

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

August 20 – August 27, 2009

30 Av – 7 Elul 5769



Candle lighting time 7:56 pm
Friday August 21

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat Services begin at 6:15 pm
Saturday morning Shabbat Services begin at 9:30 am

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## PARASHAT SHOFTIM

Annual: Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9 (Etz Hayim, p. 1088)  
Triennial: Deuteronomy 18:6 – 19:13 (Etz Hayim, p. 1088)  
Haftarah: Isaiah 51:12 – 52:12 (Etz Hayim, p. 1108)

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We would like to extend our condolences.

To the Oliner and Carter families on the passing of Joe Oliner.

There will be a Shiva Minyan at Carlyle Place on Sunday at **4:00 PM**,
Monday and Tuesday at 6:00 PM, and on Wednesday Morning at 9:30 AM

We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:

Bess Cotton, Sig Dayan, Amalie Proskauer and Robert Schwartz

And Happy Anniversary to:

Terri & David Frolich and Shelley & Steve Kruger

This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:

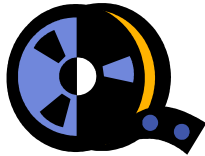
Herschel Barry Kemper, Kohlman Koplin, Robert Rappaport, Gladys Rosen, Edith Theodore, Shirley Abromowitz, Hyman Bennett, Ralph Bobo.

The deadline to submit the form for the Book of Remembrance to the CSI office is TOMORROW - August 21, 2009.

Please Note: If your loved ones were listed in the Special Section last year, they will be listed again this year unless you advise us that you do not want to participate.

CSI 5770 Campaign

Next month we start the Jewish New Year 5770. It is a time of reflection and recommitment to our heritage and faith. Our synagogue has been the center of this Jewish community for over 100 years and has prospered from the commitment of many during those years. We ask you to join them in that commitment by making a generous donation to our 5770 Campaign.



Movie Night **Sunday, August 23 at 4:30pm.** at the home of Terri & David Frolich

The movie is **Defiance** directed by Daniel Zwick, an epic tale of family, honor, vengeance and salvation in WWII. Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber and Jamie Bell star as brothers who turn a primitive struggle to survive into a way to avenge the deaths of their loved ones by saving thousands of others. **It is a GREAT movie!**

Bring a covered dish and let's start off our year with a great film, wonderful food and good friends! Look forward to seeing you.

Please RSVP to Stephanie Kross, skross@cox.net

Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday - August 28th

Services begin at 6:15 pm with dinner to follow



Adults - \$10 Children - \$7 Kids under 3 – free

***Please call 745-4571 or email:
secretary@csimacon.org to make a reservation***

We MUST have your reservation by Noon on Wednesday, August 26!

Marc & Meredith Lipson invite you to join them for the
simcha of their daughter Anna's Bat Mitzvah

Friday - September 4 - 6:15 pm
Saturday - September 5 - 9:30 am



LUNCH AND LEARN IS RETURNING!!!

The Rabbi has been working hard on many ideas to make this an interesting and informative curriculum. We are planning to meet at Harpin's on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am beginning Oct. 20th.

We would love to know what you think!

If you are interested in participating, please let us know.

Send an email to Stephanie Kross at skross@cox.net

Don't forget the CSI Gift Shop for all your gift needs.

Weddings - Housewarming Gifts

Birthdays - Anniversaries - B'nai Mitzvahs

**20% Off on all
Rosh Hashanah Gift Items
& Rosh Hashanah Toys
thru the Holidays**



Free gift wrapping and local delivery.

Call Terri or Deborah to help you with your shopping needs

Parashat Shoftim

Separation of Powers: The Torah provides a model for separating religious, judicial, and governing bodies--to keep power in check.

This week's commentary is by Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels

Parashat Shoftim is concerned with the structures of governance of biblical society and their just operation: the government and its military, the courts, and the religious authorities. Having emerged from the foreign slavery of Egypt and now attempting to maintain the freedom achieved in the Exodus, the [*parashah*](#) is concerned with ensuring the fair functioning of these three institutions. That is, the Torah explicitly limits exploitative possibilities by separating the centers of power and placing constraints that keep these institutions functioning appropriately.

