of the synagogue or near the bimah your image will be recorded. Attendance and participation in our services will be deemed as consent for your image, or the image of minors in your care, to be used for the purposes of filming and promotion. We thank you for your support.

GET YOUR THINK ON!

TRIVIA

TBI FUNDRAISER  *Night*

SILENT AUCTION • GAMES & PRIZES • RAFFLE
SUPPER, SNACKS AND SOFT BEVERAGES SUPPLIED
(BYO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES)

SATURDAY 18 AUGUST

7PM (7.30PM START)
TBI 76-82 ALMA ROAD, ST KILDA

FUNDS RAISED WILL SUPPORT THE WORK, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TBI CONTRIBUTES TO THE COMMUNITY

BOOK INDIVIDUAL SEATS OR CREATE A TABLE OF 8
TBI MEMBERS: \$50 • GENERAL ADMISSION: \$60
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

BOOKINGS: TBI.ORG.AU/TRIVIA
OR 9510 1488



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CALENDAR

Sunday 8 July
5.15pm Kol Simchah choir rehearsal

Tuesday 10 July
7.30pm Parashat Haftarah

Wednesday 11 July
10.30am Drop In and Chat
7pm Melton School - Core Curriculum

Thursday 12 July
7.30pm Living With Dementia Support Group

Friday 13 July
10am Bubs & Bagels
6.15pm Kabbalat Shabbat service

Saturday 14 July
10am Geshet service
10am Shabbat Matot - Mas-ei service

BLANKET AND DOONA APPEAL

If you have new or dry-cleaned and wrapped **woollen** blankets or doonas, there will be a collection bin in the foyer. These will be given to asylum seekers in the community who cannot afford heating. Your help will be appreciated.

2018/19 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Reminder: 2018/19 membership renewals are now overdue.
We ask that you kindly attend to this as soon as possible.
The success and long-term continuation of all our programs and activities depends upon your continued support.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - 'TAKE THEM A MEAL'

Our 'Take Them a Meal' program is looking for volunteers to cook and deliver food to those who have been unwell, in hospital or recently bereaved. Sign up, choose a date, and make an extra portion of your family dinner for someone in need. You can also donate funds for the purchase of ready-made meals. For more information and to sign up, contact Rhonda Nirens on 9510 1488 or rhonda.nirens@tbi.org.au

REMEMBRANCE

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SHLOSHIM

- John Joseph Brand Husband of Judith Anne, father of Cherie, Neil, Linda and Nikki
- Roger Fox Husband of Jenny, father of Deborah, Sharon and Jacqueline
- Ian Jordan Brother of Lawrence
- Helga Levy Mother and mother-in-law of Frank and Judith, Peter and Jana
- Peter Malcolm Husband of Vicki Brous
- Samuel Ohayon Father of Rachael and Mark

- Rose Rosenberg Mother and mother-in-law of John and Beverley, Alan (z"l) and Janet

YAHARZEITS OBSERVED THIS SHABBAT

- Gilbert Barnes • Anna Bellin • Fishel Bock • Sara Cowen
- Rebecca Joan Eilenberg • Harold Fisher • Harry Gomer
- Steven Gorog • Alice Hearst • Irene Hutchison
- David Barry Josephs • Hilda Lustig • Elizabeth Magid
- Maurey Morgan • Yvonne Riordan • Irene Strauss
- Betty Sussman • Sara Zylberstein