

*This year, as we celebrate Purim, let's remember the deep meaning of this holiday. Let's be imaginative, let's allow ourselves some guilty pleasure, and let's share in our abundance.*

—Rabbi Nico Socolovsky

## Purim Celebration

**Monday, March 6, 6:00 PM**

Celebrate a magical and fantastical Purim with your Shir Hadash family, Encanto style. Get out your costumes and noise makers and join us for a delicious dinner. Followed by a Purim Service, Encanto themed Shpiel which will be fun and engaging in the Shir Hadash tradition. We will end by fulfilling a Mitzvah of Purim the Megillah Reading. Join us on Monday, March 6, at 6:00 pm for all the festivities. Please register for dinner.

## Family Fun at the Purim Festival

**Sunday, March 5, 11:30 AM/12:00 PM**

Rain or shine, the Shir Hadash Purim festival is back! There will be games and fun activities for all ages, splash Rabbi Schwartz, virtual reality booth, bounce houses and more! Don't forget to come in costume.



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***"Purim is about aligning with our souls through the power of imagination and fantasy."***



FROM RABBI NICO

## **The Torah (Wisdom) of Loosening Up**

**Purim 2023/5783**

The Rabbis tell us (Midrash Mishlei 9:1) that there are two holidays that will exist in the Olam Haba, in the world to come: Purim and Yom Hakippurim.

Now, one should wonder—why is that and what is the common denominator between these two holidays? After all, seemingly, they have nothing to do with each other. On the other hand, their names hint on some connection. Yom Kippurim יום הכיפורים can be read as a day "like Purim."

Another layer of this connection can be found in the word "Pur," which means fate. Facing our fate, individually in Yom Kippur, or as we literally read in the Megillah (book of Esther), facing our fate as a nation.

Arthur Green explains the words of the Sefat Emet regarding the meaning of this connection between Purim and Yom Kippurim:

"Purim here becomes a third festival of revelation. On Shavu'ot the original written Torah was revealed; because its light was too great for mortals to bear, the tablets had to be broken. Yom Kippur is the day of the second tablets, the Torah as restored by human participation in the revelatory event; it is thus the source of oral Torah. Purim hints at a third level, the revelation of a Torah beyond rules and statutes, Torah as the Tree of Life itself. This Torah is purely mystical; it is the name of God, that which was before the beginning and will finally be revealed only at the end. That is why we are taught that Purim, unlike the other holidays, will continue to exist even in messianic times." [*The Language of Truth, The Torah Commentary of the Sefat Emet, Rabbi Yehudah Leib Alter of Ger; Translated and Interpreted by Arthur Gree; p. 385*]

A revelation that "happens beyond rules and statutes."

On Yom HaKippurim we are commanded to retrospectively observe our life experiences and, as realistically as possible, we envision the narrative of a life in the light of Teshuva, of seeking for recalibration and rectification. We fast and we wear white clothes, we practice abstinence and humble ourselves. The purpose of all these actions is to somehow help us fine-tune our lives and live in closer alignment with our souls.

Now if Yom HaKippurim is about connecting with our souls through structural purity, then the revelation of Purim is about connecting with our souls through disorganized, messy mundane experiences!

There are four main Mitzvot in Purim.

The reading of the Megillah is the reading of a story that we don't really know if it indeed happened or not, but it is more than anything else the representation of the fantasy of a threatened minority, combined with a "Cinderella" kind of story. All those that are weak become powerful in this story.

*Continued on Page 3*



## FROM RABBI NICO (CONTINUED)

The *Mishteh*, the banquet, is about rejoicing with food and drinks. It is not the kind of joy that we find in our daily meals but rather the one of guilty pleasure. Only that in Purim we do it without guilt.

The third one, *Mishloach Manot* the sending of the dishes, is about recognizing how fortunate we are and sharing our abundance with friends.

And the fourth one, *Matanot L'evionim*—Gifts for the poor. Going back to Arthur Green's explanation, beyond the obligation of Tzedakah that we have toward the needy in our society, Purim is about the giving of something that it is not an essential need but rather a pleasure.

Purim is about aligning with our souls through the power of imagination and fantasy. It is about letting go of the costume that we wear every day and allowing ourselves to wear the masks of our fantasies. It is about giving the space for those stories that might not be the reality of our lives but that do exist in the confinements of our souls. It is about saying "yes" to a guilty pleasure. It is about recognizing our fortune and gifting from our abundance only for the sake of sharing. It is about recognizing the needy beyond the level of primary needs and as deserving of delight.

