2012 High Holy Days Schedule

All locations are at CST unless noted by * (Center for Spiritual Living)

**S’lichot**
Saturday, Sept. 8  9:00 PM

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**
Sunday, Sept. 16  6:00 PM  Intergenerational Service
Sunday, Sept. 16  8:00 PM*  Adult Service

**Rosh Hashanah**
Monday, Sept. 17  10:30 AM*

**Tashlich**
Monday, Sept. 17  4:30 PM  Lake Ralphine at Howarth Park

**2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Service and Potluck**
Tuesday, Sept. 18  10:30 AM

**Shabbat Shuvah**
Friday, Sept. 21  6:15 PM

**Shabbat Shuvah**
Saturday, Sept. 22  10:30 AM

**Cemetery Service**
Sunday, Sept. 23  4:00 PM  Santa Rosa Memorial Park

**Erev Yom Kippur-Kol Nidre**
Tuesday, Sept. 25  6:00 PM  Intergenerational Service
Tuesday, Sept. 25  8:00 PM*  Adult Service

**Yom Kippur**
Wednesday, Sept. 26  10:30 AM*

- Jewish Journeys  12:45–2:00 PM
- Meditative/Reflective Service  2:15–3:00 PM
- Torah Reading/Jonah  3:15–4:15 PM
- Yizkor Service  4:30 PM
- Neilah Service  5:30 PM

Afternoon service times are approximate

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**Rides to High Holy Days Services Needed**

Some of our congregants no longer drive, or drive only during daylight hours, and it would mean a great deal if those of you who will be driving to services could offer one or more of them a ride.

The office will coordinate arrangements to make it as convenient as possible; please call or email Denise if you NEED A RIDE or can OFFER ONE. Those offering rides should specify the general area from which they are willing to pick up riders, and the services for which you will be available. Drivers for the two evening services are especially needed.
**Lunch and Learn**

**Wednesday, September 5**
12:00–1:00 PM
Kolbo Room

“Sabbatical Revisited” is the title of the next Lunch and Learn when Rabbi George will share highlights of his recent sabbatical. Bring your lunch and beverage.

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**Preparation for the Days of Awe:**

**Wednesdays, September 5 and 12**
7:00–8:30 PM, Kolbo Room

Join Rabbi George for two sessions about preparing for the upcoming High Holy Days.

**SEPTEMBER 5: GOD** — The Holy Days shine a bright light on the Jewish conceptions of the Divine like no other time in the liturgical year. This poses real challenges for many who struggle with belief in God. This evening will focus on some of the God motifs in the Holy Days liturgy and how we can, with integrity, make meaning with them.

**SEPTEMBER 12: ANGER** — Of all of the emotions, anger can be the most detrimental to our wellbeing. While mining through the Jewish tradition’s approach to anger and anger management, the goal for the evening will be to create the beginnings of a spiritual tool kit for managing one’s anger.

Please RSVP to the temple office: 707-578-5519 or denise@shomreitorah.org.

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**Special Shabbat Honoring the Food Fest Committee and Volunteers**

**Friday, September 7, 6:15 PM**

Shomrei Torah’s First Annual Jewish Food Fest was a resounding success! The event, which drew some 1500 people, was executed beautifully by our stellar Jewish Food Fest Committee and the 300 volunteers they amassed.

Let’s celebrate together and express our gratitude at a special Shabbat service and oneg in their honor. This service will also feature our house band.

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**NOT IN OUR TOWN: A Gathering in Solidarity with the Sikh Community of Sonoma County**

**Sunday, September 9**
7:00–8:30 PM at CST

Stand with us in support of our Sikh neighbors.

Members of various faith traditions, including participants in the Santa Rosa Interfaith Association, will share words of prayer, song and inspiration on the theme of universal fellowship and peace.

Refreshments will be served.

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**Legacy Circle Members’ Special Event**

**Green Music Center, Rohnert Park**

**Sunday, September 30, 7:00 AM*”

Please join fellow members of the CST Legacy Circle at the Grand Opening Weekend Sunrise Choral Concert at the Green Music Center, followed by a scrumptious brunch in their new Privé dining room. RSVP the CST office.

