



Times of Services

Friday 23 May 2014
Shabbat begins: 8.43 pm
Mincha/
Kabbalat Shabbat: 7.15 pm

Shabbat 24 May 2014
Shacharit: 9.30 am
Haftarah: Brian Robinson
Kiddush
Shabbat ends: 9.59 pm

Sunday 25 May 2014
Shacharit: 8.40 am

Friday 30 May 2014
Shabbat begins: 8.42 pm
Mincha/
Kabbalat Shabbat: 7.15 pm



Reading the Haftarah

If you would like to read Haftarah to mark a special event or just to make your personal contribution to the service, please let us know. Brian Robinson and Neil Shestopal would be delighted to help with any preparation or revision that would be needed. Please contact them directly—Brian: 020 8567 6558; Neil: 020 8579 5099.



Sponsoring an Event

If you are celebrating a Simcha or commemorating a family Yahrzeit, or if you are just feeling generous, please consider sponsoring a Shabbat morning Kiddush, Seudah or Sunday morning breakfast. Contact Joan Michaels: 020 8579 4261.



Israeli Dancing!

Every Tuesday evening at 8.00 pm at Ealing Synagogue. All welcome. No charge. **THERE WILL NOT BE ISRAELI DANCING ON EREV SHAVUOT, TUESDAY 3 JUNE.**

In the event of a bereavement, in the first instance please contact the Burial Office : 020 8950 7767.

Rabbi Hershi Vogel: 07970 829758
Brian Robinson: 020 8567 6558
Neil Shestopal: 020 8579 5099

Ealing Synagogue Newsletter



שבת שלום

Friday 23 May 2014/Shabbat 24 Iyar 5774

Sidra: **Bamidbar**

EALING SYNAGOGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Following the AGM last Sunday, the new Board of Management is:

Chairman:	Stephen Hirst
Vice Chairman:	Leslie Sommer
Financial Representative:	Ray Temple
Wardens:	Brian Robinson and Neil Shestopal

Men:	Rodney Coleman	Women:	Isabel Kosky
	Michael Jacobs		Ella Marks
	Mike Gettleson		Joan Michaels
	Mike Mars		Aviva Preston
	Robin Preston		Judith Robinson
			Dawn Shestopal
Edward Cohen—BoD Representative			

SUNDAY 25 MAY 2014 (BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY) STONE SETTING LEON GERLIS Z"l

The stone setting for Leon Gerlis z"l will take place at 12.00 pm at Bushey Cemetery. Following the commemoration, guests are invited back to the home of Jeremy and Simone Gerlis. Please contact Daphne Gerlis if you are intending to return to the house.

MAZAL TOV

To Yvonne Caplan on the engagement of her grandson Ben Freedman, son of David and Tina Freedman, to Raisel Sanger of Hendon. The Ealing community extends a hearty Mazal Tov to all the family.

Ealing Synagogue Library

All the books in the Library are available to borrow. Please sign your name and book details in the Register. If you have any books that you would like to donate to the Library, please call Michael Jacobs—020 8998 7932. Please do not leave them at the shul.

Ealing Synagogue,

15 Grange Road, London W5 5QN

Reg. Charity No. 242552

Minister: Rabbi Hershi Vogel, BA; Administrator: Mellissa Levitt

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Ealing Synagogue Newsletter: esnewsletter@btinternet.com

Ealing Synagogue Website: www.ealingsynagogue.org.uk

SATURDAY 31 MAY 2014
WOMEN V CANCER - RIDE THE NIGHT

Alison Shindler-Glass will be cycling from Windsor to London in aid of charities for breast cancer, cervical cancer and ovarian cancer. If you would like to support Alison to raise much needed funds for these charities, please go to her Just Giving page <http://www.justgiving.com/Alison-Shindler>. Good luck, Alison!

SUNDAY 1 JUNE 2014
CHALLAH BAKING CLASS

Following the success of the last class, Zelda Vogel will be taking another challah baking class on Sunday 1 June at 10.30 am in the shul kitchen. Please call her directly if you would like to take part : mobile 07977 262220. Zelda will provide all the utensils and ingredients. Just bring an apron! Cost £20.00 per person.

