

Shabbat Shalom

Pinchas

July 4, 2026 | 19 Tammuz 5786

Havdalah 9:44pm

Senior Rabbi:

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm
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Michael Keller & Geoffrey Marshall
President@Beth-Jacob.org

Rabbi Emeritus:

Rabbi Morris Allen

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!

Gabbaim:

Neal Gale
Jonathan Ehrlich
Stuart Kaufman

D'var Torah

Maryn Hakes

Mashgiach: Carolyn Levy

Kitchen Crew:

Izzy Ciuraru, Jim Marver
Michael Zaslofsky &
Fran Van Slyke-Zaslofsky

Greeters & Security:

Eric Pasternack
Roy Kay
Mindy Rather
Barb Curchack
Matt Leichter



Torah Reading

First / Rishon Aliyah	Numbers 25:10-26:4	p. 918	Monica Kelley
Second / Sheni Aliyah	Numbers 26:5-26:51	p. 920	Jonathan Ehrlich
Third / Shelishi Aliyah	Numbers 26:52-27:5	p. 924	Natan Paradise
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah	Numbers 27:6-27:23	p. 927	Ethan Jewett
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah	Numbers 28:1-28:15	p. 929	Jessica Zehavi
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah	Numbers 28:16-29:11	p. 931	Brad Elkin
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah	Numbers 29:12-30:1	p. 934	Jonathan Ehrlich
Maftir	Numbers 29:35-30:1	p. 936	Hannah Hofrichter
Haftarah	Jeremiah 1:1-2:3	p. 968	Hannah Hofrichter

Our services depend on the participation of our community members. We welcome diverse voices and talents to lead our community in prayer and to read Torah.

Please use this QR code, or sign up at  Beth-Jacob.org/DavenorTorah

This week's kiddush is unsponsored and supported by donations made to the Kiddush Fund. Special thanks to Dominic Ackerman for his fresh produce, salads, and yummy desserts! If you would like to help offset costs of kiddush, please consider making a donation to the Kiddush Fund to allow Beth Jacob's kiddush tradition to continue.

A Count Of Love

The census that occurs immediately after the plague for the sin with Midian reassures the Children of Israel that they are still God's partners in the covenant.

By Rabbi Reuven Spolter

Rabbi Reuven Spolter is rabbi of Agudas Achim Congregation in West Hartford, Connecticut.

After outlining the reward that Pinchas was to receive for his zealotry, God commands Moshe to attack and punish the nation of Midian for enticing the Jewish people to sin and for causing the plague that nearly consumed them. Yet, immediately following this command, the Torah abruptly changes direction, stopping in mid-sentence to begin a new count of the people.

Several questions arise from this strange turn in the text. Why does the Torah end the story of the strife with Midian so abruptly? What is the function of the new census? And why is it connected to (and then disconnected from) the story of Pinchas?

The answer to these questions lies in the curious language Moshe and Elazar utilize when initiating God's command to count every male above age 20. Moshe and Elazar say, "Take the sum of the people from 20 years old and upward, as the Lord commanded Moshe and children of Israel who went forth from the Land of Egypt." (26:4) After the miraculous excitement of the Exodus and the glorious revelation at Sinai, the nation of Israel suffered setbacks of ever-increasing magnitude, culminating in the punishment following the sin of the meraglim (spies), when God banished every male over age 20 from entering the Promised Land.

After 40 long years of wandering in the desert, the people were understandably full of doubt. Would God retain His relationship with them or instead move on? Would He maintain the closeness that began at Sinai or would He view the descendants of the original Am Hanivchar (chosen people) with disdain?

By counting the people anew, God aims to allay their fears and refresh their spirit by adding a sense of newness and distinction to their mission. He wishes to give them the same purity of spirit that was present in the Jewish nation after they had left Egypt. Therefore, God counts the nation again. The purpose of this count serves not as a census or military count so much as a reestablishment of their old identity as the Am Hameyuhad that would forever keep and guard God's covenant.

The unique nature of the count becomes more apparent when we scrutinize the text of the counting itself. As opposed to the count taken at the beginning of Bamidbar, which focused on a military structure, here the count focuses on history, concentrating on the roots and families of each particular tribe and their connection to the original children of Israel. While their parents needed no family history in the earlier counting, their children, an entirely new nation, required reassurance that they indeed also constituted Klal Yisrael (congregation of Israel).

It is precisely for this reason that the Torah connects and then disconnects this counting from the plague at Shittim. After enduring the punishment of wandering in the desert for so many years, the Jews seem to immediately revert to their sinful ways when they engage the women of Midian. Had they broken the camel's back? Had their sin pushed them over the edge, causing God to abandon them for eternity?

God immediately answers their doubts by counting them once again, "as a shepherd counts his flock." By cherishing each member of Klal Yisrael, God reestablishes a covenant with them and ensures that they would forever be the Am Hanivhar, God's chosen people.

Yahrzeit List for Week Beginning July 4, 2026 / 19 Tammuz 5786

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/mibeit 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.

