

SHABBAT BAMIDBAR

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44th Day of the Omer

Torah Portion Shabbat: Numbers: 1:1 - 4:20

We are reading Verses: 1:1-31 Pages: 1028-1029

Haftara: Hosea 2:1-22 Pages: 1252-1255

WHAT'S ON

Thursday 21st May, 5pm

Bnei Mitzvah ZOOM Class

Friday 22nd May, 6.30pm

TGIS Express Shabbat -ZOOM in -
<https://zoom.us/j/512512110>

Saturday 23rd May, 10am

Shabbat Morning ZOOM Service
ZOOM in - <https://zoom.us/j/709601912>

Sunday 24th May, 4.45pm

PJV "Progressive Judaism in
Israel" ZOOM in -<https://zoom.us/j/99672482477>

Monday 25th May, 2pm

Bookworms' with Suzie Eisfelder
ZOOM in - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81263518035>

Tuesday 26th May, 8pm

Debate & Discussion with Dan
Poll ZOOM in - <https://zoom.us/j/400121549>

Thursday 28th May

EREV SHAVUOT—OFFICE CLOSING 4PM

4pm Bnei Mitzvah Shavuot
Cooking Zoom Class6.45pm UPJ Tikun Leyl Shavuot
Registration link: <https://forms.gle/vN7hw3Cxiq1woZvU6>

Friday 29th May

10am Shavuot Morning Service
with Yizkor ZOOM in - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87681888367>6.30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
Service ZOOM in -<https://zoom.us/j/410812614>

Saturday 30th May, 10am

Shabbat Morning ZOOM Service
ZOOM in - <https://zoom.us/j/709601912>

Sunday 31st May, 4.45pm

PJV "Generation Z - What do
todays youth actually care
about" ZOOM in -<https://zoom.us/j/99672482477>

Monday 1st June, 7.30pm

Introduction to Judaism
"Zionism, Wrestling with Israel" -
ZOOM in - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85102714494>

- Board Rep Gary Trytell
- Tech Shammash Jade Rosenberg
- Baalat Shirah Vered Harel

Drash Shabbat Bamidbar

Rabbi Stan Zamek

United Jewish Congregation of
Hong Kong

This is a time of counting. We are in the midst of the Counting of the Omer. This is a hopeful, anticipatory kind of enumeration. Each increase in the count brings us closer to Shavuot and to the satisfying conclusion of our yearly journey from slavery to the ultimate freedom of Sinai.

At the same time, for far too long, we have been engaged in a very different, fearful counting. The Covid-19 era has us obsessed with numbers. How many new cases? How many days since the last local transmission? How many may gather together? How many days to go in our or a loved one's quarantine?

Amidst all this joyful and fearful counting, we read Parashat Bamidbar this week, which is also all about the numbers: *On the first day of the second month, in the second year following the exodus from the land of Egypt, the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the Tent of Meeting, saying: Take a census of the whole Israelite community by the clans of its ancestral houses, listing the names, every male, head by head.*

The plain sense of the text is that this is a purely practical undertaking. As Jacob Milgrom explains in the JPS Torah Commentary: *Take a census— That is, for the purpose of military conscription. Such censuses were frequent occurrences during the monarchy. A head count of the troops was always taken before a campaign and at its conclusion. . . This ancient institution was indispensable for any government levy upon persons or property.*

Our teachers, however, see something more here than a mere bureaucratic process. Rashi notes that this is not the first time a census has been commanded. Why is God so fond of the practice? Rashi says it is because God is so fond of us: *Out of their dearness to God, God counts them continually.*

The force of this interpretation cannot be confined to the immediate context of men of military age. Neither can Isaac Arama's understanding of why this count is to be done *L'gulg'lotam*— head by head. The point of this noggin by noggin tally is that it is personal, for *they were not just animals or*

Weekly Announcements

Ho'da'ot



material objects, but each one had an importance of his own like a king or priest and that indeed God had shown special love towards them.

A census, even one mandated by God, is a human enterprise. The demand here is that we go about our mortal business in the world while maintaining a God's-eye view of humanity. We do this by contemplating and internalizing what it means to say that we are created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the Divine image.

This concept is our tradition's most radical statement of human equality and also of the uniqueness and infinite preciousness of every soul. When we assert that we are all made *b'tzelem Elohim* we invalidate all the invidious distinctions that divide us.

Such truths cannot be evaded. They present themselves even in the most mundane moments. Lately, when I need a temporary escape from this new reality that Covid-19 has created, I flee into the world of Michael Connelly's hard-boiled detective novels. As I was walking the other day, happily immersed in the audio version of one of Connelly's stories, I realized that Detective Harry Bosch was talking Torah. Bosch was explaining why he worked so hard to get justice for crime victims most people could not bring themselves to care about. He said: *Everybody counts or nobody does. . . That's my rule.*

Amen Harry. Everybody does count, which means that although people can be counted, they cannot be reduced to dry, soulless numbers. Behind each number in the headlines, there is a face. There is a name. There is a life. In our anxiety, in our understandable focus on those closest to us, it is possible to forget this. We cannot count as God does, with infinite and equal love for every soul, but the Torah insists that we try. Everybody counts or nobody does.

