

Shabbat Shalom

Sh'lach

June 21 | 25 Sivan 5785

Havdalah 9:45pm

בית יעקב
BETH JACOB
CONGREGATION

Welcome to Beth Jacob Congregation, a Jewish community that comes together to nurture relationships with God and each other. We are a Conservative synagogue that values Torah (study), Avodah (reverential service) and Gemilut Hasadim (acts of loving-kindness). We believe every person has an equal opportunity to be part of our community regardless of age, race, ability, special needs, financial status, sexual orientation or gender identity. We're glad you've joined us this Shabbat!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to
Shabbat services this week.

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Sonya@Beth-Jacob.org

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Youth@Beth-Jacob.org

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Rabbi Morris Allen

Gabbaim:

Mike Keller,
Stuart Kaufman,
Hannah Hofrichter

D'var Torah:

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm

Mashgiach: Joanna Lowinger

Kitchen Crew: Zach Feinstein,
Aaron Silver & Noam Sienna,
Jimmy & Stephanie Levine,
Robert & Rebecca Goffman

Davenners:

Giulia Girgenti

Greeters & Security:

Susie Minsberg, Mike Keller,
Maxine Rosenthal, Laura Honan, Eric Pasternack



Torah Reading

First / Kohen Aliyah	Numbers 13:1-20	p. 840	Noam Sienna
Second / Levi Aliyah	Numbers 13:21-14:7	p. 842	Benj Kamm
Third / Shelishi Aliyah	Numbers 14:8-14:25	p. 845	Louis Hunter
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah	Numbers 14:26-15:7	p. 847	Giulia Girgenti
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah	Numbers 15:8-16	p. 851	Ely Sheinfeld
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah	Numbers 15:17-26	p. 851	Stuart Kaufman
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah	Numbers 15:27-41	p. 853	Rav Shosh Dworsky
Maftir	Numbers 15:37-41	p. 854	Frances Fischer
Haftarah	Joshua 2:1-24	p. 857	Hannah Hofrichter

The Blue of the Ocean, the Sky and the Tzitzit

Our relationship with the Divine must also encompass a relationship with the world that surrounds us.

By Elizabeth Richman

“Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make tzitzit for themselves on the corners of their garments through all the ages; let them attach a cord of blue to the tzitzit of each corner. That shall be your tzitzit; look at it and recall all of God’s commandments and observe them... Thus shall you be reminded to observe all My commandments and to be holy to your God. I the Lord am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God...”

(Numbers 15: 38-41)

Parashat Sh'lach concludes with these famous instructions to attach tzitzit (fringes) to the corners of our clothing as a reminder of and a directive to keep God's commandments. The instruction of tzitzit is seen as a reminder of the entirety of religious practice. Our Sages believed that it was so important that they incorporated it verbatim into the Shema, one of the most central prayers in Judaism.

The Rabbis wondered why God commanded the inclusion of one blue thread among the white threads of the tzitzit. Tractate Menahot of the Babylonian Talmud reports Rabbi Meir asking “Why is blue different from all other colors?” and then answering, “Because blue resembles the sea, and the sea resembles sky, and the sky resembles God’s Throne of Glory...as it is written: ‘Above the sky over their heads was the semblance of a throne, like sapphire in appearance...’”

In other words, Rabbi Meir hypothesizes that the blue thread in tzitzit is meant to guide its wearers through a chain of associations beginning with immediate visualization of tzitzit and ending with the expansiveness of God. But why didn't Rabbi Meir simply say that the color blue reminds us of God's throne? Why do we first need to think of the ocean and the sky?

Rabbi Meir is alluding to the intimate connection between our religious actions and the real world. Our relationship with the Divine must also encompass a relationship with the world that surrounds us: the ocean, the sky, and the rich variety of life that dwells in between. We must learn to truly see, and thereby to know, the full world that God has created, from the depths of the ocean to the heights of the sky and the vastness of earth.

Indeed, we are not permitted to merely contemplate the world—we must be part of it. Immediately preceding Rabbi Meir's comment, the Talmud asks why we are told to look at tzitzit and remember God's commandments. The Talmud offers the answer that “seeing leads to remembering and remembering leads to doing.”

Seeing or reading about tzitzit is meant to remind us to act. This is true as much today as it was when these words were written. Perhaps thinking of the blue of the ocean and the sky can serve as a reminder to care for the earth and make choices that lead to sustainable development.

Torah Commentary

CONT.

