

Passover Seder

Saturday, April 16, 6:15 PM

Passover at Shomrei Torah is more than the retelling of the ancient story of the Exodus; it also honors our ongoing struggle for freedom, justice and equality.



Save the date and register early to save your seat at the Seder table.

\$18 CST member

\$36 Non-member

www.cstsr.org/event/passoverseder2022.html

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CST's Purim Shpiel

Wednesday, March 16, 6:15 PM

You've seen Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story* on the big screen. Now come see it on the *bimah*! Presenting CST's Purim *Shpiel*: Middle East Side Story.

The Jewish Jets grapple with the Shushan Sharks in this all too fitting Purim tale about hatred of otherness.

Spoiler alert: the Jets prevail in this Purim relevant adaptation of *West Side Story*!

CST Events are Multi-Access (available to attend in person or online) unless noted. However, please stay tuned to your weekly CST Connect email for the latest updates on event attendance.

Register to attend an event in person by selecting the date at **www.cstsr.org/calendar**, or you may contact the office. Please see our website for the most recent updates affecting in person attendance at CST.

FROM RABBI GEORGE



One of my favorite Hassidic stories goes like this:

For many years, the Coachman drove the beloved Rebbe from shtetel to shtetel in what is now called Ukraine. Sometimes, word of their arrival preceded them and there would be a crowd waiting for them. Then the Rebbe would step down from the carriage and give a *D'var Torah*, a “word of Torah.”

The people loved the Rebbe’s teachings and showed him great affection and respect. The Coachman, well, he went mostly unnoticed by the Rebbe’s followers.

The Coachman was a shy man, so, most of the time, he was happy to be left alone. But after a while, it began to bother him. He thought to himself, “I’ve been listening to the Rebbe speak for all these years. By now, I know almost as much as he does.”

This thought festered in the Coachman’s being for months, until finally he gathered the inner strength to say something to the Rebbe: “In the next village, I want to change places with you. I’m tired of being invisible. I’ve listened to you all these years and now know almost as much Torah as you do. This time *you* be the Coachman and I will be the Rebbe.”

The Rebbe thought for a moment and then said simply, “Very good.”

And so, just before they pulled into

the next village, the Rebbe and Coachman switched places. There was a crowd waiting for them when they arrived and sure enough, the people began to address the Coachman as if he were the Rebbe.

Things were going just as the Coachman imagined: his *D'var Torah* was well received, and he was able to answer all the questions he was asked. That is, until one of the scholars of the shtetel walked up and presented him with a rather technical issue of

*“In my 26 years of
service to Shomrei
Torah I have had many
mentors from the
congregation.
I have learned as much
if not more from
you as I’ve been able
to teach.”*

Halacha (Jewish Law). The Coachman/Rebbe thought for a moment and then said, “That question is so simple even my Coachman can answer it!”

I love this story because it plays with the traditional hierarchy of knowledge that puts the rabbi at the top and everyone else below. Yes, there are some things that, because of their training and experience, only a rabbi knows. But that is true of everyone; we all have wisdom to share.

Over the years I have had many mentors from the congregation. I have learned as much if not more from you as I’ve been able to teach. We build community and lift each other up when we can see and hear the wisdom in each other.

In that way, we are everyone in this Hassidic tale: the Rebbe, the Coachman, and the people at every stop along the way.

Rabbi George Gittleman

FROM ANN DUBAY

October 14, 2021 was a landmark day for me, as president of Shomrei Torah. ..

That day, the Board of Directors held its first in-person meeting since March 2020.



I don’t think I’m exaggerating when I say that the entire Board was a little giddy to be conducting your congregation’s business face-to-face after 18 virtual meetings.

We reveled in the fact that new Board members were taller (or shorter) than they appeared on Zoom; and we delighted in the opportunity to be fully present, without the distractions of a computer screen and incoming emails.

This experience made all of us realize how much we’ve missed gathering physically. And how, as Board members, it’s hard to read the pulse of the community virtually. While Zoom, email, social media and phone calls have allowed us to effectively conduct the business of the congregation, they had been woefully inadequate in allowing us to build personal connections with you.

