

SHERITH ISRAEL NEWS

MAY-AUGUST, 2019

Is democracy good for the Jews?

CSI RECEIVES GRANT TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY PROGRAMMING

Sherith Israel will host a year-long series of programs to explore Judaism's relationship to democratic values and institutions. The program, entitled "Democracy and Resistance Through a Jewish Lens," is underwritten by the Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation.

Rabbi Jessica Graf, who worked with the Tauber Foundation to develop the program, described it as a scholar-in-residence series. She sees it as an opportunity to explore Jewish perspectives on democracy and democratic values both in the United States and in other countries.

The initial speaker, **Rabbi Gershom Sizomu**, leader of the Abayudaya Jewish community of Uganda, addressed the congregation at Shabbat services on April 12. The Abayudaya adopted Judaism in the early 20th century when they were approached by Christian missionaries. Exposed to both the Hebrew and Christian Bibles, they decided to follow the original source. Having no exposure to rabbinic Judaism as it had developed in post-biblical times, they evolved their own set of practices until

they were discovered and exposed to modern Jewish practices.

In addition to sharing Judeo-Ugandan music at Shabbat services, **Rabbi Sizomu** spoke about the challenging history of the Abayudaya. He highlighted their trials during the regime of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Because Amin attempted to destroy the tiny Jewish community, including by burning synagogues, many Abayudaya converted to Christianity or Islam. Those who refused to convert went underground, practicing Judaism in secret. Their children were not allowed to attend school. With Amin's fall in 1979, the remnant Abayudaya community emerged and began to grow.

Rabbi Sizomu currently serves as a representative to Uganda's parliament. His constituency consists primarily of his Christian and Moslem neighbors, illustrating the importance for Jewish communities to maintain strong relationships with other groups. He also noted the necessity of political engagement as a key to protecting the rights of Jewish and other minorities.

Democracy Programming continues, page 4



RABBI EMERITUS LARRY RAPHAEL, who served as Sherith Israel's senior rabbi from 2003–16, died on March 17. His contributions to our synagogue community—and to the Reform movement—were many. *For an overview, see page 6.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

RABBI MARTIN WEINER LECTURE
With **Rabbi Lawrence Englander**
Democracy & Resistance Through a Jewish Lens: Israeli Songs of Protest
FRIDAY, June 14, 7:30 pm

SF Giants Jewish Heritage Night
TUESDAY, August 27

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Member of the Union for
Reform Judaism since 1903

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Senior Rabbi

Abby Phelps
Rabbi Educator

David Frommer
Cantor

EMERITUS CLERGY

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

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A MOMENT WITH RABBI JESSICA GRAF

MORAL COURAGE IN ACTION

This March, I completed the American Jewish World Service Global Justice Fellowship. AJWS helps the American Jewish community respond to global poverty, supporting NGOs in many nations to address their citizens' human and civil rights. Over the last six months, the AJWS fellowship enabled 15 rabbis to study, learn and travel. We explored the idea of "moral courage"—how ordinary people act in extraordinary ways despite personal risk.

We first met in New York, which allowed us to get to know each other and begin conversations that guided us throughout the fellowship. In January, we spent a week in Guatemala, witnessing inspiring moral courage in action. We spoke with leaders of five NGOs working to save lives and ensure personal dignity for all people. We were privileged to meet real heroes.

They included lawyers working against all odds to bring more transparency and justice to Guatemala's corrupt legal system. We listened to journalists, who risk their lives daily to report on government abuse and corruption. We heard stories from indigenous farmers whose families had been killed during decades of armed internal conflict.

Perhaps most impactful were visits to two NGOs working to enhance the rights of women in Guatemalan society. One group helps families understand the importance of educating their girls. The group's leaders were young and hopeful—and honest about the lack

of opportunities for women in Guatemalan society. Even with education, job opportunities for women are very limited.

The other group consists of Mayan midwives working in small communities where women have little access to basic healthcare. In addition to providing medical care, the midwives serve as social activists. They encourage women to demand basic rights: safety for themselves and their children, clean drinking water and sufficient nutrition.

The courageous people we met in Guatemala inspired us to think more deeply about what we can do at home. We were reminded that our Jewish values compel us to engage in the ongoing pursuit of justice. The fellowship's final gathering took place in Washington, D.C. We met with our congressional representatives and some government organizations to learn how U.S. policies impact people throughout the world.

The fellowship had a great impact, challenging us to reflect on our roles as congregational leaders. Not everyone is called upon to exercise the moral courage we saw in Guatemala, but Judaism teaches us to support the work of those who have stepped up against injustice. There is much work to be done to ensure that all people live with dignity and freedom. The challenge can feel overwhelming, but Judaism is wise. The Mishna teaches, "the work ahead is great and you are not obligated to finish it. But neither are you free to desist from it." ■

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

"When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field . . ." — Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:9

We have a responsibility to help others in need. Leviticus commands us to leave some of our harvest for the poor and the stranger. (The commandment is repeated in Lev. 23:22 and, adding olives and grapes, in Deut. 24:19ff.) Rabbi Gunther

Plaut points out that the commandment does not appeal to a landowner's generosity; it is not, in effect, optional. "It is perhaps the oldest declaration that disadvantaged members of society have a right to support from that society . . ." ■

4 Questions for RABBI ABBY PHELPS

This past school year has been filled with experimentation and evaluation for Studio, Sherith Israel's new art- and project-centered youth education program, and for Rabbi Phelps, our new rabbi educator. We asked her what our children have learned—and what she learned, too.

Q: What's your take on Studio's first year?

A: It has gone well. I've been delighted to get to know our core of talented, loyal, engaged teachers, and our fantastic youth programs manager, Natalie Weizman. I've also learned that many families feel like Sherith Israel is their—and their children's—second home, a great thing to build on. Our program has grown. Participants tell me they're enjoying it. We'll develop more arts- and project-based components for next year.

Q: What creative approaches have you introduced?

A: I've been very focused on Hebrew. Learning a second language in one meeting a week is difficult, so we've experimented. We've taken inspiration from #OnwardHebrew, a movement advocating sound-to-print learning—how children naturally acquire language. First they hear, then they understand and begin to speak. Only later do they read and write. For Studio, this means lots of Hebrew in *t'filah* and singing; relating Hebrew words to physical movements, like adding hand motions to prayers and doing Aleph Bet yoga; and waiting until about 4th grade to focus on decoding—sounding out written Hebrew. Our preschoolers have been learning the Sh'ma—in Hebrew—with hand motions that show words' meanings. Now, they help me lead the Sh'ma in *t'filah* and practice for their parents at home. We'll build even more spoken and physicalized Hebrew into next year's program.

