



CONGREGATION  
SHOMREI TORAH שומרי תורה

the VOICE

November 2019—Cheshvan/Kislev 5780 XXXII Number 9



## Tradition of Giving Annual Campaign has Begun October 9, 2019 - January 31, 2020

As introduced last month, our annual fundraiser, Tradition of Giving, began on October 9, 2019 and will not end until January 31, 2020. As a reminder, this annual campaign is replacing our Gelt-a-Thon, and is critically important to the life of our community since annual membership pledges cover less than 60 percent of the cost to operate our synagogue.

By now, you should have received an email and letter in the mail with details on how to participate. The most efficient way to participate is via a donation link which can be found on both our weekly Chai-lites and on our website. Once members make a donation, follow-up emails and letters will stop, and our fundraising progress will be updated on a weekly basis in the Chai-lites.

We are looking forward to 100% participation. Only together can we preserve a strong and vibrant community.

For additional information, please contact the office.

## New Member Shabbat Friday, November 1st 6:15 PM

Our clergy, staff and Board of Directors invite members who have joined the synagogue in the past year to attend the New Member Shabbat Service. We will officially welcome you to the CST community with a blessing on the *bima* and a special *oneg*. It is also a great time to meet new people and connect with your temple community!

## Rabbi's Tisch with Ann DuBay

Friday, November 8, 6:15 PM

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

Miriam's well was a rock that rolled through the desert, following the Jewish people as they wandered in search of the land of Israel. For 40 years, wherever they stopped, water would miraculously gush from the well.

Today's version of Miriam's well is the faucet. In developed countries, wherever you go and whatever time you arrive, water gushes forth when you open the spigot. But, like Miriam's well, the source of the water remains largely invisible and unknown to most people.

This visually-engaging, interactive discussion will focus on local water sources, and the challenges our community faces in a changing climate, including the human right to water and whether Northern Californians have a moral obligation to provide water to our southern neighbors. Read more about Ann at [www.cstsr.org](http://www.cstsr.org).



*This visually-engaging, interactive discussion will focus on local water sources, and the challenges our community faces in a changing climate...*

## Commemorating the Anniversary of Kristallnacht, Performing Music of Composers Interred During the Shoah Saturday, November 9, 7:00 PM

Free admission, refreshments provided, please RSVP to the office.

See next page for details!



SHOMREI TORAH CULTURAL COMMITTEE  PRESENTS



In commemoration of the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Shomrei Torah Cultural Committee will present a concert of the music of Jewish composers who perished in the *Shoah*. This will be a transformative concert that will honor the memory and talent of these composers.

Featured composers are:



ERWIN SCHULHOFF



GIDEON KLEIN



VIKTOR ULLMANN



PAVEL HAAS

Performers will include:

*Cantorial Soloist* Erica Wisner

*Pianist and Composer* Nolan Gasser

*Pianist* Yvonne Wormer

*Bassoonist* Beverly McChesney and *Woodwind Quintet*

*Contrabassoonist* Steven Braunstein,

San Francisco Symphony

*Cellist* Joel Cohen and *String Trio*

Rabbi George Gittleman will offer an introduction to this remembrance.

Join us for this memorable concert.

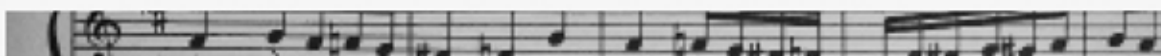
**FREE ADMISSION**

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

**RSVP to Angelica, CST Office (707) 578-5519**

"The sufferings of European Jewry under the Nazi regime were reflected in their music and musical life. Music offered Jews a way to express their humanity in inhuman conditions, to escape from reality and give voice to their yearning for freedom, and to find comfort and hope."

~ Gila Flam,  
"Music in the Holocaust"  
[YadVashem.org](http://YadVashem.org)



## Bagel Club

### Adding Solar to your home with Joe Pundyk

*Sunday, November 3, 9:00 AM*

CST member, Joseph Pundyk, will talk to us about solar for our homes. Joe was an engineer and CEO of PFR Engineering in Los Angeles before he and his wife Colleen moved to Santa Rosa and joined Shomrei Torah. Everyone is welcome.



