



CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH שומרי תורה

the VOICE

May 2016—Nisan/Iyyar 5776 Volume XXIX Number 4

Rabbi's Tisch with Rabbi George Gittleman

Friday, May 13, 6:15 PM

"Sabbatical Revisited"

Rabbi George will share *chai-lites* from his varied and interesting Sabbatical which included among other things, a week of silence at Spirit Rock meditation Center, two weeks in England and a spelunking adventure in New Mexico.

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



CST Community Dinner with Conversation

Sunday, May 1, 4:30-7:30 PM

Community conversation is designed to connect temple members in a meaningful way. Join us for fun, fellowship and delicious food. Led by Rabbi George and Rabbi Stephanie.

Sponsored by the Social Action Committee.
Chinese dinner followed by small conversations.

Free, but RSVP is required by April 25 to denise@cstsr.org or call (707) 578-5519 to make sure we have sufficient food.

Come See The Mama-logues, a Comedy about Motherhood



Back with a completely new script for 2016. Come see a better-than-in-your-car version of Adele's 'Hello', talk about 'Mom's Night Out' and share some 'Dirty Little Secrets from Otherwise Perfect Mothers'. Wine, beer, non-alcoholic drinks and dessert available for purchase at the show. Guaranteed good time and good feeling from supporting Parent's Place of JFCS and the STaRS Scholarship Fund.

Date: Saturday, May 7, 7:00 PM

Admission: \$25 in advance

\$30 at the door

CST, 2600 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa
13+ due to mature language and content, babes in arms welcome.

Tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2511448

Additional show dates are available by searching "The Mama-logues" at brownpapertickets.com

Questions? Contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

Rabbi's Tisch - June page 4

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Rabbi George to Speak at Bagel Club

Sunday, May 1, 9:00 AM

Rabbi George, fresh off his sabbatical, will talk to us about the experience, and things he has learned. He also wants to discuss future ideas for Shomrei Torah life. Come hear his take on these and other subjects, and welcome him back.



To reserve your breakfast, contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org. As always, ladies are invited.

Now is the Time to Join a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture)

Rick Reisman and Bill Skoonberg enjoy examining their work after making and planting the new sign in front of CST that honors our 5 year partnership with Singing Frogs Farm. CST is one of their drop-off sites for year-round fresh and healthy produce. The main garden season gets underway on a weekly basis starting May 2. CSA memberships can be arranged at singingfrogsfarm.com.



Annual Yom Hashoah Observance

Wednesday, May 4, 6:15 PM

Shomrei Torah marks *Yom Hashoah* (the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day). The theme is "The Struggle to Maintain the Human Spirit during the Holocaust." A traditional candle lighting service will honor local survivors, and the six million victims. The service will note post-Holocaust genocides that have occurred in Cambodia, Croatia, Darfur and the Sudan. Shomrei Torah Choir will perform music sung in the concentration camps and Mama Loshn will provide musical selections that illuminate the courageous and poignant response of so many during the Holocaust. 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.



Tuesday, May 10 at 8:00 AM

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

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

Join us for our next meeting at our **NEW TIME, 8:00 AM**, on Tuesday, May 10 at Congregation Shomrei Torah. For more information, contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.

Babies & Bagels

Sunday, May 15

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 and Bagels meets at a personal home. Please contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org for information and directions.



New Member Wine and Cheese Pre-party Before Congregational Fair and Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 15, 3:00 PM

New and “newish” members are encouraged to attend a “pre-party” before our Annual Membership Meeting and dinner. Get to know each other and some “older” members, share some wine and snacks and learn more about your synagogue.

Come to the Kolbo Room at 3:00 PM to *schmooze* and hear about the *chavurah* program along with the many other opportunities to connect at CST. At the annual meeting, which begins at 4:00 PM, you will be officially welcomed into our community.

For more information or to RSVP contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstr.org.

