



Rabbi's Tisch with Rabbi Roberto D. Graetz

Friday, August 12, 6:15 PM

South American Human Rights Activist Salutes
Rabbi Michael Robinson

Rabbi Roberto D. Graetz will be the special guest speaker at the Rabbi's Tisch. He served as rabbi in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for almost 20 years. He acted as Director for Latin America for the World Union for Progressive Judaism, was active in human rights issues during the military dictatorship in Argentina, and worked on behalf of the street children in Rio de Janeiro.



He recently retired from Temple Isaiah in Lafayette, CA. Michael Robinson and Rabbi Graetz met in the late 1960's when Michael was on the East Coast during a Vietnam war protest, and Roberto was a student at Hebrew Union College. The Rabbi also knows Michael's widow, Ruth Robinson, a Social Action Committee member.

Suggested donation for catered dinner is \$18. RSVP to the CST office. Please call (707)578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.



Shomrei Torah Goes to Camp Newman for Shabbat

Friday, August 5, 4:00 PM – Camp Newman, 4088 Porter Creek Road, Santa Rosa

Join Rabbi Stephanie and your Shomrei Torah community for a Shabbat at URJ Camp Newman. Festivities include a reception with Camp Newman's directors, Shabbat dinner, singing and dancing. Parents: you are encouraged to attend providing that you DO NOT have a camper here during this time as it causes homesickness and issues within their cabin. RSVP is required. CampNewman.org/summer-camp/visitors.

Get Out the Vote with Rabbi George

Saturday, August 27, 2:00 – 5:00 PM



Join Rabbi George and the Social Action Committee as we walk precincts and encourage local community members to vote. The North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) has launched a Voter Engagement Project to increase voter turnout among groups with historically low voting rates. They have targeted precincts in Roseland and Santa Rosa, mostly populated by low income, Latino, and/or senior renters. Each of the twenty faith-based and other community groups that are part of NBOP has committed to one day of precinct walking,

between mid-August and the November election. We will not be advocating for particular candidates, but encouraging registered voters to let their voices be heard at the polls. We will also register voters. The CST team will walk on Saturday, August 27, gathering in Roseland at 2:00 PM for a brief training. We will walk in pairs, typically with a bilingual young person who can interpret, if necessary. Rabbi George led CST members in a similar effort two years ago and all found it rewarding. We believe the process of talking with and listening to people who would otherwise be strangers may contribute to *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. We hope to have at least 15 volunteers from CST. If you are interested, please contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

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Learn to Read Hebrew this Summer

July 30 - September 24

Saturday and Wednesday Evenings

This ten session course will teach the fundamentals of Hebrew reading as well as the structure and meaning of *Shabbat* morning liturgy. The class is designed for those who want to be able to follow along in Hebrew during services. No previous knowledge is required. Class fee is \$150 for ten sessions, including all materials. Classes are held on Saturday afternoons and Wednesday evenings, starting July 30 through September 24. To sign up for this class, email denise@cstsr.org or call (707) 578-5519. Scholarships available upon request.



Get Acquainted with B2B

NEW TIME - Tuesday, August 9, 8:00 AM

Are you a business person or professional searching for opportunities to grow your business? Congregation Shomrei Torah has just the opportunity for you. Join our B2B@CST Business Networking Group and meet an interesting variety of business people just like you. Each of us are members of CST and are committed to growing our businesses and helping you grow yours through leads that we share within the group.

You'll meet an eclectic mix of members including financial planners, chiropractors, tax preparers, estate attorneys, asset managers, business and employment consultants, realtors, home remodelers, fine artists, graphic artists, photographers and more. Not only is the B2B@CST group good for business, but you'll forge and strengthen new friendships and alliances to connect to our robust community. Sonoma County is a great place to live and joining B2B@CST will make your life here even richer!

Join us for our next meeting at our NEW TIME, 8:00 AM, on Tuesday, August 9 at Congregation Shomrei Torah. For more information, contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.



Veteran's Housing Crisis Summit

Thursday, August 11 from 6:00–8:00 PM

The Palms Inn, 3345 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa. Tour at 5:30 PM

Our Sonoma County homeless veterans face a housing crisis and need our help. Come join community partners to share solutions and ideas. Keynote speakers will include US Congressman Mike Thompson (tentative); Julie Combs, SR City Council; Jennnielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities; Rex Bishop, Vietnam veteran. Breakout discussion groups include Immediate Shelter, Long-Term Housing, Veterans Resources, Landlord Support, Housing Policy and Grassroots Organizing. This event is co-sponsored by the Social Action Committee.