We've also integrated one or more big creative projects into every grade's curriculum, from making *chanukiot* and other usable ritual objects with our preschoolers to handing our 7th graders the reins for our Purim spiel. Our combined 2nd/3rd-grade class made vegetarian soup, sold it and gave the \$300 in proceeds to the SF-Marin Food Bank. In the process, they learned Jewish values around food, environmentalism and feeding the hungry. Our 5th graders learned about holiness by designing, building and decorating their own “holiness hideout”—a kind of mini-tabernacle. Our 6th-grade curriculum is essentially b'nai mitzvah boot camp. It included making illuminated texts of prayers and a field trip to the Contemporary Jewish Museum to explore questions of identity through portraiture.

Q: How about our teens? It's a tricky time in kids' lives.

A: Yes, and our teen programs are going well. Historically, our 7th graders through high schoolers had two main points of engagement: SITY, our teen youth group offering social and service-oriented events, and our *madrachim* program, enabling teens to assist Studio teachers. *Madrachim* used to spend part of their day learning together, which pulled them away from their work as helpers. This year, we professionalized the program. *Madrachim* always help out in the classroom during Studio. And we added Teens @ Studio, bringing teens together twice monthly on Friday nights or Sunday afternoons to learn, pray and share a meal.

Teens face so much stress, especially with a crazily competitive college admissions process. We try to create an environment where they can talk about what bothers them and decompress. Next year, they'll meet only for Friday-night learning/worship/dinner programs that will nourish them intellectually, spiritually, and socially—and give them more Sunday time to themselves.

The key is meeting teens—and all young people—where they are, making their interests our entry points for learning. This year, our teens wanted a zombie apocalypse-themed event. We helped them organize one. It included text study about Jewish views on death, dying and the afterlife, and a zombie-escape game that took them all over the building. We even got board members to play zombies.

Q: We've brought back confirmation. How's that going?

A: Great! Confirmation lets teens articulate how they connect with Judaism, how it informs their lives. It's been a pleasure to hear their thoughts. This year's confirmation class used the Friday-night liturgy as a jumping-off point for discussing Jewish ideas and values. We give our teens space to talk about the burning issues in their lives, whatever troubles or challenges them. We've had some really interesting, free-wheeling discussions.

This year's confirmation ceremony will be part of our June 7 Friday evening worship for the congregation. Each confirmand will speak from the heart on what Judaism means to them. Natalie and I are really enjoying making connections with each of our confirmands and teens. We're excited about what's happening at Sherith Israel. ■

DEMOCRACY PROGRAMMING, from page 1

The series' second speaker was **Rabbi David Ellenson**, past president and chancellor emeritus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He conducted a study session on truth-telling, lying and deception for members of CSI's Circle of Friends on April 14. Based on an article he is writing, Rabbi Ellenson stated, "Lying would seem to have a corrosive impact on the integrity and trust that many of us have in public offices within our country."

Jewish sources, he said, are nuanced. Many treat truth as the highest ideal. "Truth is the seal of God," according to one Talmudic source. Other sources condone deception if it promotes peace between people. How then, he asked, do you adjudicate when there are conflicting values and principles at stake?

Rabbi Graf notes that the first two speakers already demonstrate the breadth of issues that **Sherith Israel's** series will explore. The next two speakers will broaden the conversation. On May 6, **Rabbi Ed Feinstein**, senior rabbi of Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California, will speak on democracy and resistance in America as seen through a Jewish lens. **Rabbi Larry Englander** will deliver the annual Rabbi Martin Weiner Lecture on June 11, discussing songs and poetry that were created by Israeli resistance movements. Rabbi Englander is founding rabbi and rabbi emeritus of Solel Congregation in Mississauga, Ontario, and adjunct rabbi at Temple Sinai in Toronto.

"We wanted to take a broad Jewish look at democracy and resistance throughout history and around the world," Rabbi Graf says, "so that we could apply the general wisdom to our current situation in America." Other speakers and programs are in the works.

Sherith Israel's program is part of a larger concern among local Jewish organizations about threats to American democracy and the Jewish response to those threats. **David Newman**, former CSI board president and currently chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council's public policy committee, comments that JCRC has been developing a policy statement on protecting democracy. "We see the threats to democracy as a core concern for the Jewish community," he says. "Jews



TRUTH HAS CONSEQUENCES: Rabbi David Ellenson (center), with **Cantor David Frommer** and **Rabbi Jessica Graf**. Rabbi Ellenson, past president and chancellor emeritus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, spoke to the Sherith Israel Circle of Friends on April 14 as part of our series on Democracy and Resistance Through a Jewish Lens. He discussed truth-telling, lying and deception in public life.

have thrived in open democratic societies. This is a matter of our security as a community. Moreover, the Jewish command to pursue justice means safeguarding those values and institutions that protect all vulnerable communities."

Rabbi Graf is deeply grateful to the **Tauber Foundation** for supporting our democracy programming. "The foundation wanted to give Sherith Israel the freedom to create programming," she says. She adds that, during her tenure and the previous tenure of **Rabbi Larry Raphael**, the foundation provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of our religious school, adult programming and the seismic retrofit.

"We've been blessed that such a generous supporter of Jewish life in the Bay Area sees Sherith Israel as an integral part of this Jewish community. We are a stronger and more vital community because of that support."

From the foundation's perspective, this was an opportunity to foster Sherith Israel and the work that Rabbi Graf and **Cantor David Frommer** are doing. Says foundation president **Ingrid Tauber**, "We wanted to bring people into the synagogue for programming that was intellectual and scholarly." ■



AFRICAN VISITOR: Rabbi Gershom Sizomu of Uganda's Abayudaya Jewish community brought his music and his people's history to Shabbat services at Sherith Israel on April 12. Rabbi Sizomu, a member of Uganda's parliament, was the leadoff speaker in CSI's series on Democracy and Resistance Through a Jewish Lens.



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH GORDON GLADSTONE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN PRAISE OF LAY LEADERSHIP

In the world of nonprofit professionals, we often talk about lay leaders as belonging to three different groups: donors, connectors and doers. Donors are obvious: they provide the funds every nonprofit needs to sustain its work. Donor cultivation in larger organizations is often the province of dedicated staff members who organize events and opportunities to keep donors engaged and supportive.

