



Temple Adath Israel Bulletin

Mid-June/July 2024

Sivan/Tamuz 5784

The Book of B'midbar: action-packed summer read

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



David Wirtschafter

From late spring to early summer (May 26-Aug. 3), our reading turns to the Book of Numbers, which in Hebrew is called the Book of B'midbar. The fourth book of the Torah is the famous for many things, but

we will start with the notion that it is the least aptly titled. *B'midbar* means desert or wilderness. While the book is chock full of numbers, numbers have nothing to do with its Hebrew name. It is true that the book involves lots of lists — a census, an accounting, inventories of any number of things — but it does not have a numerical agenda or engage in numerology. To enjoy B'midbar we have to get beyond numbers and focus on the great stories, thrills, chills, fight scenes and special effects that make for summer adventures.

In no particular order, let's start with the tale of Balaam's Ass. The talking donkey is the inspiration for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and William Steig's *Shrek!* The donkey is more articulate than its master, wittier than the wicked king and more insightful than anyone else in the story. If your interests are more aligned with natural disaster stories, say *Volcano*, *Twister* or *Into the Storm*, you are sure to love parashat Korach, where those moronic enough to mess with

See RABBI, Page 2

Temple Adath Israel

ANNUAL MEETING

- Sunday, July 21
11 a.m.
Mersack & Stern Social Hall
- Cookout lunch to follow
- Child care available during meeting
- All congregants are encouraged to attend

RSVP online for lunch: [Bit.ly/TAIcookout2024](https://bit.ly/TAIcookout2024)

CLASS OF

2024

MAZEL TOV, TAI GRADS!

SEE PAGE 2

HIGH SCHOOL



Jonah Creamer



Anjel "Gabe" Katz



Amanda Palley



Danit Schachman

COLLEGE



Eli Flomenhoft



Bela Nelson

Mazel Tov, Class of 2024

HIGH SCHOOL

Jonah Creamer, son of **Laura and Trevor Creamer**, graduated from Bryan Station High School. He will attend the University of Kentucky and plans to major in business.

Anjel "Gabe" Katz, son of **Linda and Doug Katz**, graduated from Bryan Station High School. He will attend the University of Kentucky to study digital media design.

Amanda Palley, daughter of **Kevin and Clair Palley**, graduated from the Biomedical Sciences Program at Frederick Douglass High School. She will attend Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., to study psychology.

Danit Schachman, daughter of **Laura and Mark Schachman**, graduated Frederick Douglass High School. She will attend the University of Kentucky and

plans to study kinesiology/occupational therapy.

COLLEGE

Bela Nelson, daughter of **Deb and Pete Nelson**, graduated from Rice University in Houston with a bachelor of science degree, majoring in biology and minoring in archaeology. After some world travels, she will be assisting with environmental hazard/public health research at the University of Kentucky and applying to medical school.

Eli Flomenhoft, son of **Deborah and Steven Flomenhoft**, graduated from Brown University in Providence, R.I., and plans to pursue a doctorate in bioscience science from Washington University in St. Louis.

RABBI

Continued from Page 1

Moses find themselves caught up in a landside of epic proportion. Then again, perhaps you are a peaceful individual in everyday life who just so happens to appreciate showdowns like *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral*, *Shane* or *High Noon*. If that is the case, you are likely to enjoy the stone throwing that breaks out when two optimistic scouts contradict 10 pessimistic counterparts by insisting the people should continue their journey

rather than return to Egypt.

Summer is the perfect time to return to Friday evening services and Saturday morning study sessions when all these B'midbar stories will be up for discussion. Do not be fooled by the unfortunate title. Book four of five in the Torah is not about numbers, it's about action, spying, sibling rivalry, political intrigue, natural disasters and a people trying to reach its destiny. Come and join us on a summer journey that is sure to be a hit, and encourage friends and family to do the same.

Todah Rabah and many thanks

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



**Rich
Ornstein**

There are many ways you can attack your last President's column: joyously, magnanimously, or the Seinfeld/Frank Costanza way — the Festivus Airing of Grievances. But once you tell your beloved spouse about your Festivus plan, you no longer have a Festivus plan.

Since I can't Costanza my way through this column, I'll go out by offering a bit of gratitude to those of you who have made this three-year journey a wonderful

experience. While many of you have made huge contributions to TAI during my tenure, and others have been wonderful advisors, column space limits my written thanks to a very special group of people.