EREV SHAVUOT
TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2014

On Tuesday 3 June, Erev Shavuot, Mincha and Maariv service will be at 8.30 pm followed by a light supper and Tikun Leil. This is a very joyous occasion and is open to the wider Ealing community, parents, grandparents and grandchildren. The nominal cost for the supper is £7.50 per person. Cheques should be made out to *Ealing Synagogue* and sent to our administrator, Mellissa Levitt, in the synagogue office. If you would like to join us for this very social evening and interesting short talks, please contact either Neil Shestopal or Marianne Temple. For catering purposes, the **deadline is Wednesday 28 May**. If you would like to contribute to the evening by giving a short D'Var Torah, please contact Neil. We look forward to seeing you.

Shacharit on first and second days Shavuot, Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th June, will be at 9.30 am.

JEWISH LIVING EXPERIENCE EXHIBITION
EALING SYNAGOGUE
1 — 10 JULY 2014

The Jewish Living Experience Exhibition, organised by the Board of Deputies, is coming to Ealing Synagogue. This exhibition is for invited schools only and is not open to the public or any other outside groups.

To enhance the exhibition, it would be most helpful if anyone could bring photos, artefacts, etc. to make up an interest table of the local Ealing community and its history. Local schools find this fascinating as an addition to the exhibition. Please contact Basil Mann if you are able to contribute.

Snapshot Torah



GUIDE TO THE WEEKLY PARSHA

ISSUE 35

24th May 2014

BAMIDBAR

24th Iyar 5774

Kohen - First Aliya: Chapter 1, verses 1 - 19

- ✦ It was the 1st Iyar during the 2nd year after the exodus when Hashem instructs Moshe to take a census of Bnai Yisrael.
- ✦ With help from Aaron and a representative from each tribe, they count every male person over the age of twenty, and those who would be eligible to go to war if and when required to do so.

Levi - Second Aliya: Chapter 1, verses 20 - 54

- ✦ The results of the Census are revealed, tribe by tribe, giving us a grand total of 603,550
- ✦ However this census does not include anyone from the tribe of Levi. This is because as it is their duty to be involved in dismantling, carrying and re-erecting the Mishkan (Tabernacle) whenever they travelled, none of them would be allowed to go into battle;

Sh'lishi - Third Aliya: Chapter 2, verses 1 - Chapter 2, verse 34

- ✦ Hashem advises Moshe and Aaron on how to set up camp around the Mishkan. The Levi'im will first encircle the Mishkan with their tents so they can guard and protect the Mishkan from all sides.
- ✦ On the eastern side of the Mishkan, the tribes of Yehuda, Yissachar and Zevulun will make camp. The tribes of Reuven, Shimon and Gad will settle in the south with the tribes of Ephraim, Menashe and Binyamin positioning themselves on the west side and the tribes of Dan, Asher and Naftali setting up home on the north side.

R'v'i - Fourth Aliya: Chapter 3, verses 1 - 13

- ✦ Hashem tells Moshe the Levi'im will be put in charge of serving and assisting the Kohanim in the Mishkan and the guarding all of its vessels.

Chamishi - Fifth Aliya: Chapter 3, verses 14 - 39

- ✦ A census of the Levi'im is now taken consisting of all the males from one month of age and above adding up to 22,000 in all.
- ✦ There are three main families within the tribe of Levi, Gershon, who were put in charge of transporting the tapestries, curtains belonging to the Mishkan. The family of Kehat role was to transport all the holy vessels and Merari's family were the ones who had to carry all the beams, panels and sockets. .

Shishi - Sixth Aliya: Chapter 3, verses 40 - 51

- ✦ Next Hashem asks Moshe to count every firstborn male belonging to Bnai Yisrael from one month old and above. The total came to 22,273.
- ✦ Hashem explains that all the Levi'im counted will replace the rights given to the firstborns. This is because all firstborns are now sanctified to Him as they were saved on the day that Hashem struck down all the firstborn Egyptians.
- ✦ Each firstborn will be redeemed with a Levite. The remaining 273 are to be redeemed by handing over five shekels to either Aaron or one of his sons.

Sh'vi'i - Seventh Aliya: Chapter 4, verses 1 - 20

- ✦ Finally Moshe is instructed by Hashem to take a census of the family of Kehat between the ages of thirty and Fifty as they would be the only ones eligible in transporting the Mishkan's Holy vessels.
- ✦ The last section deals with how the Mishkan should be dismantled and preparing all the sacred vessels before moving them to the next destination.

