Welcome New Members

Please join us on Friday, August 11th as we celebrate our new and newish members at a special Rabbi’s Tisch.

Read more on Page 4.

You are invited to experience High Holy Days with Congregation Shomrei Torah.

This year, many of our services will be held at the Center for Spiritual Living in Santa Rosa due to space limitations and limited parking at CST. Please note the location of each service you plan to attend.

Childcare will be provided at select services. Please register your child(ren) in advance.

Turn to Page 2 for a High Holy Days calendar.

Registration is required for all services. Register at www.cstsr.org/holidays.

Building Alliances Series

In a three-part series brought to you by the CST Social Action Committee, Building Alliances: Bringing Jewish and Asian American Communities Together to Fight Racism will include speakers, discussion, and lots of food.

Read more on Page 7.

CST’s first ever Summer Camp Experience!

Turn to Page 9 to learn more about this amazing pilot program and other Religious School opportunities.

Also Inside this Issue:

◊ Rabbi’s Tisches Page 4
◊ LifeLong Learning Page 7
◊ STaRS and Youth Page 9
It can be challenging to convey the value of being a part of a synagogue community.

Often when we try it can come out sounding like words on a brochure outlining the benefits of gym membership. While there are “benefits to membership,” our (the Gittleman family) recent experience at Shomrei Torah illustrates how far beyond the gym model synagogue life can be.

On April 22nd, my daughter Sophie, who grew up in the community, was married at Shomrei Torah. It was a momentous and wonderous occasion! Two weeks later, my mother, Joan Frentz, died, and the funeral was also at Shomrei Torah. In celebration and in sadness, the Shomrei Community was there for us, sharing our joy and tenderly holding us in our sorrow.

We felt loved and held in ways that could never be enumerated on a brochure or fully articulated to someone who has yet to experience the blessings of being a part of a sacred community.

Thank you! You have made a challenging time more bearable offering us a hand as we walk through “the valley of the shadow” and out the other side.

B’ahavah, Rabbi George
Dear Members of Congregation Shomrei Torah,

I hope this report finds you in good health and high spirits. As we enter the summer season, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the recent activities and important developments within our congregation. The past few months have been filled with meaningful events and progress, and I am proud to share them with you.

Shabbat Services and Programming
Our weekly Shabbat services continue to be a source of inspiration and connection for our community. We have been successful in maintaining a diverse and engaging range of programming, including guest speakers, musical performances, and interactive Torah study sessions.

Lifecycle Events
We have celebrated several lifecycle events, including B’Mitzvahs, weddings, and baby namings, within our congregation. These joyous occasions have brought us together as a community, highlighting the strong bonds we share and reinforcing our commitment to supporting one another through life's milestones. In addition to the mentioned lifecycle events, it is important to acknowledge the funerals that have taken place within our congregation.

We understand the significance of these moments of loss and mourning and strive to provide support and comfort to the bereaved families during these difficult times. Our clergy and community members have come together to offer solace, prayer, and assistance to those in need. We recognize the importance of honoring the memory of our departed loved ones and providing a space for collective grieving and remembrance. We will continue to be there for our congregants during their times of sorrow and ensure that proper support and rituals are in place to navigate the grieving process.

High Holy Days Preparations
Although the High Holy Days are still a few months away, we have already started preparations to ensure a meaningful and spiritually uplifting experience for all. We are actively working on planning for these important holidays.

Social Action and Tikkun Olam
Our congregation remains dedicated to social action and tikkun olam, the Jewish concept of repairing the world. Over the summer, we will continue our partnerships with local organizations to support causes such as food insecurity, homelessness, and education. We encourage all members to actively participate in these initiatives and make a positive impact in our broader community.

Landslide
As the weather improves, and the land dries, we are actively working on our next steps to remediate the landslide. This is a very complex problem with lots of stakeholders involved and while it may feel like things are moving slowly, many people are working behind the scenes to get our property to a stable and useable place.

Membership Growth
Our congregation continues to grow, with new families and individuals joining our community. We have implemented strategies to ensure that new members feel connected and engaged from the moment they walk through our doors. Our Membership Committee is actively working on enhancing the onboarding process and developing programs specifically tailored to meet the needs and interests of our diverse membership.

Summer Camp
We are so thrilled to offer our first-ever Simcha Summer Camp experience taking place right here on our Shomrei Torah campus! Offered from July 31 to August 11. Spots are filling up quickly, so go to our website and register!

