



## Moses the reluctant leader

In his article titled; “20 Things You Can Learn About Leadership From Moses”, Rabbi Evan Moffic begins as follows: *“Moses was the first great Israelite prophet. He is also one of the greatest leaders in human history. Yet, had God read Moses’ resume before hiring him, God would not have likely been impressed. Moses was born a slave. He has a stutter and a temper. And the only work he did before God called him was caring for his father-in-law’s sheep. Yet, Moses goes on to challenge the world’s most powerful ruler, and lead a people from oppression to freedom. He brings down the Torah and teaches the people the Ten Commandments. He is the protagonist of a story told around the world to this very day”.*

We all know the story of the prophet, and how he grew up in the lap of luxury, protected by predetermined fate, and how a set of strangely connected events leads him to realise that he has a greater purpose in the world. These events compel Moses to stand up for the needs of others, thereby forcing him to flee Egypt, and undertake a journey that would see him return to Egypt, go up against Pharaoh, and lead God’s people out of the land of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, where they can serve God.

In addition to all of this, he didn’t even want the job! The interaction between God and Moses at the burning bush, in chapters 3 and 4, detail a back and forth rationalisation. God instructs Moses on what needs to be done, what he should say to Pharaoh, what explanations he should give to those involved, as well as reassurances that God will be there with Moses throughout this endeavour. Moses continually pleads with God not to make him responsible for this huge task, and he offers up many excuses as to why he would not be suitable for the role.

With all of this in mind, why did God persist with this undertaking, pressuring Moses to take on this role and lead God’s people from slavery to freedom? The importance of the success of the entire assignment is paramount to our existence today, surely God would want to put the strongest, most capable and most willing leader in charge.

The explanations around this quandary are numerous. Perhaps Moses was chosen because God could see that he accepted the importance of the mission and the vision, and he would have the

*continued over...*

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

## MAZAL TOV

**Ben Simon** on his **Bar Mitzvah**  
(New Sanctuary)

**Graham Kaplan** and **Michelle Gray** on the naming of their daughter **Adele** (New Sanctuary)

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday 7:50pm  
Saturday 8:26pm

**TORAH** (page 293)  
Exodus 1:1 - 6:1

**HAFTARAH** (page 312)  
Isaiah 27:6 - 28:13;  
29:22 - 29:23

## SHABBAT SERVICES

### Erev Shabbat

- 6:15pm Erev Shabbat service  
(Neuweg)

### Shabbat Morning

- 9:00am - Masorti service  
(New Sanctuary)

### Tu’ Bishvat - Celebrate Nature - Sunday 9th February from 4:00pm

A chance to celebrate with all ages for the festival of trees and environment with Rabbis Nicole Roberts and Orna Triguboff at the Botanical Gardens Sydney.

Bring some afternoon tea to share.

For details, please email [orna@emanuel.org.au](mailto:orna@emanuel.org.au)

tenacity to keep things going. Perhaps he was chosen because God saw in Moses qualities of being a team player, who would rely not only on Aaron and Miriam and other key figures to guide and assist him, but that he would be able to support them too. Perhaps it was the sheer “chutzpah” and defiance of God’s insistence that inspired God to choose Moses.

We may never know the exact reason(s) for choosing Moses to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt. What we do know is that even though Moses may not have been the ideal candidate, he took on the role, and led the mission. He understood that sometimes we are placed in positions where we are tasked with a project or role, and that it is often more important that we take ownership of the task and see to its completion, than understanding why exactly we were given that task.

Sometimes we can achieve more than we initially anticipated because someone sees something in us that we might not see. Spending too much time questioning why we are there can hinder our chances of success, and after all, isn’t that what we’re striving for?

Let’s afford ourselves the same recognition and confidence that others have in us when we take on the opportunities presented to us.

*Shabbat Shalom,*

Reverend Sam Zwarenstein

## PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN

### Shabbat Tot

for 2-5 year olds

The first Friday of every month, 4:30pm - 5:30pm  
Returns Friday February 7th

A lovely way to introduce your children to Shabbat and to meet other families in the community.

### Kef Kids

For kids in K-5

Our weekly Kef Kids program returns on 6 February, 4:00pm - 5:30 pm. We have a revamped curriculum and an all-star team of educators excited to meet you and your children. At Kef Kids, we offer Jewish ideas, practices, culture and Hebrew skills taught through games, conversation and hands-on activities.

