



Shofar

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

APRIL NISAN-IYAR 5785

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



Upcoming Services

Thursday, April 3

7:00 am Minyan

Friday, April 4

6:15 pm Service

Saturday, April 5

9:30 am Service

Thursday, April 10

7:00 am Minyan

Friday, April 11

6:15 pm Service

Thursday, April 17

7:00 am Minyan

Friday, April 18

6:15 pm Service

Saturday, April 19

9:30 am Service

Thursday, April 24

7:00 am Minyan

Friday, April 25

6:15 pm Service

Saturday, April 12

9:30 am Service

Saturday, April 26

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. We are using *one* link for ALL services. All services dealing with praying/ davening and Torah Study will use the link below.

<https://zoom.us/j/94484008047?pwd=NkN2eVNiOTIMc3kwakpwdFdJdVVPuT09>

Passcode: 420674

By Phone: 1-929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 944 8400 8047 Password: 420674

Service Dates and Times:

Wednesday Torah Study - April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 7 pm

Thursday Morning Minyan - April 3, 10, 17, 24 at 7 am

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat - April 4, 11, 18, 25 at 6:15 pm

Saturday Morning Service - April 5, 12, 19, 26 at 9:30 am



A Word From the Rabbi

Leaving Egypt

Passover, which will be here soon, has drawn a lot of attention from our sages over the centuries. Even beyond the realm of Jewish law, participation in the Seder is something that speaks to many of us — secular and observant alike. Beyond the shopping runs, the house-cleaning, the guest lists, and the cooking ... what's the essential take home?

The ancient writers of the Haggadah have ideas that still resonate with us today. They urge us to use our imagination and explore the deeper meanings of matzah and bitter herbs. They challenge us to ponder the cruel darkness of ancient Egypt, the bitterness of enslavement, the loneliness of being the vulnerable stranger.

In Hebrew as well as in Arabic, the root for Mitzrayim (מצרים) points to the narrow strips of land bordering the Nile. In the rabbinic spiritual imagination, this idea of narrowness and constriction teaches us about the oppressive nature of the narrow mind, the blinders that keep us from seeing the stranger, the people who have been marked as 'other,' as disposable, as a subject best left unspoken.

As God is about to punish Egypt with the terrible final plague, the death of the first born, the Israelites are gathered together in families, hurriedly celebrating the Passover of Egypt. There's an unusual term — *chipazon* (חִפְזוֹן) — associated with this fraught moment leading up to the Exodus. Some translators render this term as 'hurried.' The soon-to-be liberated slaves are ready to go at a moment's notice. Avivah Zornberg, a contemporary Bible scholar, deepens the exploration of the emotional context of this meal. As the Israelites share this feast of freedom, the last plague — the horrifying death that visits every home in Egypt — is unfolding. There simply is no way to avoid the screams and the agony of Egypt. Zornberg writes about anticipatory grief. What does it mean to soak in the moment fully, to decide that you can't ignore the misery beyond the closed door? So, it is no coincidence that the Torah repeatedly charges us to remember our once being the stranger. We are instructed to love the stranger. Every Shabbat evening kiddush: in remembrance of leaving Egypt. The twice-daily recited third paragraph of the Sh'ma (focusing on the tzitzit): 'I am Adonai your God who took you out of Egypt to be your God. All of this repetition drives

home the notion that Passover is a key to what being Jewish means. Underneath the rich tapestry of ritual and the keen attention to detail — it must be about empathy for the stranger. It must be about former slaves taking extra care to avoid the tendencies of the taskmasters. Leaving Egypt wasn't the hard part. The real challenge — one that faces us each and every day — is spiritual liberation from the mentality of a narrow and constricted outlook that leaves us unable to respond to pain of the stranger, to the cry of the other.

Rabbi Aaron is meeting with congregants by appointment.
You can call him at 478-250-5952 to schedule an appointment.



A WORD FROM CSI PRESIDENT

Dear Congregants,

Welcome to April, warmer weather and the Earth bursting into bloom. Hopefully, the last of the hard freezes has passed, and we can get our seedlings into the ground. Our favorite winged friends have returned and are swarming our bird and hummingbird feeders.