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated Board members, committee chairs, and volunteers who work tirelessly to make Congregation Shomrei Torah thrive. Your commitment and passion are truly inspiring, and I am honored to serve alongside you.

As we move forward into the summer and fall months, I encourage you to stay connected and involved in our congregation's activities. Your participation and input are invaluable in shaping the future of our community.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and restful summer season and a meaningful High Holy Day season.

L'Shalom,

Eli Weinzveg, President, Congregation Shomrei Torah
On the second Friday of each month
Join your Shomrei Torah family at the Rabbi’s Tisch (table) in lieu of regular Friday night Shabbat service. Start with Kiddush, enjoy a catered communal dinner, then gather around a tisch for Shabbat blessings (including Kaddish) and the special evening program.

Suggested donation for the catered meal is $18 for CST members, $22 for non members. Please reserve your seat in advance to attend in person.

Evening Schedule (times are approximate):
6:15 – 6:45 PM - Shabbat Blessings and Meal
6:45 – 7:10 PM - Mi Shebeirach and Kaddish
7:15 – 8:15 PM - Speaker Presentation

Celebrating New Members
Friday, August 11, 6:15 PM
Join Rabbi George for teaching and conversation about togetherness and belonging in the Jewish community. We will also be celebrating our new and newish members and sharing a meal together!

Preparing Our Hearts for Holy Days
Friday, September 1, 6:15 PM
Please note the special date for this Tisch, the first Friday of the month rather than the second Friday.
Join Rabbi George and Cantorial Soloist Erica for an evening of good food, teaching, song and conversation in preparation for the Holy Days.

Cheese as a Form of Art
Friday, October 13, 6:15 PM
Omer Seltzer, the scion of a pioneering Israeli cheesemaking family, recently moved to Sonoma County to start Mt. Eitan Creamery, which “was specifically designed as an atelier to create cheese as a form of art.”

Hear Omer talk about his cheesemaking art and his plans and hopes for his Sonoma creamery, as well as what he learned from his father and from working and then managing the family farm in Israel.
WHAT IS NOT ALWAYS IN VIEW

Periodically, in moments of my life where I wish to capture “me” at a certain time and place, I take a photo of myself so that I can look back and remember. The “selfie” above is me last January 6, the day after the landslide at the edge of the CST parking lot was reported. No one could yet say how extensive the problem would be or what effect it would have on the synagogue property and programming…and the rains just kept coming! Here I am in my convertible, loaded with sawhorses stacked ten high, which I’m hauling back to Shomrei Torah to mark off the unsafe areas. It was 52 degrees outside, and this would be one of three trips back and forth on Highway 101 from Friedman’s Hardware.

Since January, so much of my time as Executive Director has been focused on the landslide: emergency efforts to mitigate damages; making last-minute changes so events could be held despite lack of access to the parking lot; and correspondences with insurance, the City of Santa Rosa, neighbors, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Since that day in January, it wasn’t just the land that moved: my work at Shomrei Torah has significantly shifted to deal with the landslide’s pervasive effects.

It may sometimes appear that I’m managing all this alone, but there is so much that is not always in VIEW. Here’s what’s happening backstage:

Rabbi George, Board president Eli Weinzveg, and I communicate at least once a week (usually way more!) on the status of the many facets of the situation and our response.

Every Tuesday morning, a team of dedicated Shomrei Torah volunteers meet with me to discuss aspects of the landslide emergency. The members of this Landslide Task Force -- Ann DuBay, Jeremy Olsan, Christopher Reiger, Donna Waldman, and Nicollette Weinzveg -- draw on their professional experience and personal commitment to guide efforts in everything from day-to-day logistics, dealing with vendors, interacting with the City, communications, applying for insurance and FEMA support, and finances.

Amy Haedt has contributed her construction expertise.

Other members have taken the time to offer a sympathetic ear or a warm “thank you,” and many from our community have stepped up when asked to contribute their time and energy, such as to direct cars arriving in the reconfigured parking lot or to greet those who are boarding shuttles to our site.

Our administrative team – Denise Harrison, Julie Hash, Pieter Palmer, and Angelica Steinman – have risen to many last-minute challenges to keep things on track.

Sharon Landeck and Martin and Marlene Stein have made timely, significant financial donations to bridge some of the immediate costs associated with this initial phase of the project.

Both personally and on behalf of our Shomrei Torah community, I want to share my deep appreciation to all these dedicated individuals.

