



### September Office Closures:

September 3 – Labor Day  
September 10 – Rosh Hashanah  
September 11 – Rosh Hashanah  
September 18 – Closed at Noon  
September 19 – Yom Kippur  
September 24 – Sukkot



### STaRS Opening Day

Sunday, September 23 at 9:00 AM

K-7th graders register now for the 2018-2019 school year. Registration will take less than 5 minutes per student. A deposit of \$200 per student is due at the time of registration. Scholarships available upon request. Register at [www.cstsr.org](http://www.cstsr.org).

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## HIGH HOLY DAYS



### Days of Awe at Congregation Shomrei Torah

This month, we gather together in sacred community to usher in the New Year. All of us - old, young, married, single, gay, straight - a diverse group in many ways, are joined together by our connection to Jewish heritage and our more universal longing for health, happiness and peace in the New Year.

Again this year, all services will be in our home at 2600 Bennett Valley Road. Parking is limited so please consider carpooling. Please note that there will be no parking at Waterfall Towers this year. All overflow parking will be at Rite Aid, around the corner from our parking lot.

Check your mail for your High Holy Day packet, complete all of the appropriate forms and send them back to the office as soon as possible. A schedule of services can be viewed on the inside cover of this issue or at [www.shomreitorah.org/high-holy-days](http://www.shomreitorah.org/high-holy-days).

### Solidarity Shabbat with Free Dinner

Friday, September 14, 6:15 PM

In lieu of the September Rabbi's Tisch, join us for a free dinner and discussion with Rabbi George, Rabbi Stephanie and Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner.

The High Holy Days are complicated for many of us, especially with the anniversary of the wildfires quickly approaching. More than ever, we need to come together to celebrate Shabbat and find comfort in community.

Dinner is free but please RSVP to [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org) or (707)578-5519 so we can order enough food.



*"All of us - old, young, married, single, gay, straight - a diverse group in many ways, are joined together by our connection to Jewish heritage..."*

# Service Calendar

## High Holy Days 5779 (2018)

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

### Saturday, September 1

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

### Sunday, September 9

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service..... 6:00 - 7:00pm

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

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service..... 8:00pm

### Monday, September 10

Rosh Hashanah Adult Service ..... 10:30am

Children's Educational Program

(Grades K-5<sup>th</sup>)\*..... 10:30am

\*See enclosed required registration forms.

Teen & Pre-teen Service

(Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)..... 10:30am

Tashlich Service .....4:30pm

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.

### Tuesday, September 11

2<sup>nd</sup> Day Rosh Hashanah Service..... 10:30am

Vegetarian/dairy potluck lunch to follow.

### Friday, September 14

Solidarity Shabbat..... 6:15pm

FREE, tisch-style dinner, RSVP required.

### Saturday, September 15

Shabbat Shuvah Morning Service.....10:30am

### Sunday, September 16

Cemetery Service .....10:30am

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

### Tuesday, September 18

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

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

Kol Nidre Traditional Service\*.....8:00pm

\*Please attend only one Kol Nidre service.

### Wednesday, September 19

Yom Kippur Adult Service .....10:30am

Children's Educational Program

(Grades K-5<sup>th</sup>)\*.....10:30am

\*See enclosed required registration forms.

Teen & Pre-teen Service

(Grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)..... 10:30am

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

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

Healing Service.....3:45pm

Yizkor Service.....4:30pm

Neilah Service.....5:30pm

Break-the-fast ..... 6:00pm

Please note that afternoon service times are  
approximate.

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

## Mindfulness Meditation

*Led by Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores on September 2; 4:00 PM*

Mindfulness Meditation is the practice of cultivating our attention on the present moment: body sensations, mood and the never-ending stream of thought that flows through our minds. Through focused attention – meditation – we become more aware of what is true for us and the degree to which our thoughts, habits and life patterns serve our goals and higher aspirations. Are we happy? Are we living the life we want to live?

As we learn to see our truth more clearly, a path opens to living a fuller, happier, healthier life. Jewish Mindfulness adds the teachings of our tradition to compliment and deepen the experience. This course will include teaching, meditation instruction and periods of silence. No previous experience is necessary.

Free, but please RSVP  
to the temple office  
(707)578-5519 or  
[denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).



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## KIDDish Registration is Open!

*Opening Day is Sunday, September 23, 9:00 AM*

KIDDish is an introduction to Religious School for all Pre-K children ages 2-5 years old. This is a preschool class where children can meet new friends and build budding Jewish relationships that can blossom for years to come.



