



# 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

## Vayigash - ויגש

**January 7, 2017 – 9 Tevet 5777**

In last week's Parasha, Miketz, we left the brothers in turmoil, having been brought back before Joseph because, supposedly, Benjamin had taken Joseph's goblet. Joseph told the brothers that they can all return to Canaan, but Benjamin, in whose bag they found the goblet, must remain in Egypt.

This week's Parasha begins with Judah walking up to Joseph and pleading for his brother's release. In one of the longest speeches in the entire book of Genesis, Judah calls upon Joseph to show compassion for an elderly father who has already suffered the loss of one son. There is only Benjamin left from Rachel, whom he loved. If Jacob notices the absence of Benjamin, he might die from the shock he would suffer.

Judah offers to remain as a slave in the service of Joseph, but Benjamin should be returned to his father. Joseph can no longer hide his identity and he reveals himself to his brothers. He comforts them by saying that, although they had meant him evil when they sold him, it had really been ordered from God so that he can be at the right place to save all the people from famine. He urges them to go back to Canaan and bring Jacob and all their families to Egypt, because there are still 5 years of famine to come. All the brothers return to Canaan and inform Jacob that Joseph is still alive. He does not believe (cont.)

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

## Parashat Vayigash (cont.)

them until he sees all the food and gifts that Joseph had given them. The Parasha ends with Jacob and his family (70 souls) going down to Egypt. On the way there, Jacob receives the divine promise that God will go down with him to Egypt and will bring him back in due time.

## Asara B'Tevet and the Siege of Jerusalem

**Tomorrow is Asara B'Tevet—the 10th day of the month of Tevet, commemorating the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem, which would ultimately lead to the destruction of the first Holy Temple on Tisha B'Av in the year 586 B.C.E.**



**For years, God had sent His prophets to warn Israel about the impending destruction of Jerusalem and the Holy Temple if they didn't mend their ways. But they derided the holy men as bearers of "false prophecies of doom," bent on demoralizing the nation. They even went so far as to kill one of the prophets. Ever patient, God delayed the destruction to give the Jews yet another chance to repent. He repeatedly sent the prophet Jeremiah to admonish His nation, but they foolishly had him imprisoned.**

**Asara B'Tevet is the only fast day which is observed even when it falls on a Friday. It has also become a day to say Kaddish for the victims of the Holocaust.**

(portions courtesy of 'chabad.org')

## This Day in Jewish History—9 Tevet



**Yahrzeit of Ezra, the leader of the Jewish people at the time of their return from Babylonian exile and the building of the Second Temple. Ezra was the founder of the Great Assembly, a body of 120 prophets and sages who established important matters like the standard text found in Jewish prayer books today. He was an outspoken critic of assimilation, particularly of the**

**masses of Jews who preferred to stay in Babylonia rather than return to Israel. His life and times are recorded in the biblical Book of Ezra. He died in the 4th century B.C.E.**

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

## Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- Ludmila Dorfman

## Today's Kiddush Luncheon

We hope you will join us after services today for our weekly Kiddush luncheon. Today's luncheon is sponsored by Rabbi Ettedgui and his wife Linda, and by Laurence Margolis and Ron Margolis, in memory of Irving Margolis, whose Yahrzeit was yesterday. May his memory always be for a blessing.

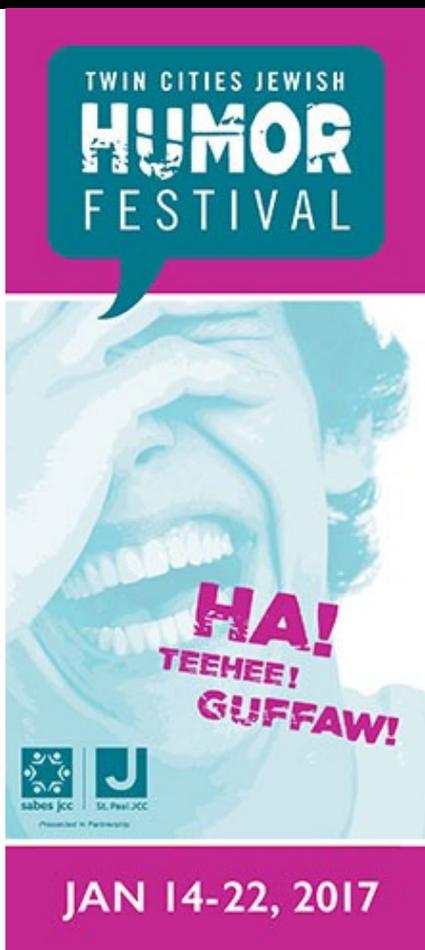
## 2017 Twin Cities Jewish Humor Festival

