



Sharei Chesed Congregation

שַׁעְרֵי חֶסֶד

Welcome to our synagogue! ברוכים הבאים

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מטות-מסעי - Matot-Massei

August 6, 2016 – 2 Av 5776

This Shabbat we read a double portion—Matot and Massei.

In Matot, we are given the laws regarding oaths and vows. The Torah instructs us to keep our word. There is an exception, however. If the vow was made by a minor or a woman, the father or husband can cancel the vow on the day that he hears about it. It holds if the parent or husband does not object.

Just before entering the Promised Land, the tribes of Gad and Reuven and half of Menasseh ask Moses if they can remain on the East bank of the Jordan and not cross into the Promised Land. The reason they give is that they have huge flocks of livestock, and the land east of the Promised Land is a very good, fertile land. Moses' first response was very negative. He accused these tribes of repeating the sin of the spies sent 40 years ago. After they explained that they will first join the other tribes in conquering the land, and when the Promised Land has been conquered, then they will return to the lands on the east bank of the Jordan. Moses Granted their request and informed the elders and the people of Israel to make sure that these tribes keep their end of the bargain.

In Massei, the Torah lists all the stations where the Israelites stopped during the forty years of wandering in the desert. Sometimes the place is (cont.)

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Parashat Matot-Massei (cont.)

mentioned and also the particular event that occurred in that place.

The boundaries of the Promised Land are given. The Children of Israel are commanded to establish Refuge Cities, where a person who killed unintentionally can find refuge from the pursuer who seeks a revenge.

The Book of Bamidbar is concluded as we say “Hazak, Hazak” at the end of this week’s Parasha.

Did You Know That . . .

The name of the 5th month on the Jewish calendar, **Av**, literally means “father.” It is customary to add the name “Menachem,” which means “comforter” or “consoler”—so **Menachem Av**.

Av is the month in which both Temples were destroyed and many other tragedies occurred in Jewish history. At this time, it is easy for us to feel deserted, lost and alone, yet we are taught that our Father in heaven is there to comfort and console us.

While the 9th of **Av** is a “low point” on the Jewish calendar, the month also incorporates a “high point”: the 15th of **Av**, a day designated for finding one’s predestined soulmate. It is considered one of the happiest days on the Jewish calendar.

May we speedily merit the ultimate redemption, when days of sorrow will be turned to days of joy, and we will celebrate once again in our holy Temple in Jerusalem.

(courtesy of chabad.org)



‘Jerusalem of Gold’ by Boruch Hoffinger

This Day in Jewish History—2 Av



In 1942, the first trainload of Jews in Holland were sent to concentration camps. A few years earlier, tens of thousands of Jews had fled from Germany to Holland, which maintained an open-door immigration policy. But soon after, the Nazis occupied Holland and proceeded to make it *Judenrein* (clean of Jews). Perhaps the most famous Dutch Jew was Anne Frank, a teenage girl whose diary has become the most widely-read account of life during the Holocaust. In 2005, Holland’s prime minister apologized for his country’s collaboration with the Nazis.

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

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- Harry Farb

Happy Anniversary to:

- Archelle and David Feldshon

Minneapolis Yiddish Vinkl—Sunday September 18th

Sunday, September 18, 2:00 p.m., the Sabes JCC will host the premiere performance of “The Wind Gave Birth To Me,” a collaborative work of chamber music and poetry. The concerts are part of the 25th anniversary celebration of the Minneapolis Yiddish Vinkl, a club dedicated to preserving the “Mama Loshen” through monthly meetings and special events. Tickets at the door, suggested donation \$10. Free admission to Yiddish Vinkl members. Sharei Chesed is proud to help co-sponsor this event.

For more information, go to ‘shareichsed.org/calendar’ or ‘shareichsed.org/happenings’.



Annual Picnic—Sunday August 21st

A reminder—Join us for our annual picnic and congregational meeting Sunday 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.

Cost:

\$10 per person

\$5 for children 6-12

Free for children 5 and under

To RSVP, call the synagogue office at 763-545-8800. To volunteer, contact the synagogue or our co-chairs, Ron Scholder and Julie Miller.

Also, we will hold Mincha/Ma'ariv services at 5:45 at the picnic grounds, so come early and help us make a minyan.



