



CONGREGATION
SHOMREI TORAH שומרי תורה

the VOICE

November 2014 – Cheshvan/Kislev 5775, Volume XXVII Number 9



GELT-a-THON

Sixth Annual Gelt-A-Thon Sunday, December 14

A Shomrei Torah Hanukkah tradition continues on Sunday, December 14, when a committed group of Shomrei Torah volunteers will be calling members of our congregation, asking for contributions to our sixth annual Hanukkah Gelt-A-Thon. This event not only raises much needed money for our operations and programs; it also brings us together as a community celebrating the spirit of generosity and gift-giving for which this holiday stands.

Last year's fundraiser was our most successful, raising almost \$29,000 with contributions from slightly more than half of our members. While we appreciate this support, we know we can still do better. Imagine what we could accomplish if all of us included Shomrei Torah in our holiday celebration with a Hanukkah night gift!

Contributing collectively through the Gelt-A-Thon creates an experience that promotes our culture of tzedakah and affirms our commitment to Shomrei Torah. And while we suggest a donation of \$118, what we truly hope to see is for everyone to participate. We

welcome gifts at every level. Please join us in giving.

You can greatly assist our volunteer callers in their roles by making Gelt-A-Thon contributions in advance. Just log on to our website and click on the Gelt-a-Thon donation button. Or, you can send in a check, call the office and charge your credit card, or even come by the office and bring us cash. In any event, once your gift is received, we'll remove your name from the call list. Last year, 135 families donated prior to the date of the Gelt-a-Thon!

Indeed, our community is blessed. Relying on nothing more than the generosity of our members, we continue to grow and develop a center for progressive Judaism in Sonoma County. Leaf through any edition of The Voice or browse our website and you will find a rich and varied selection of events and programming; something for everyone, and everyone welcome. On behalf of your Gelt-A-Thon committee, we look forward to celebrating Hanukkah together and talking with you on December 14.

Reed Ferrick and John Weinstein: Co-Chairs
Rachael Cutcher, President

Saul Kaye At Shabbat Services

Friday, November 7 - 6:15 PM

Join us for a wonderful free musical experience as Saul Kay joins us for Friday evening Shabbat services. Saul is famous in the Bay Area for his unique fusion of traditional Jewish liturgy with the music of the Blues. He has performed nationally and released two acclaimed albums.

"Not only is Saul Kaye a soulful and sincere player, he's also a fantastic teacher. More than just a blues show, this deepened our connection to history, philosophy, and Judaism."

--St. Paul JCC



"Saul is famous in the Bay Area for his unique fusion of traditional Jewish liturgy with the music of the Blues."

Rabbi's Tisch

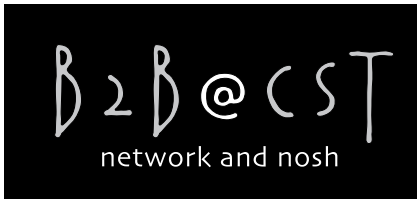
Friday, November 14 – 6:15 PM

The Rabbis' Tisch takes place at 6:15 PM on the second Friday evening of each month and includes a brief service, delicious catered dinner, and an exploration of topics central to Jewish life and tradition. At the November Tisch, Rabbi George and Rabbi Kramer will explore the intersection of religion and politics in Judaism and congregational life.

Don't miss these wonderful experiences. Please RSVP to Denise in our office at 707-578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

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Business To Business Connecting with others in business at CST

Tuesday, November 11 – 7:30 AM

You are invited to the next B2B@CST meeting on Tuesday, November 11, at 7:30 AM for coffee and business networking with other members of Congregation Shomrei Torah. All Temple members are welcome.

Our October meeting featured Lillian Lattimore, an interior designer who also works with her husband, Bruce Smith of Copper Sky Construction. She talked about the kind of work she likes to do and be referred for and her long history as an artist.

The upcoming November 11 meeting will feature Jessica Kahn Wichmann of Zeitgeist Sonoma, a design and architectural firm. Jessica, a member of the CST board, will talk about the unique combination of skills that are shared between her and her husband Efraim and how this makes their company different and easy to refer to others.

Our mission is to build each other's businesses and create more opportunities together within the CST community. You can catch our member's information in the new CST directory. We would love to have you join us! Please contact the CST office for more information or to join the B2B@CST mailing list.

