



See Page 2 for High Holy Days Schedule

Rabbi's Tisch with Daryl Messinger, Chair, URJ "My Personal Torah of Leadership."

Friday, September 9, 6:15 PM

Daryl Messinger, a nationally-renowned leader in the Jewish community, is the first woman elected to the top lay leadership position, Chair of the Board of Trustees, of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the national organization of Reform congregations of which CST is a member. Ms. Messinger's distinguished service in the Jewish community includes having chaired the Board of the URJ's Camp Newman, here in Santa Rosa, where she helped to raise \$22 million for renovations. She has played a major role in shaping and implementing the URJ's 2020 Vision.

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



Join Other Religious School Parents for a Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, September 11, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Parents, while your children make friends during their first day of class, come join the other parents for a pancake breakfast sponsored by the STaRS Committee. This is a great way to start the school year and get to know one another.



Shabbat at Armstrong Woods

Saturday, September 17, 10:30 AM

Come celebrate the beauty of nature through an experiential *Shabbat* service surrounded by the towering 1000-year-old redwood trees. This service will be family-friendly and followed by a potluck picnic.

High Holy Days Are Around the Corner

The High Holy Days packet that you recently received in the mail has lots of information to guide you through the Days of Awe (*Yamin Noraim*). Make sure to return the forms for your seating cards and other arrangements. This year *Rosh Hashanah* begins on Sunday evening, October 2, and *Yom Kippur* starts on Tuesday evening, October 11.

HIGHLIGHTS

<i>Worship Calendar</i>	page 2
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Worship Calendar

High Holy Days 5777 (2016)

*Please note that services will be held as indicated at Congregation Shomrei Torah
and the Center for Spiritual Living, 2075 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa.*

Saturday, Sept. 24

S'lichot Service 9:00 pm Shomrei Torah

Sunday, Oct. 2

Erev Rosh Hashanah 6:00–7:00 pm Shomrei Torah

Family Service—Children of all ages welcome; followed by *Oneg* and children's activities

Rosh Hashanah Service 8:00 pm Ctr Spiritual Living

Monday, Oct. 3

Rosh Hashanah Adult Service 10:30 am Ctr Spiritual Living

Childcare and Children's Programs available

Pre-teen Service (6th & 7th grade) 10:30 am Ctr Spiritual Living

Teen Service 10:30 am Ctr Spiritual Living

Tashlich Service at 4:00 pm Lake Ralphine

This is a beautiful service where we cast our sins into the lake while singing and praying
that we do better in the year to come. Vegetarian/dairy potluck to follow.

Tuesday, Oct. 4

2nd Day *Rosh Hashanah Service* 10:30 am Shomrei Torah

Vegetarian/dairy Potluck lunch to follow

Friday, Oct. 7

Shabbat Shuvah Service 6:15 pm Shomrei Torah

Saturday, Oct. 8

Shabbat Shuvah Morning Service 10:30 am Shomrei Torah

Sunday, Oct. 9

Cemetery Service 10:30 am SR Memorial Park

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Erev Yom Kippur 6:00–7:00 pm Shomrei Torah

