



Shofar

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

MARCH 2024 ADAR I- ADAR II 5784

A Publication of Congregation Sha'arey Israel

A conservative congregation serving Macon and Middle Georgia

Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

www.uscj.org

Rabbi Aaron Rubinstein



Happy Purim



Upcoming Services

Friday, March 1

6:15 pm Service

Saturday, March 16

9:30 am Service

Saturday, March 2

9:30 am Service

Thursday, March 21

7:00 am Minyan

Thursday, March 7

7:00 am Minyan

Friday, March 22

6:15 pm Service

Friday, March 8

6:15 pm Service

Saturday, March 23

9:30 am Service

Saturday, March 9

Thursday, March 28

9:30 am Service

7:00 am Minyan

Thursday, March 14

7:00 am Minyan

Friday, March 29

6:15 pm Service

Friday, March 15

6:15 pm Service

Saturday, March 30

9:30 am Service



Zoom Davening

All services can be viewed via Zoom. You can access these either via computer, smart phone or call in and listen to services with any phone.

Here are the links you will need to 'attend' services:

Wednesday Torah Study - March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/94748985900?pwd=cmU3N1RUV0JYR25rTGRNZCtOaFBPUT09>

Passcode: 381362

By Phone: 1-929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 947 4898 5900 **Password: studytorah

Thursday Morning Minyan - March 7, 14, 21, 28 at 7 am

<https://zoom.us/j/94233255435?pwd=NDg2bE5jejFOcVpqay9MZm42VGp0QT09>

Passcode: 695052

By Phone: 1-929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 942 3325 5435 Password: 695052

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat - March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 6:15 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/93760006426?pwd=>

[RERBMU5KQ1cwR0RRUF11TnYvcm9VZz09](https://zoom.us/j/93760006426?pwd=RERBMU5KQ1cwR0RRUF11TnYvcm9VZz09)

Passcode: 661400

By Phone: 1-929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 937 6000 6426 Password: 661400

Saturday Morning Service - March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 9:30 am

<https://zoom.us/j/94484008047?pwd=>

[NkN2eVNiOTIMc3kwakpwdFdJdVVPUT09](https://zoom.us/j/94484008047?pwd=NkN2eVNiOTIMc3kwakpwdFdJdVVPUT09)

Passcode: 420674

By Phone: 1-929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 944 8400 8047 Password: 420674



A Word From the Rabbi

I write these words shortly before the Shabbat of Ki Tissa, the portion which describes the drama of the Golden Calf and Moses smashing the Tablets he had just brought down from Mount Sinai. What might we take home from this powerful and challenging story? When I revisit this text each year, this story also becomes an opportunity for me to think about the evolution of my own relationship to the text. “You shall have no other gods before Me” —

Many commentators condemn the Israelites' descent into idolatry. How could Aaron have acquiesced and facilitated this crisis?

During the more recent cycling back to this spot, I find myself less judgmental and more sympathetic towards the demoralized, confused Israelites. "Moses delayed in his coming down the mountain..." (note to Moses and all rabbis after him: If you're late, people lose it quickly and all hell breaks loose!). And, as the text makes clear, the Israelites become a seething mob. Aaron is unable to maintain calm or any sense of order. When Moses sees the Golden Calf, his rage overwhelms him. He orders his fellow Levites to kill those who were worshipping the idol; three thousand Israelites are cut down that day.

It is too easy to simply condemn the stiff-necked people. The harsh judgment fails to come to grips with *why* the Israelites lost their sense of direction. Moses was **everything** to his people. They were entirely unable to function in his absence. Their anxiety overwhelmed them. But there's more to the story. Generations of slavery had the Israelites steeped in Egyptian idolatry. Rashi (perhaps the most prominent among the medieval commentators) portrayed the Israelites as immune to the influences of the surrounding culture — 'they didn't change their language, their names, their dress.' I'm skeptical about that notion. My own read is that the slavery experience deeply shaped our ancestors, and this collective experience included far more than the cruelty of the lash. The worldview of ancient Egypt shaped everyone who lived in that culture — master as well as slave. We'll run into a similar claim of cultural purity in the Book of Numbers when the prophet Bil'am eloquently praises the Israelites as a nation that 'dwells apart.' The ink of those words hadn't even dried when the Israelite men were seduced by the Midianite women into idol worship.