"A Taste of Judaism™"

*Wednesdays, November 5, 12, 19
7:00 – 8:30 PM*

Ever wondered how you could invite your friends and family to experience a "taste" of Judaism without undue pressure? Here's an answer! "A TASTE OF JUDAISM™: Are You Curious?" sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism. This is a three-session Outreach program taught by Rabbi George, Rabbi Kramer and Cantor Frommer. It is free of charge to the unaffiliated only—Jews or non-Jews—all are welcome (unfortunately, Shomrei Torah members are not eligible to enroll). Please take this opportunity to reach out to your extended family, future in-laws, neighbors and friends and offer them a "taste" of what makes Judaism so special. For more information go to www.reformjudaism.org/taste/



Interfaith Pre-Thanksgiving Worship Service

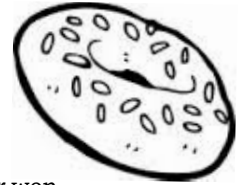
Sunday, November 23 – 7:00 PM

Please join fellow congregants from Shomrei Torah at a pre-Thanksgiving interfaith worship service with Christ Church United Methodist (CCUM), celebrating our many years of collaboration. CCUM was Shomrei Torah's home for over 25 years before the move to our facilities on Bennett Valley Road. This interfaith service is warm and meaningful, family-friendly, with music, stories and sharings, fellowship and refreshments. This year, the service will be here at Shomrei Torah.

Men's Bagel Club

Sunday, November 2 - 9:00 AM

Saving electricity and money



Do you think your electric bill is too high? Have you ever wondered what "baseline" is and how it works? Would you like to learn how to monitor your electric usage and bring it under control?

Retired longtime PG&E employee and CST member Bill Skoonberg will answer these and any other questions you might have about your electric usage at the November 2 edition of the Men's Bagel Club at 9 am. Reserve your gourmet breakfast at cstbagelmen@gmail.com. Remember that ladies are also welcome.

If you have any specific questions that you'd like to ask, bring a copy of your PG&E bill with you. Bill will be glad to meet with you separately to confer about your bill, and will even come to your home to help you to understand how to monitor your meter and rein your usage in.

If you want to reduce your electric usage and save money, this is a presentation you will not want to miss.

Camp Shabbat

Friday, November 21 - 6:15 PM

Friday, February 20 - 6:15 PM

Join us for a special camp style Shabbat service led by Camp Newman song leader Dan Utley.

There will be singing and praying and tons of fun!



Simchat Torah Celebration at Shorei Torah!

On October 15, congregants and clergy gathered for a family-oriented party to celebrate the Torah.

Ethical Wills and Other Practical Estate Planning Tools

Sunday, November 9 – 3:00-5:00 PM

Come join members of the Congregation and get started writing your own Ethical Will. This free two hour session will be taught by Marsha Jacobs, Marriage & Family Therapist, and Albert Handelman, attorney specializing in estate planning.

Each of us has values and wishes we would like to pass along to our children, grandchildren and future generations. These can be incorporated into a document called an Ethical Will. Though it is not a legal or religious document, it can be just as important as other aspects of what we leave to those we care about after we are gone. Some of the topics often included in an Ethical Will are family genealogy, attitudes toward spirituality, education, parenthood, humor and much more. There will also be some practical tips for items to consider for your legal will.

Sponsored by the Endowment and Gifts Group and the Shomrei Torah Legacy Circle. Contact the CST office at 707-578-5519 or shomrei@cstsr.org to register.

"Some of the topics often included in an Ethical Will are family genealogy, attitudes toward spirituality, education, parenthood, humor and much more."



Rosh Chodesh

Saturday, November 22

7:00 - 9:00 PM

The next Rosh Chodesh meeting will be Saturday evening, November 22, from 7:00 -9:00 PM, at Shomrei Torah, in the Kolbo room.

Please join us for sisterhood and community, to reflect on your holy day experience and to play a unique boardgame especially designed to help you reflect on your spiritual journey.

All are welcome, whether you come regularly or have never participated!

For more information, please contact the CST office.

Like Congregation
Shomrei Torah on 
 **facebook®**



Performance Series Tickets Now On Sale

Start your Hanukkah shopping early by purchasing a four-performance package to the cultural series starting January 24. Tickets are just \$100 for all four events, or \$36 if purchased individually.

The series features nationally known performers, including a mentalist and magician straight from Broadway, a renowned singer-songwriter duo, an ensemble theatrical performance about motherhood, and a special evening featuring the “Dueling Cantors,” led by our own Cantor David Frommer.

Save the dates for these very special events:

Saturday, January 24, 2015 – 7:30 PM: Magician and Mentalist Marc Salem, fresh from his hit show on Broadway, offers a captivating excursion into the power and possibilities of the human mind.

“The series features nationally known performers, including a mentalist and magician straight from Broadway, a renowned singer-songwriter duo, an ensemble theatrical performance about motherhood ...”

Sunday, February 15, 2015 – 4:00 PM: Folk Musician and Cantorial Soloist Alisa Fineman and Kimball Hurd, the Monterey Bay-based duo have earned national acclaim for their songwriting and world music repertoire.

