

# Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

(this week at CSI)

January 31 - February 7, 2008

Shevat 24 - Adar I 1, 5768



Candle lighting time 5:49 p.m.

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

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

## Parashat Mishpatim

Annual: Exodus 21:1 – 24:18 (Etz Hayim, p. 456)

Triennial Cycle: Exodus 21:1 - 22:3 (Etz Hayim, p. 456)

Haftarah: Jeremiah 34:8 - 22; 33:25 - 26 (Etz Hayim, p.482)

Torah Commentary on page 3

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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**

**and don't forget**  
**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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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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**WHAT A WEEKEND WE HAVE COMING UP!!!**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2008**

**FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS,  
OUR LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENTS AND  
FEATURING OUR 3<sup>RD</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL STUDENTS  
PLUS**

**OUR GUEST CANTORIAL INTERN, MARIAN TURK \***

**THEN JOIN US SATURDAY EVENING FOR.....**



**BINGO**



**CSI GAME NIGHT**

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

**FUN FOR ALL AGES!!!**

**\$5 PER FAMILY**



**\*CSI is very fortunate to have been selected as the pilot congregation for an internship partnership with the JTS Cantorial School. We will host cantorial student, Marian Turk several weekends over the next few months.**

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## A Summary of Mishpatim

*This week's commentary is from Reb Mimi Feigelson is the Mashpiah Ruchanit (Spiritual Mentor) and Lecturer of Rabbinic Literature at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies at the American Jewish University.*

There are many ways to relate to property.

Other than owning possessions, our Torah portion teaches us of four alternate ways in which objects can be in our possession. It also details our responsibility towards them in case they become damaged while under our care (Shmote / Exodus 22, 9-15), based on the level of benefit gained and financial value allocated to that benefit.

The Mishna (Baba Metzia 7, 8) summarizes these 4 modes of possession for us: There are four kinds of custodians: an unpaid custodian (*shomer chinam*), a borrower (*sho'el*), a paid custodian (*shomer sachar*) and a hirer (*socher*) The degree of responsibility is a combination of measuring the degree of benefit the custodian derives, combined with the amount of payment the custodian laid out.

At the level of least benefit/least profit, an unpaid custodian is the most protected - he will take an oath that he wasn't negligent and wash his hands of any responsibility.

For example: Imagine that you are the unpaid custodian - a friend parks their car in your driveway while going on vacation. While away, a drunk driver steers into her car and smashes it. You would not be responsible for the ensuing damage. In this situation you have derived no pleasure from the parked car and you weren't paid to look after it.

Next in line is the paid custodian, followed by the hirer, and culminating with the borrower.

It is the borrower (the *shoel*) that I would like us to examine for a moment. The borrower is the one that reaps the most pleasure from the borrowed object without paying any fee! All gain - no expense! But on the other hand - the borrower bears maximum liability. The borrower is responsible for any damage that occurs to the borrowed object. You borrow a book from your neighbor and your child spills their chocolate milk on it - you're responsible! You borrow a suit to wear to an interview and getting into the car the jacket gets stuck in the door and rips - you are responsible!

There are actually only two situations in which a borrower would not be legally liable -

A. Reasonable use - If you borrow a saw to put up shelves in your garage and in the process of using it the blade becomes dull you would not be liable since the owner can presume that you borrowed it to use for that specific purpose. The lender gave it to you knowing what you were going to do with it. But... if you decided at the same time to use it to hold up the shelf and in doing so you twisted the blade of the saw - for this you would be liable.

B. The owner is with you when the damage occurs - The Torah specifically spells out this scenario - "And if its (the object) owner is with him (the borrower/"*ba'alav imo*") he (the borrower) shall not pay" (Shmote/Exodus 22, 14)

In *kabbalah* and *hassidut* there have been many sages that interpreted these four levels of "ownership" as spiritual states. The Holy Sh'la (Sh'nei Luchot Ha-Brit, R' Yeshaya Horwitz, 1558-1630) interprets them as different levels of embracing the world of *mitzvot*. The last Lubavitcher rebbe takes this interpretation and, in the best of the *hassidic* tradition, turns things upside-down. For Reb M.M. Schneerson the highest level is the unpaid custodian (*shomer chinam*). He sees this person as one that observes the *mitzvot* without any desire to receive any kind of reward or compensation for all of his toil and turmoil. It is sufficient for him that the Torah has been placed in his hands. No more is asked for. The Lubavitcher rebbe aspires to see us all as unpaid custodians of the Torah.

Between these two giants resides, historically, the rebbe, Reb Yeyva (Ya'akov Yoseph ben Yehuda, (1738-1791).

