



# Shofar

611 First Street Macon, Georgia 31201 [www.csimacon.org](http://www.csimacon.org)

**FEBRUARY 2019 SHEVAT - ADAR 5779**

Remember [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com)  
Choose Congregation Sha'arey Israel as the charity you are supporting.



**IAN ALTMAN IN CONCERT**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019**

**FICKLING HALL  
MERCER UNIVERSITY**

**\$30.00 per ticket  
Call office at 478-745-4571 for tickets**

A publication of Congregation Sha'arey Israel  
A Conservative Congregation  
Serving Macon and Middle Georgia  
Affiliated with United Synagogue of  
Conservative Judaism - Website: [www.uscj.org](http://www.uscj.org)  
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\*\*\* OFFICE HOURS \*\*\*

8:00 am - 4:00 pm M-Thursday

9:00 am - 2:30 pm Friday

Lunch 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Friday Evening Shabbat Services are held at 6:15 PM.

Saturday Shabbat services are at 9:30 AM.

Thursday morning minyan at 7:00 AM

Please check the calendar each month for any special times.

## Services at a Glance - February

### Friday, February 1st

6:15 PM services

### Saturday, February 2nd

9:30 AM services

### Thursday, February 7th

7:00 AM minyan

### Friday, February 8th (Scholar)

6:15 PM services

### Saturday, February 9th (Scholar)

9:30 AM services

### Thursday, February 14th

7:00 AM Minyan

### Friday, February 15th

6:15 PM services

### Saturday, February 16th

9:30 AM services

### Thursday, February 21st

7:00 AM Minyan

### Friday, February 22nd

6:15 PM services

### Saturday, February 23rd

9:30 AM service

### Thursday, February 28th

7:00 AM Minyan



## SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

### **Merle Feld**

Poet, playwright, author and speaker

### Friday evening, February 8th

Shabbat service at 6:15  
followed by Shabbat dinner

### Saturday, February 9th

Shabbat service with  
D'var Torah  
followed by Kiddush lunch

Saturday evening there will be a  
Havdallah service and wine, cheese and  
dessert reception

At the home of Jan Lewis & Robert Fieldsteel

Please RSVP to CSI office for the Shabbat dinner  
And luncheon so we can have an accurate count

On Sunday, February 10th, Ms. Feld will  
Meet with our children in  
CSI Religious School



## **A philosophy professor, a rabbi, and a brewery owner walk into a bar—**

Old-style joke opener, I know...but seriously folks... Here's what's happening. Oh, first I have to give you backstory. Because there's a backstory.

### **Backstory**

Charlie Thomas — philosophy professor, bandmate, good friend, frequenter of Jews & Brews as well as Shabbat evening davening — and I have been brainstorming or conspiring for awhile about the creative possibilities of sharing sacred stories and thinking about them in the context of an undergraduate college setting. And — bonus — Yash Patel, former student of Charlie, current owner of the Macon Beer Company (not an overt plug, but yes, really good beer), entered this brainstorm. (Praised be the gods!)

### **Fast Forward to Now**

On Tuesdays and Thursdays at Mercer, Yash, Charlie and I explore sacred stories from the Hindu, Greek and Jewish traditions as we teach a class called The Gods Must be Crazy. What's at the core of it all?

Stories. Deep down, beyond genetics (crucial as that discipline is), certain stories shape us, they function as a lens through which we view ourselves and others. For many Jews, regardless of their religious practice, stories from the Torah as well as Rabbinic literature resonate on a conscious or subconscious level. For Hindus, the same might be said about stories from the Mahabharata, the massive collection of sacred stories in Hindu tradition. In terms of Greek pagan tradition, we would look to ancient Greek myths to consider the interplay between the stories and the Greeks of antiquity.

### **And it's also Personal**

Each of us has stories inside of us. Some of them say aloud about who we are, how and why we think and act in certain ways.

