June Rabbi’s Tisch with Andrew Ramer
“What the Rabbis Left Out We Can Put Back”
Friday, June 14, 6:15 PM
$18 Suggested donation for dinner, please RSVP to the office.

How do we retell our ancient stories to make them relevant to all of us? Andrew Ramer will be reading from his work *Fragments of the Brooklyn Talmud* and talking about the ways in which we can use midrash - interpretive texts - to bring the Tanach alive for our own time, in ways that include people who have been historically left out of the texts. Think - Jacob making love with an angel. Think – Dinah’s girlfriend. Think – of the various ways to observe the 6th of Av - the anniversary of Spinoza’s excommunication. Read more at www.cstsr.org.

The San Francisco Yiddish Combo returns to Shomrei Torah!
Sunday, June 2, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Free! Bring a friend. Please RSVP to the office.

Join us for a rollicking good time that will include noshing and schmoozing. 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 has embarked on a journey around the world 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 worlds.
Bagel Club goes to DiRosa Preserve
**Sunday, June 2, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**
Cost: $18, Please RSVP to cstbagelman@gmail.com

Calling all art appreciators! We’re having a field trip to a beautiful outdoor and indoor art facility just past the town of Sonoma. We will have a docent-led tour of the grounds and gallery starting at 11 am. Car-pooling suggested—see Chai-lites for more details. Of course, no breakfast this time, but we might have a picnic lunch at the facility.

Aging and Beyond
**Wednesday, June 5, 10:00am - 11:45am**
Please RSVP to the office.

A group for women interested in discussing the issues we face as we grow older. Future topics will range widely; Downsizing, dealing with adult children, meaningful retirement and adjusting to physical changes.

Annual Meeting and Dinner
**Wednesday, June 12, 6:15 PM**
Free dinner provided, please RSVP to the office.

This has been an exciting year for Congregation Shomrei Torah! We have continued our high standard of learning, Social Action, worship and community-building, while enhancing our cultural events and affinity groups. CST is positioning itself for a long and prosperous future by making changes that will dramatically enhance the synagogue’s relevance to congregants of all ages.

Please join us at our annual meeting for a free dinner, conversation and a little business. We will honor our hard working volunteers and learn how we fund our operations and where your money is being spent. Please check your mail soon for our Annual Report. If you would like to share your thoughts or questions about the Annual Report, please feel free to contact Rabbi George at rabbig@cstsr.org, Rabbi Stephanie at rabbikramer@cstsr.org, or Sharon Bauman, President at sharonbbauman@gmail.com.

Congregational Journey to Eastern Europe
**Informational Meeting**
**Wednesday, June 19, 7:00 – 8:15 PM**
Please join Rabbi George for an informational meeting at CST about the Europe trip, August 23 – September 4, 2020.

Congregation Shomrei Torah’s Jewish Journey to Europe: Poland, Vienna, and Budapest. Led by Rabbi George Gittleman.

Trip Highlights include:

- Explore the remains of the Warsaw Ghetto
- Shabbat services with members of Krakow’s Jewish Community
- At Auschwitz, pay tribute to the six million
- See the legacy and beauty of imperial Vienna
- In Budapest, visit Europe’s largest synagogue
- Visit the remarkable Jewish museums in Warsaw and Vienna
- Cruise on the Danube River

For more information, contact Rabbi George at rabbig@cstsr.org or call the temple office. www.keshetisrael.co.il.
**Jewish Literary Circle**

FREE, all are welcome, please RSVP to the office.

The Jewish Literary Circle, one of the Life Long Learning programs, meets monthly to read Jewish literature and other published material in an atmosphere of stimulating discussion. Participants choose the reading selections for the upcoming months.

**Upcoming Dates**

- June 20, 6:00pm: *Hare with the Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal
- July 18, 6:00pm: *The Family Markowitz* by Allegra Goodman
- August 15, 6:00pm: *A River Could Be a Tree* by Angela Himsel
- Sept 19, 6:00pm: *Focus* by Arthur Miller

**First-Ever Family Trip to Israel - Register Today!**

*June 24 – July 5, 2020*

Join your CST family and Rabbi Kramer for a family trip to Israel. We will visit all of the “must see” sights and get a real taste of The Holy Land!

For more information, to view the trip catalog, and to register, visit www.cstsr.org.

---

**July 4th Fireworks Viewing at CST**

*Thursday, July 4, Gate opens at 8:00 PM*

CST members and their guests only. Please RSVP by calling the office.

The best place to enjoy the fireworks is from the patio of Shomrei Torah! We are having a FREE gathering available only to Shomrei Torah members and their guests. Bring your own lawn chairs, blankets, food and drinks. You’re encouraged to bring food and drinks to share with others. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show.

