

SHERITH ISRAEL NEWS

SEPTEMBER–
DECEMBER, 2018

More engagement, more discovery

STUDIO@SHERITHISRAEL INTRODUCES NEW DIRECTION FOR YOUTH EDUCATION

When the new Studio@SherithIsrael program begins this fall, students from pre-kindergarten through seventh grade will enjoy more opportunities for creative expression and self-discovery along with an enhanced sense of community. Of course, the basics of Judaism and Jewish culture will still form the heart of religious education.

“We’re pursuing a project- and arts-based approach,” says Rabbi Abby Phelps, Sherith Israel’s new rabbi educator. “The program will be fluid and evolve, which is good, because it will reflect how our kids are learning and where their interests lie.”

For teens, CSI will offer new twice-monthly sessions of Teens@Studio. This educational program will focus on ancient Jewish texts and wisdom as lenses through which to understand current events and approach the opportunities and challenges teens face today. Teens who have not yet been confirmed will be invited to participate in a confirmation program. They can study Jewish philosophy and theology to examine and develop their Jewish identities. In addition, teens still have the option

to become *madrichim*—teaching assistants—in the Studio program. *Madrichim* work with younger students and serve as role models in their Jewish development. Sherith Israel Temple Youth (SITY) rounds out CSI’s teen program, offering social activities and community service (see page 4).

The Studio curriculum will build a foundation of Jewish literacy and identity. It offers knowledge of holidays, prayer, Torah and spiritual Hebrew, all approached through diverse avenues engaging students’ hearts, minds and senses. As in the past, each grade will have a specific focus. “We’ll provide age-appropriate content for students,” says Rabbi Phelps. “Our youngest children will learn about Jewish symbols and Judaism in the home. We’ll move on to explore core Jewish values, the nature of sacred space and sacred time, and the roles of history and memory in the ongoing Jewish story.”

Learning will deepen as students grow older. For example, younger students might spend time in CSI’s beautiful sanctuary

Studio@SherithIsrael continues, page 13

See story
about
Sherith Littles
on page 4



LIGHTING THE WAY: All the generations of Sherith Israel help bring in Shabbat as Cantor David Frommer leads candle lighting. For more on what Sherith Israel is doing to attract families with young children, see the story about Sherith Littles on page 4.

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SAVE THE DATE!

**The BRCA Gene:
An Evening of Education
THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, 6:30 PM**

**Cooking for the SF Interfaith
Winter Shelter
DEC. 24, 25, 26**



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
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CLERGY

Jessica Zimmerman Graf

Senior Rabbi

Abby Phelps

Rabbi Educator

David Frommer

Cantor

EMERITUS CLERGY

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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

David Newman, Ellen Newman

Photographers



A MOMENT WITH RABBI JESSICA ZIMMERMAN GRAF

HOME + A DASH OF HOT SAUCE = SHERITH ISRAEL



Sherith Israel is stepping out, taking a ride around the block, painting the town red. More accurately, we're riding the bus—Muni, that is. Have you seen our ads on the sides of 20 buses crisscrossing the city? You may just be surprised by what you see zoom by! (See page 6.)

A great team of staff and synagogue members set out to think differently. We wanted to get the word out about Sherith Israel's spirit of warmth and tradition coupled with a dash of hot sauce. We brainstormed; no idea was too crazy to consider. How could we reach as many people as possible? And how could we share our message in the most unusual way? Once we got rolling, there was no stopping the creative energy that resulted in our wordless ad that says it all.

Tradition + innovation. Jewish culture + our multi-cultural contemporary tastes. Sherith Israel is the sum of the best of our heritage + contemporary life. We're definitely a synagogue for the 21st century.

Like Sriracha, the insanely popular hot sauce millennials add to everything from soup to ice cream, our bus ads may be an acquired taste, but they embody a fresh approach to reaching beyond California Street to let unaffiliated Jews, many young and new to town, know that they will find a warm, even spicy, welcome here.

Once we had the idea, we had to put the ad together. It wasn't easy to find the

perfect bowl of matzah ball soup. Like the Jewish fairy tale protagonist "Goldalox" some broths looked too gray, some too beige. Some matzah balls looked too fluffy, some not fluffy enough. Eventually, we found a bowl of soup that was "just right," but alas, it had a copyright. What to do? Two congregants (whose commitment to our synagogue apparently knows no bounds) set out to create the perfect bowl of matzah ball soup—and photograph it. It's picture perfect—YUM! (See page 7.)

The next challenge was securing rights to use the image of a Sriracha bottle and logo. With great persistence, we managed to get permission to use this iconic symbol. And *hinei*—behold—matzah ball soup + Sriracha = Sherith Israel. It really is an exciting time at CSI as we honor tradition and innovate at the same time.

Please join us throughout the fall as we celebrate holidays and find contemporary meaning in our traditional prayers and symbols. Who knows, maybe we'll find new ways to spice up traditional holiday foods. How about brisket + Sriracha?

I wish us all a traditional, innovative and meaningful holiday season. May the shofar awaken us to the possibilities of new beginnings. And may our apples and honey remind us of the sweetness of a new year.

Shanah tovah! Cantor David Frommer and Rabbi Abby Phelps join me in wishing all of you a happy and healthy 5779! ■

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

**"And God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our own likeness.'" —
B'reishit (Genesis) 1:26**

All humanity descends from the same parents—Adam and Eve. Yet the human family is comprised of many ethnicities and cultures. The Jewish people is in itself highly diverse, as evidenced by any visit to Israel—or Sherith Israel. Jewish roots span the world from Europe to the

Middle East, Africa, India, China and the Americas. Diversity among American Jews increases by about 3,600 Jews-by-choice each year, according to Valerie Thaler (myjewishlearning.com). Each contributes new texture and insights to the Jewish people. ■

4 Questions for RABBI ABBY PHELPS

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the favorite holiday of Rabbi Abby Phelps, Sherith Israel's new rabbi educator. We asked Rabbi Phelps to share her thoughts about why this solemn holiday speaks to her so deeply.

Q: What about Yom Kippur most affects you?

A: I love that we've set aside an entire day for introspection and work on the self. It's like making New Year's resolutions—but being serious about them. It's hard to take time for this in our regular lives. Shabbat serves part of this function, but generally isn't set aside as a whole day of introspection. Also, Yom Kippur asks us to go on an individual quest, but in community, with each of us supporting and enriching each other's individual experiences. I love this about Judaism.

I also like that Yom Kippur follows Rosh Hashanah, rather than the other way around. We begin the new year with Rosh Hashanah, with our issues unresolved. That's real life. The Days of Awe provide an ongoing process to better ourselves. That said, Yom Kippur never ends with me as a perfected person, but I do have clearer ideas on how to strive to be better.

Q: When did Yom Kippur become your favorite holiday?

A: I loved Yom Kippur as a child living on Long Island because I loved the music. I also loved the sense of grandeur. It struck me as awesome in the real sense of that word. My family went to Temple Isaiah in Stony Brook, a Reform synagogue. But we also spent the second day of Rosh Hashanah—observed by Orthodox and Conservative Jews—at Stony Brook University's Hillel. After we moved to Seattle, I started to seriously engage with Yom Kippur as a teen at Temple B'nai Torah. One thing I really liked was that the clergy put teens in charge of the food drive. If you needed a break, you could staff the food-drive truck and still feel you were meeting the demands of the day. Over time, I took pride in partially fasting and later, when I was older, fully fasting. I find that fasting helps clear the decks so that I can focus on deeper things.

Q: What practices mark your Yom Kippur?

