



Sunday, June 12, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Don't miss the Annual Meeting of Congregation Shomrei Torah, followed by food, festivity and fun! This is your chance to learn about synagogue finances, security and other critical topics. Available in person or by Zoom, **please register to attend on our website.**

Inside this Issue:

- ⇒ Upcoming *B'Mitzvah* Celebrations - PAGE 10
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– HIGHLIGHTS – *from 2021-2022*

- Concert celebrating Jewish American Songwriters
- Welcoming Katie Evenbeck, Executive Director
- Presentation by Sally Priesand, first woman ordained as a rabbi
- A return to in person activities: STaRS! Community Seder! CST Choir!
- **More throughout this issue!**

FROM RABBI GEORGE



Uli yesh tikvah – “Perhaps there is hope” -- was the refrain of my last *Rosh Hashanah* sermon. At the time, it seemed like a stretch, given a Covid resurgence with a contagious variant and the fire season on everyone's minds, not to mention the all-too-familiar national politics of division. What was there to be hopeful about?

Thankfully, our worst fears did not come true. Covid did nearly shut us down again (more than once!), but we proved more resilient than we could have imagined. We were spared a major fire (*Barukh HaShem!*) and in general the congregation managed to thrive in spite of all the challenges.

Services and an expansive array of programming were offered online while we honed our ability to provide multiple ways for folks to access our various offerings – in person, through Zoom, and by Live Stream. And, in spite of the economic hardships caused by Covid, y'all continued to give generously, allowing us to meet our financial obligations for the year with only a slight deficit. Thank you!

Uli yesh tikvah indeed! It's been a very full and hope-filled program year, thanks in large part to all of you who give and and show up in so many ways for all of us!

In gratitude, Rabbi George Gittleman



Message from outgoing Board President
Ann DuBay: **PAGE 4**



Message from incoming Board President
Eli Weinzveg: **PAGE 5**

CST PROPOSED BUDGET 2022-2023

Presented for your review, and approval at the Annual Meeting in June, is the 2022/2023 Shomrei Torah budget. Our hope is that unlike the previous two fiscal years, 2022/2023 will be a year in which our synagogue will remain open and busy, and that our projections of cash income and expenses will prove accurate.

Overall, we expect revenue to increase by \$218,066 (20%), and we expect our expenses to rise by \$130,024 (11%). We are projecting a small deficit of \$16,621, representing 1.3% of the total budget.

Highlights of the budget include:

INCOME

- A 13% increase in contribution revenue, **including an 8% increase in dues income.**
- An 11% increase in fundraising revenue, including another successful Tradition of Giving campaign and an increase in Sustainer donations.
- A \$90,505 increase in disbursements from our restricted funds to our general fund, primarily a result of the Board's decision to more liberally use the Lang Fund, established to benefit our youth programming, for at least this year.

EXPENSES

- More hours and new responsibilities for our administrative staff, resulting in an increased expense of \$47,000 (22%).
- Increased health benefits and a new retirement plan match for employees, resulting in an increased expense of \$15,210 (13%).
- Professional and Contract fees will be rising substantially, by \$13,500 (18%). These include expenses for tech support, Rabbinic support, and various special events.
- A reorganization of our entire youth program, to be financed by the Lang Fund.
- A \$24,300 (6%) increase in facility expenses.

I will present a more detailed analysis of the budget at the Annual Meeting in June. Soon you will be mailed a letter regarding the 8% increase in dues. In the meantime, if you have any questions that you'd like addressed, please email me at weinstein.john@gmail.com or call me at 707-823-8844.

John Weinstein, Treasurer

Board of Directors

President: Ann DuBay
VP Finance: John Weinstein
Secretary: Eli Weinzev
 Sharon Bauman
 David Fichera
 Pamela Loman
 Erica Magers
 Jillian Navarro
 Nicole Novach
 Richard Reisman
 Judith Richlin-Klonsky
 Desmond Shapiro
 Ellen van den Berg
 Donna Waldman

