



# Sharei Chessed Congregation

## שערי חסד

**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

## Behar - בהר

**ל"ה לעומר - 35th Day of Counting the Omer**

**May 28, 2016 – 20 Iyar 5776**

This week's Parasha is a very short one. On regular years (not leap years), this Parasha is read together with the next one—Behukotai. The entire chapter deals with creating a utopian society where everyone is able to derive a living from the family land that is passed on from generation to generation.

The first Mitzvah is the mitzvah of Shemitah (the sabbatical year). Just like Shabbat is a day of rest for humans and animals, the land gets to rest from any planting or cultivation. What grows wild can be reaped by the poor and the strangers.

When one sells his/her land, it returns to the family at the Jubilee Year—every fiftieth year.

There are many Mitzvot in this Parasha urging us to help someone in need—by providing interest-free loans and treating employees fairly and kindly.

**1712 Hopkins Crossroad, Minnetonka, MN 55305**

**763-545-8800 | [www.ShareiChessed.org](http://www.ShareiChessed.org)**

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

## Lag B'Omer—Thursday May 26th

This past Thursday, we celebrated the holiday of Lag B'Omer—the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer. It brings to an end the period of semi-mourning, which began on Pesah, when no major celebrations (such as weddings) could take place.

The holiday is said to have had its origins in the time of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, a Mishnaic sage and leading disciple of Rabbi Akiva in the 2nd century C.E. The Talmud states that 24,000 of Rabbi Akiva's students died from a divinely-sent plague during the counting of the Omer because they did not show proper respect to one another. According to tradition, the plague ended on Lag B'Omer. Only 5 students were left, including bar Yochai, who went on to become the greatest teacher of Torah in his generation. It is said that on Lag B'Omer, he revealed the deepest secrets of Kabbalah, authoring the landmark text of Jewish mysticism known as the Zohar.

Today, people celebrate the holiday by visiting the tomb of bar Yochai, as well as the graves of other Tzadikim. Weddings and other parties are held, children and their families go on picnics and outings, parades are held as a demonstration of Jewish unity and pride, and some 3-year-old boys are given their first haircut (upsherin) in Meron, the city where the tomb of bar Yochai is located.

Some children in Israel will go out and play with bows and arrows on this day as well, for it is said in the Midrash that the rainbow (the sign that God will never again destroy the earth with a flood) was not seen during bar Yochai's lifetime, as his merit protected the world.

The most well-known custom on this day, however, is the lighting of bonfires, for some say that as bar Yochai gave spiritual light to the world thru the Zohar, these bonfires are lit to symbolize the impact of his teachings. Some also say that daylight was miraculously extended until bar Yochai completed his final teaching and died, symbolizing that all light is subservient to spiritual light—particularly to the primeval light contained within the mystical teachings of the Torah.



## Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday to:

- Boris Sandler
- Sofia Zhuravel

### Happy Anniversary to:

- Sara and Russell Reininger

## Landscaping Day 2016—Thank You!!

This past Sunday was our annual Landscaping Day here at Sharei Chesed. This year, in addition to all of the new flowers, mulching, weed-ing and general clean-up, we planted 2 new trees in memory of 2 devoted and beloved members of our shul—Mort Leder and Terry Schwartz. The new flowering crab in memory of Mort can be seen



out our sanctuary window on the hillside, and the new oak in memory of Terry can

be seen on the boulevard strip along Hopkins Crossroad.

Our thanks to all of the members and friends who came out to help, including the children from our religious school. And a special thank you to Richard Woldorsky who organized the event, coordinated the day's activities, and arranged for the purchase and delivery of the trees, flowers, etc. Yishar Koach!!

## Mazal Tov to:

- Momy and Cindy Benzaquen, and Jackie Leader on the occasion of Eitan Benzaquen's being awarded a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee.
- Rabbi Daniel and Henni Etedgui on the occasion of Graham Etedgui receiving his Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from the University of Minnesota.
- Niza Schear and Morris Schear on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Kobi, and the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Sofie. Mazal Tov, also, to the grandparents, Klaudia and Lejzor Przetycki.

## Yahrzeits for week of May 28 - June 3, 2016

20 Iyar - 26 Iyar 5776

Please help with the daily Minyan

### Yahrzeit of

### Remembered by

#### **Saturday, May 28th**

Benjamin Meyerov

Binyamin ben Talhum

David Feldman and Mark Feldman

#### **Sunday, May 29th**

Leonid Khokhlovich

Mary Eva Kranitsky

Betty Weiss

Simon Weiss

Mara Rifka bat Fishel

Samuil Khokhlovich

Eva Gross and Sharon Berkowitz

Eva Gross and Sharon Berkowitz

#### **Monday, May 30th**

Avrohom Zilberman

Avraham ben Moshe

Rakhil Zilberman

and Simona Kudishevich

#### **Tuesday, May 31st**

Libah Deikel

Haya Hatutskaya

Noah Levin

Harry Sol Miller

Yosef Rauchwerger

Libah bat Avraham

Haya bat Mehel

Noyach ben Hynya

Shlomo ben Zvi

Yosef ben Israel

Liya & Emma Shapiro

Lewis Miller and Morris Miller

Ephraim & Jenny Grinberg Grinberg

#### **Wednesday, June 1st**

Jacob Axelrod

Lev Khokhlovich

Leib ben Gershon

Steve Zien

Samuil Khokhlovich

#### **Thursday, June 2nd**

Howard Brand

Darrell Brand

#### **Friday, June 3rd**

Mikhail Cherniak

Frank Kranitsky

Fanya Palant

Julius Segal

Shlomo ben Yona

Feivish ben Leib

Fanya bat Reizl & Natan

Yitzchak Gedalya ben Osher

Larisa Palant

**May their memories always be for a blessing.**

## **Family Kabbalat Shabbat—Friday Evening June 3rd**

**We hope you will join us next Friday evening June 3rd at 6:00 P.M. as we hold a special Family Kabbalat Shabbat. Our religious school children, their parents and grandparents will be there to experience a Friday night Shabbat service and traditions.**

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