

SHERITH ISRAEL NEWS

APRIL-JUNE, 2016



Hard Hat Shabbat 2.0 marks milestone

PHASE II OF SEISMIC RETROFIT CONSTRUCTION BEGINS APRIL 11

April 11 marks the beginning of the end. That's when construction on Phase II of Sherith Israel's seismic retrofit gets underway. The city-mandated project, designed to strengthen our historic sanctuary's resistance to the forces of a major earthquake, will kick off with the festive Hard Hat Shabbat 2.0 on Friday, April 8 (see page 19).

The planned construction represents the final phase of bringing Sherith Israel into compliance with San Francisco's seismic safety requirements for unreinforced masonry buildings, which were enacted after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The city's mandate has proved challenging to congregations of all denominations. Many have faced the hard reality of having to close or to repurpose their buildings.

Rabbi Larry Raphael notes that just 134 families came together to build our sanctuary in 1904. "It has been gratifying to see our current Sherith Israel community join forces around the seismic retrofit—our donors, fundraisers and the terrific team guiding the construction. I am very pleased that we can begin this final phase of the required work during my tenure."

Seismic Retrofit continues, page 17



NAILING DOWN THE DETAILS: CSI's construction team—**Diana Hayton, Charley Stern, Craig Etlin, Terry Paret and Ellen Schumm**—get ready to resume retrofit work on April 11. CSI will celebrate at Hard Hat Shabbat 2.0 on April 8. See page 19 for details.

Three-year contract begins July 1

RABBI JESSICA ZIMMERMAN GRAF APPROVED AS SHERITH ISRAEL'S 10th SENIOR RABBI

The search is over. On February 29, more than 110 congregants unanimously approved **Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf** as Sherith Israel's next senior rabbi. The vote was taken at a special meeting required by the synagogue's bylaws. Rabbi Graf begins her new position on July 1.

Said Rabbi Graf, "It was an overwhelming, exciting moment to walk into Newman Hall having been approved as Sherith Israel's tenth senior rabbi."

Rabbi Graf is the daughter of **Alan and Monica Zimmerman**. Alan is a former Sherith Israel board president. Rabbi Graf became bat-mitzvah and was con-

firmed at Sherith Israel. She currently serves as our director of Magalim (Circles of Jewish Life) reaching out to Jews in their 20s through 40s.

Rabbi Graf will succeed the retiring **Rabbi Larry Raphael**. She becomes the first woman to hold Sherith Israel's senior rabbi post in the synagogue's 165-year history.

Before returning to Sherith Israel in 2014, Rabbi Graf served for eight years as director of congregational engagement for Synagogue 3000. She explored the cutting edge of synagogue renewal, working with congregations around the country. A graduate of Columbia Univer-

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Rabbi Raphael Weekend
MAY 20-21. See pages 10-11

Forum on Police Accountability
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 7 PM



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SHERITH ISRAEL NEWS

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A MOMENT WITH RABBI JESSICA GRAF



PASSOVER INSPIRATION THROUGH A REMARKABLE ARTIST

Once in a while, you get the opportunity to meet with a world expert and enjoy a fantastic experience. As a research assistant in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at Columbia, I learned about cataclysmic binary variable stars from the man who dedicated his life to studying them. When I was the visiting rabbi in Juneau, Alaska, I had dinner with one of the world experts on the reproductive cycle of sable fish. People have esoteric interests in things I didn't even know I didn't know about! It's wonderful to explore a previously unknown topic.

The entire congregation will enjoy such an opportunity on Sunday, April 10, from 4:30–6 pm. We'll hear from Rabbi Irvin Ungar, the foremost expert on the drawings and paintings of Arthur Szyk, a superb but little-known 20th-century artist. Rabbi Ungar, director of Historiana, an antiquarian book firm specializing in historic Judaica and the artwork of Arthur Szyk, will talk about Szyk's magnificent illustrated Haggadah. Rabbi Ungar will provide a window into the life of a remarkable artist and chronicler of Jewish and American life.

Szyk was a contemporary of the celebrated Norman Rockwell, who designed so many covers for the *Saturday Evening Post*. Many Rockwell magazine covers depicted issues facing white Americans. They included small-town and suburban scenes, and the challenging beginnings

THE SZYK HAGGADAH:

Presentation by Rabbi Irvin Ungar
Sunday, April 10, 4:30–6 pm

of racial integration. Szyk also drew powerful images of racism and a changing American landscape—but from the perspective of an outsider. As an immigrant to America and a Jewish artist, Szyk's view was quite different from Rockwell's.

It will be a treat to have Rabbi Ungar—and a Szyk Haggadah—at Sherith Israel. You may have seen recent exhibits of Szyk's work at the Contemporary Jewish Museum or the Legion of Honor. Both allowed for a look at some of his extraordinary and detailed drawings. Seeing the pages up close, displayed in frames, offers yet another way of looking at Passover as we learn about the extraordinary handiwork in this very beautiful and colorful Haggadah.

I invite you to prepare for Passover by thinking about the diverse meanings of slavery and freedom. Each year at our Seders we recall our people's journey to freedom. We relive history as if each of us was personally redeemed from Pharaoh's rule. The Szyk Haggadah tells our ancient story through a mid-20th-century lens, focusing on the struggle of Jews to become a full part of American society. This is an event you won't want to miss! See page 7. ■

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

"You shall observe this as an institution for all time, for you and for your descendants." — Exodus 12:24

Before the first Passover, Moses instructs the Israelites to slaughter lambs and place the blood on their doorposts. God will pass over them during the slaying of Egypt's first-born males. But what does "for all time" mean? Placing blood on doorposts was required only for that first Pesach. The late Israeli scholar Ne-

hama Leibowitz points out that the first Passover represents not only a watershed in Jewish history but also a great spiritual transformation. Each Passover presents a new opportunity to consider our past, our relationships with God and the Jewish people, and our place in the world. ■

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Questions for RABBI LARRY RAPHAEL

As Rabbi Larry Raphael approaches his retirement after 13 years of service to Sherith Israel, we asked him to reflect on his accomplishments and challenges, as well as on what he learned as a congregational rabbi.

Q. What stands out for you about your tenure at Sherith Israel?

A: In my previous work at Hebrew Union College and at the Union for Reform Judaism my relationships with people were short-term. It was just the nature of the work. At the college, I worked with graduate students, and at the Union I created weeklong or weekend learning experiences for adults all over the country. Although both were rewarding, I wanted an experience that allowed for long-term relationships. Becoming a congregational rabbi was the obvious answer.

At Sherith Israel I've had the opportunity and the blessing to be in ongoing relationships with people—essentially from birth to death—where I have intersected at many points along the way. To participate in the bar mitzvah of a child I've known since preschool or to officiate at the funeral of a family member of a congregant I know has been gratifying. To be part of a relationship over many years, with events both happy and sad, is a real privilege. It even carries over to the High Holy Days. As I look out at the people in the sanctuary, I think about how many people I know and how I know them. They are not just strangers showing up for a lecture. Whatever success I've had is enhanced by the fact that I am in relationship with the people listening.

Q. What are some of the biggest challenges you faced?

A: Even before I began at Sherith Israel I knew that saving the sanctuary building would be an important and necessary part of my tenure. Once stepping inside, I knew that this was something I needed to accomplish. When I began to really understand what the sanctuary meant to everyone, I built a strong team of dedicated lay-leaders to raise the necessary money for Phase I. Now we are determined to accomplish the same for Phase II. I want to conclude my time here leaving Sherith Israel a better place than I found it.

Q. What is your proudest accomplishment at Sherith Israel?

A: Working with people who have chosen Judaism as adults—more than 50 in my 13 years here—and by extension working with non-Jews, has been unusually rewarding. When I came here I had no experi-

ence working in a Jewish context with non-Jews. After conversations with people interested in Judaism and in becoming Jewish, I realized we needed to offer an introduction to Judaism class. It has since grown into a full-fledged conversion mentorship program with the assistance of Lisa Erdberg and 13 volunteer mentors. This work has also been very important to the future of the congregation. Many people wouldn't join the synagogue if we didn't offer a conversion program for themselves or their partners.

It's also a positive when you have people joining any faith tradition instead of leaving by attrition. There is real impact on Jews-by-birth when they experience students and Jews-by-choice saying, "Judaism has so much to offer that I want to be part of it, and I'm willing to go through a number of hoops to accomplish that." I tell the students it's like citizenship; you become part of the Jewish people. It's a good model.