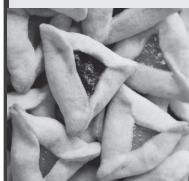
	21/22 Projected	22/23 Proposed
INCOME		
Total 4000 · Contribution Revenue	670,968	764,045
Total 4300 · Fundraising Revenue	153,136	165,500
Total 4999 · Release from Restricted Revenue	130,000	220,515
Total 5100 · Ritual Income	50,000	57,500
Total 5400 · Religious School	58,040	63,500
Total 5500 · Programs & Committee Income	12,150	17,500
Total 5600 · Facility Income	5,000	8,000
Total 5700 · Administration Income	400	1,200
TOTAL INCOME	1,079,694	1,297,760
EXPENSE		
Total 7000 · Salaries & Wages	598,547	654,500
Total 7100 · Employee Benefits	121,300	136,510
Total 7200 · Payroll Taxes	37,110	46,579
Total 7400 · Professional & Contractor Fees	75,000	88,500
Total 7700 · Religious School Expenses	9,000	10,000
Total 7800 · Facility Expenses	376,339	400,639
Total 7900 · Operations Expense	113,500	121,592
Total 8000 · Information Technology	13,000	13,000
Total 8100 · Travel & Meetings	47,000	49,000
Total 8200 · Business Expenses	16,200	16,700
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,406,996	1,537,020
NET INCOME	-327,302	-239,260
Less Depreciation	222,639	222,639
	-104,663	-16,621

- 300 -



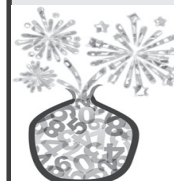
The number of hours CST members volunteered this year at the Redwood Empire Food Bank.

- 500 -



The number of hamantaschen made by CST members for our Purim Spiel and Purim Boxes.

- 33,286 -



The number of dollars raised OVER our Tradition of Giving annual goal.

FROM YOUR CST LEADERSHIP

From **Katie Evenbeck** *Executive Director*



Before we turn to the year ahead, I invite you to join me in celebrating the year we had! This report highlights a couple of programs that occurred this past year. The resiliency of the Board, staff, STaRS and *B'Mitzvah* students and clergy is admirable and inspiring.

You, our membership, remained engaged by attending services and events, in-person and virtually, volunteering for Elisha's Pantry and the Redwood Empire Food Bank, and spending hours serving on committees. Your generosity during the Tradition-of-Giving campaign allowed us to exceed our fundraising goal.

July 1 will mark one year of serving as your Executive Director. At that time, our facility was closed due to Covid; with services, classes, and events offered online only. While this allowed me to spend meaningful time with the administrative team, who had just returned to working in the office, it did not afford me the chance to meet many of you.

Since re-opening, there have been occasions when I have been privileged to welcome back a member who has been away due to the synagogue being closed because of Covid. I watched as people returned and how they lit up as they walked back into the sanctuary. These moments have been instrumen-

tal in my first year here because they were a glimpse into how Shomrei Torah provides community and sanctuary.

Thank you all for teaching me why Congregation Shomrei Torah is important to you. I look forward to learning more together and am committed to supporting you on your Jewish journey.

From **Erica Wisner** *Cantorial Soloist*



Liminal space: a transitional time, an in between space where the outcome is uncertain. This certainly applies to the past year as the world has begun reemerging from the Covid global pandemic. But it also applies to CST as change was afoot.

We had an incoming Executive Director, an Interim Religious School Director, and of course, an outgoing rabbi. In this liminal space, my new missions were to bring a sense of community back to our *B'Mitzvah* program and to figure out how to sing in a group when singing seemed to be such a risky group activity!

And on a personal level, I dove head first into the waters of full time cantorial school. What a year it has been! The space doesn't feel as liminal now, we have managed to stay afloat in these new waters and are fortunate to be buoyed by each other. Our CST leadership is strong and committed.

Our board has navigated in the best interests of the whole community.

It is with gratitude and respect that I approach our building, our sacred spaces, and our relationships. I look forward to seeing what the next year will bring.

Security Update

The CST Security Committee meets monthly to review and update our Emergency Action Plan, discuss ongoing security issues, facility needs and explore continued educational trainings for staff, volunteers and members.

Please reach out to our Security Committee with any questions or comments.

Did you know that having a CST sticker on your windshield helps us identify members versus visitors?

If you are in need of a CST sticker, please reach out to the office.

— 340 —



The number of matzo balls consumed at this year's Passover Seder.

— 50,000 —



The number of stitches made by Marcia Gladstone for STaRS art projects this year.