In December 2021, Board representatives signed up to serve as greeters at Shabbat service and to present the

FROM ANN DUBAY

congregational gift to the *B'Mitzvahs* on Saturday mornings.

Like you, we were looking forward to attending the multiple in-person and hybrid events planned through the winter and spring. Sadly, Covid-19 had other plans: As I write this, our amazing rabbi, cantorial soloist, staff and volunteers are pivoting back to virtual services and events.

My fervent prayer is that by the time this edition of the Voice arrives in your mailbox, we will once again be meeting in-person. Even if we're still stuck in Covid limbo, a "connections" mini-task force is working to implement the ideas you shared in the visioning process regarding bringing our community together.

If you have thoughts or ideas on this topic, please call or me (I'm the one who is shorter than I look on Zoom).

**President of the CST Board of Directors,
Ann DuBay**

FROM KATIE EVENBECK

How's the view?

Reflecting on the past several months, there is a lot to celebrate. The visioning process results have provided needed perspective to inform the landscape of CST for years to come.

We closed our Tradition-of-Giving campaign early, having exceeded our \$120,000 goal in early December. I enjoyed volunteering with so many of you at Elisha's Pantry & Redwood Empire Food Bank and STARS & CST youth programs are reaching over 100 youth. Our Hanukkah programming included Hanukkah boxes delivered to each household, a Hannukah party & Jewish Heritage Night at the Warrior's basketball game.

In January, with the onset of the Omicron variant, in-person meetings and services were suspended, and the reopening of STaRS postponed. While this seemed like a step back, it was in the best interest of our community.

I see so much to be excited about as we look forward to welcoming you back to in-person gatherings here. We have multiple upcoming *B'Mitzvahs*. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several youth have waited two years to celebrate. We have engaging guest speakers for upcoming *tischs* and more opportunities to stay connected.. And I believe that Shomrei is poised to end this fiscal year in a better position than previously anticipated.

How's the view? From my vantage point as executive director, the view here at Shomrei Torah is lovely, and the outlook for the future is bright.

Executive Director, Katie Evenbeck



CST has truly demonstrated a tradition of giving

In only its third year, this campaign has proven effective in raising the needed funds to bridge the gap in our operating budget and is only successful because of the outpouring of support from members like you. Before the year's end, we had exceeded our goal of raising \$110,000.

The December call-a-thon successfully met a generous \$10,000 matching grant challenge by Martin and Marlene Stein. A special thanks to our volunteers who contacted over 200 households and co-chairs, Marsha Jacobs and Donna Waldman.

Ann DuBay has accepted the challenge to serve as this year's Tradition-Of-Giving campaign chair. If you are interested in being a part of the team, please contact Ann DuBay or Katie Evenbeck. Our ability to exceed our fundraising goal is a testament to the generosity of our members. **Thank you!**

RABBI'S *TISCH*

On the second Friday of each month, join your CST family at the Rabbi's *Tisch* (table) in lieu of regular Friday night Shabbat Services. Come at 6:15 PM to start with *Kiddush* and a catered communal dinner. Or gather around a *tisch* at 7:00 PM for Shabbat blessings and prayers (including *Kaddish*), and the special evening program. \$12 suggested donation for the catered meal.

February 11: Rabbi Zelig Goldin

Creating Center for Earth Based Judaism at Camp Newman



Join Rabbi Zelig Golden, Wilderness Torah founder and Executive Director, to learn about how the Center's focus on Jewish approaches to climate change resilience, regenerative culture, and tending the land in our new fire reality.

Wilderness Torah awakens and celebrates the earth based traditions of Judaism. Camp Newman is the URJ summer camp, here in our backyard, rebuilding after the Tubbs fire. Together, Wilderness Torah and Camp Newman are designing the Center for Earth Based Judaism on the 500 acre Newman campus that will serve the Jewish community here in Sonoma County and beyond.