The second group—connectors—is less obvious but also important. They are people who have relationships with other agencies, foundations and political allies, a critical group to have if the organization is going to amplify its work in the larger community.

That leaves one last key role—those who do. Doing is the final piece that brings

everything else together. In my 25 years of Jewish communal work I have had the pleasure, and occasional frustration, of working with dozens of committee chairs, board members, presidents and other volunteers. Working with a board chair or a president is a balance of taking direction, giving advice and promoting the success of the lay leader and the organization. For many nonprofit professionals, that relationship can make or break a job.

Since coming to Sherith Israel last year, I have seen a congregation blessed with generous donors, engaged connectors and hard-working doers. In particular, it has been my great pleasure to work with **Craig Etlin**. Craig's term as president ends this May after many years of service on the board of trustees and as

leader of Sherith Israel's seismic retrofit. Craig is a rare lay leader who is both attentive to detail and mindful of the larger vision as we move forward. He has been an invaluable resource to me in learning the Sherith Israel community and a critical part of Sherith Israel's navigation of the last twenty years of challenges. Craig has been one of the best lay leaders I have worked with, and I cannot say enough how about how fortunate this community is to have him.

As Craig passes the gavel to **Lindsay Braunig**, who has invested a great deal of time and energy preparing for her tenure, I am certain she also will be an outstanding synagogue president. I look forward to working with Sherith Israel's extraordinary lay leaders—donors, connectors and, above all, doers. ■

Passing the gavel

LINDSAY BRAUNIG TO BECOME NEXT CSI PRESIDENT

When Lindsay Braunig accepts the gavel from Craig Etlin at this year's annual meeting, she will make Sherith Israel history: the first Jew by choice to become president of CSI. Her election highlights the embrace that Sherith Israel seeks to provide everyone who wants to find community under our dome.

Lindsay is mindful of the significance of her becoming president. "At first, I felt a little self-conscious," she confesses. Before attending the Scheidt Seminar, a URJ Training program for incoming synagogue presidents, she says, "I kept asking myself, 'Am I the only one? Will people think it's weird.' I needed to ask myself what it meant to me."

She found the answer in "the power of community." She explains, "My family and I have built a lovely community at CSI. It has become meaningful, and I feel a desire to give back and help it reach its full potential."

In a sense, Lindsay's involvement at Sherith Israel is a natural evolution. Her mother was involved as a lay leader of her church, and Lindsay was a leader in her church youth group. "It's just a continuation of my family's legacy," she notes. Her husband **Warren's** family is heavily involved in the leadership of their synagogue.

Lindsay's goal as president is to "embody the philosophy of audacious hospitality. I believe in the importance of community. We all need to have people to be in fellowship with." She sees Sherith Israel as being in a "sweet spot" in terms of size—"big enough for robust programming, but small enough that everyone can get involved." She adds, "We are a very congregant-driven community."

Lindsay brings to her new role as president the strategic strengths she has developed as a litigator, first at Morrison & Foerster, and later at Silverstein & Pomer-



LINDSAY BRAUNIG:

Welcome our new board president at the CSI Annual Meeting, 6 pm, Tuesday, May 21.

antz, where she specialized in state and local tax litigation. She will be supported as president by an experienced slate of officers. Craig Etlin will stay active as vice-president; **Erik Migdail** will continue as secretary; and **Katie Zier** and **Karen Zelman** will share financial stewardship as treasurer and assistant treasurer.

Lindsay looks forward to greeting the congregation for the first time as president at the Annual Meeting, 6 pm, Tuesday, May 21. ■

Senior rabbi emeritus led CSI through transition, seismic retrofit

LAWRENCE "RABBI LARRY" RAPHAEL REMEMBERED FONDLY

Lawrence Raphael, senior rabbi of Sherith Israel from 2003-16, died from lymphoma on March 17, 2019. He was 73, surrounded by family in his adopted San Francisco and held in the thoughts of congregants, friends and hundreds of rabbis throughout North America. He is survived by his wife, **Terrie**, and children, **Matthew, Andrew** and **Rachel**. Larry's family and friends, congregants and members of the San Francisco interfaith community gathered to honor and celebrate him on May 4.

Rabbi Raphael came to CSI in July 2003, bringing commitment, vision, purpose and faith. He served as the congregation's ninth senior rabbi since its founding in 1851. His wise, confident leadership reflected traits formed at an early age. In an interview before his retirement in 2016, he recalled that, as a Boy Scout, he would accompany his troop leader father and fellow scouts on week-

end camping trips in the San Bernardino Mountains near his native Los Angeles. On breaking camp, Larry's father would tell the boys to leave the campsite cleaner than they found it. That teaching from his father remained with Rabbi Raphael throughout his life. He always worked to leave things better, more sound, than he found them.

Rabbi Raphael spent three decades at the forefront of adult Jewish learning and rabbinic training at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. In his roles as both teacher and dean, Rabbi Raphael got to know nearly every Reform rabbi in the U.S.

Creating a life well lived underscored his sermons and teachings: In dealings with others, no matter how small, he encouraged us to try to leave things in better shape than we found them. For Rabbi Raphael, the essence was always what Judaism can teach us about how to live our lives, and how we can attempt to be the best of who we are.

Under Rabbi Raphael's guidance, Sherith Israel grew as a vibrant center of Jewish life in San Francisco. He worked to foster community, connectivity and caring for one another. Toward that end, he made Sherith Israel a spiritual home for interfaith couples and families, Jews of diverse orientations and ethnicities, and Jews by choice. He initiated a tradition of blessing non-Jewish congregants during High Holiday services. He took pride in creating a truly embracing congregation.

