



SHERITH ISRAEL NEWS

JANUARY-APRIL, 2019

January 25 event honors amazing achievement

SHERITH ISRAEL CELEBRATES END OF SEISMIC RETROFIT CAMPAIGN

Sometime later this year, as we collect the last pledges to the retrofit campaign, we will retire our debt, and Sherith Israel's seismic retrofit will be history.

On January 25, the Sherith Israel community will gather to celebrate our amazing achievement. We will also open a bright future for a congregation that has demonstrated that nothing is impossible.

For **Rabbi Jessica Graf**, the completion of the retrofit campaign means that "we can start to think about how to make our community more connected and meaningful because we don't have to worry about the physical well-being of our sanctuary." She adds, "To be able to dream about what we can build next is a great gift." Meeting this challenge "gives us the confidence to be courageous, to know that Sherith Israel is here for the future. We can dream about the future in a way we couldn't when our existence was in doubt."

CSI board president Craig Etlin, who led the retrofit effort for more than 18 years, puts this moment in the context of Jewish history. "If you look at all the holidays we celebrate, from biblical times to the founding of the State of Israel, we have overcome the odds and succeeded," he says. "I want our congregants and the entire community to feel a sense of pride."

Craig always believed that doing the seismic retrofit was an existential issue for Sherith Israel. "If we hadn't done the work, we would have lost the building and the congregation would have closed." Completing the campaign has a different significance.

Seismic Retrofit Campaign continues, page 7



BRINGING THE NEXT GENERATION HOME TO CSI:

Melissa White (right), who grew up at Sherith Israel, recently joined Sherith Israel with her family, husband **Josh**, daughters **Amelia** and **Ava**, and Piper.

Reconnecting and finding community

CSI "KIDS" COME HOME

"There's a stickiness to Sherith Israel," says executive director Gordon Gladstone, noting the number of former CSI b'nai mitzvah in our "diaspora" who have come home to the synagogue of their youth.

"People stay attached despite being away for years," says **Rabbi Jessica Graf**. She has been reaching out to former b'nai mitzvah ready to join a synagogue, and they've responded.

Melissa White, 43, grew up in the Richmond District and went to Hamlin School with Rabbi Graf, though they were a few grades apart. After bat mitzvah and confirmation, she was a teach-

ing assistant at Sunday school. She graduated from Washington High School and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Oregon. Melissa serves as regional director for government affairs for Sutter Health and also sits on the board of directors at JCCSF.

Melissa and husband **Josh** were married by **Cantor Martin Feldman**, who named daughters **Ava**, now 10, and **Amelia**, now 8. Still, the family joined another San Francisco synagogue. "Our other synagogue didn't feel right," Melissa says. Having Rabbi Graf at CSI gave her a bigger connection. "A friend's father died, and she was wonderful with the

INSIDE:

A Moment with Cantor David Frommer	2
4 Questions for Rabbi Jessica Graf	3
Behind the Scenes with Gordon Gladstone	4
Book Club Celebrates 10 Years	5
Rosh Chodesh for Teen Girls	6
What's Happening	8-9
Profile: Japheth and Ana Dillman	10
News Nosh	11
Tikkun Olam	12
Passages	13
Donations: Seismic Retrofit Campaign	13-15

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Purim Carnival & Spiel

SUNDAY, March 17, 10 am-1 pm

Passover Second-night Seder

SATURDAY, April 20, 5 pm

CSI "Kids" Come Home continues, page 4



SHERITH ISRAEL

2266 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

T: 415.346.1720

F: 415.673.9439

www.sherithisrael.org

Member of the Union for
Reform Judaism since 1903

CLERGY

Jessica Zimmerman Graf
Senior Rabbi

Abby Phelps
Rabbi Educator

David Frommer
Cantor

EMERITUS CLERGY

Lawrence Raphael *Rabbi Emeritus*
Martin Weiner *Rabbi Emeritus*
Martin Feldman *Cantor Emeritus*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

Craig Etlin, *President*
Lindsay Braunig, *Vice President*
Katie Zier, *Treasurer*
Karen Zelmar, *Assistant Treasurer*
Erik Migdail, *Secretary*
Evan Kletter, *Immediate Past President*

TRUSTEES

Claire Davis
Dan Dohan
Michael Gaines
Gale Gottlieb
Jerry Hurwitz
Joan Libman
Alan Mirviss
Stacy Passman
Liat Sadler
Judie Wexler
Amy Widdowson

STAFF

Gordon Gladstone
Executive Director
Jonathan Dimmock
Music Director
Nia Taylor
Development Manager
Natalie Weizman
Youth Program Manager
Rabbi Samantha Kahn
Director, Sherith Littles
Peter Bonos
Program Manager
Corey Christopher
Office Manager

SHERITH ISRAEL NEWS

David Newman, Ellen Newman, David Perlstein
Editors

Susan Weeks
Graphic Design

Karen Alschuler, Lisa Erdberg,
Jakub Mosur, Ellen Newman
Photographers



A MOMENT WITH CANTOR DAVID FROMMER

REPORTING FOR DUTY

“Is this all we have?” I nervously asked the S-4 (brigade staff supply officer), as I stared at a single box of packaged kosher MREs (“meals ready to eat”). Normally, I wouldn’t have been concerned. None of the Jewish soldiers in my New York Army National Guard unit was observant, and if needed, I could obtain emergency kosher provisions from the nearby Orthodox community in Monsey.

Then my battalion prepared for deployment to Afghanistan with several other units. Two unfamiliar—in more ways than one—Jewish soldiers needed kosher meals. One was born Jewish but raised in a Messianic synagogue, until the local Chabad rabbi exorcized Jesus from his Judaism and sold him a complete set of Art Scroll siddurim; he seemed to have them all at training. As the only Jewish chaplain, I wanted to help, but the kosher markets of Westchester weren’t accessible—we were now training at Fort Irwin in the Mojave Desert.

The S-4—bald, compact and muscular—motored around like a tank powered by chewing tobacco. Most importantly, he outranked me. With two thousand soldiers to feed every day, he had spent more time than he could afford on just two of them. “We’ve got plenty of regular MREs,” he grunted. “You need to make these kosher!” “Yes, Sir,” I agreed. “Except that it doesn’t work that way.” “I thought you was a rabbi,” he spat, perplexed. “I’m a cantor, sir... but even a

rabbi couldn’t... it’s a bit confusing.” “If you can’t make these kosher, what the hell are you doin’ here?” the S-4 snorted. *Good question, I thought.*

I’ve yet to learn the magic spell that turns bacon into brisket. Still, I’ve thought a lot about the S-4’s key question—what am I doing here? My answer is best illustrated by the tapestry of these last three months. In November, I was called upon to help coordinate military chaplain support for California Army National Guard soldiers mobilized to help communities affected by wildfires—this after mobilization last year to serve in Santa Rosa. In December, we celebrated Chanukah, commemorating the courage of Jewish soldiers who eschewed the easy path and risked their lives to fight for what they believed in.

In January, I’ll spend two weeks at the Army’s regional Command and General Staff College. This will begin a two-year program of part-time study in Army systems and values to prepare me for senior chaplain assignments. The Army demands time away from family and community. It’s a price so many of us willingly pay. The story of our experience in Egypt, which we’ll again recount at Passover, teaches a great lesson: As Jews, we must sometimes cast aside the convenient and comfortable to assist the vulnerable, both among our own people and throughout the wider world. ■

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

“Take a census... from the age of twenty years up, all those in Israel able to bear arms.” — B’midbar (Numbers) 2:2-3

Older Americans remember the military draft before it expired in 1973. A number of Sherith Israel congregants served in our armed forces as draftees, others enlisted. A strong military is a fact of life. The Israelites fleeing Egypt had no choice but to assemble an army to protect themselves in the wilderness

and possess Canaan. God promised the land to Abraham’s descendants, but the responsibility for action lay with Israel. Military service is one way to serve our nation, but it’s not the only way. We also serve our nation every time we seek social justice. ■

4

Questions for RABBI JESSICA ZIMMERMAN GRAF

Last year Sherith Israel chose to become a “sanctuary” congregation, and put extra effort and resources into social action work on behalf of immigrants and a just U.S. immigration policy. Thanks to our social action committee, we have become a leader in this important work. In addition, Rabbi Jessica Graf has been invited to join the Global Justice Fellowship of the American Jewish World Service—an honor awarded to just 15 rabbis each year. We asked Rabbi Graf to describe how her association with AJWS dovetails with the work of the social action committee and how both are the logical outgrowth of Jewish values.

Q: Why is it so important that Sherith Israel stand up as a sanctuary congregation?