Todah Rabah to all the TAI board members who have served with me during my presidency, but a special thank you to those who have served with me on the Executive Committee. Former Executive Committee member Debbie Masters is an amazing confidant and has become a good friend. When Debbie had to step down as secretary, I knew we needed an energetic, thought-provoking, straight shooter, and that is what we got with Kristin Hoffman. Mark Schachman, my brilliant successor and favorite endodontist, will make a great president. Mark is levelheaded, experienced and truly loves our congregation. Mary Engel is the Reggie Jackson of the Executive Committee — in many ways she is the "straw that stirs the drink." Last, but definitely not least, Pat Shraberg, a two-time TAI president, used to joke that she was my mentor — and, in truth, she was my mentor. That first year, if I needed to talk something through, Pat was there. If I wrote something that some might have considered controversial or inappropriate, I knew I could send it to Pat, and she and David would read it and let me know if I was on the right path. I owe you guys more thank-yous than one can say in a column. You

have become hugely important parts of my life and are so greatly appreciated. So one last time, a huge THANK YOU, Debbie, Kristen, Mark, Mary and Pat!

Todah Rabah to the current and past TAI staff and Religious School teachers. Three of these people hold a special place in my heart. Laura Creamer was a wonderfully calming influence on me during our time together. She (and Trevor) did so much during her tenure as administrator and continue to do so much for TAI. Her successor, Nick Fain, is constant energy. With so many new ideas, and with the energy to implement them, TAI is in great shape going forward. Elissa Weinstein is the Willie Mays of Religious School directors. I had no idea how much effort it took to run a successful religious school, and Elissa has knocked it out of the park. THANK YOU, Laura, Nick and Elissa!

Todah Rabah, Rabbi Wirtschafter. The relationship between a rabbi and a congregation's president is different from any relationship I have had or imagined I would have, filled with ups and downs. Should a president get the wrong rabbi, or a rabbi get the wrong president, the relationship can go sideways quickly. On day one of the presidency, the rabbi goes from being your religious leader to also being your comrade and business partner. For this relationship to work, both parties have to be rowing in the same direction. I am very fortunate that I got the right rabbi, and with very few exceptions, Rabbi Wirtschafter and I have rowed in the same direction during our tenure together. I have been taught by, and worshiped under, several wonderful rabbis during my lifetime. However, none of them played the mandolin, knew more than a bit about bluegrass music or provided me with such a memorable and meaningful relationship as the one I have with Rabbi Wirtschafter. For that, I only have one thing to say: THANK YOU, David!

Todah Rabah to my wife of 25 years. Without her counsel, her sometimes blunt comments and her support, my tenure as your president, and for that matter, my life's journey, would have been a failure. THANK YOU, Angie!

Todah Rabah to all of you. It has been one of the highest honors of my lifetime to have served you. THANK YOU!

Nancy Schoenberg and Mark Swanson welcomed their first grandchild, Madrona Jean Hardebeck, on May 6. Madrona is the daughter of Rachel Hardebeck, who grew up at TAI, and Emerson Hardebeck of Seattle.



Zion Synagogue have been selected as the first recipients of the 2024 Community Impact Award from Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass. The award, which comes with a prize of \$1,800, to be split between TAI and OZS,

recognizes a community program or initiative that has significantly contributed to the betterment, safety and well-being of the Jewish community. The teams will be recognized at JFB's annual community celebration on June 26 at OZS.

The Security teams at Temple Adath Israel and Ohavay

THE TAI ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

JEWISH COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE: OPEN MIC & HAVDALAH

This program celebrates and welcomes the diverse inspiration of our vibrant Jewish community.

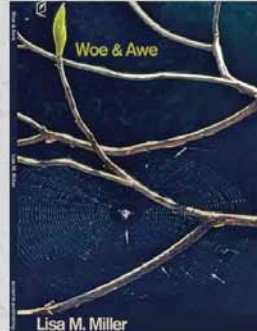
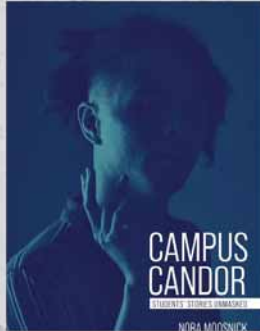
Come enjoy dessert and a spiritually fulfilling evening; if you're inclined, bring something to read, sing, dance, or show.

