



September 5, 2020

טז אלול אב תש"פ

Parashat Ki Tavo - Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8 כי תבוא
 Stone – p 1068 Hertz – p 859 Etz Hayim – p 1140

Haftarah – Isaiah 60:1-22 ישעיהו
Sixth Week of Consolation
 Stone – p 1201 Hertz – p 874 Etz Hayim – p 1161

Talmud Class—cancelled
Minchah – cancelled
Seudah Sh'lishit—cancelled
Shabbat Ends – 8:09 PM

DAILY SERVICE TIMES—until further notice
 Sunday—8:30 AM
 Tuesday—6:30 PM
 Thursday—7:00 AM
 Shabbat—9:30 AM

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

Rabbi Seth D Gordon – Rabbi.Gordon@yahoo.com

Rabbi Ephraim Zimand z"l, Emeritus

Marian S. Gordon, Executive Director – tradcong@sbcglobal.net

DAILY SERVICE TIMES—until further notice

Sunday—8:30 AM

Tuesday—6:30 PM

Thursday—7:00 AM

Shabbat—9:30 AM

Board of Directors:

Elaine Farkas, President

Paul Tesser, Executive Vice President

Ellis Frohman, Financial Vice President

Marty Levy, Ritual Vice President

Florence Schachter, Education Vice President

Chris Brown, Membership Vice President

Steven Puro, Administration Vice President

Steve Roufa, Building & Grounds Vice President

Dina Rinder, Youth Vice President

Lori Tesser, Treasurer

Mimi Levy, Secretary

Past Presidents

Jerry Chervitz, Alan Rosenberg, Phil Brick, Boaz Roth, Cyndee Levy, Kenneth Bohm

Members at Large:

Steve Bell

Stanley Estrin

Shelah Feldman

Bill Gold

Gary Golden

Ari Levy

Carol Max

Justin Zeid

*Traditional Congregation welcomes new members. If someone you know
would like to receive membership information, please contact
Chris Brown, Membership VP, at 636-288-5356*

On This Week's Torah Portion – Ki Tavo

In two weeks, we will begin to celebrate the high holidays. In Hebrew, these days are called *Yamim Nora'im* – *Days of Awe*. They are auspicious, and they are momentous. It's no wonder, then, that one of the most popular songs on those days is a song "*Hayom*" – Today! Today! Today! At first glance, it makes sense to single out our days of awe, our days of judgment.

The Biblical equivalent of the *hayom* song is the book of Deuteronomy. The word *hayom* meaning "today" is used constantly throughout the book of Deuteronomy. It occurs 13 times in this week's Torah portion alone:

1. And you shall go to the Kohen that exist in those days and say to him, "I have told the LORD your God today that I have come to the land that the LORD promised to our ancestors to give to us. (26:3)
2. Today the LORD your God commands you to fulfill all these statutes and all these laws, and you shall keep and do them with all your heart and all your soul. (26:16)
3. You have declared the LORD today to be your God, to follow His path and keep his statutes, commandments, and laws, and to hearken to His voice (26:17).
4. And God has declared you today to be for Him a treasure nation, as He has told you – and [for you] to keep His commandments. (26:18)
5. And Moses and the elders of Israel commanded the nation saying: Keep all the commandments which I command you today. (27:1)
6. And it shall be when you cross the Jordan, you shall erect these stones which I command you today upon Mount Eval, and plaster them with plaster (27:4)
7. And Moses and the priests the Levites spoke to all of Israel saying: 'Be silent and listen, today you become a nation for the LORD your God.' (27:9)
8. And you shall listen to the LORD your God and do all of His commandments and statutes, which I command you today. (27:10)
9. And it shall be if you listen to the voice of the LORD your God, to faithfully follow all the commandments which I command you today, then the LORD your God will place you on top of all the nations of the land. (28:1)
10. And the LORD will make you as a head and not a tail, and you will be above, and you will not be below, if you listen to all the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today to faithfully follow. (28:13)
11. You shall not stray from all the words which I command you today [neither] right nor left, to follow after other gods or to worship them. (28:14)
12. It shall be if you do not listen to the voice of the LORD your God, to faithfully follow all of His commandments and statutes which I command you today, then will come all these curses and [will] catch you. (28:15)
13. The LORD your God did not give you a heart to understand, eyes to see, or ears to hear until today. (29:3)

In fact, the word *hayom* meaning "today" occurs more in the book of Deuteronomy (70) than it does in the other four books of the Five Books of Moses combined (37)! The thirteen occurrences in this week's Torah portion is more times than in the books of Exodus (12), Leviticus (3) or Numbers (1). So why is it that the book of Deuteronomy creates this litany – *hayom... hayom... hayom... – today . . . today . . . today?*

Two commentaries that come from Rashi on this week's reading may be enlightening. When Deuteronomy 26:16 says "This day, the Lord your God commands you," Rashi comments
"This day . . . [means] every day it should be in your eyes as if you were just commanded regarding them."

