

Sukkot 101

Basic details: *Sukkot* lasts one week, beginning on the 15th day of *Tishri*, 5 days after *Yom Kippur*. Central to the holiday are the *sukkah* along with the *lulav* and *etrog*, symbols of the holiday.

Sukkah: The *sukkah*, a temporary building, reminds us of the temporary dwellings the Israelites built as they wandered in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. By recalling the temporary shelter in our mythic past, we are reminded of the fragile nature of the material world and the enduring quality of the life of the spirit.

Biblical source: Leviticus 23:40 tells us that we should "take the product of hadar trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook and rejoice before Adonai your God seven days."

Four species: The four species are waved in six directions to show that God is everywhere. Their symbolic meanings are based on midrash.

1. *Eetrog*: The *etrog* or citron is a lemon-like fruit the hadar tree shaped like and symbolic of the heart. Since the *etrog* has both taste and aroma, it represents people who have knowledge of Torah and perform good deeds.
2. Myrtle leaves, shaped like and symbolic of the eye, have an aroma but no taste, representing people who perform good deeds, but who do not know Torah.
3. Willow is shaped like and symbolic of the mouth. Since the willow has neither taste nor aroma, it represents people who perform no good deeds and who are ignorant of Torah.
4. Palm is shaped like and is symbolic of the spine. Since the date palm has taste but no aroma, it represents people who know Torah but do not practice good deeds.

Up Next: Sukkot and Simchat Torah



Scenes from last year's *Simchat Torah* Service.

Just when you thought the Jewish holidays were ending, along come two of the most significant of the annual cycle of Jewish ritual observances: *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*.

Sukkot is no minor holiday: in ancient times, it was one of only three Biblically mandated festivals on which Jews were commanded to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. This year, Shomrei Torah's celebration begins on Thursday, October 13 at 10:30 AM, with a *Sukkot* morning service followed by a pot luck lunch. Then, on October 14, 15, 17, and 18 the *sukkah* on the patio will be open for lunch — bring your meal and enjoy it much as our ancestors did in their

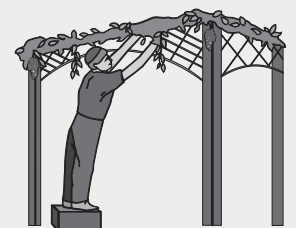
own harvest celebrations. The *sukkah* will be available for dinner preceding the October 15 Shabbat service and the October 19 *Simcha Torah* service.

On October 19, Shomrei Torah celebrates *Simchat Torah*, which marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings, and the beginning of a new cycle. At our intergenerational service starting at 6:00 PM, we will sing and dance with our Torahs, then completely unfurl it in a ring around the sanctuary (see photo), read selected passages from the closing *parashah* in Deuteronomy and the first *parashah* of Genesis, then re-roll it to begin a new cycle of readings.

Supper and Schmoozing in the Sukkah

Are you in your 20's or 30's? This evening is just for you. Get to know each other and Rabbi Kramer and share a special dinner in the Sukkah. RSVP to Rabbi Kramer rabbikramer@shomreitorah.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 • 7:00 PM



THIS MONTH

LifeLong Learning

Rabbi Sarah Bassin

Friday, October 14 • 7:30 PM

Rabbi Sarah Bassin serves as the Executive Director of NewGround: A Muslim-Jewish Partnership for Change in Los Angeles. NewGround works to normalize Muslim-Jewish relations in the United States by providing opportunities for Muslims and Jews of all backgrounds to build honest, authentic relationships with one another, to establish a common commitment to change, and to become a new cadre of leaders who inspire hope in a troubled world.

Lunch and Learn: *Sukkot* at Singing Frogs Farm

Tuesday, October 18 • 12 Noon–2:00 PM

Join Rabbi George to celebrate *Sukkot*, the Jewish harvest festival, at one of our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farms in Sebastopol. We'll have a tour, then study the connection between *Sukkot*/the harvest and Jewish thoughts on environmental issues. For directions, see <http://www.singingfrogsfarm.com>. RSVP to denise@shomreitorah.org

"From Aging to Sage-ing"

Wednesdays, October 26, November 2 and 9 • 7:00–8:30 PM

Learn how to turn the experience of aging into the positive movement of becoming a "sage" with Rabbinic Pastor Judith Goleman. \$30 for members, \$45 for non-members. RSVP to shomrei@shomreitorah.org.