During these classes, there will be hands-on art activities, spirited movement and music, playground time, a special visit from our animal friends and fun Jewish learning. A field trip will be held at Art & Soul Music School in Santa Rosa.

This program is open to the entire Jewish community.

\$180 for the entire program. Download the registration form at [www.shomreitorah.org/community/kiddish](http://www.shomreitorah.org/community/kiddish).

## Workshop Series Hosted by IsraAID

**Introductory Session:**

*Sunday, October 7, 5:00-7:00 PM*

**Topic: Building Strength and Resilience**



During the October 2017 wildfires, IsraAID, Israel's largest humanitarian relief organization, provided support for adults and children, assistance with Congregation Shomrei Torah's day camp program and supplies for families who lost their homes.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of these traumatic wildfires, IsraAID joins Congregation Shomrei Torah again to host a series of workshops designed to provide ongoing support and learning opportunities.

Workshops include lectures on various topics, instruction in stress-relief, coping/relaxation techniques and self-care and wellness. Workshops will meet twice a month, starting October 7. All workshops are free, but please RSVP to the temple office: [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org) or (707)578-5519.

### Upcoming Workshops from 5:00-7:00 PM:

October 7: *Building Resilience & Strength*

October 21: *Parenting/Supporting Kids*

November 4: *Chi Quong*

November 18: *Music*

December 2: *Art for Families*

December 16: *Psycho-Drama*

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## Jewish Literary Circle

*Thursdays: September 20, October 18,  
November 15, December 20, 6:15 PM*

The Jewish Literary Circle is meeting monthly to read Jewish literature and other published material in an atmosphere of stimulating discussion. Following the discussion, we will vote to select our next reading choice. Participants are encouraged to bring reading suggestions to the group.

FREE, all are welcome. For more information on the current reading selection, please contact the office.



# *Strength and Spirit: Celebrating Our Community*

## **ONE YEAR AFTER THE FIRES**

All are welcome to this free community-wide event.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018, 2:00 – 5:00 PM**

At Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa

On this eve of Sukkot, please join us to commemorate the strength and spirit of our community. Lots of family fun for all ages!  
Food, wine tasting, music, crafts, and more.

**Presented by**

### **JEWISH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

In partnership with: Congregation Shomrei Torah, Congregation Beth Ami, Congregation Ner Shalom, Congregation Shir Shalom, B'nai Israel Jewish Center, Jewish Community Center Sonoma County, Jewish Community Federation, and Chabad Jewish Center of Sonoma County.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED AT**  
**<https://strengthandspirit.eventbrite.com>**

Questions? Call JFCS at 707-303-1500, or email [sonoma@jfcs.org](mailto:sonoma@jfcs.org)



**Jewish Family and Children's Services**  
OF SAN FRANCISCO, THE PENINSULA, MARIN AND SONOMA COUNTIES

## Habitat for Humanity *Sukkot* Volunteer Day

*Saturday, September 29, offsite*

### Choose One Slot:

Morning 8:45AM-12:00PM

Afternoon: 1:00PM-4:00PM

CST members are invited to spend Shabbat “praying with our hands and feet.” Last year we learned just how temporary our permanent structures could be. This year we will come together as a community to help re-build for those in need.

Several activities are planned for all ages, abilities and interests. There will be two volunteer tracks: the construction team and the beautification team. Individuals and families of all ages and generations are welcome and encouraged to sign up for a 3-hour slot for morning or afternoon.

A delicious and nutritious lunch will be provided to all participants. Volunteers will also receive a commemorative T-shirt.

*Participate in a bigger cause*

*Know that your effort matters*

*Heal yourself through service to others*

*Improve our world through acts of  
compassion and kindness*

Location: 2863 West Steele Lane at Comstock Park (directly across the street), Santa Rosa.

Free, but registration and RSVP required:  
[denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org) or (707) 578-5519.

## *Simchat* Torah Celebration and Lunch *Sunday, September 30, 2018, 10:30 AM*

Come dance with the Torah at the holiest party of the year! This will be a *Simchat* Torah to remember with music, dancing, chanting Torah, and celebration as we end our Torah reading cycle and immediately begin all over again.

A free lunch will be provided after the celebration; please RSVP: [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org) or (707) 578-5519.

