



July 24-25, 2026

יא אב תשפ"ו

Candle Lighting 8:01 PM

שבת נחמו
Shabbat Nachamu

Parashat Va-etchanan ואתחנן

Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Stone - p 958

Hertz - p 755

Etz Hayim - 1005

Haftarah - Isaiah 40:1-26 ישעיהו

First Week of Consolation

Stone - p 1196

Hertz - p 776

Etz Hayim - p 1033

Kiddush following services is
sponsored by the congregation

Shabbat ends 9:00 PM

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

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

Marian S. Gordon, Executive Director -
traditionalcong@gmail.com

WEEKDAY AND SHABBAT SERVICES

Tuesday - 6:30 PM

Shabbat - 9:30 AM

Board of Directors:

Governance Committee:

Florence Schachter, Chair

Marty Levy, Vice-Chair

Ken Bohm, Ellis Frohman, Ron Green,

Dina Rinder, Mindy Strauss

Ellis Frohman, Financial Vice President

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Stanley Estrin

Bill Gold

Gary Golden z"l

Jack Heller

Sid Levin

Ari Levy

Carol Max

Florence Schachter

We welcome new members!

If you or someone you know would like to receive
membership information,
please contact our office at 314-576-5230
or traditionalcong@gmail.com

On This Week's Parashah - Vaetchanan

This week Moshe says some of the most inspiring words ever uttered about the why of Jewish existence. Moshe communicates an unshakeable certainty that what had happened to Bnai Yisrael would eventually change and inspire the world. This is what made him the great transformational leader he was, and his message has consequences for us, here, now.

First, Moshe was convinced that Jewish history was - and would remain - unique. In an age of powerful empires, a small, defenceless group had been liberated from the greatest empire of all by a power not their own, by God Himself. That was Moshe's first point: the singularity of Jewish history as a narrative of redemption.

Second, he gave us the unique gift of revelation. Other nations had gods to whom they prayed and offered sacrifices. They too attributed their military successes to their deities. But no other nation saw God as their sovereign, legislator, and lawgiver. Elsewhere law represented the decree of the king or, in more recent centuries, the will of the people. In Israel, uniquely, even when there was a king, he never had legislative power. Only in Israel was God seen not just as a power but as the architect of society, the orchestrator of its music of justice and mercy, liberty and dignity.

The question is why. "See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God commanded me.... Observe them carefully, for this is your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" (Devarim 4:5-6)

Why did Moshe, or God, care whether or not other nations saw Israel's laws as wise and understanding? Judaism was and is a love story between God and a particular people, often tempestuous, sometimes serene, frequently joyous, but close, intimate, even inward-looking. What has the rest of the world to do with it?

But the rest of the world does have something to do with it. Judaism was never meant for Jews alone. God is the God of all humanity. Therefore what we do as Jews makes a difference to humanity, not just in a mystical sense, but as role-models of what it means to love and be loved by God. Other nations would look at Jews and sense that some larger power was at work in their history.

We were not called on to convert the world. We were called on to inspire the world. Our vocation is to be God's ambassadors to the world, giving testimony through the way we live that it is possible for a small people to survive and thrive under the most adverse conditions, to construct a society of law-governed liberty for which we all bear collective responsibility, and to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly" (Micha 6:8) with our God. And this week's parsha - Vaetchanan - is the mission statement of the Jewish people. We are not just another ethnic minority. We are the people who predicated freedom on teaching our children to love, not hate. Ours is the faith that consecrated marriage and the family, and spoke of responsibilities long before it spoke of rights. Ours is the vision that sees solving world of poverty as a religious task. Much is written these days about the what and how of Judaism, but all too little about the why. Moshe, in the last month of his life, taught the why. That is how the greatest of leaders inspired action from his day to ours.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt"l

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE 5787

THE GIFT OF MEMORY

"It has been taught -- 'All people must die, and death must come to all.' Happy, then, that person who departs this world with a good name."

Ruth Rabbah 11:7

Don't Be Left Out!

Yizkor Memorial Book orders are due **now**.

RH Greetings Card orders are due by **August 10**.

Please send in your forms and donations.

Thank you for your participation and support!



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5787
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or order online at: <https://www.traditional-congregation.org/donate>
(Indicate RH Card on form)
Donation: \$18 and up

Orders must be received by August 10, 2026

Questions? Contact Marian - 314-576-5230 or traditionalcong@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!!

PRAYER

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight. I have responsibilities to fulfill today. I am important.
My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have.

*Today I can complain because the weather is rainy or I can be thankful
that the grass is getting watered for free.*

Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money or I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can grumble about my health or I can rejoice that I am alive.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns or I can celebrate that thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends or I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

*Today I can whine because I have to go to work or I can
shout for joy because I have a job to do.*

Today I can complain because I have to go to school or eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.

*Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do housework or
I can appreciate that I have a place to call home.*

Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.

What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!

Have a GREAT DAY...unless you have other plans.

Just remember, a smile will make the day go better.

Author Unknown

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Life lived for tomorrow will always be just a day away from being realized.

Leo Buscaglia