



Shofar

611 First Street Macon, Georgia 31201 www.csimacon.org

JANUARY 2020 TEVET - SHEVAT 5780

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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
Editor: Deborah Adler

Executive Committee

President - Evan Koplin
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Cemetery - Joe Finkelstein
Gift & Memorials - Anne Bayme
Membership - Pam Webster
House - Brian Crabtree
Social Action - David Ilan
Library - Hillel Kaplan

Secretary - Stephanie Johnson

*** OFFICE HOURS ***

8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday - Thursday
8:00 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 - January

Thursday, January 2nd

7:00 AM Minyan

Friday, January 3rd

6:15 PM services

Saturday, January 4th

9:30 AM services

Thursday, January 9th

7:00 AM Minyan

Friday, January 10th

6:15 PM

Saturday, January 11th

9:30 AM

Thursday, January 16th

7:00 AM Minyan

Friday, January 17th

6:15 PM Services

Saturday, January 18th

9:30 AM Services

Thursday, January 23rd

7:00 AM Minyan

Friday, January 24th

6:15 PM Service

Saturday, January 25th

9:30 AM Service

Thursday, January 30th

7:00 AM Minyan

Friday, January 31st

6:15 PM Service



**Congregation Sha'arey
Israel Synagogue Presents**

**SUPER BOWL
PARTY!**

FEBRUARY 2, 2020

At Idle Hour Country Club
TICKETS \$50 per person
Cash Bar
Football Pool Picks \$10 each

TAILGATE STARTS 5:45 PM
251 Idle Hour Drive Macon, GA

CSI 478-745-4571 secretary@csimacon.org

RSVP BY JAN 22

A Word from our Rabbi

Light in the Darkness

1 Our sages in the talmud strangely inquired: Mai Hanukkah — מאי חנוכה which means, What does this celebration mean? And they avoided giving the Maccabees any limelight. True, they purged the Temple of the foe (the Greeks, מיוונים, mention in the song Mi Yemallel and in the prayer Al HaNisim), but the Rabbis emphasize the miracle oil tale, and — in case we failed to get the message, their choice of Hanukkah haftarah is from Zachariah: Not by might and not by power, but by My spirit, says God. It's about faith. In those days, in this moment.

2 Hillel said, add one candle each night, 1 through 8. Shammai disagreed. He preferred starting with 8 going down to 1. His model was the Sukkot sacrifice, which featured a declining number of bulls offered as the festival progresses. Hillel argued: One ascends in matters of holiness, ממעלין בקודש, bit like Excelsior! Onward and Upward. That needs to be our bumper sticker — to challenge ourselves to up our game, especially as we face the darknes.

3 The name of the holiday should be message enough — dedication. The question for ourselves: How will we express our resolve, to what values do we dedicate ourselves? Who are we, and what do we stand (and fight) for?

May we bring joy, light, blessings, and faith into all our journeys 



I hope everybody had a great Chanukah!

We were treated to a phenomenal Chanukah Family Night earlier this month. Thanks to all the volunteers who put together this fun evening for the everybody.

It is pretty incredible what we are able to put together with dedicated volunteers.

It was also pretty incredible hearing the Rabbi this past Friday night do Lekhah Dodi to the tune Maoz Tsur!!! Never know what Rabbi will come up with!!! Gotta love it. This was followed with the trifecta of 3 Torahs at the Saturday morning service with Hillel Kaplan reading the Haftorah which he did 76 years ago as a Bar Mitzvah boy! Now that's a pretty amazing goal for all of us to work towards!!

As we move into January, we are a month away from our Super Bowl Fundraiser. No matter what teams are playing, this is sure to be a fun party so go ahead and reserve your tickets now.

Also coming in February is the start of our Book Club. This is one of the many ideas that the Adult Ed Committee has come up with to help engage our members. Thanks to Jan for getting this started.

Speaking of ideas, we are constantly trying to evaluate opportunities to meet the needs of our Congregation. Rabbi and I have been discussing some ideas to develop programming to take advantage of our wonderful courtyard once the weather warms up.

Leading a kehillah has its challenges. Our demographics are changing. The demands on our congregants' time are different than they were 30 years ago. It is not easy to balance our commitment to Conservative Judaism while providing engaging programming for members of diverse backgrounds, ages and interests. Add to that the challenges of trying to educate the next generation while they face a barrage of information like no generation before them has experienced. So if we propose programming that isn't your cup of tea, we hope you will keep in mind that it might meet someone else's need. Our board, committees and rabbi work very hard to keep our shul, our building and all our members happy, engaged and spiritually fulfilled.

Please email me or any member of the Board if you hear of unique programming which could be beneficial to our congregation. Some of our best ideas come from things you may have heard from family members at other congregations.

I hope everybody has a great start to 2020!!





Join the Jewish conversation

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Beginning in February, CSI's Adult Ed will sponsor a book club that will meet every other month on Sunday afternoons - or, if that time is not good for participants, at another time TBA.

We will spend the Winter/Spring months 2020 discussing Jonathan D. Sarna's remarkable AMERICAN JUDAISM, A HISTORY, taking a few chapters at a time. The book is available on Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble.

If you are interested, please let Jan Lewis know, so she can plan a start date and location:

janlewis73@gmail.com.



**GIFT SHOP GOING OUT OF BUSINESS FOR GOOD
ON DECEMBER 31, 2019**

EVERYTHING MUST GO! \$5.00 or less

90% off everything! AND WE MEAN EVERYTHING

Text Deborah at 474-0505 to see if
Any merchandise is left.

Sunday, 9:30 AM —12:30 PM

Or call Stephanie at office 478-745-4571



SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

HEBREW SCHOOL

January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th



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

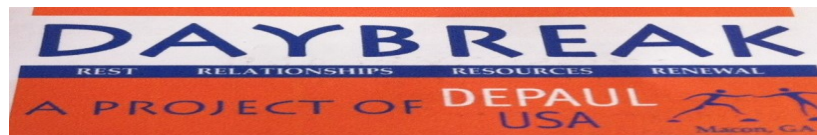


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CONGRATULATIONS TO
DANIEL COHEN
ON PLACING 5TH IN THE
ONE LOVE TENNIS THANKSGIVING
JUNIOR SUPER CHAMPIONSHIPS
BOYS 18'S SINGLES
AND
GA STATE JUNIOR OPEN DOUBLES
CHAMPIONSHIP
BOYS 18'S
4TH PLACE

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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

Made In Americus

Georgia Southwestern State University, Department of Visual Arts Faculty



EXHIBIT JANUARY 3-24, 2020

FIRST FRIDAY OPENING RECEPTION
JANUARY 3, 2020 5-8 PM

macon
arts

At the Macon Arts Alliance- next door to Just Tapped