We are overjoyed to welcome Rabbi Nico Socolovsky to Congregation Shir Hadash as our new Senior Rabbi. Our Rabbinic Installation and Community Brit promises to be a can’t-miss event. A full Shabbat of community, learning (Jewish literacy), and spirituality. We hope you will join us for as many opportunities as you can.

The Shabbat services on Friday and Saturday will be filled with ceremonies related to the installation as well as special speakers, Torah readings, and participation from the choir. While there will be several fun events and activities, I wanted to highlight a few and introduce you to some of the exciting guests that will be with us.

A tish is an informal community gathering of Rabbis, meeting for a lively discussion to which the community is invited to listen and participate. Invited guests are Rabbi Stanley Davids, Rabbi Josh Weinberg, Rabbi Hugh Seid-Valencia, Rabbi Lisa Levenberg, and Rabbi Danny Gottlieb. All of our clergy will also be present. Refreshments and libations will be provided.

If you can’t make it to the tish, there will be two other chances to meet with and learn from our visiting Rabbis. On Saturday, May 6, at 1:00 pm, there will be a panel discussion with Rabbi Josh Weinberg and Rabbi Stanley David on “The Fragile Dialogue: When and how Israel’s declaration of Independence Became Controversial.” There will also be a Torah Study on Saturday at 9:30 am, led by Rabbi Josh Weinberg.

Please register on the temple calendar.

See inside for more details about these events.
“This is a major life-cycle event in the history of Shir Hadash…”

The Installation of a new Rabbi is customary and ceremonial and usually scheduled months after the Rabbi starts at the congregation. This gives the community and the rabbi a period of time of interaction and introduction, allowing the installation to be more heartfelt and meaningful. It is a momentous occasion, a once-in-a-generation event. This is a major life-cycle event in the history of Shir Hadash—the official passing of the torch from one beloved rabbi to another.

Rituals heighten everyday acts, making them sacred acts. Installation is not a secular event, nor is it just a ritual, it is a sacred occasion. The installation is where the rabbi, the congregational leadership and the entire congregation meet to express their commitment to their synagogue, the Jewish people, the Jewish religion, and the pursuit of the holy community, Kehillah Kedosha. It is a brit (covenant), a time when G-d’s presence can fill the sanctuary.

As I have gotten to know Rabbi Nico, I’ve seen that he is a person with a warm, caring heart and great vision. He lives a life guided by Jewish tradition, Jewish ethics, community building and values. He uses those values in the decisions he makes every day on our behalf. I am privileged to work with him.

Please join us on May 5 & 6 for this sacred occasion, and help us celebrate Shir Hadash.

FROM ANDY ALTMAN, PRESIDENT

What Is an Installation & Why Are We Doing It Now?
**RAVINIC INSTALLATION & COMMUNITY BRIT SHABBAT**

**About Our Special Guests**

**Rabbi Stanley Davids** is the Emeritus of Atlanta’s Temple Emanu-El. He is a lifelong advocate for liberal Judaism and Israel, and as such has served the Jewish Agency For Israel, the World Zionist Organization, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, the Hebrew Union College, and more. He is the author of *The Fragile Dialogue: New Voices in Liberal Zionism, A Life of Meaning: Embracing Reform Judaism’s Sacred Path, and Deepening the Dialogue: Jewish-Americans and Israelis Envisioning the Jewish-Democratic State.*

**Rabbi Josh Weinberg** serves as the Vice President of the URJ for Israel and Reform Zionism and is the Executive Director of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. Josh has taught and lectured widely throughout Israel, the U.S. and Europe, as well as on Kivunim and Shnat Netzer gap-year programs. He has led numerous tours and trained tour educators for the Reform movement’s Israel experiences. Josh is passionate about anything connected to Israel and hopes to strengthen the connection between the Reform movement and the Jewish State.

**Rabbi Hugh Valencia** is the Senior Director of Collaborative Leadership and Jewish Engagement for Jewish Silicon Valley. He previously served as Jewish Community Liaison for VITAS Healthcare and prior to that, spent ten years teaching Jewish Studies at Kehillah Jewish High School in Palo Alto, where he served most recently as Director of Israel and Jewish Studies Curricula.

**Rabbi Lisa Levenberg** has been a Rabbi Educator at Shir Hadash and is currently a congregant. She is a reflective and creative rabbi-educator in the San Francisco Bay Area with a commitment to building inclusive, values-based communities.

**Rabbi Danny Gottlieb** is Rabbi Emeritus at Congregation Beth Israel Judea in San Francisco, where he was the Rabbi for ten years. Before that he served the Canadian Reform Jewish community for more than 30 years, as a synagogue educator, director of the Canadian region of the Union for Reform Judaism, and as Rabbi of Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill, Ontario. Rabbi Gottlieb received his ordination from the Leo Baeck College in London, England. He is a graduate of the 4th Rabbinic Cohort of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, and is a recipient of the RJE (Reform Jewish Educator) degree from the Reform Movement’s Joint Commission on Jewish Education.

