



WORSHIP, LEARNING, & COMMUNITY

New Year, New Beginnings

As we start the New Year of 5782, we are fortunate to have many exciting things to look forward to here at Shir Hadash.

Interested in Worship? We are saving a seat for you! Whether observing Shabbat on Friday night with the congregation, or a more casual spirited Saturday morning volunteer-led Shir Shabbat service, you can find an inspiring worship experience and beautiful music to enjoy. Friday, October 8, is our new *B'Yachad* (Together) service, a more contemporary Shabbat experience, geared for all ages.

Interested in Learning? Shir Hadash offers lifelong learning opportunities that nourish the mind, heart, and spirit of our Jewish community. This month, Torah Study begins and the focus is on Mussar and Jewish Values. Rabbi Schwartz teaches a short series on Good and Evil as well as a class on Stages of Faith, Rabbi Lisa Levenberg takes the helm for the new Women's Study Group that will explore resilience and renewal, and Intro to Judaism—open to Jews and non-Jews—starts this month.

Interested in Building Community? Shir Hadash is a warm, inclusive community that fosters lasting friendships. We have a wide range of social events taking place year round. Check out what is planned for October! Our Membership Committee is brewing up great fun for a Happy Hour & Havdalah in the Biergarten. The popular Lunch & Learn series returns with a virtual New Orleans Jewish history tour, and our Book Group meets to discuss *The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl*. In this issue, we also introduce a new SALTY column to showcase the work, energy, and upcoming events of our youth leadership program.

The clergy, staff, and board wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year filled with opportunities for spiritual, educational, and personal growth.



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FROM CANTOR DEVORAH FELDER-LEVY

Welcoming the Stranger

As I write this, we are in the midst of Sukkot. Sukkot, the festival of booths, is a reminder to us of the obligation to be welcoming to the stranger. I have been thinking about this for a while, especially since we wear masks wherever we go these days. It is hard to recognize someone through a mask and so there are times we may all feel like strangers, even to those we know.

“There is something for everyone in whatever way you choose to join us.”

Now imagine a time in the future when we won't need to be masked, can we retain that feeling of what it felt like to be strangers? We may need to introduce ourselves again. We may not shake hands or hug yet, but we can smile. A simple smile goes a long way.

In *Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Fathers)* 1:15, Shammai says: “make your [study of the] Torah a fixed practice; say little and do much and receive every person with a pleasant face.” The first step in greeting a stranger is to offer a smile. The second step would be an introduction. And then hopefully, there will be conversation and maybe more....

In my Erev Rosh HaShanah sermon, I spoke about engagement. As a congregation, we have a variety of ways that one can engage in the congregation and while your clergy and board are happy to invite you, we would love for you to find those things that interest you and join us. One can start slowly and participate or volunteer for one thing and perhaps that involvement will grow.

I also spoke about how Dr. Ron Wolfson, author of the book *The Relational Judaism Handbook*, describes engagement in terms of six different small groups of people: those who learn together; pray together (forming some type of spiritual connection); act together (through social justice); play together (activities that are social in nature, such as picnics and happy hour and havdalah); care for each other (not just through our caring committee, but caring as individuals for each other); and accountable to each other (having transparent and communicative leadership working toward for the best of our community).

There is something for everyone in whatever way you choose to join us. How you engage is up to you. We want to welcome everyone with a smile, even as we remain masked. After all, as we recall with the recitation of the *Mi Chamocho*, we were once strangers in Egypt. As a people, we know what it is like to be strangers; to be on the outside looking in.

If you would like to become more engaged, please feel free to reach out to me at cantor@shirhadash.org, Rabbi PJ Schwartz at rabbischwartz@shirhadash.org, our new Director of Engagement Shanda Witkin at shanda@shirhadash.org, or to any of our board members.

We look forward to welcoming you home and back to Shir Hadash. Come and return to our vibrant and welcoming community!



