

# SHERITH ISRAEL NEWS

FEBRUARY–APRIL, 2018

*Bay Area Jewish leader joins CSI as executive director*

## INTRODUCING GORDON GLADSTONE

Gordon Gladstone, Sherith Israel's new executive director, is that odd Jew who can tell stories about raising pigs, stacking bales of hay, spending hours on a tractor mowing pastureland and rabbit-hunting. "My growing-up stories are not typical Jewish stories," laughs Gordon, who grew up in rural New Jersey and on a 60-acre dairy farm in Wisconsin. "But I can tell you that being the only Jew for miles in either direction triggers a really powerful Jewish identity."

But farm life is only part of Gordon's story. He is a fourth-generation Reform Jew. One great-grandfather had his name on a pew in New York's Central Synagogue. Another great-grandfather was a founding member of a Reform synagogue in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Gordon's parents, who grew up in New York, didn't have to work at being Jewish, he explains. "It was around them all the time."

When Gordon started college at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, he took the opportunity to fortify his Jewish identity by becoming active in Hillel. His involvement and interest in Jewish life was so deep that after graduation he and his wife, Jodi, traveled to Israel to learn Hebrew. Their six-month program grew into two-and-a-half years on a *kibbutz* near Ramle.

**Gordon Gladstone** continues, page 4



**MEET OUR NEW EXEC:** Gordon Gladstone comes to Sherith Israel after growing up on a farm, living in Israel, working for Hillel and J Street, and being the executive director of Shir Hadash in Los Gatos. When you see him, say hi. You never know where a conversation will lead.

### INSIDE:

A Moment with Rabbi Jessica Graf	2
4 Questions for Cantor David Frommer	3
Behind the Scenes with Craig Etlin	5
SITY Goes to LA	6
Tikkun Olam Corner	7
What's Happening	8–9
Profile: Jon Keilson and Becca Felsenthal	10
News Nosh	11
Passages	12
Donations	12
Annual Fund	14

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Rabbi Martin Weiner Lecture  
With Rabbi Norman J. Cohen  
FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 6 PM**

**Passover 2nd Night Seder  
SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 5 PM**

**CSI Day at the  
SF Marin Food Bank  
SUNDAY, APRIL 1**

*\$150,000 Federation grant covers two years*

## CSI TO REACH OUT TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN TO CREATE JEWISH CONNECTIONS

Many San Francisco Jewish families with newborns and toddlers don't know how to approach Jewish life. Often newcomers to San Francisco with demanding full-time jobs, they tend to remain unaffiliated with the Jewish community. Yet many hunger for a Jewish touch in their busy lives.

A \$150,000 grant (\$75,000 per year for two years) from the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties will enable Sherith Israel to reach out to unaffiliated families with young children. The grant will fund two years of programming, called Sherith Israel Littles, to interact with young families at times that work for them in locations they frequent such as playgrounds and neighborhood bookstores.

Sherith Israel's goal is to establish relationships with couples and singles who have children up to three years old. "We hope to reach families who have not yet engaged in Jewish life, who are often new to the city and have no family in San Francisco," notes CSI education director **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes**. "Our birth-to-three program will help these Jewish parents become part of a Jewish community and expand their social contacts."

Activities will be designed to meet parents' busy schedules. There will be fun Jewish-themed programs for the children and engaging facilitated conversations on topics of Jewish interest for adults.

**Federation Grant** continues, page 6



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*Senior Rabbi*

David Frommer

*Cantor*

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Martin Weiner *Rabbi Emeritus*

Martin Feldman *Cantor Emeritus*

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## A MOMENT WITH RABBI JESSICA ZIMMERMAN GRAF



### IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

**The famous Chinese curse, “May you live in interesting times,” seems to apply to our times.** The front page of the newspaper reports a new story of abuse by one of our cultural, intellectual or political leaders almost daily. How could this have gone on for so long? How could this have been covered up in plain sight for years? In these last months, people from all parts of our society have courageously come forward to tell their stories. From actresses to restaurant workers, Olympic gymnasts to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, victims are finally speaking out.

The newly revealed sexual harassment charges against so many of our respected public figures and powerful social leaders are astounding. The 19th century British politician, Lord Acton, wrote in a letter in 1887, “Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” For too long, our society has allowed people to abuse positions of power. The spontaneous #MeToo movement that appeared on Facebook indicated just how widespread the experience of abuse has been in our society. Only now are we realizing the extent of the cover-up.

In a New York Times article, “The #MeToo Moment: Dream Crushers,” Jodi Kantor, one of the journalists who broke the Harvey Weinstein story, explains what happened as she did her research. “In the course of the reporting, the moral gravity of the story shifted once we began to find out about incidents as recent as 2015. That, for us, was the journalis-

tic ‘aha’ moment to say, these allegations never stopped coming.”

We know from our own ancient sacred texts that power and corruption are not new. But we also know that courage, resistance and a call to act ethically are an integral part of our tradition. In *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers), Rabbi Eliezer teaches, “The honor of your fellow should be as precious to you as your own.” And Rabbi Hillel famously instructs, “That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow. That is the whole Torah. The rest is commentary; go and learn.” The modern corollary to the teachings of these ancient rabbis comes from a 20th-century rabbi, Abraham Joshua Heschel. He wrote, “In a free society, some are guilty and all are responsible.”

Indeed, in our free society, all of us are responsible for the news that continues to bombard us. We have all contributed to an insidious culture of dishonor and abuse. We silenced stories or didn’t listen when someone tried to talk. We used disrespectful words that contributed to a culture where abuse is permitted. We helped hide behaviors we knew were wrong, closing our eyes and allowing them to continue.

*Sh’mā!* Listen! Our tradition instructs us to hear one another—and to bear witness to the experiences of others. Living a Jewish life means accepting the responsibility to listen, as others have the courage to share their own experiences. And it means speaking up and speaking out. If not now, when? ■

### PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

**“Now Eli’s sons were scoundrels; they paid no heed to the LORD.”**  
— 1 Samuel 2:12

Hophni and Phinehas, sons of Eli, high priest at Shiloh before Saul became Israel’s first king, used their positions to take the best of Israel’s offerings for themselves. They also “lay with women who performed tasks at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting” (1 Sam. 2:22). Because they ignored

their father’s rebuke, “the LORD was resolved that they should die” (1 Sam. 25). When the Philistines defeated Israel in battle, Hophni and Phinehas died. The Philistines also captured the Ark of the Covenant, which was in their possession. Abuse of power ultimately brings consequences. ■

# 4

## Questions for CANTOR DAVID FROMMER

**Music plays an integral role in Jewish worship and life. Cantor David Frommer has enhanced the Sherith Israel music program. We asked him about highlights and what lies ahead.**

**Q: You demonstrate incredible enthusiasm at every Shabbat or holiday service. Just how important is music to Jewish worship?**

**A:** I learned from Rabbi Ed Feinstein that speech is the language of intellect, and music is the language of emotion. I think that really sums up the importance of music in both religious and secular culture. Words allow us to understand ideas, but music allows us to *feel* ideas. Each of those experiences strengthens the other. A birthday party can have plenty of kind wishes exchanged, but it just doesn't *feel* complete until everyone sings "Happy Birthday." Music is all the more essential in Jewish worship because the words we say are usually in Hebrew, which most of us don't understand. And yet, when we sing together during worship, we start to feel more connected. A fascinating study tracked the heartbeats of choir members and found that over the course of a concert or rehearsal, their hearts started to beat together. What an incredible example of music's power to unite us.

**Q: You're about to record a CD with Shabbat music. Why?**

**A:** Last spring and summer, we recorded a CD with music for the High Holidays to familiarize congregants with the melodies. We mailed it out to congregants with their High Holiday tickets, and the reviews were very encouraging.

We decided to focus the next CD on the Saturday-morning service because it's one that people don't attend as often as Friday-evening services. It has a beautiful liturgy of its own and offers a wonderful opportunity to find peace and renewal before the next week starts. This new CD will help not only our adults learn these prayers, but also our religious school students and their families—especially those who are preparing to become bar or bat mitzvah. Three more CDs will focus on Friday night; holidays such as Sukkot, Chanukah and Pesach; and lifecycle events. The more familiar congregants become with our music, the richer their experiences will be.

**Q: Which changes in music at CSI stand out for you—and what more can we expect?**

**A:** Perhaps our biggest change was merging our High Holiday professional octet with Koleynu, our congregational choir. It's been really successful because the two groups complement each other perfectly. The professionals offer technical expertise while our volunteers infuse the music

with their love and *ruach*, or spirit, of Jewish prayer. We had a total of twenty singers, and they had the chance to work not with only our own Jonathan Dimmock, a world-class organist, but with Eric Choate as auxiliary choir conductor and accompanist for the High Holidays. Eric at the piano and Jonathan at the organ allowed us to offer more varied accompaniment and complex choral arrangements.

