

Shabbat Shalom

Bamidbar

May 31 | 4 Sivan 5785

Havdalah 9:33pm



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,
Stuart Kaufman,
Jonathan Ehrlich

D'var Torah

D. Marcos Vital

Mashgiach: Mira Miller

Davenners:

Jonathan Ehrlich, Razele
Hofrichter

Kitchen Crew:

Mira Frank, Steve Krovitz, Marc & Elizabeth Schoen
Rafi Samuels-Schwartz & Mackenzi McIlmail

Greeters & Security:

Kate Sandweiss, Eli Gottfried,
Barb Curchack, Jan Leichter, Lou
Leichter

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

Numbers 1:1-19
Numbers 1:20-54
Numbers 2:1-34
Numbers 3:1-13
Numbers 3:14-39
Numbers 3:40-51
Numbers 4:1-20
Numbers 4:17-20
Hosea 2:1-22

p. 769
p. 771
p. 774
p. 777
p. 779
p. 781
p. 782
p. 785
p. 787

Eric Pasternack
Hannah Hofrichter
Sara Lynn Newberger
Monica Kelley
Natan Paradise
Stuart Kaufman
Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm
Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm
Hannah Hofrichter

Acting Senior Rabbi:

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

Director of Congregational Learning:

Rabbi Justin Held
RabbiJustinHeld@Beth-Jacob.org

Executive Director:

Sonya Rapport
Sonya@Beth-Jacob.org

Director of Congregational Programming:

Frances Fischer
Frances@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.



This week's kiddish is sponsored by the Goffman Family to thank the community for all the prayers, support, and love offered throughout Robert's recovery.



Parashat Bamidbar: When Women Are Invisible

How do we make sense of the census commanded in this Torah portion, which specifies only men be counted?

By Sivan Rotholz

Parashat Bamidbar opens with God speaking to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, instructing him to “take a census of the whole Israelite community,” counting “every male, head by head.” God goes on to note that only men 20 years of age and older who are able to bear arms should be counted, so this was likely a census to determine conscription into the army. But when God specifically tells Moses to take a census of “the whole” community and then excludes women from this designation, Israelite women are excluded from the idea of who and what comprises Jewish community. The women become invisible.

When the biblical God draws lines around who does and does not count in Jewish community, those demarcations have ramifications that remain harmful – and that women and allies are still working to rectify – to this day.

The great scholars and commentators of Jewish tradition found inherent value in those who were counted by God. Rashi believed that God took a census of those who were dear to him, and Rabbi Isaac Arama argues that each person counted had individual worth (Akeidat Yitzhak #72). The Midrash compares those who were counted to God’s precious pearls, suggesting that God cared deeply for them because they were the children to whom God had given birth (Bamidbar Rabbah 4:2).

This assigning of value to those who were counted begs the question: Were the Israelite women not also dear to God? Did they not also have individual worth? Were they not also the precious children of the divine? What does such exclusion say about the perceived value of Jewish women and their contributions to Jewish communal life?

These are the questions that Judith Plaskow asks in her groundbreaking 1986 article that later became the basis for her seminal work, *Standing Again at Sinai*. She looks at a moment not unlike the census in Parashat Bamidbar – the moment when women are excluded from entering into a communal covenant with God – and argues that such moments make Jewish women invisible and have a lasting negative impact. Such exclusion, Plaskow notes, “sets forth a pattern recapitulated again and again in Jewish sources. Women’s invisibility at is perpetuated by the later tradition which takes women as objects of concern or legislation but rarely sees them as shapers of tradition and actors in their own lives.”

Critically, Plaskow offers Jewish women a way forward despite a history of invisibility: “On the one hand, women can choose to accept our absence, in which case we allow the male text to define us and our relationship to the tradition. On the other hand, we can stand on the ground of our experience, on the certainty of our membership in our own people. To do this, however, is to be forced to remember and recreate its history. It is to move from anger at the tradition, through anger to empowerment.”

Torah Commentary

CONT.

In 2018, a group of women declared the Jewish calendar year 5779 “The Year of the Jewish Woman,” noting the many ways in which Jewish women’s “work and contributions are consistently undervalued, underestimated and often rendered invisible.” By the time that year was up, these women had co-authored an article, signed by nearly 600 women, that called on men in positions of power to be active allies in working to eradicate Jewish gender inequality.

The following year yet another group of women came together to argue for the importance of including women’s voices and scholarship in source sheets. “When we curate all-male source sheets, we send the message that men have a monopoly on Jewish wisdom,” the article asserts. “We know that this is not the case.”

For thousands of years, from their exclusion from the census in Parashat Bamidbar to their exclusion from top positions in Jewish organizations, Jewish women have been made invisible. But despite their systematic exclusion, women have always known they belonged within Judaism, have known their own worth even when they did not see their value reflected back to them. Today, for the first time in history, Jewish women en masse are Torah scholars and educators, rabbis and cantors, authors of biblical commentary and experts in Jewish law. Jewish women today remember their history, and are working to recreate it so that, together with their allies, they might forge a more equitable future in which they, too, will be counted.

