



Rabbi's Tisch with Paul Gullixson "First Amendment Issues and the Media."

Friday, November 11, 6:15 PM

Paul Gullixson will discuss current First Amendment issues associated with the media and offer his thoughts on the results of the November 8th general election earlier in the week. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, including its provisions on freedom of speech, press, religious freedom and the right to assemble, has been of tremendous historical importance to Americans and especially to the Jewish people. Mr. Gullixson welcomes any questions about the state of newspapers today and in particular *The Press Democrat*. He has worked in journalism for 34 years, has been with *The Press Democrat* since 1998, and teaches at Sonoma State University, where he is the faculty advisor for the *Sonoma State STAR*, the campus newspaper.



Paul Gullixson

The *Tisch* begins with *Shabbat* prayers and dinner, and ends with *Mi'shebeirach* and *Kaddish*. Suggested donation for dinner is \$18. RSVP to the CST office. Please call (707)578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.

New Member Shabbat

November 4, 6:15 PM

Our clergy, staff, Board of Directors and Membership Task Force invite members who have joined the synagogue in the past year to attend the New Member *Shabbat* Service on November 4. We would like to officially welcome you to the CST community with a blessing on the *bima* by Rabbi Kramer and an opportunity to meet established members and other new members at the evening's *oneg Shabbat*. Mark your calendars for this special evening.

*We would like to
officially welcome
you to the CST
community with a
blessing on the bima
by Rabbi Kramer...*

Musical Shabbat

Friday, November 18, 6:15 PM

Sing, clap and even dance! This musical *Shabbat* service will feature a live band comprised of member volunteers/musicians.

We will be performing some familiar tunes mixed in with a few newer tunes that work really well with a band. This is a not-to-be-missed, very upbeat service.



GELT a THON

The 8th Annual Gelt-A-Thon is Coming Up

This year the eighth annual Gelt-a-Thon takes on an even greater importance since it is the only major fundraiser for the year. As we approach *Hanukkah*, you can expect a call from a committed Shomrei Torah volunteer who will be asking for contributions to our Gelt-a-Thon. It not only raises much needed money for our operations and programs, it also brings us together as a community as we celebrate the spirit of generosity, promote our culture of *tzedakah* and affirm our commitment to Shomrei Torah. While we suggest a donation of \$118, our goal is to have everyone participate. We welcome gifts at every level.

You can participate by saying "yes!" to our friendly callers or if you prefer not to be called, simply contact the office to have your credit card charged or send in a check before December 11.

If you would like to participate by making calls, please contact the temple office at (707) 578-5519 or email denise@cstsr.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

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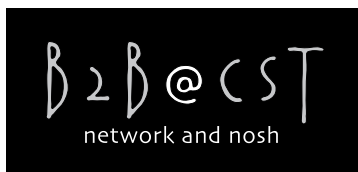
LIFELONG LEARNING

Meditation as a Jewish Spiritual Practice with Rabbi George

3 sessions: Nov. 2, 9, 16, 7:00-8:30 PM



This three-session class/sit offers folks the opportunity to meditate in a Jewish setting utilizing the tools and resources of Jewish and Buddhist practice. There will be some instruction, teaching, and at least 45 minutes of silence per session. While this class builds on the previous sessions offered by Rabbi George, no previous knowledge is necessary and all are welcome. The class is free, but you must RSVP to the CST office to attend.



Tuesday, November 8, 8:00 AM

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

Join us for our next meeting at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, November 8 at Congregation Shomrei Torah. For more information, contact Bob Heisler at 707-494-2121 or bobheisler1@gmail.com.

Interfaith Pre-Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 13, 6:00 PM, CST Sanctuary

This year Shomrei Torah is hosting the pre-Thanksgiving interfaith worship service with Christ Church United Methodist (CCUM). Join us for a dinner of fellowship followed by a family-friendly service with music, stories and sharing. RSVP to the office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.

Social Action Committee's 8th Annual Warm Clothing Drive

Continues through November 13

We are still collecting warm items that are new or gently used in very good condition to help our friends and neighbors of Elisha's Pantry. There are containers for your donations in *Shalom Hall*. If you are interested in volunteering to help sort and distribute, or need more information, contact the office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.



Babies & Bagels

Sunday, November 13

We love to get together with you and your little ones. The Babies and Bagels group meets once a month, usually on Sunday mornings. 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 that meets at a private home. For more information, contact the office at (707) 578-5519 or denise@cstsr.org.



