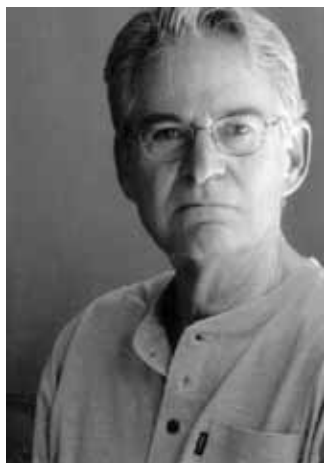




May Rabbi's *Tisch* with Dr. Steven Gelber "American Anti-semitism: An Ambiguous Legacy" Friday, May 10, 6:15 PM

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

The recent mass killing of Jews in Pittsburgh, along with numerous reports of an increase in other anti-semitic incidents in America and Europe, has raised anxiety among Jews and concerns that historic anti-Jewish patterns may be reemerging. This talk will explore the unique nature of American anti-semitism, focusing on the way that traditional Christian



anti-semitism has had to accommodate the fundamental American ethos of equality and nondiscrimination.

From Peter Stuyvesant, who attempted to turn away a handful of Jewish immigrants from Brazil, to contemporary Evangelicals who are among Israel's most ardent supporters in the U.S., Christians in America have both rejected and embraced Jews. By understanding the inherently contradictory sources of Christian attitudes toward Jews in America, we can better understand both the reasons why anti-semitism can increase and how historic patterns may keep it in check.

Steven Gelber is professor-emeritus of American history from Santa Clara University where he taught for forty years. He is the author of four scholarly books and a dozen articles on American socio-economic history. He has written about New Deal art, the origins of amateur baseball, the history of hobbies, and automobile sales, among other topics.

Steven has been a member of CST since 2010, when he married Angela Gelber and moved to Santa Rosa from San Jose. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Museum of Sonoma County, and is a dedicated, but only mildly successful, woodworker.

Malcolm Shabbat Friday, May 3, 5:15 PM

Please join us for a very special Shabbat Service and community sendoff as we honor Malcolm McElheney and the four years he has given to our congregation as Youth and Music Coordinator and Cantorial Soloist. A special ice cream *oneg* will follow services.



★ PRESENTING

BROADWAY SHABBAT

Friday, MAY 17
6:15 PM ★

★ 5, 6, 7, 8! ★

Broadway Shabbat returns with new adaptations and favorites from last year.

New York themed
Oneg Shabbat to follow. ★

Les Misérables WICKED Hello DOLLY! HAMILTON The SOUND MUSIC



**Yom Hashoah Commemoration:
Facing Fear: A Youth Perspective on
the Holocaust and Anti-Semitism**
Wednesday, May 1, 6:15 PM

All the world is a very narrow bridge, and the most important thing is not to be overwhelmed by fear.
--Rabbi Nachman of Breslov

As is our tradition, CST and other community members will light candles in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and other genocides. The evening will feature music by Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner and the CST choir. Please join us for what will be a very informative, moving and uplifting experience.



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.



SAC Presents "White Right – Meeting the Enemy"
Saturday, May 4, 7:00 PM

Film & Guest Speaker Arno Michaelis. This event is Free.

The Social Action Committee is excited to present an unforgettable evening focused on the rise of White Supremacist hate in the United States and how we can address the problem.

A powerful Emmy Award winning documentary by Muslim female filmmaker Deeyah Kahn, *White Right* goes deep into the psychology of hate, particularly anti-Semitism, through amazing interviews with leaders of these movements and the transformational relationships she was able to develop with some of them.

Following the film Arno Michaelis, former racist skinhead and reverend in a self-declared Racial Holy War, will talk about his struggle with his past and his journey to become an advocate for social justice. He is the co-author of *My Life After Hate*, and is a sought out international speaker and educator on combating racism through his work with Serve2Unite, an organization that trains and engages students as peacemakers.

You will not want to miss this program!

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Environment Engineer to Speak at Bagel Club on Chemical Issues in Sonoma County Agriculture

Sunday, May 5, 9:00 AM

\$7-\$10 donation requested.

Please RSVP to cstbagelmen@gmail.com or (707) 829-1388

Megan Kaun is an environmental engineer who has taken an unexpected journey into the world of pesticides. An experience at her local park regarding weed killer application near a children's playground inspired Megan to work toward eliminating unnecessary synthetic pesticide use in Sonoma County.



