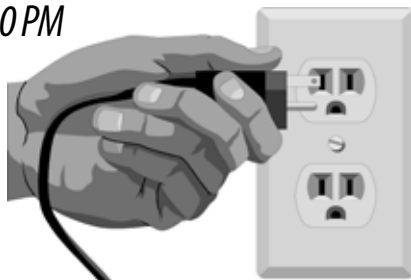




## Choosing an electricity supplier: How will you decide?

*Tuesday March 4 - 7:00 PM*

Electricity deregulation is a fact of life for Californians. In the mid-90s Pacific Gas and Electric Company sold off most of its fossil-fuel power plants to other power producing companies and kept its many hydro-electric facilities, its nuclear power plant and the Helms pumped storage facility. The electricity that we use today comes from these sources, plus a mix including wind, solar, small hydro and geo-thermal. In times of need, power is "wheeled-in" from outside of the state. In fact, the electric grid that we all get our power from is interconnected with the 11 western states and parts of Canada.



bring a local focus to energy purchases and production. Their program, to be phased-in beginning May 1, 2014, will be offered first to 14,000 business and 6,000 residential customers in the target areas of unincorporated Sonoma County, and the cities of Cotati, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma and Windsor. Over the next 2 years, the remaining 200,000 residential, commercial and agricultural customers will be given that choice.

On Tuesday, March 4th, at 7:00 pm in the CST sanctuary, you will be able to hear a discussion, hosted by the CST Environmental Action Committee, regarding this change of electricity suppliers and how it will affect you. The speakers include Geof Syphers, Sonoma Clean Power CEO, and Tom Bottorff, PG&E Senior Vice-President for Regulatory Affairs.

Seating is limited, so email [ElectricityForumSoCo@gmail.com](mailto:ElectricityForumSoCo@gmail.com) to reserve your seat. Include your name(s) and an email address. You may also include prepared questions for our speakers.

*"...the electric grid that we all get our power from is interconnected with the 11 western states and parts of Canada."*

With the concern that PG&E has not done enough to encourage the development and procurement of renewable sources of power, and looking to take action locally, Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) was formed. SCP intends to

## Julie Silver

*February 28–March 1*

Renowned singer Julie Silver will be performing at CST on the weekend of February 28 – March 1, 2014. She will lead Friday evening services at 6:15 pm and then will be performing in concert on Saturday evening at 7:00 pm. Julie has recorded eight albums which have sold over 100,000 copies. She combines her intricate guitar work with her fabulous voice in both Hebrew and English. Julie

*"Julie has recorded eight albums which have sold over 100,000 copies."*

## HIGHLIGHTS

<i>New Kashrut policy</i>	page 2
<i>Pookie</i>	page 6
<i>The URJ Biennial</i>	page 7
<i>Bar Mitzvah</i>	page 9

performs original songs written by her, as well as traditional Jewish folk songs. Come join us for an inspiring, entertaining experience.

Tickets are required for Saturday evening's concert. Go to the CST website [www.shomreitorah.org](http://www.shomreitorah.org) or call the office at 707-578-5519 to reserve your table or purchase individual tickets.



## JULIE SILVER

*in CONCERT*

**Saturday,  
MARCH 1  
7:00 PM**

**In the Sanctuary**

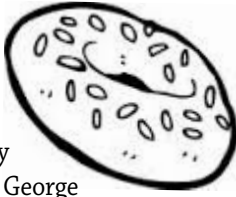
**TABLE FOR 8 = \$180**  
Reserved Seating  
Complimentary Wine, Coffee & Desserts  
Table Service

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

## Men's Bagel Club

*Sunday February 2, 9:00 AM*

Rabbi George is coming to the Bagel Club



On the first Sunday of February, Rabbi George Gittleman will be the honored guest speaker. Our Rabbi will give us an update on how Shomrei Torah is doing and then will participate in a dialogue on other topics of interest to CST congregants from his Rabbinic viewpoint. It should be an informative and interesting discussion for all involved with Shomrei Torah. Of course, the Rabbi will be preceded by a scrumptious feast of Lox, Bagels and Cream Cheese with all the extras for a donation of only \$7. Please RSVP at the CST office. RSVPs are greatly appreciated so we can be sure to get enough Lox for everyone.

The Bagel guys are working to ensure that you have a series of interesting programs for the rest of the Bagel Brunch year. In March CST congregant Victor Pacheco, D.Psy, a psychologist for the California Prison system, will tell us about his mental health work at Vacaville State Prison. Future programs in the planning stages cover topics such as the SMART train, meeting medical needs in 3rd world countries, and contemporary Jewish issues.

We are looking forward to seeing you on the first Sunday of the month for stimulating programs, good food, and great company.