It has been six months since that day I cruised down 101 with sawhorses in my back seat. We have a lot of work ahead of us as we turn from landslide crisis management towards what is needed to shore up the hillside and repair our parking lot. And while a lot of my time and energy will continue to be focused on that, life at Shomrei Torah continues, offering many exciting programs and ways in which to engage. Our reinvigorated Membership Committee is hosting a new-member welcome in August. Some members of the dynamic Social Action Committee are leading a trip to Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco and others are hosting a three-part series focused on building alliances with the Asian American community. On a monthly basis, we host a Rabbi’s Tisch and a family Shabbat service.

Check our weekly CST Connect announcements for information on all of that, plus upcoming B’Mitzvahs, a program about how Jewish kids established basketball in this country (including the Warriors!), and, of course High Holy Days, which I always look forward to.

Best wishes to you all for a safe and enjoyable summer.

Katie Evenbeck, Executive Director
MEDITATION

Rabbi George, leader of the Shomrei Torah community for more than 25 years, is a graduate of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality’s Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Training Program. Over the last two decades, he has developed both Buddhist and Jewish meditative practices.

Alissa Hirshfeld, M.A., a licensed psychotherapist and certified Jewish Spiritual Director, has been practicing meditation for over 30 years; has studied with many esteemed Jewish and Buddhist meditation teachers; and has taught mindfulness meditation and yoga in secular, religious, and healing settings.

Join us by Zoom or Live Stream three Tuesdays per month, 5:30-6:30 PM. Conducted by Rabbi George Gittleman or Alissa Hirshfeld, meetings include teaching, meditation instruction, and periods of silence.

From 7:30 to 8:00 AM on Thursday mornings, brief meditation sessions are facilitated by Lisa Ehrlich or another member of the Creating Sacred Space community. It’s an opportunity to start the day from a place of peace and reflection and deepen our practice together.

Watch for announcements of occasional in-person sessions that allow us to connect directly while learning and practicing together.

Visit the meditation page, www.cstrsr.org/meditation.html, to find regular and special-session dates and to view past sessions and access meditation resources. For direct email reminders and links, sign up through the office at pieter@cstr.org.

Creating Sacred Space sessions are open to all, at no charge. ALL ARE WELCOME, whether you are completely new to meditation or an experienced practitioner looking to deepen your practice.

FROM ERICA WISNER

With my second year of cantorial school complete, my focus shifts to prioritize planning for High Holy Days. In reality, Holy Days haven’t been off my mind for well over a year!

Let me explain. This school year I studied the music for the High Holy Days. The school year began prior to last year’s Holy Days with a concentrated look at S’lichot. After taking a break from school for the Holy Days themselves, we returned to school to dive right back into Rosh Hashanah. Spring semester was devoted to Yom Kippur.

While preparation for Holy Days typically feels like training for a marathon, this year it might be more apt to say I’ve been training for an ultramarathon! Not only have I learned Holy Day musach (liturgical melody) and contemporary melodies, explored the concept of mixing them together, and worked on cantorial pieces like Hin’ni and Sh’ma Koleinu, but I have also tried my hand at composing.

This year, I am honored that CST will use my musical setting for B’rosh Hashanah, part of Unetaneh Tokef, one of the insertions to the Amidah that forces us to acknowledge the fear and awe of impermanence. B’rosh Hashanah yikateivun uv’yom tzom kippur yeichateimun. On Rosh Hashanah it is written, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed. The melody is congregational (meaning we can all sing it together) and the text repeats twice.

The first time, the musical phrase is unresolved, leaving us open to think of what more can we do during the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to be written in the book of life. In the repetition, “yeichateimun” is emphasized three times, each time drawn out a little longer with an increasing number of notes as if to allow the last pieces of our prayers to slip into its pages before the book is slowly closed and sealed.

May we all be sealed into the book of life for 5784.

Erica Wisner, Cantorial Soloist and B’Mitzvah Coordinator
In person and by Zoom, Building Alliances: Bringing Jewish and Asian American Communities Together to Fight Racism will include speakers from many cultural backgrounds, followed by discussion and refreshments.

Sonoma Stories: Starting Over in a Strange Land
Sunday, Sept 10, 3:00-5:00 PM

Discover the fascinating histories of Jewish, Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino immigration to Sonoma County. How we all came here, overcame obstacles, and thrived.

Racism: From Underground to "In Your Face"
Sunday, October 15, 3:00-5:00 PM

Antisemitism and anti-Asian racism is rising after staying underground for decades. How bad is it? How are we feeling the effects? How are our youth experiencing it? Hear individuals from different backgrounds share their experiences and from organizations working to stop hate.