We have limited parking spaces, limit 2 cars per family. A Shomrei Torah member must be in each car and only those whose names are on the reservation list will be allowed entry.

**July Rabbi’s *Tisch* with Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores**

*Friday, July 12, 6:15 PM*

$18 suggested donation for the catered dinner, please RSVP to the office.

Join Alissa as she leads a discussion based on her new novel, “Living Waters: From Harvard Halls to Sacred Falls.” The book focuses on one character’s search for an authentic Jewish identity, and another’s coming to terms with issues of mortality. Alissa will read from her book and explore themes of Jewish identity, as well as cross cultural and Jewish beliefs about the afterlife.

Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores is a psychotherapist, former hospice bereavement coordinator, spiritual director, and freelance blogger. She was a consultant for the Pixar movie “Up.” Her first book is a memoir, “This Whole Wide World Is Just a Narrow Bridge,” based on her experience as a hospice worker going through the death of her mother, birth of her daughter, and her own near death experience. Her second book, “Living Waters,” is a coming-of-age novel, set at a New Age commune, that blends themes of spiritual searching, the paranormal, family, friendship, loss and grief, forgiveness and faith. She is a co-editor and contributor to an anthology about the responses of women from different cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds and different sexual orientations to President Trump, entitled, “Fury: Women’s Lived Experiences during the Age of Trump,” to be published by Pact Press, a division of Regal Publishing House, in May 2020. She blogs at http://www.citizentherapist.com.
Rabbi Michael Robinson Memorial Lecture (Tisch) with Rabbi Elizabeth Richman

Organizing for Hope: Stories from the Field of Jewish Community Organizing

Friday, August 9, 6:15pm
$18 suggested donation for the catered dinner, please RSVP to the office.

Across the country, Jewish communities are organizing to make a huge difference in the everyday lives of millions of people. In the Washington DC region, the Jewish community, together with partners across lines of race, religion, and class, has successfully worked to pass new laws that advance racial equity, the fair treatment of immigrants, and affordable housing.

They have helped families keep food on the table and care for their children by creating a paid family and medical leave program and successfully advocating for large increases in the minimum wage and paid sick days for all employees. In an era that’s so often filled with despair and bad news, Jewish communities and our allies are creating hope. Come hear some of these inspiring stories from the field of Jewish organizing and learn what we can do to make positive change in our communities.

Rabbi Elizabeth Richman is a senior leader in the field of Jewish social justice and leadership development. As Rabbi in Residence and Deputy Director at Jews United for Justice (tagline: Think Jewishly. Act Locally.), she has spent the last 10 years helping Jewish communities raise their voices through civic engagement to advocate for economic, social, and racial equality.

Financial Seminars

The month before the new year, Elul, is a time for introspection about what happened during the last year and what we hope will happen in the coming year. It is a time for reflection and planning. What goals did you set for yourself this past year? Did you make progress toward them? What goals will you set for the coming year?

As the new year approaches, we invite you to spend some time reflecting on your finances: where you are now, and where you would like to be?

We will hold two sessions, each focusing on a different life stage: Planning for Retirement and Financial Planning for Families. You may attend either session or both. Each session will be about answering your questions related to these topics, but please note that no financial products will be sold or endorsed. These sessions will be about debunking myths, gaining knowledge, and developing confidence in planning for your financial future. Please join us as we discuss the topics below and much more. Bring your questions and feel free to suggest additional topics that are of interest to you.

Planning for Retirement, Sunday, September 22, 4pm-5:30pm

• How can we evaluate if a potential investment is a good fit for our family?
• Should we invest in long term care insurance?
• What should we know about annuities before deciding to invest?

Financial Planning for Families, Wednesday, September 25, 7pm-8:30pm

• How do we create a family budget?
• How do we prepare for the unexpected?
• The kids are so smart! How will we pay for college?

Cost: $20 per family per session or $30 for both sessions. No one turned away for lack of funds.

After these sessions you will have more clarity, more financial confidence and a clear action plan to build more financial security and wealth.

Carla Frank is a financial executive with more than 25 years of experience in financial planning & analysis. She moved to Sonoma County in 2013 and has been an active member of CST ever since. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a Masters of Business Administration from the Anderson School at UCLA. Prior to moving to Sonoma County, she was Director of Financial Operations at Google, Director of Financial Integration at Expedia, Inc. and Senior Finance Manager at Amgen. Carla also lived in Israel for 9 years during which time she spent 4 years as an auditor with PwC and 4 years as Controller of Oracle’s Israeli subsidiary.
Food Needed for Caring Committee

Healing through food is a time honored Jewish Tradition. Our Caring Committee provides meals for members who can use a little extra support. Do you like to cook? Do you have food you would like to share? Providing a meal to someone is an easy and satisfying way to make a real difference in someone’s life.