Family Service—Children of all ages welcome

Yom Kippur—Kol Nidre Adult Service ... 8:00 pm Ctr Spiritual Living

Wednesday, Oct. 12

Yom Kippur Adult Service 10:30 am Ctr Spiritual Living

Childcare and Children's programs available

Pre-teen Service (6th & 7th grade) 10:30 am Ctr Spiritual Living

Teen Service 10:30 am Ctr Spiritual Living

Jewish Journeys (personal stories) 1:30 pm* Shomrei Torah

Reading/Jonah 3:00 pm* Shomrei Torah

Healing Service 3:45 pm* Shomrei Torah

Yizkor Service 4:30 pm* Shomrei Torah

Neilah Service 5:30 pm* Shomrei Torah

Break-the-fast 6:00 pm* Shomrei Torah

*Afternoon service times are approximate

Sunday, Oct. 16

Sukkot Party 2:00–5:00 pm Yoffi Farm

Sunday, Oct. 23

Simchat Torah Service and Celebration ... 6:15 pm Shomrei Torah

All about Chaplains at the Men's Bagel Club

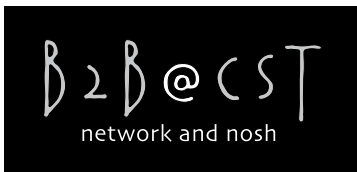
Sunday, September 4, 9:00 AM

On Sunday morning,
September 4, at 9:00 AM
the Men's Bagel Club will be
featuring Rabbi Meredith
Cahn who will talk to us



about what hospital chaplains
do. Rabbi Cahn serves as a Chaplain at Kaiser Hospital
in Santa Rosa and serves as the Jewish Chaplain at
Alta Bates in Berkeley. She has completed the required
Chaplain certification. She will speak with us after our
bagel, cream cheese and lox brunch in the sanctuary.

The requested donation for the brunch, a couple of
Jewish jokes and Rabbi Meredith's presentation is \$7.
Please RSVP the CST office at (707) 578-5519.



Tuesday, September 13, 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, September 13 at Congregation Shomrei
Torah. For more information, contact the CST office
at (707) 578-5519.

STaRS Opening Day

Sunday, September 11

Grades K-3 meet from 9:00 - 11:15 AM

Grades 4-6 meet from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Please note that 7th Grade GESHER will have their first meeting on
Sunday, September 18 from 11:00-1:00 PM. If you haven't registered your
child yet, visit our website or call the office (707)578-5519. Check our
website for a complete calendar.

KIDdish Opening Day

Sunday, September 18, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM



KIDdish 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; enroll today! This program is open to the entire Jewish
community

Tot Shabbat

Friday, September 9, 5:00 PM

We will be having a vegetarian potluck. Please bring a
dish to share.

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



Babies & Bagels

Sunday, September 18

We'd 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 meets at a private home. For more information, to RSVP for
the address, or just to say hello, email Adriann Saslow at madamesaslow@gmail.com. Babies & Bagels is a FREE program!



Shomrei Torah's Women's Retreat: *A Time for Reconnection*

We are going back to our roots! The biennial Women's Retreat will be held at the beautiful Westerbeke Ranch in Sonoma, the site of the very first retreat for Shomrei Torah women in 1999. Our retreat starts the afternoon of Friday, October 28th and ends after lunch on Sunday, October 30th. Please look for the registration form on the CST website.

The venue of Westerbeke is a welcoming family ranch nestled in the oakcovered foothills five miles west of the town of Sonoma. Each of the 5 redwood cabins has a variety of rooms for two, three or four guests.

There is a swimming pool on the premises, a hot tub, hiking trails, a labyrinth, a fire pit and an inviting dining room with both indoor and outdoor seating. Please visit the Westerbeke website for full pictorial views.

Rabbi Kramer will lead us in services and Laura Gittleman will deliver a *d'var torah*. We will have breakout sessions featuring Jewish teaching, art projects, yoga and other topics of particular interest to women. Massages are available through the ranch staff for an additional fee. There will, of course, be food, wine, time for reflection and a chance to unwind from our everyday lives. We will have time to truly enjoy the beauty that surrounds us in the company of good friends.

The deadline to register is October 1st or when we have reached our maximum capacity of 48 overnight guests. The all inclusive rate of \$375 includes 6 gourmet meals, 2 nights lodging, taxes, gratuities and unlimited corkage fees. Scholarships are available for those in need. Contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519 for more information.

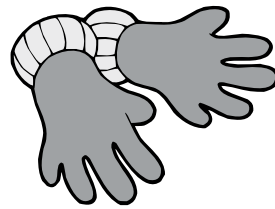
Whether this will be your 10th retreat or your first, please join us!