Torah Study

Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM

Torah study will be led by Rabbi Schwartz, as well as lay leaders and guest clergy throughout the year, from 9:00 am-10:00 am most Saturday mornings. Please note the earlier start time this year for Torah Study. Through December, Torah study will be held via Zoom. We will reevaluate Torah study at that time based on pandemic trends and county guidelines. We will draw from Mussar and its character traits to gain insight into our weekly Torah portion for the first half of the year. We will be utilizing The Mussar Torah Commentary, published by CCAR Press, as a reference point for our study. You can purchase the commentary at hadash.link/mussar-commentary.

Stages of Faith

Wednesday, October 13, 7:00 PM

Join Rabbi Schwartz on an exploration into the ways that people experience faith and the development of their faith. We will examine ways that individuals develop a faith system. A consideration of developmental theories of Piaget, Erikson and Kohlberg will serve as a foundation for an examination of James Fowler's six stages of faith development. How does our understanding of faith development inform our personal relationship with God and Judaism?

October Services

FRI 1	7:00 pm	Shabbat Service—In Person & SHTV
SAT 2	9:00 am 10:30 am	First Torah Study zoom First Shir Shabbat Service zoom
FRI 8	7:00 pm	Shabbat B'Yachad (Together)— In Person & SHTV
SAT 9	9:00 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Torah Study zoom Bat Mitzvah of Alisa Freeman— Sanctuary & zoom Shir Shabbat Service zoom
FRI 15	7:00 pm	Shabbat Service—In Person & SHTV
SAT 16	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 10:30 am	Shir Shabbat, Jr.—In Person Torah Study zoom Shir Shabbat Service zoom Bat Mitzvah of Bridget Glazer— Sanctuary & zoom

A PLACE WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME

Shir Shabbat

Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM **zoom**

Shir Shabbat services are held in the chapel Saturdays at 10:30 am between Simchat Torah in the fall and Shavuot in the late spring. Congregational volunteers fill the positions of lay leader, lay cantor, Torah and Haftarah readers, and by delivering an explanation, or D'rash, relating to the Torah portion, or another Jewish topic.

The participants create a uniquely spirited and heartfelt atmosphere blending traditional prayers and music with relevant commentary on important issues. No expertise is required to attend, and all ages are welcome.

Men's Club Shabbat

Friday, October 29, 7:00 PM—In Person & **SHTV**

Join us for a special Friday night service with participation from our Shir Hadash Men's Club.

FRI 22	7:00 pm	Shabbat Service—In Person & SHTV
SAT 23	9:00 am 10:30 am	Torah Study zoom Shir Shabbat Service zoom
FRI 29	7:00 pm	Men's Club Shabbat Service— In Person & SHTV
SAT 30	9:00 am 10:30 am	Torah Study zoom Shir Shabbat Service zoom

zoom Live via Zoom. Sign up at shirhadash.org/calendar.

SHTV Live-stream on Shir Hadash TV at shirhadash.org/live.

Thinking About Good & Evil

Monday, Nov. 1 & Dec. 6, 6:30 PM [zoom](#)

A new class led by Rabbi Schwartz. The problem of evil and seemingly inexplicable suffering not only poses a major challenge to the belief in a moral God but also to religion in general. What do changes in our understanding of the problem of evil reveal about changes in our understanding of ourselves, of our place in the world, and human agency? We will examine some of the most salient Jewish ideas about why innocent people seem to suffer, why evil individuals seem to prosper, and God's role in such matters of (in)justice, from antiquity to the present.

Intro to Judaism

First Class: Tuesday, October 12, 7:00 PM

This course will present an overview of major aspects of Judaism, including practice, belief, and history. Students will be exposed to Jewish thought and practice through lectures, class discussions, and readings. Because Judaism is not something that can be fully understood from books and lectures, there will be several assignments and activities designed to give participants "real-world" Jewish experiences.

This class is being taught by five Rabbis, from four different synagogues as well as from Jewish Silicon Valley. This will give you exposure to a variety of approaches to Judaism. Please note that, if we return to in-person learning, the location of the class will change according to who is teaching on that particular night.

This course is open to Jews and non-Jews, those seeking to convert to Judaism, as well as those who are interested in learning more. Conversion candidates should meet with their sponsoring Rabbi for additional requirements.