There are little cultural bubbles here and there of small groups of people who see themselves as islands unto themselves. For most of us it's a far more complicated journey. Swimming in the ocean of a dominant culture, we see ourselves thinking about which ideas and behaviors we want to adopt and which beliefs and practices we should reject — it's a relentless set of challenges: Who are we, what are we about, where are we going? Each generation of Jews (plenty of other minority groups could see themselves in these terms) wrestles with the questions of who we are and who we aren't.

Commenting on the Golden Calf story, Rashi makes the radical claim that the received Torah text is out of sequence — that the entire Tabernacle project was essentially a response, a set of lessons learned from the crisis of the Golden Calf. I think Rashi makes a persuasive argument.

What's the take-home? Our ancestors were paralyzed by Moses coming down late from the mountain top. They simply had no tools to cope with his (temporary) absence. True, it had been a bit over four months since the slaves left Egypt. But plenty of Egypt's cultural residue lived within the Israelites — long over the liberation.

We're not all that different from those wanderers. We also need something to touch, some physical symbolic language. For our ancestors it included the sensory spectacle of sacrificial worship. It's not that the omnipresent invisible God remains out of reach — it's that we need candles and spices and challah and a whole matrix of symbols that includes music and food and dance and prayer and a structure of commitments, mitzvot.

Symbols and rituals are guideposts and lifelines. They help us make some sense of our world, of who we are and how to live. There are those who claim that none of this stuff is necessary. I beg to differ. Even the pieces of the broken tablets, the broken laws — they're sacred. We keep them in the box. They mean something. Like faded photos, life pictures your kids drew, like a note on a cabinet, like a text, like a voicemail. Something to hold on to.



A WORD FROM CSI PRESIDENTS

It's hard to believe it's already March. February was a wonderful month celebrating triple Bat Mitzvahs with the Brown family, and March plans to be equally busy and happy. We are looking forward to celebrating with Ed and Diane Vogel to show our appreciation for their many years and dedication to our congregation. We will miss them, but they are only just up the road in the Atlanta area. We hope they come back to celebrate with us and attend services in the future. Reservations for this event will be appreciated as there will be no charge, but we want to be sure we have enough food. We will also be celebrating Purim with our annual shpiel later this month. We will have great food at brunch before the shpiel. It will be deli (pastrami and turkey), so reservations are a must.

We hope to see all of you at all our fun events and services.

Shalom!

Shelley and Jan



THE CSI BOOK CLUB



The next meeting of the CSI Book Club will be in April. More information to come.

The Macon Film Guild
presents

The Zone of Interest
in German w/subtitles, 105 min.,
rated PG-13

Synopsis (based loosely on fact):
The commandant of Auschwitz
and his wife try to

create an idyllic life for their family
in a house and garden right next to
the camp.

*Nominated for 5 Oscars, including
Best Picture and Best Director
(Jonathan Glazer)*

Sunday, March 10: 2 pm & 5 pm

Admission: \$5.00 - Buy at door or
at douglasstheatre.org

Please call Stephanie
at the synagogue office
478-745-4571 or email her at
secretary@csimacon.org
for donations to all funds
Except The Wall of Jerusalem.

For donations to the
Wall of Jerusalem Fund,
please call Shelley Kruger at
478-474-0060.

For donations to the
Noah's Ark Fund,
please call the CSI secretary.

Yahrzeit donations should be
mailed directly to synagogue.

Please note that you can also
make donations to the various
CSI funds through our website:

www.csimacon.org

It's easy and quick!
You can designate which fund to
honor your loved ones.



Scholar-in-Residence

Congregation Sha'arey Israel is
delighted to announce that
Janice Friebaum will visit our
congregation as a scholar-in-
residence from Friday, May 3
through Sunday, May 5. She will

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A
KIDDUSH LUNCHEON
TO HONOR

DIANE AND ED VOGEL

SATURDAY MARCH 16, 2024

FOLLOWING SHABBAT
SERVICES

NO CHARGE

PLEASE CONTACT
SECRETARY@CSIMACON.ORG
478-745-4571
TO RSVP



speaking at the Yom Hashoah program on Sunday afternoon on the topic "Transgenerational Trauma: Holocaust Survivors and their Descendants."

Ms. Friebaum, whose father was a Holocaust survivor, holds a master's degree in Jewish and Holocaust Studies from the University of Chicago. She is past Vice President of the Phoenix Holocaust Association and Chairperson of Generations After – Descendants of Holocaust Survivors in Greater Phoenix.

