



July 11, 2020

יט תמוז תש"פ

Parashat Pinchas – Numbers 25:10-30:1 פינחס

Stone – p 876 Hertz – p 686 Etz Hayim – p 918

Haftarah – Jeremiah 1:1-2:3

Stone – p 1192 Hertz – p 710 Etz Hayim – p 968

Talmud Class—cancelled

Minchah – cancelled

Seudah Sh'lishit—cancelled

Shabbat Ends – 9:09 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—all cancelled until further notice

Shabbat—9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Sunday—8:30 AM

Monday—Thursday—7:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Friday—7:00 AM & 6:30 PM

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

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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 – Pinchas

Peace is a beloved and a beautiful dream for humanity. In Hebrew, Shalom is the ultimate word. In our liturgy we ask for peace at the end of all our prayers. Three times a day we ask God in the last blessing of the Amida to bless us with peace. At the end of the grace for our meals we ask for God's blessing for peace. The last paragraph of the full Kaddish expresses the desire for peace. The last Mishnah in the Talmud says that Shalom is the greatest blessing as peace is the vessel that contains and holds all the other blessings.

There are different kinds of peace. Many years ago, someone in the Yeshivah complained to the Rebbi about the high level of noise. The Rebbi said: "you can always find peace and quiet in the graveyard." Indeed, the Torah distinguishes between the peace of the grave and the peace of life. The peace of death is *lech b'shalom*; the peace of life is *lech le'shalom*.

Our Parsha teaches us that although peace may be the last word it is not the first word. When, Zimri, the prince of the tribe of Shimon, chose to publicly engage in intimacy with the Moabite princess; he sought the harmony of peace. Why should the Israelites, Zimri reasoned, be separate and different? Why could they not get along with their neighbors and be intimate with them? Why could they not share their religious ceremonies and worship with them? Zimri stood for the peace that obliterated differences; the peace that denied particularity, the peace that denied that there is sanctity and holiness in the world. Zimri wanted a peace that denied Israel's particular role and destiny in the world.

Pinchas rejected this vision of peace. He reminded us that although shalom is the ultimate goal; peace is not an absolute that is attained by ignoring and destroying other cardinal values. Zimri's peace is a broken peace that has no place for individuality and particularity and is a peace that leads to the grave.

God rejoiced in the unpeaceful and unneighborly zealous act of Pinchas and rewarded him with an eternal covenant of peace. Pinchas' violent act saved Israel from the peaceful path of extinction that Zimri offered.

In the trying days of the three weeks, we must take heart from the message of the Parsha. Standing up for Israel is not popular in today's world. Standing up for a state to be Jewish is unpopular in today's world. 1 In the past, it was our religious differences that condemned us to isolation, pogroms, and exile. In the rise of the scientific era, scientific and secular views regarding our racial differences isolated us and condemned us. In our contemporary era, the doctrine of "human rights" and the "peace process" condemn us as obstinate in our particularity and our self-defense.

We strive for peace. We pray for peace. But from Pinchas we learned that peace does not come by surrendering our individuality, our particularly, and our divine destiny.

One of Hashem's names is Shalom. May we be privileged to partake and experience in the peace that has God's holy name. May we be inspired to embrace our uniqueness and to strive toward our destiny that ultimately will lead to shalom for Israel and the entire world.

Shabbat Shalom!
Rabbi Dr. Pinchas Klein

Rabbi Klein is a board member of the Union for Traditional Judaism



Zoom Schmooze

Monday, July 13

7:45 - 9:00 PM

(stay for all or drop in anytime)

**Catch up with TradCong
friends and shoot the breeze!!**

Registration not required, but please
RSVP to Dina: dinarinder@icloud.com

www.Zoom.com

Meeting ID: 891 0506 1510

Password: 537872

Dial in number:

312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

**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**



**GET
EXCITED
WE ARE
OPENING
SOON**

Our Reopening Task Force is working diligently on our reopening plan. They have spent many hours considering a variety of factors and scenarios that will enable us to begin having services here, safely and comfortably.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Stay tuned for further information!

PRAYER

A land of brooks and fountains that spring out of valleys and hills.

Beware lest you forget your Almighty God, and forsake His commandments

When you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built houses,
and dwelled in them.

Beware, lest your heart be lifted up, and you forget your Almighty

And you say in your hearts: "My power and the might of my hand
has gotten me this wealth."

*You shall remember your Almighty God, for it is He that has given you
the power to succeed.*

Yours, God, is the greatness and the power, and the glory
and the victory and the majesty.

Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all;

In your hand is strength and might;

And in Your hand is the power to prosper all.

Unknown

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, "I'll try again tomorrow."

Maryanne Radmacher