



CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH שומרי תורה

the VOICE

March 2017—Adar /Nissan 5777 Volume XXX Number 2



SIGN UP NOW!
Be a part of
CST's 2017
Directory

Make Sure You're in the CST Photo Directory

We have filled all the available slots for the portrait sessions, but you can still be included in the directory. Submit your own high resolution photo (digital preferred) to the temple office. There is a \$10 fee. If you have questions regarding photo formats and specs, contact the temple office at (707) 578-5519.

The directory is a major 2017 fundraiser. Consider purchasing an ad to promote your goods and services or to offer a personal expression of greeting or gratitude. (Ad form on pages 11 and 12.) Directories are used for many years by over 450 families. Volunteer to greet photo shoot participants and have fun helping with the directory project.



**WALK TO
END GENOCIDE**

Walk to End Genocide

Sunday, April 23, 8:00-11 AM

Starting Point: CST 2600 Bennett Valley Road

Raise your voice. Take a stand. Walk in the right direction. One step closer to a world without genocide.

Register at www.walktoendgenocide.org/sr/congregationshomreitorah and join the team "STaRS"

Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 12,
11:30 AM-2:30 PM

Please join us for
the Sonoma County
Purim Carnival.



This event is FREE and open to the entire community! (Food available for purchase) Join us for a day of fun, Purim games, crafts, music and much more! (Come in costume to win a prize).

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



THE
LION KING

PURIM SCHPIEL

Saturday, March 11th

6:15 pm



A FREE event - Open to All
Come in Costume
Hamentashen for Everyone
A ROARING good time!

Family *Shabbat* and Game Night

Friday, March 3, 6:15 PM

Join us for a family-friendly camp-style *Shabbat* service followed by a pasta and salad dinner. Bring your own board games, cards and tile games to play!!

Please RSVP to ra@cstsr.org.

Suggested donation of \$10 per family to defray the cost of food.

Rabbi George to Speak at Bagel Club

Sunday, March 5, 9:00 AM

Rabbi George Gittleman will talk about "Politics from the Pulpit," an issue that is very much in the news today. Our visits with Rabbi George are annual highlights of the Men's Bagel Club.

Join with us for brunch – lox, bagels and cream cheese with all the trimmings– before Rabbi George's talk. A donation of \$7 is requested. Women are always welcome at the Bagel Club meetings.



KIDdish

Sunday, March 5, 9:00 AM

This preschool class for ages 2-5 is an opportunity to meet new friends and build budding Jewish relationships that can blossom for years to come. Classes include tons of hands-on art activities, spirited movement and music, playground time and fun Jewish learning.



Tot *Shabbat*

Saturday, March 11, 9:00 AM

This informal, child-centered *Shabbat* Service is designed especially for children, newborn to elementary school age. Everyone is welcome: members and non-members, Jewish and non-Jewish, partners and spouses. All Tot *Shabbat* experiences include a kid-friendly service, lively music and movement, exciting stories, art activities and open play.

Tot *Shabbat* is a FREE program!



Rabbi's *Tisch*: Rabbi Stephanie

"Social Justice Then and Now"

Friday, March 10, 6:15 PM

Rabbi Kramer will look at how the Reform Movement has historically been involved with Social Justice work and how we have made a significant impact in shaping the world in which we live. Her talk will also address the work of our congregation, our teens, and the URJ's Religious Action Center (the lobbying arm of the Union for Reform Judaism). RSVP to the temple office at (707) 578-5519, or email denise@cstsr.org to ensure we order enough food. Suggested donation of \$18 for the dinner..



Rabbi Stephanie

Slip out the back, Jack?



Whether you need a **chiropractor** or a **divorce attorney** B2B is here for you.

B2B@CST

We connect people and business.

Meet a variety of CST business members for growth and opportunity.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 8:00 AM



SOCIAL ACTION GOES *to the* MOVIES

A film series to inform, engage and empower!

Homes for the Homeless ...A Better Way



Filmmaker Brent Adams travelled the Pacific Northwest to explore innovative options for housing the homeless: authorized tent villages, sanctuary camps, and "tiny house" communities. Find out about how Sonoma County is trying to address the problem with creative solutions.

Saturday, March 25, 7:00 pm Congregation Shomrei Torah

Panel discussion: **Jennielynn Holmes**, Director of Shelter and Housing for Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa; **Yohan Morgan**, Manager Community Housing Sonoma County; **Adrienne Lauby**, Homeless Action of Sonoma County; **Dorothy Battenfeld**, Santa Rosa Junior College Board of Trustees; **Julie Combs**, Santa Rosa City Council.

