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 home to Sonoma County.

Peter Laufer is the James Wallace Chair Professor in Journalism at the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication 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." As an NBC News correspondent, he reported, wrote and produced several documentaries on topics ranging from the crises facing Vietnam War veterans to illiteracy and hunger in America, and his study of Americans incarcerated overseas won the George Polk Award.

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

Get ready for an evening of songs, entertainment, kibbitzing, cantor banter and musical moxie! Get ready to bid on your favorite songs from genres including pop, oldies, show tunes, opera and Jewish classics. $20 minimum bid to START or STOP a song. Featuring Cantor David Frommer, Cantor Jamie Marx, pianist Nolan Gasser and emcee Saraj Cory. Admission is $36, including food and beverages. Reservations are going fast. Reserve your spot today by calling (707) 578-5519 or emailing denise@cstsr.org.

Passover Seder
Saturday, March 31, 6:00 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 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.

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.
SOCIAL ACTION GOES to the MOVIES
A FILM SERIES TO INFORM, ENGAGE, & EMPOWER!

SATURDAY, MARCH 17TH AT 7:00 P.M.

FIX IT
HEALTHCARE AT THE TIPPING POINT

A Documentary Film by
Vincent Mondillo and Richard Master

FIX IT reaches across the political and ideological divide to give an in-depth look into how our dysfunctional and costly health care system is impacting the nation’s health and economy while remaining un-affordable for a third of our citizens. Learn about the advantages and challenges of a single payer healthcare system and how legislation pending in California can create one.

A discussion by health care experts with medical, business, and legislative perspectives will follow the film.

Be Informed,
Be Involved,
"Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport!"

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
2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa • (707) 578-5519 • www.cstsr.org
**HAPPENING IN MARCH AT CST**

**Men’s Bagel Club**  
*Sunday, March 4, 9:00 AM*

Mike Kennedy, Director of Behavioral Health Services for Sonoma County, will be the guest speaker at this month’s Bagel Club Brunch. Mr. Kennedy, who has been in his position since 2008, has implemented a number of new programs in the County. He will discuss the Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and the upcoming changes in Sonoma County Behavioral Health as we transition to our new Behavioral Health Wellness Campus. With attention on mental health services, an issue in Sonoma County, Mr. Kennedy’s presentation promises to be most interesting and informative.

Prior to the program we will feast on lox, bagels and cream cheese with all the trimmings for a $7 donation.

On April 8, right after Passover, the Bagel Club will feature Rabbi George Gittleman. Be sure to mark it on your calendar.

**New Member Wine and Cheese**  
*Sunday, March 4, 3:00 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, schmooze and hear about opportunities to connect at CST.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the office at (707) 578-5519.

**Passover shopping at CST**

The Shomrei Shop has ordered new items for Passover including Haggadahs, children’s stickers and books, matzo covers and a variety of Seder plates. Stop by one of our upcoming sales one hour before the following events:

**March 3 before Dueling Cantors**  
**March 9 before Rabbi’s Tisch**

We want to make it easy for you to purchase all your Judaica needs as well as must-haves for your Passover celebration. Please let the Gift Shop Committee know if you wish to order something special, and we will do our best to accommodate your request. Contact the office at (707) 578-5519.

**Tot Shabbat**  
*Friday, March 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.

**Fighting FIRE with FIRE**  
*One Pair of Candlesticks at a Time*  
*Friday, March 16, 6:15 PM*

We are deeply moved that people from across the country are continuing to offer support to those of us affected by the Sonoma Wildfires. Thanks to Judaica artist, Gary Rosenthal, 150 mothers and daughters from Jewish Women’s Connection of Atlanta created over 180 pairs of beautiful Shabbat candlesticks. Fifty pairs of candlesticks have been donated to our families affected by the wildfires.

Please join us to welcome Shabbat by lighting these gorgeous candlesticks. The candlesticks are gifts to those who would like a set, and will be available to take home.