Like Congregation Shomrei Torah on



**facebook®**

## Rabbi Shelley Waldenberg

### **"Humor As Protest and Moral Sanity: A Jewish Perspective"**

*Rabbi's Tisch, Friday February 14 - 6:15 PM*

Rabbi Shelley is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Isaiah in Lafayette. He is a Senior Lecturer at Holy Names University, and Principal Educator of the American Jewish Committee's Bridges Program, building bridges between Jewish and Catholic high school youth. He was Visiting Rabbi at Shomrei Torah some years ago.

He will discuss the very real role humor has played in helping Jews survive centuries of persecution, displacing hostility with laughter—from Biblical through modern times, and many stops in between; from Abraham to Woody Allen.

Join us for an alternative Shabbat experience consisting of a catered dinner followed by a lively discussion. RSVP to Denise in our office at 707-578-5519 or [denise@shomreitorah.org](mailto:denise@shomreitorah.org).

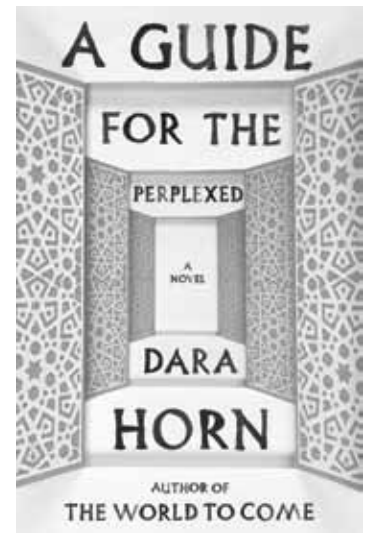
## Shomrei Torah Book Discussion

*Sunday, February 23 – 3:00 PM*

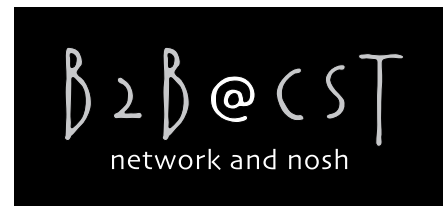
The compelling new novel by Dara Horn, *A Guide for the Perplexed*, has been selected for the second annual One Bay One Book program, sponsored by Jewish Learningworks, in partnership with synagogues and other Jewish organizations throughout the Greater Bay Area. Book clubs are encouraged to participate.

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...*



## Business To Business

*Tuesday February 11, 7:30 AM*

Network with other CST members to build our businesses together. Meet for breakfast at CST to connect your business with others. At the February meeting Joy Danzig will present information about and tastes from her new business 'NJOYBREAD.

## Southeast Greenway Event

February 8, 10:00 AM

The Glaser Center



The Environmental Action Committee has been supporting The Southeast Greenway Campaign as this group of volunteers attempts to transform a mostly two mile patch of weeds that was destined for 50 years to be a highway, into a viable recreational area featuring bicycle and hiking paths, community gardens, and preserved wilderness in an otherwise urban part of Santa Rosa. This has been an eventful year, with Caltrans officially reporting that the Highway 12 extension is no longer needed for a freeway.

In 2014 the real work begins – acquiring the property and turning an eyesore into something that's fun and inviting – an asset that will be an important part of our community for years to come. It will take a community effort to make this happen.

Members of CST who are interested are invited to attend the next Greenway public event - Moving the Southeast Greenway Forward: A Community Partnership. It will be held at The Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa on Saturday, February 8th from 10:00 am – Noon. For more information check [southeastgreenway.org](http://southeastgreenway.org)

## Lifelong Learning Classes

### “Spiritual Direction”

Wednesdays February 12, 19, 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 Yedidiah Morei Derekh program. RSVP to Denise in our office at 707-578-5519 or [denise@shomreitorah.org](mailto:denise@shomreitorah.org).

*The Shomrei Torah Voice is a periodical issued monthly except for the combined June/July and Dec./Jan. issue. It is published by Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 and is distributed free of charge to members and supporting advertisers. Subscriptions are available for \$30 per year. Please direct inquiries to the Shomrei Torah office, 578-5519; office fax number 578-3967.*

## New Kashrut Policy

Following an extensive examination by the Ritual Committee and recommendation to the Board of Directors for review and discussion, the Board approved a revision to the Synagogue's Kashrut Policy (Jewish dietary law). Long-time members will note, no doubt, that in certain respects we are returning to the Policy that was in effect some time ago. In adopting the new Policy, the Board desired to embrace rules that would be inclusive, balance personal choice with fidelity to Jewish Tradition, and maximize the opportunity for those that choose to follow Kashrut, and those that do not, to feel comfortable while participating in events where food is served. As a Reform congregation, Shomrei Torah is not required to adopt rules that would comply with the full array of the laws pertaining to Kashrut. But, as is stated in the policy, we “...find value in embracing the spirit of those laws, recognizing both the importance of food and the benefit of the heightened awareness of what we consume, as well as the value of connecting authentically to our Jewish heritage.”

With that by way of background, the policy is as follows:

At all Synagogue events, whether held on or off the Temple grounds (including, but not limited to potlucks, Onegs, B'nei Mitzvah, committee meetings, Chavurah events, or full meals), there shall always be a vegetarian option; none of the “Forbidden Foods” can be served; and meat and dairy shall not be served on the same platter (no meat lasagna) but items of meat and dairy can be served if on separate dishes and in separate areas.