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, August 13, 9:00 AM

This is an informal, child-centered *Shabbat* Service designed especially for children newborn to elementary school age. Everyone is welcome at our services and programs; members and non-members, Jewish and non-Jewish, partners and spouses alike. This program is FREE!



Come See Sonoma Stompers V. Pittsburg Diamond Game

Sunday, August 14, 5:00 PM

The Men's Bagel Club is organizing a trip to see the Sonoma Stompers baseball team play the Pittsburg Diamond on August 14 in Sonoma. The Sonoma Stompers are an unaffiliated A league team that finished second in the first half of their league play. They also have received national attention for having two female players on their team. Their home is Arnold Field.

The \$20 admission gets you a prime seat in the stadium AND a \$5 credit for food. Car-pooling will be arranged. To make your reservation, please email cstbagelmen@gmail.com.

Babies & Bagels*Sunday, August 21*

We'd love to get together with you and your little ones. Join us for a light nosh and some refreshing adult conversation, while you watch your children interact and play with others in their age group. Babies & Bagels is a FREE program! Babies & Bagels meets at a private home. For more information, to RSVP for the address, or just to say hello, the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.


**Rabbi George and Laura will Host
Legacy Circle Social at their Home**
Sunday, August 21, from 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Members of the Legacy Circle of Congregation Shomrei Torah are invited to a special afternoon event on Sunday, August 21, 2016 from 4:00 – 7:00 PM in honor of the families who have agreed to support the future of our synagogue. If you already are a member of the Legacy Circle, please plan to come and RSVP to Denise at denise@cstsr.org or (707) 578-5519.



To become a member of the Legacy Circle all one needs to do is complete some paperwork, file it with the synagogue office and inform the executor of your will or trust that upon your death you wish to leave some funds to CST. You may specify how you wish the money to be spent or leave that decision to future Boards of Directors.

No money needs to be paid during your lifetime and there is no minimum amount required. Meanwhile, you will become eligible to enjoy the many special events, like the one above, during your living years. For more information or to obtain paperwork, please contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.

Rabbi's Tisch*Friday, September 9, 6:15 PM***My Personal Torah of Leadership**

Daryl Messenger, Chair, URJ, a nationally-renowned leader in the Jewish community, is the first woman elected to the top lay leadership position, Chair of the Board of Trustees, of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the national organization of Reform congregations of which CST is a member. Ms. Messenger's distinguished service in the Jewish community includes having chaired the Board of the URJ's Camp Newman here in Santa Rosa, where she helped to raise \$22 million for renovations. She has played a major role in shaping and implementing the URJ's 2020 Vision.

**STaRS registration is open***Classes begin Sunday, September 11*

Shomrei Torah Religious School (STaRS) welcomes children in grades K-7 into our nurturing, joyful and hands-on Jewish education program. Registration is open now! Visit our website to register online: <http://www.shomreitorah.org/religious-school/>

**KIDdish registration is open***Classes begin Sunday, September 11*

This is a preschool class (ages 2-5 years) where you can meet new friends and build budding Jewish relationships that can blossom for years to come. During these classes there will be tons of hands-on art activities, spirited movement and music playground time, and fun Jewish learning. \$180 for the entire program. Download the registration form on our website: <http://www.shomreitorah.org/community/kiddish/>

**Shomrei Torah's Women's Retreat: A Time for Reconnection**

We are going back to our roots! The biennial Women's Retreat will be held at the beautiful Westerbeke Ranch in Sonoma, the site of the very first retreat for Shomrei Torah women in 1999. Our retreat starts the afternoon of Friday, October 28th and ends after lunch on Sunday, October 30th. Please look for the registration form on the CST website.

Sign up early. The deadline to register is October 1 or when we have reached our maximum capacity of 48 overnight guests. The all-inclusive rate of \$375 includes 6 gourmet meals, 2 nights lodging, taxes, gratuities and unlimited corkage fees. Scholarships are available for those in need. Contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.

Rabbi Kramer will lead us in services and Laura Gittleman will deliver a *d'var torah*. We will have breakout sessions featuring Jewish teaching, art projects, yoga and other topics of particular interest to women.

Summer in Sonoma County - Keep Your Protection With You

I hope your summer has been sunny, warm and enjoyable so far, with many more such days to come in the weeks ahead. And as various billboards, magazine articles and internet pop-up ads remind us, be sure to keep your hats, visors and sunscreen handy for daily protection. Sonoma County summers last a long while, much to our good fortune.

God's presence in our lives was just like the gift of shade on a burning hot day; this shade was literally and figuratively life-saving protection for all desert-dwelling peoples.

