

SHERITH ISRAEL NEWS

MAY-AUGUST, 2018

Welcoming our next-gen Jewish educator

ABBY PHELPS APPOINTED CSI RABBI EDUCATOR



"I love how kids constantly surprise you," says Rabbi Abby Phelps, who joins Sherith Israel as our new rabbi educator in July. "I love sharing new ideas or new Jewish texts with kids and having them respond or build on them in ways I could never have possibly anticipated."

With **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** retiring as education director in June, the clergy and CSI Board of Trustees decided that the best approach for Sherith Israel was to bring a rabbi educator on board. "Having a rabbi educator is a huge advantage," notes **Rabbi Jessica Graf**. "It means we'll have another person to help us build relationships with students and families. She'll also be available to teach adult classes and Torah Study, as well as to lead services and officiate at lifecycle events."

A rabbi educator brings a rabbinic outlook to all facets of synagogue life. "Everything Rabbi Phelps is going to teach is through the lens of our ancient texts and how the rabbis would have thought about issues that impact our people today," comments Rabbi Graf. As an educator, Rabbi Phelps will bring a different perspective to her pulpit work. In turn, her pulpit work will allow her to build deeper relationships with the families in the education program.

Abby Phelps continues, page 4

MEET RABBI ABBY PHELPS: CSI welcomes our new rabbi educator beginning in July. Rabbi Phelps brings us a lifetime engagement with Jewish education, including a stint as a rabbinic intern at Temple Israel in Hollywood, where she developed curricula and taught several religious school and adult classes.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Adult class: Midrash and Our Presence in the World with Rabbi Larry Raphael
SUNDAYS, June 3-24, 10 am

Jewish Heritage Night at the Giants/AT&T Park
WEDNESDAY, Aug. 29, 5 pm

Beloved CSI educator and community builder

NANCY SHEFTEL-GOMES RETIRES

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes needs no introduction to anyone who has spent even 15 minutes at Congregation Sherith Israel. But in case you're wondering—Nancy is CSI's education director, and co-director and supervisor of the HaMotzi and Chicken Soups programs that feed the homeless and homebound. She has also chaired the board of our Hills of Eternity cemetery, where she remains active; she is a social action and Chesed committee member and represents senior staff in meetings of the CSI Board of Trustees.

Until recently, Nancy also served as the congregation's interim executive director for 18 months in addition to her education duties. And she's done more. Nancy coordinates CSI's Mitzvah Days and for more than 25 years has been a regular Chevrah Torah (Torah Study)

participant. She also enjoys participating in Sherith Israel's Jewish Book Club. Beyond Sherith Israel, Nancy has been a member of the San Francisco Interfaith Council for 30 years.

Nancy being Nancy, this is only a partial list. All that Nancy has done *at* Sherith Israel over the past 30-plus years doesn't begin to capture what Nancy has done *for* Sherith Israel.

Simply put, Nancy has helped make Sherith Israel a better place. Her dedication to Jewish traditions and practices, and her commitment to creating an open, welcoming community of Jewish worshippers and learners, reflect the essence of this congregation.

On Sunday mornings, you'll find Nancy making sure that religious school stu-

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A MOMENT WITH CANTOR DAVID FROMMER



AN IN-DEPTH APPROACH TO TORAH STUDY

People are surprised to hear of a cantor teaching Torah Study. Historically, the cantor's role was more narrowly associated with music. Recently, Reform synagogues have expanded that role, which often resembles mine: I lead many Saturday-morning Torah Study sessions (9:15 to 10:15, bagels and lox included), give Friday-night sermons, represent Sherith Israel at Jewish communal events, guide conversion students and provide pastoral counseling. I'm even active in our development efforts. I've enjoyed all these responsibilities, thanks to the vision of **Rabbi Jessica Graf**, who believes in a broad partnership between rabbis and cantors. Her encouragement to participate in many elements of synagogue life has helped redefine being a cantor at Sherith Israel.

My favorite part of studying Torah is learning from our ancient Jewish commentators. Sages such as Akiva, Rashi and Maimonides lived in times different from our own, but they faced the same human challenges. They turned to Torah for guidance—often with inspiring results. Growing up as a Reform Jew, I was never exposed to these voices. But Reform Judaism has experienced a renaissance of interest in classical Jewish sources. And the internet has made it easier to access them. American Judaism is largely defined by our affiliations—the Union for Reform Judaism, the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism and the Orthodox Union—but post-denominationalism offers Reform Jews valuable insights from modern Orthodox sources. My favorites include Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (rabbisacks.org) and Rabbi

David Fohrman (alephbeta.org), as well as institutions like Pardes in Jerusalem and Yeshivat Hadar in New York. Podcasts, email subscriptions and Youtube channels also provide exciting exposure to ancient wisdom.

I love Torah Study at Sherith Israel because our adult students are highly committed. Many attend weekly, creating more familiarity with the material and stimulating conversation. It also builds strong community. Our group welcomes everyone from first-timers and novices to veteran lay-scholars. Everyone is invited to read from the day's material, and the group values their questions and comments. My favorite example of a participant's contribution is our new closing song, suggested by **Mimi Gauss**. The text comes from the Mishnah, compiled 1,800 years ago, in which Rabbi Akiva summarizes the Torah with the principle of loving our neighbor as ourself.

We will also bring our new focus on classic texts to Sherith Israel's b'nai mitzvah preparation. We'll provide each student with a Union for Reform Judaism workbook, specific to their parasha, that includes highlights of Torah commentary from the whole of Jewish history. Our students will learn how the commentators made space for sacred disagreements, like those of the rabbinic schools of Hillel and Shammai almost 2,000 years ago. I hope our young people take this lesson to the wider Jewish community and beyond. Our world can use more respect for different perspectives based on our common humanity. ■

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

"Both these and those are the word of the living God." — Talmud Eruvin 13b.

For three years, a dispute raged between the houses (schools) of Rabbi Shammai and Rabbi Hillel. Finally, a *bat kol* (voice from Heaven) announced, "[The utterances of] both are the words of the living God." Still, it awarded the decision to Hillel's followers. Clearly, both sides

of the issue drew respect. Why did Beth Hillel come out on top? "Because they were kindly and modest, they studied their own rulings and those of Beth Shammai, and were even so [humble] as to mention the actions of Beth Shammai before theirs." ■

4 Questions for RABBI JESSICA GRAF

Last February the Sherith Israel Board of Trustees voted to declare Sherith Israel a “sanctuary” congregation. We asked Rabbi Jessica Graf to elaborate on what it means for us to become the first Jewish sanctuary congregation in San Francisco.

Q: Why did we decide to become a sanctuary congregation?

A: Becoming a sanctuary congregation means that we commit ourselves to standing up for the rights of immigrants. It means pushing back against a very broken and unjust immigration system. And it means applying our Jewish values to our American lives.

There is broad agreement that our immigration system needs reform, and there are legitimate differences of opinion about what that should entail. In the meantime, the impact of our enforcement policies on immigrants and their families is tragic. At best, undocumented immigrants try to stay under society’s radar. At worst, people are deported and families are ripped apart.

The Talmud teaches, *dina d’malchuta dina*—the law of the land is the law. But what do we do when those laws are unjust? We cannot stand idly by as our neighbors suffer. The Torah teaches us that we must always remember that we were strangers in a strange land—i.e., immigrants. The lessons learned from our own experience as “outsiders” require us to encounter others with empathy—especially immigrants.

Q: What makes the vote of our Board of Trustees so significant?