SAT
JUNE 29
7 PM



AT TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL

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ROSIE MOOSNICK,
AND LISA M. MILLER

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629event](https://bit.ly/629event)

TAI SUMMER SHABBAT SERIES



**RELAX AND
REFRESH!**

**ALL AGES/ALL CONGREGANTS
WELCOME**

FAMILY FRIENDLY!

**FRIDAY,
JULY
12**

"WING AND A PRAYER" SHABBAT

led by TAI Brotherhood

5:30 p.m. "Happy Hour"

6 p.m. Service

Dinner afterward featuring
chicken wings, of course!

Listening sessions lead to recommendations

The TAI Keilim Workgroup held listening sessions on April 14 in person and April 17 via Zoom. A total of 32 people attended the sessions, including Rabbi Wirschafter, Executive Director Nick Fain, and several temple board officers and members.

Discussion focused on:

- Creating and implementing clear policy and procedure to reduce risk for harassment, discrimination or abuse and to enhance reporting and response mechanisms should any such incidents occur.
- Enhancing bi-directional communication between TAI leadership and the congregation and foster open, supportive communication between congregants.
- Supporting and nurturing a positive, welcoming culture that feels psychologically safe to congregants of all ages and backgrounds, enhances connections between and among congregants, and creates a safe, healing space.
- Establishing training requirements for staff and volunteers and opportunities for congregants to learn about harassment, discrimination and abuse prevention and response.

Here are summaries of the themes and recommendations:

- TAI needs to develop clear policies and protocols that prohibit harassment,



discrimination, and abuse and begin the work of building a future where there is oversight and accountability. It is essential to share all policies with the congregation.

Recommendations: Revise the insurer-approved policy to better meet congregational needs; adopt a supplemental code of ethics to further clarify congregational values and expectations.

■ TAI needs to communicate and implement all policies. Again, it is essential to establish a culture of transparency and provide open communication with the congregation.

Recommendations: Require all staff and volunteers to sign an agreement to uphold the insurer-approved policy for harassment and abuse, and to comply with the code of ethics. Communicate the policy and code of ethics to all staff, volunteers, congregants and the community across multiple modalities.

■ Congregants need to feel safe at TAI and trust leadership. In addition, it is important to communicate with current and past congregants in a timely manner. Participants also

voiced a desire for closer connections with other congregants and opportunities to voice their concerns. Congregants were pleased that TAI wanted to listen to them; future opportunities for congregants to communicate needs and desires would be beneficial.

Recommendations: Create multiple means for community input including but not limited to regular listening, town hall sessions, virtual and physical suggestion boxes, etc.

■ Develop a comprehensive educational program addressing harassment, abuse and discrimination for staff, board members and volunteers who work with children.

Recommendations: Adopt required trainings addressing harassment, abuse and discrimination, for all staff, Religious School staff (paid and volunteer), board members and other volunteers beginning in Summer 2024.

For the full summary of the Keilim listening sessions or additional information about Keilim, contact Colby Cohen-Archer (public.colby@gmail.com), Jane Gris  (janegrise@gmail.com), Lisa Miller (lisamillerbeautifulday@gmail.com) or Miriam Silman (msilman@foothills.net).

@TAI

Please join us for
**KABBALAT
SHABBAT**

**5:30 P.M
Friday
JUNE 21
FOOD, MUSIC &
ACTIVITIES!**

**ALL AGES
welcome!**



YAHREZEIT ... *These we remember ...*



June 14

Maxwell Bloom
 Alan Bloomfield
 Bill Booker
 William Clemmons Sr.
 Alva U. Coyle
 Dorothy Day
 Harold Louis Diamond
 Sidney Greenberg
 Aaron Hymson
 Albert Isaacs
 Sylvia Seligman Levy
 Joseph Manus "Jay" Liebman
 Manuel Lowenthal
 Elouise Shepherd
 Sallye Barnett Slaughter
 Martin Solomon
 Irvin Stern Jr.
 Ronald Troxtell
 Maxwell Weinberger
 Norma Hundley Whitehouse