## Shomrei Torah Women's Retreat

*Friday-Sunday,  
October 26-28, 2018*

Last day to register is October 1st!



Join us for our 11th Shomrei Torah Women's Retreat. The Women's Retreat only comes around every two years! Escape for the weekend and discover what some of us already know: Shomrei women are the heart and soul of the temple.

### Location:

Westerbeke Ranch, 2300 Grove Street, Sonoma, CA 95476.

### Cost:

\$385 (all-inclusive) For scholarship information, contact Rabbi Stephanie: [rabbikramer@cstsr.org](mailto:rabbikramer@cstsr.org).

Download the registration form: [www.cstsr.org](http://www.cstsr.org). Questions, or to be part of the organizing team, contact Chris Smith: [cesmith@comcast.net](mailto:cesmith@comcast.net).

## Your Voice, Your Vote – Let's be a 100% Voting Congregation!

*Next election is Tuesday, November 6th*

*Register to vote deadline is Monday, October 22*

*Vote by mail requests must be received by Tuesday, October 30*

- Register to vote at [sos.ca.gov/elections](http://sos.ca.gov/elections) or get the paper form at CST, any library, post office or school. Or you may visit the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters Office at 435 Fiscal Dr., Santa Rosa.
- You need to re-register if you changed your name, address, political party. If displaced by the fires, see special information at [sonomacounty.ca.gov/CRA/News/Voters-Displaced-By-The-October-2017-Wildfires](http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CRA/News/Voters-Displaced-By-The-October-2017-Wildfires).
- Sign up to “vote by mail” at [vote.sonoma-county.org/content.aspx?sid=1009&id=1052](http://vote.sonoma-county.org/content.aspx?sid=1009&id=1052), or use the application on back of the Sonoma County Voter Information Guide that was mailed to you, or go to the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters Office.
- College students can register at their home address or campus address. For information visit [campusvoteproject.org/studentguides](http://campusvoteproject.org/studentguides).
- Register in Spanish at [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov).
- Check to see if you are registered at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov).

~Courtesy of the Social Action Committee



## Lehrhaus Judaica Talmud Circle

*Tractate Ta'anit* – Acts of God: Religious Responses to Natural Disasters

*Sundays: October 7, November 11, December 2, January 6, 3:00 PM- 5:00 PM*

Rabbinic tales of drought, disaster, and charismatic holy men illuminate critical questions about power, ethics and ecology in Jewish late antiquity. Through a reading of the Babylonian Talmud *tractate Ta'anit* (on fasts in response to drought), we will discuss how the Talmud challenges Deuteronomy's claim that virtue can assure abundance and that misfortune is an unambiguous sign of divine rebuke. While the majority of participants are continuing students, anyone may join.

Tuition \$80-\$120; CST members and non-members welcome; students must purchase the *Koren Talmud Bavli Noé*, Vol.12: *Ta'anit/Megilla* separately. Class will be held in the Kolbo Room at CST.

Register online at [catalog.lehrhaus.org/course/2018/fall/TC850-ST](http://catalog.lehrhaus.org/course/2018/fall/TC850-ST)  
If you have questions or need tuition assistance, please contact Abra Greenspan at [abra@lehrhaus.org](mailto:abra@lehrhaus.org).

## Anniversary of Fire; Free Community Dinner

*Tuesday, October 9, 6:00 PM*

We know that the anniversary of the Sonoma wildfires will be filled with myriad emotions, some conscious and others deeply buried. Our tradition recognizes that the passing of time can have deep meaning and healing effects. Join us as we mark the one-year anniversary with ritual, a shared meal and the comfort of community.

Dinner is free, but please RSVP to the office so we can order enough food: [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org) or (707) 578-5519.

## Shomrei Torah Bagel Club starts its 21st Year of Cultural Enrichment

*Sunday, October 7, 9:00 AM*

James Nantell, Deputy Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks, will provide a show-and-tell about the tremendous resources the parks offer us. Contact [cstbagelmen@gmail.com](mailto:cstbagelmen@gmail.com) to reserve your seat and gourmet breakfast for a modest \$7-10. All men and woman in the CST community are invited.

If you would like to suggest a speaker for the 2018-19 season, please contact the office.