A: Thanks to the unwavering commitment of our social action committee—and so many people in our community—CSI has become a leader in social justice work. By focusing our efforts on immigration-related issues, our congregation has become involved in one of the most important moral issues facing our country today: maintaining safe and secure borders while also recognizing the dignity and humanity of individuals seeking to enter the U.S.

While there are different ways to view our complex immigration laws, Judaism instructs us to approach this issue from a human rights perspective, ensuring that people who cross our borders are treated with dignity. By participating in accompaniments and ensuring the rights of all, our members have championed Jewish values.

As the first sanctuary synagogue in San Francisco, Sherith Israel has distinguished itself as an advocate for justice. This is the perfect time for our community to be recognized for this important work, as we look to next steps in our pursuit of a more just society.

Q: How will your work as an AJWS Global Justice Fellow intersect with the work the congregation is already doing?

A: American Jewish World Service is a Jewish-based grant-making organization that works to reduce poverty and injustice, primarily in non-Jewish communities throughout the developing world. Each year, it awards its Global Justice Fellowship to 15 rabbis whose congregations are deeply engaged in social justice work. This year’s program focuses on immigration. We will study issues related to the complex challenges to our U.S. immigration policies. By learning about the root causes of emigration, we can better understand how our country can respond to this crisis.

Throughout the fellowship year, we will have opportunities for Jewish text study and learning, as well as a trip to visit grantees in one of the countries where AJWS does significant work. We will travel to Guatemala to meet with local leaders and activists. In addition, the fellowship year includes time to lobby our elected officials in Washington.

Q: Why did AJWS choose Guatemala for your field study about the root causes of immigration?

A: Guatemala has a complex past—replete with American involvement and interventions that had a ripple effect. It is important to understand the long-term consequences of our engagement in other countries’ policies. By learning about Guatemala and issues affecting much of Central America, we hope to gain a better understanding of the immigration crisis on our borders.

We will meet with grantees and change agents in Guatemala to learn about the root causes of the desperation and fear that cause people to risk their lives to come to America. Though issues propelling people to flee are different in each region and country, Guatemala’s issues are representative of many of the countries in Central America.

Q: Why is this work important for us to pursue as Jews?

A: As we move into the spring season, the Jewish calendar points to Pesach—the holiday that reminds us of our own dramatic emigration from Egypt and freedom from slavery. We retell the story of our own miraculous escape, migration and asylum. The story of the Jewish people is a story of immigration. We are constantly reminded that we were strangers in a foreign land. It is our obligation never to forget that—and to treat other immigrants with empathy.

Judaism instructs us not only to remember our own travails, but also to bear witness for others. *Sh’mā Yisrael*, we declare proudly. Hear O Israel! These words, as written in the Torah, jump out at us: Two letters are notoriously written in a larger font—the ayin and daled. Together, these two letters form the word “ed”—witness. *Sh’mā Yisrael*—Listen, Israel, to the experiences of others. That is what it means to live as a Jew.

As others around us share their stories, it is our job to witness. The power to ensure that someone else’s rights are upheld is profound. One of our members recently described an accompaniment experience in a courtroom to me. He said, “I just sat there and witnessed someone’s story—and the experience changed my life.” ■



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH GORDON GLADSTONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EVERY DAY IS SECURITY DAY

One morning a few weeks ago, I sat for an interview with students from Talmpais High School creating a documentary about antisemitism in the Bay Area. As they set up their equipment in my office, they immediately focused on the monitor adjacent to my work computer that shows the feeds from all of the security cameras around the building. The mosaic of scenes from inside and outside reveals an array of mundane activities each day. But these cameras constitute an important part of our overall security program.

For most of our visitors, the experience of security might be limited to the guards posted outside the building. Employed by a security company that works closely with the San Francisco Jewish community, our guards are present when the doors are open for events. But they are only the most visible aspect of what we

do each day to ensure that our guests, staff and physical structure remain safe.

Keeping our perimeter secure is the first step. Locked doors, our intercom system, and our alarm network are part of that effort. Another important aspect of our work is to be prepared for emergencies that arise within our building. From having a defibrillator on hand to being able to evacuate the building, our planning takes into account a variety of possible scenarios and develops what we think is the best possible response to each potential emergency.

With a firehouse two blocks away, we can count on a rapid response when we need emergency medical personnel. Of course, there is a fully equipped emergency room at CPMC hospital almost behind the building. We have also developed a strong working relationship with the San Francisco police staff at nearby

Northern Station at Fillmore and Turk. Many officers have toured our building and provided us with advice about security. We are also active in the SFPD's Jewish Community Advisory Board, which brings together security coordinators from Jewish institutions and police representatives.

Recent events remind us all that we must remain alert, prepared and mindful. Balancing all of that with our desire to be a place that is welcoming to congregants, guests and potential members is something that every member of our team works on each day.

We wrapped up the interview with a walk through our stunning sanctuary. The teens remarked upon the grandeur and beauty of the space. "You have a lot to watch over," they said. As they headed out, I checked that the door latched behind them. ■

CSI "KIDS" COME HOME, from page 1

family. Josh wondered why we weren't at Sherith Israel."

With Ava and Amelia closer to bat mitzvah age, the family came home to Sherith Israel. Last fall, they started Studio. "They like it, it's working for them," says Melissa, who looks at CSI membership as reestablishing herself. "I have friends who grew up at Sherith Israel and came back because it's an exciting synagogue. There's a sense of community you really feel."

Rebekah Krell, 44, born and raised in San Francisco, loved going to Miami to see her grandmother, "the most Jewish person I've ever had the honor to know and love." She became bat mitzvah and was confirmed at CSI and remains close to the women with whom she attended Sunday school and services.

Rebekah attended Lick-Wilmerding High School and Columbia University, where she majored in sociology. After living briefly in Spain, she earned a master's in public policy from Berkeley's Goldman School. She is deputy director of cultural affairs for the San Francisco Arts Commission. A mutual friend introduced Rebekah to Rabbi Graf. "I was intrigued by Rabbi Graf's vision for change. She and **Cantor Frommer** are talented, and their partnership is admirable. I felt inspired to return to my childhood synagogue to support their efforts."

Jack Bernstein, 49, grew up in Forest Hill, attended University High School, then went on to UCLA to major in history and business. He is vice president for product at BOLD, a career services firm. In the early '70s, his parents, **Harriet** and

Max Bernstein, joined CSI. Jack went through Sunday school and became bar mitzvah.

He and his wife, **Hilary Krant**, had been living in Los Angeles with daughter **Ella**, now 5. They moved to San Francisco in 2017. Daughter **Sophie** was born here last May. Looking for a synagogue was top of mind. Ella was already in preschool at the JCCSF. They joined Harriet for High Holiday services. "We very much enjoyed services—Rabbi Graf along with Cantor Frommer and the music. We liked the clergy and the sense of community."

Sophie's baby naming took place over Thanksgiving. They plan to enroll Ella in Studio. "There are lots of ways to be part of the Sherith Israel community, and we look forward to exploring them."

Jill Rosenberg, 45, joined Sherith Israel this past December, yet has a major CSI heritage. Grandparents **Ad** and **Shirley Rosenberg** belonged to CSI. Ad archived CSI's history, and Shirley served as secretary to the clergy for 30 years. Jill's other grandparents, **Val** and **Bob Rantz**, also were long-time members. Her mother, **Gayle Rosenberg**, served as our education director. Gayle and her husband **Art** rejoined CSI a year ago.

Now a resident of the Lakeshore district, Jill graduated from Washington High School in 1991, and in 1999 received a B.A.

CSI "Kids" Come Home continues, page 5

Variety of Jewish themes, book-focused discussions

BOOK CLUB CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

On Monday, January 26, 2009, a group of Sherith Israel congregants gathered to discuss *When the Grey Beetles Took Over Baghdad*, an intense novel by Mona Yahia. Ten years and 90 books later, CSI's book club is still going strong.

Then-executive director **Nancy Drapin** had long wanted to establish a book club. She found enthusiastic support from **Sheila Gordon**, who helped give the club structure, along with **Bernice Greene**, **Julie Lekach House**, **Lynn Sedway** and **Judie Wexler**. Participants began to meet regularly and put together a list of books. Today, the club continues with a member core averaging ten or so, with other readers coming occasionally. They meet for 90 minutes on the fourth Monday of each month following the High Holidays and into June.

In the beginning, authors attended some sessions, but participants found they couldn't discuss the books as freely as they wished. Now CSI hosts authors on separate occasions. On Friday, February 8, Stephen B. Shepard, author of *A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity: Re-reading Bellow, Roth, Malamud, Ozick, and Other Great Jewish Writers*, will be at CSI in conversation with **Michael Krasny**, host of KQED Radio's Forum.

