



Sharei Chesed Congregation

שַׁעְרֵי חֶסֶד

Welcome to our synagogue! ברוכים הבאים

Avraham Etedgui, Rabbi | Bernie Miller, President

Dr. David Feldshon, Vice President

Religious School Faculty

Uri Koppel, Sheryl Warren, Avi Reinharz

Lee Reinharz, Office Manager

ויקהל - Vayakhel

Shabbat Shekalim

March 5, 2016 – 25 Adar I 5776

This Parasha, called Vayakhel, begins with the words, “Vayakhel Moshe” - “Moses assembled all the congregation of the Children of Israel.” He shares with them that they will soon be building a tabernacle, so that God can dwell in their midst. Moses lists the various items that will be needed for the construction of the Tabernacle and the items that will be in the Tabernacle. Although this is a most worthwhile project, Shabbat must be kept and no work, even activities related to the Tabernacle cannot be done on Shabbat.

The Shabbat that is before Adar (Adar II this year) is also known as Shabbat Shekalim. We read the passage from the Torah that commands each individual to contribute a half shekel in order to be counted. During the Temple days, this money was used to purchase the daily offerings that were offered on behalf of the entire congregation.

There are several Mitzvot we are commanded to fulfill on Purim. One of them is Matanot Laveyonim—gifts to the poor. The commandment of the half shekel is a reminder that everyone should help.

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Did You Know That ...

This Shabbat marks the first of four Shabbatot that takes place before Pesah:

- **Shabbat Shekalim—The Shabbat before Rosh Hodesh Adar (Adar II in a leap year). We read from a second Sefer Torah the passage regarding the Half Shekel.**
- **Shabbat Zachor—The Shabbat before Purim. We read from a second Sefer Torah the passage dealing with Amalek—the people who attacked the Children of Israel soon after they had gained their freedom from Egyptian slavery. Legend has it that Haman was a descendant of Amalek.**
- **Shabbat Parah—The Shabbat after Purim. We read from a second Sefer Torah instructions on how to become pure again in order to be able to enter the temple.**
- **Shabbat Hahodesh—The Shabbat before Rosh Hodesh Nissan. Before the Israelites left Egypt, they were instructed to begin a new calendar, making Nissan the first month of the year in designating the new holidays they will be observing as a free nation.**

Shabbat Shekalim recalls the Mitzvah of when a census is done. The fact that both rich and poor contribute the same amount reminds us we are equal in the eyes of the Divine. We count coins, instead of heads, to remind us that people should not be counted just like a number. The money is used to maintain the Tabernacle—in our days, the synagogue.

Happy Anniversary to:

Alex and Polina Lipnik, who are celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary this Wednesday March 9th. Mazal Tov!!

Baruch Haba to:

- **Cantor Mitchell Kowitz who is leading services today.**
- **All of our visitors and friends.**

Refuah Shelemah to:

- **Jack Moskowitz**
- **Irv Smith**
- **Nancy Smith**
- **Aron Tsukerman**

We wish them all a speedy and complete recovery.

Purim is coming!!

Please come and help us as we prepare for Purim:

- **March 13th—Volunteers are needed to help make hamentashen.**
- **March 20th—Volunteers are needed to help with our annual Purim party and dinner, and to assist our special guests from the Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People with Disabilities.**

And remember to join us Wednesday evening March 23rd at 5:45 P.M. and Thursday morning March 24th at 7:30 A.M. for the reading of the Megillah. Come in costume—you never know who you're going to meet!!

Yahrzeits for week of March 5 - March 11, 2016

25 Adar I - 1 Adar II

Please help with the daily Minyan

Yahrzeit of

Saturday, March 5th

Frieda Bigelow
Dora Burton
Lisa Feldman

Remembered by

Larry Bigelow
Arnold Burton
Larisa Palant

Sunday, March 6th

**** NO YAHRZEITS ****

Monday, March 7th

Khava Fridman

Bronya Bryants
Lisa Ilyevsky

Tuesday, March 8th

Gitel Khodurskaya
Gladys Savitz Nettis

Boris Khodursky
Art Nettis

Wednesday, March 9th

Isaak Kaplan

Gene Kotlovich

Thursday, March 10th

Michael Geller

Cary Geller
Dan Geller
Esther Geller
Mark Geller
Tim Hegg
Barry Rothman

Friday, March 11th

Jill Horowitz

Michael Horowitz

Our condolences to the families of:

- Helen Wasserman**
- Eydlya Falkina**
- Vladimir Pisarenko**

May their memories always be for a blessing.