Tot Shabbat

November 11, 5:00 PM

This month's meeting is a potluck - bring a vegetarian dish to share. 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. During all Tot Shabbat experiences there will be a kid-friendly service, lively music and movement, exciting stories, art activities, and open play. Tot Shabbat is a FREE program.



KIDdish

November 13, 9:00 AM

PJ Library Read Day for KIDdish-3rd Graders

PJ Library is partnering with Congregation Shomrei Torah for The Global Day of Jewish Learning. Listen to PJ Library stories, enjoy live music and of course, wear your PJs!



KIDdish - an introduction to Religious School for all Pre-K children 2-5 years old. It's not too late to register! This is a preschool class where you can meet new friends and build budding Jewish relationships that can blossom for years to come. During these classes there will be tons of hands-on art activities, spirited movement and music, playground time, and fun Jewish learning. \$180 for the entire program; contact the office to register.

Men's Bagel Club

Sunday, November 6, 9:00 AM

On Sunday morning, November 6, the Bagel Club has invited Ira Glasser, Board President of Shomrei Torah, to talk to us about the plans for the coming year under his leadership. This promises to be a worthwhile program for all of us as we hear what is happening at our temple. Ira brings his experience in the community and will touch on what he hopes will be a promising year for our congregation.



Before Ira's presentation we will feast in the sanctuary on a brunch of bagels, lox and cream cheese with all the trimmings; have a nice visit with our fellow congregants and even hear a few good Jewish jokes. All this for a donation of only \$7-10. Come join us. Please RSVP to cstbagelmen@gmail.com. As always, ladies are welcome.

CST Jewish LA Teen Trip – 7th, 8th, and 9th Graders

November 18-20, 2016

Join us for a weekend full of hands-on learning about the Jewish history and culture in Los Angeles. Attend a unique *Shabbat* Service, learn about Jewish-Muslim dialogue, the history of Boyle Heights, and other historical Jewish neighborhoods. Visit *Beit T'shuvah*, a Jewish rehabilitation center and participate in a program led by their Prevention program. Eat a deli lunch and tour Pico Robertson with an expert in the field. This is a trip that is not to be missed! Contact the office to RSVP.

Lifelong Learning

Evolving Identities of 20th Century American Jews Seen through Film

2 sessions: Dec. 7, 14, 7:00-8:30 PM

Sherry Knazan will lead the class through experiencing several films centering on Jewish life in America. Movies from the early 1940's to the 1990's can tell us a great deal about American Jewish identity and the social, cultural and political issues affecting Jews during these



Sherry Knazan

years. Through the lens of the following films, we'll explore the changing nature of Jewish identity: **Frisco Kid, Avalon, Gentleman's Agreement, Driving Miss Daisy, Crossing Delancey, Goodbye Columbus, A Stranger Among Us and Annie Hall.** RSVP at the temple office.

Rabbi's Tisch: Rev. Edward Viljoen, Center for Spiritual Living

"History and Vision of Center for Spiritual Living"
Friday, December 9, 6:15 PM

Join us in welcoming Rev. Edward to Shomrei Torah, as he informs us about the Center, how it was formed, what the central teachings are, and the vision it has for a world that works for everyone.



Rev. Edward Viljoen

Hanukkah Warm-Up Night of Lights

Wednesday, December 21, 6:15 PM

Let's rejoice together! We will supply the *latkes* and donuts; all you need to bring is your favorite vegetarian *Hanukkah* dish for our potluck *Hanukkah* celebration. Songs will be sung, and of course, dreidels will be spun!

High Holy Days Behind Us; Secular "Holidays" Ahead of Us

Before I discuss Holy Days versus Holidays, if it is not too late, I would like to ask forgiveness for just one more item: Folks, please forgive our new, outside accounting company for any recent billing errors that we as congregants may have experienced!

By the time you read this, we will have been using the Kesef service for seven full months. Overall, our books, records and reporting abilities are now in better shape than before. However, there are still snags that occur in our accounting activities.

Please continue to bring any and all questions to the attention of our office staff, as they will help facilitate prompt resolutions for us all. And, in fact, if you don't mind, for those of us who pay our fair share pledges in monthly installments, please take a quick look to see if Kesef and we have been charging your accounts properly.

While we are on the subject of pledges, records and financial matters, you may recall that the 2016-2017 annual budget that we approved at the May membership meeting called for about \$1,200,000 in costs, including the monthly mortgage payments. Thanks to our VP of Finance, Garry Goodman,



Ira Glasser, CST President

in taking an early lead, our finance committee and board (see the inside back page for a listing of members of both) have taken the necessary steps to put a new, advantageous building loan into place, which will help us realize operating savings in this area several months earlier than scheduled.