Introduction to Hebrew

Begins Saturday, October 29 • 1:00–2:30 PM

Here's your chance to learn how to read Hebrew! A few spaces are available to join the adult *B'nei Mitzvah* students as they start their journey with Rabbi George and occasional guest teachers. This eight-week class for beginners (10/29; 11/5; 11/12; 11/19; 12/3; 12/10; 12/17 and 1/7/2012) on Saturday afternoons following services; costs \$150 for members. Pre-registration required; call the synagogue office at 578-5519.

"Drawing the Waters of Wisdom: Maimonides Reads Solomon" Sunday, Oct. 30 • 11:00 AM–12:30 PM

Medieval scholar and philosopher Maimonides wrote, "To what were the words of the Torah to be compared before King Solomon? To a well the waters of which are at a great depth and cool, yet no one could drink of them." Discover how Maimonides drew from the wisdom of Solomon with Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan, Senior Educator of Lehrhaus Judaica. Free. Register by emailing fran@shomreitorah.org by October 26, 2011.



INFORMATIONAL MEETING...

Thursday, October 20 at 7:00 PM

Warsaw • Krakow • Budapest • Prague Learn about an exciting trip of a lifetime! Join Rabbi Gittleman and members of Shomrei Torah on a trip to Eastern Europe, September 29–October 10 of 2012. Visit historic Eastern European cities including the town of Strakonice, where our Torah originated. See Jewish historical sights and sightsee in these beautiful and memorable cities. For more information, contact the CST office.

Shomrei Torah will be hosting several speakers and events building on the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) program, Just Table/Green Table, an effort to make healthy and sustainable food choices through education, programming, and advocacy."

The URJ supports food access and sustainability issues by participating in community-wide Food Day events. Food Day, which seeks to bring together Americans from all walks of life to push for healthy, affordable food produced in a sustainable, humane way, will be October 24.



THIS MONTH

Beginning Trope Class Starting



Learn how to chant Torah this fall. Fun, simple, and hands on — at the last session you will chant directly from our new Torah.

Class objectives are to learn the basics of *trope* and understand the process of study used

to chant from the Torah. At least minimal Hebrew reading is required. Familiarity with our text (*Ve'ahavta*) is helpful. Need for singing ability is vastly overrated. If our 12-year-olds can do it, so can you!

Six sessions on Tuesdays from 6:30–7:30 PM: October 18 and 25, November 1, 15, 22 and 29. Class fee \$65-member/\$80-non-member, plus materials fee for study packet and digital sound recordings emailed

to students for home study. Students under 18 with consent of instructor.

Instructor Margo Miller has been on the staff of Shomrei Torah's *B'nei Mitzvah* program since 2000. She teaches trope to adults preparing for *B'nei Mitzvah* as well as her popular adult Hebrew reading classes.

For more information, and to enroll, contact the CST office.

Try the New Yoga Minyan

Continue to welcome the New Year this fall with a fresh, energizing Jewish experience! *Yoga Minyan* is a way to stretch both our bodies and our minds. By connecting our movement to *Tefillah* (Jewish prayer), *Yoga Minyan* allows us to engage ourselves spiritually, emotionally and physically. No yoga or prayer experience is necessary! All that's required are an open mind and an open heart, comfy clothes, and a mat or towel.

- Dates: Six Tuesday mornings, October 4 and 18, November 1, 15, and 29 and December 6
- Time: 10:00–11:00 AM
- Place: Shomrei Torah Sanctuary



Led by Rabbi Stephanie Kramer (l) and Hanna Caratti (r)

- Cost: \$36 for the six-session series if paid on or before first session. \$10 for single classes.

RSVP AND PAYMENT: Call or email Denise in the CST office (578-5519 or denise@shomreitorah.org), to reserve your space for the series. (RSVP is not required for drop-ins.) Denise can accept your credit card payment for the series or you can bring a check for \$36 (made to CST) to the first

session or mail it to the synagogue ahead of time.

Instructors: Rabbi Kramer, who is passionate about connecting Jewish prayer to other practices in our lives, will lead us in meditation; Hannah Caratti, an experienced yoga instructor and Jewish meditation leader, will lead us in yoga.

Social Action @ the Movies: "GenSilent" • October 22

The Social Action Committee (SAC) launches its three-film salute to human rights issues on October 22, with "GenSilent," a movie with universal application to anyone who is elderly, ill or alone. This critically acclaimed documentary that asks six LGBT seniors if they will hide their friends, spouses and entire lives to survive in the care system. It puts a face on what experts in the film call an epidemic: older LGBT members who are so afraid of discrimination by caregivers and other seniors that they go back into the closet. Screening and panel discussion are sponsored by Jewish Family and Children's Services Seniors•At•Home and

CST's Social Action Committee.

