

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

(this week at CSI)

February 28 - March 6, 2008

Adar I 22 - 29, 5768



Candle lighting time 6:13 p.m.

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat Services begin at 6:15 p.m.
Saturday morning Shabbat Services begin at 9:30 a.m.

Parashat Ki Tissa {Torah Commentary on page 3}

Annual: Exodus 35:1 – 38:20 (Etz Hayim, p. 552)

Triennial Cycle: Exodus 3:1 - 37:16 (Etz Hayim, p.552)

Haftarah: I Kings 7:40 - 50 (Etz Hayim, p.574)



We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:

Dorothy Haskins, Rachel Schlesinger, Henry Koplin, Muriel Nathan, and Saul Winer

And Happy Anniversary to:

Carol & Michael Bashuk, Bess & Arnold Cotton, and Francie & Gerald Marshall

This week we remember the Yahrzeits of:

Fannie Adelstone, Edward Bashuk, Lillian Klein Brown, William Wolf Kessler, Tess Bashuk, Cynthia Wulwick Joseph Max Cohen, Mary Pollack, Barnett Chanin, Sadie Lacleterman, Mamie Phaul, Norman, Kaplan, Shirley Nirenstein and Sarah Wohl

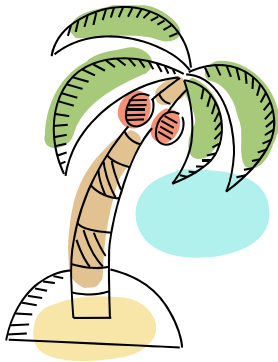
*Please join Francie and Gerald Marshall for a
Kiddush Luncheon
following services Saturday March 1
To celebrate their 20th Wedding Anniversary*

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**Back by popular demand Adult Education presents:  
Movie Night**

featuring the movie *Left Luggage*

**Sunday, March 2nd at 4:00 PM** at the Frolich's house 103 Covington Pl.  
Please bring a dairy dish for supper & email Bill Singer if you plan to attend at [wsinger@alltel.net](mailto:wsinger@alltel.net).

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Find your Hawaiian shirt and get ready for

A BEACH BOYS PARTY

Thursday March 20

6:00 Dinner Followed by Megillah Reading

Make your reservations NOW!



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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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A special message from Aaron Brown:

Please bring a canned good or non-perishable food item every time you come to synagogue through April 4th. These will be donated to the Food Pantry in Milledgeville as part of my Bar Mitzvah project.

Labeled baskets will be in the foyer or hall.

Thank you.

Aaron

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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 us know.

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A Summary of Vayakhel

Commentary on this week's portion was written by Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies

Until very recently, common knowledge maintained that Judaism prohibited works of art. After all, the Ten Commandments itself contains a prohibition against graven images and the Torah forbids representation of any astral bodies. Modern Jews have simply assumed that Jews never made representations of people, animals, or divine beings because such art would violate our stringent standards against idolatry. Christians make statues of their object of worship, but we Jews don't. As a result of that religious posture, it is widely affirmed that we also don't make artistic representations of anything, whether or not in a religious context.

That assumption has been safely laid to rest. Through the work of scholars (such as Erwin Goodenough) and the publication of lavish and beautiful books of Jewish art, it is clear that Judaism cultivated a rich artistic tradition. Description of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem attest to the delicacy of the artwork there, and the archaeological remains of ancient synagogues reveal rich mosaic floors and elaborately painted murals and walls.

Art plays an essential role in the construction of the Mishkan (Tabernacle), the Aron (Ark of the Covenant), and the Menorah (light) inside. Accordingly, Moses introduces the first biblical artist by explaining that "the Lord has singled out by name Bezalel...and has endowed him with a divine spirit of skill, ability, and knowledge."

Impressive credentials indeed! God directly inspires the artist, so that sculpture, architecture, music, and other forms of artistic expression provide a privileged path of religious expression.

Art involves more than merely a desire to make pretty objects. Through the use of color, shape, movement, and sound, people articulate impulses, thoughts, and insights that words alone cannot convey.

Art gives voice to those mute, inaccessible parts of our souls. Art allows us to share the private, to realize and develop inner visions and secret dreams. Lurking underneath the claim that art can liberate is the more audacious claim that art can civilize.

After all, we don't support opera and museums simply to ventilate an artist's inner longings. We participate in artistic projects not merely as voyeurs but because we hope to emerge as better, more sensitive human beings.

Does art civilize?

Regrettably, no. Or at least, not by itself. The Romans were among the most esthetically developed and sophisticated people in the world, and also the most ruthless. Europe developed a culture which valued painting and music, and simultaneously murdered six million Jews. The same Americans who enslaved millions of African captives also built elegant plantations.

Our rabbis understood that art, by itself, can be either good or bad. Art permitted the idolatry of the Golden Calf and the sanctity of the Mishkan. In the words of Midrash Sh'mot Rabbah, "Israel sinned (with the Golden Calf), whereupon Bezalel came and healed the wound (by constructing the Mishkan).

