



## Fifth Annual Gelt-A-thon

Sunday December 8

A Shomrei Torah Hanukkah tradition continues on Sunday, December 8, when a committed group of Shomrei Torah volunteers will be calling members of our congregation, asking for contributions to our fifth annual Hanukkah Gelt-A-Thon. This event not only raises much-needed money for our operations and programs; it also brings us together as a community, celebrating the spirit of generosity and gift-giving for which this holiday stands.

Last year's fundraiser was highly successful, raising more than \$20,000 with contributions from more than half of our members. This year we would like to get closer to the 100% participation mark and ask those who have not given before, in particular, to make Shomrei Torah a part of their holiday celebration.

We simply ask that you remember Shomrei Torah by



including us as a recipient of one of your Hanukkah night gifts. And while we suggest a donation of \$118, what we would truly love to see is for everyone to participate. We welcome gifts at every level. Please join us in giving.

Remember, you can avoid the call and join the 40 members who, as of November 15, have already given to this year's Gelt-A-Thon. Just log on to our website and click the green Donate Now button on the right hand side (make sure Gelt-a-Thon 2013 appears in the pull-down menu), or make your contribution by phone, mail or in person. Donations received before December 5 will ensure that you avoid the call.

And if you would like to participate by making calls (and having a delicious breakfast), please contact one of us.

**Co-Chairs**  
Reed Ferrick (rferrick@aol.com)  
and John Weinstein

## HIGHLIGHTS

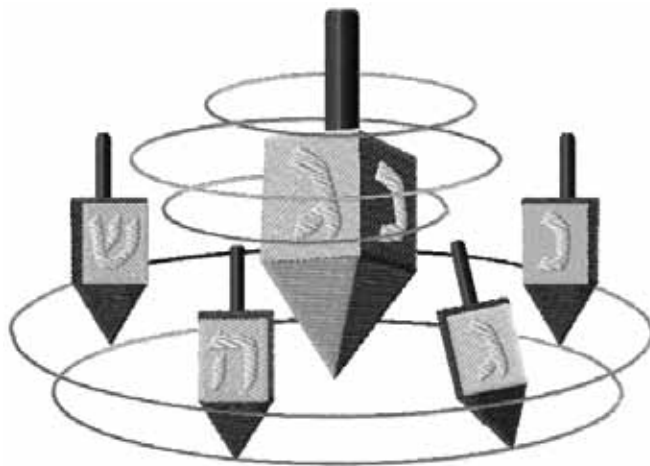
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## Rabbi's Tisch Fridays December 13 and January 10 6:15 PM

Join us at our monthly alternative Shabbat experience consisting of a catered dinner followed by a lively discussion. At the December Tisch, on Friday, December 13, Cantor David Frommer's topic will be Not Your Grandparents' Cantor. Join him for an exploration into the complexities of the modern day Reform Cantorate. Cantors used to be hired purely for their voices. Like opera singers, they were expected to dazzle congregants with superlative vocal performances. Today, the cantor's role

has radically expanded and changed. They must teach students of every age, they must involve congregants in their music, and they must work as part of a clergy team. How well have Reform Cantors and the institutions that train and represent them adapted to these changes? Will cantors exist in two generations? Find out at the next Rabbi's (Cantor's) Tisch!

On Friday, January 10, there will be a learner's Tisch, led by Rabbi George and Rabbi Kramer. The topic is Shabbat: Why we do, What we do. Don't miss these wonderful experiences. RSVP to Denise in our office at 707-578-5519 or [denise@shomreitorah.org](mailto:denise@shomreitorah.org).



## Night of Lights Hanukkah Celebration Wednesday December 4 - 6:15 pm

Join Rabbis George and Stephanie and Cantor David as they serve latkes and we rejoice together; meet your friends and make new friends as we sing songs, and play dreidel. Bring your menorah and favorite dairy/vegetarian dish for our potluck Hanukkah celebration. The Latkes and Fixings are on us!!!



## Men's Bagel Club

Sunday December 1, 9:00 AM



The CST Men's Bagel Club continues to host worthy speakers at our first Sunday of the month sessions. In November we learned much from Desmond Shapiro, MD about his native South Africa, as well as having a discussion of health care systems there, as compared to the USA and other developed countries.

On **December 1**, our speaker is new father, Cantor David Frommer. We will learn more of his background, including his time after college when he joined the IDF as an Israeli soldier. And we'll also get a peek into his energetic and creative Jewish musical mind.