Here's a core story, courtesy of my father, that will be in my pocket (more like in my heart) until my last breath. It's about my Polish paternal grandfather, David. As a child I knew him as Zeideh Dovid. Like so many other Jewish folks coming to America he set foot on holy ground at Ellis Island. He traveled in steerage. Put another way, not exactly first class. When Dovid got off the boat he was disoriented and the doctor who checked him out thought something was wrong with him, something that maybe should bar his entry. So he drew a big chalk X on his back. I doubt that Zeideh Dovid had a clue about the meaning of the X. But a friend of Dovid apparently understood the implications of that X quite clearly, and — quick thinking and compassionate fellow that he was — this anonymous fellow villager came up to my (future) grandpa, 'Dovid, Dovid, so good to see you!' — all the while embracing Dovid in a loving bear hug that conveniently erased the X from his coat. And, many thanks to this villager who might as well be Elijah the prophet to me, I'm here in Macon, Georgia telling you about a professor, a rabbi, and a brewery owner walking into a bar.

Why is this story important enough to lodge in my heart? Because it's about a stranger entering a strange land. It's about the kindness that offered Dovid shelter from the storm. It's about my father's father's father's parents being strangers in Egypt. It's about my emotional and ethical antenna being up when I hear the rhetoric that marginalizes the desperate immigrant. Without this story, not only am I another man, I doubt that I could conceive of myself in the absence of this story.

Conceive — through stories that are sacred for so many different reasons, we hear and tell and retell the stories and, through this continual process, we give birth to who we are.

### **Questions** (Why not?)

If you had to pick one, what's your story? What does it really mean — what does it say about the way you look at the world, the way you think, the things you love or fear? Who else knows your story, and how does their knowing your story inform their relationship to you?

### **Forward**

I hope this rambling tale provides food for thought, ideas that might come in handy — in a spiritual way. On the lighter side, sports fans: what's your favorite sports story, and why do you love it? Maybe that could be shmooze-worthy fodder as we hang out together on February 3... On the deeper end, there's the annual sleep-out at Daybreak. A few of us have the privilege to represent our shul as part of this fund-raising and consciousness-raising effort. Didn't Jacob once sleep out under the stars, stone for a pillow, on the run from Esau's wrath? What went through his mind that night? What other stories from our tradition might connect us emotionally with sacred work of Daybreak and Macon Outreach (to name just two of many homelessness and hunger related endeavors in our city)?

May we enrich each other through stories — funny or sad, mischievous or serious — may these stories open our hearts and bless our journeys.



## A Message from our President

I hope everybody has had a great start to 2019.

Mazel Tov to Addie Denisar on her Bat Mitzvah!! Everyone is talking about what an outstanding job you did. Our entire Kehilla looks forward to seeing you continue to soar and grow into the special person you are!

We recently formed the CSI E-Communications/IT Committee to assess our current CSI E-communications efforts and develop strategies, policies, and guidelines for future communications. We want to be sure that we are delivering effective, consistent communications.

As some of you may be aware, we have had some challenges lately in getting e-communications to all of you. This is due to numerous issues and we are in process of correcting the cause of these issues. We have decided to use *Mail Chimp* as our primary delivery of e-communications. There will be more changes coming down the road to give us a fully integrated system for all our communications.

One of the discussions that came up as we discussed Branding and updating our Logo, was 'When was the last time we updated our Mission Statement and Values statement?' Great question! It has been a long time since we looked and this and we are overdue to re-evaluate our mission and values as a Kehilla. Look for future meetings to occur as we work to get everybody's input on this.

We have a lot coming up in the month of February.

We start off with Sister Theresa Sullivan, the Director of Daybreak will be coming to speak on Friday Night and Saturday morning services 02/01 & 02/02 about homelessness in Macon.

Also, our own Laurel Robinson has pieces entered in art show at Macon Arts on First Street. The opening is February 1<sup>st</sup> and the show will be on display through February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Since Macon Arts is so close to the shul, maybe some of our attendees to Friday night Shabbat services can walk over once services are done.

On Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we'll start off the morning with Coffee, Bagels, Lox, and Schmooze time. This is a great time to get to know your fellow congregants that you may not have met yet.

Sunday afternoon February 3<sup>rd</sup>, is our Super Bowl Party Fund Raiser. Sorry the Falcons are not there. A big thank you to Anne Bayme and her committee for all the work they've done putting everything together for this. A special thanks to Scott Bayme for soliciting some very generous sponsors! Be sure to thank our sponsors and let them know you appreciate their support of CSI.