A: Standing during the concluding N'ilah service moves me. There's something about teetering on the edge of exhaustion before the gates of prayer close that feels immedi-

ate and alive. Generally, it takes me a while to settle into Yom Kippur. My mind is engaged during Kol Nidre, but only in the daytime does my heart fully wake up. I shift my focus from the service to the conversation I need to have with myself. I love reciting "*T'shuvah, t'filah and tzedakah soften the harshness of God's decree.*"

I also follow the rabbinic dictum to not wear leather shoes—I'll be wearing canvas Toms this year. Admittedly, all of today's shoes are comfortable, but the gesture is important to me. I'm interested in getting a kittel, or at least wearing white, which is one of the many ways we use ritual to "play dead" on Yom Kippur. Many Yom Kippur traditions mimic customs practiced at the time of death, emphasizing the profound message that someday each of us *will* die. Traditionally, one is buried in white garments. We don't eat, bathe or anoint ourselves, because if we're dead, we can't do those things. These practices of "playing dead" facilitate the process of *t'shuvah*—returning to God—because after Yom Kippur, we continue to live.

Q: How do you practice introspection?

A: I have a wandering mind, so during the service—if I'm not officiating—I let it find its own space. Introspection comes most easily when something familiar is being chanted, sung or spoken. I'm usually thinking and listening at the same time, but there are moments when I go deeper into my mind and heart. This is why I like that the congregation isn't always expected to sing along with the cantor. I get space to have my own internal experience. Leading Yom Kippur services presents a challenge, but during moments of silent prayer, I can contemplate. I have a ritual for the silent Amidah—I focus on five things in my life for which I'm grateful and then say the prayer for gratitude.

By the time Yom Kippur concludes, I feel more focused—clearer about who I am, who I have been and who I want to be. I also feel cleansed and reborn. *Cleansed* is a funny word, but after mimicking death, we can feel reborn, fresh, renewed. My slate is clean for the year. Now I get to start filling it again. ■

CREATING A NEW TRIBE, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

Studies tell us that if you make five friends at church or synagogue, you'll stay attached. That's the core idea behind Sherith Littles, Sherith Israel's new outreach program for families with young children.

Funded with a two-year, \$150,000 grant from the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties, the program kicked off this summer under the leadership of **Rabbi Samantha Kahn**. Rabbi Kahn, who also serves as director of InterfaithFamily/Bay Area, is a natural for the job. The Miami native spent six years as the outreach and engagement rabbi at Houston's Congregation Emanu El, where she was nicknamed chief engagement officer.

"We are so excited to have Rabbi Samantha Kahn on board with us to build Sherith Littles into a real cohort of young families," says **Rabbi Jessica Graf**.

"Rabbi Kahn has deep experience in congregational life and in interfaith family work, as well as with unaffiliated people across the city," says Rabbi Graf. She brings a wealth of skills that are just perfect for the job, not to mention that she is mom to five-year-old **Roey** and two-year-old **Stella Mae**. The family moved to the Bay Area from Houston 18 months ago when her husband, Matt, was offered the job of regional director of AJC San Francisco.

Rabbi Kahn is excited to be doing this work at Sherith Israel. "The synagogue is at a wonderful moment of potential, with a vibrant clergy team and synagogue staff," she says. "I want to be part of that and help it build and grow."

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, who worked with Federation writing the grant before she retired as CSI's education director

in June, explains, "Families with very young children tend not to be connected to the Jewish community, but that connection is something they miss. Another generation or two away from 'authentic' Jewish experience, they have few models for bringing Judaism into their lives." The Littles program is designed as a gateway, opening the door to Judaism and Jewish community.

Congregant **Beth Cousens**, who has a four-year-old and an 18-month-old toddler, helped Nancy with the grant. She is excited by Sherith Littles because the program, which focuses on one-on-one relationships, reflects a twenty-first-century approach. "It will help people find their tribe and give them a place to talk about the joys and struggles of parenting in the context of Jewish wisdom and tradition," she says.

Sherith Littles is based on the work of Ron Wolfson, who wrote the book *Relational Judaism* and mentored Rabbi Graf at Synagogue 3000. "Building community is about people sharing their lives together. That's what synagogues offer that other organizations can't," notes Rabbi Graf. "Everything we're doing is built on *magalim*, circles of community or connection, circles of people who are traveling through life together."

Looking at the program through the lens of concentric circles, Rabbi Kahn has already started working with CSI member families with young children. She has attended first-Friday Shabbat Mishpachah dinners and met several families

at a gathering hosted by board member **Katie Zier** and her husband, **Lucas**. "Our goal is to make sure the young families of the congregation feel welcome and embraced," Rabbi Kahn says. "We want them to feel that Sherith Israel can be an active part of their lives."

The next circle out involves Jewish families whose preschool children are enrolled at Marin Day School. Beyond that lies the circle of unaffiliated Jewish families with young children. "Thanks to this generous grant, Rabbi Kahn will be able to help us with outreach so we can invite these young families into our growing community," adds Rabbi Graf.

The plan includes meeting young parents where they are, whether at local cafes or bookstores, the park or the beach. As the program evolves, there may be playgroups, story-time gatherings or Shabbat get-togethers in local parks. The grant also includes stipends for "connectors" who can amplify Rabbi Kahn's job by inviting other parents for coffee and then to related events.

"I love this work," says Rabbi Kahn. "I learned early on that the part of the rabbinate that I gravitate towards is the welcoming and outreach work. That was a huge focus of my time in Houston. To help people explore why Judaism is meaningful in their lives is my greater mission. This fits right in." ■

WELCOMING YOUNG FAMILIES: Rabbi Samantha Kahn (right), with CSI board member **Katie Zier** (holding **Everly** and **Addison**). Rabbi Kahn leads Sherith Littles, a program designed as a gateway, opening the door to Judaism and Jewish community for young Jewish families.





PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: Led by **Cantor David Frommer**, members of Koleynu practice their parts of the High Holiday liturgy. Our lay choir will be joined by our professional singers for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Something traditional, something new

HOLIDAY MUSIC BLENDS MAJESTY AND FAMILIARITY

For Cantor David Frommer, the months of preparation for the High Holidays are all about creating a sense of awe and majesty, while encouraging congregants to participate in music that is familiar and uplifting. “The High Holidays involve more cantorial solos and a professional choir integrated with Koleynu, our volunteer choir,” he says, “but congregational participation is still important.” Cantor Frommer encourages congregants to listen to the CD of High Holiday music that the congregation distributed last year and placed on our website. “We want people to sing along for much of the service, and it helps if they are familiar with the music.”

Cantor Frommer has high praise for the professional choristers. “They’re the Sherith Israel tradition that no one knows about.” Many have been singing in the professional choir for several years, predating his tenure. “They’ve been working with **Jonathan Dimmock**, our music director, for the entirety of his time, and some go back even beyond that.”

Some of the professional singers are Jewish, some not, but Cantor Frommer says they are all committed to bringing artistry and musical expertise to our services. Beyond that, they are “really *menschlidich*” in their approach to working with

the volunteer choir. “It sounds nice on paper,” he notes, “but not every professional singer is comfortable singing with amateurs because the two groups have very different skill sets.”

CSI’s volunteers may not have the technical expertise of the professionals, but they bring all their history and experience with the music and the understanding of the text. The professionals, of course, have technical expertise but not necessarily the depth of Jewish experience that informs the music. “The volunteers and the professionals complement each other in a really unique way,” Cantor Frommer enthuses.

He also praises the commitment of our volunteer singers. “To arrive at a place where our volunteers can sing with the professionals, they have rehearsed the High Holiday repertoire weekly for 16 weeks, which is much more than volunteer choirs are usually willing to do.”

While there will be fewer innovations this year than last, Cantor Frommer is enthusiastic about a newly commissioned arrangement of Kol Nidre for cello and violin. “The melody will be the same, but in my time here, we haven’t had multiple instruments playing Kol Nidre at the same time.” CSI con-

gregant **Alex Kelly** will play cello and his playing partner, **Matt Szemela**, violin. Alex and Matt played together at a Friday night service several months ago.

Two old traditions return this year “by popular demand.” One is the Leonard Bernstein setting of Psalm 23 from *Chichester Psalms* for the Yizkor service. It hasn’t been heard at Sherith Israel in several years. The soloist will be **Rabbi Reuben Zellman**, formerly music director at Berkeley’s Congregation Beth El.

