A Sukkah Filled with Joy, Community & Celebration

Sukkot is referred to in the Torah as *z’man simchateinu*, which means a time of shared joy. Just before entering the holy day, we embodied its joyful spirit by celebrating paying off our mortgage. We are and were thankful to all the many hands in our community that contributed to the effort and recognized Campaign 36 co-chairs Gretchen Sand-Preville, Stuart Katzman, and Dawn Gringorten. Sukkot at Shir Hadash was marked by over five hundred visits under our sukkah and a variety of boutique events.

Simchat Torah: a night of Jewish pride where we prayed, unrolled the Torah, and danced with guest musician Joel Nelson and his band.

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“How can we create a heart of many rooms?”

FROM RABBI NICO

The Antidote to Attribution Bias: A Heart with Many Rooms & A Talmudic Year
Kol Nidre 5783

As we approach elections in the month of November here are some words from Rabbi Nico that he shared on Kol Nidre.

Our tradition teaches: “Make yourself a heart of many rooms and bring into it the words of the House of Shammai and the words of the House of Hillel!”

This can only happen when we engage with those that think differently. As opposed to running away, seeking shelter in some safe space and hoping that they, the other side, will eventually come to reason or vanish, whatever comes first!

Now, there are situations in which one can no longer interact and unfortunately we should seek distance and shelter and that should always be a possibility. On the other hand when this becomes the norm of our social behavior then we eliminate any chance for interchange and moral diversity.

I remember a couple of years ago as we were heading toward the presidential elections, I participated in an effort to encourage people to reach across partisan lines. We would say: speak with friends and neighbors that hold different views and try to learn about their values... And an answer I heard many times, from people I know are highly educated and driven by good intentions was: seeing what’s happening, how can you assume that the other side holds any values?

Dear friends, the last couple of years reminded us that there is no immunity for certain viruses. Cynicism is one of them! And it is extremely poisonous and contagious.

So how can we heal from our own cynicism, challenge our narrowness and yes our attribution bias? How can we create a heart of many rooms?

...

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

FOR THE SAKE OF HEAVEN: JEWISH WISDOM FOR DIVISIVE TIMES IN AMERICAN SOCIETY

Join Rabbi Nico for the first Lunch & Learn, Saturday, November 12, at 12:00 pm, in the chapel. Please register for lunch.
BOOK GROUP

**The Choice, by Maggie Anton**

*Sunday, November 13, 10:00 AM [zoom]*

*The Choice* 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.

Register on the [temple calendar](#).

MEN'S CLUB BOOK GROUP

**Rogues, by Patrick Radden Keefe**

*Wednesday, November 16, 12:00 PM [zoom]*

The Men’s Club Non-Fiction Book group will be meeting on zoom on November 16th at 12:00 PM to discuss Rogues: True Stories of Grifters, Killers, Rebels, and Crooks by Patrick Radden Keefe. Our book review starts promptly at 12:00 pm and meets until approximately 1:30 pm. All members and prospective members of the Men’s Club are welcome to attend. Please contact Marty Lazar (phone: 201-446-1719, e-mail: Marty.Lazar@mac.com), if you would like additional information or you plan on joining the group. A zoom link will be provided to all confirmed attendees a week before the event.

Panel Discussion: Pandora’s Promise

*Wednesday, November 30, 7:30 PM [zoom]*

*Pandora’s Promise* asks whether the one technology we fear most could save our planet from a climate catastrophe while providing the energy needed to lift billions of people in the developing world out of poverty. In his controversial new film, Robert Stone tells the intensely personal stories of environmentalists and energy experts who have undergone a radical conversion from being fiercely anti to strongly pro-nuclear energy, risking their careers and reputations in the process. Stone exposes this controversy within the environmental movement head-on with stories of defection by heavyweights including Stewart Brand, Richard Rhodes, Gwyneth Cravens, Mark Lynas, and Michael Shellenberger. Undaunted and fearlessly independent, *Pandora’s Promise* is a landmark work that is forever changing the conversation about the myths and science behind this deeply emotional and polarizing issue.

View the film on your own and RSVP to join the community discussion. To register, visit [hadash.link/pandoras.promise](http://hadash.link/pandoras.promise).

November Services

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*Services are in person unless noted.*

[SHTV](#) In person, also available live-streamed on Shir Hadash TV, at [shirhadash.org/live](http://shirhadash.org/live).
Are you thinking about changing your landscape to reduce water for landscaping? Have you thought about planting native wildflowers? Native plants can save water and enrich our soil as well as support local birds, bees, butterflies, and other animals. Did you know that 96% of terrestrial birds rely on caterpillars to feed their young? A single nest of chickadees needs 6000 caterpillars or more!

Stop by the wildflower seed giveaway table at Shir Hadash on Sunday morning, Nov. 13, 9–12 to get seed packets. We’ll have 4 varieties of native seed packets:

- Narrow Leaf Milkweed for Monarchs
- Hills of California
- Wildflowers for Pollinators (support our native bees, butterflies and moths)
- Wildflowers for Shade

Now is the time to plant these seeds to benefit from winter rains. Watch them grow and look for beautiful blooms in the spring. Stop by and pick up a seed packet or two that is right for your yard.