### Bnei Mitzvah

Our weekly Bnei Mitzvah education program returns on 6 February, 4:00pm-5:30 pm. We’ve been hard at work updating our curriculum and developing new resources to better offer comprehensive B’Mitzvah preparation for your children using use games, discussions, story-telling, and collaboration. Our program covers topics such as Jewish Values and Me, Jewish Leaders and Role Models as well as Israel and Zionism.

**If you'd like to know more, get in touch with our Head of Youth Education, Donny Janks at [donny@emanuel.org.au](mailto:donny@emanuel.org.au)**

## Rabbi Fox Memorial Service

February 9th from 7:00pm

Emanuel Synagogue

## IN CONVERSATION WITH IAN ANDERSON AO & ROBERT GRIEW

Join us for the first  
*In Conversation* of 2020

What can our community  
do to support reconciliation  
& recognition?

**February 2nd from  
5:00pm to 6:30pm**

**Professor Ian Anderson** was one of the group of three first Aboriginal medical graduates in Australia, had a career as a doctor and administrator in Aboriginal controlled health services. He is currently the Deputy CEO of the National Indigenous Australians Agency in the Commonwealth Government, making him the most senior Indigenous public servant in the federal government.

**Robert Griew** is a management consultant, working mostly on health, education and Indigenous assignments.

Book now:

[www.emanuel.org.au/event/reconciliation](http://www.emanuel.org.au/event/reconciliation)

# WHAT'S ON

## **Conversations about Israel - Monday 10:00am to 11:30am**

Every Monday, join Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins or guest speakers to examine the complex issues facing contemporary Israel. Resumes on Monday 3 February 2020.

## **Morning Minyan - Mondays and Thursdays at 6:45am (Neuweg)**

Come along each week for an intimate prayer service, a beautiful way to begin the day with intention and reflection. Resumes on 30 January 2020.

## **Lunch 'n' Learn - 8 February 2020**

Join us on the second Saturday morning of each month following Shabbat services. On February 8, Rabbi Kamins will present on *Judaism and the Environment*.

## **Hebrew classes - Beginners and Intermediate start February 3rd from 6:00pm-7:00pm**

Give us one hour on a Monday and ten minutes a day and you will be able to read Hebrew!

Register: Beginner: [www.emanuel.org.au/event/begin-hebrew-2020](http://www.emanuel.org.au/event/begin-hebrew-2020) and

Intermediate: [www.emanuel.org.au/event/inter-hebrew-2020](http://www.emanuel.org.au/event/inter-hebrew-2020)

## **Learn Torah Trope - Monday evenings starting February 3rd from 6:30pm**

We are offering weekly classes in reading torah trope. Haftarah from 6:30pm- 7:15pm Torah from 7.30pm- 8.15pm Registrations are essential: [www.emanuel.org.au/event/torah-trope](http://www.emanuel.org.au/event/torah-trope)

## **HEALTH BRUNCH DEALING WITH ANXIETY & DEPRESSION**

**23 February 2020**

**from 10:30am to 12:00 noon**

Join us for the first in our series of brunches on issues of concern regarding our health.

Our first speaker is **Dr Michela Sorensen** (B.Med, FRACGP) a General Practitioner specialising in Mental Health, Women's and Children's Health and Rural Health. Michela believes that mental illness is one of the biggest health issues faced by society today, and that's why mental health awareness is the current focus of her community work. In any one year, around 1 million Australian adults have depression, and over 2 million experience anxiety.

## **WORLD WIDE WRAP**

**Sunday, 2 February 2020 at 9:00am**

Join with our people. Participate in the Mitzvah Experience the Wonder and Joy of Tefillin.

There'll be a few extra sets and personal tefillin trainers to help you through the process.

Afterwards, please join us for a light breakfast and learning session.

Male or female, first timers or old hands

Please register: [www.emanuel.org.au/event/world-wide-wrap-2020](http://www.emanuel.org.au/event/world-wide-wrap-2020)

## **BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY**

Emanuel Synagogue encourages members to support the **National Jewish Communal Bushfire Appeal 2020**.

