

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

December 10 – December 17, 2009

23 Kislev – 30 Kislev 5770



Candle lighting time 5:11 pm
Friday December 11

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

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## Parashat Vayeshev - Shabbat Hanukkah (Commentary on Page 6)

Annual (Gen. 37:1-40:23): (Etz Hayim, p. 226)

Triennial (Gen. 39:1-40:23): (Etz Hayim, p. 238)

Maftir (Num. 7:1-17): Etz Hayim, p. 805

Haftarah: Etz Hayim, p. 1270

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Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to:

Art Besser, Elaine Dreizin, Mel Haskins, Fran Kirsh, Henry Koplín, Paul Kruger and Viola Schwartz

We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:

Ira Polk, Addie Schmidt, Amy Katz, Drew Denisar, Stanley Gerson and (Billy) Michael Crabtree

This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:

Mike Planer, Ben M. Goldgar, Pearl Rotter, Esther Barnett, Bernard Lee, Fannie Pollock, Louis Krueger Boylan, Max Cohen, Sophie Pollock, Rachel Juliette Toland, Alvin S. Bayme, Morris Michael Becker, Lenora Burstein, Meyer Lutsky, Jacob Backer, Eliezer Kruger, Sydney L. Rotter

RADIO HANUKKAH

From December 7 through December 19, you can hear Radio Hanukkah
on SIRIUS Ch. 76 and XM Ch. 28.

Radio Hanukkah will feature Hanukkah music, and segments
celebrating Jewish culture and lifestyles.

Chanukah Family Lunch
Sunday - December 13 - 11:30am

Join us for Potato Latkes and Hot Dogs
Lots of fun activities including
A Chanukah Scavenger Hunt!
and a

Dreidel Show



Bring your favorite Dreidel
Entry fee is \$1.00 per dreidel
Best in Show wins the pot!



Adults: \$5.00 - Kids ages 4-12: \$3.00
Kids 3 & under eat free

Please call the CSI office to make a reservation
or email secretary@csimacon.org

Religious School Notes

There are no classes on Sunday,
December 20 , December 27 and January 3

Also no classes on Wednesday,
December 23 and December 30

Next Jr. Congregation is on Saturday, January 9
Adult in Charge: Joe Finkelstein - Davening Leader: Aaron Brown

Congregation Sha'arey Israel is hosting a BLOOD DRIVE



**Tuesday – December 22
1:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

The Macon Chapter of the American Red Cross has asked us to hold a **Blood Drive** again this December. From longtime experience, we know donations will drop further in December. The days around Christmas are particularly difficult, so during this time, **your help** in saving lives is especially needed.

The Gift of Life is the greatest gift one can give another.

If you would be willing to donate blood is there a time you would prefer?
(The entire process takes about one hour)

___ 1:30 – 2:30, ___ 2:30 – 3:30, ___ 3:30 – 4:30, ___ 4:30 – 5:30,

___ 5:30 – 6:30

Thank you.

A decorative border consisting of a repeating pattern of gold-colored six-pointed stars (Magen David) arranged in a rectangular frame around the central text.

*Please join us
for the
Auf Ruf
for
Blair Kent
and
Michael Kruger
Saturday, December 26*

EXPERIENCE JEWISH HISTORY AND PRAYER

Adult Education classes taught by Rabbi Rachel Bat-Or

Tuesday nights, 7:30 - 8:30pm
at the synagogue

Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, and 9 - Jewish History, Part I

Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16 and 23 - Jewish Prayer

April 13, 20, 27, May 4 and 11 - Jewish History, Part II

The format of the class will be discussion based on material read and questions from class participants. It will not be a lecture class.

If you would like to join the classes and/or need additional information, please contact the Rabbi, 478.745.0182 or Stephanie Kross, 478.405.0643.

For the history classes we will use, A Short History of the Jewish People by Raymond Scheindlin. We can order this book in bulk before Dec. 28th.



The CSI Gift Shop
for all your gift needs

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

Everything you need for Chanukah!

20% OFF SALE ON ALL JEWELRY



Don't forget the CSI Cookbook - makes a great gift!

Free gift wrapping and local delivery.
Contact Terri Frolich or Deborah Adler any time

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CONGREGATION MEETING
SUNDAY – JANUARY 10, 2010 – 4:00 PM
More details will follow in the January Bulletin

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Dr. Lawrence A. Haskins Memorial Trust

In 1980 Gertie and Harry Haskins established a memorial trust in memory of their son Lawrence, a Periodontist, born and raised in Macon. Dr. Haskins died at the age of 34, leaving a wife and two young daughters. The purpose of the trust, as endowed, is “to perpetuate and enhance Jewish education for CSI students.”

Given the ever-increasing cost of Jewish education, camp, and activities, the scholarship award has been raised to \$2,000. It was the fondest hope of the benefactors that their generosity would further our young congregants’ knowledge of Judaism, and enhance their commitment to our religion and to the Jewish people.

The award is designated for young people between the ages of 10 and 20 and has three requirements: (1) potential recipients must have attended religious school at Sha’arey Israel for at least one full year, and (2) achieved scholastic excellence. (3) The application process requires a letter of recommendation from a congregant familiar with the nominee’s character and academic achievement.

