

# Stollen Moments Schedule – Summer 2024

**Stollen Moments is not led by the rabbi in June, July and August. This is a chance for everyone to learn from each other free from the artificial expectation that “the expert” has the answers. Below are some suggestions for participants to consider each week. Have fun!**

## **June 1 – Parashat Bechukotai**

Read: Leviticus 26:3-25

Discuss: What do I believe about reward and punishment as described in these verses? Do I see evidence to prove or disprove? Do I need evidence for belief?

## **June 8 – Parashat Bamidbar**

Read: Numbers 1:1-19

Discuss: This is a census by tribe and household. How much of our identity and destiny is determined by the people/tribe/clan/family into which we are born? How much do we determine for ourselves? What benefits have I derived, and what obstacles have I had to overcome, from my “census category” as described in this text?

## **June 15 – Parashat Nasso**

Read: Numbers 6:1-21

Discuss: These are the descriptions of the Nazirite vows. What do we make of people who choose to accept additional restrictions beyond what is expected of the rest of the community? Are such people to be commended or condemned? Is it zealotry to do more and apostasy to do less, or do these categories not mean what we assume?

## **June 22 – Parashat Beha'alotecha – Stollen Moments will NOT meet this week.**

There will be a special Brunch and Learn in celebration of Rabbi Komerofsky's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. RSVP at [www.templeisraelcanton.org/25th](http://www.templeisraelcanton.org/25th) or by calling the Temple office.

## **June 29 – Parashat Sh'lach**

Read: Numbers 13:21-14:7

Discuss: This is the story of the account of the scouts who were sent to bring back reports on the Land of Israel. Ten of the reports were negative and two were positive. What lessons can we take from the values presented here of pessimism and optimism, realism and idealism, discouragement and encouragement?

**July 6 – Parashat Korach – Stollen Moments will NOT meet this week.**

**July 13 – Parashat Chukat**

Read: Numbers 20:1-13

Discuss: Here we learn of the death of Miriam and then the incident with the rock at Meribah. Moses and Aaron mourn their sister and the people will not relent with their complaints. They are thirsty and impatient, and the brothers mirror their impatience. Is the punishment that Moses receives appropriate for what he did? When we read the story in its context, what can we learn about Moses' leadership and the expectations of the people versus the expectations of God?

**July 20 – Parashat Balak**

Read: Numbers 24:1-13

Discuss: Balak was a king of Moab (one of Israel's antagonists) and Balam was a non-Israelite prophet (his name means "not of the people") hired by Balak to curse Israel. What do you make of the prominence of these two characters in the Hebrew Bible? How much of our understanding of the Jewish people's story is determined by others, "not of the people," who come to harm or help us?

**July 27 – Parashat Pinchas**

Read: Numbers 27:1-11

Discuss: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah were five sisters who pleaded their case to inherit their father's property. Read their story and consider the context of the Ancient Near East and what innovation this Israelite law determined by Moses offered. How might have Moses further promoted their cause than he did?

**August 3 – Parashat Matot-Masei**

Read: Numbers 32:1-33

Discuss: Here we read of tribes that wished to remain east of the Jordan River after the Israelites reconquered Canaan. What analogies can we draw to the contemporary concerns about the Land of Israel by Jews who live outside of the State of Israel? What kind of interdependence and mutual aid do we think is appropriate in our context? Are Jews in the Diaspora to be "shock troops" for Jews in the State of Israel?

**August 10 – Parashat Devarim**

Read: Deuteronomy 1:1-21

Discuss: This begins the retelling of the story of Israel's journey in the wilderness after the escape from Egypt. What do we make of these particular highlights? What themes emerge from Moses' remembrances and teachings listed here?

**August 17 – Parashat Vaetchanan**

Read: Deuteronomy 4:41-5:18

Discuss: These verses begin with the cities of refuge and conclude with another version of the Ten Commandments (the other being at Exodus 20). In considering the world envisioned through the “Big Ten,” what place does the idea of cities of refuge take in that world? What ties together the commandments listed here as an ideal vision of society?

**August 24 – Parashat Eikev**

Read: Deuteronomy 8:1-20

Discuss: What value is there in recalling suffering and the indirect path from Egypt to the Promised Land? In thinking about our own journeys, what role does pain and anguish play in forming us into who we are meant to become? Is growth and transformation possible without some hardship? Consider the history (and present) of the Jewish people as a universal model for resilience and overcoming adversity in this light.

**August 31 – Parashat Re’eh – Stollen Moments will NOT meet this week.**