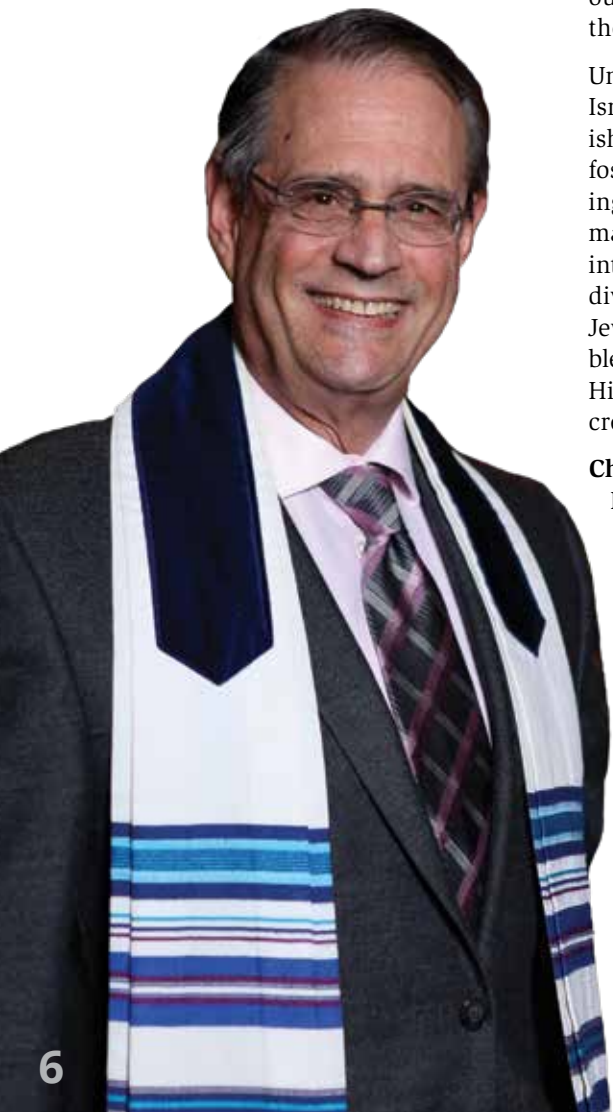
Change and challenge marked Rabbi Raphael's tenure. He led the congregation in bringing Sherith Israel's now-114-year-old sanctuary into compliance with San Francisco's strict seismic safety requirements. Arriving at Sherith Israel, he was aware that the seismic retrofit would be part of his mandate and a daunting one. When he experienced Sherith Israel's majestic sanctuary—mahogany-adorned bimah, inspiring stained glass reflecting Jewish history through Californian eyes and splendid dome—he recognized the building's deep significance to Sherith Israel and San Francisco. Although a team of dedicated lay

leaders had been working on the project since 2000, a final design had not been settled upon, and only limited fundraising had been done. As the design was finalized, Rabbi Raphael worked closely with the congregation's lay leaders over his entire tenure to secure the lion's share of the \$16 million in donations and grants that would eventually be raised. The project was completed in two phases with minimal impact on the congregation.

"Larry put his heart and soul into fundraising," said **Craig Etlin**, outgoing president of CSI and the project's leader for 18 years. "Without his tireless efforts, the project would not have become a reality." Said campaign co-chair **Lynn Sedway**, "The most important gift Larry gave me was to awaken and nurture my commitment to Judaism. He and I were also early partners in soliciting essential funds to make the retrofit happen. He increased my comfort in asking for contributions by reminding me that we ask not for ourselves but for Sherith Israel. I'm a better person and a far better Jew thanks to him." Co-chair **David Newman** added, "One of the privileges of my being involved in synagogue leadership was working with Larry to help preserve Sherith Israel. His leadership was critical to what we achieved."

Building people's connections with themselves and something larger also occupied him. This was evident whenever Rabbi Raphael spoke from the bimah or met congregants in his study filled with Judaica and San Francisco Giants memorabilia. In his sermons, he often spoke about the issue of God's presence in our lives. The question Larry posed for us was not "Does God exist?" but rather "When have I experienced God in my life?"

Holy moments were inherent in the life-cycle events he led. He experienced sacredness when blessing a couple at their wedding, when naming a baby, when blessing a bar- or bat-mitzvah student, and when sitting with a family at shiva. As a congregational rabbi, he felt he had the privilege of helping create these moments and felt most successful when he let the moment speak for itself.





A LEADER IN SO MANY WAYS: Throughout his 13 years as Sherith Israel's spiritual leader, **Rabbi Larry Raphael** was at the center of so many congregational celebrations, such as our Hard Hat and Hardly Strictly Shabbats to celebrate retrofit achievements and commemorations of important milestones in the lives of our clergy, like the 80th birthday celebration for **Cantor Emeritus Martin Feldman** (above). However, most of us remember Larry's warm, one-to-one touch in moments of joy or sorrow.

A talented teacher, Rabbi Raphael embraced leading Torah Study on Saturday mornings, teaching evening classes and, for several years, hosting a successful downtown Talmud study group. "It was a joy to study with Larry," said **David Perlstein**. "He welcomed and respected students' varying opinions, and never took questions as challenges to his position. The breadth of what he taught, from Torah and Talmud to poetry and fiction, was incredible."

Rabbi Raphael also served as team leader for CSI's annual Introduction to Judaism course, offered to Jews and non-Jews alike. The course led more than 50 individuals to become Jews by choice. **Lisa Erdberg** helped develop the course and taught it with him. "Larry found particular joy in helping people navigate their Jewish journeys. We shared many

moving experiences when students were formally welcomed into the Sherith Israel community."

Students who became part of the Jewish people praised Rabbi Raphael. Said **Tamar Draper Mahru**, "Rabbi Raphael was encouraging yet challenging, especially when I was passionate about something specific. He was a part of every major moment in my life over the past seven years." **Collin Edwards** added, "I came to Sherith Israel looking for community, and Rabbi Raphael helped me find it and be comfortable. At our first meeting, I knew Sherith Israel was where I wanted to be."

For Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf, Rabbi Raphael's legacy was his guidance and support as she transitioned into her new role as Sherith Israel's

tenth senior rabbi. Says Rabbi Graf, "Larry prided himself on being a teacher of rabbis. He was a generous mentor and wanted those around him to succeed."

In retirement, Rabbi Raphael taught at San Francisco's Fromm Institute and at Lehrhaus Judaica. He also served on the board of the San Francisco Interfaith Council and volunteered as a hospice chaplain. Maintaining his attachment to the pulpit, he served part-time at small congregations in Lake Tahoe and Santa Ynez along the central coast.

Rabbi Raphael's fondness for Six-Word Memoirs was well known. On his retirement, congregants wrote these little nuggets to express their gratitude and love. And he shared his own with us:

"Family. Friends. Faith: A Wonderful Life." ■

*"Family. Friends. Faith:
A Wonderful Life."*

SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY EVENINGS

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

LATE MINYAN

Cantor David Frommer
May 31, June 21, July 19, August 16
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 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. Includes chanting or reading from our Torah scrolls.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
 TO JOIN US FOR OUR

2019 ANNUAL MEETING and dinner!

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 6 PM

Get updates about CSI. You must be a member in good standing.

✓ Dinner provided.
 Catered by Sunrise Deli.