The club devotes its June session to choosing books for the next year. The

rules are simple. A book—fiction or non-fiction—must have a Jewish connection: author, theme or subject. Whoever proposes a book must have read it, and the book must be in print and available in softcover or through the Jewish Community Library. The group then votes.

Participants read and discuss a wide assortment of books. Topics have included the Holocaust, Israel and the Middle East, including Jewish experiences in Iran and Iraq.

"Everyone is comfortable voicing their questions and opinions, which makes for an atmosphere of learning and fun," says long-time member **Jane Cutler**. "Many book groups fade into therapy sessions, but we foster a genuine interest in the author and the work at hand."

Participants generally lead discussions of the books they nominated. "Facilitating is a challenge," says Julie. "You have to research background on the book and author, and guide the discussion so everyone can contribute." After each session, someone writes an email wrap-up. For several years, **Sally Flanzer** wrote many wrap-ups. When she moved to the Peninsula, Julie took on that task.

"I love the book group and how it reflects my own Jewish identity," says Julie. "I would never have been exposed to



TEN YEARS OF READING: The CSI Book Club started in January 2009. **Julie House**, **Patty Axelrod** and **Lynn Sedway**, all charter members, discussed Isaac Bashevis Singer's *The Slave* with a dozen other members.

this literature on my own. I feel like I'm a different person because of it."

The club was a community partner in the Jewish Community Library's 2018-19 One Bay One Book with Philip Roth's 2004 alternative-history novel, *The Plot Against America*. Many members participated in lively conversations at the JCL about this book and Roth's legacy.

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes has played a major role in the club's development. "Nancy has been an anchor for the group with her Jewish knowledge," says Julie.

Says Nancy, "It's a compelling experience—a way also of getting to know each other. We've become better readers and enriched our ways of looking at books and ourselves as Jews." ■

CSI "KIDS" COME HOME, from page 4

in early childhood education from San Francisco State. She earned a master's in educational therapy from Cal State Northridge. Jill returned to San Francisco in 2013. She works as a learning specialist at Children's Day School in the Mission and has a private practice as an educational therapist.

Jill was named by **Rabbi Martin Weiner**, attended preschool with **Ruth Auerbach** as a favorite teacher, became bat mitzvah and was confirmed, then graduated from CSI's high school program. At 15 she was a teacher's assistant at religious school and became a lead teacher.

One of her passions is dragon boat racing with San Francisco's Dragon Warriors—men and women ranging from teenage to over 70. This summer they will try to qualify for a spot in the 2020 world championships in France. This February, Jill will join another team in Cairo to paddle the Nile.

"No other temple anywhere I've been has ever felt right," Jill

says. She and Rabbi Graf have known each other since second grade at Hamlin School. "We stayed in touch over the years." Three years ago, Rabbi Graf invited her to a Chanukah celebration, which Jill attended with a friend. Jill started attending Shabbat services occasionally. A year ago, when her late grandmother turned 101 and was sick, she started coming more regularly. "Everyone was welcoming and happy to see me. I enjoy going to Shabbat services Friday to wrap up each week and de-stress."

The steady stream of new members is no accident, says Gordon. "It's a testament that we're doing something right, exercising a kind of gravitational pull."

Rabbi Graf notes that people don't often end up at the synagogue where they grew up. "But we're attracting new members with fond memories of CSI. They find a relevant and vibrant CSI that works for modern Jewish life." ■



ROSH CHODESH: Nora Herndon-Lazerwith, Shoshanah Alessi, Ayelet Passman-Lapushin, Ollie Feldman and Ryan Macomber light the Chanukah candles on the seventh night to celebrate Chag HaBanot, the Festival of the Daughters. CSI's new Rosh Chodesh group gives our middle and high school girls a place to explore the challenges of growing up as Jewish women.

A special place for CSI's teen girls

NEW ROSH CHODESH GROUP MEETS MONTHLY

This past December, Sherith Israel reclaimed the ancient tradition of Chag HaBanot during the third meeting of our new Rosh Chodesh group for teen girls. An outgrowth of SITY (Sherith Israel Temple Youth), the Rosh Chodesh group brings middle and high school girls together monthly during the school year.

Chag HaBanot, the little-known Festival of the Daughters, is celebrated on the seventh night of Chanukah—the new moon (rosh chodesh) of the month of Tevet. It commemorates the Jewish heroine Judith, remembered for killing the Assyrian general Holofernes during the Maccabean revolt. Chag HaBanot was long observed in North African Jewish communities with special foods and blessings for the girls.

Rosh Chodesh meetings combine structured elements such as text study with art projects or activities like belly dancing. Upcoming plans include Zumba and slacklining (walking on a slack rope), physical activities chosen to stretch the girls' concept of themselves and their capabilities. There's also lots of unstructured time for schmoozing and making

friends. "We value this opportunity to bring the girls together across the span of ages instead of doing everything by grade-level," comments **Rabbi Abby Phelps**, CSI's rabbi educator.

Each meeting ends with time for a check-in so the girls can talk about what's going on in their lives. The female-only structure allows space to talk about the physicality of being young women, as well as the conundrums of navigating Jewish life as teenagers.

"It's wonderful to watch girls in the tenth grade making friends with seventh-graders," says **Natalie Weizman**, CSI's youth program manager. "The older girls are becoming role models. They reach out to the younger ones on social media. The group has gotten so close. It's powerful."

Shoshanah Alessi, SITY religious and cultural vice president and a student at San Francisco's Jewish Community High School, is deeply involved in planning the monthly events. A pilot Bro'sh Chodesh event for boys is in the works for February.

Moms are invited to join specific events. This fall several mothers participated in

a Friday-night candle-making session with everyone having dinner together followed by separate discussions for the moms and daughters. "We began talking about Torah, but the conversation wandered and we started asking another mom, an OB/GYN, about menopause," comments **Erin Gordon**, who attended with her daughter **Emmy Etlin**. "It was a really fun evening. I would definitely go back."

Traditionally Rosh Chodesh was a special day set aside for women, at least partly because of women's biological links to the phases of the moon. "The rabbinic rationale for celebrating Rosh Chodesh was that the women were so fastidious following the ancient purity laws that they should be rewarded with a day off," explains Rabbi Phelps. "The group gives us a real opportunity to open a conversation about where women sit in modern Judaism. What's healthy and what's not? What do we like and what do we want to change?"

Our Sherith Israel Rosh Chodesh group for teen girls is just the beginning of that conversation. ■

SEISMIC RETROFIT CAMPAIGN, from page 1

"If we hadn't raised the funds, the remaining debt would have crippled our ability to grow."

With the seismic work and campaign behind us, Craig looks forward to focusing on growing our membership and strengthening our programming. He is particularly excited about our youth education initiatives. "We want to get the word out that Sherith Israel is the place you want your kids to be to get a Jewish education."

Craig praises the "vision and perseverance" of the congregation's leadership, and the "faith and commitment of the entire synagogue community." He acknowledges challenging moments during the campaign. He believes we were fortunate to have a "strong leadership team to keep each other going." He praised the board of trustees for supporting the project over the years and for having the patience to "make decisions that were in the long-term interests of the congregation, even if they were painful in the short term."

For campaign co-chairs Lynn Sedway and David Newman, finishing the campaign was the culmination of more than a dozen years of outreach to the congregation and the broader Jewish community. Neither had participated in—let alone chaired—a major capital campaign before.

"We learned a lot from **Nate Levine** and his professional fundraising team at BuildingBlox," notes David. "But the thing that drove us was the knowledge that we simply could not fail."

David adds that, at every stage of the campaign, generous donors kept the momentum going. "At the outset of the campaign, we received several substantial gifts that gave us credibility. As the campaign progressed, major donors stepped forward to keep us on track, including the board of CSI's Hills of Eternity cemetery, the Koret Foundation and several other families and

foundations." At the end, an amazing matching grant from **Denise Sobel** helped put us over the top.

Lynn and David also treasure the participation of so many congregants. "It was important to us that as many congregants as possible contributed," says Lynn. "This is truly a congregational achievement everyone can own." She notes, "We had close to 500 individual donors, most of whom were members of the congregation. And the broader San Francisco Jewish community contributed a great deal, demonstrating how important Sherith Israel is to the community."

