



## The model of Serach

This Shabbat we read the story of Joseph and his reconciliation with his brothers. As we remember, Joseph was sold by them into slavery many years before and now he has risen to a position of power in Egypt. His brothers approach him for food and he uses the opportunity to discover whether or not they are sorry for their behaviour towards him and if they have changed. When he sees that they are no longer the same selfish, self-absorbed men they once were, he reveals his true identity. Unlike today when I suspect such a scene would probably be played out on a reality tv show, Joseph clears the court for privacy and he and his brothers are reunited. It is one of the most moving scenes in the Torah.

Once they have all overcome their shock, Joseph sends his brothers home with food and wine for their father and the message that Joseph is alive and well. Now just imagine the position of the brothers. Here they are, confronted with their long lost, presumed dead brother, about whom they lied to their father and now they must go back and confess their part in his disappearance and bring Jacob to meet his son. How on earth do you start that conversation? "Dad look, when we said that Joseph was dead and killed by a wild beast what we really meant to say was that we threw him in a pit and were going to kill him but then we changed our minds and sold him to slavery and lied to you but guess what? Unbelievable! He is alive and well and the man second in charge to pharaoh and he really wants to see you so um well lets go then shall we?" The poor guys were in quite a dilemma but then according to midrash, one of them remembered their cousin Serach daughter of Asher, she was good at these things and they decided to ask her to break the news. Apparently she agreed to the task and she went to Jacob while he was at prayer and in the background she recited quietly "Joseph is in Mitzrayim he has two sons Menasseh and Ephrayim" Jacob eventually listened to her words and so gently and compassionately was told of his son's survival and life in Egypt.

Serach did such a wonderful job that according to tradition, she was given long life or some even suggest an eternal life, as her reward. In fact, there is a debate in the Talmud between a group of rabbis. They were arguing about what the Red Sea

*continued over...*

## MAZAL TOV

**Jacob Farbman** on his  
**Bar Mitzvah**  
(Main Sanctuary)

**CANDLE LIGHTING**  
Friday 7:43pm  
Saturday 8:46pm

**TORAH** (page 274)  
Genesis 44:18 - 47:27

**HAFTARAH** (page 290)  
Ezekiel 37:15 - 37:28

## 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  
(*Main Sanctuary*)

### Morning Minyan

Mon at 6:45am and  
Thurs 6:45am (*Neuweg*)

*Thank you to Aaron and Margaret Ezekiel for sponsoring the Masorti kiddush in honour of Aaron's 80th birthday*

*Thank you to the Farbman and Hyman families for sponsoring the Progressive kiddush*

looked like as the Israelites passed through. The debate is resolved when Serach appears at the door and tells them that the sea was like windows and you could see for miles. The catch is, that Serach was alive in the time of Jacob and then appears again in the Talmudic era thousands of years later.

There are many legends about Serach but she is mentioned only twice in the Torah. Once in next week's parasha she is listed amongst Jacob's sons and grandsons, hers is the only female name and she is stated specifically as one of the people who came into Egypt with Jacob when he escaped the famine and was reunited with his son. The second mention is remarkably, when they leave Egypt, Serach is listed amongst those who over 400 years later walk out of slavery towards the Promised Land. The tradition says that this is no mistake and it is not a different Serach bat Asher, it is the same woman. She was mentioned the first time because of her deeds and kindness towards Jacob and the second time because of her status as an elder and respected member of the community. It was Serach who recognized Moses as the appointed redeemer of the children of Israel.

Apparently her father gave her the key phrase and when she heard it repeated by Moses she knew that he was the one chosen by God to help them leave Egypt. It was also Serach who knew where Joseph's bones were buried. She held the memories of the community within her and so she was able to lead Moses to the hiding place. Serach was the elder statesman amongst the Israelites and they treated her with respect and love. They listened to what she had to say and in that respect, she is very much the model for the manner in which we should be caring for the elders of our communities and a reminder of the value and importance that they bring. They hold within them the wisdom and history of our community, our families and even ourselves.

*Shabbat Shalom,*  
Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio



*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 - 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.

## ***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.

On Monday 17 December, Rabbi Kamins will present a talk on Conversations in Review; looking back at the fascinating topics covered throughout the year. This will be the last in this series for the year with sessions restarting on January 14, 2019

## **Renewal Musical Kabbalat Shabbat - December 21 from 7:00pm**

followed by pot-luck Picnic Dinner - bring something vegetarian to share  
Email [orna@emanuel.org.au](mailto:orna@emanuel.org.au) to find out details of beach

## **Jewnatal - Sunday February 10 3:00pm-4:00pm**

Series of informal sessions designed as preparation for birth in a Jewish context. A chance to meet those who are about to welcome a new bundle of joy in their lives. All expecting couples regardless of whether this is your first, second or more!  
Please call office on 9389 6444 for details.