Saturday, March 28, 2015 – 7:30 PM: The Dueling Cantors, our own David Frommer and noted Cantor Josh Breitzer present an unforgettable evening of cantoring, kibitzing and competition. This special evening will include additional surprises – don’t miss it!

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 7:30 PM: Celebrate Mother’s Day with The Mama-logues: A comedy about motherhood, written and produced by CST member Laurie Levy. Forget brunch! What Mom’s really want for Mother’s Day is wine, chocolate and laughter!

Purchase tickets online at www.cstsr.org. Proceeds from ticket, food and beverage sales will support Shomrei Torah’s ongoing cultural, religious and education programming. If you’d like to become a sponsor, please contact Fundraising Committee Chair Bruce Falstein.

Save The Date for the Congregational Retreat Weekend, April 10-12, 2015.

A treat for all ages. Our last one was a resounding success—mark your calendars.



Like Congregation Shomrei Torah on  **facebook®**

Don’t Forget About Performance Series Dates:

Saturday, January 24, 2015 – 7:30 PM

Sunday, February 15, 2015 – 4:00 PM

Saturday, March 28, 2015 – 7:30 PM

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 7:30 PM*



more info at www.cstsr.org

Imposters

According to Webster an impostor is a person who pretends to be someone else in order to deceive others, especially for fraudulent gain. It's truly sad to me that so many people feel like imposters every time they step foot inside a Jewish event or service. How can we be truly welcoming, when so many people come to Judaism either knowingly or unknowingly frightened of their authenticity? If you think you are the only one who doubts their level of "Jewness" you're wrong. In fact there are more people worrying about just this, than there are doing anything else during services. (I don't know the words. Did they notice I can't follow along? When are we supposed to bow?)

It's sad but this was the case in rabbinical school as well. I went to visit Hebrew Union College while in Jerusalem before I was accepted and I remember sharing with a childhood friend who was already a rabbinical student how nervous I was. He reassured me that everyone in rabbinical school was so worried about "out-praying" everyone else that, it turned out, no one was actually praying. Ironical but true. Students were so caught up in their imposturous fears, that authentic prayer was unachievable.

We often hear these worries played out in jokes like, "well she is more Jewish than me" or people will say "that's



because I am a bad Jew." This is terrible!! We must stop these comparisons. Eating something or not eating something, observing a holiday or forgetting that it exists, are not litmus tests of Jewness!

If you want to feel more comfortable with your level of Jewish observance, then you're in the right place. Come to a class, attend services, join a chavurah. The more you come around the easier it will become to feel connected to your "Jewness."

Since our congregation is 80% interfaith families, people sometimes ask which partner is Jewish... most of the time I have no idea, and, more importantly, it doesn't matter. Many of our most devoted volunteers are the non-Jewish partners who understand what it means to be part of a community.

I often wonder if being the non-Jewish partner in a Jewish community is more or less comfortable than being the Jewish partner. Do you feel freer to ask questions? Do you feel less worry about knowing what's going on? When I'm on the bima, I just want to scream

out, "We accept you just the way you are! Please accept yourself!" Let the guilt go, throw out the anxiety, and come join the

community. We love having you around, just the way you are.

**B'Shalom,
Rabbi Kramer**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving

During November my thoughts are typically all about Thanksgiving.

Gathering with family and friends, travel, stress, food, and football. I am truly thankful for the many blessings in my life. I'm thankful for my family, for my health, for living in "the chosen spot of all the earth as far as Nature is concerned," and for being strongly connected to the Shomrei Torah community. This November I'm not solely preoccupied with the holiday of Thanksgiving. My niece, Sarah, is currently serving in the United States Navy and is stationed at Whidbey Island, Washington. She's expecting the arrival of her first baby this month. Her partner has been stationed in Japan for the last couple of months and is expected to arrive back in the States in time for the delivery (God willing!). For now, Sarah's alone - without her family, without her partner. Waiting. Waiting for the arrival of the little bundle of joy that will change her life forever! So, my thoughts turn to Sarah in her liminal stage, pray for an easy and safe delivery of her little girl and give thanks to the men and women who serve and have served our country. In observance of Veteran's Day on November 11, I offer this prayer for our service members and for us all:



**Veterans Day Prayer by Rabbi
Dr. Laurence Milder**

Compassionate God, Source of Mercy, we pay tribute to those who have served our country, to express our gratitude for their courage and selflessness, both those among us today and those of generations past. This nation, built by those born of this soil and those who have come here from all the corners of the earth, is on a continual journey toward its destiny. May we never let down those who have served in defense of this country. May we uphold the values of freedom, of the inherent dignity of every human being, by our own right conduct, by the kindness and tolerance we show to one another. May we lead the world by example, and become, in the words of Isaiah, a light to the nations. Then will the labors and sacrifices of these veterans be honored not in words alone, but by our deeds.