June 21

David Ades
 Harold Baker
 William Biederman
 Jayne Bolotin
 David Carl Dachner
 David Fine
 Louis Hustedde
 Agatha Kling Isaacs
 Simon Jacobs
 Emanuel Jaffe
 Mae Kahan
 Alvin Kaplan
 Bessie Kessler
 Ruth Kessler
 Nancy Latouf
 Barbara Liebman
 Leslie Ann Lipton

Leslie Masover
 Sarah K. Mickler
 Sam Nevel
 Tinya Norris
 Shirley Elizabeth Poppas
 Morton Rosenberg
 Benjamin Rubin
 David Shakib
 Rabbi HD Uriel Smith
 Houston Todd Helene Trachtenberg

June 28

David Ades
 Anita Roos Baker
 Frances Bloom
 Harriet Brazin
 Betty Bryan
 Rose Cantor
 Henrietta S. Davis
 Robert E. Ellsworth
 Frances Jaffe Goldenberg
 Tanya Herman
 Keitha T. Isenstein
 Jeffrey Kaufmann
 Malcolm Kirkwood
 Anton Lang
 Clys Nicholson
 Anna Orlov
 Myrna Palley
 Isaiah Scheeline Jr.
 Ben Shraberg
 Dorothy Webb
 Edith I. Weil
 Sidney Witzer

July 5

Israel Abittan
 Charles H. Barrett
 Max Henry Cohen
 Beverly Elaine Dachner

LaVerne Hanes Emberton
 Rose Gall
 Minnie Gelber
 Dr. David E. Guttman
 Hank Harrison
 Marion House
 Dr. Irving F. Kanner
 Anita Weinberger Mersack
 Jack Miller
 Joseph Arie Miller
 Myrtle Shuman Mullens
 Ruth Silman
 Edward Steinberg
 Janet Floyd Stewart
 Betty Mickler Wides

July 12

Jean Beeman
 Emanuel Biederman
 Idah Lavin Cantor
 Alex Cohen
 Kenny Doctrow
 Jacob Falach
 Bob Fischbein
 Alice Frankel
 Michael K. Hall
 Rose Helfand
 Kevin Manning
 Barnett Mersack
 Dorothy Feinberg Michaels
 Dorothy C. Munich
 Irma Jean Roffwarg
 Vivian Abraham Shraberg
 Dorothy Shuster
 Marvin Smoak
 Bud Smith
 Barbara Straus
 Eugene Straus
 Beth Tesker
 Maury Weil

Libby Wenneker
 Ada Wikler
July 19
 Herman Abel
 L. Edward Abraham
 Malvina Alexander
 Eleanor Benblatt
 Marvin Weil Bing
 Sol Bloomfield
 Morris Bryan
 Regina Capilouto
 Stanley Cohen
 Bertram Dunn
 Arnold E. Fields
 Sheri Forman
 Louis Goldman
 Nathan Gordon
 Victoria Greenberg
 George Higdon
 Stanley Isenstein
 Rose Kornreich
 Sanford Jacobs Lowenthal
 Miriam Mayer
 Keith Mizell
 Thurman Newman
 Louise Robin
 Margaret Sampliner Saye
 Alex Wenneker

July 26

Graham Beck
 Steven Hillard
 Bernzweig
 Morris Clayman
 Harry Cohen
 Mary Lou Fischbein
 Doris Freed
 William H. Helms
 Ray Kaplan
 Nikki Jo Katzman
 Janice S. Lipton
 Michael (Max) Marx

Dr. Sherman E. Miller
 Samuel Milner
 David Rose
 Max Rosenzweig
 Efraim Siegel
 Edith Sabel Wile

Aug. 2

Carroll G. Cole
 Dora Fine
 Ada S. Gail
 Robert Gelbard
 Bertha Goldstein
 August E. Hammel
 Elliott Helfand
 Marion Hymes
 Harold B. Jacobson
 Esther Kaplan
 Jennie Kaplan
 Irvin Kaufman
 Bertram S. Leopold
 Alice Weil Mickler
 Bettie Miller
 Arnold William Mullens
 Moysey Orlov
 Carolyn Schulzinger
 Louis Scher
 Harry I. Shuman
 Marion Travis Sims
 Eugene J. Straus
 Leo Umansky

In Memoriam ...

Ilene Blacksberg,
 sister of Leslie
 Blacksberg

William Wilson Cook,
 father of Alice (Doug)
 Logsdon

*May their memories
 be for a blessing*



WORSHIP, STUDY SCHEDULE



Study groups meet in person with a Zoom option.

