



August 9-10, 2024

ואב תשפ"ד

Candle Lighting 7:44 PM

**Parashat Devarim** – Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22 דברים  
Stone – p 938      Hertz – p 736      Etz Hayim – p 981

**Haftarah** – Isaiah 1:1-27 ישעיהו  
(3rd of The Three Weeks)  
Stone – p 1195      Hertz – p 750      Etz Hayim – p 1000

Join us for **kiddush** following services,  
sponsored by Stuart Kaufman  
in honor of his 90th birthday

**Shabbat** ends 8:44 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 - 6:45 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

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Marty Levy/Mindy Strauss, Education Co-Vice Presidents

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Past Presidents:

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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)

*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 - Devarim

Time travel has always fascinated humans. "What if I could go back in time and rewrite history?" and "What if I could see how things were back then and experience a totally different life?" are just some of the questions that capture our collective imagination. Full entertainment franchises are devoted to this fixation.

What if I told you that, in some ways, you really can travel back in time? OK, you won't be able to transport yourself onto 1776 American soil and help the Revolution (if that's what you want), but you most definitely can go back into the annals of your own life and rewrite the script. The key to your time machine is right here, in your own mind.

Parshat Devarim begins with Moses's farewell speech to the people: These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on that side of the Jordan in the desert. Why does the Torah name the location so vaguely, "on that side of the Jordan?" Just one verse earlier, at the conclusion of the book of Numbers, the Torah describes the same spot as, ". . . in the plains of Moab, by the Jordan at Jericho. Why omit the name now?

The different names for the same location stem from a fundamental difference between the two books: Numbers and Deuteronomy. Numbers, or as it's titled in Hebrew, Bamidbar, meaning "in the desert," is the story of the Jews' 40-year sojourn—their trials and tribulations, the lows and the highs. In that context, the final encampment within the desert deserves a unique name, as it is part of the desert story. In contrast, Deuteronomy pivots away from the desert and towards the Land of Israel. It is the story of how Moses gathered the people and delivered his farewell speech just before bowing out. The entire thrust of the book is future-oriented, with eyes on the land. For this reason, the location is no longer associated with the desert, but explicitly Israel-oriented—"on that side of the Jordan."

There's a deeper layer here. According to the Kabbalists, the journey into the desert was far more than just a punishment for misbehavior or due to the lack of a working GPS. Rather, it was a program for spiritual transformation. You see, a desert is a desolate place—dry, arid, lifeless, home to harmful creatures, and too hot for human habitation. In a spiritual sense, a desert represents an ungodly space, for G-d is the source of all life and vitality. The death and danger lurking in the desert are thus symbolic of the negative forces in this world that conceal G-d's expression and run counter to His will.

Dispatching the Jews to wander around the desert for 40 years was an effort to alleviate some of this negativity and introduce a bit more G-dliness into the world, specifically in the places where His presence is least comfortable. In that context, the final location represents the final struggle, the last and most difficult layer of evil that had resisted all efforts up to that point. And so, it's named in Numbers, because that particular strand of evil and the tremendous effort expended to sublimate it is an integral part of the desert story.

But in the book of Deuteronomy, our eyes are no longer focused on past efforts to combat evil. The perspective shifts towards the Promised Land, where evil no longer exists and there's only light, positivity, and purity. As such, the name of the specific brand of negativity disappears, forgotten forever. It is simply "on that side of the Jordan"—a slice of land on one side of Israel. This "rebrand" of one location that occurs over the span of two books brings us back to our time-travel discussion.

One of the most powerful tools we humans possess is the ability to rewrite our own past by reframing the story. It could very well be that you suffered traumatic experiences throughout your life. Or perhaps you made egregious mistakes with long-lasting ramifications. Even if your life hasn't been that dramatic, there's always one event, something that happened to you, or by you, that you wish had never happened. It could be a moral mistake, a religious mistake, a crushing life event, or all of the above. There's hardly anyone on the planet who has a perfect, painless, and mistake-free life.

But it happened already; it's part of history. What happens now is your choice. The story you tell yourself, the baggage you carry forward throughout your life, is yours to choose. You can remember the terrible parts, the pain, the loss, the hurt, and the feelings of remorse and regret. Or you can hyper analyze it and pick out the parts that don't hurt as much. If you look hard enough, there are surely some positive elements you can whittle away from the experience, something you learned or gained that became part of the foundation of your strong and meaningful life.

There's always something, some way to jump into the time machine and reconstruct. And when you do, you are ready to forge forward with a positive, hopeful bounce instead of sad, baggage-laden drudgery. And the amazing thing is that it's not self-delusional or untrue at all. Memory is not an exact science. Try asking 10 people who attended the same wedding, "How was it?" and you're bound to get 10 different answers; 10 different versions of ostensibly the same event. That's how it works: everyone is just going back in time and picking and choosing what best fits their own self-narrative.

