



June 24, 2017

ל סיון תשע"ז

**ראש חודש**

*Parashat Korach* – Numbers 16:1-18:32 קרח  
Stone – p 820 Hertz – p 639 Etz Hayim – p 860

Special *Maftir* – Numbers 28:9-15  
Stone – p 890 Hertz – p 695 Etz Hayim – p 930

*Haftarah* – Isaiah 66:1-24 (ישעיה סו)  
Stone – p 1208 Hertz – p 944 Etz Hayim – p 1220

Kiddush luncheon is sponsored by  
Arlene Fox in honor of the upcoming  
75th birthday of  
Ellis Frohman

*Talmud Class*—6:45 PM  
*Minchah*— 8:00 PM  
*Seudah Sh'lishit*  
*Shabbat Ends* – 9:11 PM

## **TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION**

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

Rabbi Ephraim Zimand, Emeritus – ravzim@yahoo.com

Marian S. Gordon, Executive Director – tradcong@sbcglobal.net

### **DAILY SERVICE TIMES**

Shabbat—9:00 AM & 8:00 PM

Sunday—9:00 AM

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday—7:00 AM & 6:45 PM

Wednesday & Friday—7:00 AM

### **Board of Directors:**

Kenneth H. Bohm, President

Steve Bell, Executive Vice President

Ellis Frohman, Financial Vice President

Marty Levy, Ritual Vice President

Florence Schachter, Education Vice President

Elaine Farkas, Membership Vice President

(Open) Administrative Vice President

Steve Roufa, Building & Grounds Vice President

Chris Brown, Fundraising Vice President

Lori Tesser, Treasurer

Mimi Levy, Secretary

Christy Brick, Sisterhood Representative

### **Members at Large:**

Sid Bennett

Bill Gold

Tobie Hupert

Ari Levy

Carol Max

Steven Puro

Dina Rinder

Iris Salsman

Jerry Tullman

Mark Weinstein

Justin Zeid

*Traditional Congregation welcomes new members. If someone you know would like to receive membership information, please contact Membership VP Elaine Farkas at 954-558-1159.*

## On This Week's Torah Portion—Korach

*Korach's intent was to tamper with the spiritual order Hashem had set up for the world. While both chesed and din are required for the world to be sustained, Hashem created a world in which din is subservient to chesed. As we mentioned above, the Kohen represents the attribute of chesed while the Levi represents din. The Levi, as a result, serves the Kohen in performing the Temple service.*

Korach, the Levi, representing *din*, doesn't want to be second fiddle to the *Kohen's chesed*. This is at the root of Korach's rebellion. As a result, ... *a fire went out from Hashem and consumed the 250 men who offered the incense*. Fire represents *din*, as has been pointed out in previous *parshiyot*. Thus, Gd meted out punishment *midah k'neged midah* – measure for measure. Similarly, Ramchal points out, Korach wanted to upset the natural order of the world, and he perished when the natural order of the world was upset and "... Hashem create[d] a [totally new] phenomenon..." of the earth opening up and swallowing Korach and his whole household (and those of Datan and Aviram as well). I want to consider this idea of *midah k'neged midah* from two angles.

When we perform any action, that action comes from a thought. A thought on the surface level comes from impulses of thought that originate deep within our personality. These impulses of thought percolate upward through the mind until they are recognized on the surface, and translated into action. If the mind is pure, the impulses, which start out in the purity of the *neshama*, are able to rise to the surface in their purity, and the actions that result from them, are pure and in accordance with Gd's Will. If, on the other hand, the mind is polluted with spiritual toxins, which may result from the body's being polluted with physical toxins, or even if we are just tired and not thinking very clearly due to fatigue, then the impulses of thought get distorted and our action is, to whatever extent, improper.

If we drop a rock in a pond, ripples go out and reach the farthest shores of the pond. If there are objects in the pond, they affect the way the ripples spread out, their speed and perhaps their direction. The ripples also "echo" off objects they encounter, and the result is a complex pattern of interacting ripples all over the pond, containing the characteristics of the rock that created them in the first place, but also colored by the ripples' encounters with all the other objects in the pond.

On a deeper physical level, we find the same principle. Although there are many details that still remain to be worked out, in broad outline physicists believe that all phenomena are actually excitations of an underlying unified field. On this level, everything is connected in a complex web of interactions, in which action in one area sends out ripples that affect everything else in creation. The effects that are created then feed back to us, sometimes sooner, sometimes later, always colored by the other objects, people, animals or situations that it has encountered. Nevertheless, the quality of the reflection is the quality of the action. This is *midah k'neged midah* in the physical realm.

In the moral realm, our tradition tells us we find the same phenomenon. This should not surprise us, as we are all connected to one another at the deepest levels. We see on the surface that our actions affect those around us – when we smile at the bus driver in the morning it make his day better, and that makes other people's days better, and, Gd forbid, the opposite. On a deeper level, the thoughts we put out also affect others, even those with whom we may not be in direct contact. Whatever influence we put out, returns to us, *midah k'neged midah*.

In the case of a great person, such as Korach, who can think and act from a very deep level, the influence, for good or for ill, that they can produce is correspondingly greater, and consequently the reverberation back on the actor is greater. Thus, Korach's actions threatened to uproot the Torah as a whole by undermining its Divine authority, as we discussed last year, or to upset the balance between *din* and *chesed* in Ramchal's terms. The result was correspondingly more severe – the entire balance of nature had to be upset to swallow him and his entire household alive. In the vernacular, "The bigger they are, the harder they fall." *Midah k'neged midah*.

