



April 22, 2017

כו ניסן תשע"ז

Parashat Shmini - Leviticus 9:1—11:47 שמיני

Stone – p 588 Hertz – p 443 Etz Hayim – p 630

Haftarah – II Samuel 6:1-7:17

Stone – p 1168 Hertz – p 454 Etz Hayim – p 645

Kiddush following services

Talmud Class—6:00 PM

Minchah – 7:15 PM

Seudah Sh'lishit

Shabbat Ends – 8:25 PM

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

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

Rabbi Ephraim Zimand, Emeritus – ravzim@yahoo.com

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

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Shabbat—9:00 AM & 7:15 PM

Sunday—9:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday—7:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday & Friday—7:00 AM

Board of Directors:

Kenneth H. Bohm, President

Steve Bell, Executive Vice President

Ellis Frohman, Financial Vice President

Marty Levy, Ritual Vice President

Florence Schachter, Education Vice President

Elaine Farkas, Membership Vice President

(Open) Administrative Vice President

Steve Roufa, Building & Grounds Vice President

Chris Brown, Fundraising Vice President

Lori Tesser, Treasurer

Mimi Levy, Secretary

Christy Brick, Sisterhood Representative

Members at Large:

Sid Bennett

Bill Gold

Tobie Hupert

Ari Levy

Carol Max

Steven Puro

Dina Rinder

Iris Salsman

Jerry Tullman

Mark Weinstein

Justin Zeid

Traditional Congregation welcomes new members. If someone you know would like to receive membership information, please contact Membership VP Elaine Farkas at 954-558-1159.

On This Week's Torah Portion—Shemini

This parsha contains foundational elements for the emerging Jewish people. In this parsha the priesthood was initiated. Aaron and his sons begin to officiate, the Kohanim in the Sanctuary. The community presents itself before G-d. (Lev 9:5). In the building of the Sanctuary, G-d is enhancing the covenant with the Jewish people. Samson R. Hirsch argues this activity introduces the thought that there is "One sole G-d, to Whom each and every one of us, every single member of the community, stands in the same relation." (Pentateuch, p.406). Does this new relationship establish the basis for a Jewish national identity?

Another important element of the building of the permanent Tabernacle and appointment of Aaron as the Kohen Gadol is that it moved the Jewish people away from the sin of the Golden Calf. Rashi argues that the Almighty chose a young bull for Aaron's sin offering. Aaron's offering this animal showed that he would be forgiven for his role in the sin of the Golden Calf. Consider whether the Jewish people could become a spiritual nation without replacing the sin of the Golden Calf. The permanent Tabernacle was a means to elevate individuals towards the Almighty. Rabbi H. Novak indicates that by "building a Sanctuary the Jewish people provided a place for the Almighty to dwell within them." The Rabbis explain "within them" means within the hearts of every Jew.

The Jewish people are given laws that can distinguish them from other Middle Eastern societies. The Jewish people are commanded to differentiate between what is pure and impure, and how the people can become holy by following the Almighty's commands. The Almighty said to Aaron:

And that you differentiate between the holy and the profane, and between the impure and the pure. And that you instruct the children of Israel all the statutes which G-d has spoken to them and by the hand of Moses.

Examples of ritual purity given in this parsha are the mikvah and kosher laws. The kosher laws are given as a means to distinguish between pure and impure animals, fish and birds. What animals could be eaten? The land animals may be eaten only if they have split hooves and chew their cud, fish must have fins and scales; and a list of non-kosher birds is given. The parsha designates some species of kosher insects. What are your thoughts about the argument that the mikvah is an outside immersion/cleansing of the body, and kashrut is an inside immersion/cleansing of the body?

Perhaps the Almighty's instructions about these new practices, such as the service in a permanent Tabernacle and kosher rules, expand personal and ritual limits of the Jewish people. These practices give them opportunities to grow and learn to become a spiritual nation.

Shabbat shalom,
Steven Puro and Leah Puro Borden

*"Letters to Frieda:
Reading Between the Lines of the Holocaust"*

A Knosh & Knowledge Program

Sunday, April 30, 2017



Michele Willner Levy is the keeper of her family's history. As an adult, she discovered a series of letters written to her mother from her grandparents, that brought the atrocities of the Nazis and their aftermath into crystal-clear focus. Initially one of the Holocaust's youngest survivors, Levy is now among its last. Her story is also a cautionary tale of what humankind is capable of doing during its darkest hours. It's a timeless message that still resonates today.