Forbidden Foods are all foods, the consumption of which is forbidden by the Torah, such as meat from animals without split hooves or those that do not chew their cud (these include pork, pork products—ham, bacon, lard—bear, rabbit, venison) or shellfish and fish that do not have scales and fins (these include, but are not limited to, shrimp, scallops, oysters, clams, prawns, lobster, shark, monkfish, calamari or catfish).

The Policy applies to all CST sponsored events including those events that take place away from the Temple building. It is hoped that all members will help to enhance observance of our Policy. This means, for example, food served at a member's home at a committee meeting should be in compliance with the Policy. This will allow all of our members to feel comfortable at the “Shomrei Torah Table”.

*In adopting the new Policy, the Board desired to embrace rules that would be inclusive, balance personal choice with fidelity to Jewish Tradition...*

# How to Participate in Rabbi George's Tribute Book

As part of the Chai Weekend celebration honoring Rabbi George on April 4-6, a beautiful TRIBUTE BOOK filled with loving messages will be presented to him during Friday night services on April 4. Please participate in this special honor by creating your own or your family's tribute using letters, poems, drawings, photos and/or artwork. 100% participation will show Rabbi George how much we care.

## 1. Select Size of Tribute

Prices and sizes included below.

## 2. Use Special Paper

To ensure high quality of the book, please use heavier quality paper and not lightweight computer paper. You can find quality paper for tribute pages on the table in the synagogue lobby.

## 3. Create Your Tribute

Carefully use a ruler to mark off the size of tribute selected. No need to cut—we'll do that. Compose a handwritten or computer-typed note, letter or special memory; draw a picture, write a poem, or use photographs. Please don't use bulky objects. Be sure make it personal by signing the page. Glue down all photos, etc. Reminder: content cannot exceed selected size chosen below.

## 4. Deliver Tribute before March 6

Send completed tribute page, along with form below and payment by check or charge to the Shomrei Torah office, before March 6. If mailing, include a piece of cardboard for support. Do not fold your paper.

## 5. Art Committee to Assemble

All tributes will be adhered and bound into a beautiful book. A copy of the original book will be on display at Shomrei Torah after the event.

## Questions or Help Creating Your Tribute?

Email or call Marcy Pluznick-Marrin,  
[marcypm@aol.com](mailto:marcypm@aol.com), 529-8028

or Sue Lewis, [susanlewis@sonic.net](mailto:susanlewis@sonic.net),  
539-7681

Please pay by check or  
charge through the office  
before March 6th



CUT HERE: PLEASE SEND IN ENVELOPE.



## Reserve Space in Rabbi George's Tribute Book

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check SIZE of your tribute.

Size of your tribute page must be exact.

_____ eighth page: 4.25" wide x 2.75" high (horizontal)	\$ 18
_____ quarter page: 4.25" wide x 5.5" high (vertical)	\$ 36
_____ half page: 8.5 wide x 5.5" high (horizontal)	\$ 90
_____ full page: 8.5 wide x 11" high (vertical)	\$ 180
_____ FIRST PAGE in tribute book, full vertical page	\$1,000
_____ SECOND PAGE in tribute book, full vertical page	\$ 500
_____ THIRD PAGE in tribute book, full vertical page	\$ 300



Congregation Shomrei Torah  
2600 Bennett Valley Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
(707) 578-5519  
[www.shomreitorah.org](http://www.shomreitorah.org)

CUT HERE:



# CHAI WEEKEND



## Chai Weekend Marks Rabbi George's 18 Years At CST

April 4, 5 and 6

Shomrei Torah honors Rabbi George Gittleman's 18th year as our rabbi with a series of events April 4-6. Known as Chai Weekend, the event begins with special Erev Shabbat and Shabbat morning services, peaks on Saturday evening with the gala Chai Ball, and concludes on Sunday with a religious school tribute.

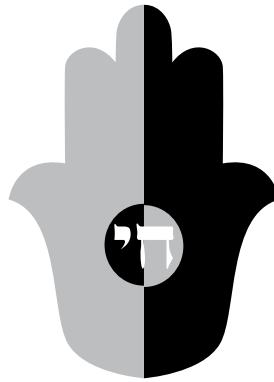
Chai is the Hebrew word for the number 18 and, because it is also the word for "life", carries great symbolic and mystical meaning. This year marks 18 years since Rabbi George arrived at Shomrei Torah, in 1996, as its first full-time rabbi.

Members and friends of Shomrei Torah are invited to share their thoughts and feelings about Rabbi George in a one-of-a-kind Tribute Book, which will be presented to him on Friday evening, April 4, during the Erev Shabbat service. The book will contain letters, notes, drawings, poems, photographs, and other mementos submitted by those whose lives Rabbi George has touched during his 18-year tenure at Shomrei Torah. For information about how to participate in the Tribute Book, see the insert in this issue of the Voice, or visit the Chai Weekend page on the synagogue's web site.

