



# Shofar

611 First Street    Macon, Georgia 31201    [www.csimacon.org](http://www.csimacon.org)

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**JANUARY TEVAT-SHEVAT 5785**

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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

[www.uscj.org](http://www.uscj.org)

Rabbi Aaron Rubinstein



## Upcoming Services

**Thursday, January 2**

7:00 am Minyan

**Friday, January 3**

6:15 pm Service

**Saturday, January 4**

9:30 am Service

**Thursday, January 9**

7:00 am Minyan

**Friday, January 10**

6:15 pm Service

**Friday, January 17**

6:15 pm Service

**Saturday, January 18**

9:30 am Service

**Thursday, January 23**

7:00 am Minyan

**Friday, January 24**

6:15 pm Service

**Saturday, January 25**

9:30 am Service

**Saturday, January 11**

9:30 am Service

**Thursday, January 30**

7:00 am Minyan

**Thursday, January 16**

7:00 am Minyan

**Friday, January 31**

7:00 am Minyan



## **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**

### **December Service Dates and Times:**

**Wednesday Torah Study - January 8, 15, 22, 29 @ 7 pm**

**Thursday Morning Minyan - January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 7 am**

**Friday Evening Kabbalat Shabbat - January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 6:15 pm**

**Saturday Morning Service - January 4, 11, 18, 25 at 9:30 am**

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## A Word From the Rabbi

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As I write these words, there are a couple of nights left in Hanukkah and (secular) New Year's Eve is around the corner. So - a few passing thoughts...

1. Milledgeville lighting was big fun! Many thanks to Jack Krapf, Jennifer Baxley, and the terrific guy from the city (I don't have his name) who helped us out with lighting as well as sound amplification. Nice crowd, good singing! Very impressive support from non-Jewish friends in Milledgeville. And as Tradition guides our tribe to seek out Chinese food on December 25, China Wok Buffet in Milledgeville was just the thing. Plus — we met a lovely Jewish family who live 'out in the country' around 20 minutes from Dublin (Corey & Veronica Dorn), two adorable kids. We hope to draw them into our circle soon.

2. Nice Macon lighting on Shabbat evening followed by joint services at TBI. (Side note: aren't the downtown lights and sound awesome!)

3. An Instagram Revelation — Onion Ring Latkes. Wow. If you haven't tried them, they're brilliant.

4. This once-in-blue-moon coincidence of Christmas and Hanukkah makes for an interesting juxtaposition of two different religious ideas shining their light — not only in the intimate spaces of people's homes, but also in the public square. We get a chance to ponder what America means, what it means to be both part of it all, and also different from the dominant culture. Come to think of it, I'm not just channeling a bit of Norman Rockwell's 'Family of Man' vibe. Imagine the ancient Hasmoneans (around 2,200 years ago), reflecting upon their (violent) struggle with Hellenistic culture, asking us: so what's it like for **you** to hold onto your identity amidst the challenges of a dominant culture? So if I beamed a few Macabees over to Middle Georgia for Hanukkah, wouldn't that make for an interesting conversation?

May 2025 be kind to us, may we remember that each of us has a light to shine, to light the way for others, to kindle some inspiration.



## **A WORD FROM CSI PRESIDENT**

Dear Congregants,

Happy 2025! I hope everyone had a wonderful Hanukkah with family and friends. Our CSI Hanukkah Family Night on December 22<sup>th</sup> was a lot of fun, with delicious Israeli food and beautiful decorations on the tables. Many thanks to Dan Wengier, Shelley Davidson, Jeff Lehman, Marty and Elmo Koplín, Jonathan Atzmon, and everyone else who contributed to the success of the evening. That party was followed on the 27<sup>th</sup> by a lighting of our downtown Macon menorah – thanks to Elmo, Rabbi Rubinstein and Rabbi Bahar – and then an inspiring joint Friday night Shabbat service at Temple Beth Israel where both rabbis presided. After that, we enjoyed more delicious sweets and savories in TBI's social hall. It was a week to remember.