The other returning tradition will be Cantor Frommer’s entering the sanctuary from the back for Kol Nidre, as **Cantor Martin Feldman** used to do. “It really seemed to have left an indelible memory for people,” Cantor Frommer says, “but no one can do it in the same way as Cantor Feldman.”

Cantor Frommer takes on a special sense of responsibility in preparing for the High Holidays. “I find these holidays so moving, because ultimately their message is that we all have the potential for positive change, both in our personal lives and in the wider world around us,” he reflects. “I feel incredibly lucky to help inspire that change through the beautiful music of our tradition.” ■



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH GORDON GLADSTONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE MAGICAL POWER OF FRESH PAINT

When I was a young man, my then-girlfriend and I seemed to change apartments every 18 months. That was mostly due to being young, having few possessions and a desire to live in ever-nicer places or more interesting neighborhoods. One powerful thing that I recall from that period was the magic of fresh paint.

We got into the habit of offering to repaint places we moved into. We had definite ideas about what shade of white we wanted and a general aversion to the cheap stuff the landlord might buy on his own. Once the drop cloths were lifted and the masking tape removed, we were left with a wholly new space open to new ideas, new possibilities, new art and new furniture. When we sank into the couch, our eyes were greeted by an unmarked expanse of perfection. Ah, the smell of fresh paint!

This summer, we started applying fresh paint in the education offices. Rabbi Jessica Graf and I wanted to provide our new rabbi educator, Abby Phelps, with a space to imagine the possibilities of our new education program as we embark on this new year.

Our first step was getting back to the bare walls of the space. The furniture that had been shoe-horned in had begun its life in **Cantor Feldman's** office and was a poor match for the clean angular spaces of the Temple House architecture. Once everything was dismantled and removed, we discovered that the walls were riddled with holes from old shelving units. Our painters spent an entire day patching holes, gouges and dents before they could start painting. We decided to also paint the vestibule of the library as well, since the walls had been marked by the passage of thousands of students since the Newman Hall renovations of the late 1990's.

A concurrent project by youth programs manager Natalie Weizman was a **comprehensive inventory of our curriculum library**. The goal was to help Rabbi Phelps understand quickly what materials were on hand and what could be deployed this fall. Of course, like a thorough spring cleaning, this sort of project has a way of expanding, and each day brought a discovery. Some were welcome, some surprising. Each one brought us closer to an orderly space.

We are just a few weeks from the start of the New Year. Much like the fresh paint of my first apartments, the turn of the year is a chance to take stock, see the world ahead from a new perspective and imagine the limitless opportunities of the expanse before us.

May the New Year bring you and your family joy—and the possibilities of fresh paint. ■



SHERITH ISRAEL DIRECTORY

Those of us with longer memories can remember when synagogue directories were similar to phone books. However, as technology has advanced, so have the opportunities to keep our community connected and save a few trees and the cost of postage at the same time.

Sherith Israel will make our congregational directory accessible to members with a website log-in on

November 1. The directory will list the names of adults in each household, along with their email addresses and phone numbers. No other information will be displayed.

If you would like to opt out of the directory altogether, please email **Gordon Gladstone** before November 1, ggladstone@sherithisrael.org. If you need information about setting up your log-in for the website, please contact **Nia Taylor**, ntaylor@sherithisrael.org.



SEEN OUR BUS ADS?

If you find one, snap a photo and send it to us on our Facebook page for a chance to win a \$100 Apple gift card!

#SpicySherith

Lay-led minyan sustains Saturday morning tradition

SH'MA KOLEYNU DRAWS ON CONGREGANTS' PASSION FOR TORAH AND T'FILAH

Every Saturday morning, a devoted band of Sherith Israel congregants comes together to do what Jews have done for centuries—pray, sing and read Torah. For more than a year, Sh'ma Koleynu, CSI's lay-led Shabbat-morning service, has nurtured members who treasure the tradition of the Shabbat Torah service.

In March 2017, **Rabbi Jessica Graf** asked several congregants who have been coming to Shabbat morning services for years to help create an entirely lay-led service for the community. “**Cantor David Frommer** and I asked them to try out leadership roles,” she says. “Some of our most committed learners took the challenge, gaining new skills and leading different parts of the service.”

The unquestioned leader of Sh'ma Koleynu is Jacalyn Kornblatt. A long-time member of Koleynu, our volunteer choir, Jacalyn leads the service, recruits volunteers to chant Torah (and frequently chants Torah herself), delivers a drash and organizes the food for the occasional Kiddush lunch following services. She was motivated to help create Sh'ma Koleynu by her fondness for the Saturday morning liturgy, particularly the Torah reading. “The Torah should be read on Shabbat,” she explains.

Jacalyn has a regular group of congregants who volunteer to learn and chant Torah: **David Sperber, Rebekah and Shoshana Alessi, Alan Mirviss, Diane Fellman, Bruce Highman and Mitchell Wunsh.** In addition, Rebekah has written songs and niggunim, and plays piano to accompany the service.

For David Sperber, who has been a regular at Shabbat morning services for many years, it's a matter of continuing a tradition



HONORING THE TORAH: The rituals surrounding the chanting of Torah are central to the experience of Sh'ma Koleynu, Sherith Israel's lay-led Saturday morning service.

that started with his bringing his parents, **Reuben and Doris Sperber**, to Shabbat services. After his father died at age 100, David has continued to bring his mother to services. At 110-plus, Doris is a treasured member of the Saturday minyan. Jacalyn makes a point of choosing Doris's favorite songs.

David shares Jacalyn's love for the Torah service. “I have a great deal of respect for Torah and what it symbolizes, and being part of the Torah service is really fun for me,” he says. “It's a tradition to have my mom touch it Saturday morning. That means a lot to me.”

For Rabbi Graf, Sh'ma Koleynu creates an opportunity for congregants to learn, grow and teach as the community honors the traditions of the Shabbat morning service. “‘Sh'ma Koleynu’ means ‘hear our voices,’” she says. “This service is about giving each person a chance to participate and have a voice. I can't imagine a better name.” ■

HOW MANY MATZAH BALLS DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A SPICY SHERITH AD?

The short answer is two. Three is just too many. That's what **Ellen and David Newman** discovered over several tries to take a photo of the perfect bowl of chicken soup for our innovative bus ads.

“Luckily I had matzah balls in the freezer,” says Ellen, co-chair of the communications committee. “When we couldn't get permission to use our favorite photo (see Rabbi Jessica Graf's *Moment With* column for more about that), I offered to help out.” Ellen got help from a professional photographer friend who advised, “Shoot from above so everything is in focus.” That's when David stepped up to snap the photo.



The trick for shooting, not serving, this bowl of soup was to make all the elements stand out visually. “I cooked the carrots and celery for about five minutes, with lots of schmaltz (chicken fat), so they were barely cooked, but retained their color,” she says. There were lots of rejects. The bowl with the blue rim was too bright, and the bowl with three matzah balls was too full. The white bowl with two matzah balls was just right.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY EVENINGS

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

FIRST FRIDAY MUSICAL SHABBAT

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

6 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat
Join Rabbi Jessica Graf, Rabbi Abby Phelps, Cantor David Frommer, music director Jonathan Dimmock, Koleynu—our congregational choir—and visiting musicians as we fill our dome with music.

7:15 pm: Kiddush and oneg

7:30 pm: Concert and catered dinner following services

✓ Oct. 5: Cantor David Katz

✓ Nov. 2: Guitarist Daniel Frías performing with Trio Paz

✓ Dec. 7: Chanukah celebration with Duo Moldova, featuring master accordionist Sergiu Popa and special guests.

LATE MINYAN

Cantor David Frommer
Friday, Sept. 28, 8 pm

Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 21, 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

Intimate lay-led services using our *Mishkan T'filah* prayerbook. Includes chanting or reading from our Torah scrolls.

