



Choose blessing

Weeks before his death, in his closing speeches which form the book of Devarim, Moshe Rabbeinu has a continuous theme, found again in the opening words of this week's parashah, Re'eh: "See, this day I set before you blessing and curse – blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I enjoy upon you this day; and curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God." Unfortunately, life experience does not support fully Moshe. Our own Tanakh, in the Book of Job, questions whether there is causality between performance of mitzvot and being awarded with blessing. Too many of us, for thousands of years, have observed the opposite. The psalmist phrases it by saying that God's ways and thoughts are not ours. The solution presented in Job is that "The Lord works in mysterious ways", and therefore, we do not fully understand how blessings or curses manifest. Rabbinic sages extend this by hypothesizing that all the apparent injustices of this world are worked out in the next – the eternal life. Given our difficulty with believing there is absolute correlation between performance of mitzvot and blessing bestowed from beyond, we may understand Moshe's words to be speaking about the matter of blessing and curse from a different perspective.

Moshe, while wanting to create motivation for people to live a God-centred, Torah based, mitzvot observant life, also desires to teach a meta-lesson about the power we have each moment in our life. In other words, curses are not cast and blessings are not bestowed from beyond; rather, blessing and curse emanate from within through the choices we make and how they imprint in our consciousness. Indeed, it is the power of our mind that draws us closer to consciousness of the beyond that we call "God". Performance of mitzvot as learned through Torah connects us to God; living a righteous life puts us, so to speak, in the groove. The Torah of Moshe provides a fundamental way for one to feel blessing in life, a way further detailed by rabbis who followed him. One does not have to follow the Torah exactly as presented to us through the rabbinic tradition – with the panoply of rabbinic voices over thousands of years and dozens of cultural contexts, there is a vast range of understanding Torah. This freedom to engage with the One and expand how It can expressed is in itself a blessing. We can learn general principles of Torah, such as how there is correlation between life, good and blessing, and apply them to how we learn Torah and live mitzvot.

Ultimately, Moses implores us to live a mindful life, one of heightened perception. Each time we say a blessing is a moment to pause and to choose to act consciously. Each moment of life presents us with choices and how we take responsibility for the ones we make. Always reading these words of Moshe as we move from Tisha B'Av toward Rosh Hashanah, we recognise our choices may not always be the best and can

continued on page 3

MAZAL TOV

Max Styles on his
Bar Mitzvah
(Main Sanctuary)

Jake Fleischer on his
Bar Mitzvah (Sunday)
(New Sanctuary)

CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday 5:04pm
Saturday 6:01pm

TORAH (page 1061)
Deuteronomy 11:26 -
16:17

Maftir: (page 930)
Numbers 28:9 - 28:15

Haftarah: (page 1220)
Isaiah 66:1 - 66:24

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
(*Main Sanctuary*)

Renewal Rosh Chodesh service

- 10:00am
Sunday 12 August

Morning Minyan

Monday and Thursday at
6:45am (*New Sanctuary*)



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

Selichot

Turning to the Divine

A night of beautiful music and spiritual return

Saturday 1st September from 9:00pm

The stunningly beautiful Selichot prayers usher in the soulful themes and melodies of the approaching Yamim Noraim, Days of Awe

Bring your family and friends to this unforgettable and deeply meaningful spiritual experience.

Led by Cantor George Mordecai with the other members of our clergy

SHABBAT SERVICES & DINNER

WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

REV. BILL CREWS

FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN OF THE EXODUS FOUNDATION

FRIDAY AUGUST 17 FROM 6:15PM

Rev Crews will be looking at the evolution of services coming out of Ashfield and how they changed in the light of changing needs and how this affected Bill's personal journey. The Exodus Foundation is one of Sydney's largest frontline charities and runs the Loaves & Fishes Free Restaurant, serving 800 meals to the needy every day. It also operates a multipurpose Health & Outreach Centre.

Rev Crews will be speaking at services and at the Shabbat dinner.

Dinner - members \$40, non-members \$50

More details and to register: tinyurl.com/crewsdinner

Art, Kabbalah & Meditation Seminar

19 August 10:30am-3:00pm

with **David Friedman**, visiting artist from Safed, Israel
David is a Kabbalist, Artist and Meditation Teacher.

He will lead two workshops with Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff
10:30am-12:30pm

Kabbalah 101 – Jewish Meditation Throughout the Ages

To book: www.trybooking.com/WTPG

1:00pm-3:00pm

Kabbalah: The Book of Creation in Theory and Practice

To book: www.trybooking.com/WTPG

There will also be an exhibition of David's work in the gallery from August 10-20

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lead to creating curses, and are grateful for our ability to do Teshuvah (repentance). We recognise the consequences of our actions, knowing we can always learn from our errors and, with proper repentance, get back on track. It is as we stray that we experience the curse - the sting in heart, mind and soul. As we return to centre, balance and focus we feel the blessing in life. "See, this day I set before you blessing and curse"

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins

WHAT'S ON

Lunch 'n' Learn - this Shabbat after services

Join Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins after services for a discussion on *Ellul - A time for reflection - traditional values for contemporary times.*

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

This week our special guest speaker is Ronald W. Zweig, Professor of Israel Studies, Director, Taub Center for Israel Studies, Skirball Dept. of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU. Topic: *State of the Nation - a report on the changing nature of Israeli Society.*

Kef Kids - Fridays from 4:00pm-5:30pm

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, learn and form friendships with children in the congregation.

