

# YES! SHERITH ISRAEL



The newsletter of Congregation Sherith Israel • San Francisco, California • APRIL-JUNE, 2015



*Sharing a Torah and other Jewish ritual articles*

## CSI PARTICIPATES IN INTERFAITH EXHIBIT

Congregation Sherith Israel has loaned a number of ritual objects to the Manresa Gallery in St. Ignatius Church as part of an interfaith exhibit, Under Cover: Liturgical Garb as Investment in Mystery, running now through June 28.

"We've been delighted to work with St. Ignatius on this exhibit to give people who are not familiar with the objects used in Jewish worship the opportunity to learn more about Judaism," comments Rabbi Larry Raphael, who worked with congregants Denise Migdail and Jenny Benjamin.

The Jewish objects on display include a lovely Sephardic Torah from either Alexandria or Cairo. "It came to San Francisco sometime after World War II, perhaps after the war for Israeli independence in 1948," explains Rabbi Raphael. "It's an unusual piece because it's housed in a round wooden case instead of covered with fabric, as most Torahs are."

The display case devoted to Jewish objects includes a shofar made by Sherith Israel's *baal tekiah*, Maurice Kamins. Maurice made this particular shofar

*Interfaith Exhibit continues, page 17*

*Engaging our community a priority*

## RABBINIC SEARCH UNDER WAY

In its 154-year history, Congregation Sherith Israel has been served by outstanding senior rabbis, the latest being Rabbi Larry Raphael, who will retire in June 2016. Evan Kletter, president of the CSI Board of Trustees, states that, "There is no more important task for our congregation than finding a new senior rabbi to continue the momentum we've built during Rabbi Raphael's tenure. The search process offers a wonderful opportunity to engage the entire congregation in setting the synagogue's course for the next generation."

Evan, who sits on the search committee, asked immediate past president Valerie Krieger Jahan to chair the committee, limited to fifteen members at the recommendation of the Reform movement's Rabbinical Placement Commission. Evan and Valerie then solicited recommendations from our rabbis, senior staff and lay leaders so the committee would represent a meaningful cross-section of the congregation.

The committee will work closely with the Rabbinical Placement Commission (RPC), a partnership of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) and Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR). The RPC offers a time-tested program that guides Reform congregations in defining the kind of rabbi that they want, publicizing the position and gathering qualified applications.

"We want our congregants to be engaged in the process," says Valerie. "We will reach out for their input on the characteristics we want most in our next senior rabbi, such as scholarship, teaching, preaching, social action and interpersonal relationships." The rabbinic profile assembled by the committee will inform the RPC and prospective candidates as to the synagogue's needs. "We've had wonderful rabbis in the past," Valerie adds, "and I'm confident that we will

*Rabbinic Search Under Way continues, page 14*

## All This Inside? YES! April-June, 2015

A Moment with Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf	2
4 Questions for Rabbi Larry Raphael	3
Family Shabbat	4
Special Shabbats	5
Adult Programs	6
Exploring Judaism	7
Early Childhood	8
Religious School	9
Circles of Connection	10-11
Profile: Karen and Marcy Zelman	12
News Nosh	13
Behind the Scenes with Amy Mallor	14
Passages	15
Tikkun Olam Corner	16
Donations	18

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Annual Meeting**  
THURSDAY, MAY 21

**Rabbinic Search Town Hall**  
TUESDAY, JUNE 2



CONGREGATION  
SHERITH ISRAEL

2266 California Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
P: 415.346.1720  
F: 415.673.9439  
[www.sherithisrael.org](http://www.sherithisrael.org)

Member of the Union for  
Reform Judaism since 1903

#### CLERGY

Lawrence W. Raphael  
*Senior Rabbi*

Julie Saxe-Taller  
*Associate Rabbi*

Jessica Zimmerman Graf  
*Rabbi, Director of Magalim*

#### EMERITUS CLERGY

Martin Weiner *Rabbi Emeritus*  
Martin Feldman *Cantor Emeritus*

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

##### OFFICERS

Evan Kletter *President*  
Helen Sloss Luey *Vice President*  
Jerry Hurwitz *Treasurer*  
Lindsay Braunig *Secretary*  
Valerie Jahan *Immediate Past President*

##### TRUSTEES

Tracy Boxer Zill  
Jerry Flanzer  
Michael Gaines  
Gale Gottlieb  
Joan Libman  
Stacy Passman  
Eric Safire  
Lynn Sedway  
Sharon Wasserman  
Amy Widdowson  
Katie Zier  
Lonnie Zwerin

#### STAFF

Amy Mallor *Executive Director*  
Nancy Sheftel-Gomes *Education Director*  
Jeni Clancy *Early Childhood Director*  
Jonathan Dimmock *Choir Director & Accompanist*  
Eric Drucker *Ritual & Religious School Coordinator*  
Eliana Miranda *Bookkeeper*  
Ari Reisman *Office Manager*  
David Cynman *Media & Program Associate*  
Lydell Benjamin *Facilities Manager*  
Lawrence Bolton *Maintenance Staff*

#### YES! SHERITH ISRAEL

Ellen Newman & David Perlstein *Editors*  
Susan Weeks *Graphic Design*

## A MOMENT WITH RABBI JESSICA ZIMMERMAN GRAF



### OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO EACH OTHER

**As the granddaughter of brave people who escaped from Nazi-occupied Europe, I grew up hearing terrifying stories about what happened to Jews outside of America.** I arrived at an identity that allowed for joy and celebration within Judaism, while always maintaining a keen vigilance for the slightest appearance of anti-Semitism in society.

I don't believe that we need to live in fear. However, in the past few months, the world has witnessed a series of attacks aimed specifically at Jews—crimes motivated by hatred of Jewish people and Jewish values. Jewish people were massacred in Paris and Copenhagen. In Argentina, Alberto Nisman, the Jewish prosecutor who was preparing to bring charges against the government for a cover-up of the bombing of the AMIA Jewish center twenty years ago, was shot in his own apartment. These were not only crimes against individual people. They were hate crimes against humanity—and all Jewish people everywhere.

**Our Talmud instructs us, *kol yisrael aravim zeh ba zeh*—each Jewish person is responsible for every other Jewish person.** What does it take for us to feel connected to Jewish communities we've never visited and people we've never met? With no large-scale crisis facing the Jewish people worldwide, what holds us together? Are the trials—and joys—of other Jewish communities our own?

As we hear about hate crimes directly impacting Jewish communities abroad, what can we do here? First, it is our responsibility to realize that an attack on any Jewish community is an attack on every Jewish community because we are inextricably linked. Second, it is our responsibility to educate ourselves about the issues facing Jewish communities abroad. Organizations like the American Jewish Committee, the Joint Distribution Committee and the World Union for Progressive Judaism help us learn about and stay connected with international Jewish communities. Third, get involved. Support these organizations, which do so much to support Jews around the world by advocating for Jewish communities lacking a strong voice of their own. Fourth, we must use our privilege as an American Jewish community with freedom of expression—and access to politicians—to help ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities abroad.

Contemporary Jewish theologian Rabbi Eugene Borowitz wrote, "Jewish peoplehood is an indispensable part of Jewish religious thought... and practice... When at least ten Jews congregate to pray, they ... represent all Israel, past and present, here and everywhere." In this season of Passover, we are reminded of the freedoms we have and of our links to the Jewish communities around the world who crossed through the Reed Sea with us. ■

### PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

***"Moses led the people out of the camp toward God, and they took their places at the foot of the mountain." Exodus 19:17***

Judaism is a communal religion. Before the giving of the Ten Commandments, Moses instructs *all* of the Israelites to gather at the foot of Sinai. In Deuteronomy 29:9–10, he reminds Israel that they again all stand before God—men, women and children, "even the stranger within your camp." The 613 command-

ments (mitzvot) bring inclusion and community into focus. Some require individual effort. Others require group participation, such as a minyan for Shabbat worship. On Yom Kippur, we ask God to forgive our sins and those of others for which we take communal responsibility. ■

# 4

## Questions for RABBI LARRY RAPHAEL

*It's baseball season again, and Rabbi Larry Raphael is a big fan. So it was only natural to ask him how baseball relates to the larger issues in life, particularly through a Jewish lens.*

**Q.** *From the time pitchers and catchers report to spring training in mid-February, fans' hearts beat faster. What's going on?*

**A:** My heart begins beating faster, too. Baseball's a great game, but it's also about the coming of spring. When the season begins around April first each year, we're hopefully done with snow and rain—although we can use more of the latter. A new season is like a new year. We can make a fresh start.

There's a wonderful book of essays by Thomas Boswell, sports columnist for the *Washington Post*. It came out in 1985, and its title is still evocative: *Why Time Begins on Opening Day*. It's relevant Jewishly, too. One of our four "new years," Passover, arrives at this time in the middle of the first month of the Jewish calendar, Nissan. The Israelites made a new start with the Exodus from Egypt. The other new years are Rosh Hashanah (first of Tishrei, the *seventh* month), which leads to Yom Kippur and another fresh start; the first of Elul (the sixth month), the new year for animal tithes; and Tu B'Shvat (winter), the new year for taxing fruit trees in ancient Israel.

