



Join us in celebrating
the first 10 years
in our home on the hill.

Date : Saturday, JUNE 3rd
Time : 7:30 pm
Tickets : \$36 per person

contact Denise (707) 578-5519 or
purchase tickets online at: cstsr.org/ten-years
(COCKTAIL attire, if you desire!)

Funds raised at this event will
benefit Congregation Shomrei Torah.

Great "Buy-ins":

- hike and lunch with rabbi george
- mexican fiesta in rabbi stephanie's sukkah
- car rally and lunch at yoffi farm
- tour and lunch at pride mountain winery
- family breakfast and movie morning
- guys night out—poker and planes
- ladies night cocktail party
- make your own tallit

DESSERT and
DRINKS for a
DECADE JUNE 3

Rabbi's Tisch: Rabbi George Gittleman

"Chai-Lites from our Recent Trip to Central and Eastern Europe"

Friday, June 9, 6:15 PM

Just back from Shomrei Torah's first congregational trip to Central and Eastern Europe, Rabbi George will share highlights of the experience as well as pictures and personal reflections. Suggested donation of \$18 for the dinner. Please RVSP to the temple office or email denise@cstsr.org to ensure we order enough food.

(There will not be a Rabbi's Tisch in July.)



Rabbi George Gittleman

Special Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, June 24, 10:30 AM

At this special Shabbat service, temple member and renowned composer Nolan Gasser, with the help of Cantorial Soloist Erica Wisner, will share a new melody he wrote just for us. Free catered lunch to follow. Please RSVP through the temple office so we don't run out of food. (God forbid!) Call the office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.

From the Ground Up: Mud, Miracles, and Marching our Torahs to our Bennett Valley Road home

Friday, June 2, 6:15 PM

Dianne Smith, former CST President and the Chair of our BVR Building Council during both our land search and building years will do a special Shabbat presentation at services on Friday, June 2. Dianne's presentation will include images and stories of the true grit, determination, fun and satisfaction CST members experienced while dreaming our big BVR dream home. If you joined CST since our move to our BVR home on the hill, come take a look at the raw land and building stages of the place you too now call home.



* **"From the Ground Up"** was the title of the monthly column I wrote in the Voice from the first land searches (2001) thru the Torah March (2007). I still have all of them.

Eastern Europe Travelers at the June Men's Bagel Club

Sunday, June 4, 9:00 AM

The June Men's Bagel Club will feature pictures and reflections on the Eastern European trip led by Rabbi George in May. Some of the Shomrei Torah travelers will share their pictures as they describe their journey. Join us in the Sanctuary for bagels, lox and cream cheese with all the trimmings, all for only a \$7 donation as we wrap up the Bagel Club season. Please call the office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org to reserve your seat.



Jubilee Synagogue in Prague, Czech Republic

The Men's Bagel Club will be taking a break during the summer.

"One Bay One Book"

Tuesday, June 13, 12:00 PM-2:00 PM

CST will again participate in a Bay Area-wide book discussion of a book of Jewish interest selected by the Jewish Community Library and serving as a focal point for events throughout the San Francisco area. Rabbi George and Dr. Melissa Kort will lead the discussion of *Moonglow*, by Michael Chabon. Call the office for more information.

Introduction to the Psalms

3 sessions: Wednesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 7:00-8:30 PM

Psalms are the heart of the Hebrew Bible, a source of prayer and reflection for Judaism and Christianity. This three-session class, taught by Rabbi George, will explore the history, use and meaning of the Psalms from a Jewish perspective.

No previous knowledge is necessary and all are welcome.

To RSVP call the office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.

Rabbi's Tisch: Social Activist for Gay Rights Rabbi Denise Eger

Keynote Speaker for the Rabbi Robinson Memorial Lecture
"Healing our Soul, Healing the World - the Jewish Way of *Tikkun Olam* & Social Justice"

Friday, August 11, 6:15 PM

Social Activist for gay rights Rabbi Denise Eger is the keynote speaker for Rabbi Robinson Memorial Lecture Rabbi's Tisch. Denise L. Eger received her Master's Degree from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in 1985 and was ordained as a Rabbi in 1988 at the New York campus of HUC. Following ordination, she served Congregation

Continued on page 4



Rabbi Denise Eger

Babies & Bagels

Sunday, June 25, Sunday, July 23

We 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 meets at a private home. For more information, please contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.

