



CONGREGATION
**SHA'AREY
ISRAEL**

Shofar
Monthly Newsletter

TEVET- SHEVAT 5786

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, January 1

7:00 Minyan

Friday, January 2

6:15 pm Service

Saturday, January 3

9:30 am Service

Thursday, January 8

7:00 Minyan

Saturday, January 17

9:30 am Service

Thursday, January 22

7:00 Minyan

Friday, January 23

6:15 pm Service

Saturday, January 24

9:30 am Service

Friday, January 9

6:15 pm Service

Thursday, January 29

7:00 am Minyan

Saturday, January 10

*9:00 am Service

Isaiah Heard Bar Mitzvah

Friday, January 30

7:00 am Minyan

Thursday, January 15

7:00 Minyan

Saturday, January 31

9:30 am Service

Friday, January 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 - January 7, 14, 21, 28 at 7 pm

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

Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat - January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 6:15 pm



A Word From the Rabbi

Incoming — Thinking About 2026

I must confess that as the new secular year approaches, I'm holding onto hope as well as struggling with uncertainty. If I had to somehow distill the cultural moment — I'd say there's a great deal of uncertainty about what comes next. There has, of course, been a great deal of turbulence and dissent about a host of things, and to speak about people sharing a consensus about — anything — seems quaint and nostalgic. For those of us who are old enough — picture a sepia-toned Walter Cronkite finishing up his news report, everybody trusting his words and agreeing "and that's the way it is." Well...2026 is a different place and time, whatever you make of it.

OK, all that aside. Even with the wounds and grief we felt at the start of Hanukkah (I'm talking about Bondi Beach), there was heroism (also, Bondi Beach), a needed reminder that good and decent people are to be found in all sorts of places and desperate moments. We gathered to kindle Hanukkah lights in Macon, Milledgeville, and Perry — wonderful moments of community. Our non-Jewish neighbors showed up and bolstered our spirits. We're looking forward to celebrating Isaiah Heard's bar mitzvah with his family — Mazal Tov to Marquise, Sofia, and Kimarra!

To sum it all up, the take-home words are community and relationship. The Irish proverb is — ***"In the shelter of each other, the people live."***

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



A WORD FROM CSI CO-PRESIDENTS

Dear CSI Congregants,

Happy 2026 everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Hanukkah! A special thanks goes out to all involved with another successful Hanukkah Family Night. We braved the cold for the menorah lighting ceremony in downtown Macon and returned to the shul to watch a wonderful dance performance by Sharona and her young students. It was an important time to come together as a community after such tragedy overseas. If you ever come across Sheriff Davis or our local security officers, please be sure to thank them for continuing to keep us safe. Although I was unable to attend, I am told that the other menorah lightings held in Milledgeville and Perry went beautifully, and thanks are in order to everyone who made those events possible as well.

As we start the new year, we have another wonderful milestone in our CSI family with the bar mitzvah of Isaiah Heard. We are looking forward to seeing him called up to the Torah on Saturday, January 10th.

We are getting closer to our Annual Super Bowl Fundraiser on Sunday, February 8th. We will once again be hosting the event at the shul and hope to have as many congregants (and friends) as possible come to make it a successful event. Please be on the lookout for the flyer with RSVP information.

A few weeks later, we will be hosting our Scholar-in-Residence. Rabbi Perry Rank of New Jersey will be visiting our congregation the weekend of February 20-22. Please mark your calendars as more information for the weekend will be upcoming.

We hope everyone continues to be safe and stay warm.

Shalom,

Jan and Michael

Sabrina and Daniel Wengier will sponsor kiddush lunch Saturday, January 2nd, in honor of Robert Blumenthal, Jonathan Atzmon, and Hart Eidelman for being a great Shabbat team and for a beautiful service this past Shabbat, December 27, 2025.

Jan Lewis and Robert Fieldsteel will sponsor the kiddush lunch on Saturday, January 31st, in honor of Jan's 75th birthday.

**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 will next meet January 11, 2026 to discuss *The Last Dekrepitzer* by Howard Langer. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Jan Lewis at janlewis73@gmail.com.



Mazel tov to the Heard Family on Isaiah's Bar Mitzvah Saturday, January 10, 2026.



Reminder
The first day back to

The Keenum family is organizing monthly care packages for Gabe Fresa, a military friend of CSI members. Please drop off non-perishable food items in the collection box in the hallway leading to the courtyard. The post office has a long list of items that are prohibited. To keep it simple, Gabe has requested items like K-cups and caffeinated drink mixes and non-perishable Kosher items such as Oreos.