**B'Shalom,
Rachael**

LEGACY NEWS

Legacy Circle

Congregation Shomrei Torah has established the "Legacy Circle" to ensure that our vibrant Jewish community exists for generations to come. It's members are congregants and other individuals who have chosen to remember Shomrei Torah in their will or estate planning regardless of the size of their generosity. Jewish tradition teaches that one of our key duties is to make the world a better place for future generations-Tikkun Olam. The act of creating a legacy empowers one to complete the work of their heart and to be remembered long after they are gone. For further information, contact Mark Travis in the CTST office at 707-578-5519 or mtravis@cstsr.org.



LEGACY
CIRCLE



AIDS Quilt

CST is planning on a major display of panels of the AIDS Quilt (The Names Project) in our sanctuary the weekend of June 12 - 14, 2015. This will be one of the largest displays in Northern California and we are inviting everyone to participate in this emotional work. If you have friends or family members memorialized in the Quilt, please let me know as soon as possible and those particular quilts will be part of the display. We suggest a donation of \$36 towards the AIDS Memorial Quilt for each panel requested, but donations are not a requirement. Requests must be made by December 15. This will be a memorable event and the display will be open to the community. Please contact the CST office for more information.

Toy and Clothing/Bedding Drive

As we approach the season of giving - collections of toys for the annual Roseland Posada and warm clothing/bedding for our local community in need, has begun. Please look for the collection bins in the front entry of the synagogue in November and December.

The toy drive is to contribute gifts for the Roseland area family Posada, which is an annual event sponsored by Comite Vidas (previously known as the Committee for Immigrant Rights) and co-sponsored by Shomrei Torah as well as other faith based and community organizations. It is a joy to be a part of this celebration and witness the excitement of the children. It takes place close to the Christmas holiday and all are welcome to volunteer or just observe. If you would like to contribute gifts please wrap them and identify if it is for a boy/girl/either and what age range.

We are once again collecting warm clothing and bedding for our neighbors and recipients of food from Elisha's Pantry. This year we are expanding our distribution to the county homeless shelter as well. Last year there was an emergency need to provide coats and bedding to people living on the streets or in inadequate shelters, because of the extreme cold temperatures. The items we are looking for are: gloves, scarves, hats, clean socks, rain gear, warm coats, HEAVY sweaters, warm shoes/boots, thermals and warm sweat shirts/pants. We never have enough warm blankets and sleeping bags! Large/extra large and children's sizes are especially needed. Please be sure that all items are in good condition, gently used with no stains or holes. We will not be collecting other clothing this year so please donate t-shirts, blouses, pants, dresses and other light weight items as well as sheets and pillow cases to other community charities.

Ask your friends and neighbors to donate both toys and winter clothing as well! Volunteers will be needed for sorting and distribution in December. Children are welcome to help out.

For more information contact the CST office.

College Care Packages

Matzoh toffee, a wind-up dreidel, chocolate gelt—just a taste of what we sent last year to Shomrei Torah's college students! Would your college student enjoy some holiday treats this year? Let us know his or her college address and we'll send fun and delicious greetings from their Shomrei Torah family!

Please call (578-5519) or email the office (shomrei@cstsr.org) with the following information: your student's name, college name, college address, email, and move in date, plus your name, phone number and email.

We'd love to include all college students! If your student received mailings last year, you'll need to resubmit information to be included again this year, even if the address hasn't changed.

Many thanks to Nancy Ferrick and Melissa Kort for their hard work providing this to our college students!

Environmental Action Committee

Tip of the Month

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you."

~ Leviticus 23:22



Autumn! -- the season to reap what we've sown, be grateful for the abundance of the harvest, and glean and rescue fresh food for those who do not have enough to eat.

Gleaning reduces food waste; keeps wildlife out of back yards, and provides food for those in need. Then take what you have gleaned or the excess of your harvest to Elisha's Pantry, to a food bank near you, or to a soup kitchen, or simply compost it -- don't throw it away!

For more information about the CST program with Elisha's Pantry contact Stephen Harper at the CST office.

Action on the Environmental Front

EAC members touring the Sonoma County Water Agency facilities.



Several members of the Environmental Action Committee went on a tour of the Sonoma County Water Agency facilities along the Russian River. We learned that almost every issue affecting other parts of California during this intense drought, has a counterpart locally. We gained considerable insight into the complexities of our local water system, as we expand our knowledge base on this crucial environmental topic. We continue further study and are formulating ideas for some appropriate action.