**May Services**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Installation Service &amp; Community Brit</td>
<td>shir TV zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study with Rabbi Josh Weinberg</td>
<td>shir TV zoom</td>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Installation Service &amp; Community Brit</td>
<td>shir TV zoom</td>
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<tr>
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<td>shir TV zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>6:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>THU</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Shavuot Service and Ten Commandments with Confirmation</td>
<td>shir TV zoom</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
<td>Shavuot Festival of Learning/Study Sessions, Facilitated by Clergy &amp; Confirmation Class</td>
<td>shir TV zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Mincha &amp; Yizkor Service</td>
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<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>shir TV zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Bar Mitzvah of Levi Margolis</td>
<td>shir TV zoom</td>
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Services are in person unless noted.

Live via Zoom. Sign up at shirhadash.org/calendar. In person, also available live-streamed on Shir Hadash TV, at shirhadash.org/live.
We Asked Some of Our Congregants To Share Their Favorite Things About Rabbi Nico…

“Rabbi Nico encourages me to think and ask better questions. He inspires us with his passion for lifelong learning.” —Judy Goldman

“His music during the services, how beautifully he interacts musically with our wonderful Cantor, his incredible kindness and his understanding of human situations, and his brilliance during Torah study, among other things. He is the whole package.” —Barbra Knipe

“I appreciate Rabbi Nico’s vision, joy, humor, and humanity. He brings both spiritual creativity and substantial scholarship to our study and services.” —Sharla Kibel

“I really like the energy and joy Rabbi Nico exhibits when leading services. It shows in everything from rhythmic Shabbat melodies to dancing with the Torah at Bar/Bat Mitzvah services.” —Mark Allen

“I like to study Torah with him. He listens deeply to everyone and expresses pleasure when he hears a new idea or an interpretation that he hadn’t thought of before.” —Susan Levin

“Rabbi Nico is warm, engaging, charming and funny!” —Cindy Gordon

“I love Rabbi Nico for the joy he exudes during his services. I hear it in his music and his demeanor. I also love how he relates to me as well as the other congregants during our classes and lectures. He touches my soul.” —Diane Gilden

“I love his enthusiasm and his love of teaching.” —Mira Engel

“Nico has reminded me about the importance of intention. It is paramount in every aspect of our lives. It’s not just about going through the motions, but rather about the thought and purpose behind our actions. Our intentions shape our character and define the impact we have on the world around us. When we approach our daily activities with mindfulness and awareness, we can elevate our experiences and relationships to a higher level.” —Joshua Bernstein

“The first time I met Rabbi Nico was at Nashim. His welcoming smile and attention to each members names and stories made me aware of his heartfelt wish for connection. His spirit is contagious and often times it seems to radiate from his smile and eyes. As newly returning member’s, my husband and I feel that his spirit and leadership will guide Shir Hadash to a wonderful future.” —Vicki Schnitzer

“I imagine it’s a difficult task to establish a rabbinical presence in a new place. I’ve been impressed by Rabbi Nico’s energy, enthusiasm, and bold innovations. And especially I appreciate how rapidly he has formed a meaningful relationship with my grandchildren. It bodes well for the future of the synagogue.” —Jack Siegel

Congregational Meeting
Sunday, May 7, 10:15 AM

The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, May 7, at 10:15 am, in person and via Zoom. Please RSVP and the registration confirmation email will contain the Zoom link.

Topics include:

• State of the congregation
• Presentation of, and voting to elect, slate of nominees to the board of directors
• Presentation of, and voting to approve, the FY 23/24 budget
• Updates from Kulanu and SALTY
• Voting to approve the contract of Rabbi Michael Walden

We will hold a brief Q&A session at the conclusion of each presentation, as well as a general Q&A period at the end of the meeting. Please submit questions to shanda@shirhadash.org for any topics not included on the agenda—we will do our best to answer your questions in the available time.
MEN’S CLUB NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

The Song of the Cell
by Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee

Wednesday, May 17, 11:30 AM

The Song of the Cell recounts our evolving understanding of the body’s smallest structural and functional unit—and its implications for everything from immune therapy and in vitro fertilization to Covid-19. The event is open to all Men’s Club Membership and prospective members. Please contact Marty Lazar at marty.lazar@mac.com if you wish to attend.

CARING COMMITTEE

Healthy Living for the Brain & Body, by the Alzheimer’s Association

Monday, May 22, 1:00 PM

The Caring Committee is pleased to announce a program, Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body, at Shir Hadash. This program is in conjunction with the Alzheimer’s Association. It gives research-based information and practical tips for maintaining a healthy brain at any age or stage of life. It also comes with a handout where participants can make their own healthy lifestyle plan. It talks a bit about Alzheimer’s disease and dementia, but doesn’t go into great detail. Join us to learn about diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity, and social engagement, and to use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations for healthy living. Please register on the calendar.

ADULT EDUCATION

Pirkei Avot Study Group

Beginning Wednesday, May 3, 12:00 PM

Beginning on May 3, at 12:00 pm, four weekly study group sessions will be held on Pirkei Avot at Shir Hadash. The hope is to support each other’s learning by creating a lay-led group that will study this material together with some contrasting commentaries. Join us at Shir Hadash with a brown bag lunch. Books are available in the Shir Hadash office at a discounted rate.

