



CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH שומרי תורה

the VOICE

March 2016 – ADAR I/ADAR II 5776, Volume XXIX Number 11

Beatles Purim Schpiel

Wednesday, March 23, 6:15 PM

Join us for a revolutionary visit into the 60s as the Beatles meet Esther, Mordecai and Haman. Come in your costume and grab a *grogger*. Join the fun as we read from the Book of Esther. Our *Purim Schpielers* will not disappoint. Don't miss an evening of entertainment and yummy *hamantashen*.

Come in your costume and grab a grogger. Join the fun as we read from the Book of Esther.



Sonoma County

This **PURIM CARNIVAL**

This event is **FREE** and open to the community!
Food will be available for purchase.

WHEN: Sunday, March 13 from 11:30-2:30

WHAT: Join us for a day of fun, Purim games, crafts, music and an **Extreme Air Jumper!!!**
Come in costumes to win a prize

Adults - while the kids play, relax, have a drink and nosh in the adult area.

WHERE:

2600 Bennett Valley Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH שומרי תורה

Shabbat Sha-BINGO

Friday, March 4, 6:15 PM

Come join us for a beautiful Shabbat Service followed by a pasta and salad dinner and evening full of games. There will be a group BINGO game and also areas for others to bring board games, cards and tile games to play.

There will be a group BINGO game and also areas for others to bring board games, cards and tile games to play.

Requested donation of \$10 per family to help defray the food costs. Bring your own bottle if you would like to drink. Please RSVP to Denise (denise@cstsr.org) so we can order food.

HIGHLIGHTS

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Lifelong Learning

*Classes and film series are free but registration is appreciated.
Please call 707-578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.*

David and His Women

3 sessions:

March 2, 9, 16, 7:00-8:30 PM

Rabbi Kramer will discuss why David is the most fully developed character in the Bible. Through stories, we get to see David from his youth all the way until he is on his death bed. David is warrior, lover, politician, betrayer and leader. Come learn what makes David a fascinating man.



Film: *American Jerusalem: Jews and the Making of San Francisco*

Sunday, March 13, 3:00-5:00 PM

Dr. Marc Dollinger will discuss the history of Jews in the Bay Area. Dr. Dollinger is the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Chair in Jewish Studies and Social Responsibility at San Francisco State University. His research interests include American Jewish history, Jewish social responsibility, California Jewish history and modern Jewish identity.



Film: *A Home on the Range: The Jewish Chicken Ranchers of Petaluma History of Jews in Sonoma County*

Sunday, March 27, 3:00-5:00 PM

Henry Shreibman, Ph.D., Rabbi, DD, has taught over the last nine years at Dominican University, Sonoma State, and UC Davis in comparative religion, history, ethics and philosophy. His area of interest and specialty is comparative religion of the ancient world. Bonnie Burt has been documenting Jewish life for 20 years. In her film, Jack London, California vigilantes, McCarthyism, the Cold War and agri-business all come to life in a quintessential American story of how a group of immigrants found their new home.



Bagel Club - Learn about Stents, Pacemakers and Other Medical Devices

Sunday, March 6, 9:00-11:00 AM

Cy Wilcox, Shomrei Torah member, will present a talk on medical devices. Cy, a leading engineer at Medtronic in Santa Rosa, will tell us about devices such as stents, pacemakers and many others that provide us with a longer, better quality of life. He will show us what some of the devices look like and how they are used. Whether we have a medical device now or will need one in the future, this will be a very interesting and informative talk.



Please join with us on Sunday, March 6 at 9:00 AM in the sanctuary. A satisfying brunch of lox, bagels and cream cheese with all the trimmings will be served before the talk, all for a donation of only \$7. Please RSVP to the CST office at (707) 578-5579 or email denise@cstsr.org to reserve your seat and brunch. Women are always welcome at the Shomrei Torah Men's Bagel Club.

Rabbi's Tisch with Cantor David Frommer

"The David and Goliath Story of Yale Acappella"

Friday, March 11, 6:15 PM

Much like the Jewish people, Yale's Jewish acappella group, *Magevet*, has endured against all odds. Despite the overwhelming resources of high-profile, secular competitors and a niche appeal that attracts more Jewish parents than students, *Magevet* continues to thrive each year. Join Cantor David for a story of improbable survival, lasting friendship, and a musical mission that influences his cantorate today. Suggested donation for catered dinner is \$18. RSVP to CST office. Please call 707-578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.

