



Shofar

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

MAY IYAR-SIVAN 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, May 1

7:00 am Minyan

Friday, May 2

6:00 pm Service

Saturday, May 3

9:30 am Service

Thursday, May 8

7:00 am Minyan

Saturday, May 17

9:30 am Service

Thursday, May 22

7:00 am Minyan

Friday, May 23

6:15 pm Service

Saturday, May 24

9:30 am Service

Friday, May 9
6:15 pm Service

Thursday, May 29
7:00 am Minyan

Saturday, May 10
9:30 am Service

Friday, May 30
6:15 pm Service

Thursday, May 15
7:00 am Minyan

Saturday, May 31
9:30 am Service

Friday, May 16
6:15 pm 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 - May 7, 21, 28 at 7 pm (No Torah Study May 14)

Thursday Morning Minyan - May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 7 am

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat - May 2 (6:00 pm), 9, 16, 23, 30 at 6:15 pm

Saturday Morning Service - May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 9:30 am



A Word From the Rabbi

Counting Down, Taking Account

We're in a season of counting down, towards something else. Students (and the instructors) are counting how many sessions remain. Visions of summer vacation, time off.

The Jewish calendar actually has us counting *upward* toward Shavuot: In the Torah — an early summer harvest festival; in the rabbinic calendar, a celebration of the gift of Torah. The Revelation is our people's conversion moment. Our ancestors left Egypt as liberated slaves. At the foot of Sinai, they were transformed into a people with Torah.

Summer timing puts Shavuot in a challenging spot — folks are heading into a break from it all. But when you think about it you realize that Shavuot, spiritually speaking, is a big deal. Passover tells us who we were, and it drives home the lesson that we never want to find ourselves staring at a cruel Pharaoh in the mirror. So what is our mission? Shavuot speaks to the paths of holiness and community. The people of the book, the romance with the word. Shavuot drives home the lesson that we never find ourselves lacking in curiosity and passion for Torah, that our Jewishness is about what we can say and learn and do in our quest for holiness and blessing.

Why count upward toward? Because a life of learning and doing challenges us to up our game.

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,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Pesach! I for one am glad to see warmer weather and flowers unfolding in the yard. It's a season of growth and renewal, which is how I envision the next few months at CSI.

We have a busy schedule for May and June. I've listed our events below so that you can put them into your calendars. Please keep these dates in mind and try to attend on as many as possible. In particular, I want to draw your attention to our Annual Congregational Meeting in late June at which we will review the past year, announce plans for the coming year, and elect new officers and a new Board of Governors. Don't miss this important meeting.

On May 4th we will observe Yom HaShoah at Temple Beth Israel at 2:00 pm. Please see the flyer in this bulletin for more information. (The CSI meeting previously scheduled for this date has been moved to June 8th)

Sunday June 1st is Erev Shavuot. We'll celebrate starting at 4:00 pm as Laurel Robinson shows the adults how to make Yads (the pointers we use for reading Torah), while Sharona Rubinstein provides a program for the younger folks. **RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY** by May 27th for both kids and adults. At 6:00 pm we'll have a dairy dinner – **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR DINNER AS WELL** - followed by a short service and other activities to be announced.

On Sunday June 8th, we will hold our All-Congregation Forum: Building the Next 120 Years, at 3 pm at CSI. If you haven't already attended one of these meetings, please plan to come. These gatherings are where we discuss our thoughts about what is working best at CSI and what we need to consider as we grow. Your input is vital.

And as mentioned above, June 22nd is the date for CSI's Annual Congregational Meeting at 4 pm in the Social Hall. Our Board of Governors will give their yearly reports and we will hold elections for officers and board members. Please join us!

More events will be listed in the June Shofar. Have a great month. I hope to see you in shul.

Shalom,

Jan

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!

Welcome to Our Newest CSI Members - the Andersons

Hi, I'm DuPree – Grateful to Be Here and Excited for What's Ahead

Hebrew name: Ya'akov Uriel ben Avraham v'Sarah

Hi everyone! I'm DuPree and I'm so honored to be joining the Congregation Sha'arey Israel community. I was raised Catholic and spent years searching for a spiritual home that felt deeply grounding and meaningful—something I could share with my wife and, one day, our children.

