

Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Shemot

January 18 | 18 Tevet 5785

Havdalah: 5:44 pm



Welcome to Beth Jacob Congregation, a Jewish community that comes together to nurture relationships with God and each other. We are a Conservative synagogue that values Torah (study), Avodah (reverential service) and Gemilut Hasadim (acts of loving-kindness). We believe every person has an equal opportunity to be part of our community regardless of age, race, ability, special needs, financial status, sexual orientation or gender identity. We're glad you've joined us this Shabbat!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Shabbat services this week.

Gabbaim:

Bernie Miller, Stuart Kaufman,
Barb Curchack

Kitchen Crew

Mashgiach Mike Keller
Kim Aaron-Lehman

Torah Reading

First / Kohen Aliyah
Second / Levi Aliyah
Third / Shelishi Aliyah
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah
Maftir
Haftarah

Greeters & Security

Andrew Cholakian, Jessica
Nordell, Rachel Lewine,
Mindy Ratner, Mitch Multer,
Lydia Schultz

Daveners

Giulia Girgenti

Exodus 1:1-17 p. 317
Exodus 1:19-2:10 p. 320
Exodus 2:11-25 p. 323
Exodus 3:1-15 p. 326
Exodus 3:16-4:17 p. 331
Exodus 4:18-31 p. 335
Exodus 5:1-6:1 p. 338
Exodus 5:22-6:1 p. 340
Isaiah 27:6-28:13: 29:22-23 p. 343

Acting Senior Rabbi:

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm
RabbiTamar@Beth-Jacob.org

Director of Congregational Learning:

Rabbi Justin Held
RabbiJustinHeld@Beth-Jacob.org

Executive Director:

Sonya Rapport
Sonya@Beth-Jacob.org

Director of Congregational Programming:

Frances Fischer
Frances@Beth-Jacob.org

Interim Youth and Education Coordinator

Marisa Goffman
Youth@Beth-Jacob.org

Co-Presidents:

Leonard Oppenheimer & Tessa Silver
President@Beth-Jacob.org

Rabbi Emeritus:

Rabbi Morris Allen

Thank you to
Rabbi Justin Held
for sharing words of Torah today.

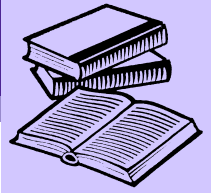
Our services depend on the participation of our community members. We welcome diverse voices and talents to lead our community in prayer and to read Torah. Please use this QR code, or sign up at Beth-Jacob.org/DavenOrTorah.



This week's kiddush is co-sponsored by members of
Rabbi Tamar's Thursday morning Dirshuni class--in appreciation of our learning together,
AND

Co-sponsored by Laura & Brian Millberg in celebration of Laura's 70th birthday!
AND

Co-sponsored by Linda and Robert Birnbaum in celebration of many family birthdays this month.



Stop Making Excuses and Step Up to the Plate

Moses' excuses at the Burning Bush parallel three great human fears.

by Rabbi Michelle Missagieh

Excuses often roll off the tip of our tongue. We're too tired, frazzled, insecure, unsure, overwhelmed or distracted. Showing up emotionally and physically when we are called upon counts for a lot. Which is why it's intriguing that Moses and God have such an intense connection at the Burning Bush, and then when God asks for Moses' help in freeing the Israelites from slavery, the last thing Moses wants to do is show up and help God.

Moses comes up with three excuses that parallel three great human fears. It takes a lot of convincing on God's part to put Moses at ease, build his confidence and get him on board.

God begins God's request with clear directions: Gather the Israelite leaders and tell them that the God of Israel has heard their cries, has taken note of their sufferings and will free them from Egypt by bringing them to a land of milk and honey. God assures Moses that the people will listen to him, that God will smote the Egyptians with a mighty hand (read: plagues) and that after working for hundreds of years as slaves, the Israelites will leave with silver, gold and clothing (Exodus 3:16-22).

Sounds convincing, but Moses is not persuaded. His first rebuttal: "They won't believe me, and they won't listen to me." (Exodus 4:1). Not to worry. God has some magic tricks up God's sleeve. God teaches Moses to transform a rod into a snake, how to turn his healthy hand into one with a scaly affliction and how to turn the water of the Nile into blood. And still, Moses isn't convinced. He's worried: No one will hear me, they won't get me, and they won't take me seriously. This is our first greatest fear: That those we deeply love and care about won't ever really get us.

Then Moses comes up with his second excuse: "Please, my Lord, I have never been good with words... not in the past and also not now... I'm slow of speech and tongue." (Exodus 4:10) For a second time, God has an answer for his legitimate insecurity: "Yes, I know that. I, God, am the one who gives humans the ability to speak. I will be with you, and you will speak as I instruct you to do so." (Exodus 4:11-12)

This is our second greatest fear: I don't have the skills to make a difference in the world. God keeps pushing Moses, and Moses keeps pushing back. Moses comes up with his third and final excuse: "Make someone else your agent," essentially, I'm not taking the job! (Exodus 4:13) At this point God loses God's cool. The Torah says God gets angry and responds with a third solution: Moses' brother Aaron will be his spokesman and his right-hand man. Then once again God calms down to reassure Moses that God will be with the two brothers and guide both of them as they work in partnership with God to free the Israelite people.