Perhaps remembering those who inhabit the expanse of land between ocean and sky, and recalling our communal redemption story, should remind us of our obligation to build a world that honors the dignity and equality of all people. We can see the earth differently by traveling and interacting with a diversity of people, visiting the developing world, or simply walking down the streets of our own cities, eyes wide open, speaking with those who need help. If we look carefully enough, what we see may remind us, like the Shema does, of our ancient and modern family stories.

Ours are stories about slavery, poverty, immigration, environmental degradation, suffering, and, in many cases, redemption. Our stories can help us to see the stories of others and to act in ways that will bring about redemptive endings. As the Rabbis imply in their teaching about tzitzit and its place in the Shema, when we look around we are challenged to make empathic connections between ourselves and the world around us. These connections obligate us to act.

The color blue that reminds us of ocean, sky, and God's throne also reminds of this connection. The particular shade of blue to be used in tzitzit is called tekhelet. Ramban suggests that tekhelet was chosen because its spelling is very close to the word takhlit, which means purpose or goal.

The relationship between the two words summarizes the Talmud's teaching on tzitzit. The purpose of our religious rituals is to truly see and engage with the world and its people. This engagement with the world leads us into relationship with the Divine. Only then, as the end of Parashat Sh'lach tells us, we will be holy to our God.

Yahrzeit List for Week Beginning June 21, 2025 / 25 Sivan 5785

The seventh aliyah is reserved for those observing yahrzeits during the coming week. If you are observing a yahrzeit this week, please come forward at the seventh aliyah and give your full Hebrew name to the gabbai who will call you to the Torah. Your full Hebrew name includes your name and then ben/bat/mibei and your parents' names or Avraham and Sarah. Please say your name loudly and clearly, so that the gabbai can hear it.

Masks are required on the bimah during the Torah service. If you do not have one, please get one from the basket by the greeter and put it on prior to coming up for an aliyah.

June 21/25 Sivan

Bill Mintz
Richard Pocras
Gordon Evans
Eileen Siegel
Sharon Gibson

June 22/26 Sivan

Sam Wolfe
Miriam Simon
Fred Block
Elaine Kirschbaum
Manny Lapp

June 23/27 Sivan

Edward Smoliak
Lorraine Tilsen
Kenneth J. Freed
Sarah Gotlieb

June 24/28 Sivan

Charles Bolter
Helen Granzberg-Turner
Mickey Henkle
Terry Freedman

June 25/29 Sivan

Rose Gross
Florence Ring
Leo Opatowsky
Nathan Goldfein
Judith Siegel
Phillip Schwartz

June 26/30 Sivan

Emanuel Coddon
Matthew Lawrence
Irving Schoen
Mordecai Halpern
Eva Balto
Flora Lee Hirsch
Rabbi Bernard Raskas

June 27/1 Tammuz

Elaine Hartsman
Chaim Etzler
Florence Lazer
Phil Leibner
Lionel Press
Norman Fishman
Robert Weinstein



TODAY at Beth Jacob

Today's Kiddush is sponsored in honor of Pride Month

As of printing, donors include: David Rephan & Jason Bryan, Kate Sandweiss & Gerry Rich, Frances & Keven Fischer, Noam Sienna & Aaron Silver, Ryan Lohr & Teddy Holzwarth-Lohr, Becky Taurog, Jessica & David Zehavi, Sharon, Tina, & Ian Rosenberg-Scholl, Amalia & Drake Prohofsky, Eric & JoAnn Pasternack, Elizabeth Barnard and Rabbi Lynn Liberman, Cynthia Launer & Will Thomas, Laura Robinson, Barbie Levine & Sara Lynn Newberger.

Kiddush is also sponsored by Kim Aaron-Lehman in honor of her 39th birthday and the 18th anniversary of her Golden Birthday at the Kotel. Mazal Tov!

During Kiddush, we invite you to get to know someone better.
Try to start a conversation with someone you don't usually speak with.
Here are some questions to get you started.

1 - What is your favorite Summer Activity?

2 - Do you have a reading goal for the Summer?

3 - What was your favorite Summer?