In addition to her presentation at the Yom Hashoah program, Ms. Friebaum will speak at the Friday night service on the development of her Jewish identity and at the Saturday morning service on the book she is writing about her father's post-war life from the time of his liberation from a death march through the 1950s. A Shabbat dinner will follow the Friday night service and a luncheon will follow the Saturday morning service. Jami and Jimmy Gaudet will host a Havdalah service at their home on Saturday evening. Preceding the service, Ms. Friebaum, who also holds a master's degree in plant ecology, will lead those interested in a walk through the Wesleyan Arboretum, which is adjacent to the Gaudets' house. Following the service, she will share some of her creative works that deal with being the child of a Holocaust survivor. We hope you will attend as many of these exciting events as possible.



AMEL BROOKS

PURIM

Sunday
March 24, 2024


Congregation
Sha'arey Israel
611 First St. Macon

11:30 a.m. Brunch
Adults \$15
Kids under 5 Free

12:30 p.m. Shpiel


EXTRA CREDIT:
SATURDAY NIGHT
MARCH 23
HAVDALLAH AND
MEGILLA READING
8:30 P.M.

Reservations are required. Call
or email the CSI office to RSVP.



CONGREGATION SHA'AREY ISRAEL
ALUMNI AND ONLINE MEMBERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES

CSI Alumni
This membership will be offered to any individual who lives outside the Middle Georgia geographic area but who lived in Macon in the past and was an active member or a student at CSI.

Online Membership
This membership will be for individuals who would like to participate as an Online member. Approval for online membership will be handled by Rabbi, Membership Chair, and President.

Benefits for Alumni Membership and Online membership include:

- Online participation in all services offered online by CSI
- Online participation in all CSI classes & programs offered online
- Attendance in-person for any services at CSI, including High Holidays
- Listing in Alumni/Online Membership section of the Annual Ad-book (starting with the 2023-24 book)
- Online Counseling sessions with Rabbi as needed
- Participation in social functions in their community if enough CSI members exist in their community

Fee for CSI Alumni/Online membership will be a minimum contribution to the Annual Fund of \$180 per year. This can be paid annually or \$15.00 per month.

To have full membership privileges including voting at meetings, individual can apply for standard membership/standard dues structure.

Religious School **Schedule**

March 3, 10, 17
April 14, 21

Rabbi Aaron is meeting with congregants by appointment.



Mi Sheberach

Congregation Sha'arey Israel
extends Get Well Wishes to:

Ian Altman
Billy Singer
Henry Koplin
Miriam Wengier
David Frolich

You can call him at 478-250-5952 to
schedule an appointment.



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March Birthdays

- 1 - Lance Simon
- 2 - Dorothy Haskins
- 3 - David Cornelius
- 4 - Henry Koplin
- 4 - Muriel Nathan
- 8 - Jonathan Atzmon
- 10 - James Bernstein
- 12 - Allison Bloodworth
- 13 - Isaac Crabtree
- 14 - Stephen Chanin



SYNAGOGUE & MAZEL TOV FUND DONATIONS

In memory of Kay Morrison
Israel

**Mazel tov to Angie Brown on
her Bat Mitzvah**
Ellen Cohen & Billy Singer

**Happy birthday to
David Frolich**
Alan & Hershene Goldman

Happy birthday to Ellen Cohen

14 - Landon Paul Kruger
16 - Jacob Redd
18 - Lenore Polk
18 - Gary Simson
19 - Joseph Brody
19 - Terri Frolich
20 - Matt Garrett
22 - Amanda Koplin
25 - Beth Cohen
27 - Ellen Cohen
28 - Debbie Oliner
29 - Brenda Katz
30 - Nicole Hill
31 - Chana Dayne-Winer

Richard & Sandra Singer

Happy birthday to Terri Frolich

Richard & Sandra Singer

**Happy belated birthday to
Hershene Goldman**

Richard & Sandra Singer



March Anniversaries

5 - Carol & Michael Bashuk
5 - Francie & Gerald Marshall
13 - Faye & Steve Mizrahi
28 - Angie & Charles Brown



Wall of Jerusalem

**To honor the Special Birthday
of Hershene Goldman**

By Frolich - Cohen - Singer

**To honor the Special Birthday
of Hershene Goldman**

By Scott - Fran - Alan

**To honor the Special Birthday
of Hershene Goldman**

By Brodys and Mizrahis



Kruger Torah Fund

**In honor of
David Frolich's birthday**
Alan & Fran Kirsh

**Speedy recovery to
Renee Schwartz**
Alan & Fran Kirsh



Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**In honor of David Frolich's
continued recovery**
Howard & Fabianne Perofsky

**In loving memory of my father,
Seymour Cohen**
Steve Cohen

Donation for summer camp
Thomas Fakour



Congregation Sha'arey Israel is a partner with DAYBREAK, a daytime safe 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. DAYBREAK needs volunteers. If interested, call (478) 216-9119 or visit <https://depaulusa.org/programs/macon/>. You can also drop off donated items at their Macon location at 174 Walnut Street. You can also ship directly from Amazon.

