



Making choices

“Hakol, kol Ya’akov, v’hayadayim, yadei Eisav” (The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are Esau’s hands) - Genesis 27:22.

These are the infamous words uttered by Isaac, as he prepares to bestow the blessing of the birthright on his eldest son, Esau. However, we also know that it is Jacob who is before Isaac, not Esau. Esau sold his brother the birthright in exchange for lentil stew earlier in the parasha as he sought to address his immediate needs, and Jacob (with his mother, Rebecca, assisting him) has come to claim that birthright.

Rashi explains that Isaac was referring to Jacob’s manner of speaking, when he said that the voice is Jacob’s voice. Rashi also says that Jacob’s mention of God’s name, as he first approached Isaac, made Isaac suspicious, since it was not characteristic of Esau to speak that way.

If Isaac was in any doubt as to which son had come before him to receive the blessing, surely he would have to make 100% sure to prevent making a mistake. If he wasn’t sure, he could easily have asked Jacob questions that only Esau would know the answers to, or he could have asked for both sons to be present when blessing Esau. So, why did this not happen?

It could be said that Isaac knew that Jacob had come before him, not Esau. He also knew that giving the blessing to Jacob would serve the Divine purpose a lot better, than if Esau had received the blessing.

Moreover, Esau hadn’t exactly behaved in a manner that would please his parents. He married the two Hittite women, and it would appear as though Isaac knew that Esau could hear him saying to Jacob; “You shall not take a wife from among the daughters of Canaan” (Genesis 28:1), as if to say; “Don’t be like your brother, and make your parents angry.”

There is very little doubt that Esau’s actions showed that he did not value respecting his parents as his highest value. That does not necessarily mean that he had no regard or honour for them at all.

We also learn from the Torah, that you shall not put a stumbling

continued over...

Thank you to the Stubbs-Goulston family for sponsoring the Masorti kiddush.

MAZAL TOV

Patrice & Jason King
on the **naming** of their
daughter **Isla Lily**
(*New Sanctuary*)

Miri Stubbs-Goulston
on her
Bat Mitzvah
(*New Sanctuary*)

Jemma Wise on her
Bat Mitzvah
(*New Sanctuary*)
(*mincha*)

CANDLE LIGHTING
Friday 7:30pm
Saturday 8:07pm

TORAH (*page 146*)
Genesis 25:19 - 28:9

HAFTARAH (*page 162*)
Malachi 1:1 - 2:7

SHABBAT SERVICES

Erev Shabbat

- 6:15pm Masorti service
(*Newweg*)
- 6:15pm *Shabbat Live*
(*New Sanctuary*)

Shabbat Morning

- 9:00am -
Masorti service
(*New Sanctuary*)
- 10:00am -
Progressive service
(*Newweg*)

Next Renewal event

- Havdallah by the Sea -
Saturday 14 December
from 7:00pm
with Rabbi Dr Orna
Triguboff and Cantor
George Mordecai on
Bronte Beach

block before the blind. The Halacha is very clear on this, it would be unfair on a child to have to honour his or her parents, if all they received in return were reasons not to honour them.

Similarly, you cannot act in a manner, which shows that you no longer have any regard for your child, just because he or she has been disrespectful to you.

Did Isaac act in a manner which placed a stumbling block before the blind, just because Esau had, intentionally, or unintentionally, not honoured his parents ?

Perhaps the parasha is trying to show us that sometimes, the final destination is of far more importance than the journey itself. It's fair to say that the main characters of this parasha (Isaac, Rebecca, Esau & Jacob), all behaved, at some or other stage, in a manner which one could term "not in the spirit of the Torah".

Yet, when we refer back to them, we acknowledge that their existence is vital to our existence, and that what they did has bearing on our lives today. We don't always act in the best possible way, when faced with a challenge or dilemma. Perhaps that is because we aren't necessarily thinking along the same lines as everyone else.

When we make certain choices, are we acting for the present or for the future?
Is it the journey or the final destination that is more important?

Shabbat Shalom,

Rev Sam Zwarenstein

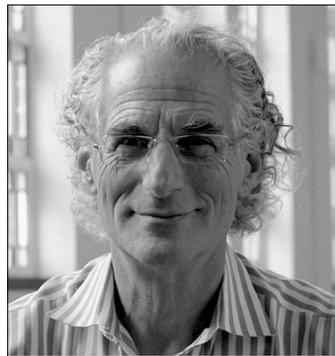
Shabbat Live by the Sea

20th December from 6:15pm
Bondi Park

Join us for the final *Shabbat Live*
of the year as we bring in Shabbat
under the stars.

Chanukah Kabbalah Inspirational Emails

from Rabbi Dr. Orna Triguboff during the
eight days of Chanukah
December 22-30
to join please email orna@emanuel.org.au



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

This Shabbat we pay tribute to Hakoah Club, Bondi

Conversations about Israel - Monday 10:00am-11:30am

This Monday, guest speaker Rabbi Robert Golub will look at three perspectives on the relationship between Israel and "outside" Jewish communities - Israel/diaspora, equal and autonomous Jewish communities and Israel/Diaspora. For more than 20 years Rabbi Robert Golub was the Director of MERCAZ USA, the Zionist arm of the US Conservative Movement.

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.