A: With this historic vote, CSI became the first sanctuary synagogue in San Francisco! This affirms that we will stand up for our neighbors and work tirelessly in the pursuit of a more just society. This vote was a vote for our American and Jewish values.

Many people have asked me what practical changes occurred as a result of the board vote. In some ways, a lot changed; in others, not much at all. The work to help protect the rights and dignity of immigrants in our city was well under way before the board vote. Members of our social action committee have been working with allied groups like Faith in Action and Reform CA. Congregants have been accompanying immigrant families at detention or asylum hearings. Some of our members have been trained to provide rapid response for vulnerable families. Many of us have gone to rallies, declaring with our presence that we object to the current U.S. policies on immigration. These and other actions have been happening for many months. The board vote to make CSI a sanctuary

congregation didn’t change those actions. However, it did change how we are seen in the community—and how we see ourselves.

By declaring ourselves a sanctuary congregation, we publicly announced that we will act on the Torah values that we hold dear. We told the world—and ourselves—that just learning Jewish values is not sufficient. Rather, living according to those values is what our tradition demands of us. As Rabbi Chanina taught in *Pirkei Avot*: Anyone whose [good] deeds are greater than his wisdom—his wisdom will endure.

Q: How did “sanctuary” become a Jewish issue?

A: We Jews know what it feels like to run from persecution and danger. Not long ago, our families were the “tired, poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free” who arrived at the shores of this country or were turned away. We must remember our own people’s history as we step up to help others now.

Our most deeply held Jewish values instruct us to protect people who are vulnerable, to watch out for our neighbors and to repair our broken world. We cannot remain quiet as other people suffer. Immigration is a human issue—and a Jewish issue!

Q: How does this decision fit into our history as a congregation?

A: Social justice has been at the core of Sherith Israel’s identity since our founding in 1851. Each senior rabbi before me has worked on issues of the day, educating the congregation about injustice wherever it lurked—and empowering our members to make a difference! Previous generations left us a rich legacy of engagement with the world. A hundred years ago Rabbi Jacob Nieto, who built our magnificent sanctuary, advocated for women’s rights, supported organized labor and opposed the death penalty. Now it is our turn.

As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught, as we face the world we must strive for both “moral grandeur and spiritual audacity.” We are living in challenging times. Attaining moral grandeur requires a selfless reflection on the world around us. And spiritual audacity... well... that requires the strength—and *chutzpah*—to stand up and demand justice for all people. Count us in! ■



HANDS ON AND HANDS UP: Our new rabbi educator, **Rabbi Abby Phelps**, inherits a creative, active youth education program. *Madrichim*-in-training **Sadie Steinheimer** and **Ryan Macomber** help **Apollo Dillman** and **Ephraim Dukhovny** make Israeli salad for Yom Ha'Atzmaut, and the fourth-grade class explores some new dance moves. Building on that foundation, next year is sure to be an exciting one for learning at CSI!

ABBY PHELPS, from page 1

"It's all about connecting with our congregants at the important Jewish moments in their lives," Rabbi Graf emphasizes.

The board was committed to finding the right person to help CSI attract unaffiliated young families to our program. The timeline was complicated by the rabbinic placement schedule of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR). Job descriptions were due in December. Rabbi Graf traveled to Cincinnati in early February with search committee co-chairs **Lindsay Braunig** and **Erik Migdail** to conduct on-campus interviews with upcoming Hebrew Union College graduates. "The CCAR process was very structured. We did all our first-round interviews in just four days," says Lindsay.

Later in February the top candidates were invited to Sherith Israel for site visits and further interviews with the full search committee: congregants **Beth Cousens**, **Ana Dillman**, **Craig Etlin**, **Lida Morgenstein**, **Stacy Passman** and **Mitchell Wunsh**, plus **Rabbi Graf**, **Cantor David Frommer**, **Gordon Gladstone** and **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes**. Says Erik, a longtime educator, who has hired and trained many teachers on the Peninsula, "On March 6 at 8 a.m., we were allowed to call and make an offer to our top candidate. Happily, we were a match."

The most important thing Sherith Israel was looking for was a truly exceptional educator. "Those are rare no matter where you are looking," adds Erik. "But once you've restricted it to someone who is a rabbi and a Jewish educator, it's even more rare to come by. Reviewing Rabbi Phelps' written materials and having spoken to her, I knew I was looking at someone who is not just an excellent educator but a visionary educator. Those of us who were looking at her through an educational lens all felt the same way. Rabbi Phelps is the right person for this job."

Rabbi Phelps took a circuitous route to the rabbinate, but her path was always grounded in ethics. "I was fascinated by ethics intellectually, and I wanted to help people be kinder to each other," says Rabbi Phelps, who was raised to be an enthusiastic Reform Jew deeply invested in Jewish values like education and justice. Those basic beliefs led the Long Island native, who grew up in Seattle, to pre-med studies at Stanford. But medicine

wasn't the answer. Neither was the law, which she checked out during three years as a certified paralegal at Altshuler Berzon, LLP, in San Francisco.

Rabbi Phelps didn't recognize it, but another path was calling. "I was fortunate to be taught trope before my bat mitzvah, not just how to chant my Torah portion. And I'm pretty musical. So right after my bat mitzvah, I started tutoring other people," she explains. "I basically started teaching when I was 13. I've spent my entire life since then on and off doing Jewish youth work."

Rabbi Phelps was a camp counselor at Camp B'nai Torah in Washington state, a teen retreat staff member, the site director of the URJ Bay Area Mitzvah Corps, the student outreach coordinator at the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale University and a religious school teacher. In 2000, she went on one of the first Birthright trips to Israel.

Rabbi Phelps also took herself on a deep dive into Jewish thought and practices. She studied modern and biblical Hebrew at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles and attended Yeshivat Hadar, an egalitarian, halachic yeshiva in New York. She also spent time at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. In 2012, she enrolled in the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles to become a Reform rabbi educator. She was a Wexner Graduate Fellow from 2012-2016.

"I basically fell in love with the Talmud at Yeshivat Hadar and got fired up about being a Jewish educator," recalls Rabbi Phelps. "I have this deep conviction that the Talmud is the quintessential Jewish text for liberal Jews, for Reform Jews in particular."

She continues the thought in a rush of excitement. "The Torah assumes you are headed for a life in the land of Israel under Jewish rule. The Talmud already knows that the Jews are in Diaspora, and it's all about how you live as Jews in the world when you are not surrounded by Jews. How do you find Jewish community? How do you interact meaningfully with non-Jews, but still hang on to your Jewishness? The Talmud is all about those questions, which is exactly what our lives are all about as Reform Jews in the U.S."

Abby Phelps continues, page 5



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH GORDON GLADSTONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WIRED FOR THE FUTURE

In 2004, a colleague had a friend who worked on the facilities side of the newly renamed AT&T Park and arranged for us to have a guided tour. Of all the things we saw, one stayed with me after all these years—WiFi. The Giants had just invested in equipping the park with state-of-the-art WiFi covering every seat, corridor and food venue. They were very proud of it and invited us to fire up our BlackBerries. I recall thinking to myself, “Why would anyone ever want to stare at their phone while they had a live baseball game going on in front of them?”

Fast forward to 2018. I am pleased to tell you about the WiFi system here at Sherith Israel. The massive sandstone walls that look so elegant in the afternoon sun are also rather effective in shielding your phone from radio signals of all kinds. Over the years we considered various proposals to build out a WiFi broadcasting system. Almost all were too expensive for us to consider.

