



CST Will Be Home for High Holy Days With More Choices

For the first time, all of this year's High Holy Days events will take place at Congregation Shomrei Torah.

We are adding an alternative service for *Kol Nidre* at 6:00 PM that we hope will be spiritually fulfilling, provocative and inspiring. This service will be followed by a traditional *Kol Nidre* service at 8:00 PM. Because of space limitations, we ask that you choose to attend only one of these *Kol Nidre* offerings.

Being in our home will pose some challenges. There will be a shuttle service to nearby off-site parking. Depending on how many choose the earlier alternative service for *Kol Nidre*, the sanctuary will likely be filled to capacity for at least that evening, if not for all services.

All involved with High Holy Days planning agree that it's worth a try. We hope you do, too.

Want a prime parking spot for High Holy Days? Sign up to volunteer! We have many volunteer opportunities available, sign up today at www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f48a9a62aa57-high.

S'lichot Service

Saturday, September 16, 9:00 PM

Join us as we begin to prepare our hearts and souls for the High Holy Days. This meaningful service also includes the ceremonial changing of the Torah mantels, the clothing of our Torahs for the Days of Awe.

Office Closures

Monday, September 4

The CST office will be closed for Labor Day.

Wednesday–Friday, September 20–22

The CST office will close at noon on Wednesday and will be closed Thursday and Friday for *Rosh Hashanah*.

Friday, September 29

The CST office will close at noon for *Yom Kippur*.



Rosh Hashanah Seder

Friday, September 22, 6:15 PM

Join us for this special Shabbat and *Rosh Hashanah* celebration. Have you ever heard of a *Rosh Hashanah Seder*? It's way shorter than a *Passover Seder*! Come ring in the Jewish New Year in style with friends and CST family. We will bless the different foods for the first time in the New Year, make pun-ny jokes and learn about Jewish cultures around the world. It will be fun, exciting and delicious.

\$18.00 suggested donation for dinner. Please RSVP to the temple office so that we can order enough food: (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.

Welcome Back Shabbat, BBQ, and Dedication Ceremony for our New Playground

Friday, September 8, 6:15 PM

Come honor those who helped make the playground a reality.

Everyone is invited to this FREE end-of-summer BBQ immediately following Shabbat services to welcome us back from summer vacations and traveling. Hot dogs and hamburgers (and vegetarian options) will be provided. Please contribute as follows:

If your last name begins with A–L please bring a vegetarian side dish to share;

If your name begins with M–Z please bring a dessert to share.

Please RSVP with number attending to Denise at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org



Service Calendar

High Holy Days 5778 (2017)

*Please note that all services will be held at Congregation Shomrei Torah,
2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, unless otherwise noted.*

Saturday, September 16

S'lichot Service..... 9:00 pm

Wednesday, September 20

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 6:00–7:00 pm

This is a family-friendly service; children
of all ages are welcome.

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service 8:00 pm

Thursday, September 21

Rosh Hashanah Adult Service 10:30 am

Children's Educational Program (Grades K–5)*
..... 10:30 am

*Registration required

Teen & Pre-teen Service (Grades 6–12)
..... 10:30 am

Tashlich Service 4:30 pm
Location: Lake Ralphine
This is a beautiful service during which we cast our
sins into the lake while singing and praying that we
do better in the year to come.

Friday, September 22

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Service..... 10:30 am
Vegetarian/dairy potluck lunch to follow.

Rosh Hashanah Seder (Dinner)..... 6:15 pm
\$18 suggested donation for dinner.
RSVP required; contact the temple office.

Saturday, September 23

Shabbat Shuvah Morning Service 10:30 am

Sunday, September 24

Cemetery Service 10:30 am

Location: Santa Rosa Memorial Park,
1900 Franklin Avenue, Santa Rosa

As part of the Cemetery Service we will be
dedicating our new granite cemetery sign.