Show time is 7:15 PM in the CST Sanctuary. The panel discussion which follows includes:

- CST member Diana Klein, MFT, Regional Director, Jewish Family and Children's Services;
- Alice Perlman, attorney specializing in LGBT issues;
- Gary "Buz" Hermes, Speakers Bureau, Spectrum LGBT Center; and
- Jim Jensen, retired Long-term Care Ombudsman, Senior Advocacy Services.
- Susan Daniel, SAC member and Film Subcommittee Co-Chair, will moderate.



SAVE THE DATE

LifeLong Learning

Sunday, November 6 • Shomrei Torah Reads • 1:00–4:00 PM



Sholem Aleichem

Did you know that the Jewish people are often called *Am HaSefer* (the people of the book)? From tots to seniors, all are invited to celebrate **Jewish Book Month** with an afternoon devoted to reading and all things bookish. Join a book discussion, learn from our rabbis about essential Jewish books for your library; find out more about the free PJ Library for kids (look for a full schedule in the November *Voice*). There'll be milk and cookies, and an opportunity to shop for books and other items to get a jump on your *Hanukkah* gift list!

To get ready for the big day, let's read Sholem Aleichem's *Tevye the Dairyman* stories together! You may know the lyrics to *Fiddler on the Roof*, but have you ever read the stories from which the Broadway musical was derived? Here's your chance! Often called "The Jewish Mark Twain," Sholem Aleichem's tales detail the richness of *shtetl* life as well as its demise, and trace the struggle between nostalgia and the impulse of the modern world. Learn more about them and their colorful author (subject of a recent documentary film, *Laughing in the Darkness*); share your reading experience — and maybe even sing a few songs!

For future LifeLong Learning events, see the website for details.

Shomrei Torah Food Fest Jewish Deli and Bakery Mega Event!



There was a large selection of baked goods at the Stockton Jewish Food Fest.

We will be holding our first Jewish Food Fest, with great Jewish food, activities and entertainment, on August 19, 2012. Many other synagogues around the county hold food fairs like this, which are profitable fundraisers plus effective community builders. The event will be open to the community and be widely advertised in the Bay Area.

An ambitious project like this requires hundreds of synagogue volunteers. Some examples:

- We'll be holding baking workshops in the synagogue where groups of volunteers will bake specialty items using recipes and volunteer leaders provided by the Food Committee.
- A *chavurah*, existing synagogue committee, or any group of individual members can volunteer to help organize, set up and run one the many booths — food, games, entertainment, information
- Members will be needed to make telephone calls to organize volunteers
- Set up and take down will take large numbers of volunteers
- Some special talents will be needed, such as: advertising, building, event decorating, event planning and bookkeeping
- And much more!

At the beginning of 2012, we will kick-off this project with a dinner event explaining the event and all the volunteer opportunities and needs. Watch for details in *The Voice* and *Chai-lites* later this fall.

Women-to-Women presents:

"Preparing for Life Beyond High School"

It's a different world, one that's much more difficult to navigate than the simple times we remember. The Women-to-Women college night is designed for parents of middle and high school students who want some guidance. On Tuesday, November 8, from 7:00–8:30 PM, learn about choosing classes, test prep options, colleges and gap year programs with three experienced college counselors.



The Shomrei Torah Voice is a periodical issued monthly except for the combined June/July issue.

It is published by Congregation Shomrei Torah, 2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404 and is distributed free of charge to members and supporting advertisers. Subscriptions are available for \$30 per year. Please direct inquiries to the Shomrei Torah office, 578-5519; office fax number 578-3967.

TEMPLE NEWS

Lessons Learned From Israeli Sukkot



By Rabbi Stephanie Kramer
ASSISTANT RABBI
AND EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Bang, bang, bang. It was the day after *Yom Kippur* in Jerusalem and people were already outside and dressed, constructing their *sukkahs*. The echoes of construction were even more penetrating than the sounding of the *shofars* only weeks before. In a city made of stone, sounds carry and reverberate in every direction.

It took my friend and me a few moments to identify the strange banging, which continued for days, and to piece together the holiday connection. When else would I ever be living in the majority, where the sounds of *Sukkot* could clearly be heard? This would be a *Sukkot* never to be forgotten.

