



Welcome to Shabbat Services at Bet Torah

May 29, 2021

18 Sivan 5781



Shabbat

Parsha
Beha'alotcha

Numbers 9:15 - 10:34 Etz Hayim pp. 821-826

Haftarah

Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7 Etz Hayim pp. 837-839

Mazel Tov to

**Todd and Julie Eagle
on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Kim**

**Jeffrey and Samantha Lowe
on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Madelyn**

Welcome to Bet Torah!

Message from the Clergy

Shabbat Shalom and Welcome to Bet Torah!

Whether you are with us every Shabbat, every so often, or experiencing our community for the first time, we are so glad you are here. Being present with people to share in meaning has always been Judaism's antidote to the loneliness and alienation we can sometimes feel as human beings. With busy lives we are in ever greater need of places in which we can feel whole, fully seen, and able to be present. That place has always been the synagogue, and we at Bet Torah strive to provide an oasis of calm and connection amidst the currents of life.

As a synagogue community, the global pandemic has prevented us from gathering in person. In response, we used the Talmudic emergency exit called *sha'at ha'dechak* or "time of crisis" in order to go online on Shabbat so that our community can connect while physically separated. The virtual space we have created provides opportunities to allow our value of inclusiveness to find its clearest expression.

A special aspect of our virtual service, the Home Torah Program, allows for aliyot in the home where the Torah is, along with aliyot from a distance. The blessings are different for each location, but the Torah readings are the same. This is an elegant solution for an unprecedented time.

We feel truly blessed to be here with all of you!

Rabbi Aaron Brusso, Rabbi Lisa Sacks, and Cantor Gil Ezring



This Week's Parsha

The Importance of Being Humble

An unfortunate incident mars the otherwise solid familial bond between Moses and his siblings in Parashat Beha'alotekha. While in Hazerot, Aaron and Miriam engage in disparaging talk about their brother's marriage to a Cushite woman. Jealousy sparks their venom as they malign their brother and declare, "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Has God not spoken through us as well?" (Num. 12:2). To Aaron and Miriam's dismay, God "hears" their provocative words, holds them accountable, and punishes Miriam with a plague of leprosy. In the midst of this troubling episode, we receive a striking description of Moses and the depth of his relationship with God: "Now Moses was a very humble man, more so than any other man on earth" (Num. 12:3). God continues, "With him I speak mouth to mouth, plainly and not in riddles, and he beholds the likeness of the Lord" (Num. 12:8). What is the import of such a qualification of Moses and his intimate relationship with God? How may we better understand Moses's essence?

Yeshayahu Leibowitz writes, No place in Torah does it state that Moses was wiser than any man, nor does it say that he was more righteous than any man, nor does it say that he was mightier than any man, even though we can deduce from events that he was wise, with the greatest comprehension of any man and that he was righteous and mighty. But the Torah finds it proper to stress only one thing: that Moses was more humble than any other man . . . Humility without any doubt, is a high level of human perfection. Human nature is such that each person considers himself to be great and important—if not consciously, at least subconsciously. In other words, it is not natural for a person to be humble . . . It is only one who attains the level of Moses, and who really "understands and knows God," that really realizes that no man can understand and know God. He attains the truest and greatest humility. (*Accepting the Yoke of Heaven*, 134–135)

To be humble, as Leibowitz explains, is to strive for the one of the highest levels of "human perfection." Pridefulness too often becomes a stumbling block in the pursuit of power. Learning to become humble allows one to internalize the discipline of self-contraction, and in so doing, makes space for the wisdom and inspiration of others. Each of us contains only part of an eternal Truth. By Moses's modeling what it is to be humble and the Torah's keen emphasis on this quality, we are encouraged to strive to emulate one of the great leaders of the Israelites and the Jewish People.

By Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz, Director of Israel Programs

*Weekly Commentary from
The Jewish Theological Seminary*



From the Bat Mitzvah Family

Kim

Shabbat Shalom,

Today is the day when Kim, our youngest child becomes a Bat Mitzvah. We are grateful to be able to share this milestone with our family, friends, and the Bet Torah community, and we are honored that so many of you, from near and far, have joined us.