Koleynu is one of the jewels of Sherith Israel's music program. I encourage our community to hear them in services on first Fridays and at other holiday celebrations throughout the year. We hope to add new members, so please consider joining us. Everyone is welcome—no music literacy required. I also want to add more volunteer congregants to our synagogue's musician ranks. Many congregants are talented instrumentalists and I'd love them to contribute during Musical Shabbat services, Friday-night dinners and religious school. We're not just looking for guitars. If you play a zither, a euphonium or any other instrument that no one has heard of, we want to know!

**Q: How are we doing with Sh'ma Koleynu, our Saturday lay-led services?**

**A:** We are so proud of our *Sh'ma Koleynu* Saturday morning lay leaders, coordinated by **Jacalyn Kornblatt**. They have embraced our mandate to create a service where congregants without a lot of experience singing or chanting Torah can feel comfortable. Several congregants have chanted Torah for the first time since their bar or bat mitzvah at this service. It's entirely due to the welcoming and supportive atmosphere provided by our lay leaders.

We also hold religious school on many Saturday mornings instead of Sundays. We'd like to make our *b'nai mitzvah* celebrations community-wide, recognizing that the religious school students of today will hopefully be the leaders of Sherith Israel tomorrow. When religious school does meet on Sunday, our *T'filah* mirrors the music and liturgy from Saturday morning, so *b'nai mitzvah* families can become more familiar with the melodies. Once students become bar and bat mitzvah, we hope they'll continue using the skills they learn by chanting Torah and Haftarah at our *Sh'ma Koleynu* services, along with the adults. Shabbat morning is a time for all generations to come together to celebrate their love of Judaism and to renew their relationships with each other and God. We believe we're heading in a good direction towards building a Saturday-morning experience that reflects the spirit of Sherith Israel. ■



## GORDON GLADSTONE, from page 1

At a turning point, Gordon and Jodi came back to the States to save enough money to move back to Israel and make *aliyah*. In 1999, after three years working at a Conservative synagogue in Kansas City, Gordon, Jodi and their infant son moved back to the *kibbutz*. Gordon studied to become an Israeli tour guide and worked in the educational travel industry with groups from BBYO and Birthright. Things were good for a year or so, but then history happened. The first dot-com bust, the Intifada and 9/11 all converged to devastate the Israeli tourist market. By the end of 2002, Gordon and his family moved back to the U.S.

A nationwide Jewish job search brought Gordon to UC Berkeley's chapter of Hillel International, which was looking for an Israel specialist to help students navigate the volatile campus politics caused by deteriorating Israeli-Palestinian relations. Gordon worked his way through the ranks at Hillel, becoming associate director and finally executive director. After six years he moved on to open the San Francisco office of J Street as the organization's founding regional director. "At first it was myself and my laptop; then it was myself and a laptop in a co-working space; and then myself and a couple of people in a co-working space," recalls Gordon, who oversaw all J Street activities from Santa Cruz to Seattle and as far inland as Colorado. His last J Street project was to lease their new office in Oakland.

"From J Street, I decided it was time to go back to real Jewish work again," says Gordon, who was selected as executive director of Shir Hadash in Los Gatos. "I discovered I really, really enjoy this work. It really suits who I am." He enjoys the nuts and bolts of organizational life, including a well-written budget. Gordon, who lives in El Cerrito with Jodi and their sons, **Gefen** (18) and **Nitzan** (15), likes to solve problems. "When you are an executive director, every day is a festival of big and small problems. There just aren't a whole lot of jobs

where you can go from staring at a spreadsheet to someone walking in and saying, 'I need you to come up on the roof,' and an hour later you're stacking chairs in the sanctuary for a memorial service. As a kid who grew up on a farm, that just feels very natural," he observes. Well respected by his peers, Gordon is president of the Bay Area Temple Administrators (BATA), the professional organization for synagogue administrators.

Gordon's Jewish work is rooted in the idea of community. He often looks to the ideas of Mordecai Kaplan, the founder of the Reconstructionist movement. "Kaplan's thesis is that Judaism is a civilization with numerous facets—the religion, the languages, the food, the folkways—which in their totality make up the ingredients of Judaism," he explains. "We make the world small for each other. At the end of the day the most powerful thing we can offer each other is that sense of intimacy and community."

What drew Gordon to Sherith Israel? "I'm the great-grandson of a guy who belonged to New York Central. There's something about these old-line urban synagogues that really resonates with me." Once he started diving deeper into what's happening at Sherith Israel, he was even more intrigued. "This community is at an inflection point. It's an interesting challenge to take a 167-year-old congregation, with institutional memory and traditions, forward with a dynamic young clergy team like **Rabbi Jessica Graf** and **Cantor David Frommer**. I'm eager to be part of that conversation."

Gordon started his conversation with the congregation at a post-Shabbat dinner in early January where he asked members for their ideas going forward. "An executive director is only ever a steward. Our job is to figure out what the community wants and then to facilitate the path forward," he notes. "If we do our job well, most people don't notice. When things work the way they should, they don't attract attention." ■

**OH CHANUKAH, OH CHANUKAH!** Sherith Israel glowed with light and rang with song as we celebrated Chanukah. **Bill Shore** and grandson **Elliott Shaykin** lit the chanukiah, and our congregational choir, Koleynu, filled the sanctuary with music, including the always popular "Chanukah in Santa Monica." After services, our new program manager **Peter Bonos** and his klezmer band, Orchestra Euphonos, entertained at dinner. When he's not playing trumpet, Peter works with our clergy, staff, congregants and presenters to coordinate events at Sherith Israel. He is also the staff member responsible for communications and promotional campaigns for programs on our website, emails and printed materials.







## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH CRAIG ETLIN, CSI PRESIDENT

### NEW DIRECTIONS

I am excited to welcome **Gordon Gladstone** to our team as Sherith Israel's new executive director. Gordon assumed his position on December 11, and he is deep into work with the clergy, board, staff and lay committees. As you can tell from the front-page article in this newsletter, Gordon brings a wealth of Jewish organizational experience and a depth of Jewish knowledge to Sherith Israel. If you haven't already met him, stop by the office and say hello.

As we welcome Gordon to Sherith Israel, I also want to acknowledge the tremendous job that **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** did as interim executive director. Nancy rebuilt our staff and worked closely with the board, clergy and committees to keep things running smoothly for over a year and a half. Gordon was able to hit the ground running because of the amazing job that Nancy did, all while simultaneously holding down her position as education director.

After 19 years as education director, Nancy has informed us that she will retire at the end of June. During her tenure, she was responsible for creating our Shabbat School as part of the Religious School programming and expanding the Marin Day School Jewish curriculum by involving CSI clergy and staff in teaching and support. She also developed collaborative programming with Calvary Presbyterian and St. Dominic youth, supported assistant principal **Natalie Weizman** in

re-establishing an active youth group for our teens and created a program of continuous professional development for CSI religious school teachers. Nancy also helped guide our staff through two complete clergy transitions. Although Nancy will be retiring as an employee of CSI, she will remain an engaged congregant, as she has been for over 40 years, and will continue her volunteer service for our HaMotzi and Chicken Soupers programs.

In assessing how best to move forward after Nancy's retirement, at the urging of **Rabbi Jessica Graf**, the board of trustees has decided to seek a rabbi-educator to lead the religious school and all of our education programs. We believe that the key to Sherith Israel's long-term viability is growth, and religious school can be a significant part of that growth, as it is a major reason that families join synagogues. The new rabbi-educator will have the chance to build on the strong foundation that Nancy has put in place to create a more experiential learning curriculum and to work with our early childhood program, including our outreach to unaffiliated families. He or she will also be part of the clergy team for Shabbat services and other observances.

Rabbi Graf, along with CSI vice president **Lindsay Braunig** and CSI secretary **Erik Migdail**, who are co-chairing the search committee, traveled to Cincinnati to interview several members of this year's

graduating class at Hebrew Union College. They will also interview candidates currently with other synagogues. We believe we have a lot to offer a young rabbi-educator—the chance to be part of a dynamic clergy team setting a new direction for the congregation. If one of the candidates meets our needs, we hope to make an offer as early as mid-March. I'm grateful to the board for its support of this initiative. The decision to seek a rabbi-educator to lead our religious school is a forward-looking investment in the future of Sherith Israel.

Finally, I want to report some wonderful financial news. Thanks to better-than-budgeted Annual Fund revenues and dues receipts, an extremely generous year-end gift from the Hills of Eternity cemetery, and some one-time expense savings, we will report a balanced budget for 2017. There are a lot of people to thank—**Julie Lekach House** and **Joan Libman** for their Annual Fund leadership; treasurer **Katie Zier** and assistant treasurer **Karen Zelmar** for their eagle-eyed attention to fiscal details; and the Hills of Eternity board for its generosity. Most of all, thanks to all of you, the Sherith Israel community, for making support of our synagogue a priority.

