



September 12-13, 2025

כ אלול תשפ"ה

Candle Lighting 6:56 PM

Parashat Ki Tavo - Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8 כי תבוא
Stone - p 1068 Hertz - p 859 Etz Hayim - p 1140

Haftarah - Isaiah 60:1-22 ישעיהו
Sixth Week of Consolation
Stone - p 1201 Hertz - p 874 Etz Hayim - p 1161

Kiddush following services
is sponsored by
Nikki & Paul Goldstein
in honor of
Paul's 70th birthday

Shabbat ends 7:55 PM

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

Rabbi Seth D Gordon - Rabbi.Gordon@yahoo.com
Marian S. Gordon, Executive Director - traditionalcong@gmail.com

WEEKDAY AND SHABBAT SERVICES

Sunday - 8:30 AM

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

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

Stan Greenberg

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 Torah Portion - Ki Tavo

The Torah often uses the Hebrew verb meaning "to command". This is necessary, for there are 613 commandments - mitzvot - in the Torah. Strangely though, there is no verb in Biblical Hebrew that means "to obey." How can we have the idea of commands without the concept of obeying them? The answer is simple. Instead of using the word obey, the Torah uses another word: shema.

The root sh-m-a is a keyword in Devarim, appearing 92 times. But this word does not mean blind obedience. It has many shades of meaning: to hear, to listen, to understand, to be willing to obey, and to respond in action. Tradition understood Na'aseh ve-nishma ("we will do and we will understand") as: first we act, then we seek to understand.

The fact that shema carries all these meanings suggests that in the Torah there is no concept of automatic, mindless obedience. A soldier obeys his commander. A slave obeys his master. But God created us in His image, with freewill and the power to think for ourselves. He does not want slaves of the mind. He wants us to listen, reflect, and understand.

The Ralbag noted that this is what makes the Torah different: "Our Torah contains nothing that does not originate in equity and reason. The laws of other nations... people obey because of compulsion. Our Torah attracts by virtue of its essence."

The Torah shows in several ways that its laws are not arbitrary. First, it often provides reasons: the Israelites knew what it felt like to be oppressed, so they were commanded to create a society that protects the stranger, frees slaves, and feeds the poor. Second, it often connects law with narrative. For example, the law of tzitzit follows the story of the spies, to teach us how we see with faith instead of with fear. Third, the Torah links law to creation itself. The priestly laws of holiness, like the separation of meat and milk or wool and linen, mirror the separations of Genesis 1, showing a deep respect for nature, its structure and boundaries.

As Moshe nears the end of his life, he becomes an educator. Again and again he explains that God's laws are not arbitrary decrees. They make sense. They uphold dignity, honour creation, give the land rest, protect against tyranny, and create the foundations of freedom. Follow them, he says, and you will prosper. Abandon them, and you will fall.

That is why Devarim repeatedly uses the verb shema. Moshe asks the Israelites to "obey," but not blindly. They had seen for themselves that God had freed them, sustained them, and brought them to this land. God gave the Torah not for His sake but for theirs. The Torah invites us to see the benefit of following it, giving us dignity and a sense of partnership when we keep the law. That is the meaning of Moshe's words, "Be silent, Israel, and listen! You have now become the people of the Lord your God. Listen to the Lord your God and follow His commands and decrees that I give you today."

Keeping the commands is not blind submission. It is listening in all its senses - paying attention, reflecting, remembering, and understanding. It means humility, gratitude, and memory of what it felt like to be a slave in Egypt. But it does not mean silencing the mind.

God is not a tyrant but a teacher. He seeks not just our obedience but also our understanding. Many nations have laws, but few set their highest task as understanding why the law is as it is. That is what the Torah means by the word shema.

Shabbat shalom,
Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt"l



ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, 9/11/2025 7:00 PM

@TraditionalCongregation
in the Jewish Heritage Center

***Highlights of the past year**

***Share your thoughts**

***Get answers to your questions**

***Cast your vote for our
slate of Officers**

***Have a nosh with friends**

(One vote per family.