Last Day of STaRS

Sunday, May 15

It has been a wonderful year! Our STaRS students have worked hard and learned so much. The 7th graders have also been working hard on their *mitzvah* projects and will be presenting them the last day of school at our *Mitzvah* Mall from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Lehrhaus Judaica Philosophy Circle: The Zohar

*The last two sessions of the series are offered on
May 18 and 19, 7:00 PM*

In honor of the completion of Professor Daniel C. Matt’s epic translation and annotation of the first nine volumes of *The Zohar*: Pritzker Edition, Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan of Lehrhaus Judaica will discuss selections from this groundbreaking work. \$18.00 CST members; \$36.00 non-members. Register at Lehrhaus Judaica at http://catalog.lehrhaus.org/by_faculty/rabbi-peretz-wolf-prusan/.

Depression in the Spotlight Sonoma County Mental Health Experts Featured in SAC Forum

Sunday, May 22, 2:00 PM

Six leading mental health experts and activists will gather at Shomrei Torah Sunday, May 22, in a community-wide forum to shine the spotlight on depression. Rabbi Stephanie Kramer will introduce the theme of depression and moderate the forum, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

Panelists include: Shirlee Zane, Sonoma County Supervisor will be the keynote speaker of the day with her talk, “De-Stigmatizing Mental Illness and Depression: What Will It Take?” Living through her husband’s depressive illness and suicide, Supervisor Zane has been a committed mental health care activist.

Michael Kennedy, Director Sonoma County Behavioral Health Division, has been a leader in implementing access to mental health services. He will describe statewide initiatives to prevent suicide.

Kevin Briggs, Retired Sergeant, California Highway Patrol, has talked many desperate people out of jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge. He will relate “My Ongoing Battle with Depression and the Mental Healthcare System.”

Continuing with more valuable insight, information, and coping strategies will be Diana Klein, Regional Director Jewish Family and Children’s Services; Dr. Michael Tonjum, Psychologist and CST member; and Whitney Rodgers, Family Support Specialist, Sonoma County National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Question and answer sessions and a light refreshment break are included in the day’s program.

Free, open to the public. Carpooling strongly encouraged.



Tot Shabbat

Saturday, May 28, 9:00 AM

The theme this month will be Israel. Tot Shabbat is a FREE, informal, child-centered Shabbat Service designed especially for newborn to elementary school age children. Everyone is welcome at our services and programs; members and non-members, Jewish and non-Jewish, partners and spouses alike.



Environmental Action Committee Urges a Yes Vote for Measure AA on June 7

Measure AA: The San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure would restore thousands of acres of tidal marsh and:

- **Reduce trash, pollution and harmful toxins in the bay**
- **Improve water quality**
- **Restore habitat for fish, birds and wildlife**
- **Protect communities from floods.**

You can support this \$12 per year parcel tax, a modest investment to improve the bay and prepare for climate change. For more information, visit:
www.sonomalandtrust.org
<http://ca.audubon.org/press-release/san-francisco-bay-ballot-measure-would-restore-vital-bird-habitat-provide-clean-water>



Sears Point Opening Day, December 5, 2015 Photo credit: Corby Hines, Sonoma Land Trust

Rabbi's *Tisch* with Marshall Krause "The U.S. Supreme Court After Scalia"

Friday, June 10, 6:15 PM

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.

Marshall Krause's long career in the law includes arguing four cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as his involvement in the American Civil Liberties Union. Prof. Krause is currently teaching "CURRENT ISSUES BEFORE THE US SUPREME COURT," in the U.C.-Berkeley Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Program.

Loving Kindness – Buddhist Practice, Jewish Wisdom

Sundays, June 5, June 12, June 19, June 26, 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 during 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@cstr.org.

Tot Shabbat

Friday, June 24, 5:00 PM

Jewish Bedtime Rituals, wear your PJs! Transforming bedtime into Jewish time can provide children with an understating that being Jewish is a way of life and a constant source of comfort. Tot Shabbat is FREE and designed for ages newborn – elementary school.