Facing the Challenges... Together
Sunday, November 5, 3:00-5:00 PM

In a community-in-conversation format, we will explore ways our communities can mutually support each other as we face threats to our well-being. How can we collaborate on issues we all care about?

Delicious vegetarian and gluten-free foods from various Asian and Jewish cultures will be offered. Please register to attend. Brought to you by the Social Action Committee.

Trip to GLIDE SF
Sunday, July 23, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

$18 per participant. Please register to attend.

Join us for a service at GLIDE San Francisco followed by a walking tour of Tenderloin/Mid-Market. GLIDE is a nationally recognized center for social justice, dedicated to fighting systemic injustices, creating pathways out of poverty and crisis, and transforming lives.

Jews & Basketball Movie Night
Sunday, October 29, 3:00 PM

The photo from 1905 shows Lee W. Wolfe, grandfather of CST member Judith Richlin-Klonsky, with other members of the Chicago basketball team sponsored by Jane Addams’ Hull House.

Please join us as we watch “The First Basket,” a Documentary Film by David Vyorst which goes through the early history and the role that Jewish players and coaches played in developing this great American pastime. We will examine the roots of professional basketball by looking at the Jewish contribution to the sport. It is also a time that everyone can tell their favorite NBA story. Appropriate snacks will be served. See you there sports fans!
Over the past few years, the Shomrei Torah Cultural Committee has produced Jewish-themed cultural events for the enjoyment of the congregation, community building and free admission.

We have put on a number of concerts and even a play, all of which had audiences of 125 – 225 people plus Zoom attendees. So we consider ourselves a great success.

Now we are looking for new committee members. Time commitment is mostly in the weeks leading up to a performance, but little activity between concerts. For more information, please contact chairperson Beverly McChesney at beverlymc45@gmail.com.

Interested in joining a chavurah? We can help you connect at this Chavurah Interest Session. A chavurah is a small social group of like-minded members who gather for the purpose of sharing communal experiences. It’s a great way to make new friends, have fun, grow closer, and strengthen the connection with other CST members. Please register to attend this interest session.

Our focus is Jewish literature and other published materials. Through lively discussions, participants enjoy each other’s insights.

If you have questions about the group or are interested in joining, please contact group leader Sandy at scsidorsky@comcast.net. Free, all are welcome.

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

Two dinner groups and a knitting and crocheting group continue to thrive, and there’s a waiting list for members interested in a new lunch or dinner group.

Please contact Katie or Ronnie if you are interested in a monthly movie group or if you have ideas for other groups.

Participants represent a range of knowledge and perspectives. Newcomers are welcome, whether or not you’ve read any Torah or know any Hebrew. If participating virtually, you may call the office to arrange to borrow a Torah text with commentary. We invite you to study with us!

The Bagel Club invites you to join us for a delicious bagel brunch followed by a speaker. Meal includes a selection of bagels, cream cheese, lox and all the trimmings. We request a donation of $10 for the meal. Please register to attend.
Are you searching for a summer camp that continues your child's Jewish experience? Look no further than Simcha Summer Camp at Congregation Shomrei Torah! This camp offers an incredible opportunity for children in grades TK to 5th grade to connect with their Jewish community while enjoying a fun and laid back summer camp atmosphere.

The first week of Simcha Summer Camp is from July 31st to August 4th. The highlights of this week are truly exciting! Classroom Safari will make a visit, bringing along fascinating zoo animals, including an adorable sloth. Your child will have the unique chance to learn about and interact with these incredible creatures. Additionally, field trips to Howarth Park and Spring Lake, as well as the Sonoma County Children's Museum, will provide unforgettable experiences of exploration and learning.

As a parent, you can be assured that your child's Jewish community will be at the heart of the camp experience. Simcha Summer Camp at Congregation Shomrei Torah offers Family Shabbat open to the entire community on both Fridays of the camp, from 4 PM to 5 PM. This special time brings families together, fostering a sense of connection and spirituality in a joyful and welcoming environment.

Rabbi George Gittleman describes Simcha Summer Camp as a place where you can "extend your child's Jewish experience into the summer. It's fun, enriching, and laid back in the way only summer camp can be." This sentiment captures the essence of what Simcha Summer Camp aims to provide—a unique blend of Jewish values, enjoyable activities, and a relaxed summer camp atmosphere.

The second week is running from August 7th to August 11th. The week is packed with thrilling activities, including a visit from Playwell Teknologies. Lego engineering projects will captivate your child's imagination, allowing them to explore their creativity while building amazing structures. An exhilarating field trip to Rebounderz, the trampoline gymnasium, awaits campers, followed by a pizza party to satisfy their appetites for fun. And for those seeking a challenge, a visit to the Summit Rock Climbing Gym promises an exciting adventure.