Instructors: Mike Maiten, Rabbi Hugh Seid-Valencia of the APJCC, Rabbi Jaymee Alpert of Congregation Beth David, Rabbi PJ Schwartz of Congregation Shir Hadash, Rabbi Josh Berkenwald of Congregation Sinai, and Rabbi Dana Magat of Temple Emanu-El.

The fee for the class is \$180 and includes all books and materials. To register, please visit hadash.link/intro-judaism.

FIRST WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

From Resilience to Renewal, Led By Rabbi Lisa Levenberg

Thursday, October 21, 12:00



Over the past 18 months, our communities and families have dug deep into the theme of resilience as we tried to find ways to survive: physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually. This year, we are going to explore the limits of "resilience" and look toward "renewal." We will delve into Jewish texts and values for insight into how we can nourish ourselves and each other. Each month will be a stand-alone session that considers a different facet of our tradition: Torah, prayer, history, poetry, humor, music, and more!

VISIT THE BIG EASY

Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, October 12, 11:30 AM

This virtual New Orleans Jewish history tour, led by American-Israeli guide Roni Bossin, tells the tale of this community in a unique city. Learn about the first Jews to arrive in New Orleans, the heroism of Holocaust survivors, major contributions to the establishment of the State of Israel, and much more.



MEMBERSHIP EVENT

Happy Hour & Havdalah in the Biergarten

Saturday, October 16, 7:00 PM

Join us on the Shir Hadash patio for a night of Oktoberfest themed appetizers, drinks and merriment. Many of the earliest beer brewers in Germany who created the Oktoberfest tradition were Jewish, and those fancy steins, also created by Jews. So grab your dirndl or lederhosen, and RSVP on the temple calendar today!

Rabbinic Transition Committee Update

By Rich Pickard

Lots of activities are occurring relating to the rabbinic search for Rabbi Aron's successors. The benchmarking committee submitted its final report to the Temple's board over the summer. This report summarizes the findings from the survey of temple membership and subsequent focus groups conducted by the committee. It is very helpful for the search for the new settled rabbi and the long-term planning for the congregation as it identifies the many strengths that Congregation Shir Hadash has and areas on which we can work to improve. The report can be found on the Board Minutes & Financials page in the members-only section of the temple website.

Rabbi Riter resigned and the search for a new interim rabbi is ongoing as this article is being written. We wish to thank Cantor Felder-Levy, Rabbi PJ Schwartz, Gary Geller, and the entire staff for their great extra work while we continue to search for a new interim rabbi. Not only are they doing their regular jobs but they are dividing up and taking care of all that the senior rabbi normally does. For that, they deserve our gratitude and more.

A number of folks asked, why do we need another interim rabbi? Why can't we just hire Rabbi Aron's full-time replacement now? The Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), which effectively controls the hiring of Rabbis in reform congregations in North America, has a strict recruiting season, which runs from September 1 through June 30 each year, so rabbis who are interested in

changing jobs can work from July 1 to June 30 each year. It is not permitted to hire a new settled rabbi off cycle.

As noted above, the recruiting season for rabbis to be hired as of July 1, 2022, began recently. Our settled rabbi search committee submitted our application/job description to the CCAR as of August 26 for review, and it was finalized and posted for potential rabbis to review and act upon recently. We began receiving applications from the first wave of candidates for our settled rabbi position shortly after Yom Kippur. Our settled rabbi search committee is promptly reviewing all applications that we receive for our opening. More information will be released at the appropriate time concerning the progress to find a new settled senior rabbi.

We have a real estate committee that is meeting to discuss possible assistance to be afforded to the new rabbi and her/his family, if necessary, to permit them to move to the area near Los Gatos and to obtain housing that will be attractive for them. For now, their work is preliminary, but we will report further on these activities as they develop.

We wish to thank all committee members and chairpersons who are working hard on all these committees to do the work necessary to find the rabbis that we need.

Please direct any questions that you may have about issues covered in this article to Rich Pickard at richpickard27@gmail.com or 408-307-1285.