8th Annual Warm Clothing Drive Scheduled For October

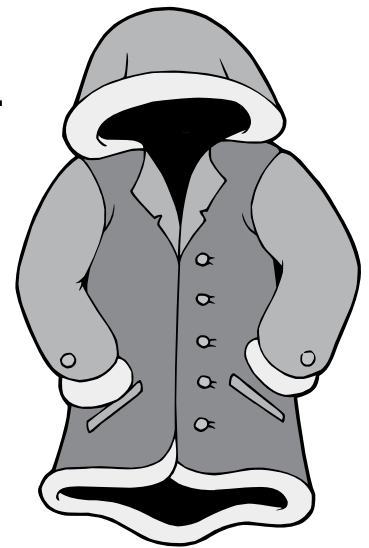
October 14 - November 13

The Social Action Committee will once again be collecting warm things for distribution this winter to our friends and neighbors who are recipients of Elisha's Pantry. Collection will begin on October 14 and go through November 13.

This is a great opportunity to clean out those closets of gently used items in very good condition ----- coats, raingear, sweaters, socks,



hats, gloves, blankets and sleeping bags. As always, we especially need children's clothing for infants to teens and extra-large adult sizes. Please plan ahead and set aside items for this meaningful outreach to our larger community.



Sukkot Party

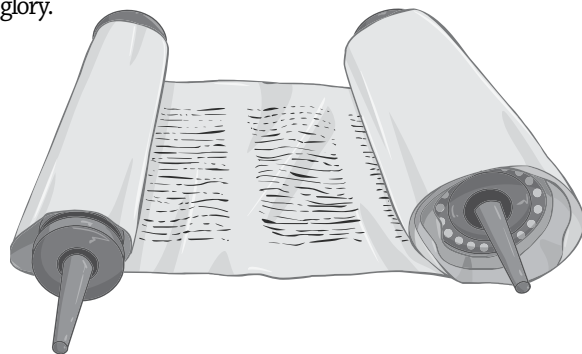
Sunday, October 16, 2:00-5:00 PM

To celebrate the harvest season, join CST at Yoffi Farm for an open house *sukkot* party. Delicious food, wonderful music, animals to pet, activities for all ages and of course, shaking the *lulav* and *etrog*. This is a great way to mix, mingle and munch.

Simchat Torah Celebration

Sunday, October 23, 6:00 PM

Join us as we celebrate the unfurling and rerolling of our Torah with lively music, singing and dancing. This family-oriented party is a wonderful opportunity to see the Torah unfold in all its glory.



We Are Having A B'nai Mitzvah - And You Are Invited!

At the beginning of the summer my wife and children and I attended a *bar mitzvah* for the grandson of one of my cousins back in New Jersey. It took a lot of planning, and departing at summer's start was hectic; we wound up devoting an entire week to traveling, attending and enjoying this wonderful family event. Before it was over, I cried with both joy and pathos for the beauty of the passing of the Torah scroll from generation to generation; for the entire history of the Jewish people; for the more recent history of my family; and for thinking of some of the trials and tribulations, joys and successes that had already come into the life of this particular boy whose *bar mitzvah* it was that day. Once returned home, I was very glad that we had gone there, despite the significant effort it took.

Then, just a couple of weeks ago, right here at home, I decided to go to Saturday morning services here at Shomrei Torah. I got here just at 10:30 AM and was surprised that the cars in the parking lot were already almost down to the entrance. I realized that I must have stumbled onto a *bar* or *bat mitzvah* right here in Santa Rosa, at my own congregation, although not intentionally. I got over



Ira Glasser, CST President

my first blush of discomfort for not being dressed more formally and decided that since I was already here, I should certainly go into the sanctuary; that I could slip into a back row; so I parked and entered.

I was completely drawn in by the ceremony that I was now witnessing and taking part in along with the rest of the congregation who were present, joining the child's family and friends in celebration of their b'nai mitzvah.

The back row idea didn't work out; all the seats were taken except for a few way up in the front, up close, so that's where I wound up sitting. After just a

few moments, I forgot all about my Sonoma County informal garb as I was completely drawn in by the ceremony that I was now witnessing and taking part in along with the rest of the congregation who were present, joining the child's family and friends in celebration of their *b'nai mitzvah*.

