SPRING VIEW 2020
LIFELONG LEARNING | HOLIDAYS | EVENTS

MUSICAL ART QUINTET
MARCH 14

PASSOVER SEDER
APRIL 10

MEN’S RETREAT
APRIL 24-26

CANTOR EVAN KENT
SHARDS: PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER
MAY 2
RABBI’S TISCH (table)

2ND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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 begin at 6:15 PM and include Shabbat blessings and prayers, a communal dinner and program as noted below.

$18 Suggested donation for the catered dinner, please RSVP to the office.

February 14
Fighting for Equality: American Jews & The Civil War

Mark Shapiro will discuss the journey of American Jews during the Civil War era and beyond. He will be looking specifically at Jews living in the South and emigrating from Europe to the North during the antebellum period. He will discuss the trials of Jews on both sides during the war, with specific attention paid to General Order Number 11, and the ripple effect of Jewish service in the Union Army on the fabric of the US Military.

Mark Shapiro is a physician and a historian by training, having received his BA in History from UCLA prior to attending medical school. His focus then and now has been on 19th Century America and the Civil War. He has given lectures on a variety of Civil War-related subjects.

March 13
Crossing Cairo: A Jewish Woman’s Encounter with Egypt

In 2006, Rabbi Ruth Sohn and her husband and two sons lived in Cairo for six months. Even now, more than ten years later, their experiences offer a fresh personal perspective on what it is like for a Jewish family to immerse themselves in a Muslim culture and society. Advised not to share the fact that they are Jewish, they discover what it means first to hide and then increasingly to share their Jewish identity. Would it be possible for her and her family, Sohn wondered, to cross the barriers of language, culture, and religion to form real friendships and find a home among Egyptians?

Crossing Cairo includes the family’s experiences in 2006, 2007, and finally, in a visit shortly after the fall of Mubarak in 2011. Join us as Rabbi Sohn shares her experiences and her candid reflections on both the challenges and rewards of reaching across the divide to the other.

April
No tisch in April. Join us for the Passover Seder on Friday, April 10. See middle panel for details.

May 8
From the Shtetl to the Microcosm—the Many Worlds of Roman Vishniac

CST member Michael Steinfeld will share memories of his time with Roman Vishniac, known for the iconic photographs he took of Jewish life in pre-Holocaust Eastern Europe and introduce Vishniac’s accomplishments as a microbiologist and historian of science.

For several years in the 1960s and 1970s, Michael made weekly visits to Vishniac’s NYC apartment. Sharing dinner with him and his wife Edith in their tiny kitchen, then sitting beside and working with Vishniac in his personal library of rare scientific books, Michael got to know the icon Vishniac as the man Roman and Roman as a writer and storyteller.

Michael has recently been studying the unpublished manuscripts of several books they worked on during those visits.

Michael grew up in Queens, NY, and was a librarian and public library director in New York, Massachusetts and California for over 45 years. He now lives in Santa Rosa with his wife, Elizabeth, a fiber artist and landscape designer. They have two children, Ben and Rebecca, and three grandchildren.

June 12
The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man

Al Hirshen has led an unusual life. He learned street smarts in the Bronx, helping out at his father’s candy store, worked as a waiter in the Catskills to pay for his schooling, and became a lawyer. He was a participant in many of the pivotal changes of our times—as a Civil Rights Lawyer in the 60’s, then as a pioneering anti-poverty lawyer and creator of the first public/private partnerships in the Carter administration. After the breakup of the former Soviet Union, he was among the first USAID consultants to work in Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia and Albania. For nine years Al worked as a consultant to the leadership of Indonesia during that nation’s turbulent transition to democracy.