CST Joins Fight Against Islamophobia

Sunday, March 13, 3:00-5:00 PM

Shomrei Torah members are invited to attend a Sonoma County event to support our Muslim neighbors on Sunday, March 13 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM at Congregation Ner Shalom in Cotati. The event is free and sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Sonoma County. CST members Lynn Seng, Stephen Harper and Larry Carlin are on the Planning Committee.



New Time

Tuesday, March 8, 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 will 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 will 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!

Join us for our next meeting at our NEW TIME, 8:00 AM, on Tuesday, March 8 at Congregation Shomrei Torah. For more information, contact the CST office at (707) 578-5579 or email denise@cstsr.org.

Social Action Goes to the Movies

Mental Health - It Takes A Community!

Saturday, March 19, 7:30 PM

"The Mask You Live In" – addresses the issues boys and young men have in dealing with society's narrow definition of masculinity. This film directed by Jennifer Seibel Newsom, is an official selection of the 2015 Sundance Film Festival.

The film and forum after are open to the public, free of charge but donations are welcome.



Tot Shabbat

Saturday, March 26, 9:30 AM

Tot Shabbat is an informal, child-centered *shabbat* service designed especially for children newborn to elementary school age.* The theme will be "Purim". Save the dates for the following months: April 15 at 5:00 PM; May 28 at 9:00 AM.

*This FREE event meets at CST



Make Sure Your College Student is on the List for a Passover Care Package

Would your college student enjoy a Passover care package from Shomrei Torah? We will send a fun and delicious greeting if you enroll your son or daughter by March 5. If your student is already signed up and has a change of address this semester, please update his or her information.

To enroll your son or daughter in this program or update contact information, please call (707) 578-5519 or email ra@cstsr.org with the following information: your student's name, college name, college address, year of expected graduation plus your name, phone number and email.

If you would like to help bake goodies for this, please contact the CST office at (707) 578-5579.

Attention: Scholarships for Undergrad and Graduate Students

The Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund is offering scholarships of up to \$10,000 for students in undergraduate or graduate programs at accredited, nonprofit colleges or universities. Scholarships are granted based on both merit and financial need and are intended to be "last resort" funding to supplement student and family contributions, as well as other financial aid, grants and awards. Deadline is April 15. Apply at <http://jewishfed.org/how-we-help/scholarships/college-scholarships>.

Apply for a Camp Scholarship for Your Children

Take advantage of the opportunity to give your children an enriching experience this summer at Jewish camp. The 2016 Campership form is now available on our website (www.cstsr.org). Deadline to apply is March 31.



Social Action Addresses Mental Health

The third and final film of the mental health series, "Poster Girl," traces a high school cheerleader, turned machine gunner in the Iraq War, as she returns home to deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Free. April 16, 7:30 PM Forum discussion follows film.



The Social Action Committee's series on mental health will wrap up with a Community Forum on Depression, Sunday May 22, 2 – 5:00 PM, in recognition of May National Mental Health Month. Rabbi Stephanie Kramer will introduce the theme of depression and moderate the Forum. The Forum will feature six leading Sonoma County mental health care providers and activists who will reveal the reality of depression through their own personal journey, those of loved ones, and through the perspectives of their professional lives in the mental health field.

A question and answer period will follow. A light refreshment break will be offered.

CST Marks the 71st Anniversary of the end of the Holocaust (1933-45)

Starting at 6:30 PM on the eve of *Yom HaShoah*, May 4, 2016, Shomrei Torah will mark the 71st anniversary of the end of the Holocaust (1933-45). A traditional candle lighting service will honor local survivors, and the six million victims. Candles will also be lit for the handicapped, homosexual, political, and Roma/Sinti victims. The service will note post-Holocaust genocides that have occurred in Armenia, Cambodia, Croatia, Darfur, and the Sudan. Music will be provided by Cantor David and the Choir, Shomrei Torah member Jenny Levine-Smith, and musical group, "Mama Loshn." Shomrei Torah member Art Shostak will briefly discuss ways Jews aided one another despite Nazi opposition. Rabbi George and Rabbi Stephanie will lead a *Kaddish* service, and a closing Candles-of-Hope Service, when all will be invited to come forward. Refreshments will be available.

