



TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

12437 Ladue Rd, St Louis MO 63141

www.traditional-congregation.org

314-576-5230 traditionalcong@gmail.com

Affiliated with the Union for Traditional Judaism

Rabbi Seth D Gordon

April 26-27, 2024

יט ניסן תשפ"ד

Candle Lighting 7:31 PM

Pesach Shabbat Chol ha-Moed

Shir ha'Shirim is chanted

Torah Reading—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

Pesach Deli Kiddush is sponsored by

Louise & Mel Saltzman

Shabbat ends 8:31 PM

7th Day Pesach: Monday, April 29

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: Tuesday, April 30

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

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

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

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

SHABBAT & YOMTOV SERVICES

Sunday - 8:30 AM

Monday - 9:30 AM

Tuesday - 9:30 AM

Thursday - 7:00 AM

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

Chris Brown, Membership Vice President

Steven Puro, Administration Vice President

Steve Roufa/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

Boaz Roth

Members at Large:

Maureen Brodsky (2024) (terms end in July of year indicated)

Stanley Estrin (2026)

Bill Gold (2025)

Gary Golden (2026)

Stan Greenberg (2024)

Jack Heller (2024)

Sid Levin (2025)

Ari Levy (2024)

Carol Max (2025)

Florence Schachter (2026)

Lori Tesser (2026)

We welcome new members!

*If you or someone you know would like to receive membership information,
please contact Chris Brown, Membership VP, at 636-288-5356*

On This Week's Haftarah Portion - 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."¹

May it happen soon! The time has come.

**Shabbat shalom,
Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz**

Rabbi Yitzi Hurwitz—father of seven, husband of Dina, and spiritual leader at Chabad Jewish Center in Temecula, Calif.—has been rendered immobile by ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Unable to speak or type, he uses his eyes to write heartfelt thoughts on the weekly Torah portion.

Pesach

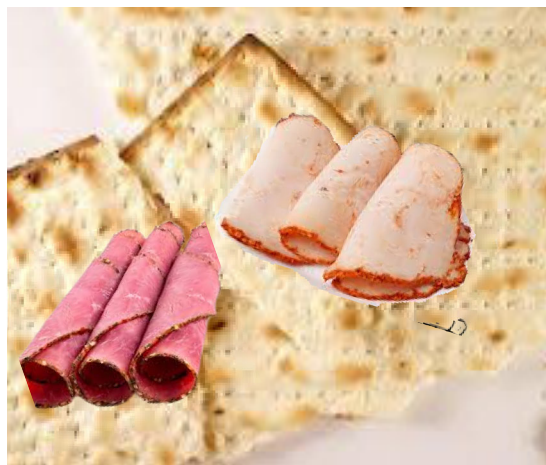



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- Shabbat, April 27:* Services 9:30 AM. Chanting of *Shir Ha-Shirim*.
Pesach Kiddush is sponsored by Louise & Mel Saltzman.
- Sunday, April 28:* *Shacharit:* 8:30 AM
Candle lighting: 7:33 PM
- Monday, April 29:* *Shacharit:* 9:30 AM
Candle lighting: after 8:24 PM
- Tuesday, April 30:* *Shacharit:* 9:30 AM with *Yizkor*
Pesach concludes 8:24 PM; **chametz** may be used after 8:54 PM



Yizkor will be recited during services on the eighth day of **Pesach**, Tuesday 4/30/24. Join us to honor the memory of your loved ones.





**Mark Your Calendars:
Gift Bag Assembly Day is
Sunday, April 28 @ 10:00 AM!!**

**We are collecting for the 2024
Florence Gaponoff Mother's Day
Gift Bag Project!**

**These items are needed for
women in shelters:**

***Monetary donations so
needed items can be purchased**

***Travel-size shampoo,
conditioner, body lotions,
soap/body wash, deodorant,
toothpaste, toothbrush, dental
floss, etc.**

***Travel brush/comb**

***Women's necklaces and
bracelets in GOOD wearable
condition (*NO earrings or
broken/tarnished items*)**

**To donate \$\$, send a check to
Traditional Congregation or
go to:**

**[https://www.traditional-
congregation.org/donate](https://www.traditional-
congregation.org/donate)**

**To donate travel-size items, bring
them to Traditional and place in
the wicker bin near the office.**

Thank you!

Happy Birthday to:

Shabbat, 4/27	Maureen Brodsky Gloria Ezekiel Kweskin Traude Wilson
Wed, 5/1	Robbyn Roth
Fri, 5/3	Daniel Rosenbluth

Refuah Sh'leimah to:

Stanley Becker (Shmuel Shlomo ben Mindel)	David Pencak (Dovid ben Chaya Ruchel)
Muriel Beckerman (Yehudit bat Rochel Leah)	Rafi Rabinoff (Rafael ben Leah)
Ann Bohm	Marci, daughter of Nina & Phil Radman (Masha Simcha Milchah bat Nisha)
Ken Bohm (Chaim Mordechai ben Sara Leah)	Miriam Roth (Miriam bat Elana)
Beth Golden (Batya bat Sara)	Iris Salsman (Shaina Sara bat Golde Malke)
Gary Golden (Gedalia Avrum ben Freyda Esther)	Bruce Schwartz (Hersh Ber Tzvi ben Zelda Tema)
Richard Hack (Tzvi Aharon ben Chaya Sarah)	Joan Schwartz (Zelda Tema bat Gitel Reina)
Shay Kweskin (Shai ben Pnina)	

The following *yahrzeits* are observed this week:

This Shabbat	Sam Chapel, father-in-law of Annabelle Chapel Staff Sgt. Emanuel Lefkowitz, uncle of Nanci Gold Frank Riordan, friend of Marty Bell Joan Rosenblum, mother of Jeffrey Rosenblum
Sunday	David Brody, brother of Zumi Brody Paul Lelchook, father of Muriel Beckerman Bina Lichtenstein, grandmother of John Perlmutter Abe Schwartz, grandfather of Randy Zimring
Tuesday	Elias Joseph, uncle of GLoria Ezekiel Kweskin Nora Snyder, grandmother of Jules Stiber
Wednesday	Regina Cole, grandmother of Ken Bohm Steve Ockner, father of Sam Ockner
Thursday	Michael Becker, brother of Stanley Becker Wilbert Hack, father of Rick Hack Rose Pick, mother of Elaine Farkas
Next Shabbat	Stuart Abrams, brother of Susan Boxerman

*May their souls be bound up in the bonds of eternal life
and inspire us to noble and consecrated living.*

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