KOLEYNU CHOIR— HIGH HOLIDAYS

Rehearsals: Tuesdays,
 June 3–Sept. 24, 7:30–9 pm
 Cantor David Frommer



Join our congregational choir Koleynu and our professional choristers at all major services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. No singing experience required. *Cantor David Frommer, 415.346.1720, x19, or dfrommer@sherithisrael.org.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Special Shabbats

✓ IN OUR OWN VOICE

National Alliance on Mental Illness
Friday, May 31, 7:30 pm

An educational presentation given by trained volunteer speakers living full and productive lives while overcoming the challenges of mental illness. Get practical, useful information about mental illness and available treatments. *Presented in association with the Chesed Committee. Light meal provided.*

CONFIRMATION

Friday, June 7

6 pm: Confirmation during Kabbalat Shabbat

7:15 pm: Festive oneg

Join us to celebrate our newest group of confirmands, who will share their personal thoughts about what Judaism means to them.



✓ RABBI MARTIN WEINER ANNUAL LECTURE

Democracy & Resistance:
Israeli Songs of Protest
Rabbi Lawrence Englander
Friday, June 14, 7:30 pm

Hear and discuss protest songs from the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War to the present. Rabbi Lawrence A. Englander is the retired founding rabbi of Solel Congregation in Mississauga, Ontario, and now at Toronto's Temple Sinai. *Sponsored in part by the Laszlo N. Tauber Family Foundation. Free. Dinner included.*

Adult

✓ PRIME TIME CLUB

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

June 14: *Israel Right Now*: CSI executive director **Gordon Gladstone** offers a briefing and leads a discussion of current events in Israel.

July 12: *The Impact of Climate Change*, presented by **Carol Vollen**, an activist associated with Elders for Climate Change.

August 9: *Shofar Studies 101*: Congregant **Maurice Kamins** reveals everything you've ever wanted to know about the shofar.

MOVIE GROUP

Information Session

Sunday, June 2, 12:30 pm

Calling all CSI movie mavens! You are cordially invited to join Michael Moss, Margaret Scheinman, Lynn Sedway and Rabbi Martin Weiner to help organize a monthly film discussion group for the fall. Coffee, tea and dessert provided. Information and RSVP: cchristopher@sherithisrael.org or www.sherithisrael.org.

JEWISH BOOK CLUB

Mondays, 7 pm

May 20: *Waking Lions* by Ayelet Gunder-Goshen. Facilitator: Joan Korenman

June 24: Annual book selection session. Participants present books (paperback only) with a Jewish theme, author or historical setting. The club will take a summer break during July and August. *Information: Julie House, juliehousesf@gmail.com.*

ADULT INTERMEDIATE HEBREW

with Noa Levy

Sundays, 1–2 pm

Improve your prayerbook Hebrew as an advanced beginner with a focus on reading and deeply understanding prayers in the Siddur. *Information: noalevy8@gmail.com. Class on break during June. Hours*



subject to change.

✓ SF PRIDE PARADE

Sunday, June 29

Market Street, San Francisco

Meet 10 am; parade begins 10:30 am

Be part of the URJ delegation at San Francisco's iconic, festive Pride Parade. We've marched together for more than five years.

✓ JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT— S.F. GIANTS

Tuesday, August 27

4:30 pm: Pre-game party

6:45 pm: vs. Arizona Diamondbacks

Root for the Giants, get a special gift and enjoy pre-game festivities. Cantor David Frommer leads off with a home-run rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Tickets for infield seats: \$TBA.

Community Support

HAMOTZI & CHICKEN SOUPERS

HaMotzi:

Sundays, 9:30 am–12:30 pm

Chicken Soupers:

Sundays, monthly, noon–4 pm

June 2, July 7, August 4, Sept. 8

HaMotzi volunteers prepare meals for two shelters in San Francisco each week. Chicken Souper volunteers cook and deliver meals monthly for clients of Jewish Family and Children's Services. To shop, pick up donations, cook or deliver: Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, hamotzi@sherithisrael.org.

CHESED

We support one another during times of need, celebration or transition. Participate in sustaining the warmth and inclusiveness we value at CSI. If you or someone you know in the congregation can benefit from support, contact Nia Taylor: ntaylor@sherithisrael.org. If you can offer an occasional visit, meal, or ride, contact Janet Parker: jparkersf@gmail.com.



AND YOU SHALL TEACH YOUR CHILDREN: Families with babies and toddlers gave their children a first taste of Passover at a Sherith Littles pre-Pesach program. CSI treasurer Katie Zier and her children play with a stuffed Seder plate (left), while Cantor David Frommer and Sherith Littles director Rabbi Samantha Kahn part a Red Sea made of blue towels for the toddlers to pass through.

Youth Education

SECOND-HOME SHABBAT PROGRAM & DINNER

Friday, May 31, 5:30–8 pm

Explore all that Shabbat evening offers, joining the Sherith Israel community for the first part of Kabbalat Shabbat services, then bringing our Shabbat experience to the dinner table to learn about and practice rituals for celebrating Shabbat at home. Dinner served. Register with Rabbi Phelps, aphelps@sherithisrael.org, or at sherithisrael.org.

FIRST DAY OF STUDIO @ SHERITH ISRAEL

Sunday, Sept. 8, 9:30 am–12:30 pm

FIRST DAY OF TEENS @ STUDIO

Friday, Sept. 13, 5–8 pm

Teens will participate in a special program just for them, attend Friday night services and enjoy dinner together.

STUDIO WELCOME (BACK) BBQ

Sunday, Sept. 22, 10:30 am–1:00 pm

Say hello to old friends and meet new ones at our kickoff BBQ. We'll learn, play and, of course, eat lunch together in one of San Francisco's beautiful parks. Location TBD. Register with Rabbi Phelps, aphelps@sherithisrael.org, or sherithisrael.org.

Young Families

SHERITH LITTLES PARK MEETUPS

Saturdays, May 25, June 22, July 20

10:30 am–12:30 pm, Lafayette Park

Cantor David Frommer leads a creative, fun musical service for children under 5, their families and friends. Includes plush Torah toys and reading from the Torah. Kosher snacks provided.

FAMILY SHABBAT DINNERS

Fridays, June 7, July 5, August 2, 5 pm

Enjoy a lively family Shabbat with Cantor David Frommer and Rabbi Jessica Graf followed by a congregational vegetarian dinner.

