



CONGREGATION  
SHOMREI TORAH שומרי תורה

the VOICE

June/July 2016—Iyyar/Sivan/Tamuz 5776 Volume XXIX Number 5

## Rabbi's Tisch with Marshall Krause

Friday, June 10, 6:15 PM

### "The U.S. Supreme Court After Scalia"

Marshall Krause, civil rights lawyer and expert on the Supreme Court, will discuss "The U.S. Supreme Court After Scalia." Reviewing the Jewish commitment to the rule of law, Prof. Krause will also address the Supreme Court in the context of the 2016 election, including the pending nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to be the 9th Justice of the Supreme Court. Suggested donation for catered dinner is \$18. RSVP to the CST office. Please call (707) 578-5519 or email [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).

## Tikkun L'eyl Shavuot

June 11, 7:00 PM at CST

Join us as we celebrate receiving the Torah atop Mt. Sinai. Our county wide Tikkun L'eyl Shavuot celebration will begin with a brief service featuring beautiful music with Cantor David and Rabbi George, followed by a catered smorgasbord of delicious dairy delicacies.

There will be multiple learning tracks: Text Study, Subcultures & Politics, Mind & Body, and Spiritual & Pastoral. Teachers include Rabbi George Gittleman, Rabbi Meredith Cahn, Rabbi Josh Jacobs-Velde, Rabbinic Pastor Judith Goleman, Reb Irwin Keller, Shoshana Hebshi, Sarah Levin, Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores, Sherry Knazan, Morty Wiggins, Adam Kinsey, Alice Pennes, Steve Schwartz, and Dr. Laurie Lippin.

Come, Eat, Pray, and Study!

*There will be multiple learning tracks: Text Study, Subcultures & Politics, Mind & Body, and Spiritual & Pastoral.*

כלל ישראל  
ONE PEOPLE - MANY FACES

*Inclusivity and Diversity*

**Tikkun L'eyl Shavuot 5776**  
June 11, 2016 at 7pm  
Congregation Shomrei Torah  
2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA, 95404

Brought to you by  
B'nai Israel Jewish Center \* Congregation Beth Ami \* Congregation Ner Shalom  
Congregation Shir Shalom \* Congregation Shomrei Torah \* ZMANIM

## Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is now open

**STARS**  
SHOMREI TORAH RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Shomrei Torah Religious School (STaRS) welcomes children grades preK-7 into our nurturing, joyful and hands-on Jewish education program.

Our primary educational goals are to open a door to learning for every student and to foster a love of Jewish tradition and community.

We are offering a \$25 early-bird discount per student for registering before June 30.

Visit [www.shomreitorah.org/religious-school/](http://www.shomreitorah.org/religious-school/) to register today.

## HIGHLIGHTS

*Eye of the Artist-Series* page 2  
*Rabbi's Message* page 4  
*Bat Mitzvahs* page 7

## Eye Of The Artist

*How the visual artist sees, thinks and creates  
A series for travelers, museum visitors and art lovers  
No materials or art experience required. No Fee*

### In the Kolbo Room

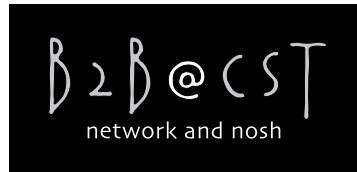
**Wednesdays, July 20, 27,  
August 3, 10 & 17  
9:30 – 11:00 AM**

If you would like to enhance your understanding and enjoyment of fine paintings, this class is for you. Through lecture, demonstration and discussion, you'll see how an artist selects a subject, composes elements, depicts textures, simplifies detail and mixes colors. Learn the thinking behind the creative process. You will view paintings and learn how the artist interprets the beauty of their world.

Topics will include shapes and forms, positive and negative space, light and shade, perspective, color, using line to direct the eye and create rhythm, hard and soft edges and how an artist creates feeling in a painting.

Presenter Lillian Mattimore is a classically trained painter and lifetime art instructor. She has taught workshops and classes at Santa Rosa Junior College, The Learning Annex in San Francisco, Point Reyes National Seashore, Alaska Pacific University, and other venues. She leads museum tours by request and currently teaches at her studio.