Sunday School is
January 18th @ 9:30 am.

Thanks.



Introducing
Macon Rikud!

(Rikud = Dance in Hebrew)

CSI is now offering a creative dance class with a Jewish flavor for children and adults age 3 and up, taught by Sharona Rubinstein!

The class will include:

- Basic dance technique
- Structured improvisation to explore the elements of dance
- Exercises that build strength and increase flexibility
- Israeli Line and Circle Dances
- Group and partner activities
- Performance opportunities
- Lots of fun for everyone!!

The classes meet on the Sundays when Sunday school is in session, and will take place in the social hall from 1-2PM beginning Oct. 26th, except on Dec. 14 when it will be from 3-4 since Sunday school starts later at 4 to occur before the family night.

Fees per child (parents come for free) are as follows:
\$15 per class if you pay by the class
\$60 if you pay for the 5 classes of the Fall semester
\$144 for the 12 classes of the Winter/Spring semester.

Parents must fill out a liability waiver form for their child and themselves if they participate. Bring a light lunch if your child attends Sunday school so they can take a lunch break from 12:30-1:00. They should bring dance clothes or workout clothes and have hair pulled back. If you want more information, Call Sharona at 478-250-5586.



Need college
money?
Start here.



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


Higher Ed is
expensive!
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CONGREGATION SHA'AREY ISRAEL



SUPER POLL

ONLY HASHEM KNOWS WHO WILL WIN,
BUT YOU CAN TRY TO GUESS!

CHOOSE THE 4 TEAMS WHO MAKE IT TO THE NFL PLAYOFFS -
WIN A \$75 GIFT CARD!

CHOOSE THE 2 TEAMS WHO MAKE IT TO THE SUPERBOWL -
WIN 2 TICKETS TO THE CSI SUPERBOWL PARTY ON FEB 8!

★ ★ ★ DEADLINE TO ENTER ★ ★ ★
IS FRIDAY DEC 5, 2025

ONE ENTRY PER PERSON

GUESSES WILL BE TIMESTAMPED, SO THE FIRST TO GUESS CORRECTLY WILL WIN!



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.



RSVP for Super Bowl Party



January Birthdays

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.



SYNAGOGUE & MAZEL TOV FUND DONATIONS

In memory of Arnold Lewis & Joyce Fieldsteel

Jan Lewis & Robert Fieldsteel

In memory of Esther Stein

Pam & Markus Hill

In memory of Beverly Kruger

Steve & Shelley Kruger

In memory of Olaf Vergil

Norman

Linda Blumenthal

HASKINS TRUST FUND

In memory of Melvin & Linda

Haskins

Richard Haskins

ANNUAL FUND DONATIONS

1 - Marla Kaplan
7 - Pamela Hill
12 - Burt Haskins
13 - Elise Krapf
16 - Ben Feldman
19 - Al Bayme
19 - Shalom Keenum
21- Fran Kirsh
25 - Ethan Hutten
25 - Emily Piassick
28 - Faye Mizrahi
28 - Henry Oliner
30 - Ellen Finkelstein
30 - Jack Krapf
31 - Steven Kruger

Sheryl & Philip Albert
Jonathan Atzmon
Allison & Brian Bloodworth
Charles & Angie Brown
Steve Chanin
Bonnie Cornelius
Pam & Markus Hill
Shalom & Jacob Keenum
Laurel Robinson
Gary & Rosalind Simson
Zarks Foundation
Greg & Deborah Ziesehene



January **Anniversaries**

1 - James & Jami Gaudet
17 - Michael & Blair Kruger
29 - Brian & Chrissy Crabtree



KRUGER TORAH FUND

Get well to Fran Kirsh
David & Terri Frolich

Speedy recovery to Fran Kirsh
Alan & Hershene Goldman

Happy Anniversary to
Alan & Fran Kirsh
Alan & Hershene Goldman



RABBI'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND

***IN HONOR OF MORGAN
BERSTEIN'S BAT MITZVAH***

Urit Ullman



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 repellant
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	



January 2026 Yahrzeits

Evening of

January 2nd/3rd-January 9th

Sidney Geller
Bernard Dansky
Pauline Singer
Sam J. Arnovitz
Joanie Fox Manganiello
Frances Paller
Rosalie Klein
Libby Cohen*