CST PRESIDENTS PAST AND FUTURE

From **Ann DuBay** *Outgoing Board President*



Dear Shomrei Torah members,

If my time as your president of the CST Board can be described in one word it's "survival." Maybe not quite "you've been dropped off on a deserted island with a plastic to-go knife, wearing only your underwear" type of survival – but not too far off. The challenges were many, and just as your innovative Board, dedicated employees and amazing rabbinical staff would conquer one obstacle, another one would appear. Covid! Virtual High Holidays! Distance learning STaRS! Rabbi Kramer's departure! Executive Director search! Budget uncertainties! Longtime members moving out of the area (including my former co-president, Paul Berlant)!

But here's the thing we know about challenges: each one is an opportunity to learn something new, to create partners and friends, and to test your limits. The CST response to Covid taught our collective community how to take advantage of new technologies and to better engage with people who are homebound or live out of the area. It also highlighted the deficiencies with our hardware and software (note to

self: do not use Zoom to translate Hebrew!) and the high costs of addressing some of the problems. COVID also made us deeply appreciate the everyday connections with people and those "parking lot conversations."

The visioning process led by Board member Judith Richlin-Klonsky and incoming President Eli Weinzev, provided us an opportunity to strategically plan for our future rabbinical, religious school and management needs. One happy outcome was the hiring of full-time Executive Director Katie Evenbeck.

*Here's the thing we know
about challenges:*

*Each one is an
opportunity to learn
something new, to create
partners and friends,
and to test your limits.*

Through your ongoing financial support and the active and strong stewardship of our Finance Committee, brilliantly led by Chair John Weinstein, we've weathered one of the scariest challenges: budget uncertainties as the world literally shut-down. We are fortunate to be entering this new period of economic uncertainty in a relatively stable position.

Finally, while we can't do anything about the members who have left Sonoma County recently, we're happy to report that many of them continue to engage with our community through virtual services and events (another positive outcome of stepping-up our technological expertise).

Personally, the obstacles we've faced

during my tenure as Board president have taught me how fortunate our community is to have such amazing, talented and dedicated people serving in our office, on the Bimah, on our Board, on our committees and in the congregation. You're all exactly who I would want to be stranded with on a deserted island.

From **Eli Weinzev** *Incoming Board President*



Dear members of Congregation Shomrei Torah,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself today as your incoming Board President. It is a humbling experience for me and I consider it an honor and privilege, one which I will guard with the utmost care and respect it deserves. That being said, I will seek your continuing support and cooperation as we strive to improve and grow our special community.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board and members of the congregation for the trust that you have bestowed upon me as we enter a new leadership term. I am well aware of our synagogue's proud tradition of service to the greater Jewish community of Sonoma County and to its members, and I am excited and honored to continue this work.

Before I share a little bit about myself and the goals for my term, I would like

– 20 –



The percent of CST members who made a commitment to leave CST in their will and estate plans.

CST PRESIDENTS PAST AND FUTURE

to recognize the work of Ann DuBay, whose exemplary leadership of our congregation over the past two years has made us stronger and more resilient. As you know, these past years have been anything but easy, and our congregation has benefitted from Ann's steadfast leadership and "cool" under pressure demeanor.

Under her leadership, we navigated the Covid pandemic with relative ease; there were no major outbreaks among congregants, we were able to keep our clergy safe, and we provided high-quality virtual experiences so we could continue to connect as a community and celebrate our Jewishness from the comfort of our own homes.

Ann also led us through major staffing changes and helped usher in a new era of exciting programming. Through her leadership, the Board was able to complete a strategic visioning process that continues to provide unique and valuable insights into how we can best support the members of the synagogue and continue to provide high-quality programming to our members and the greater community.

I would also like to recognize a group of people I've come to appreciate even more this past year: our current Board of Directors. This hardworking group of individuals has dedicated their time and expertise to ensure that we all have a place to worship and celebrate collectively. It is comforting to have such a strong support structure in place.

Today, I will share two aspects of Congregation Shomrei Torah that are meaningful to me as I enter my term as Board President.

Firstly, I shall tell you about how I came to be where I am in CST today, and secondly, I will outline the goals for my term and introduce the people who will be helping us achieve these goals.

How I came to be a member of Congregation Shomrei Torah.

I was lucky enough to have been raised in Sonoma County and to have had the opportunity to be a member of CST since I was a small child. I happened to be one of the first congregants to be Bar-Mitzvah'ed by Rabbi George, who

then went on to marry Nicolette and me.

He was there at the bris and baby naming of our twins, Avi and Ella, who are now ten, and he has helped lay to rest some of my family members. I have had the privilege to go through life's most impactful moments surrounded by members of this community and have exceedingly reaped the benefits of congregational membership.