Please see:

[www.givenow.com.au/standup-bushfire-appeal](http://www.givenow.com.au/standup-bushfire-appeal)

# IN MEMORY

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

*Shiva:* Clifford Einstein, Mattie Tarragano, Kathleen (Kitty) Westman

*Shloshim:* Rabbi Brian Fox AM, Michael Owen, Joy Jarman, Michael Reynolds, Ibolya Salamon, Prof. Graham de Vahl Davis AM, Prof. Ron Penny AO, Debra Elsass, Joel Katz, Samuel Smorgon

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

\* Memorial Light

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|---|---|
| * <b>David Abbott</b> (Coral Lawrence)      | <b>Aranka Molnar</b> (Susan Kadar)          |
| <b>Heather Andrew</b> (Merril Shead)        | <b>Joel Moryosef</b> (Rami Moryosef)        |
| <b>Robyn Ashes</b> (Agnes Spencer)          | <b>Irma Nemeny</b> (Anna Loewy)             |
| <b>Elsa Buyers</b> (Judi Hall)              | <b>Margaret (Peggy) Polak</b> (Aaron Polak) |
| <b>Barrie Cashman Laws</b>                  | <b>Selma Raikin</b> (Sandra Hotz)           |
| (Mary-Louise McLaws)                        | <b>Ronnit Redman</b>                        |
| <b>Leora Cohen</b> (Keith Miller)           | (Stanford & Abirah Lifschitz)               |
| <b>Melvin S. Cooper</b> (John Cooper)       | <b>Alexander Roby</b> (Patricia Roby)       |
| * <b>Albert Abraham Coppleson</b>           | <b>Sam Roden</b> (William Roden)            |
| <b>Esther Davis</b> (Richard Davis)         | * <b>Max Rosenberg</b>                      |
| <b>Percy Denenberg</b>                      | <b>Marco Uriel &amp; Else Esther Rufana</b> |
| (Stephen Denenberg)                         | (Uri Laurence)                              |
| <b>Shula Endrey-Walder</b> (Eva Novy)       | <b>Sultana Rufana</b> (Uri Laurence)        |
| <b>Bernard Ferster</b> (Renee Ferster Levy) | <b>Yuda Leon &amp; Rebecca Rufana</b>       |
| <b>Agnes Frederikson</b>                    | (Uri Laurence)                              |
| <b>Laura Freedman</b>                       | <b>Nadine Ryner</b> (Peter Ryner,           |
| (Roberta Freedman Smith)                    | Rachel Adler)                               |
| <b>Mazal Fortune Golan</b> (Charles Golan)  | <b>David Safier</b> (Ruth Nathanson)        |
| <b>Robyn Gorell</b> (Graeme Mendelsohn)     | <b>Stanislaus Henryk Sharota</b>            |
| <b>Warwick Griffiths</b>                    | (Dorian Sharota)                            |
| (Randolph Griffiths, Owen Griffiths)        | <b>Leopold Sigellak</b> (Shimon Parker)     |
| <b>Vac Hersta</b> (Zara Yellin)             | <b>Klaus Silvers</b> (Marianne Silvers)     |
| <b>Sylvia Hotz</b> (Sandra Hotz)            | <b>Carmel Stafford</b> (Albert Stafford)    |
| <b>Henriette Jaszagi</b>                    | <b>Samuel Taylor</b> (Alan Taylor)          |
| (Geraldine Symonds)                         | * <b>Moritz Tritsch</b>                     |
| <b>Lilly Kalina</b> (Irene Jarvin)          | <b>Elsie Viner</b> (Stephen Viner)          |
| <b>John Kingsbury</b> (Annie Kingsbury)     | <b>Helen Whitmont</b> (Toni Whitmont)       |
| <b>Rachil Kremer</b> (Edward Kremer)        | * <b>Ernst Zweig</b> (Anita Zweig,          |
| <b>Hannah Levy</b> (Beverley Adcock)        | Evelyn Krieger)                             |
| <b>Herman Elias Lipschitz</b>               |   |
| (Martin Lipschitz)                          |   |
| * <b>Adolf Lustig</b>                       |   |
| <b>Willy Moddel</b> (Ursula Moddel)         |   |

**Shoah Remembrance:** Moses Fendler was born in Moldavia, Romania in 1914 and lived there until he was murdered in 1942 during the Holocaust.