SUPPORT SHIR HADASH

Come “Cruise” with Us to the 2021 Gala

Being part of Shir Hadash is a balance of the things we take in—spirituality, friendship, love, and community—and what we give back through our outreach actions and financial support.

Our virtual gala, Cruisin’ Down the Chai-way, is an opportunity for us to enjoy all these things together. The gala includes an exciting caravan of side trips (virtual events) throughout the month of April and culminates with our main event on May 1. It is a fun and engaging opportunity for you to share your passion for Shir Hadash.

The gala, which is Shir Hadash’s main fundraising event, gives all us a chance to celebrate with family and friends while we actively contribute financial support to the many programs that Shir Hadash promotes and delivers throughout the year.

The funds raised from the gala support the community outreach events such as the health fair or shared services with the Muslim or Christian community. While the pandemic made it impossible for us to conduct these programs last year, we hope to revive these and similar programs when health conditions allow.

In addition to the outreach programs, the funds support a variety of engaging membership events such as Happy Hour and Havdalah, new member outreach and orientation, the religious school, and our engaging adult education program.

Please consider one or more of the following ways you can support the gala and Shir Hadash:

- Purchase tickets to the gala.
- Become a gala sponsor.
- Contribute goods or services to the online auction.
- Make a straight donation.

We hope you will join us in this event, and bring your Shir Hadash friends. Together, we will raise the funds needed for a successful future.
“With the Temple no longer standing, kabbalist sages taught that we could use this time period as a personal journey...”

FROM RABBI RITER

From Egypt to Sinai

On Passover we leave Egypt. On Shavuot we stand at Sinai.

One thing I love about our tradition is that we don’t simply say our ancestors left Egypt and our ancestors stood at Sinai. But rather, we—you and I here today—also took this journey.

We don’t even stop with this bold statement of inclusion. We hold that everyone who chooses Judaism today also shared this experience.

And, we then take it one step further and embrace the idea that not only did we take this journey from Egypt to Sinai, from redemption to revelation, but we are STILL taking this journey.

Our history, as it were, is not relegated to history.

That might sound like something we acknowledge and then place aside. Yet, it has a profound teaching for us today: We are one people and one community transcending the confines of time, space and history.

With that said, an obvious question is: “OK, what do we do with this information?”

One answer is counting the Omer—a biblical command to establish a daily counting of sheaves of grain for the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. (These are both harvest festivals.)

With the Temple no longer standing, kabbalist sages taught that we could use this time period as a personal journey, tying the physical Passover celebration with the spiritual Shavuot celebration—using an internal process to shed our own chains and prepare us for a deeper connection to the Infinite. Their practice, which we still use today, focuses on one sefirah or emanation/attribute of God each day and connecting it to our daily routine.

But what if I don’t believe in God? There are many ways to count the Omer, even if you dismiss or resist spiritual connections or God-language. You could use these days to break a habit or create a new one. This could be a time to reach a new goal. The 49 days could simply be a way to connect to others in the Jewish community.

If you would like to count the Omer with our clergy, we’ll post a short teaching on our Shir Hadash Facebook page every evening of the Omer with instructions on how to count the day and a practice to take on for the following 24 hours.

Counting the Omer begins on the second night of Passover, Sunday, March 28, and concludes the evening of Saturday, May 15, the night before Shavuot.

Come join us on this journey as we leave our own Egypts and prepare ourselves for our own Mt. Sinais. Visit facebook.com/ShirHadash.

For more on counting of the Omer: hadash.link/counting-omer.

For more on the Sefirot, visit hadash.link/sefirot.
CARING SHABBAT SERVICE

Good Grief! Surviving to Thriving
With Guest Speaker Linda “Rainbow” Levine

Friday, April 2, 2021, 7:30 pm

While we can’t prevent all setbacks and sorrows, there are a number of things we can do to go from a place of darkness and pain to a place of lightness and comfort. We’ll be discussing how to cope with the heartbreaks of COVID, financial insecurity, losing a loved one, declining health, a breakup, disillusionment in our leaders, loss of a dream and more.

Passover Shabbat Service with Yizkor

Saturday, April 3, 10:30 am

Join Rabbi Riter and Cantor Felder-Levy as they conclude the holiday of Pesach with the traditional Torah reading for the 7th day, The Song of the Sea, and other prayers to mark Pesach. The Traditional prayers for Yizkor will be recited as well.