✓ = REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Three ways to register:

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

Adult

✓ PRIME TIME CLUB

Monthly lunch and learn
Second Fridays, Noon–2 pm
Lunch, \$10; presentation only, free

Sept. 14: Physics teacher and historian Kathy Joseph Balistreri presents *An Influential Genius: The Amazing Story of Hertha Ayrton*.

Oct. 12: Karen Hoepke discusses San Francisco Village, a nonprofit membership organization that connects older San Franciscans to the services, programming and expertise they need to continue living lives of purpose and meaning.

Nov. 9: Writer and producer Alix Wall presents *The Lonely Child*, a documentary in-progress about a song written in the Vilna Ghetto and how it lives on 75 years later.

Dec. 14: Musical performance and sing-along with singer and guitarist Achi Ben Shalom.

JEWISH BOOK CLUB

Mondays, 7 pm

Participants present books (paperback only) with a Jewish theme, author or historical setting.

Sept. 24: *A Literary Journey to Jewish Identity: Re-reading Bellow, Roth, Malamud, Ozick, and Other Great Jewish Writers* by Stephen B. Shepard. Facilitator: Cathy Taylor. Selected chapters to be announced. Stephen Shepherd will speak at Sherith Israel in January 2019.

Oct. 22: *The Weight of Ink* (novel) by Rachel Kadish. Facilitator: Judie Wexler.

Nov. 26: *Single Jewish Male Seeking Soul Mate* (novel) by Letty Cottin Pogrebin. Facilitator: Roz Rhodes.

Jan. 28, 2019: *In the Darkroom* by Susan Faludi. Facilitator: Jan Maisel.

Information: Julie House, juliehousesf@gmail.com.

THE BRCA GENE: AN EVENING OF EDUCATION Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:30–8:45 pm Bart Hall, Free

Women and men will learn about the BRCA gene mutation and the cancers associated with it at an informative educational panel that includes a licensed genetic counselor and Dr. Pamela Munster, co-founder of the UCSF Center for BRCA Research. Free testing will be available for people with at least one Jewish grandparent. This special program is presented by Sherith Israel in collaboration with the BRCA Foundation. Free.

✓ A WINDOW INTO TALMUD

Rabbi Jessica Graf, Cantor David Frommer, Rabbi Abby Phelps
Tuesdays, Oct. 9–Nov. 13, 7–8:30 pm
An introduction to Talmudic stories and concepts with each of our clergy teaching two sessions. Join us for all six classes or drop in. Free.

✓ INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM: EXPLORING JEWISH CONCEPTS AND PRACTICES

Wednesdays, Oct. 17–Feb. 13,
6:30–8 pm (No class: Oct. 31, Nov. 21,
Dec. 26 and Jan. 2)

Free for CSI members. Class fee for non-members is \$180 per person. Couples are encouraged to attend together. Scholarships available; no one will be turned away for financial reasons.

Lehrhaus Judaica presents

PHILOSOPHY CIRCLE: ORIGINS OF MODERN THOUGHT

Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan
Mondays, Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 17,
Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 18, Apr. 15,
May 6 and 20, 7–8:30 pm

Explore 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.

HAMOTZI & CHICKEN SOUPERS

HaMotzi: Sundays

9:30 am–12:30 pm

Chicken Soupers: First Sunday of the month, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2
Noon–4 pm

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.

COOKING FOR THE SF INTERFAITH WINTER SHELTER

Dec. 24, 25, 26

Help prepare 100 meals per night for the SF Interfaith Winter Shelter. To volunteer, shop, pick up donations, cook and deliver, contact Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, hamotzi@sherithisrael.org.

Youth Education

FIRST DAY OF STUDIO

Sunday, Sept. 23, 9:15 am–12:30 pm
Celebrate the opening of Sherith Israel's youth education program for the 2018–2019 year.

SUKKAH DECORATING WITH SITY & STUDIO

Sunday, Sept. 23, 12:30–3 pm
Enjoy food, games and celebration led by Sherith Israel Temple Youth (SITY), our high school youth group.

NEW! FIRST DAY OF TEENS@STUDIO

Friday, Oct. 5, 5–8 pm
All teens are welcome for the first meeting of Teens@Studio, our twice-monthly evenings of learning, friends, and food. Teens will participate in a special program just for them, attend Friday night services and enjoy dinner together afterward.

SHABBAT@STUDIO

Saturdays, 9:15 am–12:15 pm
Oct. 20, Feb. 23, and May 4, 11, 18
In addition to our regular Sunday sessions, Studio will meet on these Saturdays to celebrate b'nai mitzvah in our community and enjoy Shabbat.

Young Families

SHABBAT MISHPACHAH IN THE PARK

Saturday, Sept. 15, 10:30 am–12:30 pm
Lafayette Park
Mishpachah means family. Cantor David Frommer, Rabbi Jessica Graf, Rabbi Abby Phelps and Rabbi Samantha Kahn 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

Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 5 pm
Enjoy a lively family Shabbat with Cantor David Frommer, Rabbi Jessica Graf, Rabbi Abby Phelps and Rabbi Samantha Kahn, followed by a congregational dinner.

High Holidays

EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, Sept. 9
5–6 pm: Tot Yontif for children ages 5 and under and their families. *Free.*
6–7:30 pm: Kosher community dinner, catered by Town's End Restaurant in Newman Hall
✓ *Dinner: Kosher chicken or vegetarian option. Children under 5, free; 5–12 years, \$12; students, \$18; adult members, \$36. RSVP for dinner by Sept. 4.*

7:30–9 pm: Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, Sept. 10
10 am–12:30 pm: Morning service (all ages)
10:45 am–12:30 pm: Youth program, K–4th grade, Newman Hall
1 pm: Tashlich and lunch
Crissy Field, West Bluff
Toss your sins into the sea and enjoy a complimentary falafel lunch from Sunrise Deli's food truck.

CEMETERY VISIT

Sunday, Sept. 16
1:30–3:30 pm
Hills of Eternity, Colma
Tour our historic cemetery, visit the graves of loved ones, place stones on headstones and take part in our annual book burial. Hosted by the Hills of Eternity board.

KOL NIDRE

Tuesday, Sept. 18
5–6 pm: Tot Yontif for children ages 5 and under and their families. *Free.*
7:30 pm: Kol Nidre Service

YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, Sept. 19
10 am–12:30 pm: Morning service (all ages)
10:45 am–12:30 pm: Youth programs, K–4th grade, Newman Hall
1:15–2:45 pm: Afternoon offerings:
Healing service led by **Ruth Auerbach** and **Shira Shore** featuring piano accompaniment by our music director, **Jonathan Dimmock.**
Jewish Community Relations Council board member and CSI past president **David Newman** leads a presentation and Q&A on JCRC's advocacy work for Jewish and democratic values.

CSI Social Action Committee co-chair **Stacy Passman** leads a conversation on the synagogue's efforts and initiatives for *tikkun olam*, repairing the brokenness in our world.

Yoga teacher Amy Plevin leads a one-hour session of gentle stretching and meditation, appropriate for everyone.

3–4:30 pm: Afternoon service (Mincha)
4:45–5:30 pm: Yizkor
5:45–6:45 pm: N'ilah (Closing the Gates) and Havdalah
6:50 pm: Break-the-fast, Newman Hall

Sukkot and Simchat Torah

EREV SUKKOT

Sunday, Sept. 23
Noon–3 pm: Sukkah decoration with Sherith Israel Temple Youth (SITY)
5–7 pm: Sukkot Party and Concert with The Levoná Ensemble
Groove to Middle Eastern music under the sukkah and enjoy mezzes and drinks as we welcome the first night of Sukkot.
✓ *Tickets: \$10; Children under 12, free.*

SUKKOT MORNING

Monday, Sept. 24
9 am–Noon
Congregation Beth Shalom
Join Cantor Frommer for a traditional festival morning service. Children and lulavim of all sizes are welcome.

