



CONGREGATION  
SHOMREI TORAH  
שומרי תורה

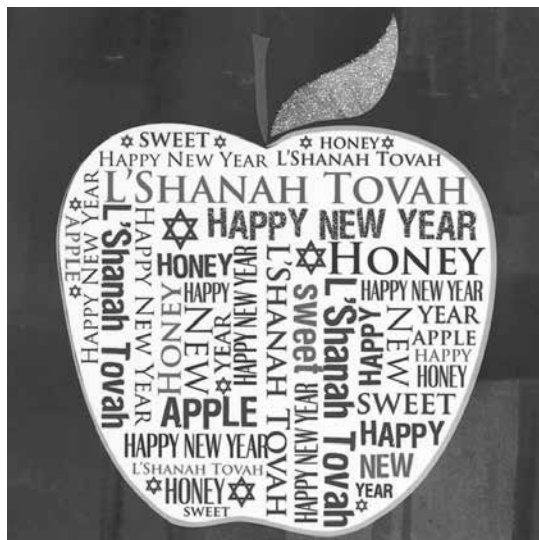
September 2020

# VOICE & VIEW SPECIAL EDITION

## L'Shanah Tovah!

As this High Holy Day season arrives, we send each of you greetings for a sweet new year.

We realize that this year's Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur observances at Congregation Shomrei Torah will not feel or look like those of any other year. We deeply long to be with you in person: to pray, to sing, to hug and be together.



But since that is not yet safely possible, we are excited to use online resources to make these High Holy Days meaningful and memorable.

With loving care, Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner and the Shomrei Torah Choir have developed innovative ways of singing together, from afar. The Rabbis have worked closely with the Religious Practices Committee to create new traditions that evoke the sacredness of the Days of Awe. You'll see familiar CST faces as we make our way through the High Holy Day *machzor* (prayer book).

*The Rabbis have worked closely with the Religious Practices Committee to create new traditions that evoke the sacredness of the Days of Awe.*

Through our online connections, we can celebrate the resilience that has allowed us to sustain our community through this year's challenges and welcome a new year that we pray will find us all blessed with good health, in a world at peace.

Please review the enclosed information for instructions on how to join us virtually and celebrate joyfully in what may be a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Rabbi George Gittleman and  
Rabbi Stephanie Kramer,  
Ann DuBay and Paul Berlant, Presidents  
of the Board of Directors

## Holy Day Prayer Book Pickup!

Sunday, September 13

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Monday, September 14

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Congregation Shomrei Torah is happy to loan you a set of prayer books for free. Please select a pick up date by filling out the online form at [www.cstsr.org/form/HHDPrayerBookSignup](http://www.cstsr.org/form/HHDPrayerBookSignup) or calling the office so that we can have your set ready for contact-less pickup in the CST circle drive.



Given what we know about the COVID-19 pandemic at this time, there will be no in-person activities (services, classes, office staff work, etc.) at the CST campus before January 2021. We continue to fully maintain the premises to avoid building, grounds, and mechanical systems problems and will provide updates as we learn more.

## HIGH HOLY DAY PAPERWORK INSIDE!

High Holy Day Service Calendar page 2

High Holy Day Packet (fill & return) page 3-4

# Service Calendar | High Holy Days 5781 (2020)

Please note that all events this year will be held virtually. As indicated below, some services may be viewed via live-stream only. "Zoom-ing" events are available via Zoom only and require pre-registration. Live-stream and zoom registration links can be found at [www.cstsr.org/highholydays2020](http://www.cstsr.org/highholydays2020)

## Saturday, September 12

S'lichot Service (Zoom only)..... 7:00pm  
Please join us via zoom for an interactive evening of self-reflection.

## Machzorim (High Holy Day Prayer books) Pickup

Sunday, September 13 .....9:00am - 11:00am  
Monday, September 14.....5:30pm - 7:00pm  
We are happy to loan or sell you a set of prayer books. Please let us know in advance so that we can have your set ready for contact-less pickup in the CST circle drive on one of the dates above.

## Friday, September 18

Erev Rosh Hashanah Children's Service  
(Live stream only)..... 6:30pm

Teen Service (Zoom only).....6:30pm

Zoom-ing with Apples and Honey  
(Zoom only).....7:00pm  
Join us on Zoom for apples and honey to delight in the sweetness of the New Year with your fellow friends at CST.

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service  
(Live stream only)..... 7:30pm

## Saturday, September 19

Zoom-ing in Shalom Hall (Zoom only) .....9:00am  
Join us for Zoom breakout rooms to chat with your fellow friends at CST.

