

Va'era

In this week's Torah Portion, *Va'era*, God and Moses are having a conversation. God explains that God appears differently to different people.

Then Moses says to God, "Well, people can't understand me because "I am a man of impeded speech."

This is true. Peoples' views on how people see God are different from each other. What Moses is saying to God is similar in a way. We view God like people view one another. People may picture God as a human like a she or he. Or maybe some see God as the "Wind" helping us along, like a piece of paper floating in the wind.

We all have different strengths and gifts to offer each other. Like Moses we don't always see that in ourselves.

Initially, I joined Bet Shalom to connect to my Jewish roots and continue my heritage. I didn't really know what I could offer, until people started to accept me as a human being.

I joined Bet Shalom because I could go to services at the High Holidays; like Moses I was a member of the tribe and I also didn't think I had anything to offer.

As soon as people saw that I was a person like them I felt more confident and I wanted people to see what I had to offer.

If we had a similar conversation with God as Moses did, what would God say to us? I made you for a reason. I think God made me like this so I could teach people how to come together and work together and how to see that we're all made the same way.

Why do you think God made you the way you are? If you feel like sharing this question with us and if you are comfortable, please feel free or you may just want to think about it!

D'var, Va'era - Given by Sharon Palay, a Board Member, Thursday January 15, 2015