



Rabbi's Tisch with Dr. Amy E. Randall

Friday, April 13, 6:15 PM

Gender and the Holocaust: Why a gendered approach to the study of the Holocaust is valuable.



This short talk will focus on the ways in which discourses of femininity and masculinity, gender norms, and understandings of female and male identities contributed to the different ways in which Jewish men and women experienced and responded to the mass violence perpetrated against them. It will also explain how the Nazis promoted deliberately gendered strategies of persecution to advance their racial worldview and enhance the suffering of victims. As this talk will demonstrate, an examination of gender does not diminish the centrality of anti-Semitism and racism to Nazi persecution but instead shows how it informed both and, hence, the unfolding of the Holocaust.

Amy E. Randall is Associate Professor of History at Santa Clara University, where she teaches courses in Soviet history, ethnic cleansing and genocide in the twentieth century, the Holocaust, gender and national identity in twentieth-century Eastern and Western Europe and the history of modern sexuality. Amy is the editor and contributing author of *Genocide and Gender in the Twentieth Century: A Comparative Survey* (Bloomsbury Publishers, 2015) and has published numerous other works. Amy, who received her MA and PhD from Princeton University, is also the daughter of Shomrei Torah member Angela Gelber.

\$18 suggested donation for the catered meal. Please RSVP to denise@cstsr.org or call (707) 578-5519.

Passover Seder

Saturday, March 31, 6:00 PM

Our annual *Seder* on the second night of Passover welcomes both members and non-members. Seating in the sanctuary is limited; please reserve your seat early to ensure your place at our *Seder* table. Passover at Shomrei Torah is more than the retelling of the ancient story of the Exodus; it honors our ongoing struggle for freedom, justice and equality. There is a place at the table waiting for you.

The cost is as follows:

\$36 per member adult

\$46 per non-member adult

\$18 per member child (12 and under)

\$23 per non-member child (12 and under)

Free for children under age 5



Reservations are required. Please call (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org. Please specify your preference of chicken or vegetarian.



Heal, Paint And Nosh Wednesday, April 4, 7:00 PM

Join us for another evening of healing, painting and noshing. All supplies, wine, noshes and a teacher are provided. If you have never done a paint night, then this again is your chance! Men and women are all welcome. With step-by-step instructions, it's easier than you may think. And it's fun!! \$20.00 per person; space is limited so reserve now. Contact Denise at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.

PRESENTING

BROADWAY SHABBAT


**Friday, APRIL 6
6:15 PM
Sanctuary**

5, 6, 7, 8!

**Broadway Shabbat is heading our way!
Come hear your favorite prayers set to
your favorite Broadway melodies.**

**This special service will integrate our
beloved prayers with some of
Broadway's most well known tunes—
from classic to contemporary.**

This is not to be missed!



Broadway Shabbat and the Honoring of *L'Taken* Participants

Friday, April 6, 6:15 PM

Every year, a group of Shomrei Torah teens travel to our nation's capital to learn and lobby with the Religious Action Center, the Reform Movement's arm in Washington, DC. The *L'Taken* Seminar (Hebrew for "to repair") informs our teens about bills on the House and Senate floor and the Reform Jewish response to them. On February 12, seventeen of our young congregants lobbied to our Senators and Representatives on a number of issues. During this *Shabbat*, we honor their work to repair the world and listen to their speeches. This is the same evening as our Broadway Shabbat, not to be missed!



Rabbi George is Coming to the Bagel Club

Sunday, April 8, 9:00 AM



Rabbi George Gittleman will make his annual visit to the Men's Bagel Club. His topic this year is *The Blessings of America—The Jewish American Story and Why we Should all be Scared*. The Rabbi's visit is one of the high points of the year and this year's topic promises to be very interesting. Coming just a few days after Passover, this may be your first bagel after the holiday.

We will meet in the Sanctuary for a traditional lox, bagel and cream cheese brunch with all the extras followed by a little new classic Jewish humor and Rabbi George's talk.

Please RSVP to the temple office. A donation of \$7-10 is appreciated. And of course, women are always invited.

April is CSA sign-up month

Starting in May, Singing Frogs Farm gears up for the main harvest season and goes to weekly deliveries of fresh healthy veggies and fruits to its drop-off partners, including Shomrei Torah, which is entering its 8th year of partnering with Singing Frogs Farm.

During that time, several families have faithfully picked up their produce every week. Other families share an order on alternating weeks. They especially like the seasonally changing aspect of the fresh produce.

If you are interested in joining the CSA, check out www.shomreitorah.org/community/environmental-action/. If you have questions or need a share partner, contact the temple office.

