Purim Service, Shpiel, & Megillah Reading

Thursday, February 25, 7:00 PM zoom

Join us this evening as we present Pandemic in Persia!

Sing to the Brady Bunch theme in your head or out loud—depending on your preference!

There was a story in a land called Persia
and a King who first banished his Queen.
Found a new Queen
and there’s a bad guy
and a Pandemic in Persia was seen.

On Zoom, you can have 9 boxes
On your screen just like the Brady Bunch!
Or you can have
up to 49 people,
we just ask please don’t eat your lunch.

We can have costumes all around,
pick your favorite crazy top to wear.
And while we can’t see it,
please remember to wear your pants, dear.

We’ll tell the tale of our heroine Esther,
all you have to do is register online.
The date is Thursday, February 25, at 7pm,
and don’t forget your favorite wine (or juice).
The Pandemic in Persia, The Pandemic in Persia,
And the best part is you can be in your own room.
“Let’s go wild on our costumes this year.”

Purim in a Pandemic

As I have stated for many years, Purim is one of my favorite holidays. I have vivid memories of dressing up, often as Queen Esther with a tin-foil crown upon my head.

Our Purim services changed the set up in our sanctuary so that everyone faced the center and we had a big costume parade. There was always a contest for the best costume, best family costume, most creative and most original.

One of our last live services in 2020 was Purim. We rocked out during our service and told our Purim story through the musical styles of the 1980s. I am incredibly sad that Purim will look different this year, but I am excited for the different possibilities and creativity that will come from using Zoom.

Cameras on, Cameras off, Mute on, Mute off (sort of like Mr. Miyagi’s “Wax on, Wax off”), this year will be unlike any Purim we have known before. And yet... We will still have a service in the same fashion as always, with lots of shtick. Who knows what Rabbis Riter and Schwartz will come up with, and of course, you will have to tune in to see what melodies our prayers will be sung to. We will still have a shpiel with many familiar faces. The story hasn’t changed, but how we tell it will be different.

Here is my challenge to all of us: Let’s go wild on our costumes this year. How creative can you be on your top half (feel free to wear jammies on the bottom)? Perhaps, you will wear all green and make yourself a green screen. Perhaps, you can put on that virtual background of space and dress up as an astronaut hanging out virtually. Maybe you have a background of a famous country and you can dress up as a native to that country. Maybe you don’t utilize a background at all but come up with something fun to wear on top. Make your own superhero t-shirt. Do something silly with your hair or your face (I’m ready for my close up, Mr. DeMille).

If we were really looking at the true story found in the Megillah, we would see that it is really a very violent story. But within our service, we share the courage of Esther and Mordechai and show the resilience of the Jewish people. Right now, we are resilient in how we have been surviving this pandemic.

Zoom allows us to come together to be a community. On this Purim, come join us in costume, in fun as we tell the story through The Pandemic in Persia: A Purim Shpiel, on Zoom, Thursday, February 25, at 7:00 pm.
Together & Apart: The Future of Jewish Peoplehood in Israel and America

Adult education events include “Together and Apart: The Future of Jewish Peoplehood in Israel and America,” which will include events on March 7, “From no Home to Two Homes”; March 21, “The Moral Implications of Jewish Nationalism”; and April 11, “The Accusation & Dilemma of Dual Loyalties.” Within a very few generations, the Jewish people have been transformed from being stateless to having two vibrant but different homes, in the United States and in Israel. “Together and Apart” is a three-part series of video lectures and discussions that explores the complex and shifting relationship between American and Israeli Jews.

Torah Study

Torah Study continues, Saturday mornings through May 15. This will include passages from historical books, the three major prophets—Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel—and the twelve prophets from whom we have fewer records of their teachings. Sessions will also include the study of how the Haftarah differs between Ashkenazi and Sephardi traditions. Led by Rabbi Riter, with occasional classes led by Rabbi Schwartz, Rabbi Marvin Schwab, Rabbi Hugh Seid-Valencia, and David Bamberger.

Women’s Study Group

Thursday February 18, at 10:30 AM

Whether you were a regular at these group meetings in the past or are considering attending, we welcome you to join us for this new chapter of the Women’s Study Group.

Our next gatherings will explore writings and resources in our traditions that support resilience during challenging times. We begin in February, exploring the power and poetry of selected psalms, with Sharla and Andrea Kibel. Subsequent gatherings will be led by Rabbi Riter on Wednesday, March 17, at 10:30 am, Rabbi Levenberg on Thursday, April 15, at 11:00 am, and Cantor Felder-Levy on Thursday, May 20, at 10:30 am. Please register for these programs on the temple calendar.

