Let’s Join Together To Celebrate Rabbi Aron As She Enters Retirement!

Come celebrate the legacy she is leaving us as a congregation and as individuals knowing that our congregation will continue as a successful, established Jewish community.

We hope everyone will join us for as many of the upcoming retirement events as you can. Please share this information with your adult children and others who may be missing from our email lists, so that they can also celebrate with us.

- Friday, December 4, 7:30 pm: Special Zoom Shabbat Service
  REGISTER NOW
- Saturday, December 5, 7:00 pm: Special Zoom Havdalah Program
  REGISTER NOW
- Sunday, December 13, 1:00-4:00 pm: Drive-by Goodbyes
  REGISTER NOW

See inside to read more details about all of these wonderful celebrations. Also hear the story of how one of the founding members of our congregation helped choose our rabbi 30 years ago, and the current temple president reflects on her own experiences working alongside Rabbi Aron.

Events are subject to cancellation or change. For up-to-date information on all Shir Hadash events, visit www.shirhadash.org.
At our November family service, Mara Beckerman Sneiderman told the story of a coat, which became a dress, which became a skirt, which became a babushka, which became a handkerchief, which became a brooch, which became... a story. When I was a rabbinic student, I first encountered this Hasidic story in the writings of Elie Wiesel, which makes a similar point.

When the great Rabbi Israel Baal Shem-Tov saw misfortune threatening the Jews it was his custom to go into a certain part of the forest to meditate. There he would light a fire, say a special prayer, and the miracle would be accomplished and the misfortune averted.

Later when his disciple, the celebrated Magid of Mezritch, has occasion, for the same reason, to intercede with heaven, he would go to the same place in the forest and say: “Master of the Universe, listen! I do not know how to light the fire, but I am still able to say the prayer,” and again the miracle would be accomplished.

Still later, Rabbi Moshe-Leib of Sasov, in order to save his people once more, would go into the forest and say: “I do not know how to light the fire, I do not know the prayer, but I know the place and this must be sufficient.” It was sufficient and the miracle was accomplished.

Then it fell to Rabbi Israel of Rizhyn to overcome misfortune. Sitting in his armchair, his head in his hands, he spoke to God: “I am unable to light the fire and I do not know the prayer; I cannot even find the place in the forest. All I can do is to tell the story, and this must be sufficient.” And it was sufficient.

Though perhaps originally told to stress the wisdom lost generation by generation, for me this tale was a reminder that the story is our heritage and it is powerful.

Much has been taken from us this year. Our fall holidays were a bit “unusual” and we face a lonely Thanksgiving table. Many of us will miss out on end-of-the-year travel along with the special Chanukah celebrations that are usually planned—and, that is, if we are fortunate and nothing worse befalls those we love. Under these trying circumstances what can our tradition offer? Not an amulet or a guarantee of protection, but stories of our people facing impossible odds in the past and overcoming.

Remembering the hard times our people have endured, we gather at the darkest time of the year to light candles, preserving hope. It’s not coincidental to my mind, that the gift of light is something that sharing does not diminish. As we tell the story of our ancestors in the days of Mattathias, we thank God that sometimes the weak can prevail over the mighty and the righteous over the arrogant.

We are hoping to lighten our hearts this year at our Chanukah family service, as we debate the Latke v. the Hamentasch—and with the magic of technology, you will get a chance to express your preference as well.
Rabbi Aron’s Farewell Shabbat Service

Friday, December 4, 7:30 PM  zoom

Join us as we honor Rabbi Aron for her career as a congregational Rabbi and celebrate her leadership at Shir Hadash. The service will include special guests and presentations. Rabbi Aron has blessed us; now it is our turn to bless her.

We encourage everyone to have their Shabbat candles ready to light together with us on Zoom. Stay on after the service for oneg and join in a special toast.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

We are happy to provide a complimentary box of oneg treats and a beverage for everyone for this celebration. Box and beverage orders must be placed by November 20. Pick up your oneg box and beverage on either Thursday, Dec. 3, or Friday, Dec. 4, from 3:00 to 4:00 pm, no contact and curbside in the Shir Hadash parking lot.

Special Havdalah Program

Sat., Dec. 5, 7:00 PM  zoom

We will have a special Havdalah program featuring an interview with Rabbi Aron as well as a musical tribute.

We welcome you to join us for Havdalah at home with your own candle, wine and spices. Families with young children are encouraged to participate before putting the little ones to bed.

Please register for this memorable evening.