SUSTAINABILITY

Shir Hadash Joins Hazon Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition

At the request of the Sustainability Committee, the Shir Hadash board approved joining the Jewish Climate Leadership Coalition. The Coalition is a network of Jewish community organizations that develop Climate Action Plans, which outline the strategic priorities of an organization’s climate work. Climate Action Plans detail climate actions taken to date, and set goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the coming year. We are excited to be among the first congregations to join this group of Jewish community organizations that recognize the urgency of acting to reduce the climate crisis and are committed to action.

Twenty major umbrella Jewish organizations joined the Coalition as founding partners. Among others, these groups include the Union for Reform Judaism, Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, Hillel International, The Jewish Federations of North America, and The Jewish Community Centers of North America reflecting a diverse coalition of Jewish organizations across denominations.

What does this mean for Shir Hadash? It means we are committed to developing an annual Climate Action Plan which will focus on reducing our emissions and expanding our impact among our members and the community.

The exciting part of being part of the coalition is that we won’t be doing this alone. Hazon will provide resource guides, templates and webinars, financial support, and resource-sharing through Communities of Practice. Knowing what other congregations are doing and what is working for them will facilitate our goals—we won’t need to reinvent the wheel. Already we are inspired by what we are learning that other congregations are doing.

Beginning in January we will meet the other organizations that will be part of our Community of Practice and begin organizing to develop our Shir Hadash plan. We hope that everyone will help us develop our annual plan (updated at Tu BiSh’vat each year) and help us achieve the goals that we set for our congregation. Interested? Email gary@shirhadash.org or environment@shirhadash.org.

For more information: [youtu.be/bbG2ScPOWNk](youtu.be/bbG2ScPOWNk).
Looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of Shir Hadash Community Members?

An integral part of Congregation Shir Hadash’s mission is to provide a caring community for its members. Each of us faces challenging times and that’s when we need to lean on the strength of our community most of all. The Caring Committee of Congregation Shir Hadash recognizes our responsibility to care for one another. Together we build and nourish a network of relationships that can sustain us throughout the journey of our lives.

The Caring Committee relies on volunteers to offer a variety of services and programs to members in need. Services we currently offer include:

- Friendly calls or home visits.
- Making and delivering Mitzvah meals for those who are ill or bereaved (Mitzvah meal cooking class coming soon!).
- Delivering challah and holiday baskets.
- Running errands for those who are ill or elders needing help.
- Arranging rides for those unable to attend Shir Hadash activities.
- Writing and sending cards or notes.

We are currently working with the Kulanu children to create greeting cards for Shir Hadash members. We are also in need of volunteers to help elders with technology support. While the recipients of the services express their deep appreciation, our current volunteers gain as much from their experience & the relationships they build as those they serve. The more volunteers we have, the more services we can provide and community members we can help.

Although we would love to have you join our dedicated team of committee members, one does not need to be a member and attend meetings to volunteer. Volunteering for even one service will make a difference! In addition, youth volunteers may also be able to count Caring Committee activities as community service hours.

If you are interested in volunteering or know someone who may be interested, please feel free to contact us.

Cindy Gordon, cindygordon@yahoo.com
Carolyn Kerlin, kerlin@comcast.net

We look forward to hearing from you!

Cindy Gordon, cindygordon@yahoo.com
Carolyn Kerlin, kerlin@comcast.net

Intro to Judaism
Tuesdays, starting November 8
7:30–9:00 PM

Join local Rabbis weekly for the Intro to Judaism class. During the course of the year, students will gain an understanding of Jewish belief, history and calendar and gain exposure to important Jewish books including the Hebrew Bible and the Talmud. Each session includes thirty minutes of Hebrew instruction. The class will meet on Zoom. Please register at hadash.link/intro to receive the information you’ll need to attend the class.

Instructors: Rabbi Hugh Seid-Valencia of the APJCC, Rabbi Jaymee Alpert of Congregation Beth David, Rabbi Nico Socolovsky of Congregation Shir Hadash, Rabbi Josh Berkenwald of Congregation Sinai, and Rabbi Dana Magat of Temple Emanu-El.
### Are You Ready for Sunday Night Football?
**Sunday, November 13, 5:00 PM**

The 49ers take on the Los Angeles Chargers! Join us for a family-friendly game night in the Sanctuary. 5:20 pm kick-off with appetizers, drinks, and desserts at Shir Hadash. Bring some food to share, and show your spirit by sporting your favorite team colors. Please register on the calendar page.

### Join Us for a New Cycle of Torah Study
**Every Saturday, 9:30 am, in the Chapel**

Led by Rabbi Nico and experienced lay leaders of Shir Hadash
Learn the weekly parashah
Classes will be held before Shabbat morning services
All are welcome!

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**NOVEMBER 2022 E-NOTES | 6**

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. 9:00a Meditation Group</td>
<td>11:30a Nashim: Remarkable Jewish Women</td>
<td>4:00p Kulanu Hebrew Tues.</td>
<td>7:00p Bar Mitzvah of Noah Siegel</td>
<td>5:30p Club456 Family Shabbat Dinner</td>
<td>9:30a Torah Study</td>
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<td>7:00p Adult Film Discussion: Upheaval 2009</td>
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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.