

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

October 29 – November 5, 2009

11 Cheshvan – 18 Cheshvan 5770



Candle lighting time 6:28 pm
Friday October 30

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

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## PARASHAT LEKH LEKHA

Annual (Gen. 12:1-17:27): (Etz Hayim, p. 69)  
Triennial (Gen. 16:1-17:27): (Etz Hayim, p. 86)  
Haftarah: (Etz Hayim, p. 95)



**We would like to extend our condolences to ~**  
Sandra Singer and her family on the passing of her uncle, Herman Canter

**Mazel Tov!**  
To Rabbi Bat-Or for the renewal of her contract with CSI.  
To Margo & Michael Kenirey on the adoption of their daughter, Rebecca Xiu

**Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to:**  
Art Besser, Elaine Dreizin, Mel Haskins, Fran Kirsh, Paul Kruger and Viola Schwartz

**We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:**  
Louis Schlesinger, Diane Vogel and Ellen Ziesenhene

**This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:**  
Walter David Kessler, Sarah Nirenstein, Rose Esther Weiner, Harry Kamensky, Irvin Ira Leslie, Nathan Albert, Rachel Bennett, Amalie Kessler, Bessie Haskins, Max Kemper, Moses Funk, Louis Montrose, Sandra Bemis, Isaac "Ike" Dreizin, Lawrence Kahn, Sylvia Lipman

**NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

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JR. CONGREGATION IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Adult in Charge: Joe Finkelstein Davening Leaders: Will Finkelstein & Seth Hirsh

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*You are invited to:*

**The CSI 2009 Jewish Book Fair**  
**Sunday, November 8**  
**10:00 am-12:00 Noon**  
**in the CSI Social Hall**



## *Family Shabbat Dinner*

*Friday - November 13*

Services begin at 6:15 pm featuring our 5-7th Graders  
with dinner to follow

Adults \$10.00 ~ Children \$7 ~ Under 3 Free  
All Religious School Students - Free!

Please call 745-4571 to make reservations  
or email: [secretary@csimacon.org](mailto:secretary@csimacon.org)



## *Movie Night*

*Sunday ~ November 15*  
*4:30 PM*

**Please join us for movie night at Terri and David Frolich's home.  
Bring a covered dish and we'll have great food, a wonderful movie and time to catch up with friends.**

The movie is a 1975 America drama film entitled "**The Man in the Glass Booth**".

The plot was inspired by actual events surrounding the kidnapping and trial of Adolf Eichmann. Maximilian Schell plays the lead character and was nominated for an Academy Award for his performance.

For more information please contact Stephanie Kross - [skross@cox.net](mailto:skross@cox.net)

Win some cash!! – Much better chances than the lottery – and much closer than Vegas.....

## **Joint Fundraising Reverse Raffle**

Temple Beth Israel and  
Congregation Sha'arey Israel

**Saturday, November 21, 2009  
7:00 PM**

Idle Hour Country Club  
Heavy Hors' D'oeuvres

**1<sup>st</sup> prize - \$5,000  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize - \$3,000  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize - \$2,000**

**\$100 per ticket**

For tickets – see Scott Bayme, Chip Koplin, Jack Krapf,  
Beth Cohen, Alan Goldman or David Frolich  
You need not be present to win!!



### *The CSI Gift Shop*

*for all your gift needs*

Weddings - Housewarming Gifts  
Birthdays - Anniversaries - B'nai Mitzvahs

**20% OFF SALE ON ALL JEWELRY**

**Chanukah is coming!**

**Contact Deborah or Terri as soon as possible  
with your gelt order!**



**And don't forget the CSI Cookbook - makes a great gift!**

*Free gift wrapping and local delivery.*

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Eric Chanin, brother of Ina Chanin has started his Bone Marrow Transplant this week and will need platelets or blood during the course of his recovery. This is handled through Atlanta Blood Services, which has 2 locations. One is next to Northside Hospital, and the other is on Cobb Parkway next to Whitewater.

If you can donate please call 404-459-8744 and ask for a donor coordinator to set up an appointment time. They will prescreen you.

