

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

(this week at CSI)

March 12 - 19, 2009

Adar 16 - 23, 5769



Candle lighting time 7:23 p.m.
Friday March 13

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

Parashat Ki Tisa (Torah commentary on pg. 4)

Shabbat Parah

Annual: Exodus 30:11 - 34:35 (Etz Hayim, p. 523)

Triennial: Exodus 31:18 - 33:11 (Etz Hayim, p. 529)

Maftir: Numbers 19:1 - 22 (Etz Hayim, p. 880)

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16 - 38 (Etz Hayim, p. 1287)



We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:

Robert Vaughan, Abe Davidson, Steve Chanin, Bill Ulman, Lenore Polk, Terri Frolich and Joseph Brody

And Happy Anniversary to:

Faye & Steve Mizrahi

This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:

Sonia Cohen, Bessie Klein, Esther Goodrich Padove, Esther Gordon, Barney Gluck, David Haskins, Helen Kalman, Katie Macy, Sarah Schwartzman, Norman Cohen, Syma Glick, Anna Goldgar, Sarah Hirsh, Ben Zion Katz, Elaine Hirsh, George Nirenstein, Sarah Miriam Zarks, Fannie Adelstone, Edward Bashuk, Lillian Klein Brown, Walter Kessler, Sol Schwaber and Tess Baskuk

This week's Sunday School principal will be Robert Rosengart

Please join the Kruger and Rainbow Families

For the naming of **Allie Ivzy Rainbow**

Saturday March 14 9:30 a.m.

and for a Kiddush luncheon to follow



Lunch & Learn meets at Barnes & Noble on
Wednesdays at noon



Theresa Rosengart and her team for an **outstanding PURIM CARNIVAL**

Beth Cohen * Chrissy Crabtree * Sandra Singer* Steve and Tracey Schwartz
and to Shelley Davidson and Sheila Elkon for our Purim dinner



**Scholar-in-Residence Weekend
March 20 – 22, 2009**

Featuring Dr. James Bowley, professor at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi . Dr. Bowley has crafted a varied line-up of timely, important topics for his weekend in Macon. We hope that you will attend this imaginative lecture series

Friday Night, March 20 – Shabbat Dinner*

“The After Life of the Dead Sea Scrolls”

Saturday, March 21 – D’var Torah

“Beauty Will Save the World” (from Va-yahel – Pekudei)

Saturday Evening – Community-wide Presentation

“Judeo-Christian and Other Political Inventions”

Sunday, March 22 – Brunch Presentation*

“Dressing Jewish in the Bible Belt” (The Bible Through Jewish Eyes)

All scholar-in-residence events are offered free of charge.*

We MUST have your rsvp for Friday dinner and Sunday Brunch by Tuesday March 17

*Scholar-in-Residence programs are provided through the Cultural Affairs fund which is funded through the Wall of Jerusalem. Additional funding for this weekend is provided through a generous contribution to CSI in honor of Jami Gaudet by the family of Connie Hart.



Jim and Celia Henigman
 cordially invite you to visit
gallery 51 and ATG Studio
 during the Forsythia Festival and
 experience the
Woodturners Extravaganza
&
Fine Arts Society of Middle Georgia
Exhibition
 Festival Dates:
 Saturday March 14th and Sunday March 15
 Times 10 am – 6 pm
 Gallery 51 regular hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm
 Address: 51 W. Adams St., Forsyth, GA 31029 Phone : 478-994-3992
 Email: meghan@gallery-51.com website www.gallery-51.com



Hannah Toland who received superior ratings at the Georgia Thespian Conference

Interested in participating more in Shabbat service?
Lead a portion of services
Read Torah
Chant the Haftarah
Call Rabbi Bat-Or and she will help you make it happen.



If you have some free time during the week of April 14 - 21 the Bibb County schools need volunteers to serve as proctors for the CRCT tests. To volunteer at Springdale call Rhonda Koplin.

Proctors are assigned to each classroom to assist in administering this test. Proctors should plan to arrive at Springdale at 8:30 a.m. and will be asked to stay until approximately 12:00 noon. If you would rather volunteer at another school just give that school a call.



TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL will conduct a Congregational/Community 2nd Seder Thursday April 9 at 6:00 p.m. Please call Kathy (745-6727) to make your reservations. There is a 100 person limit. The deadline will be Friday, April 3, 2009. The cost will be as follows:

- Children under 3 - Free
- 3 - 6 years of age - \$ 3.00
- 6 - 12 years of age - \$ 6.00
- 13 and over - \$20.00



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Parashat Ki Tissa

This week's commentary was written by Rabbi Marc Wolf, vice chancellor and chief development officer, JTS.

The unknown can be frightening. This week in particular, beyond the unknowns of the economic crisis that grips the world, we encounter insecurity in the Purim story, with God's hand seemingly absent from directing the narrative. There is an uncertainty that the unknown breeds; we feel it deep within ourselves and struggle to overcome ambiguity through a search for assurance. What is and remains true is that the lesson of the day is consistent with the lesson of history—none of us is immune from the insecurity of the unknown. Even Moshe.