SHERITH LITTLES SHABBAT AT THE BEACH

Saturday, August 31, 10:30 am

Crissy Field–West Bluff

Give your family a lively Shabbat morning with Cantor David Frommer and Rabbi Jessica Graf. Bring a blanket and beach toys, and pack a lunch and snacks.

✓ = REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Three ways to register:

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

LET ALL WHO ARE HUNGRY: At our congregational second-night seder (page 8, right), more than 190 people shared a meal prepared by HaMotzi volunteers like Christina Jefferson (page 8, left). The seder is the annual fundraiser for CSI's HaMotzi and Chicken Soupers programs. This year's event raised close to \$10,000, nearly half of HaMotzi's annual budget. Thanks to everyone who supported the event, and yasher koach to the volunteers who made it happen: Estuardo Arevalo, Luis Arevalo, Ruth Auerbach, Heath Connell, Katherine Delaney, John Dellar, Julie Driscoll and Christina Jefferson, Stephanie Galinson, Bradley Graham, Van Hart, Julie House, Evelyn Jaffe, Valerie and Thierry Jahan, Lynn and Ron Laupheimer, Michelle Levenson, Carrie Ann Lopez, Zachary Migdail, Patti Morse, Shira Shore, Mary and David Sperber, Marcia Spith, Nia Taylor, Roz Tolson and Aliyah Whitney.

Bringing heart and hands to Sherith Israel

PROFILE: REBEKAH ALESSI

People who march to their own drum-beat often make music for all to hear. Shabbat mornings at Congregation Sherith Israel, **Rebekah Alessi** shares original songs she has composed for the Sh'ma Koleynu Torah service. Her process: The holy words come first, then the melody arrives to support them, moving from heart to hands. "My hands know what to do," Rebekah says of her creative process. "I like to wait and see what shows up."

Rebekah shows up for Sherith Israel in many solid, supportive ways. In addition to assisting the lay-led Sh'ma Koleynu service, Rebekah teaches Hebrew to fifth-grade students at Studio @ Sherith Israel, our Jewish education program for preschool through high school.

In striving to foster students' individualism and creativity, Rebekah embraces the idea that people have different learning styles. To her, the best teachers help students find their own rhythm so that learning becomes joyful and self-generated.

"Everyone is born with the Torah inside of them," Rebekah says. "I have a connection; I encourage them to have a connection too. I don't tell them how to be Jewish. Each kid has their own way. I want to leave that intact, and maybe then I can be a witness to them seeing their own Judaism."

Rebekah calls her own learning style "non-linear," meaning that she likes to improvise. "I take things as they come," she says. "There's joy in being open to what's going on right now."

For Rebekah, Sherith Israel is a place where her own sense of wonder illuminates her worship and teaching, and where her husband, **Gary**, who is not Jewish, is welcome. "I feel part of something bigger than me," Rebekah says. "This temple is humble and human. This is the right place for us."

Sherith Israel came into the Alessi family's life 17 years ago, shortly after Rebekah's mother had passed and before her daughter, **Shoshanah**, was born. **Cantor Emeritus Martin Feldman** officiated at her mother's funeral, and he and the Alessis became close. Says Rebekah, "Cantor Feldman is a very special person to me. As soon as I saw Cantor Feldman, I got the same peace as being with my mom."

Rebekah and Gary became more involved with Sherith Israel when their baby was due and they wanted to build a Jewish life. What they couldn't know is the sweetly special way Sherith Israel would help them along. Rebekah at the time was taking an adult bat-mitzvah class and a "La Mazl Tov" class for expecting parents. She was friendly with **Stephen Kahn**, then associate rabbi at CSI. What to name the baby came up in conversation, and Rabbi Kahn said, "You're going to have a girl and name her Shoshanah," Hebrew for rose.

Rebekah was convinced she would do no such thing. But when the baby arrived, Rebekah looked at her face and thought she had "lips like roses." That kindled a memory of something her mother, **Selma**, shared with her not long before her death. Rebekah relates, "Selma had a dream where she held a beautiful baby with lips like roses."

So Shoshanah it was. Fittingly, her "S" name honors her grandmother Selma, while the "H" at the end of her name honors her great-grandmother Hanah. Now, 16-year-old Shoshanah is active in Studio. On Shabbat mornings she frequently accompanies her mother in song and prayer.

Rebekah observes that the synagogue is a grounding presence. This is why Sherith Israel is so important to her and how it has enriched her family. She values CSI's authenticity, its non-judgmental openness that allows a self-described improvisational, non-linear person to be herself.

This makes sense for a student of the world like Rebekah, who majored in geography in college. Geography, she explains, tells us where we are in the world and where we might go. It roots us in place and encourages us to wander, but it also opens a door for us to explore ourselves, our heritage, and in this case, our Judaism. Geography reassures us that wherever we are in the world, we are not lost and not alone—especially when we carry a spiritual compass that points to Sherith Israel.

"I see how important it is to be part of a community where people want you to be your best self," Rebekah says. "This is my temple. I feel so at home, and God is always here." ■



SHOWING UP FOR CSI: Rebekah Alessi (center), with daughter **Shoshanah** and husband **Gary**, value Sherith Israel's authenticity and openness. Rebekah teaches 5th-grade Hebrew and composes songs for Sh'ma Koleynu, our lay-led Saturday morning minyan.

Mazel tov to **Cantor David Frommer**, an Army National Guard chaplain—the only cantor to hold this position—who this March was promoted to major. On duty, Chaplain Frommer leads services for Jewish military and civilian personnel and provides spiritual counseling for troops of any faith. On hand to honor Cantor David's national service were his wife, **Rabbi Carla Fenves**, their children, **Aaron, Eliana** and **Talia**, and his father, **Henry Frommer**. CSI guests included **David Bolaffi, Alan Mirviss** and **Diane Fellman, Gayle Gottlieb, Steve** and **Laura Olson, Joan Libman** and **Jim Coughlin**, and **Greg Tolson** ...

Architect **Arnie Lerner** was recently elected president of the San Francisco Access Appeals Commission, which hears appeals regarding access to public accommodations to the Department of Building Inspection. Arnie also serves on the Education and Outreach Committee of the California Commission on Disability Access. His work truly embraces the commandment, "Thou shall not place a stumbling block before the blind." Yasher koach ...

And CSI board member **Amy Widadson** is keeping busy. She began a new job as vice president for corporate communications at public relations firm Zeno Group, which was recently named 2019 Agency of the Year by *PRWeek*. Amy is also CSI's newly appointed representative on the JCRC Assembly and is working with former CSI rabbi **Julie Saxe-Taller** on the communications committee of the Reform Action Committee of Northern California.