The Friday night and Saturday morning services will also feature guest speakers who will share their observations and memories of Rabbi George. Friday's service will be followed by a special Oneg Shabbat.

Saturday evening's Chai Ball is a major fundraiser for the synagogue and features a cocktail reception, elegant catered meal, and a program of world-class entertainment headlined by internationally acclaimed composer/pianist Nolan Gasser and hosted by Leira Satlof. Information about the ball and tickets are available on the web site. This event will sell out so members are advised to purchase their tickets early.

*Chai is the Hebrew word for the number 18 and, because it is also the word for "life", carries great symbolic and mystical meaning.*



# CHAI WEEKEND

After 18 years it's Chai time for a Chai five.

## APRIL 4-6

Religious school parents and other congregants are invited to join the religious school during its assembly at 11 AM on Sunday, April 6, for a special tribute to Rabbi George presented by our STARS students and faculty.

Special thanks to Marlene Stein, who is chairing the committee that is organizing Chai Weekend, and to the many volunteers who are working hard to make this a fitting, fun and memorable celebration of Rabbi George's tenure at Shomrei Torah.

## Celebration to Honor Rick Concoff

Saturday, March 8

7:00 - 10:00 PM

Rohnert Park Community Center

A truly unique individual, Rick Concoff is an educator, mentor, musician, counselor, confidante, coach, camp director, colleague and friend to so many. He exemplifies the meaning of a 'mensch' - someone who is responsible, has a sense of right and wrong and is the sort of person other people look up to.

Rick is all that and more, positively impacting thousands of children and teens, and their parents, through his 30 years of service in Sonoma County and beyond.

Join the Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County as we celebrate and honor Rick as he deserves to be honored. The evening will be wonderful - with a wine reception, dinner, a small silent auction, fun entertainment, and the presentation of a beautiful Tribute Book to Rick.

RSVP by February 17 for your Tribute Book message, and by February 24 for evening tickets.

Attire is Dressy Casual (no jeans please). Go to [www.jccsoco.org](http://www.jccsoco.org) to purchase tickets and your message in the Tribute Book. Contact the JCC office at 707 528-4222 for more information.



## Santa Rosa Creek Clean-Up Day Sunday March 23 1-4:00 PM

Join other members and their families in performing a group mitzvah — caring for our local environment. The work is not difficult... we even find trash along the walkways and the city provides all supplies including hand pickers. For the more adventurous, the creek welcomes you. If you can't bend, come and cheer us on or bring snacks. To download the flyer and RSVP, go to [www.shomreitorah.org/community/environmental-action/](http://www.shomreitorah.org/community/environmental-action/)

## Shomrei Torah Camping Trip June 13 - 15, 2014 Samuel P. Taylor State Park

Share Shabbat, music with Susie and a weekend of fun with your congregational family! The cost is \$10 per person (adult or child) for the weekend and the registration deadline is May 12th. Each couple/family will be responsible for helping put together one meal with 2-3 other families. Once registration is complete, a supply and contact list will be sent out to all the campers.

SPACE IS LIMITED and we expect to fill up quickly! If you would like to come, please send Ann Bacon at [annbacon13@gmail.com](mailto:annbacon13@gmail.com) the following information: # of Campers, names and ages. Checks can be mailed to: Ann Bacon; 2153 Grahm Drive; Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

Any questions? Please call the CST office. We look forward to sharing a fun weekend!!

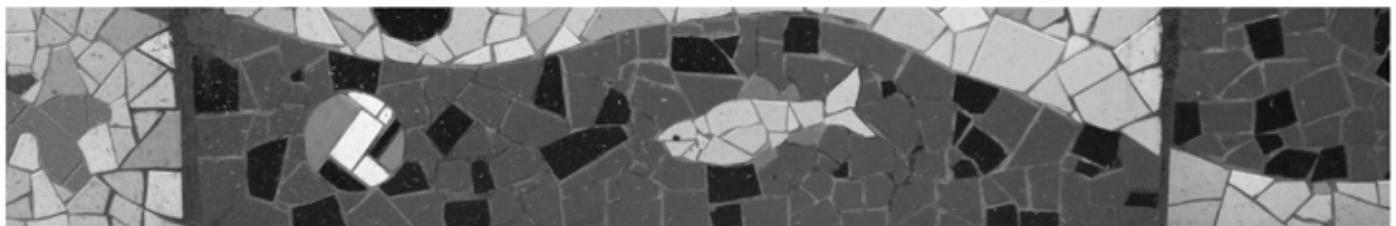


Saturday, March 15th  
6:15pm

*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



*The Environmental Action Committee of Congregation Shomrei Torah invites  
you and your family to our seventh annual COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT DAY*

## SANTA ROSA CREEK CLEAN-UP Along The Prince Memorial Greenway

**Sunday, March 23, 2014  
1:00-4:00 PM**

An opportunity to beautify our community  
in the spirit of *tikkun olam*

## Pookie

“Young people should pray that when they are old their eyes see, their mouths eat, and their legs walk, for in old age, all powers fail.” (Tanchuma Miketz 10)

When I was younger, I felt as though I was my grandmother’s favorite. When I was around, it seemed as if I was all that mattered. There was no limit to how many books she would read, or what illnesses I was able to cure with my plastic assortment of tools. She was one of my favorite people and I knew I was definitely hers.