Yom Hashoah Commemoration

Wednesday, April 11, 6:15 PM

Join us for CST's annual candle lighting commemorating *Yom Hashoah*. This year's theme is Resistance. We will explore ways both Jews and non-Jews frustrated the Nazi's efforts. Rabbi George will be the keynote speaker and CST and community members will light candles in memory of the many victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. The evening will also feature music by Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner and the CST choir.

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.*

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

—German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller

Tot Shabbat

Friday, April 13, 5:00 PM

Potluck — please bring a vegetarian dish to share.

Tot Shabbat is an informal, child-centered Shabbat service designed especially for children newborn to elementary school age. Everyone is welcome: members and non-members, Jewish and non-Jewish, partners and spouses alike. All Tot Shabbat experiences include a kid-friendly service, lively music and movement, exciting stories, art activities and open play. Tot Shabbat is a FREE program.



Judaica Shuk and Lunch for Jewish Families Who Lost Homes

Sunday, April 15, 12:00 PM

After the fires in Santa Rosa, communities, artists, and temples from across the country have generously donated thousands of Judaica items to help those that lost everything rebuild their Jewish homes. Please come peruse our wide selection of mezzuzot, talitot, kippot, artwork, books, menorahs and more.

Please come for a free lunch and free “shopping” on Sunday, April 15. If you are unable to come on Sunday, the Judaica Shuk will be left up for one week for you to stop by at your convenience.

RSVP to the temple office at (707) 578-5519 or to denise@cstsr.org so we know how much food to order.

Evolving Identities of 20th Century American Jews Seen through Film with Sherry Knazan

Wednesdays, April 18 and 25, 7:00 PM

Movies from the early 1940's to the 1990's can tell us a great deal about American Jewish identity and the social, cultural and political issues affecting Jews during these years. Through the lens of selections from the following films, we'll explore the changing nature of Jewish identity: *Frisco Kid*, *Avalon*, *Gentleman's Agreement*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Crossing Delancey*, *Goodbye Columbus*, *A Stranger Among Us* and *Annie Hall*.

Sherry Knazan has been a Jewish educator for many years. She currently serves as the coordinator of the Exploring the World of Judaism program, an adult learning program through Jewish LearningWorks. She also teaches a 6th grade Hebrew/Judaica class at Congregation Rodef Shalom. Sherry holds a BS in education from the University of Michigan, an M.Ed. from Temple University and a Master of Science in Jewish Studies from Spertus Institute of Jewish Learning, where she is currently working on her doctorate in Jewish Studies. She was awarded the national Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Education as well as the Bay Area Helen Diller Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. She loves connecting with all kinds of people and baking awesome chocolate chip cookies. Please RSVP to the office.



Faith-Based Community Forum

Thursday, April 26, 7:00 PM

Meet the candidates for Sonoma County Sheriff. Questions will be asked by faith-based Sonoma County clergy, and our own Rabbi George Gittleman will be the emcee for this event. Free and open to the public.

KIDdish

Sunday, April 29, 9:00 AM

KIDdish is an introduction to Religious School for all Pre-K, children 2–5 years old. Meet new friends and build budding Jewish relationships that can blossom for years to come. For more information visit www.shomreitorah.org/community/Kiddish.



Camp Scholarships

Don't keep your kids from attending Jewish summer camp due to financial difficulties. Shomrei Torah members may take advantage of the Marlene and Martin Stein Fund for Camperships, making camp accessible to everyone! Applications are now being accepted for any Jewish sleep-away camp. Camp Newman is also willing to help families suffering from the fire by matching dollar-for-dollar any scholarships they receive. To download the application, visit www.cstsr.org.

We Need Wine Donations!

We are in need of donated wine for Shabbat and *Pesach*. If you are able, please consider donating to the temple office!



CST Women's Retreat 2018

Escape for the weekend and discover what some of us already know: Shomrei women are the heart and soul of the temple.

The biennial Women's Retreat will be held at the beautiful Westerbeke Ranch in Sonoma, the site of the very first women's retreat for Shomrei Torah women in 1999. Our retreat starts the afternoon of Friday, October 26th and ends after lunch on Sunday, October 28th. More information to come. Visit the Women's Retreat table and poster at the annual meeting on Thursday, June 21.

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May Rabbi's *Tisch* with Rick Coshnear

"Fear and Courage amongst Scapegoats: my experience with immigrants in the era of threats of mass deportations."