It happens that the Torah also has some advice for us about protection. The weekly *parsha* (a reading from the Torah) from early July (the time when I am writing this column) was *Sh'lach L'cha*, from the book of Numbers. In chapter 14, verse 9, it is made clear that in the time of our ancestors' wanderings in the intensely hot desert of Sinai, God's presence in our lives was just like the gift of shade on



Ira Glasser, CST President

a burning hot day; this shade was literally and figuratively life-saving protection for all desert-dwelling peoples.

When the shade (God's presence) is removed from you, you are in big trouble. And when you remove yourself from the shade, you are potentially exposing yourself to the intensity of the sun without the necessary protection. So, the question that comes to us, beyond applying our favorite brands of sunscreen, is "How do we ensure that we keep ourselves spiritually protected, that we remain in God's presence?"

Shomrei Torah has many good answers for that, among them as follows.

- Come to Friday night or Saturday morning services every now and then; and try out a pre-service Torah Study one Saturday.
- Enroll in a class; attend a Tisch; or come to a Sunday morning Bagel Club brunch.
- Observe the tenth anniversary of Rabbi Michael Robinson's

Remember that although remaining in God's presence and benefiting from God's protective shade is largely up to each of us individually, all the rest of us here at Shomrei Torah are available to support you with community and connection.

passing and attend a memorial lecture by an old friend of his, Rabbi Roberto D. Graetz.

- Check to be sure that your membership renewal details are all properly in place with the office; and also be sure that any appropriate religious school registrations are also complete.
- Reach out to fellow congregants, old friends, new members and long-term members, as well, to ask how summer is going for them, and perhaps plan on some activities together.

Remember that although remaining in God's presence and benefiting from God's protective shade is largely up to each of us individually, all the rest of us here at Shomrei

Torah are available to support you with community and connection.

Before closing this first message as your new congregational board president, I want to thank our now immediate past president, Rachael Cutcher, once again, for her past years of dedicated service and her continuing work for us. And in my new official capacity, please feel free to contact me directly if you'd like to do so, at ira@irakglasser.com (and please be sure to notice the "k" in between my first and last names in the email address).

I want to thank our now immediate past president, Rachael Cutcher, once again, for her past years of dedicated service and her continuing work for us.

From my wife, Angela, our two sons, Ari and Eli, and me come our wishes for abundant peace: *Shalom Rav!*

**B'Shalom,
Ira**

"Summer time and the living is easy..." or not!

While the Jewish calendar slows down in the summer, life in our community continues at a fast pace. In June we celebrated our last Shabbat with Cantor David. We are sad to see him go but

Cantor David's wife, Carla Fenvez is an Associate Rabbi at Temple Emanu-el in San Francisco, where they recently purchased a home.

happy he found his first full-time position (he was only quarter-time with us) close to home; Cantor David's wife, Carla Fenvez is an Associate Rabbi at Temple Emanu-el in San Francisco, where they recently purchased a home.

Knowing that David would eventually secure a full-time position closer to home, last year, we – Rabbi Stephanie, Cantor David and myself – started to work with Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner, who lives in Santa Rosa with her husband Chris and two children, Noah and Lael. Erica is a classically trained, talented musician with a lovely voice. A few weeks ago,



Rabbi George

Erica, Cantor David, Rabbi Stephanie, and I went on a two-day retreat to plan for the Holy Days and to help prepare Erica to be our musical leader. It's a big transition for all of us and we are confident and excited to have Erica in this new role.

July also marks the end of Rachael Cutcher's service as our congregational president and the beginning of Ira Glasser's term as our congregation's lay leader. Rachael led us through a number of challenging and important transitions. She

Rachael brought her deep love of Judaism to her position and made sure we never lost sight of our mission to be a center for progressive Jewish life in the county.

Another exciting development this summer is Rabbi Stephanie's entry into the Shalom Hartman Institute's leadership program

was tireless in her support of the congregation and a great support to Rabbi Stephanie and me. She also brought her deep love of Judaism to her position and made sure we never lost sight of our mission to be a center for progressive Jewish life in the county.

We are where we are today in large part because of her exceptional service these past three years. *Kol Hakavod*/all honor to Rachael as she leaves the presidency and finds new ways to be of service to our community. A big thanks also to Ira for stepping up into his new role. Ira brings a wealth of experience to his new position and will surely take us from "strength to strength".

Another exciting development this summer is Rabbi Stephanie's entry into the Shalom Hartman Institute's leadership program, which I completed a number of years ago. She will spend the whole month of July studying at the institute. The program was life-changing for me

and I am sure it will be the same for Stephanie. We look forward to the learning and inspiration she brings back from her studies, which will continue for the next three and a half years.