So, go ahead and make the choice for yourself. You can call your past traumas and failures a yucky, desert-name, "The Plains of Moab" or you can call it, "Right Next to Israel."

I trust you'll make the right choice.

***Shabbat Shalom,***  
**Rabbi Aharon Loschak**

# ***OUR KITCHENS ARE GETTING A REFRESH--***

and we need your help to make it happen!!

## ***EXCITING NEWS!!***

We've been awarded a  
"Staenberg Family Foundation Anything Grant"  
that will help us spruce up our kitchens!

Our hard-working Meat & Dairy kitchens will be professionally cleaned, and we'll be replacing/adding much-needed small appliances, cooking equipment and serving pieces!

The total cost of the refresh is \$7,725 -  
and **the grant will provide 50% of the costs** (\$3,862).

## ***WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RAISE THE ADDITIONAL 50%!***

Our kitchens (and our kitchen committees!) work hard to prepare delicious kiddushim, brunches and dinners, all year round.

Please help us raise the additional 50%  
so that our kitchens sparkle, are more functional and  
better serve our community!



*Thank you for being  
our partner!!!*

*Your donation will help us  
reach our goal of \$3,862!*

[https://www.traditional-  
congregation.org/donate](https://www.traditional-congregation.org/donate)

or mail your donation to:

Traditional Congregation  
12437 Ladue Road  
St Louis MO 63141-8100  
and put "Kitchens"  
in the memo



# ***Celebrate with Us!!***



**This Shabbat, August 10**

Stuart Kaufman invites you to  
celebrate his birthday  
at kiddush on August 10th  
12:15 PM following services  
@Traditional Congregation

**Next Shabbat, August 17**



*Please RSVP via the invites that  
were sent out so we can count you  
in for kiddush!*



# What is the significance of the paradoxical nature of Eikhah?

**Rabbi Professor Reuven Kimelman**

**Sunday, August 11**

**12:00-1:00 PM Eastern**

**(7:00-8:00 Israel)**

**Via Zoom 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT**

Rabbi Kimelman is professor of Classical Judaica at Brandeis University and rabbi of Beth Abraham Sephardic Congregation of New England. He is also Scholar in Residence at the Kaplen JCC on the Palisades. He specializes in the history of classical Judaism with a focus on the history and poetics of the Jewish liturgy.

**Register at:**

**<https://utj.org/events/eikhah/>**



The Union for  
Traditional Judaism



KAPLEN JCC on the Palisades

# Tisha B'Av 5784

@ Traditional Congregation

August 12-13, 2024



## Monday, August 12:

7:45 PM - Minchah/Arvit/Chanting of Eichah

Fast begins at 7:59 PM CDT

## Tuesday, August 13:

7:00 PM - Minchah with Torah/Haftarah reading

7:59 PM - Fast ends (some wait until 3 stars @8:31 PM)





Join us for

# A Very Special Shabbat

August 24, 2024



**We will read from  
our new Sefer Torah  
for the first time!**

Services begin at 9:30 AM  
and will be followed  
by *kiddush*.

Join us for this  
very special *Shabbat*  
(please RSVP via the invitation  
that has been sent out  
if you plan  
to stay for *kiddush*).



*Save the Dates*

**ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING**

Thursday, September 12, 2024

7:00 PM

at Traditional Congregation

*Check your 8/8/24 email for more info and  
the slate of officers.*

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**REDEDICATION SHABBAT 5784**

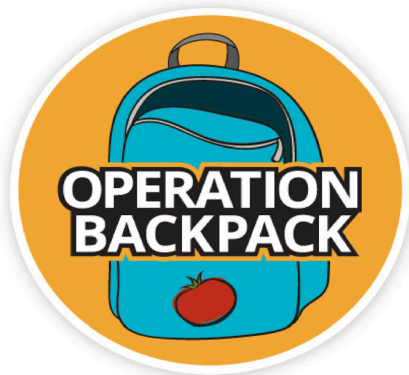
“HONORING OUR LEGACY of  
THE MEMBERS of  
TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION”

***Shabbat, September 14, 2024***

*Details to be sent out soon*

# Hunger doesn't take a weekend break!

Operation Backpack provides weekly sacks of kid-friendly, shelf-stable food to get students through the weekend when school meals are not available. Participating children are discreetly given these backpacks to take home, enabling them to come back to school on Monday with the good nutrition and focus they need to achieve academic success.