Al has a rare sense of humor and a profound love of life, the world, and people. He conveys deep appreciation of the beauty around us, of friendship, and the transcendent spirit of humanity. Al’s talk will focus on his new autobiography, written with the award-winning writer, Renate Stanhal.
LIFELONG LEARNING

Talmud Circle
Tractate Ta’anit – What Do We Know and How Do We Know It?
Sundays 1:30-3:30 PM:
February 2, March 1, April 5, May 17, June 7 (Offsite)
For pricing and to register, visit www.cstsr.org.
In this mostly narrative section of the Talmud, questions are raised about “Holy Men” who pronounce the “meaning” of a disaster. This narrative section of the Talmud, in the words of Julia Watts Belser, “over turns expected hierarchies of gender, piety, and social status to challenge the theological significance of hunger, suffering, and abundance.” Read more at www.cstsr.org.

Zohar with Daniel Matt,
Facilitated by Rabbi George
Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 PM:
February 5, 12, 26
March 11, 18, 25
Cost is on a sliding scale from $100-$250. (All proceeds go to Dr. Matt). You will also need to purchase Vol. 1 of the Pritzker edition of the Zohar.
Scholarships are available- please don’t let the cost deter you!
RSVP to the office
The Zohar is the heart of Kabbalah, and perhaps the most complex and challenging book in the Jewish Cannon. Utilizing Dr. Matt’s recent translation and his video lectures we will take a dive into this deep, murky and meaningful corpus of Jewish wisdom. No previous knowledge is necessary (We will all be lost together!) Check out the course on line www.sup.org/zohar/course

Creating Sacred Space:
A Jewish Mindfulness Meditation led by Rabbi George. Are we happy? Are we living the life we want to live?
Session Dates:
February 9, 16, 23, 4-5:15 PM
March 8, 15, 22, 4-5:15 PM
April 5, 12, 26, 4:30-5:45 PM
Mindfulness meditation is the practice of cultivating our attention to the present moment. As we learn to quiet our minds, we see our truth more clearly, and open a path to living a fuller, happier, healthier life. Jewish Mindfulness adds the teachings of our tradition to deepen the meditative experience. This course will include teaching, meditation instruction, and periods of silence. No previous experience is necessary.
Single Session: $8 CST Members / $12 Non-Members
Full Series: $80 CST Members / $120 Non-Members
Please RSVP to the office. All are welcome regardless of ability to pay. Scholarships are available.

JEWS LITERARY CIRCLE:
The Jewish Literary Circle, one of the LifeLong Learning programs, meets monthly to read Jewish literature and other published material in an atmosphere of stimulating discussion. Participants choose the reading selections for the upcoming months. Anyone can join anytime.
FREE, all are welcome, please RSVP to group leader Marian McKenna at chabansky@yahoo.com.

A Bride for One Night by Ruth Calderon
February 20, 6:30 PM
To This Day by S.Y. Agnon
March 19, 6:30 PM
More dates to come, stay tuned to Chai-Lites.

Arguments Matter! How to Disagree Constructively from a Jewish Perspective with Roberta Berg MD and Stan Roodman Ph.D.
Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 PM:
April 22, 29
May 6, 13, 20
A course from Pardes, a renowned center for Jewish learning in Jerusalem.
Combining the ancient and the contemporary, Torah texts and video lectures from scholars, this class will focus on the following subjects:
1. To Meet or Refuse to Meet
2. Fear War or Trust Peace
3. Xenophobia or National Security
4. Coexist or Separate
5. “Fake News” or Uncovering the Truth.

For more information see www.pardes.org.il/MM
This course is also part of ‘Open Mind’ a program designed by Prof Jonathan HIadet of New York University to help people develop intellectual humility and engage constructively across differences. See www.OpenMindplatform.org

MARCY’S PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo credits go to past Board President, Marcy Pluznick-Marrin, who provided northern California nature images for this issue. If you are her friend on Facebook, you already have been dazzled by her remarkable photographic work. Thanks, Marcy.
**EVENTS**

**Sweet Shabbat Mornings Potluck Lunch**
The Religious Practices Committee is hosting special gatherings on Saturday mornings on a number of Shabbats this year. These will include a speaker and a potluck lunch (with a main dish provided by us) immediately following Shabbat Services. Please RSVP to the office.
**Saturday, February 1, 12:00 PM**
Rabbi George will be the presenter; the topic will be “Judaism and Environmental Ethics”
**May 23, 12:00 PM**
Stay tuned to the weekly Chai-lites for more information.

