



June 2, 2018

יט סיון תשע"ח

***Parashat B-ha'alotcha*** – Numbers 8:1-12:16 בהעלותך  
Stone – p 774      Hertz – p 605      Etz Hayim – p 816

***Haftarah*** – Zechariah 2:14-4:7 זכריה ב:יד – ד:ז  
Stone – p 1182      Hertz – p 620      Etz Hayim – p 837

*Mazal Tov* to our Graduates!

Kiddush luncheon is sponsored by  
the families of our graduates

***Talmud Class***—6:30 PM

***Minchah*** – 7:45 PM

***Seudah Sh'lishit*** is sponsored by Fred & Lili Chait  
in memory of Fred's mother, Lillie Chait

***Shabbat Ends*** – 9:01 PM

## **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**

Friday—7:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Shabbat—9:00 AM & 7:45 PM

Sunday—8:30 AM

Monday, 6/4 —7:00 AM & 6:30 PM    Tuesday—Thursday 7:00 AM & **6:45 PM**

### **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

### **Past Presidents**

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

### **Members at Large:**

Sid Bennett

Shelah Feldman

Bill Gold

Ari Levy

Carol Max

Steven Puro

Dina Rinder

Iris Salsman

Jerry Tullman

Jeff Weisman

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—Behalotechah

In this week's parsha Moshe reaches his lowest ebb. Not surprisingly. After all that had happened – the miracles, the exodus, the division of the sea, food from heaven, water from a rock, the revelation at Sinai and the covenant that went with it – the people, yet again, were complaining about the food. And *not because they were hungry*; merely because they were bored. “If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt for free—and the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.” As for the miraculous “bread from heaven,” although it sustained them it had ceased to satisfy them: “Now our appetite is gone; there's nothing to look at but this manna!”

Any leader might despair. What is striking is the depth of Moses' despair, the candour with which he expresses it, and the blazing honesty of the Torah in telling us this story. This is what he says to God:

“Why have You brought this trouble on Your servant? What have I done to displease You that You put the burden of all these people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do You tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land You promised on oath to their ancestors? ... If this is how You are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favour in Your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin.”

Every leader, perhaps every human being, at some time in their lives faces failure, defeat and the looming abyss of despair. What is fascinating is God's response. He does not tell Moses “Cheer up; pull yourself together; you are bigger than this.” Instead He gives him something practical to do: “Gather for Me seventy of the elders of Israel ... I will take some of the spirit that is on you and put it on them; and they shall bear the burden of the people along with you so that you will not bear it all by yourself.”

It is as if God were saying to Moses, “Remember what your father-in-law Jethro told you. Do not try to lead alone. Do not try to live alone. Even you, the greatest of the prophets, are still human, and humans are social animals. Enlist others. Choose associates. End your isolation. Have friends.”

At the moment of Moses' maximum emotional vulnerability, *God Himself speaks to Moses as a friend*. This is fundamental to Judaism as a whole. For us God is not (merely) Creator of the universe, Lord of history, Sovereign, Lawgiver and Redeemer, the God of capital-letter nouns. He is also close, tender, loving: “He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds” (Ps. 147:3). He is like a parent: “As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you” (Is. 66:13). He is like a shepherd; “Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil for You are with me” (Ps. 23:4). He is always there: “God is close to all who call on Him – to all who call on Him in truth” (Ps. 145:18).

Jews discovered long ago that God is not just a supreme power. He is also a friend. That is what Moses discovered in this week's parsha.

Friends matter. They shape our lives. Not only does having friends matter; so too does having the right ones. If your friends are slim, active, happy and have healthy habits, the likelihood is that so will you, and the same is true of the reverse. Another study, in 2000, showed that if at college, you have a roommate who works hard at his or her studies, the probability is that you will work harder. A Princeton study in 2006 showed that if one of your siblings has a child, you are 15% more likely to do so within the next two years. Habits are contagious. They spread through social networks. Even your friends' friends and their friends can still have an influence on your behaviour.