Meanwhile, the board of directors' newest member, Steven Farkas, as our Treasurer, has been helping the finance committee and the board to develop detailed budget re-forecasting tools so that we can check on our expenditures on a monthly basis and update our likely year-end totals. Enhancing the monitoring of routine and special expenses will help us to better meet our own high standards for stewardship of the pledges and contributions we receive from you.

No amount of expense monitoring, though, can fully balance out the fact that CST, similar to many other Reform congregations, only receives about half of our budgeted

expenses through the annual pledges – the other half of our essential income needs comes from entirely voluntary gift sources! And in our prior fiscal year, our total income actually fell short of meeting our expenses, as we utilized funds previously collected to fill the gap.

So, as I did last month in this space, I again ask for your financial help in maintaining Shomrei Torah's broad, vital programming at its very best, through the generous, continuing gifts of your financial resources. In addition to and above and beyond your existing sustaining gifts of money, *and we are very grateful to you for the many, many years of those gifts*, please make an additional gift before calendar year-end to CST in honor of yourself or others, and in expressing your own gratitude for the gifts you have received in your own lives.

I know we will all be receiving many similar appeals for donations this month and next, as all of our favorite causes implore us to send them our tax-deductible, 2016-dated additional contributions. In fact, this has become one of the defining aspects of the "Holidays" in America, in each November/December period. We should all support as many of these good causes as we can; just please include Congregation Shomrei Torah among them.

Okay, so now for at least the start of a more complete

discussion of Holy Days versus Holidays.

The Holy Days we just experienced in October tie many of us to our Jewish heritage, traditions and values – truly wonderful! And while the Holidays ahead are in fact, seemingly filled with solicitations, crass commercialization and tediously repetitive, usually non-Jewish images and activities, that's not all, as these months also bring us that most beautifully named American holiday: Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is one day where the finest of Jewish and secular values all come together, in peace and love, as we gather with family, friends and neighbors to share food, fellowship and fun, as we give thanks to our Creator.

Then, for many of us who are part of interfaith couples and families at CST, beyond November the most challenging of months unfolds, December, with its non-stop Christmas messages and incessant jingles. But wait! What about our partners who may not have been raised in Jewish homes, and for whom Christmas still does represent fond memories of their own beloved childhoods and traditions? Surely there is a way we can honor all of us, this Holiday season? Surely, indeed!

B'Sholam,
Ira

Why We Should Vote

By Eva Hirschel

Editor's note: Eva Hirschel, who passed away on September 25, 2015, was a beloved member of Shomrei Torah. She was born in Breslau, Germany, was a survivor of the Holocaust and lost much of her family during World War II. Despite the numerous tragedies Eva faced in her life, she had an incredible sense of humor, a kind and giving heart, and many, many friends. (Source: Press Democrat) Eva's message is just as relevant today as it was when she wrote it. Let us all be inspired to vote.

Thursday evening before our 1996 election, I received a call from a friend of mine, active in the Sonoma County Democratic party.

Could I possibly say a few words at a campaign rally to a group of volunteers, who were getting ready to go from door to door, urging people to go to the polls and vote? It didn't have to be a long speech, as there were other speakers as well, but it should be presented in such a way as to fire up the enthusiasm of the volunteers.

"You can't be serious," was my reply. "I am not a public speaker. I haven't got a clue what I could possibly contribute, much less fire up enthusiasm." My friend was not easily discouraged until I promised to at least give it a try.

That night I thought about the pathetic low voter turnout of

our population, while in some countries people lose their lives trying to get to the polls to vote, and so I started on a speech.

Early Saturday morning, November 2, I drove to the Democratic headquarters in Santa Rosa. My friend introduced Lynn Woolsey, Virginia Stom-Martin, Valerie Brown; all accomplished speakers, all running for election or re-election, and then it was my turn.

Standing in front of a large crowd, which no doubt wondered who is this person anyway, the only running I wanted to do was to run away, but too late.

Fortunately, I had practically memorized my speech. Commanding my legs to stop shaking, I began.

I was born in Germany and there too, they held elections. There were no Clinton/Gore, Dole/Kemp buttons. You wore a small pin with the letters "Ja" meaning yes in German. Yes for Hitler; yes for the Nazi party. There were no other choices; it was the only choice. Voting was mandatory, even if you were Jewish. Imagine being forced to vote for a party that was planning your destruction. Failure to vote was like smoking—hazardous to your health.