**KIDdish**  
*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. For more information visit www.shomreitorah.org/community/Kiddish.
Like Congregation Shomrei Torah on Facebook

Shabbat with Congregation Beth Ami

Friday, March 23, 6:15 PM - At Shomrei Torah
Saturday, March 24, 9:30 AM - At Beth Ami

On this special Friday evening, Congregation Beth Ami will be joining us at Shomrei Torah for Shabbat Services.

On the following Saturday morning, Shomrei Torah is invited to attended services at Beth Ami and a potluck luncheon immediately following. Please plan to arrive anytime between 9:30 and 10:30 AM for services. There will be no Torah Study or services held at Shomrei Torah on Saturday, March 24.

Evolving Identities of 20th Century American Jews Seen Through Film

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 is also teaches a 6th grade Hebrew/Judaica class at Congregation Rodef Sholom. 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.

Through the lens of selections from the these chosen films, we’ll explore the changing nature of Jewish identity.
April Rabbi’s Tisch with Dr. Amy 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 discuss how 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.

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 received her MA and PhD from Princeton University. She is also the daughter of Shomrei Torah member Angela Gelber.

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

Passover is steeped with many lessons, all of which are relevant in the 21st century. Most years, when thinking about the symbolism of the Seder plate, I focus on the sweetness of the escape from slavery while eating charoset, the complicated tears while dipping parsley into salt water, the smearing of the lamb’s blood while lifting up the shank bone or the brokenness of the world while breaking the middle matzoh.

With all this symbolism, I typically glaze over the miracle of springtime. Because Passover always occurs in the spring, multiple foods on the Seder plate represent the season. The double portion of greens provides not one but two reminders of the agricultural bounty.

The egg represents the cyclical nature of life found in its shape, and more concretely, birth and the beginning of all life.

Rabbi Yossy Goldman explains that the egg not only symbolizes the beginning of life but also the beginning of our national existence: the Jewish people were merely an egg being laid by a chicken during the Passover story as they escaped the slavery in Egypt. Escaping the physical confines of slavery was the first step in the series of new beginnings. It would take the Jewish people wandering in the desert (today we remember this time with counting the Omer) until the revelation at Sinai where Judaism was born, just as the egg finally hatches into new life. The revelation at Sinai allows the egg/Jewish people to be fully born, because, even though the people had escaped servitude, they were not yet a cohesive group. They did not have a spiritual map filled with purpose and meaning until receiving the Torah.

Thankfully, Santa Rosa is coming back to life as well. It is miraculous to see bulbs, flowers and grasses sprouting up from the barren, desolate lots that once cradled homes and families. The anticipation of spring has never had so much meaning. I connect to the Divine when I watch a garden come back to life. It never ceases to amaze me that – overnight – buds break through unsuspecting surfaces. These little signs of green symbolize new life, hope and the continual signs of creation, birth and the cyclical nature of rebirth.

This year, as we notice the egg on our Seder plates, it is important for us to call upon this tradition of physical and spiritual birth. I would argue that we should also add emotional rebirth and healing.

The fire was devastating. We are all affected and will wear permanent scars, but as time passes, thankfully those scars will fade ever so slightly. As the seasons turn, we are reminded that nature doesn’t stop. The world keeps turning, the seasons keep turning and, thankfully, birds chirping in the streets and new shoots peek through the ash. It’s through these blossoms that we will find the strength to keep planting roots in the places we call home.

“The egg represents the cyclical nature of life found in its shape, and more concretely birth and the beginning of all life.”
**It's Complicated**

As a new member of your Board of Directors, this is my first article in the Voice. I want to take the opportunity to share my thoughts about some of what I have learned while a member of CST. I recently had the opportunity to hear a presentation by Dr. Tal Becker at the Jewish Family and Children’s Services offices in San Francisco. Dr. Becker is a Principal Legal Advisor at the Israeli Foreign Ministry and on the faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. I’ve also attended two Shalom Hartman iEngage video series offered by CST. They included several presentations in which Dr. Becker discussed many of the issues now facing Israel and Jews in North America. In addition, I travelled with Rabbi George and fellow congregants to Israel in 2015. Our trip included a visit to the Hartman Institute.

