



September 16, 2017

כה אלול תשע"ז

Parashat Nitzavim-Vayeilech - Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30

(נִצְבִּים – וַיָּלֹךְ)

Stone – p 1086 Hertz – p 878 Etz Hayim – p 1165

Haftarah – Isaiah 61:10-63:9

Seventh Week of Consolation

Stone – p 1202 Hertz – p 883 Etz Hayim – p 1180

We Celebrate the *Bar Mitzvah* of

Stephen Rosenberg

Kiddush luncheon is sponsored by:

Anat Reschke & Brad Fink

Alan & Donna Rosenberg

Frieda Reschke

in honor of Stephen becoming a *bar mitzvah*

Talmud Class—5:15 PM

Minchah – 6:30 PM

Seudah Sh'lshit

Shabbat Ends – 7:52 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 & 6:30 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

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Tobie Hupert

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—Nitzavim-Vayelech

For this commandment that I command you today, it is not hidden from you and it is not distant. It is not in the heavens, to say, "Who can ascend to the heavens for us and take it for us, and let us hear it, so that we can perform it?" Nor is it across the sea, to say, "Who can cross to the other side of the sea for us and take it for us, and let us hear it, that we can perform it?" Rather the matter is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to perform it. (30:11-14)

Earlier, verse 11 states, "it is not distant," rather than "it is not distant from you." We would have thus expected our verse (14) to have said only "rather, the matter is very near," instead of "very near to you." But verse 11 referred to spatial distance, as is clear from the following verse, "It is not in the heavens." The phrase "to you" of our verse indicates that "near" is not meant here in a spatial sense. Rather, "near" in our verse means that the Torah can be internalized. By means of study of the Written and Oral Torah, it is "in your mouth and your heart." (Artscroll comment to Rashi on v. 14)

Knowledge is structured in consciousness, where all the laws of nature reside. (Rg Veda)

As I wrote in a previous edition, our verse "Rather the matter is very near to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to perform it," is often understood that in some magical way, whatever we feel to do is correct. This idea is used to justify any and all deviation from normative Jewish practice on the basis of "if it feels good, do it." I doubt this was Moshe Rabbeinu's intent when he spoke these words. But what did he really mean?

Let me start with a bit of physics. Physics tells us that life is structured in layers. The obvious physical layer is underlain by the molecular layer, the atomic layer, the subatomic layer etc. Each of these layers has its specific laws of nature. We believe that underlying all of material creation is one Unified Field, which has different modes of vibration. All the subatomic particles of nature and all their interactions are nothing other than different vibrations of this one, underlying field. Thus, all macroscopic objects are great symphonies of vibration of the Unified Field – every particle in every object is one "tone," and all the tones combine together to create the beautiful world.

If our beliefs pan out, the Unified Field would encompass all the laws of nature at all the expressed levels. We could, in principle at least, derive all the laws of nature on the surface from the laws governing the internal dynamics of the Unified Field.

In a similar way, we find that consciousness is structured in layers. We are generally aware of thoughts on the surface layer, but we also experience sometimes that we are able to think on quieter, more subtle levels as well. This often happens when we wake up refreshed after a good night's sleep. We also experience that when we can think on these subtler levels, our thoughts are more powerful and produce better results. When we are more tired, we are unable to project our thoughts from these subtler levels, and the thoughts that we have seem to be muddled, distorted, and don't seem to receive as much support from the environment.

We know that the objective, physical world, and our subjective, inner world interact with one another. We have an intention (subjective) and that somehow gets translated into nerve impulses and muscle movements – we act (objective). Physical stimuli (objective) impinge on our sense organs, producing electrical signals in our brains that are somehow interpreted as perceptions (subjective).

The history of physics has shown that when two phenomena interact, they are actually two different aspects of one, underlying phenomenon. I believe that we can say the same for the entire subjective and objective realms – they are two aspects of one underlying wholeness, and they have a parallel, layered structure. And just as underlying the physical world is a single, unified field, so many traditions tell us that underlying our entire subjective life is a field of unity that expresses itself as the diversity of our subjective experience.