Coming up on January 18<sup>th</sup>, we'll celebrate David Bahar's Bar Mitzvah at TBI starting at 10:00 am. Please RSVP for the Bar Mitzvah and the luncheon to follow so that Rabbi Bahar knows how many will attend.

At the end of January, we will celebrate our newest congregants with a New Members Shabbat dinner on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Keep an eye out for the details about this event.

As I write this, Hanukkah is winding down and various committees at CSI are gearing up for action. Ways and Means is finalizing plans for the Super Bowl Party and Fundraiser which will be held on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> in the CSI Social Hall. Since the game is being played in New Orleans, the committee has decided to serve a New Orleans-style meal with games and activities starting early. Purchase your tickets by calling or emailing Stephanie in our office. Adults are \$70 and kids under 16 are free.

Additionally, the CSI Book Club, sponsored by the Adult Ed Committee under the leadership of Rosalind Simson, continues to meet every 4 to 6 weeks via Zoom, to discuss a book of interest to the group. The next meeting is January 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. January's book is Bread Givers, by Anzia Yezierska; it is both provocative and heart-warming. The

next book is The History of Love, by Nicole Krauss. If you'd like to join this group we'd love to have you, so please contact Jan or Rozy Simson for the specifics.

Remember, everyone at CSI is encouraged to attend Friday night and/or Saturday morning services. We need you to make sure we have a minyan. Saturday's services are followed by a dairy luncheon. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, when the luncheon will be sponsored by **yours truly** to celebrate her birthday.

See you at shul, and have a great month!

Shalom,  
Jan

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### **Kiddush Lunch Sponsor**

Jan Lewis will be sponsoring the Kiddush Lunch on February 1, 2025 in celebration of her birthday on that date.

## **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](mailto: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

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## **CSI COMMITTEES EAGER FOR NEW MEMBERS**

Each month, we will highlight one or more committees with a description and a request for new members. Please read these and let us know if you can lend your support to one or more.

### **Ritual Committee**

According to the CSI constitution, the Ritual Committee is in charge of all religious services of the Congregation and shall formulate rules and regulations for all services, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors. It shall offer the Rabbi such advice and guidance as the Rabbi may require regarding the character and mode of the various services. It shall also be in charge of arrangements for the High Holy Days and all other services during the year.

The Ritual Committee meets once or twice annually. It arranges for one of our congregants to lead services on any Friday night or Saturday morning when the Rabbi is out of town or otherwise unable to be present. It works with Elmo Koplin and the Rabbi in advance of High Holy Day services to line up congregants to come up to the bimah to chant an Aliyah, hold the Torah, or assist in any other way in the services. Further, the Ritual Committee works with the Board of Education and the Rabbi to ensure that the Congregation's young members are well-prepared for, and feeling confident about, their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs.

### **Budget and Finance Committee**

This committee meets 3-4 times per year depending on matters needing attention.

Meetings are usually no more than an hour, longer for Budget/Expense Review.

During the year, committee members are asked to comment via email on various financial matters and/or projects.

According to the CSI constitution, the Budget and Finance Committee shall make periodic reviews of the dues structure and financial operations of the Congregation and shall report

its findings at the Congregation's annual meeting and, from time to time, at meetings of the Board of Governors. At the Board's first meeting after the annual meeting, the committee shall present for the Board's approval a proposed budget for the fiscal year.

### **Ways and Means Committee**

The Ways and Means Committee holds the primary fundraising responsibility for CSI. Fundraising includes events and initiatives exclusive of dues and fees, which contribute to the general fund of the congregation. It works with other committees to support their project funding needs. The Annual Fund and Ad Book fall under this committee as well as specific fundraising events. Past events have included Super Bowl parties, art auctions, and hosting a Bingo Night. The W&M committee may form a separate committee to handle a specific event to sell tickets and sponsorships as well as put together all planning details of the event.

### **Adult Education Committee**

The Adult Education Committee seeks to present programming that adult members of the Congregation will find engaging and edifying. The only two events that are explicitly part of the committee's responsibilities are helping the Rabbi and the Ritual Chair plan the Selichot service and program in early fall and working with the Rabbi to plan the Yom HaShoah service in the spring. Other than that, the committee has considerable freedom.