On **January 5, 2014** we will learn about the Sonoma Humane Society from a representative of that organization.

Please join us at these opportunities to learn, dine royally, and get to socialize with each other. Reserve your seat and breakfast at [cstbagelmen@gmail.com](mailto:cstbagelmen@gmail.com).

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## Lifelong Learning Classes

### "Navigating the Prayer Book: Basics of Synagogue Survival"

Wednesdays January 15, 22, and 29 - 7:00–8:30 PM

Is it hard for you to follow along during services? Are you standing up when everyone else is sitting down? Do you wonder what those strange movements are that Rabbi Kramer does on the bima? Come learn some of the practice (how to) elements of worship at Shomrei Torah. Taught by Rabbi George and Rabbi Kramer. RSVP to Denise in our office at 707-578-5519 or [denise@shomreitorah.org](mailto:denise@shomreitorah.org).

### "Spiritual Direction"

Wednesdays February 12, 19, and 26 - 7:00–8:30 PM

Spiritual Direction is based on the ancient practices of Spiritual Guidance found in many faith traditions. Spiritual Guidance helps deepen your connection to yourself, God, or however you define the sacred.

This class will be an introduction to different techniques used to connect more deeply with a feeling of spirituality in our lives. Taught by Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores who was trained and certified in Jewish Spiritual Direction by the Yedidya Morei Derekh program. RSVP to Denise in our office at 707-578-5519 or [denise@shomreitorah.org](mailto:denise@shomreitorah.org).

## URJ Biennial

December 11-15, San Diego

A Biennial is the convention put on by the Union for Reform Judaism every other year. Those who attend Biennials include Rabbis, lay leaders, congregants, educators... and anyone interested in Judaism from a Reform perspective. December 11-15, 2013, Reform Jews from all over North America will be meeting up in San Diego for the 72nd Biennial. It will be fun, informative, and inspirational – and this year it's all just 600 miles from home!

Learn more at <http://urj.org/biennial13/>. Please let Denise know if you are interested in attending. Hope to see you in San Diego!

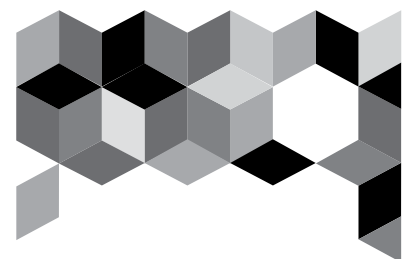
### Those who attend Biennials include

*Rabbis, lay leaders, congregants, educators... and anyone interested in Judaism from a Reform perspective.*



**BIENNIAL**  
**2013**

DECEMBER 11-15  
SAN DIEGO, CA





## Scholar Lecture Series Continues!

*Sundays December 8 and January 5*

**Come hear our Scholars teach their favorite texts.**

Pop in for \$18 a session.

Please RSVP to Denise in our office at 707-578-5519 or [denise@shomreitorah.org](mailto:denise@shomreitorah.org).

Please note that the day and time for Naomi Seidman has changed.

### Rabbi Lavey Derby **"Where Can God be Found?"**

*Sunday December 8, 3:00 – 4:30 PM*

Rabbi Levi Yitzchok of Berdichev was a much loved and God-imbued spiritual teacher. We will study one of his famous teachings on God's presence in the world.

Rabbi Lavey Derby teaches meditation, mysticism and Hasidism around the country and is the eighth generation direct descendent of Reb Levi Yitzchok of Berdichev.

### Naomi Seidman **"Finding 'A Woman of Valor': Gender, Americanization, and the 1917 JPS Bible"**

*Sunday January 5, 2:00 – 3:30 PM*

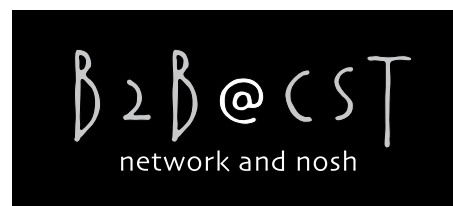
We will explore the translation of Proverbs 31 as it appears in a number of Christian and Jewish translations, focusing in particular on the choice, in the 1917 JPS version, to translate *eshet hayil* as "A woman of valor" rather than (as the King James has it) "A woman of virtue."

