

Shabbat Shalom

Parashat Bo

February 1 | 3 Shevat 5785
Havdalah: 6:03 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:

Eric Pasternack, Brian Millberg, Jonathan Ehrlich

Greeters & Security

Carol Altshuler, Bruce Kessler, Keven Fischer, Laura Honan, Marguerite Krause

Kitchen Crew

Mashgiach: Mark Usem
Mike Meirovitz

Daveners

Emery Sher

Torah Reading

First / Kohen Aliyah	Exodus 10:1-11	p. 374	Elaine DuFresne
Second / Levi Aliyah	Exodus 10:12-23	p. 376	Rav Shosh Dworsky
Third / Shelishi Aliyah	Exodus 10:24-11:3	p. 377	Miriam Krause/Nina Samuels
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah	Exodus 11:4-12:20	p. 379	Aaron Silver
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah	Exodus 12:21-28	p. 385	Hannah Hofrichter
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah	Exodus 12:29-51	p. 387	Giulia Girgenti
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah	Exodus 13:1-16	p. 391	Sara Lynn Newberger
Maftir	Exodus 13:14-16	p. 393	Sara Lynn Newberger
Haftarah	Jeremiah 46:13-28	p. 395	Razele Hofrichter

Acting Senior Rabbi:

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

Director of Congregational Learning:

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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 Tamar Magill-Grimm
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 unsponsored and supported by donations made to the Kiddush Fund. Thank you to everyone that has donated to the fund to make this kiddush possible. If you would like to help offset costs of kiddush, please consider making a donation to the Kiddush Fund to allow Beth Jacob's kiddush tradition to continue - Beth-Jacob.org/Kiddush



The Mark Of Liberation: First Steps

Marking their doorposts with blood, the Israelites took the first step toward redemption, that of naming themselves as oppressed and determined to break free.

By Rabbi Toba Spitzer

In his commentary on the first words in the book of Genesis, the medieval commentator Rashi asks a somewhat unusual question: Why does the Torah begin with the creation of the world? Why not begin in Parashat Bo? There, the Israelites are given the first of many mitzvot (commandments) to observe: namely, the commandment to sanctify the new moon of Nissan, and to declare it the first month of the year, in honor of the Israelites' departure from Egypt.

Rashi's question assumes that the Torah is fundamentally a book of law, and so should begin with the giving of laws. While the story of the world might begin in the first chapter of Genesis, the birth story of the Israelites as a free people in covenant with its God occurs here in Parashat Bo.

This Israelite creation story entails a new arrangement of time. "And God spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Mitzrayim (Egypt), saying: This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you" (Ex. 12:1-2). In this new arrangement of time, the "first month" is the one in which the redemptive moment of liberation from slavery and degradation occurs. It is as if time itself is beginning anew.

This sacred beginning is marked in a particularly powerful way. On the evening of the 14th day of this first month, each Israelite household slaughters a lamb, paints the doorposts of the house with its blood, and eats the lamb in a ritual manner, roasted in fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. This is the first Passover ritual, the prelude to the exodus from Egypt—a nighttime meal eaten in trepidation, as all around the Israelite houses the Egyptian first born are struck down by the angel of death.

In Jewish sacred memory, we are instructed always to remember that our birth story is a story of liberation. As Moses tells the people, as soon as they have left Egypt: "Remember this day, when you went out of Mitzrayim, from the house of slaves, for with a strong arm God brought you out from this place" (Exodus 13:3). We must remember that we were slaves, and that we were born into freedom by the Godly power of redemption.

Up to this point in the Exodus story, the Israelites have been essentially passive characters in the unfolding drama of their redemption. Marking their doors with lamb's blood is the first thing that the people of Israel are asked to do for themselves. This act thus becomes their first step towards freedom.

Torah Commentary

CONT.

God has told them: “I will go through the land of Mitzrayim on that night, and I will strike down all the Egyptian first-born. And the blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and I will see the blood and I will pass over you, and there will be no plague against you...” (Exodus 12:12-13).

As Rashi points out, this instruction seems rather strange. Does God, the All-Seeing One, need blood on a doorpost to know who is Israelite and who Egyptian? Rather, Rashi notes, verse 13 says that “the blood will be a sign for you.”

In order to take a step toward becoming a free people, the Israelites had to mark themselves. An essential first step on any journey towards liberation is a willingness to identify oneself: to step up, to speak out, to mark oneself simultaneously as oppressed and as ready to break the bonds of oppression.

By painting their doorways, the Israelites were both claiming their identity and at the same time making public their rebellion. They willingly risked the possibility that nothing would happen that fateful night, that their Egyptian oppressors might not be killed and would rise the next morning to see the signs of a slave revolt, with the doors of each participant blatantly marked. They marked themselves as slaves, and they marked themselves as free.

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

Limudim children's program begins at 9:30 today.



French Table at Kiddush

Every first Shabbat of the month, French speakers will meet during kiddush to speak in the "language of Molière." Si vous voulez parler en français, rejoignez-vous à la table française!

Post Kiddush Learning

The Story of the Romaniote Jews of Ionnina (Yannina)

In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day,

John Ostfield will lead a post-kiddush discussion about the story of a Ramoniote (Greek) community from Ionnina. The Jews of Ionnina were deported to Auschwitz in March 1944.

John recently produced a film called Lost Yannina which will be released later this year.

Yahrzeit List for Week Beginning February 1, 2025 / 3 Shevat 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.

February 1/3 Shevat

Bernard Altshuler
Douglas Arnold
David Burstein
Richard Cohen
Terri Fingerholz
Sarah Gorin
Sondra Groll
David Kuretsky
Mary Marrison
Eileen Osterbauer
Ida Sussman
Betty Sweet

February 2/4 Shevat

Diane Abrams
Elliott Farber
Ida Kardonsky
Jack Kelly
Esther Knight
David Francis Lawler
Margaret Ann Schnittker
Peter Segal
Samuel Steiger
Bess Swiler
Isak Zetlin

February 3/5 Shevat

Igor Blyakher
Celia Demoss
Jerome Morris
Oscar Moskowitz
Sol Rolnitzky
Ruth Sanders
Vita Sevak
Harry Shaller
Sam Weirnerman

February 4/6 Shevat

Leon Birnberg
Nathan Bomberg
Sadie Cohen
Henry Feinwachs
Daniel Friend
Lee Gilats
Harry Goldenberg
Eve Katz
Benjamin Kozberg

February 4/6 Shevat, cont.

Enid Larson Griffin
Ida Libman
Zelda Melemed
Albert B. Miller
Sarah Nitzberg
Ellen Sanders
Beverly Schmuckler
Sarah Siegel
Sylvia Sloane
Stella Rose Smith
Nathan Waldman
Boris Wolfson

February 5/7 Shevat

Stuart Grant
Etta Reva Greenberg
Rhoda Levine
Lena Meltzer
Isadore Riback
Renee Singer
Martin Snyder

February 6/8 Shevat

Lillian Chinitz
Otto Dreyer
Catherine Galloway
Addie Gendler
Addie Hoff
Rochelle Kleinbaum
Edith Levy
Jess Liberman
Phillip Robinson
Leonard Schloff
Gertrude Shohet
Morris Steinman
Isaac Stern

February 7/9 Shevat

Zevi Gersh
Joseph Goldman
David Hirth
William Mark
William Mayberg

