

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

March 19 - 26, 2009

23 Adar – 1 Nisan, 5769



Candle lighting time 7:28 p.m.
Friday March 20

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

Parashat Vayakhel/Pekudei (Torah commentary on pg. 3)

Shabbat Hachodesh

Annual: Exodus 35:1 - 40:38 (Etz Hayim, p. 552)

Triennial: Exodus 37:17 - 39:21 (Etz Hayim, p. 560)

Maftir: Exodus 12:1 - 20 (Etz Hayim, p. 380)

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16 – 46:18 (Etz Hayim, p. 1291)



We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:

Terri Frolich, Joseph Brody, Mike Kenirey, Amanda Koplin, Art Besser, Adam Katz & Beth Cohen

And Happy Anniversary to:

Art and Carol Besser

This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:

Tess Baskuk, Jacob Morris Cohen, Cynthia Wulwick, Joseph Max Cohen, Mary Pollock, Leah Avrunin, Barnett Chanin, Dorothy Jampole, Sadie Lachterman, Mamie Phaulm, Louis Winberg, Norman Kaplan, Shirley Nirenstein, Sarah Wohl, Sarah Ida Kessler, Henry Gerson, Louis Oxlander and David Rosen

This week's Sunday School principal will be Marc Lipson

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.* Reservations mandatory.

*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.



Nisan is the first month of the religious year, the seventh of the civil year. Nisan (the name is derived from the Assyrian) has thirty days, and its zodiac sign is Aries (which the rabbis connected with the paschal lamb). In the earlier biblical books, this month's name is given as *Aviv*.

According to tradition, Nisan is the month:

- Of the creation of the world
- The birth of the patriarchs
- The Exodus from Egypt
- the erection of the Tabernacle
- and it will be the month of redemption

Rosh Chodesh Nisan will be Thursday March 26 & Friday the 27th

Lunch & Learn meets at Barnes & Noble on
Wednesdays at noon
March 25 Topic: The Book of Daniel



Faculty Art Show March 17 - 27
Featuring the work of **Laurel Robinson**
In the James Earl Carter Library Gallery the campus of
Georgia Southwestern State University
For more information call the Fine Arts Department (229) 931-2204



Thursday, April 2
Faculty Artist Piano Recital
Featuring **Ian Altman**
7:30 p.m. Fickling Hall, McCorkle Music Building, at
Mercer University



"All who are hungry – come and eat. All who are needy – come and join the Passover celebration"

Do you have room at your Seder table? Do you need a place to go for Seder? Please call the office and we will match those who have room with those who need a place to go.

CAMERA ALERT

COMMITTEE FOR ACCURACY IN MIDDLE EAST REPORTING IN AMERICA

CAMERA

SNAPSHOTS

College students can earn a free 10-day visit to Israel on the CAMERA Fellows student leadership trip from **June 14-24**. A few spots are available for knowledgeable student activists to join the CAMERA Fellows Representatives. Students are required to write at least two informational pro-Israel Op-Eds in order to participate on the trip. (For details about requirements, contact Aviva@camera.org)

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.

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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**Don't forget the CSI Gift Shop for all your gift needs.**  
**Graduations \* Weddings \* Birthdays \* Anniversaries**  
**Lots of great things to make your Seder table even more special!**  
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Parashat Vayakhe / Pekudei

This week's commentary was written by Rabbi Joyce Newmark for USCJ, Torah Sparks.

Moses assembles the entire Israelite community and instructs them once again to observe Shabbat. He then asks them to bring their gifts, materials for building the mishkan, and for those who have the needed skills to come forward to perform the work. When the artisans come together under the leadership of Bezalel and Oholiav, they report to Moses that the people are bringing more materials than necessary. Moses issues a proclamation that no one should bring any more gifts for the mishkan.

The Torah then describes the process of making of the cloth walls, roof, planks, and bars of the mishkan, the curtain for the Holy of Holies, and the screen for the

entrance. Bezalel makes the ark and its cover, the table, the menorah, the altars for incense and for burnt offerings, the anointing oil, and the incense.

Moses instructs Aaron's son Itamar to conduct an accounting of the materials used for the building of the mishkan. The making of the priestly vestments is described. Once all of the work has been completed, the mishkan and its furnishing are brought to Moses and he blesses the people who made them. God instructs Moses to set up the mishkan, to anoint it and its contents, and to consecrate Aaron and his sons. The cloud representing God's presence fills the mishkan, lifting up from there when it is time for the Israelites to set out on their journeys.

1. Mirror, Mirror

He made the laver of copper and its stand of copper, from the mirrors of the women who performed tasks at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. (*Exodus 38:8*)

a. Why were the mirrors of the women chosen particularly for the copper laver? To serve as added inspiration to the priests who were to use the laver for cleansing their hands and feet before beginning the Temple service. The ritual washing of hands and feet was to remind the priests that they must never tire in their ministrations but must bring ever-new strength and vigor to bear upon their work... Now the priests could hardly have had a better incentive than the knowledge that all classes of their people were supporting their work and that their activities served to strengthen faith even in circles that had seemed least likely to benefit from their endeavors. The fact that there were among the Children of Israel pious women who were willing to give away their ornaments and even their precious mirrors for the Sanctuary of God provided the priests with special incentive to carry on. These mirrors joined together to form a laver that was truly fit to dispense to the priests the fresh and clear water symbolizing renewed vigor and inspiration. (*Avnei Ezel (Rabbi Alexander Zusia Friedman), 1897-1943, Poland*)

b. When the Children of Israel were under hard labor in Egypt, Pharaoh decreed that they were not to be allowed to sleep in their homes so that they would not cohabit with their wives [and produce Jewish children]. Rabbi Shimon bar Halafta said, What did the daughters of Israel do? They went down to the Nile and drew water and the Holy One would summon small fish into their pitchers. They would sell the fish, and from the proceeds they would take food and wine and go out to the fields and feed their husbands there. As they ate and drank, the women would take their mirrors and look into them with their husbands. The women would say: I am better looking than you. And the men would reply: I am better looking than you. In this way, their passions were aroused and they were fruitful and multiplied.

After the Holy One told Moses to make the sanctuary, all the men came and made contributions. Some brought silver, some gold, some copper, and some precious stones. The women asked: What do we have that we can give for the sanctuary? They arose, took their mirrors, and came to Moses. When Moses saw those mirrors, he was furious with them and said to the men: Take sticks and break their legs. What do they need the mirrors for? The Holy One said to Moses: These you regard with contempt?!? These mirrors were the cause for all the babies being born in Egypt. Take the mirrors from them and make of them a laver of copper for the priests, that the priests may become sanctified out of it. (*Tanhuma Pikudei 9*)

c. Rabbi Samuel bar Nahman said: The words "Behold, it was very good" (Bereshit 1:31) refer to the impulse to good and the words "Behold, it was very good" refer to the impulse to evil. But how can the impulse to evil be termed "very good"? Because were it not for the impulse to evil, a man would not build a house, take a wife, beget children, or engage in commerce. (*Bereshit Rabbah 9:7*)

[Click here](#) for the rest of this commentary

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

[Aish.com](#)

[AJU](#)

[ISJL](#)

[JTS](#)

[MyJewishLearning.com](#)



Seven symbols are the seder plate.... What is the reason for them?

[Click here to find out](#)

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

1. visit www.goodsearch.com for your online searches. This won't cost you anything but CSI makes a penny each time to search
2. for all your online shopping needs go to csimacon.org and click on our Amazon.com link.

every time you



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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\*](#)