

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

May 13 – May 19, 2010

29 Iyar – 6 Sivan 5770



Candle lighting time 8:07 pm
Friday May 14

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

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**PARASHAT BAMIDBAR** (Commentary on Page 5)

Annual (Num. 1:1-4:20): Etz Hayim p. 769  
Triennial (Num. 3:14-4:20): Etz Hayim p. 779  
Haftarah (Hosea 2:1-22): Etz Hayim p. 787



**We would like to extend our condolences to:**

The family of our member, Dr. Arthur Sheldon Besser, who passed away on Wednesday.  
The funeral will be on Friday, May 14 at 11:00am in the new section of Rose Hill Cemetery.

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

Elaine Dreizin, Ethel Koplín, Paul Kruger, Doris Rabinowitz, Valiant Haller and Paul Adler

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

Alex Koplín, Alan Kirsh, Barbara Chaite, Andrew Hebert, Viola Schwartz, Jack Finkelstein and  
Jessica Koplín

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

Elsie & Israel Benn

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

Blossom Macey Avrunin, Morris Burg, Max Moore, Reuben Max Reifler, Glenn David Tudzin,  
Kate Cohn Moore, Eda Yardeni Tavor, Rose Barnett Weiss, Rose Graber, Charles A. Harris,  
Louis Oscherwitz

Shavuot Services

Tuesday - May 18 - 7:00 PM

Wednesday - May 19 - 9:00 AM

Thursday - May 20 - 9:00 AM

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**The Next Tefilat Lev Shaleym Whole Heart one hour service is  
Saturday, May 22 beginning at 10:30am**  
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**Alex Koplin's Bar Mitzvah
This Weekend, May 14-15**

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Please join us as our son

**Alex Joseph**

אבִי יוסֵף

is called to the Torah  
as a Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, the fifteenth of May  
Two Thousand and Ten  
at nine-thirty in the morning

Congregation Sha'Arei Israel  
611 First Street  
Macon, Georgia  
Kiddush Luncheon following services

Jennifer and Chip Koplin

**CSI Religious School Students**

2009-2010 End of the School Year Party

At The Cohen's Home

102 Howard Oaks Dr.



**Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**10:00-12:00**

Swimming, snacks and more!

Bring a bathing suit and a towel!

Chips and Drinks will be provided.

If you choose to bring a lunch you may bring a dairy lunch.

Looking Forward to Seeing You There!



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A New Torah is Coming to Congregation Sha'arey Israel

This beautifully written Torah was purchased with donations in memory of Beverly Kruger and to the Kruger Torah Fund.

The last 98 letters will be inscribed by Torah scribe, Rabbi Mordechai Danneman on Sunday, May 16. You are invited to watch our Torah being finished and please join the Kruger family for refreshments.

SUNDAY – MAY 16 – 2:00PM in the CSI Social Hall

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The Macon Little Theatre

Presents

**The Mystery of Edwin Drood**

Starring our very own Robert Rosengart

May 13–23

Inspired by Charles Dickens' incomplete novel, Rupert Holmes' spirited musical extravaganza stops the action midway through Act II to invite the audience to vote on the outcome. Who DID kill Edwin Drood? We are proud to present this hilarious entertainment, filled with melodrama, high spirits and rousing music hall melodies.

Tickets go on sale May 10

Box Office Hours: 1-6 PM

Adults - \$18, Seniors (60+) - \$15, Students w/ID - \$10

477-3342 or 471-PLAY

## Confirmation of Seth Hirsh

Friday - May 21

Our Teen Class will lead the Service beginning at 6:15 PM  
followed by a

## Family Shabbat Dinner

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

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

## The TBI Annual Auction

Sunday - May 23

**Silent Auction: 4:30 - 5:30 PM - Live Auction: 5:30 - 7:00 PM**

**Followed by Dinner - \$30.00 per person**

**Call TBI at 745-6727 to make reservations for dinner by May 14**

**Bring a friend!!**

## The CSI Gift Shop

Birthdays - Anniversaries  
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs - Graduations  
House Warming Gifts



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

## Parashat B'midbar

Numbers 1:1-4:20

*This week's commentary is by Rabbi Phil Miller, vice president of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore.*

**Standing Guard** - The details of how the tribes camped around the Tabernacle teach us lessons about giving respect and honor to the people and causes we care about.

Over the years I have had many friends committed to breaking the law. Do not question the company I keep. They are not common criminals. They have only broken laws, through acts of civil disobedience, that they believe to be unjust.

What fascinates me about some of them is how they relate to laws that they believe to be just. They obey them; all of them. I know a man who has been arrested many times for civil disobedience in support of nuclear disarmament. He stops and waits at every crosswalk for the light to turn green. He never jaywalks, litters, double-parks or uses someone else's software. His commitment to these laws is as strong as his opposition to those he sees as unjust. Even those who disagree with his opinions on disarmament, are forced to agree that this is a man of great principle and character. Respect for him is universal.

This week we begin reading the Book of B'midbar (Numbers). It contains dramatic narratives and teaches important ethical and spiritual obligations still relevant today. However, it also spends a considerable amount of time describing the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and the camp of the Jewish people that surrounded it in the desert. How would the Mishkan be transported? What was the position of each of the tribes within the camp? These aspects of daily life in the desert are described in great detail.

Ramban, also known as Nachmanides, the great 13th century scholar, community leader and mystic explains that all these details teach us a profound obligation. The Mishkan was a place of infinite sanctity. It symbolized the ethical and spiritual core of Judaism. Such a place must have shomrim, guardians or keepers watching over and caring for it. The priests who administered the Mishkan and the tribes who surrounded it served that purpose. This need for guarding was not for protection from some enemy. It was for the purpose of giving kavod, glory and honor to this special place.

Rambam, or Maimonides, a contemporary of Ramban, argues that this obligation extended to the permanent temple built in Jerusalem. Each night 24 teams of priests would act as shomrim, guarding and keeping watch over the temple. These priests would stay awake throughout their watch. When their watch ended, writes Rambam, they would remove their priestly garments, don their "street clothes" and sleep humbly on the ground. "This was like all guardians of a king's palace who never take the luxury of sleeping on beds." These shomrim were not only giving honor to God. When people saw how the Mishkan or temple was cherished, says one commentator, "their hearts would be softened" to return to the values which that place represented.

Many of us see ourselves as shomrim today. Some of us see ourselves as shomrim of the environment, others of human rights or of workers in garment factories in developing countries. My friend, trespassing on property, owned by developers of nuclear weapons, saw

himself as a shomer of all humanity. Some of us see ourselves simply as shomrim, keepers, of our brothers, sisters and neighbors.

The Torah in the Book of B'midbar, or known in English as Numbers, is teaching each of us how to be a proper shomer. We cannot content ourselves with protecting that which we care about from its enemies. We must live our lives in a way that gives kavod, honor and glory, to our causes and which softens the hearts of all those who see us.

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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 Taste of Torah)

[JTS](http://JTS)

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

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

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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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