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Brandon Binder, our Teen Experiential Educator, encourages parents to consider sending their children to Simcha Summer Camp for a week of games, ruach (spirit), and friendships. Having worked as a summer camp staff member, Brandon understands the transformative power of such an experience and highlights the wonderful memories and connections that can be made during this time.

Katie Evenbeck, the Executive Director of Congregation Shomrei Torah, emphasizes the significance of bringing summer camp to the congregation, enhancing the religious school programming. Having years of experience in the summer camp industry, Katie recognizes the positive impact a summer camp experience can have on children's lives. She emphasizes that camp is not just fun—it's a powerful opportunity for growth and connection.

Simcha Summer Camp at Congregation Shomrei Torah offers an amazing and meaningful experience for your child. Don't miss out on the opportunity to provide them with a summer of fun, games, and lasting friendships.

Enroll your child by visiting www.cstsr.org/form/23-simcha-summer-camp-registration.html. Any questions can be directed to Lara Brown, Director of Education and Youth Engagement at lara@cstsr.org.
Please welcome Lara Brown, Director of Education and Youth Engagement!

Lara Brown began her work with children in 2006 as an in-home daycare assistant. After receiving her AA in Music from Cuesta College and B.S. in Child Development with a minor in Psychology in 2013, she worked in various roles such as Lead Preschool Teacher at Acorn Learning Center, Music Educator at Art and Soul, and Therapeutic Behavioral Services Coach with Seneca Family of Agencies.

In 2016, Lara began her work in Jewish Education as Assistant Director and later Co-Director at Beth Ami Community Nursery School. In May of 2021, she accepted the role of Area Director at North Bay Children's Center supervising six preschools and one elementary aftercare program across two counties. Now, she is thrilled to be back in the world of Jewish Education as the Director of Education and Youth Engagement with Congregation Shomrei Torah.

In her spare time, Lara is a member of the local Reggae/Rock group Sonomacana, and can be found performing original compositions and covers on most weekends. She enjoys playing the flute, ukulele, and singing with her bandmates. She also enjoys spending time with her dog Sampson, roaming around in nature with her partner Kyle, watching Star Trek, and playing video games on her VR headset. You may reach out to Lara at lara@cstsr.org.
We are excited to share that Brandon Binder will continue working with our teens as our Teen Experiential Educator.

In this role, Brandon will continue to lead our successful youth group, SHORTY (Shomrei Torah Temple Youth) in addition to creating new initiatives for our teens. Over the summer, Brandon will reach out with information about new ways for teens to stay engaged in Jewish life. Please reach out to Brandon at brandon@cstsr.org if you have any questions.

Kehillah Sonoma County Teens 9th - 12th Grade
A meeting space for Jewish connection and conversation

Celebrating over three decades of Jewish teens sharing current teen topics and values together through a “Jewish Lens.” Teens find their groups to be an important community and that the discussions help them to discover their own beliefs and voice. Join for connection and fun!

Meetings for the 2023-2024 school year will be on alternating weeks, approximately twice a month at Congregation Shomrei Torah.

To enroll, email Rick Concoff at concoff@yahoo.com.

Introducing Chevrutah: A Jewish Youth Group for 7th & 8th Graders

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Chevrutah, the middle school class with a renewed focus on social/educational experiences dedicated to fostering friendship, personal growth, and self-reflection.

This class is led by Brandon Binder, Teen Experiential Educator, and Rick Concoff M.A., legendary teen educator who was awarded the Diller Teen Educator and Jewish Learning Works Lifetime Achievement Awards.

The name "Chevrutah" holds a special meaning in Hebrew, translating to "friendship" or "companionship," and also means a group that learns together. The curriculum of Chevrutah is designed to engage students in self-reflection and help them make better choices throughout their lives. By incorporating Jewish values, teachings, and traditions, this youth group offers a unique perspective on personal development. Participants will explore various topics such as empathy, resilience, responsibility, and ethical decision-making, all within a Jewish context.

If you are seeking a transformative experience and a supportive community during your middle school years, we invite you to join Chevrutah. To learn more and enroll, visit our website or contact us directly.

Do you play a musical instrument? Do you enjoy singing? Ruach may just be the group for you!

What is Ruach? Ruach (Hebrew for spirit) is our Teen Music Ensemble that performs periodically throughout the year at Shomrei Torah and community events.