## Traditional Congregation Mitzvah Day Opportunity Tuesday, September 17, 1-3 pm

### Location: **Operation Food Search**

1644 Lostie Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132

### Volunteer Task: **Organize Operation Backpack Bags**

- Organize kid friendly nutritious food into bags.
- Bags will be sent home with students on Friday to give them food to eat throughout the weekend.
- There is no charge for students to participate in Operation Backpack.

### Important Information:

- All volunteer groups include a tour of Operation Food Search's facility.
- Wear close-toed shoes, **no sandals** are allowed for safety concerns.
- You will be in a warehouse; please wear casual clothes that can get dirty.
- Feel free to bring water bottles. There is a water fountain to refill them.
- Volunteers must be 18 or older.
- We will be indoors and the facility is wheelchair accessible.

### **RSVP BY Tuesday, September 10 directly to:**

Mindy Strauss: [mfstrauss@prodigy.net](mailto:mfstrauss@prodigy.net) or 314-640-0711

If you'd like to carpool, please arrive at the Traditional Congregation West parking lot to leave by 12:30 pm.

For more information about Operation Backpack:

<https://www.operationfoodsearch.org/programs/operation-backpack>

**Happy Birthday to:**

Shabbat, 8/10 Paul Goldstein  
 Sun, 8/11 Matthew Rosenbluth  
 Thurs, 8/15 Stuart Kaufman  
 Fri, 8/16 Michael Roth

**Happy Anniversary to:**

Shabbat, 8/10 Beth & Gary Golden - 49th  
 Tues, 8/13 Francine & Joel Schraier - 52nd  
 Wed, 8/14 Dikla & Steve Roufa - 55th

**Refuah Sh'leimah to:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Stanley Becker (Shmuel Shlomo ben Mindel)      | David Pencak (Dovid ben Chaya Ruchel)                                     |
| Muriel Beckerman (Yehudit bat Rochel Leah)     | Rafi Rabinoff (Rafael ben Leah)   |
| Ann Bohm                                       | Marci, daughter of Nina & Phil Radman<br>(Masha Simcha Milchah bat Nisha) |
| Ken Bohm (Chaim Mordechai ben Sara Leah)       | Miriam Roth (Miriam bat Elana)  |
| Darren Chervitz (Yehuda Meyer ben Sifka Gitel) | Iris Salsman (Shaina Sara bat Golde Malke)                                |
| Beth Golden (Batya bat Sara)                   | Bruce Schwartz (Hersh Ber Tzvi ben Zelda Tema)                            |
| Gary Golden (Gedalia Avrum ben Freyda Esther)  | Joan Schwartz (Zelda Tema bat Gitel Reina)                                |
| Richard Hack (Tzvi Aharon ben Chaya Sarah)     |   |
| Shay Kweskin (Shai ben Pnina)                  |   |

**The following yahrzeits are observed this week:**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| This <b>Shabbat</b> | Flora David, aunt of Gloria Ezekiel Kweskin<br>Ida Pomerantz, mother of Sandy Pomerantz                                      |
| Sunday              | Joseph Bohm, grandfather of Ken Bohm<br>Dorothy Ingram, mother of Joe Ingram   |
| Monday              | Norma Lerner, mother of Sue Friedman and grandmother of<br>Sandy Friedman<br>Sharon Ruth Rosenfeld, sister of Bill Rosenfeld |
| Tuesday             | Mary Banner, mother-in-law of Ellis Frohman  |
| Wednesday           | Deborah Green, mother of Ron Green<br>Irving Tennenbaum, uncle of Ellis Frohman  |
| Friday              | Gilbert Goldenhersh, father of Muriel Zimring  |
| Next <b>Shabbat</b> | Erwin Weinberg, father of Mel Weinberg   |

*May their souls be bound up in the bonds of eternal life  
and inspire us to noble and consecrated living.*

## PRAYER

If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
May my right hand forget its cunning.

*May my tongue cleave to my mouth, if I remember you not,  
If I set not Jerusalem above my greatest joy.*

God will arise and have compassion upon Zion,  
For it is time to be gracious unto her.

*God builds up Jerusalem;  
He gathers together the dispersed of Israel.*

He will make her wilderness like Eden,  
And her desert like the garden of God.

*Joy and gladness shall be found therein,  
Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.*

The ransomed of God shall return,  
And come singing unto Zion.

*They shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them;  
They shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof.*

They shall abide in peaceful habitations,  
In safe dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

*Zion shall be redeemed through justice,  
And they that dwell there through integrity.*

Then shall Zion be saved,  
And Jerusalem shall dwell in safety.

*For out of Zion shall go forth Torah,  
And the word of God from Jerusalem.*

**Biblical Verses**

## THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Every generation thinks its problems are unique and potentially fatal. And yet every generation has survived to the next.

**Carl Sagan**