Rosh Hashanah Adult Service  
(Live stream only) ..... 10:00am

Tashlich Service ..... Self-guided  
Visit [www.cstsr.org](http://www.cstsr.org) for a printable Tashlich guide and audio version. Find a body of water and embrace this spiritual practice of casting away your sins and starting fresh.

## Friday, September 25

Shabbat Shuvah Service  
(Live stream only)..... 6:15pm

## Saturday, September 26

Shabbat Shuvah Morning Service  
(Live stream only).....10:30am

## Sunday, September 27

Zoom-ing in Shalom Hall (Zoom only).... 7:00pm  
Join us for Zoom breakout rooms to connect with your friends at CST.

Kol Nidre Service (Live stream only).....7:30pm

## Monday, September 28

Yom Kippur Adult Service  
(Live stream only) .....10:00am  
Jewish Journeys (personal stories)  
(Live stream only) .....12:00pm  
Jonah (Live stream only)..... 1:30pm  
Meditation (Live stream and Zoom) .....2:30pm  
Healing Service (Live stream only) .....3:30pm  
Yizkor Service (Live stream only) .....4:30pm  
Neilah Service (Live stream only) .....5:30pm

*In recognition that attending virtually can be tiring, most of the services will be shorter than normal. We hope that you will use this 'found' time to relax, pray, contemplate or celebrate in a way that is meaningful to you.*

Since we are not able to have our Cemetery Service this year, Rabbi George is available to meet you at the cemetery to visit your loved one's grave, call the office or email Angelica at [cst@cstsr.org](mailto:cst@cstsr.org) to set up an appointment.

# High Holy Days 5781 (2020)

*It is customary to make a donation to Shomrei Torah in honor of High Holy Days.*

If you would rather complete this paperwork online, please visit

[www.cstsr.org/high-holy-days-2020.html](http://www.cstsr.org/high-holy-days-2020.html)

## **Suggested donation to attend all services:**

- Per household/family \$360
- Per individual \$180

## **Suggested donation to attend one service:**

- Per household/family \$180
- Per individual \$90

*Sustaining a Jewish community has many financial challenges, especially in the light of our current situation.*

*We thank you for both your good company and for your generosity in support of our efforts. If you decide to join our congregation before November 30, your High Holy Days gift will be applied toward your first year's membership pledge.*

*Please note: At Shomrei Torah, no one is turned away for financial reasons.*

## **Yizkor Memorial Service 5781 (2020)**

*The Yizkor Memorial Service includes the names of all those who have died in the past year, as well as all those whom we have lost in years past and choose to remember. Please complete and return to the CST office by **September 15, 2020**.*

**New this year:** If you would like your loved one's image included in the Yizkor service, please email your picture(s) to Morgan at [youth@cstsr.org](mailto:youth@cstsr.org) by September 15, 2020.

### **Those who have passed away the previous year (Beginning October 1, 2019)**

(These names will be read during the Yizkor service and listed in the memorial section.)

**In Memory of:**

**Yahrzeit Date:**

**Remembered by/ Relationship of deceased:**

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### **Other names to be included in the Yizkor Memorial Service:**

These names will not be read during services. Please note that names are not automatically repeated from year to year. They must be individually listed on the next page.

**In Memory of:**

**Remembered by/Relationship:**

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☐ *(Members Only)* Please add the above names to my permanent *Yahrzeit* office database. (Please specify date of passing.)

*It is a longstanding tradition to make a contribution in honor of the memory of a family member or close friend so that their memory may endure.*

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## My 2020 High Holy Days Donation:

High Holy Days donation.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Yizkor* Memorial donation.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to borrow a set of prayer books (*free*).....# of sets: \_\_\_\_\_  
*To be picked up at CST on the dates listed on page 1.*

☐ I would like to purchase a set of prayer books.....# of sets: \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Prayer Books (\$48 per set) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REMITTANCE.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

☐ I am sending a **check** for the total listed above. *Payable to: Congregation Shomrei Torah*

☐ Charge my **credit card** the total listed above.

☐ My card is already on file with CST (*Members Only*)

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV code: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please return all forms and donations to the CST Office: 2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404



## September *Tisch* with Rabbi George, Rabbi Stephanie & Erica

Friday, September 11, 6:15 PM

Opening the Heart for the Holy Days with Rabbi George, Rabbi Stephanie and Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner. We will learn, sing and pray as a way to prepare for the New Year.