I also want to mention the wonderful class I taught with the ministers at Calvary Presbyterian and the class we presented with Ameena Jandali from the Islamic Network Group. Those were learning experiences for me as well as for the people who attended.

Q: You came to Sherith Israel after 30 years as a Jewish educator. What has it been like teaching adults at Sherith Israel?

A: One of the things I learned here is how theory becomes practice. As an adult educator for the Reform Movement, I theorized about how and why adult Reform Jews become engaged in serious Jewish study. I've learned from everyone at Sherith Israel that Jews want to know what Reform Judaism in particular, and Judaism in general, has to say about the issues that concern us. Congregants want to be engaged in serious study that challenges them intellectually and emotionally, and helps them stretch and grow as Jews. Adult learning can take place in many venues, but Jewish learning at the synagogue speaks to religious meaning and religious identity. It builds a community of learners who can share life experiences with one another.

As Rabbi Chanina said (Babylonian Talmud, *Taanit 7a*), "I have learned much from my teachers. I have learned more from my colleagues than from my teachers. But I have learned more from my students than from all of them." Thank you. ■

AVODAH/WORSHIP

SHABBAT SERVICES

SPECIAL TIME FOR SERVICES:

Friday, April 3—EREV PESACH

5 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat

6 pm: Kiddush

FRIDAY EVENINGS

6 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat services

7:15 pm: Kiddush and oneg

Join us for services each Friday, followed by Kiddush and a friendly oneg for schmoozing, noshing and making new friends.

FAMILY SHABBAT

Second Friday of the month

6 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat services

7:15 pm: Kiddush, congregational dinner and potluck dessert

The second Friday of the month features our lively Family Shabbat with Religious School song leader Lior Ben-Hur and his band, Sol Tevel, followed by an informal congregational dinner and potluck dessert.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

9:15 am: Torah study

Congregants and guests are invited to study the weekly parashah (Torah portion), complete with learning from traditional and contemporary sources, all laced with lively discussion. Enjoy bagels and lox, coffee and tea.

10:30 am: Shabbat morning services
Intimate and informal, services follow the basic structure of our *Mishkan T'filah* prayerbook. All Shabbat morning services include chanting or reading from one of our Torah scrolls.

PASSOVER

SECOND-NIGHT FAMILY SEDER AND CHICKEN SOUPER/HAMOTZI FUNDRAISER

Let all who are hungry come and eat. We say these words every year as we sit down to tell the Passover story of the Israelites' journey from bondage to freedom. Once again, the festive Sherith Israel community Seder is the congregation's annual fundraiser for our Chicken Souper and HaMotzi programs. They 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 dinner. **Joel Siegel** will lead us in song. **Rabbis Larry Raphael, Jessica Graf** and **Julie Saxe-Taller** will keep us all on the same page.

Seder reservations are essential:

Adults, \$36; post-b'nai mitzvah students, \$18; children, \$10; children under 5, free; \$360 reserves a table for 10.

RSVP: *Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.*



PASSOVER YIZKOR SERVICE

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 8–10 AM

Remember your loved ones at Sherith Israel's concluding Passover service led by **Rabbi Larry Raphael**. The morning begins with light refreshments at 8 and finishes by 10 am.

Information: Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

TRAVELING TIKKUN L'EIL SHAVUOT

Along the California Street corridor and beyond

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11
8:30 pm–dawn**

Enjoy an evening—or a real all-nighter—with San Francisco rabbis and teachers as we walk along California Street from Sherith Israel to Beth Sholom, with stops at JCCSF, Congregation Emanu-el and—new this year—the Toy Boat on Clement Street. Our forbears, the rabbis of old, used to study all night to commemorate the giving of the Torah at Sinai. We can emulate them in San Francisco style during our Traveling Tikkun L'eil Shavuot.

8:30–9:30 pm: Savor a spicy Havdalah and more at Sherith Israel with **Cantor Marsha Atty** from Congregation Emanu-El.

10 pm: Enjoy savory learning at JCCSF with **Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan**, senior educator at Lehrhaus Judaica; **Rabbi Batshir Torchio**, senior educator at JCCSF; and **David Green**, director of the Taube Koret Center for Jewish Peoplehood at JCCSF.

11:30 pm–12:30 am: Celebrate the vision of beholding Torah at Emanu-El. We'll use illustrations from **Archie Rand's** acclaimed series of paintings, *The 613*, referring to the 613 mitzvot or commandments, to learn with rabbis **Batshir Torchio**, **Aubrey Glazer** of Beth Sholom, **Peretz Wolf-Prusan** and **Julie Saxe-Taller** of Sherith Israel, plus CSI education director **Nancy Sheftel Gomes**.

12:30 am: Explore the sweet Kabbalah of ice cream at the Toy Boat on Clement Street with **Rabbi Shlomo Zarchi** from Chevra Thilim.

2–6 am: Study until dawn with **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** at Beth Sholom.

Watch your Under the Dome email for event details. Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

SPECIAL SHABBATS

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Whether you're going to Shabbat Chai in the morning or Shabbat Metzora in the afternoon, lunch is complimentary with RSVP: Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

SHABBAT CHAI

9:30 am–1 pm

9:30 am: Grade-level learning about Pesach for Religious School students plus art studio, yoga and Torah study “electives” for adults

10:30 am: Tot Breakfast with singing, storytelling and brunch

10:30 am: Joyous Shabbat worship with **Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller** and special musical guest **Isaac Zones**, plus Torah readings by sixth-grade students

12:15 pm: Kiddush and complimentary lunch (with RSVP)

Our communitywide Shabbat Chai features activities for the whole family. Join us as we welcome special musical guest **Isaac Zones**, a popular music leader at congregations and camps around the area and leader of the spirited Jewgrass band Shamati. Isaac is sure to add much ruach to our worship. New this month is our special pre-Pesach Tot Breakfast at Shabbat Chai with early childhood director **Jeni Clancy**. Bring your young children or grandchildren for a fun Shabbat experience.

Art is the focus of many activities for older children and adults this Shabbat Chai. Fifth- and sixth-graders will make beautiful beaded yads. Grades three and four will study the weekly parashah through art with guest educator **Elyssa Wertzman**. And **Elika Feldman** will make seder plates with first and second graders. The seventh grade will meet with congregant **Doba Gendelman**, who came to the U.S. from the Ukraine. She will describe her experiences during the Holocaust. Doba's presentation is open to adults.

Information and RSVP for complimentary lunch:

Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

SHABBAT METZORA Medical Lunch-and-Learn

Reducing Bias and Inequity in Health Care: The Art and Science of Relationship-Centered Medical Care

**12:15 pm: Lunch—
complimentary with RSVP
12:45 pm: Program**



Much work is still needed to improve health and health care for minorities. This medical Shabbat workshop highlights how race, ethnicity, language preference, sexual orientation, mental health and social class affect medical outcomes, with a focus on race and ethnicity.

Speakers include family physician and UCSF professor emeritus **Bill Shore, MD**, and **Denise Davis, MD, FAACH**, a clinical professor at UCSF. They will discuss the new national movement aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparities in health care. They will also demonstrate the value of high-quality, culturally humble communication in medicine and invite participants to practice communication skills that have been shown to promote healing. This new approach improves outcomes for patients, families and health-care professionals.

*The program was organized by our speakers and **Helen Luey**, vice president of Sherith Israel's Board of Trustees and chair of our inclusion task force; **Valerie Jahan, MD**, a pediatrician and immediate past board president; and **Phaedra Bell, PhD**, executive director of the Admissions and Student Experience Team (AsSET) at the UCSF School of Medicine.*

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

10:30 am: Services

12:15 pm: Kiddush

ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH

Celebrate and honor **Xander Shapiro**, **Xander Karsten** and **Jesse Ratner** as they are called to the Torah. Members of this wonderful class have been working with rabbis **Larry Raphael**, **Julie Saxe-Taller** and **Jessica Graf** as they studied, prepared to lead services—including reading from the Torah—

and committed themselves to continued growth as Jewish adults. Everyone is invited to Kiddush after Shabbat morning services to wish them a hearty mazel tov!

Info: Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

HARD HAT SHABBAT 2.0
Friday, April 8, 6 pm
See page 19



**CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING
THIS MAY**

**Look for date and details in your email
and Under the Dome.**

ADULT PROGRAMS

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

ADULT HEBREW

Sundays

Fred Nervo

9 am: Beginning Hebrew

Hilda Isaacson

9:30 am: Beginning Hebrew

10:30 am: Continuing Beginning Hebrew

11:30 am: Advanced Beginning Hebrew

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

DOWNTOWN TALMUD

Rabbi Larry Raphael

Thursdays, Noon–1 pm

Apr. 7, 21; May 5, 19

Farella Braun + Martel

Russ Bldg., 235 Montgomery, 17th Fl.