When looking at the *halachic* foundation of these paradigms, he too rereads them while introducing the very qualification that we mentioned above - "*Ba'alav Imo*".

He bases his interpretation on the *pasuk* (verse) "*Achat Shalti me'et Hashem*" (Tehillim/Psalm 27,4). The literal translation of this verse is - "There is one thing that I ask of God - to sit in the house of God and to visit His palace." But the rebbe, Reb Yeyva understands this mystically: the word *Achat* (one) becomes a synonym to the word "soul", and the word *Sha'alti* he reads not as request / ask but rather borrow - as in our fourth custodian - the "*Shoel*". Thus he reads our *pasuk* as saying: "I borrow my soul from God"!

With this interpretive mind he incorporates the *halachic* rulings to his readings and asks: We enter the world borrowing our soul from God. When our time to leave the world comes we return it to its true owner. It is impossible to return our soul to God the way we received it. It is clear that many moments in our lives we have used our soul inappropriately. This, for the rebbe, Reb Yeyva, would render us by Jewish law, obligated to pay for such damages! But who, we may ask, has the spiritual capital to pay God back for soul-damages???

"*Ba'alav Imo!*" - If we walk through our lives with the sense of God's presence then the Owner of the soul, the Master of the World, is with us every step we take. And if He is with us, then, as the Torah explicitly rules - we are not liable! The Owner of the soul is with us every step of the way, no matter what it is that we are doing. The rebbe, Reb Yeyva offers us a gift of consciousness. A gift of knowing where our soul comes from and a gift of choosing to never walk alone! May we enter this Shabbat and the days to follow with this sense of God's presence in our lives.

Shabbat shalom

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



**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.

## *Israel 60 Years in 60 Seconds*

American Newlyweds in Israel 1948 part 1

[Part 1 of a chapter previously published by the American Jewish Historical Society in the Forward]



Marlin Levin was a returning veteran of World War II and his wife Betty a young Hebrew teacher who had moved to Harrisburg from New York. The couple married in June 1947 and six weeks later left the safety of Pennsylvania for Palestine. Marlin, a former member of the youth group Young Judea and Betty, active in Junior Hadassah, came from staunchly Zionist families.

Within days of arriving in Jerusalem, Marlin found a job at The Palestine Post, at that time the only English-language daily in the country. Two months later, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. The next day, to protest partition the Mufti of Jerusalem, leader of Palestine's Arab community, declared a general strike, which led to riots. From Mount Scopus, Marlin and Betty saw fires burning in Jerusalem.

As the months passed, the fighting in and around Jerusalem grew worse. Residents of the city, the Levins included, received most of their supplies from convoys that traveled up a narrow, winding road from Tel Aviv. Arabs regularly sniped at the passing convoys, threatening Jerusalem with starvation. Food and water were strictly rationed for four months.

The siege prevented transport of the major Jewish newspapers from Tel Aviv, where they were published, to Jerusalem. The Post became the only news source for Jerusalem's Jewish residents. Its survival was critical to the morale of Jews in Jerusalem. As the siege continued, most of the Post's staff joined the fighting and the staff was reduced to three or four. Marlin worked at every job from reporter to copywriter to editor. With the exception of the Sabbath, The Post stubbornly put out a new edition every day.

We will hear more of this account of the Levins, originally published in the Forward by the American Jewish Historical Society in upcoming installments.

Source

<http://www.ajhs.org/publications/chapters/chapter.cfm?documentID=285>

{ *Israel 60 Years In 60 Seconds* is reprinted with permission from Stephen Asbel, President of Suburban Jewish Community Center - B'nai Aaron in Havertown, PA }

Atlanta  
LiMMUd  
Southeast  
**Be Your Own Jew**

**Limmud comes to the Southeast**

Something newish and Jewish is coming to Atlanta. It's Limmud Atlanta Southeast, March 1-2, 2008, at Oglethorpe University. Limmud is a festival, learn-in, a place to explore. Now spreading across the globe, Limmud is a gathering, a happening, a way to connect with Jews of all ages, and led entirely by volunteers.

**What does Limmud Mean?**

In Hebrew it means "learning," and that's what this is all about. Presenters are local teachers, artists, thinker and writers – plus some special out-of town guests. Limmud is blazing a fresh new path to make Jewish learning informal, inspirational, and unforgettable.

Early registration ends February 18<sup>th</sup>, when the price increases.

For more information log on to: <http://www.limmudse.org/mc/page.do> or call Terri Frolich.

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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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**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](#)