In collusion with the Men's Bagel Club, Bill Skoonberg of the Environmental Action Committee will present "Saving Electricity and Money Too" on Sunday November 2 at 9 am in the CST sanctuary. All are invited—reserve your breakfast at cstbagelmen@gmail.com.

JCC Chaverim News

Chaverim, our county's Jewish educational teen program is off and going strong this new year.

We are always open to all Jewish teens of any or no affiliation. For questions visit the Sonoma County Jewish Community Center website at jccsoco.org or call Director Rick Concoff at 823-3916.

Special events:

Wed, November 5 at the JCC "Exhausted Parenting" a talk by teen and parent educator Rick Concoff, call the JCC at 528-4222 for details.

Saturday, December 20 – 7:00 PM at Congregation Beth Ami--All Jewish teen alumni reunion...see JCC webpage at jccsoco.org for information.

For Jewish teen social events, we encourage all teens to join in SHORTY's many social offerings, watch for them in your weekly newsletter



Here at Hillel of Sonoma County we work to create a growing community where Jewish students can come and feel safe, have fun, and explore their Judaism. We put on great events including weekly Shabbat dinners. We are so fortunate here at Hillel of Sonoma County to have a team of outstanding interns who work hard to make Hillel and it's programming what it is.

Hillel of Sonoma County serves both Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Junior College. Unfortunately, our presence at SRJC is not what we would like it to be and we are hoping to change that. We are looking for an outgoing, hardworking Jewish SRJC student to join our intern team. This paid internship would include attending weekly meetings, promoting Hillel events on campus, and working with our vast Jewish network and resources to help plan and execute interesting, engaging, and fun programs. If you or someone you know would be perfect for this job please contact Hillel Director Ilana Stoelting at director@sonomahillel.org or at 707-795-5464.



SHORTY participants at the "C-Dubb Smash".

SHORTY

SHORTY is off to an amazing start this school year! To begin the year, nine SHORTY members attended the Central West Region's (CWR) "C-Dubb Smash" Retreat at Camp Newman. SHORTY members learned leadership skills, made new Jewish friends, and had fun! Candler Weinberg, our Treasurer, learned that "You always are welcome anywhere, anytime at any Temple Youth Group (TYG) for anything. That's a pretty cool thing to keep in your mind. I highly recommend NFTY for any Jewish teen. C-Dubb Smash was some of the most fun I've ever had." Zoe Giglio, one of our Co-Presidents, said that "jumping up and down in a huge mosh pit during shira(song session) is one of the best parts about NFTY."

Some of our board members reflected on the leadership experience that they gained from this retreat:

"The first followers deserve as much credit as the leader. Don't be afraid to be that first follower; you never know, maybe you will start a movement."

"Don't be afraid to take risks in leadership. Don't be afraid to venture outside of your comfort zone."

The SHORTY Board recently attended a training session with Samara Leader, our CWR Regional Director. At this training, the board members learned about inclusive practices, welcoming, and perspective.

For information about SHORTY or future events, contact Brandon Binder at bbinder@urjcamps.org.

Weekly Torah Portion

Read each week's Torah portion on our home page. Scroll down and click on the Torah image to go to the URJ's Torah Study page, updated every week.



Thank You Message

While losing my father has been difficult, the response of our Shomrei Torah community has been my life line.

Thanks so much for the many expressions of caring and concern. You all have really been a comfort...

Zikhrono l'brakha/ May my father's memory be for a blessing.

Rabbi George, Laura, Levi & Sophie



YiddishLand, The First Annual Sonoma County Yiddish Cultural Festival

Saturday Evening Performance,

November 15 – 7:00 PM

Sunday Afternoon Cultural Festival,

November 16 – Noon - 4:00 PM

Congregation Ner Shalom, Cotati

For most American Jews our lineage has been passed to us through parents and grandparents whose lives were shaped by 1,000 years of Yiddish culture. Yiddish-ness is the wellspring of our identities. Join as we celebrate and revitalize this deeply-feeling, funny, rich, expressive, musical, literate heritage.

On Saturday, November 15, plan to enjoy an evening performance with Mama Loshn along with Juggler and Playwright Sara Felder, Traveling Jewish Theatre Co-Founder Naomi Newman, Jubilee Klezmer Ensemble with Alby Kass, Yiddish Dance Maven Bruce Bierman, Laurie Lippin, Yiddish Cowboy Scott Gerber, and Irwin Keller.

YiddishLand continues with the Cultural festival on Sunday, November 16, with free workshops for all ages on Yiddish language, humor, literature, arts, dramatics and farming. Plus food, song and the Yiddish Voices Video Project.