Babies & Bagels is a FREE program!



STaRS Registration is Open!



Shomrei Torah Religious School welcomes children in grades K-7 into our nurturing, joyful and hands-on Jewish education program. Registration will take less than 5 minutes per student. Register at <http://www.shomreitorah.org/religious-school>.

KIDdish Enrollment is Open!



KIDdish is an introduction to Religious School for all Pre-K children 2-5 years old. 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. The cost of the entire program is \$180. Download the registration form at <http://www.shomreitorah.org/community/kiddish>.

An ode to the Jewish American Experience in honor of Independence Day

Jews have been a part of the American experience from the beginning. We arrived with the first settlers in New Amsterdam, were present at the founding of the republic and later participated in the great migration west. We've plowed her fields, fought in her wars, built her cities and participated in almost every aspect of her short but great history.

For most of us, our American experience began with the mass immigration of Jews from Eastern Europe in the late 19th and early 20th Century. America offered great promise while Europe was aflame with unbridled nationalism and anti-Semitism. There was nothing new about this—the Jews of Europe were long subjected to poverty, persecution and insecurity. Still, the upheaval of the early 20th century was exceptionally brutal.

In fact, hundreds of thousands and later millions of Jews fled Europe, joining the mixed multitude of non-Jewish European immigrants: Russians, Poles, Italians, Germans, Irish and others, all making their way to America. The numbers are staggering: between 1880 and 1920, over three million Jews from all over Europe arrived on the teeming shores of the free world.



Rabbi George

They brought little with them but a yearning for safety, prosperity and peace. Though they carried few bags, their shoulders were bent with the weight of centuries of oppression, the burden of history which they hoped to leave behind in the new world.

"Oh, to live in America to be free and not be afraid!"

I imagine them coming to Ellis Island on the deck of a burdened steamer overflowing with people and their excitement at the first sighting of the rising flame of the Statue of Liberty:

"Keep ancient lands your storied pomp," wrote the Jewish poet Emma Lazarus. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to be free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the Golden Door."

My maternal grandfather was 12 when he arrived, one of seven, the head of the household. He arrived, tired and poor and tempest-tossed,

with barely more than the clothes on his back, and, like many new immigrants, he began his life here peddling on the streets of New York City. He eventually moved from New York to Omaha, Nebraska and traveled from there to the wide-open spaces of the Dakotas, selling eyeglasses from farm to farm under the name "Dr. Van Wolf".

Of course, he was not a doctor! His is the classic story of first-generation success, for by the time my mother was born, he was a successful businessman living in Chicago. In his lifetime, besides supporting a large extended family, he built two synagogues and left a legacy of prosperity and a thriving Jewish community, which he had a hand in building.

My paternal grandfather was also a boy when he arrived in this country. The son of a rabbi, he arrived, I am sure, clad in traditional garb: a long black coat, a *kippah* covering his head, *tzitzit* dangling from his waist and *payus* twirling down from the sides of his face. I can only imagine his astonishment when he got off the boat at Ellis Island. He was the son of a rabbi from a long line of rabbis that stretched back at least eight or nine generations. He fulfilled the expectations of his family and his *yichus*, his lineage, but in a very American way by shedding his *payus*, going to public school and then on to rabbinical school, not in the *yeshiva*, but at the Jewish Theological Seminary

in New York City. He received his ordination there, became a Conservative rabbi, a far cry from the *shtetel* rabbi, and took his first and only pulpit in Louisville, Kentucky—a far cry (both literally and figuratively) from Pinsk, Poland!