In Yom Kippur we try to be realistic; In Purim we try to be imaginative.

In Yom Kippur we humble ourselves with our clothing and practice abstinence; In Purim we put ourselves out with our clothing and bring joy to our bodies with food and drinks.

In Yom Kippur we think of our relationships in an abstract realm; In Purim we are all about the tangibility of giving.

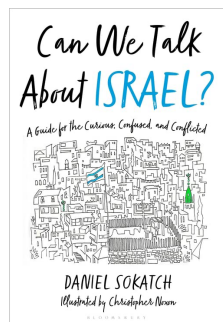
This year, as we celebrate Purim, let's remember the deep meaning of this holiday. Let's be imaginative, let's allow ourselves some guilty pleasure, and let's share in our abundance.

Let's remember Purim's sacred convocation to be serious about loosening up. Because, as we learned, in that space, in that messy and mundane place, there is an important Torah, a unique wisdom that is awaiting to be revealed.



# Can We Talk About Israel? A Conversation with Daniel Sokatch

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 PM



Presented by Congregation Shir Hadash and the New Israel Fund.

We face a decisive moment in Israel's history. While the new extremist right-wing government threatens the very basis of Israel's democracy, activists and everyday Israelis are taking to the streets to protect our shared values of equality and justice.

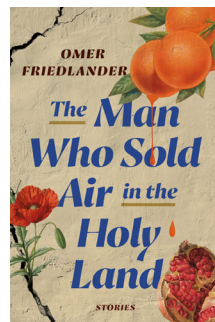
As we prepare for the challenges ahead, American Jewish communities have a vital role in this conversation as well.

This is why we are excited to share an opportunity for a community conversation. Join us for a special gathering at Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos featuring NIF CEO Daniel Sokatch on Tuesday, March 21, at 7:00 pm. Daniel will discuss his book, *Can We Talk About Israel: A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted*, in the context of current events.

## BOOK GROUP

# The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land by Omer Friedlander

Sunday, March 12, 10:00 AM



These stories take you to the narrow limestone alleyways of Jerusalem, the desolate beauty of the Negev Desert, and the sprawling orange groves of Jaffa, with characters that spring to vivid life.

To join in-person or via Zoom, please register at [hadash.link/bookgroup](https://hadash.link/bookgroup).

## Lunch & Learn

Saturday, March 11, 12:30 PM

Join Rabbi Schwartz, invited guests, and fellow congregants for lunch and discussion of various topics of interest to the Jewish community. Please [register](#) for the next Lunch and Learn.

## March Services

<b>FRI</b> <b>3</b>	6:15 pm	Shabbat Service <a href="#">SHTV</a> <a href="#">zoom</a>
<b>SAT</b> <b>4</b>	9:30 am	Torah Study
	10:30 am	Shabbat Service <a href="#">SHTV</a> <a href="#">zoom</a>
<b>FRI</b> <b>10</b>	6:00 pm	Teen Dinner followed by Shabbat at 7:00pm
	6:15 pm	Shabbat Service <a href="#">SHTV</a> <a href="#">zoom</a>
<b>SAT</b> <b>11</b>	9:30 am	Torah Study
	10:30 am	Bat Mitzvah of Mikayla Cooper
<b>FRI</b> <b>17</b>	6:15 pm	Shabbat Service <a href="#">SHTV</a> <a href="#">zoom</a>

<b>SAT</b> <b>18</b>	9:30 am	Torah Study
	10:30 am	Shabbat Service <a href="#">SHTV</a> <a href="#">zoom</a>
<b>FRI</b> <b>24</b>	6:15 pm	Shabbat Service <a href="#">SHTV</a> <a href="#">zoom</a>
<b>SAT</b> <b>25</b>	9:30 am	Torah Study
	10:30 am	Shabbat Service <a href="#">SHTV</a> <a href="#">zoom</a>
<b>FRI</b> <b>31</b>	9:30 am	Torah Study
	10:30 am	Shabbat Service <a href="#">SHTV</a> <a href="#">zoom</a>

Services are in person unless noted.

[zoom](#) Live via Zoom. Sign up at [shirhadash.org/calendar](https://shirhadash.org/calendar).

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



## Interested in Climate Justice?

Come meet with others to:

- Share experiences and ideas for organizing in our communities
- Learn about our Climate Tzedek legislation priorities and help shape the 2023 campaign
- Participate in Jewish learning connected to climate change
- Learn skills to build an impactful campaign
- Enjoy social time and a delicious lunch!