**Bagel Club**
**Sundays at 9:00 AM**
**February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7**
The Bagel Club meets once a month to enjoy a delicious bagel breakfast followed by a speaker. Women as well as men are welcome. $7-$10 donation requested,
Please RSVP to cstbagelmen@gmail.com or call (707) 829-1388 to reserve your seat and brunch.

**The End of the American Dream: Eyewitness accounts of the humanitarian crisis at the border and in our own backyard**
**Saturday, February 29, 7:00-9:00 PM**
A free community event open to the public. Parking is limited, please carpool.

**Musical Art Quintet**
**Saturday, March 14, 7:00 PM**
The Shomrei Torah Cultural Committee is happy to announce that The Musical Art Quintet will perform at CST. Their music features Sephardic influence (from Sascha Jacobsen’s recent SF Arts Commision work, Kanta Judezmo), Afro-Cuban Rhythms, and Argentine Tango. Special guest musicians will be joining them for this spectacular evening where they will merge classic and world traditions to create an invigorating sound. Check them out at: http://www.musicalartquintet.com
Join us for what is sure to be an electrifying performance! This is a free event and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to the Shomrei Torah office at 578-5519.
This is a free event and refreshments will be served. Don’t miss this spectacular event.

**WHAT’S COOKING AT CST**
Class for something you’d like to learn or show off. Schmooze and nibble.
No-show cancellation fee, spaces are limited. RSVP to the office.

**Constantine Cooking with Eva Thomas-El Beza**
**Sunday, February 9, 12:00-2:00 PM**
Constantine Cooking class has a new date. The class will be a medley of small salads and snacks, Arabic potato dumplings served warm with fresh lemon juice. The recipes were handed down generation after generation and Eva is excited to share her rich culture of Arabic and Berber cuisine. Explore how Jews in Algeria eat, gather and celebrate.

**Homemade Hamentaschen with Robin Kasimov**
**February 16, 2:00-4:00 PM**
The art of triangular cookie treats will be taught made of dough with poppy seeds or fruit jam in the middle. Just in time for Purim festivities.

**Brisket Two Ways with Jerry Newman**
**Sunday, March 15, 1:30 PM-3:30 PM**
Learn two ways to cook brisket. One is smoked and one is the traditional method from Jerry’s mother’s recipe.

**Homemade Gefilte Fish with Sabrina Kahn**
**Sunday, March 22, 1:30 - 3:30 PM**
Learn to make (and taste) fresh homemade gefilte fish. It is nothing like the jarred stuff! Try this delicious recipe just in time to share at Passover.

**Women’s Retreat**
**Friday, October 23, Sunday, October 25, 2020**
For pricing and to register, visit www.cstsr.org.
Women of CST, join us for our 12th biennial Women’s Retreat held at the beautiful Westerbeke Ranch in Sonoma. Immerse yourself in the spiritual, peaceful and joyous bonding and reflection as we welcome Shabbat and experience nature in the company of Jewish women.
EVENTS

Men’s Retreat - Telling Stories & Creating Memories
Friday-Sunday, April 24-26, 2020
For pricing and to register, visit www.cstrs.org.

Join us at the beautiful Marconi Conference Center overlooking Tomales Bay. We have a full schedule of activities for the body, spirit and funny bone. Enjoy a unique Sabbath experience, nature walks, and much more. Fully accessible!

Cantor Evan Kent—
One Man Show
“Shards; Putting the Pieces Together”
Saturday, May 2, 7:00 PM
Free, please RSVP to the office.