## October Rabbi's Tisch Can We Tawk? – A History of Jewish Humor with Sara Felder

*Friday, October 12, 6:15 PM*

If Jewish humor was born out of persecution, what is the role of Jewish humor today, in a time of less oppression? What does Jewish humor have to teach us about Jewish history and culture? Most importantly, is Sarah Silverman good for the Jews? Comedy professor and performing artist Sara Felder will deliver a concise history of Jewish humor, beginning in biblical times and ending with contemporary stand-up and performance.

Sara Felder is a playwright and performer who, over the last 3 decades, has created a body of work that juggles personal narrative, circus shtick and social justice. She has toured with San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus and Joel Grey's Borscht Capades and performed at Jewish/Yiddish cultural festivals all over the world.

\$18 suggested donation for the catered dinner.  
Please RSVP to the office;  
(707)578-5519 or [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org)  
Please bring wine to share with your table.



## Social Action Committee Film and Panel "For Our Lives - Parkland"

*Saturday, October 13, 7:00 PM*

Don't miss this impactful film and follow-up panel about the deadly shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. This *Nightline* documentary captures intimate moments as the Parkland Florida community rebuilds and goes from grief to activism, including organizing the national March For Our Lives.

This film is a hopeful testament to the power of young people to come together, organize and make a difference in the upcoming mid-term elections.

This event is part of the ongoing efforts of the Social Action Committee to engage our community to register and be educated and activist voters.

A special welcome to our youngest and newest voters!

## An Introduction to Prayer Book Hebrew and Jewish Liturgy with Rabbi Meredith Cahn

*Sundays: October 14, 21, 28,  
November 4, 11, 18, December 2, 9, 16  
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM*

Are you tired of relying on transliteration in the service? Interested in dipping your toes into Hebrew, *Lashon Hakodesh* (the holy language)? Join Rabbi Meredith Cahn and sister/brother congregants in an engaging class that will take us through half the alphabet—the most commonly used letters - to start you on the way. All are welcome. This class is a prerequisite if you are considering an Adult *B'nai Mitzvah*.

Rabbi Meredith Cahn interned with CST in 2009-2011 and now works primarily as a chaplain at Kaiser Santa Rosa and at St. Paul's Towers, a retirement community in Oakland. She served as rabbi of North Tahoe Hebrew Congregation and at J School for B'nai Israel and Ner Shalom. Rabbi Cahn received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Public Health from UC Berkeley and a Master of Rabbinic Studies and ordination from the Academy of Jewish Religion California, a transdenominational seminary.

\$180 for the nine week class, please RSVP to the temple office: (707) 578-5519 or [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).

## Diversity and Inclusivity Summit

Teens and parents of teens: mark your calendars and tell your friends about this exciting 6-session course!



We are different and unique in so many ways. No two people are the same. And yet, we are all supposed to be "equal." How can that be?

Although we come from different places, backgrounds and identities and even speak in many different languages, we all laugh, cry, rejoice and grieve in the same language. We share so many questions and challenges that the world around us brings to teens and their families.

The Diversity and Inclusivity Summit will bring teens and parents from all over Sonoma County together to learn how to make our communities more welcoming places. Come to listen and bring your questions. Let's share our differences and our commonalities and see where we meet in the middle. Join for a deep dive into ways you can create the world you want to see.

### Summit Dates and Topics (6:30 PM-8:30 PM):

October 15, 2018 | Introductions and Interfaith Families  
November 26, 2018 | Recognizing Race and Incorporating Diversity  
December 10, 2018 | Supporting Teens who are Trans  
January 28, 2019 | LGBTQ Inclusion and Support  
February 25, 2019 | Embracing Those with Chronic Illness or Disability  
April 8, 2019 | Creating a Culture of Inclusion



## **Psalms of the Heart - An exploration of Psalms 1, 8, 15, 16 and 139 in Hebrew and English – Rabbi Mordecai Miller**

*Thursdays: October 25, November 1, 8, 15,  
10:30 AM-12:00 PM*

Over the four sessions, we will attempt to gain a better understanding of the unique language - its connotations as well as its denotations - of the Psalms, in order to find ways to use the Psalms as an instrument for personal meditation and expression.

In addition to being the spiritual leader of our neighbor, Congregation Beth Ami, Rabbi Mordecai Miller is a talented teacher with over 45 years' experience teaching Bible and Talmud in youth and adult settings including the Solomon Schechter Day School, the Adult Melton mini-school and the Robert P. Jacobs Adult Institute. Rabbi Miller received his B.A from the University of Natal, Durban, South Africa in 1970 and an MA in Hebrew Letters and ordination from HUC-JIR, Cincinnati in 1974.