While our sons, Jack and Ross had the privilege of in-person learning at Bet Torah, Kim joined the Bet Torah community from birth, which has brought us a whole new set of friendships and memories.

We are extremely proud of Kim, who has exhibited extraordinary independence in taking on the task of preparing for this day. Although we had not envisioned Kim's bat mitzvah to be virtual, we have embraced it and the intimate experience of being surrounded by close family with a torah in our home as she participates in the ceremony.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Rabbi Brusso and Rabbi Sacks for their invaluable guidance and support, not only this year, but throughout Kim's religious journey. To Cantor Ezring and Nili Ionascu, thank you for the amazing job preparing Kim for this momentous occasion. We wish to thank Gina Fass, Mindy Citera and the many nursery and religious school teachers for helping Kim throughout the years. Thank you to Seth Young, Ilana Fleischner, and the entire Bet Torah staff for helping us coordinate this special day. Everyone's time, energy and patience are deeply acknowledged and appreciated.

Mazel Tov to the Lowe family as they celebrate Madi becoming a Bat Mitzvah!

With love and a virtual hug,
Julie, Todd, Jack, Ross and Kim



From the Bat Mitzvah Family

Madelyn

Shabbat Shalom

We are thrilled to celebrate Madi's Bar Mitzvah with our family, friends and the Bet Torah community. We could not be happier to share this milestone with all of you.

This morning, Madi will be reading from the parsha Beha Alotecha. This parsha focuses on the struggles of the Israelites in the desert after leaving Mount Sinai. As the last 15 months have taught us, going through the challenges of uncertainty and change are very difficult as a community to handle.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to Rabbi Brusso, Rabbi Sacks, Cantor Ezring and Nili Ionascu for preparing Madi not only for this special day but also for a life of Judaism. We want to also thank all the teachers who have made Madi's Jewish education both enriching and meaningful. We would also like to thank Seth Young and the entire Bet Torah staff for all that they do and for helping coordinate today.

Madi, watching you over the past 13 years grow into who you are today has been an honor and a gift. You have an amazing zest for life, kindness for others and strong love for family and friends. You should not only be so proud of today's accomplishments but of who you are and what you have achieved thus far in your life.

We expect that this is just the beginning of Madi's participation as an adult member of Bet Torah and know that she will both benefit from and contribute towards the community for years to come.

We are so thrilled to share this special day with the Eagle family and wish Mazel Tov to Kim!

With Love,
Jeff, Sam, & Eli



Honors

Friday, May 28, 2021

A Prayer for Lighting Shabbat Candles
As I Light
Candlelighting
Kiddush
Blessing Children
Motzi

Linda Licht
Ross Eagle
Rachel Licht
Jack Eagle
Judy Proller
Todd Eagle

Saturday, May 29, 2021

Shalom to All

A Prayer for the Journey
D'Var Torah

Linda Becker and
Marjorie Eskay-Auerbach
Rayna Lowe
Kim Eagle

Torah Reading

Numbers 9: 15-18
Numbers 9: 19-23
Numbers 10: 1-7
Numbers 10: 8-10
Numbers 10: 11-16
Numbers 10: 17-20

Blessings

Robert Licht
Todd Eagle
Henny Rosen
Julie Eagle
Denis Eagle
Shoshanah bat
Chayim Ze'ev v'Anna
Leah
Joseph Lowe
Joy Licht
Beva Lowe
Chanah Sarah bat
Y'hudah v'Sosha
Yochevet

Torah Readers

Gregory Licht
Alex Sachare
Rabbi Jevin Eagle
Jordan Metzger
Alex Sachare
Kim Eagle
Jeffrey Lowe
Samantha Lowe
Madelyn Lowe
Madelyn Lowe
Madelyn Lowe
Kim Eagle and Madelyn Lowe
Kay Eagle
Jack and Ross Eagle
Renee and Paul Gormley
Rochelle and Bernard Henderson
Madelyn and Elijah Lowe
Kim, Ross, and Jack Eagle
Kim Eagle and Family
Bet Torah Friends

Numbers 10: 21-28

Hosafa Numbers 29-31

Acharon Numbers 10: 32-34

Maftir Numbers 10: 32-34

D'Var Torah

Haftarah Reading—Zecharia
2:14 – 4:7

Prayer for Congregation

Prayer for Country

Prayer for Israel

Prayer for Peace

Ashrei

Ein Keloheinu

Aleinu

Adon Olam



The Shabbat Service

Shabbat Shalom! Welcome to Bet Torah! We are delighted that you are joining our community to celebrate the joy of *Shabbat*.