SHABBAT SUKKOT

Friday, Sept. 28
5:30 pm: Yizkor
6 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat Sukkot service
7:15 pm: New member welcome dinner
Did you join Sherith Israel since last Yom Kippur? Be our guests for this festive meal in the sukkah.
✓ *Dinner: Dairy or vegan option. Children under 12 and new members, free; students, \$10; adults, \$20.*
8 pm: Late Minyan with Cantor David Frommer

SHABBAT MISHPACHAH IN THE SUKKAH

Saturday, Sept. 29
10:30 am–Noon
Join Cantor David Frommer for a song-filled morning in our sukkah with kid-friendly snacks and fun.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Sunday, Sept. 30
11:30 am–12:30 pm: Simchat Torah celebration and service with Rabbi Abby Phelps



LGBT and J

PROFILE: CHRISTINA JEFFERSON AND JULIE DRISCOLL

To describe Congregation Sherith Israel in one word, many worshippers would say “welcoming.” Sherith Israel is an inclusive community. Your birth religion, race, geographic background, or sexual or gender orientation don’t matter. If you want to be in, you’re in.

Christina Jefferson and Julie Driscoll reflect Sherith Israel’s openness. In turn, the couple, who married under the synagogue dome in October 2015, have given back to the congregation with open arms.

Says Christina, “I’m gay, black, and have tattoos. That I can volunteer and be so immersed in a religion I care so much for, that every time I walk into the synagogue I feel like I’m home, is very meaningful to me.” Adds Julie, “I really do appreciate that there is a place for the intersection of religion and queerness.”

Christina knew at once that Sherith Israel was where she belonged. Raised in a Southern Baptist home in Indiana, Christina converted to Judaism as an adult when she lived near Columbus, Ohio. “Judaism has called me ever since I started to learn and read about it,” she says. “Once I committed to it, I realized it was definitely the right path for me.”

Within a week of moving to San Francisco in 2008, Christina met with **Carrie Rice**, then Sherith Israel’s membership

director. The first service she attended was, by coincidence, the night **Larry Raphael**, now rabbi emeritus, officiated at the congregation’s first gay wedding. “I’ll never forget that moment,” Christina recalls.

Christina joined an adult confirmation class and forged friendships with other congregants. When former religious school director **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** needed help cataloging books in the temple library, Christina volunteered to organize the shelves. She’s been the temple librarian ever since. Her melodious singing can also be heard when she sings with Koleynu, CSI’s volunteer choir, on the High Holidays.

Julie discovered Judaism and Sherith Israel through Christina. The couple met while both were involved in roller derby in Columbus. They stayed friends but didn’t date until 2012. Moving in together the following year, there was no question that they would keep a Jewish home; Julie’s family is Catholic, but she wasn’t raised with religion.

An Introduction to Judaism class at Sherith Israel gave Julie greater insight into Christina’s religious commitment. Julie found that ancient Jewish rituals and principles commanded her interest and respect. “I loved that class,” she says. “I had always wanted to learn more and think more critically about religion. Now I come to services regularly.”

A bedrock Jewish principle is *tikkun olam*—improving the world. Julie puts that into practice as a volunteer cooking captain for Sherith Israel’s HaMotzi and Chicken Soups food-assistance programs.

“It’s one of my favorite ways to spend a Sunday,” Julie says.

Tikkun olam also drives Christina and Julie to give time and talent in ways that encourage others’ expression and confidence. Julie works as a software engineer for Brit + Co., an internet publishing company geared primarily to women. The code Julie writes provides a platform for articles and information that helps younger women feel more empowered and decisive. “Women are in visible leadership roles” at Brit + Co., says Julie, who chairs the company’s diversity committee.

Christina works in human resources for Sephora, the cosmetics and beauty products retailer. She administers Sephora’s Classes for Confidence, a program through which Sephora employees teach free makeup and skin-care classes in the stores to people facing major life challenges and transitions, such as re-entering the workforce after being in prison or going through cancer treatment.

In June, Sephora began offering beauty classes for transgender people. Christina spent more than a year developing the program and getting its message out to the company’s 364 stores. Currently, about 200 stores nationwide support classes for transgender people. The response from participants has been both emotional and motivating, Christina says—both for them and for her. “I’ve had clients say, ‘I finally see myself when I look in the mirror,’ and ‘you don’t know how much this means.’”

Christina adds, “Every day I go into work looking to help someone. It’s definitely an outgrowth of my faith. We’re repairing the world—even if it’s one person at a time.” ■



BELONGING: Julie Driscoll and Christina Jefferson treasure their connection to the Sherith Israel community. Their Jewish engagement has inspired them to help others.

Kvelling grandma **Tasia Melvin Bartell** dropped the News Nosh a note about her grandson, **Joshua P. Melvin, M.D.** Josh, a third-generation Sherith Israelite, now an anesthesiologist at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, co-authored a paper that appeared in the *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia*. The article describes a procedure using a spinal block as part of spinal surgery to reduce pain and thus potential opioid use in recovering patients. His work can have major implications for the health of the nation. Congratulations Dr. Melvin ...

And kvelling mom **Shira Shore** sent along daughter **Sheryl Kaskowitz's** July 3 *New York Times* column about Irving Berlin's *God Bless America*. The article begins with a description of five-year-old Berlin's arrival on American soil as he is separated from his family after they flee pogroms in Russia. His ultimate gratitude to America is expressed in the iconic song, which garnered "anti-Semitic and xenophobic rhetoric," writes Sheryl. She catalogues the song's chameleon nature as it moved from an anthem of immigrant gratitude to a rightwing favorite. Look up the column for an interesting take on a well-loved song ...

Sherith Israel's **Eleanor Johns**, former chief of staff to **Mayor Willie Brown**, and her husband, **Richard Johns**, a member of the city's Historic Preservation Commission, got a nod in Matier & Ross's *San Francisco Chronicle* column about the many supporters who attended the NAACP ceremony in San Antonio, Texas, honoring the former San Francisco mayor...

In more current political news, attorney **Frances Schreiber**, a board member of the Working America Education Fund, is putting her considerable energy into helping elect progressive congressional candidates in the Cen-

tral Valley. She is one of the volunteers with Working America, the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO's campaign to take back Congress in 2018. So far they've knocked on more than 100,000 doors and held 52,000 conversations. To join the effort and help with voter registration or canvassing, contact Fran, FSchreiber@kazanlaw.com, or call her at 510.333.9907. You can also learn more about the project at www.workingamerica.org/centralvalley/volunteer...

Imagine their surprise when **Ellen** and **David Newman** were reading the *Seattle Times* during their late-June vacation to the Olympic Peninsula. It turns out the powerful op-ed they were reading about the administration's family separation policies was by **Rabbi Daniel Weiner**, senior rabbi at Temple De Hirsch Sinai in Seattle and son of **Rabbi Emeritus Martin Weiner**. Like father, like son ...

More CSI-ers in the news: Lark Theater executive director **Ellie Mednick**, who commutes to CSI from Marin County, was featured in the *Chronicle's* Datebook section this May. Ellie stepped into the job during an emergency in 2012 and has been thriving there every since, creating a film festival atmosphere at the Larkspur Art Deco theater. "Somebody called us a mini-Lincoln Center with free parking," quipped Ellie. Yasher koach ...

The June *New Fillmore* ran a beautiful tribute to long-time criminal defense attorney and Sherith Israel regular **Eric Safire**. Eric, who grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, came to San Francisco to attend law school at Golden Gate University. After a stint as a public defender on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska—where he defended people accused of hunting moose out of season (among other miscreants)—he moved to San Francisco. The article describes

the respect that other lawyers—both defense attorneys and prosecutors—and judges have for Eric's work ethic, his respect for the courts and his relentless pursuit of justice for his clients. The article also quotes **Nancy Sheftel-Gomes** about Eric's work as a HaMotzi volunteer. You can read the full article at newfillmore.com. Congrats, Eric, for the well-deserved recognition ...