SALTY in Action

SALTY is Shir Hadash's youth group for 7th-12th graders! Each month the board organizes a fun event that allows teens to explore their Judaism with their peers. All events, including our upcoming [mini golf event](#) on October 17, will be posted on the temple calendar for pre-registration. You can also visit our [SALTY page](#) for more about what we do. We can't wait to see your teen at our next event!

You can also find us on Instagram: [@sh.salty!](#)



SAVE THE DATE

STANFORD
BLOOD CENTER 

Blood Drive

Sunday, November 7, 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Schedule an appointment online today! Please visit hadash.link/giveblood.

We are requiring that all donors be vaccinated.

Please be assured that SBC is taking extra precautions so as to ensure the continued health of donors. All workers will be vaccinated.

For more information: call 888-723-7831 or visit stanfordbloodcenter.org.

RBG FIRST MEMORIAL

A CONVERSATION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE,
FEMINISM AND JEWISH IDENTITY

WITH **DORIT BEINISCH**
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE
ISRAELI SUPREME COURT

& **ALISON BRUNNER**
CEO AT LAW FOUNDATION
OF SILICON VALLEY

GREETINGS

PROF. MARY PAPAZIAN
PRESIDENT, SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

HOST

DR. ANAT BALINT
PROGRAM OF JEWISH STUDIES
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19 | 10:00AM
VIRTUAL | FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
REGISTER **HERE.**

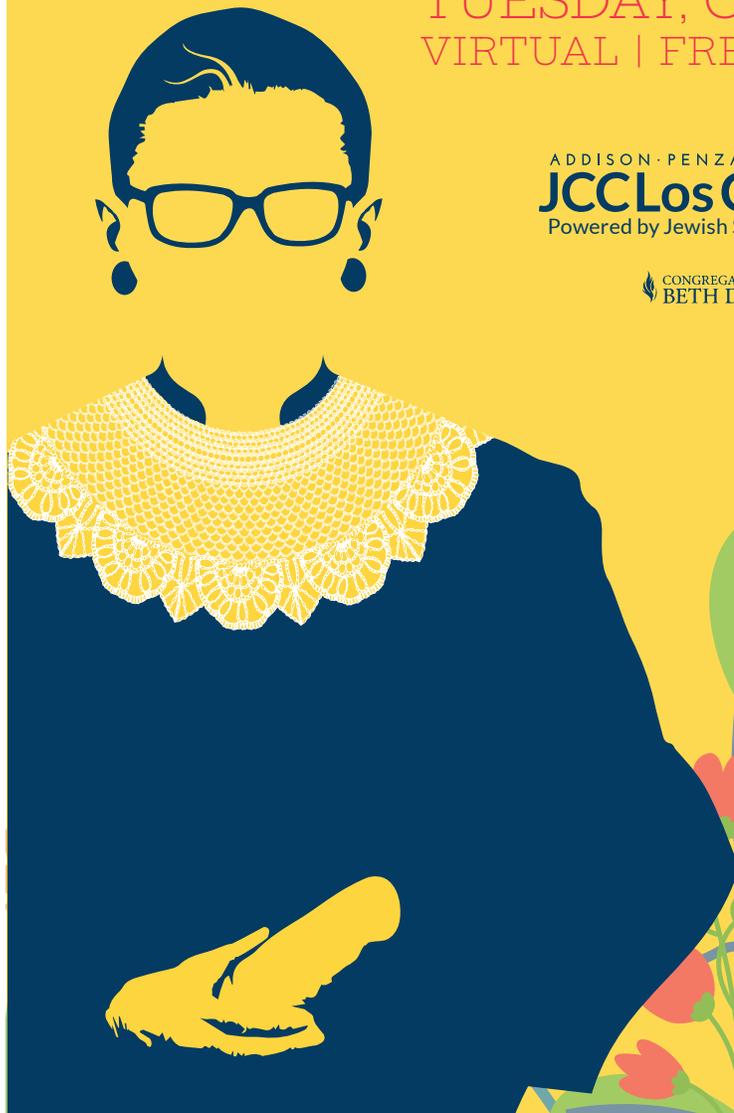
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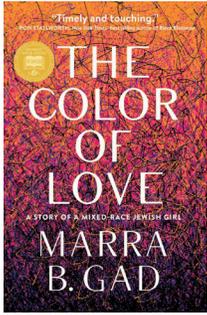
SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE
UNIVERSITY

