



# Sharei Chesed Congregation

## שערי חסד

**Welcome to our synagogue! ברוכים הבאים**

Avraham Ettedgui, Rabbi | Bernie Miller, President

Dr. David Feldshon, Vice President

Religious School Faculty:

Uri Koppel, Sheryl Sue Warren, Carmella Chazin, Mark Bloom

Lee Reinharz, Office Manager

## Haye Sarah - חיי שרה

**November 26, 2016 – 25 Heshvan 5777**

When Abraham and Isaac returned from their trip to Mt. Moriah for the Binding of Isaac, they find out that Sarah had died at the age of 127. The beginning of this Parasha describes in detail how Abraham purchased the Cave of Machpela from Efron the Hittite to be used as the burial place for Sarah. Though Efron offered the site as a gift to Abraham, Abraham insisted and paid full value for the cave and the land around it. This was done in public and witnessed by all the elders and the people of Hebron.

Before dying, Abraham wanted to make sure that Isaac marries a woman from his birthplace and not from the women in Canaan. He assigns the task to his devoted servant Eliezer. Abraham makes him swear that he will go to Nahor in Mesopotamia and there find a girl for Isaac. Should the girl not be willing to travel to Canaan, Eliezer is released from his oath, but under no circumstances is Isaac to leave Canaan. This is the land that God promised to Abraham's descendants and, therefore, Isaac should remain in Canaan.

The Torah describes how Eliezer determines who will be qualified to be Isaac's wife. He decides that he will ask for a drink of water from one of the girls who come to the well to fetch water. The girl that will offer him water as well as be willing to fetch water for all his camels will be the one that God had destined for Isaac. (cont.)

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

## A Jewish Perspective on Thanksgiving

This past Thursday we celebrated Thanksgiving—the quintessential American holiday. But is there a Jewish perspective we can apply to the idea of thankfulness?

The answer is 'yes', and it comes from the mitzvah of 'bikkurim', or 'first fruits'. Every farmer was commanded to bring to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem the first fruits which ripened in his orchard. There he would recite a passage thanking God for the Land and its bountiful harvest, and the fruits were given to the *kohanim* (priests). The Midrash even says that the Land of Israel was given to the Jews as a reward for the mitzvah of *bikkurim* they would observe after entering the Land!

(portions courtesy of 'chabad.org')



## Countdown to Hanukkah

# 29 Days Until Hanukkah!!



## This Day in Jewish History—25 Heshvan



In 109 BCE, the Hasmoneans (led by John Hyrcanus, a nephew of Judah the Maccabee) conquered Samaria, the capital city of the Samaritan sect. This conquest was significant because it ended some 800 years of Samaritan influence in Israel. The Samaritans were a schismatic movement, comprised largely of non-Jews who practiced some Jewish traditions. The conquest may have further polarized the Jews into two distinct parties: 1) the Pharisees

("separated ones") because they sought to retain the separation of Jewish culture from the Greek influences of Hellenization, and 2) the Sadducees, Jews who embraced Greek culture.

(courtesy of Aish.com—'Day in Jewish History')

## Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday to:

- Elissa Heilicher
- Nadia Kaganovich
- Leonard Kats

### Happy Anniversary to:

- Susan & Sol Awend
- Cindy & Momy Benzaquen
- Rabbi Avraham & Linda Ettedgui
- Fran & Bill Skolnick
- Alla & Gregory Ternyak

## Parashat Haya Sarah (cont.)

Rebecca, who happens to be Isaac's cousin, is the one who comes down to the well. Not only does she offer water to Eliezer, but runs to the well and fills up the trough until all the camels had their drink.

Eliezer meets with Rebecca's family and tells them the story. They all realize that, indeed, this was an act of God and they agree to let her go. They ask her if she is willing to follow this stranger to Canaan and she agrees. The Torah states that Isaac married Rebecca and that he loved her.

## Kabbalat Shabbat—Friday Evening December 9th

**Our next Kabbalat Shabbat will be on Friday evening December 9th, when our guest speaker will be Marc Grossfield, founder and CEO of Tzfat Spirits of Israel, headquartered in Minneapolis. Marc is the inventor of Aviv 613 Vodka - a luxury vodka like no other, and the only vodka made with the 7 species of the Land of Israel that are listed in the Torah. His is a story of great inspiration and spirituality. You definitely won't want to miss it!!**

**Contact the synagogue office to make your reservations.**



# Yahrzeits for week of November 26 - December 2, 2016

## 25 Heshvan - 2 Kislev 5777

### Please help with the daily Minyan

#### Yahrzeit of

#### Remembered by

#### **Saturday, November 26th (25 Heshvan)**

Elimelech Soybelman      Elimelech ben Israel  
Fillmore Wise              Pinchas ben Yehuda Aryeh

Nesya Tsukerman  
Gertrude Alch

#### **Sunday, November 27th (26 Heshvan)**

Fradel Flauman  
Moshe Gendelev  
Rebecca Hensel  
Lora Tzukerman              Leah bat Arye v'Nesya

Canto Mitchell Kowitz  
Raisa Gringauz  
Shelly Zien  
Nesya & Aron Tsukerman

#### **Monday, November 28th (27 Heshvan)**

Donald Bigelow              David ben Eliezer haLevi  
Ethel Gitis                      Ethel bat Avraham  
Tzve Miller                      Tzve ben Moshe

Larry Bigelow  
  
Lewis & Morey Miller

#### **Tuesday, November 29th (28 Heshvan)**

Archie Berine                  Avram Shmuel ben Yosef  
    Faige bat Evsey  
Lisa Gurevich                  Leah bat Avrom  
Rosa Malamudman              Razel bat Yitzchak  
Freda Paper  
Ida Pinsky  
Sarah Richman                  Sarah bat Eliyahu Lev  
Shalom Yakov Teyvel              Shalom Yakov ben Exriel

Jack Moskowitz  
Moisey Zhuravel  
Alex Perelman  
Alexander Malamudman  
Steve & Rita Paper  
Sheldon Pinsky  
Berle Richman  
Shmel Teyvel

#### **Wednesday, November 30th (29 Heshvan)**

Liza Estrina                      Liza bat Chaim  
Jeanette Karter                  Shayna Hannah bat Joseph  
Nechama Koppel                  Nechama bat Shneur & Rivka  
Cecelia Loyevskaya  
Shaul Zhuravel                  Shaul ben Moshe

Tatyana Estrina  
Phil Karter  
Uri Koppel  
Moisey Zhuravel

#### **Thursday, December 1st (1 Kislev)**

Lawrence Hershkovitz  
Joseph Moskowitz              Yosef ben Moshe  
  
Alter Tsukerman                  Chaim Alter ben Aryeh

Irwin Hershkovitz  
Sondra Tenner  
Jack Moskowitz  
Aron Tsukerman

#### **Friday, December 2nd (2 Kislev)**

Albert Seal Feldman              Avraham ben Shmuel  
Louis Hodroff                      Eliezer ben Yoel  
Faina Sakalovich

Luba Zevelev

## May their memories always be for a blessing.