Here are some events organized by the committee in recent years:

The CSI book club meets via Zoom every four to six weeks to discuss Jewish-themed books selected by Book Club members. On several occasions, the books' authors have joined the meetings. All are welcome to participate on a regular or occasional basis. Holocaust scholar Janice Friebaum came to CSI last spring as a scholar-in-residence. In spring 2023, Holocaust survivor Hershel Greenblatt spoke about his life before, during, and after World War II.

Movie nights

Cooking classes

Dance classes

In the future, the committee might think about reaching out to the congregation to solicit ideas about programming that would be of interest to them.







### THE CSI BOOK CLUB

The CSI Book Club will meet at 1 pm on Sunday, January 12 via Zoom to discuss *Bread Givers* by Anzia Yezierska. All are welcome. Please contact Jan Lewis at [Janlewis73@gmail.com](mailto:Janlewis73@gmail.com) for details.



Please call Stephanie at the synagogue office 478-745-4571 or email her at [secretary@csimacon.org](mailto: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.

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

[www.csimacon.org](http://www.csimacon.org)

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

LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER  
**SUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER PARTY**  
CONGREGATION SHA'AREY ISRAEL  
*Celebrate New Orleans Style!*

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2025  
611 FIRST STREET MACON, GA  
MARDI GRAS PREGAME CARNIVAL STARTS AT 5:00 PM

**CARNIVAL ACTIVITIES**  
MARDI GRAS MASK MAKING STATION  
PHOTO BOOTH  
CORNHOLE  
LIVE MUSIC



ADULT TICKETS: \$70  
KIDS UNDER 16: FREE

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FOOD, FUN, AND FOOTBALL!

RSVP BY 02/03/25 478-745-4571 SECRETARY@CSIMACON.ORG



## Mi Sheberach

Congregation Sha'arey Israel  
extends Get Well Wishes to:

Ian Altman

Mark Bresler

Henry Koplin

Miriam & Kive Wengier



Macon Film Guild  
Presents:  
"A Real Pain"  
starring  
Jesse Eisenberg &  
Kieran Culkin  
Sunday, January 12 @  
2pm & 5pm at the  
Douglass Theatre

Only \$5

### ADULT ED

The Macon Film Guild will be screening *A Real Pain*, the story of two American cousins who go on a tour of Jewish sites in Poland to honor the wishes of their recently deceased grandmother, who was a Holocaust survivor. Jesse Eisenberg wrote, directed, and, along with Kieran Culkin, stars in this touching and at times funny examination of family relationships set against the backdrop of intergenerational trauma.



### January Birthdays

- 1 - Marla Hampton
- 2 - Jenna Ziesenhene
- 5 - Maya Rubinstein
- 7 - Pam Hill
- 7 - Isaiah Heard
- 12 - Burt Haskins
- 13 - Elise Krapf
- 16 - Ben Feldman
- 19 - Alvin Bayme
- 19 - Shalom Keenum
- 21 - Fran Kirsh
- 23 - Sarah Hirsh
- 25 - Ethan Hutten
- 25 - Emily Piassick
- 28 - Faye Brody Mizrahi
- 28 - Henry Oliner
- 30 - Ellen Finkelstein
- 30 - Jack Krapf
- 31 - Steve Kruger
- 31 - Israel



## **January Anniversaries**

- 2 - Jami & Jimmy Gaudet
- 17 - Blair & Michael Kruger
- 29 - Chrissy & Brian Crabtree



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!



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## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Donation to the fund**  
Nancy H. Shapiro

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



## **SYNAGOGUE & MAZEL TOV FUND DONATIONS**

**In memory of my beloved father, Harvey Rosengart**  
Robert Rosengart

**In memory of my beloved mother, Helen Cohen**  
Beth & David Cohen

**In memory of my beloved father, Morris Cohen**  
Beth & David Cohen

**In memory of my beloved father, Rabbi Hyman Fishman**  
Diane Jahr

**In memory of my  
beloved mother, Ida J. Fishman**

Diane Jahr

**In memory of Kay Morrison**

Israel

**In memory of my beloved Dr.  
Melvin Abend**

Louis & Emily Piassick

**In memory of Lynn Freedman**

Louis Schlesinger & Ina Chanin

Gary & Rozy Simson

**In honor of Melvin Kruger & the  
Kruger Family**

Louise & Andy Watson, Jr.