The Lost Princess - Thursdays at 7.15pm: December 5 and December 19

Cantor George Mordecai continues the review of *The Lost Princess*, a deeply insightful story from Rabbi Nahman, incorporating music and meditation.

Havdallah by the Sea - Saturday 14 December from 7:00pm

Join Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff and Cantor George Mordecai on Bronte Beach for a special Havdallah under the stars.

Film presented with Plus61J: *Turn Left at the End of the World* - 18 December from 7:00pm

A group of families emigrates from India to Israel in the late sixties, seeking a better life in what they believe to be the first outpost of the West in Asia.

Shabbat In The Circle - Saturday December 21 from 9:30am (*Neuweg*)

Join Cantor George Mordecai and other presenters for this special Shabbat morning gathering. We begin at 9:30am with the study of Hassidic and other mystical texts then discuss how we can apply them in our daily lives.

Chanukah at the Beach - Sunday 29th December from 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Fun for all the family! Bring a picnic dinner. We'll supply the sufganiyot!
Meet at Parsley Bay Beach.

Children's book reading

Unlikely Friends

Sunday December 8 from 4:00pm

Bring along your children for a book reading by Susan Banki and Joshua McConnell, the author and illustrator of a wonderful new children's book celebrating friendship and diversity!

This is a free event but please register:
tinyurl.com/unlikelybook



Musica Viva Sessions

Duo Histoire

11 December from 7:00pm

Be part of a special *Musica Viva Sessions* event, with one of Sydney's finest emerging classical ensembles, Duo Histoire.

Saxophonist Nicholas Russoniello and guitarist Murilo Tanouye perform an eclectic program of works spanning Argentinian tango through to Spanish Romantic and Classical repertoire.

Enjoy a glass of wine on arrival as we invite you into our inspiring New Sanctuary for an intimate musical experience.

Book now:

musicaviva.com.au/duo-histoire/

IN MEMORY

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

Shiva: Cheyne Kuntsler, Alex Lips, Professor Colin Tatz

Shloshim: Lorraine Lambert, Surica (Rica) Lichtenstein, Myrl Bear, Leslie Marcus, Irene Jourdan Wijnen, Alexi Bader, Nicholas Andrew Phillips

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

* Memorial Light

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| * Alice Maude Amsberg
Margarethe Bandler (Heinz Gerstl)
Sarah Beanstock Baumel (Anne Wolfson)
Piroska Belegrad (Dora Krulis) | * Barney Mann (Fryda Mann, Linda Mann)
Abraham Michaels (Sharon Harris)
George Myers (George Newhouse)
Duci Nemes (Peter Kadar) |
| * Piroska Bergsman | Leslie Parker (Shimon Parker) |
| * Schlomo Yizchak De Vere | Elizabeth Parker (Leisha Parker) |
| * Esther Bluma De Vere | Benno Perlman (Ian Perlman) |
| David Emdur (Faye Emdur, Larry Emdur,
Nicole Emdur-Apps) | Frances (Fruma) Pien (Joseph Pien) |
| Ellis Factor (Naomi Mendelson) | Maggi Raabe (Birgit Raabe) |
| Andrew Falus (Kathleen Oppermann) | Jakob Rath (Vera Olovitz) |
| David Friedman (Graeme Friedman) | * Georgina Reines (Rosalind Reines) |
| * Solomon Gordon | * Rebecca Eve Rosen |
| Owen Grant (Richard Grant) | Abraham Morris Rosenblum
(Louise Hyman) |
| Jenny Green (Joel Nothman) | Gerhard Ryner (George Ryner,
Peter Ryner) |
| * Leonard Greenberg | John Saunders (Betty Saunders-Klimenko) |
| Minnie Gross (Colin Gross) | * Emanuel Silberg (De Vere) |
| * Evelyn Beatrice Hambridge | Esther Silberstein (Ben Zucker) |
| Gabriel Hellman (Jack Hellman) | * Albert Victor Simmons |
| Cherry Hitman (Jacqueline Gerald) | Jeremy Spinak (Rhiannon Spinak,
Richard Spinak, Jason Spinak,
Jenny Spinak) |
| * Sydney Shea Hurst | * Felix Switzer |
| Patti Jacobson (Paul Jacobson) | David Weinronk (Sandra Hotz) |
| Ellie Jankelson (David Jankelson) | Edward Elias Whitmont (Yadida Sekel,
Scott Whitmont, Steph Whitmont) |
| Hannah Jankelson (David Jankelson) | * Arthur Wolff |
| Paul Charles Jellins (Jack Jellins) | Inez Woolf (Judith McLallen,
Gordon Woolf) |
| Hazel Katz (Lyndall Katz) | Elizabeth Zinner (Ursula Moddel) |
| Ruth Katz (Meital Winter) | |
| * Charlotte Kohn | |
| Jack Krygier (Rosemary Stafford) | |
| Gary Kurzer (Edith Kurzer) | |
| Max Lees (Devorah Lees) | |
| Gerry Levy (Michael Levy) | |
| Shirley Lewis (Geoffrey Lewis) | |
| Gunter Lindemann (Erika Lindemann) | |

Shoah Remembrance: Josef Zazan was born in Serbia, Yugoslavia in 1923 and lived there until he was murdered in 1943 in Treblinka Camp, Poland during the Holocaust.