

Shabbat Bamidbar

פַּרְשַׁת בְּמִדְבָּר

May 31, 2025 / 4 Sivan 5785

48th Day of the Omer

B'nei Mitzvah: Jonah Alvillar and Sam Massar

Aufruf: Jeffrey Holzer & Erika Steisfield

Baby Naming: Mischa Blaire Hechler

Annual Torah Reading:	Numbers	1:1– 4:20	page 769
Triennial Torah Reading:	Numbers	2:1—3:13	page 779
Haftarah Reading:	Hosea	2:1-22	page 786

Weekly Torah Reading – Parashat Bamidbar

Pshat – The Story at a Glance

1. The fourth book of the Torah begins with God instructing Moses to take a census of the Israelite men in the desert. The total count from each of the tribes comes out to 603,550.
2. In the Israelite camp, the 12 Israelite tribes which each number in the tens of thousands, are arranged on the four sides around the Tabernacle.
3. A redemption ritual was instituted to mark a change in status; today this redemption ceremony continues as “Pidyon HaBen” for baby boys.
4. The Levites are counted and assigned specific tasks, such as standing guard around the Tabernacle of the Pact.
5. The sons of Kahat are specifically named from among the Levites as the ones who will transport the most sacred objects in the Tent.

Drash – A Closer Look at this Week’s Parsha

God spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai in the Tent of Meeting on the first day of the second month of the second year after their departure from Egypt saying, **“Take a census of all the congregation of the Children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers’ houses, according to the number of the names, every male, head by head.” (Numbers 1:1-2).**

This is not the only census in the Torah, but it does not take long to figure out why the English name of the fourth book of the Torah is “Numbers.” Rashi reads these verses and points out that God counts the Israelites at different points throughout their journey through the wilderness. God counted when they left Egypt, when many died in the aftermath of the Golden Calf and when God’s presence was about to fill the Tabernacle.

But as Rashi explains, this repeated counting is not merely logistical. God counting multiple times serves as evidence of God’s care for the Israelites and for their wellbeing.

Shabbat Shalom שבת שלום

Next Week’s Service Times:

Please note changes for Shavuot, Sunday night June 1—Tuesday June 3

Sunday Morning 9am

Shavuot—Monday and Tuesday (Yizkor) 9 am

Wednesday and Thursday 7pm

Friday Evening 6:15pm

Shabbat Morning 9am

Yasher Koach to Rabbi David-Seth Kirshner, Rabbi Gabe Cohen, Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg and Cantor Israel Singer for leading services. Cantor Israel Singer, Garry Feldman, Michael Goodman, Jonah Alvillar, and Sam Massar for reading Torah and Jonah and Sam for chanting the Haftarah.

Thank You

Thank you to Dr. Rica Rabinowitz and Steve Leeman for serving as our Gabbaim. Thank you to Steve Feinmark and Louann Reed for serving as our Parnasot and Glen Graye and Ruthie Nusbaum for serving as our Shabbat Greeters.

Mazal Tov

Mazal Tov to the Alvillar family on Jonah becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Mazal Tov to the Pollack and Massar families on Sam becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

Mazal Tov to Robert & Viviana Holzer and Ellen Zabitsky, on the aufruf and upcoming wedding of their children, Jeffrey Holzer & Erika Steisfield.

Mazal Tov to Tyler & Kristen Hechler, Allison & Cory Hechler, and Rowena & Scott Adamowski, on the baby naming of their daughter/granddaughter, Mischa Blaire.

Sponsors

Thank you to the Alvillar family for sponsoring the bima food baskets with a donation to the Closter Food Pantry and for sponsoring the kiddush in honor of Jonah's Bar Mitzvah.

Thank you to the Pollack and Massar families for sponsoring the bima food baskets with a donation to the Closter Food Pantry and for sponsoring the kiddush in honor of Sam's Bar Mitzvah.

Thank you to the Holzer family for co-sponsoring Kiddush in honor of the Aufruf of Jeffrey Holzer & Erika Steisfield.

Thank you to the Hechler family for co-sponsoring the kiddush in honor of Mischa's baby naming.

Announcements

Just One More Thing. JOMT is designed to address and combat food insufficiency right here in our community. We will be partnering with the Closter Food Pantry, targeting items month by month that are most in need. We are asking our congregation to purchase "just one more thing" when shopping at the supermarket. *Drop-off location: Temple Office.* **June Item: Vegetable Soup**

TE's Annual NY Boulders Baseball Game Thursday, June 19th at 7:00 PM. Join us for Temple Emanu-El's Annual NY Boulders Baseball Game. Includes admission to the covered Sunset Deck on the Suite Level, with seating and lots of room to walk around. As well as Kosher food and non-alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased at the event. \$60 per adult, \$30 for children (12 & under). Register [HERE](#) by Friday, June 13th!

Family Mission to Israel. Travel Dates (approx.) December 23, 2025 – January 1, 2026. Interested in joining us for our December 2025 Family Mission to Israel? Please fill out our form [HERE](#) to confirm your interest.

Please visit the Temple Emanu-El website for more information and to join us virtually: <https://tecloster.org>