Lynn credits Rabbi Emeritus Larry Raphael for throwing himself into the campaign. "He taught me a lot, including the fact that I was asking for Sherith Israel, not for myself." When Rabbi Raphael became Sherith's Israel's senior rabbi in 2003, he knew that the retrofit was the congregation's overriding challenge. "Rabbi Raphael was great at building relationships with congregants," adds David, "and those relationships were critical to our being able to reach out to the congregation."

Lynn and David also give a nod to **Nia Taylor**, who stepped in as development manager and was critical to making sure the logistics of the campaign ran smoothly.

Rabbi Graf sees the special Shabbat service and oneg on January 25 as a chance for the entire congregation and members of the community who stood with us to rejoice in what we have done and what we can achieve going forward. "I want people to take away a sense of pride in the institution they helped secure and enormous optimism in the future that we share," she says. "We have earned the right to dream about where Sherith Israel is headed and gained the knowledge that everyone in the community matters. We are more vibrant and more alive because of every individual." ■

*How did
we do the
impossible?*

*Vision, faith,
commitment, pride,
perseverance
and patience.*



MIRACLE ACCOMPLISHED: Last fall, the Seismic Retrofit Campaign was completed after more than a dozen years of fundraising. We kicked off the construction with our Hard Hat Shabbat in April 2010 (left). Most of the critical structural work is hidden within the walls, attic and foundation. We also restored the building's exterior and Sherith Israel's iconic dome to their original colors and repaired the stained-glass windows facing California Street.

SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY EVENINGS

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

LATE MINYAN

Cantor David Frommer
Fridays, Feb. 22, March 29, April 26
7:30 pm
 Check out our musical minyan in the round beneath the majestic dome of our historic sanctuary. No microphones. No instruments. Just singing. Dinner in Bart Hall following minyan. Information: Cantor Frommer at dfrommer@sherithisrael.org.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

9:15 am: Torah Study with bagels and lox, coffee and tea.

10:30 am: Sh'ma Koleynu Shabbat morning services—intimate lay-led services using our *Mishkan T'filah* prayer book. Includes chanting or reading from our Torah scrolls.

Noon: Kiddush lunch (bi-monthly)

SPECIAL SHABBATS

✓ **FRIDAY, FEB. 8, 7:30 PM**
A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity
 After services, join Stephen Shepard, author of *A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity: Re-reading Bellow, Roth, Malamud, Ozick, and Other Great Jewish Writers*, in conversation with Michael Krasny, host of KQED Radio's Forum, for dinner and a lively literary presentation. RSVP: sherithisrael.org/programs. Dinner: adults, \$24; students, \$18; kids under 12, \$12; kids under 5, free.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1
Special Musical Shabbat
Desert Roots: Jewish Music from the Diaspora
With Dror Sinai

5 pm: Family Shabbat dinner for families with children 5 and under

6 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat services
 Join us for a special presentation as part of an extended Shabbat in the sanctuary with music from Morocco and beyond, followed by a festive oneg.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Adult

✓ **TU B'SHVAT IN THE PRESIDIO**
Monday, Jan. 21, 1 pm

Meet at Inspiration Point for a hike and tour of sculptures by Andy Goldsworthy led by David Samas. RSVP: sherithisrael.org/programs.

✓ **LITERARY LUNCH**
Author Stephen Shepard
Sunday, Feb. 10, noon–2 pm

Jewish book mavens, here's your chance for an intimate conversation with Stephen Shepard, author of *A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity: Re-reading Bellow, Roth, Malamud, Ozick, and Other Great Jewish Writers*. RSVP: sherithisrael.org/programs. Lunch: \$15.

✓ **STEEL BARS AND REAL SCARS**
Sunday, Feb. 24, 4–6 pm

Learn about the impact of incarceration on inmates and their families at this important presentation by the CSI Social Action Committee and California Prison Focus, a statewide advocacy group. RSVP: sherithisrael.org/programs.

Lehrhaus Judaica presents
PHILOSOPHY CIRCLE:
ORIGINS OF MODERN THOUGHT
Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan
Mondays, 7–8:30 pm

Jan. 28, Feb. 25, March 18, April 15, May 6
 Discover the thinkers and ideas influencing Jewish racial identity, the emerging Jewish state, post-Holocaust theology, feminism, new forms of worship, neo-Hasidism, and Judaism for the 21st century. Registration: lehrhaus.org.

MAH JONGG

Thursdays, 6:30–8:30 pm

Join fellow congregants and other enthusiasts for drop-in mah jongg games.



Save the Date
Sunday, April 14
RABBI DAVID ELLENSON, PH.D.

Interim President and Chancellor Emeritus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Details to come in *Under the Dome* and on our website.

✓ **PRIME TIME CLUB**
Monthly lunch and learn
Wednesdays, noon–2 pm

Jan. 16: Rabbi Abby Phelps
God-Wrestling in Jewish Thought and Prayer

Feb. 27: Rabbi Martin Weiner
Favorite Memories. Chessed-sponsored lunch honoring longtime CSI members.

March 20: Gordon Gladstone
Israel and the Diaspora: Where Do We Go from Here?

April 17: Kathy Joseph Balistreri
An Influential Genius: the Amazing Story of Hertha Ayrton, a distinguished Jewish woman and British scientist in the early 20th century.

RSVP: sherithisrael.org/programs.
 Lunch: \$10; presentation only: free.

JEWISH BOOK CLUB

Mondays, 7 pm

Participants present books (paperback only) with a Jewish theme, author or historical setting. Information: Julie House, juliehousesf@gmail.com.

Jan. 28: *In the Darkroom* by Susan Faludi.
 Facilitator: Jan Maisel.

Feb. 25: *Paris in the Present Tense* by Mark Helprin. Facilitator: Sally Flanzer.

March 25: *One Bay One Jewish Book—A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity: Re-reading Bellow, Roth, Malamud, Ozick, and Other Great Jewish Writers* by Stephen B. Shepard.

April 22: *The German Girl* by Armando Lucas Correa. Facilitator: Margaret Scheinman.

HAMOTZI & CHICKEN SOUPERS

HaMotzi:
Sundays, 9:30 am–12:30 pm

Chicken Soupers:
First Sunday of the month, noon–4 pm
Feb. 3, March 3, April 7 and May 5
 HaMotzi volunteers prepare meals for two shelters in San Francisco each week. Chicken Souper volunteers cook and deliver meals for clients of Jewish Family and Children's Services once a month. Contact Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, hamotzi@sherithisrael.org, to volunteer, shop, pick up donations, cook and deliver.

✓ = REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Three ways to register:

1. **ONLINE** www.sherithisrael.org/programs
2. **EMAIL** programs@sherithisrael.org
3. **PHONE** 415.346.1720

Youth Education

STUDIO @ SHERITH ISRAEL

Sundays, 9:15 am–12:30 pm

Resumes January 13

A studio is a space for exploration, creativity and expression. Our Studio @ Sherith Israel youth education program offers a place where students can build Jewish literacy, identity and community through exciting projects and engaging experiential lessons.

TEENS @ STUDIO

Twice monthly:

Fridays, 5–8 pm and Sundays, 1–3 pm

All Sherith Israel teens are welcome to learn, talk and break bread together. On Sundays, Confirmation class meets separately to discuss students' personal connections to Jewish thought and tradition. On Fridays, our program includes attending (and often helping to lead) Shabbat services.

SHABBAT @ STUDIO

Saturdays, 9:15 am–12:15 pm

Feb. 23, May 4, May 11 and May 18

An alternative to our regular Sunday sessions, Studio meets on selected Saturdays to celebrate b'nai mitzvah in our community and enjoy Shabbat together.

CONFIRMATION

Friday, June 7, 6 pm

Save the date! Dinner to follow for confirmands and their families.

Youth Programs from SIMS & SITY

(Sherith Israel Middle Schoolers and Sherith Israel Temple Youth)

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

6th–12th grade

Sunday, Feb. 3, 12:30–2:30 pm

What would you do if there was a Zombie Apocalypse? Help us write and test Sherith Israel's Unauthorized Zombie Apocalypse Plan.

SF TOURIST WEEKEND HOSTING CONGREGATION OR AMI, LOS ANGELES

Friday–Sunday, Feb. 15–17

Friday-night Shabbat services and mixers. Saturday-night Fisherman's Wharf scavenger hunt, dinner, Vampire Tour, and overnight. Sunday morning pitching in with HaMotzi!

YOM HASHOAH SEDER

Thursday, May 2, 6–8 pm

Join our SITY teens for a moving Seder that retells the story of the survivors and victims of the Holocaust. *Tickets for the dinner will be available in April.*



Young Families

SHERITH LITTLES MEETUPS

Saturdays: Jan. 26, Feb. 9, March 9, April 13

10:30 am–12:30 pm, Locations TBD

Join our clergy and Rabbi Samantha Kahn for a creative, fun musical service for children under 5, their families and friends. It includes plush Torah toys and reading from the Torah. Kosher snacks provided.