The first annual county-wide festival will be hosted by Congregation Ner Shalom in Cotati. Congregation Shomrei Torah is a cosponsor, along with other Jewish organizations and synagogues. Tickets and Details at YiddishLand.org.

SCTribe

Are you (or someone you know) a Jewish twenty or thirty-something?

Come join the Sonoma County Tribe! We meet once a month to celebrate holidays, eat delicious food, and just hang out.



Learn to cook like bubbe this month. We will have a Jewish cooking event on Sunday, November 16 from 3-6 PM at Congregation Shomrei Torah.

For upcoming events, questions, or to join our mailing list please contact us at sonomacountytribe@gmail.com.

Tot Shabbat

Sunday, November 16
5:00 PM

Dearest Families,

Hope everyone has had a healthy, happy and meaningful High Holy day season. We look forward to seeing you at Shomrei Torah on Sunday, November 16th, for our fabulous PJ Library event from 9:00 -11:00 AM in the Sanctuary.

L' Shana Tova,
Tot Shabbat Lauren



Babies & Bagels

Sunday, November 9 – 10:30 AM

Do you have a baby? Do you like bagels? If you answered yes to the previous questions then this group is for you!

Join us for a light nosh and some refreshing adult conversation, while you watch your child/children interact and play with others in their age group. Come for the bagels, stay for the community! Please contact the CST office for more information.



Bat Mitzvah

Audrey Grace Feiwell

November 1, 2014 – 8 Cheshvan, 5775

Please join our celebration as our daughter, Audrey, becomes a Bat Mitzvah. The service will be followed by a Kiddush luncheon.

Ashira Sheila Katz & Robert Feiwell

Bat Mitzvah

Anna Isabelle Miller

November 8, 2014 – 15 Cheshvan, 5775

Please join us in celebration as our daughter Anna is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. All are welcome to join us for a Kiddush Luncheon following the service.

Rebecca & Joel Miller



Bat Mitzvah

Isabella Clark

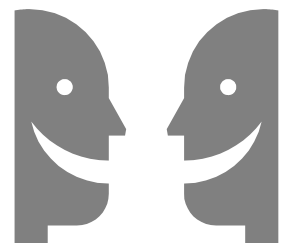
November 15, 2014 – 22 Cheshvan, 5775

Bella Clark will be called to the Bima as a Bat Mitzvah on November 15. She and her parents invite all to join to help celebrate this joyous occasion. A light Kiddush luncheon will be served directly following the service.

Stephanie Rudin-Clark & Jason Foley

Cancer Resource Team At Your Service

If you were recently diagnosed with cancer, there are other members of the congregation who have experienced similar challenges and want to help. Would you like someone to talk with you and/or members of your family? We are here to listen, answer your questions and hold your hand. Contact the CST office, to be paired up with a member of the team.



Solar Dedication – Celebrating Our New Solar Installation



Sam Rose sounding the Shofar.



L. to R.: Environmental Action Committee Members Susan Richter, Phyllis Nesbit, Bill Skoonberg, and Rick Reisman.



Rabbi Kramer sounding the Shofar.



L. to R.: Congregant Bill Skoonberg, Geof Syphers (Sonoma Clean Power), Rabbi George, Chuck Hine (PG&E), and Robert Gould (SolarCraft).

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on September 11, 2014 and took the following actions:

- Voted to amend Section 1 of CST's bylaws pertaining to membership. This bylaw amendment will have to be approved at the next general membership meeting in 2015.
- Approved 8 new families for membership
- Approved a new Legacy Circle Operating Account policy
- Approved the expenditure of funds from the Chai Hopes account for furnishings for Shalom Hall

Any Shomrei Torah member is welcome to attend temple committee meetings and board meetings. Please contact the committee chairperson or board president to find out meeting times and agenda items.

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9:00 AM–12 Noon,
1:00–5:00 PM

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Affiliated with the

**UNION FOR
REFORM JUDAISM**

Support Our Religious School With Gingerbread Menorah Kits

Congregation Shomrei Torah has partnered with Sweet Thrills Bakeshop for a Gingerbread Menorah Fundraiser. They have created handmade Chocolate Gingerbread Menorah Decorating Kits. It's all of the fun of building and decorating with gingerbread and candy in a way that celebrates the Jewish traditions and holiday. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to our school for every kit purchased online through November 30 by our community using our code: CST14. This is an easy way for you to discover and enjoy a creative new Hanukkah activity for your family, while earning fundraising dollars for our school.

There are three versions of the Kosher Chocolate Gingerbread Menorah Kits available:

Original Gingerbread Menorah (unassembled) - \$29.95

Mini Gingerbread Menorah (pre-assembled) - \$25.95

Mini Gingerbread Menorah (unassembled) - \$21.95

How to Order:

Just visit www.gingerbreadmenorahs.com and enter promo code: CST14 (on the first page of the checkout process) for any purchase you make by November 30 and they will do the rest.

