



# 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

## פקודי - פקודי

**March 12, 2016 – 2 Adar II 5776**

This Shabbat we read the portion of Pekudei, the last portion in the Book of Exodus.

In Pekudei, Moses gives a detailed accounting of what was done with all the gold, silver, and all the other materials that were donated and how everything was used in constructing the Tabernacle and in making the items that were placed in the Tabernacle.

On the first day of the month of Nissan, one year after the Exodus from Egypt, the Tabernacle was erected, the Priests wore their new priestly garments and were anointed. A Cloud of Glory and the Divine Presence descended upon the Tabernacle and filled the Tabernacle. This cloud also served as their guide throughout their journey in the wilderness. When the cloud lifted, it indicated that they were about to travel, and when it rested they were to set up camp and remain there until the cloud lifted again.

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## Did You Know That . . .

**The following are excerpts from a letter from the Minnesota Rabbinical Association (MRA—of which Rabbi Etedgui is a member) to the University of Minnesota regarding the BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) movement which is now trying to gain a foothold on the U of M campus. This past Tuesday, University President Eric Kaler officially announced his opposition to BDS and the SJP initiative mentioned in this letter:**

“It is with great concern that we, the rabbis of the Minnesota Rabbinical Association, write to oppose the initiative brought by Students for Justice in Palestine which calls for the University of Minnesota to divest from the State of Israel. This local initiative is part of an international Boycott-Divest-Sanction, or BDS movement which denies the very right of Israel to exist as a Jewish State. Its leaders ignore the reality of Israel as a sovereign nation, and the complex reality of Israel’s current dilemmas with its neighbors. The BDS movement fails to offer a reasonable path forward in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

“Rather than bring us closer to the peace for which we all pray, adopting such a policy will make life for Jewish students on campus extremely uncomfortable. Already, members of our community at the University of Minnesota tell us that they feel threatened and afraid to express who they are and what they believe. They feel forced to hide their Jewish-Israeli identity in the closet for fear of being ostracized and attacked for that which is central to their very identity.”



**One group’s response to the BDS movement.**

“. . . to attack Israel is to attack us at the core of our very being. We know that not everyone who opposes Israeli settlements is anti-Semitic. We know that not everyone who criticizes Israel is anti-Zionist. But to single out the State of Israel for divestment strikes us as a double standard eerily reminiscent of historical anti-Semitism, and at the very least opens the door to anti-Semitic rhetoric and activities both on college campuses and in the communities of the world at large.”

“We want for nothing more than peace . . . This proposal will only damage our efforts and bring shame to a University and a State that prides itself on tolerance and understanding.”

“Therefore, we call upon Students for Justice in Palestine to end this divestment campaign and to work toward healing the rift on campus. Instead, we ask them to invest time, energy and resources in the future of Israelis and Palestinians with balanced efforts to bring about a lasting peace.”

## Happy Birthday to:

**Sharon Berkowitz and Olga Margulis. Mazal Tov!!**

## Refuah Shelemah to:

- Dr. Keith Kaye
- Berta Kipnis
- Rafael Yeshayahu Ben Batsheva
- Jack Moskowitz
- Irv Smith
- Nancy Smith
- Aileen Snyder
- Aron Tsukerman

## Special Guest D'var Torah

We are pleased to have Rabbi Gail Nord deliver this week's D'var Torah on Parashat Pekudei. Gail is a former Assistant Professor of Religion at Oakton Community College in Chicago, with decades of professional experience as a spiritual counselor and educator. Yishar Koach, Gail!!



## Purim is coming!!

Please come and help us as we prepare for Purim:

- **March 13th**—Volunteers are needed to help make hamentashen.
- **March 20th**—Volunteers are needed to help with our annual Purim party and dinner, and to assist our special guests from the Minneapolis Jewish Community Inclusion Program for People With Disabilities.

And remember to join us **Wednesday evening March 23rd at 5:45 P.M.** and **Thursday morning March 24th at 7:30 A.M.** for the reading of the Megillah. Come in costume—you never know who you're going to meet!!

**Yahrzeits for week of March 12 - March 18, 2016**

**2 Adar II - 8 Adar II 5776**

**Please help with the daily Minyan**

**Yahrzeit of**

**Remembered by**

**Saturday, March 12th**

Charles Skolnik

Bill Skolnik

Lisa Skolnik

**Sunday, March 13th**

**\*\* NO YAHRZEITS \*\***

**Monday, March 14th**

Sarah Marcus

Jack Beugen

Bonnie Farb

Corrine Toretsky

**Tuesday, March 15th**

Efim Akerman

George Lutz

Asya Akerman

Mary Lutz

**Wednesday, March 16th**

**\*\* NO YAHRZEITS \*\***

**Thursday, March 17th**

Charles Eve

Annalee Odessky

Irv Smith

**Friday, March 18th**

Faye Katsovskaya Shmilikovna

Shura Budilovskiy

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