



## Making things count

Our existence is defined by the passage of time. We track that time by counting the number of occurrences of particular events. In my life, I recently passed a milestone this past week, on 17 May, of the anniversary of my ordination as a rabbi, 9 years to be exact. It is also nearly 3 years since I have moved to Australia. It has been an amazing journey thus far, but not one where I have counted the number of events I have officiated until now. By my accounting, since starting work at Emanuel Synagogue, I have been involved in:

- 14 Weddings
- 24 Bnei Mitzvah
- 36 Funerals
- 16 Consecrations
- 20 High Holiday Sermons
- 30 Baby Blessings/Britot Milah

Why do we count things? What is the joy or the attraction in keeping track?

In this week's Parasha, Bemidbar, known in English as Numbers, there are a lot of, you guessed it, numbers. The Israelites are counted, again. The rabbis ask, why is it necessary for the Israelites to be counted again? Surely, God should know how many of us there are?

There are a variety of different answers given, ranging from compassion to love. At varying times, God orders a census. In this case, the surface reading would seem to indicate that the Israelites are about to leave Mount Sinai, so this count is purely an administrative task, to help organise the march.

However, reading a little deeper reveals a fascinatingly different interpretation. The second verse of the book reads:

*"Take a census of the whole Israelite community." "S'u et rosh kol adat b'nai Yisrael"*

S'u et rosh—literally translated means, "Lift up the head." According to Ramban (not to be confused with Rambam), the word s'u is only used when the intention is to indicate greatness (that is, holding high one's head). The point here is not simply to have the number of every male of military age. We are not interested in that number. We are not concerned with counting everyone, but rather, in making everyone count. The meaning is not in the numerical value, but in what those people represent.

My Rabbinate is not defined by those numbers of events that I had the privilege of participating in, but rather in the context and

*continued over...*

## CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday 4:35pm

Saturday 5:11pm

## TORAH (page 769)

Numbers 1:1 - 4:20

## HAFTARAH (page 786)

Hosea 2:1 - 2:22

## 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  
(*Heritage Sanctuary*)

## Morning Minyan

Morning minyan is on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:45am.

- Friday June 21 6:15pm  
Renewal Kabbalat  
Shabbat, Dinner and  
Meditation

*Thank you to Nora's Cooking Club for preparing the kiddush.*

meaning that I was able to bring to those events, by the joy and simcha, comfort and meaning, inspiration and reflection that was created then and there in those moments. The Israelites are not defined by the sheer number of their mass, but by the meaning each and every one of them are able to create, by being an active part of their community. By counting each individual, God is helping us to realize our own self-worth.

As we come to this weekend where we on the precipice of renewing our relationship with God and our covenant at Shavuot, let us remember the special place we each have, not just in the number of our accomplishments, but in the deeper meaning that was created by us being a part of it.

*Shabbat Shalom,*

Rabbi Rafi Kaiserblueth

## Tree of Life Sound Healing with Live Music

23 June from 5:00pm-6:30pm

Special guest musician, Avishai Barnatan, will join Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff in leading a relaxation based on the Kabbalistic Tree of Life.

For a relaxing, rejuvenating and inspiring Sunday evening.

Members \$10, online early bird price \$25, otherwise \$35

Bookings: [tinyurl.com/soundheal](http://tinyurl.com/soundheal)

## *Conversations about Health* Legal and Illegal Drugs

with Dr Alex Wodak

*Why does almost every Australian family have a member with a serious drug problem?*

Sunday June 30 from 5:00pm

Dr Wodak is one of Australia's preeminent drug law reformists and was the instigator of the nationwide roll out of needle and syringe programs, preventing a major HIV outbreak, stabilised hepatitis C rates and saved countless lives.

Members free, non-members: \$10  
Book now: [tinyurl.com/wodak-talk](http://tinyurl.com/wodak-talk)

Emanuel Synagogue and Plus61J present  
an Israeli film directed by Yossi Madmoni

## *Restoration*

19th June from 7:00pm

A man comes face to face with his failings as a father and a businessman as he struggles to make things right in this Israeli drama. Winner of the World Cinema Screenwriting Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

Bookings: [tinyurl.com/restoration-film](http://tinyurl.com/restoration-film)



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

## **Lunch 'n' Learn - Saturday June 8 after services**

Rabbi Kamins will lead a discussion on *Inclusion and exclusion in Torah*. As we prepare for our celebration of Shavuot and the gift of Torah, we will explore its broad welcome of the other that is countered by difficult passages to the contrary over the centuries.

Shavuot celebrates “Standing at Sinai” - where do we stand?

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

Rabbi Kamins and guest speakers examine contemporary issues impacting the Jewish homeland. June 10 - no class due to Shavuot. June 17 - Izzat Abdulhadi, Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia will speak on *Remembering the Past: Dreaming of the Future*.

## **Ofar Levy - The Nature of Israel photography exhibition - On now in the gallery**

For this exhibition, award-winning photographer Ofar Levy has selected some of his favourite images of the birds and other animals of Israel.

Join us on **11 June at 7:00pm** for *An evening with Ofar Levy, photographer*

Hear Ofar retell his fascinating experiences and methods in capturing Israel's natural beauty up close followed by a Q&A. This is a free event

## **Shabbat Tot - for 2-5 year olds - Friday June 7 from 4:30pm - 5:30pm**

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

## **Family Friday - Friday June 7 from 5:30pm - 6:15pm**

Come along for a light, child-friendly dinner and then stay for services.