FAMILY SHABBAT DINNERS

First Fridays, 5 pm

Feb. 1, March 1, April 5, May 3

Enjoy a lively family Shabbat with Rabbi Samantha Kahn and our clergy followed by a pizza and pasta dinner for tots and parents.

Purim & Passover

PURIM CARNIVAL & SPIEL

Sunday, March 17

10 am–1 pm

Shake your groggers and strut your Mordechai or Esther at our annual Purim Carnival!

10–11 am: Preschoolers and families with children 5 and under will have the run of the Purim carnival, while older participants enjoy a retelling of the Purim story in the sanctuary.

11 am–1 pm: Older children will join the carnival festivities.

Carnival proceeds support SITY, Sherith Israel's teen youth group. Join us and support our terrific young people!



PURIM-PALOOZA

Friday, March 22

7:30–9:30 pm

Celebrate old school on the West Coast with Mostly Kosher, the acclaimed Los Angeles-based band. They'll tackle the Purim story with ravenous klezmer beats. Break out your inner Esther and get down for a night of music, fun, drinks and the return of the savory hamantashen.

✓ SECOND-NIGHT PASSOVER SEDER

Saturday, April 20

5 pm

Celebrate our exodus from Egypt—and from slavery to freedom—at our festive family seder. Join Rabbi Jessica Graf and Cantor David Frommer, musical director Jonathan Dimmock and guest musicians.

All proceeds benefit our Chicken Soupers and HaMotzi programs, which feed the homeless and residents of local shelters.

Chicken Soupers and HaMotzi volunteers will cater our delicious traditional meal. *Dinner: ages 13 and up, \$50; 5–12 years, \$20; kids under 5, free; table sponsor, \$613.*



Choosing Judaism and living it

PROFILE: JAPHETH AND ANA DILLMAN

Japheth and Ana Dillman's background differs from those of most Jewish couples. They met as students at Eastern Illinois University—in Christian Bible study class. Japheth was raised in an evangelical Christian family in a small Illinois town; his grandfathers were pastors, his brother is a pastor and his sister is a missionary. Ana grew up in a Greek Orthodox family in another small Illinois town. They were steeped in religious faith, spirituality and the teachings of Christianity's New Testament.

They were also curious about the Torah, part of what Christians term the Old Testament. "Through our Christian bible studies we got more interested in the roots of our faith," Ana says. "We were curious and passionate."

Charleston didn't have a synagogue, and there were no Jewish organizations on the Eastern Illinois campus, but there was a Jewish community center about 20 minutes away, where a small group of Jews met in a ramshackle old house. Ana and Japheth joined them. "I remember feeling really at home," Ana recalls. She liked the violin music and that a man and a woman led services. Praying in a different language reminded her of Greek Orthodox services.

Meanwhile, another transformation was taking place. "We were both raised very right-wing, in a white world," Ana

says. "For the first time we were hearing liberal perspectives, other ways of looking at the world, other ways to think. Pretty quickly I started to see the world differently."

After college the couple moved to Champaign, Illinois, and attended synagogue. Before long, Ana and Japheth realized, "We don't go to church, we go to synagogue. Our values line up with Judaism. Why are we saying we're Christian? Let's just be Jewish because we basically are." Conversion offered a natural path on their journey back to the origins of Western religion.

A short time after walking into that small-town Jewish community center, Ana and Japheth took a year-long introduction to Judaism class at their new synagogue. They then went to the *mikvah* and committed to practicing a faith that once was foreign but now felt familiar.

"There's a lot of reasons we fell in love with Judaism," Japheth says. One was *tikkun olam*—practicing acts of kindness to help heal the world. "Because there's a hurting and broken world, Jews want to be there to help fix it," he adds. "That resonated with us."

When Japheth's and Ana's career paths—Japheth is a technology entrepreneur; Ana is a teacher—led them to San Francisco, they went synagogue shopping. They wanted a spiritual, open-minded congregation steeped in Jewish values, diversity and social justice. It took just one Shabbat service at Sherith Israel for them to find it. "Sherith Israel was exactly what we were looking for," Ana says. "We were blown away by how welcoming, open and laid back everyone was. It's a nice balance of being spiritual yet casual."

More than a decade later,

Japheth and Ana, now with son **Apollo**, have only deepened their connection with Sherith Israel. Ana is the art specialist in Studio, CSI's youth education program, where Apollo is in first grade. She joined the school nine years ago as a first-grade Sunday school teacher. As a teacher and a parent, she enjoys a unique perspective. "Apollo's learning; he's supported by people who care about him and want to get to know him," says Ana.

Sherith Israel has become a second home, a family of "aunts," "uncles" and "cousins" tied not by blood, but by belief. As families do, Sherith Israel rallied to care for the Dillmans three years ago when Japheth contracted a life-threatening kidney infection. He was in the hospital for more than two weeks, including intensive care. Six months passed before he could walk even a few blocks.

Some congregants visited Japheth in the hospital; others brought food and babysat Apollo. "We couldn't believe how much support came out and embraced us," Japheth says. "I didn't realize how deep my connection to the synagogue ran until I went through a traumatic experience."

Ana instills the values of support and commitment in her students, particularly in helping Studio classes with longer-term projects. The fifth-grade students recently explored the idea of holiness and created their own sacred space in the temple library. The second- and third-grade classes studied food and farming from a Jewish perspective. After Ana explained that a core Jewish value is to feed the hungry, the students came up with a "soup sale." They made vegetable soup, which they sold, donating the proceeds to a food bank.

Says Ana: "There's something special about Jewish culture that is very communal. Everyone looks out for each other. It's what we do. We're Jews." ■



THUMBS UP: Japheth and Ana Dillman, with son Apollo, chose Judaism and Sherith Israel as their spiritual home. They wanted an open-minded congregation steeped in Jewish values, diversity and social justice. "We were blown away by how welcoming everyone was," says Ana.

CSI

news nosh

Sherith Israel executive director **Gordon Gladstone**, his wife **Jodi** and son **Nitzan** traveled to Israel this January to see their son and brother, **Gefen**, graduate from Big Idea, a gap-year program. Gefen has been studying Hebrew and web app development in Be'er Sheva since September and will serve an internship with an Israeli technology firm in Tel Aviv this spring...

Laura Olson traveled to Israel in December to learn about water on a Jewish National Fund sponsored tour, Israel H2O: A Tour on the Trail of Israel's Water Solutions! The trip started with Israel's largest natural water sources in the north, then looked at cutting-edge technologies, including water-from-air solutions developed by Israeli company WaterGen. They also explored trans-boundary water projects linking Israel with Jordan and Gaza...

Frank Mainzer and **Lonnie Zwerin** went to Frankfurt in October to lay *stapelsteins* (a 3.9-inch "stumbling stone" or remembrance marker for people who died at the hands of the Nazis) for Frank's mother's side of the family. Frank's grandfather was a famous labor lawyer elected to the parliament. Today there is an institute in Frankfurt named for him. Lonnie and Frank will return to Germany in March to lay *stapelsteins* for Frank's father's family...

Lee Labe Pollak, LCSW, will be honored by the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center on April 10 at a breakfast gathering at JCCSF. Lee, a longtime CSI member, will be the inaugural recipient of the Rabbi Michael and Hannah Barenbaum Award for her work as co-founder of the Grief and Growing™ Weekend, and her lifelong commitment to providing spiritual care for people who are bereaved...

CSI-ers in the news: This November **Ellie Mednick** was the subject of a lovely *Marin Independent Journal* profile describing her work as executive director of the Lark Theater in Larkspur and her love of the performing arts...

Willie Brown's *SF Chronicle* column noted that his longtime chief of staff **Eleanor Johns'** 9-year-old grandson **Max** gave his dad a homemade birthday card: "Old age comes with responsibilities. Pills and medications, remembering which to take, remembering in general, wearing reading glasses, and most of all remembering college and the funding for the same! Happy Birthday! With love, Max." Both card and column had Eleanor laughing for days...

Also in the news: **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** and granddaughter **Satya**. Nancy is quoted extensively in the *Forward's* article about Jewish children of color. "For a kid who's Jewish and black, both identities are indelible," says Nancy, whose children are biracial. Satya, who lives in New York, spends summers at the Bay Area's Be'chol Lashon camp, where Nancy is on the board. She's quoted in the *J.*'s recent article about Black-Jewish rapper Drake...

