High Holy Days at Shir Hadash!

A first at Shir Hadash: Celebrating Rosh HaShanah on the Shir Hadash Campus. The facilities team worked hard to provide service options of indoor, outdoor, hearing-assisted, and live stream. This allowed the Shir Hadash community various options to attend services together on Rosh HaShanah. The day started with honey cake and coffee in the Memorial Garden. Senior Rabbi Nico led the adult-focused Rosh HaShanah services in the sanctuary with Cantor Devorah Felder-Levy. The choir was there to fill the sanctuary with beautiful singing. Andrew Altman, board president, gave a moving speech, and Rabbi Nico gave a Rosh HaShanah sermon. The Kulanu/Tots Sanctuary was located in the Shir Hadash office building. Parents who had pre-registered their children could drop off kids from preschool and up at the ECC entrance. Preschool-aged kids, Kulanu age, and teens engaged in Rosh HaShanah crafts had a snack and attended an age-appropriate service led by Rabbi PJ Schwartz and Songleader Gabe Young. Rosh HaShanah services ended when Rabbi Nico and Cantor Devorah were joined by children on the Bimah for a final shofar blast, so that Shir Hadash could welcome the New Year together.

We hope to see you for Yom Kippur on October 5, at 10:00 am; kids drop off at the ECC entrance at 9:50 am. All services will also be available on Zoom.
There is a famous story that tells that when Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidic Judaism, saw that the Jewish people were threatened by tragedy, he would go to a particular place in the forest where he lit a fire, recited a particular prayer, and asked for a miracle to save the Jews from the threat. Because of the Holy Fire and faithfulness of the prayer, the miracle was accomplished, averting the tragedy.

Later, when the Baal Shem Tov’s disciple, the Maggid of Mezrich, had to intervene with heaven for the same reason, he went to the same place in the forest where he told the Master of the Universe that while he did not know how to light the fire, he could still recite the prayer, and again, the miracle was accomplished.

Later still, Rabbi Moshe Leib of Sasov, in turn a disciple of the Maggid of Mezrich, went into the forest to save his people. “I do not know how to light the fire,” he pleaded with God, “and I do not know the prayer, but I can find the place and this must be sufficient.” Once again, the miracle was accomplished. When it was the turn of Rabbi Israel of Rizhyn to avert the threat, he sat in his armchair, holding his head in his hands, and said to God: “I am unable to light the fire, I do not know the prayer, and I cannot even find the place in the forest. All I can do is to tell the story. That must be enough.”

Now, while I find the symbolism of the forest and the fire to be very moving, this story is actually problematic. It is problematic because it assumes that every new generation is lesser than the previous one. It presents the story of a new generation that deals with the same challenges of the previous one, but every time does it with fewer tools and knowledge. It idealizes an irreplicable past and diminishes the present and the future.

... 

In an age of endless possibilities and choices, why choose Judaism?

I want to offer the answer that Shir Hadash has to the “why” question. Four core values, pillars of our communal life.

... 

Read or watch the rest of this sermon, and others from Rabbi Nico, at shirhadash.org/rabbinicosermons.
**YOM KIPPUR ADULT STUDY**

### Judaism’s 10 Best Ideas

**Wednesday, October 5, 2:00 PM**

An informal and interactive session about Judaism’s 10 Best Ideas based on the 2015 book by Arthur Green. Ten speakers will speak briefly on the different topics and explore them further. Topics of interest will be explored in education classes later in the year with Rabbi Nico.

### Meditation Mindfulness Mincha (Alternative Service)

**Wednesday, October 5, 3:30 PM**

Join Rabbi Hugh Seid-Valencia in a meditative mincha experience, engaging mind and body. Rabbi Seid-Valencia is the Director of Collaborative Leadership and Jewish Engagement for Jewish Silicon Valley. A practitioner of kung fu and tai-chi, he values these nontraditional ways of deepening Jewish practice.

### October Services

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<td>Compost the Mortgage and Sukkot Service</td>
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<td>MON</td>
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<td>Service and Study with Breakfast and Sukkot Experience &amp; Celebration (Young Children &amp; Their Adults)</td>
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<td>MON</td>
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<td>Sh'mini Atzeret Yizkor Service and Havdalah</td>
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**Services are in person unless noted.**

In person, also available live-streamed on Shir Hadash TV, at [shirhadash.org/live](http://shirhadash.org/live).