**In loving memory of:**

**Dave & Elsie Kruger**

**Paul Kruger**

**Sadie Gerson**

**Bess Cotton**

**Dr. Robert Donner**

**Ivan Chanin**

**Candy Burgess**

Louise & Andy Watson, Jr.



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  
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  
T-shirts (white, size lg, XL, 2X)  
men & women's underwear

Bio freeze  
Claritin  
daytime cold medicine-no alcohol  
eye drops  
insect repellent  
hydrocortisone cream  
reader glasses - 2.00/higher  
Benadryl  
ponchos  
disinfectant spray  
air freshner  
hand/foot towels                      men's  
\$10 gift cards



## January 2025 Yahrzeits

**Evening of**  
**January 3rd/4th-January 10th**

Mollie Epstein\*  
Robert H. Jahr\*  
Adam Geller  
Sam Levy  
Max Schwartz\*  
Robert Richard Planer\*  
Israel Peter Cohen\*  
Nathan Oxlander  
Milton Abrams Schlesinger

**Evening of**  
**January 10th/11th-January 17th**

Ingeborg Schwartz  
Zahira Atzmon

**Evening of**  
**January 17th/18th-January 24th**

Frances Paller  
Rosalie Klein  
Libby Cohen\*  
Ida R. Davidson\*  
Emil Montrose  
Charles Rosen

**Evening of**  
**January 24th/25th-January 31st**

Milton Morris Marshall\*  
David Mizrahi  
Miriam Dreizin Chanin\*  
Bessie R. Cotton\*  
Gus Kaufman

Forence Oscherwitz  
 Bernard Dansky  
 Sidney Geller  
 Sam J. Arnovitz  
 Joanie Fox Manganiello  
 Pauline Singer

Pearl Hutten  
 Miriam Lehman\*

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

5785 2025		<b>January</b>		tevet shevat		<b>KAR-BEN</b> <small>CONGREGATION</small> <a href="http://www.karben.com">www.karben.com</a>	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<small>DECEMBER</small> 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	<small>FEBRUARY</small> 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		1 1 tevet NEW YEAR'S DAY ROSH CHODESH HANUKKAH	2 2 tevet 7 AM MINYAN HANUKKAH	3 3 tevet 5:23 PM 6:15 PM SERVICE	4 4 tevet 8:22 PM 9:30 AM SERVICE Vayigash	
5 5 tevet SUNDAY SCHOOL	6 6 tevet	7 7 tevet	8 8 tevet	9 9 tevet 7 AM MINYAN	10 10 tevet 5:28 PM 6:15 PM SERVICE FAST OF 10TH OF TEVET	11 11 tevet 6:27 PM 9:30 AM SERVICE Vayechi	
12 12 tevet SUNDAY SCHOOL	13 13 tevet	14 14 tevet	15 15 tevet	16 16 tevet 7 AM MINYAN	17 17 tevet 5:35 PM 6:15 PM SERVICE	18 18 tevet 6:33 PM 9:30 AM SERVICE DAVID BAHAR BAR MITZVAH Shemat	
19 19 tevet	20 20 tevet MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	21 21 tevet	22 22 tevet	23 23 tevet 7 AM MINYAN	24 24 tevet 5:41 PM 6:15 PM SERVICE	25 25 tevet 6:39 PM 9:30 AM SERVICE Vaera	
26 26 tevet SUNDAY SCHOOL	27 27 tevet	28 28 tevet	29 29 tevet	30 1 shevat 7 AM MINYAN ROSH CHODESH	31 2 shevat 5:48 PM 6:15 PM SERVICE		

**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



**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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