## Rabbi Michael Robinson Memorial Lecture and *Tisch* with Rabbi Michael Lezak

Proximate Justice - Speaking Truth, Seeking Reconciliation in the Face of America's Enduring Racial Pandemic

Friday, November 13, 6:15 PM

Join Rabbi Michael Lezak of GLIDE's Center for Social Justice for a night of painful (and often inspiring) stories and prophetic dreaming from America's justice landscape.

Michael Lezak is the Rabbi at GLIDE in San Francisco, a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization. He works in GLIDE'S Center for Social Justice, aiming to magnify the impact of GLIDE's justice machinery and to forge covenantal bonds between GLIDE and the broader Jewish community.

He spearheads groundbreaking work with law enforcement and district attorneys from around the country to help them understand the challenges faced by people living in extreme poverty. In his previous position as Rabbi of Congregation Rodef Sholom, he founded programs to help families and inmates at Pelican Bay State, San Quentin, and Vacaville prisons. Rabbi Lezak is on the national board of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. He is married to Rabbi Noa Kushner and is the proud father of three daughters.

## Rabbi's *Tisch* with Ruth Sohn

Friday, December 11, 6:15 PM

Crossing Cairo: A Jewish Woman's Encounter with Egypt

In 2006, Rabbi Ruth Sohn along with 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.

Ruth H. Sohn is a rabbi, spiritual director, and writer based in Los Angeles. She directs the Spirituality Initiative and the Rabbinic Mentoring program for rabbinical students at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and co-directs *Yedidya* Center's *Morei Derekh* Jewish Spiritual Direction Training Program

## Wise Aging with Rabbi

Meredith Cahn

Fridays at 1:00 PM, September 4, October 2, November 6 and December 4

You can participate via Zoom, please contact Meredith for the link: [mcahn2@mac.com](mailto:mcahn2@mac.com)

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.



## Mindfulness Meditation

Sundays at 4:00 PM

September 13, October 4, 11, 18 & 25, November 1, 8, 15 & 22, December 6, 13 & 20

The Zoom link is available in the weekly emails or by email request: [zoom@cstsr.org](mailto:zoom@cstsr.org).

Are we happy? Are we living the life we want to live?

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, led by Rabbi George Gittleman, will include teaching, meditation instruction, and periods of silence. By practicing together, we'll enhance our ability to listen to the voice within and expand our sense of interconnectedness. The seasons of the Jewish calendar will serve as a guiding theme, to deepen the meditative experience. No previous experience is necessary. All are welcome.

## Jewish Literary Circle

*Thursdays, September 17 at 5:15 PM, October 15, November 19, December 17 at 6:15 PM*

Jewish Literary Circle, one of the LifeLong Learning programs, meets each month on the evening of the third Thursday to discuss 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. For the link to this Zoom meeting, please refer to your weekly email or email [zoom@cstsr.org](mailto:zoom@cstsr.org).

## Opening day of STaRS 2020-2021

*Sunday, October 4, 9:00 AM - 11:15 AM*



Join us this year for a special religious school curriculum: Building Your Palace in Time. Made with a focus on ritual and meaning in the home, each student will receive a box packed full with projects, recipes, social justice activities, stories, and more! Families can work on the weekly activities in their own time, before coming together as a community on Sunday for a short Zoom meeting to share and engage in ritual. And, because the curriculum is virtual, you can participate from anywhere, even if you are outside of Santa Rosa.

Even though it comes in a box, this year's STaRS will surely be an out-of-the-box and hands-on way to create meaningful Jewish moments as a family and community. Check out our website for a video of Rabbi Kramer going into more detail and to register.

## That's not MY Oseh Shalom!

*Stay tuned for dates information in your weekly emails.*

Join Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner and liturgical accompanist, Yvonne Wormer, for a musical exploration into the melodies of a few of our well known liturgical texts. In this 3 part course, we'll look at different prayers and a variety of melodies used for them - spanning traditional to contemporary. Come sing old "standards" and learn new favorites! No musical background is necessary, only an open heart and mind. Feel free to attend all or individual sessions of this course.



## Kosher Wine Class

*Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 PM*

The Zoom link is available in the weekly emails or by email request: [zoom@cstsr.org](mailto:zoom@cstsr.org).

What makes wine Kosher? What's it like to be an Israeli Kosher Vintner? Israeli wine expert Steve Kerbel will address these and other questions in this one-session class.

Understanding the kashrut of wine (and what goes into making wine kosher) is not a simple matter of ingredients and knowing what the wine contains. Because wine is used in both sacramental and social settings, the rabbis of the Talmud created restrictions around wine that don't apply to any other consumable product.