SHAVUOT MORNING SERVICES

Friday 29th May, 10amZoom in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87681888367>

CONNECTING TO ZOOM

If you are having trouble getting ZOOM on your computer and would like a member of Etz Chayim to come over and help you, please contact the office.

If you have ZOOM and have trouble connecting on the day then please contact Jade Rosenberg on 0400 149 854



assembly
of rabbis
+ cantors
AUS, NZ & ASIA



UNION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



iSinai

#standing together

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

Thursday 28 May • 6.45pm-12.30am

A virtual evening of study with sessions presented by rabbis and cantors throughout the UPJ region.

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/vN7hw3Cxiq1woZvU6>

Program can be viewed on the UPJ website: <https://upj.org.au/index.php/news-and-events/news/1384-isinai-shavuot-learning-event>

SHAVUOT COOKING with Rabbi Allison

Inviting all pre-teens and teens to join Rabbi Allison's B'nei Mitzvah class in preparing a Shavuot meal for their family. **Thursday, 28th of May from 4pm – 6pm.**

Contact the office for the recipe, ingredients, and Zoom details.

Disclaimer: Rabbi Allison accepts no responsibility for the state of your kitchen afterwards!





TGIS

THANK G-D IT'S SHABBAT!

No
megillah.

Friends.
Music.
Challah.
That's it.

**20 MIN
EXPRESS
SHABBAT**

**FRI
NIGHT
6.30**

ETZ CHAYIM

Join us on Zoom:
<https://zoom.us/j/512512110>
BYO ruach!



WANT TO BE A VIRTUAL 'HOST'? LET US KNOW! ALL ARE WELCOME.

REMEMBRANCE

THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK FROM OUR COMMUNITY - Edward Ekselman • Maurice Pereira
SHLOSHIM - Eva Lehner • Nelly Weiniger • Michael Cohen • Joseph Raymond • Susanne Selby • Maurice Elijah • Gina Solomon • Maria Rado
Yahrzeits observed this Shabbat—Stefan Mohrenwitz, grandfather of Frank Moore • Coleman Davis, father of Richard Davis • Bob Freidin, husband of Vera Freidin, step-father of Kathy Kaplan & grandfather of Lisa Krygger • Sophie Goldstein, mother of Ted Goldstein • Rose Simon, aunt of Ellinor Moore & great-aunt of Frank Moore • Connie King, mother of Geoff King • Ruth Barnard, mother of Elaine King

We also remember all victims of violence and terrorism throughout the world

Join Etz Chayim's online community for our

VIRTUAL SHABBAT SERVICES

KABBALAT SHABBAT

Last Friday of the month at 6:30pm

<https://zoom.us/j/410812614>

SHABBAT MORNING

Every Saturday morning at 10:00am

<https://zoom.us/j/709601912>



Bet-Olam Jewish Funerals is the not-for-profit, Melbourne-based funeral service for members of the Progressive, Conservative and the wider Jewish community. Founded in 1994, Bet-Olam prides itself on its caring and responsive service. Funds generated are returned to the Jewish community.

Bet-Olam Planning for COVID-19 Virus Emergency – New Protocols

We are continuing with a safe and measured response to this situation. The number of people attending the family meeting is reduced to 2 and we will ensure that these meetings take place in a large and open space.

Funerals are held at graveside and we will live stream as many as we can, limiting attendance at funerals to no more than 30 people plus Rabbi and myself. Cremations and indoor services are also restricted to 20 people plus Rabbi and myself and we can live stream these services as well. Social distancing and personal hygiene will be strictly adhered to. Please note that we are required to record the names and contact information of all attendees.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-travellers>

If you wish to discuss any concerns, please call Rhonda Nirens on [9883 6237](tel:98836237)



ART & CRAFT FUN!

WITH RUTH TRYTELL

Get CREATIVE with our after-school craft activities!
A fun, new activity each week.

TUESDAYS AT 4:30PM

<https://zoom.us/j/95934498303>



Contact ruthtrytell@hotmail.com with any questions

WE RECOMMEND CREATING AN 'ART BOX'

FULL OF SUPPLIES:

Assorted A4 coloured paper
A4 white paper
Textas, pens, pencils
Sharpener, rubber, ruler
Glue sticks, PVA glue
Scissors
Hole punch
Stapler
Masking tape, sticky tape
Needle, thread
Scrap pieces of fabric
Decorations - beads, sequins, glitter, etc

Please see attached Program Flyer for a few additional supplies for upcoming special activities



ART & CRAFT PROGRAM

- 21st April: A Magical Afternoon _____ large jar, empty shoebox, smooth flat stone
- 28th April: Finger Painting _____ acrylic paints
- 5th May: Mother's Day
- 12th May: Name Fun
- 19th May: Thumb Print Characters _____ ink pad
- 26th May: Toilet Roll Characters _____ toilet rolls
- 2nd June: Sock Puppets _____ old sock





V-PJV ONLINE

VIRTUAL PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM VICTORIA
EVENTS SERIES

WEEKLY MEETING LINK:

<https://zoom.us/j/99672482477>

Meeting ID: 996-7248-2477



**MAY
03**

HOW DO WE VIEW GOD

Panel Discussion with: Rabbi Gersh Lazarow,
Rabbi Allison Conyer and Rabbi Jonathan Keren Black.