Study the Sages' approach to law and life dating back nearly two millennia and deeply meaningful today. No Talmudic knowledge necessary. Materials provided along with coffee, tea and soft drinks.

PRIME TIME CLUB

For congregants 65 and up

Fridays, Noon–2 pm (lunch included)

In memory of Max and Marilyn Singer

Apr. 8: Dr. Adrian Praetzelis, professor of anthropology at Sonoma State University, talks about archaeological digs in San Francisco relating to the old Jewish cemetery on Dolores Street.

May 13: To be determined

June 10: Nikolaus Hohmann, professor of history and philosophy at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, discusses how the history of Islam and the Middle East define Israel's problems.

RSVP: Amy Mallor, 415.346.1720, x30, or amallor@sherithisrael.org. Todah rabbah—many thanks—to the Max and Marilyn Singer Foundation for its continuing support of the Prime Time lunch series.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CONVERSION

Maurice Kamins

Mondays, 6:30–8 pm, April 18, May 16

Join seekers and individuals preparing for conversion in informal discussions of the personal and practical issues relating to conversion. Jews by choice are encouraged to attend to share their experiences. Partners, spouses and friends welcome.

Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

JEWISH BOOK CLUB

Mondays, 7 pm

April 25: *The Periodic Table* by Primo

Levi. Discussion leaders: Julie House and Barry Sachs. This memoir by the famed chemist-turned-writer presents the years before and after Levi's transportation from his native Italy to Auschwitz. It offers his impassioned response to the events that engulfed him. This is a selection of One Bay One Book sponsored by Jewish Learning Works.

May 23: *The Mathematician's Shiva* by

Stuart Rojstaczer. Discussion leader: Cathy Taylor. Sasha Karnokovitch and his family would like to mourn the passing of his mother, Rachela, with modesty and dignity. But Rachela, a famous Polish émigré mathematician, is rumored to have solved a million-dollar prize problem. A ragtag group of socially challenged mathematicians crashes the shiva, vowing to do whatever it takes to find the solution.

June 27: Book selection meeting

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, 415.346.1720, x28, or nsgomes@sherithisrael.org.

EXPLORING JEWISH BELIEFS AND PRACTICES: AN INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Rabbi Larry Raphael,

Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller,

Rabbi Jessica Graf and Lisa Erdberg

Sundays, 10 am–Noon, Jan. 24–May 15

There's time to engage in the final weeks of study, discussion and hands-on experiences. Join Jews looking for adult-level basics, interfaith couples, individuals considering conversion, seekers and all life-long learners exploring Jewish beliefs and values, holidays and the Jewish calendar, prayer and liturgy, and lifecycle events.

*Materials fee: \$5. Text: *Living Judaism* by Rabbi Wayne Dosick. Information and registration: Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.*

ONGOING PROGRAMS

CARING COMMUNITY

Assists members in times of need and joy. *Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.*

TORAH STUDY

Saturdays, 9:15–10:15 am

Studies weekly Torah portion. Bagels and lox.

HAMOTZI & CHICKEN SOUPERS

HaMotzi: Sundays, 9:30 am–12:30 pm

Chicken Soupers:

One Sunday a month, Noon–4 pm

April 10, May 1, June 5

HaMotzi volunteers prepare 100 meals for two shelters in San Francisco each week. Chicken Souper volunteers prepare meals for clients of Jewish Family and Children's Services each month. Volunteers are needed to shop, pick up donations, cook and deliver.

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, 415.346.1720, x28, or nsgomes@sherithisrael.org.

KOLEYNU

CONGREGATIONAL CHOIR

Sings at holidays and Shabbat services. *Jonathan Dimmock, 415.346.1720, x29, or jdimmock@sherithisrael.org.*

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Greet visitors at our front desk, answer phones or help with office tasks. *Amy Mallor, 415.346.1720, x30, or amallor@sherithisrael.org.*

JOIN RABBI RAPHAEL AND GRAF AT CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our neighbor Calvary Presbyterian at Fillmore and Jackson has invited our clergy to teach at the church. Sherith Israel congregants are welcome to attend.

Sun., May 1, 11:30 am: Rabbi Larry Raphael on Judaism and Christianity: What We Share and What We Don't

Sun., May 8, 9 am: Rabbi Jessica Graf on Embracing Difference with Rev. Joann Lee, Calvary Presbyterian's Associate Pastor for Community Formation

Complex, difficult, rewarding

RABBI RAPHAEL SPOTLIGHTS PHILOSOPHER EMMANUEL LEVINAS FOR FINAL COURSE

Most of us know the old saying about saving the best for last. When it comes to teaching, Rabbi Larry Raphael decided to save the most challenging for last. Thus he presents a six-week course in April and May on Reading (and Understanding) Emmanuel Levinas, the noted and complex 20th-century French-Jewish philosopher.

Levinas was born in 1906 in Kovno, Lithuania. He died in Paris in 1995. As such, his life spanned the twentieth century and intersects with a number of major events and movements. “Four features of Levinas’s life and thought strike me as significant,” says Rabbi Raphael. They are:

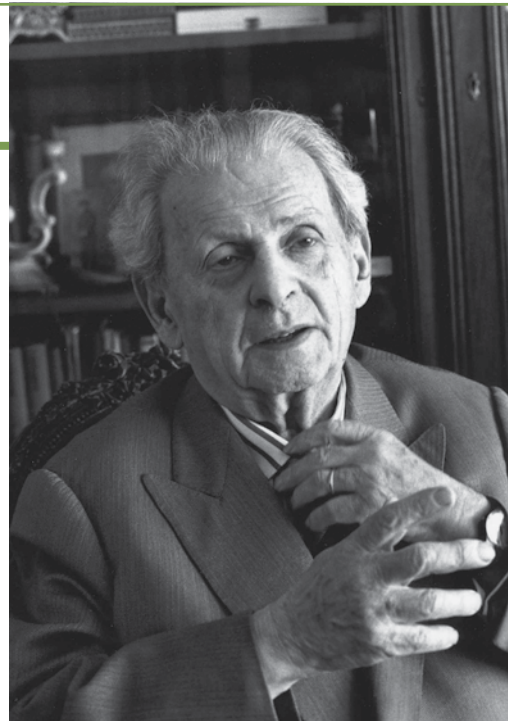
- His historical situation, including the years leading up to World War II, and especially the role of the Holocaust in his memory and in his thought
- His relationship to Judaism and religious texts
- His place among those who were critical of Western philosophy and yet found special links to that tradition
- His role in the 20th-century debates about the place of ethics in our lives.

The course includes readings in hand-out form from several texts. They include *The Cambridge Introduction to*

Emmanuel Levinas by Michael L. Morgan (Cambridge University Press, 2013), *Nine Talmudic Readings* by Emmanuel Levinas (Indiana University, 1990) and *Difficult Freedom* by Emmanuel Levinas (Johns Hopkins Press University, 1997). Readings from Morgan present an overall interpretation of Levinas’s central principle that human existence is fundamentally ethical and that its ethical character is grounded in our face-to-face relationships. Readings from Levinas’ work provide first-person engagement with his thought.

“Reading Levinas requires patience and a sense about when to relish ambiguities and nuances, and when to demand rigor and precision,” Rabbi Raphael comments. The class will read both carefully, to follow Levinas’s lines of reason, and imaginatively, to make his teachings relevant to our own lives.

“This is a topic/subject/person that I have wanted to teach for quite some time,” Rabbi Raphael emphasizes. “I’ve held off doing so because of the complexity and difficulty of his writings. But for my last class as senior rabbi at Sherith Israel, I decided to go for it. I hope congregants and guests will join me on an exciting intellectual journey.” ■



READING (AND UNDERSTANDING) EMMANUEL LEVINAS

Rabbi Larry Raphael
Tuesdays, 7–8 pm
Apr. 5, 12, 19, 26; May 10, 17
(no class May 3)

Fee: \$18.

Registration:

Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17
or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org



Magalim

Circles of Jewish Life at Sherith Israel

TORAH STUDY

Most Tuesdays, Rabbi Graf’s study
6:30–7 pm: Schmoozing and light noshes
7–8 pm: Study

Enjoy an informal discussion on the weekly Torah portion.
No experience or preparation necessary.

CHAMETZ!

