



Rabbi's Tisch Updated Speaker Julie Saxe-Taller

Friday, February 9, 6:15 PM

Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller served as Rabbi at Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco from 2004-2017. She led the congregation's participation in organizing on justice issues and worked closely with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism to build it's first statewide organizing network, Reform California. She also served on the Bay Area council of Bend the Arc and was a co-chair of the J Street Rabbinic Cabinet.



On a different note, she recorded an album of prayer songs that is available at her website, juliesaxetaller.com.

\$18 suggested donation for the catered dinner, RSVP to the temple office (707) 578-5519. Please bring wine to share with your table.



This event is *FREE* and open to the community!
Food will be available to purchase

WHEN: Sunday, February 25, 11:30a-2:30p

WHAT: Join us for a day of fun, Purim games, crafts, music and much more!
Come in costume to win a prize

ADULTS: While the kids play, relax & have a drink & nosh in the adult area.

WHERE: Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Rd.



CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH
שומרי תורה



Mary Poppins Purim!

Wednesday, February 28, 6:15 PM

We'll be having a SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPIALIDOCIOUS time celebrating this jolly holiday with a Mary Poppins theme!

Casting Call!

All ages are welcome to participate, and *no line memorization is needed!*

Singing and lines for everyone who wants them!
Just attend our three rehearsals on February 15, 22 and 26 from 5:30-7:00 PM.

If you are interested in being part of the cast, please email Malcolm at youth@cstsr.org.

Dueling Cantors

March 3
Save the Date!
More information inside!

HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Dueling Cantors</i>	page 1
<i>Honoring Judith Goleman</i>	page 3
<i>After the Fire</i>	page 6

CONGREGATION SHOMREI TORAH PRESENTS

DATE: Saturday, March 3rd

TIME: 7:30 PM

ADMISSION:

\$36 *Food & Beverage
Included*

Get ready to BID on your
favorite songs from Pop,
Oldies, Show Tunes, Opera
and Jewish Classics.

\$20 minimum bid to START
and STOP a song.

A FUNDRAISER FOR
CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH



THE dueling cantors

starring:

CANTOR DAVID FROMMER and
CANTOR JAMIE MARX

featuring:

NOLAN GASSER, Piano
SARAJ CORY, Emcee

cantor banter and musical moxie

AN EVENING OF SONGS, ENTERTAINMENT,
KIBBITZING AND GENERAL SILLINESS



CANTOR DAVID FROMMER

Cantor David Frommer is CST's beloved former Cantor and current Cantor of Sherith Israel in SF. His approach to Jewish worship favors spirited communal participation with moments for cantorial expression and musical dialogue between the cantor and the congregation.



CANTOR JAMIE MARX

Cantor Jamie Marx serves as the Cantor of Temple Shalom in Broomall, PA. A composer and songwriter, Cantor Marx has written, recorded, or published numerous pieces. He is passionate about worship music in all its forms.



NOLAN GASSER

Nolan Gasser is a critically acclaimed composer, pianist, and musicologist – most notably, the architect of Pandora Radio's Music Genome Project. Nolan and his family are CST members.

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707-578-5519 or
denise@cstsr.org



CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH
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Soup Brigade

Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15 and 22

We know that the homeless in Santa Rosa endure harsh times during the winter months, and particularly this year due to the tragic fires. Catholic Charities expanded its services at the Samuel Jones Shelter, creating extra indoor sleeping space for the homeless and put out a call to the faith-based community asking for assistance. For the 5th year in a row, the CST Social Action Committee stepped up and offered to provide soup for about 40 people, eight Thursday nights through January and February.

How to Help:

- We need volunteers each Thursday to make soup (in your own home or purchased) and deliver it to Samuel Jones Shelter in Sebastopol.
- If you are interested in serving, soup is heated and served from 5:30–8:00 PM at the shelter in Sebastopol. Children are welcome and tend to get a lot out of the experience.

Please sign up at <https://copenfamilyfoundation.doodle.com/poll/tmxhshrfqgz6v>.

For more information please contact the office (707) 518-5519.