My goals for my term as President:

*To ensure all members are
involved and feel connected
to our community.*

*To increase membership
and volunteerism.*

*To continue to create and
present high-quality
engaging programming for
all of our members.*

I have been a Board member for over 8 years, and during that time I have witnessed the overwhelming love and dedication that comes from our community. It is now time for the next generation of leaders to step up and continue the tradition set forth by those who came before us. I am ready to accept this challenge, and I am excited to help our community move into its next phase.

Goals for My Term as President

I have three goals for my term as President:

1. To ensure all members are involved and feel connected to our community.
2. To increase membership and volunteerism.
3. To continue to create and present

high-quality engaging programming for all of our members.

Our success as a congregation is contingent on all of us contributing, both financially and through acts of volunteerism. My hope is that as we begin to resume life as "normal" we will continue to see congregants returning to in-person events within the synagogue.

As this happens, our need for member volunteers will also increase. There are many ways to get involved with CST, and volunteering not only supports our small but mighty staff, it also helps create a welcoming environment for all who attend our events. Volunteering is also a great community builder – I guarantee that you will meet and get to know more wonderful members better by getting involved.

As I commented earlier, we continue to need new members in order to be truly representative of the community that we serve. We also need new members to share the workload. Many past families and members have paved the way for us to enjoy this incredible campus and rich programming, and we have a renewed responsibility to provide the same for those who will come after us.

As we see signs of declining involvement in synagogues throughout the United States, we have a unique charge to continue to provide a place for all people to worship and come together as a community, a place that enriches our lives and uplifts those who may not have a voice to do it for themselves.

So as we begin our journey together, I am reminded of the phrase we use so often in our liturgy, "*L'dor v'dor*," from generation to generation. As we embark upon this journey together, I want to pause to honor those who have led before me and challenge those who have not yet had an opportunity to, to come forward so that we may continue to have a thriving home for Progressive Judaism in Sonoma County.

Thank you and I look forward to celebrating many *simchas* together over the next two years.

FROM THE VISIONING TASK FORCE



Follow up to the Shomrei Torah 2021 Visioning Initiative

The effects of Congregation Shomrei Torah's 2021 Visioning Initiative are ongoing. Relevant input from the congregational survey and interviews has been shared with committees, ad-hoc planning groups, and staff working in particular areas.

With oversight from the Board of Directors, steps have been taken to move forward both in response to general concerns (such as, "We want to feel more connected.") and to some specific suggestions (like, "Let's have services outdoors!").

Below are a few examples of action being taken in each of the key areas that were explored in the visioning process. (Look for more information on developments in the education program, synagogue security, and financial planning elsewhere in this edition).

If you'd like to contribute to one of the activities listed, contact Board member Judith Richlin-Klonsky for information on how to get involved: jrichlin@sonic.net.

Community & connections

- Lists of members with upcoming anniversaries and birthdays are posted each month.
- Announcements about recent deaths and about upcoming *B'Mitzvahs* are personalized with background information, when it is available.

- Shomrei Torah staff and volunteers prepared and delivered "thank you" packages at Purim to members who serve as health care providers.
- Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner worked with visiting Cantor Kerith Spencer-Shapiro to present a Shabbat service featuring Sephardic music.
- Interested members were invited to an information session about women's lunch and dinner groups.
- The Caring Committee is reaching out to welcome new Shomrei Torah members.
- Rabbi George and Board member Pamela Loman, Ph.D., facilitated a Zoom session with Shomrei Torah community members to process the hostage-taking event at a synagogue in Colleyville, TX.
- Board volunteers are calling members who may feel isolated, to keep in touch and stay aware of individuals' needs.

Organization & leadership

- To help congregants connect with the administrative team as easily as possible, staff pictures, descriptions, and contact info have been posted on the CST web site.
- An ongoing review of existing committees will clarify volunteer opportunities and avoid duplication of effort.
- An upcoming training series will provide information and support for potential volunteers and leaders.
- Staffing in all areas is being appraised to use our human resources as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Facility & security

- The Security Committee, volunteers from the Board, the rabbi, and the executive director reconsidered all aspects of the synagogue's most recent security review, especially in light of lessons learned from the January hostage situation in Texas.
- Additional security training for staff, teachers, students, and all members will take place in coming months.

