

Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

July 15 – July 21, 2010

4 Av – 10 Av 5770



Candle lighting time 8:26 pm
Friday July 16

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

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## PARASHAT DEVARIM

Annual (Deut. 1:1-3:22): Etz Hayim p. 981  
Triennial (Deut. 2:31-3:22): Etz Hayim p. 994  
Haftarah (Isaiah 1:1-27): Etz Hayim p. 1000

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Mazel Tov!

To Angie & Charles Brown on the birth of their daughter, Sylvia Abigail Brown

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to:

Elaine Dreizin, Carol Besser, Paul Kruger, Doris Rabinowitz, Paul Adler and Jenna Denisar

We wish a Happy Birthday this week to:

Jennifer Koplin, Markus Hill, Stuart Karlins, and Hyman Katz

We wish a Happy Anniversary this week to:

Gail & Jack Krapf and Maggie Philbin & Larry Solanch

This week we remember the Yahrzeit of:

Robert Gerson, Scheiwa Granek, Helen Frank Chanin, Karl Theodore, Abraham Louis Cohen,
Michael Yardeni, Mose Chanin, Sheila Weger, Seemah Shier, Fanny Burg, Joe Goldman

Please Note ~

**Rabbi Bat-Or will be on vacation
through Sunday, July 18**

**The CSI Office will be closed on
Monday, July 19**

Tisha B'Av Commemoration

Monday - July 19 - 7:00 pm

On Monday, July 19, we will commemorate Tisha B'Av (the 9th day of the Hebrew month of Av), when the First and Second Temples were destroyed in Jerusalem. Before 70 CE, the Temple was the centerpiece of our religious practice. There were other tragedies that took place on the 9th of Av. On that date in 1492 Jews were expelled from Spain; in 1942, Jews were deported from Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka concentration camp.

Please join us for a reading of the Book of Lamentations (Eicha), an account of the destruction of the city of Jerusalem in 586 BCE and various readings about these historical events.

Observing Tisha B'Av in this way helps us reaffirm our intention to continue practicing our religion, to educate our children Jewishly and to come together as a community, three essential parts of Judaism.

We hope you will join us at 7 pm on Monday, July 19th.

Rabbi Rachel Bat-Or
Dr. David Frolich



Dear Community Member,

The Jewish Federation of Macon and Middle Georgia encourages you to attend a parlor meeting to hear about how Hillels of Georgia and its campuses are serving our students and helping them lead Jewish lives into the future.

Please come for a nosh and meet Wayne Silverman, PhD, Executive Director of Hillels of Georgia and Joel Marcovitch, Director of Hillel at UGA.

I hope to see you there. *David Frolich*

Thursday, July 22
5:30pm-7:00pm

At the home of Harriette Carter
909 St Andrews Road
(off of Middlesex Dr, off of Tucker Road)
Macon, GA 31210

Please RSVP to Harriette at (478) 719-6881



Hillel at Georgia Tech students on Birthright releasing homing doves in Israel



Hillel at UGA environmental club students planting organic vegetable garden at the Hillel House



Hillels of Georgia and its campuses are beneficiaries of
The Jewish Federation of Macon and Middle Georgia



The New High Holiday Mahzor Lev Shalem Prayer Books Have Arrived at CSI

If you would like to plate a prayer book
for a life cycle event, the cost is \$35.00

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE 5771

This year, in conjunction with Yizkor Services during Yom Kippur, we will again publish a Book of Remembrance. Every member will get a copy. It will have an alphabetical listing of all members' relatives on our synagogue's Yahrzeit list, anyone buried in our cemetery or memorialized on one of our Yahrzeit plaques.

In addition to this alphabetical list, there will be a separate section in the booklet for families to group all of their loved ones together. This allows families to quickly find all of their loved ones without having to page through the whole list. **Please note that if your loved ones were listed in the Special Section last year, they will be listed again this year unless you advise us that you do not want to participate.**

A form is enclosed for those families who want to either edit their current list or for those who want to now avail themselves of this opportunity. There will be a charge of \$10.00 for each memorialized individual in this special section. **The deadline to submit the form to the CSI office is August 6, 2010.**

This year there is a change in the way Yizkor will be conducted. In the past we read all the names in the Book of Remembrance from the Bima. Instead of this we will set aside a time during Yizkor for everyone to find, in our remembrance book the names of their families members and others in the community they want to remember. As always we will say the specific prayers for those people we are remembering. We look forward to seeing you during the High Holidays and hope that your preparation for those days is a holy one.