Dessert and Stories with Joel ben Izzy

Saturday, February 3, 7:00 PM

A Night of Fun, Laughter and Healing for Everyone with Author and Story Teller Extraordinaire, Joel ben Izzy

Congregation Shomrei Torah is delighted to welcome back Joel ben Izzy, one of America's most beloved storytellers. His visits to our community have always been a huge hit, and we are really looking forward to this one.

For over 35 years, Joel has traveled the globe, gathering and telling stories from Jerusalem to Japan, from Hong Kong to Hungary and from Rome to Rwanda. Although the stories he tells come from everywhere he goes and everyone he meets, his specialty has always been tales from Jewish tradition, of wisdom and wonder, laughter and learning, tears and teaching. He brings characters to life through movement, voice and humor. As we Jews know well, tears and laughter are all part of the healing process, so he may well be telling some tales from *Chelm*, the mythical Jewish village of fools.

Joel is the author of the award-winning memoir *The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness* (Algonquin, 2003), recounting his own remarkable tale of healing, and will be sharing stories from this journey as well. You can learn more about Joel at his web site and blog, storypage.com.

Free, but please RSVP to the temple office (707) 578-5519. Potluck desert to follow the performance.

Honoring Judith Goleman

Saturday, February 3, 10:30 AM

Join us as we honor Judith Goleman, rabbinic pastor and longtime Shomrei Torah member, who has been responsible for scheduling Saturday morning Shabbat Torah readers, among her many other talents! Please RSVP for the luncheon to the office (707) 518-5519.



Men's Bagel Club

Sunday, February 4, 9:00 AM

CST member Ed Navarro will speak about public school education challenges and changes, a subject that is near and dear to him as a middle school principal. He will also include the issue of the effect of the Sonoma County fires on kids and the schools' response. To reserve your gourmet breakfast for \$7–10, please RSVP to the office. Ladies are always welcome.



Save the Date: On March 4, Michael Kennedy, the director of Sonoma County Behavioral Health, will speak to our group about new approaches and resources for mental health treatment in Sonoma County.

Tot Shabbat

Friday, February 9, 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.



Religious Activism: Heschel and Social Justice Class

Wednesday and Thursdays, February 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 7:00 PM

"When I marched in Selma, I felt like my legs were praying."

— Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

This class is an offering of Lehrhaus Judaica, taught by their lead educator, Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Pruzan, focusing on Abraham Joshua Heschel's social justice work in writing and in deed.

The texts will include *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Essential Writings* (Orbis, 2011) and *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997). We will also read supplementary texts from other writers including Maimonides, Shai Held, Edward K. Kaplan and Susannah Heschel.

Please RSVP to the temple office (707) 578-5519.

KIDdish

Sunday, February 25, 9:00 AM

Sunday, March 25, 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. www.shomreitorah.org/community/Kiddish.



Gelt-a-Thon Success!

On December 10, 2017, cheerful volunteers from Shomrei Torah gathered to make phone calls for this epic fundraiser. The *Gelt-a-thon* raised nearly \$50,000 for Shomrei Torah!

New Member Wine and Cheese

Sunday, March 4, 3:00–5:00 PM

Please join members of the clergy, the Board of Directors and the New Member Committee for a wine and cheese gathering. Get to know each other and some "older" members, share some wine and snacks and learn more about your synagogue!

Meet in the Kolbo Room to schmooze and hear about opportunities to connect at CST.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the office.

March Rabbi's Tisch

Friday, March 9, 6:15 PM

Dreaming in Turtle: Reporting the News in my Backyard and around the World

Because of their value, strange and marvelous turtles and tortoises are among the most trafficked and most endangered animals alive today — animals threatened by human greed, pragmatism and rationalization. There is an existential threat to the world's endangered turtle and tortoise populations, populations that serve as indicator species for our own human survival. From turtles to Trump's wall on the Mexican border to the veracity of the label "organic" on our food, Peter Laufer brings stories of his global journalism back home to Sonoma County.

Peter Laufer is the James Wallace Chair Professor in Journalism at the School of Journalism and Communication at Sonoma State and an award-winning author, broadcaster, documentarian, and journalist. He has written two dozen books, including the recent *Organic: A Journalist's Quest to Discover the Truth behind Food Labeling* and the upcoming *Dreaming in Turtle*. He reported, wrote, and produced several documentaries as an NBC News correspondent on topics ranging from the crises facing Vietnam War veterans to illiteracy and hunger in America, and he wrote a study of Americans incarcerated overseas that won the George Polk Award.

