



May 18, 2019

יג אייר תשע"ט

28th Day of Omer

Parashat Emor – Leviticus 21:1-24:23 אמור

Stone – p 672 Hertz – p 513 Etz Hayim – p 717

Hafarah – Ezekiel 44:15-31 יחזקל מד:טו-לא

Stone – p 1176 Hertz – p 528 Etz Hayim – p 735

Kiddush is sponsored by Sisterhood

Talmud Class – 6:30 PM

Minchah – 7:45 PM

Seudah Sh'lishit is sponsored by Gail & Jerry Tullman
in memory of Gail's mother, June Spritz

Shabbat Ends – 8:49 PM

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

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

Rabbi Ephraim Zimand z"l, Emeritus

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

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Shabbat—9:00 AM & 7:45 PM Sunday —8:30 AM

Monday—Friday—7:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Board of Directors:

Elaine Farkas, President

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Ellis Frohman, Financial Vice President

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Jerry Chervitz, Alan Rosenberg, Phil Brick, Boaz Roth, Cyndee Levy, Kenneth Bohm

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Bill Gold

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Carol Max

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Dina Rinder

Iris Salsman

Jerry Tullman

Jeff Weisman

Justin Zeid

*Traditional Congregation welcomes new members. If someone you know would like to receive membership information, please contact
Marian Gordon at 314-576-5230*

On This Week's Torah Portion – Emor

At first glance, it would appear that the primary focus of this week's portion is the ritual status of the *kohen*, the priest. The loss of family members, physical blemishes, even the behavior of his own progeny, all seem to have an impact on whether or not the priest can fulfill the ritual role assigned to him. Still elsewhere, the portion focuses on the details of sacrifices, i.e., what makes them acceptable for worship, and in particular, sacrifices pertaining to the holidays and how they reflect on the sanctity of the particular occasion observed. Yet amongst all these details rises an overarching principle, a key value that lies at the core not only of the Torah, but of Judaism in totality and our relationship with God in particular:

"And you shall not profane My holy name, so that I may be sanctified among the children of Israel; I am the Lord Who sanctifies you."(22:32)

Holiness... sanctity... the phrase "*Kiddush Hashem*" comes to mind. "Sanctifying God's Name" – the highest form of such sanctification was martyrdom. And indeed, throughout our long history, from the time of the Greeks and Romans until the present day, there have been Jews who, under the most trying circumstances, have preferred to surrender their lives rather than desecrate and dishonor God's Name and the Jewish people. Fortunately, most of us need not face such an extreme situation.

Yet in the broader context, the concept of *Kiddush Hashem* today need not be explained only in terms of martyrdom. After all, the idea of "sanctity", *Kedushah*, is not foreign to us. When a loved one passes away, we acknowledge the sanctity of his/her life and what it meant to us, by reciting the Mourner's Kaddish. When a young couple fall in love and truly seek a unique and sacred bond, one with the other, we call it *Kiddushin*, Marriage. When we celebrate the sacredness of the Sabbath, the joy of Simchat Torah, the freedom exemplified by Passover, we recite a prayer over wine sanctifying the occasion – *Kiddush*. Yet while all of these are acts of *Kedushah*, of sanctity, none of them is performed on an individual basis day in and day out.

What, then, is the path to *Kiddush Hashem*? It is living a life of *Kedushah* – of sanctity – by striving to fulfill the moral as well as the ritual precepts immortalized in the Torah.

The Midrash recounts how, having been commissioned by their teacher, Rabbi Simon ben Shetach, to purchase a donkey, the students exalted at having found precious jewel under the animal's collar. "Did the seller know of the gem?" asked their teacher, when inquiring how much they had paid for the animal. In response to their negative reply, he refused to take ownership of the gem or the animal and ordered it returned to its non-Jewish owner, lest he be perceived as taking advantage of the letter of the law, but not acting in its spirit. Upon the return of the gem and the animal, the non-Jew proclaimed, "Blessed be the God of Simon ben Shetach. Blessed be the God of Israel."

This is what it means to strive to live a life of sanctity. Israel's recent response to the tragedy in Haiti is one good example; the behavior of a Bernie Madoff, the very opposite. One need not be a priest, a *kohen*, to be concerned about the details of living a life of sanctity; for that matter, one need not even be Jewish. What does matter is that we all try to apply the Torah's lesson to our lives.

Shabbat Shalom!
Rabbi Kenneth Greene



**WEDNESDAY
MAY 29
7:00 PM**

SCHMOOZE & GAMES

**BRING YOUR
FAVORITE
BOARD
GAMES, OR
USE OURS!**

**SNACKS PROVIDED
NO CHARGE
COME TO PLAY OR
SCHMOOZE WITH FRIENDS**

**FOR MORE INFO:
DINARINDER@ICLOUD.COM**

Graduation
Shabbat
June 1, 2019

Services begin at
9:00 AM

20 19

Kiddush sponsored
by parents &
grandparents of the
Class of 2019

SO MUCH TO SEE
SO MUCH TO DO

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
A WEST COUNTY

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

עם אחד; לב אחד



A night of study, prayer, music, community, Schmoozing and Noshing facilitated by the Clergy and Education Staff* of B'nai Amoona, Shaare Emeth, Shir Hadash, Temple Emanuel, Temple Israel, Traditional, United Hebrew, and The Center for Jewish Learning at The Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

*with a special presentation by Scholar-in-Residence Reb Simcha Raphael, Founding Director of DA'AT INSTITUTE for Death Awareness, Advocacy and Training

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

6:15 pm Minchah
(with different Service options available)

7:00 pm Welcome

7:20 pm - 12:00 am

Evening filled with learning, prayer, eating & Schmoozing

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

12437 Ladue Road
Creve Coeur, MO 63141

Join us for all or part of
the evening.
Everyone is welcome.



TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

BAR-B-Q

and

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Thursday, June 13, 2019

6:30 PM BAR-B-Q

7:10 PM ANNUAL MEETING

BAR-B-Q \$12/PERSON

SEND CHECK TO TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

12437 LADUE RD, STL MO 63141 BY 6/6

OR REGISTER ONLINE

[HTTPS://TRADITIONAL-CONGREGATION.ORG/EVENTS](https://TRADITIONAL-CONGREGATION.ORG/EVENTS)



Please RSVP Below

Questions? Contact Amy Maupin at
314-576-9990 x131

[REGISTER FOR TIKKUN AT
HTTPS://
WWW.BNAIAMOONA.COM/
WESTCOUNTYSHAVUOT2019](https://WWW.BNAIAMOONA.COM/WESTCOUNTYSHAVUOT2019)

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4811139/Annual-BBQ-61319](https://123formbuilder.com/form-4811139/Annual-BBQ-61319)

or send check for \$12/person to:
Traditional Congregation
12437 Ladue Rd
St Louis MO 63141

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 19 **Softball Game** vs Kol Rinah, 10:20 AM at JCCA Field 1.

Sunday, May 19 "The Joy of Intimacy: Putting the WOW into relationships and keeping it there!" Brunch & Lecture with Rabbi Manis Friedman. The Hilton Frontenac, 12:00 - 2:30pm. The Joy of Intimacy is a fascinating look at what makes a healthy relationship healthy, what allows two individual people to unite as one. Rabbi Manis Friedman is a scholar who brings ancient wisdom and modern wit to help us weave our way through life living intentionally, and more meaningfully. Kosher dietary laws observed. Suggested donation \$18. RSVP required: www.JoyByManis.com (*Rabbi & Marian are on the Host Committee—we hope you'll join us!*)

Sunday, May 26 Jewish War Veterans Memorial Day Service, Jewish Federation Building, 11:00 AM The community is invited to attend and honor those in our community who gave their lives in service to our country.

Wednesday, May 29 **Schmooze & Games**, 7:00 PM in the Jewish Heritage Center. Come to play, come to schmooze. Lights snacks provided; bring your own board games or use ours. For more info: dinarinder@icloud.com

Shabbat, June 1 **Graduation Shabbat**. Join us to honor the Class of 2019! Services begin at 9:00 AM and will be followed by a kiddush in honor of our high school and college graduates, sponsored by their parents and grandparents. All are welcome.

Motzei Shabbat, June 8 **West County Tikkun Leil Shavuot** hosted at Traditional Congregation. Minchah services begin at 6:15 PM; community welcome at 7:00 PM. An evening of prayer, learning, community, noshing and schmoozing—join us for all or part. Register at <https://www.bnaiamoona.com/westcountyshavuot2019> or call Amy Maupin, 314-576-9990, ext. 131.

Sunday-Monday, June 9-10 **Shavuot**. Services begin each morning at 9:00 AM. On Monday, we will read *Megilot Ruth* and *Yizkor* will be recited.

Thursday, June 13 **BBQ & Annual Congregational Meeting**. BBQ @ 5:30 PM, Meeting at 7:10 PM. Join us for dinner and show your support for our Board! BBQ is \$12pp, sign up at <https://123formbuilder.com/form-4811139/Annual-BBQ-61319>

If you've not yet made a Capital Campaign donation—it's not too late. Please communicate your donation or send your payment to the office. Thank you for your support!

We're looking for...YOU—to sponsor a Kiddush! Call Marian, 314-576-5230 to reserve your date. Not ready to sponsor but would like to help offset our Kiddush costs? It's easy—mail your donation to Traditional (note: Kiddush Fund in memo) or donate online at <https://www.traditional-congregation.org/donate> and select Kiddush Fund Donation. Thank you!

www.traditional-congregation.org

PRAYER

Why do I pray? – Because prayer invites me to an adventure
in human values.

*Why do I pray? – Because prayer opens the door
that leads to all humankind.*

Why do I pray? – Because prayer inspires me to be one
with the Parent of the universe.

*Why do I pray? – Because I am frail and need strength;
I am troubled and need comfort; and being proud, I need humility.*

Why do I pray? – Because having entered the world as a Jew by birth,
I want to leave it a Jew by worth.

*Why do I pray? – Because prayer respects my mind, purifies my heart,
exalts my spirit and sanctifies my life.*

Why do I pray? – Because prayer leads me out of myself
into the broad places where all mortals live,
and unto the high places where truth and righteousness abide.

*Why do I pray? – Because prayer leads me out of “spiritual poverty.”
Just as there is material poverty in food, clothing and shelter;
so is there spiritual poverty where the deficiency
is in spiritual things such as prayer,
knowledge of Torah, observance of the mitzvot,
and the practice of good deeds.*

*From Morrie Matlof
(adapted)*

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything,
but they make the most of everything.

Sam Cawthorn