

PRAYER

For the blessings which You lavish upon us in forest and sea, in mountain and meadow, in rain and sun, we thank You.

For the blessings You implant within us, joy and peace, meditation and laughter, we are grateful to You.

For the blessings of friendship and love, of family and community.

For the blessings we ask of You and those we cannot ask;

For the blessings You bestow upon us openly and those You give us in secret;

For all these blessings, O God of the universe, we thank You and are grateful to You.

For the blessings we recognize and those we fail to recognize;

For the blessings of our tradition and of our holy days;

For the blessings of return and forgiveness, of memory, of vision, and of hope;

For all these blessings which surround us on every side, O God, hear our thanks and accept our gratitude.

Ruth F. Brin

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

One is not rich by what one owns, but more by what one is able to do with dignity.

Immanuel Kant



TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

12437 Ladue Rd, St Louis MO 63141

314-576-5230 www.tradcong.org

Affiliated with the

Union for Traditional Judaism

Rabbi Seth D Gordon

Rabbi Ephraim I Zimand, Emeritus

Shabbat Bulletin

August 27, 2011

כז אב תשע"א

Parashat Re'eh - Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 (ראה)

Hertz – p 799

Stone – p 998

Haftarah – Isaiah 54:11-55:5 (ישיעהר)

Hertz – p 818

Stone – p 1199

ברוכים הבאים

Welcome to Rabbi Ephraim & Esther Zimand

Kiddush luncheon sponsored by

Eric & Elaine Farkas in memory of

Eric's mother, Anna Farkas

Special cakes provided by:

Annabelle Chapel in honor of Ken's birthday;

Eric & Elaine Farkas in honor of Zachary's birthday;

Rabbi & Marian Gordon in honor of

Micah embarking on his Yeshiva year of learning in Israel

Rabbi Gordon's Talmud Class – 5:15 PM

Minchah – 6:30 PM

Shabbat Ends – 8:22 PM

On This Week's Torah Portion

ראה

This week's *parasha* – *Re'eh* opens with a verse that any teacher of grammar would immediately red-pencil. The verse: **Deuteronomy 11:26-28**: See (in the singular) today I place (lit. give) before you [all] (in the plural) blessing and curse. The blessing that you [all] adhere to God's *mitzvot* ... and the curse, if you [all] do not adhere...

If we find such grammatical mish-mash, it is our obligation to ask – and hopefully discover a response to – “what might be the significance of this Torah inconsistency?”

Please take a moment or two to discover what significance it might have for you before reading on.

The Torah commentator, Rabbi Shlomo Ephraim of Luntchitz (1550-1619), author of the *Kli Yakar* (Precious Vessel), by which name he is popularly known, suggests that though blessing and curse are addressed to the community at large, every single individual and his/her conduct has an effect on the outcome. No individual should think that his/her simple misdeed cannot possibly matter. As Maimonides suggests in his Regulations of Repentance (Chapter 3, Paragraph 4) each person should see him/herself – and also see the entire world – as perfectly balanced between merits and faults, so that one act either way will tip the balance – either for good, or, God forbid, for evil.

With its grammatical inconsistency the Torah might be suggesting how overwhelming is the importance of every individual's every deed. The behavior of every person not only impacts him/herself, but the entire world as well. Individuals do make a difference.

The GR”A (HaGaon Rabbenu Eliyahu of Vilna, popularly known as the Vilna Gaon) suggests that the significance of the Torah's grammatical inconsistency is in the adhering or not adhering to God's *mitzvot*. By being initially addressed to the individual – the Torah might be teaching that the individual has to choose his/her proper conduct independent of others. When the “it” of “everybody is doing it” is inappropriate, every person, having been addressed individually, must choose to refuse to follow the “everybody.” When the behavior is not evil, conformity is called for. However, when the conduct is bad, non-conformity is required.

Though it is true in Judaism that the collective is of great importance - most frequently, taking priority over the individual - both the *Kli Yakar* and the *Vilna Gaon* place a great amount of stress on the importance of the individual within Judaism.

*Shabbat shalom,
Rabbi Ephraim Zimand*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, Aug. 29 **“The Making of a Leader,” Lunch & Learn with Esther Zimand.** 11:30 AM at Traditional, \$10/person, RSVP to Cyndee Levy @ CAJE, 314-442-3754. Please bring a Tanach.

Tuesday, Aug. 30 **“Get Thee a Master”** with Rabbi Ephraim Zimand. 7:00 PM at Traditional, \$10/person, RSVP to Cyndee Levy @ CAJE, 314-442-3754.

Wednesday, Aug. 31 **Last day to be included in our 5772 Rosh Hashanah Greetings**, please submit your name and contribution by 8/31.

Wednesday, Aug. 31 **SSDS Rosh Chodesh Celebration** with a new Sefer Torah. All welcome to attend processional, singing, festive service, breakout-sessions of drum circle, dancing, art, storytelling. 8:45 AM.

Thursday, Sept. 1 **Last day to receive 10% discount on lulav & etrog for Sukkot.** Paid orders must be received by 9/1 to qualify for the discount, other orders taken until 9/14.

Shabbat, Sept. 10 **Rededication of our Lobby and Art Gallery.** Join us at 9:00 AM for *Shabbat* services, see our beautiful new lobby and gallery, and enjoy a lovely *kiddush*.

Sunday, Sept. 11 **Knosh & Knowledge.** Take “A Trip Down Memory Lane” with Florence Schachter, MSW. Brunch begins at 9:45 AM, presentation at 10:45.

Thursday, Sept. 15 **Special Congregational Meeting** to discuss women and girls reading Haftarah at Traditional. If you wish to speak at the meeting, please contact Pres. Boaz Roth *in advance*.

Are you receiving the *Jewish Light*? You don't want to miss an issue (especially as Traditional will be running a special advertising campaign). Don't be in the dark, get all the local, national and international Jewish news you need. Call 314-743-3600 or go to www.stljewishlight.com to start your subscription.

Volunteers needed to help with our 2012 photographic Membership Directory: We need many people to help with mailings, make phone calls, and coordinate Directory advertisements. Also need hosts/hostesses for photo sessions on Sept 18, 19 & 20. Please lend a hand! Contact Elaine Farkas, 314-439-9747 or 954-558-1159.

*Refuah Sh'leimah to...*Jonah Boyer; Leonard Kaplan; Barbara Levin

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday morning – 9:00 AM

Monday - Friday morning – 7:00 AM

Monday - Friday evening – 6:30 PM