*To enroll: call CST office (707) 578-5519  
or [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org)*



## Get Acquainted with B2B

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, you'll also 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.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 AM in the Kobo Room at Congregation Shomrei Torah. Join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, June 14th.

*Spoiler alert:*

Rabbi George has agreed to join us that morning and make a 10-minute presentation to our group. For more information, contact the temple office at (707) 578-5519 or email [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).

## Tot Shabbat

**Friday, June 24 at 5:00 PM**

This month's Tot Shabbat theme will be Jewish Bedtime Rituals; wear your pajamas and celebrate with us. Transforming bedtime into Jewish time can provide children with an understanding that being Jewish is a way of life and a constant source of comfort.

We will be having a potluck; please bring a vegetarian dish to share. Tot Shabbat is FREE and open to all children newborn to elementary school. There will be no Tot Shabbat for the month of July.



## Babies & Bagels

**Sunday, June 26 and Sunday, July 24**

We'd love to get together with you and your little ones. The Babies & Bagels group meets once a month, usually on Sunday mornings. 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 and to RSVP for the address, contact the temple office at (707) 578-5519 or email [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).



## South American Human Rights Activist Set For Rabbi Michael Robinson Memorial Lecture

Friday, August 12

6:15 PM

Michael Robinson and Roberto D. Graetz met in the late 1960s when Michael was on the East Coast during a Vietnam war protest and Robert was a student at Hebrew Union College. Both men became Rabbis, and both men became human rights activists. On Friday, August 12, Rabbi Graetz will be the special guest speaker at the annual Rabbi Michael Robinson Memorial Lecture.



Rabbi Gretz 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. Rabbi Gretz joined Temple Isaiah in 1991, and is now about to retire. He knew Rabbi Michael, and Michael's widow, Ruth Robinson.

This will be the 10th anniversary of Rabbi Michael's passing. For those of you not familiar with Michael, you can read all about him on this website: <http://www.rabbimichaelrobinson.com/>

Call the office now to make your reservations for the Rabbi's Tisch at (707) 578-5519 or email [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org). Suggested donation for the catered dinner is \$18/person.

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## Reflections as CST president

June 30 is my last day as President of Congregation Shomrei Torah and you will start seeing a new face and hearing a new voice in the president's message. I'm pleased to welcome Ira Glasser as the incoming president and look forward to working with him during his term. Serving as president had its challenges, but it yielded even greater rewards. It has truly been an honor to serve Shomrei Torah in this role. I want to take this opportunity to offer my gratitude and show appreciation for you, our members. You must actively choose to be a member of our congregation by pledging your membership and paying dues. Renewing your membership each year demonstrates your commitment to Judaism and your desire to belong in our community. If you have already renewed your membership for this year, thank you! Only through your generosity can we continue to fulfill our mission.

I wish to acknowledge all of our devoted volunteers. Your time, talent, and willingness to serve is what allows Shomrei Torah to thrive. If I listed everyone who helps out in ways big and small throughout the year, the list would look like our membership directory! I am grateful for our dedicated board of directors who give countless hours on the guidance and governance of the congregation. I appreciate



Rachael Cutcher, CST President

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our clergy team for their leadership and spiritual direction. And, a big thank you to our staff for your hard work and operational support. Our congregation is strong because of the community we create together.

Now, after three years as President, I am looking forward to serving in my new role: Immediate Past President!

*L'shalom,  
Rachael*

## Election Season Raises Questions

As the presidential race heats up, the question of the role of religion in politics, especially here at Shomrei Torah, feels more urgent to me. We do have a few guidelines. For us to keep our non-profit tax exempt status we cannot favor one candidate over another. We can and do get behind issues, just not candidates. Following Rabbi Michael Robinson's lead, may his memory be for a blessing, I do not declare my support for one candidate over another so that I can be a rabbi for all members and their political perspectives.