There is a palpable sense of excitement and optimism around the synagogue. The future of Sherith Israel is bright, and I invite you to help us build that future together. ■



**ELI, ELI:** Magevet, Yale's Jewish a cappella group, sang at Shabbat services and at dinner afterwards. **Cantor David Frommer** is an alumnus of Magevet.

Upcoming Shabbat guests include former Sherith Israel associate rabbi **John Rosove**, now senior rabbi at Hollywood's Temple Israel, who will return to the bimah for Shabbat services and an after-services talk on February 23. Our Purim celebration on Friday, March 2, includes a *megillah* reading by guest **Cantor Jamie Marx** performing selections from *Esther: A Persian Musical*, and a performance by the Hellman family band, Marco and the Polos.



## FEDERATION GRANT, from page 1

“As families become more rooted in their Jewishness, they’ll be motivated to initiate Jewish family activities at home and ultimately consider membership in Sherith Israel’s synagogue community,” adds Nancy. “Young San Francisco parents are starved for community, support and tradition. We can deliver this. The program model we’ll use has been successful across North America.”

**Sherith Israel Littles begins in July and will be coordinated by a part-time program director.** In addition, two part-time “peer connectors”—CSI parents of young children—will guide program participants and help them make connections within the community. We’ll also build partnerships with bookstores, our sister Reform synagogue Congregation Emanu-El and other organizations like the San Francisco Jewish Baby Network. Surveys in May of 2019 and 2020 will track changes in parents’ attitudes about their participation in Jewish life.

Sherith Israel member **Beth Cousens**, associate vice president for Jewish education and engagement at the Jewish Federations of North America, helped write the grant. The mother of two children under four, **Milo** and **Sela**, Beth notes that becoming a parent is a time of tremendous human need for information, for new friends whose life fits your new life and for answers to big questions.

“Judaism and the Jewish community can answer the needs of new parents. Jewish wisdom offers a great context for exploring the big questions,” comments Beth. “Sherith Israel is like a family. With our new Sherith Israel Littles program, people who feel even a little bit Jewish will have the opportunity to become part of this community, this family.”

Nancy agrees. “All our educational efforts are about bringing children *and parents* closer to Judaism,” she says. “This grant will enable us to build personal relationships with many young families and help them find a rewarding place in Jewish life.” ■



**CREATING COMMUNITY:** Beth Cousens, seen at Camp Tawonga with her husband, Joel Aufrecht, and children Milo (3) and Sela (1), is committed to creating opportunities for young Jewish families to engage with the Jewish community. Beth helped write the grant proposal for Sherith Israel Littles, a program reaching out to young Jewish families in San Francisco and helping them build Jewish community connections. The program is funded by a two-year grant from the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties. *(Photo courtesy of Beth Cousens)*

**SITY IN LA-LA-LAND:** Sherith Israel’s teens spent Martin Luther King Day weekend in Los Angeles exploring the Southland’s iconic Jewish sites, including the Skirball Cultural Center and the Museum of Tolerance. The 19 seventh-to-tenth-graders plus six staff and adults celebrated Havdalah with their counterparts from Wilshire Boulevard Temple. **Cantor David Frommer** joined the group for their day at Disneyland.







# TIKKUN OLAM CORNER

Sherith Israel's Isaiah window proclaims our commitment to social action: *"Feed the hungry, clothe the naked and shelter the homeless."* While our building talks the talk, a dedicated group of lay leaders is making sure we continue to walk the walk. **Stacy Passman**, co-chair of CSI's social action committee, sees our Isaiah window as "our mission statement"—the biblical directives to care for those in need and to treat the stranger as ourselves as a "core part of Judaism."

For more than a quarter-century, feeding the hungry has maintained a key role in our social-action agenda. HaMotzi involves hundreds of volunteers in providing weekly meals to two homeless shelters. Our Chicken Soupers volunteers provide meals and prepared food to homebound seniors and critically ill individuals.

## IMMIGRATION AT THE FOREFRONT

Following the lead of former CSI rabbi **Julie Saxe-Taller**, Stacy and her co-chair, **Karen Alschuler**, have broadened our social-action work to include a multi-pronged approach to immigration. We have partnered with Faith in Action, an interfaith consortium of faith communities, to accompany people who are subject to deportation to their hearings. Over the past several months, CSI members have joined volunteers from other faith communities at deportation hearings to demonstrate community support for individuals threatened with deportation or incarceration. At least one immigration judge cited that support as a reason for releasing the immigrant without posting bond.

The social action committee also continues working on a plan to declare Sherith Israel a "sanctuary congregation." Following the committee's initial presentation to the Sherith Israel Board of Trustees last summer, it continues to develop a proposal with the goal of making a recommendation to the board at its February meeting. Stacy emphasizes that the proposal will not include housing people at CSI. "We don't have the facilities to do that here."

**STANDING UP FOR THE STRANGER:** Sherith Israel's social action committee has thrown itself into the fight to protect immigrants from deportation. In late January, **Bill Shore** (left), **Janet Parker**, **Karen Alschuler**, **Rena Pasick**, **Rabbi Jessica Graf** (with **Zac Graf**), executive director **Gordon Gladstone**, **Cantor David Frommer**, **Helaine Weinstein** and **Steve Garber** (not pictured: **Lisa Erdberg**, **Maurice Kamins** and **Leslie Rabine**) were among 250 participants at Let My People Stay, a Jewish community protest of ICE's deportation policies.

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The committee also wants to increase Sherith Israel's involvement in legislative advocacy regarding immigration issues, particularly at the state level. Stacy anticipates that Sherith Israel will partner with Faith in Action and Reform CA, a group of Reform congregations from throughout California.

## GETTING MORE MEMBERS INVOLVED

Karen and Stacy are excited by the committee's growth—the mailing list now contains more than 50 people—and want to get even more people involved. "It would be great to have people who are available for different situations," says Stacy. If you're interested in helping plan Sherith Israel's social-action work or in participating in accompaniment or other actions, contact Stacy, [spassman@gmail.com](mailto:spassman@gmail.com), or Karen, [karen.alschuler@perkinswill.com](mailto:karen.alschuler@perkinswill.com). The committee's next meeting will be March 8 at 6 pm.

## JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY

Congregation Sherith Israel hosted a fun and successful training and orientation for Jewish Coalition for Literacy tutors in January. Among the new trainees was CSI member **Steve Garber**, who will soon work with lucky readers in a San Francisco public school. For more information about JCL and becoming a reading tutor, contact Janet Parker, 415.282.1495 or [jparkersf@gmail.com](mailto:jparkersf@gmail.com).

## CHANUKAH BOOK DRIVE

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Chanukah book drive. Special thanks to **Jane Cutler**, who gave us some of her own beautifully written creations; to the **Burton-Eltinge** family, who stopped off at a bookshop in Truckee while on a ski trip; and to **Apollo Dillman**, who always passes on his outgrown treasures so other children can share his joy of reading. ■



## SHABBAT SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY EVENINGS

**6 pm:** Kabbalat Shabbat services  
**7:15 pm:** Kiddush and oneg  
 Join us to welcome Shabbat.

**Because of the first night of Passover, there will be no Friday evening service on March 30.**

### MUSICAL SHABBAT

**First Friday of each month**

**5 pm:** Shabbat Mishpachah dinner for families with children 5 and under  
**6 pm:** Services  
**7:15 pm:** Oneg and catered Shabbat dinner following services

Join Rabbi Jessica Graf, Cantor David Frommer, music director Jonathan Dimmock, Koleynu—our congregational choir—and visiting musicians as we fill our dome with music.

**March 2:** Musical Shabbat services will take a break so we can hold our Hardly Strictly Purim celebration (see Purim box for details).

**April 6:** Cantor Natalie Young

**May 4:** Instead of our usual Musical Shabbat dinner, we are honoring Rabbi Martin Weiner and Cantor Martin Feldman with a festive birthday oneg following services.

✓ **Shabbat Mishpachah 5 pm family dinner:** \$18 per member family; \$25 for nonmembers.

✓ **Musical Shabbat congregational dinner:** Enjoy a kosher chicken or vegetarian option. Children under 5, free; 5–12 years, \$18; ages 13 and up: \$25

### LATE MINYAN

**Cantor David Frommer**  
**March 9, April 13, May 11**  
**7:30 pm**

Looking for something different on Shabbat? Check out our musical minyan in the round, beneath the majestic dome of our historic sanctuary. No microphones. No instruments. Just singing. We'd love to hear you there! Information: Cantor Frommer at [dfrommer@sherithisrael.org](mailto:dfrommer@sherithisrael.org).