I will extend this similarity here by positing that just as the Unified Field of physics is the home, or source, of all the laws of physical nature, so the field of unity that underlies our subjective life is the home, or source, of all the laws of nature that govern subjective life, including the moral laws. If we can station our awareness at this level, then our thoughts will be projected in a way that is consonant with all the laws of (subjective) nature.

I think this is the underlying meaning of Moshe Rabbeinu's statement that Torah is not somewhere else, but rather it is in us. It is deep within us, at the level of our unbounded, eternal soul. At the deepest level of our personality is an unbounded, unified field – our Sages call it "a piece of the Divine from Above." By analogy with the Unified Field of physics, it is the home of all the laws of nature that govern human life. In this sense, Torah is not distant from us; it is structured in the deepest level of our existence.

Where I think people go wrong is in assuming that we automatically have *access* to this level – that we can think and act spontaneously in accordance with natural law. This is obviously not true, as a casual glance around at the state of the world will bear out. What is required is that we find a way to turn inward and bring our awareness into contact with this Unified Field. When that happens, living a life in accord with natural law will indeed be "in our mouth and in our heart."

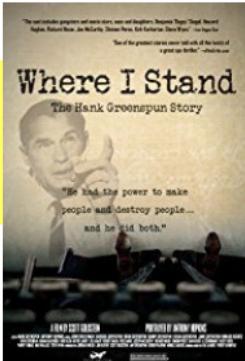
Shabbat Shalom!
Rafi Rabinoff

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!!

See our website for more info,
traditional-congregation.org

Selichot 5778: A Time for Reflection

Motzei Shabbat, September 16	8:15 PM
8:15 PM	Socializing & Refreshments
8:30 PM	"Where I Stand: The Hank Greenspun Story"
10:15 PM	Film discussion
10:45 PM	Selichot Service



Convicted gun runner, Las Vegas visionary, crusading newspaper publisher, target of the Watergate burglars, hero of Israel's War of Independence...these are only some of the highlights of Hank Greenspun's remarkable life. From his early days working for Bugsy Siegel and his secret life in the underground Haganah to his public battles with Senator Joseph McCarthy, bigoted casino owners and the IRS, Hank Greenspun was fearless. Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres called Greenspun "a hero of our country and a fighter for freedom."

Join us for this previously untold story of a genuine hero.

GRILL & CHILL IN THE SUKKAH!

Sunday, October 8
5:00 PM
\$20.00/person

Join us for great BBQ and a relaxing time in our beautiful sukkah.

RSVP by 10/2:
tradcong@sbcglobal.net or
314-576-5230.

Please mail payment to:

Traditional Congregation
12437 Ladue Road
St Louis MO 63141
www.traditional-congregation.org
314-576-5230
tradcong@sbcglobal.net



St Louis Community Israel Bonds Program

hosted by Traditional Congregation
Sunday, October 29, 2017 11:00 AM*
Clayton Plaza Hotel 7750 Carondelet Avenue

Guests of Honor
Rabbi Mike & Selina Rovinsky



Guest Speaker
Ari Zoldan
CEO, Quantum Networks

Sumptuous VAAD-supervised Hot & Cold Buffet
Couvert \$55/person (not tax-deductible)

Register online at www.traditional-congregation.org
or send payment of \$55/person by 10/16 to
Traditional Congregation
12437 Ladue Rd, St Louis MO 63141
314-576-5230



*Registration opens at 10:15 AM
The purchase of an Israel Bond is encouraged
This is the only Israel Bonds program in Missouri -
thank you for your support!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Motzei Shabbat, Sept. 16

Selichot Program & Services. Enter the new year by seeing and discussing the film "Where I Stand: The Hank Greenspun Story." He was a convicted gun runner, Las Vegas visionary, newspaper publisher, target of the Watergate burglars, and a hero of Israel's War of Independence—among other remarkable things. Join us at 8:15 PM for refreshments, the movie and discussion at 8:30, and Selichot services at 10:45 PM.