And when Deut 27:9 says "*today you became a nation*" Rashi opines
"Every day should be in your eyes as if you entered a covenant with God."

I think Rashi's "read" is a very poignant understanding of the litany of the word חַיִּים Deuteronomy. After all, Deuteronomy is essentially the farewell address(es) of Moses. And like most, he is concerned that, as time passes, the memory of him, and the memory of the Jewish experience in the wilderness, will fade. People will forget the closeness of God in the wilderness – the revelation at Sinai, the manna from heaven, etc. Moses, as understood by Rashi, reminds us: Treat every day as a new day filled with God's commandments, and with the closeness of the Jews' relationship with God.

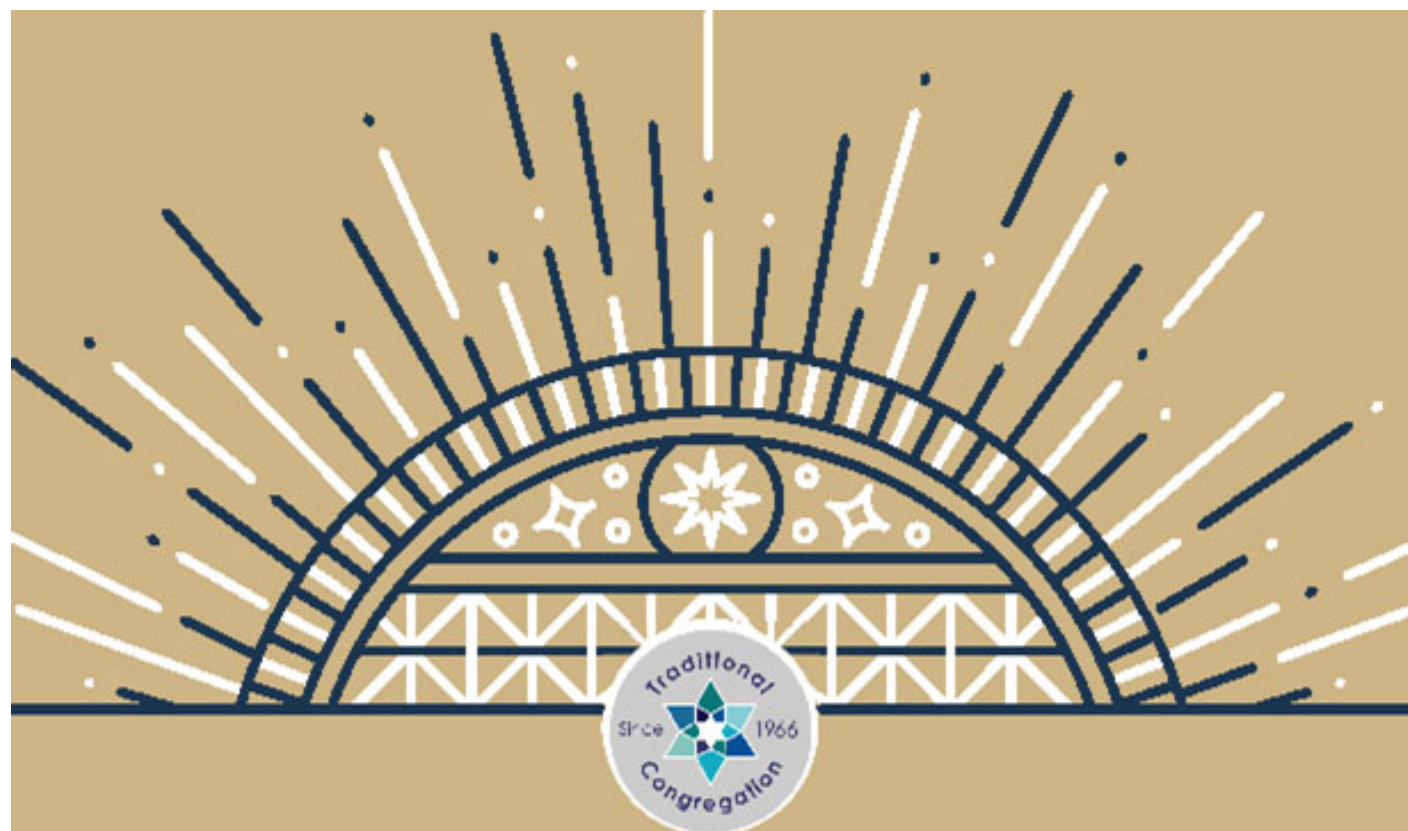
The message goes further: We need to see every day as an opportunity. We should always say "*hayom – Today is the day!*" There is no need to wait for Yom Kippur. *Hayom!* Should you start at Rosh Hashanah? No! Today! And though we will start saying *selichot* next Saturday night, the time to begin repentance is . . . Today! It's time to step things up. To do more. To do better. It is time to learn a little bit more Torah. To do more *mitzvot*. It is time to do one more act of charity. *Hayom! Hayom! Hayom!*