### SATURDAY MORNINGS

**9:15 am:** Torah Study with bagels and lox, coffee and tea.  
**10:30 am:** *Sh'ma Koleynu* Shabbat morning services—intimate lay-led services using our *Mishkan T'filah* prayerbook. Includes chanting or reading from our Torah scrolls.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Avodah and Special Shabbats

#### WHY JUDAISM MATTERS

**Rabbi John Rosove**  
**Friday, February 23**

**6 pm:** Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
**7:30 pm:** Dinner, talk and discussion  
 Rabbi John Rosove, senior rabbi at Temple Israel of Hollywood and a former associate rabbi at CSI, discusses his new book, *Why Judaism Matters: Letters of a Liberal Rabbi to His Children and the Millennial Generation*.

✓ **Dinner:** Children under 5, free; 5–12 years, \$18; ages 13 and up: \$25.

#### 28 DAYS: THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING

**Fred Rosenbaum**  
**Friday, April 13**

**6 pm:** During Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
 Learn more about the brave battle waged by young Jewish men and women to bring honor and dignity to their people in the midst of catastrophe.

*We are exploring a sneak peek of the Yad Vashem exhibit following Fred Rosenbaum's talk. Watch your email.*



**Annual Rabbi Martin S. Weiner Lecture**

**Rabbi Norman J. Cohen**

#### CONFRONTING PHARAOH: MOSES'S POWER STRUGGLE

**Friday, March 23**

**6 pm:** Kabbalat Shabbat Services  
 ✓ **7:15 pm:** Dinner—  
 \$10 members; \$13 nonmembers

**8 pm:** Lecture and Q&A—  
 free for all

Dr. Cohen serves as Professor Emeritus of Midrash at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

*Rabbi Cohen's visit is made possible by the Rabbi Martin S. Weiner Educational Fund. The fund supports educational programs for Sherith Israel and our community. Contributions are most welcome.*



#### SHOAH: HOW WAS IT HUMANLY POSSIBLE?

**Third week in April**

Exhibit staged by The American Society for Yad Vashem, West Coast Region, commemorates Yom HaShoah.

First introduced in 2015 at the United Nations to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, this exhibition in San Francisco and one in Los Angeles in January represent inaugural West Coast events.

✓ **Free of charge, RSVP required:**  
[programs@sherithisrael.org](mailto:programs@sherithisrael.org).

**SAVE THE DATE: Friday, May 4, 6 pm**  
**BIRTHDAY SHABBAT FOR**  
**RABBI MARTIN WEINER AND CANTOR MARTIN FELDMAN**  
 Honor our two great emeriti at this special service.



**✓ = REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Three ways to register:

1. **ONLINE** [www.sherithisrael.org/programs](http://www.sherithisrael.org/programs)
2. **EMAIL** [programs@sherithisrael.org](mailto:programs@sherithisrael.org)
3. **PHONE** 415.346.1720

## Adult

### ONGOING BEGINNING HEBREW FOR ADULTS

**Sundays, 9:45–10:45 am**

**Fred Nervo**

*Fee: \$50 per semester, includes books; scholarships available. Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, 415.346.1720, x28, or [nsgomes@sherithisrael.org](mailto:nsgomes@sherithisrael.org).*

### ✓ WALKING IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

**Tuesdays, 7:30–9 pm**

*A series on death and mourning presented by Lehrhaus Judaica. Information and registration: [lehrhaus.org](http://lehrhaus.org).*

**Feb. 13: Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan:**

*Dying/Death/Burial: What Jews Do*

**Feb. 27: Rabbi Elliot Kukla:**

*The Art of Comfort*

**March 6: Rabbi Lawrence Raphael:**

*Mourning and Grief: After the Death*

**March 13: Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan:**

*When Life Is Over: Where Is Your Soul?*

*Jewish Perspectives on the Afterlife*

### ✓ PRIME TIME CLUB

**Monthly lunch and learn**

**Second Fridays, noon–2 pm**

*For congregants and guest 65 (or getting there) and older*

**Feb. 9: Roslyn Sholin:** *The Museum of You—What's on Display?*

**March 9: Rabbi Irvin Ungar:** *Freedom Illuminated: Understanding The Szyk Haggadah*

**April 13: Bill Shore, MD:** *Medicare for All*

**May 11: Arje Shaw and Noa Levy:**

*Broadway in the Afternoon*

### BOOK CLUB

**Mondays, 7 pm**

**Feb. 26: *Judas*** by Amos Oz; facilitated by Julie Lekach House

**March 26: *Summer in Shiraz*** by Dalia Sofer; facilitated by Jan Maisel

**April 23: *The Secret Chord*** by Geraldine Brooks; facilitated by Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

**May 21: *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?*** by Roz Chast; facilitated by Cathy Taylor

### HAMOTZI & CHICKEN SOUPERS

**HaMotzi: Sundays**

**9:30 am–12:30 pm**

**Chicken Soupers: First Sunday of the month, noon–4 pm**  
**February 11, March 4, April 1, May 6**

### ✓ SHERITH ISRAEL'S ANNUAL DAY AT THE FOOD BANK

**Sunday, April 1**

**9–11 am or noon–2 pm**

Working a shift at the SF Marin Food Bank is one of the best ways to give back to the community. Sherith Israel friends and family over the age of 4 are welcome. Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, 415.346.1720, x28, or [nsgomes@sherithisrael.org](mailto:nsgomes@sherithisrael.org).

### CHESED

We support one another during times of need, celebration or transition. The Chesed Committee invites everyone to participate, sustaining the warmth and inclusiveness that we value at Sherith Israel.

*If you or someone you know in the congregation can benefit from support, please contact Natalie Weizman, [nweizman@sherithisrael.org](mailto:nweizman@sherithisrael.org). If you can offer an occasional visit, meal, or ride, please contact Janet Parker, [jparkersf@gmail.com](mailto:jparkersf@gmail.com).*

### KOLEYNU CHOIR

Sings at selected First Friday services, holiday celebrations and during the High Holidays. Rehearsals for the High Holiday repertoire begin May 29 and take place on Tuesday evenings from 7–8:30 pm. No musical experience required. Cantor David Frommer, 415.346.1720, x19, or [dfrommer@sherithisrael.org](mailto:dfrommer@sherithisrael.org).

## Young Families

### ✓ SHABBAT MISHPACHAH FRIDAY DINNERS

**March 2 (Purim), April 6, May 4, 5 pm**

Enjoy dinner before Musical Shabbat with other families with very young children. Shabbat Mishpachah family dinner: \$18 per member family; \$25 for nonmembers.

### ✓ PASSOVER MISHPACHAH

**Saturday, March 24, 10:30 am–noon**

Families with young children get ready for Passover. Sing the songs. Taste the food. And celebrate Shabbat with Cantor David Frommer and Rabbi Jessica Graf. RSVP so we know you are coming.

## Religious School

### SAVE THE DATE CONFIRMATION

**Saturday, May 19**  
**10:30 am**



## PURIM AND PASSOVER

### ✓ HARDLY STRICTLY PURIM

**Friday, March 2, 7:30–10 pm**

Celebration and concert in the sanctuary. *Megillah* reading with guest Cantor Jamie Marx performing selections from *Esther: A Persian Musical*, a Purim-spiel parody of *Hamilton*.

Musical performance with the Hellman family band, *Marco and the Polos*. Food, drinks and games for the whole family.

### PURIM SPIEL

**Sunday, March 4, 10–10:30 am**

**Sanctuary**

Enjoy a *Megillah* reading, Purim spiel and singing before the carnival.

### PURIM MISHPACHAH

**Sunday, March 4, 10:30 am–noon**

**Bart Hall**

Celebrate Purim with little Esthers and Mordecais in a safe fun environment for toddlers. Our Purim party for young families is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Jewish Baby Network, PJ Library and Interfaith Family.

### PURIM CARNIVAL

**Sunday, March 4, 10:30 am–1 pm**

**Newman Hall**

Come one, come all for a costumed Purim fair complete with games, a parade, hamentaschen, a raffle and featured performances by Ash K., Northern California's funniest magician, and the amazing accordion and songs of Duckmandu!

*Tickets for food and games: \$20 for 50 tickets or 50 cents a ticket. All purchases benefit Sherith Israel Religious School and Sherith Israel Temple Youth (SITY).*

### ✓ CONGREGATIONAL SECOND-NIGHT SEDER

**Saturday, March 31, 5 pm**

What if you sat down to Passover Seder and your plate was empty? Once again, the festive CSI family Seder is also the congregation's annual—and only—fundraiser for our Chicken Soupers and HaMotzi programs, which feed homebound seniors, people with chronic illnesses, and adults and children at the Women's Shelter of San Francisco and the Compass Family Center. Our wonderful volunteers, who sustain these critical programs year after year, will cater our delicious, traditional meal.