**Associate Members are welcome to attend,
but are not eligible to vote.)**

Please let Marian know that you plan to attend:
traditionalcong@gmail.com or 314-576-5230



12437 Ladue Rd, St Louis MO 63141
314-576-5230

www.traditional-congregation.org
traditionalcong@gmail.com





All, we're asking for your help in welcoming our members and guests on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. We need two people for each time slot; (note that the first shift each morning is for the ladies as we need men in the service so we can begin on time).

If you can help us by taking one or more shifts, please let me know which ones you are available for so that I can assign the shifts accordingly. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you in advance!

Marian - traditionalcong@gmail.com - 314-576-5230

RH Day 1 - Tues, 9/23

8:30 - 9:30 AM - Filled

9:30 - 10:30 AM - 1 available

10:30 - 11:30 AM - 2 available

RH Day 2 - Wed, 9/24

8:30 - 9:30 AM - Filled

9:30 - 10:30 AM - 1 available

10:30 - 11:30 AM - 1 available

Kol Nidrei - Wed, 10/1

5:45 - 6:15 PM - Filled

Yom Kippur, Thurs, 10/2

9:00 - 10:00 AM - Filled

10:00 - 11:00 AM - Filled

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM - 1 available

4:30 - 5:30 PM - 2 available

5:30 - 6:30 PM - 2 available

6:30 - 7:15 PM - 2 available

SELICHOT PROGRAM & SERVICE

9/13/25, 8:15 PM @ B'nai Amoona

8:15 PM - Discussion with JNF speaker

Evelyn Eggers

9:25 PM - Desserts & Coffee

10:00 PM - Selichot Service



SELICHOT JNF SPEAKER

EVELYN EGGERS

**Midwest Regional Director for
Israel on Campus Coalition**

Evelyn Eggers, Midwest Director for the Israel on Campus Coalition, will share her experiences as a student at Indiana University during and after October 7th, and her current work supporting Midwest students navigating pro-Israel challenges on campus. She will be joined by students from Washington University, who will share their own perspectives.



**ISRAEL on
CAMPUS COALITION**



**Congregation
B'NAI AMOONA**



**JEWISH
NATIONAL
FUND**

Your Voice in Israel



TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION HIGH HOLYDAYS SCHEDULE 2025/5786



Selichot Program/Services:

Motzei Shabbat September 13 at B'nai Amoona

8:15 PM - Discussion with JNF speaker

9:25 PM - Desserts & Coffee

10:00 PM - Selichot Service

ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, September 22

Minchah/Arvit 6:30 PM

Candle Lighting 6:40 PM

Tuesday, September 23 and

Wednesday, September 24: 8:30 AM - 12:45 PM

Shacharit 8:30 AM

Torah Service 9:15 AM

Rabbi's Remark's 10:00 AM

Musaf and Shofar 10:30 AM

Service concludes 12:45 PM

Please join us for *kiddush* following services each day, sponsored by Dina & Morty Rinder.

Tuesday, September 23

Minchah/Tashlich 6:30 PM

(Tashlich at Ladue Lake)

Candle Lighting After 7:39 PM

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Friday, September 26

Candle Lighting 6:34 PM

Shabbat, September 27

Shacharit 9:30 AM

Kiddush following *musaf*

Shabbat Ends 7:32 PM

Sun, September 28:

All hands on deck to assemble our sukkah!

9:30 AM following Shacharit.

Please help out if you are available!

Kol Nidrei Food Drive

Please fill bags with food for the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry and bring them when you come for *Kol Nidrei*. Non-perishable food items only, no glass jars, nothing expired. (If you are not attending in-person services, bags may be dropped off Mon-Thurs 8:30-4:30, Fri 8:30-12:00 by Tuesday, September 30).

YOM HAKIPPURIM

Wednesday, October 1

Candle Lighting no later than 6:26 PM

(Those who wish to light candles at home before the start of Yom HaKippurim and then ride to shul may do so. Lighting candles does not cause *Shabbat* or Holydays to begin; it is a pre-*Shabbat*, pre-Holyday act.)