Ms. Seidman is the Koret Professor of Jewish Culture and Director at the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies of the Graduate Theological Union

## "Intro To Hebrew"

*Saturdays Jan 18–Mar 29 1:00–2:30 pm*

This ten-session class beginning on Saturday Jan 18, 2014 will teach you the fundamentals of Hebrew reading as well as the structure and meaning of the Shabbat morning liturgy. It is designed for those who want to be able to follow along in Hebrew and those interested in having an Adult B'nei Mitzvah (the Adult B'nei Mitzvah program begins in April and this class is required, if you do not know how to read Hebrew). No previous knowledge required. This class is taught by Rabbi George and Rabbi Kramer. The cost is \$150 for the ten sessions and all materials. Scholarships are available upon request. RSVP to Denise in our office at 707-578-5519 or [denise@shomreitorah.org](mailto:denise@shomreitorah.org).



## Monthly Business Networking

*Tuesday January 14, 7:30 AM*

There is no B2B meeting in December due to busy holiday schedules. We will resume on Tuesday, January 14th at 7:30 a.m. at CST. Newcomers are always welcome. Each month a member of the B2B Committee presents information about their business. The January meeting will feature a presentation by Susan Daniel, of Employee Relations Consultants.

October's meeting was highlighted by a presentation by Norman Easley, who is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. His history and evolution through careers is fascinating. He started out in the computer industry and reinvented himself ten years ago as a broker with Edward Jones. His motivation is to help people using the skills of solving problems. He is a UC Berkeley grad and earned his Masters at a school where only Chinese is spoken.

November's meeting was held on location at the painting studio of Marsha Connell.



Norman Easley



Congregation Shomrei Torah  
*Casting Call*

Purim Shpiel

A silhouette of a person standing on a roof, holding a long pole or stick, possibly a fiddler or a character from a Purim play.

# Fiddler on the Roof

Saturday, March 15th  
6:15pm

*Calling all interested actors,  
musicians, technicians & bakers  
please contact Ricki Nickel at  
[ledric@mac.com](mailto:ledric@mac.com)*

**REHEARSALS**  
WEDNESDAY MARCH 5TH &  
SATURDAY MARCH 15TH



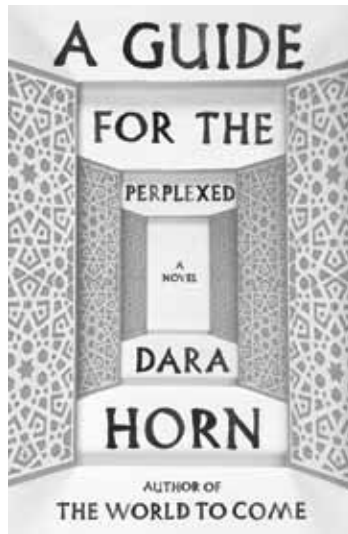
## Shomrei Torah Book Discussion

*Sunday, February 23 – 3:00 PM*

The compelling new novel by Dara Horn, *A Guide for the Perplexed*, has been selected for the second annual One Bay One Book program, sponsored by Jewish Learningworks, in partnership with synagogues and other Jewish organizations throughout the Greater Bay Area. Book clubs are encouraged to participate.

As the title suggests, this book raises profound questions about such issues as sibling rivalry, memory, cruelty and sacrifice, and combines a picture of potential computer technology with glimpses of earlier times as far back as the life of Maimonides.

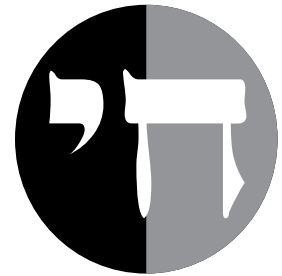
Numerous organizations have been or will be holding discussions on the book throughout the year. Shomrei Torah's discussion of the book will take place at 3:00 pm on February 23, 2014, hosted by Rabbi George and Melissa Kort. Though just recently released, the book is available in paperback and has received excellent reviews.



*...this book raises profound questions about such issues as sibling rivalry, memory, cruelty and sacrifice...*

## "Chai Weekend" Countdown Continues

*April 4, 5 and 6, 2014*



### 18th Anniversary Tribute Book for Rabbi George

At the special Shabbat service on April 4, 2014, Rabbi George will be presented with a Tribute Book in honor of his Chai year. The service kicks off Chai Weekend, a series of events celebrating Rabbi George's 18-year tenure at Shomrei Torah.

The Tribute Book is your opportunity to express your love and good wishes for Rabbi George and his family through letters, poems, drawings, photos, or artwork. The messages will be collected by volunteers and bound into a one-of-a-kind book that will be presented to the rabbi during the Shabbat service. Tribute Book organizers Sue Lewis and Marcy Pluznick-Marrin are hoping for 100% participation in this important fundraising project. Spaces of various sizes will be available for purchase early next year. Order forms will be mailed to every member household and will be available in the February Voice and on the web site.