Free and open to the public; donations appreciated.
Limited parking: Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

Film series created and sponsored by the
Social Action Committee of Shomrei Torah



CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH
שומרי תורה

Congregation Shomrei Torah
2600 Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa

(707) 578-5519 www.cstr.org

LifeLong Learning The Jewish Spirituality Challenge: What Do You Need?

Sunday, March 19, 11:00 AM

If you could change one thing about your spiritual life, what would that be? Do you find spiritual community for yourself within a Jewish context? Have you ever asked yourself questions like these? If so, please join Sharon Schwartz and Rabbi Meredith Cahn, Mussar Institute trained facilitators, for The Mussar Institute's International Day of Study.



The day will begin with a live inspirational message from Alan Morinis followed by study in Va'adim at sites around the world. This will be a powerful opportunity for those interested in Mussar. RSVP to the temple office at (707)578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org. \$18 for CST members; \$36 for non-members.

Babies & Bagels

Sunday, March 26

Join other parents 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 with meetings held at private homes. For more information, to RSVP for the address, or just to say hello, email Adriann Saslow at madamesaslow@gmail.com. We'd love to get together with you and your little ones.



Like Congregation
Shomrei Torah on 
facebook®

CST Congregational Fair and Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 7, 11:30 AM

Mark your calendar for a fabulous free BBQ luncheon prepared by the Men's Bagel Club. Enjoy the fun family-friendly activities and music. Learn about programs offered by the synagogue, committees you can join, see old friends and make new ones. There will be a short meeting to elect the board of directors and vote on the budget for next fiscal year.



Reserve Your Seat Now for Passover Seder

Our seder welcomes both members and non-members on the second night of Passover, Tuesday, April 11 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.

Lehrhaus Philosophy Circle Taught by Lehrhaus Judaica's Rabbi Peretz Wolf Prusan

Readings from HaLevi and Maimonides,
Martin Buber and Abraham Joshua Heschel

The four sessions will take place in the Kolbo Room
on two sets of back-to-back nights:

*1st-Wed., April 19, 2017 and Thurs., April 20,
7:00-8:30 PM*

*2nd-Wed., April 26, 2017 and Thurs., April 27,
7:00-8:30 PM*

On four very different nights, we will dip into the wellspring of the Jewish philosophical library. HaLevi and Maimonides created foundational thought on Jewish identity at the dusk of the Golden Age of Spain and Buber and Heschel addressed modernity at the sunset of European Jewry and the dawn of Israel and America. We will read and discuss excerpts from HaLevi's *Kuzari*, Maimonides' *The Guide of the Perplexed*, Buber's *Hasidism and Modern Man* and Heschel's *The Insecurity of Freedom* and more.

Fees \$36 for non-CST members; \$18 for CST members for this class will be paid directly to Lehrhaus Judaica. Please RSVP to the temple office.

Yom Hashoah-- L'dor v'Dor from generation to generation, Never Again!

Join us on April 23
at 6:15pm for CST's
annual candle lighting
commemorating *Yom
Hashoah* and other
genocides. David McCuan,
Professor of American
Politics, International
Relations and Public
Administration, will speak
on how bigotry and racism can lead to genocide.
Join us for this important and timely conversation.



David McCuan

CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

My Weekend Checklist

- ☒ Shabbat Dinner
- ☒ Long Walks
- ☒ Wellness/Yoga
- ☒ Flag Football
- ☒ Campfire
- ☒ And much more
- ☒ Socializing
- ☒ Shabbat Services
- ☒ Art Projects
- ☒ Torah Study
- ☒ Music & Singing

Save the Date!
April 28-30, 2017

Beautiful Camp Newman is located just
20 minutes from Congregation Shomrei Torah

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Teens \$150 • Under 3 — free
Unaccompanied Teen 13-17 \$250



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Contact Denise@cstsr.org, or call (707)578-5519.



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Refugee Ban

In response to President Trump's executive order on January 30 that severely restricts immigration from seven Muslim countries, suspends all refugee admission for 120 days and bars all Syrian refugees indefinitely, the majority of rabbis from Sonoma County issued a joint statement below to express support to the Muslim community and protest the attack on freedom of religion and our Muslim neighbors. This letter was distributed to the Press Democrat and emailed to members of the congregations represented by the rabbis.

Joint Statement of Sonoma County Jewish Clergy on the Recent Refugee Ban

In synagogues around the world this week, Jews are reading of the Biblical process leading to the exodus from slavery in ancient Egypt. We are reading of the people's longing for freedom, and of Moses' advocacy for his people to be able to worship freely. As the story unfolds, our ancestors become refugees,

"We are reading of the people's longing for freedom, and of Moses' advocacy for his people to be able to worship freely."

fleeing the armies of Pharaoh and risking the arduous journey through a wilderness to a land



Rabbi George

of promise. How poignant is the call to us to remember that we were strangers in the land of Egypt! How many times in the course of the intervening millennia have the Jewish people been refugees?!