Friday, September 29

*Kol Nidre Alternative Service**..... 6:00–7:00 pm

This will be a provocative & inspiring service.
Expect a band and alternative prayers.

*Kol Nidre Traditional Service** 8:00 pm

*Please attend only one *Kol Nidre* service.

Saturday, September 30

Yom Kippur Family Service..... 9:00 am
This is a family-friendly service; children
of all ages are welcome.

Yom Kippur Adult Service..... 10:30 am
Children's Educational Program (Grades K–5)*
..... 10:30 am
*Registration required

Teen & Pre-teen Service (Grades 6–12)
..... 10:30 am

Jewish Journeys (personal stories)..... 1:30 pm

Torah Reading/Jonah..... 3:00 pm

Healing Service..... 3:45 pm

Yizkor Service..... 4:30 pm

Neilah Service 5:30 pm

Break-the-fast 6:00 pm

Please note that afternoon service times are approximate.

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

High Holy Day Parking and Bus Service

This year, all of our High Holy Day services will be held at Congregation Shomrei Torah: 2600 Bennett Valley Road. Available parking is limited, so please plan to carpool if possible.

Handicapped parking will be available in the upper Shomrei Torah parking lot. The lower parking lot will be available for first-come first-served parking but will not be sufficient to accommodate all attendees. Buses will be available to transport attendees from the off-site parking lot to Shomrei Torah.

Please plan to drop your passengers off at the upper traffic circle before proceeding to off-site parking.

Overflow cars will be parked as follows:

9/20: Erev Rosh Hashanah Services — Waterfall Towers parking lot
(2455 Bennett Valley Rd, just across the street from our driveway)

- Buses will run from 5:00–9:30 pm

9/21: Rosh Hashanah Morning Service — Rite Aid parking lot
(1551 Farmer's Lane, just around the corner from us)

- Buses will run from 9:30 am–1:30 pm

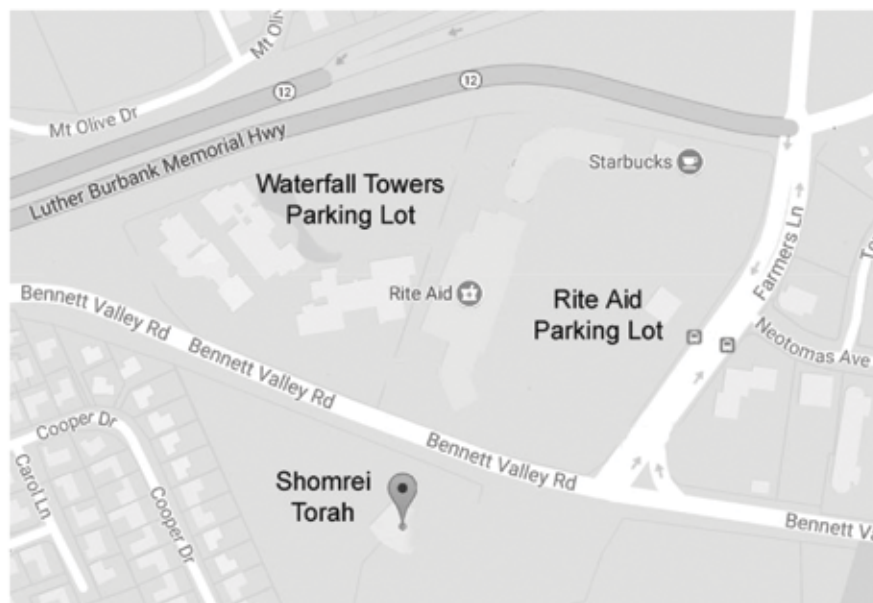
9/29: Kol Nidre Services — Waterfall Towers parking lot
(2455 Bennett Valley Rd, just across the street from our driveway)

- Buses will run from 5:00–9:30 pm

9/30: Yom Kippur Services — Waterfall Towers parking lot
(2455 Bennett Valley Rd, just across the street from our driveway)

- Buses will run from 8:15 am–2:00 pm

***Please plan to arrive early to allow time to get from the offsite parking lot to Shomrei Torah for services.**



Tot Shabbat

Friday, September 8, 5:00 PM

Potluck: 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.