Reform Action Center (RAC-CA) Regional Meeting  
Sherith Israel, San Francisco  
Sunday, March 19, 10:30-2:30

The California Religious Action Center (RAC-CA) brings together the Reform Jewish congregations and communities of California to organize powerfully across lines of race, class, and faith. Together, we will achieve a more just and compassionate California.

### CLIMATE TZEDEK

## Building Our Power To Achieve Just, Science-Based Solutions

The Climate Tzedek campaign is an opportunity to set aside despair about the challenges we face and do something with our communities to make the changes we need. We will engage our congregations to put this vital issue at the center of Jewish life and to demand bold policies to create a sustainable world for ourselves and generations to come. We will work with partners across California to focus on solutions that prioritize racial and economic justice.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Interfaith Meal Service

**Jews, Christians, and Muslims To Prepare and Serve a Hot Meal to Unhoused Neighbors!**

**Saturday, March 12**

On March 12, Congregation Shir Hadash, Lincoln Glen Church, and Evergreen Islamic Center will join together to prepare and serve a hot and hearty meal to hungry and homeless neighbors in San Jose. This event is being planned and cosponsored by the Abrahamic Alliance International.

[Volunteers](#) will first prepare dinner at Congregation Shir Hadash, then convoy together to serve dinner at a soup kitchen in downtown San Jose. After meal service, volunteers will also enjoy a kosher and halal dinner together.

### MEN'S CLUB

## Bocce Ball Event

**Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 PM**

**Campo di Bocce in Los Gatos**

Bocce Ball is preceded by dinner at Double D's restaurant in Los Gatos. The cost of the event is \$20.00 not including the meal at Double D's. This event is open to all Men's Club members and prospective members. Anyone interested in attending should contact Howard Taub at [HHTaub@gmail.com](mailto:HHTaub@gmail.com).

## We Thank These Donors for Their Generous Contributions...

Jeff & Susan Balfus

Iris Berke

Jan Berliner

Alison Brunner &

Andrew Coven

Barrie Rosenberg Cress

Jonathan Cress

Martin Fenster

Jack & Sharon Friedman

Brad & Cindy Gordon

Andrea Harris

Marshall & Sue Heller

Sima Hilde

Teresa Homand

Edmund & Eleanor Intrator

Warren & Judy Kaplan

Avery Kaufman & Richard

Borenstein

Lindy & Daniel Keelan

Kevin & Yelena Kessel

Marvin Kohn & Adele Salle

Marc & Naomi Levenson

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Houri & Jacob Moradzadeh

Julee Ogawa & George Kent

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John & Rosalie Price

Kevin & Denise Pringle

Ron & Linda Rossen

Brad Rubenstein

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Jack & Carole Siegel

Pat & Pekka Sinervo

Albert & Ruth Sporer

Ed & Jo Stein

Sherrie Stone

Howard Taub

Marilyn Valt

Melanie Weil

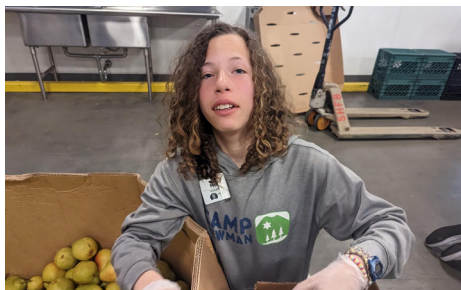
Bonnie Wohl

Richard & Carol Zbriger

## JET (Jewish Experiences with Teens)

Spirituality, wisdom, community, and social responsibility are the values that shape who we are as a congregation. These values transcend throughout all that we do, and manifest themselves amongst all demographics, including what we do to inspire our teenagers. Our teen program, JET, Jewish Experiences for Teens, provides opportunities for our teenagers to fully engage themselves in the values that we, as a congregation, hold true. We want our teenagers to be exposed to the many facets of Jewish living and learning, giving them the tools to make informed choices about their own Judaism.

On Tuesday evenings, our teens gather together, either by grade or JET-wide, for immersive learning experiences in and outside the classroom. We have been excited to integrate social action opportunities such as sorting food at Second Harvest Food Bank within our program, as well as offer unique Teen Shabbat services led by our clergy and songleader, musician, educator, and performing artist Lior Ben-Hur. It has been so wonderful to see the momentum building within our program, and see our teens re-invigorated to develop a sense of pride in their Judaism and identities.