Congrats to **Erin Gordon**, whose new novel *Beshert* was published this January. Like her previous two books, *Beshert* is women's fiction—this time a modern romance set in Israel that explores themes of faith against a vivid Middle East setting. Friends and fans joined her for events at Book Passage and Books Inc., and she is currently visiting book clubs. Call Erin directly to invite her to yours ...

More author news: **David Perlstein** has brought out his short-story collection, *Big Truth* (available on Amazon). He'll host a launch party Sunday afternoon, June 9 at Lokma Turkish restaurant in San Francisco. (Ask David for info—RSVP required.) Actor-wife **Carolyn Power** (Perlstein) shot a scene for an episode of CBS All Access' "Strange Angel" in Hollywood. And their son **Seth** just received his M.S. in Digital Media Art & Engineering from Louisiana State University...

Congratulations to **Asher Etlin** for his recording debut on Matt Martians' new album, "The Last Party," released in April. You can hear Asher playing the alto sax lines he composed on six of the eight tracks. The album is available on iTunes and Spotify.

Congrats to **Dr. Jim Davis**, honored this February by the San Francisco Institute on Aging at its annual Dinner a la Heart fundraiser. In addition to his lifetime work as a physician and teacher at UCSF Medical Center at Mount Zion, he has been an active leader of San Francisco Jewish organizations supporting the elderly, including the Institute on Aging and the Jewish Home, now the Campus for Jewish Living. Jim's many community activities were lauded in a well-deserved February profile in the *J.* ...

Lee Labé Pollak was recognized this April by the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center for her leadership in co-founding its Grief and Growing Weekend for bereaved families. Lee received the inaugural Rabbi Michael and Hannah Barenbaum Award. CSI supporters at the BAJHC's Healing Matters breakfast included **Julia Cheever, Ira Fateman** and **JoBeth Walt, Cantor David Frommer, Gordon Gladstone, Arlene** and **Stephan Krieger, Helen Luey, Lynn** and **Paul Sedway, Shira Shore, Lee Ann** and **Paul Steiner, Rabbi Martin** and **Karen Weiner, Stephen Weiner** and **Norm Dito**, and **Rhoda** and **Shel Wolfe** ...

Rabbi **Jessica Graf's** op-ed in the *J.*, "Guatemalan midwives taught me the meaning of moral courage," describes her January visit to the country as a Global Justice Fellow with American Jewish World Service. Read more in her *Moment With* column on page 2 ...

S*F Chronicle* columnist **Leah Garchik** mentioned CSI trustee **Judie Wexler**, president of the California Institute of Integral Studies, on the occasion of the school's 50th anniversary, celebrated on the 61st floor of the Salesforce Tower. Judie talked about how the interdisciplinary school strives "to embody spirit, intellect and wisdom in service to individuals, communities and the earth." ...

Who knew there was a CSI connection in the interview NPR's **Ari Shapiro** did with labor lawyer **Ed Passman**, who represents whistleblower Tricia Newbold? It was Newbold who exposed dubious security clearance practices in the White House. Ari Shapiro is the son-in-law of CSI trustee **Gale Gottlieb**. He and Gale's son, **Michael**, were married by **Rabbi Marty Weiner**. Ed Passman is the father of CSI trustee **Stacy Passman**, co-chair of our social action committee...

Sherith Israel was well represented at the Jewish Community Relations Council's San Francisco Multicultural Passover Freedom Seder. Among CSI members in attendance at the participatory, cross-cultural, interfaith event: **Lindsay Braunig, Julie Driscoll** and **Christina Jefferson, Craig Etlin, Diane Fellman** and **Alan Mirviss, Evan Kletter, Eric Safire** and **Katie** and **Luke Zier**. ■

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.



As Tom Friedman noted in his April 24 *New York Times* column, immigrants seeking asylum in the U.S. have increased by nearly 30 percent in the past year. Many, particularly from Honduras and Guatemala, request asylum because of a fear of persecution and violence. Formerly, asylum seekers could stay in the U.S. legally while they wait for their pending court cases. Under the current administration, their situation is more precarious.

Helping immigrants navigate the U.S. immigration system is just one way Sherith Israel's Social Action Committee embodies our status as a sanctuary congregation. We work closely with Faith in Action, the Religious Action Center of the URJ and other national justice organizations to do this and other important advocacy work.

SANCTUARY AND ACCOMPANIMENT

As a sanctuary congregation, CSI has committed itself to helping refugees and asylum seekers navigate the legal gauntlet necessary to establish their claims. Once again **Leslie Rabine** has come to the aid of a French-speaking asylum seeker, this time a woman tortured in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "These cases are always complicated," explains Leslie. The woman, originally in detention in Bakersfield, was with her cousin in Louisville when her case was being heard in San Francisco. "I put out her story and people were very generous, donating funds for her transportation. Eventually we found a lawyer who helped get her hearing rescheduled to Louisville." And that's just one person who needed help.

Accompaniment literally means accompanying someone going to court. **Rabbi Abby Phelps**, clergy liaison to the Social Action Committee, accompanied Cambodians who had been marked for deportation because of prior criminal records, despite having served their time and having families and jobs here. "This issue of deportation is close to my heart," notes Rabbi Abby. "As Jews we are invested in the idea of *t'shuvah*, or turning one's life around." She described her courtroom role as showing up and offering support and comfort to the families. "It's all about bearing witness," she adds. "I'm grateful that it is part my job to do this and that I work for a congregation that supports me in this."

Many CSI congregants have been part of accompaniment teams supporting refugees at court proceedings. "Just filling the court and witnessing the process can be really amazing," says social action co-chair **Stacy Passman**. "Judges make different decisions when the court is full."

DELVING INTO THE ROOT CAUSES OF MASS MIGRATION

The rise in immigration and asylum claims did not originate in a vacuum. To learn more about causes of increased immigration, **Rabbi Jessica Graf** and social action co-chair **Karen Alschuler** joined fact-finding and educational trips to Central America. Rabbi Graf details her trip to Guatemala in her Moment With column on page 2.



SINGING TO SUPPORT FAITH IN ACTION: This March, Sherith Israel hosted a benefit concert by Solstice, a vocal ensemble founded by **Sheryl Kaskowitz**, daughter of **Shira Shore**. The concert raised \$3,000 to support the ongoing immigration work of Faith in Action, a network of congregations working to create social justice for all.