June 14

Shabbat 7 p.m.

June 15

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Naso— Numbers 4:21-7:89

June 21

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 p.m.
Shabbat 7 p.m.

June 22

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
B'haalot'cha— Numbers 8:1-12:16

June 28

Shabbat 7 p.m.

June 29

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Sh'lach L'cha— Numbers 13:1-15:41

July 5

Shabbat 6 p.m.*

July 6

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Korach— Numbers 16:1-18:32

July 12

Brotherhood Shabbat 6 p.m.*;
preceded by "happy hour" at 5:30,
dinner after service

July 13

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Chukat— Numbers 19:1-22:1

July 19

Shabbat 6 p.m.*

July 20

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Balak — Numbers 22:2-25:9

July 26

Shabbat 6 p.m.*

July 27

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Pinchas— Numbers 25:10-30:1

Aug. 2

Shabbat 6 p.m.*

Aug. 3

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.
Parsha 11 a.m.
Matot-Mas'ei— Numbers 30:2-36:13

* note earlier start time of Shabbat service

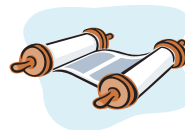
KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

Kollel meets at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Jewish Texts. The group explores cultural, ethical and historical aspects of our 4,000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. You may join the group any time.



JEWISH TEXTS STUDY

We will discuss selected readings in rabbinic literature at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating with Kollel Study Group. The discussion is always lively and informative, and you may join any time.



PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 as we take a look at the Torah portion for the week. Sessions are not held when there is a bar or bat mitzvah service.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Executive Committee

Thursday, July 11, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 20, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 21, 11:a.m.

TAI MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation linked to a tradition of welcoming those searching for a community committed to honoring the dignity we all share as children of the one God by embracing these enduring Jewish values: *AVODAH* (Worship); *TALMUD TORAH* (Torah Study); *TZEDEK* (Social Justice); and *KEHILAH* (Community). Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing the many generations of our community. We share a commitment to the Reform Jewish foundational beliefs of furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs. We are the community center through which our families can celebrate faith, justice, and the blessings of family lives present and future.

News From



The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

JFB Annual Community Celebration

5:30 p.m. Sunday, June 25, at Ohavay Zion Synagogue. Dinner followed by program celebrating past year's accomplishments and recognizing those who have gone above and beyond for JFB. More details and registration info to come. Questions: contact Mindy Haas at mindy@jewishlexington.org.

Lexington Pride Festival

11 a.m.-p .m. Saturday, June 29, at Central Bank Center, 430 W. Vine St. JFB will represent the Jewish community at this event. More info: Lexpridefest.org.

Camp Shalom

July 8-Aug. 2 at Temple Adath Israel. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, with different weekly themes. \$275 a week, with early and late stay available for additional fee. For more info, email Susan Voglesong at susan@jewishlexington.org. Register online at Bit.ly/CampShalom2024.

Assistance requests

If you or someone you know needs help with housing, utilities, grocery shopping or other situations, contact Paula Mertens, Jewish Family Services director, at (859) 269-8244 or jfs@jewishlexington.org.

CONTRIBUTIONS

ABRAHAM MUSIC FUND

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Mindy Heller in memory of Ira Mersack and Rabbi William Leffler

FLOWER FUND

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Jacqueline Sugarman and Walid Abou-Jaoude in memory of Hannah Madeline Abou-Jaoude

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Rabbi William Leffler:

Stacy Bloomfield, Philip and Nancy Dare, Leon and Linda Ravvin, Nat and Judy Sandler

Pamela Allweiss and Larry Herman

Sheryl Bogen in appreciation for kindness to Stewart Home & School residents

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In memory of Ira Mersack:

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MUSIC AND WORSHIP FUND

Rabbi Wirtschafter and Shana Sippy in celebration of the birth of Nancy Schoenberg and Mark Swanson's first grandchild

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ryann and Rahul Akolkar

Jonathan and Sarah Bronner

Paul Joseph

Jacqueline Sugarman and Walid Abou-Jaoude in memory of Hannah Madeline Abou-Jaoude

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 Smith Schwartz

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Stacey Myers-Wilson (Endowment)
 Vacant (Brotherhood)
 Vacant (Sisterhood)

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- In honor of _____
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Donor's Name _____

Donor's Address
 If not a Temple member _____