



August 14-15, 2026

ב אלול תשפ"ו

Candle Lighting 7:39 PM

Parashat Shoftim - Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 שפטים
Stone – p 1024 Hertz – p 820 Etz Hayim – p 1088

Haftarah – Isaiah 51:12-52:12 ישעיהו
Fourth Week of Consolation
Stone – p 1199 Hertz – p 835 Etz Hayim – p 1108

Kiddush following services is
sponsored by the congregation

Shabbat ends 8:37 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

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 - Shoftim

Whilst listing the various leadership roles within the nation, Moshe mentions not only the priest/judge and the king, but also the prophet: "The Lord your God will raise up another prophet like me from among your own people. You must listen to him."

Moshe would not be the last of the prophets. But how does one tell a true prophet from a false one? Unlike kings or priests, prophets did not derive authority from formal office. Their authority lay in their personality and their ability to give voice to the word of God. But this created the possibility of false prophets – or sincere but mistaken ones – misleading the people.

The Torah gives one test: "If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him."

On the face of it, the test is simple: if what the prophet predicts comes to pass, he is true; if not, he is false. Clearly, though, it was not that simple.

The classic case is the Book of Yonah. Yonah warns Nineveh: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be destroyed." The people repent, and the city is spared. Yonah is deeply dissatisfied because his prediction has not come true. Yet Yonah really did speak the word of God. How can this be?

The answer is found in the distinction between positive and negative prophecy. Yirmiyahu explains that a prophet who prophesies peace will be recognised as truly sent by God only if his prediction comes true. A negative prophecy is different. If it does not happen, the prophet can say that God relented and forgave, as happened to Nineveh.

Rambam explains: "As to calamities predicted by a prophet, if, for example, he foretells the death of a certain individual or declares that in a particular year there will be famine or war and so forth, the non-fulfilment of his forecast does not disprove his prophetic character."

He concludes that "only when he predicts good fortune can the prophet be tested." This leads to a fundamental conclusion: a prophet is not an oracle: a prophecy is not a prediction. Precisely because Judaism believes in free will, the human future can never be unfailingly predicted. People are capable of change. God forgives.

A prophet does not foretell. He warns. A prophet does not speak to predict future catastrophe but rather to avert it. If a prediction comes true it has succeeded. If a prophecy comes true it has failed.

There is a second, equally important lesson. The real test of prophecy is not bad news but good. Calamity, catastrophe, and disaster prove nothing. Anyone can foretell these things without risking his reputation or authority. It is only through the realisation of a positive vision that prophecy is truly put to the test.

The prophets of Israel were realists, not optimists. They warned of the dangers that lay ahead. But they were not simply people who warned Israel about the pitfalls, and prophesied doom. They were also, without exception, agents of hope. They could see beyond the catastrophe to the consolation, and beyond failure to the possibility of change. That is the test of a true prophet.

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt"l

LAST CHANCE!!

**Orders will be accepted until
Monday, Aug. 17**

**Thank you for your participation
and support!**



YES, PLEASE
INCLUDE ME/US
ON TRADITIONAL
CONGREGATION'S
5787
ROSH HASHANAH
GREETINGS CARD

Please list my/our name as printed below:

Ex: Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jones & Family or
Bob, Sue, Mike & Laura Jones

Name(s) _____

(Please print clearly)

Send this form and your donation check to:

Traditional Congregation
12437 Ladue Road
St. Louis, MO 63141-8100

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!!

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



Happy Sukkot

It's time to order
your
Lulav & Etrog!

Name _____

Phone (____)_____ email_____

(Price is based on quality of etrog)

<u>Price</u>		<u># of sets</u>		
\$65.00	x	_____	= \$	_____
\$75.00	x	_____	= \$	_____
Total enclosed:			\$	_____

Please make checks payable to Traditional Congregation and mail to:

Traditional Congregation
12437 Ladue Road
St Louis MO 63141-8100

*Deadline for receipt of orders is
Tuesday, September 1, 2026*

SPECIAL PROGRAM!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30!

Israeli Jewelry – A History in Silver

Join Maureen Brodsky for an illustrated talk in which we explore the cultural influences, economic pressures and design solutions that created the distinctive look of Israeli jewelry.

Sunday,
August 30, 2026
Lisht Israeli
Breakfast
@ **10:00 AM**
followed by
the program

No charge.
Share the Fare
donations are
appreciated.



Wear/bring your
own Israeli jewelry!



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



TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION
12437 Ladue Rd, Creve Coeur 63141
314-576-5230
www.traditional-congregation.org



PRAYER

Israel survives because it is comprised of inveterate optimists.

We shall swallow the bitterness of life and pursue the sweet.

We survive above all, knowing that life needs direction, norms, discipline.

We place ourselves under the discipline of Torah and rejoice that we have mitzvot.

We survive above all, because of the prophetic voices
that break out amongst us from time to time.

*We are blessed with visionaries who never make peace
with the foibles of the people or the whims of the leaders.*

We are not allowed to sink into the sweet lassitude of
dissipation and degeneracy which lead to death.

*We are shaken by the challenging words "...Cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek
justice, relieve the oppressed, support the orphan, plead for the widow."*

We survive because of Moses who smashed the popular golden calf;

Because of Nathan who pointed a finger at his king, "You are the guilty man."

Because of Elijah who thundered at his king,
"Have you killed and also taken possession?"

*Because of Amos who demanded, "Let justice well up as the waters
and integrity as a mighty stream."*

Though we cannot all be Moses, Isaiahs, Elijahs,
We dare not forget that we are the inheritors of their tradition.

Solomon Goldman
(Adapted)

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

War without consideration for humanity is barbaric, and peace at any cost is the
passive consent to unacceptable actions by others.

Jim Chandler