In Israel, most restaurants construct temporary *sukkahs* for their customers to eat in during the week, since their only other option is to close. People are friendly and inviting during this week, reminiscent of the December spirit in America. It is common for families to invite neighbors into their *sukkah* for a meal, estranged families to gather and

***“Dwelling in the Sukkah
is our way of remembering
God’s kindness.”***

reconcile and businesses and schools to throw parties in the *sukkah*, with food, music, thankfulness and celebration.

In addition to eating in the *sukkah*, we are expected to leave the comforts of our secure homes and sleep in the *sukkah*. During the forty years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God took care of them. They needn't worry about food, or even shelter. God provided protective “clouds of glory” that sheltered the Israelites from any harm

before entering into the Promised Land. The *mitzvah* of dwelling in a *sukkah* is our way of remembering God’s kindness and reaffirming our faith.

Other symbols of *Sukkot* are the *etrog* and *lulav*, always purchased with great care and delicacy. In Israel, people are often found scrutinizing the *etrogim* (plural of *etrog*) with a magnifying glass to ensure that the *pitom* (pistil) is in perfect condition. Unlike in the US, where most *etrogs* from specific vendors are priced the same, in Israel, the condition, size and smell of these amazing fruits determine their own worth. Since the *etrog* tree produces fruit all year long and its *pitom* does not immediately fall off, this fruit has become a symbol of fertility. In fact, some families struggling with fertility spend extra money on a beautiful *etrog*.

As *Sukkot* approaches, let us celebrate this holiday that connects us to nature, our ancestors, Israel and our faith with excitement.

B’shalom
Rabbi Stephanie Kramer

Sukkah Construction Planned for This Year



**STaRS students celebrate in the *sukkah* they helped decorate last year.
Bring your lunch and someone to enjoy it with in our *sukkah* on October 14, 15, 17 and 18.**

TEMPLE NEWS

President's Message

“This is What You Get”



By Bruce Falstein
CST President

I recently attended a *minyan* in the home of a Shomrei Torah member who had recently lost a parent. What struck me about the experience wasn't so much the table burgeoning with food, or the astonishing number of people who turned up on a Sunday evening. What moved me so much was the palpable sense of community that filled that room.

With his arm around the grieving mourner, Rabbi George began the service by noting how much this family has given to our larger synagogue family, the abundant time and effort and energy each one has invested in Shomrei Torah over more than a decade.

“This is what you get,” Rabbi George said, his gaze taking in the whole room and the dozens of fellow congregants in attendance. “You get a community.”

Even more than the beautiful words spoken about the departed, more than the hugs and tears, what filled my heart was the love and concern and tender compassion that permeated that home in that moment.

***“Giving in these ways
opens the door to receiving
much in return.”***

In Hebrew, the verb “to give” is *natan*, spelled *nun-taf-nun*. The word is a palindrome, meaning that it reads the same forward or backward. It is said that this is no accident — the word itself represents the idea that giving flows in both directions: in giving, you get back.

The High Holy Days afford each of us an opportunity to put this notion into practice. In forgiving others for the

wrongs done to us, we can be forgiven for the wrongs we have done, if not by those whom we have wronged then at least by ourselves.

And, of course, we have the opportunity simply to give — dollars are good, and so are the bags of food for Elisha's Pantry. In giving in these ways, we open the door to receiving much in return.

You don't have to look too deeply in our sacred texts to find this basic lesson. But what brought it home for me was seeing it play out before my eyes, in real time, in a living room *minyan*.

“*U-fros aleynu sukkat shlomkha*” — spread over us the shelter of your peace. That's what we, our community, lovingly created for a family in mourning. When you invest in Shomrei Torah — with your effort and energy, your presence and your pledge — that's what you get.

May your New Year be filled with much giving and receiving.

L'shana tova,
Bruce

The Purpose of This Congregation:

- To worship God in accordance with the beliefs and teachings of Reform Judaism.
- To cultivate and nurture in ourselves and our children a love and understanding of Jewish heritage.
- To develop a sensitive, caring and supportive congregational community where all are welcome and included.
- To act with responsibility and compassion in our community.
- To support the principles of equality, freedom and shalom among all peoples.

TEMPLE NEWS

Legacy Circle Welcomes Marsha and Donald Jacobs

Marsha and Donald Jacobs moved to Sonoma County twenty-one years ago from Southern California. They had been affiliated with other congregations in the locations where they had lived while raising their children and, in 1993, soon after arriving, they chose Shomrei Torah as their “Jewish home.”



They feel that CST has been there for them in many ways over the years. Rabbi George performed Jewish naming ceremonies for their grandchildren. They enjoy volunteering opportunities, classes and hospitality at all events and services. They especially relish *Chavurah* connections, activities and close friendships made with congregation friends.

