



December 6-7, 2024

וכסלו תשפ"ה

Candle Lighting 4:21 PM

Parashat Vayetze ויצא Genesis 28:10-32:3

Stone - p 144 Hertz - p 106 Etz Hayim - p 166

Haftarah Hosea 12:13-14:10 הושע

Stone - p 1140 Hertz - p 118 Etz Hayim - p 189

Join us following services
for *kiddush* sponsored by the Congregation

Shabbat ends 5:21 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 - Vayetze

(This is an abridged version of the essay [The Birth of the World's Oldest Hate](#), written by Rabbi Sacks in 2011.)

In the Pesach Haggadah there is a verse which states that Lavan was even worse to Bnei Yisrael than Paroh. This is extraordinarily difficult to understand. In Vayetse, Lavan deceived Yaakov, tried to exploit him, and chased after him when he fled. Lavan behaved outrageously to Yaakov, but he did not try to "destroy" him, or to kill his sons as Paroh tried to kill all male Israelite children. Paroh also enslaved and practised slow genocide against the Israelites. How could Lavan be worse than this?

The answer is that Lavan's behaviour gave rise to the centuries of hate that Jews have endured, although at first Lavan seems like an ally. He offers Yaakov refuge from Eisav, yet it turns out that his behaviour is self-interested and calculating. Yaakov agrees to work for him for seven years, to then wed Rachel. But on the wedding night, Lavan switches Rachel for Leah. Yaakov has to work another seven years for Rachel. When Yosef is born, Yaakov tries to leave. Lavan protests. Yaakov toils another six years but Lavan's sons accuse him of getting rich at Lavan's expense, and finally, Yaakov senses that Lavan himself is becoming hostile. Yaakov is a non-person in Lavan's eyes, and decides they must escape.

Ultimately, Lavan is angry that Yaakov maintains his dignity and independence. Faced with an impossible existence, Yaakov refuses to be defeated. Hemmed in on all sides, he finds a way out. That is Yaakov's greatness. His methods are not those he would have chosen in other circumstances. He has to outwit an extremely cunning adversary. But Yaakov refuses to be defeated or crushed and demoralised.

Throughout time, this became a repeated pattern. Jews sought refuge from those who attacked them. Nations gave them refuge but demanded a price. They saw a people who could make them rich. Yet the Jewish people refused to be owned. They had their own identity and way of life; they insisted on the basic human right to be free. The host society then eventually turned against them. They claimed that Jews were exploiting them when they themselves were exploiters. And when Jews succeeded, they accused them of theft, and they would have to escape.

Amy Chua argues that a host society will always direct ethnic hatred against any conspicuously successful minority, as Jews tended to be. Israel in the context of the Middle East is a conspicuously successful minority. It is a small country, with few limited resources, and it has outshone its neighbours. The result is envy then anger, then hate. And it all began with Yaakov and Lavan. He was a minority, he was successful, and it was conspicuous. Lavan was, in effect, the source of antisemitism. Where Paroh was a one-time enemy of the Jews, Lavan exists in age after age.

Yaakov stands for minorities and small nations everywhere. He is the refusal to let large powers crush the few, the weak, and the refugees. He maintains his inner dignity and freedom. He contributes to other people's prosperity but he defeats every attempt to be exploited. Yaakov is the voice that says: I too am human. I too have rights. I too am free.

Lavan is the eternal paradigm of hatred of conspicuously successful minorities, but Yaakov is the eternal paradigm of the human capacity to survive the hatred of others. In this way Yaakov becomes the voice of hope in the conversation of humankind, the living proof that hate never wins the final victory; freedom does.

Shabbat shalom,
Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt"l



YOU ARE INVITED!

Kiddush Luncheon sponsored by
Barbara & Sid Levin
in honor of Barbara's birthday

Shabbat, December 14, 2024
12:15 PM following services at
Traditional Congregation

Let us know you'll be there:

314-576-5230

or

traditionalcong@gmail.com

Please include date of event
and names of all attending



“EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT

CHANUKAH

BUT HAVEN'T YET LEARNED”

A ZOOM WITH RABBI GORDON

Sunday,
December



10:00 AM
on Zoom

REGISTRATION IS
REQUIRED:

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/49J69ZW](https://bit.ly/49j69zw)



You're invited to a
kiddush luncheon
celebrating our

60th

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Shabbat, December 21, 2024
12:15 PM following services at
Traditional Congregation

Let us know you'll be joining us:
314-576-5230 or
traditionalcong@gmail.com

Please include date of event
and names of all attending



Judy & Stan Becker



Chanukah is Around the Corner – Here’s a Great Gift Idea!



**Our famous TradCong cookbooks –
and we’re practically giving them away!!**

Now available: “Feasting on Jewish Tradition” and
“Select Recipes from our International Festival!”

Books are available for just \$5.00 each –
buy more than one and pay just \$4.00 each!