If you want to be part of this mitzvah, please email Bonnie Ferber Hart, Committee Chair, at bonnie113@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks in advance for helping us heal through food!

Beginning June 1st, the Composting, Recycling and Landfill Program will be back in business at CST!

In January 2018, Recology was selected as the waste company for Santa Rosa, Sonoma and Marin counties. At that time, many of the rules under the previous waste company, Unicycler, were altered. Recology no longer accepts as “compostable” many of the disposable tableware, utensils, and coffee cups CST had previously been using. Therefore, CST’s waste management program was placed on hold and all CST refuse has been going into the trash bin.

CST strives to teach and model appropriate environmental behavior in a manner that is clear and consistent and works to fulfill the requirements of state regulations. Our Waste Management Policy reflects our Jewish values and the stewardship of our planet, as well as the health and well-being of our community members.

The Environmental Action Committee and CST’s Board of Directors have been working hard to implement a new program. Until the upstream issues of manufacturing are addressed, the concept of Zero Waste remains a lofty future goal. We can make some changes now, however.

The Board of Directors recently approved the following changes. We will:

• Use plastic cups for cold drinks and kiddush cups which go into the recycling bin.
• Use paper hot cups for hot drinks (mainly coffee), which go into the trash/landfill bin.
• Use 100% (unlined) paper and fiber plates and bowls, which go into the compost bin.
• Use metal flatware which is washed for events (e.g., Tisch) when a cleanup crew is available, and use plastic flatware which goes into the trash for smaller events.

Soon, you will see updated signage on our waste management bins around the CST campus. Educational approaches will be developed to assist Shomrei Torah staff and members to achieve a near-zero waste status.

We look forward to Shomrei Torah once again being a green institution.

STaRS Registration is Open!

It’s that time again! Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will take less than 5 minutes per student. Register your K-7th grader at www.shomreitorah.org/religious-school.
“White Right – Meeting the Enemy”
Huge hit by CST Social Action Committee

On Saturday May 4 approximately 300 people filled the sanctuary to see the Emmy award winning “White Right – Meeting the Enemy” followed by an engaging talk by former skinhead Arno Michaelis.

The film was very intense and moving and gave a glimpse into the world of white supremacist hate. It also provided hope as filmmaker Deeyah Khan showed that some of these people can be reached and can change.

Arno's presentation was very warmly received by the capacity crowd. His honesty about his past and how the important work he has done to both heal himself and the larger community was a prime example of tshuvah and tikun olam.

Many people in the audience commented on the importance of this kind of programming being done in the county and had high praise for the quality and content of the event, feeling they were truly changed by the experience.

The Social Action committee would like to thank the staff and Rabbis for the support they received in making this program a reality.

Jewish Teens Love

Chaverim

For nearly 30 years, Shomrei Torah's B'nei Mitzvah students plus a variety of unaffiliated Jewish teens have enthusiastically joined Chaverim! Chaverim is the countywide JCCSOCO Jewish Teen Education Program for 8th-12th graders endorsed by our rabbis. Jewish teens from all over the county meet by grade level twice monthly on a week night for dinner followed by a great discussion of relevant issues through a “Jewish Lens.”

Now is a great time to sign your teen up! Register by contacting Rick Concoff, Teen Education Director, at (707)477-9196, concoff@yahoo.com, or visit the “teen tab” at jccsoco.org.

Board Wrap up

It was another busy month at CST as we honored Malcolm McElheney in a special Shabbat service. It was a wonderfully spirited and emotional Shabbat, as the community wished him the best in his next adventure. We heard from the Rabbis and board members that the Congregational retreat was a wonderful and also a truly intergenerational weekend, with ages represented from toddlers to adults in their wisest years. Also, the Congregational Seder was well-attended and ran smoothly, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and incredible office staff.

The Board is always working hard to keep things looking good and running efficiently. Weed abatement, reviewing our insurance policies and roof repair are taken care of by hard working board members such as Ira Glasser, Des Shapiro, Paul Berlant and others. Thank you for the time-consuming, detailed work that you do. It may not be glamorous, but helps us know that our building and the details that go into maintaining it are well-taken care of. In that same vein, the Board voted to approve funds for a sound system upgrade. A big thank you to Dave Fichera for spearheading the research and getting the proposals.

In June, we will be saying goodbye to some long-time Board members. It goes without saying that they will be missed! We’d like to thank Paul Berlant, Lisa Erlich, Dave Fichera and Asher Sheppard for their hard work, dedication and most importantly, the passion that each of them brought to their individual roles.

There are lots of fun services and events coming up soon. Please stay tuned by reading Chai-Lites, the monthly Voice and our up-to-date website. See you all on June 12 at the Annual Meeting!