Nevertheless, there are many questions and opinions about what we should and should not do. For example, while

*For us to keep our non-profit tax exempt status we cannot favor one candidate over another. We can and do get behind issues, just not candidates.*

many congregants appreciate sermons that touch on current political issues, others see the synagogue as a kind of sanctuary from political life. While Judaism has never recognized a separation of religions and politics, over



Rabbi George

*While Judaism has never recognized a separation of religions and politics, over time I have learned (I hope!) to temper what I bring to the congregation so that people with a variety of perspectives can feel welcome.*

time I have learned (I hope!) to temper what I bring to the congregation so that people with a variety of perspectives can feel welcome. There are limits to this approach. I don't, for example, feel a need to create a space for someone who is homophobic or racist.

Here are some questions that are on my mind:

- *Even though supporting one candidate over another is off limits, what happens when a candidate's*

*behavior crosses moral or ethical boundaries?*

- *How should I/we advocate for issues like Immigration Reform when in doing so we inadvertently align ourselves with one candidate over another?*
- *Where is the line between progressive Reform Judaism, which CST supports, and progressive politics, which many members do not?*

These questions are bigger than a synagogue's leadership. They are best addressed by the whole congregation, which is why I'm asking you to join the conversation. Please post a comment on our web site at [www.shomreitorah.org/author/](http://www.shomreitorah.org/author/)

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rabbigeorgegittleman/ and share your thoughts.

*B'Shalom,  
George*

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## Free Shabbat Dinner with our Rabbis and Your Neighbors

Shomrei Torah thrives through human connection, yet so often it is hard to get to know each other in a meaningful way. We're too busy, not around enough or rushed when we are together. But there is another way... Join us for a free Shabbat Dinner at Shomrei Torah after Shabbat Services.

Are you from West County or Petaluma and would like to meet other members from your part of the county? Or maybe you're from Santa Rosa or northern Sonoma county? Choose one of the three free Shabbat Dinners based on your zip code. RSVP today!

**Friday, June 3, 6:15 PM** for those from Sebastopol & Petaluma

**Friday, June 24, 6:15 PM** for those from Wikiup and north county

**Friday, July 22, 6:15 PM** for those from Santa Rosa

Space is limited to 30 participants per dinner. You MUST RSVP one week before the Shabbat Dinner meant for you. Please call the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or email [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).

*\*A big "thank you!" to Howard Schoenfeld & Paula Simon for making these Shabbat Dinners at no charge.*



## An Appeal to Offer Rides to Shomrei Torah Members

We have a number of people at Shomrei Torah who no longer drive (this will happen to all of us if we are lucky to live long enough). Please contact the temple if you are willing to occasionally offer a ride to services, *Tisch*, or other Shomrei events. It's an easy *mitzvah*, and will be much appreciated.

Thank you for considering this,  
Contact the temple office at (707) 578-5519  
or [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).

## KIDDish

KIDDish is an introduction to Religious School for all Pre-K, children 3 – 5 years old. This is a preschool class 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.

Enrollment for the 2016 – 17 school year is open. Please visit <http://www.shomreitorah.org/community/kiddish/> to download a registration form or visit the temple office.



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## STaRS

On May 1, our Religious School Students helped assemble food donation bags. In what's becoming a bit of a standing tradition of *tzedakah*, they assembled 500 bags for our congregants to keep in their cars for anyone they may see in need of help. These bags are in Shalom Hall and are available for you to take — while supplies last of course.



## Loving Kindness – Buddhist Practice, Jewish Wisdom

Sundays, June 12, June 19, June 26, July 10  
7:00-8:30 PM

Sign up for a summer Meditation Class (4 sessions) offered by Rabbi George.

We will use these four sessions to place the Buddhist practice of Metta in a Jewish context by focusing on the Hebrew words for Love/*Ahavah*, Compassion/*Rachamim*, Loving Kindness/*Hesed* and Peace/*Shalom*.

There will be some teaching, chanting and at least 30 minutes of silent meditation each class. All are welcome, no previous knowledge or experience necessary.

Free. Please RSVP to the CST office at (707)578-5519 or email [denise@cstsr.org](mailto:denise@cstsr.org).