Bet Torah is an egalitarian congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. It is customary that all men and boys wear a *kippah* (skullcap) during services. Head coverings are also appropriate for Jewish women. Men and women who are called to the Torah to read or recite a blessing before and after a Torah reading are also asked to wear a *tallit* (prayer shawl).

To maintain the sanctity of *Shabbat*, we remind you to please mute your microphone except when you have an assigned role during the service or are invited to unmute. Also, please keep distractions to a minimum when your camera is enabled. Photography is prohibited on *Shabbat*.

Two texts are needed to participate in the *Shabbat Service* - a *siddur* (prayer book) and a *Chumash* (Bible). (PDF links may be found on the Bet Torah website alongside the Zoom link to this service.) The *siddur* contains all of the prayers including a full English translation of the Hebrew text. We use *Siddur Lev Shalem* and also call pages for *Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals*. The *Chumash* contains the complete text and translations of the Torah and Haftarah readings.

The *Shabbat* morning service has a definitive order and is divided into three basic sections – *Shacharit* (the morning service), the Torah Service, and *Musaf* (the additional service).

Shacharit - This service includes preliminary prayers and hymns followed by the *Shema* and *Amidah*. The *Shema* expresses our belief in one God and instructs us to love God with all our heart. The *Amidah*, which is Hebrew for “Standing,” is an individual meditation that compels us to remember God and the meaning of *Shabbat*.

Torah Service - The Torah (the Five Books of Moses) is read from a handwritten scroll of parchment, without vowels, punctuation, or musical notation. Its words are chanted to a precise musical cantillation.

One portion of the Torah is read aloud each week to fulfill the commandment to study. At Bet Torah, we follow a modified version of the ancient triennial cycle. Each week we read one-third of the weekly portion so that the scroll is read in its entirety in three years.

The *Haftarah*, a passage from the prophets, follows the Torah readings. This tradition dates back to the time of the Babylonian exile, when Torah study was prohibited. Each *Haftarah* portion was selected for its similarity to a corresponding portion of the Torah, so the Jews were able to study God’s word without breaching civil law.

Musaf - *Musaf*, the third and final portion of the *Shabbat* morning service, is similar in structure to the *Shacharit* service, although shorter. This service parallels the additional sacrifices that were performed to honor *Shabbat* and Holidays at the Temple in Jerusalem until 70 C.E. At Bet Torah, we read the beginning of the *Musaf Amidah* together with the reader and conclude our prayers in silence.



Bet Torah Service Times

Sundays	9:00 am
Weekday Mornings (Monday through Friday)	8:00 am
Weekday Evenings (Monday through Thursday)	7:30pm
Friday Kabbalat Shabbat	6:30 pm
Saturday Morning Shabbat	9:30 am
Saturday Contemplative Afternoon Service	4:00 pm

A contemplative approach to *Mincha* including meditation, chanting, and words of Torah. Check the website for the Zoom link.

Candle Lighting Times

Havdalah Tonight	9:09 pm
Next Friday, June 4th	8:05 pm

Bet Torah's Mission Statement

Bet Torah is a progressive, egalitarian, participatory congregation committed to the principles of Conservative Judaism. Our purpose is to help strengthen the bonds among members of our congregation and God, the Jewish community, Israel, Jewish tradition, and the world in which we live. Wherever each member may be on his or her Jewish journey, he or she will find in Bet Torah a community where everyone can gather for prayer and celebration, learning and teaching, performance of mitzvot, and deeds of caring and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