The 2017 Twin Cities Jewish Humor Festival is underway, with events at both the Sabes JCC and the St. Paul JCC. This year's Humor Festival combines one-person shows, stand-up and literary comedy, story-telling, film, visual art and much more - all in celebration of the Jewish contribution to the world of humor!

For more information, go to 'shareichsed.org/calendar' or 'shareichsed.org/happenings'. To buy tickets online, go to:

<http://www.sabesjcc.org/humor-fest.php>

Or, if you prefer to buy tickets over the phone, please call the Sabes JCC box office at 952-381-3499.



The poster features a teal speech bubble at the top containing the text "TWIN CITIES JEWISH HUMOR FESTIVAL". Below the speech bubble is a close-up photograph of a person laughing heartily, with their hand near their face. Overlaid on the bottom of the photo are the words "HA!", "TEEHEE!", and "GUFFAW!" in a bold, pink, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, there are two logos: the Sabes JCC logo on the left and the St. Paul JCC logo on the right, with the text "Presented in Partnership" underneath them. The entire bottom section of the poster is a solid pink color with the date "JAN 14-22, 2017" written in white.

# Yahrzeits for week of January 7 - January 13, 2017

9 Tevet - 15 Tevet 5777

Please help with the daily Minyan

## Yahrzeit of

## Remembered by

### Saturday, January 7th (9 Tevet)

Roman Khatyanov  
Miles Silbert

Reuven ben Chava  
Myer ben Yosef

Bronya Bryants & Lisa Ilyevskiy

### Sunday, January 8th (10 Tevet)

Ida Ansel  
Doba Bergazin  
Rakhil Gendel  
Morris Goldman  
Asher Kheylik  
Simah Traktovenko  
Mary Toretzky

Chaya bat Myer  
Doba bat Yakov Yehoshua  
Rakhil bat David v'Edith  
Moshe ben Yosef  
Asher ben Yakov  
Simah bat Yitzchak  
Mirel bat Zurach

Jack Moskowitz & Sondra Tenner  
Paul Abzug  
Galina Mazelev & Julia Kravchenko  
Raisa Shurslep  
Maya Peskin  
Morris and Corrine Toretzky

### Monday, January 9th (11 Tevet)

Beila Galant  
Devorah Krasnynsky  
Dorothy Polikoff Ritt

Beila bat Mendel  
Dvorah bat Leib  
Dena bat Eliyahu Mendel

Evelyn Galant  
Nadia Ustyev  
Steve Tillinger

### Tuesday, January 10th (12 Tevet)

Israel Rabinowitz  
Frances Wise

Faiga bat Yitzchak

Jaymee Chanen  
Gertrude Alch

### Wednesday, January 11th (13 Tevet)

Louis Eichler  
Helen Lessak  
Konstantin Portnov  
Shlema Shapiro  
Samuel Zieve

Mayshe Leib  
Chaya Sora bat Yakov  
v'Miriam  
Constantin ben Alexander  
v'Tamar  
Shlema ben Mehel  
Sender ben Leib Shmuel  
v'Malka

Eva Gross  
Yuliya Portnova  
Stan Zieve

### Thursday, January 12th (14 Tevet)

Rose Cooperstock  
Larry Marcus

Rachel bat Shmuel

Sandra Johnson  
Bonnie Farb

### Friday, January 13th (15 Tevet)

Ethel Dulgas  
Sara Edith Miller

Etel bat Moshe Shmuel  
Sarah bat Avraham Yitzchak  
haCohen

Morey Miller & Sandra Miller

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