## JuSTY

Our 3rd-5th Grade youth group, JuSTY enjoyed an afternoon in the pool. These kids and their families had a great time in the sun and the pool, enjoying the nice weather, and noshing together of course! A big thank you to the Bernsteins for hosting the party! JuSTY will continue programming and events in the fall.



## Passover college care packages

On April 18, six CST members gathered to pack fabulous Passover care packages for 42 of our college students in 11 states, Israel, and Scotland. The packages, coordinated by Nancy Ferrick and Melissa Kort, included relevant Passover info, a letter from our clergy, as well as homemade *matzo* toffee and Passover chocolate, *tzedakah* boxes, *matzo* stress balls, school and health supplies and other treats. Lynn Gasser, Susan Bailyn and Nancy Ferrick provided homemade treats. The packers were Linda Bornstein, Nancy Ferrick, Marcy Pluznick-Marrin, Ricki Nickel, Tracy Candiotti and Jennifer Hirshfield-Levine. Special thanks to Julie Caldwell in the CST office for her assistance with this project.

We know many college students change addresses each year, so we ask that you sign your student up for care packages at the beginning of each school year. Keep your eye out for a request for current student information in the September *Voice*.

## SHoRTY

Our high schoolers ended their school year with a BBQ dinner and the elections for the upcoming academic year. No warm day event would be complete without the obligatory water balloon fight. SHoRTY's new board is excited to start off the year and hope to have bigger events and more members.



### **Bat Mitzvah** **Ruby Leibowitz**

*June 25*

Please join me in celebration and gratitude as my daughter Ruby is called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah*. The service will be followed by a *Kiddush* luncheon.

**Shoshana Leibowitz**

### **Bat Mitzvah** **Adena Shai Wichmann**

*July 9, 2016*  
*3 Tamuz 5776*

Please share our joy as our daughter Adena Shai becomes a *Bat Mitzvah*. An outdoor *Kiddush* lunch will follow services.

**Jessica and Efraim Wichmann**



### **Bar Mitzvah** **Nathaniel Merhav**

*July 30*

Please join us in celebrating Nathaniel's Bar Mitzvah. Lunch will be served after the service.

**Liz Levy and Udi Merhav**

## **It's Time to Renew Your Membership**

By now, you will have received membership renewal package in the mail. Help us sustain and grow Shomrei Torah into the future by renewing your membership and pledging at the Fair Share Pledge level.

## Veterans, Mental Health Professionals, Peaceniks Share Concern for Veterans' Welfare at "Poster Girl" Event

This year's Social Action Goes to the Movies series continued to fill the house, attracting community members, many of whom had never been to a synagogue before. The third and final film, "Poster Girl," brought together uniformed veterans and a variety of advocacy and mental health groups, including AMVETS, Vet-Connect, North Bay Veterans Center, North Bay Veterans Resource Center, Interfaith Shelter Network, Verity's Forgotten Warriors Project, Project H.O.P.E., and Vietnam Veterans of America. Dr. Andrew Turner, Acting Director of the local VA Mental Health Clinic, thanked CST "for hosting this event and raising awareness of veterans' issues."

This was the fourth year of the award-winning Social Action Goes to the Movies series; this year's theme was "Mental Health—It Takes A Community." Thanks to the Film Committee: Ann Sterin, Chair; Ed Berger, Bruce Berkowitz, Larry Carlin, Susan Daniel, Rose Diamond, Stephen Harper, Katy Rose Lusson, Madeleine Rose, Asher Sheppard, and Ellen van den Berg. Thanks also to Bill Skoonberg from the CST Communications Committee for designing beautiful flyers, and to dedicated SAC members who provided refreshments and logistic help to warmly welcome CST members and the community.





## The CSA movement—World-wide and at Shomrei Torah

Wednesdays find a small but loyal band of Shomrei Torah members walking to the back of the synagogue building to load produce from “their box” into bags to take home to their families. The weekly newsletter written by Singing Frogs Farm co-owner Elizabeth Kaiser (along with husband Paul), helps connect them to farm life with stories of the intricacies of agriculture, as well as recipes using some the week’s produce.

