



# Shofar

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

**MAY 2019 NISAN-IYAR 5779**

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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**

**Thursday, May 2nd**

7:00 AM minyan

**Friday, May 3rd**

6:15 PM services

**Saturday, May 4th**

9:30 AM services

**Thursday, May 9th**

7:00 AM Minyan

**Friday, May 10th**

6:15 PM services

**Saturday, May 11th**

9:30 AM services

**Thursday, May 16th**

7:00 AM Minyan

**Friday, May 17th**

6:15 PM services

**Saturday, May 18th**

9:30 AM service

**Thursday, May 23rd**

7:00 AM Minyan

**Friday, May 24th**

6:15 PM Services

**Saturday, May 25th**

9:30 AM Services

**Thursday, May 30th**

7:00 AM Minyan

**Friday, May 31st**

6:15 PM Services

Do we have a

**minyan?**



## What does Passover Come to Teach?

As I type these words it's Thursday, the last day of Hol HaMoed, the festival's 'in-between' days. Yesterday I taught my kids at Hebrew School; we learned a song (*Adir Hu*) found near the end of the Haggadah. I gently reminded students that it's still Passover, with its regulations regarding leaven — and as I reflect on the Hebrew School conversation I realize just how far away the Passover story and the dietary details can feel out here in Macon, Georgia. It's as if one of the children described in the Haggadah is insistently asking: What is this, what does it mean, *מה זאת?* Great question; and perhaps whatever I told my students didn't quite rise to the occasion.

How can we really see ourselves as someone escaping the dark tyrannies of Egypt?

And because I don't really believe in mere coincidence, when I clicked open the article below, from Tablet (an excellent thought-provoking Jewish periodical), I knew that I had in my hands a powerful and stirring response to my students' questions. Maybe the vocabulary and length would tax the patience of the kids — but this piece is for the grownups. I urge you: let the words below soak in and Passover's truth will slap you wide awake; something we all need. Seriously.

### NEXT YEAR IN CARACAS

By Annika Hernroth Rothstein

April 25, 2019 • 12:00 AM

These are the days of affliction.

These are the days, not unlike those our ancestors lived through in Egypt, where brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers are hungry and unfree. It is 11 p.m. Thursday night, the day before Passover begins, and I am sitting on the floor of Charles de Gaulle Terminal 2F, my few remaining possessions scattered all around me. I was supposed to be in Venezuela right now, a country I had been visiting as a journalist for the last few months after a conflict over political legitimacy had left the country in chaos. I was supposed to be leaning ever so slightly at a Seder table in Caracas and celebrating this festival of freedom, but instead I found myself in captivity.

I had prepared everything for weeks. After spending over two months in Venezuela, I had found a second family within what remains of the Jewish community in what is considered one of the most dangerous and chaotic countries in the world; a country in the midst of a political and humanitarian crisis, struggling for its freedom. When I touched down at the airport in Maiquetia, entering the land of the Pharaoh, the poetry of the moment wasn't lost on me.

The Jewish community in Venezuela has diminished from around 30,000 individuals to 6,000 since the election of Hugo Chavez in 1998, but the ones who remain have bonded together and managed to overcome many of the issues that plague the rest of the Jewish world. There are no clear divisions between Ashkenazi and Sephardi and, as I could clearly tell as soon as I walked into the Hebraica community center in downtown Caracas, they all share a safe space in an otherwise perilous city. Hebraica is where the Jewish children of Caracas go to school, from kindergarten to 12th grade and where they spend their free time under the watchful eye of a privately contracted security force that provides a level of public safety that the often-corrupt Venezuelan police never could. There is a sense of life in a gilded cage here but it is also so much more than that; those who have remained carry the torch for all the others who one day hope to return.

Por eso eres deportado.

Continued on next page



This time, I could sense that something was different the moment I stepped off the plane. The official at the front of the immigration line looked at me as if he knew me, then looked at his phone and hurried off to his colleagues farther down the hall. I told myself it would be fine, that I am being paranoid for no reason, but just as that thought begins to settle in my mind, a GNB soldier, a member of the Venezuelan National Guard, approached me.

“You need to come with me.”

He is holding a piece of paper and I can't see what it says but I can see the familiar abbreviation—to: DGCIM—the center of Venezuela's military intelligence.

More soldiers show up and I have no choice but to follow them, from the open hall to the enclosed space marked “special security.” I keep asking, over and over, what is happening and why but no one is speaking to me as I am escorted down the stairs and into the departure hall. Three soldiers stand around me while the fourth says something in rapid Spanish, his words blur but I catch the last part as if it was said in slow motion.

“Estás siendo deportado.”

Everything happens so fast. The soldiers escort me on the plane, place me in my seat and walk off—all to the curious stares of my fellow passengers. I'm crying, despite every effort not to, and just as the hostess starts to make her rounds I post a series of desperate tweets, telling the world that I have been deported.

I first arrived in Venezuela 10 weeks ago, and I never could have guessed that it would end up becoming my second home. There was something there in this people's struggle for freedom that spoke to me as a Jew; perhaps it was their commitment to their people and land despite it punishing them at every turn; or perhaps it's the hope they all share, defying logic and circumstance. Six days of reporting turned into two weeks and by the time I touched down Thursday, I was entering my third month with no clear end in sight.

The Maduro regime systematically represses free speech and punishes dissent; working within that system means adapting to constant surveillance and bursts of violence from one or many arms of the government. close call, and even though I'm not given a reason have little doubt that my deportation is a direct result of the high-profile work I have done over the past two months, reporting on everything from paramilitary groups and mass starvation to the systematic arrests of political dissidents.

