

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

(this week at CSI)

March 6 - 13, 2008

Adar I 29 - Adar II 6, 5768



Candle lighting time 6:19 p.m.

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

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

Parashat Pekudei- Rosh Chodesh Adar II {Torah Commentary on page 3} Shabbat Shekalim

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:

Saul Winer, Seth Brown, James Bernstein, Robert Vaughan, Abe Davidson

And Happy Anniversary to:

Bess & Arnold Cotton, and Faye and Steve Mizrahi

This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:

Annie Goldgar

Family Shabbat Dinner

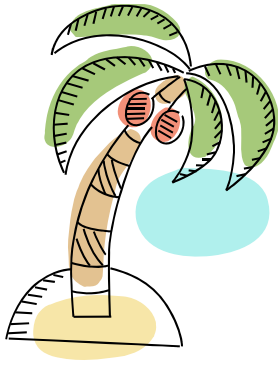
Friday March 6

Please call now to make your reservations

Kabbalat Shabbat Service will feature

our talented

Teen Class



Find your Hawaiian shirt and get ready for
A BEACH BOYS PURIM

Thursday March 20
6:00 Dinner Followed by Megillah Reading
Make your reservations NOW!



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* .

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



Mazel Tov
Marc Lipson
Westside High School's
STAR TEACHER



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.





A Summary of Pekude

Commentary on this week's portion comes from ISJL's Taste of Torah

It can't be surprising to anyone that someone who grew up in Seattle, as I did, might be conscious of clouds. While it doesn't rain as much as some people might think, it is most often grey and cloudy. [Why else would coffee be so important?] When we look at clouds, we can watch for the weather, how fast are they moving? What color are they? How thick are they? We can look for signs of snow or storm or even tornado. We can get involved in the scientific descriptions of clouds, cirrus, stratus, cumulus, cumulonimbus. Or when we look at clouds, we simply can watch for those shapes that remind us of other things.

We use clouds to represent a variety of things. Someone who is a dreamer might be said to have their "head in the clouds". Someone with perpetual bad luck might be said to have a cloud hovering over him or her; like Joe Btfsplk, in the Li'l Abner comic strip, who is represented with a small dark cloud hovering overhead. When we try to comfort people, we might tell them not to worry, because "every cloud has a silver lining". Yet, in movies, on television, or on the stage, fog or clouds are used to create an atmosphere of sadness, mystery or even menace, not comfort. We aren't sure what we see, so we are apprehensive.

Now imagine a cloud slowly, but completely filling the sanctuary. Just like the special effects in the movies. It comes from the ark and flows across the altar, slowly filling the space as we watch. We can see the cloud and even see through the cloud in places, but we can also feel it. Not in the same way that we feel the cool dampness of fog, but we can feel a physical presence that pushes against us, gently pushing us out the door of the synagogue. It follows us outside, and as the sun sets, we can see the cloud begin to glow, not with the reflected light of the sunset, but with an internal light, like the flames of a fire.

This description is one way of thinking of the pillar of cloud that travels with the Israelites by day to become a pillar of fire by night. We know that the cloud has more of a physical presence than just fog, because it prevents Moses from entering the Wilderness Tabernacle, the *Mishkan*, when it resides there [Exodus 40:35]. This tangible proof of God's presence with the Israelites is always visible to them and guides them. When the cloud dwells in the *Mishkan*, the camp stays in place, but when the cloud lifts, they know it is time to pack up and get ready to move.

When we think about it, a pillar of cloud is an excellent symbol of God's presence among the Israelites. As Nachum Sarna notes in his commentary to the Book of Exodus: "God's indwelling Presence in the world is symbolized, however inadequately, by the mysterious, intangible, incorporeal elements of fire and cloud..." Clouds are present, but not present; one can see them and see through them. Clouds can fill a space or disappear quickly, as fog burns off as the day continues. One cannot really wrap one's arms around a cloud, yet there are times when the presence of a cloud can make a hot day more comfortable. Depending on the situation, there also are times when clouds coming in can create a sense of fear and awe.