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June 11, 2016 at 7pm

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CST Membership Fair and Open House

Calling all Shomrei Torah members! We're continuing the tradition of hosting a congregational Membership Fair and Open House along with our Annual Membership meeting. The bylaws of Shomrei Torah require us to hold an annual meeting of the membership and yes, this means you! We review and approve the annual budget and the proposed board of directors, and hear briefly about what's happening at Shomrei Torah. This is a very short meeting where we take care of the important business of the synagogue. While the meeting portion is required, the open house and membership fair is a fun way of learning more about the activities of Shomrei Torah while connecting with other members. Once again we will be serving a FREE dinner grilled by our very own Men's Bagel Club. This event brings all of our members together – a true intergenerational gathering – for an afternoon of *schmoozing*, learning, and fun. And of course, it wouldn't be a Jewish event without sharing a meal together. This gathering is family friendly with children's activities including a jump house, face painting, and craft projects. Each of our committees will have interactive displays for you to learn more about what they do and how you can get involved should you be moved to do so. The event begins at



Rachael Cutcher, CST President

"While the meeting portion is required, the open house and membership fair is a fun way of learning more about the activities of Shomrei Torah while connecting with other members."

4:00 PM and we'll all gather in the sanctuary for a brief welcome and take care of the business required by the bylaws. There will be plenty of time to view the displays and visit with the other members before dinner is served. With your attendance and participation this event will once again be a huge success!

B'shalom,
Rachael

CST Offering Safe Parking for the Homeless

We are excited to announce that Shomrei Torah is joining Catholic Charities network of Safe Parking facilities for Homeless families.

Of Sonoma County's 3,300 homeless individuals, as many as one in five lives in a car. Yet finding a safe, legal place to park overnight, with access to restroom facilities, is a daily challenge for these families. While these families struggle to get a night's rest in their cars, they are not able to wake up refreshed with the ability to procure work, and in turn provide shelter for themselves and their children. Too often we have the desire to help the homeless, as long as they are not in our backyard, but in reality the homeless of Santa Rosa desperately need our assistance, specifically our space.

As a partner with Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa, we will provide four parking spaces in our lot between the hours of 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM. Each family is carefully vetted by Catholic Charities, and the parking area is patrolled throughout the night. Catholic Charities will also provide portable toilets as well as other needed services to these needy families. As the program evolves we may want to offer various forms of assistance as well.

Passover, our Feast of Freedom, is just around the corner. Soon we'll be sitting around our *Seder* tables retelling our ancient story of slavery and redemption. "In every generation", the *Hagaddah* teaches, "we are to see ourselves as if we came out of Egypt." In other words, we are enjoined not just to tell the story, but to live it and its values. Homelessness is a form of slavery. At Passover we are reminded of that wandering and exile are a sad part of our collective history making us especially attuned to the struggles facing the homeless. What better way to live the story of the Exodus and to embrace the value of Passover than to open our home up to homeless families?

May you and your loved ones have a joyous Passover! Hag Sameakh!

Rabbi Stephanie, Rabbi George, the Social Action Committee and the Board of Directors

As a partner with Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa, we will provide four parking spaces in our lot between the hours of 8 PM and 8 AM. Each family is carefully vetted by Catholic Charities, and the parking area is patrolled throughout the night.

Bat Mitzvah

Rachel Harris

May 7

Please join us as our daughter, Rachel, is called to the Torah to become a *Bat Mitzvah*. The service will be followed by a *Kiddush* luncheon.

Dawn Harris & Robert Leavitt



Bat Mitzvah

Talia Marina Polston-Schwartz

May 14, 2016 - 6 Iyyar 5776

Please celebrate with us as our daughter Talia becomes a *Bat Mitzvah*. A *Kiddush* lunch & celebration to follow.

Steve Schwartz & Salena Polston



SHoRTY

SHoRTY had a very fun overnight at the temple on April 2nd. They made a pasta dinner for themselves, enjoyed *havdallah* and s'mores with a very warm campfire, and stayed up late laughing and bonding.



Smile Amazon Gives us Free Money!

Amazon has introduced a new program, AmazonSmile, which will automatically donate 0.5% of your purchases to Congregation Shomrei Torah. It costs you (and us) nothing, and it's just like shopping on Amazon normally, but you get to do a world of good.

You can change your charity at any time (but why would you?) and search or suggest one when you first set up AmazonSmile.

Items that are eligible for the donations will be marked as such on their product pages. Unfortunately, Subscribe-and-Save purchases and renewals don't count.

The only real catch is you have to start your shopping at smile.amazon.com (which means you have to update your bookmark), and shopping from the Amazon apps, Kindle, or through affiliate links won't count.