There's a lot going on this Spring and Summer. I'm sure many of our congregants will be traveling, but as you make your plans, be sure to keep the following dates in mind:

- **April 4th** is our Milledgeville Shabbat Eve at the Krapf's beautiful lakeside home. The service starts at 6:30 pm promptly. This will be a dairy pot-luck, with a hard RSVP deadline of April 2nd, so that you can let Gail know what you are bringing. Remember to contact her at 478-968-5383 (h) or 478-731-2215 (c) or via email at jack.krapf@att.net.
- **April 12th** brings the first night of Pesach. Shortly after that weeklong holiday, we will commemorate Yom HaShoah on **April 27th**. This event will be at TBI this year; information will follow soon.
- **May 2nd** is the first of our quarterly Family Shabbats as we gather at CSI for a

shorter, kid-friendly service starting at 6 pm, followed by a dinner in our Social Hall. There is no charge for this dinner!

- **May 4th** at 3:00 pm is our All-Congregation Leadership Development forum at CSI. Those who have not attended one of these gatherings at someone's home are invited to attend this meeting to discuss what's best about CSI, where we need improvement, and how you see yourself involved in that process.
- **June 1st** is Erev Shavuot with art project led by Laurel Robinson.
- **June 22nd** is the date when CSI will host our Annual Congregational Meeting at 3 pm in the Social Hall. Our Board of Governors will give their yearly reports and we will hold elections.
- **July 25th**, Marty and Elmo Koplin - our thanks to you both - have invited us to their home for the second of our 2025 Family Shabbats. This will be a poolside gathering. More information will follow soon.
- And on Saturday **August 9th** is Brady Kruger's bar mitzvah.

That's all I have for the moment. Please stay in touch with me if you have ideas for events or programs. Have a joyous Pesach!

Shalom,
Jan

Shabbat in Milledgeville

A special Shabbat evening service followed by a dairy pot-luck dinner is April 4, 2025 at the home of Gail and Jack Krapf in Milledgeville. The service will begin at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to the Krapfs with what you will bring at (478) 968-5383 (h) or (478) 731-2215 (Gail's cell).

The deadline for RSVPs is April 2, 2025.

Out of courtesy to the Krapfs, please adhere to this deadline.

We look forward to seeing you there!

CSI Billing & Communication: We're Now Online!

We've officially moved from our old Windows-based Rakefet system to the new cloud version!

Here's what that means for you:

- You'll soon be able to:

- View your bill online
- Make payments online
- Update your contact info anytime
- Enjoy easier event registration and clearer communication from us

Where we are now:

- The system went live in January
- Finance Committee and Board members have already started using it
- We'll begin rolling it out to all members in **April**

What to expect:

You'll get an introductory email with details and helpful links

- About a week later, you'll receive login instructions

Prefer to keep things the way they are?

No worries! You'll still get your monthly bill by email and can keep mailing in your check as usual.

Ready to go digital?

Just follow the steps in the email to get set up and start using the new features!

The Backpack Ministry

Many of you may not be aware that our religious school, as part of their learning about the importance of Tzedakah, has volunteered over the last couple of years to pack bags at The Backpack Ministry, which is run by Forest Hills Church.

The mission of the Backpack ministry is to provide children who are at risk for poor nutritional intake when not receiving school meals with supplemental, child, friendly food.

Here is a little more information about The Backpack Ministry:

- **BackPack Buddies Ministry** is part of Forest Hills United Methodist Church.
- **Launched in February 2011** with just **nine students** from Lane Elementary.
- Has since grown to serve **over 2,800 children** in various schools across **three counties**.
- **Inception:** Focused initially on Lane Elementary students.
- **Growth and Expansion:** Experienced significant growth over the years.
- **Beyond Food:** Now provides not only weekend food backpacks, but also:
 - School supplies
 - Clothing
 - Other essentials through the "**Beyond Food**" program.

If you want to support this charity, please send a check to Synagogue and mark for Tzedakah Fund for Backpack Ministries. Many of you may not be aware that our religious school, as part of their learning about the importance of Tzedakah, has volunteered over the last couple of years to pack bags at The Backpack Ministry, which is run by Forest Hills Church.



If you want to support this charity, please send a check to Synagogue and mark for Tzedakah Fund for Backpack Ministries.

Kiddush Lunch Sponsors

Kiddush lunch on April 5th will be sponsored by the Koplín Family in memory of Ethel and Myron Koplín.