Early this year I spent some time with **Alan Mirviss**, who chairs the technology committee, to understand a little bit better the state of our IT system and where we might make some improvements. (I am writing this on a computer that runs Windows 7.) We had received several proposals to overhaul our aging system. They ran to tens of thousands of dollars. That was clearly not in our budget.

As we chatted, we conceived a new plan: We would purchase and install the hardware ourselves. By using our corporate credit card points, the net cost would be a few thousand dollars, and we could discontinue our maintenance contract to keep the current system from collapsing. The result will be a more reliable system and a budget year in which we will actually spend less on IT than expected. We drew up a shopping list, checked it twice and started ordering equipment.

Progress has been swift. We have replaced our main switches, added new

racks and cleaned up the two IT nodes, so that in the future we can easily identify which cables go where. We also unearthed a few routers that dated to the late 1990’s and were in dire need of replacement.

As of this writing Alan, **Charley Stern** and **Zach Migdail** are clambering through the crawlspaces and between walls to run the cable that will bring robust WiFi to almost every nook and cranny of this building. Our last chapter will be to replace aging computers with newer, more powerful machines.

Sherith Israel might not have the same view of China Cove as AT&T Park, but now you can stream the game before services. If you see Alan, Charley or Zach, thank them for all of their hard work. ■

ABBY PHELPS, from page 4

Rabbi Phelps definitely takes the “Reform” part of Reform Judaism seriously. “I felt that Reform Judaism was somehow unserious because it didn’t focus on text. Then I realized that there is something deeply serious about never having to question whether a woman or a gay person or someone of color could do anything Jewishly.”

Rabbi Phelps’ perspective dovetails beautifully with Rabbi Graf’s vision of a modern Jewish educational environment that creates opportunities for parents and children to learn together so they can reflect on the lessons of Judaism together.

“Jewish learning has to be relevant. It has to respect tradition and history, while making those things relevant to our modern lives,” says Rabbi Graf, “In many ways human life has not changed very much in thousands of years. The lessons from our ancestors remain our legacy to help us learn how to navigate our complex world.”

Recalling her own Jewish education at Sherith Israel, Rabbi Graf wants to build cohorts. “We want the kids to grow up

with each other and to get to know each other and spend quality time together. A big part of the reason for this education process is for people to feel connected to the community.”

During the interview process, Rabbi Phelps hit it off with our clergy and lay leaders alike. “I felt a rapport when we met in Cincinnati,” she says. “Then I got here to visit, and the mix of old and new is fabulous here, the mix of rootedness in the past and innovation. It really is an extraordinary place. There’s all this energy to keep changing and developing and reforming things, constantly looking for better ways to bring Judaism to the people. The culture here really supports that sort of thinking.”

Committee member Lindsay Braunig, the mother of three children in religious school, is excited about adding Rabbi Phelps to our young, dynamic clergy team. “All three of our clergy are creative, out-of-the-box thinkers. I feel great about having the vision for religious education at Sherith Israel in their hands. We totally hit a home run with Rabbi Phelps.” ■



NANCY SHEFTEL-GOMES, from page 1

dents from pre-school to high school—and their parents—get the attention they need. Between teaching, answering questions and T'filah, Nancy greets volunteers for HaMotzi and Chicken Soupers.

"Nancy is the best community builder I know," says **Rabbi Jessica Graf**. "She recognizes each person's uniqueness and invites people to participate according to their interests and needs."

Nancy will retire from Sherith Israel's staff at the end of June. She leaves her colleagues in CSI's clergy and administration with a valuable gift: letting them watch her work.

"Nancy has been an indispensable guide and help to me as we envision the future of CSI," Rabbi Graf says. "Her compassion for people is extraordinary. I've learned a lot by watching the way she honors each person, the way she steps back to evaluate a situation before responding, and the way she sees the holiness in every person who comes across her path. She helps people become better versions of themselves."

Adds **Rabbi Emeritus Larry Raphael**, "Nancy was indispensable to me in so many ways. There are athletes who make everyone else on the team better; it's not about them, it's about the team. That's true for Nancy in spades. She's thoughtful, dependable, knowledgeable—someone with *sechel*—good sense."

"Indispensable" offers a one-word definition of Nancy. It fits someone raised in a tight-knit religious family in Worcester, Massachusetts. Grandparents, aunts and uncles, and cousins lived within walking distance. Growing up, there were jobs to do, people and things to take care of, activities to plan, and all done with a conscious commitment to the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*—actions that improve the world, beginning with your own family and community.

"I like taking responsibility," Nancy says. She remembers how her father told her, "You have to make a commitment, and you

have to stand up and be counted."

One of Nancy's childhood responsibilities was walking her grandfather to his Orthodox shul, waiting for him, and walking him home. She recalls sitting in the women's section, hearing the men *daven* and connecting with a Jewish spirituality that has never left her. "I could feel it," Nancy says. "From an early age, I was struck by the power of what we're given as Jews and the power of our heritage."

In 1977, Nancy and her husband August Gomes enrolled their daughter Nasoan and son Aumijo in Sherith Israel's religious school. Nancy had recently opened a clothing store on Haight Street that the family lived above. The children would enjoy a rich religious-school life that included bar and bat mitzvah, confirmation and volunteering as *madrichim* (teacher's assistants).

Finding Sherith Israel, Nancy says, "was entirely by accident." But she quickly connected with then-**Senior Rabbi Martin Weiner** and the temple's sisterhood group. This started a four-decade journey of synagogue involvement and a career in Jewish education.

Nancy's retirement means that a large chunk of Sherith Israel's institutional knowledge is leaving, too. Says Rabbi Raphael, "She's been involved in just about everything that goes on, from holidays to education to special events."

Gordon Gladstone, CSI's new executive director, adds, "If you say to Nancy, 'Why are we doing it this way?' the first words out of her mouth are 'What you need to know is ...' The most valuable thing you can have is somebody with access to the institutional history."

Quips Nancy, "I had a key and code to the building before I was an employee."

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes continues, page 7

Back by popular demand

CONFIRMATION RETURNS TO SHERITH ISRAEL

Sherith Israel will celebrate confirmation this spring—and it's all because our religious school students demanded it. When the four members of the tenth-grade class and one high school senior step to the bimah on May 19, it will mark the first confirmation at Sherith Israel in several years.

According to Religious School assistant principal **Natalie Weizman**, the students wanted to celebrate having grown up together at Sherith Israel. "Our tenth-graders have been together since they were two years old in the Butterfly Room at Marin Day School. They have been active in SITY, our youth group, since it was founded," she says.

Confirmation on May 19 will take place as part of the Saturday morning Shabbat service. A lunch reception for the religious school community will follow.

The confirmation group includes tenth-graders **Abraham Baldonado**, **Asher Etlin**, and **Abe** and **Ollie Feldman**, plus graduating senior **Joshua Kerzhner**. "This place brought us together," says Ollie. She sees confirmation as a way "to help keep people coming here. It's a way to keep people engaged."

For Natalie, the confirmation class is a "phenomenal group of kids. They are really passionate and are good role models for the younger students." She adds, "I'm going to cry a lot."



TEACHING TALMUD: Rabbi **Jessica Graf** leads a discussion on the relevance of Talmud in their lives with confirmation students **Abraham Baldonado**, **Asher Etlin** and **Ollie Feldman**.

NANCY SHEFTEL-GOMES, from page 6

Nancy became a teacher in the religious school in the mid-80s, moving from Mitzvah Workshop to seventh-grade. In 1999, when school leadership went through a transition, she offered to come in part-time during the summer to enroll students while CSI searched for a new principal. Soon, Nancy was asked to take on that role. The rest is history.