Art can provide a tool for a sensitive person to cultivate sensitivity. Or it can provide a mask for the callous to conceal abuse.

As always, each human being must first make an existential choice: by what values do we live?

Having chosen, art will heighten the expression of that choice. It will either reinforce a lofty moral commitment, or it will distract us from the suffering of our fellow human beings, deaden us to their cries.

Art will express the choice we have made, but it cannot substitute for the choice itself.

Shabbat Shalom!

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

[ISJL Taste of Torah](#)

[Aish.com](#)

[JTS](#)

[My Jewish Learning](#)

[USCJ Torah Sparks](#)



Please join our own **Laurel Robinson** for the Georgia Southwestern Faculty Art Show titled “**Tables of Content**” featuring Laurel’s artwork and storytelling by **Rabbi Daniel Rosenberg**.

The show’s opening reception will be Monday March 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in sharing a ride to Americus for the opening please contact Marty Koplin.

Atlanta

LiMMUd

Southeast

Hevre: Please check out the website for Limmud Southeast--March 1st and 2nd. www.limmudse.org

There truly is something for everybody, from story telling to the Holocaust; from prayer to Jewish law; from Hebrew calligraphy to the politics of the Middle East; from philosophy to how to celebrate our holidays.

This is a wonderful opportunity for each of us to increase our knowledge no matter where we are in our Jewish learning.

I hope you will be able to attend this event. Please talk to me or Terri Frolich if you have any questions about this.

Rabbi Bat-Or

**AIPAC, American Israel Public Affairs Committee,
Present their 2008 Atlanta Community Event**
Monday, March 3rd in Atlanta at the
Intercontinental Buckhead, 3315 Peachtree Rd, NE-- at 7:30pm.

The programs includes: A Political Roundtable with **Whit Ayres**, president of a public opinion and public affairs research firm in Virginia;
Peter Beinart, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and editor-at-Large of The New Republic;
Joe Lockhart, Former Senior Advisor to President Bill Clinton;
Dan Senor, Fox News Contributor & Republican Strategist.

RSVP by Feb. 27th

\$36 Couvert per person.

AIPAC is willing to rent a bus for us to travel to and from Atlanta for this event. Please let the Rabbi know if you would like to go.

Israel 60 Years in 60 Seconds



Aliyah Bet

60 years ago at this season was the late stages of the campaign of clandestine Jewish immigration to Palestine known as Aliyah Bet. In violation of its charge from the League of Nations to facilitate a Jewish homeland in Palestine, the British had enacted a series of restrictions on Jewish immigration. In 1939, as the murderous Nazi tide was sweeping across Europe, the British government imposed the White Paper which severely limited Jewish immigration into the Mandatory territory of Palestine. During World War II, desperate efforts were made to rescue Jews from the Nazis. A small number were able to enter Palestine under the White Paper quotas and more resorted to attempting to enter illegally. Wartime conditions made it almost impossible to carry out clandestine immigration but after World War II, efforts were renewed. After the war, the British were only allowing up to 1250 Jewish immigrants per month while there was virtually no restriction on the ability of Arabs to enter the country during the same period. Between 1946 and 1948, 66 illegal Jewish immigration ships attempted to reach the Land of Israel. Most were turned back by a British naval blockade. Many of these Jews were imprisoned in Cyprus. The most famous of these ships was the Exodus which was forced to return to Europe with Jewish passengers being imprisoned in camps, including former Nazi concentration camps.

Among the illegal immigration ships, 12 were purchased by American Jews acting in concert with Palestinian Jewish authorities. The ships had American and Canadian crews including both Jews and non-Jews. The crews of all the illegal immigration ships risked capture and imprisonment by the British for their actions. Unfortunately, very few of these clandestine ships and none of the American ships succeeded in getting past the British blockade.

Restrictions on Jewish immigration only ended when Israel became independent in May 1948.

{ *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 }

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Fantastic opportunity for College Students:

## **AJLI OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY IN ISRAEL**

**The American Jewish League for Israel (AJLI) offers scholarships for a full year (no part-time or summer programs) of undergraduate or graduate study at one of nine universities in Israel; Bar Ilan, Ben Gurion, Haifa, Hebrew, Interdisciplinary Center-Recanati School, Pardes, Tel Aviv, Technion and Weizmann. For students who plan to attend Weizmann, the scholarship also covers academic materials and some living expenses.**

For more information go to [www.americanjewishleague.org](http://www.americanjewishleague.org)

**The deadline for applications & forms is May 1, 2008 for the 2008-09 school year. Acceptance at one of the universities is a prerequisite and one must be a U.S. citizen.**

**Through a yearlong academic experience in Israel, upon return to the U.S., students become more actively involved in Jewish life and serve as key advocates for Israel.**

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Don't forget the CSI Gift Shop has new items just in time for Purim and Passover.



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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:

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Social Action - Steve Chanin - stephen.chanin@gmail.com
Ways & Means - David Frolich - 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](#)