



Sharei Chessed 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

וישב - Vayeshev

December 24, 2016 – 24 Kislev 5777

In this week's Parasha, Vayeshev, we find the beginning of the story which led our father Jacob to leave Canaan and take his entire family to Egypt.

In last week's Parasha, we learned how Jacob returned to Canaan after a twenty year stay in his uncle's town of Haran. Now that he is back in Canaan, Jacob feels that he deserves to rest and enjoy his family consisting of his children and grandchildren. Jacob shows that Joseph, the son from his beloved Rachel, is his favorite. He treats him differently than his other 11 sons, and the most obvious thing is that he makes him a special coat, whereby everyone could see that he is the favorite.

Joseph is not shy about showing his brothers that he has big plans for his future—that he will be the one to lead the family. He shares with them 2 dreams which would easily be interpreted as the day will come when they will come to bow down to him. The brothers are very jealous. For this reason they hate him and they can never have a peaceful conversation.

The brothers take their father's sheep for grazing far away from Hebron and Jacob asks Joseph to go and check on the well-being of his brothers and the sheep. When the brothers see him from afar, they plot to kill him and (cont.)

1712 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, MN 55305

763-545-8800 | www.ShareiChessed.org

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Parashat Vayeshev (cont.)

use the coat as the proof of his death by putting blood from a goat on it and let it be believed that he was killed by a wild animal. Reuben saves him from certain death and recommends him that they throw him in a pit, which they do.

Judah suggests that they sell him as a slave to a company of traders, which they do. Joseph is taken down to Egypt where he is sold to Potiphar, the head of Pharaoh's guards. He is very successful in Egypt and rises to become the head of Potiphar's household. When Potiphar's wife cannot convince him to have relations with her, she accuses him of attempted rape, and he is thrown in jail.

In the prison, Joseph was assigned to tend to two important prisoners, Pharaoh's chief butler and Pharaoh's chief baker. One morning, Joseph noticed that they seemed to be very disturbed. He asked them for an explanation as to their anxiety. They related dreams they had had that night. Joseph interpreted their dreams. And a few days later, they were brought before the king and were given sentences just like Joseph had interpreted. As a favor, Joseph asked these important people to help him get out of jail because he was innocent of all charges, but they forgot about him and did not help him at all.

Did You Know That ...

A bronze penny minted by the Greek tyrant from the Hanukkah story was recently stumbled upon by archaeologists amid the ruins of Jerusalem's Tower of David during routine cleaning of the site, the museum said in a statement [this past] Tuesday ahead of the commencement of the eight-day festival on Saturday night.



Orna Cohen, chief conservation officer at the iconic Jerusalem landmark, found the small bronze coin a few weeks ago during routine conservation work after a section of the Hasmonean-era city wall that runs through the citadel's courtyard suffered minor damage (from either recent stormy weather or schoolchildren, nobody's really sure).

The head of Antiochus IV Epiphanes appears on the front of the bronze penny, and the reverse has a goddess holding something — perhaps a torch — in her hand.

Antiochus IV was a Seleucid monarch remembered in Jewish history for his promotion of Hellenization and suppression of religious observances. While he was battling the rival Ptolemaic kingdom in Egypt for control of the Levant, Jewish zealots rose in revolt against Antiochus and the Hellenized high priest installed in the Jerusalem temple.

Antiochus returned from Egypt and attempted to quell the uprising. After his death on a subsequent campaign in Persia, Hasmonean rebels led by Judah Maccabee and his clansmen succeeded in wresting control of Judea from the Seleucid Greeks, restoring the Jewish temple and forming a Jewish kingdom that ruled for a century. The Hanukkah holiday celebrates the Maccabees' victory over the Greeks and Hellenized Jews.

(from 'The Times of Israel', December 20, 2016)

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- Rene Fishman
- Cantor Mitchell Kowitz
- Jacob Mirman
- Berle Richman
- Dmitri Shtulman

Happy Anniversary to:

- Natalie & Igor Kravchenko
- Sofia & Moisey Zhuravel

This Day in Jewish History—24 Kislev



In 354 BCE, the prophet Chaggai encouraged the Jews to rebuild the Holy Temple -- a construction project which had begun 18 years earlier, but was halted due to political pressure. The Temple would stand for 420 years, before being destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. On this same day, Chaggai prophesied the downfall of the great Persian empire, which would ultimately lead to the salvation of the Jews. This is recorded in the biblical Book of Chaggai, chapter 2.

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

Annual Hanukkah Party—Tomorrow Night!!

Haunkkah begins tonight at sundown!! We hope you and yours have a wonderful holiday.

And, we hope you will join us for our annual Hanukkah party and dinner tomorrow afternoon at 5:30 P.M.

Besides a wonderful Hanukkah dinner (vegetarian option available by request), there will be music, a talent show, games and prizes. Our religious school students will be performing as well.

And, because our party this year is on December 25th, we'll be serving both Jewish and Chinese cuisine - call it 'Menorahs and Mandarin'!!

Hope to see you there—Hag Sameach!!



Yahrzeits for week of December 24 - December 30, 2016

24 Kislev - 1 Tevet 5777

Please help with the daily Minyan

Yahrzeit of

Remembered by

Saturday, December 24th (24 Kislev)

David Kamenir

Berta Kipnis, Lilly Kamenir,
Nickolay Kamenir

Michel Simand

Michael ben Nechama v'Galina

Ilya Sirotnin

Elyah ben Yosef v'Leah

Eli Sirotnin

Sunday, December 25th (25 Kislev)

Itta Feldman

Itta bat David

Mark Feldman and David Feldman

Nechama Gindin

Nechama bat Baruch

Michael Bershteyn

Anna Rabinovich L'vovna

Aleksandr Slobodlkiy

Motel Slobodskih L'vovich

Aleksandr Slobodlkiy

Rivi Shink

Elliot Scherling

Basya Feiga Bertkovna Slobodskaya

Aleksandr Slobodlkiy

Leone Stein

Leone bat Shmuel

Monday, December 26th (26 Kislev)

Freida Gitsis

Freida bat Avram v'Luba

Arthur Warren Johnstad

Nancy Smith

Henrych Krampf

Henrych ben Ycidor

Izya Krampf

Bertha (Birdie) Posner

Baila bat Sepa

Dee Dee Bolter and Cindy Benzaquen

Tuesday, December 27th (27 Kislev)

Bernard Barr

Katriel ben Yakov
v'Sarah Itkah

George Barr

Harriet Nilva

Shelly Zien

Wednesday, December 28th (28 Kislev)

Eli Gordon

Eliyahu ben Eliezer

Shaya Kipnis

Shaya ben Nahum

Nahum Kipnis

Khariton Moshinskiy

Khariton ben Benyomin

Inna Kotlyar and Boris Moshinsky

Joseph Paper

Yosef ben Ephraim Zalman

Steve Paper

Mina Roitblat

Mina bat David

Nahum Kipnis

Mildred Siegel

Menacha bat Baruch

Thursday, December 29th (29 Kislev)

Lilya Fridman

Alex Marinov

Friday, December 30th (1 Tevet)

Srul Gershman

Liya and Emma Shapiro

Jacob Grichener

Solomon Kats

Slema ben Haim

Elka Arshanskaya

Harold Rossman

Hershel Michel
ben Avraham

Annalee Odessky and Irv Smith

Rosa Shapiro

Rosa bat David

Liya and Emma Shapiro

May their memories always be for a blessing.