November Services

| FRI | 20 | 5:45 pm | New Member Kabbalat Shabbat  zoom |
| FRI | 20 | 7:30 pm | New Member Shabbat Service  zoom |
Join familiar faces and welcome new ones as we come together for a special Shabbat service.

| SAT | 21 | 9:30 am | Torah Study  zoom |
| SAT | 21 | 10:30 am | Shir Shabbat Service  zoom |
| SAT | 21 | 10:30 am | B’nai Mitzvah of Brody Horwitz & Sydney Fried  zoom |

December Services

| FRI | 4 | 7:30 pm | Rabbi Aron’s Farewell Shabbat Service  zoom |

| SAT | 5 | 9:30 am | Torah Study  zoom |
| SAT | 5 | 10:30 am | Shir Shabbat Service  zoom |
| SAT | 5 | 7:00 pm | Special Havdalah Program  zoom |

| FRI | 11 | 6:30 pm | Consecration Service  zoom |
| FRI | 11 | 7:00 pm | Chanukah Family Shabbat Service  zoom |

| SAT | 12 | 9:30 am | Shir Shabbat Jr. Chanukah  zoom |
| SAT | 12 | 9:30 am | Torah Study  zoom |
| SAT | 12 | 10:30 am | Adult B’nai Mitzvah Service  zoom |

TUE | 24 | 7:00 pm | Los Gatos Virtual Interfaith Thanksgiving, with Sermon by Rabbi Aron  zoom |

| FRI | 27 | 4:15 pm | Grandparents & Grandchildren Shabbat Service  zoom |
| FRI | 27 | 7:30 pm | Shabbat Service  zoom |

| SAT | 28 | 10:30 am | No Torah Study  zoom |

FRI | 18 | 5:45 pm | Home for the Holidays  zoom |
College students and recent high school graduates are invited to welcome Shabbat with Rabbi Aron.

| SAT | 19 | 9:30 am | Torah Study  zoom |
| SAT | 19 | 10:30 am | Shir Shabbat Service  zoom |
| SAT | 19 | 10:30 am | Bat Mitzvah of Ava Woodbury  zoom |

FRI | 25 | 7:30 pm | Shabbat Service  zoom |

SAT | 26 | 10:30 am | Shir Shabbat Service  zoom |

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

Embrace-a-Family with Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

November 18–December 18

Once again, Congregation Shir Hadash is partnering with Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley to fulfill the Chanukah and holiday wishes of families and seniors who would otherwise go without gifts. This year, to maintain the safety of JFS staff, volunteers, and clients during Covid 19, Congregation Shir Hadash is sponsoring an online virtual dreidel board. The link for the board will be made available on the CSH website beginning November 18.

Last year, JFS was thrilled with our partnership and JFS clients were so very grateful for their gifts. This year has presented challenges none of us would have imagined before, yet as a community we can and will make this holiday season as bright with your generous support.

Here’s how the program will work: claim a dreidel wish from the board and make the monetary contribution for the gift. You’ll receive a letter of thanks from JFS and JFS will ensure that the gift goes to the designated individual. Through your participation with Embrace a Family, you will most certainly bring joy and cheer to a very appreciative individual or family this year! We will publish the link to the dreidel board in In Tune as soon as it becomes live.

Grandparents & Grandchildren Shabbat Service

Friday, November 27, 4:15 PM

Missing Your Grandchildren? Your Grandparents?

Come let us welcome Shabbat together. Join us for a short Shabbat welcome at 4:15 PM Pacific Time. We will begin by lighting candles together, blessing our grandchildren, and sharing some fun. We will close with a bedtime blessing for all our family on the east coast. We are sad not to be together in person for the Thanksgiving weekend, but let’s invite our family members to join us in this short joyous celebration.

Consecration & Chanukah Family Shabbat Service

Friday, December 11

6:30 PM: Consecration of New Religious School Students

Join us for the Consecration Service this evening honoring the students who are beginning their formal Jewish education—from kindergartners to those who are new to our program. Students will be welcomed with a blessing so that their learning should always be sweet. Afterwards, we invite everyone to attend our Chanukah Family Service.

7:00 PM: Chanukah Family Shabbat Service

Have your Chanukah menorah at hand so that we can all light together. This year as a special treat we will be presenting a debate: Which is the Most Jewish Treat—the Latke or the Hamentaschen? Our debaters will be Andy Altman, Sheldon Gilbert, Larry Dietz, and Ruth Saldívar. Join us for a special upbeat and celebratory evening.

Los Gatos Interfaith Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 PM

You are invited to attend the first ever Los Gatos Virtual Interfaith Thanksgiving. Direct from the many sanctuaries in our community to your home and featuring a joint virtual choir and a sermon from Rabbi Aron.

Gift Shop Open for Chanukah!