Even before my first visit to Israel almost 27 years ago, I always have had a special place in my heart for Israel. I’ve also felt conflicted about Israel, its politics, the issues of the territories and settlements and a lasting peace that would suit both Jewish Israelis and the Palestinians while providing for as great a level of security as possible for Israel. The common response I heard on the trip when these issues were raised was, “It’s complicated.”

The intervening two plus years have perhaps made the situation even more complicated. What I came home with in 2015 was a nuanced view, rather than an answer to the question, “How will the Israeli/Palestinian social/political/territorial issues be resolved?” The number one issue among Israelis is national security. This concern remains even though Israelis also believe that Israel is the one nation in the region that has the wherewithal to maintain regional stability. How does one balance the many issues we know are facing a Jewish democracy, while ensuring national security?

Dr. Becker’s recent comments included the argument that, notwithstanding what appears to be a lack of negotiations or commitment to discussion among Israelis and Palestinians, there continues to be progress toward a diminution of some problems in minute steps. He argues that while they cannot reach a full solution at this time, there might be smaller problems about which discussion can take place. This form of incremental problem solving may be what maintains the current level of security, while leaving open the possibility for a peace deal. What I’ve learned reinforces my view that there is much more going on than meets the eye or makes the news in the US and that as hard as it may be for some of us to remain optimistic about the continued existence of a democratic Israel, small steps in the right direction are all that we can hope for until conditions are “ripe” for a better conclusion.

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**Thank you from Judith Goleman**

I am overflowing with gratitude for the lovely honoring of me on Shabbat, February 5th. The blessings you gave me still resonate in my heart. The luncheon was sweet with your company and extraordinarily delicious food!! It also means a great deal to me to have a leaf on the honoring wall. A huge thank you to Rabbi George and Lisa Ehrlich and to all of you who attended! — Judith Goleman

**Baseball Tisch Highlighted by Ball Park Food with Chili Cook-off**

Before Gabe Cramer shared great baseball stories about his time playing with Team Israel in the World Baseball Classic held in Korea, the sports fans were treated to a baseball-themed meal prepared by the men’s bagel club. In addition to four different versions of home-made veggie chili, participants enjoyed kosher hot dogs with all the trimmings and potato salad, along with peanuts and Cracker Jacks that served as table decorations.

There was a chili tasting contest with four professional judges — Rabbi George, Rabbi Stephanie and the speaker’s parents — Paige Sobel and Corky Cramer. The crowd of 141 attendees eagerly awaited the results of the judging. A mystery chili, picked as 4th place, turned out to be local food company Amy’s canned vegetarian chili. The third place chili, by just a hair, was Rick Reisman’s two-bean vegetarian chili. And tied for “best chili” were the vegan recipes of Joe and Colleen Pundyk and Jerry Newman.

To access the top 3 chili recipes, go to www.shomreitorah.org/community/

**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!
Environmental Action Committee

Tip of the Month

For Your Health — Join Shomrei Torah’s CSA Program

Dear God,
teach me to eat right
and to eat for the right reasons.
Keep me
from eating the wrong foods
and from eating more than I should.
Let all that I eat
nourish me,
never weaken
or harm me.
Let the food I ingest create a perfect balance within me
in body,
mind
and soul.

“The Gentle Weapon — Prayers for Everyday and Not-So-Everyday Moments” by Rebbe Nachman of Breslov (1772-1810)

Richard Lazovick Gets His Kidney Following a Five Year Search!

Richard’s story indeed proves that sometimes “it takes a village” to get something done. About three years before he found out he needed a kidney, Richard’s father, Paul, was diagnosed with kidney disease and, shortly after, was the recipient of a kidney from a donor at Congregation Beth Ami.