Sunday, May 1
5–7 pm

Post-Passover challah-baking demonstration by Mimi Gauss.
Location at a private home (address provided with RSVP).

THE SZYK

HAGGADAH:

Presentation by
Rabbi Irvin Ungar
Sunday, April 10
4:30–6 pm

An event for the entire congregation. See page 2 for more about Rabbi Ungar and the Arthur Szyk Haggadah.



Adults 20s–40s join Rabbi Jessica Graf, director of Magalim, for exciting activities at Sherith Israel and around San Francisco. Rabbi Jessica Graf, 415.346.1720, x18, or rabbigraf@sherithisrael.org.

TALMUD TORAH/EDUCATION

early childhood

ECE PROGRAMS

PLAYGROUPS

Mondays and Fridays
10:30 am–Noon

Crawl, climb, jump and giggle with San Francisco families in our huge, bright indoor play space. Enjoy our playtime and music program—including puppets, bubbles and parachute games—with early childhood director Jeni Markowitz Clancy. Fridays include a special Shabbat visit with Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller.

Drop-in playgroup fees: \$12 per visit. Ten-visit card: \$65 for CSI members; \$80 for non-members. Golden Gate Moms Group special rates apply only on the second Monday of the month. Just drop in; no sign-up necessary. Information: Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

FAMILY SHABBAT

2nd Friday of the month

April 8: Hard Hat Shabbat 2.0

(see page 19)

6 pm: Services in sanctuary

7:15 pm: Kiddush and festive oneg

May 13 and June 10

6 pm: Services in sanctuary

7:15 pm: Kiddush, congregational dinner and potluck dessert

Celebrate Shabbat with other CSI families with young children and the congregation in a service that features Lior Ben-Hur and members of his band. Our clergy share stories meaningful for congregants of all ages.

HAVDALAH PAJAMA PARTY

Saturday, May 7, 4:30–6 pm

Bring your little ones in their PJ's for music, puppets, a pizza party and Havdalah ceremony with Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller, Rabbi Jessica Graf and early childhood director Jeni Markowitz Clancy. This is a joint Magalim and ECE event.

Dinner and activities: \$18/family.

RSVP by the Monday before:

Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17,

or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

For more information about ECE programs, contact CSI early childhood director Jeni Markowitz Clancy, 415.346.1720, x32, or jclancy@sherithisrael.org.

YAD B'YAD FAMILY PROGRAM

Sunday, April 3

9–11 am or 12:30–2:30 pm

On April 3, we will join the Religious School at the San Francisco Food Bank, sorting and packing food for hungry San Franciscans. Space is limited, so RSVP soon for your preferred time, 9–11 am or 12:30–2:30 pm.

Sunday, May 22

10 am–noon

On May 22, we will end the school year with festivities at the synagogue, celebrating a year of *tzedakah* and *gemilut chasadim*—charity and acts of lovingkindness—with other Sherith Israel families with young children.

The free Yad B'Yad program is open to children ages 4–6 (pre-K and K) and their families. CSI members and nonmembers are welcome. RSVP: Jeni Markowitz Clancy, 415.346.1720, x32, or jclancy@sherithisrael.org. Yad B'Yad is generously sponsored by the Jewish Resource Specialist Program of the Early Childhood Initiative of the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, and the Jim Joseph Foundation.

TOT BREAKFAST AT SHABBAT CHAI

Saturday, April 16

10:30 am: Brunch and activities

12:15 pm: Kiddush and complimentary congregational lunch (with RSVP)

Join us for a fun-filled pre-Pesach Shabbat for families with young children or grandchildren. This delightful Shabbat morning features songs, storytelling, puppets and a yummy brunch with early childhood director Jeni Markowitz Clancy. RSVP to join the congregation for a special lunch following services.

Tot breakfast is offered free of charge and generously sponsored by the Jewish Resource Specialist Program of the Early Childhood Initiative of the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, and the Jim Joseph Foundation.

Information and RSVP for complimentary lunch: Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

TOT SHABBAT AT THE BEACH

Saturday, June 4, 10:30 am

Location: Crissy Field in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Bring the whole family for a lively Shabbat morning experience at Crissy Field in the GGNRA. We will meet on the beach next to the West Bluff Picnic Area near the Warming Hut (across the road from La Petite Baleen at the end of Mason). Be sure to dress in layers.

Information: Jeni Clancy, 415.346.1720, x32, or jclancy@sherithisrael.org.

PASSOVER SECOND-NIGHT COMMUNITY SEDER

Saturday, April 23, 5 pm

Enjoy our annual family-friendly second-night Seder. We'll tell the Passover story of the Israelites' journey from bondage to freedom. The festive congregational Seder is our annual fundraiser for our Chicken Souper and HaMotzi programs. These feed homebound seniors, people with chronic illnesses, and adults and children at the Women's Shelter of San Francisco and the Compass Family Center. Rabbis Larry Raphael, Jessica Graf and Julie Saxe-Taller, and song leader Joel Siegel will keep us all on the same page of our Haggadahs.

Seder reservations: Adults, \$36; post-b'nai mitzvah students, \$18; children, \$10; children under 5, free; table of 10, \$360.

RSVP: Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

CSI MARIN DAY SCHOOL PRESCHOOL TOURS

You are invited to tour our unique preschool for children 2–5 years old. The Sherith Israel campus of Marin Day Schools offers an outstanding early childhood curriculum and extended-day program that provides a warm experience filled with Jewish values, traditions and celebrations.

Contact Jeni Markowitz Clancy, 415.346.1720, x32, or jclancy@sherithisrael.org, to set up an appointment.

religious school

Growing trend among synagogues

RABBI-EDUCATOR WILL HEAD RELIGIOUS SCHOOL THIS YEAR OR NEXT

“There is nothing new under the sun,” Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) famously advises. When it comes to synagogue life—including Religious School—Kohelet is right but only partly. Change is inevitable. Yet change inspired by both tradition and contemporary best practices honors the past as it provides a pathway to the future. Sherith Israel’s desire to place a rabbi-educator at the head of Religious School offers a prime example.

As congregants know, **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** has served as our education director for children for many years. During her tenure, the Religious School has constantly undergone evaluation to find better ways to engage students and provide them with a solid Jewish education. Each year has brought new ideas and experiences built on the foundation of previous years.

Nancy has been looking towards retirement for several years. While she postponed retiring when **Rabbi Larry Raphael** extended his stay to the current (2015–16) clergy year, we’ve long known we’d need someone new to head the Religious School. Nancy and Rabbi Raphael have discussed the concept of rabbi-educator at length.

The rabbi-educator has become a vital position at synagogues around the country over the past several years. As it happens, Hebrew Union College and other rabbinical schools have been producing more graduates than there are pulpit positions. Many of these rabbis have been awarded masters degrees

in Jewish education. They’re trained professionals—perfect for synagogues whose congregants want the best Jewish education for their children within the synagogue environment.

So this is new. But not totally. In the past, three associate rabbis—**Marvin Gross, John Rosove** and **David Meyer**—led our Religious School. But they were not trained educators. Today’s new rabbi-educators perform two jobs at the same time and have been trained for each. That means a rabbi-educator will spend a good deal of time with Religious School but not all. Wearing an associate rabbi hat—or kippah if you will—the rabbi-educator will also perform functions expected of the clergy. These include leading Shabbat and holiday worship and officiating at lifecycle events.

We’re looking at candidates, and will determine whether we can find the right person now or must wait until next year. If we don’t hire a rabbi-educator for the 2016 school year, Nancy has agreed to stay an additional year. Our rabbi-educator will build on what Nancy has done and offer new ways to advance our school’s efforts. We’ll also have a rabbi to assist **Rabbi Jessica Graf** after she assumes the post of senior rabbi on July 1. “It’s a great model,” says **Evan Kletter**, president of the Sherith Israel Board of Trustees. “The rabbi-educator advances our children’s education, provides for the entire synagogue family and fits with our efforts to right-size our clergy and senior staffing.” ■

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PROGRAMS

SUNDAYS

Preschool to Grade 8
9:30 am–12:15 pm

High School
Grades 9 to 12
12:30–1:45 pm
(Lunch included)

Hebrew School
Grades 3 to 5
12:30–2 pm

Students bring lunch and eat with teachers in Newman Hall, then go to class to learn the basics of reading, writing and speaking Hebrew, focusing on prayerbook literacy.