"How many times in the course of the intervening millennia have the Jewish people been refugees?!"

America is a nation of refugees and immigrants. The fabric of our democracy is woven with the colors and textures of the millions and millions of people who have brought genius, vitality, creativity and productivity to our land.

Friday's decree by the new President banning refugees from various war-torn Muslim countries served to create more chaos in the lives of people who were already suffering from

"The fabric of our democracy is woven with the colors and textures of the millions and millions of people who have brought genius, vitality, creativity and productivity to our land."

war, displacement, and loss of family members. Such a decree on International Holocaust Remembrance Day is an affront to human sensibilities.

As Americans and Jews, the undersigned Jewish clergy of Sonoma County call upon our community to publicly express our outrage at this course of events. While the security and safety of Americans is a priority, it is clear that the extensive vetting process of refugees,

"As Americans and Jews, the undersigned Jewish clergy of Sonoma County, call upon our community to publicly express our outrage at this course of events."

immigrants, and permanent residents has been thorough and deep. Most refugees wait at least two years to come to this country, others even more.

The implicit banning of Muslims from certain countries is a dizzying call for reaction. The assumption that all Muslims are terrorists is outrageous.

When Jewish refugees were banned from this country at the height of the Holocaust, there was little outcry. At this time we cannot sit on the sidelines as similar events unfold. Now

"The implicit banning of Muslims from certain countries is a dizzying call for reaction. The assumption that all Muslims are terrorists is outrageous."

is the time to do for Muslim refugees what we wish had been done for Jews fleeing Hitler: to truly be a Mother of Exiles.

Rabbi Meredith Cahn
 Reb Mia Cohen
 Rabbi Ted Feldman
 Rabbi George Gittleman
 Rabbinic Pastor Judith Goleman
 Rabbi Daria Jacobs-Velde
 Rabbi Josh Jacobs-Velde
 Reb Irwin Keller
 Rabbi Stephanie Kramer
 Rabbi Mordecai Miller

CST Action Items

I was originally going to title this month's message "On Civility" and discuss at length the long-standing Jewish traditions regarding discussion and debate on important communal matters: they are always to be conducted "for the sake of Heaven," to produce the greatest good for the greatest number.

Minority views were never meant to be lost forever in the actions of a majority. Rather, our Sages told us that regarding differences of opinion, "both these words and those words are the words of the living God."

Truly, when we enter discussions as open-mindedly as possible and listen and speak through the filters of trust and respect for one another, we have the best chance to strengthen our sense of safety and well being together in community.

Now, though, instead of continuing in that vein, I want to switch focus to some current, specific topics presently in front of the Board.

Each month the full fourteen members of the congregation's Board of Directors meets for two to three hours to discuss business matters. (See the list of board members at the back of this newsletter.)

The Board's agenda is often influenced by what the six-member Executive Committee, which also meets monthly, worked on in their meeting a



Ira Glasser, CST President

week earlier. The issues range from small to large. What follows are some examples of ongoing important areas where there are questions now under review and where decisions need to be made regarding future actions.

First, how do we best express gratitude to those among us who continually give of themselves, whether financially or by volunteering or both, for the betterment of all? Do we list their names in a roll of honor? Call them forward at special services? Host them to exclusive lunches? Here at CST, our most usual answer seems to be so fitting: that we donate even more in time and money to honor the prior donations of time and money!

Second, how do we engage our traditions of civility and inclusiveness to find good-hearted and kind ways in which to seek to activate the often-dormant volunteering natures of some of our members? We all benefit each time any one of us steps forward to lead or pitch in on some project.

Related to that, how can we respectfully and lovingly call to the attention of our lowest-contributing (in terms of dollars) members the basic facts of our financial lives here – that our expenses run at about \$2,700 per member unit per year? And that small, monthly increased pledge amounts, and careful consideration of our "fair share" formula can all add up to a more financially secure CST for all?

"...how do we engage our traditions of civility and inclusiveness to find good-hearted and kind ways"

Third, although the Board has already recently voted to implement some form of streamlined annual membership renewal process, starting with the next fiscal year (we run from July 1st through June 30th for membership and fiscal purposes), how do we best safely, honorably, openly and administratively let everyone know that "once a member, always a member," unless you inform us otherwise?