These memories plus so much more make it even harder to visit her today. She was the woman who never sat still: she got her exercise by walking laps in her home, she cooked (not very well) and cleaned and took great care of everyone she loved. She was such an avid reader, she could literally spell any word. And she was strong, not in the 21st century definition but in her definition. She worked outside the home, but she didn’t have a high school degree let alone a college or graduate degree. Even though she worked with my grandfather, taking care of her family was the number one priority. She was not a docile, do as she was told female. She argued with my grandfather, nagged him and she probably ruled the roost more than anyone knew.

It’s so sad that all of this is gone. My grandmother still lives at my mother’s home, where she has lived since my



grandfather died 13 years ago. Yet she is merely a shell of a person I once knew. She can’t see well enough to read or watch TV. She gets lost in conversations, often reverting back to years ago. She never recognizes my sister, who really is her favorite person in the whole world. She is completely bed ridden, with around the clock care and hospice that comes three times a week to manage her pain. Going into her room to speak with her or sit there while someone feeds her spoonfuls of food is excruciating.

As my entire family all piled into my mother’s home in Houston in December, we were all keenly aware of the severity of the situation. The only person who didn’t have the vocabulary to discuss the sorrow was my son. At three-and-a-half, Micah would walk into Pookie’s room multiple times a day, to kiss her and talk with her (even though she couldn’t hear a word he was saying.) She has always been a magnet to young kids, and Micah truly loves her no matter what her state is. Since Pookie told him she would be better soon and walking around, he asked everyday when she was going to get up.

With so much talk about impending birth and infancy, Micah has drawn conclusions concerning the cyclical nature of life and how my elderly grandmother is very similar to an infant that needs constant care and supervision. Now home, Micah is still talking about Pookie all the time. Even he was disturbed with her state, though it comes across as questions and observations rather than tears and sorrow.

As medical advances allow people to live longer, many of us are going through the turmoil of watching our loved ones fade away. The sandwich generation is constantly tested as they care for their children and parents simultaneously. I only had to face this reality head on for a short duration. It only remains in my thoughts and prayers, while my mother and sister are there day in and day out.

It is not surprising that our tradition has true words of relevancy for our time. We should all pray that, as we age, all of our faculties continue to work; seeing the decline in our aging loved ones causes us to face our own mortality in sometimes an uncomfortable way. The act of caring for them now brings comfort in thinking that there will be someone there to do the same for us.

*Rabbi George and I are always available to help anyone through their difficulties adjusting to the changes, dealing with the guilt and logistics of parents that are far away, planning for the future, explaining the end of life to small children and supporting seniors who are having trouble accepting help.*

B’shalom,  
Rabbi Kramer

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## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

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### Notes from the URJ Biennial

In mid-December a delegation of Shomrei Torah members, clergy and the executive director attended the Union for Reform Judaism’s Biennial convention in San Diego. Being in one location with 5,000 Reform Jews from all over the United States and Canada was awesome and inspiring. We experienced four days of learning, praying, singing, dancing, and schmoozing.

One of the opening prayer services was co-led by our own



Cantor David Frommer. I took great pride in hearing from one person after another who was as impressed by Cantor David as we are! It was a beautiful beginning to a very full experience. We had the opportunity to experience different paths to prayer

*Continued on page 8*

*President's Message Continued*

including morning services ranging from "Yoga Shalom: A Shacharit Embodiment of Prayer" to a visual service with no prayerbook to an Israeli-led service integrating prayer with pop music and poetry. On Saturday morning, Rabbi Jacobs teamed with Rabbi (and Cantor) Angela Buchdahl of New York's Central Synagogue to lead a Shabbat service with singing, dancing, and "Storah telling," showcasing how far our movement has moved away from the Germanic, High Church-style Reform that was popular in the mid-20th century.

The Biennial's predominant theme matched beautifully with one of our priorities at Shomrei Torah: engagement. URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs challenged congregations to practice "audacious hospitality" by being as welcoming as possible to intermarried families, unengaged Jews, and to reshape youth engagement strategies. Ron Wolfson, a professor of education at American Jewish University challenges us to be as welcoming as possible to all who enter our doors.