The Congregation, Ina and Louis appreciate your help.

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## **Lekh-Lekha**

Genesis 12:1-17:27

*This week's commentary is by Rabbi Andy Bachman, the spiritual leader at Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn, NY.*

### **Social Action Within Our Walls: Smashing Jewish Idols**

Like Abraham, who introduced a new model for relating to God and humankind, we continue to integrate social justice concerns into Jewish religious practice.

The *midrash* (rabbinic narrative elaboration) about Abraham smashing idols is so pervasive and well known that many Jews assume that it comes from Torah. As a story, it cuts to the core of a distinct ethical obligation Jews of all stripes feel when they act from the very center of their Jewish being to change the world. Whether our actions motivate us to work for labor and the downtrodden or peace in Israel, we activate a certain "Abraham" within to destroy the idols of prior perspectives and belief systems, and replace them with a new perspective that sheds light upon and brings us nearer to God's vision for all humankind.

In Abraham's own day, the rabbis tell us, the insights he was able to achieve were a testimony to his greatness of mind and soul. He had a way of seeing the world that earned not only God's attention but eternal devotion and respect. One legend, attributed to Rabbi Isaac, an early Jewish sage, tells the tale of a traveling man who one day sees a palace burning. He shouts, "Is the mansion without someone to look after it?!" Like the wandering man, Abraham noticed the world in a terrible condition and spoke up, only to elicit a response from God, relieved that a human partner was willing to help counter the evil of the world with the impulse to save and do good.

In each generation a new Abraham arises and makes his or her case for a new perspective on events that shatters our previously held view. The advances are discernible in politics and science; in literature and philosophy; in music, the arts, and religion.

The greatest challenge of the teachings attributed to our sages focuses not only on the propensity to smash idols in the arts or politics or music; but what do we do with the desire when it comes to changes in religious observance, especially those motivated by justice concerns? What do we do when the impulse of Abraham arises in us in the context of Jewish learning and Jewish observance? When is the impulse, like Abraham's, instructive; and when is it destructive?

Most radical changes in mainstream Jewish life have been wrought in the last two centuries. Their result has been most recently catalogued and dramatized by the accomplished journalist Samuel G. Freedman in his book, *Jew vs. Jew*. Beyond the title, which hints that some of the changes have created contentious splits in the Jewish body politic, Freedman argues that as various ideological models for Jewish life and expression have lost steam, the religious model of Jewish life has prevailed. While Jews have attempted a variety of modes of expression--from Zionist nationalist, to secular humanist, to labor Bundist or plain old materialist assimilationist--at the end of the day, we encounter an ever-growing need to reconnect to our Jewish religious selves, spiritualized and closer to God.

Look at the changes in recent years: equal rights and status of women in three of the four major movements; the ordination of women as rabbis; outreach to the unaffiliated and "stranger" living among us; ordination of gays and lesbians in two of the four movements; and an increased focus on Hebrew, sacred texts, and Jewish ritual among committed liberal Jews. Our wanderings from place to place have brought us back to Judaism; but not without making meaningful changes in our religious life, as Abraham himself did more than a few thousand years ago.

In his last book of poetry published before his death, Yehuda Amichai wrote:

"We are all children of Abraham But also the grandchildren of Terah, Abraham's father And maybe it's high time the grandchildren Did unto their father as he did unto his When he shattered his idols and images, his religion, his faith. That too would be the beginning of a new religion." (From *Open Closed Open*, New York: Harcourt, 2000)

A new generation has smashed the idols of assimilation and acculturation and declared that being Jewish is as essential to their condition as being American. The question for us remains, as Amichai proposed in his inimitably playful way: which idols will fall? And as we pursue justice concerns *within* Judaism, what new light will be shed on our ancient, sacred tradition?

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

[Aish.com](http://Aish.com)

[ISJL Taste of Torah](http://ISJL.TasteofTorah)

[JTS](http://JTS)

[MyJewishLearning.com](http://MyJewishLearning.com)

[USCJ Torah Sparks](http://USCJ.TorahSparks)

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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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