Moses said to the Lord: "See, You say to me, 'Lead this people forward,' but You have not made known to me whom You will send with me. Further, You have said, 'I have singled you out by name, and you have, indeed gained My favor.' Now, if I have truly gained Your favor, pray let me know Your ways, that I may know You and continue in Your favor." (Exod. 33:12–13)

After all of the immediate interactions he has had with God throughout his leadership, Moshe still, even at this point in the Exodus, struggles for a true, unambiguous knowledge of God. Although he is given an experience of God, his eventual request is rebuffed by God (Exod. 33:20). Humanity cannot have an unambiguous experience of God and live to tell about it. While it may seem to be a reasonable justification, what remains is that the uncertainty lingers.

Or so we think.

Toward the end of the parashah, we read that Moses came down from Sinai with the second set of tablets in hand and approached the people. But something was different about Moses—something that frightened the people. He looked different: *U-Moshe lo yada ki keren or panav be-dibro ito* (Moses was not aware that the skin of his face was radiant, since he had spoken with Him) (Exod. 34:29).

Commentators have looked at this phrase and wondered what had happened that Moses did not know that his face was shining. Had God done something to Moses? Had Moses's altered appearance existed from his first interactions with God? Was it a physiological reaction to the desert air?

The Talmud in Masechet Betiza uses our verse as a proof text for an intriguing halakhah. On the question of whether someone has to inform another of a gift, Rabbi Hama be-Rebi Hanina states that it is permissible to give an anonymous gift to someone because, "Moses was not aware that the skin of his face was radiant." The discussion continues, though, with an opposing opinion that if you feed another's child, you must find some way of informing the parent of that child (the Talmud suggests smearing rouge and oil on the child's head). Presumably, when the child returns home the parent will question, "Who smeared you with rouge and oil?!" To which the child will respond, "Oh yes, Mr. Cohen, and he gave me some food too" (16a). The parallel to Moses is striking and amusing. God has altered Moses's appearance so that Aaron and the elders will look at him and inquire as to what happened on Sinai.

From the preceding verse, we know that God gave Moses no food or drink: "And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he ate no bread and drank no water" (Exod. 34:28). So what was the gift God gave Moses?

We have a clue from our verse *U-Moshe lo yada ki keren or panav be-dibro ito* (Moses was not aware that the skin of his face was radiant, since he had spoken with him) (Exod. 34:29). The phrase *be-dibro ito* ("he had spoken with him") is intriguing. Who is speaking with whom here?

Commentators such as Ibn Ezra and Rabbeinu Bahya look at this phrase and question if God is speaking to Moses or Moses is speaking to God. Its ambiguity stages an amorphous interrelationship that is echoed in two other verses with a similar construct. The ambiguity paints us a picture of Moses and God in an intertwining dialogue that seems the epitome of Martin Buber's I-Thou relationship. A defining characteristic of this connection is that one can only experience an I-Thou relationship if one is unaware of the fact. Once you become cognizant of an I-Thou relationship, it is over. It is a relationship that can only occur when you are unaware of it.

This was God's gift to Moses. Earlier, Moses had begged God for certainty. As we discussed, his request was seemingly denied. From this point of view, it would seem from God's response that Moses was permitted simply an experience of God, not intimacy.

As he descended from Sinai, however, Moses was given a gift, the certainty that he could only have without realizing it: a true I-Thou experience. The relationship transpired in their conversation—*be-dibro ito*—in the communication that was God transmitting Torah to Moses and his writing of the second set of tablets.

Moses did have, as we all can, a moment of intimacy with God. That moment for Moses was when he became enfolded in a dialogue with God, unable to discern who was speaking with whom. The radiance that shone from his face was that of the assurance of God's presence and existence. Providence was real, relationship was possible, and the unknown was eventually knowable. This was Moshe's gift—this and the hope for better days for us.

For other commentaries on this week's Torah portion check out these sites:

- Aish.com
- AJU
- ISJL
- JTS
- USCJ Torah Sparks

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

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Quick links:

[CSI Macon Online](#)
[United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism \(USCJ\)](#)
[JTS Podcast - this week's Parsha](#)
[Audio Siddur](#)
[Global Jewish News Service](#)
[Israeli News Broadcast – in English](#)
[Crash Course in Jewish History](#)
[The Jewish Ethicist](#)
[The Jewish Women's Archive](#)
[Hadassah](#)
[Synagogue 3000](#)
[Learn through USCJ online](#)
[AJU - Walking with God series](#)
[The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum](#)
For the children (or the young at heart):
[Torah Portion Coloring Pages](#)
[Babaganews Torah Parasha of the week movie](#)
[Winter 2009 Edition of UCSJ's magazine *Your Child*](#)