### Honoring Rick Concoff

*Saturday March 8, 2014*

Join the Jewish Community Center as we honor and celebrate Rick Concoff for his 35 plus years serving our Jewish community.

Details to follow.

# JULIE SILVER

*in CONCERT*

**Saturday,  
MARCH 1  
7:00 PM  
In the Sanctuary**

**TABLE FOR 8 = \$180**  
**Reserved Seating**  
*Complimentary Wine, Coffee & Desserts*  
*Table Service*

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS = \$18**  
*Cash Bar for Wine*  
*Complimentary Coffee & Desserts*



## What is a Jew?

That question seems never to go away and is especially present in my life these days thanks to a course Rabbi Kramer and I are teaching on "Peoplehood" sponsored by the Shalom- Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. The concept of Peoplehood provokes many questions about what it means to be a Jew. Religion, culture, ethnicity, nationality – just what are we, anyway?!

A participant in the class recently emailed me with her own concerns about Peoplehood, which I am sharing with you now as well as my response to her, in the hope that our dialogue will inspire a dialogue in you.

***"We enjoyed last night's Hartman class but 'Peoplehood' remains a difficult concept for me to understand or feel comfortable with – hopefully by the end of this class I will feel more confident about it. Meanwhile, I vividly remember the first time I heard Rabbi Donniel Hartman speak, on a congregational trip to Israel, and he said "today everyone who is a Jew is a Jew by Choice." This is hard to square with his comments about peoplehood last night, including his statement that 'Jewish is like Irish' – but being Irish is not a matter of choice; one cannot 'choose' to be Irish. So maybe Peoplehood is some combination of heredity, place, and choice?"***

So glad y'all are in the class. Thanks for being in touch



with me about this. The concept of Am Yisrael, the Jewish People, is complex (no surprise!). When Donniel called all of us "Jews by choice" what I believe he meant was that, unlike pretty much every other time in our history, we can choose whether or not we want to be a part of Jewish life. There is no coercive force keeping us "in" and we can have full acceptance in secular, American life (more or less) if we want to walk away from Judaism, Jewish life and the Jewish people altogether. This is a historical reality we have never had before. Add to that the myriad other options

*"The concept of Peoplehood provokes many questions about what it means to be a Jew. Religion, culture, ethnicity, nationality – just what are we, anyway?!"*

competing for our loyalty and identity, and we really all are Jews by choice.

As for "choosing to be Irish", well, one actually can make that choice. I don't expect it would be so simple and it may take a while, but it can happen as it does with conversion to Judaism. More often than not one converts first to Judaism the religion and then, over time, internalizes that to eventually feel a part of Am Yisrael. Sometimes the assimilation never happens, and that is a limiting factor for the person – they feel connected only to part of what it means to be a Jew. Does that mean they are not "really" Jewish? No. In fact, it doesn't even mean they are not a part of the Jewish people! All it really indicates is an inability to feel/relate to this aspect of being a Jew. It's still there, and others, for better or for worse, will likely recognize it even if the person does not!

In reality there is great variation as to the things that combine to form any Jewish person's identity -- heredity, place, choice, and nature (the individual's innate qualities) all play a role in what it means for one to be Jewish, but it has less effect on how the Jewish and non-Jewish worlds understand them. This was one of a thousand great shocks of the Shoah; one could be completely assimilated and not even consider oneself Jewish anymore and still be brutalized to death by the Nazi's because, at some level, one was considered Jewish.

One factor in both our understanding of ourselves and the way others see us is where we are from and where

*"When Donniel called all of us "Jews by choice" what I believe he meant was that, unlike pretty much every other time in our history, we can choose whether or not we want to be a part of Jewish life."*

we reside. As an American you have a sense of citizenship separate from ethnicity or culture. This is not the case in much of the world and only came about during the post-Enlightenment era. In the former USSR, for example, "Jew" was a nationality on a passport, and an unfortunate one at that!

Rabbi Gershon Winkler sees the Jews as an indigenous people not unlike the Pomo or the Miwok of Northern California. We have a sense of tribe as they do, as well as our own language and homeland/sacred land. We also have a history and a culture (really histories and cultures). This is the most helpful framework for me in that it encompasses the totality of my understanding of what Judaism is.

Hope that helps...