Men's Bagel Club Kicks Off 20th Year with Cheese Farm Tour

Sunday, September 10, 11:00 AM

The beautiful and tasty cheese farm — Bohemian Creamery — will conduct a private tour and tasting for our group (located at 7380 Occidental Rd, Sebastopol, CA 95472, just before highway 116). This is a unique Bagel Club gathering and will not include breakfast. If participants want to go afterward for lunch, we can figure that out.



The cost for the cheesemaker tour is \$15. Please RSVP to denise@cstsr.org so we can let the farm know the count. Ladies are always welcome at Bagel Club events.

STaRS Registration is Open!

School begins Sunday, September 10, 9:00 AM

Shomrei Torah Religious School welcomes children in grades K-7 into our nurturing, joyful and hands-on Jewish education program. Geshet our 7th Grade program starts September 17, 11:00 AM. It's not too late to register! www.shomreitorah.org/religious-school.



B2B Invites You to Join Us

Tuesday, September 12, 8:00 AM

B2B@CST

We connect people and business.

Are you a business person or professional searching for opportunities to grow your business? Congregation Shomrei Torah has just the opportunity for you. Join our B2B@CST Business Networking Group and meet an interesting variety of business people just like you. Each of us is a member of CST and is committed to growing our business and helping you grow yours through leads that we share within the group.

You'll meet an eclectic mix of members including financial planners, chiropractors, tax preparers, estate attorneys, asset managers, business and employment consultants, realtors, home remodelers, fine artists, graphic artists, photographers and more. Not only is the B2B@CST group good for business, but you'll forge and strengthen new friendships and alliances to connect to our robust community. Sonoma County is a great place to live and joining B2B@CST will make your life here even richer!

For more information, contact denise@cstsr.org.

KIDdish

KIDdish opening day is Sunday, September 17, 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! During these classes there will be tons of hands-on art activities, spirited movement and music, playground time and fun Jewish learning. \$180 for the entire program. Download the registration form at www.shomreitorah.org/community/kiddish.



Babies & Bagels

Sunday, September 17

We love to get together with you and your little ones. Join us for a light nosh and some refreshing adult conversation, while you watch your children interact and play with others in their age group. Babies & Bagels meets at a private home. For more information, to RSVP for the address, or just to say hello, email Adriann Saslow at denise@cstsr.org. Babies & Bagels is a FREE program.



A Congregational Shomrei Torah Trip with Rabbi George – New Mexico's Conversos and Crypto-Jews in Santa Fe

May 13-18, 2018

Presented by Road Scholar

Overview

In 1492, the Alhambra Decree forced Spain's Jewish citizens to make an unthinkable decision: convert to Christianity or leave the country. Over the next 500 years, the conversos and Crypto-Jews, who practiced their faith in secrecy, traveled to the New World and finally to New Mexico, where their traditions melded with those of the people of the Southwest. The trip will take us to this land of canyons and desert, where we will trace the struggle of New Mexico's conversos and Crypto-Jews and consider how their traditions have managed to survive against the odds.

Trip Includes

- 5 nights at a 4-star hotel in Santa Fe
- 12 meals (5 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 dinners)
- 4 expert-led lectures and 5 expert-led field trips
- One performance
- A Group Leader to accompany us throughout the program
- The characteristic sense of camaraderie and shared experience that's common to all CST trips

Cost

With 27 travelers, cost of double occupancy: \$1379. Single occupancy: \$1799

Deposit payment of \$100 due by

September 1, 2017. Final payment is due March 15, 2018. Airfare not included. Generous cancellation fee.