While there is no audition for this ensemble, instrumentalists that play in this ensemble are expected to have intermediate to advanced technical proficiency on their instrument. Vocalists are expected to be able to match pitch and have experience singing with instrumental accompaniment. While it is preferred for musicians to consistently participate in our calendared performances, teens can select performances based on their availability. Rehearsals prior to the performance are required to perform. Our first rehearsal is September 7th.

Contact Brandon Binder, Teen Experiential Educator, at brandon@cstsr.org for information about this program, or visit www.cstsr.org/ruach.
Did you know that you can make a donation anytime using our website? Simply pick a fund, add a dedication, and click submit.

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.

Building Facilities Fund
This fund supports the maintenance of our synagogue facilities as well as any potential future renovations.

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.

And many more . . .

Read full descriptions and see a full list of funds by visiting www.cstsr.org/giving_opportunities

CST members attend the Santa Rosa Pride Parade and festival in June.

Want to make a donation in support of landslide repairs?

Missed the Annual Meeting?
Check out the Annual Meeting Packet online at www.cstsr.org/the-voice-newsletter.

TEMPLE NEWS

DONATE

Upcoming Office Closures
- Monday, July 3
- Tuesday, July 4
- Monday, Sept 4
- Monday, Sept 25
We have received grants and funds from Bethlehem Foundation, Bothin Foundation, Shomrei Torah and Christ Church United Methodist to expand the pantry.

For 17 years we have partnered with the congregations of Christ Church United Methodist, Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Redwood Empire Food Bank to provide food to those in need in Santa Rosa through donations from our congregations and volunteer labor. Thank you for your continued support as volunteers and through donations.

Since the beginning of the pandemic the number of families that the pantry serves has almost tripled and we have needed to hire a coordinator to organize volunteers and distribution. The pantry building on the Christ Church campus has become too small and cramped to accommodate storing, packaging, and delivering food to the 140 or so families who come to the pantry every Thursday and who choose from a variety of essentials once a month.

With the funds from the grants and the generous contributions from our congregations the building is now in process. The foundation has been laid and we expect the building to be completed by sometime this summer. Drive by 1717 Yulupa to see the progress.

If you have time to volunteer on Thursdays at the pantry you can sign up directly at this website: www.signupgenius.com/go/5080f49a8ad2ca57-elishas#/. If you have any questions contact Suzanne Abrams (707) 696-3715 or Lien Cibulka, Pantry Coordinator at liencib@gmail.com.

We want everyone to feel safe and comfortable at Shomrei Torah

Congregation Shomrei Torah continues to seek to minimize any health threat to elderly and medically vulnerable members of our community and our guests.

- Masks are optional but welcome. Bring your own or feel free to take a disposable one from the basket on the welcome table.
- Air purifiers are located in primary meeting spaces. Note that they are capable of circulating the air throughout the entire room, including the central areas.
- A dispenser for hand sanitizer is available at the back on the sanctuary.
- Feel free to move chairs for distancing or ask for help to rearrange seating. Our staff and volunteers welcome requests for assistance.

North Bay Jewish Educators

It was a beautiful and sunny day when the North Bay Jewish Educators Get-Together group met at Dr. Insomniac’s Coffee in Novato on May 17th.

This group of Jewish Education leaders get together quarterly to grab coffee and noshes, discuss their exciting new ventures, and lament predictable tribulations. By gathering in this way, they provide support to each other and encourage big dreams!

Representing CST was Lara Brown, our new Director of Education and Youth Engagement. Rick Concoff has been mentoring Lara and supporting her transition into this role and was eager to introduce her to this group of Jewish Education leaders. Also in attendance were Hillary Fox, Rabbi Steve Finley, Leah Savage, Sara Feinman, Debra Massey, Carla Naylor, and Laura Schiff.
Celebrate Shabbat  
Join us to study, sing and pray. All are welcome.

Shabbat occurs every week and is central to Jewish life. Shabbat Services includes blessings over candles, wine, challah, and more.

The blessings can help us slow down, unwind, and truly set Shabbat apart from the rest of the days of the week, whether with centuries old customs and traditions or with new rituals and practices that fit our modern lives.

Join us in person or online:

- **Friday Evening Shabbat Service**  
  Every Friday evening at 6:15 PM

- **Saturday Morning Torah Study**  
  Every Saturday morning at 8:45 AM

- **Saturday Morning Shabbat Service**  
  Every Saturday morning at 10:30 AM

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@cstr.org

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

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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.