Sincerely,
Ritual Committee

Congregation Sha'arey Israel
Yizkor Remembrance Booklet Form
2010-5771

Name _____

In loving Memory of: (print English name)	Remembered by:

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*Save the Date!*

**Marc Rosengart's Bar Mitzvah  
August 6-7**  
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The CSI Gift Shop

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



Call Terri 477-8597 or Deborah 474-0505 for an Appointment

PARASHAT DEVARIM

Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

This week's Torah commentary is by Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, Vice-President of the American Jewish University in Los Angeles and Dean of its Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies.

Rebukes And Responses - In Moses' final speech to the Israelites, he provides us with a model of effective rebuke.

May I have a word with you? The opening words of the fifth book of the Torah begin simply enough, "These are the words that Moses spoke (diber) to all Israel." The Rabbis of the ancient Midrash Sifre Devarim note that every place the Bible uses the verb 'daber' indicates harshness or rebuke, whereas the Hebrew word 'amar' conveys a sense of praise.

Why, then, did Moses 'diber' to the Jews? Why did he speak harshly to them on the border of the Promised Land? Because his final speech to them, the culmination of his long life of service to them and to God, consisted of chastisement--reminding them that they fell far short of the sacred standards embodied in the Torah and Jewish tradition.

And did the people resent Moses' apparent harshness, as most of us would? Did people say, "He never gives us a break," or note that even at the end, he was still haranguing them, unable to focus, even for a moment, on their virtues and better natures? Apparently not.

The speech is, after all, dutifully recorded in the Torah and read every year in synagogues around the world. And when Moses concluded his words and then went off to die, the Jewish people mourned his loss, even as we still keenly feel his absence today.

Can you imagine what it would be like if a Rabbi, at a dinner honoring 25 years of service with a particular synagogue, rather than dwelling on warm memories, started to list all of the congregants' flaws over the past two-and-a-half decades? Can you imagine how resentful and bitter most of us would feel?

Rabbi Tarfon, a great sage of the Mishnah, read this passage and sadly observed, "I swear by the Temple service, I doubt if there is anyone in this generation who is fit to rebuke others. For if one says to another, 'Remove the mote from between your eyes,' the reply invariably is, 'Remove the beam from between your eyes.'"

No one in Rabbi Tarfon's time was exempt from the very faults they would point out in others--hardly role models capable of rebuking their neighbors with disinterest.

Rabbi Eleazar ben Azariah said, "I swear by the Temple service, I doubt if there is anyone in this generation who is able to receive rebuke." Rabbi Eleazar observed that people no longer accepted criticism as an act of love. Instead of listening openly to a description of how they had acted inappropriately and then working to modify their behavior to remove that flaw, the object of rebuke would respond defensively by either ignoring or insulting the person who had highlighted the error.

Rabbi Gerson Cohen, past Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, tells of the time he was a child at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. As he and his friends were playing basketball, the game got a little rough--as sports often do. Without warning, one of the scholars-in-residence, a Rabbi and professor of Talmud, intervened, scolding the boys that, "There is a Jewish way to play basketball. And this is not the Jewish way."

Rabbi Cohen remembers that they were stung by the remarks, and humbled. Instead of grumbling about it, however, they stopped their game and started a discussion about how they would try to play in the future. As the scholar was about to walk away, he said to the kids, "How wonderful, a group of boys able to receive rebuke."

Rabbi Akiva, a contemporary of Rabbi Tarfon, added the third leg of lament to those of his colleagues. "I swear by the Temple service, I doubt if there is anyone in this generation who knows how to rebuke."

Pointing out someone's shortcoming or error should not be a chance for insults or a sense of superiority. It should not become an opportunity to humiliate or gloat. Instead, a rebuke, if properly intended and given, becomes an act of affirmation and love, an affirmation that the person is worth the effort in the first place, and a faith that he or she remains capable of improvement. Offered with love and a sense of humility, a rebuke is a gift and a challenge.

Without our friends, colleagues and families willing to point out our own errors of judgment or action, we all blind ourselves to our own faults and to those aspects of reality we don't want to see. Each of us depends on the caring of others, their courage to articulate disappointment in our action, as the indispensable prerequisite to self-improvement and refinement.

We cannot afford to wait for the perfect, loving hero to point out our flaws. Instead, we rely on those around us, family and friends, to act as our early warning system, pointing out moral failure and ethical obtuseness before it is too late to improve. But when they do, we must be able to really listen.

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

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Contact information:

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