Your Gingerbread Menorah Kits will be available for pickup at our school the week of December 1. Simply select "Pre-approved SF Bay Area School Fundraiser Participants Only" as your shipping option. Should you prefer to pay for direct shipping to another location, you can of course do that as well.

Please know that friends and family can also use our code for purchases in support of our school.

Last year the Chocolate Gingerbread Menorah Kits sold out quickly, so if you are interested in getting a Kit we recommended you preorder yours now.

Enjoy!

STARS



SWEET GIVING

A % of the proceeds will be donated to our school for every kit you purchase online with promo code by November 30.

PROMO CODE

CST14

Gingerbread Menorahs will be at our school for pickup the week of December 5.

www.GingerbreadMenorahs.com

High Holy Day Message

Eli Weinzev delivered the following important message on Yom Kippur morning:

L'dor v'dor.

From generation to generation. This is one of the most well-known phrases in all of Judaism — along with “that’s all you’re going to eat?”

L'dor v'dor.

This is a phrase that has been with me my entire life. I am blessed to have been raised within close proximity to much of my family. I have fond memories of my Grandpa Bob teaching me about fishing and the stock market on lazy summer afternoons in his backyard. Playing in the pool, even when my Grandma Ina would yell at my brother Daniel and I to “not go in the water for a half-an-hour or you’ll get a cramp!” I was surrounded by aunts, uncles, cousins... mishpucha! The lessons and values I have learned from my parents and mishpucha have truly been an expression of l’dor v’dor.

My Jewish life has been no different. I have been lucky enough to have been raised within the Shomrei Torah community as well. I remember Friday night services in the shared building with Christ Church United Methodist. Long tables in the back, over-flowing with food. I have wonderful memories of evenings spent running around the facility causing mischief with my brother Daniel. As I grew older my focus changed. I began to prepare for my Bar-Mitzvah. Judith Helman was my Hebrew teacher.

Between her and Rabbi George they were able to whip me into shape. The day of my Bar Mitzvah came. I read my portion... flawlessly. But that was not what I remember from that day.

“The memory I will never forget is standing on the bimah, watching the older generations of my family, one by one, pass the torah towards me.”

The memory I will never forget is standing on the bimah, watching the older generations of my family, one by one, pass the torah towards me. First my Nana, then to my Grandpa Bob, then Grandma Ina, next to my parents, then me. It was a true manifestation of l’dor v’dor. They were passing me their knowledge, heritage, and culture. I became a “man” that day, not by reading a torah portion, but through a ritual that has occurred for many generations. L’dor v’dor.

The next major phase in my Jewish life came when I was lucky enough to marry my incredible wife Nicolette. I knew immediately where the wedding was to be held. The congregation had recently built us a wonderful new wedding venue. It had majestic views overlooking Sonoma County, and it was the perfect size.

I joke, but in all seriousness we were again blessed to have had a community that came together and created a new space for our “tribe.” A place that we could finally call our own. Nicolette and I were married by Rabbi George in 2010. I remember the year because the Giants also won a World Series. (Don’t ask at which event I cried at, it’s still a sore subject.)

Even before we were “official” members, Rabbi George took us in, counseled us, and officiated our Wedding. We were treated as family, part of the community. The day of our wedding, the Rabbi asked everyone in the audience to stand. (we’re used to that) He then asked people to sit down when he reached the number of years they had been married. The last people standing were my Grandpa Bob and Grandma Ina. Married for over 60 years. I looked out, remembering the day long ago when they passed the Torah down to me, in the very presence of many of the people who were at my Bar Mitzvah. From Generation to Generation. L’dor v’dor.

Even before we were “official” members, Rabbi George took us in, counseled us, and officiated our Wedding.

A year after our marriage, Nicolette and I had the joy of finding out we were having twins! Again, we knew that Shomrei Torah would be there for us. When it came time for the Brit Milah, Rabbi Kramer and Rabbi George stood by our side as we prayed, cried, and welcomed our children into the “Jewish” world. That day, I stood with my family and welcomed the next generation into our lives. L’dor V’dor.

I am now a parent. Scary thought. The twins are almost 3. It is now my turn to begin to share the values that the previous generation have passed down to me. How can I fulfill this Jewish mission of l’dor v’dor? The kids are active in Jewish youth groups, Babies and Bagels, Tot Shabbat, KIDdish, and soon STaRS! But Nicolette and I realize that this idea is much more than that. We must teach them the values that were passed down to us. One of these values is Tzedakah. The word “tzedakah” is actually derived from the Hebrew root Tzadei-Dalet-Qof, meaning righteousness, justice or fairness. These are the things we strive to teach our children.

