



# THIS WEEK AT TEMPLE ISRAEL

January 16 to January 22 20 Tevet to 26 Tevet

Parsha of the Week: Shemote (Exodus 1:1-6:1)

Parsha Highlights: After fully settling in the land of Egypt, the Israelites, following the deaths of the “settler generation” of Joseph and his brothers, begin to multiply, stoking the fears of the native Egyptians. After a “new king” takes the throne—either Ramses II or his son, Merneptah, according to some historians (or, perhaps, the female queen, Hatshepsut?), he/she enslaves the Hebrews, and promulgates the decree that all boy Israelite babies are to be thrown into the Nile to drown. The two midwives, Shifra and Puah, refuse to follow this ghastly order. Moses is born, and his mother, Yocheved, saves his life by placing him into a reed basket and floating him down the Nile; his sister, Miriam, follows him to learn his fate. Pharaoh’s daughter, the Princess of Egypt, finds and adopts the baby. Grown into a man, Moses leaves the palace one day, finds an Egyptian taskmaster beating a Hebrew slave, and murders him. Fearful of being turned in, Moses flees to Midian, marries Zipporah bat Yitro, and has the vision of the Burning Bush, wherein G-d commands him to return to Egypt.

Kudos to the Midwives

By Rabbi David Mark

As a young boy attending Hebrew Day School, I was taught that the two courageous midwives, Shifra and Puah, were none other than Moses’s mother and sister, Yocheved and Miriam. This was in keeping with Rashi’s teaching, since Rashi was considered gospel truth (to coin a phrase) in all Orthodox yeshivot. It makes for a fascinating story, to “recycle” Moses’s family and cast them into such heroic roles, but I hardly think it necessary, today. After all, Shifra and Puah were necessary actresses in the Divine Plan to free the Israelites from Egypt—they risked their lives to rescue the Jewish boy babies who, otherwise, would have been consigned, by Pharaonic decree, to a watery death in the Nile.

Yocheved and Miriam, on the other hand, were dynamic by taking the destiny of baby Moses and saving his life by placing him in the reed basket (not unlike a god-figure in Egyptian mythology, who is saved the same way), and making certain that he is safely adopted by a powerful princess who can protect him as he grows up in the very palace of the Israelites’ arch-enemy. Indeed, the Exodus story is full of remarkable heroines who should be held up as individual female role models for our young Jewish women today, not telescoped into impossible Rashi-creations.

## Friday, January 16

Preschool 9:00 am  
Dinner 6:00 pm  
Lay Led Service 7:30 pm  
Candle Lighting: 4:16 pm

## Saturday, January 17

Lay Led Shabbat Service 9:30 am  
Sundown: 4:36 pm  
Shabbat Ends: 5:21 pm

## Sunday, January 18

NO HEBREW SCHOOL

## Monday, January 19

Preschool 9:00 am  
OFFICE CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY  
Adult Ed Class 6:30 pm

## Tuesday, January 20

Book Club 10:30 am

## Wednesday, January 21

Hebrew School 3:45 pm

## Thursday, January 22

### Weekly Services

Wednesdays at 5:15pm when Hebrew School is in session.

### Yahrzeits

*We recall with affection those who no longer walk this earth, grateful to G-d for the gift of their lives.*

<b>January 16</b>	Abraham Lampert, Arnold Katz
<b>January 17</b>	Allen Levenson, Arthur Reinhart, George Sherman
<b>January 18</b>	Harry Levin
<b>January 19</b>	
<b>January 20</b>	
<b>January 21</b>	Ida Shapiro, Ruth Sussman
<b>January 22</b>	Betty Prietz, Tillie Leader

### INFORMATION

**NO SCHOOL THIS SUNDAY:** Classes resume January 21.

**MAZEL TOV TO:** Bernard & Jeannette Goodman on the birth of their great grandson.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh 1/25 at 4:00 pm; Sunday Morning Cultural Series 2/1 at 11:00 am. A flyer will be mailed out with the details of this program. The Stem Cell Research program that was canceled due to weather, will be rescheduled, watch for details.

**OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO:** Sheldon & Elaine Krasker and family on the loss of their beloved daughter Kathy Ramras.