**MAY
10**

CURRENT AFFAIRS IN ISRAEL'S ARAB SOCIETY

Speaker: Issa Boursheh, Political Advisor,
US Embassy in Israel

**MAY
17**

THE ISRAELI-ARAB SALAD CONFLICT

The story of Israeli Arab relations through food
Speaker: Sefi Shalam, Netzer and PJV Shaliach
Simple and yummy recipes included!

**MAY
24**

PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM IN ISRAEL

Discussion with: Rabbi Gilad Kariv, CEO of the Israeli
Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism

**MAY
31**

GENERATION Z - WHAT DOES TODAY'S YOUTH ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT

Discussion with: Netzer leaders and chanichim

**JUNE
07**

FROM JESUS TO BIBI - THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH-ARAB RELATIONS IN THE HOLY LAND

Speaker: Sefi Shalam, Netzer and PJV Shaliach



Join Rabbi Allison for the next installment of the

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

SERIES

PART 1: A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTI-SEMITISM & THE SHOAH

MONDAY 18TH MAY - 7:30PM

How could the Holocaust have happened? What is the origin and development of antisemitism? What actually happened during the Holocaust? How does the Shoah affect Jews today?

PART 2: ZIONISM, WRESTLING WITH ISRAEL

MONDAY 1ST JUNE - 7:30PM

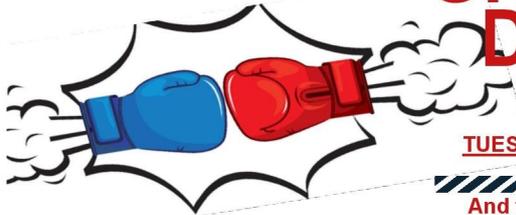
What is Zionism? Where did it come from? How do we relate to Israel today?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85102714494>

Please contact Samantha at info@etzchayim or call 9563 9208 with any questions
(If you are having trouble accessing the class, please contact Rabbi Allison on 0423 055 703)



DISCUSSION GROUP & DEBATE



TUESDAY 26 May, 8 - 10PM

And the topics will be:

You are invited to share your opinions in a respectful environment where we may choose to graciously disagree.

Tune in to enjoy some good debate!

- Did we do Corona Virus lockdown for too long/ not long enough/ about the right time?
- Will Judaism be just as strong in future generations?
- Is there still sexual discrimination in the workplace?

Please come along with some questions for future discussion nights.

PLEASE CLICK ON THE ZOOM LINK BELOW TO JOIN IN:
<https://zoom.us/j/400121549>

**SPONSORED BY:
DAN POLL & ETZ CHAYIM**

To reserve your spot or for more information please phone the Office on 9563 9208 or email info@etzchayim.org.au



Understanding gaming: from hobby to habit

- Gaming culture and psychology: why gamers love to play
- What does healthy gaming look like?
- Hobby or habit: where is the line?
- Reframing gaming - striking a balance
- Seeking support for excessive gaming

**Tues 26 May
8pm - 9.30pm**

**Join us on Zoom
Meeting ID: 919-5727-9682**

Presented by Andrew Kinch - Founder of GameAware



Prep and Beyond Parent Information Webinar

Join us online for a live webinar to learn more about the Junior School at King David.

Presenters:

Marc Light, *Principal*

David Opat, *Vice Principal - Wellbeing & Head of Junior School*

Janice Shearer, *Assistant Head of Junior School - Teaching & Learning*

Wednesday 27 May at 7:30pm

Register online: www.kds.vic.edu.au

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



Modern | Thinking | Judaism

Grow



mental wellness programs

SUPPORT GROUP

Grow is a caring and supportive, community based NFP organisation that has developed a unique program for improving and maintaining mental wellbeing.

Grow offers practical steps and peer support to help recover your mental health and achieve your personal goals.

The group meets every Wednesday, from 7pm to 9pm online, for personal safety, during this period.

Join the online meeting via:

- Phone (Local call)
- Smart phone, tablet or computer

- Anyone over 18yrs is welcome
- No referrals or appointments
- No charge (voluntary donation)
- Email required to send information pack and login details

**For more information please call Grow on 1800 558 268 or vic@grow.org.au
www.grow.org.au**