**Q.** *Baseball fans insist that the game is a lot like life. Is this hyperbole?*

**A:** I don't think so. Boswell wrote, "The crowd and its team had finally understood that in games, as in many things, the ending, the final score, is only part of what matters. The process, the pleasure, the grain of the game count too." We can live with eyes set on particular goals—money, promotions, public office, honors. These are all well and good, but in the process of achieving, we may overlook living. Life is about relationships. Martin Buber posited that we find God in the "I-Thou" relationship. We recognize and honor the other, who also is created in the image of God.

Put another way: Slow down and smell the roses. I do that at the ballpark. I also slow down when I study Torah in the wide sense—any Jewish text that nourishes the soul. Circling back to Boswell's comment, I go to the ballpark to be captivated by the skills of the players. I'd rather see a well-played game in which the Giants or A's lose than a poorly played game that they win.

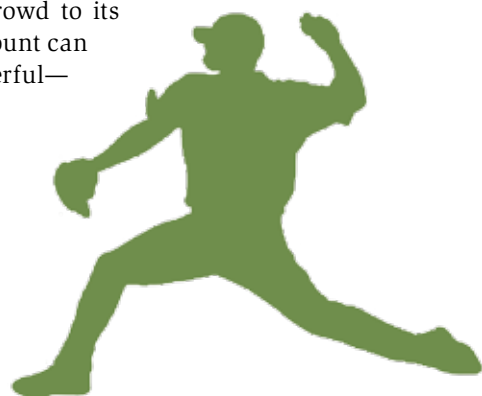
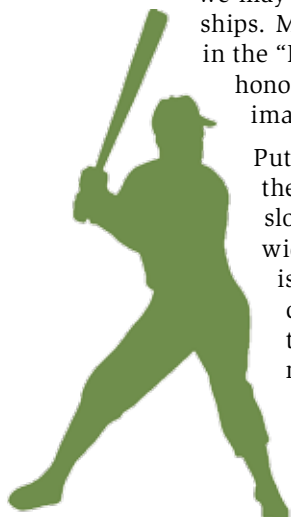
**Q.** *It happens to be football season when we begin a new Torah reading cycle in the fall. Why read the same five books over and over?*

**A:** Every baseball season plays out differently. So does every Torah cycle. I love leading our Torah Study group Saturday mornings and finding fresh ways to look at the weekly portion. Torah offers so many levels of meaning, along with a vast number of commentaries. Each year, I choose different verses and different commentators. Then we dig deep. So when we pick up the Book of Genesis, we're making a fresh start even though we're building on previous study.

**Q.** *Each baseball season produces winners but mostly losers. Doesn't that lead to pessimism?*

**A:** Baseball is hard. Life is hard. When we reach the High Holy Days, we reflect on our failings, repent and make every effort to do better the next year. And there is a next year. The writers of Torah, the many voices in the Mishnah and Talmud, and the commentators that follow deal with human nature and human failings. But they were not joyless people. They, too, appreciated new seasons, fresh starts and the good things life offers. We may suffer defeats during the year, but we can rise up, dust ourselves off, go on and experience victories, too. Sometimes these are small. When the prophet Elijah flees the wrath of Jezebel in 1 Kings, God passes by him. Elijah experiences God not in the mighty wind or the splitting of mountains or the shattering of rocks or an earthquake but in a still, small voice—what the Jewish Publication Society translates as a "soft, murmuring sound." We learn that we have to appreciate the small things, the little victories.

In baseball terms, a grand slam brings a crowd to its feet. A sacrifice bunt can be just as wonderful—or more so. ■





# AVODAH/WORSHIP

*Music and stories reach across generations*

## FAMILY SHABBAT BUILDS BRIDGES

The universal language of music and stories links the generations in CSI's monthly, participatory Family Shabbat. Held the second Friday evening of the month, Family Shabbat offers a lively service that welcomes families with children of all ages. It is also well attended by adults without children, many of whom enjoy the engaging, informal atmosphere.

Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller, who leads Family Shabbat services with song leader Lior Ben-Hur, tends to wrap a family-friendly drash in the form of a story. "I may provide context for the story, but I look for stories whose message is valuable for both children and adults." She likes humorous tales—with characters we can laugh at, recognize and enjoy.

The other essential elements to Family Shabbat are the flow of the service and the music. As CSI educator Nancy Sheftel-Gomes sees it, Family Shabbat is a full-body experience. "Participating is how people bring the feeling of the service into themselves."

At any Family Shabbat the congregation may sing tunes written by Debbie Friedman and Craig Taubman, niggunim (wordless melodies), Mizrahi or Sephardic melodies, or compositions by Rabbi Julie or Lior. "We want to be able to express a range of emotion through our music, from slow and prayerful to jubilant, soulful and danceable," comments Rabbi Julie.

Religious School song leader Lior Ben-Hur brings a range of musical influences to CSI. Lior considers himself a secular Israeli with a spiritual bent. It all comes out in his music. He sees Family Shabbat as a way for the entire community to come together with a spiritual connection to the music.



**SING UNTO GOD A NEW SONG:** Religious School song leader **Lior Ben-Hur** (here at morning T'filah) brings music from the modern Jewish world to Family Shabbat every second Friday of the month. Lior mixes Reform Jewish classics by Debbie Friedman and Craig Taubman with his own compositions incorporating Jewish texts and rap, hip-hop and reggae beats.

"What Rabbi Julie and I are trying to achieve is to bring in music that's more universal, more interactive and more appealing to younger kids—music they have experienced in Religious School and the music they listen to on their own." Instrumentally, Lior and his band, Sol Tevel, lean toward world music. "We are using less specifically Israeli music and less Jewish-American folk and more influences from around the Jewish world."

Lior has been writing songs based on Jewish texts for several years, inspired by his experience as a foreigner in this Jewish-American world. "We need to bridge to what kids are listening to—rap, hip-hop and reggae—and in the kids' experience, bridge between their secular worlds and their Jewish world," he says. "Music is such a powerful tool." ■

## PASSOVER

### SECOND-NIGHT FAMILY SEDER AND CHICKEN SOUPER/ HAMOTZI FUNDRAISER

Saturday, April 4, 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 fundraiser for our Chicken Souper 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 dinner. **Joel Siegel** will lead us in song. **Rabbis Larry Raphael** and **Julie Saxe-Taller** will keep us all on the same page of our Haggadahs.

Seder reservations are essential: Adults, \$36; post-b'nai mitzvah students, \$18; children, \$10; children under 5, free. RSVP: Eric Drucker, 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

### PASSOVER YIZKOR SERVICE

Friday, April 10  
8–10 am

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

Information: Eric Drucker, 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

# SPECIAL SHABBATS

## MEDICAL SHABBAT

With Louise Greenspan, MD

Saturday, April 18

9:15 am Torah study

10:30 am Shabbat services

12:30 pm Kiddush, lunch and conversation with Dr. Greenspan

CSI congregant **Dr. Louise Greenspan**, pediatric endocrinologist at Kaiser Permanente San Francisco and associate clinical professor at UCSF, is co-author with Julianna Deardorff of the recently published, *The New Puberty: How to Navigate Early Development in Today's Girls*. She joins us for Shabbat services, lunch and a discussion of teen health based on her research and clinical expertise.



Saturday, April 18



## YOM HA'ATZMAUT

Friday, April 24

6 pm Shabbat Services

7:15 pm Kiddush and dinner

Enjoy a festive Middle Eastern dinner and dancing led by Bruce Bierman as we celebrate Israel Independence Day. Watch for your Under the Dome email with details.

## SPRING THANK-YOU SHABBAT

Honoring emeritus trustees,  
and Circle of Friends and  
Seismic Retrofit donors

Friday, May 15

6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

7:30 pm Festive oneg

Join the Sherith Israel and Hills of Eternity boards for Kabbalat Shabbat and a festive oneg as they honor and thank all of our emeritus board members from the synagogue and Hills of Eternity cemetery, along with our dedicated Annual Fund Circle of Friends donors and supporters of our Seismic Retrofit campaign.

Information: Eric Drucker, 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

## INCLUSION TASK FORCE LOOKS AT MENTAL HEALTH

Friday May 29,

6 pm Shabbat Services

7:15 pm Kiddush, dinner and discussion

Join **Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller**, the CSI Inclusion Task Force, the CSI Caring Community and guests from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for a special presentation and discussion of mental health challenges facing many individuals and families in the community. During dinner we will hear from panelists **Bailey Wendzel**, program director, NAMI San Francisco; **Samantha Spiegel**, NAMI Peer-to-Peer mentor; and **Lori Campbell**, NAMI Family-to-Family teacher, who will answer questions about living with mental illness, broadly defined, as an individual or a family member.

**For further discussion with NAMI leaders and participants, CSI will host an informal, informational open house on Sunday, June 7 at 10 am.** We will also consider the best ways for Sherith Israel to provide support for those whose lives are affected by mental health challenges, including family and friends.

Information: Eric Drucker, 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

## SHABBAT services

(See below for special time)

### FRIDAY EVENINGS

6 pm Kabbalat Shabbat services

7:15 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 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.

### SPECIAL TIME:

Friday, April 3, Erev Pesach

5 pm Kabbalat Shabbat

### 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.

## TRAVELING SHAVUOT

California Corridor Shul Crawl

Join rabbis and teachers from CSI, JCCSF, Emanu-El, and Beth Sholom for a stimulating evening of learning and schmoozing. Our forbears, the original Israelites, had to escape slavery in Egypt, cross the Reed Sea and wander the desert before they were given the revelation at Sinai. We have it much easier. We only need to join up with the San Francisco Jewish community and walk along the California Street corridor to receive wonderful nuggets of

Saturday, May 23

8 pm-Midnight and beyond

learning from our own rabbis and those from other congregations.