The *J.* also reported on the well-attended panel about the BRCA gene and the various cancers it causes organized by **Lonnie Zwerin** and held at CSI in September. One in 40 Ashkenazi Jews has the gene, so it's important to get tested to make informed choices...

Tanya Schevitz, national communications and program manager for Reboot, was featured in a *J.* article about Reboot's Chanukah events. Tanya and **Rabbi Jessica Graf** created a clever olive oil tasting and teaching event especially for young adults...

Kvelling parents **Helaine Weinstein** and **Maurice Kamins** attended the installation of their daughter, **Rabbi Rochelle Tulik**, as assistant rabbi of Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester, New York. **Rabbi Martin Weiner**, Rochelle's teacher and mentor, also made the trip east. Rabbi Weiner, who has mentored several next-gen rabbis, participated in the service and led Torah Study on Saturday morning. Yasher koach to all...

Congrats to **Ira Fateman** for winning a *J.* Readers' Choice award for his work as an investment and retirement advisor; to **Kenneth Jahan** for his new job as a research associate at TScan Therapeutics in Boston; and to **Susan Borkin**, who earned her Ph.D. in psychology from Saybrook University...

2020 foresight: Congrats to **Jenny Benjamin**, whose job just grew with the announcement that the private museum she directs for the American Academy of Ophthalmology will go public in 2020, thanks to a \$4 million gift. It will "highlight the rich history of medical and surgical eye care"...

Rabbi **Abby Phelps**, CSI's rabbi educator, has a full dance card. She's participating in Becoming Rod'fei Tsedek, a program for Jewish clergy by Faith in Action Bay Area discussing how to address critical social justice issues. Rabbi Phelps and **Natalie Weizman** also work with i*Express, run through Jewish Learning Works, to pilot innovative models of Jewish education. Finally Rabbi Phelps is our new representative to the monthly breakfasts of the San Francisco Interfaith Council...

Al and **Ardis Breslauer**, **John and Jobyna Dellar**, **Jonathan Dimmock**, **Allison Green**, **Mikiko Huang**, **Adrienne Kristine**, **Leslie Rabine**, **Benjamin Ruhs**, **Eric Safire** and **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** attended the SF Interfaith Council Annual Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast. New Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi** was the keynote speaker...

Deep gratitude to the nearly 50 people who helped cook and serve with HaMotzi during the 30th anniversary of the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Thanks also go to everyone who baked cookies for the three-day event. ■

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.



TIKKUN OLAM CORNER

Sherith Israel's social action committee, with 25 active members and 50 supporters, is keeping CSI in the forefront of Reform congregations with our advocacy and commitment to being a sanctuary congregation. Here's what's new.

Rabbi educator Abby Phelps is now the clergy liaison to the committee. Rabbi Phelps' role is to ensure that the clergy and the committee are aware of each other's activities on the social justice front so they can better coordinate their efforts. Social action co-chair **Karen Alschuler** is thrilled to work with Rabbi Phelps. "She is a wonderful addition to our committee," says Karen. "She cares deeply about social action and is full of ideas."

The committee continues its work with the Religious Action Center of California. On December 9, a CSI delegation participated in a workshop sponsored by RAC-CA with representatives from congregations throughout the Bay Area. The group discussed plans for 2019 state-level lobbying in six areas: immigration and refugees, criminal justice, housing and homelessness, climate change, gun violence prevention and healthcare. Each congregation will choose one or two issues on which to focus. Karen and co-chair **Stacy Passman** were joined by CSI congregants **Mikiko Huang, Leslie Rabine, Neal Sapper, Bill Shore, Michael Stern** and **Amy Widdowson**.

In May, a CSI delegation will travel to DC for the Religious Action Center's Consultation on Conscience, a biennial national conference on social justice. Anyone who wants to join the CSI delegation should contact Karen at kalschuler@gmail.com.

Working closely with Faith in Action, our interfaith



FREE: Leslie Rabine and Amina Ouro-Bangna outside the Emeryville Amtrak station after Amina's release from detention in Bakersfield. Leslie offered Amina a place to stay before she flew to Houston to join her sponsor.

partner on immigration, committee members have continued to accompany or stand up for asylum seekers. Leslie Rabine stepped up to support Amina Ouro-Bangna during the two years she was in detention. Amina had fled Togo when her life was threatened and made her way to the U.S. border by way of South and Central America. She was detained in a facility where no one spoke French, her only non-African language. Leslie, a fluent French speaker who has worked in West Africa, called Amina regularly to keep her spirits up. After nearly two years, the ACLU joined the case and Amina was released on bond. ■

If you are interested in joining the social action committee's expanding work, contact Karen Alschuler at kalschuler@gmail.com or Stacy Passman at spassman@gmail.com.

The practical side of lovingkindness and compassion

THE CHESED COMMITTEE REACHES OUT

Sherith Israel's communities within communities make us a strong congregation. One is our Chesed Committee, a dedicated group supporting others in times of need and joy, from illness to becoming new parents.

Members **Ardis Breslauer, Marcia Gruskin, Ron Laupheimer, Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Shira Shore, Frieda Weiner, Helaine Weinstein**, and co-chairs **Helen Luey** and **Janet Parker** routinely perform the mitzvot of compassion and lovingkindness.

After getting a referral from the clergy via **Nia Taylor**, development manager and liaison to the committee, the Chesed coordinator for the month calls the congre-

gant in potential need to offer assistance. This can be meals, transportation, a visit, coordinating rides to services or referring people to outside support. "We help where we can but are careful not to do more than people request," says Helen.

This summer the committee took on a new task. Members called a group of people over 70, most longtime members, to see how they're doing. "People were really glad to hear from us," Helen recalls.

Working with the membership committee, they realized that older congregants deserve recognition within the larger CSI community. "We asked the clergy to call our long-term members up for

an *aliyah* on Rosh Hashanah morning. The outreach effort was so positive that the CSI board of trustees is considering making it an integral part of the synagogue's calendar.

The Chesed Committee also works with Rabbi Samantha Kahn, who coordinates the Sherith Littles program for young families. "We want to get in touch with people with new babies," comments Janet. ■

The Chesed committee seeks people willing to be "on call" for occasional needs, like providing rides, delivering meals or visiting. Contact Helen Luey at helen-luey8@gmail.com or Janet Parker at jparkersf@gmail.com.

PASSAGES

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

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

NEW BABIES

Naomi Blatteis, daughter of Christy & Ben Blatteis
Jonathan Schultz, son of Elizabeth Ekshtat-Schultz & Zeev Schultz

BABY NAMINGS

Sophie Bernstein, daughter of Hilary Krant & Jack Bernstein

Gabriel Polnar, son of Sabina & Roman Polnar

Noa Sadler, daughter of Liat & Peter Sadler

BAT/BAR MITZVAHS

Sarai Brown-Ratner, daughter of Teresa Brown-Ratner & Jesse Ratner, Feb. 23

Joseph Dohan, son of Phaedra Bell & Daniel Dohan, March 30

WEDDINGS

Ben Luey & Courtney Jones, son and daughter-in-law of Helen & Leon Luey

Nancy Sayavong & Mitchel Cohen

NEW MEMBERS

Katia Aouat & David, Saskia & Ulysses Rafoni Dana, Howard & Micah Bloom

Susan & John Dean

Gail Fisher

Janet Frankel & Stanton Orser

Annabel, Scott & Amelia Golden

Hilary Krant & Jack, Ella & Sophie Bernstein

Sarah Mandel & Hector, Joachim &

Sophia Gonzalez

Jill Rosenberg

Melissa, Josh, Ava & Amelia White

Talia, Justin & Mia Wyckoff

Jun Yamashiro & David, Zachary &

Joshua Kamil

Frances Yiu & Jason, Arielle & Hannah Miao

CHOOSING JUDAISM

Nancy Sayavong

May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.