That journey led us to Judaism, and we've been so moved by the depth, beauty, and wisdom of this tradition. From the first Shabbat we welcomed into our home to the High Holidays spent with the Macon community, it has all felt like something I'd been seeking for a long time.

What drew me most to Judaism is its emphasis on family, community, and living with intention. I've been especially inspired by the redemptive journey of Jacob—his transformation and growth feel deeply personal to me. Shabbat is my favorite part of Jewish life, and I love the weekly ritual of being still and practicing presence in my home. Each week, it offers a powerful moment to pause, reconnect, and feel gratitude. Outside of synagogue life, I work as a landscape architect and real estate developer. I enjoy traveling, playing soccer, and rehabbing our home bit by bit. I'm excited to continue learning, building connections, and creating a home rooted in Jewish values and purpose.

I look forward to getting to know each of you!

Hi, I'm Majida – A Journey of Return, Connection, and Becoming

Hebrew name: Miriam Shoshana bat Avraham v' Sarah

Hello, I'm Majida! I'm so honored to be joining CSI and stepping into Jewish life with deep gratitude and joy. My journey to Judaism has felt like both a return and a new beginning—a reconnection with a Jewish soul that has long felt present within me.

As an Afro-Caribbean-Panamanian woman and daughter of Muslim converts, I grew up navigating layered cultural identities. These experiences deeply shaped my commitment to justice, resilience, and community—values that I feel reflected so powerfully in Judaism. I was first drawn into Jewish community work through co-leading the Austin chapter of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom and it was through those interfaith connections that I began to sense a deeper spiritual homecoming.

My husband and I enrolled in the *Miller Introduction to Judaism Program*, and those 18 weeks of learning, reflection, and discovery felt like a profound unfolding. Through Torah study, Jewish prayer, Shabbat practice (my favorite Jewish tradition!), and community learning, I found myself embracing the rhythm and depth of Jewish life.

To me, immersing in the mikvah and becoming a Jew represents healing, reconnection, and spiritual transformation. It's where I affirmed a Jewish soul that feels like it's always been within me. I'm especially inspired by the biblical figures of Miriam and Moses—Miriam's courage, leadership, and prophetic wisdom speak to my own aspirations as I step into Jewish womanhood.

Professionally, I founded and practice through *Connection Care Therapy*, where I serve as an Integrative Fertility Counselor, Functional Nutritional Therapist, Fertility Awareness & Sexual Health Educator, and Women's Hormone Health Specialist. In my free time, I love traveling, dancing, music, and calligraphy—creative and nourishing outlets that, like Judaism, connect me to joy and meaning.

I'm deeply moved to be joining the Jewish people in this sacred covenant. I look forward to growing, celebrating, grieving, and healing together—bound by a commitment to community, compassion, and tikkun olam.

With Gratitude

As we step into Jewish life, we want to extend our deepest thanks to Rabbi Aaron Rubinstein and his family, who have supported us with warmth, guidance, and wisdom through every stage of this journey.

We're also incredibly grateful to Jan Lewis for meeting with us in our early days and offering heartfelt encouragement, and to Pam Webster, who has so lovingly held our hands as we became members of this community.

To the entire CSI community: thank you. From Kiddush lunches to Sukkot gatherings, bar mitzvah celebrations to quiet moments of connection, you have made us feel truly welcomed, seen, and at home. We are honored to now be part of this family.

Kiddush Lunch Sponsors

Kiddush lunch on May 24th will be sponsored by James & Janice Bailey
to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

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

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR

Dr. Lawrence A. Haskins Memorial Trust – 2025

BACKGROUND

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.

It was Gertie and Harry's fondest hope 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.

PURPOSE

"To perpetuate and enhance Jewish education for CSI students." The Trust, now in its 43rd year sunsets in 2030, so the committee's challenge is to present scholarships to as many young congregants as possible before 2031.

Given the cancellation of most summer camps during the pandemic (2020-2022) Haskins Trust recipients during those years may use the funds during the summer of 2024 without reapplying for the award. Simply contact me to utilize the funds.