Because of his relatively young age, it was important for Richard to wait for a “living” donor. While he waited, he was on dialysis for four years. He was doing dialysis all night long and took 90 minutes to set up and do it also in the afternoon! When he traveled, he would have the dialysis liquids shipped to his destination and have to carry his equipment with him on the plane. There is a photo of Richard on his website in front of boxes lined up almost shoulder high in his bedroom, a one-month supply.

About three years ago, Rabbi George announced on Yom Kippur that he would like the Congregation to help Richard find a kidney and encouraged CST members to help put the word out. I had the privilege of using my PR background to help in the search through local media and Jewish organizations. I had the privilege of working closely with Richard and becoming a friend. Others who helped in the search included a former co-worker and neighbor, the Rotary Club, Partners 4 Leads (a networking group) and many others.

Richard worked in the high-tech field and used some of those skills to create a special Facebook page, posting videos and flyers. At last, on January 5, he got his kidney from a young grandmother, whose only daughter has one small child and another on the way. He is slowly recovering and “feeling great!” He goes for walks around Spring Lake and, in a month or two, will be ready to resume his practice of holding classes teaching people how to use iPhones, Android phones, computers and other 21st Century electronics. He will also be able to join his son, Joshua, who became a Bar Mitzvah at CST three years ago, on some trips to the mountains. Bravo, Richard!

— Larry Carlin

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 8th from 6:30–8:30 PM at Congregation Beth Ami.
Women’s March Film Program Engages Enthusiastic Audience!

To begin the sixth year of the award-winning Social Action Goes to the Movies series, CST and community members filled the house for the screening of Women’s March. Consistent with this year’s theme, Democracy is NOT a Spectator Sport, the film highlighted women’s determination to make their voices heard. Following a discussion with the filmmaker, local activists shared their motivations for stepping up, speaking out and engaging the community. Representatives from groups focused on voter turnout, women’s rights, immigrants’ rights, criminal justice reform, local environment and climate change provided information for those who want to become more involved. Thank you to the Social Action Committee for organizing this timely series.
Working Toward LED Lighting

In January, a service electrician from Blakeslee Electric replaced a burnt-out bulb in our parking lot. This was the first step toward our goal of converting all of CST’s lighting to LED.

Paint Night

We had such a great time at our Heal, Paint, and Nosh event with Painted Cellars of Sonoma County! Join us for our next paint night on April 4th, from 7-9 PM. Cost is $20, please email denise@cstr.org to reserve your smock ahead of time.

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

Support CST every time you shop!
Visit smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2261436
Solar Clean-up

CST’s solar generating system provider, SolarCraft, was here on Friday, December 22 to give our solar panels a much needed cleaning because of the smoke from the October fires. The output from our solar generating system for 2017 was 51,259 kilowatt hours, offsetting our electric usage by more than 55%.
Senior Placement Services

- Has living alone become too challenging?
- Are you overwhelmed caring for an older loved one?

Let me help you find a place your senior-in-need can call home... all at no cost to you or your loved one.

Find me at www.joycares.net

Barbara Scharf, M.A.
Marketing Director
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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 principles of equality, freedom and shalom among all peoples.

### MARCH SERVICES

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td><strong>Friday, March 2</strong></td>
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<td>Shabbat Service</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, March 3</strong></td>
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<td>Weekly Torah portion: Ki Tisa</td>
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<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Torah Study led by Rabbi George</td>
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<td><strong>Friday, March 9</strong></td>
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<td>Weekly Torah portion: Vayakhel-Pekudei</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Torah Study led by Roberta Berg</td>
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<td>Weekly Torah portion: Vayikra</td>
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<td>joined by Beth Ami</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, March 24</strong></td>
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<td>Torah Study led by Roberta Berg</td>
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<td>Shabbat Service at Beth Ami</td>
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<td><strong>Friday, March 30</strong></td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Erev Pesach — NO SHABBAT SERVICE</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
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<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Congregational Passover Seder</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday, March 31</strong></td>
<td>8:45 am</td>
<td>Torah Study led by Peter Copen</td>
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See our latest calendar at [www.cstsr.org](http://www.cstsr.org)