Cantor Evan Kent will delight us with his one-man musical play! With storytelling through song, Cantor Kent will share tales of his grandparents’ immigration from Europe to the U.S. in the early 20th century and his own Aliyah to Israel. Free admission and refreshments will be served. Appropriate for ages 10+

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 3, 6:15 PM
Free, dinner provided, please RSVP to the office.
This has been an exciting year for Congregation Shomrei Torah!

Please join us at our annual meeting for a free dinner, conversation and a little business. We will honor our hard-working volunteers and learn how we fund our operations and where your money is being spent. Please check your mail in April for our Annual Report. If you would like to share your thoughts or questions about the Annual Report, please feel free to contact Rabbi George at rabbig@cstrs.org, Rabbi Stephanie at rabbikramer@cstrs.org, or Sharon Bauman, President at sharonbbbaum@gmail.com.

Women’s Interest Groups
For dates, locations, details and questions, please email Ronnie at ronniecc@gmail.com.
Meet new and long-time Shomrei Torah friends by checking out one or more Shomrei Torah Women’s Groups. Try them all or attend the group(s) that work for you. No commitments are required.
Ongoing Groups: Monthly Book Club, Monthly Movie Group, Dinner Group
Newly Formed Groups: Walking, Knitting/Crocheting, Healthy Cooking, Lunch Group, Mahjongg & Games Group

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK
**CHILDREN & TEEN PROGRAMMING**

**Purim Carnival**
**Sunday, March 8, 11:15 AM**
This event is FREE and open to the community! Join us for a day of fun, Purim games, food, music and much more! Come in costume to win a prize!
Costume Contest
Pizza & Treats
Games, Prizes & Activities
Bounce House
Special Surprises
Adult Lounge

**Shabbat ShaBoogie**
**Friday, May 15, 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM**
Open to the entire community. Free, please RSVP to the office. Shabbat ShaBoogie is a very special Shabbat experience for families with children 3rd grade and under! Begin with a short service with music, dancing and stories - and then enjoy a light dinner and dessert with all of your new friends!

**7th Grade Mitzvah Mall**
**May 3, 9-11:15 AM**
During religious school, come see the amazing Mitzvah projects our 7th Grade B’nei Mitzvah students have been working on all year. Our 7th graders will be presenting their completed projects for all religious school students and guests.

**Youth Opportunities**
**JUSTY (2nd-5th Grade)**
**March 1, 11:15 AM**
Hamentaschen Bake-Off

**miniSHORTY (6th-8th Grade)**
**Overnight Program: February 8-9**
**Game Night: March 28, 3:00 PM**
**Epicenter: April 19, 11:30 AM**

**SHORTY (9-12th Grade)**
**Under the Stars: March 28, 6:00 PM**
**Sleep Ogre: April 18-19**
**Self-Care and Paint Night: May 16th, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**NFTY CWR (8-12th Grade)**
**Gesher Kallah: April 24 - 26 (Offsite???)**

**HOLIDAYS**

**Purim Shpiel**
**Monday, March 9, 6:15 PM**
Curtains will open at 6:15pm for this year’s spectacular Hamilton-themed Purim Shpiel! Our congregants in the cast will be starring in this music and rhyme-filled reenactment of the megillah, don’t miss out on this evening of entertainment and fun.

**Passover Seder**
**Friday, April 10, 6:15 PM**
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. Our annual Seder welcomes both members and non-members. Reservations are required as well as meal preference of chicken or vegan; visit www.cstsr.org or call the office.

**The cost is as follows:**
- $36.00 member adult (13 and up)
- $46.00 non-member adult (13 and up)
- $18.00 member child (ages 5-12)
- $23.00 non-member child (ages 5-12)
Free for children under age 5.

**SHABBAT SERVICES**
All are welcome to join us for services. Please check the website and Chai-Lites for special notices.

**Friday Evening Service**  6:15 PM
**Saturday Morning Torah Study**  8:45 AM
**Saturday Shabbat Service**  10:30 AM