Judith Levine Coren, wife of Harry Coren and mother of Amy (Jonathan) Seff

James S. Hurwitz, beloved by his family

Phyllis Joseph, wife of Allan Joseph (z"l) and mother of Elizabeth "Buffy" Joseph (Brian

Feinberg), Susan Joseph (Helen Bronston) and Kathy (Mike) Balistreri

Charles Katz, husband of Dale Katz (z"l), father of Stacie Katz (Joshua Black) and Debra (Scott)

Keith and grandfather of Hailey Claire Keith

Rachel Machbitz, great niece of Nadine Koss

Edith Plotinsky, wife of Ira Plotinsky (z"l), mother of Dan Plotinsky and Rachel Plotinsky, sister of

Marcia Popper, brother of Jim Lieberman, and grandmother to Ella, Charlotte, Lyla & Violet

Mary Rozen, mother of Richard (Ruth) Rozen

Adel Volokhonskaya, aunt of Nellie Levine

Morris Wexler, uncle of Howard (Judie) Wexler

SEISMIC RETROFIT CAMPAIGN DONORS

\$1,000,000+

Hills of Eternity
Eleanor Stout (z"l)

\$500,000–\$999,999

Koret Foundation
Denise Littlefield Sobel
Monica & Alan Zimmerman and Frida Koppl (z"l)

\$250,000–\$499,999

Lisa Erdborg & Dennis Gibbons
Hellman Family Foundation
Alicia & Evan Kletter
Arlene & Steve Krieger
Ingrid Tauber

\$100,000–\$249,999

Zachary Adelson
The Kenneth S. Baron Family — Ken, Lynn, Whitney & Valerie and Michael & Kayla
Daniel Benatar (z"l)
Susan Borkin & Gerald Hurwitz
Lisa & Matthew Chanoff
The Stanley N. & Joanna L. (z"l)
Cohen Family Foundation
The Nathan & Violet David Foundation
Stephanie & Jeffrey Galinson
Mimi & Art (z"l) Gauss
Richard & Rhoda Goldman Foundation
Valerie & Thierry Jahan
Lida & David Morgenstein
Payne Family Foundation
Lisa & John Pritzker
Suzanne & David Rubinstein
Jeffrey Schoenfeld
Lynn & Paul Sedway
Anita & Ronald Wornick

\$50,000–\$99,999

Lisa Brown & Daniel Handler
Drs. Claire & James Davis
Craig Etlin & Erin Gordon
Diane Fellman & Alan Mirviss
Valerie & Michael Flaherman
Lynn & Claude Ganz
Diane Green
Theodore Kelter & Janet Gallin
Carolyn Klebanoff & Fred Cohen
Elizabeth Lewis & David Thier
Joan Libman & Jim Coughlin
Helen & Leon Luey
Denise & Erik Migdail
Jane & Michael Miller
Mary Montella & Jeffrey Newman
Ellen & David Newman
Miriam (z"l) & Stanley Newman
Laura & Stephen Olson
The Bernard Osher Jewish
Philanthropies Foundation
Carolyn & David Perlstein
Lee & Stuart Pollak
Anne Popkin
Betty & Jack Schafer
Claire & David (z"l) Schoenfeld
Sherman Family Foundation
Joanie Silverstein
Mrs. Alan Stein
Roselyne Swig
Sharon & Steven Wasserman
Judie & Howard Wexler
Rhoda & Sheldon Wolfe

\$25,000–\$49,999

Rochelle Alpert & Steven Greenwald
Lance & Cathy Bayer
Jim Blattner
Sandee Blechman & Steven Goldberg
Susan & Leland Faust
The David B. Gold Foundation
Deborah & Edmund Green
Lorrie & Richard Greene
Sanford Hartman
Judith & Robert Huret
Seymour Kaufman
Nancy Lenvin
Rosanne & Al Levitt
James D. Marver
Eda & Joseph Pell
Terrie & Larry Raphael
Susan & Alan Rothenberg
Ellen & Daniel Schumm
Gaye & Stuart Seiler
Ruth & Donald (z"l) Seiler
Scott Seligman
Nancy Sheftel-Gomes & August Gomes
Shira & William Shore
Audrey & Robert Sockolov
Jung-Wha Song & Richard Laiderman
Ingrid & Andrew Tolson
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward
Patricia Wolfe
Shannon & Joel Yodowitz
Lonnie Zwerin & Frank Mainzer

\$10,000–\$24,999

Julia & Fred Altshuler
Ingrid & Gary (z"l) Apter
Ruth Auerbach, David & Matthew Levin
The Benatar Family
Jenny & Jeremy Benjamin
Melissa & Tracy Boxer Zill
Ardis & Al Breslauer
Laura & Robert Cory
Jobyna & John Dellar
Robert Epstein
Marlene & Steven Gerbsman
Susan & Brian Getz
Nina & Ronald Gilson
Emily & Phil Ginsburg
Marcia & David Glassel
Sheila & Alan Gordon
The Gottlieb Family

Bernice Greene
Kalyna & Charles Hanover
Adrienne Herman
Wendy & Ted Hoffman
Julie Lekach House & Stan Lekach
Anne Isaacson
Nancy & Peder Jones
Susan Kolb
Marlene Litvak & Bruce Fisher
Siesel & Howard Maibach
Melanie & Peter Maier
Jan Platt & Jeffrey S. Ross
Ethel Regan (z"l)
Ellen & Melvin Rosen
Gina & Mark Rosenberg
Lynn Rothman & Richard Koch
Ruth & Richard Rozen
Jenya Rubinshteyn

Karen Sakanashi & Jonathan Lemberg
Elizabeth & Howard Shwiff
The Spivack Family
Lee Ann & Paul Steiner
Jerry Steiner & Barbara Klutinis
Constance, Eric, Abraham & Jacqueline Tabas
JoBeth Walt & Ira Fateman
Melvin Wasserman
Allen Weinberg
Stephen Weiner & Norm Dito
Helaine Weinstein & Maurice Kamins
Betsy Wolkin & Michael Gaines
Susan Zetzer & Bruce Thom
Katie & Lucas Zier
Mary & Harold Zlot
Anonymous (2)

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Yvette & Pierre Adida
Laurel & Peter Aitelli
Charlene Akers & Nate Levine
Rebekah & Gary Alessi
Alice Alkossier
Amy & Michael Allen
Marilyn Allen
Elise Alschuler
Karen & William Alschuler
Joram Altman & Barbara Winer
Marvin Altschuler
Kathryn Amenta
Jack & Edwin Anderson
Terry & David Appel
Rabbi Melanie Aron
Sue Aronowitz & Rob Schulhof
Denice & Katsumi Asazawa
Laura & Reuven Asher
Shoshana Asher
Judith Auerbach
Vivian & David Auslander
Patricia Axelrod
Jamie Babin Levey & Matt Levey
Marc Babsin
Lynne Baer & Jay Pidto (z"l)
Adrienne Bandar
Rosalya Banish & Paul Epstein
Bernadette & Samuel Barnum
Tasia Melvin Bartell
Steven Baruch
Phaedra Bell & Daniel Dohan
Jeanette Bemis & Jacob Koff
Karen & Jerry Benjamin
Margaret & Ian Berke
Laurie & Mark Berman
Janet & Charles Birenbaum
Jane & David Blatteis
Francine Bondell
Robert Borovoy
Lindsay & Warren Braunig
Carole & Marvin Breen
Farron & Martin Brotman
John Brunn (z"l)
Marianne Budin
Lynn Bunim
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Sam Camhi
Irving Caplan (z"l)

Heather Carroll & Steve Silver
Rachel Cauteruccio
Miriam Chase
Millie & Barry Chauser
Annette & Bill Clark
Lorraine & Noah Cohen
Rosalind Cohen
Arnold M Cohn
Jeanne & Howard Cohn
Kathleen & Buzz Cohn
Julie & Anne Collingwood
Congregation Beth Am
Congregation Emanu-El
John Cushner
Jane Cutler
Steven David
Nancy, Arnie & Perri Davis
Myrna Dayne
Irene Dietz
Yanan Ding & Daniel Schwartz
Sandra & Conrad Donner
DRA Advisors LLC
Nancy Drapin-Reichlyn & Stewart Reichlyn
Samuel Dreiman
Mark Edelstein
Melanie & Nate Einbund
Doretta & Byron Eisenberg
Darcy Ellsworth Yow
Irene Epstein
Judi & Joseph Epstein
Joanne Yawitz Farkas & Gabriel Farkas
Judith & Jack Feinberg
Gloria & Saul Feldman
Linda Feldman
Cantor Martin & Nancy H. Feldman
Richard Felton
Rabbi Carla Fenves & Cantor David Frommer
Nicole & Jeffrey Fessel
Jo Fielder
Barry Fisher
Linda Fitz
Sally & Jerry Flanzer
Susan & David Folkman
Shelley & Andy Forrest
Dana Fox
Diane & Charles Frankel
Janet Frankel & Stanton Orser
Tracy Freedman & Nick Robins