This four week class is free, but please RSVP to the temple office: (707)578-5519 or [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).

## **Klezmer on the Edge - A Night with the San Francisco Yiddish Combo**

*Saturday, November 3, 7:00 PM*

The San Francisco Yiddish Combo (SFYC) was formed by accident when a love of Klezmer music collided with their collective backgrounds in every genre except Klezmer. Now the SFYC, led by cellist Rebecca Roudman, has embarked on a world-wide journey to present their own unique blend of everything that is Klezmer, mixed with years of experience in the jazz, blues, folk, and even hip hop world.

Comprised of classically trained musicians who enjoy stretching musical boundaries, the SFYC is led by cellist Rebecca Roudman, who has fronted groups all over the world bringing her virtuosic and fiery playing to stages from China to Italy and beyond. Check out the SFYC for a fresh spin on Klezmer with plenty of recognizable nods to an eclectic mix of genres. Oh, yeah, it's also great for dancing!

Free, but please RSVP to the temple office: (707)578-5519 or [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).

## **Insights from Israel**

After landing in Ben Gurion in June, my first four days were spent on an Encounter trip. Encounter is a nonpartisan educational organization cultivating more informed and constructive Jewish leadership on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The program I was invited to participate in was for North American Jewish Leadership. Before the trip started, we had two webinars and read a lot about Encounter's philosophy and background. It was transparent that this trip would be showing our group the Palestinian perspective of the conflict. It was assumed that we were well-versed in the Israeli perspective. This was compelling to me, because I am often shocked by the vast differences of media portrayals of the same incidence.

The trip was packed from early morning to late evening every night, and filled with brilliant speakers and incredibly emotional sights. Rabbi David Stern, a past participant and president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, said "the four-day experience was a practice in meditation and deep breathing." This could not be more true; many times, as we were listening to a speaker, I could feel my blood pressure rise. I have grown up with the Israeli perspective being the



Rabbi Kramer

only narrative that I heard, and therefore it really is my narrative.

During the trip we saw firsthand the stark difference between Bethlehem, Ramallah, a Refugee Camp and East Jerusalem. We listened to speakers from the PLO, Combatants for Peace, Activists, Politicians, and Palestinians that deeply care about the welfare and future of their children.

There were too many distinct experiences to describe in one article. Sleeping in a Palestinian Christian's home in Bethlehem, we were able to talk about daily life. It was then that I learned that the father of the home woke up 4 hours before his shift begins every day to make it through the checkpoint and into Jerusalem to work at a construction site to try and put food on the table for his family. It does not take 4 hours to go through security. It takes 4 hours to stand in a long slow moving line with too few lanes open. The mother has been teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade



at a school in Hebron for nearly 30 years, but during the second intifada movement in the west bank was severely restricted. Some days the checkpoints never opened at all. In order to keep her job, she slept on her classroom floor for 5 months, being away from her children all throughout the week.

These are common stories of Palestinians' daily life. Everyone that Encounter invited to speak with our group spoke about peace. They hoped for peace. Not one of them called for the end of Israel; none of them downplayed Israel's fear of security. Rather there was an overarching sense that the status quo is not good enough. That there is more that Israel could do to ease the pain and emotional degradation of Palestinians without compromising security.

We heard a lot about the "wall"; the security barrier was discussed at length by many speakers, and we actually took a trip to the Palestinian side of the wall where we met local graffiti artists who were leaving their mark as we walked by. Seeing this enormous wall was emotional for many. All of the once lucrative businesses that lined the street were abandoned. With the wall's placement commerce has ceased in many areas leaving families in poverty.

The wall is a difficult topic because in Israel's eyes the wall has been a great success. The wall has stopped an uncountable number of terror attacks. Israelis are now able to ride on busses and sit at coffee shops with a greater sense of security. But the exact placement of the wall seems (from a novice like myself) happenstance. It seems like the wall has cut apart families, created much poverty, and separated entire communities from schools for their children. I wonder if the wall's placement could have been handled with greater care?

We also walked the streets of Ramallah, an area under full Palestinian Authority. These streets and malls reminded me of NY City. There were booming businesses, a hustle and bustle feel and a sense of great wealth. I couldn't help but wonder how Ramallah has become such an epicenter while other parts of the West Bank are clearly poverty stricken.

