



April 3-4, 2026

טז ניסן תשפ"ו

Candle Lighting 7:08 PM

Megillah Song of Songs 1:1-8:14

Pesach Chol ha-Moed Shabbat—Exodus 33:12-34:26

Stone p 504 Hertz p 979 Etz Hayim p 538

Special Maftir: Numbers 28:19-25

Stone p 892 Hertz p 695 Etz Hayim p 932

Haftarah – Ezekiel 37:1-14

Stone p 1224 Hertz p 1015 Etz Hayim p 1307

Shabbat ends 8:09 PM

7th Day Pesach - Wednesday, April 8

Exodus 13:17-15:26 – p 1137; Stone p 366; Hertz p 265; Etz Hayim p 399

Maftir: Numbers 28:19-25 - p 1140; Stone p 892; Hertz p 695; Etz Hayim p 932

Haftarah: II Samuel 22:1-51 – p 1140; Stone p 1224; Hertz p 1017; Etz Hayim p 1311

8th Day Pesach - Thursday, April 9

Deuteronomy 15:19-16:17 - p 1144; Stone p 1018; Hertz p 814; Etz Hayim p 1080

Maftir: Numbers 28:19-25 - p 1140; Stone p 892; Hertz p 695; Etz Hayim p 932

Haftarah: Isaiah 10:32-12:6 - p 1145; Stone p 1226; Hertz p 1023; Etz Hayim p 1316

Yizkor Memorial Service

Kiddushim following services are sponsored by the congregation

Pesach ends at 8:20 PM on Thursday, April 9, but **chametz** should not be used until 9:10 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
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 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 - Pesach

The haftarah for Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach is a prophecy from the book of Ezekiel. G-d took him to a valley that was full of dry bones. He saw how G-d brought them to life again. This, G-d explained, was a message to the Jewish people. Though they may feel like "dry bones"—hopeless and cut off—G-d will revive them out of their graves in the time of Moshiach.

Why do we read this on Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach? Rav Hai Gaon testified that we have an oral tradition that the resurrection of the dead will occur in the month of Nissan. But this only explains why it should be read during Nissan. Why on Pesach? The people will be resurrected with the dew of Torah and since we start praying for dew on Pesach, it is appropriate to read about the resurrection as well. So now we have a reason to read it on Pesach. But why on Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach?

The regular Pesach readings are connected to the day they are read, and they are annually recurring themes. The resurrection of the dead is connected to Nissan and Pesach, but it will be a one time-event, not a recurring theme. Since we don't have Shabbat Chol Hamoed Pesach every year, it is also non-recurring, making it a perfect match.

In the haftarah, Ezekiel says: "The hand of G-d was upon me . . . , and He placed me in a valley, and it was full of bones, and he passed me over them, around and around, and behold there were very many on the face of the valley, and behold they were very dry." G-d tells Ezekiel: "Son of man: . . . prophesy to the bones, and say to them, 'dry bones, listen to the word of G-d.' "

There is an amazing lesson to be learned from here with regards to spreading the teachings of Torah.

Some mistakenly think about Jewish people who are not involved—that they shouldn't put any energy into trying to teach them Torah, and perhaps even avoid them altogether because of someone who may have called them "dry bones."

Dry bones are a euphemism for someone who is void of Torah. For most people, it was caused by circumstances out of their control, growing up in homes where no Torah or Judaism was taught to them.

Torah is our lifeline, like water. Just as a fish cannot live without water, so, too, a Jew can't live without Torah.

Some have a hard time teaching Torah to such people. They ask: "When have our ancestors done this? Why should we start a new tradition that was not done in the past? Is this even acceptable? They have no connection to it. Let them first get involved, and when they are somewhat connected, I will start to teach them.

The answer to these questions is found in these verses. G-d says to Ezekiel to speak to the dry bones—not just dry, but "very dry"—and to say to them: "Listen to the word of G-d." Who were these dry bones, and where were they from? Rashi tells us that they were the remains of 30,000 people from the tribe of Ephraim, who left Egypt 30 years before the Exodus and were slaughtered by Philistines. By leaving early, before G-d wanted them to, they went against His will. It is to these very dry and going-against-G-d's-will kind of people that G-d imparts to say to them: "Listen to the word of G-d."

One may think: "I will find one such person, and concentrate my efforts on him only. That way, it will be most effective." To this, the verse says that there were "very many" dry bones. In other words, focus on many, not just a few.

Now you might ask, "OK, if they come my way, I will be glad to teach them, but do I have to go out of my way to reach them?" To this the haftarah says that G-d took Ezekiel into a "valley," a low place. He did not only go out to reach them, but even to a place low and void of Torah.

The haftarah now tells us that this strategy will work, as Ezekiel continues: "And I looked, and behold there were sinews upon them . . . and then flesh . . . and skin covered over them . . . And the spirit entered them, and they came to life, a very, very great multitude." By going about it this way, you will be effective, they will come back to Torah, and not only a few, but a very, very great multitude.

The haftarah continues with G-d telling Ezekiel that what he just saw is a message to the Jewish people who are saying, "Our bones are dried out, our hope is lost, we are cut off." These are three expressions of hopelessness, each getting progressively worse.