Until August...
Bravo to SAC’s Yom Hashoah Committee

A very special thank you to Carla Frank, Lindsay Goldenberg, Flora Lee Ganzler, Larry Carlin and Ellen van den Berg for organizing another very memorable Yom Hashoah Commemoration on May 1. Approximately 200 people gathered, which was one of the largest turn-outs for a Yom Hashoah Commemoration yet. It was heartwarming and encouraging to see so many youths among them.

The theme this year was “Facing Fear: A Youth Perspective on the Holocaust and Anti-Semitism”. Three of our CST students presented their thoughts and personal experiences. CST and other community members lit candles in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. The CST choir and Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner provided the music.

Many who attended expressed how deeply moved they were as well as inspired and proud to hear our future leaders play such an important role.

Teach A Fall Cooking Class? Meet New People!

We are taking a summer break, but these popular classes will resume in September. Consider teaching a holiday related dish, such as Tzimmes, Honey Cake, or Round Challah for Rosh Hashanah. Or Yom Kippur break-the-fast dishes like kugel or Chanukkah favorites like latkes and applesauce, doughnuts, or desserts? Let’s Get Cookin’ Together! Volunteer to teach these or other classes. Please contact Susan Bailyn at susan@bailyngraphics.com.

Join the High Holy Day Choir

Thinking of how you can have a more meaningful Holy Days? The CST Choir is an integral component of Holy Days and helps to beautifully elevate our prayers.

We will rehearse Thursday evenings throughout the summer.

Interested? Want more info? Please contact Erica Wisner at ericaw@cstsr.org.
Gun Violence Prevention Forum

On the evening of April 25, we had a full house for the Gun Violence Prevention Forum, organized by the Social Action Committee. Congressman Mike Thompson was our headliner. He told us about the newly passed HR 8, which he sponsored and which will strengthen background checks for all gun purchases. He also stated that he supports the idea of a gun buyback program in Sonoma County, and believes it could be effective in reducing gun violence locally.

Shomrei Torah member Dr. Josh Weil, a Kaiser emergency room doctor, spoke about gun violence as a public health issue and the dangers particularly for those with suicidal inclinations. Ruth Moore, a middle school history teacher, wishes teachers could focus on best teaching strategies, rather than on safety issues, during their meetings. She delivered a packet of letters from her eighth grade students, who recently studied the Second Amendment, voicing their concerns and fears.

Jeannine Ruggeiro, a survivor of the Las Vegas shooting and member of Moms Demand Action, spoke movingly of her symptoms of PTSD. And Kathleen Pozzi, spoke of her legal experience as the Sonoma County Public Defender.

Thanks to all who participated and attended this forum highlighting an important community crisis.
Serving our community for over 30 years.
Judy Freedman
REALTOR®, GRI
calBRE #0086636

INTERNATIONAL
STERLING SOCIETY

Spencer Sherman, MBA, CFP®
707.829.6190
spencer@abacuswealth.com
abacuswealth.com

ABACUS

SERVING SONOMA COUNTY SINCE 1875
Family Owned and Operated
We honor all Jewish Traditions
Tahara Service Facilities — Traditional and Memorial Services
Pre-Planning and Pre-Funding Options Available
Ship In/Out Services
The Daniels Family and Staff available 24/7. Open every day.
1225 Sonoma Avenue, Santa Rosa
Telephone: 525-3730  Fax: 525-3735

Publication of an advertisement herein is neither an endorsement nor recommendation of any advertisers’ products or services.
JUNE/JULY SERVICES

Saturday, June 1
Weekly Torah portion: Bechukotai
8:45 am – Torah study led by Rabbi George
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, June 7
6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 8
Weekly Torah portion: Bamidbar
8:45 am – Torah study led by Roberta Berg
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, June 14
6:15 pm – Rabbi’s Tisch with Andrew Ramer

Saturday, June 15
Weekly Torah portion: Nasso
8:45 am – Torah Study led by Rabbi George
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, June 21
6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 22
Weekly Torah portion: Beha’alotcha
8:45 am – Torah study led by Michael Weinberg
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, June 28
6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 29
Weekly Torah portion: Shlach
8:45 am – Torah study led by Stan Roodman
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, July 5
6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 6
Weekly Torah portion: Korach
8:45 am – Torah study led by Marcia Gladstone
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, July 12
6:15 pm – Rabbi’s Tisch with Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores

Saturday, July 13
Weekly Torah portion: Chukat
8:45 am – Torah study led by Rabbi Meredith Cahn
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, July 19
6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 20
Weekly Torah portion: Balak
8:45 am – Torah Study led by Rabbi George
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, July 26
6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 27
Weekly Torah portion: Pinchas
8:45 am – Torah study led by Rabbi Stephanie
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

See our latest calendar at www.cstsr.org