April Services

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<th>DATE</th>
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<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRI2</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Caring Shabbat Service with Guest Speaker Linda Levine</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT3</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>No Torah Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED7</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Yom HaShoah Service (streamed live on YouTube)</td>
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<td>FRI9</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>SAT10</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>SAT10</td>
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<td>SAT10</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Shir Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>FRI16</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service with Special Guest Matan Zamir</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT17</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Torah Study</td>
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<td>Shir Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>Bat Mitzvah of Jamie Manning</td>
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<td>SAT24</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
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<td>Shir Shabbat Service</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Side Trip Gala Mini Event: Havdalah Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRI30</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Hebrew School 4th Grade Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Shabbat Service</td>
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Live via Zoom. Sign up at shirhadash.org/calendar.

Yom HaShoah Service

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 pm

The Cantors and Rabbis Association of Greater San Jose is honored to host a Yom HaShoah commemoration that will be streamed live on YouTube at hadash.link/yom-hashoah.

This commemoration will include prayers, readings, and songs from local Cantors, Rabbis, and students of Yavneh Day School, and special offerings from first-, second-, and third-generation Survivors of the Shoah.

Please join us for this special evening of reflection and community.

For more information, contact RabbiRiter@shirhadash.org.

Shabbat Service with Matan Zamir

Friday, April 16, 7:00 pm

After an early Shabbat service, Israel’s Pacific Northwest Deputy Consul General, Matan Zamir, will speak on recent Israeli elections and their impact on democracy, rule of law, and stability in Israel.
Our virtual gala, **Cruisin’ Down the Chai-way**, is unlike any gala Shir Hadash has ever held before.

Rather than just celebrate together for a single amazing evening, we are offering you multiple opportunities to play, learn, and shop during the entire month of April, prior to the main event on May 1. This exciting caravan of side trips are all designed to be appropriate for the entire family—parents, kids, and grandparents. No babysitters needed!

We have two wonderful “Chai-way Exits” for your gala travels, including a ticket package called Exit 54 (cost is $54 per household), and our even-more-engaging ticket package called Exit 72 (cost is $72 per household) includes ALL the fabulous events from Exit 54, PLUS several additional events and a Pit Stop bag filled with treats. **Registering for one of these packages registers your household for all the included events.**

The gala Main Event on May 1 is a live webcast and will feature ComedySportz players and a ref interacting from their remote locations in this improvised comedy competition. Two teams of improvisers compete for laughs and points based on your suggestions. This is not a comedy about sports, it’s comedy *AS* a sport!

You’ll attend the match via Zoom and will be able to give suggestions and even vote for the winning team.

**Join the Caravan of Side Trip Experiences & Adventures**

These exciting events start on April 3, and continue through the month of April, right up to the final destination gala evening of schmoozing and comedy.

Beginning on Saturday, April 3, our Shir Hadash caravan will start Cruisin’ Down the Chai-way. Come with us and learn to [make your own pizza](#) under the tutelage of a professional chef.

On Thursday, April 8, we embark on our second side trip with an evening of [family trivia](#) led by quizmaster Jan Berkeley of Triviosity.

On the afternoon of Sunday, April 18, we’ll switch gears and get creative with an easy step-by-step [drawing and watercolor class](#) with Art House Studio. No experience needed!

On the evening of Saturday, April 24, as our caravan of side trips wind down, we will join together for a joyous [Havdalah service](#) led by Rabbis Riter and Schwartz and Cantor Felder-Levy.

Our next trip, a week-long [scavenger hunt](#), requires you to put on your thinking caps and plan your best route. The action starts on Saturday, April 24, and concludes on Saturday, May 1.

Cruise on over to the [tickets and registration page](#) to buy your Exit 54 or your Exit 72 ticket today!

**Get Ready, Set, Shop!**

The auction opens April 23, and closes on May 1 at 9:00 pm. Our [premier items](#) include:

- Celebrity zoom meet and greet with **Kevin Pollak**, comedian and actor currently starring as Moishe Maisel in everybody’s favorite *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.
- Personal cooking class on zoom with professional Chef **Keriann Von Raesfeld**. Create a personalized gourmet dish with Keriann and share the experience—perfect for up to 12 couples.

Looking to get away? The auction has several vacation opportunities for you to bid on.

Want to support local merchants and restaurants? We have a collection of auction items ranging from wine packages to restaurant gift cards to unique experiences.

Our online auction is sure to be lots of fun for everyone.

**Sign Up Today**

Get ready to celebrate and join in the **Cruisin’ Down the Chai-way gala**. Purchase tickets at [hadash.link/2021-gala](#).
Together and Apart—
The Accusation & Dilemma of Dual Loyalties

Part III: The Future of Jewish Peoplehood in Israel & America

Sunday, April 11, 9:30 AM

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 discussion that explores the complex and shifting relationship between American and Israeli Jews. In recent years the atmosphere of devotion and unity between our two Jewish centers has been challenged by divisions arising from nationalism, dual loyalties, antisemitism, and anti-Zionism. The sessions will explore these difficult issues and discuss ways to renew and reinforce the bonds between the Jews of Israel and America.