AN EVENING OF LEARNING & DISCUSSION

Havdalah Program with Rabbi Postrel

Saturday, February 20, 7:15 PM

The 2018 CCAR Press book, A Life of Meaning, is a deeply moving and informative work about who we are as Reform Jews. Please join Rabbi Oren Postrel for an evening of Havdalah, learning, and reflection, through the rich images and concepts of A Life of Meaning. Part ritual, part reflective, very collaborative and participatory, we welcome everyone to attend. This overview is an appetizer for a course in the Fall on A Life of Meaning, with Rabbi Postrel.

February Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Zoom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRI 5</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Family Shabbat Service</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 6</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Shir Shabbat Service</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 12</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 13</td>
<td>No Torah Study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Shir Shabbat Service</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 19</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 20</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Shir Shabbat Jr.</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Shir Shabbat Service</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 26</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 27</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Shir Shabbat Service</td>
<td>zoom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The Book of V., by Anna Solomon
Sunday, Feb. 28, 10:45 AM  zoom

We will be discussing the Jewish Community Library's One Bay One Book choice for 2020-2021, The Book of V., by Anna Solomon. In this new novel, rooted in the Book of Esther, three characters’ stories in different time periods overlap and ultimately collide. Lily is a young wife and mother in contemporary Brooklyn, and Vee is the wife of an ambitious young Senator in Washington, D.C., during the early 1970s. Their narratives are interspersed with an imaginative account of the stories of Vashti and Esther, illuminating how women's lives have and have not changed over thousands of years.

Our book group meets quarterly to discuss the book selection from Book Club in a Box, a program of the Jewish Community Library of San Francisco. While they have switched to eBooks due to COVID-19, this particular book is not available for download. Please contact gloria@shirhadash.org to check on the availability of a book to borrow from Shir Hadash (we have a limited supply) or feel free to purchase your own copy online or see if you can check it out from your own library.

LUNCH & LEARN

SF Supervisor Myrna Melgar
Tuesday, February 9, 11:30 AM  zoom

On January 8 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors swore in Myrna Melgar, the first Jewish Latina, an immigrant from El Salvador, to hold this seat. During our Lunch & Learn program Supervisor Melgar will share her unique family history, her life in community service, what inspired her to run, and her connection to Judaism.

We invite all our members, not just Lunch & Learn regulars, to this special program! Please register for this event on the Shir Hadash calendar.

UPCOMING SISTERHOOD EVENTS

Virtual Blanket Making, Knitting, & Crocheting
First & Third Tuesdays, through Feb. & Mar., 11:00 AM  zoom

Please join us on Zoom and we can work on blankets together to donate to Teen Success and schmooze. This is a great time to connect and find out how everyone is doing. Even if you aren’t making a blanket, we’d love to “see” you on Zoom.

Lilith Salon Event
Tuesday, February 11, 10:30 AM

Meet and greet the Sisterhood Board Members and join us for a quarterly gathering when we talk about current issues from the Lilith Magazine. We provide you with the magazine article. Our conversations are more free-flowing than a book group (fewer pages to read), more feminist than your typical social action group, less spiritual than a Rosh Chodesh group, and more participatory than a lecture.

For information about Sisterhood, contact Julia Sandelman at: board-sisterhood@shirhadash.org.

HAVURAH CORNER

Start 2021 off by Joining a Havurah

As we start this New Year, it is a great time to make new friends and to try new activities by becoming a member of one of Congregation Shir Hadash’s havurot community.

At Shir Hadash many groups of friends have joined a havurah. Each havurah is typically composed of 6 to 12 couples and/or individuals who get together about once a month to expand their Jewish way of life. With our current circumstances, havurot have been able to stay in touch and feel connected to others within the Shir Hadash community via Zoom. A havurah is an excellent way to get together with other temple members with similar interests, stage of family life and shared experiences.

Please contact Elyse Elconin Goldberg or Sharon Samuels at havurah-coordinator@shirhadash.org if you would like to join a havurah.
SPOTLIGHT ON:

Shir Hadash Organizing Committee

Each month, we introduce one of the many committees at Shir Hadash and learn from members or chairs about the activities and goals of the committee. This way, our entire community can learn more about the many ways to get involved at Shir Hadash and the ways we work together to form an even stronger community. This month, our spotlight is on the Shir Hadash Organizing Committee.