B'shalom,  
Rabbi George



## Engagement

I found it difficult to write this issue's President's Message. It could be the pressure of writing for a double-issue of the Voice that will bring us through Hanukkah and into the New Year of 2014. Or it could be that current events have been occupying my mind making it challenging to look towards the future. Ah, but look we must.

The Board of Directors recently participated in a one day retreat for the purpose of learning, reflecting and imagining into the future of Shomrei Torah. Our overarching theme of the retreat was engagement. Shomrei Torah has abundant programming to meet a variety of interests and encourage participation in congregational life. (If you haven't looked through the 360° View program guide lately, dust it off, look inside, and you'll see an abundance of programming for the remainder of our fiscal year. If you need one, either drop by our office or call and we'll provide you with one.) But, to be engaged – that's something quite different. To participate is to show up. We've all heard the oft-repeated quote, "Showing up is half the battle," but what is the other half? That's where engagement enters. I read in a blog the following example, "When you go to your meetings today, you'll see the difference. It's between those that are sitting in the meeting – and participating by just showing up – and those that are adding to the conversation because they are engaged. In other words, you can participate without



being engaged. Engagement is the step beyond participation."

Why is working on engagement important? Engagement is not a fleeting or temporary state, but a long term process that, hopefully, inspires positive feelings and deepens connections from member-to-member and member-to-CST. We need people to have a deepened and vested interest in our future together as a community of Reform Jews and to be active partners in CST's role as the center of progressive Reform Judaism in Sonoma County.

Why is clear. So now the question is, "How?" Well, I'd like you hear from you about the how. After all, this is your synagogue and your community. How we build and nurture engagement within our membership and in the greater community will be a work-in-progress and an ongoing commitment. We will seek out your voice to learn what engagement means to you. I invite you to show up for these conversations. After all, showing up is half the battle!

B'shalom,  
Rachael

## LEGACY NEWS

### Meet Legacy Circle Member Bruce Falstein



Bruce Falstein, immediate past president of Congregation Shomrei Torah, joined the Congregation thirteen years ago. He had newly arrived in Santa Rosa and did not know anyone. He desired to connect with a welcoming community. At the time he also had three young children and wanted to provide them with a Jewish identity and education. Shomrei Torah provided both.

Bruce feels that Shomrei Torah has delivered on the two main reasons for his joining. Today, he says, that most of his friends are people he met through the synagogue. Further, he notes that all three of his children hold fast to their Jewish identity. He senses that he is very connected to his CST community and he is delighted that his two younger children both actively participate with Chaverim and are close friends with other Shomrei Torah young people.

Bruce Falstein's involvement in CST leadership has added significant meaning to his life; not only does he feel like he is part of something much larger than himself, but he also derives tremendous satisfaction from contributing to an organization that touches so many people's lives and that is a force for good in the community as a whole.

Bruce says, "The Legacy Circle is the best vehicle we have for ensuring the long term health of Shomrei Torah. By joining, I believe that I'm not only helping the Congregation survive and thrive, but I am helping preserve Jewish culture and traditions for generations to come."

Bruce has not yet designated a specific purpose for his Legacy gift, but he may choose to do so in the future. At this point, he is trusting future leaders of CST to use the money where it will be most needed at the time.

Finally, Bruce shares the Rabbis' and the Board's vision that Shomrei Torah will continue to be the home for progressive Reform Judaism in Sonoma County. He hopes that occurs not only through CST's activities and programs, but with expanded facilities to house other Jewish organizations, thus creating a physical center for Jewish life in the region. That will require a major investment to create a campus where we can fill the mission to be a home for Jewish learning, community and worship, all in one place.





## Shirley Liberman to Head Social Action Committee in 2014



Shomrei Torah's indefatigable Lady Who Can't Say No has just been elected to head up Shomrei Torah's Social Action Committee (SAC) beginning in 2014. Shirley has a long, successful record as a leader at CST. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors, on the Steering Committee of the Jewish Food Fest, and has been a SAC member for the last six years.

Born and raised in Northern England, Shirley has been living in California since the early 1960's. She joined the liberal Sha'ar Zahav Congregation in SF in 1980, and became an active member and organizer of most of their events. She joined Shomrei Torah in 2001, and quickly became active in fundraising events, and committee chair for at least five Purim fundraisers. She continues as a member of the Fundraising Committee.

Shirley is no stranger to being a leader in the SAC. During a previous six month period, Shirley co-chaired the SAC with four others. Following that, Madeleine Rose became the Chair and has led the Committee through some of its most visible and successful events these past two years.