Congratulations also go to high-energy CSI board member **Karen Zelmar**, leaving her position as director of clean energy programs at PG&E to become VP, corporate development, for Volta Charging. The Potrero Hill new energy company pairs electric vehicle charging stations with innovative media kiosks, allowing drivers to power their electric vehicles for free ...

And mazel tov to **Stuart Pollak**, Associate Justice of the California First District Court of Appeal by day and longtime supporter of San Francisco's Hebrew Free Loan Association (HFLA). He was honored at an early August event, where a program he long championed, HFLA's non-denominational college loan program for students from lower income homes, was named the Pollak Community Loan Program ...

CSI has a laureate in our midst. **Richard Rozen** was appointed artist laureate by the town of Tiburon. The four-year position allows him to choose an area of interest. Richard will work in the area of public art with the local school district and its students. Richard and friends celebrated the honor at a lovely reception with about 50 people in attendance. ■

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

CSI WELCOMES A DREAMER

It's easy for social justice issues to become abstract and estranged from our day-to-day concerns. That's why **Rabbi Jessica Graf** invited **Elias Rosenfeld**, a Jewish Dreamer, to speak to the congregation at Shabbat services on August 3.

Elias, a 20-year-old Brandeis University sophomore, is an advocate for his fellow Dreamers, urging members of Congress to pass legislation to protect the nearly 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children. The Dreamers lack legal status and are under threat of deportation after President Trump ended the Obama Administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

"When we became a sanctuary congregation, our community committed to working for immigration reform and immigrants' rights," explains Rabbi Graf. "As a Jew and a Dreamer, Elias helped us relate to the complicated status of so many who came to this country as children and now find themselves here in limbo."

When he was six, Elias came to the United States from Venezuela with his mother, here legally on a work visa. She died of kidney cancer when Elias was 12. He suddenly became undocumented, which he discovered a few years later when he tried to apply for a learner's permit. In 2012, the Obama administration created the DACA program, freeing Elias to complete high school, earn a scholarship and begin college without fear of deportation.

Elias is working with the Religious Action Center (RAC), the Union for Reform Judaism's social action wing. His advocacy work consists of being a near-constant presence in Congressional offices and reaching out to synagogues and other Jewish groups. "The Jewish community has huge political leverage," Elias says.

His story is particularly compelling. "I'm Jewish, but I'm also from Latin America," he explains. "I also came here legally," which undercuts the objection that all Dreamers didn't come to the United States "the right way."

CSI'S SANCTUARY CONGREGATION WORK

For **Karen Alschuler**, co-chair of CSI's social action committee, hearing Elias was part of CSI's commitment as a sanctuary congregation. She noted our partnership with Faith in Action, a coalition of faith-based social action groups, to accompany immigrants at detention hearings. In late July, committee member **Bill Shore** was one of more than a dozen people who attended a detention hearing for an immigrant named Carlos. Bill reported that the judge was so impressed by the community support that he released Carlos on a minimal \$1,500 bond.

On August 7, Karen was joined by **Amy Widdowson**, **Rabbi Abby Phelps**, youth program director **Natalie Weizman**, and **Michael** and **Milo Stern** as part of a



DREAMING OF JUSTICE: Karen Alshuler, co-chair of CSI's social action committee, and Elias Rosenfeld, a Jewish Dreamer from Venezuela. Elias, a sophomore at Brandeis University, spoke at Shabbat services about his experience as an undocumented immigrant and his work lobbying on behalf of Dreamers.

Reform CA lobbying-day delegation in Sacramento. The group was led by former CSI rabbi **Julie Saxe-Taller**, now Northern California organizer for RAC. The committee's other project this fall is working with the CSI community to get 100 percent of our members to vote in the upcoming elections.

Karen is also looking for Spanish-speaking volunteers, who can talk directly with immigrants and their families.

OTHER SOCIAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES

JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY

As the new school year approaches, please consider joining other dedicated Sherith Israel tutors—**Reggie Griner**, **Evelyn Manies** and **Janet Parker**—to inspire readers, one child at a time. The next training/orientation for volunteering at The Jewish Coalition for Literacy is Wednesday, September 26, 1–4 pm. It will be held at Jewish Learning Works, 44 Page Street. The only requirements are an hour a week and an open heart. Contact **Janet Parker**, 415.282.1495, or jparkersf@gmail.com, or sign up at jclread.org.

CHESED COMMITTEE

A vital part of Sherith Israel is our support and presence for one another in times of need, celebration or transition. The Chesed committee, working with our clergy and staff, has reached out to more than 75 congregational families to offer hospital and home visits, rides, cards and calls, home-delivered meals, shiva support and new-baby welcoming. To join, 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. ■

learning about its sacred symbols and imagery, and create their own versions of those symbols. Older students might debate what it means for a space to be sacred and compare other traditions' sacred spaces to our own.

Working with art teacher **Ana Dillman**, Rabbi Phelps will include more hands-on learning throughout the curriculum. Students will participate in "Studio Time," immersing themselves in an environment filled with creative materials, and work on long-term projects, such as designing model Jewish structures and creating their own haggadot for Passover.

Studio aims to help students grow in three areas: curiosity, kindness and Jewish identity. Children are naturally curious, Rabbi Phelps notes. They want to be stimulated and must be addressed where their interests lie. Rabbi Phelps is considering using the video game *Minecraft*, a 3-D world-building game beloved by gamers of all ages. Students would build the *Mishkan*, the Tabernacle the Israelites carried with them through the wilderness following the Exodus. "The medium is relatively new," says Rabbi Phelps, a self-professed gamer, "but it meets kids where they're at and can be used to explore many subjects. The educational content is ancient, but the new medium makes it fresh and exciting."

Kindness, as always, will be modeled by teachers showing caring concern for students and each other. It will also be an explicit part of the curriculum. Rabbi Phelps points out that we must teach young people to expand their circles of concern. Students are individuals with their own needs, but are also members of a community. "We start with classmates and family, of course, and use a platform of warmth to move out into the community and the world to engage in social action."

Helping students form their Jewish identities remains crucial to the work of Studio. "We want to develop deep, thoughtful approaches to what it means to be a Jew," says Rabbi Phelps. "That includes allowing—*encouraging*—challenging questions. An identity that lasts must be discovered, not imposed." Toward this end, every student and parent will have the opportunity to participate in a Shabbaton, getting away for Shabbat to share prayer, learning and fun.