One of the most interesting presentations was given by Khalil Shikaki, a Palestinian who teaches part time at Brandeis and heads the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. He works with both Palestinians and Israelis doing large polls to see how we could come up with a peace proposal that would be accepted from both sides. He understands the non-negotiable issues and looks for other

compromises that could raise enough concusses for a plan to be passed. This was somewhat devastating, hearing that all of the conventional wisdom of the day needs to be thrown out. Simply because there is no hope for a peace plan that resembles the Oslo Accords, it wouldn't have the support. However, his research was very shocking that with apologies from both sides there is hope for peace.

The last presentation of the trip was the most gripping for me. We met with a Sulaiman khatib, a Palestinian from Combatants for Peace. He has been nominated in 2017 for a Nobel Peace Prize for his continual work for peace in the Middle East but his personal story was painful. When he was fourteen his brother and he stabbed two IDF officers. Thankfully the officers survived. They escaped but by morning the two of them were found in their village and arrested. He spent the next ten years in an Israeli prison. He described the hunger strikes that the prisoners engaged in, and thankfully he survived those ten years. After his release from prison, he helped establish multiple non-profits working towards peace. He is dedicating his life to peace rather than violence, this is amazing given his childhood.

This trip has given me so much to think about. It has really shaken my blind uncompromising views on safety and security. I don't

diminish security needs, but I am now able to see the need for nuance in the discussion. Being able to meet Palestinians and walk the streets and rubble roads of the West Bank, I was able to hear the personal stories and the everyday effects rather than just the political narratives that are portrayed in the media. This was a very hard lens to use for the rest of my time in Israel. I didn't stay quiet about what I saw in the West Bank. I spoke with every Israeli cab driver, every rabbi, and every Israeli I could about the political situation and the status quo. I asked a lot of hard questions but most of all I listened. Of course there are two sides to every story, and both sides are valid and true.

There is humanity on both sides of the wall. There are stories of pain, stories of fear, and stories of hope. To hear Sulaiman Khatib's first hand story, a story of true *Teshuva* (repentance) I have to have hope. Hope that we will one day have peace. Hope that we can live together rather than separately, hope that all of God's children will live in safety, nourishment, and prosperity.

**If you are interested in traveling to Israel and the West Bank on a trip focused on both narratives, please email [rabbikramer@cstsr.org](mailto:rabbikramer@cstsr.org).**



## Women's Interest Groups - Connecting CST Women

CST women are currently getting to know each other as they participate in the newly formed walking and movie and discussion groups. If you are interested in joining one or both groups or have questions contact Sue Lewis: [susanlewis@sonic.net](mailto:susanlewis@sonic.net) or (707) 280-0860.

## July CST Board Wrap-Up

The order of business for the CST Board of Directors meeting on July 12 was a little on the light side, which is pretty normal given the summer months. However, the great news is that we are continuing to welcome new members and are deep in the planning process for High Holy Days and the upcoming busiest time of year.

We look forward to hearing from the rabbis, who were studying together at the Shalom Hartman Institute. We are also in the process of looking for a new part-time custodian. There are lots of volunteer needs with the upcoming holidays so please say yes if you can, when called upon to help with all kinds of tasks and honors. Until next month!

## The Choir Wishes Everyone a *Shana Tovah!*

A New Year is quickly upon us. CST's High Holy Day choir is looking forward to lifting up our communal prayers - both with age-old musical modes that resonate deep within our souls, harkening us back to our ancestors or with more contemporary Jewish music. It is this blend that makes us rich and allows us to connect with our liturgy in ways meaningful to us as individuals and a community.

## Environmental Action Committee

### *Tip of the Month*

"One generation goes and another generation comes; but the earth remains forever."

~ *Kohelet, 1:4*

As we listen and attune our hearts to the blasts of the *shofar*, may we honor this year's birthday of the world by being better prepared to protect ourselves and our beloved planet.



September is national preparedness month, which aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

As we know, emergencies can happen unexpectedly in communities just like ours. Learn how we can prepare ourselves at home and at work for emergencies and disasters, both large scale and smaller local events. Local and national tests will occur this month. Sign up and become informed.

- **socalert.com** - Our county emergency notification system: sign up to get a phone call in an emergency (this is only used in imminent life/safety situations).
- **nixle.com** - To stay informed via email and text: this service will not call you but has good secondary information in an emergency.
- **srcity.org/610/emergency-information** - Local resources and non-emergency numbers (bottom of webpage). Also, check to see if there are links unique for the city in which you live.
- **myhazards.caloes.ca.gov** and **earthquakecountry.org/risk** - Hazards and risks in Sonoma County and steps you can take to minimize or avoid injuries, damage, and long-term financial consequences.