*Children under 5, free; 5–12 years, \$20; ages 13 and up, \$50. You can also be a sponsor for \$613, which entitles you to a table of 10. Or, you can buy a seat for someone who cannot afford to come otherwise.*

*Recording the sounds of Sherith Israel*

### PROFILE: JON KEILSON AND BECCA FELSENTHAL

Last year, just before the High Holidays, every Sherith Israel family received a CD of Cantor David Frommer singing the High Holiday liturgy. Without the help of sound engineer and congregant Jon Keilson, that CD might never have come to be. Jon recalls the night of the recording: The only light illuminating the darkened sanctuary seeped through the colorful stained-glass windows. Sherith Israel's historic synagogue was empty, except for three shadowy figures.

Then the emotional *Avinu Malkeinu* and other beloved prayers from the High Holidays filled the synagogue from the mahogany *bimah* to the plush balconies to our soaring dome. Cantor Frommer sang these traditional melodies and innovative selections for the Days of Awe as Jonathan Dimmock, CSI's music director, expertly commanded CSI's magnificent 1904 Murray Harris organ.

Listening intently, Jon made sure the sound levels and microphones preserved the moment. "It was powerful," he remembers. "No one else was in the room except for me, Jonathan and David. David is a very good vocalist, as Jonathan is with the keys. I could sit back, hit record, and listen."

The remaining tracks and instrumental parts were taped in the San Francisco home of Jon, his

wife Becca Felsenthal, and their baby Judah. Jon mixed, edited, and mastered the High Holiday recordings into a professional-quality CD, "*Nashuva*" (Let Us Return).

**Producing "The Synagogue Sessions," as the CD is informally known, was moving and challenging, Jon says.** He graduated from the respected Berklee College of Music in Boston and records his own material, but he had no experience with organ music. Sensitive microphones perched 50 feet above the sanctuary floor were needed to accomplish the task.

"Jon made the CD happen," Cantor David says. "I was really excited that we were able to capture the organ and not have to settle for a synthetic organ sound. What's incredible about singing in the sanctuary is you feel all of the history. We sing *Kol Nidre*, the same *Kol Nidre* worshippers heard 112 years ago."

Two more sanctuary recording sessions are planned for a CD of Shabbat music. This time, all the musicians—vocal, piano, organ, strings, percussion and woodwind—will perform together live. After that, there's talk of recording music for Jewish festivals and lifecycle events.

**Music is not the only link that Jon and Becca have with Sherith Israel.** They and Judah have found a welcoming community, one especially open to worshippers like Becca, who have only one Jewish parent or chose Judaism later in life.

Becca grew up in Wilmette, Illinois, observing Jewish holidays with her father's side of the

family. She and Jon were married by a rabbi. But because her mother is not Jewish, Becca felt it was important to become, as she puts it, "officially" Jewish. Under the mentorship of Helaine Weinstein, Becca completed Sherith Israel's Intro to Judaism course and went through conversion, attending the *mikvah* when she was eight months pregnant. Jon waited outside that day with Cantor David, who filled the *mikvah* with song and prayer.

"It was an emotional, spiritually significant experience," Becca says. "Then, to be able to stand before the congregation at Shabbat and have that moment celebrated was really wonderful."

"It was her own journey," says Jon, who grew up in a Conservative synagogue in Hewlett, New York. He is impressed by Sherith Israel's inclusiveness. "You can come from any background, and people want to hear your story and welcome you."

**Now, Becca and Jon are connecting with other young Sherith Israel families they met in the Intro to Judaism class, as well as with the larger CSI community.** It's quite frankly not what the couple envisioned when they moved to San Francisco from New York in 2014 for career opportunities. Jon is a director of product at TuneIn, which provides internet radio and podcasts. Becca is an attorney specializing in intellectual property. "If you had told me I'd be living across the country and would be involved in my local synagogue, I probably would have laughed," Becca says.

As partners and parents, they are carrying Jewish traditions that have passed from generation to generation for centuries. Fortunately, Becca adds, "Sherith Israel makes it very easy for us to be involved. The clergy, staff and administration do a really good job of reaching out. It has made the transition seamless." ■



**A FAMILY AFFAIR:** Jon Keilson, Becca Felsenthal and son Judah (with Oliver) enjoy their connection to Sherith Israel.

(Photo courtesy of Becca Felsenthal and Jon Keilson)



# CSI

## news nosh

**S**tep right up: **Arnie and Nancy Davis's** Davis Foot Comfort Center, which has been helping people stay active and comfortable since 1977, was honored by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors at City Hall in October for 40 years of service to the community...

**I**n January, City Hall also honored **David Bolaffi**, officially chief usher at Sherith Israel and unofficially the guy-who-gets-things-done. He received a 2017 San Francisco Neighborhood Empowerment Network Award, celebrating the work of residents and organizations who make San Francisco an amazing place to live...

**M**azel tov to the **Sperber family** on **Doris's** 110th birthday. When Doris was born in Brooklyn, Teddy Roosevelt was president and Henry Ford had not yet invented the Model T. The family and congregation celebrated at CSI in January, and the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *J.* featured her milestone. It's definitely time for a *Shehecheyanu*...

**T**he *San Francisco Chronicle* also featured **Linda Ayres-Frederick**, whose Phoenix Theatre has risen and risen again from the ashes of potential real-estate displacement. Over its more than 30 years, the Phoenix Theatre has moved from SOMA to Geary Street, and now to the Native Sons building on Mason Street. Last fall the theater secured legacy status from the city, which provides rent subsidies for San Francisco's longstanding cultural organizations...

**L**ast September, **Rabbi Jessica Graf** led Shabbat blessings at an exciting pre-performance Shabbat gathering for "the next generation of Jewish adults" at the San Francisco Symphony. Co-sponsored by Reboot, the event was organized by **Adam Swig** and our very own **Tanya Schevitz**...

**I**n December, **Rabbi Graf, Cantor David Frommer** and **Steve Olson** attended the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial conference in Boston with 5,000 other Reform Jews! Cantor David also attended the board meeting of the American Conference of Cantors before returning to lead Shabbat services here at home...

**K**udos to **Adrienne Kristine**, who has belonged to an online Facebook running group (You vs. the Year) for the past two years. In 2016, her goal was running 1,016 kilometers; in 2017, 1,017 kilometers. Last year she finished with a total of 2,777 kilometers, or 1,726 miles, which earned her a medal and t-shirt. What makes this achievement so special is that in 2012 Adrienne, who sings with the Koleynu choir, could barely walk...

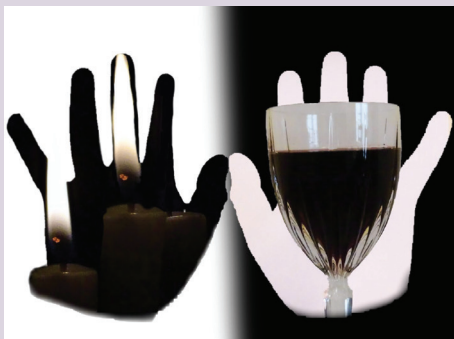
**E**llen and **Jon Benjamin** must just be *kvelling* at the reception Jon's daughter **Chloe** is getting for her new novel, *The Immortalists*. She initiated her nationwide book tour at Green Apple Books in San Francisco and recently appeared on "Late Night with Seth Meyers"...

**M**azel tov to **Bob Sockolov**. In addition to being part-owner of the San Francisco Giants, he is also an accomplished painter. Recently he sold a number of his paintings to benefit the Institute on Aging, one of his favorite charitable causes. Good show, Bob...

**F**or more than a dozen years, Sherith Israel has cooked for and served meals at Compass Family Center, The Women's Place and the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter over the Christmas holidays. Thanks to the following people for helping in 2017: **Zach, Caroline & Ben Abrams, Shane Adler, Kathryn Amenta, Ruth Auerbach, Marilyn Berlin, Jim Blattner, Norm Brand, Al & Ardis Breslauer, the Burton/Eltinge family, the David/Loewenberg family, John Dellar, Julie Driscoll & Christina Jefferson, Lisa Erdberg, the Etlin/Gordon family, Jeri & Van Hart, Blanche Kahn, Monique Kohler, the Linder family, Mary Montella & Jeff Newman, Janet Parker, Anne Peskoe, the Recht/Appel family, Bill & Shira Shore, the Yturri/Sigel family, Wendi & Milo Stern** and **Karen Zelman**. Special thanks to **Joanie Silverstein** for providing the turkeys! ■

*By the News Nosh, aka Ellen Newman.*

*Please send bits and bites of gossip to [ellennewman@earthlink.net](mailto:ellennewman@earthlink.net). Be sure to put "News Nosh" in the subject line.*



**ALSO KVELLING:** **Louise Greenspan** and **Ben Barrett**. Their son **Jacob Barrett's** photo illustration "Hands on Shabbat" (left) is on exhibit at the Jewish Community Library through February 18. Jacob's piece was part of the Shabbat Design Challenge, a program of the Contemporary Jewish Museum and Jewish LearningWorks. A Brandeis fifth-grader, Jacob chose his family's Friday night dinners for his theme. To create the piece, one of 18 selected for special recognition, Jacob combined images of Shabbat items—candlesticks, a Kiddush cup and challah—with photos of his hands to express his experience of Shabbat.

