

LIFELONG LEARNING



JOEL BEN IZZY,
beloved storyteller,
comes to Shomrei Torah
February 3, 6:30PM

A Night of Fun, Laughter and healing for everyone, featuring author and storyteller extraordinaire, Joel ben Izzy Saturday, February 3, 6:30PM

Congregation Shomrei Torah is delighted to welcome back Joel ben Izzy, one of America's most beloved storytellers. His visits to our community have always been a huge hit, and we are really looking forward to this one.

For over 35 years, Joel has traveled the globe, gathering and telling stories from Jerusalem to Japan, from Hong Kong to Hungary and from Rome to Rwanda. Although the stories he tells come from everywhere he goes and everyone he meets, his specialty has always been tales from Jewish tradition, of wisdom and wonder, laughter and learning, tears and teaching. He brings characters to life through movement, voice and humor. As we Jews know well, tears and laughter are all part of the healing process, so he may well be telling some tales from Chelm, the mythical Jewish village of fools.

Joel is also the author of the award-winning memoir *The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness* (Algonquin, 2003), recounting his own remarkable tale of healing, and will be sharing stories from this journey as well. You can learn more about Joel at his web site and blog, storypage.com. Potluck dessert to follow the performance

Free to the entire community, but please RSVP to the temple office.



CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH
שומרי תורה

Sherry Knazan: Evolving Identities of 20th Century American Jews Seen through Film April 18 and 25, 7-8:30PM



Movies from the early 1940's to the 1990's can tell us a great deal about American Jewish identity and the social, cultural and political issues affecting Jews during these years. Through the lens of selections from the following films, we'll explore the changing nature of Jewish identity: *Frisco Kid*, *Avalon*, *Gentleman's Agreement*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Crossing Delancey*, *Goodbye Columbus*, *A Stranger Among Us* and *Annie Hall*.

Sherry Knazan has been a Jewish educator for many years. She currently serves as the coordinator of the Exploring the World of Judaism program, an adult learning program through Jewish Learning-Works. She is also teaches a 6th grade Hebrew/Judaica class at Congregation Rodef Sholom. Sherry holds a BS in education from the University of Michigan, an M.Ed. from Temple University and a Master of Science in Jewish Studies from Spertus Institute of Jewish Learning, where she is currently working on her doctorate in Jewish Studies. She was awarded the national Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Education as well as the Bay Area Helen Diller Award for Excellence in Jewish Education. She loves connecting with all kinds of people and baking awesome chocolate chip cookies.

Shabbat and Shavuot with Rabbi Rami Shapiro May 18-19



Join us in welcoming the renowned author, teacher, speaker and liberal mystic

Rabbi Rami Shapiro for *Shabbat* and *Shavuot* May 18-19.

Shabbat Evening Services May 18, 6:15-7:30PM

"Rabbi Rami" will take us on a spiritual journey from the familiar to the extraordinary. During *L'cha Dodi* we face the door to the synagogue to welcome the Sabbath Bride, but the real door that needs opening is the door to our own hearts. Using meditation and chant drawn from Kabbalistic and other sources, we are uplifted by *Shechinah*, the Feminine Presence of God.

Torah Study

May 19, 8:45-10:15AM

In preparation for *Shavuot*, Rabbi Rami will focus on the Ten Commandments and his work with Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Hahn. We will explore how the Ten Commandments can be used as a series of daily affirmations: a Torah to live by.

Shabbat Afternoon Service

May 19, 3:00PM-5:00PM

The focus will be on the tension between *Keva*, the traditional liturgy and *Kavanah*, our personal spiritual energy to awaken us to our true nature as the image of God.

Tikkun Lael Shavuot

May 19, 8:30PM-1:00AM

Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a night of study, commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Rabbi Rami and Rabbi George will conclude the session with a meditation focused on what we have learned and the Torah we hope to take with us through the rest of the year.

RABBI'S TISCH (table)

2ND FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

On the second Friday of each month, join your CST family for a Rabbi's Tisch (table) in lieu of regular Friday night Shabbat Services. All Tisches begin at 6:15 PM and include Shabbat blessings and prayers, a communal dinner and program as noted below. Reservations can be made through the CST office. A suggested donation of \$18 per person for dinner may be paid through the office or at the door (with reservation).

February 9, 2018

Organizing for Change: How Reform congregations in California are working to transform their communities, their state and their world.

Lee Winkelman, the California Organizing director for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism,



will talk about how Reform congregations in California and across the country are engaging their members to address the world's brokenness. His talk will include Reform California's successful efforts to pass bills and ballot measures that reflect the Jewish values of compassion, justice and wholeness and a new model of social justice work that engages the whole community in making a real difference.

March 9, 2018

Dreaming in Turtle: Reporting the news in my backyard and around the world

Because of their value, strange and marvelous turtles and tortoises are among the most trafficked and most endangered animals alive today—animals threatened by human greed, pragmatism and rationalization. There is an existential threat to the world's endangered turtle and tortoise populations, populations that serve as indicator species for our own human survival. From turtles to Trump's wall on the Mexican border to the veracity of the label "organic" on our food, Peter Laufer brings stories of his global journalism back home to Sonoma County.



Peter Laufer is the James Wallace Chair Professor in Journalism at the

University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication and an award-winning author, broadcaster, documentarian and journalist. He has written two-dozen books including *Organic: A Journalist's Quest to Discover the Truth behind Food Labeling* and the upcoming *Dreaming in Turtle*. He reported, wrote, and produced several documentaries as an NBC News correspondent on topics ranging from the crises facing Vietnam War veterans to illiteracy and hunger in America, and he wrote a study of Americans incarcerated overseas that won the George Polk Award.



April 13, 2018

Gender and the Holocaust: Why a gendered approach to the study of the Holocaust is valuable.

This short talk will focus on why a gendered approach to the study of the Holocaust is valuable. It will discuss how discourses



of femininity and masculinity, gender norms, and understandings of female and male identities contributed to the different ways in which Jewish men and women experienced and responded to the mass violence perpetrated against them. It will

also explain how the Nazis promoted deliberately gendered strategies of persecution to advance their racial worldview and enhance the suffering of victims. As this talk will demonstrate, an examination of gender does not diminish the centrality of anti-Semitism and racism to Nazi persecution, but instead shows how it informed both, and hence the unfolding of the Holocaust.

Amy E. Randall is Associate Professor of History at Santa Clara University where she teaches courses in Soviet history, ethnic cleansing and genocide in the twentieth century, the Holocaust, gender and national identity in twentieth-century Eastern and Western Europe, and the history of modern sexuality. Amy is the editor and contributing author of *Genocide and Gender in the Twentieth Century: A Comparative Survey* (Bloomsbury Publishers, 2015) and has published numerous other works. Amy received her MA and PhD from Princeton University. She is also the daughter of Shomrei Torah member Angela Gelber.

May 11, 2018

"Fear and Courage amongst Scapegoats: My experience with immigrants in the era of threats of mass deportations."



Rick Coshnear is an immigration lawyer in Santa Rosa and one of the founders of the non-profit "VIDAS" (Vital Immigrant Defense Advocacy and Services). VIDAS is a grassroots, self-defense organization of and by and for the immigrant community. Before VIDAS,

Rick worked in private practice for ten years, and before that, as a physician assistant in an immigrant medical clinic in Healdsburg for a dozen years. He has fought for a Sonoma County of Refuge for immigrants since 1985, when he and his wife, Kim, moved here, in the midst of the Sanctuary Movement.