Nancy in fact is part historian, part history-maker. During her 19 years as Sherith Israel's education director, she guided many progressive and innovative improvements to the curriculum. They included a Friday-afternoon Shabbat School and involving CSI clergy and staff in the Marin Day School Jewish curriculum. Nancy also launched a professional development program for CSI religious school teachers.

"I believe in experiential learning," Nancy says. "If you ask parents what they want their kids to walk away with, they want them to feel Jewish. They want them to have a Jewish identity. In Judaism, there's more than what's on the page. Jewish education is a lifelong path."

Experiential learning is for adults too, she believes. Through HaMotzi and Chicken Soupers, Nancy helps Sherith Israel put its social conscience into action.

"We're Jews; we do food," she says. "We share our Jewish stories over food. Some people attend services but maybe they don't know Hebrew and can't quite connect. When they come into the kitchen, that is their *t'filah*. If you can wash a dish, peel a carrot, sweep the floor, or deliver or shop, you are connected."

Although she is stepping away from day-to-day responsibilities at CSI, Nancy will continue as a volunteer leader of HaMotzi and Chicken Soupers. She'll work with co-director **John Dellar** to coordinate volunteers who pick up food, staff the Newman Hall kitchen, and deliver meals every week. She also plans to stay connected through study, worship and serving on committees.

Nancy will undertake new endeavors, as well. In August, she'll matriculate at the University of San Francisco to pursue a master's degree in human rights education.

"Nancy is a very charitable woman," John Dellar says. "This is in her heart. There's a word for people like Nancy who are revered; they're like Jewish angels: *Lamed Vavniks*. Nancy is a living Lamed Vavnik."

"I was raised to do mitzvot without putting a label on it," Nancy says. "Almost everything I've done revolves around interaction with other people. It's so powerful when you do things in a community." ■

A LOT TO SMILE ABOUT: Outgoing education director **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** has created a rich legacy of community-building at Sherith Israel. Nancy will continue her work with HaMotzi and Chicken Soupers and will remain involved as a congregant with Torah Study and other activities.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

SHABBAT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY EVENINGS

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

MUSICAL SHABBAT

First Friday of each month
5 pm: Shabbat Mishpachah dinner for families with children 5 and under
6 pm: Services
7:30 pm: Oneg and catered dinner

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

✓ **June 1:** Celebrate education director **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** with a retirement party and community dinner featuring musical guests **Peter Bonos** and friends. *Free.*

✓ **July 6:** **Isle of Klezbos**, the NYC-based all-women's klezmer ensemble performs their unique neo-traditional folk dance, mystical melodies, Yiddish swing, retro tango and more! *Dinner plus concert: \$25 adults, \$18 students; concert only: \$10.*

✓ **August 3:** **Reboot presents The Last Act.** Filmmaker Tiffany Woolf shares excerpts from this growing series of documentary shorts profiling people in their 80s and beyond facing their later years with dignity, spirituality, wit and candor. *Dinner: \$25 adults, \$18 students. Program only: \$10.*

LATE MINYAN

Cantor David Frommer
June 29, July 27, August 24, September 28, 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. *Information: Cantor David Frommer, dfrommer@sherithisrael.org.*

SATURDAY MORNINGS

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

Avodah and Special Shabbats

CONFIRMATION

Saturday, May 19
10:30 am–12:30 pm

Join Sherith Israel's confirmation class for Shabbat services highlighting their studies.

✓ **12:30-3 pm: Luncheon**

Our festive Shabbat lunch includes music, dancing and student presentations. *Free; lunch registration required: programs@sherithisrael.org or visit sherithisrael.org.*

Adult

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

Saturday–Sunday, May 19–20
6–9 pm: JCCSF

10 pm until dawn: Congregation Beth Sholom

Join us where Sinai Meets California Street to study and celebrate the harvest holiday that also marks the giving of the Torah. This free event features music, learning, food and family events led by rabbis, cantors, educators and musicians. Rabbi Jessica Graf and Cantor David Frommer co-teach a course at 7 pm at JCCSF. *Presented by Lehrhaus Judaica, JCCSF, and Congregations Beth Sholom, Sherith Israel and Emanu-El. Registration: lehrhaus.org.*

✓ MIDRASH AND OUR PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

Rabbi Larry Raphael
Sundays, June 3–24, 10–11:30 am

Discover the remarkable world of Midrash—stories explaining and expanding on the biblical text. We'll read and discuss a fascinating book, *Hineini in Our Lives* by Rabbi Norman Cohen, guest lecturer for our March 2018 Rabbi Martin S. Weiner Lecture.

The Hebrew term *hineini*, "Here I am," is uttered at critical moments by biblical characters or God. It generally connotes being present and receptive to the other, a readiness to act on behalf of the other, and the willingness to sacrifice for someone higher. We'll see how Midrash enables us to apply the messages of these intriguing passages to each other and define the Divine power in the universe. *Free. Registration: programs@sherithisrael.org or visit sherithisrael.org.*

TISHA B'AV TORAH STUDY:

LAMENTATIONS

Rabbi Jessica Graf

Saturday, July 21

9:15–10:15 am

Read and discuss parts of the book of Lamentations (*Eicha*)—five poems mourning the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem by Babylonia on the 9th of Av, 587 BCE.



✓ CASABLANCA: ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S GREATEST FILMS Screening

Thursday, June 7, 7–9 pm

Set during World War Two, *Casablanca* features an American expatriate (Humphrey Bogart) who must choose between his love for a woman (Ingrid Bergman) and helping her and her husband (Paul Henreid), a Czech resistance leader, escape from Vichy-controlled Casablanca to continue fighting against the Nazis. *Free. Registration: programs@sherithisrael.org or visit sherithisrael.org.*

✓ "WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE CASABLANCA"

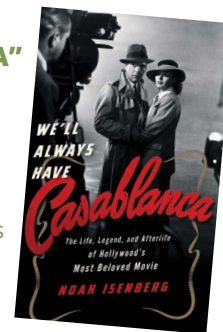
Book presentation with author

Noah Isenberg

Saturday, June 9

4–6 pm

Noah Isenberg provides intriguing background about the development of the *Casablanca* screenplay, the movie's casting, plus insights into the stars and actors playing smaller roles. He'll also discuss the film's impact on movie fans and the industry. *Free. Registration: programs@sherithisrael.org or visit sherithisrael.org.*



✓ = **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Three ways to register:

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

✓ **PRIME TIME CLUB**

Monthly lunch and learn
Second Fridays, Noon–2 pm
\$10 lunch and event registration,
beginning June 8

June 8: Gordon Gladstone: *Israel Right Now*. Every week brings a fresh set of challenging headlines from Jerusalem and the wider Middle East. Join us for an overview of the current situation. Gordon, CSI's executive director, is a career Jewish professional and former Israeli tour guide. He holds an MA in history and has lectured on Jewish and Israeli topics for more than 20 years.

July 13: Sara Felder: *Can We Tawk? A History of Jewish Humor*. Comedy professor and performing artist Sara Felder will deliver a concise history of Jewish humor, from biblical times through Yiddish vaudeville, the Catskills, sit-coms, sketches, stand-up and contemporary performance.

August 10: Gerry Tenney and KlezCalifornia: *Biz A Hundert Un Tsvantsik—120 years of Yiddish music and song*. This presentation will include rare old recordings, live music and sing-alongs. Gerry is president of KlezCalifornia, and a pioneer in the Bay Area's Klezmer and Yiddish revival movement.