Friday, May 11, 6:15 PM

Rick Coshnear is an immigration lawyer in Santa Rosa and one of the founders of the non-profit "VIDAS" (Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services). VIDAS is a grassroots, self-defense organization of and by and for the immigrant community. Before VIDAS, Rick worked in private practice for ten years and, before that, as a physician assistant in an immigrant medical clinic in Healdsburg for a dozen years. He has fought for a Sonoma County of Refuge for immigrants since 1985, when he and his wife, Kim, moved here, in the midst of the Sanctuary Movement.

On the second Friday of each month, join your CST family for a Rabbi's *Tisch* (table) in lieu of regular Friday night Shabbat Services. All *Tisches* take place at 6:15 PM and include a brief service (including *Mi'Shebeirach* and *Kaddish*), communal dinner and program. \$18 suggested donation for the catered dinner, RSVP to the temple office (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org. Please bring wine to share with your table.

Shabbat and *Shavuot* with Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Join us in welcoming the renowned author, teacher, speaker and liberal mystic Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Friday, May 18, 6:15 PM Shabbat Evening Service

Rabbi Rami will take us on a spiritual journey from the familiar to the extraordinary. During *L'cha Dodi* we face the door to the synagogue to welcome the Sabbath Bride, but the real door that needs opening is the door to our own hearts. Using meditation and chant drawn from Kabbalistic and other sources, we are uplifted by *Shechinah*, the Feminine Presence of God.



Saturday, May 19, 8:45 AM Torah Study

In preparation for *Shavuot*, Rabbi Rami will focus on the Ten Commandments and his work with Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Hahn. We will explore how the Ten Commandments can be used as a series of daily affirmations: a Torah to live by.

Saturday, May 19, 3:00 PM Shabbat Afternoon Service

The focus will be on the tension between *Keva*, the traditional liturgy and *Kavanah*, our personal spiritual energy to awaken us to our true nature as the image of God.

Saturday, May 19, 8:30 PM Tikkun Ley'l Shavuot

Tikkun Ley'l Shavuot, a night of study, commemorates the giving of the *Torah* on Mount Sinai. Rabbi Rami and Rabbi George will conclude the session with a meditation focused on what we have learned and the *Torah* we hope to take with us through the rest of the year.

A Lesson in Hope

When you think about all the challenges we face, it is easy to be cynical or just give up. Remaining hopeful in a world where so much seems out of our control and where we know so much is an essential spiritual challenge. Thank God for *Pesach* because *Pesach* is a lesson in hope. It's all in this story... The Israelites seem doomed from the very beginning: a nation of slaves pitted against the super power of its day and the most powerful person in the world—big, bad Pharaoh.

First lesson in “hope:” Don’t underestimate what a few committed people can do. The revolution begins with Shifrah and Puah, the midwives who refused to follow Pharaoh’s orders to drown the newborn Israelite baby boys in the sea. They are, as far as I can tell, the first example of civil disobedience we have.

Moses is less thoughtful in the beginning: he just acts, and his action – killing the Egyptian slave driver – results in his flight. He doesn’t know from “hope” yet, but he will soon learn and a bush will teach him. What about that bush? What does it teach us? Everything is holy, even a lowly thorn bush—yet another touch point for hope. Who knows where



Rabbi George

help will come from? The seeds of change are scattered all around. The magic of the ordinary is part of God’s plan, the potential embedded in reality, God’s blueprint for hope.

What else about the bush? It burns but does not get consumed.

That’s us, the Jewish people! We’ve been through a lot, but we are still here. Fire ultimately destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem in 587 and 70 – and the fires of the inquisition burned many and ruined even more. The fires of the crematorium, the Nazi murder factories, are unthinkable, yet, even after that horrendous assault, we are still here. We are that bush that burns but does not turn to ash. We, our very existence, is a message of hope...

It takes Moses quite a while to believe in the promise of the future, to be the hope-filled leader he eventually

becomes, but he does learn. Of course, it takes the Israelites – and they are us – even longer. Every step along the way, they *k’vetch* and complain.

It’s hard to believe in hope. In fact, it’s hard to be a hopeful person when life can seem so desperate.

Having grown up as slaves, the Israelites could not imagine being free. And even when they were free from Pharaoh, their fear regularly drove them to other kinds of slavery, like idolatry – the Golden Calf – or nostalgia—“if only we were in the flesh pots of Egypt...”

But the Exodus is “Hope 101” for the Israelites and for us. Think about it: what does it mean to be a slave? You have no control over your life. You are powerless to affect your destiny except in the smallest and most indirect ways. You are at the whim of your master. There is no hope in the life of a slave and that is what makes the freeing of a slave nation – the Israelite revolution – so potent. No wonder the Exodus has been and continues to be the archetypal story of revolution in the West, for it is brimming with hope. If a slave nation can become God’s chosen people, then anything can happen. If a rag-tag group of slaves can defeat the greatest

superpower of its time, then the promise of the future is real for all people everywhere.