Community-supported agriculture is an alternative, locally based economic model of agriculture and food distribution. The term “community-supported agriculture” was coined in the north eastern United States in the 1980s, influenced by European biodynamic agriculture ideas formulated by Rudolf Steiner. Two European farmers, Jan Vander Tuin from Switzerland and Trauger Groh from Germany, brought European biodynamic farming ideas to the United States in the mid-1980s.

Since the 1980s, community supported farms have been organized throughout North America where there now are at least 13,000 CSA farms. CSA offerings originally and predominantly consist of produce—veggies and fruits. In more recent years, offerings have diversified and include non-produce products including eggs, meat, flowers, honey, dairy and soaps.

Singing Frogs Farm was chosen five years ago as the food partner for Shomrei Torah by a group of Environmental Action Committee members. Their farm is in a beautiful valley west of Sebastopol and was founded in 2007. They have developed a unique, no-till, ecologically beneficial and highly intensive style of vegetable and fruit farming which has increased soil nutrients to the point of producing six times the California average revenue per acre.

Sign-ups for the Shomrei Torah CSA through Singing Frogs Farm are actively being taken for their main weekly produce season that began May 4. They deliver produce year round, though after Thanksgiving, the deliveries change to every two weeks.

Check the Singing Frogs Farm website ([www.singingfrogsfarm.com](http://www.singingfrogsfarm.com)) for more info including CSA sign-up.



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**Congregation Shomrei Torah**  
2600 Bennett Valley Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**[www.cstsr.org](http://www.cstsr.org)**

**707-578-5519**

(unless otherwise noted)

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[shomrei@cstsr.org](mailto:shomrei@cstsr.org)

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Monday–Friday

9:00 AM–12 Noon

1:00–5:00 PM

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### **The Voice Display Ad Rates**

*Annual Billing Amounts Effective 7/1/15*

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Business card:	\$265	\$330
Quarter-page:	\$580	\$725
Half-page:	\$1,190	\$1,490

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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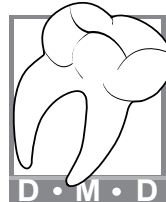
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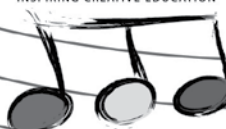
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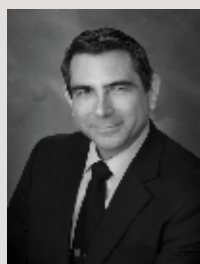


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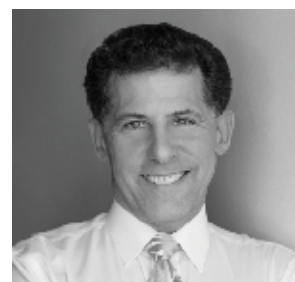
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## JUNE/JULY SERVICES

### Friday, June 3

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service (outside chapel)*

### Saturday, June 4

*Weekly Torah portion: B'chukotai*

8:45 am – *Torah Study*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, June 10

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch*

### Saturday, June 11

*Weekly Torah portion: B'midbar*

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by*

*Cynthia and Manny Nestle*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, June 17

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, June 18

*Weekly Torah portion: Naso*

8:45 am – *Torah Study*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, June 24

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service honoring Julie Stout*

### Saturday, June 25

*Weekly Torah portion: B'haalot'cha*

8:45 am – *Torah Study*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bat Mitzvah of Ruby Leibowitz 10:30 am – 12:00 PM

### Friday, July 1

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, July 2

*Weekly Torah portion: Sh'lach L'cha*

8:45 am – *Torah Study*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, July 8

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch*

### Saturday, July 9

*Weekly Torah portion: Korach*

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi Meredith Cahn*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bat Mitzvah of Adena Wichmann 10:30 am – 12:00 PM

### Friday, July 15

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, July 16

*Weekly Torah portion: Chukat*

8:45 am – *Torah Study*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, July 22

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, July 23

*Weekly Torah portion: Balak*

8:45 am – *Torah Study*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

### Friday, July 29

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

### Saturday, July 30

*Weekly Torah portion: Pinchas*

8:45 am – *Torah Study*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bar Mitzvah of Nathaniel Merhav 10:30-12:00 PM