In addition to engagement, there were multiple sessions devoted

to the challenges facing the Reform movement and much discussion based on the Pew Research Study. Announcements were made that the Ruderman Family Foundation, which focuses on disabled people, is committing \$600,000 over the next three years to help make Reform synagogues more disabled-friendly. And the Harold Grinspoon Foundation is offering URJ congregations up to \$900,000 in support over the next five years to help bring PJ Library, a Grinspoon program that delivers free Jewish-themed books every month to more than 126,000 families, to small

communities that don't have access to this resource.

The union is also strengthening its relationship with the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, our movement's rabbinical school and academic center, in part by moving most of the URJ youth-programming professionals to the HUC campus in Manhattan.

It certainly is an exciting time for the Reform movement and Congregation Shomrei Torah.

**B'shalom,  
Rachael**

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Temple News

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LEGACY NEWS

**Meet Legacy Circle Members  
Melissa Kort and Tom Meade**



Melissa Kort and Tom Meade joined Shomrei Torah about seventeen years ago, in large part because they desired to raise their son, Isaac, in a Jewish home. Now that Isaac is about to leave for college, they remain actively involved.

Through Shomrei Torah, Melissa and Tom have gained many friends; their Chavurah has become their mishpuchah (family) in Sonoma County; Isaac gained a solid foundation for his Jewish identity; and Tom was inspired to convert to Judaism. The family is grateful for how the congregation has been incredibly supportive as they have experienced so many of life's joys and challenges.

Melissa recalls Rabbi Robinson telling a story about an old man planting a tree that he would not live to see fully grown. When asked why, he explained how his tree would shade future generations just as the trees planted by those before him had

provided shade to him. Inspired by this narrative, Melissa and Tom joined the Legacy Circle to help provide for the future.

Melissa and Tom are both teachers and they have specified that their gift help support the Lifelong Learning Program, to continue Shomrei Torah's effort to bring fresh, fascinating and important voices and ideas from the Jewish world to Sonoma County.

Melissa (with Tom's support) has given much time to "raising" Shomrei Torah. She has served as President of the Board, Chair of Lifelong Learning and Chair of the Religious School, and counts among her current projects Donor Opportunities, College Connections, and the up-coming Julie Silver concert. Tom serves as a member of the Chaverim Committee.

Both Tom and Melissa hope that a "new wave" of members interested in completing



the second phase of the building program at Shomrei Torah will come forward soon. It is their wish that the congregation's growth will never erase the sense of a close, caring community for Sonoma County Jews.

*The family is grateful for how  
the congregation has been  
incredibly supportive as they  
have experienced so many of  
life's joys and challenges.*



## JCC Chaverim News

Chaverim, sponsored by the Jewish Community Center, Sonoma County, and serving Jewish teens from Shomrei Torah as well as countywide, is now in its second semester. Teens meet by grade twice monthly and for special activities to share Jewish experience, thought and celebration as well as great discussion. Any Jewish teen is eligible to join Chaverim and we welcome midyear additions and returnees. If you have an interest in joining this group, or know someone who does, please visit <http://jccsoco.org> and look at the teen links or call Rick Concoff at 823--3916.

Even if you are not registered in Chaverim, we are offering several countywide Jewish events for teens this winter and spring. Please let us know by emailing [concoff@yahoo.com](mailto:concoff@yahoo.com) if you're interested in participating in any of the following events:

- San Francisco Jewish Day: Holocaust Archive Museum - Sunday in February or March
- Alive at 25 - A safe driving course offered every other year through Chaverim -weekday afternoon in April
- Spring Camp Out at the Russian River - May (celebrate Lag B'omer & Shavuot)

Shalom,  
Rick Concoff,  
JCC Director of Teen Programming

## SCTribe

Come join us for our February events! This month's Shabbat dinner is on February 7th at 6:30 pm, bring a vegetarian dish to share. On February 22nd we are having dressy desserts and Havdallah, so put on your fancy clothes and come have some sweets!

For more information, questions, or comments please contact us at [sonomacountytribe@gmail.com](mailto:sonomacountytribe@gmail.com).

## Environmental Action Committee

### Tip of the Month

*"As water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again."*

~2 Samuel 14:14.

**Help maintain a healthy environment – turn your cooking oil into a useful resource, not a waste!**

Did you know that pouring used cooking oils down the drain can be harmful to the environment? They don't belong in the garbage, recycling, or yard waste bins either.

**The solution** -- There are safer ways to dispose of them. For example, several Sonoma County restaurants accept clean, liquid vegetable oil that's free of solids, meat scraps or water. Among them are Betty's English Fish and Chips in Santa Rosa, Big John's Market in Healdsburg, and Black Bear Diner in Sonoma. In addition, Yokayo Biofuels, a licensed grease collection center in Ukiah, collects used oils and processes them into biodiesel.

For more information, visit [recyclenow.org](http://recyclenow.org) (grease/food service oils); or call 565-DESK.



## Rosh Chodesh

*Saturday February 8, 7:00 PM*

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. The topic on Saturday evening, February 8, is "Finding spiritual direction in our lives." Please join us--even if you've never come to the group. We are now meeting at Shomrei Torah and welcome one and all!