**ADULT EDUCATION**

### Torah Study

**Saturdays, Starting October 22, 9:30 AM, Prior to Shabbat Morning Service**

Join experienced lay leaders of Shir Hadash, accompanied by Rabbi Nico, to engage in study of the weekly Parashah. All are welcome!
**HIGH HOLY DAYS**

**Schedule of Services & Programs**

**Erev Yom Kippur**  Tue., Oct. 4  
7:30 pm  Kol Nidre Service

**Yom Kippur**  Wed., Oct. 5  
10:00 am  Yom Kippur Morning Service  
1:30 pm  SALTY Teen Program  
2:00 pm  Adult Study: Judaism’s 10 Best Ideas (Chapel)  
3:30 pm  Afternoon Mincha Service  
3:30 pm  Mindfulness Mincha Alternative Service (Chapel)  
5:00 pm  Yizkor Memorial Service  
6:00 pm  N’ilah Concluding Service/Havdalah  
6:45 pm  Communal Break-the-Fast—Oneg Room & Patio

**Sukkot**  Oct. 9-16  
Sun., Oct. 9  
5:30 pm  Compost the Mortgage, Erev Sukkot Service & Dinner  
Mon., Oct. 10  
9:30 am  Service & Study with Breakfast  
10:30 am  Sukkot Experience & Celebration (Young Children & Their Adults)  
Oct. 10-16 Chol Ha’Moed  
Sukkot weeklong schedule on the website.

**Erev Sh’mi mini Atzeret**  Sun., Oct. 16  
5:45 pm  Dinner  
6:30 pm  Erev Sh’mini Atzeret Service

**Sh’mini Atzeret**  Mon., Oct. 17  
5:45 pm  Yizkor Service & Havdalah  
Following the service, new names inscribed in the memorial wall will be dedicated in a short ceremony.

**Yom Kippur Kulanu & Tots Schedule**  Wed., Oct. 5  
9:50 am  Drop off Kulanu Youth & Tots at ECC  
Please register your children for the Kulanu program.  
10:00 am  High Holy Days Service  
Led by Rabbi Schwartz & Songleader Gabe Young, and participate in High Holy Days-themed activities.  
11:20 am  Tot Service (Office Building)  
Kulanu programming will end as soon as Sanctuary Service concludes (approximately 12:30 pm).  
4:30 pm  Family-Friendly Yizkor/Memorial Service (Office Building)  
5:30 pm  Special Family Mincha Service for Preschool-2nd Grade (Office Building)  
6:15 pm  Pasta Dinner  
A light pasta dinner will be provided for students, prior to all students joining the Sanctuary Service for Havdalah and final shofar calls. Please register your children for dinner.

Please note that snacks will be provided for children on Yom Kippur Morning. Families are encouraged to pack additional snacks and lunch as well. In respect for the day, all food will be eaten in the Multipurpose Room or ECC playground.

**Sukkot**

**Sukkot**

**Erev Sh’mi mini Atzeret**

**Erev Sh’mi mini Atzeret**

**Sh’mini Atzeret**

**Sh’mini Atzeret**

**Yom Kippur Kulanu & Tots Schedule**

**Yom Kippur Kulanu & Tots Schedule**

**For planning purposes, we request that you register yourself and guests through the link on the Shir Hadash High Holy Days web page at hadash.link/hhd. All members should have received a ticket/lanyard in the mail. Guests who are not Shir Hadash members will need to be registered. Guests will need to pick up tickets from the Shir Hadash main office.**

All starting times are approximate. All services will be at Congregation Shir Hadash.

Please check the online calendar, as certain programs & schedules may change.
Sukkot—The Feast of the Harvest

Sunday, October 9
Composting Ceremony, 5:30 PM
Sukkot Service, 6:00 PM
Dinner Celebration, 6:30 PM

Shir Hadash will kick off Sukkot on October 9 with a “Compost the Mortgage” and Sukkot celebration, service, and dinner. Join us to celebrate paying off the mortgage and becoming debt free.

Shake the lulav and etrog, and join us for a week of fun activities in the sukkah. Please register on the calendar pages. More information and registration can be found at www.shirhadash.org/sukkot.