When questioned about her acceptance of taking on the SAC role, she said: "How could I not? Madeleine, Stephen (Harper) and Larry (Carlin) have all promised to work "behind the scenes" as advisors.

## Environmental Action Committee

### *Tip of the Month*

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*

~ Proverbs xxix. 18.

**Have used or outdated drugs?**

**Want to dispose of them responsibly?**

**Never flush or put them in the garbage!**

The city of Santa Rosa sponsors a SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL program. Take them to one of many drop-off locations in Sonoma County, such as Oliver's Markets, Tuttles' Pharmacies, the Santa Rosa Police Station, or the Senior Center in Santa Rosa. For a complete list of county places to take them, go to: <http://www.safemedicinedisposal.org/>

**Protect the environment ... protect children from accidental poisonings...**

**keep medications out of the wrong hands!**



## Environmental Action Committee

We are making progress in our study of Sonoma Clean Power. We are also planning a forum to educate electricity customers about their upcoming May 1, 2014, choice between PG&E and Sonoma Clean Power as their electrical provider. Stay tuned to the Voice and Chai-lites.

This coming March will see another Community Involvement Day where Shomrei Torah volunteers turn out in force to improve the Santa Rosa Creek project. Details to follow.

And check out other activities from our dynamic committee on the CST website (go to community>Environmental Action). These include--

1. CST's locally recognized greener waste management program.
2. The CST guide to locally grown food as well as our own CSA program for having healthy food delivered to your family weekly
3. Information regarding GMO's (genetically modified organisms) and why they might be worth avoiding in our diets
4. A compilation of Environmental Tips for our families collected from the Voice since 2007.



**Dear Families,**

Hoping everyone had a very happy Hanukkah and Thanksgiving holiday. We have so much to be thankful for. May the season of Light have brought warmth and family togetherness to all of you. We look forward to seeing you Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 9:30am for Tot Shabbat.

**Blessings,  
Tot Shabbat Lauren**



## School Schedule

Sundays – 9:00 – 11:15 AM– K-3rd

Sundays 11:00 -1:00 PM – 4th -7th grade

Wednesdays – 4:00 -6:00 PM 4th -6th Grade



### **Friday, December 6, 6:15pm:** 6th grade Family Shabbat

Please join our community in prayer as our sixth graders have a special part in the Shabbat service. Afterwards we will have a yummy dinner for the sixth grade families to share as a community. Each family is asked to contribute \$10 and please RSVP to Vikki at [vrutherford@shomreitorah.org](mailto:vrutherford@shomreitorah.org), 707-578-5519.

### **Sunday, December 8:** 3rd Grade Family Education Program

"The Great God Hunt" is an opportunity to explore where we find God. We will work together as a family to start an ongoing conversation about connecting to God, at different times, places and paths. Parents are required to stay the entire time.

### **Sunday, December 8:** 4th Grade Family Education Program

The fourth graders and their families will embark on a magical journey to Israel. Parents are required to stay the entire time.

### **Sunday, January 12:** All school Tu B'Shvat 9:00 – 11:15

Tu B'Shvat is the birthday of the trees!! All grades are coming from 9-11:15 for an interactive Tu B' Shvat experience.

### **Sunday, January 26:** 2nd Grade Family Education Program

"Why do our children need biblical heroes too?" The program provides an opportunity for you and your child to explore how Judaism discovers heroism in everyday people. Parents are required to stay the entire time.

### **Sunday, January 26:** 7th Grade Family Education Program

This program is an opportunity to hear from post b'nei mitzvah students about their mitzvah projects and learn the process of choosing and planning the mitzvah project and also learn about the 8 levels of tzedakah. Parents are required to stay the entire time.

## Bar Mitzvah

**Toby Miller**

*January 14, 2013*

*Shevat 3, 5774*

Please join us as our son, Toby Stonefield Miller, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Kiddush luncheon to follow.

**Susie & Mark Miller**



## Babies & Bagels

Do you have a baby? Do you like bagels? If you answered yes to the previous questions then this group is for you! Join us for a light nosh and some refreshing adult conversation, while you watch your child/children interact and play with others in their age group.

The December Babies and Bagels will be held on Sunday December 15th and the January Babies and Bagels will be held on January 12th. Save the dates! Please contact the CST office for more information.



Babies enjoying the November gathering.