This year enjoy singing and dancing, plus Havdalah in the sanctuary at CSI; a coffee tasting at JCCSF; a rabbinic panel discussion at Congregation Emanu-El; and late-night study at Congregation Beth Sholom.

Watch your Under the Dome email for details. Info: Eric Drucker, 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

# ADULT PROGRAMS

## upcoming courses & events

### 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](mailto:nsgomes@sherithisrael.org).

### PRIME TIME CLUB For congregants 65 and up

In memory of Marilyn and Max Singer (lunch included)

**Fridays, noon–2 pm**

**April 10:** Joan Libman, A Historical Look at Sherith Israel

**May 8:** Leslie Gordon, author of the novel *Cheer*

**June 12:** To be determined

### MAGALIM (CIRCLES) People. Learning. Community.

#### INTERESTED IN MAHJONG? It's not just for bubbes!

Contact Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf, 415.346.1720, x18, or [rabbigraf@sherithisrael.org](mailto:rabbigraf@sherithisrael.org).

### HAZON CALIFORNIA RIDE & RETREAT

Join Team Sherith Israel  
Thursday evening, May 7–  
Sunday afternoon, May 10  
Full or partial rides  
Walker Creek Ranch, Petaluma

Ride with us to benefit Hazon, creating healthier and more sustainable communities in the Jewish world and beyond. Choose how many days and how many miles. You'll enjoy beautiful bike routes, vibrant pluralistic Jewish celebration, delicious local food, learning and community building.

Information: [hazon.org/calendar/california-ride](http://hazon.org/calendar/california-ride). To sign up and confirm we'll have enough riders for a team: Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller, 415.346.1720, x25, or [rabbijst@sherithisrael.org](mailto:rabbijst@sherithisrael.org).

#### Check your email and Under the Dome for additional Magalim events.

Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf, 415.346.1720, x18, or [rabbigraf@sherithisrael.org](mailto:rabbigraf@sherithisrael.org).

### JEWS, LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR Tuesdays, April 14–May 19, 7–8:30 pm Rabbi Larry Raphael

Discover why American Jews hold Abraham Lincoln in such great regard. Explore the impact of Lincoln's early encounters with Central European Jewish immigrants in the Old Northwest, his Jewish political allies, the Jewish chaplain controversy, and Lincoln's response to General Ulysses Grant's General Order No. 11, which expelled "Jews, as a class" from the Military Department of Tennessee.

Fee: \$18. Information and registration: Eric Drucker, 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

### DOWNTOWN TALMUD CLASS Rabbi Larry Raphael Thursdays, Noon–1 pm April 2, 16, 30; May 14, 28; June 11 Farella Braun + Martel, Russ Bldg. 235 Montgomery, 17th Fl.

Come study from the Jerusalem Talmud (rather than the "normative" Babylonian Talmud). No Talmudic knowledge necessary. Materials provided along with coffee, tea and soft drinks.

### 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 April 12, 19, 26; May 3 (continuing from January)

Engage in study, discussion and hands-on experiences with Jews looking for adult-level basics, interfaith couples, individuals considering conversion, seekers and all lifelong learners. Topics include:

- Jewish beliefs and values
- Holidays and the Jewish calendar
- Prayer and liturgy
- Lifecycle events

Materials fee: \$5. The course book, *Living Judaism* by Rabbi Wayne Dosick, will be available for purchase at the first class for \$10. Information and registration: Eric Drucker, 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

## ongoing programs

### CARING COMMUNITY

Assists members in times of need and joy. Eric Drucker, 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

### TORAH STUDY

**Saturdays, 9:15–10:15 am**  
Studies weekly Torah portion. Bagels and lox.

### CHICKEN SOUPERS

**Sundays, 9 am**  
**April 12, May 3, June 7**  
Prepares and delivers food to people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, in cooperation with JFCS. Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, 415.346.1720, x28, or [nsgomes@sherithisrael.org](mailto:nsgomes@sherithisrael.org).

### HAMOTZI

Prepares and delivers nutritious meals to homeless shelters every Sunday, 9:30 am–12:30 pm, except April 12, May 3 and June 7, when HaMotzi volunteers meet from noon–3 pm. Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, 415.346.1720, x28, or [nsgomes@sherithisrael.org](mailto:nsgomes@sherithisrael.org).

### KOLEYNU

**CONGREGATIONAL CHOIR**  
Sings at holidays and Shabbat services.

### OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Greet visitors at our front desk, answer phones or help with office tasks. Ari Reisman, 415.346.1720, x17, or [ari@sherithisrael.org](mailto:ari@sherithisrael.org).

### CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CONVERSION

**Maurice Kamins**  
**Mondays, 6:30–8 pm**  
**April 20, May 18, June 15**

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.

Eric Drucker: 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).



*Potential converts, seekers, Jews who want to learn more*

## RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS GATHER TO EXPLORE JUDAISM

**Exploring Jewish Beliefs and Practices, which evolved from Sherith Israel's earlier Introduction to Judaism class, has always been popular. This year it's booming.** The course draws potential converts—both partners of Jews and unattached individuals—religious seekers and Jews wanting to know more about Judaism. “Exploring” usually draws around 20 people. This year, the course, which began in January and runs through May 3, has attracted 32 participants. Many are in their 20s and 30s, but some are older. All show remarkable enthusiasm.

“It’s gratifying to have so many students,” says **Rabbi Larry Raphael**. The course only provides a taste of Judaism, he points out. “But we offer a broad look at Judaism and the opportunity to learn more when the course concludes.”

Exploring Jewish Beliefs’ popularity is not without challenges, says **Lisa Erdberg**, CSI’s congregant outreach fellow. Lisa teaches several classes, as do Rabbi Raphael, **Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller** and **Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf**. A large group alters the dynamics. “We have to give everyone a chance to enter the discussion.”

**On a Sunday in late February, students gathered in Bart Hall to learn about Jewish texts with Rabbi Raphael.** Text study is a complicated business involving Torah, Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible) and 2,000 years of commentary, beginning with the Mishnah and Talmud. Students examined handouts giving ex-

amples of textual interpretation and levels of meaning. Two breakout sessions enabled small-group discussions.

Rabbi Saxe-Taller is excited about the questioning that takes place and notes, “Some worry their questions might be considered heretical, but Jews have always questioned even our most fundamental beliefs and practices. It’s part of taking those beliefs seriously.” She emphasizes that, “Students feel refreshingly free to bring their experiences, perceptions and thinking to what they’re learning.” Rabbi Graf points out the intensity of class discussion: “It’s thrilling to be in conversation about challenging topics.” She enjoys introducing non-Jewish students to Jewish ideas and helping Jewish students to rethink concepts they’ve encountered before. Students appreciate the open class atmosphere. She says, “It’s remarkable how people are willing to share their life experiences.”

**Jami Johnson** is the non-Jewish spouse of Aaron Johnson. The couple expects their first child in June. Jami grew up in Orange County with a Christian family background. She had Jewish friends in college and later in New York. She met Aaron, to whom raising a Jewish family was important. “I’d been part of Jewish culture through friends,” Jami says, “but didn’t understand the religion.” She decided to explore Judaism as a pathway to conversion. Online, Jami found five Introduction to Judaism courses. She met with rabbis at two synagogues, including Rabbi Raphael. “In my conversation with Rabbi Larry, I felt really comfortable

## TWO IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, May 21**  
**5:30 pm** Dinner  
**6:30 pm** Meeting

**RABBINIC SEARCH  
TOWN HALL**  
**Tuesday, June 2**  
**6:30 pm** Snacks and  
dessert  
**7 pm** Meeting

All congregants are invited  
and encouraged to attend  
both meetings.

**COMEDY NIGHT AT CSI:  
YOU’RE FUNNY,  
BUT YOU DON’T  
LOOK JEWISH**  
**Saturday, May 30**  
**7:30 pm**

Featuring four “yes, they  
are” Jewish comics: Joseph  
Nguyen, Samson Koletkar,  
Gina Gold and Mike  
Capozzola

*Tickets: \$20 at*  
<http://comedyatcsi.bpt.me>

with the course material and the expectation. I was drawn to Sherith Israel, as well. And the class is really cool in terms of meeting all kinds of interesting people.”

*Exploring Judaism continues, page 15*

## JEWISH BOOK CLUB

**5:45–6:45 pm: Pre-book club yoga with Amy Plevin**

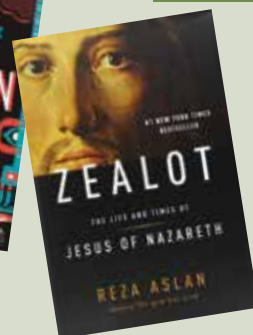
Chapel, mats provided. Suggested yoga donation: \$10

**April 27:** *Zealot* by Reza Aslan, discussion led by Judie Wexler.

**May 18:** *The Yiddish Policeman’s Union* by Michael Chabon, discussion led by Cathy Taylor.

**June 22:** Book selection for 5776 (2015–16). Watch your email and Under the Dome.

*Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, 415.346.1720, x28, or [nsgomes@sherithisrael.org](mailto:nsgomes@sherithisrael.org).*



**Mondays  
7 pm**

# TALMUD TORAH/EDUCATION

## early childhood

*Learning and fun intersect*

### BIG JEWISH IDEAS INFORM CSI PRESCHOOL AND ECE PROGRAMS

ECE director Jeni Markowitz Clancy digs deep into her Jewish roots, her facility with puppets and songs, and her sense of fun to infuse big Jewish ideas into engaging programs for little ones and their parents. Working as a Jewish resource specialist funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Federation's Early Childhood Initiative, Jeni has brought serious fun and



learning to CSI's Marin Day School Jewish classrooms.