Might be Interested? Email denise@cstsr.org with questions or for a more detailed email brochure.



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of the Vocolot Ensemble

Please arrange to carpool.

A Guide to the Holy Days

By definition, Reform Jewish practice is hard to summarize. Nevertheless, I thought it would be helpful to have an outline of the essentials.

The Month of Elul:

We often think of the Holy Days as beginning with *Rosh Hashanah* and ending with *Yom Kippur*. In fact, the *Yamim Noraim* (The Days of Awe) officially begin a month before, with the start of *Elul*. I think of *Elul* as the month of conditioning before the big climb not up Mount Sinai but, rather, inside ourselves. The primary task of *Elul* is to perform a *Heshbone Ha'nefesh*: An accounting of the soul, a time to ask questions: What went well last year? Where did I go wrong? Who do I feel close to? Whom have I hurt? Where have I been at my best? How have I let myself down?

It is traditional during this time of year to seek forgiveness from those you have offended. Related to asking for forgiveness is the *Elul* tradition of New Year's greetings. As you send out your cards this year, note to whom you do and do not send cards... Please also consider attending our *S'lichot* service on September 16 at 9:00 PM.

S'lichot comes from the Hebrew root "to be sorry." Our *S'lichot* services are a wonderful way to begin



Rabbi George

the process of opening our hearts to who we are and who we want to be in the year ahead.

Rosh Hashanah:

First, please set the time aside to actually attend services! Also, try and have a festive meal before and after services. It is traditional to eat apples dipped in honey (the apple symbolizes the earth and the honey our wish for a sweet year). It is also traditional to include a round and sweet *challah* in your meal. If you're at a loss as what to cook, try Reformjudaism.org or "Oy to Joy" the CST Cookbook.

Another important element of the observance of *Rosh Hashanah* is *Tashlich*. We will gather with Congregation Beth Ami at Lake Ralphine in Howarth Park at 4:30 PM on September 21 to symbolically throw our sins into the water (For more information about *Tashlich* go to www.myjewishlearning.com).

The Days in Between:

According to tradition, during the intermediate days, "The Book of Life" is still open, and our fate for the year has yet to be sealed. We may not take this literally, yet the image works well as a metaphor for our work during these Holy Days. This is the time when our own *heshbone ha'nefesh*, our own accounting of the soul, intensifies. Whatever you have put off — reaching out to a loved one from whom you are estranged, paying a debt, telling someone you care — this is the time to do it! It is also traditional during these days to contribute to the Jewish community and give *tzedakah*. Are you paying your fair share? Are you giving enough to the needy in our community or elsewhere? This is the time to make an honest accounting.

Finally, one of the holiest *Shabbatot* of the year falls between *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. It is called *Shabbat Shuvah*, the Sabbath of Return. Make every effort to come to services that Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Yom Kippur:

As with *Rosh Hashanah*, the first thing you need to do is make sure you show up! If you have control over your work, plan to be absent. The same is true of school and any other activities that conflict with the observance

of this holiest of holy days. Also, plan to stay for the whole day. I know it is long, but without going through the whole process, you won't have the full experience. For those who can, fasting is also a must! Fasting really does elevate and deepen the experience of contrition and renewal during this most awesome of days.

The next essential element of *Yom Kippur* (and the rest of the *Yamim Noraim*) is an open and contrite heart. If what you do during the Holy Days doesn't touch you "inside," it is all for naught! Thus, I'll share here the Holy Day wishes of a friend: "May you be like a filleted fish before God." Now that is open!

One last thing: Breaking-the-fast. Fasting is important, as is getting together with family and friends afterwards to break-the-fast, share your Holy Day experience and celebrate the New Year. Try to plan some kind of fast-breaking celebration with family and/or friends. If you don't have a place to go, know that the congregation always breaks the fast together right after services.