## CST Winter Warmth Drive Collections end December 6

Winter is here bringing wind, rain and cold. We have been distributing clothing, blankets and sleeping bags to our friends and neighbors who are recipients of Elisha's Pantry since mid-November. The Need Is Greater Than Ever. Items for children/teens and larger sizes for adults are particularly needed. Please help by donating gently used warm clothes, blankets/sleeping bags, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, socks and rain gear. Donations should be in very good condition (no holes, stains, broken zippers or missing snaps or buttons). There are two collection bins in our front lobby entryway. Contact the CST office.





## JCC Chaverim News

Teen Jewish education in Sonoma County has never been better and more popular. Close to 100 Jewish teens from Sonoma County synagogues and the general community meet twice per month to share a meal and Jewish learning.

Did you know that 100% of CST's B'nai Mitzvah students are members of this exciting program?

Emmy Wagner, Chaverim alumnus, as well as a teacher in the CST Religious School, is the new Chaverim Program Assistant and enjoying getting to know and work with the students. We welcome her!

For more info on Chaverim (new students welcome) and Jewish Parenting education opportunities, visit the JCC website at [jccsoco.org](http://jccsoco.org).

**Shalom,  
Rick Concoff,  
JCC Director of Teen Programming**

## SCTRibe

Save the dates for our upcoming events that you will not want to miss!

**December 8th** is Latkes and Vodkas. Celebrating Hanukkah in style!

**December 20th** is our December Shabbat dinner.

**January 12th** is our Tikkun Olam project. Join us as we do our part to repair the world.

**January 24th** is our January Shabbat dinner.

Keep an eye out for e-mails with details as the dates draw nearer.

Interested in hosting a Shabbat dinner event? Like to be on our e-mailing list? Please contact us at [sonomacountytribe@gmail.com](mailto:sonomacountytribe@gmail.com)

## Creating a New Yom Kippur Machzor

If you were part of the congregation on Yom Kippur this year, you were a pioneer! Congregation Shomrei Torah was one of just a handful of congregations across North America selected to try out a draft of the new morning Machzor (prayer book) that is being developed by the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR). In a feedback process hosted by the Ritual Committee, and in comments spontaneously shared with the Rabbis and with Board members, response was overwhelmingly positive.

Most congregants offered or agreed with descriptions of the Machzor such as: favorable, warm, inviting, well-organized, clearly presented, and easy to follow. Many cited the side-by-side placement of Hebrew prayers, transliteration, and English translation as one of their favorite elements. Texts and commentary in the new version were seen as offering alternative perspectives; making clear the contemporary relevance of traditional ideas and practices; and educating about connections between the service and Torah in general. Feedback also included concerns that too much information and too many ideas on a single page could be overwhelming and that the expanded contents of the new book could make it unwieldy.

A summary of Shomrei Torah feedback was forwarded to the CCAR as part of the agreement which allowed us to take part in the pilot program. The final version will be completed within the next few years and thoughtful CST comments will have contributed to it.



## Fall Camp at URJ Camp Newman

From November 1st to November 3rd, 34 Shomrei Torah children attended Fall Camp at URJ Camp Newman. On Friday night, the kids welcomed Shabbat with a Shabbat dinner and Shira (Singing). On Saturday, the children participated in Shabbat services and then spent the afternoon enjoying a variety of camp activities including hiking, arts and crafts, dodge ball, and grape picking. In the evening, the children attended a carnival and a campfire. To conclude a wonderful weekend, the campers participated in Havdallah with their Eidah (Session).

On November 4th, registration for the summer officially opened. If you have any questions about Camp Newman, feel free to contact Brandon Binder, our URJ Service Corps Fellow at [bbinder@urjcamp.org](mailto:bbinder@urjcamp.org).

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Monday–Friday  
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1:00–5:00 PM

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## Rosh Chodesh

In this new Jewish year, we have a new Rosh Chodesh format, with more time for study--on a specific seasonal spiritual theme each month--as well as more of the contemplation, meditation, singing, and sisterhood we've been developing over the past year.

Please join us--even if you've never come to the group. We welcome one and all!

In November, we studied Jewish views on death and the afterlife.

We look forward to exploring the following topics together in the coming months:

**December 14th:** "Bringing Light into Darkness"--How can we find sparks of light in the midst of this dark season/hope during barren spiritual times?

**January 11th:** "Tu B'Shvat"--Re-awakening as we turn towards the Springtime. Complete with a mini Tu B'shvat Seder.

**February 8th:** "Finding spiritual direction in our lives."

All groups meet at Judith Goleman's house (call or e-mail for directions), from 7--9 PM, and end with schmoozing and noshing.

Please contact Judith at [jkavanah@aol.com](mailto:jkavanah@aol.com) or Alissa at [alissa.flores@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alissa.flores@sbcglobal.net), for more info.