Finance

- The Finance Committee has researched revenue models and is working with the Board of Directors to update the dues structure.

Education

- The Shomrei Torah community has learned more about the STaRS program through display of students' creative projects in the entry lobby and a presentation by students to the Bagel Club.
- Despite the ongoing shutdown, Shomrei Torah continued to host the kinds of adult education programs that were well reviewed by visioning survey respondents, such as sessions on *Bereshit* (Rabbi Lavey Darby); a class on baking hamantaschen (Ronnie Cohen Campagna); and a series on women in the Torah (Rabbi Gittleman).

Religious practice

- The Religious Practices Committee is planning several programs recommended through the visioning process, including outdoor Shabbat morning services and creative celebrations on some Saturday afternoons.

HONORING RABBI GEORGE

As we gather together as a congregation, looking ahead with optimism, we look back with appreciation as well. If the Covid virus had not intervened, in Spring 2021 we would have fully celebrated the silver anniversary of Rabbi George's arrival as Congregation Shomrei Torah's first full-time rabbi on May 2, 1996. *Todah rabah, Rabbi George!*



— 25 YEARS! —

1300 Shabbats.

Countless blessings of B'Mitzvahs.

Innumerable wedding celebrations.

Shared moments of sadness and grief beyond measure.

Boundless teachings and lessons.



DONATE

Did you know that you can make a donation to Congregation Shomrei Torah anytime using our website? Simply pick a fund, add a dedication, and click "submit."

CST Fund Highlights

General Fund

Not sure where to donate? A gift to the General Fund enables us to direct funds wherever they are needed most.

Rabbi George Discretionary Fund

Used to help people in need, to enhance synagogue programming and support community organizations that further our mission.

Billie Blumenthal Religious School Scholarship Fund

Created in memory of Billie Blumenthal, Religious School Director, may her memory be for a blessing.

Elisha's Pantry Donations

In partnership with Christ Church United Methodist and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Elisha's Pantry distributes food to local residents.

Laur DeAguiar Fund for Music

Established in loving memory of Laur DeAguiar to provide ongoing support for our music program and care of our piano.

Rabbi Michael Robinson Fund for Social Justice

In memory of the social justice work of Rabbi Michael Robinson, z"l, former rabbi of our congregation.

Social Action Committee

Supports a variety of social justice actions in and outside the community.

Read full descriptions and see the full list of funds by visiting:

www.cstsr.org/giving_opportunities

THIS SUMMER AT SHOMREI TORAH

CST Joins the Pride Parade

Saturday, June 4



Join CST members in downtown Santa Rosa for the 35th annual Sonoma County Pride Parade and Festival! CST will be hosting a booth as well as participating in the parade. Please register to attend on our website.

Community Beyond the Walls of the Sanctuary

Wednesday, July 13, 12 - 2 PM

Join Rabbi George and Rabbi Cheryl for food and conversation about what a Shomrei Torah Village might look like. Free lunch included!

The Village concept began as a way to help people age in place and has evolved to include a web of community connection similar to what congregations can offer. Shomrei Torah already has an array of vibrant programming. To this, we might layer in neighborhood circles and volunteer coordination to help us help one another with ride sharing, errands and light household tasks and who knows what else!

Are you interested in deepening the sense of community where you live? Are there ways we, as a community, might help each other that extend beyond the walls of the synagogue? Stay tuned for more information.



HIGH HOLY DAYS 2022 PREVIEW

Saturday, September 17

S'lichot Service

Sunday, September 25

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Monday, September 26

Rosh Hashanah Service

Tashlich Service

Tuesday, September 27

Second Day Rosh Hashanah Service

Sunday, October 2

Cemetery Service

STaRS Holy Day Service

Tuesday, October 4

Kol Nidre Service

Wednesday, October 5

Yom Kippur Service


Jewish Journeys

Torah Service

Reflections and Healing Service


Yizkor Service

N'ilah Service




- 23 -

The number of bouquets of flowers sent to members who are healing.




- 18 -

The number of students who celebrated their B'Mitzvahs.



- 1999 -

The number of viewers who joined us virtually for High Holy Days this year.



- 438 -

The number of potatoes wrapped in this year's Hanukkah boxes.

THIS SUMMER AT SHOMREI TORAH

Can We Talk About Israel?