CONGREGATION
BETH DAVID

שידוד
Congregation Shir Hadash

CONGREGATION
SINAI





BOOK GROUP

The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl, by Marra Gad

Sunday, October 17, 10:45 AM [zoom](#)

Winner of the 2020 Midwest Book Award in autobiography/memoir, *The Color of Love* is an unforgettable memoir about a mixed-race Jewish woman who, after fifteen years of estrangement from her racist great-aunt, helps bring her home when Alzheimer's strikes.

Sharla Kibel will lead a talk about *The Color of Love* using some YouTube clips of interviews with the author.

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 2 9:00a First Torah Study zoom 10:30 First Shir Shabbat Service zoom
					7:00p Shabbat Service— In Person & SHTV	
3 No Kulanu Learning No Kulanu Hebrew Sun. 9:00a Sukkah Take Down 9:00 Kulanu Learning/JET Faculty PD Day	4 6:30p Thinking About Good & Evil, Part 1 zoom	5 No Kulanu Hebrew Tues. Session 1/2 No Kulanu JET 3:45p Kulanu Hebrew Faculty In-Service 6:30 Confirmation	6 10:30a Meditation Group 7:30p Adult Ed Committee Meeting	7 ROSH CHODESH CESHVAN	8 7:00p Shabbat B'Yachad (Together)— In Person & SHTV	9 9:00a Torah Study zoom 10:30 Bat Mitzvah of Alisa Freeman— Sanctuary & zoom 10:30 Shir Shabbat Service zoom
10 9:30a Kulanu Learning 10:00 Men's Club Board Meeting zoom 12:30p Kulanu Hebrew Sun.	11	12 11:30a Lunch & Learn zoom No Confirmation 3:45p Kulanu Hebrew Tues. Session 1 5:00 Kulanu Hebrew Tues. Session 2 6:30 Kulanu JET 7:00 Intro to Judaism zoom	13 10:30a Meditation Group 7:00p Stages of Faith zoom	14	15 7:00p Shabbat Service— In Person & SHTV	16 9:00a Shir Shabbat Jr.—In Person 9:00 Torah Study zoom 10:30 Shir Shabbat Service zoom 10:30 Bat Mitzvah of Bridget Glazer— Sanctuary & zoom 7:00p Happy Hour & Havdalah in the Biergarten
17 9:30a Kulanu Learning 10:45 Book Group 12:30p Kulanu Hebrew Sun. 2:00 SALTY Mini Golf	18	19 10:00a RBG First Memorial zoom 3:45p Kulanu Hebrew Tues. Session 1 5:00 Kulanu Hebrew Tues. Session 2 6:30 Kulanu JET 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Intro to Judaism zoom 7:30 Finance Committee Meeting	20 10:30a Meditation Group 7:30p Board Meeting	21 12:00p Women's Study Group zoom	22 7:00p Shabbat Service— In Person & SHTV	23 9:00a Torah Study zoom 10:30 Shir Shabbat Service zoom 2:00p Pumpkin Patch
24 9:30a Kulanu Learning 11:00 SHOC Meeting 12:30p Kulanu Hebrew Sun.	25	26 3:45p Kulanu Hebrew Tues. Session 1 5:00 Kulanu Hebrew Tues. Session 2 6:30 Confirmation 6:30 Kulanu JET 7:00 Intro to Judaism zoom	27 10:30a Meditation Group	28	29 7:00p Men's Club Shabbat Service— In Person & SHTV	30 9:00a Torah Study zoom 10:30 Shir Shabbat Service zoom
31 9:30a Kulanu Learning 10:30 Sustainability Committee Event 12:30p Kulanu Hebrew Sun.						

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

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

[SHTV](#) Live-stream on Shir Hadash TV at shirhadash.org/live.