Also, even in the 21st Century, certain biblical agricultural laws are still enforced in Israel that affect the kashrut of wine made there. During this session we will look into the various issues surrounding the kashrut of wine, how they manifest themselves, particularly when serving a wine at a public event under rabbinic supervision, and how wine made in Israel is peculiarly subject to ancient laws, like tithing and the sabbatical year, even in modern times.

Steve Kerbel, your presenter, has been involved with the Israeli wine industry since the 1980's, regularly visiting wineries throughout Israel. Steve has served on tasting panels for several boutique wineries and regularly conducts wine tastings and wine education seminars throughout the United States.



## Arguments Matter!

How to Disagree Constructively from a Jewish Perspective.  
Led by CST members Roberta Berg MD and Stan Roodman Ph.D.

5 Wednesdays: October 21, 28; November 4, 11, 18; 7:00 PM

The Zoom link is available in the weekly emails or by email request: [zoom@cstsr.org](mailto:zoom@cstsr.org).  
Please plan to attend all 5 sessions, drop-ins are not encouraged.

The lack of desire to understand those with opposing political opinions, and the inability to disagree constructively over critical questions, is posing an existential threat to democracies around the world.

In this course, we will utilize Jewish texts and wisdom to increase people's motivation and ability to understand and engage more constructively with opinions that differ from their own.



We will examine a central question currently under political debate: "When do we agree to meet with our political adversaries, and when do we refuse?"

We will use videos and text readings from the PARDES Institute, Jerusalem to provide the main issues and dilemmas, then break into small groups for in depth discussions, followed by the total group discussions.

## Hanukkah: A Deeper look at the Chameleon of the Jewish Holidays With Rabbi George & Alissa Hirshfeld

3 Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16; 7:00 PM

The Zoom link is available in the weekly emails or by email request: [zoom@cstsr.org](mailto:zoom@cstsr.org).

**December 2 – Origin Stories:** an exploration of Hanukkah's ancient sources and what they teach us taught by Rabbi George.

**December 9 – Spiritual Depth:** bringing light into a dark world, miracles and spiritual fortitude taught by Alissa Hirshfeld.

**December 16 – Muscle Bound Jews:** the Maccabees, Zionism and the search for a new Jewish Identity taught by Rabbi George.

Classes are free. You can sign up for the series or attend any session that interests you. No previous knowledge necessary.



## Sukkot Shabbat - Unsheltered Neighbors and Permanent Housing with Reverend Lindsey Bell-Kerr

Friday, October 2, 6:15 PM



We make homelessness complicated, blaming each unsheltered person's plight on a variety of social ills and personal failings. In truth, however, the moral failing is not on the unsheltered people, but on our society as a whole. And so, instead of questioning the morality of homeless individuals, we need to ask ourselves why we, as faithful people, have allowed such injustice to persist in our community.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Pastor Lindsey attended American University in Washington, DC. After working in homeless services in the DC area, Lindsey served with Initiatives for Peace in Mindanao Philippines, focusing on environmental and demilitarization work. Lindsey received her Masters of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion in 2013, and was appointed to First United Methodist Church in 2013, and to Christ Church United Methodist in 2016.

Lindsey's calling within the local church centers on spiritual growth, and how this leads to social transformation. Since moving to Santa Rosa, Lindsey's primary focus has been ending police brutality, supporting those experiencing homelessness, and working for the development of affordable housing.



### **Shabbat and Virtual Simchat Torah Celebration**

*Friday, October 9, 6:15 PM*

Save the date! Stay tuned for more information in your weekly emails.

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### **Hanukkah Candle Lighting**

*December 11, 6:15 PM*

Join us virtually before the Rabbi's Tisch with Ruth Sohn for traditional Hanukkah candle lighting!

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### **Virtual Hanukkah Celebration**

*December 17, 6:15 PM*

Save the date! Stay tuned for more information in your weekly emails.





## 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](mailto:zoom@cstsr.org)

**Congregation Shomrei Torah**  
wishes you *Shanah Tovah!*



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## Tradition of Giving—Coming Soon!

Beginning at the end of break-the-fast on Monday September 28, 2020, we begin our 2nd Annual Tradition of Giving Campaign. Last year our fundraising efforts were a resounding success—THANKS to all of you!

So much has happened since then but some things have not changed . . . only 60% of our operating costs are covered by membership pledges. The importance of YOUR participation cannot be overstated.

Congregation Shomrei Torah works to support the principles of equality, freedom and shalom of all people—something we can all agree we must continue to fight for. Your donation, regardless of the amount, makes a difference. Please give as generously as possible.

Thank you.



**TRADITION  
OF GIVING**



### 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.