Just as I had been enthralled a month earlier for a similar family event, I was once again completely captivated by being present with this other family, one I had never even met, as their child stood at the end of a line on the *bimah*, and the scroll was passed down from generation to generation, to carry forward the Jewish tradition of honoring the *Torah's mitzvot*.

Along with everyone else present, I laughed and I cried as the service went on, speeches were made, gifts presented; and especially when the child's mother and father each spoke of their heartfelt love and pride in the moment. It was truly beautiful; it was just one perfect explanation (among many others) for why we have all come together in Santa Rosa to form Shomrei Torah: to carry forward our traditions.

When the service ended and I had stood in line to congratulate the family, and had helped many others set out the tables and rearrange the chairs, and was ready to leave, I was reminded that I was also invited to the *kiddush* and meal

It was truly beautiful; it was just one perfect explanation (among many others) for why we have all come together in Santa Rosa to form Shomrei Torah: to carry forward our traditions.

about to be served. Unfortunately, I couldn't stay any longer, so I walked back to my car and left.

As I drove away, I realized that I had just had the great pleasure to experience, without having to go through twelve hours of travel in both directions, as truly a beautiful *simcha* as the one I'd attended back East a month earlier.

And I've got some news for each and every one of you now reading this: *you* are invited now, and always, to the next *b'nai mitzvah* at our synagogue, and to the one after, and the one after that. Come and join us, your fellow congregants, and the *b'nai mitzvah* children, and their families and friends, and come be a part of our traditions, our heritage and our lives.

**B'Shalom,
Ira**

A story...

The *Baal Shem Tov*, the founder of the Hassidic movement, took a long time to pray over *Shabbat*. He would begin *Shabbat* morning services with his followers, a couple hours later; they would be done, yet he would still be engrossed in prayer. They would sit in quiet reverence and wait; twenty minutes, a half hour, even an hour until he was done. Together they would make *Kiddush* and eat a nice *Shabbas* meal.

You have to understand that the *Baal Shem Tov* (which means, Master of a Good Name), was no ordinary person. Some say he could be in two places at one time! Others noted that a short ride in his carriage could land you temporarily in another

Everyone who had ever been in his presence knew that he could see right into your neshama, your soul.

country half way around the world! Everyone who had ever been in his presence knew that he could see right into your *neshama*, your soul. Legend or fact, well it is hard



Rabbi George

The Bsht's followers argued amongst themselves for a little while when one Hassid quietly left his seat and began to ease out toward the Oneg table.

to tell. One thing for sure, the *Baal Shem Tov* was no ordinary man.

One day, after his followers had finished praying and they were waiting for the *Bsht* to finish, the aromas of the *Kiddush* lunch were especially enticing. One man said to another, "You know, we could quietly leave this room, enjoy a little herring, maybe some schnapps, come back and he would not even know we were gone." Another replied, "How can you say such a thing, we could never leave our master

before he is done *davening*." "We really won't be leaving," another said. "We'll be just next door. We'll be back soon enough." The *Bsht*'s followers argued amongst themselves for a little while when one Hassid quietly left his seat and began to ease out toward the *Oneg* table. Seeing him go, the others followed but even before they left their seats, the *Bsht* let out a horrific cry – "AHHHHHH"! It was as if he had just fallen off a cliff!

"*Rebbe, Rebbe*", they yelled. "What is the matter." He caught the men in his otherworldly gaze and said, "When I pray it is as if I ascend a ladder. Higher and higher I climb to bring our prayers before the *Ribbono Shel Olam* (The Master of the Universe). You, my beloved, hold the ladder; when you left for the

I love this story not for its potential to guilt y'all to come and sit through services, but rather as an illustration of what it means to be in community.

Oneg Table, the ladder fell and brought me down with it."

