

Shabbat Shalom

Balak

July 12 | 16 Tammuz 5785

Havdalah 9:40pm



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.

Gabbaim:

Eric Pasternack,
Alan Block,
Elaine DuFresne

Greeters & Security:

Steve Ukes,
Rachel Chinitz,
Will Thomas,
Marguerite Krause

Torah Reading

First / Kohen Aliyah
Second / Levi Aliyah
Third / Shelishi Aliyah
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah
Maftir
Haftarah

D'var Torah: Rabbi David Krishef

Mashgiach: Beth Pearlman

Kitchen Crew:

Amy Sheldon,
Carol & Gordon Altshuler,
David Siegel

Senior Rabbi:

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm
RabbiTamar@Beth-Jacob.org

Executive Director:

Sonya Rapport
Sonya@Beth-Jacob.org

Director of Congregational Programming:

Frances Fischer
Frances@Beth-Jacob.org

Interim Limudim Coordinator and Rabbinic Intern

Rimon Reches
Rimon@Beth-Jacob.org

Youth and Education Coordinator:

Marisa Goffman
Youth@Beth-Jacob.org

Co-Presidents:

Leonard Oppenheimer & Tessa Silver
President@Beth-Jacob.org

Rabbi Emeritus:

Rabbi Morris Allen

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](https://beth-jacob.org/DavenOrTorah).

First / Kohen Aliyah	Numbers 22:2-12
Second / Levi Aliyah	Numbers 22:13-20
Third / Shelishi Aliyah	Numbers 22:21-38
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah	Numbers 22:39-23:12
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah	Numbers 23:13-26
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah	Numbers 23:27-24:13
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah	Numbers 24:14-25:9
Maftir	Numbers 25:7-9
Haftarah	Micah 5:6-6:8

p. 894	Elaine DuFresne
p. 895	
p. 896	Giulia Girgenti
p. 899	Brian Millberg
p. 901	Robin Conn
p. 903	Ely Sheinfeld
p. 905	Eric Pasternack
p. 908	Eric Pasternack
p. 915	Sharon Press

This week's kiddush is sponsored by Beth Jacob in honor of Rabbi David Krishef

Please consider making a donation to [Beth-Jacob.org/Kiddush](https://beth-jacob.org/Kiddush).

Balaam Versus Pinchas

*Pinchas saw the relationship of an Israelite and a Midianite as a curse--
but perhaps he, like Balaam, could have turned it into a blessing.*

By Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky

Some people write off this Torah portion as biblical fantasy. In Parashat Balak, Balaam has a conversation with a donkey. A dialogue of this nature seems more appropriate for an animated film than a serious religious text. As a result, many ignore and overlook the implicit message of the portion, as well.

And yet Balaam is not unique — we have no problem with humans speaking to donkeys — or animals of any kind, especially domesticated dogs and cats who have become part of our families. So why are we surprised when the animal answers us?

Perhaps the Torah places specific words in the mouth of the donkey as an interpretation of what is being communicated. The animal is making a statement in the midst of this Torah narrative, and the narrative does not leave it up to us to try to determine what that statement is. Often animals teach us profound lessons — but only when we are willing to listen to their “words.”

In this episode of the evolving saga of the Jewish people, King Balak invites Balaam to curse the Jewish people — an apparently effective military strategy of the ancient world. Before he can do so, however, Balaam is dissuaded. He undergoes a change of heart, and instead, after seeing the beauty of the ancient Jewish people and its tradition, offers a blessing instead.

Most will say that the donkey convinced Balaam to transform the intended words of curse into words of praise. But it is not the medium that convinces Balaam; it is the message. As much as we think that clever marketing is the key to making Judaism appealing to those who are ambivalent toward the community, this Torah portion suggests otherwise.

The message is key, not the messenger. God can and does speak to us in myriad ways, and we have to be ready to accept Divine words regardless of how they are delivered. That point is just as cogent today as it once was. No matter how much we manipulate Judaism to do and say what we want, essentially it has to be able to convince people on its own of its ability to provide meaning and direction.

Balak heard the words of God and was moved to praise and protect the Jewish people. An enemy turned into a friend; one on the outside became part of the inside.

But later, in the same Torah portion, the Israelites don't seem to have learned the lesson of Balaam — that friends may be lurking in the guise of “enemies” because we have simply named them as such. The text tells it this way:

Torah Commentary

CONT.

“Just then one of the Israelites came and brought a Midianite woman over to his companions, in the sight of Moses and of the whole Israelite community who were weeping at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. When Pinchas, son of Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he left the assembly and, taking a spear in his hand, he followed the Israelite into the chamber and stabbed both of them, the Israelite and the woman, through the belly. Then the plague against the Israelites was checked. Those who died of the plague numbered 24,000.” (Numbers 25:6-9).

