

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

(this week at CSI)

January 17 - 24, 2008

Shevat 10 - 17, 5768



Candle lighting time 5:35 p.m.

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat Services begin at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday morning Shabbat Services begin at 9:30 a.m.

Parashat Beshallach

Annual: Exodus 13:17 – 17:16 (Etz Hayim, p. 399)

Triennial Cycle: Exodus 13:17 - 15:26 (Etz Hayim, p. 399)

Haftarah: Judges 4:4 – 5:31 (Etz Hayim, p.424)

Torah Commentary on page 4



From Jewish Heritage Online Magazine

http://www.jhom.com/calendar/shevat/tu_bishvat_basics.html

About the festival

Tu b'Shevat, the fifteenth day of the month of Shevat, is known as the "New Year for Trees." This date determines the end of the "fiscal year" for trees for tithing purposes; in the time of the Temple, fruit that ripened before the fifteenth of Shevat was taxed for the previous year, fruit that ripened later, for the following year.

In the community

Tu b'Shevat actually marks the early beginnings of the spring season in Israel, at the time of the almond tree blossom. Through the Keren Kayemet l'Yisrael (Jewish National Fund) organization which is responsible for planting trees in Israel, Israeli school children plant trees on this day. In recent years, Tu b'Shevat is becoming a day of environmental awareness in Israel. Jewish children abroad purchase Jewish National Fund certificates for the planting of trees in Israel, sometimes in honor or in memory of friends and relatives.

Other customs

In some Sephardi communities the men remain awake all night studying Biblical, Talmudic and Kabbalistic sources relating to the fruits of the land, stopping every so often to eat a different kind of fruit. In some communities a Tu b'Shevat "seder" is held,

a custom which emerged under the influence of the 17th-century Kabbalists of Safed. Modeled on the Passover seder, this ceremonial meal involves eating fruits and nuts and drinking four cups of wine with varying proportions of red and white wine, representing the shifting of the seasons. The seder also includes readings on trees and fruit from a range of Jewish literary sources.

Our religious school students will be participating in the Tu b'Shevat Seder and lunch at TBI Sunday January 20 10:30 - 12:30

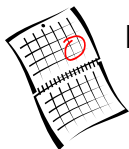
Tuesday January 22 - *Ethical Dilemmas - Jewish Solutions* the rabbi's monthly class at 7:30 pm at CSI.



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**Lunch & Learn** every Wednesday at noon at Barnes & Noble on Tom Hill Sr. Blvd. Plan to buy your lunch at the cafe and learn with Rabbi Bat-Or. The topic is *Israelite history as found in the Tanakh*

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Adult Beginning Hebrew and Judaism 101 classes meet every Thursday. Mimi Shemesh is teaching Hebrew from 7:30p.m. - 8:30 and Rabbi Bat-Or teaches Judaism 101 at 8:30. Please call the CSI office to sign up for these classes. If you can't make it to the Rabbi's Judaism 101 class you can click [here](#) to listen to the podcast.

The Georgia Public Television
3-Night Documentary continues
The Jewish Americans
A series by David Grubin exploring 350 years of Jewish American History
www.jewishtvnetwork.com/jewishamericans/
Please plan to watch on
Wednesday January 23 from 9 - 11 pm



Mark your calendar ... Friday February 8, 2008
Family Shabbat Dinner welcoming our new members and featuring our 3rd - 5th grade religious school students.

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**Papa Joe (aka Joe Oliner) is 90**  
**Please join his family for a special kiddush luncheon**  
**in his honor**  
**following services on**  
**February 2, 2008**

Don't miss The Macon Chapter of Hadassah

Annual Gala Art Auction and Sale

Saturday Evening, February 2nd, 2008

Preview at 7:00 PM – Auction at 8:00 PM

The Cupola at Plantation Centre on Peake Road

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres and Open Bar

Dessert and Coffee

Door Prize and Raffle

Admission \$15.00

For information call Deborah Adler



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Got News? If you or someone you know has something to celebrate or if someone needs a visit or a call from the rabbi please let the rabbi or the president know.