Through her work as a private citizen-scientist and as a board member of Sonoma County Conservation Action (SCCA) and Santa Rosa Water (former), she has helped bring enlightened landscape policies to over half of the cities in Sonoma County. Megan works as an independent consultant and also guides SCCA's Toxic Free Future campaign. Megan holds engineering degrees from Stanford and Northwestern Universities. She currently resides in Sebastopol with her husband and two children.

Yom HaAtzma'ut Celebration

Wednesday, May 8, 6:15pm

Free dinner provided, please RSVP to the office.

Join us for a free Israeli dinner and showing of the Israeli movie classic Salah Shabati, starring Hayim Topal.

Jewish Literary Circle

Gimpel the Fool and other Stories by Isaac Bashevis Singer

Thursday, May 16, 6:00 AM

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 next three months.

Upcoming Dates:

June 20, July 18, August 15, reading selections to be chosen soon!



Challah Baking with Sherry Knazan

Thursday, May 23,

6:30-8:30 PM

Spaces limited, RSVP to the office. If you are able, please bring your own mixer. All other materials will be provided.

Always wanted to make your own *challah*, but were afraid to try? Then this class is for you! Join Sherry Knazan, weekly *challah* baker, for some mixing, kneading and braiding and learning about *challah* traditions.

You will taste some yummy *challah* while in class, practice braiding your own loaf, and then take the unbaked loaf home to either freeze and bake later, or bake as soon as you get home!

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 *Hanukkah* favorites like latkes and applesauce, doughnuts, or desserts? Let's Get Cookin' Together! Volunteer to teach these or other classes. Please contact the office.

Shabbat Sha-Boogie!

May 24, 5:00 PM – 6:15 PM

Free, includes dinner, please RSVP to the office.

Shabbat Sha-Boogie is a very special Shabbat experience for families with children 3rd grade and under! Begin with a short service with music, dancing and stories - and then enjoy a light dinner and dessert with all of your new friends! Regular Shabbat services will follow at 6:15 PM.



Office Closure:

The CST office will be closed on Monday, May 27 in honor of Memorial Day.

Making Judaism Welcoming for Everyone

In hushed tones, a lady whispers to me that she doesn't really belong in Torah study. This is not the first time I have heard this sentiment. Unfortunately, the majority of people who walk through the doors of Jewish synagogues, institutes or places of Jewish study believe that they are out of place.

This insufficiency is not only felt by Jewish lay people, but also by Jewish professionals and even some rabbis. I am constantly struck when, sitting in a room of the brightest rabbinic minds of our times, I become aware of the self-doubt that seeps out of every pore. I know you might be thinking there is no way rabbis feel this way, but I promise you it's true. Sometimes the humility is disguised as hubris, and sometimes it just takes the right circumstances, but every rabbi I know feels as if their knowledge falls short.

Too often, congregants feel they are the least Jewishly knowledgeable in the room. Many have shared with me that they are convinced everyone else received a more authentic Jewish upbringing than they did.

It doesn't seem to matter how successful people are in their professional lives – once they



Rabbi Stephanie

walk into a Jewish synagogue or institution, they slip into self-doubt and inadequacy.

Why do our “warm, welcoming” institutions put everyone on edge? This is a huge problem that synagogues, in particular, need to recognize and address in order to adequately serve the Jewish people.

Jews have long been known as “people of the book,” emphasizing the importance for education and study. Doting parents are both stereotypically and practically obsessed with their children's academic accomplishments. We of course want our children to succeed in everything they do from their *bat mitzvahs* to their board exams and every miniscule exam in between. These unrealistic expectations pervade consciousness and stir up feelings of self-doubt.

It's not surprising that people feel this way; for centuries, Judaism has been led by,

curated and carried on by the intellectually elite. The *Talmud*, the oral collection of Jewish laws, was crafted by the most brilliant male rabbis of the time. It was written by them and for them.... Yet, everyone is expected to follow the rules. The average person is not actually expected to deeply understand the logic or meaning behind the laws. Often laws are passed down as *minhag*, custom. Because of this method of transmission, Jews often know what they are supposed to do but not necessarily why it is important to do so.

Classical rabbinic commentators such as Nahmanides and Ibn Ezra use the phrase *hameivin yavin*, “whoever understands will understand.” Shoshana Kordova explains, “this phrase is both a wink to those who get it and a shrug to those who don't.” It is precisely this attitude that turns people off from our Jewish institutions. Phrases like this one, acronyms and un-translated Hebrew continues to enable an elusive exclusive club that is out of the reach for many.