Sponsor a Kiddush Lunch at Congregation Sha'arey Israel

Honor a Loved One, Celebrate a Milestone, or Remember Someone Special

Congregation Sha'arey Israel invites you to sponsor a Kiddush lunch, a meaningful way to mark important occasions while supporting our community.

Why Sponsor a Kiddush Lunch?

- Commemorate a special event
- Honor a friend or family member
- Remember a loved one
- Support our congregation

Sponsorship Details:

- Minimum sponsorship: \$36
- Your sponsorship helps defray the costs of our complimentary Kiddush Lunches

Recognition:

- Sponsorship announced in our weekly congregational email
- Acknowledged during Friday and Saturday announcements from the Bima

How to Sponsor:

Contact our office to arrange your Kiddush lunch sponsorship today!

Phone: 478-745-4571

Email: secretary@csimacon.org

Join us in this mitzvah and create lasting memories for our community!

Congregation Sha'arey Israel
611 First Street
Macon, Georgia 31210



THE CSI BOOK CLUB

The CSI Book Club will next meet via Zoom on Sunday, April 27 to discuss *Emma Goldman: Revolution as a Way of Life*, by



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.

Vivian Gornick. All are welcome.
Please contact Jan Lewis at
janlewis73@gmail.com for more
information.

🕯️ Quarterly Family Shabbat 🕯️
Friday, May 2, 2025
6:00 PM | Family Service & Dinner

✦ How is this Shabbat different from all other
Shabbat Services? ✦

- Service begins promptly at 6:00 PM
- Short & Sweet: Just 45 minutes long
- Family-Friendly: Kids are welcome and encouraged to participate!
- Followed by a Shabbat Family Dinner

📅 No charge for dinner with RSVP by **April 28**

- Keep an eye on your email for RSVP & more details!

Let's welcome Shabbat together in a warm, joyful, family-filled evening.
All members are welcome!

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.



Mi Sheberach

Congregation Sha'arey Israel
extends Get Well Wishes to:

Ian Altman
Mark Bresler
Henry Koplin
Miriam & Kive Wengier

**Spring
cleaning**

**Has Come To The
Congregation Sha'arey Israel
Cemeteries**

We know you're dying to
check it out 😊



יום הולדת שמח!

April Birthdays

- 2 - Sarah Koplin
- 2- Tanya Albert
- 3 - Jaden Adler
- 3 - Rosalind Simson
- 4 - Addie Denisar
- 5 - Aaron Brown
- 5 - Greg Ziesenhene
- 6 - Debbie Ziesenhene
- 7 - Trudy Posner
- 9 - William Singer
- 10 – Leslie Bashuk
- 10 - Taylor Bashuk
- 11 - Debbie Mayville
- 12 - Shelley Davidson
- 17 - Daniel Toland
- 17 - Laurel Robinson
- 17 - Brian Bloodworth
- 19 - Vickie Richards
- 20 - Jacob Cornelius
- 20 - Benjamin Kruger
- 21 - Jamie Lee Downing
- 24 - Jenna Denisar
- 24 - Philip Albert
- 24 - Cohen Bloodworth
- 28 - Bill Hirsh
- 29 - Sophie Denisar
- 30 - Melvin Kruger



Need college money? **Start here.**



JANUARY - APRIL 30
Full Academic Year
AUGUST - SEPT 30
Spring / Summer Only

Higher Ed is *expensive!*
but 0% interest helps

JELF provides interest-free loans for **college, graduate** and **vocational** programs to Jewish students with demonstrated financial need. Our gift is in the savings!



LEARN MORE ABOUT JELF jelf.org info@jelf.org [@jelfloans](https://www.facebook.com/jelfloans)



SYNAGOGUE & MAZEL TOV FUND DONATIONS

In memory of Marcia Singer
Billy Singer

In memory of my beloved father, Rodolph Richards
Theresa Rosengart

In memory of Kay Morrison
Israel

In memory of Lynn Freedman
Francie & Gerald Marshall

In memory of Arlene Bershanko,
(the sister of Sandra Singer)
Alan & Hershene Goldman