I love this story not for its potential to guilt y'all to come and sit through services,

Large and small, every act we make in our community contributes to the life of our community.

but rather as an illustration of what it means to be in community. In community, we all hold the ladder for each other. When we fulfill our membership and building pledges, we hold the ladder. When we deliver food to someone recovering from an illness, we hold the ladder. When come to services, we hold the ladder. When we pull weeds on our beautiful property, we hold the ladder. Large and small, every act we make in our community contributes to the life of our community.

We all hold the ladder for each other.

In gratitude as we enter the New Year.

L'shannah Tovah,
George

Gleaning — A Jewish Tradition

“And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them to the poor and the stranger.”

— Leviticus 23:22



It's harvest season in Sonoma County — time to bring a portion of the fruits and vegetables from backyard gardens, vineyards and orchards to Elisha's Pantry or your local food bank, where this bounty can be shared with those who have less.

Jewish Journeys Update and Invitation

Written in the authors' distinctive voices, these stories describe vastly different paths to Judaism/Jewish life and to Congregation Shomrei Torah.

To date, seven CST members have sent in their Jewish Journeys: Rachel Blum, Alissa Hirshfeld-Flores, Jay Hodes, Adele Pickar, Dorothy Schwartzberg, Helga Spizman, and Cy Wilcox. We heartily thank you!

Please send Rabbi George your personal journey—to be shared with Shomrei Torah members and preserved as part of our history.

A target length for each piece is 750 words; however, shorter or longer than that is fine. And if you want to add more information to your story later on, we'll take care of that too!

L'Taken Through the Lens of One Participant*

By Cole Levy, L'Taken participant and high school student

In a word, the L'Taken social justice seminar was a singularly unique experience for me. I was, admittedly, more excited at first to be traveling across the country for the first time in my life than to be taught about Jewish values and politics. And though we were given time to explore Washington D.C., and I greatly enjoyed that time, it doesn't stand out as the highlight of the trip for me when I look backwards.

I came to find the lecturing portion of program actually to be quite fun. There was not a single activity which failed to keep me engaged after its introductory period, and Jewish lessons as well as political ones were ingrained in those activities in ways that prompted further discussions rather than simple acceptance. Because it is taught in a manner which guides those in attendance through their own thought processes, the program facilitates young interest in politics and Judaic reasoning alike through each attendee's own unique lens.

Capitol hill was truly larger than life, and being in Washington was an experience which I will not forget, but to my own surprise, the things I learned at L'Taken were the most powerful portion of my experience.



*9th -12th grade students can participate in L'Taken in Washington D.C. on February 10-13, 2017. Space is extremely limited. Contact the office for more information.

A Call to Take Care of Our Veterans*

One of the roles of religion is to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.

This winter Shomrei Torah held a forum on Veteran affairs and I picked up this bracelet from Team AmVets of California. It says, "22 Everyday" and it refers to the number of vets that commit suicide every day; almost 1 an hour...

I wear it to remind me that I/we have an obligation to care for our vets, an obligation that we have yet to even recognize, let alone fulfill. I also wear the bracelet because our Vets are mostly invisible to us.



We send them far away, pay little attention to what we ask them to do and almost completely ignore them when they return. This bracelet reminds me of that shame and my responsibility to do something about it.

To comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable...

For too long the faith based community has been silent about what is happening to our vets.

We, in the progressive religious community, are quick to protest military action but unresponsive to the needs of our vets when they return from war.

"To disturb the comfortable" means to "speak truth to power," to make the invisible seen, to stand with the vulnerable, the neglected, the abused and demand action.

Where is that voice? I urge you to bring veterans and their various needs into your spiritual homes and ask yourselves and your leadership, what does our faith call us to do, what can we do, what ought we do?

To comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable...
That's our calling. Now let's get to work.

B'Shalom,
George

These are introductory remarks that Rabbi George made recently at a Veterans Forum in Santa Rosa.

