

PRAYER

On this Sabbath, which is a reminder of creation,
We thank You, O God, for the world which You created.

*You have filled Your world with beauty for our eyes,
With music and laughter for our ears,
With soft things for us to touch,
With fragrances for us to smell,
With fine food to sustain us and to bring us delight.*

As we enjoy the many blessings
Which you have so bountifully granted.
May we, too, bring goodness to the lives of others.

*As we recall Your blessings,
Too many to be counted, too constant to be merited,
May we be moved to thank You always as we do now,
For this fellowship of prayer in service to You
And for the Shabbat which you have sanctified.*

Unknown

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

I would rather live in a world where my life is
surrounded by mystery than live in a world so small that my
mind could comprehend it.

Harry Emerson Fosdick



October 20-22, 2011

כב - כד תשרי תשע"ב

Shemini Atzeret

Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17 – p 819; Hertz p 810; Stone p 1012
Maftir: Numbers 29:35 – 30:1 – p 827; Hertz p 698; Stone p 896
Haftarah: I Kings 8:54-66 – p 827; Hertz 982; Stone 1245

Yizkor

Simchat Torah

Deuteronomy 33:1-26, 33:27-34:12 – p 829; Hertz p 909; Stone p 1112
Chattan Torah
Deuteronomy 33:27-34:12 – p 833; Hertz p 914; Stone p 1120

Chattan Bereishit

Genesis 1:1-2:3 – p 835; Hertz p 2; Stone p 2
Maftir: Numbers 29:35 – 30:1 – p 827; Hertz p 698; Stone p 896
Haftarah: Joshua 1:1-18 – p 841; Hertz 984; Stone 1246

Shabbat

Parashat Bereishit - Genesis 1:1-6:8 (בראשית)

Hertz – p 2 Stone – p 2

Haftarah – Isaiah 42:5-43:10 (ישעיה)

Hertz – p 21 Stone – p 1130

Kiddush sponsored by Sisterhood

Rabbi Gordon's Talmud Class – 4:00 PM

Minchah – 5:15 PM

Shabbat Ends – 6:57 PM

On This Week's Torah Portion

בראשית

In the beginning...

The first 5 Books of the Bible comprise the Torah. Moses received the Torah on Mount Sinai in the year 2448 after creation. The Torah contains 613 commandments divided into 248 positive commandments – “Thou shalt” –, paralleling the 248 limbs and organs in the human body, and 365 negative commandments – “Thou shalt not” –, paralleling the 365 major blood vessels and tendons. The first positive commandment is contained in Genesis and is addressed to Adam and Eve: “Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and master it.”

The Torah is written in a very concise manner, and much of it is difficult to understand without resorting to the Oral Torah (compiled to become the Mishnah in the year 3949 after creation, and 120 years after the destruction of the Second Temple).

In Hebrew, the first 5 books of the Bible are also called *Chumash*, from the number in Hebrew *Chamesh* (5). Each book in the Torah is named in Hebrew after its first or second word, while in English, names summarize the content of the book. The first book of the Torah is called in Hebrew *Bereishit* that means “In the beginning.” *Bereishit*, or Genesis, tells, in its first 11 chapters, the story of the creation of the world. Genesis's goal is not to give a textbook lesson in science, but to affirm that nature was created by God. The Book of Genesis also includes narratives related to Noah and the flood, the Tower of Babel, the story of the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and finishes with the death of Joseph.

Each week in Synagogue we chant a passage from the Torah that is referred to as a *Parashah*. The first *Parashah* is *Parashat Bereishit*. The weekly *Parashah* is followed by a passage from the Prophets, which is referred to as a *Haftarah*. The word comes from a Hebrew root meaning “end or conclusion.”

The Bible has been, according to many, the most influential book in human history. Several of its central ideas – One God, one universal standard of morality, care for the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger, and a holy day to refrain from work - have transformed humankind. Despite its importance, few people today read the Bible. It is never too late to start!

Shabbat shalom,
Maurício, Marcia, Paul, Claire, Karyn Lisler

UPCOMING EVENTS

Yom Tov Closing Days: Wed. October 19: Candle Lighting: 6:00 PM; *Minchah/Arvit* 6:00 PM

Shemini Atzeret: Thurs. October 20

Shacharit 9:00 AM; **YIZKOR**; *Minchah* 6:00 PM

Candle Lighting After 6:58 PM; *Arvit & Hakafot* 7:00 PM

Simchat Torah

Fri. October 21: *Shacharit* 9:00 AM; *Minchah/Arvit* 5:45 PM Candle Lighting After 5:57 PM

Shabbat, Oct. 22: *Shacharit* 9:00 AM; *Minchah/Arvit* 5:15 PM; *Shabbat* Ends 6:57 PM

Sunday, October 23 **Chesed Meeting** to discuss reaching out to congregants who are ill or need assistance. If you'd like to help, please join us at 10:00 AM; if you can't make it to the meeting but are interested in helping, please call the office or Shelby Kopp, 314-750-3914.

Beginning Monday, October 24 **Hebrew Prayerbook Reading Class, 10:30-11:30** on Mondays at the home of Lois Elfanbaum. Class will review the Musaf Amidah, the Torah service, and the Sh'ma. Basic Hebrew reading ability required, speed reading not necessary. RSVP to Lois, 314-576-4236.

Tuesday, October 25 Boniuk-Tanzman Lecture with Dr. Laurie Zoloth: “Jewish Bioethics and the Duties of Medicine: Repairing, Restoring and Healing in a Broken World.” WashU Holden Auditorium, 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, October 25 Brodsky Library Book Talk. Ellen Steinberg and Jack Prost discuss “From the Heartland: Two Centuries of Midwest Foodways.” Recipe tasting with Aura Kavadlo. \$7/person, RSVP required to 314-442-3720.

Shabbat, October 29 **Dedication of the Ric Markowitz Teen Lounge.** *Kiddush* sponsored by the Youth Committee to express our appreciation to everyone who contributed to make this project possible.

Sunday, October 30 **Membership Directory Meeting,** 10:00 AM. To discuss solicitation of ads for our new Membership Directory; please help with this important fundraiser. Elaine Farkas, 954-558-1159.

Save the Dates:

November 19 Israel Bonds Dinner, 7:00 PM. Join us to honor our Eishet Chayil, Cyndee Levy. Guest Speaker Dr. Jonathan Adelman: “Israel and the Mideast: Hope or Despair?” Please RSVP by 11/4.

December 2-4 Scholar-in-Residence Program with Rabba Sara Hurwitz. Watch for details in November Newsletter.

We are collecting medical items for Jews in Cuba. Drs. Susie Lippmann & Bill Rosenfeld leave for Cuba on Nov 1. Items requested are shampoo, band aids, first aid kits, feminine hygiene items, aspirin, baby aspirin, over the counter medications, cough syrup, etc. Light-weight, small items are appreciated. Please put them in the bin by the office no later than Oct. 28.

DAILY SERVICE TIMES (see Yom Tov times above)

Week of 10/23:

Sunday morning – 9:00 AM Monday-Friday mornings – 7:00 AM
Monday-Thursday evenings – **6:30 PM (Arvit only)** Friday evening – 5:45 PM