Reserve Your Seat Now for Passover Seder

This year we will offer one *seder* that features a delicious traditional *Pesach* meal, as we celebrate the Festival of Freedom. Our *seder* welcomes both members and non-members on the second night of Passover, Saturday, April 23 at 6:00 PM. Passover at Shomrei Torah is more than the retelling of the ancient story of the Exodus, it honors our ongoing struggle for freedom, justice and equality everywhere. There is a place at the table waiting for you.

The cost is as follows:

- \$36 for member adult
- \$46 for nonmember adult
- \$18 for member children (ages 12 and under)
- \$23 for nonmember children (ages 12 and under)
- Free for children under 5

Reservations are required. Please call (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org or reserve online at www.cstsr.org. Be sure to specify your preference of chicken or vegetarian.



Bat Mitzvah Announcements



Hannah Magdalena Farkas

March 5, 2016

Please celebrate with us as our daughter Hannah becomes a Bat Mitzvah. The service will be followed by a *Kiddush* luncheon.

Steven and Susan Farkas

Marcy Pluznick-Marrin is honored by CST Board

The Board of Directors recently honored Marcy Pluznick-Marrin by dedicating a leaf in her honor for all her service at CST. She recently served as Interim Executive Director. Check out the *Kir Hakavod* the next time you visit Shomrei Torah.

Meet members of the CST Board of Directors



Back Row, L – R: Eli Weinzveg, Reed Ferrick, Dave Fichera, Roy Sparrow, Ira Glasser, Garry Goodman; Front Row, L-R: Asher Sheppard, Shelley Brott, Rachael Cutcher, Susan Bailyn. Missing: Sharon Bauman, Lisa Ehrlich, Ricki Nickel, Desmond Shapiro

Photo credit: Bill Skoonberg

CST Teens Learn Ways to Change the World at *L'Taken* in D.C.

Baruch Atah, Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shenatan lanu hizdamnut l'takein et haolam.

Praised are You, Adonai, our God, ruler of the universe, who has given us the opportunity to change the world.

On a chilly, very early morning on January 29, eleven Shomrei Torah teens boarded a plane for Washington, DC. These teens were participants in the long-running *L'Taken* Social Justice seminar. This intensive weekend is run by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the social advocacy branch of the Reform Movement. During the weekend, our teens joined hundreds of their peers from all across the country to celebrate *Shabbat* and learn how to be an advocate for social change. Through various simulations and programs, they studied what makes advocacy inherently Jewish as well as delved into several national and global issues. The entire weekend culminated with each of the students getting to lobby our elected officials on Capitol Hill.

Our students spoke on topics they were passionate about such as LGBT equality, the raising of the minimum wage, climate change, stem cell research, voting rights, and supporting the State of Israel. With the support of the RAC staff, our students lobbied on these topics in the offices of our State Senators, Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein, as well as the House of Representatives, Jared Huffman and Mike Thompson, from their home districts.

Though the day of lobbying was truly the pinnacle of the experience, our teens were also able to take in the cultural side of D.C. They visited the Lincoln Memorial, spent an evening in Georgetown, and hopped around the National Mall visiting the various Smithsonian museums. On Saturday, they had the chance to tour the United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum, and then not four hours later, celebrated *havdallah* on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial. Rabbi Stephanie—who chaperoned the event with Malcolm McElheney, Youth and Music Coordinator—commented on the poignancy of the pairing of these two experiences. She said how incredible it is to be so publically Jewish in our nation's capital after being reminded of the atrocities of the *Shoah*.

These teens, very few of whom had done intensive learning of this caliber before, showed their passion for justice and their willingness to try new things. They branched out, made friends from other congregations and other states and showed their courage to our national leaders. *Mazel tov* to our amazing teen advocates!

Our *L'Taken* participants were honored during *Shabbat* services on February 26 and a digital copy of their speeches can be found on the CST website.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Kramer and Malcolm McElheney



*They branched out,
made friends from
other congregations
and other states and
showed their courage
to our national
leaders. Mazel tov
to our amazing teen
advocates!*

Environmental Action Committee Marches On (excuse the pun)



Our small but eco-involved group continues to try to do good environment work on the following fronts:

- 1) We are meeting with Bessie Martinez, outreach coordinator of the Unicycler (CST's waste management company) to learn of changes in their parameters for recycling and compostables, so we may know better how to reduce the trash stream that goes to the Sonoma County dump—which is presently closed, requiring out-of-county hauling.
- 2) We are monitoring the CST utility bills (water, electricity and gas) to study the effects of the solar installation of last year on our electricity usage and overall costs, as well as looking for money and environment saving opportunities.
- 3) We are developing a recommended list of environmental organizations to partner with for their work days. This has been done in the past with City of Santa Rosa and the CST Community Involvement Day of cleaning Santa Rosa Creek that has seen as many as 131 of our congregation of all ages participate in a single event.
- 4) We are considering sponsoring a recently produced documentary film, "This Changes Everything," that takes a novel approach to the climate change crisis. A discussion would follow.