Kol Nidrei

6:20 PM SHARP

To maintain the sanctity of the services and not disturb our congregants, no one will be permitted to enter the Sanctuary during the chanting of *KOL NIDREI*.

Thursday, October 2: 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Pesukei Dezimrah 9:00 AM

Shacharit 9:30 AM

Torah Service 11:00 AM

Rabbi's Remark's 11:30 AM

Yizkor 12:00 AM

Musaf 12:30 PM

BREAK


Yom HaKippurim afternoon and Ne'ilah

Minchah 4:50 PM

Ne'ilah 6:00 PM

Arvit 7:16 PM

Havdalah & Teki'at Shofar 7:35 PM



**THANK YOU TO
DINA & MORTY RINDER
FOR SPONSORING OUR
KIDDUSHIM ON
ROSH HASHANAH
AS THEY HAVE FOR
THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS!**



**PLEASE JOIN DINA & MORTY
FOLLOWING SERVICES ON
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY
TO GREET FRIENDS AND
ENJOY A NOSH!**





TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

SUKKOT/SIMCHAT TORAH SCHEDULE 2025/5786



First Days

Monday, October 6 - Sukkot

Candle Lighting 6:18 PM

Tuesday, October 7 - Day 1

Shacharit 9:30 AM

Candle Lighting After 7:17 PM

Wednesday, October 8 - Day 2

Shacharit 9:30 AM

Yom Tov ends 7:15 PM

Shabbat, October 10-11

Candle Lighting 6:12 PM

Shacharit 9:30 AM

with reading of *Kohelet*

Shabbat ends 7:11 PM

Sunday, October 12

Lunch & Program in the *Sukkah* - stay tuned for details!



Closing Days

Monday, October 13 - Hoshanah Rabbah

Candle Lighting 6:08 PM

Tuesday, October 14 - Shemini Atzeret

Shacharit 9:30 AM

YIZKOR

Minchah 6:05 PM

Arvit/Hakafot 6:58 PM

Candle Lighting After 7:06 PM

Wednesday, October 15 - Simchat Torah

Shacharit 9:30 AM

Yom Tov ends 7:05 PM

Shabbat, October 17-18 - Parashat Bereshit

Candle Lighting 6:02 PM

Shacharit 9:30 AM

Shabbat ends 7:01 PM



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING
THURSDAY 9/11/25 7:00 PM

SELICHOT PROGRAM & SERVICE
9/13/25, 8:15 PM @B'NAI AMOONA

LUNCH & MUSIC IN THE SUKKAH
SUNDAY, 10/12/25

STL Jewish Light Unsung Heroes Program
with Honoree Marty Levy
Sunday, 10/26 at the JCC

Shabbat, 11/8/25
Jewish War Veterans Shabbat

“Actually, it IS Brain Surgery! (but not rocket science)”
Sunday, 11/9/25
Brunch and program with Dr. Ari Levy,
Board-certified Neurosurgeon

“Organizing & Downsizing”
with Jodi Granok, Certified Professional Organizer
Brunch & program, Sunday, 11/23/25

PRAYER

Have many among us brought to God our most treasured
possessions, the first fruits of our labor?

*Having brought them to God, have we acknowledged that
we were once wanderers and slaves,
and that only through His help have we come to a good land?*

Having acknowledged that He brought us to this estate,
do we remember that His constant care
is like the rain that falls and the grain that grows?

*Have we understood that the strength of God is His mercy,
that His mighty hand is outstretched to us only when we reach toward Him?*

We pray to learn anew these lessons of our teacher, Moses:
to bring to God the offering of first fruits,

*To acknowledge in humility our dependence upon Him,
to share our joy with the lonely and the depressed,
with the stranger as well as the friend,*

To rejoice in all the good which God has given us,
to come gladly to the house of God

*To give thanks for the wonders of His universe,
that sustain us every moment of our lives.*

Ruth Brin

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Learn from the mistakes of others.
You can't make them all yourself.

Eleanor Roosevelt