My entire "Jewish" life has been spent in the world of Shomrei Torah. From my Bar Mitzvah, to our Wedding, to the Brit Milah and education of our children. Throughout this time, I have witnessed generations of congregants work tirelessly to make this Synagogue what it is today. We have all benefitted from their hard work and dedication. Many of you today have had a hand in creating this incredible diverse and nurturing community. Thank you. My family, and every family in our congregation thanks you. I love and cherish what we have.

But we are not finished. Our beautiful Synagogue is not fully paid off. We still owe 1.7 million dollars! This final payment is due in 2017. That's only 2 ½ years away!

We are lucky to have been sustained by those who give of their time, but also those who give financially. Some of us pledge yearly. Some give when they can. Others have made the decision to write us into their wills. A special thank you to our Legacy Circle members for their vision. These generous people truly understand the idea of L'Dor V'dor. They know that we must pass on our traditions and heritage to the next generation of Congregation Shomrei Torah families.

To offer the incredible programming that we do also takes resources. L'dor v'dor is the idea of not just tradition or knowledge passed on,

but the duty of responsibility to the community. To continue these wonderful traditions that we have established takes tzedakah, but it also takes members. Members showing up, participating, and helping to create that sense of Jewish community that many of us yearn for. Part of that community is doing your "fair share." That might mean pledging more each year, that might mean donating your time. However you choose to participate, please participate. Our community needs you. The future generation of Jews need the wisdom, knowledge, and resources that many of you have to offer.

To those of you who are not members, I hope you have felt welcomed during these Holy Days. We really have an incredible community that can bring so much to you and your family. If your interest in membership has been piqued during this time of year, please contact the Synagogue office next week for more information on joining us.

L'dor V'dor. From Generation to generation. I have been lucky enough to have enjoyed the fruits of other members' labors during my years as a member of Shomrei Torah. Now it is my time to give back. I am continuing this tradition of giving. Giving of my time, my "resources," and my love. Will you please join me this year in giving too.

Thank you.
L'Shana Tova

Religious School Opening Day



The Voice Display Ad Rates

For Shomrei Torah Members

	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Business card:	\$20	\$240
Quarter-page:	\$44	\$528
Half-page:	\$90	\$1,080

For Non-Members

	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Business card:	\$25	\$300
Quarter-page:	\$55	\$660
Half-page:	\$112	\$1,350

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, please call the temple office at 707-578-5519.

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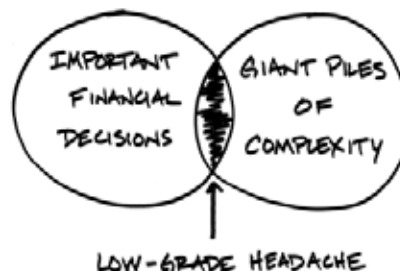
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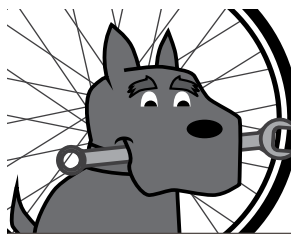
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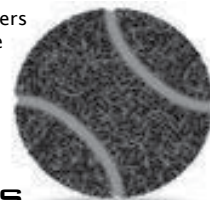
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TIME SENSITIVE

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Saturday, November 1

Weekly Torah portion: Lech-Lecha, Genesis 12:1-17:27

8:45 am

Torah Study led by Rabbi George

10:30 am

Shabbat Service

Bat Mitzvah of Audrey Feiwell

Friday, November 7

6:15 pm

Shabbat Service – Interfaith Families

Saturday, November 8

Weekly Torah portion: Vayera, Genesis 18:1- 22:24

8:45 am

Torah Study led by Lee Spitzer

10:30 am

Shabbat Service

Bat Mitzvah of Anna Miller

Friday, November 14

6:15 pm - *Rabbi's Tisch*

Saturday, November 15

Weekly Torah portion: Chayei Sarah, Genesis 23:1 - 25:18

8:45 am

Torah Study led by Rabbi George

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bat Mitzvah of Bella Clark

Friday, November 21

6:15 pm

Shabbat Service – All School Family

Saturday, November 22

Weekly Torah portion: Toldot, Genesis 25:19 - 28:9

8:45 am

Torah Study led by Rabbi Kramer

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, November 28

6:15 pm - *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, November 29

Weekly Torah portion: Vayetzei, Genesis 28:10 - 32:3

8:45 am

Torah Study led by Mari Doxiadis

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

See our latest calendar at www.cstsr.org/calendar

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.