March 11: Charlie Catlett

From Stones to Shekels: The History of Jewish Coins



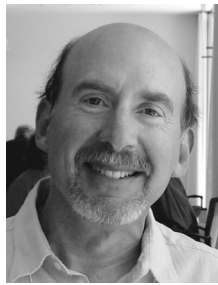
For hundreds of years before coins were invented, Jews in the Holy Land used standardized stone weights and chunks of precious metal for financial transactions. But

by the 4th century BCE, after their return from the Babylonian exile, Jews began creating coins for trade and to transmit social and political messages.

This brief presentation will show the history of Jewish money and its relation to Jewish history, from around the First Temple period (10th-8th century BCE) to modern Israel.

April 8: Howard Shattner

The Stumbling Stones (Stolpersteine)



Howard Shattner knew little about his father's life before 1938. His father, along with thousands of other Jews, were expelled from Germany during the "Polish Ac-

tion." He knew nothing about the fate of his relatives who were left behind.

Years later, Howard discovered that his grandfather and other relatives were also transported to a concentration camp.

His documentary film "Stumbling Stones for My Family" is a poignant record of an unforgettable day: the day Stolpersteine were installed in Berlin to honor the memory of these members of the Schattner family.

May 13: Daniel Sokatch

Can We Talk About Israel?

This is the question Daniel Sokatch is used to answering on an almost daily basis as the head of the New Israel Fund, an organization dedicated to equality and democracy for all Israelis, not just Jews. Sokatch is supremely well-versed on the Israeli conflict.

Can We Talk About Israel? is the story of that conflict, and of why so



many people feel so strongly about it without actually understanding it very well at all.

It is an attempt to grapple with a century-long struggle between two peoples that both perceive themselves as (and indeed are) victims.

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Save the Date:

June 10: Honoring Marnie Schwartz



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

establishing the Marnie Schwartz Fund for Life Long Learning in her name.

Please contact Rabbi George if you have a Marnie Schwartz story you would like to share.

A Radical Friendship, a play by Jane Marla Robbins



Saturday, February 19, 7:00 PM

One might say we live in radical times. “A Radical Friendship” takes us back to a time even more challenging than today.

Imagine, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel meeting to resolve civil rights issues and developing a kinship that crosses over race and religion.

This play envisions the ongoing conversation between these two spiritual leaders. Join us for this performance in honor of Black History Month.

Register to attend in person at
www.cstsr.org/calendar

The Soundtrack of America A Celebration of Jewish American Songwriters

Saturday, March 26, 7:00 PM

The contributions of Jewish American songwriters to mainstream American popular music are so great, they are responsible for many of the most popular songs of recent generations.

Join us as we pay tribute to this rich tradition with our new revue, *The Soundtrack of America* highlighting some of the most memorable and influential songwriters from musical theater and pop and rock classics. Please join us for this amazing concert and live band.

Featuring:

Musical Theater and Pop Favorites

Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner

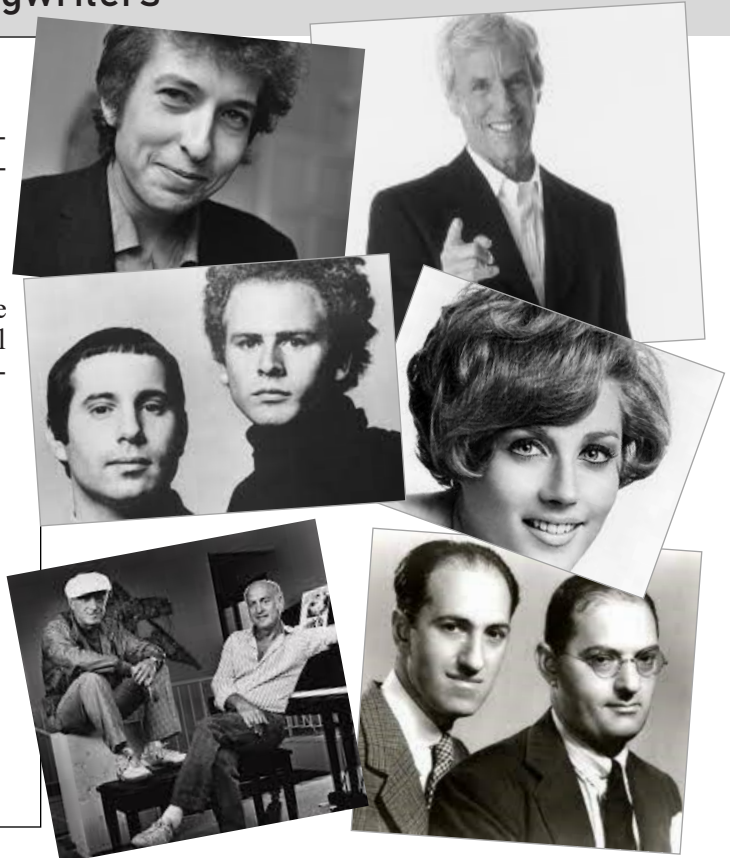
Yvonne Wormer, Shomrei Torah Pianist

Pianist and Composer Nolan Gasser, CST Member

Rock and Pop Classics

Rock Musician Doug Meador, CST Member

Rock Drummer Jeff Nassi, CST Member



LIFELONG LEARNING

How Can Judaism Survive in the 21st Century? (Zoom Only)

Sunday, February 6, 2:00 PM



Tal Keinan will discuss his book *God is in the Crowd*, a call to action packaged in the riveting personal story of a social

activist, business leader, and fighter pilot in the Israeli Air Force.

God Is in the Crowd is an original and provocative blueprint for Judaism in the twenty-first century. Presented through the lens of Tal Keinan's unusual personal story, it is a sobering analysis of the threat to Jewish continuity. As the Jewish people has become concentrated in just two hubs—America and Israel—it has lost the subtle code of governance that endowed Judaism with dynamism and relevance in the age of Diaspora.

Women of the Torah from the Background to the Foreground

Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 7:00 PM



Our tradition is full of strong women. yet we rarely hear about them.

In this 3-session class, Rabbi

George will show how a careful study of the Torah with a little help from *Midrash* (sacred, Jewish legends) can bring the matriarchs and heroines of the Jewish people alive in ways that can inspire us today. This class is for learners of all backgrounds. Everyone is welcome!

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Intro to Judaism Part Two with

Rabbi Cheryl Rosenstein

Sundays, February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6, 2:30 PM



Congregation Shomrei Torah is pleased to offer its second semester of this year's "Introduction to Judaism" course taught by Rabbi

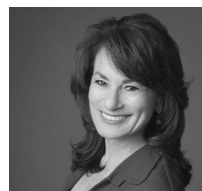
Cheryl Rosenstein.

All are welcome; you do not need to have attended the first semester to participate. It does not matter whether you wish a refresher in Judaism, are "just curious," or if you are a candidate for conversion or marriage. Members and non-members alike are invited.

Wounds Into Wisdom: Healing Intergenerational Jewish

Trauma with Rabbi Dr. Tirzah Firestone (Zoom Only)

Sundays, March 20 and 27, 1:00 PM



We Jews have accrued great wisdom, depth and many wounds as well, throughout our long history due to centuries of

adversity. We now know that both individual and collective trauma can leave residual patterns that can linger over time and be transmitted to future generations. These patterns can be dissolved and healed when faced, felt, and understood.

As we approach Passover, the season of liberation, join Shomrei Torah and special guest, Rabbi Dr. Tirzah Firestone, for an extraordinary journey as we explore our intergenerational legacies—the wise and beloved ones, as well as the wounds we would rather not pass down.

Rabbi Firestone will be drawing from

her scientific research, psychological case studies, and Jewish teachings to help us glean our families' positives and heal our historical traumas.

Reflections on My Life as a Rabbi with Rabbi Sally Priesand (Zoom Only)

Wednesday, March 23, 7:00 PM



Celebrate with us as we welcome Rabbi Sally Priesand, the first woman ordained as a Rabbi in North America 50 years ago this spring.