Mon., Oct. 10
9:30-10:30 am Service & study with breakfast. Morning Nosh will be provided.
10:30 am-12:30 pm Sukkot Experience & Celebration with Young Children and their Adults. Bring a bag lunch to enjoy in the Sukkah.
6:00-8:30 pm PJs with Rabbi PJ Movie Night. Pizza & drinks will be provided. $10/person.

Tues., Oct. 11
6:00-7:00 pm Young Adult Sushi Dinner.
7:00-9:00 pm Open Mic Night, featuring Rachel Berman Huck. Rachel will share her comedy with us and then we will have an open mic for the community to share their talents. Open to all ages. Bring a snack or dessert to share.

Wed., Oct. 12
6:00-8:00 pm Take Out & Game Night. Grab a game, bring take-out, and join us for a multi-generational fun event.

Thur., Oct. 13
7:00-9:00 pm Wine and Cheese Night. Bring wine or cheese to share. Optional $18 donation.

Fri., Oct. 14
5:30-8:30 pm Rainbow Sukkah. Extending our tent with our LGBTQ+ community and Shabbat Services. Dinner will be ordered from Veggie Grill. $20/person.

Sun., Oct. 16
5:45 pm Simchat Torah Dinner and Service. Dinner will be provided. Adults $18; kids $10.

IT’S BACK, IN PERSON!

High Holiday Food Drive
Through October 16

We will be holding our annual Fall Food Drive in support of Sacred Heart Community Service. Sacred Heart supports those in need in Santa Clara County. The Fall Food Drive starts on Rosh HaShanah, September 26, and ends at the end of Sukkot, on October 16. In keeping with Shir Hadash’s sustainability goals this year we will not be handing out grocery bags as a reminder. Mark your calendars! Look for donation bins located at Shir Hadash.

Sacred Heart welcomes non-perishable nutritious canned, and packaged items such as rice and pasta along with the sauce to make a complete meal. Some examples that are needed are, tuna, beans, soups, peanut butter, and baby formula. Flip-top cans would be appreciated. Please avoid donating items packaged in glass and check expiration dates as expired or close to expiring items can’t be used.

For more information or questions, contact Davida Rosenbaum at davida@shirhadash.org.

We are also looking for volunteers to deliver the items to Sacred Heart Services once the drive is done. To volunteer, contact Alex Gilbert at alex@alex-gilbert.com.
**Introduction to Meditation**

**Thursdays, October 20 & 27, 6:30 PM**  
[zoom](#)

This two-week class, taught by Marilyn Katz, will provide an introduction to people interested in learning to meditate, as well as experienced meditators wishing to renew their practice in a Jewish setting.

**The Story of Plastic**

**Panel Discussion: Wednesday, October 26, 7:30 PM**

*The Story of Plastic* presents a cohesive timeline of how we got to our current global plastic pollution crisis and how the oil and gas industry has successfully manipulated the narrative around it.

View the film on your own and RSVP to join the community discussion. To register, visit hadash.link/plastic.

Co-sponsored by Adult Education and the Shir Hadash Organizing Committee.

**Presentation & Discussion by Maggie Anton, Author of The Choice**

**Sunday, October 23, 10:00 AM**

Congregation Shir Hadash Sisterhood and the Adult Education committee are delighted to host a gathering with Maggie Anton, the award-winning author of *Rashi’s Daughters*. Maggie will talk with us about her new novel, *The Choice: A Novel of Love, Faith and the Talmud*. This is a powerful love story with a purpose: to challenge Jewish customs and laws that have led to disadvantages and inequity for women in marriage, ritual observance and Torah study. She takes characters inspired by Chaim Potok and ages them into young adults in Brooklyn in the 1950s. When journalist Hannah Eisin interviews Rabbi Nathan Mandel, a controversial Talmud professor, she persuades him to teach her the mysteries of the text forbidden to women though it might cost him his job if discovered. But their secret study sessions bring the two to the edge of a line neither dares to cross, testing their relationships with Judaism and each other. As in her other novels, free and accessible Talmud lessons are included!

Come join us for an informative and lively presentation and discussion, accompanied by refreshments and book signing/sales. To register, visit hadash.link/anton.

The Shir Hadash Book Group selected *The Choice* for its November 13 meeting.