But what we really need to do is not look at the pillar of cloud by itself, but to look at the context. The whole community of Israel has been able to work together successfully to

build the *Mishkan*. Israel has entered into a covenant with God, symbolized by the stone tablets placed in the Ark of the Covenant, which is in the *Mishkan*. The location of the cloud in relation to the *Mishkan* tells Israel whether to prepare for travel and where to go. The key to understanding the cloud is to know one of the other names for the *Mishkan*, which is *Ohel Mo'eid*, Tent of Meeting. We read in the Book of Exodus, "Moses could not enter the *Ohel Mo'eid*, the Tent of Meeting, because the cloud had settled upon it, and the Presence of the Lord filled the *Mishkan*, the Tabernacle" [Exodus 40:35]. The place that Moses and Israel have built, according to God's specifications, is a place of meeting, of relationship, of covenant. The pillar of cloud cannot be isolated from its context. When we place the cloud in the context of the *Mishkan*, it is emblematic of the relationship and the covenant between God and Israel.

We can only read about the pillar of cloud that the Israelites had in the Wilderness to reassure them of God's presence, but in our sanctuaries, we have a symbol of God's presence that requires a context. When we look at a Torah scroll that we have in the ark, we can see the history of our community, perhaps the history of our own family, perhaps even the history of a community that no longer exists. We, as a community, are the context for the Torah scrolls. When we bring the scrolls out of the ark to show the congregation, to read to the congregation, to celebrate with the congregation, it is emblematic of the covenant that we have with God. We can study Torah, by ourselves or in a small group, and feel the connection, but when we have the Torah in the midst of our community, we remind ourselves of the relationship and the covenant between God and Israel as surely as the pillar of cloud did.

Shabbat Shalom & a blessed week,

Rabbi Batsheva Appel

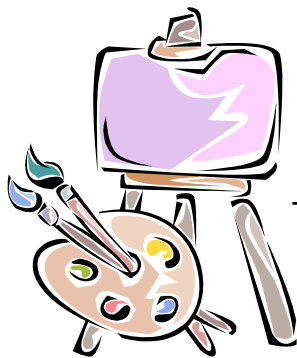
Want to read more commentaries on this week's Torah portion? Check out these sites:

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 Koplín.

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**A special Request from Jan Lewis:**

[Wesleyan College Need One Good Man.](#)

The Wesleyan College Theatre Department seeks a male actor who can play 20's- 30's for a very funny student-directed one-act play titled DOES THIS WOMAN HAVE A NAME? Please get in touch with Ms. Loren Simpson, the director of the play, at

lesimpson@wesleyancollege.edu, if you know someone who might be able to perform. Production dates are April 17- 19. Rehearsals will be March 17 April 17. We need to find the actor as soon as possible.

Jan thanks you for your assistance!

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## *Israel 60 Years in 60 Seconds*



**Israel 60 Years in 60 Seconds – Mickey Marcus part 1**  
From an article published in the Forward by the American Jewish Historical Society

David Daniel "Mickey" Marcus, a tough Brooklyn street kid, rose by virtue of his courage and intelligence to save Israel in 1948 and become its first general. After a distinguished career in military and public service to the United States, the 46-year-old Marcus wrote his name forever in the annals of Israeli history. It was 60 years ago this month that he arrived in Israel.

Born to immigrant parents in 1902, Marcus grew up in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn where, to defend himself against neighborhood toughs, he learned to box. After graduating from West Point and completing military service, he became a federal prosecutor and later New York City Commissioner of Corrections.

In 1940 Marcus voluntarily went back into uniform and, served with distinction in World War II including as Commandant of the Army Ranger School and a parachute drop into Normandy with the 101st Airborne Division on Erev D-Day.

In 1944, Marcus's consciousness of himself as a Jew took a dramatic turn when he was put in charge of planning how to sustain the starving millions in the regions liberated by the Allied invasion of Europe. A major part of his responsibilities involved clearing out the Nazi death camps. Here, Marcus met the survivors of Nazi atrocities and saw the piles of uncounted Jewish corpses in Europe's death camps. Marcus was subsequently named chief of the War Crimes Division with responsibility for planning the procedures used at the Nuremberg trials. Through these experiences, Marcus came to understand the depths of European anti-Semitism. Though never previously a Zionist, Marcus became convinced that the only hope for European Jewry's remnant lay in a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

We will learn more of the story of Mickey Marcus in an upcoming installment of Israel 60 Years in 60 Seconds.

Source <http://www.ajhs.org/publications/chapters/chapter.cfm?documentID=286>

{ *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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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](#)