In the 1960s, a debate gripped the American Jewish community. The question: whether women could become rabbis.

A decade later, the Reform movement ordained the first woman rabbi in the United States: Sally Priesand. Sally was just 17 when she first requested an application to the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, the Reform Movement's flagship seminary.

Please join us for this Zoom presentation as Rabbi Priesand reflects back on 50 years in the rabbinate. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

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Proof of vaccination is required. See our website for more information.

LIFELONG LEARNING

The Chapters of First Principles with Rabbi Cheryl Rosenstein

5 Wednesday sessions at 7:00 PM :

April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18



A short course on *Pirkei Avot*. Though they constitute one compact portion of the *Mishnah*, the verses known collectively as *Pirkei Avot*,

the "Chapters of Root Principles" (also known as "The Chapters of the Fathers") are the source of some of Judaism's greatest life lessons. Rabbi Cheryl Rosenstein will help us de-construct and analyze this pithy, rich text in a short, weekly series.

Musical Sephardic Shabbat

with Guest Cantor Kerith Spencer-Shapiro

Friday, May 6, 6:15 PM



Guest Cantor Kerith Spencer-Shapiro from Wilshire Boulevard Temple Los Angeles joins Rabbi George and Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner in

presenting a musical Sephardic Shabbat. Cantor Shapiro produces a popular Zimrah Shabbat series celebrating Jewish cultures from around the world.

Archaeology and the Tanakh: Conflict, Insight, Understanding With Alexis Boutin, Ph.D.

Sundays, May 15, 22, June 5, 2:00 PM

Archaeological research produces a material context for events and characters from the *Tanakh* that can both support and challenge contemporary interpretations of the text. In this se-



ries of lectures, we will examine ancient Levantine societies at both macro and micro scales from urbanism, statehood, international trade, and political diplo-

macy to the religious, ethnic, and gendered identities experienced in everyday life.

The topics will proceed as follows:

- What is "Biblical" Archaeology: power, politics, and the practice of archaeology in the Middle East
- The Late Bronze Age: from peak internationalism to "Dark Age"
- Life and Death at Iron Age II *Mizpah* (modern Hebron)

Wise Aging with Rabbi Meredith Cahn

Cahn

First Friday of each month at 11:00 AM



This group is based on, but not limited to, *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit*, by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Linda Thal.

We will explore how to find meaning, joy, acceptance and wisdom on our journey into our later years. Jewish and other texts, reflection and sharing will let us learn from each other and from our sources.

Please contact Meredith Cahn for the zoom link: mcahn2@mac.com.

Want to advertise your business in our publications?

	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
Business Card	\$265	\$330
Quarter Page	\$580	\$625
Half Page	\$1100	\$1490

More information available at:
www.ctsr.org/the-voice-newsletter

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 honor 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.ctsr.org/giving_opportunities

Jewish mindfulness connects meditation to the wisdom of our tradition and the seasons of the Jewish calendar.

No previous experience or knowledge is necessary to take part. By practicing together, we enhance our ability to listen to the voice within and expand our sense of interconnectedness.



CREATING
SACRED
SPACE

The Jewish Meditation Center ~ Congregation Shomrei Torah

Sunday sessions

These include teaching, meditation instruction, and periods of silence. Most are conducted by Rabbi Gittleman, a graduate of the Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and a practitioner of both Buddhist and Jewish meditative practices over the past two decades. We also welcome Alissa Hirshfeld, a certified Jewish spiritual director and licensed psychotherapist who has taught meditation in secular, religious, and healing settings for many years.

On Wednesday mornings

Brief meditation sessions are facilitated by a member of the Creating Sacred Space community. It's an opportunity for us to start the day from a place of peace and reflection and deepen our practice together.

Visit the meditation page at www.cstsr.org/meditation.html to find session dates, leaders, and times, and to view past sessions and access meditation resources. For direct email reminders and links, sign up through the office at aa@cstsr.org. Creating Sacred Space sessions are open to all, at no charge, whether in person or virtually. Feel free to bring family and friends!