Please contact the CST office for more info.



## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on November 14, 2013 for the final meeting of the year. Highlights included:

- Approval of three new families for membership
- Approval of an amended Kashrut Policy as presented by the Ritual Committee
- Discussed follow-up plans for community engagement via one-on-one conversations between Directors and Congregants
- Approved five delegates to the URJ Biennial in San Diego

## Dear Parents,

We look forward to seeing you at Tot Shabbat during our once monthly program year round. The Tot Shabbat team - Rabbi Kramer,

Lacey Fichera and Lauren offer our thanks to all of you for your terrific support and participation in our Tot Shabbat program.

My personal thanks to Rabbi Kramer, Lacey Fichera and Cantor David for all your wonderful contributions to make the Tot Shabbat program happen. Special thanks from all of us to Denise Harrison and Vikki Rutherford for all they do behind the scenes for our program. Special love and thanks from all of us to Rich, Shomrei Torah's maintenance person who does all our set ups for us and keeps our facility sparkling clean all year long.

See you again Friday, February 28, 2014 at 5:00pm for our next Tot Shabbat.

**Blessings,  
Tot Shabbat Lauren**



# STARS

## Dear STaRS Parents,

There are so many exciting things happening at STaRS this year! The Tu B'shvat program was a huge success and I am so excited to have many additional volunteers on Wednesday afternoons to help our 4-6th graders with their Hebrew. Lowering the ratio of adults to students will inevitably raise our level of Hebrew in the school.

If you have any questions or concerns after receiving your child's mid-year evaluation, please don't hesitate to call me! I want to make sure everything is running smoothly. Additionally, if we have not yet met please contact the office to set up an appointment with me. I want to get to know everyone in the school!

**B'shalom,  
Rabbi Kramer**

### 4th and 5th Grade Family Shabbat Friday February 21 6:15 pm

Please join our community in prayer at 6:15 pm. Our 4th and 5th graders will have a special part in the service. The service will be followed by a delicious pizza dinner for the classes, as we build our community!

### February 15 – February 16 6:00 pm - 9:00 am

#### 6th and 7th Grade Overnight

Please drop off your 6th and 7th graders for an educational, spiritual, and social overnight at CST. We need multiple volunteers for this event to take place. There are cooking shifts and art project shifts available. We also must have at least 2 parents willing to spend the night in case of emergency. Have no fear, Marcia and Ilana will be up all night.

#### 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**

## Bar Mitzvah



### Adam Harris-Bloom

*February 22, 2014, Adar I 22, 5774*

John Bloom and Joanne Harris invite you to share in celebration as our son, Adam Harris-Bloom, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah with a Kiddush luncheon to follow.

## Dear Friends

My family and I would like to thank all of you for your kindness during Max's long time illness and recent death. Your continuing support, the visits, calls, cards, gifts of food, and hugs have meant a great deal to all of us and we want to thank you again for your continuing support during this very hard time.

**Gratefully,  
The family of Max Stein**

Michelle Stein, Janet and Jeffrey Stein Larson,  
Larry, Marie, Heather and Robyn Stein

## Babies & Bagels

### Sunday February 16

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 February Babies and Bagels will be held on Sunday February 16th. We would love to see you there! Please contact the CST office for more information.

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Monday–Friday  
9:00 AM–12 Noon,  
1:00–5:00 PM

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## Night of Lights Hanukkah Celebration

On December 4 congregants gathered and rejoiced together at our potluck Hanukkah celebration. One of the highlights, besides the wonderful food, was the lighting of the numerous Hanukkiot brought by our members. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped out: The Holiday Committee and Ricki Nickel, Marcia Gladstone, Guevara Rowand, Annabelle Travis, and Sherry Weinberg.



Photo by Dino Bonos



Photo by The Gelfmans

## CST Joins the North Bay Organizing Project!

After two years of collaborating with the North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP), we are pleased to announce that CST is now a member (the NBOP is a different group from the North Bay Sponsoring Committee with which we were previously affiliated). The NBOP is a broad coalition of faith-based and community groups. It has been very encouraging to work together with this effective group that spans many ages, religions, ethnic identities, income levels, geographic areas. Members of the Social Action Committee as well as Rabbi George and Rabbi Kramer have participated in NBOP events.

This year, the NBOP has three Task Forces—Education, Immigration, and Transportation. The Education Task Force was instrumental in having the Santa Rosa School District implement a pilot restorative justice discipline program. The Immigration Task Force worked on the passage of the TRUST Act. The Transportation Task Force encouraged the development of a Community Connector Bridge, permitting pedestrians and bicyclists to cross over Highway 101, thus unifying the city.

NBOP leaders have attended several CST events such as Yom Hashoah and Kristallnacht and have been very moved by them. We anticipate finding ways to introduce NBOP activists to the Congregation. Meanwhile, all CST members are welcome to attend and participate in the Task Forces. For more information, please contact the CST office.

