

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

March 18 – March 25, 2010

3 Nisan – 10 Nisan 5770



Candle lighting time 7:27 pm
Friday March 19

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

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**Parshat Vayikra** (Commentary on Page 4)

Annual (Lev. 1:1-5:26): Etz Hayim p. 585

Triennial (Lev. 4:27-5:26): Etz Hayim p. 599

Haftarah (Isaiah 43:21-44:23): Etz Hayim p. 607



**Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to:**

Art Besser, Elaine Dreizin, Ethel Koplin, Paul Kruger, Doris Rabinowitz, Laurel Robinson, Valiant Haller and Paul Adler

**We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:**

Lenore Polk, Terri Frolich, Joseph Brody, Amanda Koplin, Art Besser, Adam Katz and Beth Cohen

**This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:**

Samuel Gordon, Maurice A. Hutten, Harry Frolich, Lucille Cotton, Simon Harry Stern, Joseph Mayer Hirsh, Betty Kruger, Nathan Segal, Ada Fixell Cohen, Theresa Adler Popper, Marc Winer

New CSI Office Hours

10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Monday thru Friday



**Cantorial Intern, Richard Bessman  
will be participating at services and at our Religious School  
This Weekend of March 19 - 21**

**Adult Education Class**  
taught by Rabbi Rachel Bat-Or

**Tuesday Nights, 7:15-8:15pm**  
at the synagogue

**Jewish Prayer: March 23**

No Classes on March 30, April 7 & April 27

**Jewish History, Part II: April 13 & 20 and May 4 & 11**

The format of the class is discussion based on material read and questions from class participants. It is not 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 are using, A Short History of the Jewish People by Raymond Scheindlin.

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*The Next Tefilat Lev Shaleym*  
*Whole Heart one hour service*  
*Saturday, March 27 at 10:30 AM*  
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*Parents Ethan & Trish Hutten and*  
*grandparents Marshall & Susan Hutten*  
*cordially invite you to the naming of*

*Lilah Marie Hutten*

*Saturday, March 27, 10:30 AM*

## ***Passover is a couple of weeks away!***

You can click on the following link for the Passover Guide from the Rabbinical Assembly to help you prepare for the holiday.

<http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/docs/Passover%205770.pdf>

### **Passover Service Schedule**

#### **First Seder**

Monday, March 29 (No service)  
Candle Lighting time 7:34 pm

#### **Passover Day 1**

Tuesday, March 30 - 9:00 am service  
Candle Lighting time 8:30 pm

#### **Passover Day 2**

Wednesday, March 31 - 9:00 am service

#### **Passover Day 7**

(Candle Lighting on Sunday, April 4: 7:38 pm)  
Monday, April 5 - 9:00 am service  
Candle Lighting time 8:34 pm

#### **Passover Day 8 - Yizkor**

Tuesday, April 6 - 9:00 am service

### **SELLING OF THE CHAMETZ**

Any chametz owned by a Jew during Passover week becomes unfit for use and is forbidden for actual use of benefit forever.

Since it is usually impossible to dispose all chametz before the Passover holiday, every Jew should arrange a formal "Mechirat Chametz", or Sale of the Chametz.

Those wishing to do so may sell their chametz by sending the form below by Friday, March 26, 2010 to the Synagogue.

## Selling of the Chametz Form

### FOR PESACH 5770 - 2010

(Must be received by Friday, March 26, 2010)

I, \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby authorize Rabbi Rachel Bat-Or of Congregation Sha'arey Israel, Macon, Georgia, to sell, transfer and assign all Chametz of whatever kind and nature, which I own or possess, or in which I may have an interest, wheresoever situated in my residence without reservation and limitations.

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

## Parshat Vayikra

Leviticus 1:1-6:7

*This week's commentary is by Rabbi Matthew Berkowitz, director of Israel Programs, JTS.*

Four months ago, an Orthodox rabbi here in Israel made headlines by urging his yeshiva students to resist any orders to evacuate settlements in the West Bank. In his book entitled *Revivim*, Rabbi Eliezer Melamed writes, "a simple halakhah is that it is forbidden for any person, whether a soldier or an officer, to participate in the strictly forbidden act of expelling Jews from their homes and handing over any portion of the Land of Israel to enemies . . . Those who violate this violate several commandments of Torah" (*Ha'aretz*, November 18, 2009). Rabbi Melamed's directives rightfully caused a stir in all segments of Israeli society. And indeed, his misguided wisdom merited the criticism of Prime Minister Netanyahu who declared that "refusing to obey orders means the breakdown of the state. It must not happen, and we will do everything possible to put an end to it." Israel's Defense Minister, Ehud Barak, also took Melamed to task for undermining Israeli democracy. While one may be sympathetic Melamed's opposition to the expulsion of Jews from the biblical land of Israel, the rabbinic tradition teaches *dina demalchuta dina*, that "the law of the land is the law." Melamed's position *vis à vis* his students is one of significant influence and power. Indeed, his words had the potential to cause significant bloodshed. Melamed's reckless disregard for the Israeli government, and indeed for his students, demonstrated a lack of responsible leadership.