*Bus transportation @ 6:00 AM to and from our synagogue campus is available.
SAVE THE DATE

**SUKKOT 2012**

Erev Sukkot
Sunday, September 30

Sukkot Morning Service
Monday, October 1, 10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Led by Rabbinic Pastor Judith Goleman

Sukkah Available for Lunch
October 2–5

The sukkah on the patio will be available for lunch. Please contact the office if you would like to bring your meal to enjoy in the sukkah on one of these days, much as our ancestors did in their harvest celebrations.

Dinner in the Sukkah
Wednesday, October 3, 6:15 PM

Potluck/Speaker — Watch for details.

**Simchat Torah**
Sunday, October 7, 6:15 PM

Join us as we celebrate *Simchat Torah* in our intergenerational service. This is a joyous event at which we sing and dance with the Torah, completely unfurling it in a ring around the sanctuary, and then re-roll it to begin a new cycle of Torah readings.

**Adult Beginners Hebrew Reading Class**

October 2 through December 4
Tuesdays, 7:00–8:00 PM

10 class sessions with Margo Miller

This class is for complete beginners. It will focus on being able to sound out and pronounce the written text and will cover vocabulary or grammar only as it directly relates to reading. At the end of the class, students should be able to read any enwoveled text in either Hebrew or Aramaic, i.e., anything in the prayerbook.

Tuition: $100, plus cost of textbook. Non-members of Shomrei Torah have surcharge. Call the temple office to reserve a seat.

**Criminal Justice Forum**

Moderated by D.A. Jill Ravitch
Sunday, October 14, 3:00–5:00 PM

Shomrei Torah will host a forum with distinguished attorneys and representatives from the law enforcement community taking positions for and against the two criminal justice initiatives on the November ballot. (Some speaker commitments are pending.)

Proposition 34 would abolish the death penalty, putting life-without-parole in its place, and Proposition 36 would modify felony sentencing under the three-strikes law. Sonoma County District Attorney Jill Ravitch will moderate the forum, which will include questions from the audience. Rabbi George will give perspectives drawn from Jewish tradition on the death penalty and sentencing.

Sponsored by the Social Action Committee. Refreshments. Open to the community at large. Free.

**CST Women’s Retreat Weekend**

Marconi Conference Center
October 19–21

Enjoy a weekend of camaraderie, workshops, fun, prayer, great food and an opportunity to meet new friends. A retreat registration form is available in this month’s *Voice*.

Scholarship funds are available; please don’t hesitate to ask!

Questions? Contact the CST office.

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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.
My husband Adam can watch any sport that’s on TV. He enjoys everything from baseball, basketball and football to golf and poker. In contrast, I only truly care about watching two sporting events every four years: the figure skating at the winter Olympics and the gymnastics at the summer Olympics. I can’t tell you why I love figure skating, but I love gymnastics because I spent countless hours in a gym practicing and competing from the time I was 2 until I entered high school and needed to give it up because of repeated shoulder injuries. This year, watching the women’s gymnastics, rooting for an African American and a Jewish female on the US team, was more thrilling and exhilarating than ever before.

Jews and sports don’t often go hand in hand in our minds. This could be that many of the Jews that are involved in sports are not always open about their Judaism—with good reason, if we think back to the legendary Hank Greenberg and others of his time. And even if they are open about their Judaism, they do not blare it from the loudspeaker!

Yet Aly Raisman unintentionally did just that by performing her floor routine to *Hava Nagila*. I can’t think of a better piece of music to pull people from their seats and get their feet dancing, which was exactly why Aly decided to use this music. Although Aly’s decision to perform to such outwardly Jewish music seems to have taken a great deal of *chutzpah*, after winning the gold, Aly admitted that “having that floor music wasn’t intentional…” Her unintentional choice to perform to such a Jewish piece unintentionally is a testament to her Jewish identity and upbringing. Her rabbi Keith Stern says, “She’s very proud and upfront about being Jewish. Neither she nor her family explicitly sought to send a message. But it shows how very integrated her Jewish heritage is in everything she does.”