If any CST member wishes to express their opinions on these and other eco-related topics, contact Rick Reisman at rickcath@sonic.net or attend one of our monthly meetings.

LEGACY CIRCLE NEWS

Meet Member

Annette Elder Evins

Annette Elder Evins became a member of Congregation Shomrei Torah about four years ago because she had a Jewish background through her father, and she felt the welcome that CST offers all who wish to join in this community.

She has valued CST's openness and commitment to all life from the tiger salamanders to people of mixed-faith backgrounds or cultures. Differences are valued at CST; it has something for everyone. As a part Pomo and Cherokee Indian, she feels that she is accepted at CST.

Annette feels that CST does not judge people for who they are and what they believe. She wants her children and grandchildren to experience this. She feels some of her children identify as Jewish and even her non-Jewish daughter-in-law agreed to have her grandson circumcised. Annette's history with the Jewish leaders of Santa Rosa goes back to her youth and watching her Jewish father expose his family to Jewish culture and holidays.

Right now Annette is concerned about the building fund issues and meeting the mortgage payment next year. She plans to leave a percentage of her estate to CST. This is important to her and she hopes her business can generate more soon so she can donate it during her living years.

Her special hope for CST is that it has a viable building as well as continued openness to accept everyone. She wants the ecumenical spirit to live on.

Annette currently is studying *Mussar* practices at home and plans to continue her studies of *Zohar* when that class is offered in April.



LEGACY
CIRCLE



Help Sustain the Future of Congregation Shomrei Torah

Like Annette Elder Evins, you can help ensure the future of our congregation. Becoming a member of the Legacy Circle is simple. Complete a couple of easy forms, talk with a member of the Legacy Committee and elect to become a member. Legacy Circle Membership means that sometime in the future, usually specified in your wills or trusts, a donation will be made in your name(s) to CST. If you wish, you may specify how the funds will be used. These funds will provide the endowment that CST needs to continue serving Sonoma County for years to come. Thus far, over 70 families and individuals have elected to become Legacy Circle Members.

Please join today. It costs nothing now. Advice on how to set up your donation is available through the CST office. As a member of the Legacy Circle you can specify a portion of your estate to honor or be made in memory of someone. Please contact Chris Chang Weeks at ccweeks@cstsr.org or call 707-578-5519 for more information.



StARS 2015/2016 Kindergarten Class: Learning how we pray. Future rabbis?

Congregation Shomrei Torah

2600 Bennett Valley Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

www.cstsr.org

707-578-5519

(unless otherwise noted)

Office email

shomrei@cstsr.org

Office Hours

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

RABBI

George D. Gittleman
rabbig@cstsr.org

ASSOCIATE RABBI

Stephanie E. Kramer
rabbikramer@cstsr.org

CANTOR

David Frommer
dfrommer@cstsr.org

TEMPLE ADMINISTRATOR/ OPERATIONS MANAGER

Chris Chang Weeks
ccweeks@cstsr.org

OFFICE STAFF

Senior Administrative Asst.

Denise Harrison
578-0245
denise@cstsr.org
FAX 578-3967

Bookkeeper

Patty Foss
bookkeeper@cstsr.org

Rabbinic Assistant

Julie Caldwell
ra@cstsr.org

Maintenance Supervisor

Rich Sleeper

THE VOICE

ccweeks@cstsr.org

YOUTH AND MUSIC COORDINATOR

Malcolm McElheney
youth@cstsr.org

WEBSITE

Jay Peretz, Webmaster



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Chavurah members, Pamela and Joel Blumberg with Dorothy Schwartzberg.
Photo credit: Bill Skoonberg

Congregation Members Show Interest in *Chavurot*

On Friday, January 29, at a special Shabbat *Oneg*, the *Chavurah* Committee hosted a successful gathering of current *Chavurah* members who met with CST members wishing to join a . If you couldn't make services that night and might be interested in learning more about joining a *Chavurah*, you can contact the CST office at (707) 578-5579 or email denise@cstsr.org.