Haftorah – Hoshea, Chapter 2 verses 1 to 22

OVERVIEW:

- ✚ The Haftorah begins with the Navi (prophet). Hoshea speaking about the future redemption.
- ✚ Hosea first prophesies about the eventual reunification of the houses of Judah and Israel. During the Messianic Era, when these two perennial antagonists will make peace and appoint a single leader once more.
- ✚ Hosea then rebukes the Jewish people for their infidelity, abandoning their "husband," Hashem, and engaging in adulterous affairs with pagan deities. He describes the punishments they will suffer because of this unfaithfulness.
- ✚ Eventually, though, Hosea gives reassurances that Teshuva (repentance) will take place, and Hashem will accept them all back wholeheartedly.

LINK TO SEDRA READING:

- ✚ Parsha Bamidbar deals primarily with the counting of Bnai Yisrael in the desert. The Haftorah begins with the words, "The number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand on the seashore, which can be neither measured nor counted." Proving that numeric greatness is also part of Bnai Yisrael's legacy, fulfilling Hashem's promise to Avraham that his people will be as numerous as the stars in heaven etc.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION: Taking Censuses: Positive or Negative?

I've always believed Counting People is a positive thing. Counting men to make up a minyan to enable for someone to recite Kaddish is a primary example. To prove this further, Sefer Bamidbar begins with the counting of Bnai Yisrael, which Rashi points out is a good thing as it shows how much Hashem truly cares and loves us.

Yet there is a discrepancy and flaw to my belief. This is not the first or last time Moshe took a Census. Both of these other times took place after adverse things had occurred. We first encountered taking a Census after the Heter Eigel "Sin of the golden calf" and we'll be reading about another one, in a few weeks' time in Parshas Pinchas, when B'nai Yisrael are counted again right after 24,000 people had died from a plague. To compound it more. The entire Jewish nation was punished or even killed by a plague because David Hamelech decided to count his people. So surely counting or taking a census is a Negative thing to do.

The S'forno helps to solve my dilemma. He states 'there is potential for positive and negative results from the acts of counting people. No two people are the same and everyone has their own role to perform in life, so counting them highlights their particular talents and individuality. However there is a negative side also that the other nations in the world hold that the greater the number something is, the greater the influence will be on the world. We as a Jewish nation on the other hand. Influence and make a bigger impact on the world not because of our strengths in numbers, but because we are the only nation who fulfils Hashem's Mitzvahs.'

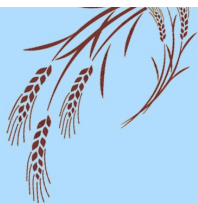
In Judaism, quality, not quantity is the essence of who we are. It's not important how many of us there are, but how we conduct ourselves as a collective. Additionally, I feel that our Jewish uniqueness is not from the old adage 'Every man for himself' but emanates from our tight bond we have with each other.

Not to discredit David Hamelech in any way, making him out to be a villain, I just want to clarify something. No one can or should try to second guess Hashem. The reason why Moshe counted Bnai Yisrael each time, was because he was obeying a direct order from Hashem. David Hamelech on the other hand, had his own agenda and motives for taking a census, but unfortunately for him, these reasoning's were not in line with Hashem's intentions which is why a plague ensued.

To conclude, I think the lesson to learn here is to use our individuality for the benefit of helping the community, so we can continually grow from strength to strength. So the next time you are asked to be part of a Minyan. Make sure you count yourself – IN!



Compiled, Designed & Written by Jeremy Symons



In conjunction with Ham School Studio,
Steimatzky's and Pullingers Art Shop,
Richmond Synagogue presents

Richmond
Synagogue

Shavuot Painting Competition



Open to all adults aged 18+. Paintings / pictures must show a theme related to the festival of Shavuot and can be of any medium.

Paintings will be judged by Guy Shoham MA, artist and popular art tutor at The Ham Studio School (hamstudioschool.co.uk).

If you are intending to enter please text Chana Hughes on 07932 766 998 or email: rebbetzinhughes@gmail.com.

All paintings should be delivered to Richmond Synagogue, TW9 1AP and must be received by Monday June 2nd 2014.

Competition will be judged on Shavuot II, Thursday 4th June 2014, 12:30pm at Richmond Synagogue. Prizes, sponsored by Steimatzky's and Pullingers Art Shop, are worth over £100.

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