July 4/19 Tammuz

Harry Savett
Morris Kuretsky
Morris L. Cohen
Neville Digby
Paul Myers
Rose Smoliak

July 5/20 Tammuz

Benjamin Peters
Isador Levinsohn
Melvyn Biller
Norman Markus Helms
Rose C. Berkus

July 6/21 Tammuz

Bess Gordon
Minnie Levenson
Morris Strauss
Rachel "Bessie" Efron
Robert Blumfield
Roger Hacker
Seymour Weiss

July 7/22 Tammuz

Arlene Perloff
Bernice Bernick
Betty Gordon
Edith Hurvitz
Elaine Rose-Ruderman
Esther Behar
Etta Miller
Goldie Schwartz

July 7/22 Tammuz

(cont'd)
Ida Levitan
Larry Levy
Leo Altshuler
Netty Goldetsky
Rose Kuller
Soloman Belinsky

July 8/23 Tammuz

Beba Altshuler
Edward Rosenfeld
Esther I. Goodman
Henrietta Aronow
Marilyn Miller
Maurice Krovitz
Sarah Danovsky
Virginia Hunter

July 9/24 Tammuz

Annie Ginsberg
Esther Freda Longman
Esther Freda Longman
James Edward Ward
Jeanette Seder
Joseph Lubow
Marie Westhues Staub
Max Weisberg
Miriam Rosenfeld
Phyllis Hirth
Annie Ginsberg

July 10/25 Tammuz

Bessie Brodsky
Esther Appel
Lucy Smith
Marie Kowitz
Mendel Ratner
Sarah R. Saide



Stand Up Sit Down is on Summer Hiatus
It's Cool to Be In Shul is not meeting today.



French Table at Kiddush

Si vous voulez parler en français,
rejoignez-vous à la table française!

Effective immediately, Beth Jacob will be a peanut-free facility. Our organization is committed to ensuring a safe environment for those with a severe airborne peanut allergy. No food items containing peanuts may be brought into our premises. All staff, teachers and community members are asked to refrain from bringing food containing peanuts into our sacred shared space, even for personal use. We ask that everyone carefully check ingredient labels before bringing food items into the building or for shabbatlucks. Thank you.



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.



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.

שלוש
שאלות
שבת

- 1 - Fireworks--Yes or No?
- 2 - What was your favorite childhood toy?
- 3 - What ought to be invented by someone?

THREE
SHABBAT
QUESTIONS

Upcoming at Beth Jacob - July 4, 2026

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.



ADULT EDUCATION:

The Shabbat Effect with Rabbi Tamar

Tuesdays at 11:00am, Saide Chapel

Based on Alan Moranis's book, The Shabbat Effect.



Morning Mishnah, with Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm

NEW DAY--TUESDAYS at around 8:00 am (after minyan)

in the Saide Chapel and online

Join on Zoom at [Beth-Jacob.org/Minyan](https://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.



Limudim Adult Ed

Tuesdays 6:30-7:30 Register at [Beth-Jacob.org/LimudimAdultEd](https://beth-jacob.org/limudimadulted)

On Summer Hiatus:

- Jew in the Pew
- Stand Up, Sit Down, What Does it All Mean?



Who Invented Judaism? A virtual adult Torah course with Rabbi Yosi Gordon

The Yosi's School online, interactive course will meet on Zoom,

Series One: Mondays, 7:00-8:15, June 1-July 6

Series Two: Mondays, 7:00-8:15, July 13-August 17

To enroll, email yosis.school@gmail.com: Sign me up for Series One, Series Two, both!



Shabbatluck - Outdoors!

Friday, August 7

Join us at 6:00 pm for Kabbalat Shabbat and stay for a pot-luck Shabbat dinner. RSVP: [Beth-Jacob.org/Shabbatluck](https://beth-jacob.org/shabbatluck)

REMINDER: NO PEANUT PRODUCTS



Upcoming at Beth Jacob - July. 4, 2026

<p>Beth Jacob Reads a Book Shabbat, July 11, after kiddush Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm will lead a discussion of <i>When We See You Again</i>, by Rachel Goldberg-Polin</p>	
<p>Monarca Democracy Defense Training Tuesday July 14, 6:30-8:30pm This workshop is designed to ensure every citizen can cast their ballot safely and that every person has a voice in our country's future. At Beth Jacob.</p>	
<p>Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Mussar Moments in the Personal and Political Realms Sunday, July 19, 10am-noon at Beth Jacob Center for Contemporary Mussar is proud to send their Rosh Yeshiva, Rabbi Joshua Boettiger, to the Twin Cities for a weekend of Mussar learning! Joshua will be visiting Adath Jeshurun Congregation in Minnetonka and Beth Jacob Synagogue in St. Paul. Please join us for a weekend full of learning, shmoozing, and Mussar-focused connections.</p>	
<p>Tisha B'Av Wednesday July 22, 8:00pm, Mt. Zion Beth Jacob, Mt. Zion, and Temple of Aaron will unite for the 27th Annual St. Paul Communal Observance of Tisha B'Av, the day which commemorates the tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people.</p>	
<p>Take Me Out to the Ball Game Sunday July 26, 2:07pm Join Beth Jacob at the special group rate of \$25 per ticket. Beth-Jacob.org/Baseball</p>	
<p>Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan Thursday, July 28, 6:00pm Beth Jacob Celebrate Israel with the singing and dancing of the Israeli Scouts. This is sure to be great family fun! Register at Beth-Jacob.org/Scouts</p>	
<p>As the Arabs See the Jews, Revisited, with Ted Flaum Exploring History, Narratives, and the Roots of Conflict Tuesdays, August 4, 11, 18, 25 7-8:30pm in the Chapel Join us for a thoughtful discussion revisiting King Abdullah I of Jordan's influential essay, "As the Arabs See the Jews." For more information and to register, go to Beth-Jacob.org/AdultEd</p>	