\$7-\$10 donation requested, Please RSVP to [cstbagelmen@gmail.com](mailto:cstbagelmen@gmail.com) or call 829-1388 to reserve your seat and brunch.

**The Bagel Club would like to thank** Stan Roodman, Reuben Weinzev, Richard Lazovick, Bill Daniel, Joe Pundyk and Jerry Newman for the work they did setting up, serving and cleaning up the brunch for those attending the *Kever Avot* service at the Cemetery on the Sunday between *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*. It was a nice way to end the cemetery visitation and service. We welcomed those from Beth Ami who joined us after their service.

## Shomrei Shop

The CST Judaica shop has many new items and gifts for weddings, *B'nei Mitzvahs* and more. The gift shop is open during office hours and on some special occasions listed below:

### Upcoming Gift Shop Open

#### Dates:

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 9:00-11:00am PJ Library Read Day

Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 9-11am - STaRS & Hanukkah

Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 11am-2pm - JCC Hanukkah Party



### Office Closure

The CST office will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 in observance of Thanksgiving. Regular Friday night Shabbat services will be held on Friday, November 29 at 6:15 PM.

## Creating Sacred Space: A Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Program

Drop In Session: \$8 CST Members / \$12 Non-Members

Please RSVP to the office. All are welcome regardless of ability to pay.

Are we happy? Are we living the life we want to live? Mindfulness Meditation is the practice of cultivating our attention to the present moment. As we learn to quiet our minds, we see our truth more clearly, and open a path to living a fuller, happier, healthier life. Jewish Mindfulness adds the teachings of our tradition to deepen the meditative experience. This course, led by Rabbi George Gittleman, will include teaching, meditation instruction, and periods of silence.

Program Schedule 4:00 pm:

**November 3** (Guest Leader, Alissa Hirshfeld),

**November 17** (Guest Leader, Alissa Hirshfeld)

**November 24**

Theme: Thanksgiving and Gratitude

**December 8, 15, 22**

Theme: Hanukkah and Inner Light

## Social Action Committee Gearing Up For Elections

With the unprecedented attacks on our democratic system and a growing sense of powerlessness, one of SAC's primary focuses is voter engagement. We will be working with local, state and national groups to get people registered, informed and voting throughout the country. We will have many events open to the CST community. You can get involved and make a difference!

Here are some opportunities to connect with your CST family, have fun, and be engaged.

### Phone banking at Bertolone Realty with Vicki Roberts and Swing Left

November 3, 1:00-3:30 PM

Please sign up at [www.mobilize.us/slsonoma/event/124637](http://www.mobilize.us/slsonoma/event/124637)

We will be making calls to Virginia prior to the November 5th statewide elections.

### Letter Writing with Judith Richlin-Klonsky

November 13, 7-9 PM

Please RSVP to the office.

Judith will train us so we may do more of this in the future. If you or anyone you know is not registered, it is an easy process. Just visit [vote.gov](http://vote.gov).

## Lunch & Learn with Dr. Stan Roodman

*Tuesday, November 12th 12:00 PM–1:30 PM*

Please RSVP to the office. Cost \$8, Soup and Salad provided.

A very brief introduction to Immunology with emphasis on antibodies and the amazing discoveries of three Jewish immunology Nobel Prize winners that not only helped to explain the mystery of antibodies, but how they can be used in cancer therapy.

Stan spent 29 years as a Professor in the Pathology Department at St. Louis University Medical School where he performed research in many areas of Immunology.

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## Ten Paths to God - An exploration of Judaism based on the teachings of Rabbi Jonathon Sacks

*Wednesdays: 7-8:30 PM*

*November 13, 20, December 4, 11, 18, January 8*

Cost for the Series - \$54 members, \$72 Non-members

Drop-ins - \$8 for Members, \$12 Non-Members

Please RSVP to the office.