Va-yikra, the third and middle book of Torah, provides an invaluable lesson in recognizing the need for communal responsibility. While this week's Torah reading—and indeed the whole book of Leviticus—is consumed with the sacrificial rites that dominated Israelite religion until the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, its lessons on expiatory sacrifices cannot go unnoticed. To be sure, the common Israelite is given a clear directive of how to atone for his sins—be they intentional or unintentional transgressions. More than that, instructions are given to both the religious and political leaders in the case of serious offenses. Leviticus 4:3 teaches, "If it is the anointed priest who has incurred guilt, so that blame falls upon the people, he will offer for the sin of which he is guilty a bull of the herd without blemish as a sin offering to the Lord." Far from referring to the *kohen ha-gadol*, the high priest, as infallible, there is a keen recognition on the part of Torah that he too can err and therefore must operate within the framework of the sacrificial system. As the most powerful religious leader in the system, he too must subscribe to its stringencies. Also notable is the extent to which Torah underscores the potential for this religious leader to lead the people astray. His behavior is watched closely by his flock and so the entire nation may fall victim to his waywardness. So too is the case with political leaders. The same chapter of Leviticus legislates, "in case it is a chieftain who incurs guilt . . . he will bring as his offering a male goat without blemish" (Leviticus 4:22–23). The *JPS Torah Commentary* explains, "unlike the priest, the [chieftain or] *nasi* was a secular leader, not one who held sacred office" (*JPS Torah Commentary: Leviticus*, 24). The political power in this leader's hands also does not make him immune to Torah. He too must be held accountable for transgressions.

Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai offers a rich commentary on Leviticus 4:22. The verse opens "*asher nasi yekheteh*," when a chieftain incurs guilt. Commentators have pointed out how unusual it is for the verse to begin with the word "asher" (here translated as "when" but typically meaning "that"). *BT Horayot 10b* relates, "Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai taught [based on this verse], 'Happy is the generation whose political leaders bring an expiatory sacrifice.'" (Ben Zakkai reads "asher" as "osher," *happy*). Quite beautifully, then, Yohanan ben Zakkai teaches an important lesson about leadership being invested in the community. There is no place for arrogance or hubris. Absolute power often corrupts absolutely and Torah is keenly aware of this. Moreover, it is not surprising that such a teaching comes from the mouth of Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai, who was responsible for ensuring a Jewish future after the destruction of the Second Temple. As Jerusalem was under a violent siege and zealous leaders preached against surrender, ben Zakkai understood the need for flexibility. Judaism and life are too precious to be squandered on arrogance. And so ben Zakkai had himself carried out of the city in a coffin in an effort to negotiate with Vespasian and the Romans. "Give me Yavne and its sages," he declared. It is through his efforts that Rabbinic Judaism flourished. Undoubtedly, ben Zakkai recognized and felt the deep pain in abandoning Jerusalem under siege. But at the same time he recognized that pridefulness would not win the day. He was, no doubt, a leader who would not hesitate to offer expiatory sacrifices.

Parashat Va-yikra, at its core, encourages us—as leaders and laypeople alike—to take responsibility for our actions. We must be cognizant not only of our personal space but also of the communal vision. Without such perspective, selfishness and narrow-mindedness will rule the day. Rather than making personal sacrifices for the benefit of the community and nation, we will be sacrificing ourselves to reckless zealotry. May our spiritual and economic sacrifices today bring us closer to humility and closer to God.

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

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

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

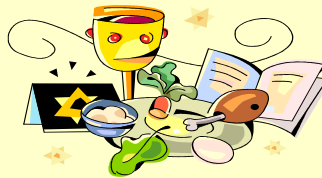
[JTS](http://JTS)

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

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

**Passover Arriving Soon!!!!  
In Our Gift Shop**

**Now Through Passover 15% off  
Seder Plates & Matzah Plates**



**Don't Miss this Opportunity!!!**

Call Terri 477-8597 or Deborah 474-0505 for  
Appointment – Open Sundays during Sunday School

**Contact information:**

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*Ways & Means* - Scott Bayme - [scottbayme@kaybeeofmacon.com](mailto:scottbayme@kaybeeofmacon.com)

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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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