When she chose her music, she didn’t know if she would even make the Olympic team let alone how much her music would affect people worldwide. She was only two when the last American team won gold in the all-around competition. And, thankfully, she probably has not faced as much outward anti-Semitism in or out of the sports arena as many of us have.

Just 40 years ago, Jews around the world were mourning the Israeli athletes that died in the 1972 Munich terrorist attacks. And now a young active reform Jewish girl wins a gold medal. She wins not by concealing her Jewish identity, but rather by blaring it for the world to hear. This time, watching the Olympics, I cheered just a little bit louder. I cheered for Aly as a gymnast, as an American, as a role model and a Jew.

—Rabbi Stephanie Kramer

**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.
Shana Tovah!

By Cantor Stephen Abelson
Cantor and Music Director

Avinu Malkeinu Sh’mah Kolenu, Avinu Malkenu, hear our voice.

Possibly the most recognizable phrase in our High Holy Day liturgy, it is an expression that we hear chanted so beautifully each year with such great emotion, excitement and anticipation. The music and the liturgy of the High Holy Days is exceedingly distinctive and uniquely calls for us each to reflect, deliberate and repent as we let the music move and inspire each of us.

I look forward to spending this year learning, listening and engaging with this wonderful community.

warmed, touched and healed by the haunting melodies of this time of year.

I am truly excited to be the Cantor at Congregation Shomrei Torah. I am so grateful for the possibility to join the clergy staff and to have the great opportunity to learn from and with Rabbi George and Rabbi Stephanie. It truly feels as if we are home.

Alissa and I are so excited to be in this beautiful city with our two little girls. It will be quite the treat to be able to spend so much of our time together outdoors, in the parks and on the playground together.

I thank you all for welcoming me, Alissa, Madilyn and Stacie into our new home in Santa Rosa and I look forward to spending this year learning, listening and engaging with this wonderful community.

G’mar Hatimah Tovah & Shana Tovah!

May we all be inscribed in the Book of Life and have a sweet and happy new year!

B’Shalom,
Cantor Stephen Abelson

And Then There Were Three…

Driving a hybrid vehicle wasn’t a prerequisite for joining the clergy staff at Shomrei Torah, but our two rabbis and cantor are clearly on the same page, and not only when it comes to the siddur. (Actually, Rabbi Stephanie isn’t on any page at all, since she leads services entirely on her iPad, which connects wirelessly to the twin projectors that display our new visual t’filah).
Once again, Shomrei Torah is performing the familiar ritual of preparing for the arrival of High Holy Days. Seating cards will soon be mailed, sermons written, choir rehearsed, all of the thousand little details checked off the list.

Many of us are performing our own accounting during this month of Elul, taking personal inventory of how far we’ve progressed in the past year toward becoming the individuals we want to be, and what work remains for the year ahead.

Synagogue leaders perform this kind of accounting on the community level — taking a hard look at what our congregation has accomplished in the year now ending, and where we need to go in the new one.

But consider this: in the past year we’ve managed to triple the size of our clergy, expand our programming, welcome new members into our community, reach out to the ailing and bereaved and hungry among us, guide dozens of us through lifecycle events, stage an enormous public celebration of our culture, and finish the year with our budget balanced and our finances healthy.

Who is responsible for all that we’ve accomplished? Certainly our lay leaders, who have worked diligently throughout the year, and our staff, who have shown exceptional talent and dedication in their jobs. And of course our rabbis, who continue to do an exemplary job guiding us in both learning and prayer.

But the real credit goes to you, our congregants, who’ve been breathtakingly generous with your time and energy and pledges. At the time of year when we make an extra effort to consider all that we are grateful for, I’d like to express my gratitude to you — for volunteering and participating, pledging and donating. I’m grateful for the advice you have offered (most of it, anyway) and the ideas you have shared. And I’m grateful for your patience and encouragement during a year of extraordinary challenge and change.