Renewal Rosh Chodesh

New Moon Music, Prayer and Meditation

This Sunday August 12th from 10:00am

A meaningful and musical New Moon (Rosh Chodesh) prayer service.
With Cantor George Mordecai and Rabbi Dr. Orna Triguboff.
For info, please email orna@emanuel.org.au



SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER 11:00AM TO 10:00PM

A reminder that the *Early Bird Discount* for Shir Madness, the Jewish music festival will be ending at midnight on 15 August 2018.

The early bird price is only \$65 + booking fee for a full day of musical performances! Prices then rise to \$75 + booking fee.

In addition, a further 10% discount is available to Emanuel Synagogue members. If you are a member simply enter the discount code: **emanuel member** on the Enter Details screen. Book now at shirmadness.com to take advantage of this special rate!

IN MEMORY

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

Shiva: Harry Ashley Smith, Bruce Green

Shloshim: Alexander Klein, Betty Engelfield, Carol Isaacs, Joanne Fried, Eva Glaser, Laura Ash, Michael Kremer, Cherry Jacobson, Lilian Finniston, David Brokman, Erich Schlanger, Allan Mendels, Harry M. Miller, Zelda Goldberg, Michael Kotzen, Andrew Adler

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

* Memorial Light

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| Leon Aaron (Ruth Rusanow) | Larry Lazarus (Alethea Gold) |
| Jeanette Aaron (Ruth Rusanow) | Martin Lebovic (Solomon Lebovic) |
| * Hillel David Apte | Eugenie Lehrer (Carolyn Crawford, Gus Lehrer) |
| * Esther Aronstam (Lilia Burleigh) | Norman Levis (Neva Sperling) |
| Millicent Irene Barrington (Joe Barrington) | Anne Lieberman (Dina Davis) |
| Erica Becker (Julie Brown) | * Miriam Luber |
| Chaim Sruel Ben Avraham (Roger Davis) | Margaret Michaels (Sharon Harris) |
| Michael Daniel Bender (Ruth Bender) | Menachim Mendel Morgenstern (Toni Kleiner) |
| Alfred Benjamin (Peter Benjamin) | Abraham Pollis (Patricia Lehmann) |
| * Julie Berkman | Ilse Ryner (George Ryner, Peter Ryner) |
| Mariane Bern (Joseph Bern, Adele Bern) | Joseph Meyer Saul (Carolyn Saul) |
| Abraham Jacob Bloch (Lewis (Dickie) Bloch) | Jenny Scott (Lesley-Ann Hellig) |
| Gertrude Matilda Brokman (David Brokman) | * Joseph Wolf Sharpe |
| * Adrien Alexander Browne (Wesley Browne) | Bernard Shoolman (Linda Morton) |
| Arnold Clark (Rachael Clark) | Felix Sicouri (Maya Hirsch) |
| * Louise Dawson | Morris Silberbach (Jeff Silberbach) |
| Molly Fisher (Peter Frankl) | * Lewis Israel Simon |
| Edward Frampton (Naomi Elias) | Abraham Sinani (Ron Sinani) |
| Lotte Gardos (Agnes Seemann) | Jack Slivkin (Vivienne Nabarro) |
| Kurt Glaser (Helen Clayman) | Franklin Slivkin (Vivienne Nabarro) |
| * Maurice Goldman (Bruce Goldman) | Leo Smoliansky (Rena Small) |
| Sylvia Goodman (Raymond Goodman) | Ofer Sadeh (Avi Sharabi) |
| Henrietta (Rietta) Haifer (Glenn Haifer) | * Magda Sumegi (Tessa Surany) |
| Giselle Hamor (George Hamor) | Linda Tolkin (Salome Simon) |
| Michael Hershon (Melanie America, Jennifer Hershon, Fiona Singer) | Alfred Ulmer (Peter Ulmer) |
| * Irene Isaacs | Taube(Toni) Weinberger (Toni Kleiner) |
| Pauline Itzkowic (Claire Chester) | Martha Wilhelm (Judith Withers) |
| * Emil Kohane | Stanley Alfred Zimmerman (Michael Zimmerman) |
| Bernie Lazarus (Alethea Gold) | |

Shoah remembrance: Emile Hollander was born in Darmstadt, Germany in 1868 and lived there until 1943 when he was murdered in Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia during the Holocaust.