## Todah Rabbah!

A heartfelt thank you for all of your cards, calls, flowers and donations after my recent surgery. They were instrumental in helping with my successful recovery.

**Ruth Turner**



## North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) Public Meeting: *Uniting Our Diverse Community*

On November 3, the NBOP held its annual bilingual Public Meeting to announce and celebrate the year's accomplishments (the NBOP is different from the North Bay Sponsoring Committee, a confusingly similar named group with which we were affiliated several years ago). The NBOP is action-oriented. This year there were three NBOP Task Forces--Education, Immigration, and Transportation. The Education Task Force was instrumental in getting the Santa Rosa School District to implement a pilot restorative justice discipline program; the Immigration Task Force worked on the passage of the TRUST Act; and the Transportation group supported plans for the Community Connector Bridge and better access to public transportation. Over 800 people attended the Public Meeting, including political and community leaders such as Representative Mike Thompson; Supervisors David Rabbitt, Shirley Zane, Susan Gorin, and Efren Carrillo; Santa Rosa City Council Members Julie Combs, Erin Carlstrom, and Gary Wysocky; Sebastopol Mayor Michael Kyes; and Santa Rosa School District Superintendent, Socorro Shields. Rabbi George was among the clergy who read from Micah, and he captivated the crowd by chanting in Hebrew! Members of the Social Action Committee were present to support this community effort for social justice. At a SAC meeting attended by Rabbi George and Board President Rachael Cutcher, the day after this memorable event, members voted to recommend that CST affiliate with the NBOP. If you would like to learn more about the NBOP and how to participate, please contact the CST office.



## Scenes from the November 2nd Women's Mini-Retreat



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Important Notice:

### **Holiday Office Hours:**

*Office Closed December 25 through January 1*

In observance of the Winter Holiday season,  
the Shomrei Torah office will be closed from  
*Wednesday, December 25, through Wednesday, January 1.*

**We wish you  
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*To appear on Generous Gifts pages, we ask that a minimum donation of \$10.00 be made for each listing.*

*The office asks that you have your donations into the office by the 5th of each month.*

*Thank you to all who give so generously to our Congregation.*





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Advertisements shall be limited to one-half page maximum size; advertisement positioning in *The Voice* will be on a rotating basis; the appearance and content of the advertisements shall be in good taste. Because this is a subjective assessment, final approval of any advertisement shall be at the discretion of the temple administrator, the Rabbi and/or the editor of *The Voice*.

## VOICE Display Ad Rates

### For Shomrei Torah Members

	<u>6-Month*</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Business card:	\$120.00	\$240.00
Quarter-page:	\$264.00	\$528.00
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For more information, please call the temple office at 707-578-5519.

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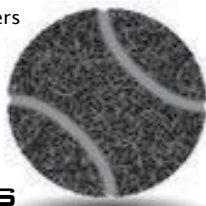
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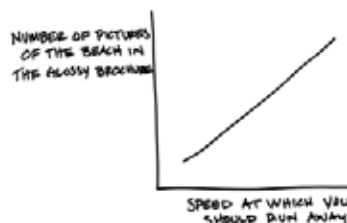
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## DECEMBER SERVICES

### Friday, December 6

6:15 pm - *Shabbat Service – 6th Grade Family*

### Saturday, December 7

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

9:30 am - *Tot Shabbat*

10:30 am - *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, December 13

6:15 pm - *Rabbi's Tisch, Cantor David Frommer*

### Saturday, December 14

8:45 am - *Torah Study led by David Silacci*

10:30 am - *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, December 20

6:15 pm - *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, December 21

8:45 am - *Torah Study*

10:30 am - *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, December 27

6:15 pm - *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, December 28

8:45 am - *Torah Study led by Fran Danoff*

10:30 am - *Shabbat Service*

## JANUARY SERVICES

### Friday, January 3

6:15 pm - *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, January 4

8:45 am - *Torah Study*

10:30 am - *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, January 10

6:15 pm - *Rabbi's Tisch, Rabbi George & Rabbi Kramer*

### Saturday, January 11

8:45 am - *Torah Study led by Alissa Flores*

10:30 am - *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, January 17

6:15 pm - *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, January 18

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

10:30 am - *Bar Mitzvah of Toby Miller*

### Friday, January 24

6:15 pm - *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, January 25

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

10:30 am - *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, January 31

7:30 pm - *Shabbat Service-Camp Style*

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

## 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.