The new year promises even more of both. For the second year in a row it begins by our welcoming a new member of our clergy, this time Cantor Stephen, who will lead us not only in music, but in new directions, as well. It also begins with new worship experiences, like the monthly Rabbi’s Tisch and our new visual t’filah projected on the sanctuary walls. And, sadly, it begins with another looming deficit in our budget, and therefore with calls for your continued generosity.

If you haven’t yet renewed your membership, please consider the important work of Shomrei Torah, and the important role our community plays in your life, as you make your pledge. If you’ve already sent in your pledge, consider adding to it during the High Holy Days, a custom followed by literally millions of Jews around the world at this particular season.

On behalf of our entire synagogue family, I wish you a healthy, fulfilling and sweet new year.

L’shalom,

Bruce

Yahrzeit Wall Remembers Loved Ones

“May they be remembered for a blessing.” This familiar phrase is more than a nice sentiment: it’s an obligation shared by Jews everywhere to remember departed loved ones by lighting candles in our homes and creating a tangible and enduring memorial in our synagogues.

At Shomrei Torah, we remember those whom we have lost by securing a name plaque to our Yahrzeit Wall in the sanctuary, and the board is filling fast. Many of the empty spaces are already reserved by both members and others who wish to secure a place on this enduring memorial.

A minimum donation of $360 is asked to reserve a place on our Yahrzeit Wall, although many members choose to remember their loved ones with a larger donation. Call the office for information; the Yahrzeit Reservation form is also available on our web site at www.shomreitorah.org/donate.
Food Fest Exceeds All Expectations

“Home run” doesn’t do justice to what happened at Shomrei Torah on August 19. It was a Grand Slam. The first annual Jewish Food Fest was a success even before the gate opened.

By engaging some 300 Shomrei Torah volunteers, mobilizing over two dozen sponsors, and creating a high-profile public presence in the media, the Jewish Food Fest far exceeded anyone’s wildest expectations. The approximately 1,500 people who visited Shomrei Torah that Sunday were pretty much gravy.

While the Jewish Food Fest will have raised much-needed fundraising income, its value can’t be measured in dollars. Its success at engaging volunteers, attracting new members, and celebrating our culture is incalculable.

Rabbi’s Travelogue for Legacy Circle Members

On August 8, members of the Legacy Circle were treated to a presentation by Rabbi George of photos and stories from his recent sabbatical. His four-month sojourn included a month in Israel, a meditative retreat, much reading and writing, and even some fly fishing.

The gathering was another in a series of events exclusively for members of Shomrei Torah’s Legacy Circle. Membership in the circle is automatic when you sign a letter of intent to remember Shomrei Torah in your estate planning, although it’s not necessary to name a specific amount. The purpose of the Legacy Circle is to create a long-term funding source for the synagogue other than annual membership pledges.

See page 2 of this month’s Voice for a description of the special Legacy Circle event in September.

Getting the Word Out

Thanks to our hardworking volunteers for putting together our entire High Holy Day mailing in record time: Florence Boxerman, Denise Harrison, Maggie Marrin, Sheila Hirsch and Sue Smith.

Social Action Members Honored at Rabbi’s Tisch

About 75 CST members and non-members enjoyed our August Rabbi’s Tisch, which featured remembering Rabbi Michael Robinson and honoring Stephen Harper and Larry Carlin for their many years as co-chairs of the Social Action Committee. The food prepared by our own Vikki Ruthervord, was also a big hit!

Pictured above are (left to right): Ruth Robinson, Rabbi George, Larry Carlin, Stephen Harper and Madeleine Rose.
TEMPLE NEWS

Men’s Bagel Club

Season gets under way on Sunday, September 9 at 9:00 AM

Our first speaker of the 2012 season is the newest member of the Shomrei Torah team — Cantor Stephen Abelson. A Charlie Rose style interview will help us get to know Cantor Abelson. Contact the CST office to reserve your sumptuous breakfast. Ladies are welcome also.