Wednesday, June 8, 6:15 PM



Join Rabbi George on Zoom for a conversation with Daniel Sokatch, author of *Can We Talk About Israel: A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted* and CEO

of the New Israel Fund. Sokatch's book explores why so many people feel so strongly about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Register for the Zoom link on our website.

Rabbi's Tisch Honoring Marnie Schwartz

Friday, June 10, 6:15 PM



Longtime member and past president, Marnie Schwartz, died in the Tubbs Fire in 2017, but her legacy will live on. CST is establishing the Marnie Schwartz

Fund for Life Long Learning in her name. We will tell her story, including the moving, interfaith effort to transport her remains to Israel. \$12 suggested donation for the catered meal, register to attend on our website.

Creating Sacred Space The Jewish Meditation Center

Sundays at 5pm, Wednesdays at 7:30am



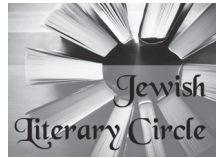
Are we happy? Are we living the life we want to live? Jewish meditation connects mindfulness practice to the

wisdom of our tradition.

As we learn to quiet our minds, we see our truth more clearly, and open a path to living a happier, healthier life. Visit www.cstsr.org/meditation.html for dates, times and access.

Jewish Literary Circle

Third Thursday of Each Month



All are welcome. Our focus is Jewish literature and other published materials. Through lively discussions, participants enjoy each other's insights. See our the CST website for more details. See our website for upcoming dates.

Women's Groups

The purpose of CST women's groups is purely social; they are a great way to connect with other members who, based on the experience of the current groups, often become friends.

Visit www.cstsr.org/womens_groups for dates and details.

Book Group

Fourth Tuesday of the month.

Knitting & Crochet Group

Last Monday of the month.

Women in Conversation About Aging

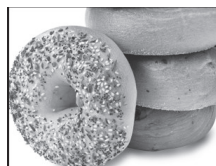
First and third Wednesday of the month on Zoom.

Dinner Group

Times vary. Contact the office for details.

Bagel Club

First Sunday of Each Month



The Bagel Club invites you to join us at Shomrei Torah for a bagel brunch followed by a live speaker.

Brunch includes a selection of bagels, cream cheese and lox along with all the trimmings and other Jewish specialty brunch items. We request a donation of \$7-10 for the brunch. See our website for upcoming dates.

Torah Study

Every Saturday morning at 8:45 AM

CST's Torah Study is a lively discussion of the week's Torah portion, led by Rabbi George or by a temple member. We represent a range of knowledge and perspectives. New-comers are welcome, whether or not you've read any Torah or know any Hebrew.

- 31 -



The number of cords used each week to bring you Zoom and Live-stream options.

- 4 -



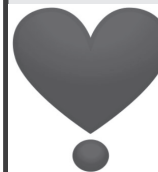
The number of gallons of paint used to spruce up the CST office spaces.

- 78 -



The number of hours of Torah Study this year.

- COUNTLESS -



The number of hours Rabbi George has spent caring for our Congregation.

Like us on Facebook!

@CongregationShomreiTorahSantaRosa



SHOMREI TORAH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

STARS

Shomrei Torah Religious School

This year at STaRS we had a number of engaging and creative *chuggim* (elective) activities for the K-2, 3-4, and 5-6 classes including DIY Light-up Menorahs, *Havdallah* Kits, Israeli Dancing and Cooking.

KIDdish, our youngest learners, experienced a revamped curriculum centered around the idea of “celebrating Judaism.” Additionally, the students created their own challah plates at Art and Soul Studio.

Due to the Omicron surge, STaRS shifted to an online format at the beginning of 2022. The teachers led creative lessons to engage their students virtually, including activities such as yoga and scavenger hunts.

Kindergarten through fifth grade students spent a day at Camp Newman. While at camp, the students went on a hike, participated in a program at the creek with Rabbi George, and enjoyed *chofesh* (free choice activities).

As a community, we celebrated Purim through our annual Purim Carnival. STaRS brought in Passover through the Passover Kick-off event. This event included many experiential learning activities such as a *chametz* scavenger hunt and *matzah* making. This event was open to the entire community and brought in many first time visitors.

To culminate a year of Hebrew learning, our 4th-6th grade students led a “Bark Mitzvah” service for Brandon’s dog, Ruby. This allowed the kids to fully experience the Shabbat morning service.

As our Youth Coordinator Morgan Folger departs for rabbinical school, we are thankful for her three years of service to our religious school and youth programming. She has elevated the quality of programming in our religious school and we wish her the best of luck in her studies.



