

# Ha Shavuah B' Sha'arey Israel

July 22 – July 28, 2010

11 Av – 17 Av 5770



Candle lighting time 8:22 pm  
Friday July 23

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

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**PARASHAT VA'ETHANAN** (Commentary on Page 5)

Annual (Deut. 3:23-7:11): Etz Hayim p. 1005

Triennial (Deut. 5:1-7:11 or 6:4-7:11): Etz Hayim p. 1015 or 1024

Haftarah (Isaiah 40:1-26): Etz Hayim p. 1033  
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**Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery to:**

Elaine Dreizin, Carol Besser, Paul Kruger, Doris Rabinowitz, Paul Adler

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

Carol Chanin, Robert Fieldsteel, Amy Cohen, Aaron Fleming and Rachel Goodrich

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

Susan & Marshall Hutten, Carol & Robert Chanin and Mariana & Sorin Ardet

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

Joseph Herman Isaac, Harry Benn, Arlene Sachs Lipson, Anna Vogel, Eva Gordon Chanin, Evelyn Weiner Chanin, Marvin Kirsh, Pearl Kaplan Lavine, Charles Goldstein, Harris Saul Pollock, Sarah Greenberg Turner, Russel Blum

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**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**  
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The CSI Social Action Committee would like to remind everyone that there is a plastic storage receptacle next to the Plum Street entrance for non-perishable food donations that will go to Macon Outreach. They are always in need so please help when you can.

We have also added a couple of baskets for your empty medicine (pill) bottles. You can take off the label or black out the information on them. They will be given to countries that are in need of them.



*We invite you to share  
A special day in our lives  
When our son*

***Marc Steven***

*Will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah  
On Saturday, the seventh of August  
Two thousand and ten  
At nine-thirty in the morning  
Congregation Sha'arey Israel  
611 First Street  
Macon, Georgia  
Kiddush luncheon following services*

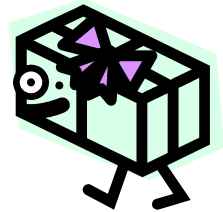
*Theresa and Robert Rosengart  
(Please join us for evening services on  
Friday, the sixth of August)*





**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*



## **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



## PARASHAT VA'ETHANAN

Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

*This week's Torah commentary is by David Movsas, the rabbi of Congregation Shaare Tzedek of West New York, New Jersey.*

**Beyond The Letter Of The Law** - Doing what is "right and good" in the eyes of God means promoting the values of the Torah beyond the explicit laws.

Va'et'hanan confronts us with an apparent redundancy. Several admonitions throughout the parashah command us to observe the laws taught by Moshe [Moses]. Then, toward the end of the parsha, we are told, "And you shall do that which is right and good in the eyes of God." What new instructions does this verse add? Surely, doing what is "right and good" is already a part of the numerous injunctions already presented. If one observes all the commandments and prohibitions set forth in the Torah, does he not accomplish what is "right and good in the eyes of God?" What new obligation does this verse apply?

Both Rashi and the Ramban understand this verse to denote a level of behavior that is *lifnim mishuras hadin*, above the letter of the law. To appreciate the full spirit of the law, one needs to read between the lines of the Torah, and one who does this shows a sincere desire to observe Hashem's bidding.

The story is told of a poor man who came to the Brisker Rav on *Erev Pesach* (the day before Passover) with a question. Could he use milk instead of wine for the four Cups instead of wine for the four Cups at the Seder?

The Brisker Rav didn't reply. Instead he took five rubles from his pocket and gave them to the man. The Rav's wife wondered why he had given the man so much money. "Wouldn't one ruble have been enough for wine?" she asked.

"True," the Brisker Rav answered, "but if he was planning on drinking milk throughout the seder, that means he had no money for meat either. I gave him enough for both wine and meat."

The Brisker Rav combined keen perception with adherence to the spirit of the law, for though he could have answered the poor man's question, he went the extra mile to ensure that the poor man would fulfill the *mitzvot* (commandments) of Pesach as well as enjoy its festive spirit.

A similar precept is encapsulated in the verse, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." It is possible, the Ramban comments, for a person to keep the letter of the law while violating its spirit, thus becoming a *naval birshut hatorah*--a degenerate within the confines of the Torah. The Torah commands us to be holy, to sanctify ourselves even in those circumstances that are permitted according to the strict interpretation of the law.

These two verses complement each other. "You shall be holy" tells us to take a step back in order to uphold the spirit of the law. It tells us that even though a certain act seems permitted,

we must nevertheless demonstrate self restraint to prevent the spirit of the law from being violated. In doing so, we become holy.

At the same time, "You shall do that which is right and good" tells us to take a step forward in order to promote the spirit of the law. Though we may find ourselves in situations where we feel we can sit back and not get involved, the spirit of the Torah demands that we take initiative and get involved.

The Talmud states that Jerusalem was destroyed because her inhabitants failed to raise their standard of behavior above the letter of the law.

It is therefore fitting that Va'et'hanan is always read on *Shabbat Nachamu*, the Shabbat of Comfort, which follows Tisha B'Av. If we live up to the message of this parsha by doing what is "right and good in the eyes of God," we will be deserving of redemption and merit the rebuilding of the Temple.

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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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*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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