



September 2, 2017

יא אלול תשע"ז

Parashat Ki Tetze - Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19 כי תצא

Stone – p 1046

Hertz – p 840

Etz Hayim – p 1112

Haftarah – Isaiah 54:1-10 ישיעהו

Fifth Week of Consolation

Stone – p 1201

Hertz – p 857

Etz Hayim – p 1138

**We Celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of
Hayley Lerner,
daughter of Gary & Alayna Lerner
and granddaughter of
Bill & Nanci Gold and Marvin & Doris Lerner
Kiddush luncheon is sponsored by Gary & Alayna Lerner**

**We Celebrate the Aufruf of
Jake Dolgin, son of Michael & Lana Dolgin,
as he prepares to marry
Samantha Brick, daughter of Phil & Christy Brick**

Talmud Class—5:30 PM

Minchah – 6:45 PM

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

Shabbat Ends – 8:13 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 & 6:45 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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Shelah Feldman
Bill Gold
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—Ki Tetze

If a man will have a wayward and rebellious son, ... take him out to the elders of his city ... All the men of his city shall pelt him with stones and he shall die; and you shall destroy the evil from your midst... (21:18-21)

A wayward and rebellious son is killed because of his end ... He will stand at the crossroads and rob people ... The Torah says, "Let him die innocent, and let him not die guilty." (Rashi, ad loc)

If you build a new house, you shall make a fence for your roof, so that you will not place blood in your house if the faller falls from it. (22:8)

He is fit to fall, but nonetheless, let his death not come about through you, for they [i.e. the Heavenly Court] make merit come about through one who is worthy, and that which is detrimental through one who is guilty (Rashi ad loc)

These statements appear to contradict the notion of free will. In the first, the "wayward and rebellious son" is executed because of what he will become. Apparently Torah thinks his end is inevitable, because he is not given a chance to mend his ways. Two points should be noted here. First, for anyone to be executed, they must first be warned by two kosher witnesses that what they're about to do carries the death penalty, they have to acknowledge the warning and state that they're going to perform the action anyway, and then immediately do it. Second, there are additional conditions that must be met for a boy to be declared a wayward and rebellious son. The voices of his parents must sound the same, they must be of the same height, the boy must steal money to buy a huge quantity of meat and wine and consume them at one sitting, etc. No wonder the Talmud tells us "there never was a wayward and rebellious son, and there never will be one."

Why, then, did the Torah write the passage of the wayward and rebellious son? The Talmud tells us it's so that we can study the passage and receive reward. Indeed, the commentators draw many valuable lessons on parenting from the passage. Perhaps also we can gain from considering the nature of free will from this passage as well.

The second passage speaks of "the faller," who is "fit to fall." What does Rashi mean by "fit to fall"? There is an opinion in the Talmud (*Chullin 7b*) that "a person does not so much as stub his toe without its having been decreed in Heaven." Now there could be two reasons for this decree. Either the person performed some action in the past, and that action has rebounded upon him in this way. The other possibility is that whatever happens poses a challenge which, if the person overcomes it (e.g. doesn't let out a stream of curses when he stubs his toe), allows him to grow to a higher spiritual level. In this case perhaps we have an easier time dealing with the free will of the "faller." Free will has nothing to do with what happens *to us*. Free will has to do with the moral choices we make in *reaction* to what happens to us.

Similarly, I think we can explain the situation with the roof's owner. One who is "guilty" is one who does not follow the commands of Torah, which are life-supporting and create order in society. Consequently it is natural that he creates dangerous situations in which those who are destined to fall are more likely to meet their end. Someone who is "worthy" and follows Torah's commands does not create situations where the "faller's" karma can reach him. He'll just have to find another roof to fall from.

Now let us return to the wayward and rebellious son. He is apparently so far gone that he must be removed from society even before, technically, he deserves to be. Why do we not say that he can repent? Perhaps we can find an answer in the Pharaoh of the Exodus story. For the first 5 plagues, Pharaoh hardens his heart against the Jews. For the last 5, Gd hardens Pharaoh's heart. But Gd's hardening Pharaoh's heart means that Gd took away his free will!

The standard answer to this conundrum is that Pharaoh had "progressed" so far along his nefarious path that he was "too far gone" to change his ways. (In the same way, the wayward boy has demonstrated that he's "too far gone" to mend his ways, and we have to be proactive to protect society from the budding sociopath.

How can somebody get so far off the path that they're lost completely, at least for their current lifetime? Consider this example. If you sleep well at night, you get up feeling refreshed, your mind is clear, and your decisions are generally pretty good. You make good choices, life goes your way, you're not stressed out, you stay clear and continue to make good decisions. Now consider the opposite situation: you're tired, you're not thinking clearly, and your decisions are less than ideal. Now you've got some real problems on your hands – the ones you started with, plus the ones you've just created trying to deal with the first ones. This can quickly spiral out of control.