On Tu B'Shvat, she coordinated a visit by Urban Adamah, the Jewish community farm in Berkeley. Many parents joined their children as they made seed balls with wild flower seeds, mulch and dirt. The goal: to spread flower seeds, Johnny Appleseed-style, to empty lots around San Francisco. "Kids feel really empowered by being able to plant, to make things grow," explains Jeni.

On Friendship Day (Valentine's Day) the students performed mitzvot and acts of lovingkindness in partnership with Compass Family Shelter. The two-year-olds baked cookies, the three-year-olds assembled personal care kits, and the

four- and five-year-olds assembled fleece blankets from kits. "All the kids made cards," says Jeni. "You can tell they 'got it' with messages like, *take care of yourself, these are yummy* and *stay warm*." The big Jewish idea: empathy and tik-kun olam, helping repair the world. In the weeks before a special activity, Jeni uses books, music and puppets to make the ideas real for kids.

"Even very young children can do acts of lovingkindness and have an impact on those who need help," comments Jeni. That's the big Jewish idea.

"The Federation's Jewish resource specialist grant is making these programs possible," adds Jeni. "We are so grateful to the community for embracing this program." ■

**PRACTICING MITZVOT:** Even the youngest kids learn empathy by helping with hands-on projects that make a difference.

## 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 songs, puppets, bubbles and parachute games—with early childhood director Jeni Markowitz Clancy. Fridays include a special Shabbat program with Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller. Rates: Drop-in: \$12 per visit; 10-visit card: \$65 for CSI members; \$80 for nonmembers. Just drop in; no sign-up necessary. Eric Drucker 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

### MAMAS GROUP Fridays, 9:15-10:30 am Contact Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller for the spring group

Join Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller and new moms for meaningful discussions about parenting, motherhood and bringing Jewish values and traditions into the family. Rates for ten-week series: \$100 for members; \$140 for nonmembers. Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller, 415.346.1720, x25, or [rabbijst@sherithisrael.org](mailto:rabbijst@sherithisrael.org).

### FAMILY SHABBAT 2nd Friday of the month April 10, May 8, June 12

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 his band. Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller and Rabbi Larry Raphael share stories meaningful for congregants of all ages.

### HAVDALAH PAJAMA PARTY Saturdays, April 25 and May 23 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 and early childhood director Jeni Markowitz Clancy. \$18/family for dinner and activities. RSVP by the Monday before: Eric Drucker 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

Contact CSI early childhood director Jeni Markowitz Clancy, 415.346.1720, x32, or [jclancy@sherithisrael.org](mailto:jclancy@sherithisrael.org), with questions or to schedule a Marin Day School tour.

### PARENT SCHMOOZE At the home of Becky and Ari Brown Saturday, May 2, 6 pm

Book the babysitter now! Join the early childhood community for an evening filled with great wine, delicious food and adult conversations. Hosted by ECE community members, these parent potlucks are a great way to make new friends and connect with familiar faces. RSVP: Eric Drucker 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

### TOT SHABBAT AT THE BEACH CRISSY FIELD next to the West Bluff Picnic area Saturday, June 6, 10:30-noon

Celebrate Shabbat at the beach right by the Golden Gate Bridge with a family-friendly service, songs and a picnic. RSVP: Eric Drucker 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

### CSI MARIN DAY SCHOOL PRESCHOOL TOURS

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





## THE MITZVAH OF COOKING SOUP:

Kindergardeners and first-graders learn about food and tikkun olam by making and selling soup, with proceeds going to the SF Food Bank.

# religious school

*K-6 cohort up 12 percent in two years*

## GROWTH OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BRINGS CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES

**Enrollment in Sherith Israel's Religious School is up.** For education director **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes**, that's good news—with a qualification. More students require adjustments in teaching styles and greater parent involvement. "We're on it," says Nancy.

The numbers are gratifying. Overall, enrollment of students from kindergarten through high school is up ten percent over the past two years. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. Enrollment in the K-6 cohort has grown from 70 two years ago to 79. That's a 12 percent increase. What accounts for it?

"We're seeing more young parents join the synagogue," Nancy explains. "They want their children to have a Jewish education, and they want a Jewish connection for themselves as well." Substantial growth in the lower grades indicates that the Religious School will increase in size in the future, making new demands on Nancy and her staff.

**For starters, Nancy is looking for a second teacher for the K-1 class.** She's also looking at alternatives to meet parents' busy schedules, such as exploring a midweek program for kids in the K-2 group. CSI started a Hebrew School (language learning) on Sundays after regular classes for students in grades 3 to 5. "It's great for everyone," Nancy

says. "Some parents can only bring their children on Sundays, so the Jewish education process gets streamlined. And kids make better Jewish connections by socializing during lunch and having playtime together." Next year, Sunday Hebrew School will expand to 6th grade so pre-b'nai-mitzvah students can hone their skills.

Because CSI's teaching style emphasizes collaborative, experiential, interactive learning, larger classes demand more management by teachers. But there's an upside. Teachers—and teen madrichim who assist—can try out new teaching styles, which is more fun for students.

### **A new assessment is planned to see how the school is doing as it grows.**

Nancy will bring parents together to assess what they want for their children and to become active partners in determining the educational experience. "This will spur parental involvement and leadership," she notes. Many CSI synagogue leaders have emerged from such involvement, including **Stacy Passman**, chair of the Religious Education and Youth Committee. Stacy is also a member of the CSI Board of Trustees. The assessment will refine the Religious School's vision in keeping with parents' changing needs as they explore ways to improve children's educational experiences. The process, which begins with a brainstorming session on Sunday, May 3, will be implemented in September. ■

## religious school programs

### SUNDAYS

**Preschool and Pre-K**  
10 am–noon

**Grades K to 6**  
9:30 am–12:15 pm

**Grades 7 and 8**  
10 am–noon

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

**Hebrew School**  
**Grades 3 to 5**  
12:30–2:00 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

**Religious School**  
**Grades K to 2**  
4–5:45 pm

Kindergarten, first- and second-grade students meet in a blended class and experience all the traditional elements of our Sunday Religious School.

**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, x24, or  
edrucker@sherithisrael.org

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL  
BRAINSTORMING SESSION**  
**Sunday, May 3, 10:15 am–noon**

Parent input will begin the assessment planning process



# CIRCLES OF CONNECTION

**INTERGENERATIONAL FUN:** Two of CSI's magalim—circles—connected at a February PJ Havdalah Party. The Caring Community joined early childhood families for an afternoon of fun, schmoozing, playtime, stories, songs and puppets. Caring Community members bring greetings from the congregation and homemade Shabbat dinners to families with new babies. This party was an opportunity to meet up again and enjoy the warm embrace of community.

photos by: Ellen Newman





# PURIM IN SHUSHAN BY THE BAY

**SUPERHEROES, ESTHERS AND CLOWNS:** It all started with the early childhood carnival, complete with pizza, games and groggers. Then came an upside-down, mixed-up, high-speed Shabbat service; Megillah reading and fourth-grade "radio show" filled with Jewish jokes and sound effects. In all, the service fit the Purim mood, as instructed by the Sages, of adults getting so drunk that they can't tell the difference between the names of Mordecai (Yay!) and Haman (Boo!).

photos by: Larry Rosenberg





# CSI CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL

## people

*Very close and yet very much individuals*

### PROFILE: SISTERS KAREN AND MARCY ZELMAR

**At Congregation Sherith Israel, people come for the magalim—the warming circles of community. Sisters Karen and Marcy Zelmar, stay for the mahjong.**

The ancient Chinese game, played with colorful, domino-like tiles, was hugely popular among American Jewish women starting in the 1920s. Nowadays another generation of Jewish women is reviving the game their mothers and grandmothers played—from the Catskills to California Street. For Karen and Marcy, a friendly game of mahjong on a Sunday morning is one more way to be active in the life of Sherith Israel.

“I was looking for that community feeling that was easier to access when I was a kid,” Karen says. “I find Sherith Israel to be welcoming, approachable and warm.” Marcy adds, “Having a community that’s consistent, when other things in the city aren’t as consistent, is a nice piece.”

A community as consistent as Karen and Marcy, that is. The sisters are close—they even share a Victorian-era house in San Francisco. Older sister Marcy, husband **Andrew Richard** and 6-year-old daughter **Evie** occupy one flat, Karen the other.

The Zelmars may be sisters, but they have each found a place in the synagogue community for their individual passions and pursuits. Marcy’s involvement focuses on Evie and the Religious School, which has given Marcy, Andrew and Evie a new group of friends. And last year Marcy and Andrew took the Exploring Jewish Beliefs and Practices class, an introduction to Judaism, on Sundays while Evie was in school. “Evie’s been my tie back to Judaism,” Marcy says.

Karen, meanwhile, is a frequent volunteer with HaMotzi. She chops vegetables and prepares food in the Newman Hall kitchen on Sundays as part of CSI’s effort to supply two San Francisco shelters with wholesome meals.