שלוש
שאלות
שבת

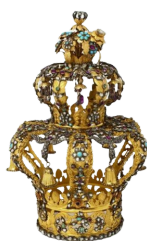
THREE
SHABBAT
QUESTIONS

Inclusivity and Accessibility During Services

We recognize the variety of needs within our community and strive to provide access to all through physical, emotional, and/or sensory accommodations. The majority of our prayers and scripture readings are conducted in Hebrew, so we invite those who do not read Hebrew to use a copy of the transliterated prayerbook (siddur) found on the table near the entrance to the sanctuary. We have large print books, braille prayerbooks, and listening devices available on the bookshelf in the lobby. There is also a sensory-friendly room just off the sanctuary with a speaker and window from which services can be experienced. Please ask the greeter near the sanctuary door if you need help locating any of these. Please reach out to our office if there are needs that aren't being met.

Children are Welcome in our Sanctuary!

We encourage children's participation in services and love having them in our sanctuary. Older children are encouraged to lead parts of the service and/or read Torah once able to do so. Younger children are invited to carry crowns during the Torah service and are also invited to the bimah for Adon Olam each week. At the end of services they can visit the rabbi's magic tallis bag to receive a lollipop or mini bubbles. Parents, please let Rabbi Tamar know if you do not want your child to receive one of these items.



Ongoing	
<p>For the Jew in the Pew - On <u>hiatus</u> until July 19 Every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday 9:15 am in the <u>Saide</u> Chapel Join Rabbi Lynn Liberman in the Chapel for some thoughtful text study. For beginners and experts alike.</p>	
<p>Tot Shabbat First Shabbat of every month 10:00 - 10:30 am in The Nursery Join us on the first Shabbat of the month in the nursery for Tot Shabbat. We will have a song-filled Shabbat Morning Service for BJC's littlest ones (0-3 years old). We will then have an <u>oneg</u> and playtime for parents to schmooze and kids to play.</p>	
<p>Pre-Shul Playgroup—Every Friday at 10:30 am Join our open play time for young children and their caregivers. Meet in the nursery every Friday morning from 10:30am until naptime.</p>	
<p><u>ADULT EDUCATION:</u> Morning Mishnah, with Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm Wednesdays at around 8:00 am (after minyan) in the <u>Saide</u> Chapel and online Join on Zoom at Beth-Jacob.org/Minyan Tanach, with David Rischall Sundays 7:30-8:30 on Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/79546614386 Questions? Call David at 651-230-3911. Torateynu—Hinene's Summer Learning Series https://ttsp.org/summertime-2025/# Community Might Just Be The Only Thing That Saves Us Wednesday, July 9, 7pm Wabasha Brewing Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm will discuss the text Mishna Peah/Prayer for those who serve the community.</p>	 
<p><u>Summer Shabbat Activities for Kids</u> will be offered monthly during the summer TODAY: June 21: Board games and activities July 12: Scavenger hunts and outdoor fun August 6: Water Games</p>	

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pride Shabbat on June 21 Let's sponsor Pride Month with a Pride Kiddush (complete with Rainbow Cupcakes).

Join a group-sponsored kiddush at Beth-Jacob.org/Kiddush



Field Day at Avodah Farms
Sunday, June 22, 10-1

Avodah Farm invites Beth Jacob folks to come visit the farm for a Field Day. Walk around the pastures to see the cows and calves, hens, meat birds and chicks, and stay for a pot-luck lunch. RSVPs requested, not required.
Martha & Geoffrey: avodahfarm@gmail.com 715-448-0496



Echoes of Tradition with Cantor Azi Schwartz
Sunday, June 22, 2:30

Join us for an unforgettable musical experience as the St. Paul Jewish community welcomes back world-renowned Cantor Azi Schwartz for a powerful and moving concert at Temple of Aaron.



Electronic Vehicle (Plus) Fair
Sunday, June 29, 3-5pm

The Climate Action Committee is hosting an EV Plus fair for members to bring their EVs—Cars, Lawnmowers, Bicycles, etc., and for the curious to see them in person and ask questions. There will be a panel and refreshments.



July 4 BBQ at the Fischers

The Not-Even-Close-to-Annual July 4 BBQ at the Fischers' returns! RSVP at Beth-Jacob.org/BBQ and join us for a beautiful afternoon with delicious food.



Tzofim-Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan
Concert July 8, 5-7pm at Temple of Aaron

The St. Paul synagogues and agencies are sponsoring a concert of this high energy group of young adults. A Barbecue will follow the concert (\$5/person)
RSVP SusieHaim@TempleofAaron.org



Reflections on the Psalms - July 12
Rabbi David Krishev

Rabbi Krishev will be speaking on his new book, Reflections on the Psalms, and how the Psalms can inspire us to engage with significant contemporary issues. He will use the Psalms and prayer as invitations into brief meditations using Jewish wisdom for spiritual development.

