



May 17-18, 2024

י אייר תשפ"ד

Candle Lighting 7:51 PM

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

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

**Haftarah** - Ezekiel 44:15-31 יחזקאל מד:טו-לא

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

*Kiddush* following services  
is sponsored by the congregation

**Shabbat** ends 8:51 PM

## **TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION**

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

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

### **SERVICES**

Sunday - 8:30 AM

Tuesday - 6:30 PM

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

(terms end in July of year indicated)

Members at Large:

Maureen Brodsky (2024)

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 Torah Portion - Emor

*Hashem said to Moses: Say to the Kohanim, the sons of Aaron, and tell them: Each of you shall not contaminate himself...They shall be holy to their G-d and not desecrate the name of their G-d...(Vayikra 21:1/6)*

Hashem spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to the Children of Israel and say to them: Hashem's appointed festivals that you are to designate as holy convocations-these are My appointed festivals...(Vayikra 23:1-2)

Two main themes dominate the reading this week; 1) That holy class of people, Kohanim and their peculiar restrictions 2) Those holy-times we call festivals and their unique observances. Maybe it's too obvious to investigate the connection between two things that are holy. More basic is the question, "what is 'holy'?"

I was thrown into the swimming pool of public speaking a bunch of years back. If I had any fears they were either confirmed or dispelled by the following incident. I was involved with a tour consisting of a few dozen-college students who were visiting Israel for the first time. Friday night at the Kosel, the Western Wall, the head of our contingency led us in a twenty-minute dance around the plaza where many groups had gathered to pray.

By the time we had finished, our numbers had swelled to hundreds. The one, who had so enthusiastically orchestrated the dancing, now pulled everyone close around him for a quiet word before the evening Shabbos prayer. When he had their attention, he stepped out and pushed me in urging me to say something. I was totally unprepared. The awe of that Wall and the place was plenty to strike me silent. I looked up at the faces of the now hundreds of people. I felt like that ubiquitous deer on the highway with the truck bearing down, Bambi, frozen and staring into the headlights.

With help from heaven I was able to open my mouth. I asked, "What are we all doing here? Are we here to talk to the wall?" I saw some heads beginning to nod. "This is the last unsullied, non-commercial, holy place in the world. There exists within each of us also a pure and unexploited point of holiness, as well. Here on the Holy Shabbos, that remnant of holiness within us has been drawn magnetically to this hold-out of holiness.

I realized quickly that the word "holy" was a dead word for most and even me. What was I saying? I needed to define and add color to the term- "holy". With even more continued help from heaven, it occurred to me that just days earlier I was been walking through the streets of New York City. I too was searching for holiness. I asked, "What holiness is to be found there? What do people treat as holy? Where do we find in a world of cynicism and shattered idols that there is a place where everyone universally acts with old time reverence? In only one place- At the ATM room.

Everyone, even in bustling NYC, enters quietly and respectfully. Each inserts their piece of plastic. The machine engages us so politely and clearly. Then we enter our PIN# and wait for the good news. Chamber music might be appropriate as the confessional screen lights up and tells us the brutal truth.

We have made withdrawals, too many. We have made deposits. We are flirting dangerously with the over draft. A record is there of all our transactions if we wish. The final request and closing and we each back up three steps as if from a silent prayer, "Oseh Shalom Bimromav..." putting the receipt or money privately and deeply into our pocket. We have been touched.

The same is when we approach the Wall in prayer. Although we all hold the same Prayer Book and say the same words, as the plastic card, we each have a personal identification number. We are weighing in collectively and individually and making ourselves aware of our spiritual bank accounts. We have made withdrawals. We have made deposits...etc."

It has occurred to me that the money industry has usurped the best words for what we seek in personal relationships, Mutual, Fidelity, Trust, Bond, Interest, Provident, Security, Exchange, and even more. It's not a new phenomenon. King Solomon told us more than two thousand years ago, if you want to achieve authentic awe, feel it for real you must "seek it like silver". Then you'll know what is "Holy"!

**Shabbat shalom,  
Rabbi Label Lam**

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## Traditional Congregation Volunteer Group Activity



# Mitzvah Day @ Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry - Friday, May 31



Enjoy the experience of volunteering with your fellow Traditional Congregation members for a special day visiting the Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry. HKJFP is the largest food pantry in St. Louis, annually serving more than 15,000 people throughout St. Louis City and St. Louis County. Learn how the pantry operates to serve the St. Louis community with nutritious meals for those in need. Our visit will include:

- Overview of the program and how it serves the community
- Tour of the operation
- Hands-on group volunteer activity, including sorting and shelving donated items and packing bags for pantry guests

### **Details:**

- Friday, May 31, 2024 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Meet @ TradCong at 9:30 AM to carpool to HKJFP
- Only 20 spots are available. If you would like to join us, please contact Marty Levy directly by May 27:

Email: [mblevy450@gmail.com](mailto:mblevy450@gmail.com)

Phone: 636-628-5420

*Next up:* Mark your calendar for another volunteer group activity on Tuesday, September 17, 1:00-3:00 PM:

**Operation Food Search/Backpack Program**

*Watch for details!*



Reminder re: **Graduate Shabbat** - **LAST CHANCE** to send info about your children/grandchildren who are graduating this year from high school, college or grad school to Marian ASAP! We look forward to celebrating with you on June 1, 2024!



# Mirowitz STEAM Studio

Hands-on discovery for your pre-schooler that celebrates the geography, inventions and culture of Israel.

For children  
ages 3 to 5  
9:30 - 11 a.m.  
May 19



Free Israel-themed PJ book to the first 50 families to RSVP!

SAUL MIROWITZ  
JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

This event is free but space is limited.

PJ Library  
Bring Jewish stories home



**RSVP** one of these ways:

SCAN this QR code to RSVP.

VISIT [www.mirowitz.org/events](http://www.mirowitz.org/events).

EMAIL Abbi at [amarks-mazur@mirowitz.org](mailto:amarks-mazur@mirowitz.org).



# SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024



SHAVUOT LUNCHEON  
AT THE HOME OF  
RABBI & MARIAN GORDON

FOLLOWING SERVICES  
AT TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

## Volunteer Opportunities

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS to help out in the office. We can use some extra hands to help with things such as:

- Making donation envelopes
- Straightening our supply closet/taking inventory
- Reloading copy machine paper
- Reloading coffee machine supplies
- Cutting up scratch paper
- Taking inventory in our kitchens

If you are able to commit some time on a fairly regular basis, please contact Marian:  
314-576-5230 or [traditionalcong@gmail.com](mailto:traditionalcong@gmail.com). Thank you!!

## **PRAYER**

As we mark with joy this anniversary of Israel's rebirth,  
We thank You, O God, for keeping us alive, sustaining us,  
And enabling us to reach this day.

*We ask Your blessing for the State of Israel,  
For the Land of Israel, and for the People of Israel.*

Bless the defenders of the Land who guard its frontiers,  
Watch over its homes, and protect its people.

*Bless the leaders of Israel with wisdom and courage;  
Grant them vision and dedication.*

May they be strong in the face of danger,  
Resolute in the face of challenge,  
And unwavering in the search for peace.

*May the people of Israel make her  
A beacon of hope for those who are oppressed,  
An inspiration to those who are free,  
A source of light to all humankind.*

Fulfill in our times the ancient promise,  
"They shall abide in peaceful habitations,  
In safe dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

*Zion shall be redeemed through justice,  
And its inhabitants through integrity.*

**Unknown**

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

It (Israel) is a country where nobody expects miracles, but everybody takes them for granted.

***Ephraim Kishon***