



January 17-18, 2025

יח טבת תשפ"ה

Candle Lighting 4:48 PM

**Parashat Shemot** שמות Exodus 1:1-6:1

Stone – p 292      Hertz – p 206      Etz Hayim p 317

**Haftarah** ישעיה Isaiah

27:6 - 28:13; 29:22-23

Stone – p 1146      Hertz – p 225      Etz Hayim p 343

**Kiddush** following services  
is sponsored by the Congregation

**Shabbat** ends 5:49 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 - Shemot

Of all the portions in the Torah, Shemot most clearly illustrates the strength of the Jewish woman. It was the women who bravely resisted Pharaoh's decree to kill newborn baby boys. It was the women who seduced their husbands in order to perpetuate the Jewish nation. And it was the women who saved the life of their future redeemer, Moses. As a baby, he was placed in a basket of reeds by Yocheved, his mother; watched by Miriam, his sister; and saved by Batya, Pharaoh's daughter. When Miriam saw Batya discover the crying three-month-old baby, she immediately offered a wet nurse, a Hebrew woman who would care for the baby until he was ready for palace life. This volunteer foster parent was none other than their mother, Yocheved. Relieved, Batya acquiesced, and little Moses was returned home to be well fed and well prepared for future challenges.

Who was Yocheved? We are told she was born "between the boundary walls": that is, her birth occurred en route from Israel to Egypt. Her soul was never stifled; she was never completely subjugated by the anguish of slavery, because she maintained a refuge "outside the walls." Her life-force originated in Israel, so her faith was constantly sustained by its connection to the Holy Land. She drew from the freedom and holiness of one wall to withstand the confinement and corruption of the other.

Do we not all live "between the walls"? Jewish women raising children in modern times have more in common with Yocheved than we think. On one hand we experience the sanctity and grace of Torah; on the other, the temptations and seductions of secular life. Take language, for example. Profanity is no longer uttered stealthily by teenagers, but spewed boldly by politicians, musicians, and parents. The language of the Bible is composed purely, so succinct in its construction and complex in its meaning. It's impossible to find a more exemplary prototype. We can restore the sanctity of our jargon and prose not only by avoiding slang, but by using words in a constructive and consecrated way.

Modesty is another illustration. We are assaulted by images of what is fashionable in the secular world: tall, lanky women dressed in chic, body-hugging material and shoes that make walking an acrobatic feat. Religious women dressed modestly exude a beauty more radiant, but less flamboyant. Just as the Torah is wrapped in elegant layers and guarded in the ark, we too protect what is precious to us.

As women, we are like Yocheved, working to protect our family in whatever way we can. What we say and do, the way our house looks, how we treat our loved ones, the guests we welcome, our reaction to mishaps, and our attitude toward giving charity all braid the fabric of that woven vessel that protects those we love.

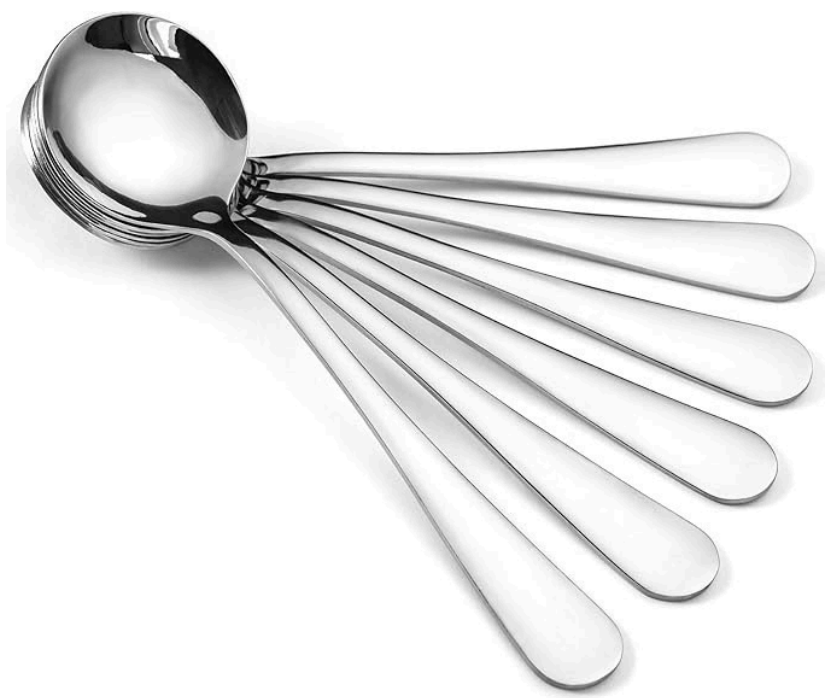
With a trembling hand, Yocheved placed her newborn son in the waters of the Nile. All that separated him from certain death was a mere basket of reeds. Yet, despite his humble beginnings, Moses left a mark so indelible that he is unanimously regarded as the greatest leader who ever lived. Surely, some of his greatness can be attributed to Yocheved's unique influence.

May we all be courageous enough to thrust our flimsy baskets into the tumultuous, stormy sea; and, with G-d's help, may we embrace the challenge of reconciling the profound and the profane.

**Shabbat shalom,  
Ahava Spillman**

*Ahava Spillman is Director of Women's Studies at Chabad on the Avenue, Toronto*

Save the Date!  
Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>



A TASTE OF SOUP  
2025!



