



Looking Back 10 Years Ago

By Melissa Kort

I look around our synagogue, and even today, ten years after we proudly marched our *Torahs* here, I still take nothing for granted. Having served as the president of the congregation for the three years leading up to the opening of the synagogue, I can remember the history of its most minute details, embedded in almost every corner of the building: the endless meetings, the lively discussions, the reams of paper (reports, minutes, drawings, ad infinitum), but above all, the laughter.



My most direct involvement began with the “dream sessions,” multiple gatherings for small group discussions and the development of lists of what members wanted to see in the synagogue: a reflection of the nature outside, sinks in the classrooms, natural light (but not in the rabbi’s eyes), a teen hangout, flexible space. I was part of the approval of the site; I was part of the debate about the choice of architect. I remember feeling so connected to the project that after we finally reached our groundbreaking, I carried home a baggy full of dirt and put it in my own garden.

We held our first *Sukkot* service on the concrete *bima*, before there was carpet, a roof, windows, or chairs. At a morning study session, we discussed what text should go over the ark—Rabbi

George advocated for “Know before whom you stand” but after studying several options, members chose “It is a tree of life.” We frantically sandbagged the still unpaved parking lot after a big storm, and pulled weeds around the new plantings, many for which my family had dug the holes.

But more importantly, I remember a strong sense of belonging to something far bigger than myself, a feeling that doesn’t wash away, even a decade later. I learned to cherish that feeling not only from the friends I made on the building committees or on the Capital Campaign with whom I can still share *Shabbats* and *simchas*, events and, yes, even meetings, but from those whose impact remains only in the ether of the place, and whose memories remain a blessing on it.

When I walked into my first Capital Campaign meeting, Leah Edelstein approached me and said, “Here we are, ready to build another temple!” Leah had known my mother and aunts at Temple Beth Hillel in the San Fernando Valley when I was a little girl, but she treated me as if we were the same age. I didn’t have the heart to tell her that my mother considered the building fund the bane of temple life. Mom liked the school, the choir, the social connections, the annual talent show, but not the building fund. I vowed to try to help Shomrei Torah’s members

Continued on page 2



Join us in celebrating
the first 10 years
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Date : Saturday, JUNE 3rd
Time : 7:30 pm
Place : Congregation Shomrei Torah
Tickets : \$36 per person

R&VP

by Friday, May 19, 2017
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.

DESSERT and
DRINKS for a
DECADE JUNE 3



Shabbat Service Israeli Dancing & FREE Dinner!

Friday, May 5, 6:15 PM

Enjoy Israeli dancing, art projects, Israeli-themed crafts and Israeli dinner. This event is FREE!
Please RSVP to Denise@cstsr.org

Looking Back *Continued from page 1*

see it like Leah did, and not like my mom.

I learned how, repeatedly, from Rabbi Michael Robinson, whose experience taught us all to place our faith in the future. "You're offering members the blessing of contributing to this," he'd say. "Build a shell," he told us, because everyone will get to know how valuable the place is, and find a way to participate.

I remember thinking Evelyn Winston was a sharp-edged woman who only rarely showed a soft side, and utterly changing my point of view once I learned of the incredibly generous legacy she and her husband Dan left, without which the synagogue project would never have gotten off the ground. What a *lev tov*, a good heart!

I remember Walter Kuttner's just-do-it attitude, the twinkle in his eye (cliché, I know, but so true) and knowledge of everyone in the congregation over the age of 65.

We would gather on couches and folding chairs, with lists and calendars on our laps and nibbles on the table. There might be lottery tickets for everyone, which we scratched hoping that we'd win enough to pay for two buildings. There'd be lots of in-jokes and tons of laughter as we settled into our very serious business, encouraged each other in the sometimes uncomfortable work of asking friends and acquaintances to give what was often the largest donation of their lives, and we celebrated every penny pledged, with a combination of gratitude and amazement.

And whenever I enter the synagogue now, I still feel it.

Join us for the Annual Congregational Fair and Annual Meeting!

Sunday, May 7, 11:30 AM

- BBQ lunch prepared by the Men's Bagel Club
- Schmoozing with other members
- Interactive committee displays
- Family friendly activities
- Shomrei Gift Shop Annual Clearance Sale
- The 7th graders' Mitzvah mall
- Short annual meeting to vote in the new board members and 2017-2018 budget

If you would like to join us for lunch, please RSVP by April 28 so we can order the right amount of food. Contact the temple office at (707)578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.