Marsha and Don decided to make a planned gift to help secure the future of Jewish life in Sonoma County for generations to come. Through the availability of CST, they are able to take their seven grandchildren who live in interfaith homes in the area to Jewish services and events and help them to know about their heritage. It is the Jacobs’ hope that all children

who wish to understand what it means to be Jewish will be able to do so, with CST to show them the way.

Their main interest is in Jewish ethical and moral education and they hope a portion of their gift will continue to build a robust religious school. They consider it a privilege to belong to Congregation Shomrei Torah and to be able to assist in its future.

Legacy Circle Members Honored

Members of Shomrei Torah’s Legacy Circle were honored at a special celebratory event on September 18th at the home of Marlene and Martin Stein. The Legacy Circle has grown significantly in the last year, with 26 congregant families who have now agreed to remember Shomrei Torah in their wills or estate plans.

Copies of a new booklet describing the concept of the Legacy Circle and featuring comments by each of the member families were distributed to those attending. Newest members were also recognized with a special gift.

Irv Rothenberg, Chair of the Endowment and Gifts Group, spoke about the importance of the Legacy Circle in insuring the future of the Shomrei Torah community. He also introduced the guest speaker, Elliot Levin, special endowment and fund raising consultant from the Jewish Community Federation who has been working with Shomrei Torah over the last year.

Guests enjoyed a delightful brunch, music by the Jewish Cowboy Scott Gerber and the unique hospitality of the Stein’s Yoffe Ranch.

Legacy Circle members honored at the event were:

- Rosanne Arthur
- Billie Blumenthal and Cy Wilcox
- Linda and Dan Bornstein
- Florence Boxerman
- Marsha and Keith Boxerman
- Rachael and Jim Cutcher
- Nancy and Reed Ferrick
- Judy Freedman and Bill Skoonberg
- Janet and Ira Gelfman
- Jan Gilman and Michael Tonjum
- Laura and Rabbi George Gittleman
- Paula and Albert Handelman
- Marsha and Donald Jacobs
- Sue Lewis and Dave Silacci
- Margaret Livingston and Shirley Liberman
- Cynthia and Manny Nestle

- Marcy Pluznick-Marrin
- Ruth (and Rabbi Michael) Robinson
- Phyllis and Arnie Rosenfield
- Coleen and Irv Rothenberg
- Dianne Smith and Benjamin Benson
- Sue and Ed Smith
- Marlene and Martin Stein
- Jane and Sapir Weiss

“Of Blessed Memory”

- Laur DeAguiar
- Esther Lang
- Paul Levine
- Evelyn and Dan Winston

For more information on becoming part of this group, please contact Irv Rothenberg or Fran Brumlik.



Martin and Marlene Stein, left, hosted the event honoring members of CST’s Legacy Circle. Committee chair Irv Rothenberg introduced the morning’s entertainment, Scott Gerber, the Jewish Cowboy. Legacy Circle members agree to remember Shomrei Torah in their estate planning.

TEMPLE NEWS

Environmental Action Committee

Tip-of-the-Month

Do not separate yourself from the community. — Pirkei Avot, 2:5



Instead, join, build and shape it...

- Share your extra produce with Elisha's Pantry or a nearby food bank.
- Join a Shomrei Torah CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) to eat locally grown healthy, fresh veggies.
- Honor National Food Day -- join Rabbi George and CST members at Singing Frog's Farm on Tuesday, October 18.

<http://www.shomreitorah.org/community/environmental-action/>

<http://www.shomreitorah.org/community/social-action/>

Rabbi Kramer Welcomed by the Men's Bagel Club



Bob Heisler, Jerry Gladstone, Jerry Newman, John Bloom, Rick Reisman, the members of the kitchen crew, take a break before serving breakfast.

The 30 attendees had a chance to get to know featured speaker-Rabbi Stephanie Kramer, who talked about growing up in Houston, meeting her husband, attending rabbinic school in LA and her motivations that led to her career choice. She is especially drawn to Jewish education of kids and adults. That and her positive personality will make her a good fit for CST.

The CST Men's Bagel Club initiated its 13th season, and there was a tribute of an empty chair for founder Jeff Blustein, who passed away this summer.

Our next meeting is October 2. Stay tuned for the identity of the speaker.