Environmental Action Committee

Shomrei Adamah — Guardians of the Earth

The Torah commands us to be good stewards and each day at CST, we are getting better. If you have been to the synagogue recently, you know we are becoming a lot greener with our new waste management program. While many of the items at CST are now compostable, you still cannot put them in your green waste bin at home, so this can be a little confusing. Please download the information sheet from the CST website or pick up a copy on the lobby table. Questions? Contact the CST office.

Social Action Committee

The Yom Hashoah Committee is looking for help!

It’s all about planning and implementing the annual Yom Hashoah (Holocaust) and Genocide memorial at Shomrei Torah. Next year’s event is scheduled for Sunday, April 7 at 10:30 AM. The committee only meets about three times a year. If you are interested, please contact Larry Carlin at larrcar@comcast.net. Phone: 569-8879.

Men’s Retreat Committee

Mini-Retreat a Huge Success

The men of Shomrei Torah held a mini-retreat in the hills above Santa Rosa on Sunday, August 5. Forty-seven men turned out to tell jokes, drink beer, hike, play volleyball, play music and just have a good time together. Photos from the event have been posted on our website, www.shometorah.org.

Environmental Action Committee

“And the Lord took Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden, to work it and guard it.” — Genesis 2:15

Start the New Year by resolving to make eco-friendly choices!

Compost more! This can mean different things in different places, but it all begins by making simple changes in our daily habits.

For example, at CST we can now compost all food waste plus paper plates, cups and napkins. So, be sure to separate recyclables and trash from compost and use appropriate bins for each.

At home, only fruits and vegetables can go into the yard waste bin for compost, the rest goes into your trash.

Be an environmental steward and decide to make sound choices that sustain the planet for future generations.

L’Shana Tovah,
from the Environmental Action Committee

Tip-of-the-Month

“...and the earth brought forth grass, herb yielding seed after his kind, and fruit tree bearing fruit after his taste...” — Genesis 1:11

Start the New Year by resolving to make eco-friendly choices!

Reed Maidenberg plays at “Mountain Views with Brews n’ Jews”; Rabbi George and Cantor Stephen address the crowd; Albert Handelman smiles for the camera.
Dear Families,

Special thanks to all of you for the terrific turnout at our annual summer Friday night Tot Shabbat experience in July. Thanks also for sharing your delicious food offerings for our potluck.

Our heartfelt thanks to Franny Posner for ensuring that we had extra challah and grape juice at our event. Special, special thanks to the Fichera family for sharing their personal musical instrument collection with us and for buying our program some fabulous new musical instruments. To Lacey our wonderful Tot Shabbat liaison and her mother Galya, thank you so much for preparing and sharing your delicious potluck items and for all your help with our art activity and clean up and set up. It really does take a village.

Thank you Cantor Stephen for leading us in prayer and song amidst our cacophony of musical instruments. It was a pleasure to welcome Cantor Stephen, his wife Alissa and their children, Madilyn and Stacie for their first Tot Shabbat at Shomrei Torah. We are so lucky to have you here.

Tot Shabbat began our 2-part focus on Rosh Hashanah. August focused on the Jewish New Year as a celebration of the Happy Birthday of the world. September will focus on the more personal themes of getting ready for the New Year — the shofar and its call for us for inner reflection and personal growth.

From all of us at Tot Shabbat we wish you a very good, very sweet, happy, healthy New Year.

Love, Lauren

The kids just want to have fun

Tot Shabbat CALENDAR
See You At Our Next Event
Saturday, September 8, 2012
9:30 AM
Birthday of the World
SHORTY Has a New Advisor

Shalom! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Aaron Selya, and I am the new SHORTY Advisor. SHORTY is Congregation Shomrei Torah’s Regional Youth program (part of NFTY).

Throughout high school I was an active member of NFTY, and went to many regional events. My passion for NFTY continued through college, where I served as the advisor for SRFY located in Santa Cruz. I am very excited about the upcoming year. I look forward to working with all of you this year and hope to be in contact with each of you very soon. Please feel free to send me an email at aarondavidselya@gmail.com.