# PASSAGES

*A hearty mazel tov to each of our families celebrating the following simchas:*

## NEW MEMBERS

Elise Alschuler  
Rachel Alschuler  
Anna Ayzatski  
Joel, Teresa & Braydon Backman  
Samantha Behrman, David Rosenberg & Maxwell Behrman-Rosenberg  
Eran Belo & Melissa Narvaez  
Julia Bernstein & Robert Schwartz  
Felicia Borkovi  
Sharon Carman  
Conrad & Sandra Donner  
Inga Fischer  
William Goldfarb, Heidi Adams & Serena Adams Goldfarb

Arnold & Jane Kahn  
Judith Kahn  
Seth, Mina, Ben & Binnie Kenvin  
Bruce & Pamela Krell  
Todd, Iris & Uma Krieger  
Michael & Jackson Lauer  
Judith Leff  
Heather Schuman Mutch, Chris, Olivia & Alexandra Mutch  
Rebecca, Jason & Sawyer Pan  
Caroline, Jeffrey, Sadie, Sawyer & Grayson Poland  
Roslyn Rhodes  
Arthur & Gayle Rosenberg  
Erica, Andrew, Seth & Aaron Rosenblatt

Aika Sengirayeva  
Lissa Schuman Thiele  
Mike Vladimer & Sarah Freilich  
David, Denise & Sara Weinstein  
Zachariah, Lindsey & Aveynn Weinstein

## CHOOSING JUDAISM

Aly Ebzery Biderman

## NEW BABIES

Liam Elhanan Biderman, son of Aly Ebzery Biderman & Nir Biderman  
Leo James Blatteis, son of Christy & Ben Blatteis  
Mirielle Simone Schwartz, daughter of Julia Bernstein & Robert Schwartz

*May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.*

Marcia Lee Berniker, mother of Shelley Berniker and mother-in-law of Erik Shepherd  
Gail Breuer, mother of Rachel Breuer and mother-in-law of Michael Feldman  
Joanne Fabian, aunt of Phaedra Bell, Rosie Bell and Joseph Dohan  
Arthur B Gauss, husband of Mimi Gauss and father of Ilana and Ari Gauss  
Solomon Mortimer Geist, father of Alan Geist and father-in-law of Shellie Wiener  
Patrick B. Gomes, brother of August Gomes and brother-in-law of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Lawrence Jacobson, husband of Jonell Jacobson and father of Heather Faller and Brooke Jackson  
Lucas Johnson, brother of Ana Dillman and brother-in-law of Japheth Dillman  
Frances Katz, mother of Jeffrey Katz and mother-in-law of Anne Katz  
Rosalie Lazor, mother of Nadine Koss  
Jean Cohen Manesberg, mother of Sally Flanzer and mother-in-law of Jerry Flanzer  
Miriam Newman, mother of David Newman and mother-in-law of Ellen Newman

Lucille Rosenfeld, mother of Andrew Rosenfeld and mother-in-law of Dara Rosenfeld  
Mary Agnes Thornber, grandmother of Ana Dillman and grandmother-in-law of Japheth Dillman  
Nancy Golan Thornburgh, mother of Linda Fries and mother-in-law of Bob Fries  
Etya Tsipenyuk, mother of Melly Beygel  
Esfir Zabryanskaya, wife of Yakov Kagan, mother of Aleksandr Kagan and mother-in-law of Marina Smotkina

# DONATIONS

*Includes donations from August 1– December 31, 2017*

*Todah rabbah — Thank you all for your generous support of Congregation Sherith Israel.*

## ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Nancy & Arnie Davis in honor of Dorothy Auerbach's 85th birthday  
Hilda Isaacson in memory of Jack H. Lazarus  
Erica & Andrew Rosenblatt in memory of Rivoli Golden  
Dale Silver in honor of Hilda Isaacson

## CHICKEN SOUPERS/HAMOTZI FUND

Marilyn Allen in memory of Nadine Koss's mother  
Hal & Dorothy Auerbach in memory of Rebecca Rice  
The Kenneth S. Baron family in memory of Bernice Berman  
Melanie Bartfeld in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes  
Ardis & Al Breslauer in memory of Bertha Feldman and in honor of the San Francisco Interfaith Council Prayer Breakfast  
Michael Ehrenberg  
Stephen Garber & Rena Pasick in memory of Evelyn Garber  
August Gomes & Nancy Sheftel-Gomes in honor of Bruce Thom  
Julie Lekach House & Stanley Lekach in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes  
Hilda Isaacson in memory of Jack H. Lazarus  
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Jaffe in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes  
Charles Katz in memory of Blanche Katz  
Jennifer Light

Ellie & Jerry Mednick in memory of Charles & Eva Mednick and Max Morganstern  
Robert & Diane Neuhaus in memory of Elza Neuhaus  
Boris & Zina Okun in memory of Nina & Bayler Okun  
Janet Parker & Chris Focht in honor of Allison Green  
Stacy Passman & Daniel LaPushin  
Margaret & Melvin Scheinman in memory of Louis Landesman  
Joanie Silverstein  
Jean Wright in honor of the San Francisco Interfaith Council Prayer Breakfast

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND

Dana Doron  
Brittany Erdan

## LABE LOUNGE FUND

The Honorable & Mrs. Stuart R. Pollak in memory of Randy Karsh and Matt Whittaker

## MITZVAH FUND

Gary & Ingrid Apter in memory of Edythe Apter  
Shoshana Chana Asher in honor of Cantor Feldman  
Hal & Dorothy Auerbach in memory of Sadie Rice and Harry Greenfeld  
Barbara Austin  
Sofya Barbalat in memory of Luba & Ovsey Barbalat

Ellen & Jon Benjamin in memory of Miriam Newman  
Jim Blattner in memory of Art Gauss  
Janice Bolaffi in memory of Estelle C. Lerner  
Lindsay & Warren Braunig in honor of CSI staff  
Vera & Felix Braynin in memory of Irina Borokhovich  
Germaine H. Brennan in memory of Ricky & Marti Brennan  
Barry & Millie Chauser in memory of Dr. Arthur Gauss  
Dan Dohan & Phaedra Bell in honor of CSI staff  
Craig Etlin & Erin Gordon in honor of CSI staff  
Arthur & Marilee Fenn in memory of Ted Fenn and Marty Misrack  
Michael Gaines & Betsy Wolkin  
Janet Gallin & Ted Kelter in memory of Gloria Kelter  
Miriam Gauss in memory of Miriam Newman  
David & Marcia Glassel in memory of Helen & Al Sider  
August Gomes & Nancy Sheftel-Gomes in honor of Gale Gottlieb  
Diane Green in memory of Miriam Newman  
Anthony & Sherrie Groshong in memory of Charlotte & David Stern  
Marcia D. Gruskin in memory of Art Gauss and in honor of the Chesed Committee  
James Hurwitz in memory of Frances Hurwitz  
Jerry Hurwitz & Susan Borkin in memory of Art Gauss and George Hurwitz



**Jody & Jim Hurwitz**

**Hilda Isaacson** in memory of Art Gauss and in honor of Merle Kovtun

**Aleksandr Kagan & Marina Smotkina** in memory of Zoya & Boris Kagan

**Jeffrey & Anne Katz** in memory of Frances Katz

**Evan & Alicia Kletter** in honor of CSI staff

**Nadine Koss** in memory of Irving Koss

**Arlene & Steve Krieger** in memory of Miriam Newman and Gertrude Epp

**Muriel Leland (z"l)**

**Joan Libman & Jim Coughlin** in honor of Julie Lekach House

**Marie & Stuart Macomber** in honor of Michelle Levenson

**Amy & Ben Mains** in honor of CSI staff

**Erik & Denise Migdail** in honor of CSI staff

**Teddy & Kay Miller** in honor of Michael Miller

**Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman & family** in memory of William Harmon and in honor of CSI staff

**Ernest & Eva Newbrun** in honor of Ella Barrett's bat mitzvah

**David & Ellen Newman** in memory of Barbara Diamond and Arthur Gauss

**Boris & Zina Okun** in memory of Dvorsha Khaet

**Dolores Okun** in memory of Nina Okun and Dvorsha Khaet

**Stephen & Laura Olson** in memory of Ruth Olson

**Stacy Passman & Daniel LaPushin** in honor of CSI staff

**Gail Phillips & Steve Sachs** in memory of Art Gauss

**Rabbi Larry & Terrie Raphael** in memory of Marion, Leah, Zeld, Keva, Mary & Sam Wine, David & Florence Hirschberg and Gertrude, Max, Irene, Harry & Clara Sladnick