The Bagel Club

First Sunday of the month, 9:00 AM

We invite you to join us on the first Sunday of the month to meet at Shomrei Torah for a nice bagel brunch followed by live speakers.

Our programs include talks about Jewish life and genealogy, Israeli politics and culture, and Jewish archeology. During the year, we will also hear from Rabbi George and Cantorial Soloist Erica.

Our brunch always includes a selection of bagels, cream cheese and lox along with all the trimmings and other Jewish specialty brunch items.

Look for each month's program in Shomrei Torah announcements and on the Shomrei Torah web page. We welcome all CST members.

Jewish Literary Circle

Third Thursday of each month, 4:30 PM



Our focus is Jewish literature and other published materials. We enjoy each other's insights and have lively discussions. If you have questions about the group, please contact Sandy at sandy@sidorsky.com.

Upcoming Topics of Discussion

- **2/17:** Jewish Cookbook Report. Participants discuss their favorite Jewish cookbook (more details to follow)
- **3/17:** CRASH: How I Became a Reluctant Caregiver by Rachel Michelberg
- **4/21:** The Soles of Survivors, A Memoir by Nhi Aronheim
- **5/19:** The Children of Willesden Lane, A Memoir by Mona Golabek

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Proof of vaccination is required. See our website for more information.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Women's interest groups

The purpose of the 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, become friends.

The original **dinner group** and the **knitting and crocheting group** continue to thrive, as at least one new dinner group is getting started.

A number of members would like to restart the movie group and are looking for a facilitator. Please contact Katie (execdir@cstsr.org) or Ronnie (ronniecc@gmail.com) if you are interested in a monthly lunch group or have a suggestion for a new group. Please be patient as we plan a safe meeting for interested members.

Torah Study

Saturday mornings 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. Newcomers are welcome, whether or not you've read any Torah or know any Hebrew. You may call the office to arrange to borrow a Torah text with commentary. We invite you to join us!

Contact Fran Danoff with questions: frandanoff@aol.com.

FROM THE VISIONING TASK FORCE

Dear Members of Congregation Shomrei Torah:

Throughout 2021, the Congregation Shomrei Torah Board of Directors, led by the Visioning Task Force – Paul Berlant, Dave Fichera, Rick Reisman, Donna Waldman, and Co-Chairs Judith Richlin-Klonsky and Eli Weinzveg - laid the groundwork for envisioning the future of Congregation Shomrei Torah. When we sought direct input from the Shomrei Torah community, 299 of you took the time to respond to the congregational survey and more than 50 members were interviewed, participated in one of seven focus group discussions, or emailed or called to share your experiences and observations.

In recent months the Board has begun to review and absorb all that you told us. Overall, the input was positive and affirming, including constructive suggestions for how to strengthen our community ties. As expected, the visioning initiative didn't result in straightforward "answers" or clear-cut "instructions" about how to move forward. Diversity of perspective is a challenge to decision making and planning at Congregation Shomrei Torah – how can our members' wide range of preferences and interests be accommodated? -- but we also embrace it as our greatest strength.

In collaboration with relevant committees and the Rabbi – and with significant effort by the executive director and the administrative staff – the Board has already started to act upon suggestions in the areas where quick action could be taken. Here are some examples you may have noticed:

- *We are attempting to provide more information (including photos, if available), in announcements about B'Mitzvahs and about congregants who've recently died.*
- *We're sharing monthly lists of birthdays and anniversaries.*
- *We held a fall gathering for people interested in joining a chavurah and are beginning to reimagine the chavurah system.*
- *The creativity of our STaRS students is now displayed in Shalom Hall.*
- *We are posting pictures and descriptions of our leadership team on the CST web site, in hopes you will reach out to us as well, so that we can get to know you better and hear about your concerns and interests.*

That is just a beginning. The visioning process is ongoing. How would you like to be involved? If Covid restrictions allow, we hope to gather as a congregation early in 2022 to discuss the findings as a community. For now, see the December email that includes a full report on what we learned from the visioning process and how it is being used. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to us.