TUESDAYS

Hebrew School
Grades 3 to 6
4–5:45 pm

Basics of reading, writing and speaking Hebrew, focusing on prayerbook literacy.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OFFICE

415.346.1720, x28, or
nsgomes@sherithisrael.org



FOURTH-GRADE FAMILY FOOD

DAY: To complete the recipe for a “Torah Cake,” fourth-grade students delved into Torah text to find the list of ingredients. Other activities included text study for parents, baking hamantaschen for Purim, decorating aprons and making sandwiches for shelter residents.

*Once upon a time a rabbi left Brooklyn, crossed America
and arrived in San Francisco...*



Friday, May 20

5:45 PM ~ Casual dinner

7:30 PM ~ Kabbalat Shabbat worship

Participating guests and storytellers: Marilyn Price and Arthur Strimling

8:45 ~ Festive oneg

Sweets by Town's End Restaurant & Bakery

Saturday, May 21

9:15 am ~ Torah Study

Jointly led by Rabbi Larry Raphael and his brother Rabbi Marc Raphael

Catered by Town's End Restaurant & Bakery

10:30 am ~ Shabbat Worship

Participating guests: Marilyn Price, Rabbi Marc Raphael, Arthur Strimling and Rabbi Gerald I. Weider

12:30-2 pm ~ Lunch and storytelling workshops

Four workshops to help you discover the magic of stories, find your voice and learn to tell your own story—
led by Peter Novak, Marilyn Price, Linda Raphael and Arthur Strimling

Catered by Miller's West Deli

Saturday Evening, May 21

7 pm in Newman Hall ~ Congregational Gala

Share your Six-Word Memoir as a tribute to Rabbi Raphael. Havdalah will follow

Catered by Work of Art

8:30 pm in the sanctuary

Heart of the World Concert with Danny Maseng

9:45 pm in Newman Hall

Dessert

Catered by Town's End Restaurant & Bakery

*Thanks to executive director Amy Mallor and the committee members who worked so hard on this event: Susan Borkin • Jonathan Burton
• Lisa Erdberg • Mimi Gauss • Sheila Gordon • Valerie Jahan • Maurice Kamins • Arlene Krieger • Alan Mirviss • David Newman
• Ellen Newman • David Perlstein • Jean Schore • Ellen Schumm • Lynn Sedway • Bill Shore • Karen Zelman • Lonnie Zwerin*

Rabbi Larry Raphael became Sherith Israel's ninth senior rabbi in 2003. His warmth—how does he remember everyone's name?—inspired teaching, and love of stories have endeared him to the congregation these past 13 years. We'll honor Rabbi Raphael by celebrating his story during this festive weekend.

***See your mail
for your invitation.
RSVP by May 12.***



Rabbi Raphael's special guests



Danny Maseng is a playwright, actor, singer and composer. He serves as chazan and spiritual leader of Makom LA, a post-denominational Jewish community in Los Angeles. Danny participated in many national events and programs directed by Rabbi Raphael before he came to Sherith Israel.



Peter Novak, Ph.D., is professor of performing arts and social justice at the University of San Francisco. He has been Rabbi Raphael's speech coach in San Francisco.



Marilyn Price has been our guest at Sherith Israel many times, and has appeared across the country as a storyteller, puppeteer and educator for 40 years. She lives in Evanston, Illinois, and is a long-time friend of Rabbi Raphael.



Linda Raphael, Ph.D., is director of the Medical Humanities Program at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington, D.C. She is Rabbi Raphael's sister-in-law.



Rabbi Marc Raphael, Ph.D., is professor of religious studies and Gumenick Professor of Judaic Studies at William & Mary University, Williamsburg, Virginia. He is Rabbi Raphael's brother.



Arthur Strimling is the founder of Roots&Branches, creating intergenerational theater in New York. He was Rabbi Raphael's storytelling coach in New York.



Rabbi Gerald I. Weider is rabbi emeritus of Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, New York, where the Raphael family belonged prior to coming to San Francisco. Rabbi Weider and Rabbi Raphael met as students in Jerusalem in 1970.

CSI CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL

people

Finding and building community at Sherith Israel

PROFILE: LINDSAY AND WARREN BRAUNIG

Lindsay and Warren Braunig's involvement with Congregation Sherith Israel did not begin, as is often the case, after enrolling their child in Religious School. Instead, Lindsay and Warren, newly settled in San Francisco and starting out in their respective law careers, socialized at Sherith Israel with other young-adult couples navigating similar points in life. This group, the creation of former CSI membership and program director **Carrie Rice**, included **Alicia** and **Evan Kletter** (now president of the Sherith Israel Board of Trustees) and **Lindsay Lassman** and **Ohad Ben-Yoseph**. The group formed a strong bond. Through this network, Lindsay and Warren connected with Sherith Israel and with Jewish life in San Francisco. "The opportunity to really get to know people in a smaller environment," Lindsay says, "is key to building relationships and a sense of community."

Lindsay and Warren's "social circle" has since added three important people—seven-year-old **Ike**, five-year-old **Toby**, and one-year old **Shira**. Many of the couples from that group also have children about the same age. So whether they're at Tot Shabbat, an ECE program or Religious School, Lindsay and Warren are likely to greet a friend.

"When you walk in to Sherith Israel," Warren says, "you have a sense that people actually care who you are and want to know you." That's what makes a community—people gathered in a communal place for a shared purpose. And Lindsay and Warren not only experience Sherith Israel's welcoming spirit, they foster it.

A clear example is Lindsay's recent experience at the Havdalah pajama party for families with young children hosted quarterly by Magalim and ECE. While the children played, Lindsay struck up a conversation with a new congregant, who mentioned her idea for parents and their children to take Jewish study classes together at Sherith Israel. Lindsay and **Rabbi Jessica Graf** were both enthusiastic. "Jessica and I said, 'That is a great idea; let's figure out a way to do it,'" Lindsay recalls.

Lindsay and Warren value the consistency that a synagogue offers, no matter who you are or where you are in life. Warren's mother has headed the religious school at B'nai Zion Congregation in Shreveport, Louisiana for 35 years; his father is a former president of the temple. "We were around the synagogue all the time," Warren says. "It was natural for me to find a place where we could have that connection and that level of involvement."

Lindsay, who converted to Judaism, was active in her family's church, which she describes as a constant in her life. The couple met as high-school students in Shreveport, where Lindsay moved with her family from Texas. But their story really begins after Warren graduated from college and settled in San Francisco. Lindsay, still in college, visited him. Their life's next moves were together—law school at New York University, marriage, law clerkships in the Los Angeles area, and career and family in San Francisco.

Warren and Lindsay make Judaism and Sherith Israel a priority in their lives.

"The more we've done, the more we feel invested," Lindsay says. Indeed, Lindsay and Warren have taken pivotal volunteer roles that will shape Sherith Israel's future. Lindsay is secretary of the board and a member of the executive committee. Warren was a member of the search committee that recommended Rabbi Jessica Graf to succeed **Rabbi Larry Raphael** as senior rabbi. "We really felt our charge was to find the right leader for the next generation," Warren says. "Who is the person we want to be leading us twenty years from now? For me personally, who is the person who is going to bar and bat mitzvah my children and be their role model and mentor?"

The comprehensive process, which gathered input from the broader Sherith Israel community, reinforced Warren's view of Sherith Israel as a place of inclusion, ideas and action. At Sherith Israel, Warren says, "you can create something, have it be meaningful, and have the support to do it." To which Lindsay adds: "Sherith Israel is not a place where you have to have a certain income or look a certain way. Everyone is welcome." ■



CREATING CONNECTIONS: Warren and Lindsay Braunig, with Ike (left), Shira and Toby, have formed strong bonds with the Sherith Israel community.

Kudos to **Arlene Krieger**, recently featured in the Jewish Community Federation women's philanthropy spotlight (<http://jewishfed.org/news/blog/meet-arlene-krieger>) for a lifetime of service and dedication to the Jewish community. Among her favorite causes: The Jewish Home of San Francisco, Hebrew Free Loan and, of course, Congregation Sherith Israel. "My motivation runs deep. There is nothing else I would rather do with my time," says Arlene...

Sighted at the Jewish Community Relations Council's Behind the Scenes gala fundraiser in February: **Jim and Claire Davis, Mimi Gauss, Steve and Arlene Krieger, David and Ellen Newman, Rabbi Larry Raphael, Lynn Sedway, and Steve Weiner and Norm Dito...**

JCRC's town hall community meeting on Race and the Law tackled a difficult problem in a tone of civil discourse. CSI-ers participating included **Gale Gottlieb, Hope Greenhill, David and Ellen Newman, Janet Parker and Laynie Tzena**. Among other panelists, the group heard from SF Public Defender **Jeff Adachi**, who will be here at Sherith Israel on Tuesday, May 3, for our Forum on Police Accountability. He will be joined by SFPD Chief **Greg Suhr**. The program will be moderated by **Michael Krasny...**

Rachel Breuer is putting down new roots in the Jewish community. After serving as the special events manager at the SF-Marin Food Bank, she started a new position managing stewardship events and corporate relations at The Contemporary Jewish Museum...