Gift Shop Spring Clearance Sale

The **May 7** Congregational Fair/Annual Meeting is the perfect time to visit our Shomrei Torah Gift Shop. Many items will be greatly marked down, so be sure to come to our table early for the best bargains!



The new Shomrei Torah Gift Shop mavenes are: (l to r) Ann Sheppard, Nan Copen, Sandi Shulkin and Flo Hoffenberg.

Rabbi's Tisch: Judith Richlin-Klonsky, Ph.D.

"The Voyage of Discovery"

Friday, May 12, 6:15 PM

Want to see your everyday life in a new way? Join "The Voyage of Discovery" at this month's *Tisch*, where sociologist and CST member, Judith Richlin-Klonsky, will challenge us to consider how every single thing we do (yes, even sleeping!) connects us to one another. You won't look at things the same way again.

As a family therapist, Judith developed and directed community counseling programs for children and adults. After receiving her doctorate in Sociology from UCLA in 1991, she has conducted



Judith Richline-Klonsky, Ph.D.

As a family therapist, Judith developed and directed community counseling programs for children and adults.

research into aging families, college students and campus life, and professions. She has also taught at UCLA, UC San Diego, and Santa Rosa Junior College and Sonoma State, bringing a sociological perspective to topics such as race and ethnic relations, health and illness, family life, and the way we collectively create ourselves and our social world. RSVP to the temple office or email denise@cstsr.org to ensure we order enough food. Suggested donation of \$18 for the dinner.

Babies & Bagels

Sunday, May 21

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 is a FREE program! For more information, to RSVP for the address or just to say hello, email the temple office at Denise@cstsr.org or call (707) 578-5519 for more information.



Wanted: New Choir Members

Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM

Shomrei Torah Choir would be delighted and honored to welcome new member singers, experienced or not, to join in our community music-making. We meet for two Tuesday rehearsals each month, from 7:00-9:00 and add our music to one or two services or events on Fridays or holidays. From June-Sept. we plan to meet weekly on Tuesdays to prepare for the High Holy Days. The choir is directed by Sonia Tubridy and accompanied by Yvonne Wormer. For more information, please contact the temple office. We look forward to your participation!

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, May 27, 9:00 AM

Tot Shabbat is an informal, child-centered Shabbat service designed especially for children newborn to elementary school age.



Everyone is welcome: members and non-members, Jewish and non-Jewish, partners and spouses alike.

Enjoy a kid-friendly service, lively music and movement, exciting stories, art activities, and open play. Tot Shabbat is a FREE program!



STaRS Registration

Register by May 31 to receive early bird discount

It's that time of year to register for Religious School! Register at www.shomreitorah.org/religious-school by May 31st and receive a \$25 early bird discount per student.



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. Contact the temple office a (707) 578-5519 or email Denise@cstsr.org.



Rabbi George Gittleman

Interfaith Potluck and Sing Along

Saturday, June 17, 6:00 PM

Save the date. More information to follow.

Special Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 24, 10:30 AM

Come join us for a special *Shabbat* service. Composer and pianist, Nolan Gasser and Cantorial Soloist, Erica Wisner will pray and sing a new melody that is part of the *Shabbat* liturgy/prayers. Free catered lunch to follow. Please RSVP so we can order enough food. Call the temple office at (707) 578-5519 or email Denise@cstsr.org.

The Caring Committee Is There for You

The Caring Committee is here to help you in your time of need. If you need some soup, meals or a visit, please know we're here for you.

Contact Denise at the CST office at (707) 578-5519 or Denise@cstsr.org.



Front Row (L-R): Bonnie Silvestro (Chair), Doris Fried, Nanette Garner;
Middle Row (L-R): Fran Danoff, Donna Taffel, Joyce Sokolik, Sharon Schwartz, Myra Slatoff;
Back Row (L-R): Carol Bornstein, Patty Ross, Ruth Pritchard.
Not pictured: Nancy Caldwell, Mari Doxiadas, Jerry Newman, Penelope Hodes, Darien Smith and Raleigh Forman

Congregational Fair & Annual Meeting

Passover is behind us, the tenth anniversary of our building will be marked with events in early June, and our focus in early May will be Sunday, May 7 at 11:30 AM as we hold our annual general membership meeting with many topics of discussion and a fair.

At the meeting, we will review the milestones of the past year, we will vote on the slate of board of director members and officers and we will review and consider for approval the fiscal 2017-2018 budget.