*It has been very encouraging to  
work together with this effective  
group that spans many ages,  
religions, ethnic identities, income  
levels, geographic areas.*

## The Gelt A Thon Volunteers

Reed Ferrick and John Weinstein, co-chairs of the Gelt-A-Thon, would like to thank all 231 members who participated in our annual fundraiser this past year, and particularly the following: Denise Harrison, Patty Foss, Bill Skoonberg and Jeremy Olsan for their behind-the-scenes help; and our Sunday morning callers, Daniel Bornstein, Keith and Marsha Boxerman, Marcy Pluznick, Garry Goodman, Rachael Cutcher, Susan Bailyn Paige Sobel, Bruce Falstein, Robert Feiwell, Muncie Harper, Anne Howson, Sue Lewis, Ilene Moran, Barbara Saipé, Dianne Smith, Sharon Schechter, Jessica Wichmann, and Stephen Zechow. Together, we made the 2013 Gelt-A-Thon our most successful event yet!



## Clothing Drive Volunteers

A heartfelt and warm appreciation from the Social Action Committee to all who contributed to the Elisha's Pantry Clothing Drive this year! The immense generosity of the CST community and others was greatly appreciated by the recipients, and many of them commented on the great condition and high quality of the donations. We even had some lovely coats that came straight from the dry cleaners. It felt wonderful to be able to offer such fine items.

This year we saw parents who were grateful to have warm coats for their children, a young man who lives on the streets, but was able to find a few warm items and a blanket that he can carry with him, and many cold people, waiting in line for the Pantry as the sun began to set, that we were able to outfit with warm sweaters, jackets, hats, gloves and scarves. It's very rewarding to see their gratitude and to know that it doesn't take a lot to make a difference in someone's life. Thank you!

## Elisha's Pantry

### *Over \$1,000 raised for Elisha's Pantry*

On the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving (Nov. 24th), Shomrei Torah and the Christ Church United Methodist (CCUM), held an Interfaith Pre-Thanksgiving Worship Service. The event was very well attended by members of both congregations, as well as members of the community at large. Officiating were Rabbi George and CCUM pastor, Rev Amy Beth Durward. The CCUM and CST choirs both sang, and Cantor David had a solo in the CST choral piece. Thanks to CST members Margo Miller, Craig Meltzner, and Elizabeth van Nuys for helping make this possible.





## CST COMMITTEES

### Communications Committee



**Back row:** Phyllis Nesbitt, Susan Bailyn, Marcy Pluznick-Marrin, Stormy Knight  
**Front row:** Jay Peretz, Bill Skoonberg, Bruce Falstein

### Social Action Committee



**From left:** David Salm (behind), Asher Sheppard, Floris Hoffenberg, Ruth Robinson, Bruce Berkowitz, Stephen Harper, Madeleine Rose, Susan Daniel, Shirley Liberman, Ed Berger, Isla Sherman, Ellen van den Berg, Galya Bayreuther (in the back), Larry Carlin, Manny Nestle, Ann Sterin

Both Photos by Phyllis Nesbitt



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### Display Ad Rates

#### *For Shomrei Torah Members*

	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Business card:	\$20.00	\$240.00
Quarter-page:	\$44.00	\$528.00
Half-page:	\$90.00	\$1,080.00

#### *For Non-Members*

	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Business card:	\$25.00	\$300.00
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Half-page:	\$112.50	\$1,350.00

**Ads and payment must be received in the temple office by the 5th of the month to start in the next month's issue.**  
**For more information, please call the temple office at 707-578-5519.**

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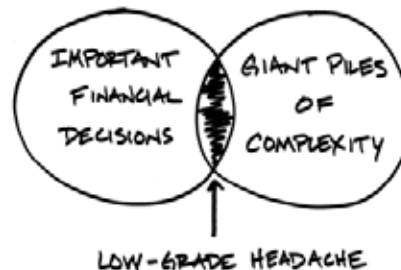
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## FEBRUARY SERVICES

### **Saturday, February 1**

8:45 am

*Torah Study led by Rabbi George*

10:30 am

*Shabbat Service*

### **Saturday, February 15**

8:45 am

*Torah Study led by Rabbi George*

10:30 am

*Shabbat Service*

### **Friday, February 7**

6:15 pm

*Shabbat Service*

*Honoring Mervin Maier*

### **Friday, February 21**

6:15 pm

*Shabbat Service*

*Aaron Frommer Baby Blessing*

### **Saturday, February 8**

8:45 am

*Torah Study led by Cynthia and Manny Nestle*

10:30 am

*Shabbat Service*

### **Saturday, February 22**

8:45 am

*Torah Study led by Rabbi Kramer*

10:30 am

*Bar Mitzvah of Adam Harris-Bloom*

### **Friday, February 14**

6:15 pm

*Rabbi's Tisch – Rabbi Shelley Waldenberg*

### **Friday, February 28**

6:15 pm

*Shabbat Service led by Julie Silver*

*Potluck Oneg Shabbat*

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.