A great opportunity to meet families in the congregation and celebrate Shabbat together.

## **SHAVU-HOT IS HERE!**

### **Saturday 8th June**

Shavuot will be **HOT** at Emanuel as our amazing presenters share 10 minutes on **HOT** topics.

There will be **HOT** button issues, some will get you **HOT** under the collar. So strike while the iron is **HOT** and put it in your calendar now!

There will be a wonderful home-cooked dairy dinner, cheesecakes baked by our amazing volunteers and a chance to be challenged, inspired and connected to community and Torah.

**6:15pm** Shavuot services

**7:00pm 'til midnight** - enjoy the learning!

No charge but please register: [tinyurl.com/shavu-hot](http://tinyurl.com/shavu-hot)

## **Ice Cream Sunday**

### **Sunday June 9th from 9:30am**

Join us for our **Shavuot family service**: songs, stories and a chance to engage with the Torah.

The coffee cart will be here for the adults and ice cream sundaes for the kids to enjoy.

## **Shabbat Live!**

**featuring Yoel Sykes of Nava Tehila**

**Masters of Joyful Prayer from Jerusalem**

**June 14 from 6:15pm**

**In partnership with Keshet Sydney**

Nava Tehila is a Jerusalem-based ensemble that plays original and traditional Jewish music that energizes and excites its audiences. Yoel Sykes of Nava Tehila joins *Shabbat Live* for an energetic and uplifting special Shabbat service.

# IN MEMORY

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

*Shiva:* Pauline Vellins

*Shloshim:* Dolly Shadler, Joyce Herz, Cliff Rubinstein, Susie Gold, Abe Meyerson, Fritzi Ritterman, Peter Morris, Elaine Morris, Susan Feller, Alan Vorsay, Valerie Marie Doyle, Lena Goldstein, Jeffrey Woolf, Svetlana Farbman, Sylvia Golding

---

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

\* Memorial Light

---

**Aaron Aaron** (Reuben Aaron)  
**Mathew Aramaty** (Rachel Adler)  
**Edith Aramaty** (Rachel Adler)  
**Perl Bat Tuvyah** (Peter Clyne)  
**William Blank** (Vanessa Weiner)  
**Selina Brandon** (Judith Snider)  
**David Cann** (Cynthia Jackson, Gordon Jackson, Geraldine Palmer)  
**Eric Caspary** (Mark Lewis, Ruth Silver)  
**Louis Aron Challis** (Anna Challis, Daniel Challis, Darren Challis)  
**Harry Cohen** (Martin Cohen)  
**Nathan Cohen** (Freda Glass)  
**Dinah Conyer** (Devorah Wainer)  
**Jeny Cymerman** (Maurice Linker)  
**Frank Etten Davis** (Ethel Davis, Mark Davis)  
**Hyman Richard Diamond** (Anthea Hemphill)  
**Eva Endrey** (Agnes Silberstein)  
**Louis Jacob Fisher** (Susanne Fisher)  
**Sarah Freeman** (Ronald Freeman)  
**Zoltan Gardos** (Julianna Brender)  
\* **Michael Gerstl** (Heinz Gerstl)  
**Magda Giesser** (Deborah Adler)  
\* **Natan Glajz** (John Glajz)  
**Celina Glick** (Barry Glick)  
**David Goldbaum** (Eli Gold)  
\* **Louis Goldberg**  
\* **Sidney Goodman** (John Goodman)  
**Fortuna Heman** (Rachel Adler, Peter Ryner)  
**Isaac Jacobson** (Martin Jacobson)  
**Shirley Lily Jaffee** (Diane Geffrey)

**David Kam** (Garry Kam)  
**Paul Klein** (Stephen Klein)  
**Lilly Klein** (Marianne Schey, Mark Skurnik)  
**Edith Linden** (Alex Linden)  
**John Lion** (David Lion)  
**Helene Maehrischel** (Suzy Wolanski)  
**Cely Benchoam Malki** (Silvia Robertson)  
**Nora Frances Marsden** (Caroline Marsden)  
**Bill Merkur** (Toni Kleiner)  
**Phillip Michael** (Shelley Ezekiel, Margo Michael)  
**Peggy Josephine Morris** (Shirley Greenstein, Tracey-Ann Waxman)  
**Cipa Motniak** (Bertha Power)  
\* **Peter Nadel** (Ervin Nadel)  
**Phillip Querido** (Frankie Blou)  
**Michael Rabinovitch** (Emma Bronfentrinker)  
\* **Sidy Roll** (Nee Blitz)  
**Sabina Ross Slater** (Edna Ross)  
**Harry Ruttenberg** (Brian Ruttenberg)  
\* **Montague J. Saywell**  
\* **Morris Seamonds** (Morris Seamonds)  
**Carl Shipman** (Lorraine Levy)  
**Clive Silberman** (Mia Kalinko)  
**Vera Simkovic** (Suzanna Helia)  
\* **Doris Stern** (Val Stern)  
\* **David Toben** (Anne Toben)  
**Edward Moss Waxman** (Leon Waxman)  
**Charles Zwi** (Ruth Zwi)

**Shoah Remembrance:** Toba Goldofsky was born in Kielce, Poland in 1921 and lived there until 1943 when she was murdered in Krakow, Poland during the Holocaust.