Michele is the mother of our board member, Ari Levy; she will share her documentary video, "Letters to Frieda," and take audience questions.

Brunch begins at 9:45 AM followed by the program at 10:45. Suggested donation is \$6; please RSVP to tradcong@sbcglobal.net or 314-576-5230.



FLORENCE GAPONOFF

MOTHER'S DAY

MITZVAH PROJECT

May 7, 2017

10:00 AM—1:00 PM

For more than 25 years, Traditional Congregation has assembled Mother's Day gift bags for women in shelters. This year, we are aiming to complete **350 gift bags** filled with toiletries, personal care items, cosmetics, etc. Women, men and children are invited to join us in our Social Hall from **10:00 AM - 1:00 PM** to help together put the bags.

If you have items to donate, they can be brought in right up to May 7

(although earlier is preferred so the items can be sorted).

On behalf of all the women who will be nurtured by these gifts—

Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 23 St. Louis Community Yom Hashoah Commemoration. 4:00 PM at B'nai Amoona Congregation.

Monday, April 24 Yom HaShoah

Wednesday, April 26 "Voices from the Holocaust: Remembering the Children of Terezin and the Lives Destroyed in Dachau," a stirring and sensitive musical performance. Sponsored in part by the UMSL Jewish Student Association and the St Louis Holocaust Museum & Learning Center. University of Missouri-St Louis Music Bldg, 7930 Natural Bridge Rd, Music Hall 205. 4:00 PM, free and open to the public. For more information: 314-516-5265.

Sunday, April 30 **Knosh & Knowledge Program: "Letters to Frieda: Reading Between the Lines of the Holocaust"** Michele Willner Levy is the keeper of her family's history. As an adult, she discovered a series of letters written to her mother from her grandparents; letters that brought the atrocities of the Nazis and their aftermath into crystal-clear focus. Initially one of the Holocaust's youngest survivors, Levy is now among its last. She is a vital, living link to that period in time. Her story is also a cautionary tale of what humankind is capable of doing during its darkest hours. It's a timeless message that still resonates today. Michele is the mother of our board member, Ari Levy, and we are delighted that she is bringing her story to us. Brunch begins at 9:45 AM, followed by the program at 10:45. Suggested donation is \$6, **please RSVP to tradcong@sbcglobal.net or 314-576-5230.**

Sunday, April 30 "The BDS Movement: What's wrong in the battle for rights?" Special Teen Workshop with Zeev Ben-Shachar, Senior Israel Educator at Jerusalem U., who develops programs to connect over 16,000 North American high school students, college students and adults with Israeli history and society. This session will use the BDS campaign as an instructive case study for understanding the threats on college campuses, and look at relevant responses for countering them. 1pm – 3pm, Jewish Federation, 12 Millstone Campus Dr. RSVP to Cyndee Levy, Director, Center for Jewish Learning, Clevy@JFedSTL.org, 314-442-3754

Monday, May 1 Yom HaZikaron

Tuesday, May 2 Yom HaAtzma'ut

Sunday, May 7 **Florence Gaponoff Mother's Day Gift Bag Assembly Day.** Calling all volunteers—women, men and children—to put together our Mother's Day gift bags for women in shelters. 10:00 AM—1:00 PM in the Social Hall.

Sunday, May 14 La Ba'omer

Shabbat, May 20 **Graduation Shabbat.** Join us to celebrate the class of 2017 graduating from high school, college and grad school. Parents, if your child is graduating and you've not yet sent us their information, please send it to Marian at tradcong@sbcglobal.net ASAP.

Visit our **NEW** website www.traditional-congregation.org



***First Fridays and Schmooze & Games are on hiatus.
Info will be posted on our website when they return!***

PRAYER

Of all good gifts that the Lord lets fall,

Is not silence the best of all?

The deep, sweet hush when the song is closed,

And every sound but a voiceless ghost;

And every sigh, as we listening leant,

A breathless quiet of vast content?

The laughs we laughed have a purer ring

With but their memory echoing;

So of all good gifts that the Lord lets fall,

Is not silence the best of all?

James Whitcomb Riley

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said.

Peter F. Drucker