April
Anniversaries

9 - Mary & Richard Katz
14 - Lise & Sig Dayan
15 - Fabianne & Howard
Perofsky

Ellen Cohen & Billy Singer

**Happy 80th birthday to
Ellen Cohen**

Francie & Gerald Marshall

**Mazel tov to Debbie & Greg
Ziesenhene and Jenna & Jack
Arnold on the birth of their
grandson & son**

Evan & Marty Koplín

**Get well soon to
Robert Schwartz**
Alan & Hershe Goldman



WALL OF JERUSALEM

**To honor the 80th birthday
of Terri Frolich**
By friends

**To honor the 80th birthday
of Ellen Cohen**
By friends



KRUGER TORAH FUND

**In memory of
Arlene Bershanko**
Alan & Fran Kirsh
Jack & Gail Krapf

**In loving memory of
David Arogeti**
Lynn Sussman
Stephanie & Dave Wilson
Elizabeth, Scott, Carson & Mia

In memory of Margie Holland
Alan & Fran Kirsh



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 | large sturdy back packs |
| applesauce | Bio freeze |
| breakfast bars (soft) | Claritin |
| sandwich cookie packs | daytime cold medicine-no alcohol |
| powered lemonade/tea | 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 | |



April 2025 Yahrzeits

Evening of
April 4th/5th-April 11th

Betty Kruger
 Myron Koplin*
 Marc Winer
 Ethel Koplin*
 Baris Goodrich*

Evening of
April 11th/12th-April 18th

Anna Klein
 Ida Divinsky
 James A. Huskey
 Irene Krieger*
 Hyman Goodman Safer*
 Sylvia Goodrich Brown*
 David Michael Montrose*
 Harold Levin*
 Pauline Bailey

Evening of
April 18th/19th-April 25th

Lee Abe Harris
 Rosa Goldman Haskins*
 Rhoda Bergman Goodrich*
 Cecile Ruth Ginsberg Schlesinger
 Rooky Gaudet
 Dena Lehman*
 Isadore Robinson
 Harvey Leff
 Seymour Brown*

Evening of
April 25th/26th-May 2nd

Lena M. Singer
 Sonja Greasley
 Leigh Brody*
 Sarah Montrose

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

5785 2025		April		nisan		iyar		 www.karben.com	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY			
MARCH 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	MAY 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 31	1 3 nisan	2 4 nisan	3 5 nisan	4 6 nisan 7:38 PM	5 7 nisan 8:35 PM			
6 8 nisan	7 9 nisan	8 10 nisan	9 11 nisan	10 12 nisan	11 13 nisan 7:43 PM	12 14 nisan 8:40 PM	Vayikra Tzav SHABBAT HAGADOL FIRST SEDER		
13 15 nisan	14 16 nisan	15 17 nisan	16 18 nisan	17 19 nisan	18 20 nisan 7:49 PM	19 21 nisan 8:46 PM			
PASSOVER	PASSOVER	INTERMEDIATE DAY	INTERMEDIATE DAY	INTERMEDIATE DAY	INTERMEDIATE DAY	INTERMEDIATE DAY	PASSOVER		
20 22 nisan	21 23 nisan	22 24 nisan	23 25 nisan	24 26 nisan	25 27 nisan 7:54 PM	26 28 nisan 8:52 PM			
EASTER YIZKOR PASSOVER				YOM HASHOAH			Shemini		
27 29 nisan SUNDAY SCHOOL/ YOM HA'ATZMAUT ACTIVITY	28 30 nisan	29 1 iyar	30 2 iyar						
	ROSH CHODESH	ROSH CHODESH	YOM HAZIKARON						

2023-2025

Executive Committee

President - Jan Lewis
Vice Presidents - Michael Kruger &
Lara Geller
Treasurer - Evan Koplin
Recording Secretary - Pam Hill
Corresponding Secretary - Allison
Bloodworth
Ex-Officio - Shelley Davidson
Parliamentarian/Security - Theresa
Rosengart

2023-2025 Board Chairs

Adult Education - Rosalind Simson
Board of Education - Jennifer Bernstein
Cemetery - Marty Koplin
Gifts & Memorials - Markus Hill
Membership - Pam Webster
House - Jonathan Atzmon
Ways and Means - Michael Kruger & Lara
Geller
Ritual - Jeff Lehman
Special Projects - Gary Simson
Long-Range Planning - Sabrina Wengier
Marketing/Communications - Chip Koplin



Secretary - Stephanie Johnson

Office Hours

8 am - 4 pm Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
8 am - 12 pm Friday
Lunch 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Our mailing address is:

611 First Street Macon, Georgia 31201

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