B'shalom,

Ann DuBay, CST President,

Judith Richlin-Klonsky, CST Board of Directors, and Co-chair, Visioning Task Force

Congregation Shomrei Torah

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(707) 578-5519

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday

9:00 AM–1 PM;

2:00–5:00 PM

by appointment only

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Affiliated with the
UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

CST YOUTH



SHORTY is our teen-led Youth Group for teens Grades 9th-12th.

We are excited to announce our upcoming events! Please contact a SHORTY Board Member or Morgan at youth@cstsr.org with questions or to RSVP. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the events.

SHORTY Sleepogre at Shomrei Torah

February 12th-the Morning of February 13th

We're bringing back our annual sleepogre! We will be having an overnight Shrek movie party filled with food, activities and fun! Start time TBA

Chopped Competition

March 5th Time TBA

Test your cooking skills with this silly fun food competition organized by SHORTY!

Volunteer at the Redwood Empire Food Bank

April 12th, 5:00 PM

Join your friends at SHORTY and volunteer to help battle food insecurity. Please RSVP to a SHORTY board member or Morgan and sign up for a shift on the Redwood Empire Food Bank's website.

Spa Night

May 7th, Time TBA

Take some time to destress from finals and hang out with your friends during SHORTY spa night! There will be food, de-stressing activities, and great company!

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Coming Up at STaRS

STaRS Intergenerational Lunch

Sunday, March 6, 11:15 AM

In Person Only

STaRS will be hosting an intergenerational lunch open to the community!

Please join our STaRS students for an outdoor lunch and discussion, catered by Wise Son's deli in San Francisco! Open to the whole CST Community.

STaRS Movie Night

Friday, April 29, 7:15 PM

In Person Only

All STaRS Families are invited to a special outdoor movie night following STaRS Family Shabbat services.

We will come together to close out the week and welcome Shabbat under the stars (get it? stars and STaRS??) with a movie screening and a sendoff to our friends heading to camp for the summer!



Our STaRS students celebrated Hanukkah by creating circuit board menorahs and hearing a Hanukkah story from Rabbi George. At the end of class, parents joined in for clay dreidel making. A fun time was had by all!



Our teen youth group SHORTY had our first event of the year celebrating Hanukkah! We lit the menorah together, did some fun mixers, and made our very own ugly Hanukkah sweaters. Congrats to the teens whose designs won the ugly Hanukkah sweater competition!

STaRS

Shomrei Torah Religious School

CST YOUTH

Kehilla for Teens

Check out this exciting program for Jewish Teens Grades 8th-12th!



Kehillah is the same kind of teen program we have always had, but with a new name. We gather every other week at Congregation Shomrei Torah and look at teen-related issues

through a Jewish lens. We socialize, connect and eat together (Covid-permitting).

Classes started in September 2021, but students may join at any time of the year. We are also offering a virtual portal at our live meetings. If you have cousins, friends, etc. who are outside of the area who are interested in this program, send them our way.

Register for this program by contacting Rick Concoff, Teen Educator, at concoff@yahoo.com, or 707-477-9196. www.cstsr.org/event/kehillah.html

Like us on Facebook!

@CongregationShomreiTorahSantaRosa



Having Trouble Connecting to Us Virtually?

- Need help with Zoom or Streaming?
- Would you like to listen through your phone?

We are here to help!

Call (707) 578-5519

Or email zoom@cstsr.org

TEMPLE NEWS

Shomrei Torah Gift Shop



The Shomrei Torah Gift Shop has all you need for Shabbat, holidays, host/hostess gifts, *B'Mitzvahs*, babies, newlyweds, and so much more. Jewish games, *tchotchkes* and jewelry are all ready for purchase. The Shomrei Shop is open during our regular business hours, M- F, 9 am - 1 pm. Please come and take a look!