The video lectures are a part of the iEngage Project of the Shalom Hartman Institute, a Jewish research and education institute based in Jerusalem, Israel. The Institute offers pluralistic Jewish thought and education to scholars, rabbis, and community leaders in Israel and North America. The institute’s goal is to strengthen Jewish peoplehood, identity, and pluralism, and to enhance the Jewish and democratic character of Israel.

Please register and a Zoom link will be sent to you.

Muslim & Jewish Migrations to Palestine & Other Parts of the Ottoman Empire

Guest Speaker Jacob Daniels

Sunday, April 25, 9:30 AM

Jacob Daniels, a historian who is engaged in doctoral research and teaching at Stanford, will introduce us to migrations of Muslims and Jews from the 19th century onwards. We will learn about population displacements and how differences were negotiated within and between these communities. Attention will be given to the roots of population dynamics in the current Middle Eastern environment. Jacob will share fascinating sources on human interactions of this period.

Please register and a Zoom link will be sent to you.

Adult Ed Reminder

Did you know that you can access past Shir Hadash Adult Education events?

If you missed Professor Gabriella Safran’s fascinating presentation on Dybbuks, Golems, S. An-sky, and Jewish Legends in Time of Fear on January 31, or the informative and timely panel discussion on Medical Ethics: Rationing during COVID-19 Pandemic, with Drs. George Kent, Steve Jackson, and Jeff Young last July, or various other past Adult Education Zoom events, check out the topics and view the video recordings at hadash.link/adulted-archive.
SPOTLIGHT ON:  

Men’s Club

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 Men’s Club. Read on below to learn more from Howard Levine.

A few years ago, I injured my knee and required surgery. One of my ways to get exercise prior to that was through walking once a week with a group of 9–15 Men’s Club (MC) members. After surgery I had to use a cane to help build back my knee strength and consequently walked a lot slower on our weekly jaunts. Without my asking, every week at least one and usually more Men’s Club members stayed back and walked with me at my reduced pace. We discussed family issues, common areas of interest such as books, sports, politics, science, and Shir Hadash events. Our friendships grew closer. With that background and assistance it was not difficult to assume the position of President for two years. Past and current MC officers and board members are quick to share their knowledge and help when you deal with items of uncertainty.

The Shir Hadash Men’s Club provides opportunities for adult male congregants of the temple to create fellowship and contribute to the vitality of the congregation. We participate in service and facility projects for the congregation as well as support for the community through education and special events. We encourage the development of leadership skills of Men’s Club members and offer Youth Grants to partially fund attendance at Jewish-context related programs for students in grades 8 through 12. Our members work together on projects that span the spiritual, intellectual, charitable, or just plain “guy-stuff.” As represented by the six points of the Jewish star, our programs focus on Service, Community, Leadership, Camaraderie, Programs, and Brotherhood.

The Men’s Club provides opportunities for all adult male congregants to create fellowship among Men’s Club members and contributes to the vitality of our congregation. Activities include but are not limited to:

- Food sales at the Purim Carnival and a free bagel for breakfast at the religious school opening.
- Speaker Series sponsored solely by the MC or jointly with other groups.
- Two book clubs with discussion of new and classic volumes.
- A meditation group.
- A BBQ at our annual family picnic.
- Bocce Ball, MC only and with another temple.
- Weekly walking and hiking groups.
- Weekly poker groups.
- A delicious Chanukah latke party supplemented by Jewish themed videos.
- We host an annual MC membership dinner and an MC-led Shabbat Service.
- We also have group excursions to professional basketball, baseball, and Sharks games.

Current activities, of course, are affected by the Covid virus, and it is anticipated they will ramp up when the vaccines are fully distributed. This year, in spite of these limitations, we contributed funds to our SALTY youth group, Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ), and joined with Sisterhood to buy a new stove/oven and grilltop for the Shir Hadash kitchen.

We welcome all ages and your input for potential future activities.

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**Stanford Blood Drive**

**Stanford Blood Drive**

**Tuesday, April 27, 12:00-5:00 PM**

Oneg Room

Individuals in our community continue to have a need for blood. There are still lives that need saving.

Please be assured that SBC is taking extra precautions so as to ensure the continued health of donors. In particular, increased distancing between donors as well as extreme sanitation procedures at donation locations.

Participate at our drive and get a free coupon for a regular-size Jersey Mike’s sub as a thank you for saving lives.

Reserve your spot now at hadash.link/giveblood.

