



August 22-23, 2025

כט אב תשפ"ה

Candle Lighting 7:28 PM

**Parashat Re'eh** - Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 ראה  
Stone – p 998      Hertz – p 799      Etz Hayim – p 1061

**Haftarah** - Isaiah 54:11 - 55:5  
Third week of consolation  
Stone – p 1199      Hertz – p 818      Etz Hayim – p 1085

## REDEDICATION SHABBAT

**Kiddush** luncheon following services  
is sponsored by the congregation  
in honor of  
Dr. Kenneth H. Bohm

**Shabbat** ends 8:27 PM

## **TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION**

Rabbi Seth D Gordon - Rabbi.Gordon@yahoo.com  
Marian S. Gordon, Executive Director - traditionalcong@gmail.com

## **WEEKDAY AND SHABBAT SERVICES**

Sunday - 8:30 AM

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

Ellis Frohman, Financial Vice President

Mark Weinstein, Ritual Vice President

Marty Levy/Mindy Strauss, Education Co-Vice Presidents

Dina Rinder, Membership Vice President

Steven Puro, Administration Vice President

Chris Brown/Justin Zeid, Building & Grounds

Co-Vice Presidents

Ron Green, Fundraising Vice President

Barbara Levin, Treasurer

Mimi Levy, Secretary

Past Presidents: Kenneth H. Bohm, Phil Brick

Members at Large:

Maureen Brodsky

Stanley Estrin

Bill Gold

Gary Golden

Stan Greenberg

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 Torah Portion - Re'eh

Moshe set out the broad principles of the brit in recent chapters. He now turns to the details, which extend over several parshiyot (Devarim. 11:26–30:19). Moshe begins, “The laws that will govern Israel in its land begin and end with a momentous choice: See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse – the blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God... the curse if you disobey...” He ends with the words, “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil... I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.” Rambam sees these two passages as proof of our belief in freewill. We get to choose. But they are also a political statement, because if humans are free, they need a free society to exercise their freedom. Devarim is the first attempt in history to create such a society.

Moshe's vision is deeply political, but in a unique way. It is not politics as a pursuit of power, empire, or national glory. He does not praise Israel's greatness. Instead, he reminds them of their mistakes, when they sinned, rebelled and lost faith. Moshe would never have won an election. He was not the kind of leader that sought popularity.

His words summon the people to humility and then to responsibility. He says God is giving us a chance to create a new kind of society. Not an empire like Egypt, divided into rulers and overruled people. And if we truly believe in God, our only sovereign, we can do great things – not in conventional terms, but in moral terms. For if all power and wealth belong to God, none of these can set us apart. We are charged to feed the poor, care for the widow, orphan, Levite, and stranger, and create a just society that honours human dignity and freedom.

Moshe insists on three things. First, that we are free. Blessing or curse? Good or evil? Faith or faithlessness? The choice is ours. Nations as well as individuals must take responsibility. There is no defence in blaming others, or God. For God does not remove human responsibility; He makes it central. If we are faithful to God, says Moshe, we will prevail. If not, nothing – not even military strength nor alliances – will help our nation survive.

Second, we are collectively responsible. “All Israel are responsible for one another.” The fate of Israel depends on all Israel, and every individual counts. Unlike all other nations in the ancient world, and most nations still today, Israel's destiny is not determined by kings or elites, but by every person as a moral agent. This is democracy in the biblical sense.

Third, it is a God-centred politics. We must be “one nation under God,” and a nomocracy – the idea is that we should be ruled by laws, not men. Biblical Israel was the first attempt in history to create a free society. It was an answer to the question: how can freedom and responsibility be shared equally by all? How can limits be placed on the power of rulers to turn the mass of people into slaves – not necessarily literally slaves but as a labour force to be used to build monumental buildings or engage in empire-building wars?

It is a beautiful, challenging idea: If God is our only Sovereign, then all human power is delegated, limited, and morally bound. Jews were the first to believe an entire nation could govern itself in freedom and equal dignity. Jews never fully achieved the vision, but never ceased to be inspired by it. Moshe's words still challenge us today. God has given us freedom. Let us use it to create a just, generous, gracious society. God does not do it for us, but He has taught us how to do it. As Moshe said: The choice is ours.