Sunday, December 6, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Shop safely for the holidays—tables will be set up outdoors.
Adult B’nai Mitzvah Service  
Saturday, December 12, 10:30 AM  

The community is invited to celebrate Shabbat at morning services led by our graduating Adult B’nai Mitzvah students. Join us as we honor the achievement of these hard-working adult learners: Kevin Pringle, Alice Nichols, Carrie Schneider, Rosemary Bryan, and Pearl Norton.

Shir Hadash leads an adult B’nai Mitzvah program on a biennial basis for interested adults who did not have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in their youth. This enriching and meaningful program is a wonderful way to explore and deepen one’s connection to the Torah and to our Jewish community.

Congregational Town Hall Meeting  
Sunday, December 13, 9:30 AM  

Join us for the December Town Hall meeting. At this semi-annual meeting, we will hear from several members of the board of directors, providing updates on current events and activities. We will have a report from the Re-opening Task Force, and a finance update from our treasurer, Stuart Katzman. The congregation will vote on an amendment to the bylaws, allowing for congregational meetings and voting to occur in a virtual format. Rabbi Riter will offer the D’var Torah, and Rabbi Aron will offer some words upon her pending retirement. We look forward to seeing you on December 13.

Everyone Loves a Parade  
Sunday, December 13, 1:00–4:00 PM  

This is your time to drive through the Shir Hadash parking lot for a no-contact, in-person goodbye to Rabbi Aron.

Feel free to hold up a sign, decorate your car, or even make a little (not too loud!) noise to show your appreciation!

Sign up at hadash.link/driveby to secure your spot to say a short personal goodbye.

SAVE THE DATE  
Havdalah & Chanukah  
Saturday, December 12, 6:30 PM

BOOK GROUP

The Hill of Evil Counsel, by Amos Oz  
Sunday, December 20, 10:45 AM  

Refugees drawn to Jerusalem in search of safety are confronted by activists relentlessly preparing for an uprising, oblivious to the risks. Meanwhile, a wife abandons her husband, and a dying man longs for his departed lover. Among these characters lives a boy named Uri, a friend and confidant of several conspirators who love and humor him as he weaves in and out of all three stories. *The Hill of Evil Counsel* is “as complex, vivid, and uncompromising as Jerusalem itself.”

Campaign 36 Update  
At Erev Rosh Hashanah services, our President, Joy Spodick, announced that the Campaign has been fully pledged: We have pledges in hand of $1.8 million dollars. This means, when these pledges are fulfilled, our work will be complete and our mortgage paid off. When we receive the funds from pledges, we apply it to our mortgage. We anticipate outstanding pledges will be fulfilled within 2021.

We are grateful for your support. Together, we will have made the mortgage our congregation has had since the 1980s a piece of history. Thank you to all of those who said “yes”!

For more information about Campaign 36, please visit hadash.link/campaign36.

GREAT NEWS FROM CAMP NEWMAN!

Camp Newman Reopens for Summer 2021  
There is much excitement and anticipation to welcome back campers and staff back to Camp Newman’s Santa Rosa home on Porter Creek Road in Summer 2021. A lot of work went into making this happen over the past three years.

There is a limited-time discount of up to $200 off tuition until 11 pm on Monday, November 23, so sign up soon at campnewman.org.

DRIVE-BY GOODBYES
Tributes to Rabbi Aron

Jean Bronstein, Founding Member

More than 30 years ago, I chaired the Rabbi search committee under Carolyn Lettween as our President. I reminisced with her and Gail Long, a search committee member, about that time and the process of selection.

Remembering what Shir Hadash was like back then, we were a young congregation, with lots of spirit, great families, and high ideals for a very democratic structure—longer on spirit than on structure! We had had three rabbis in our first ten years, so we were hoping for some stability and cohesion. URJ reminded us there were no guarantees that this marriage of rabbi and congregation would be a perfect fit!

Rabbi Aron was head and shoulders the best candidate we considered.

I did the checking of references for all candidates so we as a committee would have one voice that could ask the same questions to all references and hear all the responses.

I still remember the comments about Melanie, her depth as a rabbi, the quality of her sermons, and how loved she had been by her congregants and how hard it was for her congregation to lose her! Something I think we can all agree we feel today.

There are many qualities I did not ask about and that Melanie brought us. She helped form Shir Hadash from a young, enthusiastic group to a stable organization with a history of how we did things, growing year after year in strength and programming. It was a far cry from each year starting fresh and creating something rather than building on past ideas.

We didn’t know what a fabulous teacher we were getting or the depth of support she would provide to congregants in our life struggles and in times of loss. We didn’t know of her ability to organize and develop a congregation or to run a growing synagogue that doubled in size in a very short time.

Carolyn, Gail, and I remembered how scary it seemed then to hire a woman as our Rabbi. Women in the rabbinate were few in number those years, but she was the Rabbi who we thought was going to be a great leader for our community—and we were right.