Hope is all about perspective. Gershon Gorenberg, a prominent Israeli historian and political commentator, writes, “A hopeful person sees three answers where others see one.... To hope is to operate with the logic of water, not the logic of a rock.” To hope is to leave the lockstep, linear realm of the logical and enter the domain of the imagination that, like water, “flows around barriers till it finds a way through.”

Here one can’t help but think of Nachshon. Do you remember who he was? He’s the guy, according to the *Midrash*, that does not wait for the sea to part. What does he do? He plunges into the water until the water reaches his nose and then, and only then, the sea parts. “A leader is meant to be a master of hope, someone who finds a way, rather than explaining why history teaches there can’t be one.” (Ibid)

This is sometimes hard to remember. Lest we forget, we have the story of the Exodus and *Pesach* to remind us that the straightjacket of history is really an illusion and that we are only truly limited by our vision and our courage.

Rabbi George



L'taken 2018

I love taking our teens to *L'Taken* every year. I get to see them participate in programming that is rich and informative, interactive and thoughtful. Watching them deliver their passionate speeches is truly exciting. Through a program like this, we really see the best in our young congregants.

Two days after our sixteen Shomrei Torah teens came back from Washington, a horrible and senseless mass shooting occurred in Parkland, Florida. Immediately, teens from Parkland, joined by others from communities all around the country, mobilized and have been making their voices heard. This is a pivotal moment for teens everywhere. They have always had the drive and capacity to do amazing social justice work, but now it is publicly visible. It makes me happy knowing that their impact will be felt soon as they reach the age to vote (and run for office).

Our teens are part of this incredible movement. I hope everyone joins me in applauding the work they have done and the work they will do in the future.

— Malcolm McElheney, Youth and Music Coordinator

Elisha's Pantry needs your help!

Every Thursday, 4:00 to 5:30 PM

1717 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa

Twelve years ago, CST partnered with Christ Church United Methodist to open Elisha's Pantry. A few years later, we were joined by Bethlehem Lutheran Church. All three faith-based organizations send volunteers to work every Thursday, and we are in need of the following:

1. Volunteers to help distribute canned goods, fresh vegetables, fruit and other products — Thursdays starting at 3:00 PM and ending by 5:45 PM — volunteers are always shade and rain protected.
2. Volunteers to pick up donated fresh bread and desserts from Whole Foods in Bennett Valley and from Boudin Bakery in Montgomery Village (picking up donated breads requires transportation vehicle and light lifting of up to 25 lbs.).

All volunteers are welcome — families, teens, singles, couples.

To sign up, please call Stephen Harper at (707) 332-2759 or (707) 527-0196. Volunteer dates are assigned as we cannot handle drop-in volunteers.



CHAVERIM

*Chaverim serves
Jewish teens from*

all of our Sonoma County synagogues as well as the general Jewish community. We meet twice monthly for a shared dinner and a compelling discussion and have been doing so for the last 23 years.

We welcome mid-year newcomers! We invite all Jewish teens to join us. You can find more information by going to the "Teen" tab at www.jccsoco.org or by calling director Rick Concoff at (707) 477-9196.

Also, parents, join us for *Exploring the Societal Challenges Today*, a parenting talk by Rick Concoff, on Thursday, March 8, from 6:30–8:30 PM at Congregation Beth Ami.

Environmental Action Committee

Tip of the Month

"Be the hands and feet of God"
~ Rabbi George Gittleman

Honor Earth Day on Saturday, April 21
Work in the morning and play in the afternoon.

Location: Strawberry School's Sierra Park Creek
Address: 2311 Horseshoe Drive (off Summerfield Rd.), Santa Rosa
Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Activities include light pruning, planting, mulching, and trash cleanup. Wear work clothes and shoes. Tools and snacks will be provided. Heavy rains cancels clean up, though work continues in light rains. This cleanup is a partnership between the City of Santa Rosa's Creek Stewardship program and Bennett Valley Vision.

Questions and to RSVP for clean up: CSTEnvironmentalAction@gmail.com
After the clean-up, continue on to the Festival
Location: Old Courthouse Square, Santa Rosa Time: 12:00 - 4:00 PM

The Earth Day festival is a FREE, family-friendly event featuring live performances on stage, local and earth friendly products, and eco-friendly crafts and activities for children. Celebrate the Earth with great people, local food, beer, and wine. This year, Earth Day OnStage will also be a Zero Waste event.