For more information: call 888-723-7831 or visit stanfordbloodcenter.org.
When we talk about planning for the future, it’s usually about having enough money to last through retirement. That’s important, but I’m hoping to nudge you to look a little farther down the road. End of life planning? No, farther. I want you to think about the world 10, 30, 50 years after you’re gone. I want you to think about being a good ancestor.

What makes a good ancestor? Someone who looked forward, thought about the generations who would follow them and the world they would encounter, and did their best to help create a world worth inheriting.

Looking forward—to the world we will leave our children—can be difficult. It’s never easy to be reminded that we won’t be around forever. Climate change and social injustice threaten the way of life we have known. But looking forward also offers an invitation and opportunity to help. There are many organizations working to address the problems facing tomorrow’s world. And, there are institutions of collective intention that have organized themselves around building community and enriching lives. Institutions like Shir Hadash.

Ruth Saldivar and I are the Legacy Circle chairs for Shir Hadash. We hope you will consider designating a portion of your estate to make the world a better place for our children. And we hope that, if Shir Hadash has made a difference to you in your life, you’ll include Shir Hadash on your list. Any size gift, large or small, makes a difference.

Questions? Contact us at plannedgiving@shirhadash.org. You can find more information, and our Letter of Intent, at shirhadash.org/planned-giving.html, or contact Gary Geller at gary@shirhadash.org. Please take action today.

Here are some of the questions we’ve heard most often:

I’m not rich!

You don’t need to be a “big donor” to be a Legacy donor. If half of our member families made a legacy donation averaging even a few thousand dollars, that would—over time—provide a stable source of income through the Endowment Fund.

I don’t have an estate or estate plan!

Making a legacy donation doesn’t have to involve legal documents and a visit to an estate lawyer—it can be as simple as designating Shir Hadash as a beneficiary on a 401K or life insurance policy. As with any financial decision, you should consult with a financial or tax advisor about your specific situation.

I want my kids to benefit from my estate!

Of course, and they should. Many legacy gifts constitute a small percentage of the overall estate.

I did this already! Why aren’t I a Legacy Circle member?

If you’ve already included Shir Hadash in a planned gift, contact Gary to get on the Legacy Circle list.

Why should I sign up to be on the Legacy Circle list?

It helps Shir Hadash plan, even if you don’t disclose a dollar amount. And, you get the recognition that comes with being a Legacy donor.

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That’s OK, you can be an anonymous Legacy Circle member. Or, you can just make your gift known to the office and not even be placed on the Legacy Circle list. But we hope you will let us know.

How does being a Legacy donor work?

You decide how you want to include Shir Hadash in your estate planning. After you’ve taken the necessary steps to document your wishes, contact Gary Geller or download and fill out the Letter of Intent from our website. This goes on file at Shir Hadash. When your estate is settled, the portion you designated for Shir Hadash is added to the Endowment Fund (you can also specify a different fund if you prefer). The Endowment Fund is designed to provide a sustainable source of income for Shir Hadash.

What if I change my mind later?

You can change your planned gift at any time; you are under no obligation to continue to include Shir Hadash. We hope you’ll let us know for our records; we understand that circumstances change.

On Being a Good Ancestor
By Pia Chamberlain

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Women’s Study Group
Thursday, April 15, 11:00 AM Zoom

We welcome you to join us for this new chapter of the Women’s Study Group. This month, led by Rabbi Levenberg, we will “meet” three biblical women who experienced life-altering tragedy or trauma as adults. We will hear their stories and discuss how each of them responded to their circumstances, and what we can learn from them. Cantor Felder-Levy will lead on Thursday, May 20, at 10:30 am.
Earth Day 2021
Sunday, April 25, 7:00 PM

Do you worry about climate change?
Do you wonder what the world will be like in 2040 for our children and grandchildren?

One of the first commandments in the Torah is to be guardians of the earth. At this time of year, we are reminded to think about what actions we can take to preserve and better the world for future generations. The movie 2040 makes our wishes for the future tangible.

Damon Gameau, Director, describes the film, “We interviewed over 100 children from around the world for 2040 and asked them what their hopes and dreams were for the future. It is a world they will be inheriting from us so we have to show them that solutions exist, that there are people who care deeply about their future, and that wonderful careers await with genuine purpose and meaning.”

Watch the movie 2040 on your own and then join us for a discussion. See the trailer at hadash.link/2040-trailer.

Find more information on how to watch the movie and join the discussion on our website calendar.

This event is co-sponsored by Congregation Shir Hadash and Temple Emanu-El.

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

To sign up for any of the Gala Side Trip events, please visit www.shirhadash.org/sidetripevents.