Yahrzeit List for Week Beginning May 31, 2025 / 4 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 Hebrew name to the gabbai who will call you to the Torah. 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.

If you are coming up for the 7th aliyah, please 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. Say your name loudly and clearly, so that the gabbai can hear it.

May 31/4 Sivan

Bertha Bernstein
Mary Fiondella
Hildegard Lauer
Jean Marshall
Rich Stocker
Albert A. Berg

June 1 / 5 Sivan

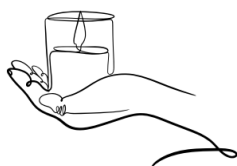
Jacob Bergman
David Herman
Fannie Karasov
Stephanie Oertelt Samuels
Steven Newman

June 2/6 Sivan

Isaac Keen
Eugene Mande
Sam Rafowitz

June 3/7 Sivan

Irving Johnson
Florence Kerson
Isaac Joseph Saide
Chayeh Sarah Saide
Boris Y. Wolfson



June 4/8 Sivan

Morris Browns
Jeffrey Greenspoon
Dr. Louis Itzkowitz
Robert Klein
Rose Perenson
Harold Schneider
William Tanick
Joseph Wittels

June 5/9 Sivan

Jacob Berlin
Sam Dash
Bessie Klatzko

June 5/9 Sivan (cont'd.)

Lazer Lavinovsky
Audray Rees
Solomon Sterenson
Barbara Sarapas
Inge Oertelt

June 6/10 Sivan

Freda Cooperman
Rosette Goldberg-Rafowicz
Louis Gordon
Celia Kabakow
Anna Katz
Charles Bernard Kaufman
David Reuben Radovsky
David Weinstein

TODAY at Beth Jacob

For the Jew in the Pew

With Rabbi Lynn Liberman 9:15-10:00am in the Chapel

Join Rabbi Lynn Liberman to discuss the weekly Torah portion through the lens of thought-provoking commentaries.

Beth Jacob Reads a Book

Post Kiddush Learning

Join Rabbi Justin Held and Frances Fischer to discuss the My Father's Paradise by Ariel Sabar.

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 - What is your favorite Beth Jacob story?
- 2 - What do you think about Astrology?
- 3 - What is your favorite article of clothing?

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.



Upcoming at Beth Jacob - May 31, 2025

Ongoing	
<p>For the Jew in the Pew TODAY Every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday 9:15 am in the Saide 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 Chapel</u> and online Join on Zoom at Beth-Jacob.org/Minyan Talmud Class, with Rabbi Justin Held Mondays, 6:00-7:00, Saide Chapel</p>	
SHAVUOT	
<p>Erev Shavuot—Tikkun Leil Shavuot—TOMORROW: Sunday, June 1</p> <p>7:00 pm Rabbi Justin Thank You Reception 8:00 pm Candle Lighting 8:15 pm Adults - Learning with Shayna Sheinfeld Teen Learning session in youth lounge 9:15 pm Ma'ariv, Kiddush and Nosh - Social Hall 9:45 pm Learning with Rabbi David Thomas 11 pm Learning with Sara Lynn Newberger Midnight Optional continued learning with the rabbis (sign up required)</p> <p>Monday, June 2 9:00am Morning Services Noon Bikurim Picnic <i>Bring a picnic lunch, Join friends on the lawn, Fly your kite as high as Sinai! Beth Jacob will provide dessert.</i></p> <p>Tuesday, June 3 9:00am Morning Services, including Yizkor Followed by a Kiddush lunch.</p>	

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Kiddush Sponsorship Opportunities

Are You Short in Stature but Tall in Generosity?

The **short people** of Beth Jacob are sponsoring kiddush on **June 7**. No maximum height.

Camp Shabbat on June 14 in honor of our kids going to Summer Camp this summer. Join other parents who are wishing their kids the best summer ever by donating to this group kiddush.

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.Beth Jacob](https://Beth-Jacob.org/Kiddush.Beth%20Jacob)



Partnership 2gether Shabbat June 14

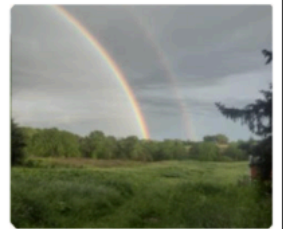
Hear from 4 Mayors from the Sovev Kinneret region in Israel—St. Paul's partner community. Mayor Nitzan Peleg will give a d'var Torah, and all 4 mayors will speak about their towns after kiddush.



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. Kosher chicken and eggs will be available to purchase. 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. More info at Beth-Jacob.org



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.