We know from the examples of other synagogues that have already adopted "automatic renewals" that they can run smoothly, be widely accepted and save much office labor each summer leading up to the fall high holiday seating process

and religious school enrollment. Now, though, how do we legally and safely implement that change here at CST without seeming presumptuous, rude, arrogant, ruthless or callous?

Instead of going into more specifics, I will sum them up for now by saying that we face the same congregational issues that are present elsewhere. There must be *flow* for our CST ecosystem to remain healthy - money, time, talent and other resources; members old and new; honor and respect – all need to be continually infused into us for our best overall health and vitality!

Let me close by sharing with you a wonderful honor that I have just received: I have had the opportunity to speak with our three newest about-to-be members, who have each just submitted their applications to us.

One is a young interfaith newlywed couple, who, having attended our services, have chosen to join our community over others accessible to them, as they consider raising a family. Another is a retired individual who has also seen and liked us. And the third is a recently relocated professional couple that seems to be about as sophisticated and talented as the best of the rest of us. Talk about healthy flow – wow! Are we ever fortunate for what we are and who we have!

B'Sholam,
Ira

Board Update

At its regular meeting on January 12th, the CST Board reported on the following:

- The Board adopted new motions set forth by the Finance Committee and Buckingham Financial Service, detailing how we will use our Endowment and Mortgage Funds.
- The Board discussed the future possibility of Live Streaming our services and other events to our members who are unable to make it to CST for such proceedings.
- The Gelt-a-Thon raised over \$27,000! Thank you to everyone who donated time and/or resources!
- CST celebrated a large adult *B'nei Mitzvah* class, which was very rewarding and fulfilling.
- The Board discussed the Directory fundraiser and how well it is coming together.
- The *Purim Schoiel* will feature music and skits from "The Lion King."
- Planning for the 10-year Anniversary is coming together nicely.
- A group of volunteers is taking over the Shomrei Gift Shop.
- Paige Sobel is in charge of Volunteer Coordination.

LED conversion enters Phase II at CST

In Phase I of the LED conversion, 141 incandescent and halogen lights were switched to LED comparable style bulbs by a group of volunteers and funded by the Men's Bagel Club. The next phase involves switching the 43 high wattage and high-use metal halide bulbs in the parking lot and around the outside of the building to LED. The volunteers have wisely decided that this exceeds their skills and climbing ability. Bids are being solicited for the job, and Rick Reisman has applied for a Travel Justly grant from the URJ to help defray some of the cost. The project also qualifies for a PG&E rebate for the LED light bulbs. Hopefully, the payback time on this investment will be short from the energy savings inherent in LED light sources.

Tied to the LED project led by the Environmental Action Committee are plans to help spread the LED benefits to Shomrei Torah members with a raffle for LED fixtures and bulbs, as well as "at-cost" sales to members that will be part of the gala 10 year anniversary celebrations for CST planned in June.

New Employee: Anne Hampton

Please welcome Anne Hampton who has joined the staff on February 1 as part-time custodian. She will be working with Rich Sleeper. With two custodians, we hope to provide custodial coverage seven days of the week. Anne has over 15 years of custodial experience. She also works part-time as a nanny and housekeeper. She has volunteered at Disability Services and Legal Center and Face to Face.



Environmental Action Committee

Tip of the Month

Every Day is Earthquake Preparedness Day

"You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open; repair its breaches, for it totters."
~ Psalm 60:2



Step 1: Secure your space by identifying hazards and securing moveable items.



Step 2: Plan to be safe by creating a disaster plan and deciding how you will communicate in an emergency.



Step 3: Organize disaster supplies in convenient locations.



Step 4: Minimize financial hardship by organizing important documents, strengthening your property and considering insurance.

CST Readies for New Playground

You may have seen that the playground equipment has been dismantled. After weathering the elements for ten years, it had become rickety, rotten in places and unsafe. Bill Skoonberg, Charlie Catlett, David Silacci and Michael Tonjum used their combined brawn to dismantle it, and Bill returned the next day to haul it away. Thank you to our four volunteers!



We've raised over \$23,000 toward the purchase of our new playground equipment and we have the potential to raise \$40,000 more (which is about what the new structure will cost) through a generous matching gift of up to \$20,000! Double your money today and help make our new playground a reality by donating now!

Outdoor playtime is a critical part of our education program, providing a valuable opportunity for children to interact, collaborate and build community among their peers. Time outdoors also makes more attentive students indoors. Please go to www.cstsr.org to make a donation to "playground."