CSI's former membership director **Carrie Rice** is also doing some exciting nonprofit work. She has been appointed interim executive director for Young Audiences of Northern California. Carrie's other clients include Noe Valley Chamber Music (for congregant **Tiffany Loewenberg**, their executive

director) and Maker Education. She is planning a fundraiser for Maker Ed at Pixar in mid-April...

In other Jewish cultural news, **Rabbi Jessica and Jonathan Graf, Bruce Highman, Valerie Jahan, Ellen Schumm and Lisa Spiegel** went to a screening of the movie, *Gett*, followed by a conversation about marriage and divorce in Israel. The event was sponsored by the New Israel Fund and the National Council of Jewish Women, in partnership with Congregation Emanu-El, Congregation Rodef Sholom, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Film Institute, Shalom Bayit, Sherith Israel and The Kitchen...

Speaking of Israel, **Steve Olson**, a member of the Jewish National Fund's Task Force on Disabilities, just returned from a six-day tour of several Israeli disability-related nonprofits supported by JNF. They also visited three IDF bases. The most impressive new program Steve saw was one in which special-needs young people, who had been rejected by the IDF, were reevaluated for service. After a new evaluation, many are indeed allowed to join the IDF, which assigns them work appropriate to their skills...

And **Dan Dohan**, representing Sherith Israel, and **Jeremy Benjamin**, representing Jewish Learning Works, traveled to Israel with 40 community leaders from 25 Bay Area Jewish Organizations on the Irving Rabin Mission to Israel. The Jewish Community Federation sponsored the trip, which was underwritten by Marin philanthropist **Varda Rabin** in memory of her late husband. "We spent our time learning from leaders grappling with the changing nature of Israeli society and culture, which is huge," says Dan. "The mission challenged us to answer two questions: First, how are Israelis growing new forms of community and politics during this period of change?

And second, what lessons can we bring home from Israel's experience in terms of strengthening our Jewish community in San Francisco?" Adds Jeremy: "We look forward to sharing the lessons we learned with the entire congregation and community..."

Mazel tov to **Bill Shore**. The board of directors of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) selected Bill to receive the 2016 Lynn and Joan Carmichael STFM Recognition award. The award, which recognizes leadership and service in advancing family medicine as a discipline, says: "With a servant's heart, tireless energy and a commitment to the principles of family medicine, you have served as a tremendous role model for thousands of students and hundreds of family medicine educators." Bill notes that **Lynn Carmichael** was an early mentor of his and one of the founders of then new discipline of family medicine...

Best wishes to **Amelia Sperber**, who starts graduate studies to become a nurse practitioner at UCLA this fall...

In media news, **Joseph Amster** made the inside back page of the March issue of San Francisco Magazine. He was one of 10 Emperor Norton re-enactors featured in a study of uniquely Bay Area tribes...

And in new media news, **Japheth Adillman's** paper on marketing apps to users has been featured in many blogs and on the VentureBeat.com website. Japheth is co-founder and chief creative officer of YetiZen, the world's first accelerator focused on the game industry. ■

By the News Nosh, aka Ellen Newman.
Please send bits and bites of gossip to ellennewman@earthlink.net. Be sure to put "News Nosh" in the subject line.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH BOARD PRESIDENT EVAN KLETTER



FINDING THE RIGHT WORD: *CONTINUITY*

An email from a congregant brought up a terrific memory. As you know, **Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf** will become Sherith Israel's senior rabbi on July 1. We're also looking for a cantor. And we want to add a rabbi-educator to serve as our associate rabbi and director of the Religious School. We're still looking at candidates and will likely have a rabbi-educator onboard for the 2017-18 school year unless a qualified candidate appears by the end of April or so.

As of now, **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** will return as education director for one more year before retirement—which she has postponed for several years. **Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller's** plans are still in flux as she explores other career options.

Back to the email and the memory: The congregant wondered whether people would recognize our clergy. Would Sherith Israel still be the same warm community? My answer is yes and yes. I became bar mitzvah at Sherith Israel in 1981. Wow, it seems so long ago. We had different clergy for sure. **Rabbi Martin Weiner** was our senior rabbi, and **Cantor Martin Feldman** was our—yes, cantor.

We had a different executive director, a different head of Religious School and different lay leaders, including a different board president. Yet when I walk into our synagogue today, I feel even more of a sense of community. I have more friends here, I spend more time here and, of course, I'm raising my family here. Sure, I was a kid in 1981. ("Today I am a man" has its limits.) But change is normal—and healthy—for people and synagogues, too.

That's why we've formed a *continuity* committee to assist Rabbi Graf in preparing for her new role instead of the standard *transition* committee. We'll have a new senior rabbi, but that doesn't mean that we as a synagogue won't stop growing. We felt the loss of Rabbi Weiner when he retired, but we were fortunate to find **Rabbi Larry Raphael**. They had different styles, but they shared a lot in common. They loved people. They were dedicated to keeping Sherith Israel vital to Jewish life in San Francisco. And they responded to changes in San Francisco and American Reform Jewish life. Rabbi Graf will add to their legacies with her

own incredible warmth, passion and vision for Sherith Israel in the 21st-century.

I love the word *continuity*. Together with our board, Rabbi Graf wants to help Sherith Israel maintain many of our traditions while helping us evolve along with the Reform movement. She's already working on that! In my time on the board and as president, I've seen how moving forward can be both challenging and rewarding. For example, I remember discussions about creating flexible seating in our sanctuary. We finally replaced some of our fixed rows of pews with chairs. Yet we still worship together. And congregants can actually see each other! Our fabulous sanctuary seems warmer than ever.

One generation builds upon those that preceded it. So everything we're doing reflects continuity. We'll evolve and move forward. We'll also continue to be a warm, welcoming, embracing community. I look forward to continuing on the journey with you. ■

NEW SHERITH ISRAEL LOGO AND GRAPHIC DESIGN ROLL OUT

You may have noticed a fresh new look to Sherith Israel's logo on printed and digital materials. If you've gone to our website recently, you've seen a different look as well.

It's all part of an update of our graphic design. The main logo is an evolution of former logos, yet reflects changing design esthetics and a desire to better reflect Sherith Israel's welcoming and dynamic community. ECE and Religious School now each have a logo, and Magalim continues with its icon of interlocking circles. All of these now work nicely together with our main congregational logo.

Many thanks to the communications committee, including co-chairs **Ellen Newman** and **Lonnie Zwerin**, committee members **David Perlstein** and **Amy Widdowson-Mains**, and staff **Amy Mallor** and **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes**, for hours of discussion and review. And todah rabbah to **Susan Weeks**, the East Bay graphic designer, who has worked with us for many years and who guided us through the process. Susan listened patiently to our needs and followed our guidelines while contributing her expert advice and skills.



SHERITH ISRAEL



Early Childhood Education
at Sherith Israel



Religious School
at Sherith Israel



Magalim
Circles of Jewish Life at Sherith Israel

PASSAGES

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

UPCOMING B'NAI MITZVAH

April 2, Sam Saxe-Taller, son of Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller and Michael Saxe-Taller

April 9, Shin Lee, son of Aaron Lee

May 7, Emily Etlin daughter of Craig Etlin and Leslie Gordon

May 14, Shoshana Alessi, daughter of Gary and Rebekah Alessi

June 4, Cash Ashkinos, son of Tanya Schevitz and Terry Ashkinos

June 11, Jessica Schwartz, daughter of Joel and Kerry Schwartz

June 25, Andrew Kerzhner, son of Feliks and Tatiana Kerzhner

WEDDINGS

Boaz Nathaniel Gurdin, son of Rita J. Jeremy and J. Barry Gurdin, and Jyotirmai (called Jyoti) Uppuluri

NEW MEMBERS

Nir Biderman and Alyson Eberzy

Mitchel Cohen

Amy Goodman and Jesse Purwal

Amanda Gordon

Stu Grossman and Charlotte Mosher

NEW BABIES

Simon Phillip Ganot, son of Nicole and Gabe Ganot

Jacob Schuman-Mutch, grandson of Allan and Lynn Schuman

Stella Lillian Stone, daughter of Eric and Laura Stone

Lilah Maple Yu-Mei Zipes, daughter of Kyle and Connie Zipes

CHOOSING JUDAISM

Sarah Crumley

Tamar Draper

Ena Zheng Fridman

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

Selma Fox, mother of Terrie Liss
Rueben Levin, father of Monica Levin

SENIOR RABBI, from page 1

sity, Rabbi Graf was ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York in 2003. She has served congregations from New York to Juneau, Alaska. She is active in several major Jewish organizations, including the Jewish Community Federation, New Israel Fund, American Jewish World Service and the American Jewish Committee.