This 6 session class facilitated by Rabbi George and Rabbi Stephanie is great for anyone interested in deepening their understanding of Jewish tradition and spirituality.

Utilizing curriculum and materials (including videos) provided by the renowned rabbi and Jewish thought leader, Lord Jonathon Sacks, we will focus on the following key elements of Jewish life: Identity, Prayer, Study, *Mitzvot*, *Tzedakah* & *Chessed*.

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## Chavurah Start up Meeting

*Thursday, November 14, 7:00 - 9:00 PM*

All members are welcome. Free dessert and noshes provided. Please RSVP to the office.

New *Chavurot* are forming! This meeting is for anyone interested in making new friends and joining a *Chavurah*. Learn more about what a *Chavurah* is and then with guided mingling, new groups will come together around common interests

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (offsite)

*Sunday, November 17th 6:00 PM*

Location – Christ Church United Methodist, Santa Rosa

Join us for a veggie/dairy potluck dinner followed by a family-friendly service with music, stories, and sharing. Please bring a dish to share.

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## Talmud Circle: *Tractate Ta'anit* – What Do We Know and How Do We Know It?

*Dates: 11/17, 12/8, 1/5, 2/2, 3/1, 4/5, 5/17, 6/7*

Cost: \$315, \$252 or \$189 (Students choose their tier)

Time: 1:30-3:30 PM

Register online at [www.cstsr.org](http://www.cstsr.org)

The Talmud raises questions about “Holy Men” pronouncing the “meaning” of a disaster. This narrative section of the Talmud, in the words of Julia Watts Belser, “overturns expected hierarchies of gender, piety, and social status to challenge the theological significance of hunger, suffering, and abundance.” She writes, “These narratives blunt the moral condemnation inherent in disaster – and suggest that blessing often lies beneath the surface of apparent misfortune.” Ahead of Viktor Frankl, who taught, “When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves,” the Talmud asserts that an interpretation of events exercises a powerful influence over experience.

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## Informational Meeting for Congregational Journey to Eastern Europe Trip

*Wednesday, November 20, 6:00 - 7:00 PM*

Date of trip: August 23 – September 4, 2020

Visit Poland, Vienna & 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](mailto:rabbig@cstsr.org) or call the temple office. To register for the trip, visit [www.cstsr.org](http://www.cstsr.org).



## 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. Anyone can join anytime.



### Upcoming Dates, starting at 6:30 PM:

- Nov. 21 *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank* by Nathan Englander
- Dec. 19 Short Story Listening Evening  
Listen to podcast(s)
- Jan. 16 *The Lost Girls of Paris* by Pam Jenoff
- Feb. 20 *A Bride for One Night* by Ruth Calderon
- Mar. 19 *To This Day* by S.Y. Agnon

## Wise Aging Taught by Rabbi Meredith Cahn

*Fridays, December 6th & 13th, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM*  
\$18 for Members, \$36 for Non Members. RSVP to the office.

This two session class will explore how to find meaning and joy in our journey into our later years. With texts, poetry and liturgy, we will discuss important questions about our plans, our fears and our joys. The class will be based on Rabbi Rachel Cowan, z"l, and Linda Thal's book, *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit*. You don't have to buy it (but it's worth owning). Join the conversation whether you are 55 or 95 or anywhere in between.

## Sweet Shabbat Mornings Potluck Lunch

*Saturday, December 7, 12:00 PM*

Please RSVP to the office.

The Religious Practice Committee is hosting special gatherings on Saturday mornings on a number of Shabbats this year. These will include a speaker and a potluck lunch (with a main dish provided by us) immediately following Shabbat Services.

## Scholar-in-Residence Weekend with Isaac & Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik

*Friday-Sunday, December 13-14*

Isaac & Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik bring deep Jewish scholarship together with a contemporary reinterpretation of the traditional art of papercutting.