***Shabbat shalom,***  
**Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt”l**

# Rededication Shabbat

honoring

Kenneth H. Bohm, Ph.D.



Shabbat, August 23, 2025

Services begin at 9:30 AM

Festive kiddush luncheon

to follow in Ken's honor

Ken has been a member of our Board of Directors for many years, and served as President for several terms.

Please join us as he receives this well-deserved honor.

RSVP with names of all attending to:  
[traditionalcong@gmail.com](mailto:traditionalcong@gmail.com)

**Join us  
on Shabbat  
to honor Ken!**



There's room for you  
and your thoughts!  
Join Rabbi Gordon  
on Zoom, this  
Sunday morning  
@10:00 AM.  
**Register now!**

**Tell Us How You Really Feel About...**



**Zoom with Rabbi Gordon  
and share your thoughts about  
anti-Semitism today**

**Sunday, August 24, 2025  
10:00 AM CDT on Zoom**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://bit.ly/45B1CHg>

After registering, you will receive a  
confirmation email with information  
about joining the meeting.

Traditional Congregation, 12437 Ladue Rd, STL MO 63141

<https://www.traditional-congregation.org/>

314-576-5230



# ANNUAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, 9/11/2025 7:00 PM**

**@TraditionalCongregation**  
in the Jewish Heritage Center

- \*Highlights of the past year**
- \*Share your thoughts**
- \*Get answers to your questions**
- \*Cast your vote for our  
slate of Officers**

**(One vote per family.  
Associate Members are welcome to attend,  
but are not eligible to vote.)**

12437 Ladue Rd, St Louis MO 63141  
314-576-5230

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[traditionalcong@gmail.com](mailto:traditionalcong@gmail.com)





## *Next Week:* **A Campaign to Uphold Jewish Burial Traditions**

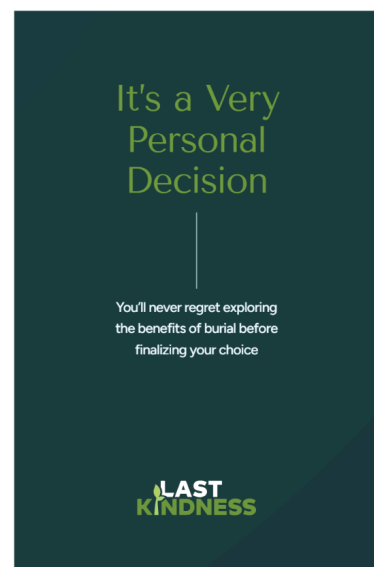
“Cremation is on the rise among Jews. Yet for millennia, Jewish tradition has held that burial is a sacred mitzvah, honoring the soul and affirming our belief in its eternal journey. On **August 26–27**, the ***St. Louis Jewish Burial Foundation*** will launch a two-day online fundraising campaign to help ensure that the St. Louis Jewish community is educated about the importance of a traditional halachic burial — a final act of kindness reflecting dignity and compassion.

We are a volunteer-led nonprofit committed to reversing the trend toward cremation through outreach, advertising, and speaking engagements. Our mission is simple: to preserve the timeless values of Jewish burial and make them accessible to all.”

Rabbi Ze’ev Smason, St. Louis

Copies of the booklet “It’s a Very Personal Decision,” which explores the benefits of burial, are available in the TradCong office.

You are welcome to stop by and pick up a booklet for yourself, a family member or a friend.



## **PRAYER**

Show me the suffering of the most miserable;

*So I will know my people's plight.*

Free me to pray for others;

*For you are present in every person.*

Grant me courage to serve others;

*For in service there is true life.*

Give me honesty and patience;

*So that our dreams will be alive among us.*

Let our dreams flourish and grow;

*So that we will never tire of the struggle.*

Let us remember those who have died for justice;

*For they have given us life.*

Help us love even those who hate us;

*So we can change the world.*

**Cesar Chavez**

**(Adapted: Prayer of the farm workers' struggle)**

## **THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Grief can take care of itself, but to get the full value of joy you must have somebody to divide it with.

**Mark Twain**