— Rick Reisman

Women-to-Women Host New Members Brunch

In attendance were: (Left photo) Sharon Landeck, Judy Carlin, Sue Smith and Ruth Robinson. (Right photo) Ellen Robin and Jan Gilman



Male Bonding at Men's Retreat

Services with Rabbi George, drumming, yoga, softball, wine and whisky tasting, walks in the woods and late-night cash-free poker filled a three-day Congregation Shomrei Torah Men's Retreat September 9-11 at Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa County. Thirty men, including new and longtime CST members, delighted in making new friends and renewing old ties, preparing for *Elul* with Rabbi George and savoring all-male conviviality. The unanimous closing sentiment was, "Let's do it again soon."



ACTIVITIES AT THE MEN'S RETREAT:

(L to R) Rabbi George pauses during services; CST member Guy Kovner knocks one "out of the park" in the softball game; Norm Eisley, Michael Tonjum, John Bloom and Scotty Posner "get into the groove" during the drum circle.

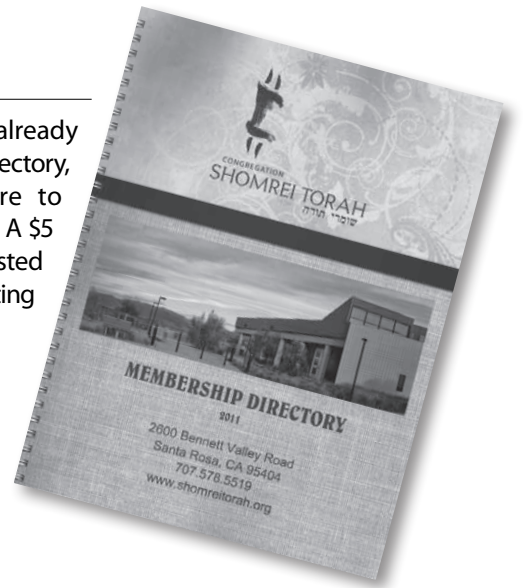
TEMPLE NEWS

The 2011 Shomrei Torah Photo Directory Has Arrived

Thanks to our hard working, dedicated Directory Committee, led by chair Lisa Greenstein, for the creation of our beautiful new photo directory. Committee members Susan Bailyn, Linda Emanuel, Shelli Goldin, Marcy Pluznick-Marrin and Bill Skoonberg were assisted by many others who greeted members during photo sessions, sold ads, contributed photos for the covers and collages and distributed directories to members.

Thanks to our advertisers, many of whom are members and have contributed by buying ads in all four of our past directories. Thanks, as well, to non-members who generously placed ads in the directory. Ad sales totaled over \$21,000, going a long way toward helping CST reach our annual fundraising goal.

If you have not already picked up your directory, please make sure to drop by the office. A \$5 donation is requested to help defray printing costs.



Capital Campaign III Raises Needed Funds

The third phase of our Capital Campaign has raised \$672,000, which puts a significant dent in our \$1.8 million mortgage, but still leaves us far short of being mortgage-free. The contributions of the generous donors listed below provide an additional four years of breathing room while we work to pay off the loan.

The success of the campaign, especially considering the weak economy, was only possible thanks to the diligent work of our Campaign Committee, including: Fran Brumlik, Charlie Catlett, Reed Ferrick, Nancy Ferrick, Janet Gelfman, Ira Gelfman, Rabbi Gittleman, Garry Goodman, Stephen Harper, Sue Lewis, Anne Matalon, Cynthia Nestle, Jeremy Olsan, Jay Peretz, Marcy Pluznick-Marrin, Dianne Smith and John Weinstein.

It is with great pride and gratitude that we honor the following families and individuals for their generous contributions to this campaign:

- Suzanne and Steve Abrams
- Carol and Paul Berlant
- Celine and David Berman
- Rhonda Berney and Richard Shipps
- Linda and Dan Bornstein

- Marsha and Keith Boxerman
- Shelley and Jeremy Brott
- Ronnie and Jim Campagna
- Sherry Catlett
- Charlie Catlett
- Heather and Rick Concoff
- Deborah and Scott Cutler
- Rachael and James Cutcher
- Geetinder Chattha and Eldan Eichbaum
- Nancy and Reed Ferrick
- Janet and Ira Gelfman
- Laura and George Gittleman
- Jan Gilman and Michael Tonjum
- Marcia and Jerry Gladstone
- Trisha and Neil Goldberg
- Beth and Garry Goodman
- Lisa and Fred Greenstein
- Paula and Albert Handelman
- Phyllis and Arnold Rosenfeld
- Emery and Guevara Rowand
- Ann and Maury Schulkin
- Selma Pluznick
- Muncie and Stephen Harper
- Jennifer Hirshfield-Levine and Jay Levine
- Sheela and Eric Hodes
- Anna and Dennis Judd
- Pamela and Irving Goldberg
- Sabrina and Rick Kahn