*Friday, December 13th 6:15 PM*

Rabbi's *Tisch*: Maccabees and Other Super Heroes

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

Join us as our scholars-in-residence Isaac & Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik present an exploration of heroes in Jewish tradition and pop culture. This dynamic visual presentation takes a scholarly look at the stories of the Maccabees and Judith, compares the biblical story of Hanukkah with its Talmudic interpretation, and reveals which super heroes are lighting a Hanukkiah this season.

*Saturday, December 14, 3:00 PM*

Paper *Midrash* (Papercutting) Workshop

\$20 per participant, please RSVP to the office.

Join Isaac & Rabbi Shawna Brynjegard-Bialik, for a hands-on papercutting workshop. You will learn, deep Jewish scholarship together with a contemporary reinterpretation of the traditional art of paper cutting, providing workshop participants with the opportunity and tools to make visual biblical commentary — what they call "paper *midrash*."



No experience necessary, you don't have to know how to paint or draw! We will study, create, share and shmooze. You will leave with a masterpiece ready to hang.

## Hanukkah, Chinese food and a Movie

*Wednesday, December 25, 6:15pm*

Free. Please RSVP to the office.

Save the date for this exciting event; spend the evening at Shomrei Torah enjoying Chinese food and the movie *Keeping the Faith*.

## Congregation Shomrei Torah

2600 Bennett Valley Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

[www.cstsr.org](http://www.cstsr.org)

**(707) 578-5519**

(unless otherwise noted)

FAX (707) 578-3967

### Office Hours

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

### RABBI

George D. Gittleman  
[rabbig@cstsr.org](mailto:rabbig@cstsr.org)

### ASSOCIATE RABBI

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[rabbikramer@cstsr.org](mailto:rabbikramer@cstsr.org)

### YOUTH & MUSIC COORDINATOR

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### CANTORIAL SOLOIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR

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Denise Harrison

**Custodians**  
Manny Talaugon  
Nahir Thomas El Beze



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## All-School Shabbat

**November 15, 6:15pm**

Please RSVP Yes or No to the office.

All STaRS students and their families are invited to a special religious school Shabbat service with songs featuring STaRS kids!

Please RSVP yes or no to the office with how many people you will be bringing. We ask for a \$10 donation per family to cover the cost of food. When you RSVP yes, we will use your card on file for the \$10 donation unless you instruct otherwise.



## PJ Library Read Day with Diana Shmiana

(toddler–3rd Grade)

**Sunday, November 17, 9:00 AM**

Come in  
your  
pajamas for  
PJ Library  
stories and  
a special  
performance  
by a Diana  
Shmiana!  
We will



wrap up the fun with a special snack of cookies and milk. Special thanks to PJ Library for this event!

## JUSTY PJ Party

**November 17, 12–2:00 PM**

All STaRS 2nd–5th graders are invited for an afternoon of games, fort building, and fun! Stay in your PJs after PJ library day and join us for this pajama palooza at the temple!



## miniSHORTY (Offsite)

**November 17, 12–2:00 PM**

Save the Date! MiniSHORTY will be having its first event on November 23rd. We will be going to a fun events place in Santa Rosa. You won't want to miss out! Morgan will send out more details soon for this exciting event!



Attention all teens  
and parents of teens!

Now is still the time to sign your teen up for *Chaverim*, a social/educational program of the Jewish Community Center Sonoma County endorsed by our Rabbis. Just go to [www.jccsoco.org](http://www.jccsoco.org) and visit the Teen Tab to see information and to register for 2019–2020 *Chaverim*. The twice monthly session by grade level features a shared dinner followed by a great discussion of a relevant issue through a “Jewish Lens.” Call Rick Concoff for more information at (707)477-9196.

## L'Taken

**January 10th–13th, 2020**

Every year Shomrei Torah sends teens to Washington D.C. to participate in the *L'taken* program with the Religious Action Center. It's a weekend filled with learning and *tikkun olam* (fixing the world) where teens have an incredible opportunity to lobby their representatives in Congress for legislative change. Reserve a spot now for your teen to participate in this amazing opportunity! Email [youth@cstsr.org](mailto:youth@cstsr.org).