Sunday, September 17

Volunteers needed to set up our sanctuary and social hall for the High Holydays. 10:15 AM following minyan. **Volunteers also needed** to begin constructing our sukkah. 10:15 AM following minyan.

Reminder **Please be considerate** of those with fragrance allergies when you come for services, particularly on the High Holydays. Shpritz lightly or not at all! Thank you.

ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, Sept 20

Minchah/Arvit 6:30 PM Candle lighting 6:44 PM

Thursday, Sept 21

Shacharit 8:00 AM; Torah Reading 9:30 AM
Rabbi's Message/Shofar 10:00 AM
Musaf/Youth Services/Discussion Group 11:15 AM
Light festive kiddush following services, please join us!
Minchah & Tashlich 6:35 PM
Candle lighting after 7:44 PM

Friday, Sept 22

Shacharit 8:00 AM; Torah Reading 9:30 AM
Rabbi's Message/Shofar 10:00 AM
Musaf/Youth Services/Discussion Group 11:15 AM
Light festive kiddush following services, please join us!
Minchah/Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 PM
Candle lighting 6:40 PM

Please join us following services on both days of Rosh HaShanah for a sweet kiddush sponsored by Morty & Dina Rinder. Mingle with old friends, and introduce yourselves to new ones!

Shabbat, September 23
Ken's 75th birthday

Kiddush luncheon is sponsored by Ken & Ann Bohm in honor of

Sunday, September 24

Fast of Gedaliah

Please bring bags filled with food for the Jewish Food Pantry when you come for Kol Nidrei, which starts at **6:25 PM sharp** on Friday, September 29.

Sunday, October 8

"Grill & Chill in the Sukkah!" Join us for great BBQ and a relaxing time with friends in our beautiful sukkah. 5:00 PM in our west parking lot sukkah, \$20/person. RSVP by 10/2, tradcong@sbcglobal.net or 314-576-5230.

Need a good laugh?? Join us to see "Defending the Caveman" at the Playhouse @Westport Plaza, **Sunday, October 15, 2:00-4:00 PM.** \$40/ticket (regularly \$60). Before we commit to purchasing tickets, we need an idea of how many people are interested in attending. If you would like to join us, please contact Elaine Farkas, 954-558-1159 ASAP.



Visit our website www.traditional-congregation.org

PRAYER

Now is the time to let the mind search backwards like
the raven loosed to see what can feed us.

*Now, the time to cast the mind forward to chart an
aerial map of the months.*

Rosh Hashanah is a great door that stands across the
evening and Yom Hakippurim is the second door.

*Between them are song and silence, stone and clay pot
to be filled from within myself.*

I will find there both ripeness and rot, what I have done
and undone. What I must let go with the waning days
and what I must take in.

With the last tomatoes, we harvest the fruit of our lives.

Marge Piercy

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Because you live to love and love to live, and because of what your heardrum will
give, now we might love to live and live to love.

Janet Goodfriend

Welcome to Traditional Congregation and Stephen's Bar Mitzvah!

At the conclusion of the service, please help us prepare for Stephen's luncheon by
doing the following:

1) Remove all prayerbooks, papers and personal items from the sanctuary. Place
the prayerbooks NEATLY on the bookshelves and the papers on the lobby tables.

2) Proceed to the Jewish Heritage Center for kiddush. **Please do not linger in the
Sanctuary** as we need to rearrange all of the furniture and set up for the luncheon.

3) Volunteers are needed (and appreciated!!) to help us set up tables and chairs in
the Social Hall/Sanctuary.

Thank you for your help and cooperation. Mazal tov!

Marian Gordon, Executive Director