In July I will begin my 21st year as your spiritual leader. I love our community, am proud of what we have created, and continue to be profoundly grateful for your support and partnership all these years. *Barukh HaShem!*

In July I will begin my 21st year as your spiritual leader.

Blessed be the Ground of All Being who animates our lives and our community and blesses us in so many ways!

Hazak, Hazak, V'nithazek!
May we go from strength to strength!

***B'Shalom,
George***

Weaponry of Prayers

Early Thursday morning, July 7th, I joined many other men and women on a bus to attend a *Rosh Chodesh* (a morning service) celebrating the new month of Tamuz. Over 400 of us attended the event, organized by Women of the Wall, an organization of Jewish women from Israel and around the world who strive to achieve the right to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall (Kotel) in Jerusalem.

The controversy started when the women in our group were calmly and peacefully going through security – some in the women's line and others in the men's line– to enter the Kotel area. The officers in charge of the security lines seemed to have no problem with this, but the ultra-orthodox men were furious! There is no other place in Israel that separates men and women in security lines, and there is no religious reason for the separation. After being called lesbians and non-Jews by the Heredi men, whose entrance to the Kotel was being delayed, we entered the plaza and gathered in the women's section.

The service was the most spiritually moving I have experienced in a long time. Women from all denominations and all over



Rabbi Kramer

the world huddled around a prayer table as we were led in prayer.

The significance of this moment overwhelmed me as tears began to stream down my face. For the first time, I was at the wall, wrapped in my *tallit*, praying out loud in a congregation of likeminded people. The women, huddled in a large prayer group close enough that we were touching, behind us our male supporters, who huddled against the separation barrier between the women's section and the plaza, joining us in prayer. During *Hallel* (the petitionary section of the morning service) the men's voices could be clearly heard antiphonally answering our prayers. I looked back and was amazed by the sea of men who care so deeply that women should also have the right to wear *t'fillin* and *talitot*, read from the Torah, and pray out loud at the Kotel. These are inspirational men!

As the communal voice of our prayers deepened, so did those of the opposition.

Men on the other side of the *mechitzah* (divider in orthodox prayer spaces separating men and women) stood on plastic chairs to look over at the women's side and scream at us. The orthodox men proclaimed proudly that they were bigots: calling us dogs and whores, telling us to go to Tel Aviv to pray in our bathing suits while Rabbi David Ingber, a supporter, retorted by screaming "Justice! Equality!"

While the unkind men were distracting, their actions were not among the most heartbreaking. In front of

Many tried to break into our huddle and disrupt our prayer, trying to take away our Torah and prayer books, and screaming very hurtful words.

our group of women deep in prayer were orthodox women facing the wall, wearing capes unkind words written on them for us to read. They were blowing whistles, banging on chairs and screaming at us. Many tried to break into our huddle and disrupt our prayer, trying to take away our Torah and prayer books, and screaming very hurtful words. Hearing the women scream

at us was so much more disturbing than anything the men said. They truly believe that because of our gender, some religious rituals are off limits.

And, to make matters worse, one of the orthodox women took a prayer book and passed it over to the men in the men's section, where one of them tore up every page in the book. As he completely desecrated the name of God, he threw all of the shreds of paper back onto the women's section. This blatant disrespect for the sacred words, prayer space or other humans could not have been carried through without the complicity of the women.

As the sights and sounds of the beating, clapping, whistles and shouting swarmed around us, our prayers rose and grew and carried even more loudly and strongly. My tears were tears of thankfulness, disbelief and determination. I pray that all of our daughters will be able to wear *t'fillin* and a *tallit*, while reading from the Torah at the Kotel in years to come. I pray that our children will be able to pray together, side by side, in an egalitarian *minyan* at the Kotel.

May our prayers be prayers of peace and not used as tools for war.

B'Shalom,
Stephanie

Reed Ferrick, An Inspiration to our Congregation

by Alana Cree
(Alana is in 11th grade at Anly High School)

"It has been an honor for me to serve for 17 years, it's meant a lot... Thank you to my fellow board members for your time and energy." -Reed Ferrick



For over 17 years, Reed Ferrick has served our community by being a cherished member of the Shomrei Torah Board. He was nominated for the position in 1999, which opened doors to the changes Reed wanted

to be a part of within the congregation. As a new board member, Reed made creating a "new home" for our synagogue his biggest goal. He feels that his greatest accomplishment while on the board was helping with the monumental building of the new synagogue, turning his goal into reality.