There is another aspect to the balance between *din* and *chesed* that I think is very important to bear in mind, especially during times of trouble. We run into trouble when *din* threatens to overwhelm *chesed*. In everyday life, this may mean that we get very judgmental (about others of course) and refuse to cut anybody any slack, forgetting of course that our own existence is only possible because Gd continually cuts us quite a lot of slack! In public life it may take the form of war or natural disasters, greed or corruption, anything where boundaries [*din*] predominate so much that the natural tendency of life to grow and progress [*chesed*] is choked off.

What happens, however, when *chesed* is choked off is that *din* also gets choked off. *Din* depends on *chesed* for its very survival. Therefore, when it grows too strong, it paradoxically contains the seeds of its own weakening. Perhaps this is what Marx meant when he talked about the internal contradictions of capitalism, but of course it applies as much or more to communism and fascism. *Anything that is evil is self-limiting*. Just as a fire burns itself out eventually, when it runs out of fuel, so evil can only destroy positive forces for so long before it runs out of energy itself. Nonetheless, it can do a lot of damage along the way. It is much smarter to create a closer and closer connection with Gd, to take shelter under His wings, and to create balance in our own life and in the life of the cosmos.

***Shabbat Shalom!***  
**Rafi Rabinoff**



## Schmooze, Games & Nosh

Wednesday, June 28 – 7:15 PM

Open to anyone looking to schmooze or play board games, bridge or mah jongg. Bring cards and your favorite games, or knitting/crocheting/needlework projects.

Light refreshments provided.  
No RSVP necessary, and no charge!

7:15 – 8:15 PM after *Minchah/Arvit*.

## Mark Your Calendar... for a Calendar Meeting!



Monday, July 17  
7:15 PM

Open to all who would like to schedule an event on our calendar. Event and committee chairpersons and Board VPs are particularly encouraged to attend, as is anyone who has a program/fundraising/educational idea for the 2017/2018 year.

Refreshments will be served!

Please RSVP to Marian or 314-576-5230.

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to schedule a program on the calendar, please contact Marian prior to July 17.



# AN EVENING OF PAINTING

6:30 PM  
WINE & NOSH  
7-9 PM  
PAINTING  
INSTRUCTIONS



TAUGHT BY  
SAMANTHA  
BRICK

WEDNESDAY  
JULY  
12

\$25 PER PERSON  
INCLUDES ALL  
MATERIALS AND  
REFRESHMENTS  
TAKE HOME A CANVAS!

PLEASE RSVP  
BY JULY 7  
[tradcong@bcglobal.net](mailto:tradcong@bcglobal.net)  
314-576-5230

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 25      Double-header **Softball Game** 11:40 AM, JCCA Field #1 vs. United Hebrew; and 1:00 PM, JCCA Field #2 vs. CRC.

Wednesday, June 28      **Schmooze & Games**, 7:15 PM. Open to anyone looking to schmooze or play some board games, bridge or mah jongg. Please bring cards and games, or knitting/crocheting/needlework projects. Light refreshments will be provided. No RSVP necessary and no charge. 7:15pm-8:15pm following Minchah/Arvit

Wednesday, July 12      **An Evening of Painting.** Join us at 6:30 for wine and nosh; from 7:00-9:00, Samantha Brick will teach us how to paint on canvas—you'll take home your masterpiece! \$25/person includes wine, refreshments and all materials. RSVP by 7/7, 314-576-5230 or tradcong@sbcglobal.net.

Monday, July 17      **Calendar Meeting**, 7:15 PM. Get your event/program on our 2017-2018 calendar. Have a program you'd like to see us do? Get it on our calendar! Open to all, refreshments provided. Questions/RSVP to Marian, 314-576-5230, tradcong@sbcglobal.net.

Tuesday, August 22      **Cardinals Game & Dinner**, see previous page. Only a handful of tickets remain!

The Jewish Federation has once again provided a grant to congregational rabbis to be used for emergency financial needs of congregants. If you are in need of funds, please contact Rabbi Gordon in confidence at Rabbi.Gordon@yahoo.com or 314-576-5230.

### ***Get your tickets now—Only a few seats are still available!***

Tuesday, August 22      TradCong goes to the ballgame! Cards vs. Padres, 7:15 PM. Enjoy the game from your seat in a luxury suite, plus dinner from Kohn's! This is a \$155 value—yours for just \$60/person! Tickets are going fast, only 40 tickets are now available, first-come, first-serve, don't wait to order!! Send your check for \$60/person to TradCong, 12437 Ladue Rd, 63141; or order online at [www.traditional-congregation.org](http://www.traditional-congregation.org).

### ***You can help underwrite Traditional night at Busch Stadium!***

Managers	\$5,000 and up	(includes 10 tickets)
Pitchers	\$1,000-4,999	(includes 4 tickets)
Catchers	\$750-999	(includes 2 tickets)
First Base	\$500-749	(includes 2 tickets)
Second Base	\$200-499	(includes 1 ticket)
Third Base	\$100-199	



To join the team, please contact Jerry Chervitz, 314-574-0456. Thank you for your support!



Visit our **NEW** website [www.traditional-congregation.org](http://www.traditional-congregation.org)

## **PRAYER**

Rabbi Eleazer on concluding his worship  
used to say the following:

*May it be Your will, Almighty God,  
to cause to dwell on our lot love and  
harmony, peace and friendship.*

May You make our borders rich  
in disciples and prosper in our latter  
end with good prospect and hope,  
and set our portion in Paradise.

*Confirm us with a good companion and  
a good impulse in Your world.*

May we rise early and obtain the yearning  
of our heart to revere Your name.

*And may You be pleased to grant  
The satisfaction of our desires!*

*Talmud*

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

We find comfort among those who agree with us –  
growth among those who don't.

*Frank A. Clark*