There will be a barbeque lunch, activities for adults and children, music and many stations where various CST committees and their active members will display their interests and programs.



Ira Glasser, CST President

Like most everything else at Shomrei Torah, volunteers from our congregation do the event planning, prepare and serve the food, and staff the committee information tables.

Come and join us, learn and partake, discuss and vote. The more of us who are together, the stronger and more successful we will be in achieving our goals and dreams, now and in the future.

See you at the fair!

B'Shalom,
Ira

Board Update

At its regular meeting on March 9th, the CST Board reported on the following:

The Board of Directors had a dinner discussion regarding Social Action in and around our community.

- The Board of Directors approved three new families:
 - Julie Combs
 - Sheldon Reber and Judy Dennis
 - Ozzie and Jaime Katz
- The clergy have been busy with life-cycle events, planning for upcoming holidays, and community outreach
- CST has begun to add new security features including:
 - Keeping the building locked during business hours
 - Adding privacy glass
 - Reprogramming the gate code
- Photos for the 2017 Membership Directory have all been taken, and look great!
- The Board of Directors is exploring the possibility of Live Streaming some of our events
- 10 Year Anniversary Celebration is coming up soon!



(Above) The care package assembly committee



(Left) Violet Blum making matzo toffee for the college care packages

CST Sends Passover Treats to Our College Students!

For the fourth year in a row, Shomrei Torah's college students received Passover treats in the mail, including homemade *matzah* toffee baked by Deborah Cutler, Beth Lamb, Elizabeth Selya, plus Sally, Violet and Roland Blum.

Thirty-nine students in 11 states received packages. Packers included Nancy Ferrick, Melissa Kort, Tracy Candiotti, Deborah Cutler and Marcy Pluznick-Marrin.

Community Activists, Elected Officials, Homeless SRJC Student Share Concern for "Housing the Homeless" at March Film Event

The award-winning *Social Action Goes to the Movies* series continued to fill the house. Over 250 people came to CST for a Saturday night program about Homes for the Homeless, reflecting the effort of the Social Action Committee and their strong relationships in the community. The series had 20 co-sponsors—local synagogues, churches, and community groups. We learned that over 800 SRJC students are homeless—couch surfing, sleeping in shelters or under bridges— affecting their ability to function as students. The film and panelists discussed options: sanctioned campsites, tiny house communities, rent control, and converting unused spaces into affordable housing. This was the final program in the 5th annual *Social Action Goes to the Movies* series. *Sparks of Hope--Healing through Innovation and Creativity* was this year's theme; other film programs focused on immigration and on climate change.

The Social Action Committee is beginning to plan for next year's *SAC Goes to the Movies* series. If you would like to participate and help select films and speakers, please call temple office at (707) 578-5519 or email Denise@cstsr.org.

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

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The Voice Display Ad Rates

Annual Billing Amounts Effective 7/1/15

	Members	Non-Members
Business card:	\$265	\$330
Quarter-page:	\$580	\$725
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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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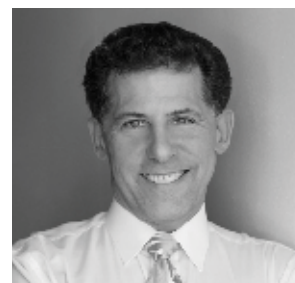
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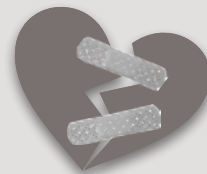
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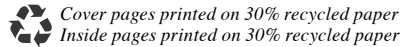
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TIME SENSITIVE

MAY SERVICES

Friday, May 5

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*
honoring K & 1st Grade
Yom Ha'atzmaut Shabbat & Dinner

Saturday, May 6

Weekly Torah portion: *Acharei Mote-Kedoshim*
8:45 am – *Torah Study by Rabbi George*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*
Bat Mitzvah of Sofia Fichera

Friday, May 12

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch with*
Judith Richlin-Klonsky

Saturday, May 13

Weekly Torah portion: *Emor*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led*
by Dorothy Schwartzberg
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*
Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Eisley

Friday, May 19

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, May 20

Weekly Torah portion: *Be-Har-Be-Chukko tai*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi Stephanie*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*
Bar Mitzvah of Mateo Greenberg-Mijares

Friday, May 26

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, May 27

Weekly Torah portion: *Be-Midbar*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Stan Roodman*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*
Bar Mitzvah of Evan Sacher

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.