Emanuel Synagogue in Woollahra will host the first of their 2021 ‘In Conversation’ series this Sunday, February 7, accompanied by esteemed Rabbi, Zalman Kastel, OAM. Entitled ‘Embracing cultural and religious differences’, Emanuel’s Senior Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins will join the National Director of ‘Together For Humanity’, Rabbi Kastel, to explore the many challenges involved in bringing faiths together; and the concept of what it means to be ‘together for humanity’.

Raised in the Hasidic tradition in New York, Rabbi Kastel’s perspective was radically altered in 2002 amidst a series of transformative encounters with Christians and Muslims.

“It got me thinking that there’s more to people that seem different to us than meets the eye,” he recently told SBS.

“When you scratch under the surface, everybody sets out caring about love and compassion.”

He has since then fostered inter-faith and intercultural friendship.

“I’m far more respectful of people outside my own faith and I profoundly value the relationships I’ve forged with people from other communities,” he says.

Rabbi Kamins said the event was a great opportunity for members of the community to expand their understanding of interfaith conversations and relationships, and learn from Rabbi Kastel’s example of working to bridge the divide between cultures.

“The event will be both in-person and online via Zoom*, with registrations open via Emanuel’s website.

When: Sunday, 7 February, 2021, 5pm until 6.30pm
Where: Emanuel Synagogue, 7 Ocean Street, Woollahra (and online)
Cost: FREE for Emanuel members / $20 in person / $15 online

*online link & further details to follow on registration.

About Emanuel Synagogue:
Emanuel Synagogue was founded in 1938 and represents Progressive, Masorti and Renewal streams. It is regarded as one of Australia’s most inclusive and dynamic congregations, known for its commitment to social justice works (especially concerning refugees and the homeless), other matters of human rights as well as animal rights, and environmental action.

About Rabbi Kamins:
Rabbi Jeffrey B. Kamins has served as rabbi at Emanuel Synagogue since his ordination in 1989; he became senior rabbi in 1999. He received his BA in English Literature from Stanford University and his JD from Boalt Hall School of Law, practicing law in Los Angeles briefly before beginning rabbinic studies.

Rabbi Kamins is an active member of the Sydney Jewish community. He is rabbinic advisor to Emanuel School, the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. He is a member of the Council of Masorti Rabbis of Australia and the Council of Progressive Rabbis of Australia, Asia and New Zealand. He is also one of the Jewish representatives for the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change and a Director of Voiceless.

Contacts
Annie de Merindol
+61 414 757 390
mailto: annie.demerindol@thebigsmoke.com.au