What Moses is really expressing is our third deep fear: When put to the test, I don't think I can actually do what others want of me, I'm scared I won't fulfill my destiny in life, be the person I'm meant to be, change for the better, or even live up to even my own hopes and dreams for myself.

Torah Commentary

CONT.

The Jewish theologian Martin Buber recounts the famous story of the Hasidic Rabbi Zusya, of the late 1700s, who before his death said, “In the coming world, they will not ask me: ‘Why were you not Moses?’ They will ask me: ‘Why were you not Zusya?’”

All Moses needed to do was be Moses. All each of us need to do is be the best person we can be, responding to the challenges around us and the unique qualities we are gifted. It’s about showing up and hearing the call.

Moses’ reluctance and excuses challenge us to think about what each of us is called to do in our intimate relationships, in our friendships and with our family members. They challenge us to question when we make excuses, how much we speak and if and when we lead or follow.

Like Moses, we, too, worry that those we deeply love and care about won’t ever really get us, that we aren’t good enough or are lacking in some way, or that we won’t be able to fulfill our unique destiny in life. We relate to Moses’ pain. We may have even peered down his path. This week’s portion calls each of us to metaphorically hold Moses’ hand – and the hand of every fellow human being – as he and they and we try to conquer our great fears.

Inclusivity and Accessibility During Services

We recognize the variety of needs within our community and strive to provide access to all through physical, emotional, and/or sensory accommodations. The majority of our prayers and scripture readings are conducted in Hebrew, so we invite those who do not read Hebrew to use a copy of the transliterated prayerbook (siddur) found on the table near the entrance to the sanctuary. We have large print books, braille prayerbooks, and listening devices available on the bookshelf in the lobby. There is also a sensory-friendly room just off the sanctuary with a speaker and window from which services can be experienced. Please ask the greeter near the sanctuary door if you need help locating any of these. Please reach out to our office if there are needs that aren’t being met.

Children are Welcome in our Sanctuary!



We encourage children's participation in services and love having them in our sanctuary. Older children are encouraged to lead parts of the service and/or read Torah once able to do so. Younger children are invited to carry crowns during the Torah service and are also invited to the bimah for Adon Olam each week. At the end of services they can visit the rabbi's magic tallis bag to receive a lollipop or mini bubbles. Parents, please let Rabbi Tamar know if you do not want your child to receive one of these items.



TODAY at Beth Jacob

For the Jew in the Pew

Join Rabbi Liberman for learning in the Saide Chapel at 9:15 am today.

Limudim: Our Learning Community

There is no Limudim children's program today.

Yahrzeit List for Week Beginning January 18, 2025 / 18 Tevet 5785

The seventh aliyah is reserved for those observing yahrzeits during the coming week. If you are observing a yahrzeit this week, please come forward at the seventh aliyah and give your Hebrew name to the gabbai who will call you to the Torah. Masks are required on the bimah during the Torah service. If you do not have one, please get one from the basket by the greeter.

If you are coming up for the 7th aliyah, please give your full Hebrew name to the gabbi who will call you to the Torah. Your full Hebrew name includes your name and then ben/bat/mibeit and your parents name or Avraham and Sarah. Say your name loudly and clearly, so that the gabbai can hear it.

January 18/18 Tevet

Ethel Baldinger
Sam Cukier
Jeffrey Finsky
Annette Morrison
Louis Rosen
Hilda Shaller
Daniel Spector
Dora Pinkus Staub
Ann Weiner
Etta Wolfson

January 19/19 Tevet

Stanley Bulonas
Mariam Conner
Sidney Feldman
Isadore Lieberman
Jordan Litman
Helen Lohman
Irvin Isaac Longman
Reuben Parritz
Max Schatz
Bessie Silberstein
Libby Sweet
Frank Wieting
Lee Winer

January 20/20 Tevet

Ida Berkovitz
Michael Dorfsman
Anna Dubinsky
Sol Dvorkin
Morris Snyder
Tilford Strand
Louis Wolfe

January 21/21 Tevet

Hyman Ackerman
Lydia Adler
Chayim Ben-Yehudah
Millicent K. Blumberg
Edward Eisenstein
Herbert Farber
Amanda Ginsburg
Mavis Glaser
Yale Golden
Harry Heiligman
Florence Levy
Mollie Marsh
Sonia Olshansky
William (Bill) Rosenbloom
Katie Sanders
Edith Schoenkin
Joseph Silverstein
Mickey Smith
Dora Steinman

January 22/22 Tevet

Ralph Auerbach
Samuel Kamesar
Martin Kushner
Rebecca Langer
Israel Levine
Wendy Jo Lovelace
Morris Mesnik
Adele Oglansky
Nathan H. Solnick
Sidney Sweet
Philip Frank Wieting
Louis Yamron

January 23/23 Tevet

Max Arbitman
Norman Bernick
Sharon Catcher
Sami Greenfeld
Judy Ann Lonning
Freida Lechtman Lustman
Stanley Rosen
Hyman Sankary
Jennie Silberstein
Ettie Starisna

January 24/24 Tevet

Annie Arbitman Allen
Dorys Weisbaum Berg
Naftali Bogen
Miryam Bogen
Echiel Cohen
Bette Frank
Rebecca Gleeman
Shemaia Gueron
Mildred Karter
Libby Lazarus
Carole Levine
Frank Matras
Joe Shanas
Jeanette Silverstein
Myrna Strand