\$18 suggested donation for the catered dinner, please RSVP to the temple office (707) 578-5519.



SOCIAL ACTION GOES to the MOVIES

A FILM SERIES TO INFORM, ENGAGE, & EMPOWER!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 7:00 P.M.

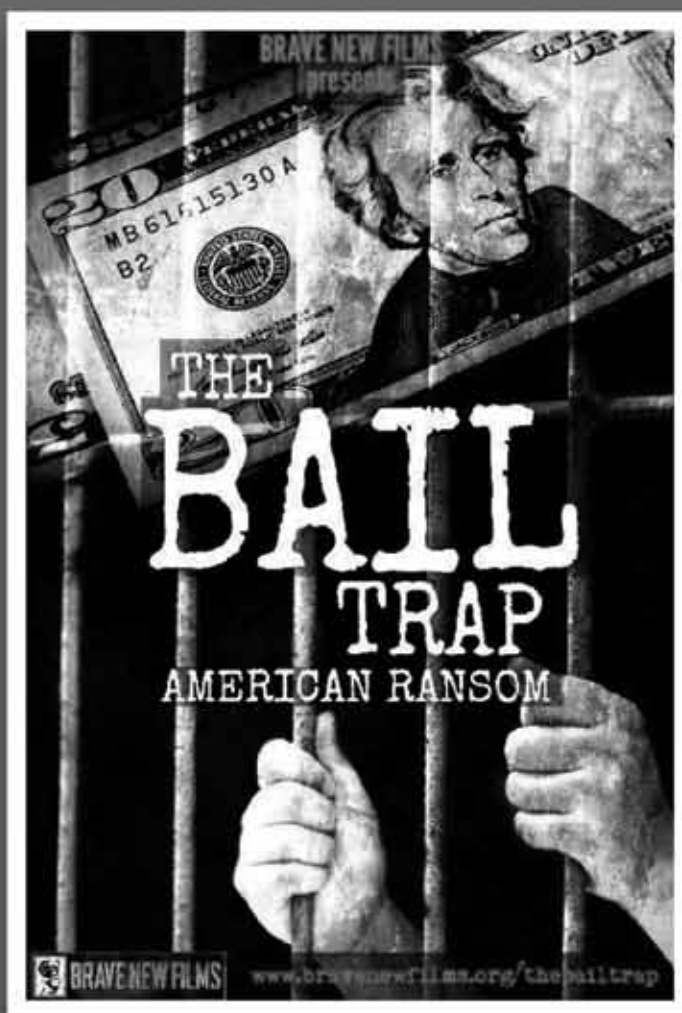
A person is innocent until proven guilty, unless one is guilty of being poor. More than 600,000 men and women are in American jails, because they can't afford to post bail. The money bail system is unjust and one of the main feeders of mass incarceration. Few people know how it works and how it destroys lives. This film explains the problem and how to fix it. A panel discussion will follow the screening.

Be Involved...

"Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport!"



CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH
שומרי תורה



Free and open to the public
Donations appreciated
Limited parking
Carpools encouraged

This series is sponsored by The Social Action Committee of Congregation Shomrei Torah

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AFTER THE FIRE

Finding a Way Back from Trauma

Saturday, March 24, 7:00 PM

Although the recent wildfires are out and the rebuilding plans have begun, the emotional and psychological impact of the tragedy remains with us all. Feelings of grief, anxiety, depression and despair can linger for months or even, in some cases, years. Post-traumatic stress reactions — including nightmares, anxiety, and avoidance of certain streets and locations — may just be manifesting.

We will host a forum of mental health professionals to address the impact of the fires on the community. We will provide psycho-education about trauma and grief as well as guidance on self-care techniques.

This evening is for everyone, whether you lost a home or business, were evacuated, have a loved one who suffered or have your house intact but are feeling the emotional impact of the tragedy.

The speakers will include Rabbi Anne Brener, LCSW (author of *Mourning and Mitzvah*); Dr. Richard Miller, psychologist, yogi and founder of the iRest meditation technique; and Mary Hirsch, MFT, local psychotherapist and art therapist, who specializes in working with traumatized children and teens.