It's time for us to tell God that we can't wait! We are ready to step closer to God today! *Hayom te'amsenu* – Strengthen us today to study Your Torah! *Hayom tevar'chenu* – Bless us today with the opportunity, ability and desire to do Mitzvot. *Hayom t'kabel berachamim uv'ratson et tefillatenu* – Today, accept with mercy and willingness our prayers so that we may be worthy of many more tomorrows!

Shabbat Shalom!

Rabbi Noah Gradofsky

Rabbi Gradofsky, an active member of the UTJ Board, served as a full-time rabbi at Temple Israel in Long Beach, NY, for 6 years and has since served a number of synagogues on a contract basis. He is also a full-time practicing attorney.



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
REGISTERED FOR OUR
HIGH HOLYDAY SERVICES!**

**BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR EMAIL
AS PERSONALIZED INFORMATION
WILL BE SENT TO YOU SOON!**

L'shanah Tovah



Mirowitz VIRTUAL STEAM Studio

Little superheroes (ages 4-5) are invited to join us **online** for a morning of hands-on discovery integrating science, technology, engineering, art and math.

**Sun.
Sept. 13
9 to 9:45 a.m.**



SAUL **MIROWITZ**
JEWISH
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

PJ Library

This event is free
but space is limited.

Free superhero cape to the first 30 to RSVP!

RSVP to receive the zoom link
and STEAM Studio supplies!

RSVP to www.mirowitz.org/events

Join Rabbi Gordon on Zoom!
Something for everyone!



Mondays, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

The history of the Jewish people. Newcomers are welcome to join us!

[Register here](#)

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

A look at the weekly Parashah from both traditional rabbinic and midrashic points of view as well as modern historians.

Although we would love you to join us for all classes, you can join the lesson for that week's reading. Recommended: the New JPS translation, but feel free to use any translation.

[Register here](#)



The 613 Mitzvot

Thursdays, 12 - 1:00 PM. Bring your lunch!

More than a "good deed," mitzvah in a deeper and truer sense means, literally, command.

Teachings from Sefer ha-Chinuch will be provided; this work numbers the mitzvot as they appear in the Torah, adding rabbinic teachings and the author's own insights. Recommended:

Have a translation of the Torah with you.

[Register here](#)

Fridays, 6:30 - 7:00 PM.

Abbreviated services (including L'cha Dodi; though not Shabbat evening services) and the singing of Zemirot. Benefits include spiritual ones as we enter Shabbat, congregational togetherness before Shabbat, and learning about what we are singing.

[Register here](#)



**VIRTUAL LEARNING
WITH
RABBI GORDON**



PRAYER

Have many among us brought to God our most treasured possessions, the first fruits of our labor?

Having brought them to God, have we acknowledged that we were once wanderers and slaves, and that only through His help have we come to a good land?

Having acknowledged that He brought us to this estate, do we remember that His constant care is like the rain that falls and the grain that grows?

Have we understood that the strength of God is His mercy, that His mighty hand is outstretched to us only when we reach toward Him?

We pray to learn anew these lessons of our teacher, Moses: to bring to God the offering of first fruits,

To acknowledge in humility our dependence upon Him, to share our joy with the lonely and the depressed, with the stranger as well as the friend,

To rejoice in all the good which God has given us, to come gladly to the house of God

To give thanks for the wonders of His universe, that sustain us every moment of our lives.

Ruth Brín

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Learn from the mistakes of others.
You can't live long enough to make them all yourself

Eleanor Roosevelt