Rather than just saying we want our institutions to be inclusive, warm, welcoming places, we need to look closely at how we are unintentionally excluding those in our midst we are desperate to be brought in.

*B' Shalom,
Rabbi Stephanie*

Congregation Shomrei Torah
2600 Bennett Valley Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

www.cstsr.org
(707) 578-5519
(unless otherwise noted)
FAX 578-3967

Office email
shomrei@cstsr.org

Office Hours
Monday–Friday
9:00 AM–12 Noon;
1:00–5:00 PM

RABBI

George D. Gittleman
rabbig@cstsr.org

ASSOCIATE RABBI

Stephanie E. Kramer
rabbikramer@cstsr.org

CANTORIAL SOLOIST & YOUTH COORDINATOR

Malcolm McElheney
youth@cstsr.org

CANTORIAL SOLOIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR

Erica Wisner
ericaw@cstsr.org

OFFICE STAFF

Senior Administrative Asst.

Denise Harrison
denise@cstsr.org

Rabbinic Assistant

Julie Hash
ra@cstsr.org

Administrative Asst.

Seraphima Chisler
aa@cstsr.org

Website

Jay Peretz, Webmaster

Custodians

Mark Sundahl
Manny Talaugon

The VOICE

shomrei@cstsr.org

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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 world.

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

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.



Green Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Saturday, June 8, 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Free, please RSVP to the office.

The most Ancient Layer of *Shavuot* was the celebration of the wheat harvest. Centuries later, the commemoration of the giving of the Torah was grafted onto this initially earth-based holy day. This year we plan to return to our indigenous green roots with an evening of study and dialogue centered on Judaism, the land and the environment.

The evening will include a panel of local environmental activists, text study & a concluding meditation. Everyone is welcome for all or part of the evening.

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, Sharon Bauman, President at sharonbbauman@gmail.com.

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 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.

Andrew Ramer is the author of *Queering the Text: Biblical, Medieval, and Modern Jewish Stories*, *Torah Told Different: Stories for a Pan/Poly/Post-Denominational Era*, *Deathless: The Complete, Uncensored, Heartbreaking, and Amazing Autobiography of Serach bat Asher, the Oldest Woman in the World*, and *Fragments of the Brooklyn Talmud*. An ordained maggid, many of his prayers appear in the inclusive feminist LGBTQ siddur of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav in San Francisco. He lives in Oakland, California.



Photo Credit, Janet Sheard



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.



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.



Board Wrap up

A big thank you to the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) for taking on the work and discussion of moving CST to an updated policy and system of minimizing our solid waste—compost, recycling and trash. When Recology took over last year, a new set of guidelines went into effect that required a review and revision of our policy. In March, it met with unanimous board approval and the caveat that the education of staff and members will be the key to our success. Staff will be in charge of creating new signage but we're asking that everyone also be aware since our policy is a reflection of our Jewish values.

FYI—in case you see some construction equipment in the next little while...the City of Santa Rosa purchased an easement from CST near the front entrance a while back. It has come to our attention that they will also need a small adjacent piece of property for which they will pay rent so that they can store the equipment they need to make some needed repairs. It's a win-win for us.

Rabbi Kramer was invited to Germany in May as part of an effort to combat anti-Semitism. Should be an exciting trip!

Until next month...



Jewish Teens Love
CHAVERIM

Attention teens and parents of teens!

For nearly 30 years, 90% of 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.

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TIME SENSITIVE

MAY SERVICES

Friday, May 3

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service Honoring
Malcolm McElheney*

Saturday, May 4

Weekly Torah portion: *Achrei Mot*
8:45 am – *Torah study led by Rabbi George*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, May 10

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch with Dr. Steven Gelber*

Saturday, May 11

Weekly Torah portion: *Kedoshim*
8:45 am – *Torah study led by Marcia Gladstone*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, May 17

6:15 pm – *Broadway Shabbat*

Saturday, May 18

Weekly Torah portion: *Emor*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Meredith Cahn*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, May 24

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, May 25

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

Friday, May 31

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

See our latest calendar at www.cstsr.org

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONGREGATION

- To worship God in accordance with the beliefs and teachings of Reform Judaism.
- To cultivate and nurture in ourselves and our children a love and understanding of Jewish heritage.
- To develop a sensitive, caring and supportive congregational community where all are welcome and included.
- To act with responsibility and compassion in our community.
- To support the principles of equality, freedom and shalom among all peoples.