The following week, February 8-10<sup>th</sup>, we are extremely fortunate to have Merle Feld as our Scholar-In-Residence for the weekend. She is a well-known educator, activist, author, playwright, and poet. There are many of her writings in our Sid-dur and High Holiday Machzor. The weekend will include a Friday Night Dinner, wonderful Kiddush lunch at Shul and Havdalah at Jan Lewis and Robert Fildsteel's house. Please make your reservations in advance to allow us to order the proper amount of food.

As we go into March we look for to Concert Fundraiser by Ian Altman to be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. More Details to follow.





**PURIM**

**Save the date  
March 10**

**Hillel Kaplan, CSI Librarian  
Will discuss Purim,  
The Jewish Mardi Gras  
And the Book of Esther**

**Sunday, March 10th at 10:00 am  
Have a cup of coffee and a shmear  
A kibbitz and a peek at  
Early Jewish History in the Diaspora**



**Gift shop  
Non-Judaica merchandise  
70% off**

**While merchandise lasts  
Sunday, 9:30 AM — 12:30 PM**

follow us!  
@maconarts



# Drawn Macon 2 2019

image: Craig Hawkins

**Drawn To Macon**  
Second Annual Juried Drawing Exhibition  
Curated by Frances de La Rosa  
February 1st-22nd 2019  
First Friday Reception February 1st, 5-8pm  
Macon Arts Alliance

- Craig Coleman**
- Craig Hawkins**
- Kalina Winska**
- Luke Buffenmyer**
- Laurel Robinson**
- William Avenel**

Macon Arts Alliance · 486 First Street, Macon GA 31201 · [maconartsalliance.org](http://maconartsalliance.org) · 478.743.6940



Join the Jewish conversation  
**ADULT EDUCATION CLASS**  
**LIMMUD - WRESTLING WITH THE TEXT**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

February 3  
 February 10  
 (Barton's Candy Sale)

**February 17th & 24th**  
**no Sunday school**

**HEBREW SCHOOL**

Tuesday, February 5th  
 Wednesday, February 6th  
 Tuesday, February 12th  
 Wednesday, February 13th  
 Tuesday, February 26th  
 Wednesday, February 27th



Rabbi Aaron is available  
 to meet with congregants  
 Tuesdays & Thursdays  
 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 And by appointment.  
 Please call the office  
**478-745-4571**  
 To schedule your appointment

## Dr. Lawrence A. Haskins Memorial Trust – 2019

In 1980 Gertie and Harry Haskins, longtime members of Congregation Sha'arey Israel (CSI), established a memorial trust to honor 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 Haskins Memorial Trust as endowed is “to perpetuate and enhance Jewish education for CSI students.” Given the ever-increasing cost of Jewish camp, education, travel and other activities, in 2010 the scholarship was increased to a one-time award of \$2,000 for recipients.

It was the fondest hope of the benefactors that their generosity would further our young congregants' knowledge of Judaism, increase their awareness and understanding of Jewish culture and the Jewish people, and enhance their religious commitment.

### Haskins Trust Guidelines

1. Recipients must be between the ages of 10 and 20, which, for the purposes of the scholarship means to *be at least 10 years old and no older than 20 years old in the calendar year in which he or she is granted the award or uses the award money.*
2. An applicant must have attended religious school at Sha'arey Israel for at least one full year.
3. An applicant has “achieved scholastic excellence.” This is a vague tenet of the scholarship, but is contained in the original document.
4. The process requires a brief application letter to the committee which should include the following information:
  - a. Applicant's name
  - b. Age
  - c. A brief statement of why the applicant believes he/she is worthy of the scholarship
  - d. The name of program and organization or institution, including the address, phone number, date(s) attending and cost
5. A recommendation letter from a Sha'arey Israel congregant or religious school teacher familiar with the applicant's character and academic achievement
6. The scholarship can be used to defray the cost of:
  - a. Travel to Israel through an *approved program*, not individual or family travel.
  - b. Attendance at a Jewish camp, conference, seminar or convention sponsored by a Jewish organization with which Sha'arey Israel is affiliated.
  - c. Recipients may use the award to attend a Jewish studies course or class in the United States, Israel, or anywhere in the world at an accredited institution. The student/family must provide a course description, proof of enrollment and final course grade before payment is made.
  - d. We prefer to send payment directly to the camp, school, program or travel organization. However, if a recipient's family has already paid for the program, payment will be sent to the parent(s) with proof of payment.
  - e. Each recipient may be asked to speak briefly on his/her camp, travel or educational experience at a Shabbat service. Guidelines will be provided.
7. Nominations must be received by Friday, March 1, 2019 and should be emailed to Haskins Trust Chair, Jami Gaudet, at [jfsgaudet@aol.com](mailto:jfsgaudet@aol.com).
8. Decisions will be made by Monday, March 11, 2019.
9. A scholarship award letter will be sent to each winner and the student's name(s) will be announced in the synagogue bulletin and on the bimah at services by the synagogue president.
10. The Haskins Memorial Trust committee selects a recipient or recipients annually and approves the use of the funds. There is no cap on the number of recipients in a calendar year.
11. The amount of the award varies according to the number of recipients in a year and the funds available in the trust. The duration of the trust is 50 years. 2019 is year 39.