Overview

The Shir Hadash Organizing Committee (SHOC) focuses on a wide variety of social justice initiatives. It is currently co-chaired by Mark Allen and Michelle Wolf-Bloom, however leadership rotates quarterly. SHOC’s initiatives have ranged from healthcare for children, immigration, combating antisemitism, affordable housing, and gun safety, among others. The current focus is on fighting hate (antisemitism, specifically) and sustainability. Because sustainability and social justice increasingly intersect as climate change disproportionately affects underprivileged communities, we have recently also included sustainability under our umbrella.

SHOC partners closely with PACT, a Santa Clara County faith-based organization that works to solve social problems and build strong communities. One of SHOC’s members, Ruth Saldivar, also serves as the co-chair of PACT. In one initiative SHOC, together with PACT, raised funds in order to support health care for children who would otherwise not have sufficient access.

Memorial Garden

The Shir Hadash Memorial Garden offers members a permanent way to honor the memory of loved ones. The garden is designed to be a tranquil oasis where families come to quietly reflect and remember loved ones. Names of loved-ones are normally engraved twice a year. On Sukkot and Shavuot, following the Yizkor service, a special ceremony is held in the memorial garden. In addition to the reading of psalms and prayers, families are given the opportunity to share memories of those loved ones whose names have recently been inscribed on the memorial garden walls.

If you would like to have a loved one included in the Shavuot ceremony, please visit shirhadash.org/memorial-garden.html, fill out the application form, and return it to the office by March 15. If you have questions, please contact the Memorial Committee.

Members of SHOC have also supported immigrants in a variety of ways. For instance, members accompany immigrants to court hearings and advocate on their behalf and drive children to school when parents are not able to.

Highlight on Recent Work: Ethnic Studies in California High Schools

A recent focus area of SHOC is the Ethnic Studies curriculum currently under discussion in California. California’s Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum is in the process of being finalized. Once that occurs, we hope it will be used in high school across California, and other states may follow suit. The initial drafts of the curriculum not only excluded Jews but also included anti-Jewish content. SHOC has supported the work of the San Francisco Jewish Community Relations Council on the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum to remove offensive text, acknowledge antisemitism, and include lesson plans about the Jewish American experience. The final curriculum is slated to go before the State Board of Education in March.

How Can I Get Involved?

SHOC represents a big umbrella of social justice programs, and there is more than enough room to get involved in one or more of the initiatives above. For more information, please contact the co-chairs, Mark Allen and Michelle Wolf-Bloom, at shoc-leaders@shirhadash.org. The next meeting of SHOC will take place on Sunday, February 21, at 11:00 am.
Support Safe Park Dinners
February 22–26
at Prince of Peace Church

It’s time to do another Mitzvah! We are working with Safe Park again to provide meals at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Saratoga. Due to COVID-19 and Santa Clara County safety measures, meals need to be individually packaged. Please sign up for one of the five nights, and provide 12 individual meals, including a beverage such as shelf-stable milk, water, or juice.

To-go boxes will be delivered to the home of volunteers to pack the meals the week before the event. Volunteers will need to deliver the meals to Prince of Peace between 6:45 pm and 7:00 pm on their chosen night.

Please sign up at hadash.link/safepark. For more information, contact Davida Rosenbaum, at davida@shirhadash.org.

SAVE THE DATES
Scholar-in-Residence Weekend, with David Oshinsky

Past Epidemics & What We Should Have Learned
Friday, March 12, at our 7:30 PM Shabbat Service

The 35th Annual Levine Lecture:
Challenges to Democracy
Sunday, March 14, 9:30 AM

David M. Oshinsky is an American historian. He is the director of the Division of Medical Humanities at NYU School of Medicine and a professor in the Department of History at New York University. He will be joining us for Shabbat Services and for the annual Levine Lecture.

FEBRUARY 2021 E-NOTES | 6

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

conGREGatION SHIR HADaSH

SUNDAY  MONDAY  TUESDAY  WEDNESDAY  THURSDAY  FRIDAY  SATURDAY

1

1:00a. Hebrew School

6:45p. Shabbat T’rumah

10:30a. Meditation Group

7:30a. Volunteer Opportunity: Shir Hadash Garden

Shabbat Yom

5

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

6

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

7

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

8

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

9

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

10

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

11

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

12

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

13

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

14

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

15

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

16

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

17

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

18

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

19

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

20

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

21

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

22

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

23

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

24

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

25

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

26

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

27

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

28

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

22

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

23

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

24

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

25

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

26

9:00a. Intro to Judaism

10:00a. Confirmation Class

10:30a. Torah Study

7:00p. Family Shabbat Service

Shabbat Yom

27