When Hitler or Goebbels spoke, if you could call their

rantings and ravings speaking, there were loudspeakers at street corners, traffic came to a complete stop and you stood still on one spot and listened. If you were at home and God forbid, had to use the bathroom, you wouldn't dream of flushing the toilet, the noise would interfere with the speeches. If you had a radio, you had better turn it on or else a kind neighbor would report you, the Gestapo or SS would appear at your door and you never had to worry about voting again.

In May of 1940, we fled to Shanghai which was then under Japanese control. It was a relatively peaceful time until Pearl Harbor when instead of being refugees, we became prisoners of the Japanese. There were no elections. It took a war to vote them out of office.

In October 1947, I arrived in San Francisco. It takes five years to become a US citizen, unless you either married a US citizen, or as my brother did, join the army. He served nine months in North Korea and was eligible for citizenship in three years. I could not vote in 1948 or 1952, but in May 1953, I swore allegiance to the United States of America, became a citizen and voted ever since.

I also have a television with an "on" and "off" button. If I wish to listen to a candidate, I turn it on; if not, I turn it off.



A photo of Eva Hirschel taken around the time she became a US citizen.

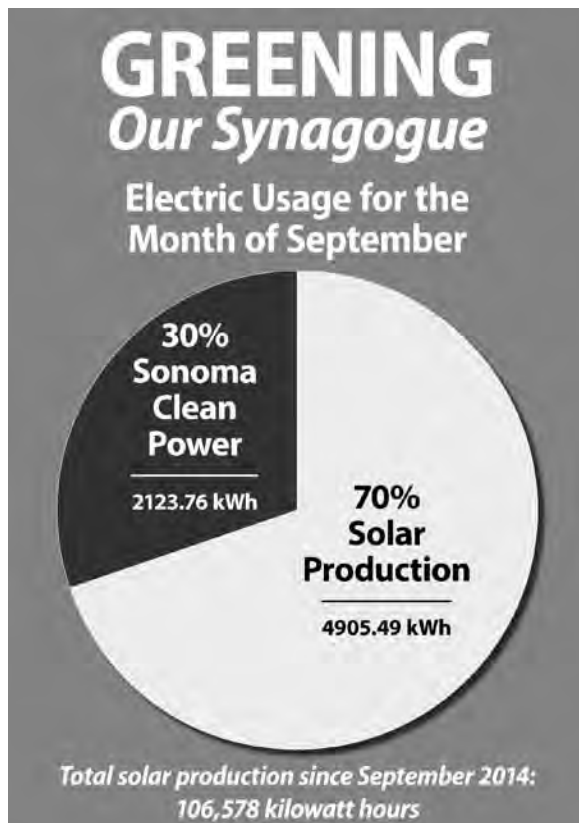
To me, this button represents my freedom of choice and I can go to sleep at night, secure in the knowledge that no one will kick in my door or arrest me.

I will vote again next Tuesday. I do not consider voting a duty. It is a privilege that I cherish more than I can tell you. I will not vote for Dole, somehow I do not fit the mold of the Right Wing Christian Coalition, but that is my choice and mine alone, not forced on me by some dictator.

So, when you go out and speak to people, remind them that in this country, they have a voice, they have a choice, this is a democracy and they have a precious right—it is called "The Right to Vote."

Environmental Action Committee Reports on Our Solar Installation

Shomrei Torah uses solar energy for much of its electrical needs. Many of our members have wondered how effective the solar panels are. We are now able to chart our energy use, courtesy of Bill Skoonberg.



A Huge Thank You to All Our High Holy Day Volunteers

Thank you to all the members who volunteered as greeters and ushers welcoming everyone to services, who schlepped High Holy Day accoutrements to and from Shomrei Torah and Center for Spiritual Living, who sang in the choir making the service so beautiful and heart-lifting. Thank you to our communications committee who created the programs and signs, to our security committee who thoughtfully evaluated our security needs, and to everyone who made the services run so smoothly. We could not have done it without you.

Social Media Examined at Recent SAC Workshop



The Kolbo room was filled with anticipation, and our own ITech Tutor did not fail to deliver.

FACEBOOK. TWITTER. LINKEDIN. INSTAGRAM. With a rich handout along with a strong and thorough presentation, Richard Lazovick connected with the nearly 20 CST congregants in attendance.

Social media plays an ever increasing role in all of our lives, and in his step-by-step presentation on August 26, Richard introduced the many types of social media used today to members of the Social Action Committee, the Communications Committee and B2B@CST, demonstrating how it works and how to make it work for Congregation Shomrei Torah.