"Our bones are dried out" refers to someone who realizes that he has been living a life void of Torah. Nevertheless, he knows that he can always return to G-d, even after a lifetime without Torah.

"Our hope is lost" refers to someone who thinks that after so many years, change is impossible. This is worse because he doesn't see the possibility of returning to G-d. But even in his case, because he still lives among other Jewish people who through their love for another Jew will surely have an effect on him, he will also return.

"We are cut off" refers to the person who has left the Jewish community, and because of that there isn't anyone to have an effect on him. Still, G-d will find a way to awaken in him an urge to return.

Whatever the case may be, G-d says: "Behold I will open your graves, and I will take you out of your graves, My nation, and I will bring you to the land of Israel . . . I will put My spirit in you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your land, and you will know, that I G-d have spoken and have acted."

May it happen soon! The time has come.

**Shabbat shalom,
Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz**

Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz is immobile due to Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Unable to speak or type, he uses his eyes to write heartfelt thoughts on the weekly Torah portion.

CHAG PESACH SAMEACH!

Shabbat, April 4, Pesach Day 3 Services, 9:30 AM

Tuesday, April 7 - Candle lighting 7:12 PM

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 - Pesach Day 7
Pesach Services, 9:30 AM Candle lighting 8:13 PM

Thursday, April 9, 2026 - Pesach Day 8
Services, 9:30 AM including Yizkor Memorial Service

Chametz may be eaten after 9:10 PM

Pesach Dessert courtesy of Kosher.com

Chocolate Biscotti

- 1 and 1/2 cups Pereg Almond Flour
- 1/4 cup cacao powder
- 3/4 cup coconut sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon melted coconut oil

Nutty Biscotti

- 1 and 3/4 cups Pereg Almond Flour
- 2/3 cup coconut sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon melted coconut oil
- 1/2 teaspoon Gefen Almond or vanilla extract

1.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a large baking sheet with Gefen Parchment Paper.

2.

In a bowl, combine the dry ingredients, including the almond flour, coconut sugar, cacao powder (if making the chocolate version), baking powder, and salt.

3.

Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients. Stir in the egg, coconut oil, and extract. Mix until a thick, sticky dough is formed. If you want to add nuts, dried fruit etc., now is the time to do it.

4.

Transfer the dough to the baking sheet, and use your hands to press it into a "log" shape.

5.

Bake for 20 minutes until the edges are lightly golden.

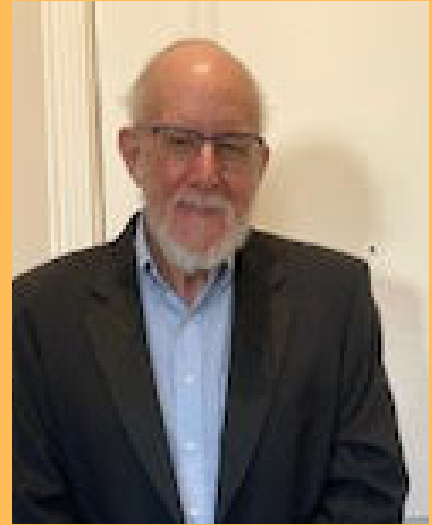
6.

Turn off the oven, remove the pan, and let the loaf cool completely. This will make it easier to slice.

Rededication Shabbat

honoring

Steven Puro, Ph.D.



Shabbat, April 18, 2026

Services begin at 9:30 AM
Festive kiddush luncheon
to follow in Steve's honor

Please join us to honor Steve
for the many years of
devoted service he has given
to our congregation.

RSVP with names of all attending to:
traditionalcong@gmail.com



SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026



KOLOT

St. Louis Jewish Women's Choir

AT TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION



Light breakfast @ 10:00 AM,
followed by KOLOT.

KOLOT performs Jewish songs in Hebrew and English,
Broadway show tunes and other popular songs.

Advance RSVP is required:

traditionalcong@gmail.com or 314-576-5230
with names of all attending

No charge, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Please stay after the performance to help assemble
gift bags for the Florence Gaponoff Mother's Day
Tzedakah Project, which will be distributed to
women's shelters in the STL metropolitan area.

Traditional Congregation
12437 Ladue Road, STL MO 63141
314-576-5230
www.traditional-congregation.org



PRAYER

O Guardian of Israel, we ask Your blessings
Upon the people of Israel and the Land of Israel.

*Bless them with peace, tranquility, and achievement,
Bless them – even as they have been a blessing to us.*

For they have nurtured our pride,
And renewed our hopes

*They have gathered in our homeless;
They have healed the bruised and the broken.*

Their struggles have strengthened us;
Their sacrifices have humbled us.

*Their victories have exalted us;
Their achievements have enriched us.*

They have translated into fulfillment
The promises of Your ancient prophets:

*“They shall build up the waste cities and inhabit them;
They shall plant vineyards and drink their wine.”*

Truly, they have made the wilderness into Eden,
And the desert like the garden of God.

*Watch over the Land, we pray;
Protect it from every enemy and disaster.*

Fulfill the prophetic promise
Which still awaits realization;

*“Violence shall no more be heard in your land
There shall be no more desolation within your borders.”*

*“Zion shall be redeemed through justice.
And that they dwell therein through integrity.”*

Author Unknown

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Every child, woman and man should possess license to speak or sing in his or her true voice.

Joyce Maynard