I look forward to the privilege of sharing the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe with you in the coming weeks. *Shanah Tovah!*

Rabbi George

Celebrating the High Holy Days in Our Sanctuary

As we embark on the *yamim noraim* (the Days of Awe), beginning with *Rosh*

Hashanah and concluding with *Yom Kippur*, we take the time to reflect on the past year, make amends and celebrate hope for the future. This year, for the first time, our congregation is blessed to be celebrating the High Holy Days in our home at Shomrei Torah.

Our sanctuary is a special place, full of beauty and meaning. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the members of our Shomrei Torah community who worked so hard and gave so much to provide us with this special place. In particular, I am thankful for the members of the Art Committee who took such care with the details within the sanctuary itself.

Before a recent service, I found myself gazing at the beautiful stained glass on each side of the *Bima*. On the right side, when facing the *Bima*, the stained glass contains a well-known quote about creation from Genesis – “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” The other side contains a quote from Jacob about finding a spiritual gateway. Jacob flees the fury of his brother from whom he has stolen his father’s blessing and, upon waking from a dream, Jacob says “Surely there is God in this place and I did not know.”

In the sanctuary, to get from creation (the right side of the *Bima*) to the spiritual gateway (the left side), we need the space in-between – the *Bima*. This is true in more ways than one. To get from creation to the spiritual gateway, we need what’s right here in the middle – our Shomrei Torah family coming together as a community in our home for the Days of Awe.

B'Shalom,
Sharon



Sharon Bauman, CST President

Online Streaming Coming to CST

Have you ever been out of town or homesick and missed an important Shomrei Torah service, event or class? Have you wanted to revisit a sermon that was especially meaningful? Soon, Congregation Shomrei Torah will join the growing ranks of synagogues across the country that connect with their community through live video streaming. These synagogues report that live video streaming improves attendance by providing access to members who are home-bound, on vacation or away at college. The availability of classes and lectures means that everyone can participate in learning activities, whether in person or online. Live video streaming can also help attract new members, giving them an easy way to experience services and programming.

The Religious Practices Committee has been working on a live video streaming project over the past year, with the Board approving a plan in May. The equipment includes a video camera in the back of the sanctuary trained on the *Bima* and a second video camera in the Kolbo room. By simply clicking a link on the CST website, you will be connected to video content. We expect to start live streaming Shabbat services by the beginning of September. Streaming will begin automatically at 6:15 PM on Friday evenings and 10:30 AM on Saturday mornings.

In addition, High Holy Day services will be live streamed and archived online. This will be especially helpful as we move to CST for High Holy Day services this year, with congregants asked to choose between attending an alternative *Kol Nidre* service at 6:00 PM, or a traditional *Kol Nidre* service at 8:00 PM on September 29th. Having both services live streamed and available in online archives will make it possible to virtually attend one service and physically attend another. Feel free to contact denise@cstsr.org at the office if you have any questions. See you online or at Shomrei Torah.



Chavurah Update

Many members interested in joining *chavurot* (plural for *chavurah*) who have sent in information over the last year or so might feel that their information disappeared down a hole. We have forms from those who have submitted them and have started the process of contacting everyone with an update. You are welcome to contact me if you have questions or if you are interested in joining a *chavurah*. Also, we would love to know if you are currently in a *chavurah* that has room for additional people. If interested, contact the temple office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.

Environmental Action Committee

Tip of the Month

"And the Lord took Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden, to work it and guard it."

~ Genesis 2:15

Start the New Year by resolving to make eco-friendly choices!



Compost more! It all begins by making simple changes in our daily habits.

For example, at CST we can compost all food waste plus utensils, paper plates, cups and napkins. So, be sure to separate recyclables and trash from the compostables and use appropriate bins for each.

At home (and this applies to every city in the county and the unincorporated areas), compostable food includes bread, grains, pasta, fruits (pits and nuts, too), eggshells, coffee filters and grounds, paper tea bags, vegetables and soiled paper. All can be put into the yard-waste bin. The remaining food waste goes into your trash. Recycle clean paper, plastic, glass and aluminum.