Contact Marian to place your order:

traditionalcong@gmail.com or 314-576-5230

or order online at

<https://www.traditional-congregation.org/donate>

(Use space marked “Please add any special details relevant to your
donation” to indicate title(s) and number of copies you’d like)

“When they’re gone, they’re gone!”

Wednesday, December 25th at 6:00 pm @ B'nai Amoona
Join B'nai Amoona and Traditional Congregation
for a First Night of Hanukkah Chinese Dinner and Bingo!
Bring your Hanukkiah to light together!



The Men's Club is hosting Hanukkah Bingo on the first night of Hanukkah! It's an exciting twist of culture and celebration, with lively exchanges over yummy food and Bingo cards!

Children 3 and under: \$3.00 Children 4-10: \$18.00
Age 11+: \$36.00

Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 18:

<https://www.bnaiamoona.com/form/24hanukkahdec25>

For questions about the event, please contact Liessa at
liessa@bnaiamoona.com or call 314-576-9990 x116

Beautiful NEW Tribute Cards are Now Available!!

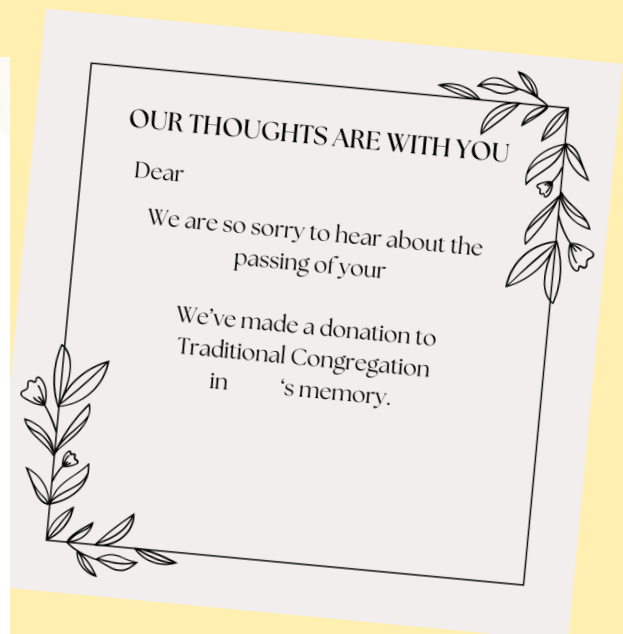
Cards can be created for any occasion! For a minimum donation of \$7.00, a one page digital card will be emailed to your recipient. For an additional \$5.00, a second page can be created with your personalized message! Recipients can reply directly to you through a link provided with the card!

To order cards, go to:

<https://www.traditional-congregation.org/donate>

or contact Marian at: traditionalcong@gmail.com

(Recipients do not need to be members of Traditional - they just need to have an email address.
Send cards to your friends and family!)



Time to Think About Your IRA RMD



If you have an IRA, the IRS mandates that you begin withdrawing money in the year you turn 73. These withdrawals are called Required Minimum Distributions (RMD). In many cases, these RMDs may: adversely affect income taxes by pushing you into a higher tax bracket; cause your Social Security payments to become partially taxable; and cause higher Medicare premiums to be deducted from your Social Security payments in future years.

Here's a tax-smart strategy: Instead of taking the RMD from your IRA, tell your IRA custodian to send it as a gift to Traditional Congregation. Your gift will not count as income, potentially saving you thousands of dollars in higher taxes while fulfilling your RMD obligation. This strategy is called Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The maximum contribution allowed in 2024 is \$105,000 per person; this means a husband and wife with an IRA can contribute up to \$210,000 this year.

Remember, your RMD is a mandatory distribution from your IRA that needs to be completed by the end of the year. **Your required MINIMUM distribution can turn into MAXIMUM impact for Traditional!!**

BTW: You do not have to wait until age 73 to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution. You can begin doing this at age 70 1/2, and by doing so you will lower future year RMDs.

Sources: *JNF Magazine and Joe Ingram, CPA*

PRAYER

We are not poor if we love something, someone, humanity maybe –
and have faith that we will somewhere, sometime be satisfied,
though we know not how.

*We may even feel that our sorrow is but a school
to teach us the virtues of sympathy and gentleness
that will avail us hereafter, though we know not where.*

We may not always be on the highway that leads us to this hilltop,
but we have seen the lighted road stretching on and on.
Sometimes, we even fancied that we saw the windows of the castle aglow.

*We have hastened our steps to be in time for the feast,
and taken counsel of our courage lest we falter and fall on the way.*

May we keep this vision of the castle ever before our eyes,
and a belief in our hearts that the journey is worthwhile.
May the castle and the glow in the windows always be reality, and never illusion.

Max Ehrmann
(adapted)

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

Who of us is mature enough for offspring before the offspring themselves arrive?
The value of marriage is not that the adults produce children but that the children
produce adults.

Peter De Vries