**The sisters are pleasantly surprised to find that when they are at synagogue for services or other events, their magalim rarely overlap.** “Marcy and I have different lives and circles in the synagogue,” Karen says. “She knows parents. I have people I met through HaMotzi.”

Yet while the sisters travel in different circles at CSI, their paths are not so far apart. In addition to sharing a house, they also share a home to host Jewish holiday gatherings for family and friends. Karen says these festive moments recall their childhood in the Chicago suburb of Deerfield. The family’s dining table would be filled with traditional Jewish foods and their grandfather would sing.

“Growing up, being Jewish was all around you,” Karen says. “You didn’t have to seek it out.” Adds Marcy: “You don’t even realize it’s part of your life until you’ve left.”

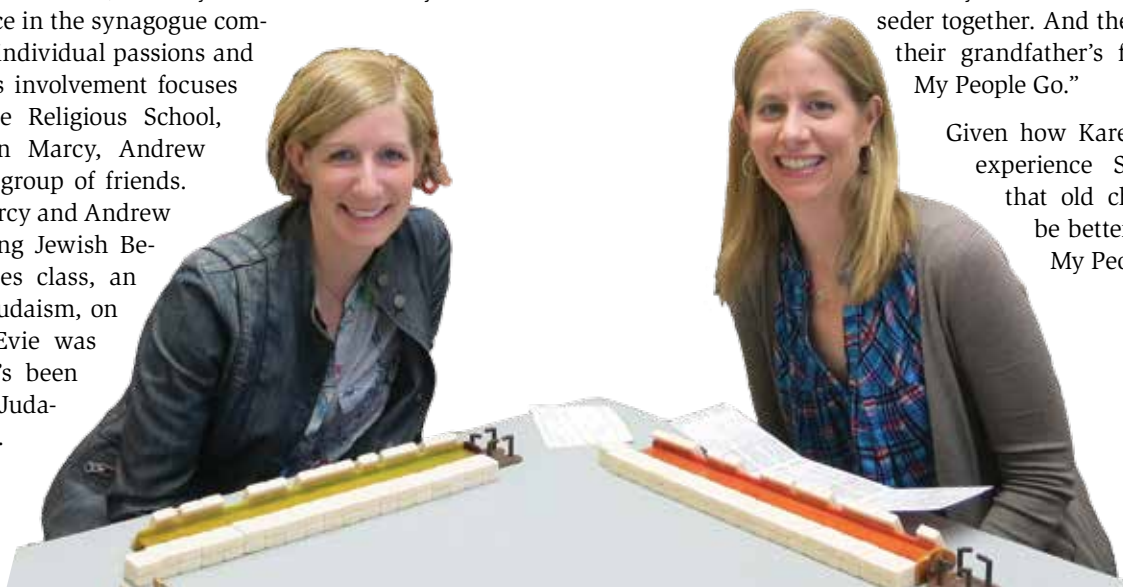
Indeed, Sherith Israel has allowed Karen and Marcy to reconnect with their roots—

and to plant new ones. That was clear on Yom Kippur in 2013 when the sisters shared their Six-Word Memoirs with the congregation—six words symbolizing an important milestone or memory. Marcy and Karen uncharacteristically hadn’t shared their six words with each other before their presentation. Yet sure enough, both memoirs had to do with Passover.

Marcy’s six words: “Four sips Manischewitz; headache on couch.” Marcy was recalling a Seder at her grandparents’ home when she was a girl. For the first time, she had four sips of wine. “I felt so grown-up,” Marcy recalls. “I ended up having a headache.”

Karen’s six words: “Finally, my big-girl Seder plate.” In Jerusalem with her mother and some members of her mother’s synagogue, Karen chanced upon a beautiful, blue ceramic Seder plate. For many years, a paper plate had sufficed. Still, Karen wasn’t sure; the plate was expensive and would be difficult to carry home. Her mother’s rabbi noticed her dilemma and told Karen to buy it. “Think of it as your ‘big-girl’ Seder plate,” the rabbi said. Karen bought the plate and carefully carted it back to San Francisco. Last year, Karen and Marcy hosted their first “big-girl” seder together. And they sang one of their grandfather’s favorites, “Let My People Go.”

Given how Karen and Marcy experience Sherith Israel, that old chestnut might be better sung as “Let My People Grow.” ■



**SISTERS DON'T COME ANY CLOSER:** Marcy Zelmar (left) and Karen Zelmar grew up in suburban Chicago and own flats in the same Victorian. Yet they engage in different activities—mahjong excepted—at Sherith Israel.

**M**azel tov, **Mimi Gauss**. In January, more than 100 people gathered at Lake Merced Golf Club to recognize Mimi's work for San Francisco Hillel and her lifetime of contributions to the Bay Area Jewish community. She was joined by her daughter **Ilana**, cofounder and director of EcoJews of the Bay; son **Ari**, director of North Carolina Hillel; and Ari's son **Aaron**, who recited the Motzi. **Lynn Sedway**, co-chair of the event, welcomed the guests, including CSI-ers **Patty Axelrod**, **Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf** and **Arielle, Diane Green, Arlene Kreiger, Ellen Newman, Laura and Steve Olson, Gail Phillips, Margaret Scheinman, Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Steve Weiner, Rhoda Wolfe, and Monica Zimmerman** and daughter **Sabrina Zimmerman**...

**O**n April 13, the California State Assembly will honor **Agnes Rothblatt** during its annual Yom HaShoah remembrance. Agnes, who has written a memoir about her experiences, was a child in Budapest during World War II. She, her mother and sister survived in hiding, sheltered by friends of her father. Jewish Family and Children's Services' Holocaust Center connected Agnes with **Assemblyman David Chiu's** office, which issued the invitation. Agnes reminds us, "It is important to remember those innocent people who perished."...

**S**everal congregants attended the Jewish Community Relation Council's Behind the Scenes event recognizing supporters of JCRC's work in advocacy, social justice, reconciliation and cooperation. On hand from CSI: **Mimi Gauss, Carol Kingsley, Arlene and Steve Krieger, Michael and Leslie Krasny, David and Ellen Newman, Lynn and Paul Sedway, and Steve Weiner and Norm Dito**...

**K**udos to **Arnie Lerner**, elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects for "notable

contributions to the advancement of the profession of architecture." He has been recognized by his peers in the AIA for his work providing for the needs of low-income and disabled citizens within the context of historic preservation. Arnie is excited that the ceremony will be at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Dr. Martin Luther King's congregation...

**C**ongrats to **Evan Sperber**, son of **Mary and David**, who received his Ph.D. in mechanical and aerospace engineering from UC Davis last December. Dad is especially delighted that Evan just started a job with Aerospace Corporation in El Segundo...

**R**uth Auerbach and **David Levin** are delighted to report that their son **Matthew**, a sophomore at the University of Nevada Reno, has been hired as the lead instructor for the new religious school at Reno's Temple Emanu-El. Matthew's experience working and teaching at CSI's Religious School prepared him well for this exciting job. *Yasher koach* Matthew...

**T**his February, the PBS Newshour showcased the work **Judge Jeffrey Ross** is doing with the San Francisco Veterans Treatment Court. It's a program of Justice for Vets, a national organization changing the way the criminal justice system interacts with vets. Explains Jeffrey: "Our goal is to find an outcome which will both prevent recidivism, keep the public safe, keep the victims from being re-victimized, but also deal with the person's background and the reasons he committed the violent conduct that we were just addressing."...

**D**id you unplug for Reboot's National Day of Unplugging? If so, you might have missed the KTVU-TV, NBC Bay Area and KCBS Radio stories about a day that looks remarkably like Shabbat. Congratulations to **Tanya Schevitz**, Reboot's national communications and

San Francisco programs manager, for all the digital detox stories...

**J**CCSF profiled **Hilda Isaacson** in its online "3200 stories" series. Hilda knits with the Gentle Arts Club. A former elementary teacher who teaches adult Hebrew at CSI, she took up knitting—her repertoire is filled with socks and baby sweaters—to stay closer to her six grandchildren back east. How does Hilda, an avid student at JCCSF, the Fromm Institute and City College, get it all done? Knitting in class, of course...

**D**oes **Leslie Gordon** have a parking thing? **Leah Garchik**, SF Chronicle columnist and a guest speaker at CSI's In Good Company, thinks so. Leah has run two items about Leslie and parking in the past two months. First: the bargain meter on Valencia Street from... Dallas! Then there was the apology from the former California Supreme Court justice who accidentally blocked Leslie and **Craig Etlin's** driveway. He offered to reimburse them for any expenses from his mistake. We should all remember his example on Yom Kippur...

**D**avid Perlstein (*Slick!*, *San Café*, *The Boy Walker*) just brought out his fourth novel, *Flight of the Spumonis*, about a 13-year-old trapeze artist who runs away from the circus to take a Huck Finn-like journey across 1980 America. David's short story, "The Laughing Room," will appear in the spring edition of *pacificREVIEW*, the literary journal of San Diego State University. ■

*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.*

## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AMY MALLOR



### THE “TRIPLE-A” FORMULA FOR HAPPINESS

**Last December I broke my shoulder and underwent major surgery to repair it, which led to an interesting experience.** I unexpectedly discovered—once again—the “triple-A” formula for happiness. It has made a world of difference.