Be an environmental steward and decide to make sound choices that sustain the planet for future generations.

L'Shanah Tovah,

from the Environmental Action Committee

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New Cemetery Sign Recently Installed



Last October at the High Holy Day Cemetery Service, I mentioned to Rabbi George that the old wooden sign designating our section of the Santa Rosa Memorial Park cemetery was rotting and almost falling over, and that a granite sign would last us forever. I agreed to look into finding a sign replacement and donate it to the congregation.

I grew up in the town of Milbank, South Dakota where the Dakota Granite Company is located. A nationally known source of granite, they have quarried and finished mahogany colored stone for almost 100 years. With Rabbi George's approval, I began communicating with them and coordinating with the cemetery. I sent photos of our old sign as well as Susan Bailyn's wonderful Torah design.

The first quote I got was for the size of our old sign, and it was going to weigh 2,500 pounds! Rabbi George felt that was too large, and suggested I get help from Bill Skoonberg. Bill volunteered his excellent design help for which I am extremely grateful. We worked through many designs before submitting our final one to Dakota Granite. Our sign now weighs a svelte 1,500 pounds and was shipped to California to be set.

On July 12, Bill and I watched a worker from North Bay Monument set our sign, which involved lifting the granite with a crane over a pool of cement that supported metal rods holding the granite securely in place. It was quite a production. Our new sign is never going to budge.

The color of the granite is Dakota Mahogany — Rushmore. It is very beautiful. I'm happy that I was able to complete this project of many months and that our new sign has found a home.

— Mary Ann Newman

Note from Rabbi George: As part of our annual Cemetery Service the Sunday after Rosh Hashanah, we will be dedicating our new sign.

Shomrei Torah's Solar Celebrates it's Third Year of Generating Power

Congregation Shomrei Torah's solar generating system is going on three years old. In its short life, it has produced more than half of the power that we consume, and with our on-going LED lighting conversion program, we should be able to reduce our annual electric usage by approximately 3,500 kWh, thus reducing our need to purchase power.



A good cleaning of CST's 104 solar panels in July resulted in a power output increase of nearly 5%

Congregation Shomrei Torah

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www.cstsr.org

707-578-5519

(unless otherwise noted)

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shomrei@cstsr.org

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Monday–Friday

9:00 AM–12 Noon

1:00–5:00 PM

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Our New Playground Gets Installed



In August, our dream of a new playground became a reality. Thanks to many generous donations, our children now have a safe, fun place to play. Donations are still being accepted to help defray costs and can be made on our website at www.cstsr.org. Make sure to come to our playground dedication on Friday, September 8th — details are on the front page.



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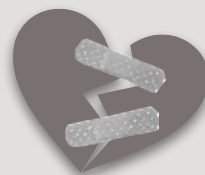
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TIME SENSITIVE

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Friday, September 1

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, September 2

Weekly Torah portion: *Ki Teitzei*

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, September 8

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service followed by
Welcome Back BBQ & Playground Dedication*

Saturday, September 9

Weekly Torah portion: *Ki Tavo*

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Perry Angle*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, September 15

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, September 16

Weekly Torah portion: *Nitzavim-Vayeilech*

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

9:00 pm – *S'lichot Service*

Wednesday, September 20

Erev Rosh Hashanah Services
see calendar inside

Thursday, September 21

Rosh Hashanah Services
see calendar inside

Friday, September 22

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Service
see calendar inside
6:15 pm – *Rosh Hashanah Seder*

Saturday, September 23

Weekly Torah portion: *Ha'Azinu*

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi Kramer*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Shuvah Service*

Sunday, September 24

10:30 am – *Cemetery Service*
see calendar inside

Friday, September 29

Kol Nidre Services
see calendar inside

Saturday, September 30

Yom Kippur Services
see calendar inside

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.