



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 Reinhartz

Lee Reinhartz, Office Manager

Balak - בלק

July 23, 2016 – 17 Tammuz 5776

This week's Parasha contains a very interesting story. Balak, the King of Moab, is worried that the Children of Israel, who are on their way to the Promised Land, will also capture territory west of the Jordan river, just like they did to the Amonites and Emorites, who were defeated by the Israelites. Knowing that he cannot defeat them militarily, Balak sends and brings Balaam, a well-known seer, whose blessings or curses were always fulfilled.

At first Balaam, at God's command, refuses to go. But Balak sends an important delegation and is promised much wealth should he agree to come and curse the people of Israel. A funny thing happens on his way to join Balak. This is where we read of the talking donkey (there are many interpretations of this story).

At all three attempts to curse the Israelites, blessings come out of his mouth, angering Balak, who had hoped that Balaam would curse the Jewish people. Since he was unable to curse them, Balaam advises Balak to do something that would cause the Israelites to sin, so that God will no longer protect them. Moabite women come into the Israelites' camp and seduce many men, who commit immoral acts and begin to worship idols.

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

This Day in Jewish History—17 Tammuz

Five major catastrophes occurred in Jewish history on the 17th of Tammuz: (1) Moses broke the tablets at Mount Sinai, in response to the building of the Golden Calf. (2) The daily offerings in the First Temple were suspended during the siege of Jerusalem in the 5th century BCE. (3) Jerusalem's walls were breached, prior to the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE. (4) Prior to the Great Revolt, the Roman general Apostamos burned a Torah scroll -- setting a precedent for the horrific burning of Jewish books throughout the centuries. (5) An idolatrous image was placed in the Holy Temple -- a brazen act of blasphemy and desecration.



Tammuz 17 is also the yahrtzeit of Rabbi Shmuel Yaakov Weinberg (1923-1999), dean of the Ner Yisrael Yeshiva in Baltimore. Rabbi Weinberg descended from the Slonimer chasidic dynasty. As a youth, he studied in Tiberias, Israel where his mother's relatives lived, and later in New York under Rabbi Yitzhak

Hutner. Rabbi Weinberg married the daughter of Rabbi Yaakov Yitzhak Ruderman, whom he later succeeded as dean of Ner Yisrael. Rabbi Weinberg was known for his unwavering commitment to truth, his masterful logic, and his painstaking clarity in revealing the nuance of every word in the Bible and in Maimonides' code of law. He lived with the reality of the modern world through the lens of Torah, and had supreme confidence in the Torah's ability to stand up against any philosophy or scientific theory. He produced generations of Jewish leaders, and was the mentor of his younger brother, Rabbi Noah Weinberg zt"l, the founder of Aish HaTorah.

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

Did You Know That ...

The 17th of Tammuz is a minor fast day (from dawn until shortly after dusk); however, since it falls on Shabbat this year, and since no fast can occur on Shabbat (except for Yom Kippur), the fast is delayed until Sunday the 18th of Tammuz.

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- Josh Awend
- Victor DeLoya
- Edward Mazelev
- Russell Reininger
- Galina Shteyman

Happy Anniversary to:

- Gabriella and Michael Grinberg
- Adela and Constantin Kazaniuk
- Annalee and Arnie Odessky

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.



Next Shabbat—Special Guest on Homelessness

Join us next Shabbat July 30th, when our special guest will be Dean Goldberg, chair of the Temple Israel Committee to End Homelessness. He will explain a program co-sponsored by the JCRC and St. Stephen's Human Services intended to raise awareness of the consequences of homelessness and what individual Jewish congregations can do to address the issue.



Yahrzeits for week of July 23 - July 29, 2016

17 Tammuz - 23 Tammuz 5776

Please help with the daily Minyan

Yahrzeit of

Remembered by

Saturday, July 23rd (17 Tammuz)

Leibl Bakman	Leibl ben Avraham David	
Samuel Beers	Shmuel ben Shlomo	
Anna Karpas		Eugene Karpas
Grisha Rishkovetsky	Tzve ben Myer	Boris Gerber
Paul Wohl		David Wohl

Sunday, July 24th (18 Tammuz)

Rose Hodroff Cooperstock	Razel bat Yoel	
Rav Moshe Roginsky	Moshe Chaim ben Levi Alter	Rabbi Avraham Etedgui

Monday, July 25th (19 Tammuz)

Shirley Josefowitz	Sima bat Yosef Mordechai	AJ Josefowitz
Eva Goldman Kaplan	Chaya bat Shamai	Grace Richter
Frank London	Ephraim ben Meir	Steve Paper
Lee Richman Steinberg	Leah bat Moshe Shmuel	Berle Richman

Tuesday, July 26th (20 Tammuz)

Nathan Chanen	Nachum ben Yehuda	
Lena Hodroff	Leah bat Yehoshuah	
Nehamma Matusевич	Nechama bat Yosef	Constantin Kazaniuk

Wednesday, July 27th (21 Tammuz)

**** NO YAHRZEITS ****

Thursday, July 28th (22 Tammuz)

Polya Kotlovskaya	Polya bat Nahum v'Khinka	Inessa Marinova
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Friday, July 29th (23 Tammuz)

Ed Rosenfeld	Israel ben Oren Leib	Aileen Snyder
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May their memories always be for a blessing.