B’Shalom,
Aaron Selya
THANKS TO OUR FOOD FEST VOLUNTEERS

We asked for your help in making our first-ever Jewish Food Fest a success — and you came through with flying colors. More than 300 of you volunteered your time and energy before, during and after the festival. So, thank you to all the folks listed below. A special thanks to the team leaders who put in many, many hours — their names are highlighted. Our event was a success due to ALL your hard work.

In deep gratitude,
Sue Lewis, Chairwoman
Deborah Cutler and Ann DuBay, Volunteer Coordinators and the Food Festival Committee

• Shelly Brott
• Anne Brisgel
• JoAnn Bressik
• Dina Bray
• Marsha Boxerman
• Keith Boxerman
• Dan Bornstein
• Linda Bornstein
• Nina Bonos
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• Marcia Bowers
• Alice Bower
• Steven Bower
• Sally Bower

Shomrei Torah

WOW!

In deep gratitude,
Steve Abrams
Suzanne Abrams
Ken Alber
Jordan Armstrong
Ben Bacon
Harriet Baer
Susan Baily
Janine Bamberger
Suzanna Banks
Melissa Bates
Gayla Bayreuther
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Raina Blumenthal
Billie Blumenthal
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Dino Bonos
Nina Bonos
Linda Bornstein
Dan Bornstein
Florence Boxerman
Keith Boxerman
Marsha Boxerman
Robyn Bramhall
Dina Bray
Tom Bray
JoAnn Bressik
Anne Brissel
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Marcia Gladsone
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Lois Abramson-Glenn
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Yvonne Wormer
Jill Zechoy
Erik Zumwalt
Lea Soltes-Zumwalt
Jeanne Zweig

Our sincere apologies if we missed your name. Please notify Ann DuBay at jeremyo sonic.net so we can add it in the October Voice.

Shomrei Torah Voice  Page 11  September 2012
Thank you to our Sponsors for helping make this Jewish Food Fest possible.

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PLEASE SUPPORT THESE GENEROUS SPONSORS.
The Women’s Retreat only comes around every two years! Join us for our 8th

The Marconi Center, a beautiful hillside retreat overlooking Tomales Bay, will be our home once again for the weekend, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch.

Play  Learn  Pray  Sing  Laugh  Schmooze  Connect
Make new friends  Jewish book talks  Music  Art projects  Self-care activities
…and much more!

Every retreat has sold out and the women who attended have raved about their experience!

Please Print  REGISTRATION FORM  Date_____________
Name_________________________________ Phone(s)________________________ Email________________________

Please select the room of your choice – all rooms lovely appointed. Room choices will be filled on a first come, first served basis, so please register early to avoid being disappointed. (Roommate selection, if any, can be submitted on the form you’ll receive with registration confirmation in August.)

Registration and pay in full by August 10 to receive the 2010 registration price!
Prices include 2 nights, 6 meals and all workshops! Some scholarships are available.

☐ 2 per room @ $375.00 per person ($400 after August 10)
☐ 3 per room @ $315.00 per person ($340 after August 10)
☐ I would like to make an additional donation toward the scholarship fund
   ☐ $20  ☐ $30  ☐ $50  ☐ Other $__________
☐ I’ve enclosed a check  ☐ Please charge my credit card on file at CST OR the Visa or MC listed below:
   Card No._________________________________ Exp.________________
   Total amount: $________________ Signature__________________

Checks are payable to Congregation Shomrei Torah (please add “Women’s Retreat” on the memo line). Return this registration form with your payment to:
Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Confirmation and additional information will be mailed in August. Sorry, no phone registrations.

DON’T DELAY – RESERVE TODAY!
Questions? Contact Rachael Cutcher or Paula Duran

Shomrei Torah Women…
Do you have a special talent you’d like to share by leading a retreat workshop?
Let us know!
THANKS TO OUR MANY
FOOD FEST VOLUNTEERS