KOLEYNU CHOIR—
HIGH HOLIDAYS

Rehearsals: Tuesdays,
May 29–September 4

7:15–9 pm, with Cantor David Frommer
Our congregational choir Koleynu joins our professional choristers at all major services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Please join us. No singing experience required. *Cantor David Frommer, 415.346.1720, x19, or dfrommer@sherithisrael.org.*

✓ **CONGREGATION SHERITH**
ISRAEL AT SF PRIDE

Sunday, June 24
Market Street, San Francisco
10 am: Meet

10:30 am: Parade begins
Be part of the Sherith Israel delegation! For the fifth year, we will march with other Reform synagogues from across the Bay Area to show our solidarity with the Pride movement. We'll proclaim our support for civil and human rights and demonstrate our strength in numbers. *Registration required to learn where to meet: programs@sherithisrael.org or visit sherithisrael.org.*

✓ **JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT**
WITH THE S.F. GIANTS

Wednesday, August 29
5–7 pm: Pre-game party
7:15 pm: Giants vs. Arizona Diamondbacks
Root for the Giants, get a special gift and enjoy pre-game festivities. Tickets for infield seats: \$33. *Registration: programs@sherithisrael.org or visit sherithisrael.org.*

JEWISH BOOK CLUB

June 25, 7 pm
Join us for our annual book selection session. Participants present books (paperback only) with a Jewish theme, author or historical setting. The Jewish Book Club will take a summer break during July and August. *Information: juliehousesf@gmail.com.*

CHESED

We support one another during times of need, celebration or transition. The Chesed committee invites everyone to participate, sustaining the warmth and inclusiveness that we value at Sherith Israel. *If you or someone you know in the congregation can benefit from support, please contact Nia Taylor, ntaylor@sherithisrael.org. If you can offer an occasional visit, meal, or ride, please contact Janet Parker, jparkersf@gmail.com.*

HAMOTZI & CHICKEN SOUPERS

HaMotzi: Sundays
9:30 am–12:30 pm

Chicken Soupers: First Sunday
of the month, Noon–4 pm
June 3, July 1 and August 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. *To shop, pick up donations, cook or deliver: hamotzi@sherithisrael.org.*

Religious School:
Studio@SherithIsrael 2018–19

Registration is now open for enrollment in next year's religious school. Currently enrolled students will be auto-enrolled. An early-bird discount of 10% will be applied to school fees paid in full by July 1. Scholarship applications are due July 1. Thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Community Federation and Sherith Israel donors for support of our scholarship program. *To set up a payment plan: Gordon Gladstone, ggladstone@sherithisrael.org.*

Young Families

SHABBAT MISHPACHAH
AT THE BEACH

Saturday, June 2, 10:30 am
Crissy Field—West Bluff
Bring the family for a lively Shabbat morning with Cantor David Frommer and Rabbi Jessica Graf. Remember a blanket and beach toys, and pack a lunch and snacks.

SHABBAT MISHPACHAH
Saturdays, June, 30, July 28, August 25
10:30 am–Noon, Lafayette Park
Mishpachah means family. Cantor David Frommer and Rabbi Jessica Graf lead 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.

SHABBAT MISHPACHAH DINNERS
First Fridays: June 1, July 6, August 3
5 pm
Enjoy a lively family Shabbat with Cantor David Frommer and Rabbi Jessica Graf followed by a congregational vegetarian dinner.

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
5779/2018

EREV ROSH HASHANAH
Sunday, Sept. 9

ROSH HASHANAH
Monday, Sept. 10

KOL NIDRE
Tuesday, Sept. 18

YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, Sept. 19



Creating a wonderful recipe for Jewish life

PROFILE: DAVID AND MARY SPERBER

You probably know David and Mary Sperber even if you don't. Active members at Sherith Israel, they've prepared meals for countless CSI events. After all, they own the popular Town's End Bakery and Restaurant at 2 Townsend on the Embarcadero.

David grew up in Brooklyn. He and his twin **Fred** were the youngest of four sons, who include **Steve** and **Joel**. Parents **Reuben** and **Doris** sent David to yeshiva, then, after fourth grade, to public school.

In 1960, the Sperbers moved to Westchester County, where David completed high school. Attending New York University for a year, he discovered that accounting didn't suit him. In 1963, he followed Steve, doing Ph.D. work at Cal, to Berkeley and enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve. No fan of the Vietnam War, he was released in 1967. The following years brought various jobs cooking—which he loved—and a son, **Damon**, with his first wife.

Mary grew up in North Hollywood. A grandfather and an uncle played pro baseball. Her dad **Ed Merkle** played guard—offense and defense—for the NFL's Washington Redskins. Mary began college at Berkeley then transferred to UCLA. In 1979, she enrolled in San Francisco's California Culinary Academy. "My

mother **Annabelle** was a fabulous cook, and I saw it as a great creative outlet."

In 1980, David and Mary met at the Culinary Academy's bakery. "We've been inseparable since," David notes. Their first date was the movies—with Damon, then 10. Mary's response? Her brother **Michael**, 18 years older, had five children, and she grew up with a large extended family. "David bringing Damon on our first date didn't faze me." David gave Mary her first cooking job as pastry chef at Esme's, a San Francisco jazz bar. They married in 1981 and started a family. **Evan**, 34, a UC Davis Ph.D., is an aerospace engineer in Los Angeles. **Amelia**, 32, will graduate from UCLA as a nurse/practitioner in June and be married September 21. **Damon**, now 48, and his fiancée **Kristen** are parents of four-year-old **Brooklyn**. He is assistant director of acting at San Francisco's Academy of Art. They're part of CSI's extended Sperber family.

Mary attended Catholic school for 12 years, although her parents were raised as Protestants. "I didn't feel Catholicism was for me," she says. She and David wanted their children to have a Jewish education and identity. Damon had attended Brandeis-Hillel and was a bar mitzvah. When they looked for a synagogue in 1984, Sherith Israel proved the right fit. Evan and Amelia became b'nai mitzvah at CSI. Mary took Evan to his lessons, helped him study and "pushed." But on the bimah she, a non-Jew, couldn't physically pass the Torah on to her son. In response, she took an introduction to Judaism class with **Rabbi**

Martha Bergadine, a Jew by choice and wife of then-Associate Rabbi **Stan Zamek**. "Martha inspired me," says Mary. "The class led to my conversion." **Senior Rabbi Martin Weiner** re-married Mary and David in 2000. That weekend, Mary celebrated her adult bat-mitzvah.

The Sperbers' relationship with CSI involves more than catering. They've served on clergy-search and education committees, and worship when they can on Friday nights and Saturdays. David is a key member of the lay-led Sh'ma Koleynu minyan. They regularly brought Reuben and Doris to Shabbat services after moving them out from Florida. Reuben died at 100 in 2007. Doris—a bat mitzvah at 100 in 2008—attends when her health allows. Last January at CSI, she celebrated her 110th birthday.

David and Mary remain busy with Town's End, which they bought in 1991. David serves as executive chef and does all the purchasing. Mary does the baking and runs brunch. Members of the San Francisco Giants often eat there. In the little free time at their disposal, they entertain family and friends—Passover is always 20 guests with a new theme each year. They occasionally spend time in Carmel Valley or visit their children in Los Angeles. Sports fans, they avidly follow the Giants, Sharks and Warriors.