Post-traumatic stress reactions — including nightmares, anxiety, and avoidance of certain streets and locations — may just be manifesting.

We will host a forum of mental health professionals to address the impact of the fires on the community.

JFCS and other local organizations will be on hand to provide information about the counseling, financial and legal resources available to our community.

We hope you can join us, as we all continue to support each other as we heal together!



Passover Seder

Saturday, March 31, 6:00 PM

Join our annual *Seder* on the second night of Passover in the Sanctuary. Our *Seder* welcomes both members and non-members. Seating 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 our 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.

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!



Like Congregation Shomrei Torah on  **facebook®**



Denise Harrison has worked in the CST office for 16½ years. She also taught Kindergarten in STaRS for 9 years. Her family joined Shomrei Torah in 1975 when she was 13 years old, so this really is her second home. Denise has been married to Ken for 34½ years and they have two adult daughters, a loving son-in-law and a very talkative 6-year-old granddaughter. Denise is the person at Shomrei Torah with whom you can RSVP for an event and ask most any question about the temple. One temple member will tell you to google Denise! Contact Denise at denise@cstsr.org.

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Julie Hash has been the Rabbinic Assistant for Shomrei Torah for about 3 years. She works closely with the rabbis, Religious School families and *B'nei Mitzvah* families. Julie works with membership and accounts, so if you have a question about your Shomrei Torah finances, give her a call at the office. Julie graduated from UC Davis in 2004 with a BS in Animal Sciences and has 2 daughters, Naomi, 10 and Alyssa, 5. Julie recently married previous Shomrei Torah employee Garin Hash. Contact Julie at ra@cstsr.org.

Julie works with membership and accounts, so if you have a question about your Shomrei Torah finances, give her a call at the office.



Liane Chabansky, the new administrative assistant, is a Greater Bay Area transplant who was *bat mitzvah'd* at Congregation Kol Emeth in Palo Alto, and later graduated from SF State with a degree in biology. Having grown up in the folk community, she enjoys dancing of all varieties, especially Balkan, Israeli and fusion dance. She is happy to be a part of the Shomrei Torah community, along with her mother and stepfather, Marian and Greg McKenna. Liane is your go-to person when coordinating logistics for your meeting, program or event at CST. She manages our facility and keeps things safe, clean and organized. Contact Liane at aa@cstsr.org.

Liane is your go-to person when coordinating logistics for your meeting, program or event at CST.



Malcolm McElheney is in his 3rd year serving as Shomrei Torah's Youth and Music Coordinator & Cantorial Soloist. Malcolm is in charge of Shomrei Torah's youth groups, the 7th grade Gesher program, our religious school *madrichim*, the Purim *Schpiel*, and the non-classroom activities for our religious school, called *chuggim*. He is also a *B'nei Mitzvah* tutor. He is also your resource for all URJ programming like summer camps, NFTY, and the *L'Taken* trip to Washington DC. Contact Malcolm at youth@cstsr.org

Malcolm is in charge of Shomrei Torah's youth groups, the 7th grade Gesher program our religious school madrichim and the Purim Schpiel.

The Sustainers, Ensuring Our Future

Eighteen years ago, the idea of having our very own home seemed like an impossible dream. Our dream came true thanks to more than 518 builders, members whose building donations enabled us to build our Bennett Valley Road home. Our very own space has allowed us to expand our study, worship, connection, and social action programming. A new group, the Sustainers, has recently been formed to help us continue to meet our financial needs. Annual dues and fundraisers fall short of being able to sustain our diverse programs and our physical space. Together, we can all make a difference in sustaining our CST community. To participate, contact Anne Matalon, Sustainer Campaign chairperson, or Denise Harrison in the CST office.

Environmental Action Committee

Tip of the Month

"If not for the trees, human life could not exist."

~ Midrash Sifre/Deuteronomy 20:19



Help the environment and help to heal Sonoma County: Continue to celebrate *Tu B'Shvat* — Jewish Arbor Day — by planting a tree.

Trees can...

- clean the air of pollutants
- produce oxygen
- prevent soil loss
- provide homes for animals and do much more!