Our sages pointed out that the key figures in the Korach rebellion were encamped near one another. From this they concluded, “Woe to the wicked and woe to his neighbour.” In the opposite direction, the tribes of Yehudah, Issachar and Zevulun were encamped near Moses and Aaron, and they became distinguished for their expertise in Torah. Hence, “Happy the righteous and happy his neighbour.” Hence Maimonides' axiom:

It is natural to be influenced in character and conduct by your friends and associates, and to follow the fashions of your fellow citizens. Therefore one ought to ensure that your friends are virtuous and that you frequent the company of the wise so that you learn from the way they live, and that you keep a distance from bad company. Or, as the sages put it more briefly: “Make for yourself a mentor and acquire for yourself a friend.”

In the end that is what God did for Moses, and it ended his depression. He told him to gather around him seventy elders who would bear the burden of leadership with him. There was nothing they could do that Moses could not: he did not need their practical or spiritual help. But they did alleviate his isolation. They shared his spirit. They gave him the gift of friendship. We all need it. We are social animals. “It is not good to be alone.”

It is part of the intellectual history of the West and the fact that from quite early on, Christianity became more Hellenistic than Hebraic, that people came to think that the main purpose of religion is to convey information (about the origin of the universe, miracles, life after death, and so on). Hence the conflict between religion and science, revelation and reason, faith and demonstration. These are false dichotomies.

Judaism has foundational beliefs, to be sure, but it is fundamentally about something else altogether. For us, *faith is the redemption of solitude*. It is about relationships – between us and God, us and our family, us and our neighbours, us and our people, us and humankind. Judaism is not about the lonely soul. It is about the bonds that bind us to one another and to the Author of all. It is, in the highest sense, about friendship.

Hence the life changing idea: we tend to become what our friends are. So choose as friends people who are what you aspire to be.

***Shabbat shalom.***  
**Rabbi Jonathan Sacks**

## THE CLASS OF 2018

**Tahlia Altgold**, granddaughter of Bill & Nanci Gold, graduated from Niles North High School in Skokie, IL. She will attend Carnegie-Mellon University, majoring in Biomedical and Chemical Engineering

**Aryeh Berman**, grandson of Hal & Ellen Rosen, graduated from Yeshiva University High School in New York. He will do a gap year in Israel at Yeshiva Sha'alvim, and then attend Yeshiva University Honors College.

**Gavriel Boniuk**, grandson of Isabel Boniuk, graduated from Queens College in New York with a BA in Psychology. He will continue to study psychology at Queens College Graduate School.

**Yoseph Boniuk**, grandson of Isabel Boniuk, received a BA from Yeshiva University and will pursue a master's degree at City College of Architecture in New York.

**Aaron Levy**, son of Ken & Cyndee Levy, graduated from Bradley University in Peoria with a degree in Hospitality Management.

**Adina Levy**, daughter of Ken & Cyndee Levy, graduated from Parkway Central High School and will attend the University of Kansas.

**Claire Lisker**, daughter of Mauricio & Marcia Lisker, graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, with a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics and a minor in Political Science. She was awarded the Goldstone Prize for Best Senior Honors Thesis. Claire will be working as a Paralegal at the New York County District Attorney's Office.

**Sam Max**, grandson of Carol Max, received a BS in Pre-Med from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands. He will attend medical school at Magdalen College in Oxford, England.

**Daniel Rinder**, son of Morty & Dina Rinder, graduated from John Burroughs High School and will attend Washington University Engineering School.

**Madison Rinder**, daughter of Morty & Dina Rinder, graduated from Northwestern University, majoring in Middle East and North African studies with a minor in business. She is living happily in Washington DC and working at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

**Sarah Sanders**, granddaughter of Ellis Frohman, received a Master's in Communications from Lindenwood University, and is employed by the MICDS School System.

**Matthew Schlueter**, grandson of Marty & Linda Bell, graduated from Lafayette High School.

**Adi Spiegelman**, granddaughter of Isabel Boniuk, completed her Sherut Leumi service working with handicapped adults, and will attend Ariel University's Nursing School.

**Akiva Spiegelman**, grandson of Isabel Boniuk, received a BA in Advertising & Politics from Ono College in Israel. He will continue his studies in Communications & Political Science at Bar Ilan University.