If you are a new applicant please read the guidelines, process, and deadlines below.

GUIDELINES

1. A recipient 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 Sha'arey Israel's religious school for at least one (1) 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 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. 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.

5. 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 directly to the parent(s) with proof of payment.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The process requires a brief application letter to the committee to include the following information:

- a. Applicant's name
- b. Age
- c. Brief statement of why the applicant believes he/she is worthy of the scholarship
- d. Name of program and organization or institution, including the address, phone number, date(s) attending, and cost
- e. Recommendation letter from a Sha'arey Israel congregant or religious schoolteacher familiar with the applicant's character and academic achievement

2. Nominations and applications must be received by Monday, May 5, 2025 and should be emailed to Haskins Trust Chair, Jami Gaudet, at jfsgaudet@aol.com.

3. Decisions will be made by Monday, May 12, 2025.

4. 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.

5. The Haskins Memorial Trust committee selects a recipient or recipients annually and approves the use of the funds. The award amount is based on the number of recipients and amount of funds remaining in the Trust. There is no cap on the number of recipients each year.

6. The duration of the trust is 50 years and ends in 2030. 2025 is year 45.

7. Each recipient may be asked to speak briefly on his/her camp, travel or educational

experience at a Shabbat service upon return. Guidelines will be provided.

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.

Best regards –

Jami Gaudet

Haskins Memorial Trust Chair

jfsgaudet@aol.com



THE CSI BOOK CLUB

The CSI Book Club will not meet in May. The next meeting is via Zoom at 1 PM on Sunday, June 22 to discuss *Tablets Shattered: The End of an American Jewish Century and the Future of Jewish Life* by Joshua Leifer. All are welcome. Please contact Jan Lewis at janlewis73@gmail.com for details.



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



**Mazel Tov
CSI Graduates**

Jaden Adler - Howard High School
Cameron and Porter Bullington -
ACE (Academy for Classical
Education)

🕯 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!

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.



June 1st is Erev Shavuot at CSI.
Please plan to join us for the
following:

4:00 Laurel Robinson will teach
adults how to make Yads. This
workshop is limited to 20
participants; reservations required.
Sharona Rubinstein will do a
movement workshop with kids.

6:15 Dairy dinner in the Social Hall

7:30 Erev Shavuot service, led by
Rabbi Aaron

Discussion and Torah activities to
follow dinner.

Reservations are required for dinner
by May 23rd.



Please join us on Sunday,
June 8th at 3:00 pm for CSI's
All-Congregation Forum:
Building the Next 120 Years. CSI
is 120 years old this year! At this
meeting, we will discuss where
we've been, where we are, and
where we're going. Everyone's
input is important to us.



Mi Sheberach

Congregation Sha'arey Israel
extends Get Well Wishes to:

Ian Altman

Mark Bresler

Henry Koplin

Miriam & Kive Wengier





JELF
Jewish
Educational
Loan Fund

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](https://jelf.org)

[INFO@JELF.ORG](mailto:info@jelf.org)

[@JELFLOANS](https://www.facebook.com/jelfloans)



SYNAGOGUE & MAZEL TOV

May
Birthdays

1 - Carol Richardson
4 - Reeda Katz
5 - Nathaniel Wengier
6 - Rhonda Koplin
7 - Theresa Rosengart
7 - Solomon Sanden
8 - Carol Kaplan
11 - Ricky Katz
12 - Joel Yashinsky
13 - Alex Koplin
14 - Alan Kirsh
17 - Martha Galindo
17 - Jack Finkelstein
18 - Lara Geller
19 - Jessica Koplin
20 - Lise Dayan
21 - Ashley Goodrich
23 - Jay Freedman
23 - Shoshana Keenum
23 - Ross Vogel
24 - Fran Hirsh
24 - Joshua Perkel
25 - Will Finkelstein
27 - Scott Brody
27 - Nancy Chanin
28 - Scott Bayme
28 - Nathaniel Simson
28 - Gail Krapf