Evan Kletter, president of the Sherith Israel Board of Trustees, commented, "Rabbi Graf has an incredible amount of enthusiasm, passion and vision. In fact, she's already working with the board, discussing opportunities she's thought about for the last two years. It's very exciting to be around her." **Valerie Jahan**, chair of the search committee and immediate past president, said, "I'm excited that someone who knows Sherith Israel's history and is a daughter of the congregation will be our next senior rabbi. Her knowledge of synagogue communities will be very helpful as we continue the work of building community."

Rabbi Larry Raphael, who has worked with Rabbi Graf, noted, "I am delighted that Sherith Israel will be in the hands of a most able and dynamic young rabbi. We will all benefit from Rabbi Graf's leadership in the years ahead." **Rabbi Emeritus Martin Weiner**, who served as senior rabbi before Rabbi Raphael and mentored Rabbi Graf, states, "Rabbi Graf brings to our congregation a full measure of wisdom, creativity, and vision. She has pioneered new approaches to inspiring young singles and families to join synagogues. Her personal warmth and people



UNANIMOUS: More than 110 CSI members showed up to vote for Rabbi Jessica Graf as our 10th senior rabbi. She begins officially on July 1.

skills will help us begin a worthy new chapter in the life of our historic congregation and its service to our community."

Rabbi Graf adds, "It was a long-held dream of mine to come back to San Francisco and to Sherith Israel in an official capacity. I'm much looking forward to connecting our history with innovation and making this synagogue an even stronger center of Jewish life in the San Francisco community."

She and her husband, **Dr. Jonathan Graf**, a professor at the UCSF School of Medicine, are parents of a daughter, **Arielle**, 18 months. Their second child is due in June. ■



Carry your part of the Torah

MITZVAH DAY AT THE SAN FRANCISCO FOOD BANK Sunday, April 3 9–11 am or 12:30–2:30 pm

Every year Sherith Israel families with children 4 years old and older roll up their sleeves and get to work at the San Francisco Food Bank. There they sort and pack food for hungry San Franciscans. Space is limited, so RSVP soon for your preferred time: 9–11 am or 12:30–2:30 pm.

RSVP: Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, 415.346.1720, x28, or nsgomes@sherithisrael.org.

JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY

Make a difference in a child's life by becoming a reading tutor with the Jewish Coalition for Literacy. There are two upcoming training/orientation sessions this spring:

Wednesday, April 20, 1-4 pm:
Congregation Emanuel-El, 2 Lake Street

Wednesday, May 25, 1-4 pm:
Congregation Beth Israel Judea, 625 Brotherhood Way

Contact: Janet Parker, 415.282.1495, or jparkersf@hotmail.com; you can also register online, jclread.org.

REFUGEE SUPPORT

Following our February forum on the world's refugee crisis—cosponsored with Jewish Family and Community Services East Bay Area and organized by **Bill Shore, Richard Rozen** and **Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller**—many congregants have asked how they can help. Below are some ways we can help newly arrived refugees:

Donate school supplies: We are collecting donations of the following items through May 22: backpacks (for a variety of ages), lunch boxes (soft and foldable), markers, pencils, pencil sharpeners, pens, black and red sharpies, rulers, spiral notebooks, binders, tape, staplers, calculators, erasers, binder paper, scissors and glue sticks. You may donate supplies in bulk or put together a complete backpack filled with a variety of supplies.

Hosting: JFCS-East Bay has a special program providing resettlement services in San Francisco to LGBT refugees who have fled their countries because of persecution based on gender identity and sexual orientation. These refugees, some of whom are already working and able to pay some rent, need short-term housing in San Francisco. They all have case managers overseeing their resettlement, so hosting does not include case management. If you have, or know of someone who has, an extra bedroom with bathroom and kitchen access and can host a refugee for two months, please contact Rabbi Saxe-Taller.

Information: Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller, 415-346-1720, x25, or rabbijst@sherithisrael.org.

FORUM ON POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

**Tues., May 3
7 pm**

We once thought that issues of excessive force and police brutality weren't San Francisco concerns, but recent events have underscored that these issues have local as well as national resonance. Please join us for a forum on police accountability with SFPD Chief **Greg Suhr** and Public Defender **Jeff Adachi**, moderated by **Michael Krasny**, host of KQED's Forum.

Chief Suhr recently announced a reworking of SFPD's use-of-force policies and procedures currently under review by the Police Commission. "Hopefully these new efforts will help ensure citizen safety," comments criminal defense attorney and congregant **Eric Safire**, who organized the forum. "San Francisco has traditionally had the most progressive policies and investigations by citizen committees, as well as a firearms review board."

Jeff Adachi's office represents more than 23,000 people each year, many of whom have tangled with the police. He will share his views on this important topic.

"We expect pointed questions and a lively dialogue," says Eric. This program is co-sponsored with the Raoul Wallenberg Jewish Democratic Club.

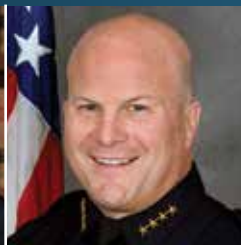
Information: Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller, 415-346-1720, x25, or rabbijst@sherithisrael.org.

PANELISTS

MODERATOR



JEFF ADACHI
Public Defender of the
City and County of
San Francisco



GREG SUHR
San Francisco
Chief of Police



MICHAEL KRASNY
Host of KQED-FM's
FORUM

SEISMIC RETROFIT, from page 1

The entire project is expected to take about a year. It encompasses shoring up the north wall, strengthening the foundation, adding a high-tech nitinol system to reinforce the upper parts of the building and completing accessibility upgrades. A “no-work” break in the fall will accommodate the High Holy Days.

Phase II won’t be as invasive as the work done in 2010-2011, according to architect **Ellen Schumm**, a member of our building and grounds committee and a key player in the Sherith Israel team interfacing with the project engineers, architects and contractors. “This time we are focusing on the perimeter, basement and attic. We don’t anticipate having to be out of the sanctuary during this round of construction.”

However, organ pipes behind the bimah will need to be removed to accommodate work along the synagogue’s north side, which includes adding exterior buttresses or pilasters to brace the wall. “What congregants may not realize when they look at the decorative front row of pipes is that there is a whole room full of pipes that extends all the way to the north wall,” notes **Craig Etlin**, co-chair of the building and grounds committee and a driving force behind the retrofit. Although the organ will look the same as usual from inside the sanctuary, it will not be functional during the project. The pipes removed for the construction will be stored and protected in the upper-level storage rooms.

To strengthen the foundation of the 111-year-old building, contractors will add reinforced concrete outriggers and micro-piles in the basement. Basement work also includes removing some asbestos, which was commonly used as insulation around pipes. Craig notes that it’s important to do the abatement work early in the process so the space is accessible to the workers. The construction crew will get to the basement through Bart Hall, which will be closed in mid-April for at least six months and possibly for the duration of the job.

The third task to be accomplished in Phase II is adding a tension-tie system in the attic to connect the beams that span the four exterior walls. The system relies on high-tech rods made

of nitinol, a nickel and titanium alloy with super-elastic properties. “This innovative solution to shoring up the dome was developed by our structural engineers, Wiss Janney Elstner Associates,” comments Craig. “The rods will mitigate against displacement of the gables at the top of the building and will help restrain the walls from falling outward in a massive quake.”

The last component of the construction consists of a series of accessibility upgrades. They include adding a single stall, gender-neutral bathroom on the ground floor and another on the sanctuary level behind the bimah. In addition, we will add a portable lift for the bimah that can be wheeled in and put into place when needed. Finally, taking advantage of access to the roof, we will do some much-needed waterproofing.

In addition to the closure of Bart Hall for much of the construction, various offices will be impacted. The senior rabbi’s office will be temporarily closed after Rabbi Raphael retires in July and before Rabbi Jessica Graf moves in. The executive director’s office will be temporarily closed some time after the High Holy Days this fall to allow for installation of the accessible restroom. “Other than this,” says Crag, “we don’t envision any restrictions on our ability to use the building.”