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  
[jfsgaudet@aol.com](mailto:jfsgaudet@aol.com)



### Macon Outreach Needs Your Support

Please everyone, remember to bring food donations for the Macon Outreach Food Pantry. Our donations will serve many families in the Middle Georgia area who are in need of help. Items such as canned fish and beans, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, applesauce, canned fruits and vegetables, rice and pastas are all especially helpful. Please help contribute to Tikkun Olam by bringing a can with you on your way to services and/or religious school.



Congregation Sha'arey Israel is a partner with DAYBREAK, a daytime haven for members of our community who are either homeless or are in need of a place to spend a day with people; a place where they can shower, get a light snack, and feel part of a community.

Donations are needed for the following supplies: **shampoo/body wash; body lotion; paper towels; toilet tissue; 13 gallon trash bags; HE laundry detergent; bleach; disposable food service gloves; disposable razors; washcloths; spray deodorant; dish detergent; coffee; coffee creamers; coffee stirrers; sugar bags; powdered lemonade; canned fruit cocktails; crew and boot socks; tea bags; air disinfectant spray**

Daybreak has opened a boutique of gently used clothing. The store is called WEAR, and is located at 466 First Street. All donated items must be clean. Hangers are appreciated, but not required. Clothes for all members of the family are welcomed. All profits from the sale of the clothing will go to support Daybreak. You can drop off your donations at DAYBREAK, 174 Walnut Street



HELP CONGREGATION SHA'AREY ISRAEL  
RAISE FUNDS THE EASY WAY  
SHOP AMAZON SMILE AND CHOOSE OUR SHUL  
TO RECEIVE  
A PORTION OF WHAT YOU SPEND  
<http://smile.amazon.com>



### NOAH'S ARK DONATION WALL

Honor the children of CSI with a plaque acknowledging their important milestones and achievements up to age 18.

Minimum donation for a plaque is \$36.00 and \$250.00 for adopting an animal.

These donations make a great newborn baby gift, Bar/bat mitzvah, graduation gift or special recognition of a CSI member's child.

Donations go to the Educational Resource Fund.  
Call Anne Bayme 478-474-0063 to make your donation.



Reb  
Aaron's

## HERBAL VINEGARS & HOT PEPPER SAUCE



Mulato, Chipotle, Arbol, Cascabel, Morita, Serrano, Jalapeño, and Habanero peppers. Get yourself some great stuff. To rephrase a famous lyric by the Young Rascals - *if you got the fever, I got the cure!*



### 3 NEW VINEGAR FLAVORS!

- ☛ Red wine vinegar with dill, marjoram, basil, bay leaves & black peppercorn
- ☛ White wine vinegar with lemon balm, garlic, tarragon & whole cloves
- ☛ Champaign vinegar with lemon balm

Proceeds benefit Neve Michael and Tikkun Olam Nicaragua



### NEW FLAVORS

Champaign vinegar with parsley, basil and garlic

White wine vinegar with arbol peppers and oregano (yummy & hot)

Sherry vinegar with parsley, thyme and rosemary

Red wine vinegar with marjoram and rosemary

Apple cider vinegar with shallots and tarragon

Check with Rabbi Aaron for current flavors  
And availability



**PROCEEDS FROM THE  
PURCHASE OF  
RABBI AARON'S HOT SAUCE AND VINEGARS  
WILL BE DONATED TO  
MACON OUTREACH AND DAYBREAK**