

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



TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

12437 Ladue Rd, St Louis MO 63141

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Affiliated with the

Union for Traditional Judaism

Rabbi Seth D Gordon

Rabbi Ephraim I Zimand, Emeritus

Shabbat Bulletin

December 3, 2011

ז כסלו תשע"ב

Parashat Vayetze - Genesis 28:10-32:3 (ויצא)

Hertz – p 106 Stone – p 144

Haftarah – Hosea 12:13-14:10 (הושע)

Hertz – p 118 Stone – p 1140

Scholar in Residence Program

We welcome

Rabba Sara Hurwitz

Kiddush luncheon sponsored by Sisterhood

Special cake provided by Phil Brick

in honor of Christy's birthday

Seudah Sh'lishit sponsored by

Ken & Cyndee Levy in memory of Ken's father,

Monroe D. Levy

Minchah - 4:10 PM

Shabbat Ends – 5:22 PM

On This Week's Torah Portion

נשא

In Vayetze and the following parashah we will follow Jacob's journey as he encounters a spiritual search and a twenty-year personal exile from his own land. The struggle between Jacob and Esau takes on new complexity in Jacob's journey. Jacob's journey and many of our journeys can be seen from different perspectives. The plain interpretation is that Jacob is fleeing from Esau and going to Padan-Aram. Another interpretation could be that Jacob's journey will establish his relationship with the Almighty. As part of these activities, Jacob is seeking paths to become a righteous person. We recognize that he will become the Patriarch of Israel as part of his lineage from Abraham and Isaac.

In Vayetze we find Jacob making vows or promises which will define his relationships to the Almighty. There are both explicit and implicit elements in his and our vows or promises to the Almighty. The idea of Jacob's vow is puzzling. The key phrases are from Bereishit 28:20-21 which say: If G-d will be with me, and will protect me on the way that I go...so that I come again to my father's home in peace; then shall the Lord be my G-d. Is Jacob's vow creating a new relationship with the Almighty in stipulating a series of conditions that the Almighty is required to fulfill? Another view can be that Jacob is praying to the Almighty for protection and an ability to fulfill his spiritual commitment. Rashi adds depth to these ideas. He argues that Jacob is requesting that the Almighty keep his promises to Jacob and the land of Israel, so that Jacob will be able to fulfill his promises to return to this place and build a temple to the Almighty.

As Jacob engages in these journeys during the next several parashot, we can ask whether his standards of conduct are worthy of the Almighty's promises and protection? This idea introduces a central question of Midrashic interpretation concerning what promises are given to a righteous person in this world.

*Shabbat Shalom,
Steven Puro*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 4-Dec 11 Used Jewish Book Sale—cookbooks, books on Israel, children's books, etc. Brodsky Library, call 314-442-3720 for hours.

Sunday, December 11 **Stitch 'N Schmooze**, 10:00 AM.

Tuesday, December 13 Family Hanukkah Party for ages 3-9 & parents/grandparents. Stories, puppets, crafts & treats. Brodsky Library, 6:45 PM. RSVP by 11/12, 314-442-3720.

Motzei Shabbat Dec. 17 **Youth Bowling Night**, Tropicana Lanes, 7960 Clayton Rd. For 7th grade & under, meet at the bowling alley @7:00 PM. \$4/game per person, \$3.25 shoe rental so bring money for 2 games + shoes. The bowling alley MUST HAVE A COUNT OF PARTICIPANTS BY Thursday, 12/15, call 314-576-5230 if your child(ren) will be attending.

The Traditional Cares Committee would like to know if you or someone you know is ill and would like a caring call or visit, or if you are aware of not seeing a synagogue member for some time, please contact Shelby Kopp 314-991-1035 or the shul office 314-576-5230. If you are ill and would prefer to be contacted by email rather than by phone, please let us know that as well.

Wanted--your Hebrew names. If you've not yet notified us with the Hebrew names of family members residing in your home, please contact the office so that we can update our records. Please include the Hebrew names of each family member's Father and Mother for *aliyot* and *misheberach*.

It's not too late to make a Yom Kippur Pledge. Thank you to those who have responded so generously to our annual appeal. If you've not yet notified us about your pledge, it's not too late. Pledge monies received by December 31st will be credited on your 2011 Donor Receipt.

Chanukah is around the corner... When you link to Amazon.com **from our website (www.tradcong.org)**, Traditional earns a commission on your purchase. Go to the Traditional home page, click on **Our Shopping Partners** in the left margin, scroll down to the Amazon.com banner and click on it. Make your purchase as usual, and Traditional gets a percentage—all at no extra cost to you!

Mazal Tov to... Frank & Ilse Altman on the marriage of their granddaughter, Leah Altman, to Todd Soiefer.

DAILY SERVICE TIMES

Sunday morning – 9:00 AM Monday–Friday morning – 7:00 AM
Monday-Thursday evening – 6:30 PM Friday evening – 5:45 PM