This is held up as a righteous act, for Pinchas is said to be protecting the sanctity and purity of the ancient Israelites. He destroyed both people, and by the symbolism of his act, the potential for future progeny as well. In their reams of commentary, the Rabbis certainly try portray this event as an act of justifiable violence. But nothing can justify Pinchas' action.

Perhaps Pinchas should have learned from Balaam. He saw the relationship of an Israelite and a Midianite woman as a curse, but he could have turned it into a blessing. The Torah has shown us that we can take lessons even from talking donkeys; every passage has a purpose. We should use the story of Pinchas to gain valuable insights as well. Make this your day to choose a blessing instead of a curse when you respond to those in our midst who have come from Midian and beyond.

Yahrzeit List for Week Beginning July 12, 2025 / 16 Tammuz 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/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 12 / 16 Tammuz

James Gang
Michael Grobovsky
Rose Kahana
Jerrold Levine
Lou Ann Lewis
Todd Rosenthal
Sarah Ward

July 13 / 17 Tammuz

Edward Jeffries
Bessie Lazar
Margaret Hayford O'Leary
Lea Schaffer
Ethel Hofrichter
Annette Segal
Charles Coddon
Aleck Barenbaum

July 14 / 18 Tammuz

Eileen Brown
Esther Burstein
Dinah Burstein
Stan Jacobs
Allen Rosenberg
Charlotte Rutman
Samuel Tatkin
Hilda Rose Hellman

July 15 / 19 Tammuz

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

July 16 / 20 Tammuz

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

July 17 / 21 Tammuz

Robert Blumfield
Bess Gordon
Roger Hacker
Minnie Levenson
Morris Strauss
Seymour Weiss

July 18 / 22 Tammuz

Esther Behar
Soloman Belinsky
Netty Goldetsky
Etta Miller
Goldie Schwartz
Arlene Perloff
Ida Levitan
Bernice Bernick
Lawrence Levy
Leo Altshuler
Elaine Rose-Ruderman
Rose Kuller
Gerald Lewis Rich



TODAY at Beth Jacob

Rabbi David Krishef

This Shabbat's special guest is Rabbi David Krishef, who will be sharing words of Torah with us during the Torah service, and he will be doing a

Post-Kiddush Learning at 12:45.

Rabbi Krishef 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.

Sci Fi Table at Kiddush

Every second Shabbat of the month.

French Table at Kiddush

(Becuase we skipped last week)



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

Inclusivity and Accessibility During Services





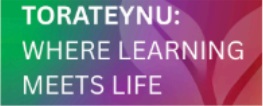

We recognize the variety of needs within our community and strive to provide access to all through physical, emotional, and/or sensory accommodations. The majority of our prayers and scripture readings are conducted in Hebrew, so we invite those who do not read Hebrew to use a copy of the transliterated 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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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></p> <p>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</p> <p>Tanach, with David Rischall Sundays 7:30-8:30 on Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/79546614386 Questions? Call David at 651-230-3911.</p> <p>Torateynu—Hineni's Summer Learning Series https://ttsp.org/summertime-2025/#</p> <p>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</p> <p>TODAY: 10:00-12:00</p> <p>August 6: Water Games</p>	

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tisha B'Av - August 2 & 3

This year's commemoration of Tisha B'Av begins on Saturday evening at 8:30 with Learning with Rabbi Tamar, followed at 9:15 with Havdallah, Ma'ariv, Eicha (Lamentations), and singing kinot. Sunday morning Minyan and Eicha at Temple of Aaron at 9:00am, and a special screening of "October 8" at 1:00pm at Beth Jacob.



**"October 8" - Special Screening
Tisha B'Av - August 3, 1:00pm**

From Executive Producer Debra Messing and Director Wendy Sachs, "OCTOBER 8 is a documentary about the explosion of anti-Semitism on college campuses, on social media and in the streets of America in the aftermath of October 7th.



Take Me Out To The Ball Game - August 10

Root Root Root for the home team as they take on the Iowa Cubs at CHS Field. We have special Group Rate tickets for \$25 each. Bring the kids, bring your friends, bring the ruach! [Beth-Jacob.org/Baseball](https://beth-jacob.org/Baseball)

If they don't win it's a shame...



**Live Zoom Update--Partnership 2K
Mayor Nitzan Peleg, Lower Galilee Regional Council**

Join us live on Sunday, July 27 at 12:00 PM CDT | 8:00 PM Israel Time
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85860997085>

Our visit with the mayors of our partnership region did not happen as we hoped, due to the war between Iran and Israel that began while they were here. Now that the situation has stabilized, we are pleased to invite the entire community to a live Zoom briefing with Mayor Nitzan Peleg, Mayor of the Lower Galilee Regional Council. He will provide a community update on behalf of all four regional mayors and share important insights into how local leaders are responding, the ongoing challenges, and current needs. The session will include time for Q&A.