May
Anniversaries

FUND DONATIONS

In memory of my beloved mother,
Lena M. Singer
Richard Singer

In memory of my beloved parents,
Myron & Ethel Koplin
Evan & Marty Koplin

In memory of Kay Morrison
Israel

In honor of Ellen Cohen's
80th birthday
Sivia Lipson

Happy upcoming 80th birthday to
Alan Kirsh
Steve & Shelley Kruger

Endowment Fund
Happy 80th birthday to
Ellen Cohen
Evan & Marty Koplin



KRUGER TORAH FUND

In memory of my beloved father,
Harry Frolich
David Frolich

In memory of
Arlene Bershanko
Terri & David Frolich

15 - Peggy & Ben Feldman
19 - Shalom & Jacob Keenum
23 - Joan & David Kent
24 - Shelley Davidson & Jeff
Lehman
25 - James & Janice Bailey
26 - Mark Bresler & Trudy
Posner
26 - Joel & Kristy Yashinsky
28 - Sheryl & Philip Albert

Happy birthday to Billy Singer

Terri & David Frolich
Fran & Alan Kirsh

Happy birthday to

Melvin Kruger

Terri & David Frolich
Fran & Alan Kirsh

Happy birthday to Anav Kirsh

Fran & Alan 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
applesauce
breakfast bars (soft)
sandwich cookie packs
powered lemonade/tea
coffee creamer
instant grits
sugar
brown paper snack bags
plastic spoons
lawn bags - 33 gallon
vinegar
bleach
men's T-shirts (white, size lg, XL, 2X)
men & women's underwear

large sturdy back packs
Bio freeze
Claritin
daytime cold medicine-no alcohol
eye drops
insect repellant
hydrocortisone cream
reader glasses - 2.00/higher
Benadryl
ponchos
disinfectant spray
air freshner
hand/foot towels
\$10 gift cards



May 2025 Yahrzeits

Evening of
May 2nd/3rd-May 9th

Dennis Beall
Sarah Lee Haskins*
Barbara Boylin*

Evening of
May 9th/10th-May 16th

Freida Goodrich
Mae Z. Robinson
Michael L. Goodrich*
Stuart Schwartz
Samuel Melvin Goodrich

Evening of
May 16th/17th-May 23rd

Marvin Simson
David Van Ollefen
Mary Divinsky
Ann Goldman*
Ida Schwartz
Walter Bailey
Leah Frolich*

Larry Elowitz
Stewart Klien
Norma Koplin Oliner*

Evening of
May 23rd/24th-May 30th

Rebecca Dreizin*
Ellis Goodrich
Sol M. Kent
Lillian Haskins Katz*
Arthur Besser
Martin Ellis Kahn
Kevy Kahn
Herbert Ronald Krapf*
Eda Yardeni Tavor*

Evening of
May 30th/31st-June 6th

Charles A. Harris
Louis Oscherwitz
Sol Schwartz*
Eli Lehman*
Myron Koplin*
Annie S. Levy

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

5785 2025 <h1>May</h1> iyar sivan <div> KAR-BEN PUBLISHING www.karben.com </div>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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	JUNE 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 3 iyar YOM HA'ATZMAUT	2 4 iyar 7:59 PM	3 5 iyar 8:58 PM
4 6 iyar LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL	5 7 iyar	6 8 iyar	7 9 iyar	8 10 iyar	9 11 iyar 8:04 PM	10 12 iyar 9:03 PM Tazria-Metzora
11 13 iyar MOTHER'S DAY	12 14 iyar	13 15 iyar	14 16 iyar	15 17 iyar	16 18 iyar 8:09 PM	17 19 iyar 9:09 PM Achrei Mot-Kedoshim
18 20 iyar	19 21 iyar VICTORIA DAY CANADA	20 22 iyar	21 23 iyar	22 24 iyar	23 25 iyar 8:14 PM	24 26 iyar 9:15 PM Emor
25 27 iyar	26 28 iyar MEMORIAL DAY	27 29 iyar	28 1 sivan ROSH CHODESH	29 2 sivan	30 3 sivan 8:18 PM	31 4 sivan 9:20 PM Bamidbar

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).