He prospered there. He married, raised a family and built a synagogue. He was their rabbi for over 50 years and, when he died, the streets were lined with mourners as the funeral procession made its way from the synagogue to the cemetery. He was yet another Jewish American success story.

That's just a taste of my family's story, which is really a classic American tale, for America has been and still is "The Golden Door" for so many people. Of course, there is more to the story. Our freedom and prosperity were not handed to us on a silver platter, but whose is?

My father, may his memory be for a blessing, never outlived the revulsion he felt when traveling to Florida as a kid with his family for vacation and seeing signs along the road that said: "No Niggers, Dogs or Jews." My mother has similar stories to tell.

In truth, there is a history of anti-Semitism in America that dates back to the arrival of the first Jews, refugees from the Spanish Inquisition, in New Amsterdam (later to become New York City) in 1654. The then-Governor, Peter Stuyvesant, at first denied them entry into the settlement.

Continued on page 4

It was only after relatives of the refugees in Holland petitioned the Dutch West India Company, whom Stuyvesant represented, that they were allowed entry. Another sad epoch in the Jewish American story was during the Civil War when General Grant, accusing the Jews of "profiteering," issued the infamous order #11 which expelled the Jews from Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi. Abraham Lincoln rescinded the order a year later, but, by then, much of the damage had already been done.

Though there has always been a difference between the vision of America and American reality, this is what makes America unique: we can fight and win, and we have. Nowhere has the Jewish community been freer, safer or more prosperous than here in America.

Of course, there is no rest for the weary; we must always be vigilant. We can't ignore the rise of anti-Semitism, often cloaked as criticism of Israel, in Europe and on our college campuses, as well as the alarming spike in anti-Semitic attacks in this country since the November election. No less troubling is the anti-immigrant rhetoric and actions of the current administration, which we are bound by history and our values to resist.

As we celebrate our good fortune to be a part of such a great nation, let us also renew our resolve to fight for everyone's freedom to live and prosper here.
God Bless America.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi George

Board Update

At its regular meeting in April, the CST Board reported on the following:

- The Board of Directors approved one new family:
 - Daniel and Ember Burg and their two children.
- Passover was a huge success. Thank you to all who volunteered and helped make this event a joyous and successful one.
- Family Retreat, Walk to End Genocide, *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, and the Annual CST meeting are all happening soon.
- We have continued to focus on security, adding a new doorbell feature to keep people safe during business hours at CST
 - We are also fixing the doors in the front of the building so they lock and secure properly
- The Board of Directors also approved the installation of our new playground. Even as fundraising continues, we are moving ahead to build this much-needed structure.

Environmental Action Committee

Tip of the Month

"It is not what one says, but rather what one does, that makes a difference in the world."

~ Pirkei Avot, 1:17



MAKE EVERY DROP COUNT!

The drought may well come again.

Some quick tips to improve efficiency and prevent wasting water in your yard:

- Install a drip irrigation system for all planting areas other than lawn.
- Water infrequently, in short cycles, early in the morning.
- Catch and recycle water as often as you can, rather than rely on the hose.
- Don't mow too low.
- Aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- Remove your lawn and plant drought-resistant shrubs and ground cover (*Shomrei Torah* is a good model).
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalks.

Saving water is important and easy. Conserve it, and you save on your utility bills as well.

For more tips on saving water, visit www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to- conserve/index.php.

Special Message

Jenny Holland Brown would like to express her heartfelt thanks for everything the Caring Committee has done for her family.

Rabbi's Tisch Continued from front page

Beth Chayim *Chadashim* for four years as its first full-time rabbi. She is the founding rabbi of Congregation Kol Ami, West Hollywood's Reform Synagogue. Rabbi Eger believes that activism is an important part of her rabbinate and has worked extensively with people with AIDS.

Rabbi Eger is the Immediate Past President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the largest and oldest rabbinical association in North America, a past President of the Southern California Board of Rabbis (the first woman and openly gay person to do so) and a past President of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis. Suggested donation of \$18 for the dinner. Please RVSP to the temple office or email denise@cstsr.org to ensure we order enough food.