Reed has enjoyed being on the board and working with such dedicated individuals for many years. Although Reed Ferrick is stepping down as a board member, he will continue to be a part of the community in several ways. Reed will maintain his presence in the Legacy Circle, volunteer with Estate Planning, remain a High Holy Day greeter and organize the annual Gelt-a-thon. Helping the community is an important part of Reed's life and he truly loves the communal aspect of the synagogue.

Reed would like to remind every Congregation Shomrei Torah member to get involved in some way. "When you get involved, you learn a lot about the synagogue and it connects you to the Jewish community." His advice is to "Roll up your sleeves, get to work, and enjoy the ride." Here at Shomrei Torah, we value highly all of Reed's wholehearted devotion to our community. We are grateful for his years of service; he is an inspiration to our Congregation.

Your Jewish Journeys—Update and New Invitation

To date, six CST members have sent in their Jewish Journeys: Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores, Jay Hodes, Adele Pickar, Dorothy Schwartzberg, Helga Spizman, and Cy Wilcox. We heartily thank you! Written in the authors' distinctive voices, these stories describe vastly different paths to Judaism/Jewish life and to Congregation Shomrei Torah.

A seventh congregant emailed recently to ask if it is too late to write about her Jewish journey. Not at all! In fact, we encourage everyone to email or mail Rabbi George the story of his or her Jewish Journey!

A target length for each piece is 750 words; however, shorter or longer than that is fine. And if you want to add more information to your story later on, we'll take care of that too!

Because our inaugural collection will become available to read this summer, stay tuned for an announcement. And again, please do send Rabbi George your personal journey—to be shared with Shomrei Torah members and preserved as part of our history!

Prepping Holiday Treat Packages for College Students

Would your college student enjoy some holiday treats during the 2016-2017 school year? We will send students enrolled in the program fun and delicious Hanukkah and Passover greetings from their Shomrei Torah family! If your student received mailings last year, you will need to resubmit information to be included again this year even if the address hasn't changed.

Please email the CST office (ra@cstsr.org) and copy Nancy Ferrick (nferrick@aol.com) with the following information:

- 1) Your student's name**
- 2) College name**
- 3) Year in school**
- 4) College mailing address**
- 5) Students Email**
- 6) Plus parent name, phone number, and email.**

Current addresses are needed by the end of October for both mailings and by the beginning of March for the Passover mailing. If your student has a change of address during the school year, please update the info by contacting the CST office.

Would you like to help bake or assemble the packages? Contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.



Bat Mitzvah

Aiden Flugger

August 6

Come celebrate with us Aiden's call to the Torah as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah. Light *Oneg* to follow!

— Nessia & JC Flugger

Bar Mitzvah

Aidan Kern

August 13

Please share the joy as my son Aidan is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. The service will be at 5:00 PM.

— Dana Shorr



Bar Mitzvah

Zack Cohen

August 27

Please join us as our son, Zack, is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. A kiddish luncheon will immediately following the service.

— Jodi & Dylan Cohen

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Other advertising arrangements can be made by contacting the Executive Director. Ads and payment must be received in the temple office by the 5th of the month to start in the next month's issue.

For more information, call 707-578-5519.



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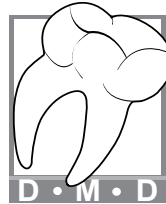
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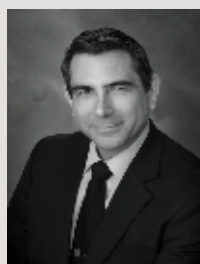
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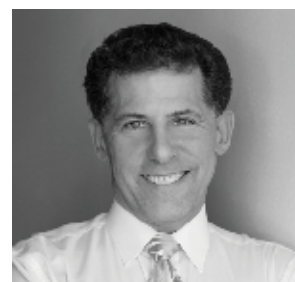
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CONGREGATION
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Thank you.

AUGUST SERVICES

Friday, August 5

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, August 6

Weekly Torah portion: Matot-mas'ei

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bat Mitzvah of Aiden Flugger

Friday, August 12

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch with*

Rabbi Michael Robinson Memorial Lecture

Saturday, August 13

Weekly Torah portion: D'varim

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by John Hart*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

5:00 pm Bar Mitzvah of Aidan Kern

Friday, August 19

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, August 20

Weekly Torah portion: Va-et'chanan

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, August 12

6:15 pm – *Welcome back Shabbat with BBQ*

Saturday, August 27

Weekly Torah portion: Eikev

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi Stephanie*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bar Mitzvah of Zack Cohen

See our latest calendar at www.csts.org

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.