

UPCOMING EVENTS

L'Chaim Women's Torah Learning — This Monday!

An engaging learning series for Jewish women of all backgrounds.

Date: Monday, June 19th, 8:00 p.m.

Location: 1867 Camborne Crescent

Speaker: Dr. Rachel Gray

Topic: The Lessons of Pirkei Avos: Insight into Jewish Ethics

Shabbat with The Traveling Chassidim

- This Shabbat!

FRIDAY, JUNE 23:

Lively Kabbalat Shabbat Service

– 7:00 pm

Spirited Gourmet Friday Night Dinner

– 7:45 pm | Catered by B'Tavon

Dinner Prices:

Member Price: \$30/person,

Non-Member Price: \$36/person

Kids Prices: \$15/child ages 6-12,

\$5/child ages 3-5,

free for children ages 0-2

SATURDAY, JUNE 24:

8:00 pm – Minhah and Seudah

Shleesheet filled with inspiration and song, followed by musical Havdala!

Register online or by calling the shul

office.

ON THIS WEEK AT GRASSHOPPER HILL!

JOIN CONGREGATION MACHZIKEI HADAS FOR

Shabbat In The Park!

Join us outside on Saturday afternoons in Alta Vista neighbourhood parks. Everyone is welcome!

Every Second Shabbat Afternoon
3:30-5:30 PM
May-August (weather dependent)

Park Location Rotates Between
Grasshopper Hill Park (on Kilborn Ave)
Sharel Park (off Alwater St./Connecticut Ave)

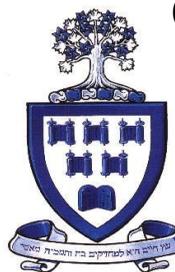
To find out weekly park location and schedule, join "CMH Shabbat in the Park" on Facebook or sign up for our weekly shul newsletter.

Feel free to bring blankets, balls, snacks and whatever else you like!
Please remember to bring water bottles on warm days!

For more information or any questions, contact Stacy Goldstein at stacy@cmhottawa.com

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CONGREGATION MACHZIKEI HADAS



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Rabbi Idan Scher, Rabbi
Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka, C.M, Rabbi Emeritus
Cantor Emeritus Pinchas Levinson
Joshua Dougherty, President

SEDRA SHELAH

23 SIVAN 5777

JUNE 17, 2017

SHABBAT | ITON

SPIES, SCOUTS? TRY LIARS, by Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, C.M.

The leaders who went on the mission to Israel prior to the people's entry are referred to by many names. Spies, investigators, most precisely, scouts. All these are attempted translations of what we call them - *Meraglim*. They were sent by Moshe Rabbenu to scout out the land and report back.

From Moshe Rabbenu's recounting of the episode in the first chapter of Devarim, we learn that this was not Moshe Rabbenu's initiative. It was the people's initiative, which Moshe Rabbenu agreed to implement. He actually stated that the idea "*was good in my eyes*" (Devarim, 1:23).

How did such a good idea end up being such a disaster, with serious implications for that entire generation, which, save for a few people, did not merit entering the promised land? Moshe Rabbenu too, in spite of his entreaties, was denied entry into the promised land, and this episode played a major part in Moshe Rabbenu not entering into Israel.

We gain a hint of the problem at the very outset of our Torah reading, wherein God says to Moshe Rabbenu - "*Send, if YOU want, people to search out the land...*" (B'Midbar, 13:2). That extra word, "lekha," is the key to unlocking the mystery of what happened.

God did not agree with this endeavour, and with the word "lekha" was telling Moshe Rabbenu that if YOU want it, then I will not stand in the way. But know that you are sending them without Godly endorsement. Undoubtedly, God knew what was looming, but chose not to interfere.