"Sherith Israel is such a supporting and loving community," says David. "I found a real Jewish connection here. Now, I chant Torah once a month at services. I never would have imagined that." Mary notes that several years ago they bought their house in Emeryville, "but I could never leave my community at Sherith Israel." CSI offers its own recipe for spiritual growth and community that's hard to top. ■



MARY AND DAVID SPERBER are part of an extended family active in all phases of life at Sherith Israel. Owners of Town's End Restaurant and Bakery on the Embarcadero, they've catered countless meals for CSI Shabbats, b'nai mitzvah and more.

This Pesach, Sherith Israel played host to the American Jewish Committee's Diplomats Passover Seder. **Rabbi Jessica Graf** and **Cantor David Frommer** led the service, along with **Rabbi Corey Helfand** of Peninsula Sinai Congregation. Among the more than 90 guests were consuls general or their representatives from 15 countries. **Jonathan Graf** is the president of AJC San Francisco ...

Also just in time for Pesach, the Jewish Book Council featured a gluten-free recipe for Creamsicle Macaroons, billed as a new "passover standard," from **Simone Miller's** book *The New Yiddish Kitchen: Gluten-Free and Paleo Kosher Recipes for the Holidays and Every Day*. Simone is **Michael** and **Jane Miller's** daughter-in-law ...

Among the nearly 400 people who celebrated the work of the Jewish Community Relations Council at its 2018 Behind the Scenes gala were **David** and **Ellen Newman**, **Bruce Fisher** and **Marlene Litvak**—David and Bruce are both JCRC board members—as well as **Mimi Gauss**, **Arlene** and **Steve Krieger**, **Jeff Ross** and **Allison Green** ...

Congratulations to CSI congregant **Michael Krasny**, who celebrated his 25th anniversary as host of KQED's Forum. Michael's mix of public affairs, entertainment and cultural programming has made Forum one of the most popular public radio programs. Good show, Michael ...

After 35 years in San Francisco, **Alan Mirviss** and **Diane Fellman** ventured downtown to Lotta's Fountain at 5:12 am on April 18 to celebrate the anniversary of the 1906 quake. The CSI connection? With City Hall destroyed, Sherith Israel became the courthouse for 18 months. Alan and Diane were amused to run into **Emperor Norton** and **Lola Montez**, better known around CSI as **Joseph Amster** and **Rick Shelton** ...

Mazel tov to **Christina Jefferson**, who just received her master's

of human resource management with honors from Golden Gate University. Christina will put her new degree to work in her job as program administrator of Sephora's Classes for Confidence, a program that provides free beauty classes to people facing major life transitions such as workforce reentry or cancer recovery ...

CSI-ers on the road: **David** and **Carolyn Perlstein** celebrated Pesach at Masada. The Perlsteins joined David's Israeli cousins along with associated relatives and friends at the guesthouse at the base of the soaring rock formation topped by the legendary fortress. Highlights included performing a play during the Seder (David was Benjamin, Jacob's youngest son; Carolyn played Pharaoh's daughter, adoptive mother of Moses). In Bat Yam, just south of Yafo (Jaffa), they strolled four-block-long Perlstein Street—not named after David. "Still, it's all in the family," says David ...

In other Jewish travel, **Jonathan Burton** visited Poland for the fourth time since 2015. Jonathan's father left Poland in 1921, but a sister stayed. Her daughter, Jonathan's first cousin, is now 93 years old. "For this half-Polish American Jew, returning to Poland is a way to come full circle. I looked over the pastoral Polish countryside from a train window and quietly said *Kaddish* for my family and for all those who never left and never returned," recounts Jonathan ...

Jim Seff and **Margene Fudenna** took half a day out of an organized trip to Barcelona to explore the city's Jewish heritage with **Dominique Blinder** of Urban Cultours. They were surprised to learn that much of the history of the Jews of Barcelona has been reconstructed using old tax records ...

Closer to home, Sherith Israel teens joined the March 14 walkout by students around the country to demand stricter gun control. Seventh-

graders **Alana David** and **Milo Stern** organized a 17-minute walkout at Hoover Middle School, while **Nora Herndon-Lazerwith**, an eighth-grader at Burlingame Intermediate School, helped organize a protest that included nearly 200 students. **Nina Morgenstein**, a ninth-grader at The Bay School, also joined in the protest at her school. Milo was interviewed for a story on NBC Bay Area. Their decision to join the national protest grew out of a conversation at religious school. We're incredibly proud of our engaged and articulate teens ...

Our younger teens are off to high school this fall: **Sylvia Benjamin** (Lowell); **Ian Grossman**, **Otto Handler** and **Ryan Macomber** (SOTA); **Nora Herndon-Lazerwith** (Burlingame High School); **Noah Linder** (Lick-Wilmerding); **Holden Rosenfeld** (The Hill School, Pottstown, PA); **Sebastian Souza** (Lincoln); **Sadie Steinheimer** (Drew); and **Ben Weissner** (Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep). Congratulations to everyone ...

CSI teens in the SITY youth program discovered a whole new group of best friends at the NFTY Geshet Kallah weekend for Reform youth in the Central West Region. CSI and Congregation Emanu-El hosted the San Francisco gathering. Confirmand **Abe Feldman** called it "one of the best weekends of my life." Ninth-grader **Emmy Etlin** likened the NFTY weekend to "condensed sleep-away camp" where you can "begin to weave a network of Jewish teens." Welcome to the wider Jewish world ...

News Noshers **Ellen Newman's** travel and photo blog, Hidden-inSite, is up and running with two recent posts about Israel. Check them out at www.hidden-insite.com. ■

By the News Noshers, 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

SANCTUARY CONGREGATION

The Sherith Israel Board of Trustees' February vote to designate us a sanctuary congregation represented the culmination of months of study and advocacy by our social action committee. For committee co-chair **Stacy Passman**, the vote "legitimizes the work we're doing and shows that Sherith Israel is behind it."

She and co-chair **Karen Alschuler** look forward to "seizing every opportunity to work with other faith communities in the name of Sherith Israel." Karen adds, "Our Faith in Action partners are amazed and thrilled." The co-chairs also note the importance of the partnership between the committee and the clergy. "We can barely keep up with everything they want to do," says Karen.

The sanctuary congregation resolution recognizes the work that the social action committee is doing to support people facing deportation. Sherith Israel congregants have accompanied people subject to deportation to their court hearings, bearing witness and offering community support. Stacy and Karen were particularly excited by the case of Floricel Ramos, a Lodi woman who, after more than a year in detention, is back with her family. "We all learned a great deal," says Karen, "and there is plenty more accompaniment work to do."

Stacy and Karen look forward to having more people

undergo accompaniment training because hearings are scheduled without much warning and volunteers need to be available on short notice.

GUN VIOLENCE SERIES

The committee is also working with Congregation Emanu-El and Grace Cathedral on a series of conversations and educational events on gun violence prevention, an issue on which **Rabbi Jessica Graf** has been very active. On April 20, Sherith Israel hosted **Robyn Thomas**, executive director of the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. She presented excerpts from *Under the Gun*, a documentary produced and narrated by Katie Couric that examines the effects of gun violence and the political climate surrounding the gun debate. (You can see the complete documentary on Hulu or Amazon Video.)

The next event, in late May, will be a forum at which people talk about how gun violence has affected them and share ideas for constructive action. The final event in the fall will focus on the leadership role taken by young people in the wake of the shootings in Parkland, Florida. The committee hopes Sherith Israel will team up with groups from other faith and ethnic communities, who will bring their unique experiences to the conversation.