## Join the Callers – and Avoid the Call!

While the Tradition of Giving replaces the Gelt-a-Thon, the tradition of phoning members continues. This year, you can expect a call from a friendly CST volunteer on the morning of Sunday, December 15.

There are two surefire ways to avoid the call:

1. Support the Tradition of Giving before December 9 – only members who haven't yet participated will be called.
2. Volunteer to help make calls on the 15th – and enjoy delicious bagels, coffee, treats and a chance to connect with other members.

Please email [anndubay@sonic.net](mailto:anndubay@sonic.net) or text or call (707) 292-9250 to join the call team.

## Board Wrap Up

Our September meeting was full of all kinds of business concerning the High Holy Days as the Rabbis and CST staff are busy preparing. Security trainings have been held for staff, board members and regular volunteers such as ambassadors, etc. There will also be upcoming security training dates for the broader community, so stay tuned.

The Board has approved the installation of a new entrance gate; we are getting closer to that happening, but there is no date to report as of yet. We are aware that there are problems with the sound system and people are working to find solutions as quickly as possible.

Both Rabbis have been very busy with all kinds of daily business such as pastoral care, community building and programing. Rabbi George has been active in the North Bay Organizing Project, the Jewish Community Free Clinic fundraiser, the Men's Retreat, and providing meditation classes with the hope to develop a permanent meditation program.

Rabbi Stephanie was excited to inform us of a new database that the office staff is eagerly awaiting. This software is a complete upgrade which will be more user-friendly and integrative. Other news from Rabbi Stephanie... she was thrilled with the opening day of religious school and the STaRS pool party. She is eager to have us hear the Teen Choir during High Holy Days (they were phenomenal at the intergenerational *Rosh Hashanah* service). She is also happy to inform us that she was asked to be on the Board of Camp Newman.

## Immigrant Stories

By Peter Copen

Grandpa Aaron ran from the Russian Army (at the risk of being shot as a traitor), paid off a border guard and found his way to England. In the 1890's he immigrated in steerage on a boat to New York City with only 25 cents in his pocket and no ability to speak English.



Grandma Annie shared with me the terror of Friday nights in Poland when the Cossacks got drunk and invaded her shtetl to kill Jews. "We hid underneath the floor boards to survive," she said. She also immigrated to New York in the 1890's where she met my grandfather. They both worked in sweat shops 14 hours a day sewing caps.

They gave our family a chance. It now includes college professors, educators, artists, businesspeople and philanthropists.

"Ve ver very poor; Ve didn't haf' vat to eat!" grandpa told me when I was 6.

Not anymore.

## Share Your Story

Each of us is either an immigrant or a descendant of immigrants. Many of us have gripping stories about our family's immigration experiences. The Social Action Committee feels it is valuable to share these stories with each other, not only to help bind our community closer together, but also to reveal what we have in common with the people trying to come here now.

Please send us your stories. We will publish them, edited for space, either anonymously or not, as you wish. Mention what situation led your family to emigrate, the struggles they may have had getting here, and the contributions they and their descendants have made to their communities, the nation, or the world.

Please submit your stories to Richard Zweig, [richardzweig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richardzweig@sbcglobal.net).

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**TIME SENSITIVE**

## NOVEMBER SERVICES

### Friday, November 1

6:15 pm – *New Member Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, November 2

*Weekly Torah portion: Noach*

8:45 am – *Torah study led by Rabbi Stephanie*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, November 8

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch with Ann DuBay*

### Saturday, November 9

*Weekly Torah portion: Lech-Lecha*

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Cynthia Nestle*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, November 15

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, November 16

*Weekly Torah portion: Vayera*

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by*

*Ann Levy-Howson*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, November 22

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, November 23

*Weekly Torah portion: Chayei Sara*

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

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, November 29

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, November 30

*Weekly Torah portion: Toldot*

8:45 am – *Torah study led by Marcia Gladstone*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

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

### THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONGREGATION

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