By way of background, I spent a great deal of my life in Miami, Florida. My daughter Emily and I were members of a Reform synagogue, Congregation Bet Breira. Our rabbi was Barry Tabachnikoff (z”l), who unfortunately passed away too young. He was a wise man, who often taught us life’s lessons. One memorable lesson was the “triple-A” formula for happiness. I liked it so much I’ve carried a laminated card-size version of it in my wallet for years. I’ve often looked at it both in good times and in times of adversity.

As it happened, I was changing wallets to downsize. Following the surgery, I

was instructed not to carry a purse or anything else heavy enough to aggravate my “new” shoulder. My “triple-A” formula card caught my eye and touched my heart. I’d like to share it with you.

**1. Accept the moment.** It was hard to deal with the pain I suffered, but it was real. I needed to acknowledge it without wondering who was at fault or why this happened to me. Fighting the moment—getting upset—would have only caused more pain.

**2. Appreciate it.** This sounds hard, but my philosophy, learned from Rabbi Tabachnikoff, is that it’s better to expend positive energy than negative energy. I had wonderful medical help, and I had personal strength. I couldn’t avoid the challenges of recuperation, but I could summon my best to meet them, put myself to the test and triumph.

**3. Adapt to its opportunities.** I’m right-handed. All the things I’ve been used to doing with my right hand needed to be done with my left. I had to use my off hand for everything from dressing myself and eating to opening and closing doors, and using my computer. I discovered that I could do it. No, I’m not as skilled left-handed as right, but I’ve accomplished far more than I’d ever believed I could, and my left hand is far more useful than it was before.

The “triple-A” formula for happiness has worked for me. I will always be grateful to Rabbi Barry Tabachnikoff for sharing this life lesson, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to share this lesson with you. I’m grateful as well that I continue to heal. In fact, I typed this message not only with my left hand but also with my right. I look forward to seeing you soon and extending a hug or a handshake using my new right shoulder! ■

### RABBINIC SEARCH UNDER WAY, from page 1

find another remarkable rabbi for the future of Sherith Israel.”

**The committee’s March 17 meeting produced a rough timeline for the search’s initial stage.** The timeline is driven by the Rabbinic Placement Commission’s schedule for effectively posting the job listing and securing applications from qualified rabbis in a timely manner that is respectful of their present positions:

**April:** Congregants will be asked to complete a digital survey to produce a statistical ranking of the qualities they want in our next senior rabbi and the goals they see for our congregation in the coming years.

**May:** Several small congregational conversations will be held to provide opportunities for in-depth discussions of those qualities.

**June:** The committee will host a communitywide meeting on Tuesday, June 2 at 7 pm, with snacks and dessert at 6:30. After the meeting, the committee will create a profile of the rabbi we seek based on congregational input.

**July:** The profile will be submitted to the RPC so that it can post a notice for qualified candidates.

Following that, the committee will review applications, determine and interview top candidates, and recommend a selection to the board of trustees. Following approval, the board will nominate the candidate for election by the congregation at our May 2016 annual meeting or at a special meeting, as required by Sherith Israel’s bylaws.

**Committee members include Vanessa Bilanceri, Warren Braunig, Craig Etlin,**

**Joanne Yawitz Farkas, William Geist, Stacy Passman, David Perlstein, Dan Schumm, Lynn Sedway, Allen Weinberg, Howard Wexler and Amy Widowson.** Executive director Amy Mallor serves as an ex officio member. Brief biographies of the committee members have been posted to our website: [www.sherithisrael.org](http://www.sherithisrael.org). Other information will appear on the site as well.

Notices in the Under the Dome weekly email also will update the congregation. Congregants can communicate directly with the committee at [rabbisearch@sherithisrael.org](mailto:rabbisearch@sherithisrael.org). ■



# PASSAGES

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

## ENGAGEMENTS

Christina Jefferson and Julie Driscoll,  
October 20

Rick Shelton and Joseph Amster,  
October 24

## B'NAI MITZVAH

Asher Etlin, son of Craig Etlin and  
Leslie Gordon, January 24

Sarah Rubinstein, daughter of David  
Rubinstein and Suzanne Rittenberg-  
Rubinstein, February 14

Athena and William Campbell, children  
of Karyn and Sam Campbell, March 7

Ben Abrams, son of Zachary Abrams and  
Natalie Jones, March 14

Rosie (Raisa) Dohan Bell, daughter  
of Daniel Dohan and Phaedra Bell,  
March 21

Ollie and Abe Feldman, children of  
Michael Feldman and Rachel Breuer,  
May 2

Lena Mitchell, daughter of Amparo  
and Jason Mitchell, May 23

Jake Himmelstein, son of Daniel  
Himmelstein and Cecelia Kaufman-  
Himmelstein, June 6

## NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Gotlib and Gregory Ward,  
children Max and Mira

Jodi Greenberg

Michael and Leslie Krasny

Lindsey Milberg and Beatriz  
Davila Cornejo, son David

Anna Milter

Craig Smollin and Jean Yuan,  
children Kai and Noah

Nathania & Dan Steif

Serving Northern California's  
Jewish Community Since 1850



CONGREGATION SHERITH ISRAEL

HILLS OF ETERNITY  
MEMORIAL PARK

Traditional Ground Burial  
Indoor and Garden Crypts and Niches  
Convenient Pre-Need Payment Plans Available

James Carlson, Executive Director

1299 EL CAMINO REAL, COLMA  
TEL 650.755.4700  
WWW.JEWISHCEMETERIES-SF.ORG

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

Carol Hart, mother of Van Hart,  
mother-in-law of Jerry Hart,  
grandmother of Lauren Hart

Gertrude Marx

Edith Wildman, mother of  
Stephanie Wildman

## EXPLORING JUDAISM, from page 7

**Thierry Jahan**, an oncologist, is also engaged in the conversion process. No stranger to Judaism, Thierry has been married to CSI's immediate past president **Valerie Krieger Jahan** for 27 years and raised three Jewish children. He's also taken adult education courses at CSI. Thierry was raised Catholic, but Catholicism didn't speak to him. He found Judaism appealing, "in terms of what a religion should be, not necessarily dogma but a code of life, a code of ethics." A few years ago, Thierry and Valerie went to Israel, where Thierry underwent a transformational experience. "I felt that this really was my land and my people." He let that epiphany crystallize after returning, not wanting to rush into a decision, and has continued to feel that becoming a Jew is right for him.

**Carrie Anne Lopez** works in the food industry. Part of a military family with no religious leanings, she attended middle school in Chicago and high school in Pensacola, Florida. There and in San Francisco, Carrie Anne had many Jewish friends. Feeling the absence of religion and thinking about which values were most important to her, she attended Rosh Hashanah services at Sherith Israel, a building she'd often passed. "I walked in and didn't know what to expect in a room full of strangers. I felt very comfortable and very welcomed." In January, Carrie Anne spoke with Rabbi Raphael, who told her that the Exploring class would start in a week. She signed up. "It's an amazing experience being with people who want to get to know Judaism and be part of a community."

**Chris Mitchell**, a history major at Berkeley City College, was raised in a Christian home in Arkansas where Bible study was a key value. Recent experiences in his life led Chris to a spiritual transformation. "I've been through it all," he says. He converted to Catholicism, became Episcopalian, turned agnostic, became an atheist and moved on to Deism. Encounters with nature convinced him that there had to be a God. He decided to explore Christianity's Jewish roots. "Judaism hit home." He studied the commandments and decided to test the waters before coming to Sherith Israel, including progressively keeping kosher. Chris attends Kabbalat Shabbat services Friday evenings and Torah Study Saturday mornings, and is on the path to conversion.

**Collin Edwards** works in sales operations for Yelp. He grew up surfing in Santa Cruz and was raised a Catholic by family tradition rather than by practice. In high school, he decided to attend church and take classes. But Catholicism struck him as too rigid. He remained secular in college and after. Friendship with Jews in school and at work encouraged an intellectual study of Judaism. As he dove deeper, he considered conversion. He came in contact with Rabbi Raphael through the CSI web site and read one of our newsletters. "I liked how active and vibrant the community seemed to be," Collin says. He is learning Hebrew on Sunday mornings before class and started attending Friday-night services. "The rabbis, Lisa and the entire Sherith Israel community have been very welcoming."

It would seem that many people exploring Judaism have found something very meaningful. ■



### MITZVAH DAY

**Sherith Israel goes to the Food Bank**

**Sunday, April 12**

**9-11 am and 12:30-2:30 pm**

Sherith Israel has reserved spaces in two shifts—morning and afternoon—to work at the San Francisco Food Bank on Sunday, April 12. All congregants are invited to join in the mitzvah of helping feed the hungry. Children four years old and above (with their parents) are welcome. Space is limited so please RSVP.

Contact: Eric Drucker, 415.346.1720, x24, or [edrucker@sherithisrael.org](mailto:edrucker@sherithisrael.org).

### JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY

**Janet Parker** reports that Congregation Sherith Israel hosted a fun and successful JCL tutor training orientation in January. Of the dozen people who signed up, three are members of Sherith Israel. We are very happy to welcome **Paisha Lehrman, Andrea Salnave** and **Ruth Maginnis** as our newest tutors!