CONGREGATIONAL SEDER HAMOTZI/CHICKEN SOUPERS FUNDRAISER

Our second-night congregational Seder was a total success as an event and as the annual fundraiser for HaMotzi and Chicken Soupers. More than 200 people enjoyed the retelling of the Exodus by **Rabbi Jessica Graf, Cantor David Frommer** and music director **Jonathan Dimmock**. Our programs for feeding shelter residents and people who are homebound netted more than \$10,000. Much thanks to our volunteers, who shopped, chopped, cooked, cleaned and set tables: **Zach Abrams, Kathryn Amenta, Ruth Auerbach, Melanie Bartfeld, Marilyn Berlin, Jim Blattner, John Dellar, Julie Driscoll, Stephanie Galinson, Steve Garber, Bradley Graham, Christina Jefferson, Lynn and Ron Laupheimer, Sasha Lekach, Carrie Ann Lopez, Janet Parker, Anne Peskoe and Cathy Taylor**. And, of course, thanks to our hard-working staff.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY

CSI continues our eleven-year partnership with the Jewish Coalition for Literacy to help hundreds of at-risk children develop reading fluency and a love of learning. Tutor orientation/training for the 2018–2019

term is planned for early fall. The only requirements are an hour a week and an open heart. To find out more and join CSI's roster of tutors—**Sy Aal, Steve Garner, Reggie Griner, Evelyn Manies, Janet Parker** and **Debra Sokolsky**—please contact Janet Parker, 415.282.1495, or jparker@gmail.com or go to jclread.org.

THE CHESED COMMITTEE

A vital part of Sherith Israel is our support and presence for one another in times of need, celebration or transition. In the past year, the Chesed committee, working with our clergy and staff, has reached out to more than sixty congregational families to offer hospital and home visits, rides, cards and calls, home-delivered meals, *shiva* support and new-baby welcoming. To find out about participating in creating a united, caring community by fulfilling the mitzvah of doing *chesed* for each other, contact Janet Parker at 415.282.1495, or jparkersf@gmail.com.

If you or someone you know would like to receive support, contact Nia Taylor at 415.346.1720, x17, or ntaylor@sherithisrael.org. Nia will put you in touch with Rabbi Jessica Graf and Cantor David Frommer. With your permission, they will let the Chesed committee know if you would like further outreach. ■



A SEASON OF CELEBRATION AND REMEMBRANCE:

Spring at CSI kicked off with a Purim carnival for our religious school and a *Hamilton*-parody Purim spiel for adults. Our second-night Seder commemorating our liberation from Egypt raised more than \$10,000 for HaMotzi and Chicken Soupers. And we marked Yom HaShoah with three events: a Holocaust exhibit by the American Society for Yad Vashem, a "Shoah Seder" organized by our religious school students, and a talk by 96-year-old Holocaust survivor **Ben Stern**.



PASSAGES

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

BAR/BAT MITZVAHS

Veronica Heyman, daughter of Jennifer Heyman, May 12

WEDDINGS

Tamar Draper Mahru & Ken Mahru
Deepa Seetharaman & Rolfe Winkler

NEW MEMBERS

Valli Benesch & Bob Tandler
Alexander Goldberg
Randall Kahn
Laynie Tzena

May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.

Gary Apter, husband of Ingrid Apter, father of Janine Cuthbertson (Michael) and Brian Apter (Chloe) and grandfather of Aria, Talia and Larkin

Saundra M. Draper, mother of Tamar Draper Mahru (Ken)

Barbara Frommer, mother of David Frommer (Carla) and Katharine Frommer Cik (Peretz), and grandmother of Aaron, Eliana and Talia Frommer, and Ezra and Ilana Cik

Frida Koppl, mother of Monica Zimmerman (Alan), grandmother of Jessica Graf (Jonathan) and Sabrina Bluestein (Stephen)

Janet Levenson, mother of Michelle Levenson (Todd) and grandmother of Carlin, Ayla and Ryan

Valeska Rantz, wife of Robert Rantz (z"l), mother of Gayle Rosenberg (Art), grandmother of Jill Rosenberg and Steven Rosenberg (Melissa), and great-grandmother of Violet and Dylan Fully Rosenberg

Our tradition teaches us to honor our loved ones by making a gift in their memory and connecting their memory to a vibrant Sherith Israel. To make a contribution please visit our website or contact Nia Taylor, development manager, at 415.346.1720, x17.

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DONATIONS

Includes donations from January 1–April 25, 2018

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

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Tamar Draper Mahru & Ken Mahru in honor of Rabbi Raphael

CANTOR DAVID FROMMER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ingrid Apter in honor of Cantor Martin Feldman
Dorothy & Hal Auerbach in memory of Martha Greenfeld

Janice & Andre Bolaffi

Ardis & Al Breslauer in memory of Bernard Feldman

Nancy & Arnie Davis in memory of Gary Apter and Morris Krakowitz

Diane Fellman, Alan Mirviss and family in memory of Jack Mirviss and Lottie Harmon

Marilee & Arthur Fenn in honor of Loe Tolson

Marcia D. Gruskin in memory of Harriet B. Ross

Sandy & Merle Kovtun in memory of Gary Apter

Arlene & Steve Krieger in memory of Georgette Krieger

Barbara Levinson in honor of Sharon Wasserman

Fred Nervo in memory of Alejandro Carlos Nervo

Elinor & Harold Oertell in memory of Gary Apter

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Monica & Alan Zimmerman in memory of Frida Koppl

Lonnie Zwerin & Frank Mainzer in memory of Ursula D. Elgart

CHICKEN SOUPERS/HAMOTZI FUND

Marilyn Allen in memory of Robert Allen and Gary Apter

Kathryn Amenta

Ingrid Apter in memory of Barry Apter

Shoshana Chana Asher

Ruth Auerbach & David Levin

James Blattner in memory of Bernard Blattner

Norman Brand

Jobyna & John Dellar in honor of Fred & Laurie Dellar

Diane Fellman & Alan Mirviss in memory of Marvin Mirviss and in honor of Nancy & John Diller

David Fisher

Nancy Flaxman in memory of Sadie Fell Flaxman

Karen & Stuart Gansky

Rose & Jack Gansky in honor of Karen & Stuart Gansky

Teresa & Bradley Graham in memory of Elizabeth Gold

Allison Green in memory of Gary Apter and Janet Levenson and in honor of Ardis & Al Breslauer

Deborah & Edmund Green in memory of Eva & Michael Zarchin and Suzanne C. Green and in honor of Ardis & Al Breslauer

Jeri & Van Hart in honor of Steve Olson

Candace Heisler in memory of Betty & Dan Heisler

Holly Herndon & Scott Lazerwith

Ilana Horwitz and family

Kletter Family Vineyards

Marina Kofsman

Jacalyn Kornblatt in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Arlene & Steve Krieger in memory of Louis Epp

Lesley Lane

Lynn & Ron Laupheimer in honor of Ardis & Al Breslauer

Jennifer Light

Ellie & Jerry Mednick

Mary Ortega

Rusty Pallas

Laurel Rest & Bill Kedom

Ruth Reznikoff in honor of Steve Olson

Roslyn Rhodes in memory of Gary Apter and in honor of Ardis & Al Breslauer

Agnes Rothblatt in memory of Anita Rothblatt Kapell

Liat & Peter Sadler

Michael Savulescu in memory of Elizabeth Gold and in honor of Bradley Graham

Margaret Scheinman in memory of Bessie Landesman

Sheri Schoenberg in memory of William Schoenberg

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes & Augie Gomes

Shira & Bill Shore in memory of Gary Apter, M.D. and in honor of Ardis & Al Breslauer

Rona Spiegel

Gordon Stewart

Stephen Sullivan

Cathy Taylor

Ruth Temkin & Richard Schwartzberg in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

JoBeth Walt & Ira Fateman in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Gary Wasserman

Karen & Marty Weiner in memory of Yetta Weiner Marshall, Florence & Joseph G.