**SILICON VALLEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**

**Upheaval: The Journey of Menachem Begin**

**Viewing: Sunday, Oct. 30–Tuesday, Nov. 1**

**Community Discussion: Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 PM**  
[zoom](#)

With evocative imagery, rarely seen materials, and interviews with Israelis and American diplomats, this documentary is a compelling portrayal of Menachem Begin, a brilliant, tough, complex man who never compromised when he felt that the survival of Israel and the Jewish people was at stake.

Join us as we invite the film’s director, Jonathan Gruber, and SVJFF Executive Director Tzivia Shelef, for an in-depth discussion of this important documentary. To register, visit hadash.link/upheaval.
Thank You to the Men’s Club for sponsoring bagels at Kulanu opening.

**Classic Book Group Discussion**

**Monday, October 3, 3:00 PM**

Join us for a discussion on the classic book, *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger. This event is open to all Men’s Club members and prospective members. The meeting will be held outside at the home of Paul Sirkin. Please contact Paul at paulsirkin@gmail.com for additional information.

**Wine Tasting at Savannah Chanelle**

**Tuesday, October 18, 1:00 PM**

The Shir Hadash Men’s Club is sponsoring a Wine Tasting Event at Savannah Chanelle Winery, 23600 Congress Springs Road, in Saratoga. The Tasting Room is in a historic renovated barn in a beautiful venue in the Santa Cruz mountains. Fee is $20 per person, for a flight of the current release wines. Members of the Savannah Chanelle Wine Club taste free. Guests may waive their tasting fee with a 2+ bottle purchase. Tastings last about 35-45 minutes. The Winery sells cheese and some other snacks but they do not serve lunch. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the winery. This event is open to Men’s Club members and prospective members and their spouses. Please contact Paul Sirkin, paulsirkin@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

**Annual Membership Dinner**

**Wednesday, November 9, at 6:00 PM Oneg Room**

On November 9, the Men’s Club will be hosting their 2022 Annual Men’s Club Membership Dinner. Please come and enjoy a great Italian dinner catered by Buca di Beppo, followed by a documentary on the life of Judge Harry Pregerson. Judge Pregerson was appointed to the California 9th Circuit Court in 1979 by President Carter. One of the judiciary’s most liberal judges in the country, he attracted both praise and criticism for his insistence on placing his conscience above court precedent. There is no charge for current and prospective members of the Men’s Club. Please RSVP by Friday, October 26th to Marshall Heller (408) 472-0442 fitnes2@earthlink.net.

Know another Shir Hadash member who is interested in finding out more about the Men’s Club? If so, bring them along to a Men’s Club event. For more information about Men’s Club, contact Marshall Heller, Chairman, Membership Committee, (408) 472-0442, fitnes2@earthlink.net.
How the Kent Torah Traveled from Hungary to the Kulanu/Tot Sanctuary for the 5783 High Holy Days Services

While the Kent Torah outwardly looks like any other Torah, it has a fascinating story. The Kent Torah was acquired in the 1920s and donated, by George Kent’s grandfather, to his local synagogue in a small village in Eastern Hungary. During the Holocaust, the village’s synagogue and Jewish community were destroyed; George’s grandmother and great-grandmother were taken to Auschwitz. When the Kent family became aware of the impending arrival of the Nazis and their Hungarian collaborators, they convinced a brave non-Jewish friend (a town official) to hide the Torah in his basement. After the war, George’s uncle retrieved the Torah and smuggled it out of Hungary in a suitcase with a hidden compartment. It was kept in George’s parents’ home in Kansas City, where it was held in a small ark. Shortly before George and his wife Julee’s son had his Bar Mitzvah, they brought it to Los Gatos and kept it in their home. Both of their children read from the Kent Torah during their Bar/Bat Mitzvot. Since 1992, when George and Julee became members of Shir Hadash, this Torah has been used in the synagogue for the High Holy Days and Simchat Torah. During S’lichot this year, Shir Hadash was lucky enough to have George present his family’s Torah to Shir Hadash for use in the Kulanu/Tot Sanctuary during High Holy Days.

Kulanu Opening Day

The Shir Hadash campus was buzzing with energy on Kulanu Opening day.
## OCTOBER

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**Please visit www.shirhadash.org for the full calendar.**

Live via Zoom. Sign up at shirhadash.org/calendar

Taped in advance. Watch on Shir Hadash TV at shirhadash.org/live.