Karen joined 75 faith leaders on a "Root Causes Pilgrimage" to Honduras. The national delegation, sponsored by the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity and the SHARE Foundation, spent a week meeting with communities confronting human rights abuses that are forcing people to flee their homes. "All the places we visited were surrounded by high walls and security with guns," notes Karen. The group met with women's organizations working toward solutions. They listened to women's personal stories of difficult lives and the fight to survive, to lead and someday to thrive. "They have no money and no jobs. They confront violence from both gangs and the government. Four hundred women are murdered in an average year, and men seem to act with nearly total impunity," adds Karen. No wonder so many want to flee with their children.

PARTNERING WITH THE RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER ON DOMESTIC ISSUES

As a Reform congregation, CSI partners with the Religious Action Center, the political action arm of the Union for Reform Judaism. In California the RAC looks at legislation being discussed in Sacramento and chooses specific bills to support. This year, a budget allocation for gun-violence prevention is the RAC's top legislative priority.

On the national level, this May, Rabbi Abby Phelps, Karen Alschuler, Stacy Passman and **Fran Schreiber** are heading to the RAC Consultation on Conscience in Washington, D.C. They will join nearly a thousand people to discuss national issues and lobby Congress. "It's extraordinary to be together with so many Jewish people all doing social action work," comments Karen, who has attended the conference before. "It's so powerful to make our voices heard." ■

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

NEW BABIES

Maia Kai-Ling Gil, daughter of Jennifer Huang & Elad Gil
Liora Gurdin, granddaughter of Rita Jeremy & J. Barry Gurdin and daughter of Jyoti Uppuluri & Boaz Gurdin
Adam Joseph, son of Elizabeth & Michael Joseph
Madeleine Koss, granddaughter of Nadine Koss, daughter of Amy & Randy Koss and sister of Noah
Yash Winkler, son of Deepa Seetharaman & Rolfe Winkler

B'NAI MITZVAH

Gabriel Benjamin, son of Jenny & Jeremy Benjamin, May 4
Orly Morgenstein, daughter of Lida & David Morgenstein, May 11
Dahlia Kelly, daughter of Amanda & Alex Kelly, May 18
Zachary Bayrer, son of Rebecca & James Bayrer, June 1
Kevin Kerzhner, son of Feliks & Tatiana Kerzhner, June 8
Paige Clancy, daughter of Jeni & Kevin Clancy, June 15
Braydon Backman, son of Teresa & Joel Backman, August 17
Binnie Kenvin, daughter of Mina & Seth Kenvin, August 24
Asher Weston, son of Maacah Marah & Stephen Weston, September 7


NEW MEMBERS

Pauline, Douglas & Greta Gould
Rebecca Handler and David, Willa & Simone Andrade
Dave, Grace & Harper Hollander
Elisabeth Houseman
Meghan Marmor & Andrew Arruda
Patti Morse
Benjamin Ruhs
Leonard Singer

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May the memory of the righteous be for a blessing.

Zachary Adelson
Galina Alterman, wife of Yevgeniy Zharebin and mother of Greg Alterman
Adelaide Fateman, mother of Ira Fateman (JoBeth Walt) and grandmother of Meryl and Emily Fateman
Raymond Gomes, son of August Gomes and stepson of Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Helen Jarkovsky, wife of the late Irving Jarkovsky and mother of Jill Jarkovsky and Sandi and Ron Blair
Theodore Kelter, husband of Janet Gallin; father of Ted, Kim, Sunny, David, Kay, Adam and Michael; and stepfather of Julianna and Dahlia
Naomi Miller, mother of Daniel and Stephen Miller
Rochelle Orloff, mother of Nina (Ron) Gilson and grandmother of Cassie Gilson and Rebecca Gilson Wara
Rabbi Larry Raphael, husband of Terrie Raphael and father of Matthew, Andrew and Rachel Raphael
Aleksey Smotkin, father of Marina Smotinka (Aleksandr Kagan)
Lila Wagmann, sister of Dr. Melvin (Ellen) Rosen



CONFIRMATION CLASS 2019: This year's confirmands will take part in Friday-night Kabbalat Shabbat services on June 7th. Each will speak on how Judaism impacts them and the road they've taken to reach this moment. (L-R) **Jessica Schwarz, Elizabeth Flaherman, David Milberg, Max Klivans, Nina Morgenstein, Shoshanah Alessi, Emmy Etlin.**

Giving from the heart

GENEROUS DONORS PUSH 2018 ANNUAL FUND OVER THE TOP

Raising nearly \$297,000, Sherith Israel's 2018 Annual Fund broke all previous records. This generous outpouring is notable because many supporters were also contributing to the final push for the Seismic Retrofit Campaign.

"In making these donations Sherith Israel supporters told us they feel more closely connected to our community," says CSI trustee **Joan Libman**. Joan has co-chaired the Annual Fund with former trustee **Julie Lekach House** for the past decade. Development manager **Nia Taylor** has coordinated the campaign since 2015.

As with all synagogues and nonprofits, dues and program fees simply do not

cover the costs of our programs and activities. CSI congregants and friends understand this need and respond every year with greater and greater generosity.

Members of the Sherith Israel Board of Trustees set the tone for the campaign with their combined gifts of nearly \$51,000. More than 100 congregants and friends donated over \$1,000 each, placing them in our Circle of Friends. Joan and Julie were especially excited that dozens of gifts were from new donors. "Every gift counts. We thank each of our 250 supporters for giving from the heart," notes Julie,

Raising these essential funds requires lots of teamwork. Trustees made calls,

wrote personal notes and sent email messages to more people than ever. Emeritus trustees **David Newman** and **Howard Wexler**, as well as **Cantor David Frommer**, took on important contact lists. **Linda Feldman** and **Cathy Taylor** helped Nia with handwritten addresses, hand stamping and other mailing details.

"This effort from trustees, staff and volunteers made our Annual Fund success possible, even in the midst of the remarkable finish to our Seismic Retrofit Campaign," concludes Julie. "One mitzvah leads to another!" ■

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS DONORS

(Annual Fund Gifts of \$1,000 or more)

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Rochelle Alpert & Steven Greenwald
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Ellen & David Newman
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Leslie & Merle Rabine in memory of
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Sam & Eve Rosenberg
Lynn Rothman & Richard Koch in honor of
Rabbi Larry Raphael (z"l)
Suzanne Rittenberg Rubinstein &
David Rubinstein

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