**Roslyn Rhodes** in memory of Solomon Samberg and in honor of Dorothy Auerbach's 85th birthday

**David Robins** in memory of Ruth & Irving Robins

**Mark, Gina, Rachel & Gabriel Rosenberg** in memory of Sam & Eva Rosenberg

**Agnes Rothblatt** in honor of Janet Parker

**Margaret & Melvin Scheinman** in memory of Adele Landesman Krausz

**Frances & Rachel Schreiber** in memory of Merle Ludwig Schreiber Eaton and in honor of Rabbi Larry Raphael

**Lynn & Paul Sedway** in honor of CSI staff

**James Seff & Margene Fudenna**

**Sima Shandrovskaya** in memory of Khaya Faynberg

**Leonard & Elayne Shapiro** in honor of Gale Gottlieb's birthday and her enormous contribution to the work of Sherith Israel

**Sharon Beth, Charlotte, Shanky, Sherry & Vicky** in honor of Susan Shavin's birthday

**The Sherman Ress family** in memory of Ron Laupheimer's dear sister Evie

**William & Shira Shore** in memory of Bernice & Dave Aks

**Roberta Silverstein & Steve Sperber** in memory of Anita Silverstein and Reuben Sperber

**Mira, Noah & Charley Stern** in memory of Deborah Weinstein-Stern

**Cathy Taylor** in memory of Gloria Michel and in honor of Nancy and Nia

**Steven & Sharon Wasserman** in memory of Anna & Allan Wasserman

**Vladimir & Julia Zagatsky** in memory of Irina & Michael Rosenberg

**Svetlana Zbarakh**

**Karen Zelmar** in honor of CSI staff

**Katie & Lucas Zier** in honor of CSI staff

**Lonnie Zwerin & Frank Mainzer** in memory of Paul J. Elgart

## **MUSIC FUND**

**Todd David & Tiffany Loewenberg**

**Nancy Pincus Davis** in memory of my beloved dad, William B. Pincus, MD

**Henry Frommer** in honor of David Frommer

**Miriam Gauss**

**Drs. John & Deborah Greenspan** in honor of Ella Barrett's bat mitzvah

**Marcia D. Gruskin** in memory of Rose, Martin & Floyd Gruskin

**Stephen & Laura Olson** in memory of Irving Olson

**Rabbi Larry & Terrie Raphael**

**Agnes Rothblatt** in honor of the High Holiday music

**Greg & Roz Tolson**

**David & Kay Werdegard** in memory of Julia W. Elting

## **ONEG FUND**

**Hal & Dorothy Auerbach** in memory of Matthew Auerbach

**Jim Blattner** in honor of Hilda Isaacson

**Jerry Hurwitz & Susan Borkin** in honor of Hilda Isaacson

**Christina Jefferson & Julie Driscoll** in honor of Hilda Isaacson

**Jacalyn Kornblatt**

**Alan Mirviss & family** in honor of Diane chanting from the Torah

**Sue Pearson** in memory of Art Gauss

**David & Carolyn Perlstein** in honor of Hilda Isaacson

**Agnes Rothblatt** in honor of her 80th birthday

**Adam Young** in honor of the 60th wedding anniversary of Gay & Bernard Young

## **RABBI RAPHAEL'S**

### **DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Jack Anderson** in memory of Florence Anderson

**Tasia Bartell** in memory of Michael Melvin

**Nancy Lervin** in memory of Michael W. Lervin

**Melvin Wasserman** in memory of Ida Zeff Wasserman

## **RABBI ZIMMERMAN GRAF'S**

### **DISCRETIONARY FUND**

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**Todd David & Tiffany Loewenberg**

**Jeffrey & Nicole Fessel** in memory of Jack Fessel

**Linda Fries**

**Miriam Gauss**

**Drs. John & Deborah Greenspan** in memory of Nathan Greenspan and in honor of Ella Barrett's bat mitzvah

**Janet Gallin Kelter & Theodore Kelter**

**Andrew Kluger** in memory of Mildred Kluger

**Alison Miller & Ken Shen**

**Muffie & Les Miller**

**Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman & family** in memory of Rose & Deborah Mirviss (Alan's sister) and Michael Loring (Alan's Great Uncle)

**Stephen & Laura Olson** in memory of Irving Olson

**Audrey & Bob Sockolov** in memory of Jennie Sockolov

**Nikol Stein**

**David & Kay Werdegard** in memory of Julia W. Elting

**Alan & Monica Zimmerman** in memory of Julio Koppl

## **RABBI WEINER'S EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND**

**Tengiz & Nani Iosebashvili** in memory of Abraham Iosebashvili

**David Levinson**

**Jesse Rosenthal** in honor of Eric Safire

**Jenya Rubinshteyn & Yaroslav Faybishenko** in honor of Rabbi Martin Weiner on the occasion of the naming of their son Zachary Benjamin

**Ethan Faybishenko**

**Stephen Weiner & Norm Dito** in honor of Sid Berenstein's 75th birthday

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

**Jeremy & Jenny Benjamin**

**David & Jane Blatteis** in memory of Louise Blatteis Brownell & Samuel Adams Blatteis

**Craig Etlin & Erin Gordon**

**Jeffrey & Nicole Fessel**

**Michael & Valerie Flaherman** in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

**Mikiko Huang & Marshall Stoller** in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

**Nadine Koss**

**Boris & Nellie Levine**

**Ruth Morris** in memory of Erwin & Sydel Book

**Henry Safrit** in honor of Michael Gaines & Betsy Wolkin

## **SEISMIC RETROFIT CAMPAIGN**

**Zachary Adelson**

**Jack Anderson**

**Patricia Axelrod** in memory of Alan Axelrod, Carl Hoffman and Judge Albert Axelrod

**The Kenneth S. Baron family** in memory of George Berman and William Baron

**David & Jane Blatteis**

**Warren & Lindsay Braunig**

**Ardis & Al Breslauer**

**Lisa Brown & Daniel Handler**

**Drs. Claire & James Davis**

**Dan Dohan & Phaedra Bell**

**Joseph & Judi Epstein** in honor of Lynn Sedway

**Craig Etlin & Erin Gordon**

**Philip & Velia Frost**

**Michael Gaines & Betsy Wolkin**

**Steven Goldberg & Sandee Blechman**

**August Gomes & Nancy Sheftel-Gomes**

**Julie Lekach House & Stanley Lekach**

**Thierry & Valerie Jahan**

**Evan, Alicia, Moses & Talia Kletter**

**Todd Krieger**

**Joan Libman & Jim Coughlin**

**David & Lida Morgenstein**

**Boris & Zina Okun** in honor of Aron & Nina Okun

**Stacy Passman & Daniel LaPushin**

**James & Cheryl Pierce**

**The Honorable & Mrs. Stuart R. Pollak**

**Merle & Leslie Rabine** in memory of Miriam Newman

**Daniel & Ellen Schumm**

**Lynn & Paul Sedway**

**William & Shira Shore** in memory of Miriam Newman

**Elizabeth & Howard Shwiff**

**Judith Sobol** in memory of Miriam Newman

**Sheldon & Rhoda Wolfe** in memory of Miriam Newman

**Alan & Monica Zimmerman**

## **SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

**Merle & Leslie Rabine** in memory of Bea Wahl

**William & Shira Shore** in honor of Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller

## **SUCHERMAN FUND**

**Lowell & Janice Sucherman**

# Annual Fund 2017



\$279,000 raised

## 2017 ANNUAL FUND BEATS EXPECTATIONS

The 2017 Annual Fund was a whopping success, exceeding the goal set by the Sherith Israel Board of Trustees by more than seven percent. Donations to the fund totaled nearly \$279,000, helping the congregation honor its legacy and ensure the future.

Campaign co-chairs **Joan Libman** and **Julie Lekach House** are thrilled with the results. Julie relates the story of a new member who said, after hearing **Craig Etlin's** High Holiday speech, "I get it now. I'm moved to give." Julie continues, "She was so moved she wrote a generous e-check right after the holidays, helping the congregation seal the deal for our bright future!"

Joan remarks, "When members and friends make gifts to the Annual Fund, they are telling us that they want to sustain Sherith Israel and grow our community." As with all synagogues and nonprofits, dues and program fees simply do not cover all organizational needs and activities. "We are so touched that our congregants and friends see this need and respond with warmth and generosity," adds Joan.

That generosity began with the board's 100% participation,

which resulted in gifts of more than \$48,000. "Most synagogues would be thrilled to have the devoted volunteer leadership we have had for our Annual Fund over the past 10 years," says Craig. "We achieve such outstanding results because Joan and Julie, together with staff, trustees and other lay leaders, devote countless hours to the Annual Fund over the course of several months."