L'Taken

February 10-13, 2023

Every year, thousands of high school students participate in this seminar in Washington, D.C. The program exposes students to a variety of public policy issues, the Jewish values surrounding these issues, and teaches the skills of an effective advocate. Learn more and register to attend at www.cstsr.org/ltaken.

Mazel Tov to these amazing students and their families on their Summer *B'Mitzvahs*!



Toby Cohen

June 4, 2022

Amy Cohen and Marc Weiner



Aiden MacKenzie

June 11, 2022

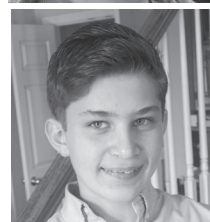
Jill MacKenzie



Erez Kayne

June 18, 2022

Anyia and Julian Kayne



Aaron Burg

July 23, 2022

Dan and Ember Burg

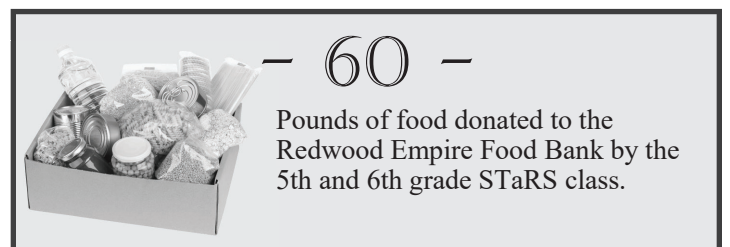
STaRS Registration is OPEN!

Register before July 1 to receive an early bird discount of \$50 per student! We are also offering a \$50 refer-a-friend discount! Register at www.cstsr.org/religious_school



Kehillah for Teens Grades 8th-12th

We gather every other week during the school year at Congregation Shomrei Torah and look at teen-related issues through a Jewish lens. Register by contacting Rick Concoff at concoff@yahoo.com.





STARS

Shomrei Torah Religious School

KIDdYsh

The number of students enrolled in religious school this year.



- 540 -



The number of LED lights used for the STaRS menorah project this year.



- 438 -



The number of member families that call Congregation Shomrei Torah their home.



Congregation Shomrei Torah

2600 Bennett Valley Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

www.cstsr.org
(707) 578-5519

FAX: (707) 578-3967

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday

9:00 AM–1 PM;

2:00–5:00 PM

by appointment only

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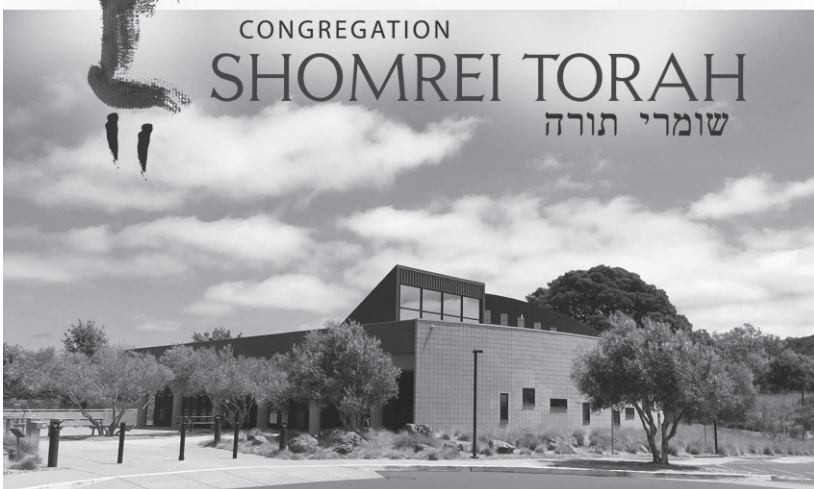
Congregation Shomrei Torah

A Progressive Reform Jewish Community
Blending the Traditional with the Innovative

WWW.CSTSR.ORG

(707) 578-5519

2600 BENNETT VALLEY ROAD,
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404



THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONGREGATION

- To worship God in accordance with the beliefs and teachings of Reform Judaism.
- To cultivate and nurture in ourselves and our children a love and understanding of Jewish heritage.
- To develop a sensitive, caring and supportive congregational community where all are welcome and included.
- To act with responsibility and compassion in our community.
- To support the principals of equality, freedom and shalom among all peoples.



Affiliated with the UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM