



Sharei Chessed Congregation

שערי חסד

Welcome to our synagogue! ברוכים הבאים

Avraham Ettetdgui, Rabbi | Bernie Miller, President

Dr. David Feldshon, Vice President

Religious School Faculty

Uri Koppel, Sheryl Warren, Avi Reinhartz

Lee Reinhartz, Office Manager

Vaetchanan - ואתחנן

August 20, 2016 – 16 Av 5776

Shabbat Nahamu - שבת נחמו

This Shabbat we read the second portion of the Book of Devarim, Moses' farewell address before he dies, and before the people enter the Promised Land.

Vaetchanan means 'I implored'. Moses shared with his people how he implored God to let him enter the Promised Land—to no avail. He will be able to see the land from a distance, as he will go up on a mountain and from there will be able to see the entire country.

Moses emphasizes to the people the uniqueness of God's relationship with them. This was the first time that a people was taken out of slavery and shown God's power. This is also the first time that a people had the opportunity to hear God's voice just like they did at Mount Sinai when they were given the Ten Commandments. In fact, in this Parasha, we find the Ten Commandments once again, as well as the first chapter of the Shemah.

This Shabbat is known as Shabbat Nahamu, for the first word in the Haftarah reading from Isaiah, where he offers words of comfort to the Jewish people following the sadness of Tisha B'Av we just observed last Sunday.

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Sharei Chessed Congregation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

MRA Statement on Racial Justice and Israel

(Rabbi's Note: As you know there has been a lot happening in our community and other parts of the country, spearheaded by the activities of the Black Lives Matter movement. While the Minnesota Rabbinical Association and most members of the Jewish community stand for racial justice and racial equality, we are horrified by the anti-Israel attitude that some of these groups have taken against Israel. The MRA has issued a statement regarding this subject which we bring to you in its entirety. As a member of Sharei Chesed Congregation, we need you to speak up whenever you can against those who demonize Israel.—Rabbi Ettedgui)

"Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor, v'lo ata bein horin libatel mimena (with translation and citation) One is not obligated to finish a task, but one is not free to disengage from it" (Pirke Avot 2:21)

We write this reflection with sorrow. Our commitment to Israel and to truth is being tested in the public square against our commitment to racial justice. Calling Israel genocidal and an apartheid state is offensive and grossly inaccurate. It also indicates a failure of dialogue about Israel in progressive circles. This reflection is meant to help our community talk about how to continue the work for racial justice in the United States, stand clearly against falsehoods about Israel, and commit ourselves to opening doors to partnership when possible.

As rabbis we are often asked to offer moral clarity. We stand on the side of racial justice and racial equality. That fight has been something that the American rabbinate and the organized Jewish community have been engaged in for the better part of a century. National and local Jewish organizations and countless numbers of individual Jews continue to engage in myriad ways to address the systemic causes of racism. Indeed the American Jewish community has a long and treasured history of standing shoulder to shoulder with the African-American community in countless numbers of actions designed to address the root causes of inequality in our society. It is a moral issue that we as rabbis today continue with renewed responsibility. Torah and the voice of generations of rabbis teach that human dignity is non-negotiable and that the indignity suffered by any one person or group pains our entire community and nation.

At the same time and with no apology, we reject any statement that suggests that the Jewish people in our national homeland are engaged in genocidal acts against anyone. That lie must be denounced in the strongest language possible. There are many Israeli governmental decisions with which each of us take issue. And indeed we have been vocal in our communities about them. We have all worked for and promoted a two-state solution where the legitimate aspirations of both Palestinians and Israelis are realized. Labeling Israel as a genocidal state, when the facts counter this completely and the effect is to render truth meaningless, is shocking. Endorsing calls to end foreign aid and to engage in economic boycott and divestment hurts Palestinians even more than Israelis and makes the dream of a two state solution even more complicated.

For us as rabbis, we look to the coming New Year with profound concern and with hope. We are concerned that Jews will forget that the battle for inclusion in our society is one to which we must remain committed. Our own fight to address anti-semitism in our society and to find allies with whom we could work to eliminate it, mandates that we now must also work even stronger to fight to eliminate racial bias in society writ-large as well. Hate is hate and it must stop now. And we stand firm and united in opposing those voices who seek to denigrate either or both the Jewish people and the Jewish State. These (cont.)

MRA Statement on Racial Justice and Israel (cont.)

causes are not mutually exclusive and we will continue our work and our commitment to both. We pray that the coming year is a year of peace and reconciliation.

Rabbi Morris Allen, Rabbi Norman Cohen, Rabbi Alexander Davis, Rabbi Jeremy Fine, Rabbi Avram Etedgui, Rabbi Sim Glaser, Rabbi Tamar Grimm, Rabbi Hayim Herring, Rabbi Harold Kravitz, Rabbi Lynn Liberman, Rabbi David Locketz, Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff, Rabbi Avi Olitzsky, Rabbi Debra Rappaport, Rabbi Adam Spilker, Rabbi David Steinberg, Rabbi Aaron Weininger, Rabbi Marcy Zimmerman

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- Phil Karter
- Natalya Zabeshinsky

Happy Anniversary to:

- Rivia and Harold (Red) Goldberg

Today's Kiddush Luncheon

We hope you will stay following services for today's Kiddush luncheon. Today's luncheon is sponsored by Alice Truskinovsky and by Lev and Elizabeth Truskinovsky, in memory of husband and father Moses Truskinovsky of blessed memory.

Mazal Tov to:

- **The family of Lev Truskinovsky on the upcoming marriage of Julia Truskinovsky to Reuven Levy.**
- **Maurice and Roz Etedgui on the upcoming wedding of their grandson Elia to Tsipi.**

Annual Picnic—Sunday August 21st

A reminder—Join us for our annual picnic and congregational meeting tomorrow afternoon August 21st at 5:30 P.M. at Brookview Park in Golden Valley—rain or shine!! Lots of fun, food and music, plus door prizes and a raffle. Be sure to come early for Mincha/Ma'ariv services at 5:45 and help us make a minyan.

Many thanks to our co-chairs, Ron Scholder and Julie Miller, and all of the volunteers and staff who make this event possible!!



Yahrzeits for week of August 20 - August 26, 2016

16 Av - 22 Av 5776

Please help with the daily Minyan

Yahrzeit of

Remembered by

Saturday, August 20th (16 Av)

Henrietta Eliovich
Nuse Kigelman

Henrietta bat Shmuel
Nuse ben Semon

Galina Gitelman
Tatyana Zitzerman

Sunday, August 21st (17 Av)

Tevel Kagan
Max Karatz

Tevel ben Itzkavich
Menachem Mendel
ben Aryeh Lev

Emiliya Kagan
Judy Razieli

Anna Karpas
Charles Rosen

Chaim ben Gershon

Eugene Karpas

Monday, August 22nd (18 Av)

Mikhail Fridman
Sadie Liss
Yvonne Saks
Clara Shaich

Mikhael ben Motal
Sheva bat Hillel v' Basha
Yehudit bat Avraham
Chaya bat Avraham

Natasha Kagan
Mina Zweigbaum and Lois Liss
Harold Saks

Tuesday, August 23rd (19 Av)

Sofiya Arshanskiy
Mildred Silverman

Sofia bat Iosif
Malka bat Myer Simcha

Elka Arshanskaya

Wednesday, August 24th (20 Av)

Ludmila Kaganovsky
Elizabeth Khusinsky
Abraham Leder
Hubert Phillips
Frida Zilberman

Leah bat Avigdor
Avraham ben Yitzchak Dov
Chaim Chanuch ben Lev
Frida bat Avraham

Tanya Feldberg and Rachel Feldberg
Sally Leder
Fred Phillips
Rakhil Zilberman

Thursday, August 25th (21 Av)

Joel Hodroff
Bess Pomush
Harry Rosenfeld

Yoel ben Zev
Rivah Bayla bat Shmuel Tzvi
Oren Leib
ben Menachem Mendel

Shirley Haskovitz
Aileen Snyder

Friday, August 26th (22 Av)

Leonid Neydelman
David Rusoff

Arkady Neydelman

May their memories always be for a blessing.