Kricsfeld and Joseph Spindel

Helaine Weinstein & Maurice Kamins in memory of Dorothy Weinstein

Karen Zelman

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FUND

Diane & Robert Neuhaus in memory of Rachael Benjamin

MITZVAH FUND

Shoshana Chana Asher in memory of Rabbi Yonah Ansbacher

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Sofya Barbalat in memory of Vilen Barbalat and Ada & Chaim Katsap

Janet Bensu in memory of Helen & Irving Levine

Shelley Berniker & Erik Shepherd in memory of Marcia Lee Berniker

Susan Borkin & Jerry Hurwitz in memory of Sandra M. Draper

Harry Z. Coren in memory of Rabbi David B. Coren

Drs. Claire & James Davis in honor of Jane Blatteis

Linda Feldman in honor of Laura & Steve Olson

Marilee & Arthur Fenn in memory of Maury Misrack

Nicole Fessel in memory of Freda Young

Deborah & Edmund Green in memory of Frances & Philip Green

Diane Green in memory of Suzanne Green and Eva & Michael Zarchin

Richard Greene in memory of Mildred Greene

Yakov Kagan in memory of Zoya Kagan

Janet & Theodore Kelter in memory of Irene Kelter

Nadine Koss in memory of Maisie Koss

Lyubov & Boris Kravets in memory of Alexander Vekselman

Monica Levin in memory of Reuben Levin

Patricia & Gary Levin in memory of Frida Koppl

Terrie Liss in memory of Selma Fox

Tasia Melvin in memory of Anthony Bartell and Nathan P. Revel and in honor of Rabbi Raphael

Mark Nelson in memory of Joseph Nelson

Eileen Nervo in memory of Rita Channy

Diane & Robert Neuhaus in memory of Sigmund Neuhaus

Ellen & David Newman in memory of Frida Koppl and Gary Apter

Dolores Okun in memory of Israel Khayet and Aron Okun

Rena Pasick & Stephen Garber in memory of Lucille Pasick

Leslie & Merle Rabine in memory of Millie Rabine and Gary Apter

Terrie & Rabbi Larry Raphael in memory of Shirley, Leo, Jack, Irwin & George Sladnick and Ben & David Wine

Ruth & Richard Rozen in memory of Daniel Rozen

Josephine & George Sawyer in memory of Gary Apter, M.D.

The Sayfer family in memory of Klara Sayfer

Sima Shandrovskaya in memory of Alexandr Shandrovskiy and Avraam Faynberg

Diane & Brian Silver in honor of David Bolaffi

Roberta Silverstein & Stephen Sperber in memory of Arthur Silverstein and in honor of Rabbi Larry Raphael

Jordan Sofris in memory of Harold Sofris

Charley Stern in memory of Janet Weinstein

Tikhman Family Foundation in memory of Yelizaveta & Mikhail Sheynerman

Roz & Greg Tolson in memory of Barbara Tolson and Dr. Gary Apter

Lyuba Vaynblat in memory of Elka Zaychik

MEMORIAL BOOK FUND

Janice & Dennis Apter in memory of Gary Apter

Lora Schwartz in memory of Gary Apter

Svetlana Zbarakh in memory of Mikhail Zbarakh

ONEG FUND

Alan Mirviss and family in honor of Diane Fellman

RABBI GRAF'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ingrid Apter

Janice & Andre Bolaffi

Dr. Claire Davis & Dr. Donald Targoff in memory of Shirley Targoff

Drs. Claire & James Davis in honor of Maya Juliet Mills

Susan & Leland Faust in memory of Frida Koppl

Diane Fellman, Alan Mirviss and family in memory of Morris Fellman

Anastasia Fink

Monica Levin in memory of Reuben Levin

Gayle & Arthur Rosenberg

Diane & Jerry Spagnoli in memory of Frida Koppl

Betty Taisch in memory of Dennis Alan, Nathan, Lilian & Judy Taisch

Roz & Greg Tolson in memory of Herschel Tolson and in honor of Rabbi Graf

Kathleen Zemanek & Anthony P. David in memory of Frida Koppl

Monica & Alan Zimmerman in memory of Arthur B. & Rena A. Zimmerman, Gary Apter and Val Rantz

RABBI WEINER'S EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Ingrid Apter

Diane Fellman, Alan Mirviss and family in memory of Harold Mirviss

Gale Gottlieb

The Greenspan family in memory of Jessie Fox

Justine & Bruce Highman in memory of Edith & Arthur Highman

Tengiz Iosebashvili in memory of Alexandra & Moses Iosebashvili

Susan Romer & Donald Ungar in memory of Donna Solomon

James Seff in memory of Elsie Abrams and Judge Bernard Seff

Audrey & Bob Sockolov in memory of Gary Apter

Steve Weiner & Norm Dito in honor of Karen & Marty Weiner and Martin & Nancy Feldman

Monica & Alan Zimmerman in memory of Frida Koppl and appreciation to Rabbi Martin Weiner

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Sylvia Benjamin in honor of the SITY program

Ardis & Al Breslauer in memory of Alfred Breslauer

Perri Davis in memory of Eva Seedman

Anastasia & Japheth Dillman

The Save Mart Companies

Frances & Rachael Schreiber in memory of Lester Schreiber

SEISMIC RETROFIT CAMPAIGN

Patricia Axelrod in memory of Lucille Axelrod

The Kenneth S. Baron family in memory of Sylvia L. Baron

Phaedra Bell & Dan Dohan

Drs. Claire & James Davis

Mimi Gauss

Alicia & Evan Kletter



BUTTERFLY PROJECT:

CSI students, K-5th grade, participated in an international collective art project memorializing the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust and honoring the survivors. "We framed the concept in an age-appropriate manner in each class," says **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes**. Younger students learned that the butterflies represent the memories of people we loved.

Ruth Auerbach & David Levin

Denise & Erik Migdail

Lida & David Morgenstein

Laurel Rest & Bill Kedem

Karen & Harry Roth in honor of Lynn & Paul Sedway

Lynn Rothman & Richard Koch in honor of Rabbi Larry Raphael

Samuel J. Salkin in memory of Frida Koppl

Leonard Singer

Rachel B. Stern in memory of Marjorie H. Stern

Roz & Greg Tolson in honor of Craig Etlin

Steve Weiner & Norm Dito in memory of Yetta Weiner Marshall, Barbara Tolson and Valeska Rantz

Lonnie Zwerin & Frank Mainzer

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Karen Alschuler in memory of Anita Brecher

Leslie & Merle Rabine in memory of Milton Rabine and Henry Wahl

Shira & Bill Shore and family in memory of Selma & Irving E. Shore



SHERITH ISRAEL

2266 California Street • San Francisco, CA 94115

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BE HERE FOR THE LEADER WHO'S BEEN HERE FOR US ALL

Honor Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, our retiring education director, recent interim executive director and a woman who has done so many wonderful things to enhance the Sherith Israel community.

A special oneg follows services.

RSVP

sherithisrael.org/programs
programs@sherithisrael.org
415.346.1720



FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 6 PM

Retirement Shabbat
for Nancy Sheftel-Gomes