One may ask why God did not interfere, a question that can be asked about many moments in history. The simple response is that God gave us the precious gift of free will, and God's intervention would compromise this precious gift. **Continued on next page...**

Later on, in Moshe Rabbenu's recapitulation of his history at the helm of Israel, he gently reveals the story behind the story. *"All of you approached me and said - Let us send out an advance delegation to search out the land for us, that they bring back word to us regarding the road we should ascend and the cities to which we should go"* (Devarim 1:22)

The impression they gave to Moshe Rabbenu was that they were on board, and this was a facilitative mission. In fact, they were not on board, and this was a feasibility mission. A feasibility mission after God told them it was a done deal, that all was good, that all systems were a go! God saw the insubordination that was driving this request. But Moshe Rabbenu was tricked, misled, lied to.

There are many lessons that may be derived from this ugly episode, not the least of which is that a community that is not rooted in honesty is bound to unravel.

HAFTARAH

The Haftarah is found in your Humashim beginning on page 875 and taken from the book of Yehoshua.

The Haftarah continues on the theme of the entry into Israel, and reports on Yehoshua sending two spies to find out the situation in Israel. They are hidden, at great peril, by a woman named Rahav.

Rahav tells Yehoshua's agents that she knows of the greatness of God and that it is inevitable that God's people will take over the land. She asks only that they remember her and acknowledge her life-saving kindness by saving her family. She tells them how to avoid the pursuers who are out to kill these two individuals.

They give Rahab instructions about how she and her family will be recognized, through a line of scarlet thread in the window. This will be a sign that the entire household will be saved, but they must remain inside the house.

The people are able to escape, and return to Yehoshua with a report that they will be able to enter into Israel with little difficulty.

Quote of the week:

remember all the commandments of God...

Schedule of Services

Saturday, June 17

8:10 a.m.: Rabbi Scher's Class
 8:45 a.m.: Shaharit
 8:00 p.m.: Rabbi Bulka's Class
 8:30 p.m.: Minhah
 9:38 p.m.: Shabbat Ends

Sunday, June 18

8:30 a.m.: Shaharit
 7:05 p.m.: Minhah & Maariv

Monday—Thursday

7:00 a.m.: Shaharit
 7:05 p.m.: Minhah & Maariv

Friday, June 23

7:00 a.m.: Shaharit
 Lighting: After 7:17 p.m./before 8:34 p.m.
 7:00 p.m.: **Minhah** & Kabbalat Shabbat

**CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES
 PLEASE DONATE TODAY!**

We have set our goal for the year at **100**.

So far we are at **25**.

To book your appointments for 2017

Call 1-888-236-6283.

Don't forget to give our Shul registration number
MACH006465.

YIZKOR BOOK 2017/2018

Work is underway on the Yizkor Book for this upcoming year. If you would like to include the names of loved ones, please contact the shul office with the names **before June 30** | The cost is \$18 per name.

A Congregational Kiddush

Luncheon will take place in the Social Hall following services. Thank you to **Harvey Morin** for sponsoring today's Kiddush Luncheon to commemorate the yahrzeit of his father, **Samuel Moses Morin.**

SHUL SHUK IS OPEN!

Bring your Torah Tickets and take part in the fun! The Shuk is open from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the lower foyer.

WEEKLY CLASSES

Sunday Morning Talmud
 7:45-8:30, with Rabbi Bulka

Rose Kravetz Ladies Class in Jewish Ethics
 Tuesday Morning, 9:45 a.m., with Rabbi Bulka

YAHARZEITS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 17

23 Sivan—June 17

Betty Kesten
 Irving Gossack
 Phillip Swedler
 Sylvia Abrams
 Sylvia Rose

24 Sivan—June 18

Pearl Ann Schwartz
 Sylvia Gould

25 Sivan—June 19

Frances Fagin
 Nathan Abrams

26 Sivan—June 20

Dr. Esther Strauss
 Jack Ross
 Peter Pepper

28 Sivan—June 22

Benjamin Zabransky
 Bernard Jacob Weller
 Charles Gavsie
 Colly Fram
 Marcia Yachnin
 Victor Giblon

29 Sivan—June 23

Abraham Engel
 Arnell Goldberg
 Gertie Weinberg
 Louis Kevanstein
 Morris Taller
 Samuel Moses Morin
 Sara Weinberg
 Sarah Rubin