Replace "good decisions" with "mitzvot" and "bad decisions" with sin, and, just in the same way, things can quickly get out of control, as our Rabbis tell us in *Pirke Avot* (IV:2): *A mitzvah brings another mitzvah in its wake, a transgression brings another transgression in its wake.* The solution to the vicious cycle in the second part of our example is to get some rest. The solution in life is *t'shuvah*, coming back to Gd. As we've seen though, we have to grab every opportunity – like the upcoming High Holy Days – to do *t'shuvah* before it's too late!

Shabbat Shalom!
Rafi Rabinoff



... to an informative get together and fundraiser to showcase what **Shaving Israel** is doing for the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces

New Location

Traditional Congregation
12437 Ladue Rd
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Sunday,
September 10th, 2017
from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Speaker Meira Ganel
has just returned from Israel and meeting with the soldiers of the IDF; she will share her experiences

Light refreshments will be served

Everyone can help us with our mission to supply personal items to the soldiers. Your financial donations will ensure that the IDF soldiers will receive packages of sheets, towels, thermal shirts, socks, phone batteries, and other personal items.

Please R.S.V.P. to
(314) 579-9653 Rachel Miller or (314) 469-3189 Mimi Fizel

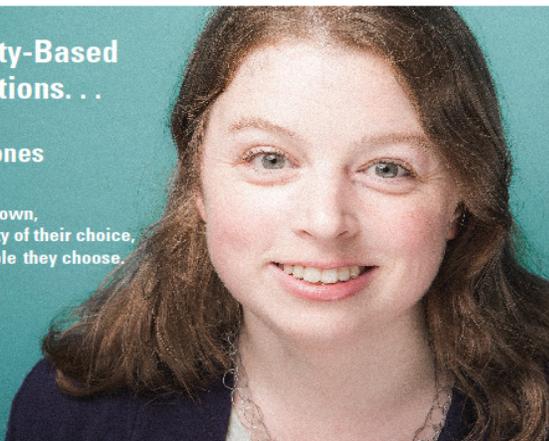
Visit our web site at <http://www.shavingisrael.org/>



Community-Based Living Options. . .

Our loved ones deserve...

A home of their own,
in the community of their choice,
living with people they choose.



Together, we can create new possibilities.

Join us to learn more about strategies to create alternative housing solutions for Jewish individuals with disabilities interested in living in the St. Louis area.

Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 pm
Guller Chapel at Congregation B'nai Amoona
324 South Mason Rd, St. Louis, MO 63141

RSVP to Mary Brown at 314-442-3812 or MBrown@JFedSTL.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 7 Jewish Federation's Annual Meeting/Event at The Magic House, 516 S. Kirkwood Rd, 5:30 PM. TradCong will have a table at the event, please come out to support us and your Federation. \$18/person or \$36/family including children. Includes admission to the Museum, free parking, kosher hors d'oeuvres and drinks. Register at JFedSTL.org/events/2017-annual-meeting.

Shabbat, September 9 **Open Door Shabbat.** Know someone who's looking for a shul to call home? Invite them to join us and find out what we're all about, experience our service and enjoy a delicious kiddush luncheon. No charge, all are welcome.

Sunday, September 10 Shaving Israel program, 1:00 PM at Traditional in the Jewish Heritage Center. See flyer for details and registration information.

Thursday, September 14 **General Board Meeting**, 7:30 PM, open to all members.

Shabbat, September 16 **Bar Mitzvah of Stephen Rosenberg.** Kiddush luncheon is sponsored by Anat Reschke & Brad Fink, Alan & Donna Rosenberg, and Frieda Reschke in honor of Stephen becoming a *bar mitzvah*. All are welcome.

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*.

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.

Do you know someone affected by Alzheimer's? A community program will be held in June 2018 and the steering committee would like each synagogue to have a representative on the committee. **If you would like to represent Traditional for this program,** please let Rabbi Gordon know. Thank you!

Support the J's Meals on Wheels program by purchasing reusable grocery bags at Schnucks. Visit **Schnucks at Mason & Olive** during the month of September, purchase their special reusable grocery bags (\$2.99 each), and the J's Meals on Wheels home delivery meals program will receive \$1 for each bag purchased. Good for the planet, good for people in need! For more info: schnucks.bags4mycause.com



Visit our website www.traditional-congregation.org

PRAYER

We thank you for this place in which we dwell.

For the love that unites us; for the peace accorded us this day.

For the hope with which we expect the morrow;
For the health, the work, the food and the bright skies that make our lives delightful.

For our friends in all parts of the earth, and for our friendly helpers in this foreign isle.

Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind.

Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies.

Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors.

*If it may not, give us the strength to encounter that which is to come,
that we be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune
and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving to one another.*

*Robert Louis Stevenson
(Adapted)*

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

If you are successful, remember that somewhere, sometimes,
someone gave you a lift or an idea that started you
in the right direction. Remember, also, that you are indebted to life
until you help some less fortunate person just as you were helped.

Napoleon Hill

Welcome to Traditional Congregation and Hayley's Bat Mitzvah!

At the conclusion of the service, please help us prepare for Hayley'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 be able to rearrange all 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.

On behalf of Gary & Alayna, Haley & JJ, thank you for your help and cooperation.
Mazal tov!

Marian Gordon, Executive Director