. My own problems are nothing compared to what Venezuelans go through every day far from the public eye, and the minorities in the country enjoy even less protection. The Jews who speak out are twice as vulnerable as others, and faced with ever-present rumors of dual loyalties and Mossad connections. Most, therefore, usually don't speak out but rather keep themselves to themselves and try to stay under the regime radar.

I spent the entirety of the nine-hour flight from Caracas to Paris staring blankly into space, trying to make sense of what had happened. The previous morning I had packed my Haggadah, anxiously excited to meet another branch of our family, and now for the first time since as long as I could remember I was about to spend Passover alone.

Once I turn on my phone, it starts beeping with alerts from Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. There are messages from exiled Venezuelans around the world: from Madrid, Norway, New York, and Palermo, and each one is inviting me to a Seder in their home. There are over 100 messages and I read through them all, though they are nearly identical, and tears stream down my face as I do. It is the story of an exiled nation, and as I sit on the floor of Terminal 2F I have never felt closer to my people.

I don't have wine or matzo, but I do have my Haggadah, one of few things not taken from me. It's not much, but it's still everything, and I go through the text by myself in company of the exiled on the other side of that phone.

## A Message from our President

As we roll into May we start to wind down the school year and our Fiscal Year.

Time to start planning for the next year!

As we start this process, we look at the various functions and aspects of running our Kehilla.

While funding for our operations and staff are important, in a Shul our size having reliable volunteers is even more important. There is no way we can make things work without you. I have heard comments as to why people cannot give their time but if we have a majority of members with those attitudes, we start to “burn out” those who have been carrying the load of running our Shul effectively.

Please if you are asked to serve on a committee, teach, lead a service, or whatever, before you decline, keep in mind that we have a limited number of members to depend on for our volunteer pool. Please put the Shul first when you think of places which need your time and energy.

Look for upcoming communication as we start the process of planning for the upcoming year. Some great ideas for programs are being floated around. We need everybody’s help to make all these wonderful ideas, and programs a reality.

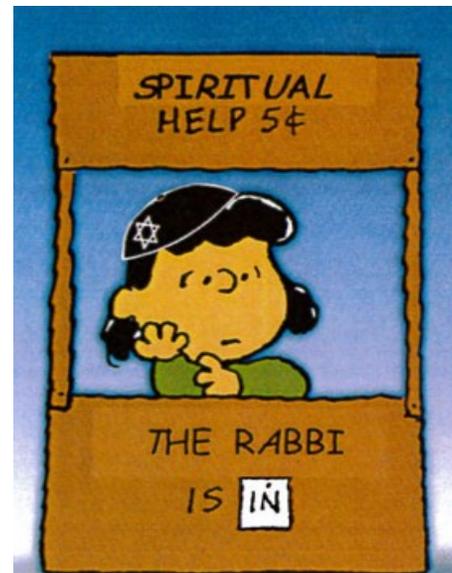
I hope everybody has a great Summer!!!





SALE

Gift shop  
Non-Judaica merchandise  
70% off  
While merchandise lasts  
Sunday, 9:30 AM — 12:30 PM



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

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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>



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



## 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.

5779  
2019

# May

nisan  
iyar

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>APRIL</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p>		<p>1 26 nisan</p>	<p>2 27 nisan</p> <p>MINYAN 7:00 AM</p> <p>YOM HASHOAH</p>	<p>3 28 nisan</p> <p>SERVICES 6:15 PM</p> <p>CANDLE LIGHTING 8:00</p>	<p>4 29 nisan</p> <p>SERVICES 9:30 AM</p> <p>Achrei Mot</p>
<p>5 30 nisan</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>ROSH CHODESH</p>	<p>6 1 iyar</p> <p>ROSH CHODESH</p>	<p>7 2 iyar</p> <p>HEBREW SCHOOL</p>	<p>8 3 iyar</p> <p>HEBREW SCHOOL</p> <p>YOM HAZIKARON</p>	<p>9 4 iyar</p> <p>MINYAN 7:00 AM</p> <p>YOM HAATZMA'UT</p>	<p>10 5 iyar</p> <p>SERVICES 6:15 PM</p> <p>CANDLE LIGHTING 8:05</p>	<p>11 6 iyar</p> <p>SERVICES 9:30 AM</p> <p>Kedoshim</p>
<p>12 7 iyar</p> <p>NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> <p>MOTHER'S DAY</p>	<p>13 8 iyar</p>	<p>14 9 iyar</p> <p>HEBREW SCHOOL</p>	<p>15 10 iyar</p> <p>LAST DAY OF HEBREW SCHOOL</p>	<p>16 11 iyar</p> <p>MINYAN 7:00 AM</p>	<p>17 12 iyar</p> <p>SERVICES 6:15 PM</p> <p>CANDLE LIGHTING 8:10</p>	<p>18 13 iyar</p> <p>SERVICES 9:30 AM</p> <p>Emor</p>
<p>19 14 iyar</p> <p>LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>20 15 iyar</p> <p>VICTORIA DAY CANADA</p>	<p>21 16 iyar</p>	<p>22 17 iyar</p>	<p>23 18 iyar</p> <p>MINYAN 7:00 AM</p> <p>LAG BA'OMER</p>	<p>24 19 iyar</p> <p>SERVICES 6:15 PM</p> <p>CANDLE LIGHTING 8:14</p>	<p>25 20 iyar</p> <p>SERVICES 9:30 AM</p> <p>Behar</p>
<p>26 21 iyar</p>	<p>27 22 iyar</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p>28 23 iyar</p>	<p>29 24 iyar</p>	<p>30 25 iyar</p> <p>MINYAN 7:00 AM</p>	<p>31 26 iyar</p> <p>SERVICES 6:15 PM</p> <p>CANDLE LIGHTING 8:19</p>	