Read Across America Day was celebrated at the Guadalupe School on March 6. Volunteer tutors read Dr. Seuss books to children in all the classes. In order to give each child his or her own book to take home, Sherith Israel Religious School students were asked to donate new or gently used books. Special thanks to **Maddie Krantz** and her parents, **Katrina** and **Michael**, for donating more than 80 beautiful

books in perfect condition. **Sasje** and **Miriam Donner** went through their own bookshelves and, with the help of their parents, **David** and **Shawn**, collected a pile of wonderful books for Rosa Parks Elementary. Thank you all for giving the gift of literacy.

JCL information: Janet Parker, [jparkersf@hotmail.com](mailto:jparkersf@hotmail.com), or 415.282.1495.

### CHICKEN SOUPERS

**Sundays, April 12, May 3 and June 7**

**9 am**

Mazel tov and todah rabbah to **Jody Hurwitz** for 26 years of dedicated work helping feed the hungry through her work with Chicken Soupers, a program CSI participates in through Jewish Family and Children Services. Jody has recently moved to Palm Desert and is transitioning from her key role in making this wonderful program work by scheduling volunteers to deliver home-cooked meals to JFCS clients homebound because of age, AIDS or other chronic illnesses.

"Jody has been and is truly a woman of valor," says **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes**, who notes that the program is looking for volunteers to fill Jody's enormous shoes. "In fact we are looking for a team, a couple or a family to take on this mitzvah. "Please consider helping by volunteering to cook, package or deliver for Chicken Soupers each month."

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, 415.346.1720, x28, or [nsgomes@sherithisrael.org](mailto:nsgomes@sherithisrael.org).

photos by: Jerri Taylor



**A SALUTE TO STEVE WEINER:** The community came out in force to honor **Steve Weiner** on his retirement from Hills of Eternity and Home of Peace cemeteries. **Rabbi Steve Pierce, Rabbi Jonathan Singer** and **Cantor Roz Barak** from Congregation Emanu-El; CSI's cemetery board; and **James Carlson**, executive director of the cemeteries, paid tribute to Steve's 18 years helping Jewish families. Top: Steve's extended family; left: Hills of Eternity board members; right: Steve's brother **Rabbi Emeritus Martin Weiner** offers a blessing.





photos by:  
Ellen Newman

**THE MANRESA GALLERY IN ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH** is located adjacent to the University of San Francisco at the corner of Fulton and Parker Streets. It is open from 1–5 pm on Thursday and Friday, and on Sunday between masses and from 2–5 pm. The exhibit runs through June 28.

**Left to right:** Tibetan Buddhist, Catholic and Zen liturgical clothing.

## INTERFAITH EXHIBIT, from page 1

in 2006 from kudu horn, which he polished to prepare it for sounding on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The shofar is one of the few ritual objects mentioned in Torah that's still in use today. In Biblical times a shofar was sounded to gather the tribes for war or to celebrate a special holiday. Also on display in the case: a modern Kiddush cup for blessing wine, a yad or pointer used for chanting Torah and a kippah (yarmulka) embroidered with American and Israeli flags.

In the same alcove, a tallit and another kippah are displayed on a dressmaker's form, as if someone were wearing them. The tallit, a fringed prayer shawl commonly worn by Jewish adults during Shabbat morning and holiday worship, reminds the wearer of the 613 mitzvot—laws or commandments—mentioned in the Torah. “A blessing for wearing the tallit is usually recited before it is put on,” notes Rabbi Raphael. Embroidered in Hebrew letters in blue thread, this tallit blessing is translated as: “Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to wrap ourselves in fringes.” The fringes or tzitzit hanging from the ends of the shawl make a direct connection between the person wearing it and the 613 mitzvot.

**The kippah on display with the tallit is unique to CSI. It was embroidered in colors reminiscent of Sherith Israel's dome by Mayan women from the Kaq'chikel tribe in the village of San Marcos La Laguna in Guatemala.** Rabbi Raphael's son **Andrew**, who lives and works in the village, made the connection between the congregation and the women, each of whom works at the town's community center to provide free meals for a chronically undernourished population.

Other items on exhibit at the Manresa Gallery represent Christianity, Tibetan and Zen Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. “We're looking at similarities and differences in vestments worn and objects used in each tradition,” says co-curator **Maureen Bourbin**. “There are so many wonderful things in the exhibit, including some historical objects.”

Mission Dolores loaned perhaps the oldest piece in the exhibit, dating from the eighteenth century. It's a chasuble, a sleeveless garment worn over other layers to celebrate mass. As was common during the Spanish colonial period in California, it was made of Asian silk originally destined for use in women's clothing. Another historic, but more modern, piece is the chasuble and stole worn by Pope John Paul II during his visit to San Francisco in 1987. His mitre is also on display.

**The show's main focus is on the meaning to be found in ritual clothing, from the symbolic significance of the layers worn by a Catholic priest for special holidays to the simplicity of a kippah worn during Shabbat services.** As Rabbi Raphael points out, in our rabbinic tradition, with virtually no hierarchy, we don't have special clothing for priests and rabbis.

That's why it is so interesting to see the ceremonial garments from other cultures. The Tibetan Buddhist monk's robe and headdress are eye-catching with the deep burgundy robe, vibrant orange shoulder covering, dark hat, metallic crown and multi-colored ornaments that hang over the ears. The Zen garment on display, billowy folds of black and brown cloth, is worn by “fully transmitted Zen Buddhist priests” for formal activities and ceremonies. The Muslim and Hindu garments in the exhibit are typically worn by men in their cultures, not necessarily only during religious observances or ceremonies.

Other objects on display include Catholic preaching stoles, a Muslim prayer rug, silver Tibetan offering bowls, an inlaid wooden Hindu “OM” symbol and two brass kalashas and a lamp from India. The brass lamp is lit in homage to knowledge.

**Father James Blaettler**, director of the Manresa Gallery in St. Ignatius and co-curator of the exhibit, comments, “I hope the exhibit helps people appreciate the beauty of their own traditions and discover the beauty in other people's traditions.” He sees the gallery, a lovely glass-enclosed space, as a lab for the imagination. “Art opens one's senses and helps us understand who we are,” he says, inviting the community to visit the exhibit. ■





# DONATIONS Includes donations from December 5, 2014 to February 27, 2015

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

## CHICKEN SOUPERS/HAMOTZI FUND

**James Blattner** in memory of Bernard Blattner  
**Norman Brand & Nancy Spero**  
**Eleanor & Robert Cutler** in memory of Harry Holtz  
**Barbara & Lawrence Graham** in honor of Bradley Graham's birthday  
**Edmund & Deborah Green** in memory of Eva Zarchin  
**Dr. & Mrs. Robert Jaffe** in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes  
**Dan & Christine Linder**  
**Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman & Family** in memory of Jack Mirviss  
**Susan Rothstein & John Koeppel** in honor of Jim Hurwitz,  
 Lauren Vucinich and Jodi Glaser  
**Rabbi Julie & Michael Saxe-Taller**  
**Margaret & Mel Scheinman** in memory of Bessie Landesman

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND

**Judi Elman** in memory of Michael Bernard Elman  
**David Fisher**  
**Julie Lekach House & Stan Lekach** in honor of the birth of  
 Shira Braunig, Arielle Graf, and Everly Zier  
**Mauree Jane & Mark Perry** in memory of Evelyn Bishoff

## FUND FOR THE FUTURE

**Nancy Pincus Davis** in memory of her beloved Dad,  
 Dr. William B. Pincus  
**Linda Frank** in honor of Steve Weiner's years of service and retirement  
**Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman & Family**

## MITZVAH FUND

**Patricia Axelrod** in memory of Lucille Axelrod  
**Sofya Barbalat** in memory of Vilen Barbalat and Ada Katsap  
**David Brunn** in memory of John Brunn  
**Yevandzhelina Bukh** in memory of Borukh Kalika  
**Laurie Cohen** in memory of Sylvia Dilbert Chassen  
**Clarance Dickinson** in honor of Steve Weiner's retirement  
**Jeffrey & Nicole Fessel** in memory of Ms. Gilda Fessel  
**Debbie Freed** in memory of Shirlee Euster White  
**Diane Green** in memory of Eva Zarchin  
**Stanley & Jacquelyn Greenblatt** in memory of Sally Greenblatt  
 and Joseph Appel  
**The Groshong Family** in memory of Charlotte and David Stern  
**Susen Grossman** in memory of Sheila Steiner  
**Marcia Gruskin** in memory of Floyd, Rose & Martin Gruskin  
**Celeste & Jack Grynberg** in memory of Dr. Tom Stein  
**Hills of Eternity**  
**Dick & Susan Kaplan** in memory of Tom Stein  
**Charles & Dale Katz** in honor of granddaughter Hailey Claire  
 Keith, daughter of Debra & Scott Keith  
**Daniel Himmelstein & Cecelia Kaufman-Himmelstein** in memory of  
 Edward Kaufman  
**Klara Khaydovich** in memory of Sverzhinskaya Genya  
**Jacob Koff** in honor of Steve Weiner's retirement  
**Boris & Lyubov Kravets** in memory of Aleksander Vekselman  
**Harold Kren** in memory of Hugo Kren  
**Bruce Leeb** in memory of Ms. Claire Leeb  
**Margie & Phil Lerner** in honor of Steve Weiner's retirement  
**Meagan Levitan** in memory of Jacob Levitan  
**Vladimir & Svetlana Leykin** in honor of Steve Weiner  
**Sonya Lishansky** in memory of Brayna Rudakov  
**Terrie Liss** in memory of Harry Fox  
**Abigail Moskowitz**  
**Haiya Naftali & Andrea Roosth**