*L'shanah Tovah*

## The Caring Committee Needs Your Help

Hello fellow CST members! We are reaching out to the Congregation, looking for people who are willing to make soups and other dishes that can be easily frozen. We need more food to have available for people who have had surgery, injuries, deaths, births and other life-changing events and can use some extra support or a helping hand.

If you are interested in volunteering on the CST Caring Committee, you are very welcome to join. We are always looking for people who would like to give back to our community.

If you are interested, please contact the office.

## Good News on Global Warming



Your Environmental Action Committee, headed by Rick Reisman, would like to make sure everyone is aware of a local program that has been having a beneficial impact on global warming.

“Drive EV” is an electric vehicle incentive program offered by Sonoma Clean Power (SCP). In addition to various local dealer and manufacturer discounts, SCP customers can claim as much as \$2,000 toward the purchase or lease of an electric vehicle. To make the purchase/lease of a new car easier, one can take advantage of existing state and PG&E rebates, plus federal tax credits that might apply. The “Drive EV” incentive covers a wide range of electric vehicles and can also be applied to certain used EVs. Incentives of up to an additional \$2,000 are available to qualified low-income customers.

Since its inception in October 2016, the program has helped with the purchase/lease of nearly 800 electric vehicles to customers in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. In addition to the financial incentive, participating SCP customers are eligible to receive two free “smart” car chargers.

This iteration of the “Drive EV” program went into effect on August 1, 2018 and will run until November 16, 2018 or while funds last, so if you are interested, you will want to act fast. More information is available on SCP’s website: <https://sonomacleanpower.org/programs/drive-ev>.



## Jewish Teens Love CHAVERIM

It’s never too late to join  
*Chaverim*, Sonoma County’s Jewish teen educational program.

Visit [jccsoco.org](http://jccsoco.org) and click the “Teen” tab. For more information contact Rick Concoff, Program Director, at (707)477-9196.

*Chaverim* is a program of the Jewish Community Center Sonoma County and partially funded by the Jewish Community Federation. We serve teens entering 8th grade through 12th grade. Our program provides a unique venue that inspires involvement in Jewish life.

Students meet for weeknight dinner discussions, and are also encouraged to participate in other Jewish teen activities in the Bay area. Meetings provide the opportunity to experience social interaction and engaging discussions dealing with relevant emerging young adult issues as well as ethical topics - all through a Jewish lens.



**Congregation Shomrei Torah**  
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**Office Hours**  
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9:00 AM–12 Noon;  
1:00–5:00 PM

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#### The VOICE

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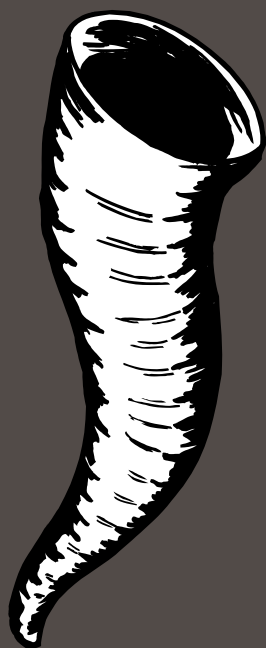
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**TIME SENSITIVE**

## SEPTEMBER SERVICES

### Saturday, September 1

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*  
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*  
9:00 pm – *S'lichot Service*

### Friday, September 7

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, September 8

8:45 am – *Torah study led by  
Judith Richlin-Klonsky*  
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Sunday, September 9

*Erev Rosh Hashanah Services*  
See calendar inside

### Monday, September 10

*Rosh Hashanah Services*  
See calendar inside

### Tuesday, September 11

*2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Service*  
See calendar inside

### Friday, September 14

6:15 pm – *Solidarity Shabbat*

### Saturday, September 15

Weekly Torah portion: *Vayeilech*  
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi Stephanie*  
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Tuesday, September 18

*Kol Nidre Services*  
See calendar inside

### Wednesday, September 19

*Yom Kippur Services*  
See calendar inside

### Friday, September 21

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, September 22

Weekly Torah portion: *Ha'Azinu*  
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*  
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, September 28

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, September 29

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

See our latest calendar at [www.cstsr.org](http://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.