## **Jewish War Veterans Heritage Post 644**

12 Millstone Campus Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63146

[www.jwvstl.org](http://www.jwvstl.org)

### **Jewish War Veterans Heritage Post 644 of St. Louis is pleased to announce the \$1,000 Ted and Rachael Pevnick Family Scholarship and the \$1,000 Chuck Sandroff Scholarship Awards.**

Both scholarships are applicable to either vocational or academic education.

#### **Eligibility**

- a. Current Students
  - i. Graduating high school senior applying to college or vocational training, or
  - ii. Current college (undergraduate) or vocational student with at least one (1) semester remaining after award date of May 25, 2025, or
- b. Military
  - i. Currently serving military service member pursuing academic or technical training outside of the military (Active Duty, National Guard or Reserves), or
  - ii. Military veteran separated with honorable discharge
- c. Applicant has no prior technical certificate, bachelors, or advanced degrees

Applications will be reviewed by Committee members of the Post 644. The application deadline is **April 25, 2025**, with the award taking place May 25, 2025 during our Memorial Day observance at the Millstone Campus in Creve Coeur, Missouri.

#### **Application process:**

- Applicant must be of Jewish faith
- Applicant has a connection to the Greater St. Louis region (at least one of the following three options applies)
  - Grew up in the Greater St. Louis region
  - Parent's live in the Greater St. Louis region
  - Attended high school or is attending college or vocational school in the Greater St. Louis region
- Write an essay (Word or PDF preferred) to include:
  - o How your sense of patriotism and being Jewish in the United States affects you and how the Veteran in your family influenced your life.
  - o Volunteer service in school or community.
  - o Name of school the applicant will be or is currently attending
  - o Contact information

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**Submit Applications to:**

[contact@jwvstl.org](mailto:contact@jwvstl.org)

# In the Community...

## Greece's Jews and the Holocaust

Presented by Nicholas Doumanis, Professor and Illinois Chair in Hellenic Studies, University of Illinois Chicago

Thursday, February 6, 2025 7 p.m. reception; 7:30 p.m. event  
Century Room A, Millennium Student Center, University of Missouri-St. Louis



The Holocaust claimed the lives of nearly nine out of ten Jews living in Greece, the highest percentage of any occupied territory in wartime Europe. In this lecture, Prof. Nicholas Doumanis will explore why the largest community, that of Thessaloniki, suffered disproportionately, while most Athenian Jews were saved. Prof. Doumanis will also discuss Jews who fought in the Greek resistance, the experiences of Greek Jews in Auschwitz, and how survivors were treated upon their return.

Professor Nicholas Doumanis, Professor and Illinois Chair in Hellenic Studies, teaches world history at the University of Illinois Chicago. He specializes in modern European history, mainly southern Europe and particularly Greece. He is also interested in the history of the modern Greek diaspora.

His publications include his prize-winning *Myth and Memory in the Mediterranean* (Macmillan, St Martin's, 1997), which is an ethnographic study of Greek islanders living under Italian colonial rule, and a book on Italian nation formation. He has also written a book on Greece since antiquity, and a study of Muslim-Christian coexistence and everyday life in the Ottoman Empire before the advent of nationalism.

This event is free and open to the public and is presented by the Hellenic Government-Karakas Family Foundation Professorship in Greek Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, in cooperation with the Consulate General of Greece in Chicago.

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## Will You Be the Winner of a Trip to Israel??

- Participants must be at least 18 years old to purchase a raffle ticket.
- Each ticket costs \$100.00 and can be purchased online or in person at B'nai Amoona.
- There are only 140 tickets available for sale; one individual may purchase no more than 5 tickets.
- The raffle drawing will be held on March 1, 2025, at the B'nai Amoona 140th Celebration.
- Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

To enter:

<https://www.bnaiamoona.com/form/24israelraffle>

140th Congregation BNAI AMOONA

**Diane and Paul Gallant  
ISRAEL RAFFLE**

Purchase a raffle ticket (or 5!) for a chance to **WIN:**  
**Two (2) Round-Trip Tickets to Israel  
A Four (4) Night Stay at a Jerusalem Hotel**

The raffle drawing will be held on March 1, 2025,  
at the B'nai Amoona 140th Celebration.  
Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

*All proceeds from the raffle will support B'nai Amoona Congregation*

## **PRAYER**

Parent of the strong and the weak,  
Before You even the strongest are weak.

*God of all wisdom and knowledge,  
Before You even the wisest is as a speechless child.*

You fill the heavens with Your majesty,  
And yet reveal Yourself in a lowly bush.

*Fill us with pride  
Which will keep us from self-humiliation,  
But purge us of the pride  
Which leads to self-exaltation.*

Remind us that we are only human,  
So that we may be most human.

*Keep us mindful of our littleness  
So that we may strive for true greatness.*

Help us to see how dependant we are  
Upon You and upon one another.

*May we fulfill the teaching of Your prophet;  
To do justice, to love mercy,  
And to walk unobtrusively with our God..*

**Unknown**

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

Burning bush, invisibly burning. The heart is aflame, and faith is not consumed.  
Put off your shoes from your feet, get rid of pettiness. The hour is holy.

**Abraham Joshua Heschel**