The Rabbis speak of Israel as crowned with three crowns--the crown of kingship, the crown of Torah, and the crown of priesthood (Mekhilta de-Rashbi 19:6). In early Jewish history these three crowns were, for the most part, kept distinct as rival centers of power in Jewish society. Most democracies today have echoed this model. Religious, judicial, and governing bodies are kept separate from each other and each saddled with limits so that their exploitative and oppressive potentials are restricted, while their productive and progressive possibilities are cultivated.

For the Jews, to not limit these institutions would have been to exchange the foreign slavery of Egypt for the internal slavery of fellow Israelite domination. This week's [parashah](#) outlines the original separation of powers.

Judges, Kings, Priests

It first discusses the legal system, stressing that judges must decide cases justly, show no favoritism, and take no bribes (Deut. 16:18-20). The parashah clearly lays out rules for the exercise and limitation of their power. We learn that it is only when judges are bound by such rules that their decisions are legitimate and can be enforced (Deut. 17:10-11).

Next, the parashah turns to the institution of kingship. We are told that an Israelite king must regularly review the law to which he is bound and not "act haughtily toward his fellows (Deut. 17:18-20)." Moreover, the Torah particularly instructs that the king should not multiply his horses, women, or wealth (Deut. 17:15-17) and must not (Deut. 17:16) "send people back to Egypt to add to his horses, since the Lord has warned you, 'You must not go back that way again.'"

The Torah is warning that if the king engages in reckless military aggrandizement, the Israelites will experience an internal oppression in their own land that harks to their days of foreign domination in Egypt. These limitations are designed to prevent kingship from becoming an exploitative institution.

The third crown--the priesthood--is discussed next. The parashah states that the Cohens and Levites, the tribes that conduct and oversee the ritual observance in the Temple, have "no territorial portion" of their own in Israel but rather must live off the offerings made by the Israelites to God (Deut. 18:1-8). Here, the center of religious power is prevented from amassing economic power and is forced to live off the generosity of the rest of the nation. The nation's religious leaders, themselves the center of great power, are prevented from exploiting their rank.

Post-Colonial Tyranny

These limitations are designed to keep biblical society functioning altruistically and without corruption, to distinguish it from the unjust governance of Egyptian slavery. Sadly, this lesson has been lost in much of the Global South, where external colonial oppression has too often been exchanged for home-grown tyranny, precisely because power and institutions were not limited and separated.

Mugabe's Zimbabwe, Musharraf's Pakistan, and Castro's Cuba are all examples of power gone awry. The centralization of all power forms in one person, coupled with the limitless use of their power, results in unjust and unbearable societies. We witness the results in the news daily and grieve for the communities struggling under the burden of such oppressive and unfettered governance.

Yet this week's parashah offers a glimpse of a society of a different order. Through promoting the development of civil society, AJWS grantees help to bring into reality the promise of our parashah: a just society of limited power held by many.

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

Aish.com

ISJL Taste of Torah

JTS

MyJewishLearning.com

USCJ Torah Sparks

~ Please Note ~

**There are still two easy ways for you to help
Congregation Sha'arey Israel can 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 you search.

every time you



CSI earns



2. for all your online shopping needs go to csimacon.org and click on our Amazon.com link.

Contact information:

CSI Board of Governors:

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**Quick links:**

**[CSI Macon Online](#)**

[United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism \(USCJ\)](#)

[JTS Podcast - this week's Parsha](#)

[Audio Siddur](#)

[Jewish Telegraphic Agency \(JTA\)](#)

[Israeli News Broadcast – in English](#)

[The Jewish Ethicist](#)

[Synagogue 3000](#)

[Learn through USCJ online](#)

[The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum](#)

[United Jewish Communities \(UJC\)](#)

[American Jewish University](#)

**For the children (or the young at heart):**

[Torah Portion Coloring Pages](#)

[Babaganews Torah Parasha of the week movie](#)

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