We encourage you to commit to as many of the meetings as possible so we can build on what we have discussed. During the study sessions, attendees will explore how historical texts can be made new and inform our contemporary lives. Some of the questions we hope to cover from Rabbi Yanklowitz; social justice commentary on Pirkei Avot and the accompanying CCAR study guide by Rabbi Paikin are:

- What responsibilities are incumbent upon friends (in the age of explosive social media)?
- When is it okay to judge ourselves or others?
- How do we reconcile the values of truth, justice and peace?
- Is inner change more significant than social activism, or does Torah study require that we act in the world?

Please register for all four events.

LUNCH & DISCUSSION

Israel’s Crisis of Democracy, with Nadav Tamir

Thursday, May 4, 11:30 AM

Join us for lunch and a meaningful discussion with Nadav Tamir, J Street Israel Executive Director, during his visit to the US. J Street works in the American political system, in the Jewish community and with others to advocate for diplomacy-first American leadership and policies that advance justice, equality, peace, and democracy in Israel, in the wider region and in the United States. Nadav is a leading expert on US-Israel relations with an impressive breadth of experience as an Israeli diplomat and policy advisor.

Nadav will share his analysis of the challenging news coming out of Israel, giving us a deeper understanding of the divisions within Israeli society, the impending annexation of the occupied West Bank, the US-Israel relationship, and what to expect next. We will have a conversation about the role we can play as American Jews to oppose destructive policies and actions and to support efforts here and in Israel to defend and safeguard our shared democratic and Jewish values.

Please register on the calendar.
We invite you to join us for Shavuot and our

Confirmation Class Service

Thursday, May 25

6pm Dinner
7pm Service
8:30pm Festival of Learning:
Study Sessions by Clergy &
Confirmation Class

Register Online

We Thank These Donors for Their Generous Contributions...

Denise Beagle
Jan Berliner
Gary & Jean Bronstein
Shirley & Richard Cantu
Robert & Kimberly Chortek
The Dansker & Brunnings Families
Susan Denniston
Martin Fenster
Marcia Fox
Mark & Susan Fredkin
Alex Gelber & Linda Wolf
Sheldon & Donna Gilbert
Mark Glotser
Sheldon Goldsmith
Brad & Cindy Gordon
Marshall & Sue Heller
Marilyn Katz
George Kent & Julee Ogawa
Gregg & Carolyn Kerlin
Alissa Klar & Robert Keynton
Marvin Kohn
Linda Loew & David Black
Allan & Colleen Lukoff
Houri & Jacob Moradzadeh
Naomi & David Parker
Janet Rose
Carol Rosenberg
Ron & Linda Rossen
Rochelle Rubenstein
Virginia & Ron Scheinhaus
Joseph & Michelle Schwartz
Mark & Nikki Segall
Philip Shanker
Ronnie Shapiro
Ann Sharon

Pat & Pekka Sinervo
Bonnie Slavitt
Eric & Robyn Stone
Jamie & Aaron Taylor
Ron & Prudence Victor
Robert & Patty Weisman
Bonnie Wohl
Harriet & Sandy Wolf
Eileen Wolk
Mitchell Wunsh & Supriya Molina Wunsh
Richard & Carol Zbriger
Check Out Our Latest Native Plant Garden

Many of us are conscious of planting nectar plants for hummingbirds and drought-tolerant plants to reduce our water use. We don’t always think about planting native plants. Our native birds, animals and bugs need native plants for food sources. Without native plants, we create food deserts! Hummingbirds need bugs for protein and to feed their young. One nest of baby chickadees needs up to 300 caterpillars a day for 16-18 days! This behavior is typical of many of our native birds. Luckily, oak trees are a great provider and we have a number of oak trees on our property.

When replacing plants, we are trying to incorporate more native plants. You will see natives in the Memorial Garden and now in the sign area as you enter the Shir Hadash parking lot. The plants include Ceanothus “Concha,” narrow-leaf milkweed, Artemisia “David's Choice,” Salvia “Bee’s Bliss,” Epilobium Canum “Calistoga,” Lessingia “Silver Carpet,” Festuca Rubra “Molate,” and Eriogonum Grande Rubescens.

These plants were chosen to provide color at different times of the year and to help feed our local fauna. Once established native plants don’t need irrigation.

We are applying for recognition as a “homegrown national park.” You can do this, too, at homegrownnationalpark.org.

Many thanks to Carolyn Mock Rosen from Los Gatos Presbyterian for helping with the design, planting and providing a truckload of mulch which she loaded herself and brought over! Thanks to: Ruth Saldivar, Linda and Mark Allen for preparing and planting the area. Thanks to Robin Browndorf for supplying some of the plants.

We will be sharing native wildflower seeds again this fall. Interested in finding out more about planting native plants or helping us extend our efforts at Shir Hadash? Email environment@shirhadash.org.

Israel Is 75 at the APJCC