*Second Harvest with Jet Teens*



*First Teen Shabbat with Musician Lior Ben-Hur*



*Rabbi Daniel Levine "unpacking" with the teens*

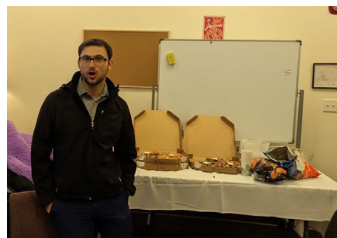


*Shir Hadash member Jacob Kessel was joined by other Shir Hadash teens at the JCC Teen Party in Los Gatos.*



## Looking Back at February

February was a month full of learning, music and community. We were lucky to have Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz and Rabbi Daniel Levine visit. We also had the first monthly Teen Shabbat with guest Musician Lior Ben-Hur, who not only joined the teens for Shabbat, but also joined the Shabbat service in the sanctuary.



*Thanks to you, we'll bring joy with  
Mishloach Manot  
to the whole congregation and  
\$3000 to Second Harvest Food Bank*





# Nashim

REMARKABLE JEWISH WOMEN

JOIN RABBI NICO FOR BRUNCH  
AND GO ON AN ENCHANTING JOURNEY  
THROUGH THE UNTOLD NARRATIVES OF FEMALE  
CHARACTERS IN JEWISH TRADITION



LAST CLASS OF THE SERIES  
THURSDAY MARCH 23, 11:30 AM

שִׁיר הָדָשׁ  
Congregation Shir Hadash

## Last Nashim Lecture

Don't miss out on the last Nashim class. This course will be an invitation to re-discover biblical stories through the lens of its female characters. Join Rabbi Nico and others for brunch and inspiring study. Please [register](#).

# MARCH

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Please visit [www.shirhadash.org](http://www.shirhadash.org) for the full calendar.

**zoom** Live via Zoom. Sign up at [shirhadash.org/calendar](http://shirhadash.org/calendar).

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

			<b>1</b> 10:30a Free Meditation Class Taught by Marilyn Katz <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b> 4:00p Adult Ed Meeting—In person & <b>zoom</b>	<b>2</b> 11:30a Nashim: Remarkable Jewish Women		<b>3</b> 6:15p Shabbat Service <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Service <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b> 5:00p Purim SHUL-IN
<b>5</b> 12:00a Purim SHUL-IN 9:00 Kulanu Learning 10:00 Men's Club Board Meeting 11:30 Purim Carnival	<b>6</b> 6:00p Congregational Purim Celebration: Lights! Costumes! Groggers! Let's go!		<b>8</b> 10:30a Free Meditation Class Taught by Marilyn Katz <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>10</b> 6:00p Teen Dinner followed by Shabbat at 7:00pm 6:15 Shabbat Service <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30a Torah Study 10:30 Bat Mitzvah of Mikayla Cooper 12:30p Lunch & Learn
<b>12</b> 8:00a Stanford Blood Drive 9:00 Kulanu Learning 9:30 Membership Committee Meeting 10:00 Book Group: <i>The Man Who Sold Air in The Holy Land</i> <b>zoom</b> 12:30p Kulanu Hebrew Sundays	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30p JET 7:00 Silicon Valley Intro to Judaism <b>zoom</b>	<b>15</b> 10:30a Free Meditation Class Taught by Marilyn Katz <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b> 6:30p Ritual Committee Meeting—In Person & <b>zoom</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>17</b> 6:15p Shabbat Service <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Service <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b> 6:00p Club456 Havdalah & Movie Night
<b>19</b> 9:00a Ahavat Cycling 9:00 Kulanu Learning 10:30 SHOC Members going to RAC-CA Regional Gathering 12:30p Kulanu Hebrew Sundays	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30p JET 7:00 Silicon Valley Intro to Judaism <b>zoom</b> 7:00 Author Visit Daniel Sokatch	<b>22</b> 10:30a Free Meditation Class Taught by Marilyn Katz <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b> 7:30p Men's Club Bocce Ball Event	<b>23</b> 11:30a Nashim: Remarkable Jewish Women		<b>24</b> 6:15p Shabbat Service <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Service <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00a Kulanu Learning 11:00 SALT Car Wash / Bake Sale: Get Rid of Your Car's Chametz 12:30p Kulanu Hebrew Sundays	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30p JET 7:00 Silicon Valley Intro to Judaism <b>zoom</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30a Free Meditation Class Taught by Marilyn Katz <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>31</b> 6:15p Shabbat Service <b>SHIV</b> <b>zoom</b>	