

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

(this week at CSI)

January 24 - 31, 2008

Shevat 17 - 24, 5768



Candle lighting time 5:42 p.m.

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

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

Parashat Yitro

Annual: Exodus 18:1 – 20:23 (Etz Hayim, p. 432)

Triennial Cycle: Exodus 13:17 - 18:27 (Etz Hayim, p. 432)

Haftarah: Isaiah 6:1 – 7:6 (Etz Hayim, p.452)

Torah Commentary on page 3

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***Our religious school students will be participating in the Tu b'Shevat Seder and lunch at TBI Sunday January 20 11:00 - 12:30 This was rescheduled from last Sunday***

**Don't forget!! Saturday February 2, 2008 Jr. Congregation & Yeladim Service 10:00 a.m.**

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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.

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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



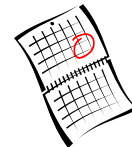
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**Got News?** If you or someone you know has something to celebrate or if someone needs a visit or a call from the rabbi please let the rabbi or the president know.

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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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**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**





**CSI GAME NIGHT**  
**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9**  
**7 P.M.**  
**HAVDALAH AND NOSH**  
**THEN**  
**"LET THE GAMES BEGIN"**

**FUN FOR ALL AGES!!!**

**\$5 PER FAMILY**




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 Check out the new Purim & Passover items
 at the CSI Gift Shop!
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**A Summary of Yitro**



*This week's commentary is from ISJL's Taste of Torah written by Rabbi Batsheva Appel*

Dear Friends:

Years ago I saw a movie with Paul Newman that I really enjoyed. When I read a review of the movie later, the reviewer commented that not only did Newman make his acting look effortless, but also that he did something even more important for the film; his work inspired everyone else to improve their acting as well. We see this same idea in sports; one of the ways to improve is to work with or compete against someone who is better than you are. Part of this improvement might be seeing what someone else can do. Part of this improvement might be stretching our expectations of ourselves. Sometimes we can do this on our own. Sometimes we need the push of a teacher or a boss or a coach who can see just how much we could achieve, when we can't see it. This week's Torah portion, Parashat Yitro, is about living up to higher expectations.

God clearly has higher expectations of the children of Israel. Despite their complaining since being freed from Egypt [*“manna for dinner again?!”*], God is entering into a covenant with Israel. Before the giving of the Ten Commandments, before the covenant at Sinai, God calls Moses up the mountain and says to him:

...Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob and declare to the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me. Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, ... you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' [Exodus 19:3 – 6]

God is asking Moses to remind the Israelites of all that God has done and all that God could do. The image evoked of being borne on eagles' wings is very poetic and powerful. Rashi, a medieval commentator from Provence, speaks of an eagle as not only being strong and unafraid, flying higher than other birds, but also willing to put its body between its offspring and any danger from below. I think that the important part of the verse is the destination, not the mode of transportation. God says "I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me". The image is one of being lifted up to God, being brought up to a level where we might actually enter into a covenant with God, as it were. God does not actually have "eagles' wings", just as God does not have a "mighty hand" or a "strong arm" to bring us out of Egypt. God's *power* has redeemed us from Egypt and God's *expectations* for us are that we will live up to the covenant that we receive at Sinai. When we do live up to these higher expectations, God promises us that we will be to God "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" [Exodus 19:6]. You can't get much higher than that.

*Shabbat Shalom, and a blessed week,*

*Rabbi Batsheva Appel*  
[appel@isjl.org](mailto:appel@isjl.org)

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

[My Jewish Learning:](#)

[Aish.com](#)

[JTS](#)

[AJU](#)

[USCJ Torah Sparks](#)

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Israel 60 Years in 60 Seconds

60 years ago this month, Golda Meyerson – later known as Golda Meir, visited the United States to appeal for help from the American Jewish community. Here are excerpts from her speech in Chicago.

"The Jewish community in Palestine is going to fight to the very end. If we have arms to fight with, we will fight with them. If not, we will fight with stones in our hands.

I want you to believe me when I say that I came on this special mission to the United States today not to save 700,000 Jews. During the last few years the Jewish people lost six million Jews, and it would be audacity on our part to worry Jews throughout the world because a few hundred thousand more Jews are in danger.

That is not the issue. The issue is that if these 700,000 Jews in Palestine can remain alive, then the Jewish person as such is alive and Jewish independence assured. If these 700,000 people are killed off, then for centuries we are through with the dream of a Jewish people and a Jewish homeland.

My friends, we are at war. There is no Jew in Palestine who does not believe that finally we will be victorious. That is the spirit of the country. . . But this valiant spirit alone cannot face rifles and machine guns. Rifles and machine guns without spirit are not worth very much, but spirit without arms can, in time, be broken together with the body.

Our problem is time. . . The question is what we can get immediately. And, when I say immediately, I do not mean next month. I do not mean two months from now. I mean now. . .

We will hear more of Golda Meir's appeal to the Jews of America in an upcoming installment.

Source – Jewish Agency for Israel - <http://www.jafi.org.il/education/jafi75/timeline3i.html#1>

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### **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.](#)

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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

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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 

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Contact information:

**CSI Board of Governors**

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*Ways & Means* - David Frolich - [bb217@bellsouth.net](mailto:bb217@bellsouth.net)

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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](#)