Like Congregation Shomrei Torah on  **facebook®**

Many Members Lend a Hand to Make the 2017 CST Membership Directory

The CST directory is a labor of love for many people. Members who volunteered for the photography/greeting part of the project were thanked in last month's Voice. Volunteers below have participated by buying and selling ads or sponsoring ads in different ways.

Many thanks to the following for buying ads in our upcoming CST membership directory:

Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery
A Purrfect Solution – Phil Guelfi
Alexander Marrin, CPA – Bollinger, Glenn, Guattery, Gunn & McAravy, LLP
Bailyn Graphics – Susan Bailyn
Bimbam – sponsored by the Glasser Family
Bornstein, Daniel, DMD
Caring Committee of CST
Chavurah Godolah
Chavurah Intermarried with Children
Collaborative Council of the Redwood Empire
Credo High School – sponsored by Lisa Ehrlich
Cutcher Family Donation
David Campagna, Realtor
Dierk's Parkside and Midtown Cafés
Donna Declutter – Donna Roses
Edward Jones Investments – Norman Easley
Ferrick Team Dentistry – Reed Ferrick
Friedman's Home Improvement
Gittleman Family – Rabbi George and Laura
Goodman Family – Beth and Garry
Hallroan & Stanley Construction Services Inc.
Hillel of Sonoma County
Hostess Helper
Jeanne Levin, Estate Planning Attorney
Jeffrey's Hillside Café
Jewish Community Center
Jewish Community Free Clinic – sponsored by John Weinstein & Heidi Stewart
Jewish Veg – sponsored by the Glasser Family
Judy Freedman, Coldwell Banker
Kate Black
Kenwood Dentist – Keith Boxerman
Kramer Family – Rabbi Stephanie and Adam
Larsen Auto Care
Legacy Committee of CST
LifeEncore – Sara Zeff Geber
Listening for a Change – Phyllis Rosenfield
Marsha Connell
Marsha Jacobs, MFT
Matalon Family
Mazon – sponsored by the Glasser Family
Men's Bagel Club of CST
Monroe Hall – Marguerite Longtin
New York Life Insurance Company – Odalis Medianero

NSD Nelson Sobel Design – Paige Sobel
Nina Bonos
Oliver's Markets
Olivet Kennel & Dog Training Resort – Sapir and Jane Weiss
Open Sky Retreat Center – Barbara Hirschfeld and David Sussman
Palms for Life Fund – sponsored by the Glasser Family
Park Avenue Catering
Pedersen's Furniture – Jeri Nilson
Perry, Johnson, Anderson, Miller & Moskowitz LLP – Jeremy Olsan and Larry Moskowitz
Positive Images – sponsored by Lisa Ehrlich
Quarry Hill Botanical Garden – sponsored by the Ch-appy Chai-kers (Adele Pickar, Lorna Myers, Fran Danoff, Judith Richlin-Klonsky, Maryann Taub, Sue Lewis, Jan Gilman, Cynthia Nestle, Marlene Stein, Judy Freedman, Marcy Pluznick-Marrin, Sabrina Kahn, Muncie Harper, Suzanne Abrams, Miriam Sparrow, Arlene Moore)
Santa Rosa Printing
Santa Rosa Shoes – Anne and Jerry Brisgel
Sarah's Eats & Sweets
Scenic Air Tours – Bruce Falstein and John DeAguiar
Senior Placement Services – Barbara Scharf
Smother's European
Social Action Committee of CST
Sonoma Country Day School
Sonoma Style by Barbara
Spaulding McCullough & Tansil LLP – Albert Handleman
Stein Family – Martin and Marlene
Superburger – Adam and Joanna Rosenblum
Tailor Tacks & Pin – Marguerite Longtin
Terra Firma Global Partners – Paul Schwartz
Terre Family Law – Carla Boyd Terre
The Mahjurah
Tribute to Coleen Rothenberg – Irv Rothenberg
Tribute to CST Staff – Rabbis Stephanie and George
Tunick Videography
Westerhold Family Vineyards – John Westerhold and Sharon Bauman

Many thanks to the following for selling ads in the upcoming directory:

Susan Bailyn
Ronnie Campagna
Nancy Ferrick
Rabbi George Gittleman
Sue Lewis
Bob Marmor
Marcy Pluznick-Marrin
Bill Skoonberg
Paige Sobel

Advertisers who are involved with the directory after this date will be acknowledged in a future Voice publication.

