



Sharei Chesed Congregation

שַׁעֲרֵי חֶסֶד

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

Shmini - שְׁמִינִי

Shabbat Parah

April 2, 2016 – 23 Adar II 5776

This Shabbat we read the portion of Shmini. After all the preparations for the service in the new Tabernacle, and following the seven days of rehearsal and dedication of the Kohanim and the Tabernacle, on the Eighth Day (Shmini) Aaron and his sons, under Moses' direction, began to officiate as the priests.

A fire descended from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, indicating that the service was accepted by God. The people were elated, cheered and bowed down to God.

In this Parasha we also read of the death of two of Aaron's sons, Nadav and Avihu, when they presented an offering of incense—something they were not supposed to do.

This Parasha includes all the laws regarding Kashrut—which animals may be eaten and which are forbidden.

This Shabbat is also Shabbat Parah, when we read from a second Sefer Torah the passage that describes the ritual that was used during Temple days, to purify someone who was Tameh—unclean—from having come in contact with the dead. It was important at this time of the year, so that everyone can qualify to come to the Temple during Pesah.

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Did You Know That ...

This Shabbat, we are honored to join Abram Peysman's family in celebrating his 93rd birthday.

Abram has been a loyal and dedicated member of our shul for many years, and is our Cohen, honored with the first Aliyah to the Torah.

Abram lived with his parents and two older sisters when the Germans occupied his town. First, the Jews were required to wear the yellow Star of David, perform hard labor and finally facing firing squads. The Germans rounded up 400 men including Abram's father Moshko Peysman and led them to a park where they were all shot.

On January 9, 1942 the Nazis surrounded his neighborhood. Thinking that they were after the remaining men, Abram hid. From his hiding place he was able to see his mother, Tsipa Peysman, and sisters, Riva and Ester, being taken. That day, 3,830 people were shot and his remaining family members were killed. On January 16 another 8,360 people were murdered.

Abram decided it was time to flee. He first hid in a neighboring village but was caught by a Ukrainian Polizei and was subsequently sent to the Khmelnik Ghetto. There, he and other young and healthy men were forced into slave labor, while the elderly, the sick, women, and children – 2950 in all – were shot by the Nazis and their collaborators.

Finally, on July 26, 1943 all those that remained were rounded up and taken to a nearby forest for execution. Everyone was ordered to take off their clothing and in groups of 10, sit next to open graves. Near Abram sat Izia Kuznets. Abram told him in Yiddish, "Lets run away". When they were ordered to stand, they started running. The Germans shot at them, Izia fell, but Abram continued to run in zigzags avoiding the bullets.

He hid in the woods for five days, naked and hungry, until he met three local girls. The next day they brought him some food and clothing and told him that their parents advised him to go to Zmerinka, where there was a ghetto under Romanian command.

Kind people along the way showed him the way to Zmerinka as he continued to avoid the Germans. The first Romanian soldier he met took him to Zmerinka's ghetto. People in the ghetto circled him, embraced and kissed him, and brought him food. Abram was very weak and couldn't walk anymore. He had to be carried to a nearby home. He remained there until 1944 when the Zmerinka Ghetto was liberated. Abram then joined the Russian Army to serve on the front lines.

After the war he returned to his home town of Khmelnik. He no longer had a home or family—everyone was killed by the Nazis. He then moved to Kazatin, Vinnitskay where he met his future wife, Tsilya. They would be married for almost 60 years. They moved to the U.S. in October 1989, and he and his new family have been a part of our community ever since.

Abram Peysman is a hero to the Jewish people and to our congregation.



Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Diane Aronson
Susan Awend
Martha Cohen
Marina Kerbel
Abram Peysman

Today's Kiddush Luncheon

We hope you will stay for Kiddush immediately following services. Today's Kiddush luncheon is sponsored by Emeliya Pogorelsky and her husband Dmitry in honor of her father Abram Peysman's birthday. Happy Birthday, Abram!!

Today's Special Guest Speaker—Michael Levine

We are pleased to welcome Michael Levine of the Dallas Brass as our special guest speaker today. Michael is originally from St. Louis Park. He first attended the University of Minnesota and then The Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor of Music Degree. For three years he held the position of Assistant Principle Trombone in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. Michael founded the Dallas Brass in 1983, and he serves as the ensemble's trombonist, Master of Ceremonies, and Artistic Director. Michael has also invented a device called the WindMaster, to help wind players develop their breathing technique. More recently, he has created the Harmony Bridge Project, which is designed to connect band and other music students with seniors in nursing homes around the country. He has dual residency in Dallas and Minneapolis.



Yahrzeits for week of April 2 - April 8, 2016

23 Adar II - 29 Adar II 5776

Please help with the daily Minyan

Yahrzeit of

Remembered by

Saturday, April 2nd

Paulette Oppert Fink
Luba Melamed

Francelyne Lurie

Sunday, April 3rd

**** NO YAHRZEITS ****

Monday, April 4th

**** NO YAHRZEITS ****

Tuesday, April 5th

Ben Moskowitz

Jack Moskowitz

Sondra Tenner

Wednesday, April 6th

Kalman Bassin
David Wilensky

Norma Wilensky

Thursday, April 7th

**** NO YAHRZEITS ****

Friday, April 8th

Naomi Salloway

Barbara Weil

May their memories always be for a blessing.

Next Shabbat: Bar Mitzvah of Sam Geller

We hope you will join us next Shabbat April 9th as Sam Geller is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Sam is the son of Mark and Mary Geller, and brother of Julia. The entire congregation is invited.

The Kiddush luncheon will be sponsored by the Geller family.