- Maureen and Paul Larson
- Melissa Kort and Tom Meade
- Sue Lewis and David Silacci
- Miriam and Bill Marlin
- Marcy Pluznick-Marrin
- Anne and Eran Matalon
- Elaine Walter and Craig Meltzner
- Louise Packard and Larry Moskowitz
- Lorna and Neil Myers
- Ann DuBay and Jeremy Olsan
- Laurie and Jay Peretz
- Jill and Rick Permutt
- Adele Pickar
- Catherine and Richard Reisman
- Fran Brumlik
- Ruth Robinson
- Paula Duran and Jeff Rosen
- Coleen and Irwin Rothenberg
- Sharon and Jeffrey Schechter
- Dianne Smith and Ben Benson

A special and heartfelt thanks to Heidi Stewart and John Weinstein for their generous donor-match incentive.

The ongoing campaign is still seeking donations. Please contact one of the committee members mentioned above to learn more about structuring your contribution.

TEMPLE NEWS

Board Report

At its regular meeting on September 8, the CST Board:

- Heard from Rabbi George and Executive Director Fran Brumlik about preparations for the High Holy Days in our new location.
- Learned from President Bruce Falstein that a committee is being appointed to conduct the search for an individual who can assume the musical responsibilities of Leira Satlof, who will be leaving us next June. A special event honoring Leira is scheduled for next March.
- Approved five new families for membership: Pamela Loman and Mark Homicz, Susanne and John Bonnet, Denise and Mark Lustberg, Alisa and Robert Haley and Anne Tomin and Reuel Kaplan.
- Reviewed the financial report for July 2011, noting a significant increase in pledge income over July of last year, thanks in large part to the members who increased their pledge levels.
- Heard from Assistant Rabbi Kramer that plans for the new school year are well underway, and enrollment is exceeding expectations.
- Approved the Congregational Strategic Plan for 2011 through 2013, developed following a board and committee chairs retreat earlier in the year.
- Discussed the Jewish Food Fest planned as a major fundraiser next year. This event will require an all-out effort by the congregation and participation by all members is strongly encouraged.
- Held a brief review of emergency equipment and procedures, led by Charlie Cattlet.

YOUTH NEWS

Bar Mitzvah



JACOB ALEXANDER MATALON

October 29, 2011

1 Cheshvan 5772

We would be honored to have you join us as our son Jacob is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Kiddush lunch follows service.

Anne and Eran Matalon

Dear Families,

We hope you had a refreshing summer and a great start to the school year.

Rabbi Stephanie Kramer, Tricia Goldberg, our Tot Shabbat liaison and Tot Shabbat Lauren are working together to plan engaging, meaningful and fun Jewish experiences for you and your children. We hope you will join us each month for Tot Shabbat.

In September, we engaged in a lovely *Rosh Hashanah* themed Shabbat service, where the children made amazing apples and honey plates to use for *Rosh Hashanah*.

On October 1, (Note date change due to *Yom Kippur*) we will focus on *Yom Kippur* and create beautiful *shofarot*!

Tot Shabbat Lauren will continue to phone you to keep you posted on what's happening. Stay tuned for details!

On that note, mark you calendars for November 6th, the Shomrei Torah Community-wide Read Day. Tot Shabbat will have its own special program with the PJ Library. Details to follow soon...

We wish all of you a very healthy, happy, sweet, and beautiful New Year.



L'Shana Tovah,

Tot Shabbat Lauren, Rabbi Kramer and Tricia

YOUTH NEWS

Rabbi Kramer is Seeing STARS



By Rabbi Stephanie Kramer
ASSISTANT RABBI
AND EDUCATION DIRECTOR

What an un-believable start to our year! It was amazing to see so many of you on our campus with your children and staying for our opening day festivities. With your enthusiastic support and commitment to our program, I know this will be a fantastic year.

This month, we are literally thrust into a full and exciting schedule of holiday celebrations

and grade level programs. Once again, I invite you to join us in building community: get involved, participate, volunteer, find your passion, whether it be studying text, attending services or serving on a committee. Model for your child just how important living a Jewish life is to you and your family! If you have not already done so, please check out our website <http://www.shomreitorah.org/religious-school/>. Wishing all of you a *Chag Sameach*.

STARS

What's up in the STaRS?