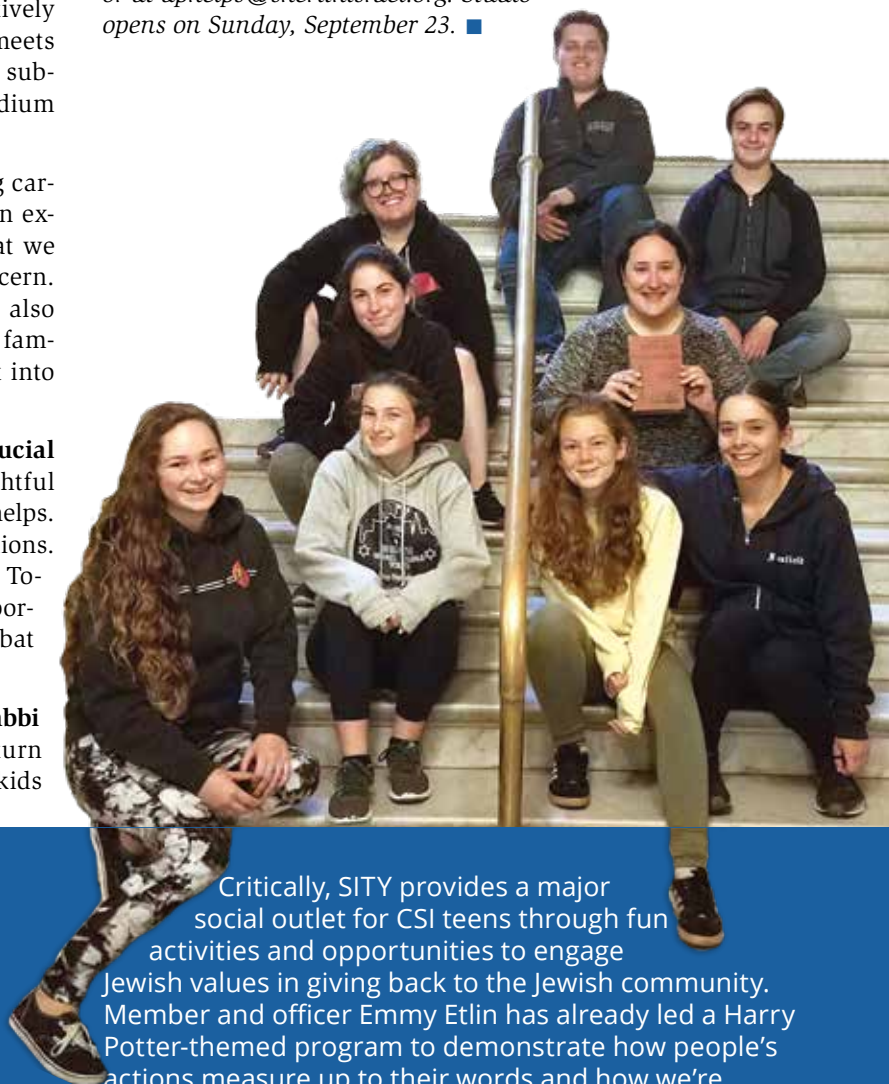
"Studio is a space for exploration of ideas," points out **Rabbi Jessica Graf**. "The rabbis of old teach us about Torah, 'turn it and turn it for everything is in it.' Studio will enable kids

to discover how our ancient stories, laws and traditions make sense in the modern world."

Adds **Cantor David Frommer**, "I'm excited because Studio will take a holistic approach to creating opportunities for Jewish engagement in an experiential way. Students will explore the different modalities of Jewish expression through learning that balances meaning and fun."

With Studio unfolding throughout the school year, Rabbi Phelps welcomes parent feedback. "I want to hear what parents like, and where they have concerns. I'll be delighted to go to coffee with individuals or small groups, because parent input is vital. It's their children whom we seek to educate as Jews and as human beings."

Parents may register students for Studio by completing a Student Information Form (sherithisrael.org/youtheducation.html) and submitting it to Rabbi Phelps, either as a hard copy, or at aphelps@sherithisrael.org. Studio opens on Sunday, September 23. ■



SITY SET FOR TEEN LEARNING AND FUN!

This fall, Sherith Israel Temple Youth (SITY), reconstituted three years ago by CSI youth program manager **Natalie Weizman**, will again be spearheaded by teens. SITY members will create and lead the group's programming, utilizing Natalie as a resource and calling on parent assistance as needed.

"SITY will also work with Sherith Littles," says Natalie, "and put together events for the entire CSI community. We'll pay attention to younger kids in Studio, so they'll want to be part of this this group after seventh grade."

Critically, SITY provides a major social outlet for CSI teens through fun activities and opportunities to engage Jewish values in giving back to the Jewish community. Member and officer Emmy Etlin has already led a Harry Potter-themed program to demonstrate how people's actions measure up to their words and how we're perceived by others.

SITY's student leadership consists of **Abraham Baldonado** (president), **Emmy Etlin** (programming VP), **Jessica Schwarz**, (social action VP), **Shoshanah Alessi** (religious and cultural VP), **Ryan Macomber** (membership VP), **Ollie Feldman** (communications VP) and **Milo Stern** (financial VP).

PASSAGES

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

BAT MITZVAH

Maddy Krantz, daughter of Katrina & Michael Krantz, Oct. 20

WEDDINGS

Evan Focht & Rachel Feldman, son and daughter-in-law of Janet Parker & Christ Focht

NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Buck

Stephanie Funt & David Back

Amica Cohn-Goldrei & Simon & Leora Goldrei

Mitchel, Kristin, Daniel & Parker Harad

Jessica, David, Logan & Avelyn Klein

Daniel Krauthammer

Philip, Mindy & Jack Rosenberg

Rich Weissman & JD Horn

CHOOSING JUDAISM

Elizabeth Buck

Rose Kelly

NEW BABIES

Rose Miriam Davidoff, granddaughter of

Fran Schreiber, daughter of Rachael

Schreiber Davidoff and Blake Davidoff

Leora Rachael Goldrei, daughter of

Amica Cohn-Goldrei & Simon Goldrei

Avelyn Klein, daughter of Jessica & David Klein

Noa Jane Sadler, daughter of Liat & Peter Sadler

May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.

Daniel Benatar, father of Darrell (Lisa) Benatar and Denise Benatar (and John Baruh); and grandfather of Isabel and Maya Benatar and Trevor and Parker Baruh

Gertrude S. Deutsch, mother of Laynie Tzena

Susan Grossman, sister of Stu Grossman

(Charlotte Mosher) and aunt of Ian Grossman

Alice B. Popkin, mother of Anne Popkin

Leonard Silverman, husband of Sharon

Silverman; father of Bonni Silverman (Dominic

Guastavino) and Jill Brier (Mark); and

grandfather of Zachary Brier

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

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Sheila & Alan Gordon in honor of Michael Krasny's 25 years as host of KQED's Forum

Melinda & Roger Levy in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

CANTOR FROMMER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Marilyn Allen in memory of Barbara Frommer

Dorothy & Hal Auerbach in memory of Robert Joseph Auerbach, Rebecca Rice and Barbara Frommer

James Carlson in memory of Barbara Frommer

Nancy, Arnie & Perri Davis in memory of Pauline Wiseman Davis and in honor of Cantor Feldman's 90th birthday

Diane Fellman & Alan Mirviss in honor of Deborah Mirviss's yahrzeit

Sally & Jerry Flanzer in memory of Barbara Frommer

Janet Gallin & Ted Kelter in honor of Nancy & Marty Feldman's 90th birthdays

Mimi Gauss in memory of Barbara Frommer and in honor of Cantor Feldman's birthday

Allison Green in memory of Barbara Frommer

Julie Lekach House & Stan Lekach in memory of Barbara Frommer

Hilda Isaacson in memory of Barbara Frommer

Valerie & Thierry Jahan in memory of Barbara Frommer and in honor of Evan Kletter's 50th birthday

Susan Kolb in memory of Felix Kolb, MD

Arlene & Steve Krieger in memory of

Clarence Krieger and Barbara Frommer

Rebecca & David Laufgraben

Judith Leff in memory of Barbara Frommer

Monica Levin in memory of Barbara Frommer

Jacqueline & David Lowenberg in honor of Nancy & Cantor Martin Feldman

Betty Newman in honor of the birthdays of Nancy & Martin Feldman

Janet Parker & Chris Focht in memory of Barbara Frommer and in honor of Cantor Feldman

Kathryn Pollack

Agnes Rothblatt

Lynn Sedway in memory of Jean Magnus Massel

Shira & Bill Shore in memory of Barbara Frommer

Norma Siegel in honor of Nancy & Marty Feldman

Lee Ann & Paul Steiner in memory of Barbara Frommer and in honor of Cantor Feldman

Suzanne & Ronald Stolzowicz in honor of Cantor Feldman

Roz & Greg Tolson in memory of Barbara Frommer

JoBeth Walt & Ira Fateman in memory of Barbara Frommer

Sharon & Steven Wasserman in memory of Barbara Frommer

Stephen Weiner & Norm Dito in memory of Barbara Frommer

Helaine Weinsten & Maurice Kamins in memory of Barbara Frommer

David Werdegarr

David Wolf

Rhoda & Sheldon Wolfe in memory of Barbara Frommer

CHICKEN SOUPERS/HAMOTZI FUND

Marilyn Allen in memory of Dorothy Anixter and Michelle Allen and in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth S. Baron in memory of Carl Zalkind and Leonard Silverman