Sign up for *Chaverim*

Attention
8th -12th
graders: Now
is the time
to sign up
for *Chaverim*
2016-17.
Join this
great social/
learning/
dinner



Rick Concoff, *Chaverim* leader

gathering experience twice monthly beginning in September. Register now at <http://www.jccsoco.org/main/chaverim-registration-2016-2017/>.

This program is now in its 23rd year and has served over 400 Jewish teens in Sonoma County!

Rick Concoff has been leading *Chaverim* for 23 years, and has taught ethics and values classes to the general community for 25 years. Rick is a guidance counselor and team coach.

Ushers and Greeters are Needed for High Holy Days

It's that time of year to celebrate High Holy Days. Volunteering as an usher and greeter gives you a great opportunity to meet new people and reconnect with old friends. Ushers and greeters are needed to help at services at both Shomrei Torah and Center for Spiritual Living. Contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519.

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Holiday Treat Packages for College Students

Would your college student enjoy some holiday treats during the 2016-2017 school year? We will send students enrolled in the program fun and delicious *Hanukkah* and Passover greetings from their Shomrei Torah family! If your student received mailings last year, you will need to resubmit information to be included again this year even if the address hasn't changed.

Please email the CST office (ra@cstsr.org) and copy Nancy Ferrick (nferrick@aol.com) with the following information:

- 1) Your student's name
- 2) College name
- 3) Year in school
- 4) College mailing address
- 5) Students Email
- 6) Plus parent name, phone number, and email.

Current addresses are needed by the end of October for both mailings and by the beginning of March for the Passover mailing. If your student has a change of address during the school year, please update the info by contacting the CST office.

Would you like to help bake or assemble the packages? Contact the CST office at (707) 578-5519.

Free Babysitting Available for Children ages 0-4



FREE BABYSITTING is now available for our *Shabbat* services, High Holy Day services and other events throughout the year. Childcare cost is underwritten by a generous grant provided by the Jewish Community Federation San Francisco Jewish Women's Fund. The grant specifically helps single mothers integrate into the Jewish community, and to greatly enrich our Jewish community. Be sure to check with the office about babysitting availability at the events you plan to attend.

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

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

TEMPLE ADMINISTRATOR/ OPERATIONS MANAGER

Chris Chang Weeks

ccweeks@cstsr.org

OFFICE STAFF

Senior Administrative Asst.

Denise Harrison

578-0245

denise@cstsr.org

FAX 578-3967

Cantorial Soloist

Erica Wisner

ericaw@cstsr.org

Choir Director

Sonia Morse Tubridy

soniaMT@cstsr.org

Program & Volunteer Coordinator

Mary Winterlin

mwinterlin@cstsr.org

Rabbinic Assistant

Julie Caldwell

ra@cstsr.org

Maintenance Supervisor

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Youth and Mucic Coordinator

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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
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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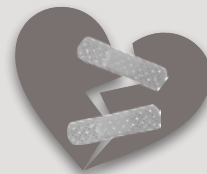
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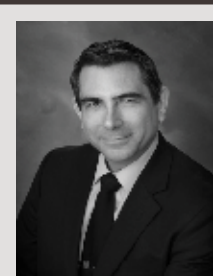
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TIME SENSITIVE

SEPTEMBER SERVICES

Friday, September 2

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, September 3

Weekly Torah portion: *Rein*

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

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bar Mitzvah of Cayden Schneider

Friday, September 9

6:15 pm – *Rabbi's Tisch with
Daryl Messinger*

Saturday, September 10

Weekly Torah portion: *Shof'tim*

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

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bar Mitzvah of Michael Hayden

Sunday, September 11

9am -1 pm – *Opening day STaRS*

Friday, September 16

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service, recognition of
Jewish Free Clinic*

Saturday, September 17

Weekly Torah portion: *Ki Teitzei*

No Torah Study

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service at
Armstrong Woods*

Friday, September 23

6:15 pm – *Shabbat Service*

Saturday, September 24

Weekly Torah portion: *Ki Tavo*

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

10:30 am – *Shabbat Service*

Bat Mitzvah of Julia Goldin

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.