Otherwise, it's just like shopping on Amazon - only you get to support Congregation Shomrei Torah without doing anything extra. Check out the AmazonSmile FAQs page for more information and to register. Just indicate Congregation Shomrei Torah as your charity of choice; we are already registered.

Raising money for Congregation Shomrei Torah has never been easier.

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

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

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Join the Shomrei Torah Community in Counting the *Omer*

What is the counting of the *Omer*?

According to Torah (Leviticus 23:15-16; Deuteronomy 16:9-10) we're obligated to count the fifty days, beginning on the second day of *Pesach* and ending just before the festival of *Shavuot* – a period called “the *Omer*.” An “*omer*” is a unit of grain, a way to measure the sheaves that were brought as offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem, starting at the *Pesach* celebration and continuing through the spring harvest, the time of *Shavuot*, when the receiving of Torah is commemorated.



In 2016, the *Omer* begins on the night of Saturday, April 23. Please join us for a journey of reflection as we count down the *Omer* together. We'll have a weekly theme for seven weeks, with a posting each day on the CST Facebook page with a daily thought and image for contemplation and consideration.

What's the point?

- It connects us to the Jewish people, to our ancestors, and to our history.
- It allows us to reflect on what is truly important
- The transition from Passover, when we celebrate our freedom, and *Shavuot*, when we commemorate the giving and receiving of Torah at Mt. Sinai reminds us of the fine balance between freedom and principled rules.
- It reminds us of the value and the wonder of each day.
- It's a special opportunity for spiritual growth.

Membership renewals are coming up!

At the end of the month, look for your 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.

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is now open

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.



Full Turnout for SAC Film Series

On Saturday, March 19 the sanctuary was fully packed with people attending the second of the Social Action Committee's film series “The Mask You Live In,” an award winning documentary film. Shalom Hall and part of the sanctuary were filled with community organizations representing and demonstrating their interest in SAC's chosen topic this year, “Mental Health... It Takes A Community.” Film chair Ann Sterin did a wonderful job narrating the panel discussion that followed the film. Panelists included Ashanti Branch who was recently named a Stanford d.School Education Fellow



Photo credit: Bill Skoonberg



CST Members Enjoy Wine and Delicious Passover Nosh at Pour'em for Passover Wine Event



Ten local wine makers pour wine at the CST Pour-em for Passover Wine Event, Sunday, April 10.

Photo credit: Bill Skoonberg

A huge thank you to all of our wineries that came and donated their delicious wine, and poured during our amazing Pour'em for Passover wine event.

- Sally Blum
- Jim Cutcher
- Lisa Ehrlich
- Andrea Silverstein
- Melissa Bates
- Alejandro Wainer
- Debrah Rust
- Ira Cohen
- John Westerhold
- Jillian Navvaro

In addition to the delicious wine there was a make your own charoset bar, chopped liver, pulled chicken, and a CSA donated beet salad with horseradish dressing.

If you are unfamiliar with Singing Frogs CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), join with other CST families who love the experience and receive weekly boxes of fresh veggies direct from the farmer. Singing Frogs Farm has been partners with CST since 2009. Besides a huge assortment of seasonal produce, they also offer eggs, brown rice, and olive oil.





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 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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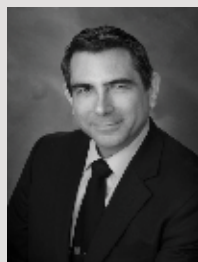
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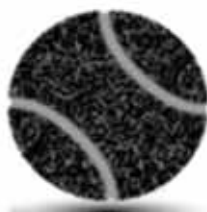
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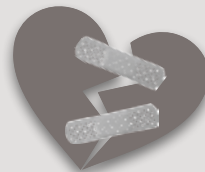
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TIME SENSITIVE

MAY SERVICES

Friday, May 6

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*
honoring STaRS Kindergarten and First Grade

Saturday, May 7

Weekly Torah portion: *Shabbat T'kumah*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*
Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Harris

Friday, May 13

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

Saturday, May 14

Weekly Torah portion: *K'doshim*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Roberta Berg*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*
Bat Mitzvah of Talia Polston-Schwartz

Friday, May 20

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

Saturday, May 21

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

Friday, May 27

6:15 PM – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, May 28

Weekly Torah portion: *B'har*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi Kramer*
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.