Significantly, 105 supporters contributed more than \$1,000, placing them in our Circle of Friends. Further, 270 households donated seven percent more than last year. More than 50 gifts, both large and small, came from donors new or returning to the Annual Fund, a remarkable trend in any campaign.

Trustees and volunteers made calls, wrote notes and sent email and text messages to hundreds of congregants. Emeritus trustees **David Newman**, **Howard Wexler** and **Valerie Jahan** once again took on key contact lists. **Nia Taylor**, development manager, worked creatively with then interim executive director **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** to provide data, analysis and support. The 2017 Annual Fund was a tremendous team effort. Thank you! ■

### A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS DONORS (Annual Fund Gifts of \$1,000 or more)

Zachary Adelson  
Rina Alcalay & Osborn Erickson  
Fred Altshuler & Julia Cheever  
Karen & William Alschuler  
in honor of our daughters  
Ingrid & Gary Apter  
Patricia Axelrod  
Joel & Teresa Backman  
The Kenneth S. Baron family  
Daniel Benatar  
Jim Blattner  
Tracy & Melissa Boxer Zill  
Lindsay & Warren Braunig  
Al & Ardis Breslauer  
Dr. Eric Brondfield & Dr. Jane Melnick  
Lisa Brown & Daniel Handler  
Fred Cohen & Carolyn Klebanoff  
Drs. Claire & James Davis  
Andrew Denmark & Yuka Hachiuma  
Dan Dohan & Phaedra Bell  
Ronald Eaton  
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Lisa Erdberg & Dennis Gibbons  
Craig B. Etlin & Erin Gordon  
Joanne Yawitz Farkas & Gabriel Farkas  
Ira Fateman & JoBeth Walt  
Michael & Valerie Flaherman  
Michael Gaines & Betsy Wolkin  
Stuart & Karen Gansky  
Ellen Garber & Glenn Hunt  
Miriam (Mimi) Gauss  
Ronald & Nina Gilson  
David & Marcia Glassel  
August Gomes & Nancy Sheftel-Gomes  
Gale Gottlieb  
Rabbi Jessica & Dr. Jonathan Graf  
Bradley & Teresa Graham

in honor of Barbara & Lawrence Graham  
Diane Green  
Edmund & Deborah Green  
Bernice Greene  
Richard & Lorrie Greene  
Steven Greenwald & Rochelle Alpert  
Sandra Handler  
Van & Jeri Hart  
Mikiko Huang & Marshall Stoller  
in honor of Ron & Lynn Laupheimer  
Jerry Hurwitz & Susan Borkin  
Nancy Igdaloff & Monica Levin  
Thierry & Valerie Jahan  
Peder & Nancy Jones  
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Julie Lekach House & Stanley Lekach  
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David & Carolyn Perlstein  
The Honorable & Mrs. Stuart R. Pollak

Rabbi Larry & Terrie Raphael  
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David & Suzanne Rubinstein  
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Margaret & Melvin Scheinman  
Zeev & Elizabeth Schultz  
Ellen & Dan Schumm  
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Lynn & Paul Sedway  
Gaye & Stuart Seiler  
Susan E. Shapiro  
William & Shira Shore  
Joanie Silverstein  
Denise Sobel  
Robert & Audrey Sockolov  
Karen, Samuel & Alix Spivack  
in honor of Gale Gottlieb  
Lowell & Janice Sucherman  
Michael Ungar & Lisa Spiegel-Ungar  
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David & Kay Werdegard  
Howard & Judie Wexler  
Sheldon & Rhoda Wolfe  
Karen Zelmar  
Bennett & Cynthia Zier  
Lucas & Katie Zier  
Alan & Monica Zimmerman  
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## ANNUAL FUND DONATIONS

Marilyn Allen  
 Michael & Amy Allen  
 Rachel Alschuler  
 William & Karen Alschuler  
 Galina Alterman  
 Gregory Alterman  
 Joram Altman & Barbara Winer  
     in honor of Tasia Melvin Bartell  
 Kathryn Amenta  
 Amster/Shelton family  
 Shoshana Chana Asher  
     in memory of Shike Rothblatt and Tony Bartell  
     and in honor of Tasia Melvin Bartell  
 Hal & Dorothy Auerbach  
 Tasia Bartell  
 Samantha Behrman & David Rosenberg  
 Ellen & Jon Benjamin  
     in honor of Jeri & Van Hart and  
     Ellen & David Newman  
 Jeremy & Jenny Benjamin  
 Ian & Margaret Berke  
 Eric & Jennifer Berkowitz  
 Laurie & Mark Berman  
 Julia Bernstein & Robert Schwartz  
 Frances Bertetta  
 Christy, Ben & Leo Blatteis  
 David & Jane Blatteis  
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 Vivien & Michael Bronshvag  
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 Jeffrey & Nicole Fessel  
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 Marcia D. Gruskin  
 Candace Heisler  
 Carolyn Herbst  
 Justine & Bruce Highman  
 Daniel Himmelstein & Cecelia Kaufman  
 Julie Lekach House  
     in honor of Gordon Gladstone, Joan Libman,  
     Nia Taylor and the Executive Director Search  
     Committee  
 James Hurwitz  
 Hilda Isaacson  
 Lawrence (z"l) & Jonell Jacobson  
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Jaffe  
 Rita J. Jeremy & J. Barry Gurdin  
 Richard & Eleanor Johns  
 Laurie Josloff  
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 Blanche Perris Kahn  
     in memory of Samuel & Lily Perris  
 Arnold & Jane Kahn  
 Joshua Karlin-Resnick  
 Jonathan Keilson & Rebecca Felsenthal  
 Debra & Scott Keith  
 Barbara Kennedy  
     in memory of Martin Lefkovits  
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 Dan Murphy  
     in memory of Martin Leonard Lefkovits  
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 Daniel & Constance Neustein  
 Janet Parker & Chris Focht  
 Mary Penn

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     in memory of Bea Wahl  
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 Robert Reichman  
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 Liat & Peter Sadler  
 Eric Safire & Jeri Taylor  
     in memory of Harold "Hal" Lipset  
 Fernando San Martin Jorquera  
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 David Zuckerman & Elsa Rosenberg  
 Anonymous (3)





## SHERITH ISRAEL

2266 California Street • San Francisco, CA 94115

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Member of the Union for Reform Judaism since 1903

### ✓ REGISTRATION

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EMAIL: [programs@sherithisrael.org](mailto:programs@sherithisrael.org)

PHONE: 415.346.1720

## PURIM CELEBRATION AND CONCERT IN THE SANCTUARY FRIDAY / MARCH 2 / 7:30-10 PM

# HARDLY STRICTLY PURIM



Cantor Jamie Marx

*Megillah* reading with special guest **Cantor Jamie Marx** performing selections from *Esther: A Persian Musical*, a Purim-spiel parody of *Hamilton*. Musical performance by the Hellman family band: **Marco and the Polos**. Plus food, drinks and fun games for the whole family.



## Purim Carnival!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 10:30 AM-1 PM, NEWMAN HALL**

Come one, come all for a costumed Purim fair complete with games, a parade, hamentaschen, a raffle and featured performances by Ash K., Northern California's funniest magician, and the amazing accordion and songs of Duckmandul!

*Tickets for food and games: \$20 for 50 tickets or 50 cents a ticket. All purchases benefit Sherith Israel Religious School and Sherith Israel Temple Youth (SITY).*



## PURIM SPIEL

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 10-10:30 AM, SANCTUARY**

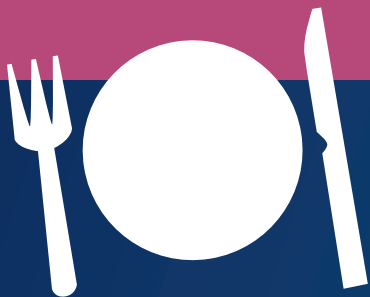
Enjoy a *Megillah* reading, Purim spiel and singing before the carnival.



## PURIM MISHPACHAH

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 10:30 AM-NOON, BART HALL**

Celebrate Purim with toddler Esthers and Mordecais in a safe, fun environment. Our Purim party for young families is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Jewish Baby Network, PJ Library and Interfaith Family.



## SECOND-NIGHT FAMILY SEDER AND CHICKEN SOUPERS / HAMOTZI FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 5 PM

What if you sat down to Passover Seder and your plate was empty? Once again, the festive CSI family Seder is also the congregation's annual—and only—fundraiser for our Chicken Soupers and HaMotzi programs, which feed homebound seniors, people with chronic illnesses, and adults and children at the Women's Shelter of San Francisco and the Compass Family Center. Our wonderful volunteers, who sustain these critical programs year after year, will cater our delicious, traditional meal.

*Children under 5, free; 5-12 years, \$20; ages 13 and up, \$50. You can also be a sponsor for \$613, which entitles you to a table of 10. Or buy a seat for someone who otherwise cannot afford to come.*