**Naama Spiegelman Wapner**, granddaughter of Isabel Boniuk, received her BSC in Nursing from Hadassah Hospital.



## Memorial Service for Rabbi Ephraim Zimand z"l

Celebrate the life and legacy of  
Rabbi Zimand z"l

Monday, June 4, 2018

*Minchah*@6:30 PM

Memorial Service @7:00 PM

Traditional Congregation Sanctuary

The letters 'BBQ' are rendered in a stylized, bubbly font with a red-to-orange gradient and a flame effect at the top of each letter.

## Annual BBQ and Congregational Meeting



Join us on Thursday, June 14 at 5:30 PM for a pre-  
meeting BBQ—burgers, dogs and all the fixings!

(veggie option available)

\$15/person—paid RSVPs by June 7.

Minchah/Arvit 6:30 PM

Annual Meeting to vote on our Board of Directors

follows at 7:30 PM.

Your vote is important!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 3      **Shedding Light on Alzheimer's: A Jewish Perspective**, 9:15 AM—12:45 PM, Shaare Emeth. For caregivers and families facing Alzheimer's disease, memory loss or dementia. Register at 800-272-3900 or [www.alz.org/greatermissouri](http://www.alz.org/greatermissouri). Volunteers are needed to help as workshop room assistants, parking, registration, greeters, and vendor assistants. If you can help, please contact Barbara Bianco at [barbarabianco314@gmail.com](mailto:barbarabianco314@gmail.com) or 314-727-2399.

Sunday, June 3      **Soffball Game** vs UH Krushers, 1:00 PM, JCC Field #2. Come out and support the team.

Sunday, June 3      **Volunteers needed to set up chairs** for Memorial Service for Rabbi Zimand z"l. **2:30 PM**, the more people we have, the faster it will go.

Monday, June 4      **Memorial Service for Rabbi Ephraim Zimand z"l**. 7:00 PM following *minchah* at 6:30 PM. Join us to celebrate the life and legacy of Rabbi Zimand.

Beginning Tuesday, June 5      **Evening minyanim** Monday—Thursday changes to **6:45 PM** through July.

*Shabbat*, June 9      **Desserts sponsored by Mel & Louise Saltzman** in honor of their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Thursday, June 14      **Annual Congregation Meeting and BBQ**. Enjoy good ole' STL BBQ beginning at 5:30, then come show your support and vote for our Board of Directors at our Annual Meeting at 7:30. BBQ is \$15/person, paid **RSVPs by 6/7** please, 314-576-5230 or [tradcong@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tradcong@sbcglobal.net)

*Shabbat*, June 23      **Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Marvin & Muriel Beckerman** in honor of their birthdays and 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary.

*Shabbat*, June 30      **Kiddush luncheon sponsored by the children and grandchildren of Joe & Florence Schachter** in honor of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Please support our Capital Campaign!!** Have you ordered your brick pavers yet?? **Introductory prices expire on June 15**—don't be left out, send in your orders! Please give generously and help us pave the way to our future!!

**We're looking for...YOU**—to sponsor a Kiddush! Call Marian, 314-576-5230 to reserve your date. Not ready to sponsor but would like to contribute to offset our Kiddush costs? It's easy to do—you can mail your donation to Traditional (note: Kiddush Fund in memo) or donate online at <https://www.traditional-congregation.org/donate> and select Kiddush Fund Donation. Thank you!



Visit our website [www.traditional-congregation.org](http://www.traditional-congregation.org)

## PRAYER

O God, our Parent, forgive us that we so often  
give our best to the wrong things.

*Sometimes we put far more enthusiasm and thought and effort  
into our pleasures and our games and our amusement  
than we do into our work.*

Sometimes we keep our best behavior for strangers  
and our worst behavior for our own homes;

*And often we treat our nearest and dearest with a  
discourtesy and disregard we would never show to strangers.*

Sometimes we get irritated and annoyed and angry about things  
which in our calmer moments we know do not matter.

*Sometimes we lose our temper in an argument about trifles.*

Sometimes we allow very little things  
to cause a quarrel with a friend.

*Help us to see what is important and what is unimportant, so that we  
may never forget the things that matter, and so that we may never  
allow the things which do not matter to matter too much.*

*William Barclay (adapted)*

## THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't  
change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.

*Maya Angelou*