Jim Blattner in memory of Jean Blattner

Judith Levine Coren in memory of Nathan Spindel

Jane Cutler in memory of Emanuel Cutler

Nancy & Arnie Davis in memory of Sarah Neustadt, Max Pincus and Esther Israel Pincus

Nancy Drapin-Reichlyn in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Ellen Garber & Glenn Hunt in memory of Marcia Garber and in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Mimi Gauss in memory of Anne Stern and Frida Koppl and in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Allison Green in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Deborah & Edmund Green in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Candace Heisler in memory of Stan Heisler

Hilda Isaacson in honor of Marcia Gruskin

Sandy & Merle Kovtun and Nita Juelich in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Judith Leff in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

Jennifer Light

Diane & Bob Neuhaus in memory of Irving Benjamin

Ellen & David Newman in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Janet Parker & Chris Focht in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Nia Taylor and Ardis & Al Breslauer's 60th wedding anniversary
Janice Platt & Jeffrey Ross in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Agnes Rothblatt in memory of Isaiah (Shike) Rothblatt
Audrey & Bob Sockolov in honor of Cantor Feldman
Roz & Greg Tolson in appreciation of Katie Zier
Barbara & Bob Voss in honor of Nancy & Marty Feldman's 90th birthdays
Sharon & Steven Wasserman in memory of Sydney Kronish
Rabbi Martin Weiner in memory of Benjamin Weiner
Stephen Weiner & Norm Dito in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes

MITZVAH FUND

Jack Anderson in memory of Florence Anderson
Dorothy & Hal Auerbach in memory of Jack Auerbach
Sofya Barbalat in memory of Alex Barbalat
Ian Berke in memory of Solomon & Estelle Berke
Marion & Robert Blumberg in memory of Frida Koppl
Natalya & Gershen Borodulin
Vera & Felix Braynin in memory of Boris Borokhovich and Eugene Borokhovich
Caroline & Louis Brownstone in memory of Louis Brownstone II
Judith Levine Coren in memory of Rose L. Spindel
Jane Cutler in memory of Beatrice Dooks Cutler
Jeanne Dinkelspiel in memory of Daniel Benatar
Daniel Dohan in memory of Michael Dohan
Harold Erdman in memory of Therese & Joseph Erdman
Hills of Eternity
Marilee & Arthur Fenn in memory of Doris Fenn and Audrey Misrack
Janet Gallin in memory of Arthur B. Brower
Deborah & Edmund Green in memory of Barbara Frommer and in honor of Rabbi Weiner and Cantor Feldman
Diane Green in memory of Frances & Philip Green and in honor of Rabbi Weiner and Cantor Feldman
Marcia Gruskin in honor of Mimi Gauss, Lynn & Ron Laupheimer, Janet Parker, Rabbi Graf and Cantor Frommer
Julie Lekach House & Stan Lekach in honor of the birthdays of Rabbi Martin Weiner and Cantor Martin Feldman
Jim Hurwitz in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Jane & Arnold Kahn in memory of David L. & Reva Waldman Kahn and Homer & Kathryn Carey
Nadine Koss
Lyubov Kravets in memory of Sofia Zeltser
Helen S. Luey in memory of Eleanor Sloss
Sharon & Frank Meyer in memory of Dan Benatar and Art Zimmerman

Moraga Historical Society
Eileen Nervo in memory of Mark Channy
Terrie & Rabbi Raphael in memory of Jack Wine, Keva Wine and Irene Sladnick
Ruth & Richard Rozen in memory of Dr. Jesse Frank
Bella Sloutskaya in memory of Hana Sloutskaya, Yakov Rabinovich and Noza Sokovich
Marina Smotkina & Aleksandr Kagan in memory of Sarah Kagan, Samuil Kagan and Yakov Zabryanskiy
Mary & David Sperber in memory of Ann Merkle and Michael Merkle
Adrienne Swedlove in honor of Rabbi Weiner and Cantor Feldman
Alice Tordjman in memory of Albert Elie Tordjman
Betsy Wolkin in memory of Joshua Wolkin
Svetlana Zbarakh in memory of Fanya Medvedovskaya

ONEG FUND

Kathryn Amenta in honor of Matthew Levin's college graduation and in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes' retirement
Jim Blattner in memory of Jean Blattner
Jacalyn Kornblatt in memory of Robert & Jean Kornblatt
Joan Libman in memory of Hyman Libman
Danny Montemayor in honor of Jacalyn Kornblatt
Mitchell Wunsh in memory of Barbara Janet Levy Wunsh

RABBI ZIMMERMAN GRAF'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Dorothy & Hal Auerbach in memory of Frida Koppl
Janice & Andre Bolaffi in honor of David Bolaffi
Diane Fellman & Alan Mirviss in memory of Carolyn Mirviss and in honor of Regina Fellman's yahrzeit
Marcia & David Glassel in memory of Selma & George Glassel
Allison Green in memory of Frida Koppl
Alison Miller & Ken Shen
Martha & Les Miller
Janet Parker & Chris Focht in memory of Frida Koppl
Janice Platt & Jeffrey Ross
Eric Safire
Jay Shukert in memory of Helen Shukert
Audrey & Bob Sockolov in memory of William Moskovitz
David Werdegart
Monica & Alan Zimmerman in honor of David Zalob's birthday

RABBI WEINER'S EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND

Vivien & Michael Bronshvag in memory of Helen Robinson
James Carlson in honor of Rabbi Weiner and Cantor Feldman
Nancy, Arnie & Perri Davis in honor of Rabbi Weiner's 80th birthday
Mimi Gauss in honor of Rabbi Weiner's birthday

Carol Kingsley in memory of Jack Berman
Janet Parker & Chris Focht in honor of Rabbi Weiner
Susan Romer & Donald Ungar in memory of Harold Romer
Audrey & Bob Sockolov in honor of Rabbi Weiner
Lee Ann & Paul Steiner in honor of Rabbi Weiner
Suzanne & Ronald Stolowitz in honor of Rabbi Weiner
Stephen Weiner & Norm Dito in memory of Benjamin Weiner
Susan Weiner in honor of Karen & Marty Weiner's 80th birthday

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Shoshana Chana Asher in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
James Carlson in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Carole DeNola & Joseph McGuire in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Linda Fries in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes' years of service to CSI
Erin Gordon & Craig Etlin
Sheila & Alan Gordon in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Cece Kaufman Himelstein & Daniel Himelstein in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Valerie & Thierry Jahan in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Donna Little
Amy Mallor in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Nancy & Arnie Pincus in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Carrie Rice
Roz & Greg Tolson in honor of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Natalie Weizman and the CSI Religious School staff
Mitchell Wunsh in memory of Dr. Peter David Wunsh and in honor of Rabbi Abby Phelps

SEISMIC RETROFIT CAMPAIGN

Rochelle Alpert & Steven Greenwald in honor of Rabbi Weiner and Cantor Feldman
Patricia Axelrod in memory of Helen Hoffman
Claire & Jim Davis in honor of the birthdays of Rabbi Marty & Karen Weiner and Cantor Marty & Nancy Feldman
Marlene Litvak & Bruce Fisher
Lee & Stuart Pollak
Alix & Sam Salkin in honor of Rabbi Weiner and Cantor Feldman
Katie & Lucas Zier
Anonymous

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Janet Parker & Chris Focht in celebration of Karen & Bill Alschuler's 50th wedding anniversary
Shira & Bill Shore in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Karen & Bill Alschuler



SHERITH ISRAEL

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Shanah Tovah!

We're excited to welcome you home to
Sherith Israel for the High Holidays ...
and all year long!

May 5779 be a year of peace,
health and joy for you and
your loved ones.

Cantor David Frommer

Rabbi Abby Phelps

Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf

Gordon Gladstone