Value added to our investing strategies

The finance committee recommended, and the CST Board unanimously approved, modifying our current investment policies from targeting broadly diversified asset class stock funds to investing where possible in socially responsible, environmental, and governance focused equities. This change will also mitigate exposure to fossil fuel-oriented companies.

We will continue to utilize DFA Funds, where possible, which offer a variety of low-cost funds in many market sectors including SRI and ESG funds. This will assist us to continue to maintain adequate diversification. SRI and ESG funds are increasingly popular among socially conscious investors. One potential effect of a socially responsible investment strategy is the expectation of a smaller long-term net investment return of perhaps 1/2% - 1% per year. The CST Board has voted to accept that potential cost to stay aligned with our mission.

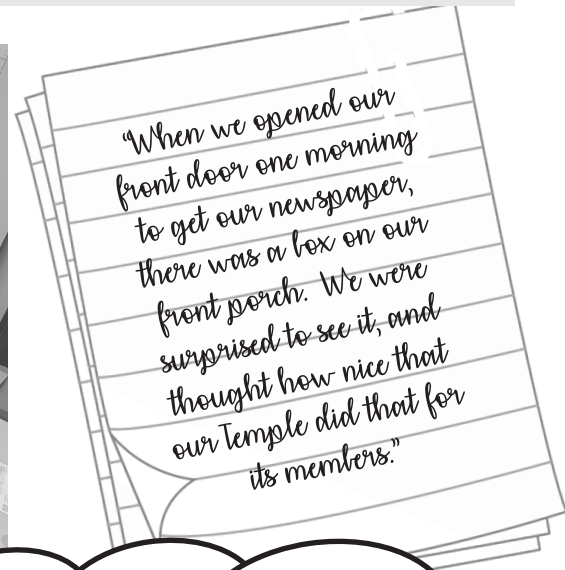
Social Action Committee

Our overriding goal during this important election year is the protection of our democracy. We are committed to continue programming on current issues, local, state, and national. Voter engagement is critical and to that end we will develop forums, engage community leaders, and present information of importance to all of us.

We are also looking for opportunities to do one-time activities with all of you. Please stay tuned for specifics on ways you can become involved. And if you'd like to join in the fun, we'd love to have you! Please feel free to contact Judy Kay (Chair) with your ideas, suggestions, or just to have a conversation. We are all in this together!

TEMPLE NEWS

THANK YOU to our staff and volunteers who helped assemble and distribute this year's Hanukkah boxes!



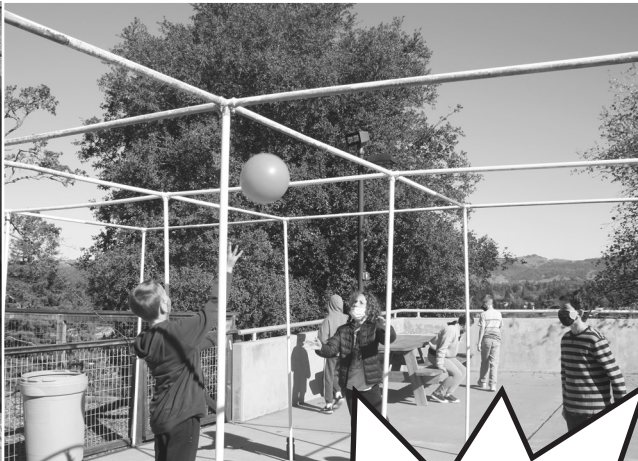
"It was such a surprise. Hurrying inside I opened it to find 8 days of gifts! Moved by the thought, it also felt as if the congregation was wrapping me in it's arms in the spirit of community and love..."





Thank you to our many congregants who have attended CST Volunteer days at the Redwood Empire Food Bank and Elisha's Pantry over the last year!

Keep an eye out for upcoming volunteer opportunities in the CST Connect and online!



STARS!

CONGREGATION SHOMREI TORAH

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Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Phone: (707) 578-5519
www.cstsr.org



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A Progressive Reform Jewish Community
Blending the Traditional with the Innovative

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(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.