



Many thanks to all who have signed up to say *tehillim* for our own **Chaya Rochel bat Sheina Rivka**. Just a few more people are needed to sign up to complete our list of *Sefer Tehillim* to be said for her daily. Please go to <https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=tMJLszITL78Ymj-8tYQleEA>, or email [keyfilla@gmail.com](mailto:keyfilla@gmail.com) to find out which *tehillim* still need to be said. Also, for anyone interested in donating *tzedaka* in her merit, donations to the Teaneck Mikvah would be most appreciated. The Mikvah home page ([www.teaneckmikvah.com](http://www.teaneckmikvah.com)) has a link where you can click to earmark donations for her *refuah sheleima*.

# Congregation Beth Aaron

950 Queen Anne Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 ·

Phone: (201) 836-6210 ·

[www.bethaaron.org](http://www.bethaaron.org) · [bethaaron@optonline.net](mailto:bethaaron@optonline.net)

Laurence Rothwachs, Rabbi  
Larry Shafier, President

# Shabbat Announcements

## Parshat Bamidbar May 15, 2010 2 Sivan 5770

- *Mincha* only: 5:30 P.M.
- *Plag Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 6:25 P.M.
- Earliest Candles: 6:36 P.M.
- Early *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 7:00 P.M.
- Latest Candles: 7:48 P.M.
- *Zman Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat*: 7:50 P.M.
- *Shacharit Hashkama*: 7:30 A.M.
- Rabbi Rothwachs' *Tefillah shiur*: 8:20 A.M.
- Main *Shul*: 8:45 A.M.
- *Sof Zman Kriat Shema*: 9:15 A.M.
- Youth *Minyan*: 9:30 A.M.
- Early *Mincha*: 1:45 P.M.
- *Daf Yomi*: 6:30 P.M.
- Women's Learning Group: 6:40 P.M. We will continue learning *Melachim Aleph*, Chapter 9.
- *Mincha*: 7:40 P.M.
- *Maariv*: 8:48 P.M.
- *Havdalah*: 8:57 P.M.

Schedule for Week of May 16th:	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	16	17	18	19	20	21
<i>Earliest Tallit</i>	4:37	4:36	4:35	4:34	4:33	4:33
<i>Shacharit</i>	6:30	5:40	5:55	4:55	<b>7:00</b>	5:55
	7:15	6:20	6:30	8:45	8:45	6:30
	8:00	7:10	7:15		9:30	7:15
	8:45	8:00	8:00			8:00
<i>Mincha</i>	1:45			1:45	1:45	5:30
<i>Mincha/Maariv</i>	7:55	7:55	7:55	7:55/ 8:40	7:55/ 8:52	6:30
						7:00
<i>Maariv</i> :	9:30	9:30				8:00

### Mazal Tov:

- *Mazal Tov* to Hedda and Michael Reuben on the birth of their grandson Yishai Shalom, born to their children Yair and Feigy Reuben in Otniel, Israel. *Mazal Tov* also to big brother Avinoam, Doda Tehila and Saba Raba, Zaidy Moish.
- *Mazal Tov* to Leon and Judy Miller on the engagement of their son Uri to Rachel Weinrib of Woodmere. *Mazal Tov* also to Rachel's parents, Stanley and Sandra Weinrib.

### Thank you to the following sponsors of this week's Mens Club Multi-Sponsored Kiddush:

- Kal & Barbara Feinberg**, in honor of the birth of their granddaughter Ayelet Neima, born to their children Danny & Sara Feinberg, and in honor of their upcoming 40th anniversary.
- David & Deena Fisher**, in honor of Deena's birthday and Chaim Meir's first birthday.
- Tom & Marsha Friedman**, to commemorate the *yahrtzeit* of Tom's father, Nachman Shimon ben Moshe ha-Levi on 6 of *Sivan*.
- Steven & Judy Gellerstein**, in memory of Steven's grandfather, Max Greschler; Judy's grandmother, Margaret Stern; and Judy's cousins, David and Karen Nimrod.
- Isio & Marcia Jacobovitz**, in honor of Rafael's thirteenth birthday (today!) and upcoming Bar Mitzvah, and Louise's graduation from the University of Pennsylvania.
- Robert & Joy Rosenblatt**, in honor of the 86th birthday of Joy's father, and to commemorate the *yahrtzeit* of Joy's mother.
- Larry & Shifra Shafier**, in honor of Rabbi Larry and Chaviva Rothwachs, Ronnie Schwartz, and Shifra's birthday.
- Moshe, Yosef, Aaron, Lea and Marty Teitelbaum**, in honor of Danielle Teitelbaum's birthday, and in honor of our *Rebbetzin*, one of the things we love about our shul.
- Rinaldo & Esther Toporovsky**, in loving memory of Esther's aunt Margaret, and her uncle and aunts murdered by the Nazis.
- Barry Weissman**, in honor of the birthday of his daughter Lara Weissman.

We are pleased to announce that **Rabbi Menachem Leibtag**, founder of the Tanach Study Center ([www.tanach.org](http://www.tanach.org)) and one of the pioneers of Internet-based Torah Education, will be joining us as a scholar-in-residence for *Shabbat, Parshat Naso*, May 21st-22nd. His weekly essays on *Parshat ha-Shavua*, read by literally thousands of subscribers worldwide, introduce a vibrant analytical approach to thematic study of the *Tanach* and reflect over 25 years of experience as a teacher. The program schedule will be as follows: • **Post-Hashkama Shabbat Morning** (approximately 10:00 A.M.) – "The Day the Mishkan was Assembled, or How and Why the Same Story is Presented Differently in *Shemot, Vayikra* and *Bamidbar*" (location: Feldman home, 119 Cherry Lane) • **Women's Shabbat Afternoon Navi Learning Group** (approximately 5:30-6:45 P.M.) – "*Malkat Shva: The 'Queen of Theme' in Sefer Melachim*" – please bring a *Tanach* (location: main shul) • **Shabbat Afternoon before mincha** (approximately 6:50-7:50 P.M.) – "The Meaning of the Word 'torah' in the Torah" (location: main shul) • **Shabbat Afternoon between mincha and maariv** (approximately 8:15-8:55 P.M.) – "Leaving *Har Sinai: The 'Post-Shavuot Syndrome' in Sefer Bamidbar*" (location: main shul) Everyone is welcome to attend all of the *shiurim*. A sponsorship of any type is a wonderful way to remember a loved one, mark a special occasion or just say "thank you" to the shul. For more information, or to arrange a sponsorship, please contact David Sheffey, [davidsheffey@yahoo.com](mailto:davidsheffey@yahoo.com), or Stephen Knapp, [dukeknapp@aol.com](mailto:dukeknapp@aol.com).

**Miscellaneous Shul Announcements**

An innovative and intensive eight-week **Bar Mitzvah training class** is being held on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 10:00 A.M. at TABC. This seminar affords your son the opportunity to personalize his Bar Mitzvah experience through hands-on learning about (1) *tefillin*, (2) becoming a *chazan*, (3) preparing a Bar Mitzvah speech and project, and more. For more information, contact Rabbi Stephen Knapp, [RabbiKnapp@gmail.com](mailto:RabbiKnapp@gmail.com), (917) 837-2810.

The next **Sisterhood Book Club** selection will be "Dough: A Memoir," by Mort Zachter. The date, place and time of the meeting will be announced. Start reading now! For more information, contact Diane Fogel, (201) 837-0651, [difogel@aol.com](mailto:difogel@aol.com).

The shul's annual **Siyum Mishnayot** is approaching quickly! Just a reminder to all those who signed up to learn for our annual *siyum* -- your learning must be completed by June 12th, *Shabbat Rosh Chodesh Tammuz*. If you are not sure which *mesechta* you chose, please look at the *Chevra Mishnayot* board in the *Beit Midrash* or the *Siyum Mishnayot* link on [www.bethaaron.org](http://www.bethaaron.org), or contact Alden Leifer, (201) 907-0309, [aldenleifer@gmail.com](mailto:aldenleifer@gmail.com).

**Seudah Shlishit sponsors are needed.** As in past years, we are planning a special, gala *seudah shlishit* to mark the wonderful accomplishment of completing all of *mishnayot* as a *kehilla*. Please consider becoming a sponsor for this event. Dedications "in honor" or "in memory" will be accepted. Send checks and sponsorship information to the shul office, or just to [www.bethaaron.org](http://www.bethaaron.org), click on "Pay your bill online," and use the payment category "Other."

**It's not too early to sign up for your favorite mesechta** for 2010-2011! Send your requests to [aldenleifer@gmail.com](mailto:aldenleifer@gmail.com), and please mark the subject line "*Siyum Mishnayot*." Consider including your child(ren) or spouse (or both) as a *chavruta*. Remember that the *Chevra Mishnayot* has a lending library of pocket-sized English *Kahati mishnayot* for your use. All requests are considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

The first Sisterhood **Women's Potluck Seudah Shelishit** of the season will be held on *Shabbat*, May 29th, at 6:00 P.M., at the home of Chaviva Rothwachs, 288 Schley Place. To RSVP, contact Rivka Fink, [rivkafink@optonline.net](mailto:rivkafink@optonline.net), (201), 833-2527, or go to [www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/BASisterhood1](http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/BASisterhood1).

Teaneck's first **centerpiece Gemach** has been established *le-Zecher nishmat* Shoshana Geula bat Yakov ha-Cohen (in memory of Shelley Goldberg). We have beautiful centerpieces for your *simchas*. Proceeds will go to the Beth Aaron Sisterhood.

As we continue to grow, we are accepting donations of centerpieces in excellent condition that you no longer need. We will be glad to pick them up from you. We are also in need of storage space in homes to house the centerpieces. Please contact us if you have some space in your garage or basement.

For more information, contact Rivka Fink, (201) 833-2527, [rivkafink@optonline.net](mailto:rivkafink@optonline.net), or Michelle Cooper, (201) 837-1999, [benandmi@yahoo.com](mailto:benandmi@yahoo.com).

**Beth Aaron Youth:**

- **Shavuot Bee 2010** will take place on Thursday, May 20th, the second day of *Shavuot*, at 6:00 P.M. Children in Kindergarten-5th grade will compete for the *Shavuot Bee* Title. Those in Kindergarten-1st grade will be quizzed on the *brachot* over food. Children in 2nd-3rd grades will be quizzed on *birchot ha-nehenin/brachot* on *mitzvot*, while those in 4th-5th grades will be quizzed on *yediot klaliot*. Study booklets for each group are available on the shul website, [www.bethaaron.org](http://www.bethaaron.org). Snacks will be served, and all participants will receive a prize. The *Shavuot Bee* is sponsored by the Men's Club.

- **Tefillah and Shoko** continues this *Shabbat* morning at 9:15 A.M. (before the start of youth groups). Learn about *tefillah* while enjoying chocolate milk and cookies!

- For more information on youth activities, please contact Erica and Jason David, [bethaaronyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:bethaaronyouth@yahoo.com), (732) 618-9473.

- The **learning group for 3rd grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, May 15th, at 5:00 P.M., at the Bolton home, 606 Wyndham Road. We will continue studying *Sefer Shmuel*. For more information, contact Doug Dubitsky at [douglas\\_dubitsky@glic.com](mailto:douglas_dubitsky@glic.com)

- The **learning group for 4th grade boys** will meet this *Shabbat*, May 15th, 5:15 P.M., at the Friedman home, 11 Edgemont Place. Please bring your own *Mishnah (Masechet Shabbat)*. For more information, contact Rebecca Kurz, [rkurz1@yahoo.com](mailto:rkurz1@yahoo.com), or Esther

**Junior NCSY (grades 6-8):**

- We now have **tie-dyed chapter t-shirts!** They say "Teaneck Titans" on the front and have our logo on the back. If you would like one, e-mail the size you want to Danielle. Each t-shirt costs \$7.

- If you have any questions about our events, please contact Danielle, [bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com](mailto:bethaaronjuniors@gmail.com), (201) 247-7961.

**Beth Aaron Teens (grades 9-12):**

- We hope you can make it for our next **Oneg** on *Shabbat*, May 22nd at 6:00 P.M. in the shul basement.

- On *Motzaei Shabbat*, May 22nd, at 9:45 P.M., we will be going **Mini Golfing** at the Bogota Golf Center, 30 Cross Street, Bogota (for more information and directions, go to [www.bogotagolfcenter.com](http://www.bogotagolfcenter.com)). Each mini-golf game costs \$7. Batting cages are also an option for those not interested in mini-golf. The event will end at 11:00 P.M. It will be an exciting weekend with BA Teens, and we hope you will be there -- with your friends!

- All events are open to all local 9th to 12th graders. We'd love to hear feedback about past events and ideas for future events. We can be contacted at [bethaaronteens@gmail.com](mailto:bethaaronteens@gmail.com), or by calling Shiffy (Staiman) Friedman, (201) 341-6022, or Noam Friedman, (201) 937-6249.

## Community Announcements

**CareOne**, the kosher rehabilitation and nursing center located at 544 Teaneck Road, needs volunteers to help make a *minyan*. This Friday, *Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat* will begin at 7:15 P.M. *Shacharit* will be at 9:00 A.M., followed by a hot *Kiddush*. Youth groups begin at 9:30 A.M. *Mincha* will be at 7:25 P.M., followed by a *shiur* on *Masechet Ketubot* at 7:40 P.M. *Maariv* will be at 8:37 P.M.

On Sunday, May 16th, at 8:30 P.M., **Rabbi Menachem Leibtag**, Rav at Yeshivat Har Etzion, will speak at Congregation Rinat Yisrael on the topic "**Maamad Har Sinai in Sefer Vayikra: The Difference between 'Kadosh' and 'Tahor.'**"

On Sunday, June 13th, at 11:00 A.M., the Hebrew Academy for Special Children (HASC) and Bnot Yeshurun present a concert by **Uncle Moishy** at Congregation Bnai Yeshurun. Tickets are \$12 for a child and \$15 for an adult. Sponsorships are available. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Grant Silverstein, [Grant.Silverstein@hasc.net](mailto:Grant.Silverstein@hasc.net), (718) 686-5920, or [www.hasc.net](http://www.hasc.net).

**May is NNJKIDS Month!** NNJKIDS is kicking off its second year with a community-wide awareness month, encompassing synagogues, day schools and a large network of local businesses. Enroll for a monthly/annual contribution and be eligible to win two tickets to Israel. All new contributions or increases in May will be matched up to \$100,000 – doubling the impact of each dollar contributed! Please demonstrate your commitment to Jewish Education by supporting these programs and subscribing to NNJKIDS. The suggested minimum is simply one dollar per day, or \$30 per month; however, donations at every level are welcome. To sign up, please visit [nnjkids.org](http://nnjkids.org), or call (201) 244-4666. Check donations can be mailed to NNJKIDS, 600 South Prospect Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

**Rebbetzin Sima Spetner**, world-renowned educator and distinguished parenting expert, will be presenting her **Chinuch ha-Banim Seminar** this summer in Bergenfield. The course will be held on the following mornings, from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.: July 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 and 29. Class size will be limited. To obtain an application, or for more information, please contact Rivka Zauderer, (201) 232-2390, [rivkalz@gmail.com](mailto:rivkalz@gmail.com).

The **Jewish Learning Experience** is pleased to announce a **new Sunday morning slower-paced instructional minyan**, which will take place every other week at Beth Aaron at 9:30 A.M., and will be followed by *Torah* learning and a light breakfast. For more information, contact Rabbi David Pietruszka, (201) 966-4498, [rabbip@jle.org](mailto:rabbip@jle.org).

We are pleased to announce that the **Beth Aaron Boys' Choir** is available for shul functions and Beth Aaron Community's *simchas* (except on *Shabbat*). Updates on all activities are on the shul's website in the Youth section. For more information, or to join the choir, contact Benjy Rosenbluth, [bdrosenbluth@yahoo.com](mailto:bdrosenbluth@yahoo.com), (201) 357-5685, or Yehiel Levy, (201) 357-5495, [yehiel@optonline.net](mailto:yehiel@optonline.net).

The students of **The Sinai School** are offering a **free pick-up service of clothing donations** in good condition to community members. A **tevilat keilim** service is also available. All pick-ups are on Thursday evenings. Dishes will be returned within two weeks of pick up. There is a suggested donation of \$2 for *tevilat keilim*. For more information, contact Rochel Weitzman, [Rrodina@sinaischool.org](mailto:Rrodina@sinaischool.org), (646) 701-1255.

### Parasha Questions for Parshat Bamidbar

- (a) Why is *Bamidbar* always read on the *Shabbat* before *Shavuot* (2 reasons)? (b) Why did *Hashem* order a census of *Bnei Yisrael* on *Rosh Chodesh Iyar* (5 reasons)? (c) Since some must have reached age 20 and some must have died between the census after the *cheit ha-eigel* and this one, how could both counts be exactly the same? (2 explanations)? (*Bamidbar* 1:1)
- (a) Why is *Sheivet Efrayim* cited here before *Menashe*, yet, in distributing the land of *Eretz Yisrael* in *Masei* (*Bamidbar* 34:23), *Menashe* is mentioned first? (b) Why were the *levi'im* counted separately from *Bnei Yisrael* (4 reasons)? (*Bamidbar* 1:10,49)
- (a) What determined the color of each *sheivet's degel*? (b) What was the significance of the color of each of the *degalim*: (1) *Reuvein* – red? (2) *Shimon* – green? (3) *Levi* – white, black and red? (4) *Yehuda* – blue (*techeilet*)? (5) *Yisachar* – black? (6) *Zevulun* – white? (7) *Dan* – sapphire? (8) *Gad* – black and white? (9) *Naftali* – reddish-purple? (10) *Asher* – pearl-colored? (11) *Efrayim* and (12) *Menashe* – black? (13) *Binyamin* – the colors of all of the *shevatim*? (*Bamidbar* 2:3-31)
- (a) When listing *Aharon's* descendants, why does the *Torah* say: "These are *Aharon's* and *Moshe's* offspring" (2 reasons)? (b) What were 6 tasks for which the *levi'im*, under the supervision of the *kohanim*, were responsible? (*Bamidbar* 3:1,6)
- (a) Why was *Sheivet Levi's* population less than half of any other *sheivet* (3 reasons)? (b) Why does the *Torah* state the number of *levi'im* as 22,000, when the censuses of *Levi's* sons, *Gershom* (7,500), *Kehat* (8,600) and *Merari* (6,200), totaled 22,300? (*Bamidbar* 3:22,28,34,39)
- (a) When counting the *Kehat* family, *Hashem* included "*kol ha-ba la-tzava*" (all who come to the legion); when counting *Bnei Yisrael*, why does He say "*kol yotzai tzava*" (all who go out to the legion)? (b) (1) When *Bnei Yisrael* traveled in the *midbar*, what 4 objects used in the *Mishkan* did *Elazar* carry? (2) How was he able to carry it all (3 explanations)? (*Bamidbar* 4:3,16)
- In the *haftara*, why does the *Navi* say "*ve-ayrashlich*" ([*Hashem*] will betroth you) 3 times (2 reasons)? (*Hoshea* 2:21-22)

### Parsha answers continued from page 4

- (a) *Hashem* became or will be close to *Bnei Yisrael* after: (1) *galut Mitzrayim*; (2) *galut Bavel*; (3) the current *galut* (*Radak*). (b) He will be close to *Bnei Yisrael*, like a husband and wife; in 3 ways: (1) *kesef* (money) – He gave them extreme wealth after *yetziat Mitzrayim*; (2) *shetar* (contract) – He gave them the *Torah*; and (3) *bi'ah* (intimacy) – love like a spouse (*Ba'al ha-Turim*).  
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## Learning Opportunities

<p>· The <b>Amud Yomi shiur</b> meets week nights at 9:30 P.M. at Rinat Yisrael. For more information, contact Mordechai Ungar, (201) 741-3920.</p> <p><b>Motzaei Shabbat</b> Rabbi Reisman's satellite <i>Navi shiur</i>: 10:30 P.M. at Keter Torah.</p> <p><b>Sunday</b> · On Sunday, May 16, Yeshiva University invites you to its Midreshet Yom Rishon, weekly Sunday morning learning for women. The program which will be held at the Shenk Shul in the Schottenstein Center (on West 185th Street, between Audubon and St. Nicholas Avenues) is open to participants of all ages, backgrounds, and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, Midreshet Yom Rishon will feature Ms Elisheva Levi and Mrs. Rivka Kahan. The first shiur starts at 9:30 A.M.; second shiur starts at 10:30</p>	<p>A.M. For more information or to download <i>mar'ei mekomot</i>, please visit <a href="http://www.midreshetyomrishon.org">www.midreshetyomrishon.org</a> or call (212) 960-0041.</p> <p>On Sunday, May 16, Yeshiva University invites you to its Kollel Yom Rishon, weekly Sunday morning learning for men. The program, which will be held in Furst Hall Room 501 (500 West 185th Street, at the corner of Amsterdam Avenue) is open to participants of all ages, backgrounds, and learning levels. Admission is free, and no registration is required. This week, Kollel Yom Rishon will feature Rabbi Shmuel Schneid, Rabbi Manny Vinas and Rabbi Elchanan Adler. The first shiur starts at 9:30 A.M., second shiur starts at 10:30 A.M. For more information or to download <i>mar'ei mekomot</i>, please visit <a href="http://www.kollelyomrishon.org">www.kollelyomrishon.org</a></p>	<p>or call (212) 960-0041.</p> <p><b>Wednesday</b> · Rabbi Zvi Sobolofsky's Wednesday evening <i>shiur</i> takes place at Bnai Yeshurun at 9:15 P.M.</p> <p><b>Thursday</b> · <b>Rabbi Yissocher Frand's</b> weekly <i>shiur</i> will be broadcast at 9:00 P.M. at Keter Torah. · Each Thursday evening, at 8:30 P.M., at the Yeshiva Gedolah, 1443 Palisade Avenue, <b>Rabbi Roberts</b> gives a <b>Parasha Shiur</b>, followed by <i>maariv</i> at 9:30 P.M.</p> <p><b>Friday</b> · The <b>Bergen County Kollel for Baalei Batim</b> meets on Friday mornings from 8:00 to 9:45 A.M. in the basement of the shul. <i>Shiurim</i> include <i>mussar</i>, <i>gemara</i> and <i>halacha</i>. You can attend one or more of the <i>shiurim</i>. For more information, call Bob Oppenheimer, (201) 280-1780, Hertzal Benji, (201) 261-1453, or David</p>
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Each Tuesday and Thursday morning, **Keter Torah** presents **Torah in the AM**: 9:00 to 9:40 A.M. - *Navi chavura* on Melachim Aleph; 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. - Rabbi Menachem Meier's *Talmud shiur* on *Bava Metzia*, Chapter 5; 10:50 to 11:40 A.M.-Rabbi Meier's *shiur* on Jeremiah (Thursday only); 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon - Rabbi Baum's *shiur* on *Sefer Ezra* (Tuesday only)

### Answers to Parsha Questions:

- (a) (1) *Chazal* ensured that reading the *tochacha* in *Bechukotai* would be separated from the joy of *Shavuo* (*Megilah* 31b). (2) Counting each member of *Bnei Yisrael* in *Bamidbar* showed the importance of each Jew; every Jew must re-accept the *Torah* on each *Shavuo* and learn it to the best of his or her abilities (*M. Feinstein*). (b) (1) One is not considered a permanent resident of a community until he has lived there for 30 days; the *Shechina* arrived on *Rosh Chodesh Nisan* and inaugurated the *Mishkan*, and its residence there became permanent a month later on *Rosh Chodesh Iyar*. The census had to establish the pure descent of *Bnei Yisrael's* families, so the *Shechina* could remain in their midst (*Gur Aryeh*). (2) *Hashem* ordered that *Bnei Yisrael* be given *degalim* (banners), paralleling those of the Heavenly angels; to attain this high level of *kedusha*, the pure origin of each of *Bnei Yisrael* had to be ascertained (*Medrash Tanchuma*). (3) The *Shechina* rests only on a congregation of at least 22,000 Jews; *Moshe* had to show that each *sheivet* had this minimum number for the *Shechina* to rest on them (*Kli Yakar*). (4) *Bnei Yisrael's* entry to *Eretz Yisrael*, before the spies' sin, was scheduled 20 days later, on 20 *Iyar*; *Moshe* had to establish those qualified to enter the army to conquer the land (*Ramban*). (5) By counting *Bnei Yisrael* again, *Hashem* showed His love for each of them (*Rashi*). (c) (1) The census year was reckoned from one *Rosh Hashana* to the next; those who became 20 between *Tishrei* and *Iyar* were not counted in that year's census (*Rashi*). Since *Bnei Yisrael* were constructing the *Mishkan*, all of them were protected from death (*Mizrachi*). (2) The *Tishrei* census included the *levi'im*, but the *Iyar* census did not; the number of *levi'im* excluded in *Iyar* was exactly balanced by the number who became 20 and who had died (*Ramban*).
- (a) In *Mitzrayim*, *Menashe* helped his father *Yosef* sell the grain, while *Efrayim* learned *Torah* with his grandfather *Ya'akov*. Since this *parasha* describes the encampment around the *Mishkan*, *Efrayim* comes first, because his strength was *Torah* and *kedusha*. Since *Menashe's* strength was economic matters, his *sheivet* is mentioned first in the real estate distribution (*Chasam Sofer*). (b) (1) They were counted separately because of their higher level of *kedusha*; (2) *Hashem* foresaw that *Bnei Yisrael* above age 20 would die in the *midbar*; this did not apply to *Sheivet Levi* (*Rashi*). (3) The census' goal was to count the military size of each *sheivet*; since the *levi'im* did not serve in the army, they were counted separately (*ibn Ezra*). (4) Since the *levi'im's* count was from the age of one month, they could not be included with *Bnei Yisrael*, who were counted from age 20 (*Sforno*).
- (a) The color of each *degel* reflected the color of that *sheivet's* gem on the *Kohen Gadol's* breastplate (*Targum Yonatan*). (b) (1) Red represents sin – in the merit of *Reuvein's* *teshuva* for his sin involving *Bilhah*, *Hashem* will take revenge on *Edom*; (2) green represents *Eretz Yisrael* – *Shimon's* capturing *Shechem* began the conquest of *Eretz Yisrael*; (3) white hints at their purity and freedom from sin; black indicates lack of worldly undertakings but immersion in *Torah* study; red evoked the blood of the *korbanot* that the *kohanim* offered; (4) *techeilet* symbolizes royalty; (5) black signifies *Torah* scholarship; (6) white represents their joy and kind motives in conducting business; (7) sapphire refers to *Shimshon*, who was strong and firm like a sapphire; (8) although *Gad* was exposed to constant danger in battle (black), they trusted *Hashem* (white); (9) reddish-purple is the color of wine – since *Torah* is compared to wine, this color represents *Nafatal's* *talmidei chachamim*; (10) pearls represent the beauty of *Asher's* daughters who married kings and *Kohanim Gedolim*; (11–12) black represents devotion to *Hashem*; (13) *Binyamin's* portion included the *Beit ha-Mikdash*, which brought blessings to all of the *shevatim* (*Tiferet Zion*).
- (a) (1) While *Moshe's* sons are not specifically named, they are included in verse 27 under the *levi'im* of the *Kehat* family (*Ramban*). (2) After the *cheit ha-eigel*, "*Hashem* was angry with *Aharon* to annihilate him" (*Devarim* 9:20) – *Rashi* says "annihilate" means to kill all his sons. *Moshe* prayed for *Aharon*, and his prayer was halfway effective, saving 2 of *Aharon's* 4 sons. Since *Moshe* saved them from death, these sons are considered like his offspring (*Ohr ha-Chaim*). (b) (1) In the *midbar*, they transported the *Mishkan* and its components; (2) in the *Mishkan* and *Beit ha-Mikdash*, they sang in a choir while the *kohanim* offered *korbanot*; (3) they opened and closed the gates of the *Beit ha-Mikdash*; (4) they guarded the holy vessels from being touched by *non-kohanim*; (5) they surrounded the *Mishkan* and *Beit ha-Mikdash* as honor guards at night; (6) they served as treasurers and assistant treasurers of the funds of the *Mishkan* and *Beit ha-Mikdash* (*Bamidbar Raba*).
- (a) (1) Many *levi'im* carrying the *aron* were punished with premature death by not honoring it properly; (2) since the *levi'im* were not enslaved in *Mitzrayim*, they did not multiply miraculously (*Shemot* 1:12) like the other *shevatim*; (3) the small number resulted from *Ya'akov's* curse of *Shimon* and *Levi* – *Shimon's* size also decreased in the *midbar*, unlike the sizes of the other *shevatim*, which increased (*Ramban*). (b) Because the *levi'im* replaced the *bechorim* to perform the *avoda* in the *Mishkan*, one of the purposes of the census was to "exchange" each *levi* for a *bechor* of the other *shevatim*. Since 300 *levi'im* were *bechorim*, they were not exchanged for *bechorim* of other *shevatim* and were not counted in the total of *levi'im* (*Bechorot* 5a).
- (a) *Bnei Yisrael's* census counted how many in each *sheivet* were available for the army; in a military camp, several *Torah* prohibitions were relaxed (*Eruvin* 17a-b), and they were allowed "to go out" from *Torah* law. The *levi'im's* census counted how many were available for the *avoda*, which placed more restrictions on them – they "came" to do more *mitzvot* (*Oznayim la-Torah*). (b) (1) *Elazar* carried: (i) oil to light the *menorah*; (ii) the supply of *ketoret* (incense); (iii) flour for the daily *korbanot*; and (iv) *shemen ha-mishcha*. (2) He was able to carry all this: (i) because he was extremely strong, like *Moshe* and *Aharon*; (ii) through a miracle; or (iii) he was responsible for these items being carried; others actually carried them for him (*Ramban*).