CST Holds Annual Meeting and Fair on May 7

On Sunday, May 7, about 45 members attended the Annual Meeting and Fair. The meeting was conducted by Ira K. Glasser, Board President, who also discussed the financials. The members approved the 2017-2018 budget of \$1.2 million and the new slate of board members. Sharon Bauman presented the year in review and covered the wide variety of programs that Shomrei Torah held for families and members of all ages. Welcome our slate of board officers for 2017-2018:

Sharon Bauman, Board President

Ira K. Glasser, Treasurer

Eli Weinzveg, Secretary

Susan Bailyn

Lisa Ehrlich

Dave Fichera

Desmond Shapiro

Asher Sheppard

Paige Sobel



Sharon Bauman

New board members are Paul Berlant, Ann DuBay, Anne Matalon and Cy Wilcox.

After the meeting, congregants enjoyed a delicious barbecue lunch prepared by the Men's Bagel Club. Many people purchased items at the Gift Shop sale, listened to the 7th graders at the *Mitzvah* mall and visited the different committee tables while children were entertained with a jumpy house and arts and crafts.



Shopping at the Annual Fair.



Ira Glasser



7th grade Mitzvah Mall.



New and returning board members at the CST annual meeting.

CST Members take part in fifth annual “Faith, Farms and Food Access Conference”

Several Shomrei Torah members attended the “Faith, Farms and Food Access Conference” hosted by Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative in Berkeley. Members of different faiths met to share ways in which their churches, synagogues or mosques engage in food justice. Read the full article in Jewish News of Northern California (<http://www.jweekly.com/2017/04/13/sustainable-faith-congregations-find-common-purpose-in-food-justice/>).



Bill Skoonberg and a goat friend.

Shomrei Torah – The Best Place to see July 4th Fireworks

The best place to see the 4th of July fireworks is from the patio of Shomrei Torah. This year, we are having a FREE gathering available only to Shomrei Torah members and their guests. The gate will open at 8:00 PM. Bring your own lawn chairs, food, and drink. You're encouraged to bring food and drink to share with others. Then sit back, relax, and enjoy the show. We have limited parking spaces. Reserve a parking spot by calling Denise in the office at 707-578-5519. Limit 2 cars per member family. A Shomrei Torah member must be in each car and only those whose names are on the list at the gate will be allowed in.

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**Next meetings: Tuesday, June 13, 8:00 AM;
Tuesday, July 11, 8:00 AM**

Congregational Retreat Weekend at Camp Newman Connects Members

On the weekend of April 28-30, over 100 Shomrei Torah congregants spent the weekend at Camp Newman to celebrate *Shabbat* and our community. Individuals and families came together and enjoyed some relaxing incredible spring weather, camp-style activities and a great time to relax. The theme of the weekend was to find the similarities and the connections among us. From silly campfire songs to hiking and even some time to sip some margaritas, our congregants found ways to connect through the generations and have a great time. We hope you and your families can join us for the next one!



"A minute to win it."

The theme of the weekend was to find the similarities and the connections among us.



Magical Shabbat service.



Massage workshop at Camp Newman.



Kids relaxing at Camp Newman.



The view from the hike to the Star.



Closing Blessings.

Congregation Shomrei Torah

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www.cstsr.org

707-578-5519

(unless otherwise noted)

FAX 578-3967

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shomrei@cstsr.org

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Monday–Friday
9:00 AM–12 Noon
1:00–5:00 PM

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Thank You to Ambassadors Serving from 2015 to 2017

Thank you so much for your time and dedication serving as Ambassadors. We know it takes extra effort to be “on” while attending CST services and events, but it makes a world of difference.