Your Membership Questionnaires are Overdue

Thank you to those CST members who have returned their updated database information. However, we are still waiting for 75% of our membership to return the forms. This paperwork contains information that we have not had before in our temple database that we need in order to serve you better. If you have yet to complete and return yours, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a new form, please contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519.

Environmental Action Committee

Tip of the Month

Safe medicine disposal threat to both public health and the environment

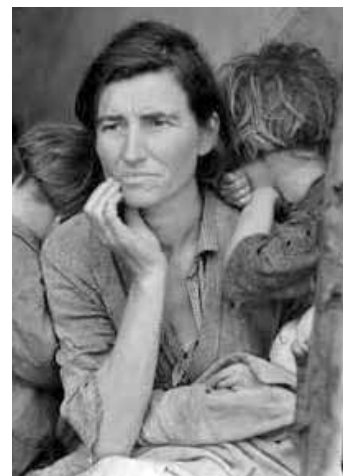
- It's important to safely and securely dispose of medicine.
- Never flush them down the toilet or sink, or put them in the trash.
- Take your unused or expired medications to a participating take-back location.

For an *updated complete listing* of Sonoma County locations, go to: www.safemedicinedisposal.org

Immigrant Accompaniment Program: Giving New Hope to Families

Several local faith-based organizations are forming support teams to help immigrant youth and mothers recently arrived from Mexico and Central America. Typically, these are refugees fleeing extreme violence. They are receiving legal services from VIDAS, a non-profit group, as they apply for asylum status. Each team will coalesce around one family. Accompaniment may take many forms, including literal accompaniment to court or to fingerprint appointments, helping them to register for ESL classes, sharing a meal or two, and introducing them to the congregation. Madeleine Rose and Ed Berger of the Social Action Committee

are in the early stages of forming a team. This is an opportunity to do *tikkun olam* and receive *muchos abrazos*. It would be especially helpful to have Spanish speakers, but this skill is not necessary. If you are interested in participating or just want to learn more about this effort, please contact the CST office at (707) 578-5579 or email denise@cstsr.org.



CST Offers Introduction to Hebrew Classes starting in July

Learn the fundamentals of Hebrew reading as well as the structure and meaning of the *Shabbat* morning liturgy. This class is designed for those who want to be able to follow along in Hebrew during services. No previous knowledge required. This class is \$150 for the ten sessions and all materials. Scholarships available upon request.

- Sat, July 30, 1:00-2:30 PM
- Wed, August 3, 7:00-8:30 PM
- Sat, August 13, 1:00-2:30 PM
- Wed, August 17, 7:00-8:30 PM
- Sat, August 27, 1:00-2:30 PM
- Wed, August 31, 7:00-8:30 PM
- Sat, September 3, 1:00-2:30 PM
- Sat, September 10, 1:00-2:30 PM
- Sat, September 17, 1:00-2:30 PM
- Sat, September 24, 1:00-2:30 PM

Please RSVP to the office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org



Advertise in *The Voice*... Advertisements shall be limited to one-half page maximum size; advertisement positioning in *The Voice* will be on a rotating basis; the appearance and content of the advertisements shall be in good taste. Because this is a subjective assessment, final approval of any advertisement shall be at the discretion of the executive director, the Rabbi(s) and/or the editor of *The Voice*.

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 Temple Administrator. 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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LAW OFFICES OF
L. STEPHEN TURER

L. STEPHEN TURER
ATTORNEY AT LAW

610 DAVIS STREET, SANTA ROSA, CA 95401
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TIME SENSITIVE

MARCH SERVICES

Friday, March 4

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*
featuring camp style music

Saturday, March 5

Weekly Torah portion: *Vayak'heil*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Marcia Gladstone*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, March 11

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch with*
Cantor David Frommer

Saturday, March 12

Weekly Torah portion: *P'kudei*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by*
Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, March 18

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, March 19

Weekly Torah portion: *Vayikra*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Cantor David*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, March 25

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*
featuring music of Shlomo Carlebach

Saturday, March 26

Weekly Torah portion: *Tzav*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi Kramer*
9 am – *Tot Shabbat*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

See our latest calendar at www.cstsr.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.