Daybreak's current needs are:

canned or fresh fruit
applesauce
breakfast bars (soft)
sandwich cookie packs
powered lemonade/tea

large sturdy back packs
Bio freeze
Claritin
daytime cold medicine-no alcohol
eye drops

coffee creamer	insect repellent	
instant grits	hydrocortisone cream	
sugar	reader glasses - 2.00/higher	
brown paper snack bags	Benadryl	
plastic spoons	ponchos	
lawn bags - 33 gallon	disinfectant spray	
vinegar	air freshner	
bleach	hand/foot towels	men's
T-shirts (white, size lg, XL, 2X)	\$10 gift cards	
men & women's underwear		



March 2024 Yahrzeits

Evening of

March 1st/2nd-March 8th

Fannie Adelstone
Edward Bashuk
Tess Wilner Bashuk
Cynthia Wulwick
Barnett Chanin
Harold Goodrich*
Norman Nathan Kaplan*

Evening of

March 8th/9th-March 15th

Abraham Davidson*
Rita Govern

Evening of

March 15th-16th-March 22nd

Pearl Brooks
Eric Lipson

Evening of

March 22nd/23rd-March 29th

Sarah Warshauer Schwartzman

Evening of

March 29th/30th-April 5th

Sarah Hirsh*
Herbert S. Posner

** Indicates names listed on a plaque in the main sanctuary.*

5784
2024

March

adar I
adar II

KAR-BEN
PUBLISHING
www.karben.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				1 21 adar I 6:14 PM 6:15 PM SERVICE	2 22 adar I 7:10 PM 9:30 AM SERVICE
3 23 adar I SUNDAY SCHOOL	4 24 adar I	5 25 adar I	6 26 adar I	7 27 adar I 7 AM MINYAN	8 28 adar I 6:20 PM 8:15 PM SERVICE	9 29 adar I 7:15 PM 9:30 AM SERVICE <i>Ki Tisa</i>
10 30 adar I SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFIRMATION CLASS ROSH CHODESH	11 1 adar II ROSH CHODESH	12 2 adar II	13 3 adar II	14 4 adar II 7 AM MINYAN	15 5 adar II 7:25 PM 6:15 PM SERVICE	16 6 adar II 8:20 PM 9:30 AM SERVICE <i>Vayakhel</i> SHABBAT SHEKALIM
17 7 adar II SUNDAY SCHOOL SEEDLING CLASS	18 8 adar II	19 9 adar II	20 10 adar II	21 11 adar II 7 AM MINYAN	22 12 adar II 7:30 PM 6:15 PM SERVICE	23 13 adar II 8:25 PM 9:30 AM SERVICE 8:30 PM HAVDALAH <i>Vayikra</i> SHABBAT ZACHOR MEGILLAH READING
24 14 adar II CSI PURIM 11:30AM/12:30 PURIM	25 15 adar II	26 16 adar II	27 17 adar II	28 18 adar II 7 AM MINYAN FAST OF ESTHER	29 19 adar II 7:35 PM 6:15 PM SERVICE	30 20 adar II 8:31 PM 9:30 AM SERVICE <i>Tzav</i> SHABBAT PARAH
31 21 adar II EASTER	SHUSHAN PURIM					

2023-2025

Executive Committee

Co-President - Shelley Davidson
Co-President - Jan Lewis
Vice President - Michael Kruger
Treasurer - Evan Koplin
Recording Secretary - Pam Hill
Corresponding Secretary - Lara Geller
Parliamentarian/Security - Theresa Rosengart

2023-2025 Board Chairs

Adult Education - Rosalind Simson
Board of Education - Jennifer Bernstein & Allison Bloodworth
Cemetery - Ellen Finkelstein
Gifts & Memorials - Michael Kruger
Membership - Pam Webster
House - Jonathan Atzmon
Ways and Means - Michael Kruger
Ritual - Jeff Lehman
Special Projects - Gary Simson



Secretary - Stephanie Johnson

Office Hours

8 am - 4 pm Monday & Wednesday

8 am - 12 pm Friday
Lunch 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Our mailing address is:

611 First Street Macon, Georgia 31201

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