Evening of

January 9th/10th-January 16th

Ida R. Davidson*
Charles Rosen
Emil Montrose
David Mizrahi
Milton Morris Marshall*
Miriam Dreizin Chanin*
Gus Kaufman

Evening of

January 16th/17th-January 23rd

Pearl Hutten
Miriam Lehman*
Louis Chanin*
Jadwiga Pieniek
Violet Jacobs
Floyd Bob Chaite*
Isaac Wengier

Evening of

January 23rd/24th-January 30th

Yetta Kirsh
Jack Adler*
Izzie Chanin
Hannah Ksyonjik Norman
Sol Tavor*
Renee Saroff Oliner*
Rose Rosenberg Bayme*
Mildred Simson
Paul Myron Kruger*
Ann Chanin Donner*
Chava Wengier

Evening of

January 30th/31st-February 6th

Celia R. Farb

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

5786
2026

January

tevet
shevat

KAR-BEN
JEWISH CENTER
www.karben.com

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>DECEMBER</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 31</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p>			<p>1 12 tevet</p> <p>7 AM MINYAN</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY</p>	<p>2 13 tevet</p> <p>5:22 PM</p> <p>6:15 PM SERVICE</p>	<p>3 14 tevet</p> <p>6:21 PM</p> <p>9:30 AM SERVICE</p> <p><i>Vayechi</i></p>
<p>4 15 tevet</p>	<p>5 16 tevet</p>	<p>6 17 tevet</p>	<p>7 18 tevet</p> <p>TORAH STUDY - 7 PM</p>	<p>8 19 tevet</p> <p>7 AM MINYAN</p>	<p>9 20 tevet</p> <p>5:27 PM</p> <p>6:15 PM SERVICE</p>	<p>10 21 tevet</p> <p>6:27 PM</p> <p>9 AM SERVICE/ISAIAH HEARD BAR MITZVAH</p> <p><i>Shemot</i></p>
<p>11 22 tevet</p>	<p>12 23 tevet</p>	<p>13 24 tevet</p>	<p>14 25 tevet</p> <p>TORAH STUDY - 7 PM</p>	<p>15 26 tevet</p> <p>7 AM MINYAN</p>	<p>16 27 tevet</p> <p>5:34 PM</p> <p>6:15 PM SERVICE</p>	<p>17 28 tevet</p> <p>6:32 PM</p> <p>9:30 AM SERVICE</p> <p><i>Vaera</i></p>
<p>18 29 tevet</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>19 1 shevat</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY ROSH CHODESH</p>	<p>20 2 shevat</p>	<p>21 3 shevat</p> <p>TORAH STUDY - 7 PM</p>	<p>22 4 shevat</p> <p>7 AM MINYAN</p>	<p>23 5 shevat</p> <p>5:40 PM</p> <p>6:15 PM SERVICE</p>	<p>24 6 shevat</p> <p>6:39 PM</p> <p>9:30 AM SERVICE</p> <p><i>Bo</i></p>
<p>25 7 shevat</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL</p>	<p>26 8 shevat</p>	<p>27 9 shevat</p>	<p>28 10 shevat</p> <p>TORAH STUDY - 7 PM</p>	<p>29 11 shevat</p> <p>7 AM MINYAN</p>	<p>30 12 shevat</p> <p>5:47 PM</p> <p>6:15 PM SERVICE</p>	<p>31 13 shevat</p> <p>6:45 PM</p> <p>9:30 AM SERVICE</p> <p><i>Beshalach</i> SHABBAT SHIRA</p>

2025-2026

Executive Committee

Co-Presidents - Jan Lewis, Michael Kruger
Vice President - Lara Geller
Treasurer - Evan Koplin
Recording Secretary - Pamela Hill
Corresponding Secretary - Allison Bloodworth
Ex-Officio - Shelley Davidson
Rabbi - Aaron Rubinstein

2025-2026

Committee Chairs

Adult Education - Rosalind Simson
Board Of Education - Jennifer Bernstein, Shalom Keenum
Cemetery - Marty Koplin
Gifts and Memorials - TBA
House - Jonathan Atzmon, Markus Hill
Kitchen - Shelley Davidson
Long-Range Planning - Sabrina Wengier
Marketing/Communications - Chip Koplin
Membership - Pamela Webster
Ritual - Jeff Lehman
Security/Parliamentarian - Theresa Rosengart
Social Action - Bonnie Cornelius
Special Projects - Gary Simson



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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