Richard spent a significant amount of time giving attendees a hands-on experience of Facebook, expertly navigating between novices and those who had a basic understanding of it. He explained Twitter in a way to make it feel familiar. Even though the two hours were jammed packed with information, it only scratched the surface of what is possible with social media. Most attendees came away satisfied feeling they knew a bit more, and would be better equipped using at a minimum, Facebook as a tool to promote SAC and other CST events. Many expressed an interest in follow-up classes.

CST member Richard Lazovick teaches community education classes at SRJC and the Finley Center on how to understand and manage today's technology. With a BS-EE from Cornell University and an MBA from Berkeley's Haas School of Business, he has worked as an applications engineer, software engineer, inventor, and web designer. He has done marketing and consulting, and has led training classes. Richard has spent many years teaching people and helping solve their information technology problems. He has a special ability to explain the most technical principles in such a way that anyone can understand them.

Shomrei Torah has been trying to help Richard find a kidney donor for about two years. If you can help or know of someone, please go to www.akidneyforrichard.com.

Attention: Legacy Circle Participants

The Legacy Circle Committee is updating its records. If you have already elected to remember CST in your life planning, you will receive a letter and form from the committee after the holidays. Included in the packet is a copy of your original signed Legacy commitment. We ask that you complete the form and return it to the CST office. A self-addressed envelope will be provided.



LEGACY
CIRCLE

Our Legacy Circle is growing and any CST member and/or family who would like to ensure that our synagogue continues to serve Sonoma County long after we are gone, is invited to contact Chris Chang Weeks, Temple Administrator/Operations Manager, for more information. The Legacy Committee members are always available to assist with this process. There is no financial commitment during your lifetime. Those members who join will receive special invitations and gifts from the Legacy Committee. Join now.

Marsha Jacobs, Chair

Social Action Committee and Our Rabbis Support Prop 57, Criminal Justice Reform

Your vote of yes for the Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016 which promotes parole, serves justice and safety, strengthens inmate education and rehabilitation, reforms prosecution of youthful offenders, saves money and keeps dangerous felons off the street. Educate yourself about Prop 57 (vote4prop57.com/about).

Prop 57 fits Jewish values of justice: Incarceration in prison is not from *Torah* or *Halachah* (Jewish law). Justice in Judaism respects human dignity (*Kevod HaBeriyot*) for we all are *B'Tselem Elohim* (in God's image); prison does not.

Apologies for a typo in the View

As much as we tried to proof check the View, at least one error has been brought to my attention. Please note that the photo of Ira K. Glasser, on page 3 in the View and on the page 4 in this issue of the Voice, was taken by Owen Scott Shirwo.

Chris Chang Weeks

Shomrei Shop Manager Volunteer needed

Do you love to shop? Do you have a passion for household Judaica and gift items? We are looking for someone to manage our Shomrei Shop, select items to stock, maintain the inventory, and organize sales at different times of the year. Shomrei Torah has detailed instructions and resources to help. Contact the CST office, (707) 578-5519, for more information.

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A Fun Way to Start the School Year

JuSTY (3rd-5th Graders) kicked off the school year with an afternoon at Rebounderz in Rohnert Park after their first day of STaRS. Twenty-four kids had a blast jumping on trampolines, climbing through jungle gyms, and snacking on pizza! Check the calendar for JuSTY's upcoming events!



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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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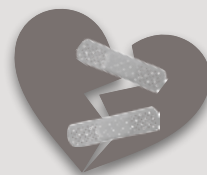
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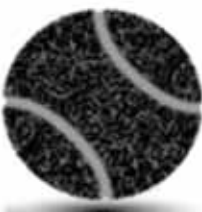
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TIME SENSITIVE

NOVEMBER SERVICES

Friday, November 4

4:00-6:00 pm – *New Member Wine and Cheese*
6:15 am – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, November 5

Weekly Torah portion: *Noach*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*
Bar Mitzvah of Bruno Overstreet

Friday, November 11

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch*

Saturday, November 12

Weekly Torah portion: *Lech Lecha*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Paul Munson*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*
Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Harris

Sunday, November 13

6:00 pm – *Interfaith Pre Thanksgiving Service*

Friday, November 18

6:15 pm – *Musical Shabbat Service*

Saturday, November 19

Weekly Torah portion: *Vayera*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi George*
10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Friday, November 25

6:15 am – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, November 26

Weekly Torah portion: *Chaya Sarah*
8:45 am – *Torah Study led by Rabbi Stephanie*
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.