

SHABBAT SHALOM!

Welcome to



May 30-31, 2025, 4 Sivan 5785

B'midbar

Torah Portion: Num. 1:1-4:20

Haftarah: Hosea 2:1-22:14

Robert Jacobs, Interim Rabbi

Jason Edelstein (z"l), Rabbi Emeritus

Barbara AB Symons, Rabbi Emerita

Randy Boswell, President

As we continue rolling through the Torah week by week, this Shabbat we open the fourth book of Torah. In Hebrew, it is called Bamidbar—In the Wilderness—but in English, the common name is Numbers, a functional description of the first order of business as the Israelites of old continued into the third year of the journey. What numbers are referred to? First, there are the numbers of the tribes descended from Jacob and his wives and concubines. Twelve are enumerated, and each is named. For scholars, taken by numbers in general, the order in which the various sons are listed along with the generationally significant descendants. Beyond these chieftains, each of the respective tribes is enumerated for the number of young men who are available for the defense and life of the community making its way through the barren area. The order of listing seems to be by rank, birth mother and to some extent size. Only the descendants of Levi are exempted, though their specific and significant roles as priests and in service to the portable tabernacle are made explicit. The array of the tribes encircles the Tabernacle, indicated by ancient terms for direction reminiscent of the verse (Genesis 28:14) promising Abraham that the destiny of his many offspring will be to extend to the sea, the east, the north and the west. While modern Hebrew has ordinal names for these compass points, the text is clear: Tabernacle at the center, people from all directions, a unified description of a developing community and order. A side count is included for the first-born sons among each tribe—hearkening back to the Exodus and the crushing twelfth plague. Over decades of reaching this reading, I have repeatedly asked myself about text and context that the detailed examination of human capital requires. The fuller significance of this census—one of several in the Book of Numbers—will only be revealed as the history extends in Torah and Prophets, even later into rabbinic literature. The numbers themselves stretch plausibility, the context seeming in some ways to be outside the narrative. Yet it is through the human capital that the people move forward, that the Temple is built and that despite the passage of countless generations, Judaism remains a vital religious community despite dispersion, discrimination and human error.

We pray for healing for our fellow congregants; please bring those prayers beyond the sanctuary via a phone call, a visit, a note or assistance. Please notify the Rabbi or Debbie, if you would like to add or delete a name from this list. We pray for people in America and around the world in need of healing.

In consideration of privacy, the names have been removed from this online version of the service handout. If you would like to have the name of a loved one said aloud during this service, please write it in the chat preferably including his/her relationship to you.

We remember, with love, the Six Million whose lives were taken during the Holocaust. We also remember, with love, those who were taken from our midst this week in years past. When you hear the name of your loved one, please rise in place. We will all rise as a community to say kaddish.

Sh'loshim

Karen Dickman, sister-in law of Edyth Dickman
Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, victims of DC terrorist attack

Yahrzeits: 27 Iyar-4 Sivan (Read on May 30-31)

Florine Alpern ☆

John S. Cluss

Rose Faigen

David J. Haransky

Hilda Rubin Kreimer

Larry Levine

Melvin "Marty" W. Reisz

Nancy Seiner

Saul Better

Bella Eisner

Selma Feldman

Leo Kalson

Bernard Lauer

Louis Leib Pearl

Aileen Schmitt ☆

Lawrence I. Silverman ☆

Ida Wheatley

Irving Caplan

Joan Ermann

Jack Feldshue

Louis King

Bella Anna Levin

Samuel Pepkowitz

Dolores Segal

Dora Swetlitz

Temple David Week at a Glance:

Saturday, May 31 (4 Sivan)

Torah Talk led by: Rabbi Jacobs 9 AM
Shabbat Morning Worship led by: Rabbi Jacobs 10 AM

Sunday, June 1 (5 Sivan)

Erev Shavuot
Evening Festival Worship and Confirmation 4:30 PM

Monday, June 2 (6 Sivan)

Shavuot
Morning Festival Worship and Yizkor 10 AM

Tuesday, June 3 (7 Sivan)

Mah Jongg 11:30 PM

Wednesday, June 4 (8 Sivan)

MIM Meeting at Temple David 12 PM

Thursday, June 5 (9 Sivan)

No Meetings or Events

Friday, June 6 (10 Sivan)

Erev Shabbat Worship Led by Rabbi Jacobs 7:30 PM
Music Led by: Norm Chapman and the Temple David Choir

Saturday, June 7 (11 Sivan)

Torah Talk led by: Deb Scheib 9 AM
Shabbat Morning Worship led by: Rabbi Jacobs 10 AM
Rory Pihony becomes Bat Mitzvah

Special Events Reminders:

Through June Baby Wipe, Diaper and Gift Card Collection for the Braddock Free Store Please leave your items near the display in the lobby.

Erev SHAVOUT Service with Confirmation Sun. June 1 @ 4:30 Please join the families of Callie Sloan, Henry Moltz and Rosalie Moltz as they are prepared to receive the Torah and be Confirmed.

Pride Shabbat Service/Rainbow Oneg Friday June 13 @ 7:30 June is pride month for support and equality of the LGBTQ+ community. Please join us for worship followed by a colorful rainbow oneg. Contact Deb Scheib @ debs@templedavid.org if you would like to contribute.

Third Annual Kay Liss Memorial Clean-up Day Sun. June 15 @ 9 AM Join us as we clean up the building and grounds at Temple David. We'll begin with doughnuts, coffee and juice.

NEW DATE-Lunch w/ the Rabbi Wednesday June 18 @ 12 PM @ China Palace There is no agenda. Our monthly lunches are simply a lovely way to gather, share a good meal, meet new TD members and connect with friends, even if it is your lunch break.

SAVE THE DATE Temple David Annual Picnic Saturday August 23 More information coming. Mark your calendars.