Our *tisches* and *Shabbat* services have been smoother than ever before. It is wonderful for our rabbis to be able to focus on ritual and welcoming without worrying that everyone has been greeted and helped to find a seat. Many people have mentioned how they would have never connected with others if it weren't for an Ambassador making the perfect *shidach* (match).

Thank you for continuing to make our community warm and welcoming—we wouldn't be who we are without you.

Today Rabah,

Rabbi Stephanie and Rabbi George

Sue Lewis–Coordinator

Susan Bailyn

Sharon Bauman

Roberta Berg

Carol Berlant

Paul Berlant

Dino Bonos

Nina Bonos

Shelley Brott

Linda Bornstein

Ronnie Campagna

Rachael Cutcher

Deborah Cutler

Fran Danoff

John DeAguiar

Ann DuBay

Lisa Ehrlich

Reed Ferrick

Dave Fichera

Judy Freedman

Jan Gilman

Marcia Gladstone

Beth Goodman

Garry Goodman

Muncie Harper

Steven Harper

Shirley Liberman

Margaret Livingston

Rose Maier

Miriam Marlin

Marcy Pluznick–Marrin

Craig Meltzner

Jillian Navarro

Enola Nelson

Cynthia Nestle

Ricki Nickel

Jeremy Olsan

Fran Posner

Catherine Reisman

Rick Reisman

Susan Richter

Dorothy Schwartzberg

Stan Roodman

Guevara Rowand

Patty Rosetti

Jeff Schechter

Sharon Schechter

Des Shapiro

Asher Sheppard

Sandi Shulkin

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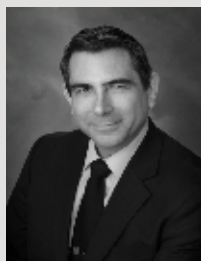
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The **SHOMREI TORAH JUDAICA & GIFT SHOP** is now operating under new management. Meet our team (from left to right): Ann Sheppard, Nan Copen, Sandi Shulkin and Flo Hoffenberg. Not shown is Bill Skoonberg (he's taking the photo). We are clearing the shelves and remodeling the store. Stop by and say hi. Maybe you'll find something to take home.



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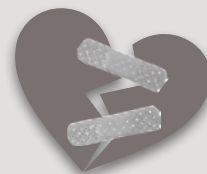
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JUNE/JULY SERVICES

Friday, June 2

6:15 pm – 10th Year Anniversary
Special Shabbat Service-Dianne Smith will speak

Saturday, June 3

Weekly Torah portion: Nasse
8:45 am – Torah Study led by Rabbi George
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, June 9

6:15 pm – Rabbi's Tisch with Rabbi George

Saturday, June 10

Weekly Torah portion: Be-Ha'alotcha
8:45 am – Torah Study led by
Rabbi Meredith Cahn
10:30 am – Shabbat Service
Bar Mitzvah of Leo Herbstman

Friday, June 16

6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 17

Weekly Torah portion: Shelach
8:45 am – Torah Study
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, June 23

6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 24

Weekly Torah portion: Korach
8:45 am – Torah Study led by Rabbi Kramer
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, June 30

6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 1

Weekly Torah portion: Chukat
8:45 am – Torah Study
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, July 7

6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 8

Weekly Torah portion: Balak
8:45 am – Torah Study led by Penelope and Jay Hodes
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, July 14

6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 15

Weekly Torah portion: Pinchas
8:45 am – Torah Study
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, July 21

6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 22

Weekly Torah portion: Mattote-Masei
8:45 am – Torah Study led by Marcia Gladstone
10:30 am – Shabbat Service

Friday, July 28

6:15 pm – Shabbat Service

Saturday, July 29

Weekly Torah portion: Devarim
8:45 am – Torah Study led by
Cynthia and Manny Nestle
10:30 am – Shabbat Service