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Check out the new Purim & Passover items  
at the CSI Gift Shop!



**It's Barton's Passover Candy Sale time!**  
**Why not give one of our religious school students**  
**a call and place your order?**  
**Jelly Rings... yum Toffee Crunch...mmm Seder Mints ... gotta have 'em**



## A Summary of Beshalach

*This week's commentary is from USCJ Torah Sparks written by Rabbi Joyce Newmark*

The Israelites leave Egypt and head into the wilderness. God accompanies them, appearing as a pillar of cloud during the day and as a pillar of fire at night. Being a slow learner, Pharaoh again changes his mind and takes off after his former slaves with his warriors and 600 chariots. The terrified Israelites find themselves trapped between the pursuing Egyptians and the Sea of Reeds. God tells Moses to hold out his rod over the sea and the sea splits. The Israelites cross on dry land and then, at God's command, the sea closes and the Egyptians drown. Moses leads the people in the great song of praise and thanksgiving to God; Miriam leads the women.

Just three days later, the people begin complaining that the water they find at Marah is too bitter to drink. God instructs Moses in how to make the water potable. A month later the people are complaining yet again, this time about the lack of food. God responds with the miraculous manna and with quails. Along with the instructions for gathering manna the Israelites are given the laws of Shabbat.

Once again the people find no water. God tells Moses to strike a rock and water comes from it. The Israelites are attacked by Amalek; they defeat their attackers with God's help.

Click [here](#) to read the rest of this commentary

**Want to read more commentaries on this week's Torah portion? Check out these sites:**

[My Jewish Learning](#):

[Aish.com](#)

[ISJL Taste of Torah](#)

[JTS](#)

[AJU](#)



## *Israel 60 Years in 60 Seconds*

Over 90 years ago, before the Balfour Declaration, a member of the House of Lords asked Chaim Weizmann, "Why do you Jews insist on Palestine when there are so many undeveloped countries you could settle in more conveniently?"

Weizmann said: "That is like me asking you why you drove twenty miles to visit your mother last Sunday when there are so many old ladies living on your street."

We are now in the countdown to the 60th anniversary of the rebirth of Jewish sovereignty and independence as the State of Israel. The State of Israel of course did not spring into being in May 1948 but was the culmination of a struggle for centuries.

Over the weeks to come we will take a look at some of the key events that resulted in Israel's independence and the people who brought that dream to fruition.



## Remembering the Kidnapped Soldiers

More than a year has passed since three of Israel's sons - Gilad Shalit, Ehud (Udi) Goldwasser and Eldad Regev - were kidnapped by Hamas and Hezbollah. The American Jewish community must make our voices heard and do all we can to help return these kidnapped soldiers to their families.

[Click here to learn how to help them.](#)

## Mourning and Rebuilding Temple Ahavat Achim

We are deeply saddened by news of the fire that demolished Temple Ahavat Achim's 180-year-old building as it tore through Gloucester, Massachusetts, on December 15, killing a man who lived in a nearby apartment house. The synagogue was a beautiful building, the center of local Jewish life, and the congregation already has begun to regroup and rebuild. Although Rabbi Bat-Or has already made a contribution to Ahavat Achim from CSI if you would like to make a personal donation to help rebuild Temple Ahavat Achim go to [www.taagloucester.org](http://www.taagloucester.org)

Here are two **easy** ways for you to help  
Congregation Sha'arey Israel make a little extra money

1. visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) for your online searches
2. for all your online shopping needs go to [csimacon.org](http://csimacon.org) and click on our Amazon.com link.

every time you



CSI earns



Contact information:

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Quick links:

[CSI Macon Online](#)

[United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism \(USCJ\)](#)

[Audio Siddur](#)

[Global Jewish News Service](#)

[Daily Alerts of Jewish News](#)

[Crash Course in Jewish History](#)

[The Jewish Ethicist](#)

[The Jewish Women's Archive](#)

[Hadassah](#)

[Jewish Heritage Online Magazine](#)

[Learn through USCJ online](#)

[AJU - Walking with God series](#)

[Torah Portion Coloring Pages](#)