October 15th: Kindergarten Family Program

Our kindergarteners and their families will have a day of fun and learning under the *Sukkah*. They will begin their study of formal Jewish education, with the introduction to the Torah. Because the *Sukkah* is reminiscent of the hospitality and openness that our ancestors had, we want our youngest STaRS members to gather under our *Sukkah* in an effort to schmooze, study and nosh together. A family member must come and stay throughout the day!

October 16th: 7th Grade Family Program

Seventh grade families will come together to explore the meaning of prayer. Together, they will begin to wrestle with the core themes of prayers found within our Saturday morning liturgy. This day will provide greater insight and depth in preparation for attending or leading services in the future. Parents or a family member must come and stay throughout the day!

October 22nd: 1st Grade Family Program.

Parents, please join your first graders in learning about the uniqueness of Shabbat and what makes Shabbat a true day of rest. Families will learn about the candles, wine, *challah* and *tzedakah*. Parents or a family member must come and stay throughout the day!

Calling ALL New STaRS Families: All new STaRS families are encouraged to stay after Religious School for a new family nosh in the *Sukkah*. Meet the other new families and have a sweet bite to treat.

▶▶Saturday October 15th 5:30–6:00 PM

RABBI

George D. Gittleman
Office/voicemail 578-5519
rabbi@shomreitorah.org

**ASSISTANT RABBI/
EDUCATION DIRECTOR**

Stephanie E. Kramer
Office/voicemail 578-5519
rabbikramer@shomreitorah.org

**MUSIC DIRECTOR-
LITURGICAL SOLOIST,
ASSISTANT TO THE RABBI**

Leira Satlof 527-8021
leira@shomreitorah.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fran Brumlik 576-3401
fran@shomreitorah.org

OFFICE STAFF

Denise Harrison,
Administrative Assistant
578-0245

denise@shomreitorah.org
FAX 578-3967

Patty Foss, Bookkeeper
578-5519

bookkeeper@shomreitorah.org

Jeannie Plattus,
Religious School Assistant
578-5519

strasst@shomreitorah.org

Richard Sleeper,
Maintenance Supervisor

THE VOICE

Ronnie Campagna, Copy Editor
778-6171

ronniecc@gmail.com

YOUTH ACTIVITY

Office 578-5519

WEBSITE

Jay Peretz, Webmaster
537-6801

Office email:

shomrei@shomreitorah.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
9:00 AM-12 Noon,
1:00-5:00 PM

www.shomreitorah.org

Congregation Shomrei Torah
2600 Bennett Valley Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-578-5519



Affiliated with the
**UNION FOR
REFORM JUDAISM**

High Holy Days Schedule

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Kol Nidre

6:00-7:00 PM *Erev Yom Kippur* — Intergenerational Service at
Congregation Shomrei Torah

8:00 PM *Kol Nidre* Service at the **Center for Spiritual Living**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Yom Kippur — All Services at the Center for Spiritual Living

10:30 AM Adult, teen and pre-teen service

12:45-2:00 PM Jewish Journeys

2:15-3:00 PM Meditation and reflection

3:15-4:15 PM Torah Service

4:30 PM *Yizkor* Service

5:30 PM *Neilah* Service



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

Sukkot — Services at Congregation Shomrei Torah

10:30 AM *Sukkot* Morning Service, followed by a pot luck lunch

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

Simchat Torah — Services at Congregation Shomrei Torah

6:30 PM *Simchat Torah* Service

New Venue for High Holy Days: This year, most services will be held at the **Center for Spiritual Living**. We are grateful to our new hosts for making their large and comfortable building available so we can worship in comfort. Intergenerational services will be held on *Erev Yom Kippur* at Shomrei Torah at 6:00 PM. On *Yom Kippur*, everyone will worship at the **Center for Spiritual Living**. Teens will worship with Rick Concoff, preteens with Norman Easley, and our school age children with Sherry Knazan.

If possible, please carpool to the Center to allow enough parking for everyone, since there is no street parking on Occidental Road. Security officers will direct us to available spots in the parking lot and help with *Yom Kippur* contributions to Elisha's Pantry.

A shuttle bus, for anyone who is concerned about driving to the Center for the evening services, will meet congregants at the Berger Center in Oakmont or Waterfall Towers, across from the temple. Those members who will be boarding the bus at Waterfall Towers should park in the Waterfall Towers parking lot on Bennett Valley Road. There is no fee for the bus, but contributions to help defray the cost of the bus are appreciated. **Reservations are essential to accommodate everyone.** Call the temple to reserve a spot or ask questions.

