

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

September 10 – September 17, 2009

21 Elul - 28 Elul 5769



Candle lighting time 7:29 pm
Friday September 11

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

PARASHAT NITZAVIM-VAYELEKH – SELIHOT (Commentary on Page 3)

Annual: Deuteronomy 29:9 – 31:30 (Etz Hayim, p. 1165)

Triennial Cycle: Deuteronomy 30:1 – 31:6 (Etz Hayim, p. 1169)

Haftarah: Isaiah 61:10 – 63:9 (Etz Hayim, p. 1180)



There will be a Shiva Minyan for Shirley Kahn Altman, mother of Ian Altman, at the synagogue this evening, September 10 at 7:00 pm, and on Sunday morning, September 13 at 9:00 am.

Fran Kirsh had two back operations last week and is recuperating at the Emory Orthopaedics & Spine Hospital, 1455 Montreal Rd, Tucker GA Room 3032 (Hwy 75 to 285 E to Lawrence Hwy/US 29).
She welcomes our visits. Thanks for doing this mitzvah.

We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:

Sorin Ardet, Jack Lipson, Benjamin Altman and Jason Piers

Mazel Tov!

To Harold and Nathalie Goodrich for celebrating the Diamond Anniversary of their business, Harrold's; 60 years in business in downtown Milledgeville.

This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:

Annie Frank, Jacob Cotton, Hyman Oliner, Mindel Oxlander, Tillie Tinsky Reifler, Sonia Katz, Bess Safer, Ida Fixel Davidson, Esther Berkman Kaplan

Selichot Program
Saturday, September, 12, 2009
9:00 pm at the Synagogue
God on Trial

This movie depicts concentration camp prisoners, believers and non-believers, putting God on trial for allowing the Holocaust to happen. Screenwriter Frank Cottrell Boyce's script is based on the unconfirmed story that a group of prisoners at Auschwitz convened a rabbinical court to ask who is to blame for this devastation to the Jewish people.

Junior Congregation is this Saturday, September 12

***Cemetery Service
September 13 at 2:00 pm
Rose Hill Cemetery***

CSI 5770 Campaign

There are still some members who have not made a commitment to the CSI Campaign. This synagogue belongs to all of us and we encourage everyone to be a part of this campaign in whatever way you are able.

Important Notes ~

We have updated the End of Life Questionnaire. You will receive one in the mail as well as by email. Please fill it out and return them to the CSI office.

Yahrzeit Notices – We will continue to mail out reminders for parents, siblings, spouses and children. If you wish to receive a Yahrzeit notice for any other relative, you will have to contact the CSI office.

You may now pay your Synagogue bill with a credit card and there will be a section on your statement for you to submit your credit card information or you may call it in to the CSI office.

**If you need Guest High Holiday Tickets
Please contact Deborah Adler**

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

Parshat Nitzavim-Vayelech

This week's commentary is by Rabbi Jay Kelman

What's In A Name

We tend to think that the names of the weekly *parshiot* have little intrinsic meaning; they are just taken from the opening word or two of the *parsha*. Thus *Bresheet* being the first word of the Bible becomes the name for both the first book and the weekly *parsha*. Nonetheless closer examination of the names of the *parshiot* suggest that it might not be quite that simple. For example two of the *parshiot* in *sefer breisheet* begin *eleh toldot Noach* and *Eleh toldot Yitzchak* (these are the generations of Noach and Isaac). Yet the first *parsha* is known as Noach whereas the second one is referred to as *Toldot*. It could just as easily have been the reverse; we would first read *parshat Toldot* (a.k.a. Noach) followed a few weeks later by *parshat Yitzchak* (strange as that may sound).

Similarly *parshat Yitro*, *korach* and *balak* could just as easily be named *Vayishma* (and Yitro heard) *vayikach* (and Korach took) and *vaya'ar* (and Balak saw) being as they are the first words in their respective *parshiot*. Those verbs would fit in nicely with such *parshiot* as *vayetze* (and Yaakov left), *Vayishlach* (and Yaakov sent) *vayeshev* (and Yaakov sat).

This week's (second) *parsha* which begins *vayelech Moshe* (and Moshe went) is known as *vayelech*, not Moshe. Would it not have been fitting to name one *parsha* after Moshe *Rabbeinu*? While in all of the above *parshiot* it is either the first or second word which is chosen, there does seem to be most interesting pattern. Those *parshiot* in which the subject is either a non Jew (Noach, Balak, Yitro) or people unworthy of emulation (*korach*) it is the name that is used. Those *parshiot* that refer to our Jewish role models, be they Yitzchak, Yaakov or Moshe the *parshiot* take the name of the word preceding the name (*vayishlach yaakov*, *toldot yitzchak*, *vayelech Moshe*). Perhaps we have a lesson in humility. For the righteous it is not the name that counts but rather one's actions. As *Rashi* in another context notes "the primary legacy of the righteous are their good deeds".

The names of this week's double *parsha* is interesting from another perspective. The titles *Nitzavim* and *Vayelech* are actually contradictory. In *parshat Nitzavim* Moshe address the people who are all "standing" before him. The word *nitzav* actually connotes being anchored in one place, listening attentively to the words of their leader. This is the exact opposite of the opening of the second *parsha*, *Vayelech*, which details Moshe's moving around from place to place. In other words this week we will read about standing still and moving about.

I do not believe this is a mere coincidence but rather is reflective of the themes of the individual *parshiot* . In *Parshat Nitzavim* Moshe reiterates that the Sinaitic covenant was meant for all generations and warns of the dire consequences that will befall the Jews if they abandon the path of Torah. Moshe then offers words of comfort promising that one day the Jewish people will do complete *Teshuvah* allowing us to fulfil our historic mission. Faith in the ultimate righteousness of the Jewish people is part and parcel of the belief system accepted at Sinai. This is a most serious message; one in which we must stand anchored in one spot to properly absorb.

Serious messages, if they are to have any meaning, must lead to action. In *Vayelech* Moshe passes the torch of leadership to *Yehoshua* exhorting all to be strong and brave under his successor. The last two mitzvot of the Torah, the gathering together of the entire Jewish people to hear the king read the Torah every seven years, and the command to personally commission the writing of a *sefer Torah* round out the *parsha* . Leadership, community and personal growth require action not talk.

A Jew has to know when to stand still and listen and when to be pro-active and on the move. On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we are *Nitzavim*, spending many hours in shul, contemplating ways to learn and grow from our mistakes. Immediately thereafter follows *Sukkot* , the festival representing the many different types of Jews. We move around the *bimah* , we dance and we leave the comfort of our homes. We are on the move. Most years *Nitzavim* and *Vayelech* are read together as we both stand still and move forward. If we manage this tension successfully then we can look forward to *v'Zot haBracha*, the blessings of Torah. *Shabbat Shalom!*

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

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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