“This project takes thinking on your feet, creativity and collaboration,” observes Ellen. “This is an old, intricate and complicated building. We have a lot of respect for our engineers (**WJE structural engineers**), architects (**ELS Architecture and Urban Design**) and our contractor (**Plant Construction Company**) because this is not a cut-and-dry job.”

Craig, who has been working on this project for 16 years, is delighted to see light at the end of the tunnel. “For many congregants, myself included, the identity of the congregation is so intertwined with this building and the experience of being in the sanctuary for your son’s bar mitzvah, your daughter’s bat mitzvah, your wedding or the High Holy Days. As much as I love the building, it’s really about securing the future of the congregation for generations to come.” ■

\$350,000 in donations pledged

BOARD STEPS UP TO PHASE II FUNDRAISING

Financing for Phase II of Sherith Israel’s seismic retrofit work got a major boost in December when a windfall from the sale of a commercial property on Geary Boulevard enabled the congregation to allocate \$5 million to the Seismic Retrofit Campaign. The rest of the funds accrued in the sale went to secure the endowment of the congregation’s Hills of Eternity Cemetery.

With the addition of that very welcome \$5 million in funds, the Seismic Retrofit Campaign is off to a very good start on Phase II. Adding to the campaign coffers, members of the congregation’s board of trustees have made pledges or gifts of \$350,000 toward Phase II of the retrofit. That leaves the campaign with about \$3 million to raise.

Campaign co-chair and board member **Lynn Sedway** is delighted. “Many of our board members have committed to increasing their pledges if their circumstances allow,” she notes. “We are confident that our hard work will pay off as we move forward with what promises to be a successful campaign.”

According to campaign co-chair **David Newman**, “Over the next year, we will reach out to our congregants—both those who have already donated and those who have not yet participated. And we will approach local foundations and generous members of the larger Jewish community for their support.”

David is looking forward to the last phase of the capital campaign. “We’ll finish this project the same way we started it,” he said, “through the audacious generosity of our congregants and friends.”

DONATIONS

Includes donations from December 2, 2015 – February 29, 2016

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

BAGEL AND LOX FUND

Tamar Draper
Robert Epstein
Mark Ochoa

CHICKEN SOUPERS/HAMOTZI FUND

James Blattner in memory of Bernard Blattner
Nancy & Arnie Davis in memory of Dr. William B. Pincus
Lawrence & Barbara Graham in honor of
Bradley Graham's birthday
Shira & Bill Shore in memory of Irving E. Shore
Rabbi & Karen Weiner in memory of Florence Kricsfeld

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND

Kristen Drake
Andrew Kluger in memory of Adolf Kluger

FUND FOR THE FUTURE

Nancy Davis in memory of Morris Krakowitz
Robert & Diane Neuhaus in memory of Sigmund Neuhaus

MAGALIM FUND

Steven & Marlene Gerbsman

MITZVAH FUND

Sofya Barbalat in memory of Ada Katsap
Randall & Theresa Dick in memory of Sandy Leib
David & Jeanne Freed
Deborah & Edmund Green
Diane Green in memory of Eva Zarchin
Donna Little
Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman & family in memory of
Lottie Harmon, Morris Fellman, and Jack Mirviss
Michael & Lisa Moss in memory of Dr. Edward Moss
Rena Pasick in memory of Lucille Lee Pasick
Rabbi & Terrie Raphael in memory of George, Leo, and
Shirley Sladnick and David Wine
Ellen Sarbone in memory of Mildred and Elliot Isaacs and
Al Belva
Sima Shandrovskeya in memory of Avraam Faynberg
Roberta Silverstein & Stephen Sperber in memory of
Arthur Silverstein
Audrey & Bob Sockolov in memory of Leland Spiegelman
Tracy & Aaron Stone
Luba Temkin in memory of Meyer Gorelik
Steven & Anne Werth

MUSIC FUND

Barbara Austin in memory of the Austin and Figone families
Marcia Gruskin in memory of Harriet B. Ross
Toby Sherwood in honor of Jacalyn Kornblatt

ONEG FUND

Amanda Kelly

RABBI RAPHAEL'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jack Anderson in honor of Florence Anderson, and in memory of
Jean Anderson
Tasia Melvin Bartell in memory of Tony Bartell
Drs. Andre & Janice Bolaffi
Jeffrey Fessel in memory of Freda Young
Doba Gendelman in memory of Abraham Gendelman
Cece Kaufman & Dan Himmelstein in memory of Edward Kaufman
Arlene & Steve Krieger in memory of Louis Epp
Agnes Rothblatt in memory of Anita Rothblatt Kapell

RABBI SAXE-TALLER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman & family in memory of
Morris Fellman
Frances & Rachael Schreiber in memory of Lester Schreiber
Lonnie Zwerin & Frank Mainzer in honor of
Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller

RABBI ZIMMERMAN GRAF'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman & family in memory of
Morris Fellman and Jack Mirviss
Toby Sherwood in honor of Rabbi Graf
Alan and Monica Zimmerman in memory of Rena A. Zimmerman

RABBI WEINER'S EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Candace Heisler in memory of Dan Heisler
Tengiz Iosebashvili in memory of Larisa, Moses and
Alexandra Iosebashvili
James M. Seff in memory of Elsie Abrams Seff and
Judge Bernard Seff
Audrey & Bob Sockolov in honor of Karen and Marty Weiner's
anniversary and David Glassel's 80th birthday

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Al & Ardis Breslauer in memory of Alfred Breslauer
Ruth Kagan in honor of Nina Morgenstein
Sarah Mars & Jason Fessel
Perri Seedman in memory of Eva Seedman

RITUAL FUND

David & Carolyn Power Perlstein

SEISMIC RETROFIT CAMPAIGN

Arthur & Miriam Gauss in honor of Paul Sedway's
special birthday
Alan Mirviss & Diane Fellman
Michael Wornick in honor of Lynn Sedway
Ronald & Anita Wornick in honor of Lynn Sedway
Lucas & Katie Zier
Lonnie Zwerin & Frank Mainzer



HARD HAT SHABBAT 2.0

FRIDAY, APR. 8

6 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat and Family Service

7:30 pm: Celebration and special oneg

It's time for a rousing *Shehecheyanu!*

We're about to begin construction on the final round of our seismic retrofit work and kick off the final phase of our Seismic Retrofit Campaign. Join the Sherith Israel clergy and board, plus special guest San Francisco **Supervisor Mark Farrell**, as we celebrate this milestone and honor the generosity of those who have brought us so far.

Information:

Nia Taylor, 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.

A LASTING LEGACY FOR RABBI LARRY RAPHAEL

Contribute one or more sets of the new High Holy Day prayerbooks.

In addition to celebrating with Rabbi Larry Raphael during his special Shabbat, May 20–21, you can also honor him by contributing one or more sets of the new High Holy Day prayerbooks (machzorim)—Mishkan HaNefesh—published by the Central Conference of Reform Rabbis (CCAR).

Each set includes one volume for Rosh Hashanah and another for Yom Kippur. Each volume will bear a bookplate honoring Rabbi Raphael with your name as donor and, if you wish, the name of someone you would like to honor or remember. Your generosity will help make the High Holy Days even more meaningful this autumn and for years to come.

You'll receive information about donating this lasting gift to Sherith Israel in honor of Rabbi Raphael when you receive your invitation to the weekend's festivities in the mail in April.





SHERITH ISRAEL

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www.sherithisrael.org

Member of the Union for
Reform Judaism since 1903

APRIL-JUNE, 2016 **SHERITH ISRAEL NEWS**

CSI FOOD PROGRAMS RECEIVE \$4,800 FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION: This past January, The San Francisco Foundation awarded Sherith Israel a \$4,800 grant to implement an onsite Food Service Handler certification program. It will train HaMotzi and Chicken Souper team captains, volunteers and members of the communities we serve. The five-session series will cover the proper use of equipment, recipes and proportions, meal planning, food safety and preparation for the city's Health Department test. Our kitchen has prepared more than 175,000 meals over 25 years.

In addition, the classes will offer development of a skill set in demand in San Francisco. The grant will cover the cost of taking the test for all enrollees.



REMINDER: Sign up for our second-night community Seder, Saturday, April 23. It's our annual Chicken Souper and HaMotzi fundraiser. Our wonderful volunteers, who have sustained these programs for a quarter of a century, will cater a delicious dinner. See page 4 for details.



**SATURDAY
APRIL 23
5 PM**