Shop Shomei Torah

The Shomei Torah Judaica Shop has a new buyer and we are purchasing all kinds of new and different items. Please stop by to take a look! You can also arrange special orders by calling the temple office at (707)578-5519.

The Shomrei Torah Judaica Shop is available Monday-Friday during office hours: 9AM-5PM and closed from 12PM-1PM for lunch.



Social Action Goes to the Movies 2018

The second film in the Social Action Goes to the Movies 2018 Film Series, “Bail Trap – American Ransom” made a deep impact on our enthusiastic audience. Few know how deeply the money bail system in the United States is unfairly putting people in jail and destroying their and their family’s financial and personal well-being.

After a series of three short films clearly explained our current bail system and its impacts, a panel of highly informed experts shared their first-hand experience as working defense attorneys, prosecutors and our Sheriff’s office, on how the money bail system is broken and needs to be fixed. The ACLU collected many signatures in support of SB 10, The Money Bail Reform Act. This, and tabling from local social justice nonprofits, was consistent with our theme, “Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport.” Many opportunities were provided for people to get involved and make a difference.

Once again, the members of the Shomrei Torah Social Action Committee maintained their commitment to *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. We thank them for their hard work and dedication.



Meal Train for Sam Jones Hall Shelter

Thank you to all who helped with the Social Action Committee's Winter Soup Brigade! Many volunteers provided amazing help serving meals to residents of the winter shelter program. Sam Jones Hall is excited to announce that temporary winter beds have been converted to additional year-round shelter with the addition of 50 beds and full supportive services for those who need help getting back into homes of their own.

Since the expansion of the adult shelter, Sam Jones Hall is looking for volunteers who are willing to provide, prepare, deliver, and serve meals. Sign up here: www.mealtrain.com/trains/gqd843.

Don't have time to make a meal at home but would like to volunteer to help serve dinner at the shelter? Contact Noreen Mendoza to learn how to get involved: nmendoza@srcharities.org or at (707)528-8712 ext. 160. We are open to any and all volunteers.



A Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Purim!

Special thanks to the Purim cast for making this year's schpiel a success. Also, a big thanks to Malcolm McElheney for preparing the delicious *hamentaschen*.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Congregation Shomrei Torah whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

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Purim Carnival

On Sunday, February 25th, STaRS students and the Santa Rosa community enjoyed a festive Purim Carnival with fun, games and a costume competition!



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1:00-5:00 PM

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Dueling Cantors Success!

On March 3rd, Congregation Shomrei Torah presented the much-loved Dueling Cantors featuring cantorial soloist Erica Wisner, cantor David Frommer, and cantor Jamie Marx.

Our very own Nolan Gasser provided lively piano accompaniment as well as a very special performance of his rendition of *Kol Nidre*. Guests watched in amazement as his fingers expertly graced the piano keys. The evening ended with a special appearance by Rabbi George and we even managed to get Rabbi Stephanie on stage!

The fundraiser was a tremendous success, raising nearly \$16,000 for Shomrei Torah. A tremendous thank you to all who participated!



Fighting Fire With Fire

Thanks to Judaica artist Gary Rosenthal, mothers and daughters from Jewish Women's Connection of Atlanta created beautiful Shabbat candlesticks for families who lost everything in the fire. Over 50 candlesticks were presented to families at a very special Shabbat service on March 16. We are deeply moved that people from across the country are continuing to offer support to those of us affected by the Sonoma Wildfires.

Advertise in *The Voice*...



	<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON-MEMBERS</u>
Business card	\$265	\$330
Quarter-page	\$580	\$725
Half-page	\$1,190	\$1,490

Ads and payment must be received in the CST office by the 5th of the month to start in the next month's issue.

For more information, call 707-578-5519.

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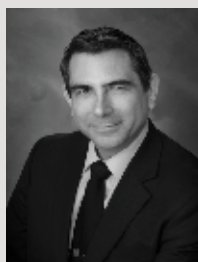
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TIME SENSITIVE

APRIL SERVICES

Friday, April 6

6:15 pm – *Broadway Shabbat Service*
Honoring L'Taken Participants

Saturday, April 7

Weekly Torah portion: *Shmini I*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, April 13

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch with Dr. Amy Randall*

Saturday, April 14

Weekly Torah portion: *Shmini II*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Ira Glasser*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, April 20

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, April 21

Weekly Torah portion: *Tazria-Metzora*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, April 27

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, April 28

Weekly Torah portion: *Achrei Mot-Kedoshim*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi Stephanie*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

See our latest calendar at www.cstsr.org

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 principles of equality, freedom and shalom among all peoples.