Recipients will be selected by the Haskins Memorial Trust Committee, which also must approve the use of the funds. There is no limit to the number of recipients in a calendar year.

The scholarship can be used to defray the cost of attending a Jewish camp, conference, seminar or convention sponsored by a Jewish organization with which Sha’arey Israel is affiliated. Additionally, recipients may use the award to attend a Jewish studies course in the United States, Israel, or anywhere in the world at an accredited institution.

Dates to remember regarding the Haskins Memorial Trust:

1. Nominations for the award must be received by December 31, 2009.
2. Decisions will be made by January 15, 2010. A letter of award notification will be sent to each recipient.
3. If payment has not been made to the camp or educational institution, payment will be sent directly to the camp or school. If the family has completed payment, payment will be sent directly to the family, with proof of payment.
4. The Haskins Memorial Trust Award will be presented to each recipient at closing religious school exercises in May.
5. Each recipient will be asked to speak briefly on his/her camp or educational experience at opening religious school exercises in the fall and at a Shabbat service. Guidelines will be provided.

Parents and congregants, please encourage our young people to apply for this generous scholarship. If I can answer any questions about the fund or application process, please contact me.

Jami Gaudet
Haskins Memorial Trust Chair

Parashat Vayeshev

Genesis 37:1-40:23

This week's commentary is by Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson

From Pride Comes Loneliness - Joseph's experience in prison teaches him, and us, that we succeed and flourish when we support those around us.

In the development of Joseph's character and the events of his life, the Torah portrays a bitter-sweet lesson about the loneliness of pride. On the surface, there is no reason for Joseph to be lonely. He is, after all, the favorite child of his father, surrounded by 11 brothers, in the midst of a bustling and energetic family.

Joseph has the potential to fill his life with friendship, family and love. Yet his need to be preeminent, his need to belittle the gifts and experiences of this family in order to glorify his own talents, isolate him from his own kin. We get a clue about the extent of Joseph's pride from the very start.

Still Young

The Torah tells us that "Joseph, being seventeen years old, was still a lad." The Rabbis of Bereshit Rabbah, the ancient midrash on the Book of Genesis, struggle with that sentence. After all, if he is seventeen, he is no longer a mere lad! They suggest that the Torah is telling us that "he behaved like a boy, penciling his eyes, curling his hair and lifting his heel."

Like many people today, Joseph thinks he must invent a false and glamorous image in order to show his worth to himself and the world. As if that weren't sufficiently pitiful, he also feels compelled to put others down in order to be noticed and appreciated.

His desire to be better than everyone else expresses itself even in his dreams. Twice, Joseph dreams about his family bowing down before him. And twice he tells his family about his visions of his own superiority. The brothers, hurt and enraged by their sibling's arrogance, sell Joseph into slavery.

Learning to Sympathize

Joseph experiences the depths of despair as an Egyptian slave and as a prisoner in an Egyptian jail. In that prison, Joseph learns how to sympathize. He learns that prisoners at the bottom are still human beings, and that one can excel without having to minimize the talents or interests of other people. In prison, Joseph accepts a basic principle of Jewish living: kol Yisrael areivim zeh ba-zeh--all of us are responsible for each other.

In prison, Joseph shows an interest in the dreams of a deposed butler and baker, and in caring for such "lowly people," he in fact plants the seeds of his own restoration and future glory. Joseph learns that his own talent can thrive best with other people's well being.

Far from being a threat, the happiness of acquaintances, friends, and relatives form a supportive environment in which each of us can blossom. Arrogance isolates, not skill. Ruthlessness, not drive, leads to loneliness. By living in a community, we can support each other to be the best that we can be. And in that way, we all serve to hasten the rule of God on earth.

Contact information:

CSI Board of Governors:

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Vice-President - Scott Bayme - scottbayme@kaybeeofmacon.com
Recording Secretary - Shelley Davidson - lawonwheels@cox.net
Corresponding Secretary - Jenna Denisar - jennakap@aol.com
Treasurer - Steve Chanin - stephen.chanin@gmail.com
Ex-Officio - Marty Koplin - 5martyk@cox.net
Rabbi - Rabbi Rachel Bat-Or - rabbi@csimacon.org
CSI Secretary - Addie Schmidt - secretary@csimacon.org

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Chevra Kadisha - Steve Chanin - stephen.chanin@gmail.com
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Cultural Affairs (Wall of Jerusalem) - Shelley Kruger - skruiger5@cox.net
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Terri Frolich - tovamacon@bellsouth.net
Hospitality - Beth Cohen - badbethie27@aol.com
House - Marc Lipson - marclipson@cox.net
Library - Maggie Philbin - mphilbin@windstream.net,
Terri Frolich - tovamacon@bellsouth.net
Membership - Doug Katz - Sdkatz49@aol.com
Ritual - Jeff Lehman - jalroadtrip@cox.net
Social Action - David Ilan - ilanclan@gmail.com
Synagogue Donations - Beth Cohen - badbethie27@aol.com
Ways & Means - Scott Bayme - scottbayme@kaybeeofmacon.com

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](#)