Gilbert Freeman
Marina & Aleksandr Frid
Bertha Friedman
Jim Friedman
Leslie Friedman
Velia & Philip Frost
Margene Fudenna & James Seff
Mimi Gabriel
Carol & Robert Gamble
Ellen Garber & Glenn Hunt
Sandy & Nancie Garfinkel
Barbara Gelleri (z"l)
Doba Gendelman
Barry Gilwarg & John Florio
Evan Ginsburg
Lee Ginsburg
Rochelle & Gary Glassel
Martin Glickfeld
Rabbi Rosalind Gold
Valentina & Mark Goldenshteyn
William Goldstein
Cathy & Bernard Gore
Elena & Thomas Gorman
Shelley Gottlieb
Sima Grabovsky
Rabbi Jessica & Dr. Jonathan Graf
Barbara & Lawrence Graham
Teresa & Bradley Graham
William Gray
Allison Green
Judith & Louis Green
Barbara & John Greenberg
Doreen & Arnold Greenberg
Eleanore & Burton Greenberg
Drs. Deborah & John Greenspan
Sara & Paul Greenwood
Linda & William Greig
Barbara Gronowski
Susen Grossman
Marcia D. Gruskin
James Gundy
Ina Gyemant
Marian Halley
Judi & Gordon Harris
Ona Harris
Ellen Harrison
Jeri & Van Hart
Candace Heisler

Stuart Hellman
 Jennifer Heyman
 Justine & Bruce Highman
 Wallace Hirsch
 Vincent Hoenigman
 Shirley Horowitz
 Mary Pat Hough & Gary Moss
 Mikiko Huang & Marshall Stoller
 Elizabeth Hurwitz & Joann Glaser Hurwitz
 James Hurwitz (z"l)
 Nancy Igdaloff & Monica Levin
 Hilda Isaacson
 Frances & William Isackson
 Chad Jaben
 Lidia & Lester Jacobson
 Helene & Stephen Jaffe
 Helen & Irving (z"l) Jarkovsky
 Rita J. Jeremy & J. Barry Gurdin
 Eleanor & Richard Johns
 Jane & Arnold Kahn
 Marianne Kahn
 Randall Kahn & Henry Hofilena
 Marilyn & Richard Kandel
 Adela & Joel Karliner
 Blanche & Norman Katz
 Frances Katz (z"l)
 Kristin & Scott Kennedy
 Isaak Khaimskiy
 Klara Khaydovich
 Carol Kingsley
 Jessica & David Klein
 Korenberg Family
 Jacalyn Kornblatt
 Cecilia & Siegfried Kornbluth
 Nadine Koss
 Sandra & Merle Kovtun
 Leslie & Michael Krasny
 Pamela & Bruce Krell
 Vivian Kremer
 Diane & Shawn Kresal
 Doris & George Krevsky
 Todd Krieger
 Angela & Michael Kurtzman
 Lynn & Ron Laupheimer
 Rosalie Lazor (z"l)
 Robin & David Lee
 Bruce Leeb
 Deborah & Andrew Leeds
 Dorothy & Martin (z"l) Lefkovits
 Jonathan Leichtling
 Muriel Leland (z"l)
 Barbara & Jay Leopold
 Adeline Lerner
 Arnold Lerner
 Marjorie Lerner
 Michelle Levenson & Todd Macomber
 Jane Levi
 Joanne & Jesse Levy
 Melinda & Roger Levy
 Janet Lewis
 Larisa & Roman Leytman
 Caroline & Harry Lieberman
 Elena & Michael Lipkins
 Sandra Lipkowitz
 Carol & Stephen Lombardi
 Alta & Carlton Lowe
 Jan Maisel & Douglas Currens
 Evelyn Manies
 Jane & Lawrence Manning
 Rabbis Janet & Sheldon Marder

Carolyn Margolis
 Karen & Harry Maring
 Sharon Marks & Stanley Kurz
 Doctors Judith & Jacob Mates
 Rabbi Jacqueline Mates-Muchin
 Ellie & Jerome Mednick
 Patricia Mednick
 Agnes & Alan Mendelson
 Melissa & Jonathan Meyers
 Gerry Miller & Family
 Naomi Miller
 Amparo & Jason Mitchell
 Deborah Mitchell
 Moldaw Family Supporting Foundation
 Mosaic Financial Partners, Inc.
 Susan Moser
 Lisa & Michael Moss
 Eleanor Myers
 Zina & Boris Okun
 Yana & Albert Ostroy
 Pacific Eagle Holdings Corporation
 Janet Parker & Chris Focht
 Rena Pasick & Stephen Garber
 Stacy Passman & Daniel LaPushin
 Michelle Patterson
 Judy & Gerry Pelzner
 Mauree Jane Perry
 Annabella & Irwin (z"l) Phillips
 Gail Phillips & Steven Sachs
 Jane Phillips & Ronald St. Clair
 Melanie Piech & James Finberg
 Cheryl & James Pierce
 Anat & Eran Pilovsky
 Melinda Pinkerton
 Linda (z"l) & Laurence (z"l) Popofsky
 Mary & Patric Powell
 Dr. Gene Prat
 David Rabb
 Leslie & Merle Rabine
 Robert Reichman
 Laurel Rest & Bill Kedem
 Jane & Michael Rice
 Reva & Jack (z"l) Riskin
 Janine Roberts
 Diana & Jerry Robinson
 Ashley & Richard Rochman
 Susan Romer & Donald Ungar
 Gayle & Arthur Rosenberg
 Mindy & Philip Rosenberg
 Theodore Rosenberg Charitable Foundation
 Dara & Andrew Rosenfeld
 Ruth & Judah Rosenwald
 Karen & Harry Roth
 Agnes Rothblatt
 Myra Rothfeld & Richard Shupack
 Sheila Rubinson-Ash
 Frances A. Rouda & family
 Liat & Peter Sadler
 Judy & Harvey Salgado
 Samuel J. & Alexandra B. Salkin
 Diane Sampson
 Rhoda & Peter Samuels
 Drs. Jill & Lewis Saperstein
 Joanne & Steven Saxe
 Vera & Boris Sayfer
 Albert Schaffer
 Margaret & Melvin Scheinman
 Jean Schore
 Elizabeth & Zeev Schultz
 Mark Seiler

James & Connie Shapiro
 Lawrence E. Sheftel
 Aumijo Sheftel-Gomes
 Molly Sheriff
 Susan & Martin Sherman
 Ellie & Jay Shukert
 Geraldyn Sicular
 Roberta Silverstein & Stephen Sperber
 Marilyn (z"l) & Maxwell (z"l) Singer
 Laurie Sizemore
 Harriet & Bernard (z"l) Slomovitz
 Sandra & Richard Smith
 Marina Smotkina & Aleksandr Kagan
 Judith Sobol
 Esfir Sokolovskaya
 Lisa & Glenn Solomon
 Nancy E. Spero
 Rona Spiegel
 St. Dominic's Catholic Church
 Deborah Stein & Laurent Goldsztejn
 Susan & William Stepka
 Charles Stern
 Marjorie Stern
 Rachel B. Stern
 Janice & Lowell Sucherman
 The Swig Company
 Brian & Lisa Krim
 Elizabeth Taisch
 The Safire Family
 Cathy Taylor
 Clara Taylor
 Luba & Mikhail Temkin
 Ruth Temkin & Richard Schwartzberg
 Sam Thal
 Cindy & Dan Thomas
 Roz & Greg Tolson
 Karen & Paul Travis
 Margaret & William Trichon
 Etya Tsipenyuk (z"l)
 Nancy Turner
 Lisa Spiegel Ungar & Michael Ungar
 Dorothy Unger
 Beverly & Jack Vaupen
 Ellen Veomett & Aaron Rappaport
 Victorian Alliance
 Marilyn & Murry Waldman
 Annette & Michael Weiner
 Rabbi Martin & Karen Weiner
 Susan Weiner
 Dorothy Weinstein (z"l)
 Charles & Charlie Weiss
 Kathryn & David Werdegart
 Amy Widdowson
 Shellie Wiener & Alan Geist
 Shari & Stephen Wiezbowski
 Jean Wildberg
 Bonnie & Barry Willdorf
 Michael Wornick
 Jean Wright
 Supriya & Mitchell Wunsh
 Julia & Vladimir Zagatsky
 Karen Zelmar
 Kathleen Zemanek & Anthony David
 Rabbi & Mrs. Edward Zerin
 Cynthia & Bennett Zier
 David Zuckerman (z"l)
 Anonymous (5)



SHERITH ISRAEL

2266 California Street • San Francisco, CA 94115

415.346.1720 • www.sherithisrael.org

Member of the Union for Reform Judaism since 1903

The Seismic Retrofit Campaign Is History!

**Thank you for
doing the impossible.**

**Celebrate our
amazing success
at a special Shabbat.**

January 25 at 6 pm

Festive oneg to follow

*Vision * Faith * Commitment * Pride * Perverserance * Patience*