The Men's Bagel Club was well attended to hear Julie Combs in January. Front row (L-R): Jerry Gladstone, Milt Danoff, Nina Bonos, Elaine Walter. Second row (L-R): Stephen Harper, Marcy Pluznick-Marrin, Julie Combs, Bill Skoonberg, Dino Bonos, Roberta Berg, Asher Sheppard, Jerry Newman. Back row (L-R): Joshua Kate, Brad Morrison, Rick Reisman, Catherine Reisman.

Congregation Shomrei Torah

2600 Bennett Valley Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

www.cstsr.org

707-578-5519

(unless otherwise noted)

FAX 578-3967

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

CANTORIAL SOLOIST & YOUTH COORDINATOR

Malcolm McElheney
youth@cstsr.org

CANTORIAL SOLOIST

Erica Wisner
ericaw@cstsr.org

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Sonia Morse Tubridy
soniaMT@cstsr.org

OFFICE STAFF

Rabbinic Assistant

Julie Caldwell
ra@cstsr.org

Temple Administrator/ Operations Manager

Chris Chang Weeks
ccweeks@cstsr.org

Senior Administrative Asst.

Denise Harrison
denise@cstsr.org

Website

Jay Peretz, Webmaster

Maintenance Supervisor

Rich Sleeper

The VOICE

ccweeks@cstsr.org



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Regular Ads (black & white only) (w x h)

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- ☐ Quarter-Page Vertical—\$350 (3.5 x 4.25 in.)
- ☐ Quarter-Page Horizontal—\$350 (7.25 x 2 in.)
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- ☐ Full-Page—\$1150 (7.25 x 9.5 in.)

Special Ads (color)

- ☐ Inside Back Cover—\$2000 (7 x 10 in.)
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- ☐ Back Cover—\$3500 (7 x 10 in.)

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☐ Authorize Card on File at CST (Signature) _____

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTWORK to Bill Skoonberg at bskoonberg@aol.com. Portable Document Format (PDF) files at 300 dots per inch (dpi) and CMYK color mode are preferred. Please feel free to contact Bill if you have any questions regarding the formatting of your ad. If you would like us to design the ad for you, please let Bill know. He can be reached at (707) 280-3989.

We accept Illustrator EPS files only if the text has been converted to outlines. We cannot use ads produced in Microsoft Word or Microsoft Publisher.

FOR OTHER QUESTIONS contact Marcy at MarcyPM@aol.com.

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Full Page Ad
(7.25 x 9.5 inches)
\$1150

Half-Page Ad
(7.25 x 4.25 inches)
\$600



The Washington Women's March Came to Santa Rosa

Sonoma County joined 80 other cities participating in the "Women's March on Washington" on January 21 at noon on the steps of Santa Rosa City Hall. Several Shomrei Torah members attended the rally which was followed by a march through downtown Santa Rosa.

Shomrei Torah Teens Go to DC

Rabbi Stephanie and Malcolm McElheney accompanied 20 high school teens to participate in the L'Taken seminar with Religious Action Center on February 10 - 13 to learn about social advocacy, the political process and to see how Jewish values are relevant in today's world. To hear more about their experience and about their lobbying speeches, come to the March Tisch.



SAC Opens 2017 Film Series with Innocente

Innocente, the first film in the Social Action Goes to the Movies film series, was an outstanding success. A capacity audience was informed and moved by Innocente herself as she spoke after the film screening. Many stayed late after the panel discussion to buy Innocente's beautiful art prints.



Attention: Scholarships Up to \$10,000 Are Available

The Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund is offering scholarships for students in undergraduate and graduate programs at accredited nonprofit colleges or universities. Scholarships are primarily for Jewish students from the San Francisco Bay Area, 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 to apply is March 31 at 11:59 PM. Apply at Jewishfed.org.

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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

	Members	Non-Members
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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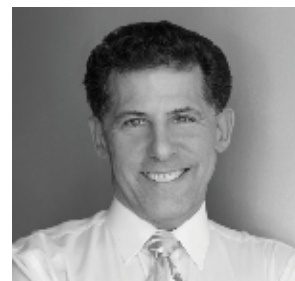
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TIME SENSITIVE

MARCH SERVICES

Friday, March 3

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service and Game Night*

Saturday, March 4

Weekly Torah portion: *Terumah*

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

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Wainer

Friday, March 10

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch with
Rabbi Stephanie*

Saturday, March 11

Weekly Torah portion: *Tetzaveh-Zachor*

8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Fran Danoff*

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, March 17

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, March 18

Weekly Torah portion: *Ki-Tissa*

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

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bat Mitzvah of Zohar Kennard

Friday, March 24

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, March 25

Weekly Torah portion: *Va-Yakhei-Pekudei*

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

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bat Mitzvah of Eva Ray Oryn

Friday, March 31

6:15 pm – *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.