Joy Spodick, Current President

In February 2019, I attended the URJ Scheidt Seminar, a forum for newly minted synagogue presidents. It was at this seminar that I was introduced to the concept of Sacred Partners and the importance of finding balance, respect and understanding in these partnerships that are developed between lay leadership and clergy.

We all know that Rabbi Aron is organized, efficient, dedicated, ethical, intelligent, fair and hard working. So, it is reasonable to assume that one might be more than a little intimidated at the prospect of partnering with such a powerhouse. But the reality of working closely with Rabbi Aron is not intimidating at all—as she approaches the relationship as a genuine sacred partnership. Developing a sacred partnership with Rabbi Aron is an exercise in personal growth; it is both a marathon and sprint; it is knowing how to stay in your lane and learning how to signal; it is a mutual respect that demonstrates that you both know and appreciate the others strengths and that you can’t do the other’s job; it is a partnership that is built on communication and teamwork.

In a year that I expected to be filled with celebrations and send-offs, I anticipated the biggest challenge to be how to celebrate Rabbi Aron’s accomplishments while respecting her desire to not be fawned over. But we had bigger issues to deal with in 2020. I watched Rabbi Aron step up to the challenge of creating a spiritual space and tending to the social and emotional needs of her congregation through a 15-inch screen. I watched her pivot from the opportunity to “take a victory lap” and instead dive into what was likely one of the most difficult years of her rabbinate—all the while stepping up to every challenge in a creative and meaningful way.

Working with Rabbi Aron as a sacred partner has been a remarkable opportunity for me—and I would imagine for each Shir Hadash president before me. In sacred partnership, she has steered Shir Hadash to a place of strength and vitality upon which our future will stand strong.

“When two people sit together and there are words of Torah between them, the Shechinah dwells among them.” (Pirkei Avot 3:2)
### NOVEMBER

**SUNDAY**
- 9:30a Religious School
- 10:10 Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class with Cantor Felder-Levy
- 10:30 Virtual Coffee

1

**MONDAY**
- 9:30a Virtual Coffee

2

**TUESDAY**
- 1:00p Drive-By Goodbyes to Rabbi

3

**WEDNESDAY**
- 10:30a Diving Committee Meeting

4

**THURSDAY**
- 7:00p Shabbat Board Meeting
- 7:30 Responding to the Election

5

**FRIDAY**
- 4:00p Outdoor Shabbat Jr. By Reservation

6

**SATURDAY**
- 10:30a Torah Study
- 10:30 Bar Mitzvah of Sam Nguyen-Fell

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<td>4:00p Outdoor Shir Shabbat Jr.- By Reservation</td>
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**DECEMBER**

**SUNDAY**
- 9:30a Religious School
- 11:00 SHOC Meeting

6

**MONDAY**
- 9:30 Torah Study
- 10:30 Shir Shabbat Service

7

**TUESDAY**
- 10:30a Torah Study
- 9:30 Torah Study
- 9:30 Torah Study

8

**WEDNESDAY**
- 7:30p Ritual Committee Meeting

9

**THURSDAY**
- 7:30p Hillel Service
- 7:30p Legacy Shabbat Service with Rabbi Aron

10

**FRIDAY**
- 7:00p Shivah Minyan for Cindy
- 6:30 Hebrew High School
- 6:30 Hebrew High School

11

**SATURDAY**
- 10:30a Torah Study
- 10:30 Bar Mitzvah of Rabbi Aron
- 10:30 Bar Mitzvah of Rabbi Aron
- 10:30 Bar Mitzvah of Rabbi Aron

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**CHANUKAH**

**SUNDAY**
- 9:30a Congregational Town Hall Meeting
- 9:30a Virtual Coffee

13

**MONDAY**
- 9:30 Torah Study
- 10:30 Shir Shabbat Service
- 10:30 Bar Mitzvah of Rabbi Aron

14

**TUESDAY**
- 9:30 Torah Study
- 10:30 Shir Shabbat Service
- 10:30 Bar Mitzvah of Rabbi Aron

15

**WEDNESDAY**
- 9:30 Torah Study
- 10:30 Shir Shabbat Service
- 9:30 Torah Study

16

**THURSDAY**
- 7:30 Shir Shabbat Service
- 7:30 Shir Shabbat Service
- 7:30 Shir Shabbat Service

17

**FRIDAY**
- 7:00p Shivah Minyan for Cindy
- 6:30 Hebrew High School
- 6:30 Hebrew High School

18

**SATURDAY**
- 10:30a Torah Study
- 10:30 Bar Mitzvah of Rabbi Aron
- 10:30 Bar Mitzvah of Rabbi Aron

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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.