An evening with

**Dr Alan Finkel AO, Chief Scientist of Australia**

Sunday February 10, 2019 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Presented by Emanuel Synagogue together with Sydney Alliance

**Is it too late to prevent  
devastating climate change?**

Register now: [tinyurl.com/finkel-talk](http://tinyurl.com/finkel-talk)



**25<sup>th</sup> JEWISH LGBT+  
WORLD CONGRESS**

Keshet Ga'avah Rainbow of Pride  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup>-24<sup>TH</sup> 2019

**EARLYBIRD  
25% SAVING!**  
Before 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2019  
AUD 150 EUR 95 USD 150

**DAYENU.ORG.AU**  
[worldcongress2019@gmail.com](mailto:worldcongress2019@gmail.com)

 25TH JEWISH LGBT+  
WORLD CONGRESS



 **DAYENU**  
Sydney's Jewish LGBT+ Group

 **emanuel synagogue**  
Enriching Jewish life

# IN MEMORY

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

*Shiva:* Bobby Nair, Susanna (Szuszi) Denes, Ronald Munz, Herman Eisenberg  
*Shloshim:* Egon Auerbach, Myrna Freed, Rosaline Goldstuck, Gabriel Brown, Elizabeth (Leslie) Goodman, Jeremy Spinak, Gary Kurzer, Oren Snir, Rose Rosenfield, John Bluthal

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

\* Memorial Light

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- \* **Madge Abbott** (Coral Lawrence)
- Elvira Adelstein** (Jennifer Adelstein)
- Bernice Bell** (Lyndall Katz)
- Malcolm Chaikin** (Lynette Chaikin)
- Mavis Betty Cohen** (Daniel Cohen)
- Aubrey Verner Colefax**  
(Megan Benjamin)
- Raissa Darin** (Annabelle Bennett)
- Hans Doctor** (Daphne Doctor,  
Eric Doctor)
- Sylvia Einstein** (Walter Einstein)
- Shirley Ellitt** (Julie Ellitt)
- Hessel Elstein** (Caren Bettman)
- Azio Enis** (Joseph Enis)
- Itzak Flakowicz** (Iska Coutts)
- Louis Franklin Freed** (Edgar Freed)
- Dorothy Gottlieb** (Thomas Gottlieb)
- Florence Griffiths** (Yadida Sekel,  
Scott Whitmont, Steph Whitmont)
- Mordechai Halfon** (Etty Hahn)
- Emil Hilton** (Andrew Hilton,  
Michelle Hilton)
- Sandra Kahn** (Max Kahn and family)
- Samuel Kahn** (Jeremy Kahn)
- Ruth Kedzier** (Dana Kedzier)
- Joseph Kolman** (Veronica Kolman)
- Szymon Krygier** (Doris Cope-Krygier)
- Anne Landa** (Sophie Landa,  
John Sharpe)
- Avraham Lees** (Devorah Lees)
- Rosa Lewin** (Miriam Lewin)
- Lucy Anne Lieberman**  
(Golda Lieberman)
- Eva Linton** (George Linton)
- Barbel Markowitz** (Rony Bognar,  
Lea Friedlander)
- \* **Rose Marks** (Wesley Browne)
- Nick Melkman** (Herman Melkman)
- \* **Betty Pantzer** (Angela Lipman,  
Sara Pantzer, Warren Pantzer)
- Azriel Petrover** (Miriam Tier)
- \* **Solomon Pressburger**
- Abraham Rodgim** (Rosalind Ihaka)
- \* **Albert Rosen**
- Lily Rosin** (Elena Rosin)
- Harry Segal** (John Segal)
- Benjamin Sharon-Neustadt**  
(Peter Neustadt, Ziporah Neustadt)
- Dveira Shneidman** (Yakov Shneidman)
- Hans Sholler** (Gary Sholler)
- Rachel (Chelly) Slade** (Marty Cowen,  
Alan Slade)
- Danny Slade** (Marty Cowen, Alan Slade)
- Edward Strasser** (Sarah Strasser)
- Deborah Stross** (Ruth Osen)
- William Szekely** (Gudula Dornseifer,  
Bianca Szekely, Talia Szekely)
- Zoltan Tandlich** (Vered Kilstein)
- Sadie Wilson** (Barbara Holmes)
- Andrew Winter** (Robert Winter)
- Alfred Witkowski** (Barbara Simon)
- \* **Rebecca Zeichik**

**Shoah remembrance:** Marta Hirshburg was born in Berlin, Germany in 1867 and lived there until she was murdered in Theresienstadt, Czechoslovakia during the Holocaust.