Inexpensive bare root trees are available in nurseries around Sonoma County.

Volunteer with organizations doing post fire replanting: Sonoma Ecology Center: www.sonomaecologycenter.org/volunteer/

Pepperwood Preserve: www.pepperwoodpreserve.org/get-involved/volunteer/

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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 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 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 8th from 6:30–8:30 PM at Congregation Beth Ami.



SHORTY

On the 4th night of *Hanukkah*, SHORTY hosted a potato-themed event. Dinner consisted of french fries, latkes and Totchos (tater tot nachos). They even played games like Hot Potato with an actual hot potato. This event, planned by the dedicated SHORTY Board, brought 24 teens to Shomrei Torah for this social *Hanukkah* event. Stay tuned for more opportunities for your teen to be a part of this special community.

Los Angeles Trip

Over three days in January, nine 12-14 year-olds went on a trip to Los Angeles with Rabbi Stephanie and Malcolm McElheney. During their time together, they explored the rich Jewish culture in LA as well as spent time together as a community.

They visited two museums: The Skirball Museum - a museum dedicated to global Jewish history and how it became infused in American history - and the Museum of Tolerance - Los Angeles's Holocaust museum which also aims to address how intolerance and prejudice affects many historical events. To experience Judaism differently from what they're used to here at Shomrei Torah, they participated in Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills' "Shabbat Unplugged", a service with new melodies and a small band.



During their time together, they explored the rich Jewish culture in LA as well as spent time together as a community.

On Saturday morning, they went to Griffith Park to have Shabbat services in view of the Hollywood sign. Lily Gottlieb, who works with Camp Newman and serves as the regional director for NFTY SoCAL, gave a *drash* about being Jewish in public and how we can be strong in the face of adversity.

They also participated in informative programming, including time at Beit T'Shuvah, the only Jewish residential rehabilitation center, and Temple Beth-David Judea, an Orthodox *shul* where they did a program with their 6th and 7th grade students comparing how each person identifies with Judaism. During the program a historian talked about the rich Jewish history in the Pico-Robertson neighborhood in Los Angeles. Their trip also included a hike to the Hollywood sign for Saturday morning *t'fillah* and lunch at the famous Canter's Deli. Through the whole non-stop weekend, these students learned, prayed, and laughed with each other.





Shomrei Shop Opens for Business

The JCC Friendship Circle hosted their Annual *Hanukkah* Party on December 11 at Congregation Shomrei Torah. Your Shomrei Shop volunteers turned out in force to greet the shoppers and offer their wares. The shop was also open for the CST *Hanukkah* celebration on December 13. We want to thank everyone for your support and for your business.

Park Clean-up

On November 11, 2017, volunteers from Shomrei Torah participated in a cleanup effort at Flat Rock Park Creek in Santa Rosa.



Congregation Shomrei Torah

2600 Bennett Valley Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

www.cstsr.org

(707) 578-5519

(unless otherwise noted)

FAX 578-3967

Office email

shomrei@cstsr.org

Office Hours

Monday–Friday

9:00 AM–12 Noon

1:00–5:00 PM

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rabbig@cstsr.org

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Business card	\$265	\$330
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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.



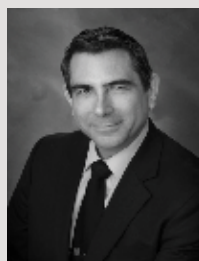
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TIME SENSITIVE

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Friday, February 2

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*
Honoring 2nd and 3rd grade

Saturday, February 3

Weekly Torah portion: *Yitro*
8:45 am – *Torah Study*
10:30 am – *Shabbat service*
Honoring Judith Goleman

Friday, February 9

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch with Julie Saxe-Taller*

Saturday, February 10

Weekly Torah portion: *Mishpatim*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by*
Cynthia and Manny Nestle
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, February 16

6:15 pm – *Shabbat service*

Saturday, February 17

Weekly Torah portion: *Terumah*
8:45 am – *Torah Study*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, February 23

6:15 pm – *Shabbat service*

Saturday, February 24

Weekly Torah portion: *Tetzaveh*
8:45 am – *Torah Study*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Wednesday, February 28

6:15 pm – *Purim Schpiel*

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.