**Dolores Okun** in memory of Nina Okun and Dvorsha Khaet  
**Mark & Amy Plevin** in memory of Renee Plevin  
**Rabbi Larry & Terrie Raphael** in memory of Zelda Wine,  
 Marion Wine, Leah Wine, Florence Hirschberg and  
 David Hirschberg  
**Barbara Reiss**  
**Alex Ryvkin** in honor of the retirement of Steve Weiner  
**Sima Shandrovskaya** in memory of Avraam Faynberg  
**William & Shira Shore** in memory of Irving E. Shore  
**Roberta Silverstein & Stephen Sperber** in memory of  
 Arthur Silverstein  
**Audrey & Bob Sockolov** in honor of Steve Weiner's retirement  
**Joan Sopher** in memory of Dr. Thomas Stein  
**Alan Teitelbaum** in memory of H. Thomas Stein  
**Roz & Greg Tolson** in memory of Herman Winters  
**Alice Tordjman** in memory of Henri Tordjman and  
 Albert Elie Tordjman  
**Lyuba Vaynblat** in memory of Elka Zaychik

## MUSIC FUND

**Rochelle Alpert & Steve Greenwald** in honor of the marriage of  
 Whitney Baron and Valeria Mog  
**Harold & Dorothy Auerbach** in honor of Harry Greenfeld and  
 Sadie Rice  
**Barbara Austin**  
**Roberta Bleiweiss** in honor of what would have been her father's  
 100th birthday on March 15th, in memory of Harry Bleiweiss  
**Evie Fass** in memory of Seymour Fass  
**Cynthia Fassler** in memory of Arnold Fassler  
**Marcia Gruskin** in memory of Hariett B. Ross  
**James Hurwitz** in memory of Frances Goodman Hurwitz  
**Tatyana Krichevskaya** in memory of Mikhael Krichevskiy, son of  
 Yakov Krichevskiy; and Etya Krichevskaya, daughter of Avram  
**Robert & Diane Neuhaus**

## ONEG FUND

**Todd David & Tiffany Loewenberg**  
**Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman & Family** in memory of  
 Morris Fellman and Rose Mirviss  
**Bob & Diane Neuhaus** in memory of Rachael Benjamin  
**Agnes Rothblatt** in memory of her mother, Charlotte Slovak Biro  
**William & Shira Shore** in memory of Bernice Levit Aks

## RABBI RAPHAEL'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Michael & Gayle Blum** in memory of Arnold Blum  
**Warren & Lindsay Braunig**  
**Craig Etlin & Leslie Gordon**  
**Marcia & Milton Frank**  
**Doba Gendelman** in memory of Michael Gendelman,  
 Abraham Gendelman and her father Solomon Shmulevitch  
**Alexandr Kagan** in memory of Zoya Kagan and Kuna Kagan  
**Ted Kelter & Janet Gallin** in memory of Irene Kelter and  
 Gloria Kelter, beloved wife of Ted Kelter  
**Jacalyn Kornblatt** in honor of Rabbi Raphael, in memory of  
 Robert Kornblatt  
**Stephan & Arlene Krieger**  
**Harry & Karen Maring**  
**Tasia Melvin** in memory of Anthony Bartell  
**Mr. and Mrs. Josef Nathanson**  
**Boris Okun** in memory of Baylek Okun, Nina Okun and  
 Dvorsha Khaet

Zina Okun & Roza Zobryanskaya in memory of Riva Melnik  
 Agnes Rothblatt  
 Janice Schulman  
 Gaye & Stuart Seiler in memory of Beadie R. Seiler  
 Shira & William Shore in honor of Doris Sperber's 106th birthday  
 Bennet & Linda Silverman in honor of the bat mitzvah of  
 Elizabeth Flaherman  
 Leonard Singer  
 Audrey & Bob Sockolov  
 Steve Sockolov in memory of Shirley Moskovitz  
 Stephen Sperber & Roberta Silverstein  
 Renata & Mark Telefus in memory of Sonya and  
 Eelusha Khakhamovich  
 Michael Tobriner in memory of Herman Wildman  
 Lyuba Vynblat & Yaakov Katsnelson  
 Isabelle & Felix Vulis  
 Bennett & Cynthia Zier

#### **RABBI SAXE-TALLER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Robin Berry in memory of Myrtle Samuels Renard, Susan Samuels, Mark Samuels, Leon Samuels, Jennie Samuels, Celia Samuels Schubener, Bertha Samuels, Annette Samuels Schubener, and Joseph Samuels  
 John & Deborah Greenspan in memory of Jessie Fox  
 Frances Schreiber in memory of Lester Schreiber

#### **RABBI ZIMMERMAN GRAF'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

James Blattner in memory of Ruth S. Blattner  
 Ron & Nina Gilson  
 Leslie Karren  
 Lauren Krasny  
 Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman & Family  
 Lauren Sorof  
 Alan & Monica Zimmerman in memory of Julio Koppl and  
 Rena A. Zimmerman

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

Arthur & Marilee Fenn in memory of Ted Fenn and Maury Misrack  
 John Greenspan in memory of Nathan Greenspan  
 Candace Heisler in memory of Dan J. Heisler  
 Susan Weiner in honor of Steve Weiner's special retirement service

#### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND**

Al & Ardis Breslauer  
 Nancy, Arnie & Perri Davis in memory of Morris Krakovitz and  
 Eva Seedman  
 Craig Etlin & Leslie Gordon in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes  
 and Michael Lederman on the occasion of Asher's bar mitzvah  
 Shelley & Andy Forrest in memory of Anne Horwitz

#### **POLLAK LABE FUND**

Lee & Stuart Pollak in memory of Tom Stein, Ron Cape,  
 Chuck Carson, Margaret Veta and Kathleen Riskin

#### **SEISMIC RETROFIT CAMPAIGN**

Ingrid & Gary Apter  
 Lance & Cathy Bayer  
 James Blattner  
 Ardis & Al Breslauer  
 Craig Etlin & Leslie Gordon in memory of Ellen Schumm's mother  
 Ira Fateman & JoBeth Walt  
 Bruce Fisher & Marlene Litvak  
 Philip & Velia Frost  
 Claude & Lynn Ganz  
 Alan & Sheila Gordon  
 Stan Lekach & Julie Lekach House  
 Hilda Isaacson  
 Maurice Kamins & Helaine Weinstein

Seymour Kaufman  
 Susan Kolb  
 Arlene & Stephan Krieger  
 Richard Laiderman & Jung-Wha Song  
 Jason & Amparo Mitchell  
 Jeffrey Newman & Mary Montella  
 Benjamin Newman  
 Stephen & Laura Olson  
 Stuart & Lee Pollak  
 Mark & Gina Rosenberg  
 Betty & Jack Schafer  
 William & Shira Shore  
 Lee Ann & Paul Steiner  
 Steven & Sharon Wasserman  
 David & Kathryn Werdegar  
 Ronald & Anita Wornick

#### **YITRO SILVERMAN FUND**

Moses Silverman & Betty Robbins

### **SPECIAL THANKS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS**

Thank you to all who have enhanced our Sherith Israel community by generously supporting some very special events at CSI this winter.



photo by: David Newman

#### **AND JUSTICE FOR**

**ALL:** California Supreme Court Associate **Justice Kathryn Werdegar** (center), with District Court of Appeal Justice **Stu Pollak** and **Rabbi Larry Raphael**, described her life in the law at Shabbat

Yitro. The program was underwritten in memory of **Bernie Silverman**.



photo by: Ingrid Apter

**SWEET SOUNDS:** It was a busy weekend at CSI. Not only did Justice Werdegar speak on Shabbat morning, but Argentine Cantors **Diego Rubinsztein** and **Inés Kapustiansky** joined us for a lively Kabbalat Shabbat on

Friday as well as a rousing Havdalah concert on Saturday evening. Todah rabbah to the following people for making Diego and Inés' visit to CSI possible:

**Dennis Gibbons** and **Lisa Erdberg**  
**Alan Mirviss** and **Diane Fellman**  
**Gale Gottlieb**  
**Richard** and **Lorrie Greene**  
**Valerie** and **Thierry Jahan**  
**Stephan** and **Arlene Krieger**  
**Laura** and **Steve Olson**  
**Eric Safire**  
**Lynn** and **Paul Sedway**  
**Nancy** and **August Sheftel-Gomes**  
**Michael Gaines** and **Betsy Wolkin**  
**Alan** and **Monica Zimmerman**



CONGREGATION  
SHERITH ISRAEL

2266 California Street  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
P: 415.346.1720  
F: 415.673.9439  
[www.sherithisrael.org](http://www.sherithisrael.org)

Member of the Union for  
Reform Judaism since 1903

# YES! SHERITH ISRAEL

The newsletter of Congregation Sherith Israel • San Francisco, California • JANUARY–MARCH, 2015



**MAVENS OF MAHJ:** Pictured from top left: **Judie Wexler, Valerie Jahan, Shellie Wiener, Sally Flanzer** and **Lida Morgenstein** all took part in CSI's mahjong class with teacher **Sarah Levy Linden**. Their classmates included **Susan Borkin, Diane Fellman, Karen Zelman** and **Marcy Zelman**. Valerie, who organized the class, notes that there is now an ongoing game every other Sunday from 10 am to noon. "The class is open to all levels, as long as people are patient with those of us who just learned," says Valerie.