

“Transcend the Ordinary”

Sivan-Tammuz-Av-Elul 5785

June - August 2025

## PRIDE AND PROTEST: FRIDAYS IN JUNE AT CSZ

By RABBI REUBEN ZELLMAN



What is Pride in a year like this?

In some ways, our queer and trans communities have more visibility and possibility than ever before. Simultaneously, our freedoms and values are now in grave danger from our own government. We may be furious, afraid, or grieving; we may feel motivated, numb, or prouder than ever; we may feel all of these, and more.

The last Shabbat of June has long been our Pride celebration. But with so much to think about – so much to *feel* about – we’re expanding. This year, *every* Friday in June offers a different way to honor Pride, in person or online. May these bring us intellectual and moral challenge, Jewish wisdom and comfort, and queer creativity and joy.

**June 6: Trans Celebration Shabbat**, in loving memory of Ray K. Bernstein, z”l. Learn with visiting scholar Lior Gross, founder of the Nonbinary Hebrew Project! With ‘male’ and ‘female’ grammar only, what’s a nonbinary Hebrew user to do? Lior will lead workshops on inclusive Hebrew grammar (5:30) and the history of this work (6:30). The 7:30 Shabbat service will be wildly trans, including a drash from Lior and nonbinary prayers.

**June 13: Pride Yizkor.** As Pride unfurls, many of us feel the absence of friends, partners, family and movement leaders who died of bigotry, AIDS, transphobia and more; and we remember the generations who fought for our freedoms. Pride Yizkor will be part memorial service, part queer history, part recommitment. 6:00 – 7:15 pm

**June 20: Honoring Juneteenth.** We reflect on Black history and our ongoing responsibility to fight racism. At 6 pm Deborah Levy and Larry Best will report on their Workers Circle trip to the South. At the 7:30 service the drash will be given by Ilana Kaufman, founder of the Jews of Color Initiative, which is dedicated to racial equity in the Jewish community.

**June 27: Pride Shabbat** At 5:45, join us outside the synagogue to cheer on the Trans March. This is the year to have our biggest crowd ever. The service starts at 7:30, with food and festivity both before and after. It’s raucous and funny and really queer, even for us.

**PRIDE  
EVENTS!**  
pg. 4

By MIKE SHRIVER



For me, Shabbat is really a time to recharge, to rest, and to reconnect with our community. One of my favorite things to do on Shabbat, especially when I am the Va'ad (Board) greeter, is to sit in the pew at the back of the sanctuary and experience services from that vantage point.

There is such a sense of pride and connection that I feel sitting back there, whether it's in seeing Rabbi Zellman among the beautiful members of our transgender/gender-nonconforming communities, or getting to witness a group of USF students who are visiting a Jewish space for the first time, or watching groups of long-time members finding their cohort of friends and settling in for Shabbat. I love being able to take in the service, be it co-led by our clergy or lay leaders, and being inspired by words of Torah from our community and their brilliant *drashot* (teachings about the week's Torah

portion). I've also begun to drop in on our Zoom attendees after services end, just to say hello and greet our members who rely on Zoom to stay connected. And it's always a gift to be able to enjoy the fantastic goodies provided by our Oneg Chavurah after the service.

Next time you see me at services sitting in the back, please come join me and take in this view for yourself. It's another really beautiful way of experiencing this vibrant, loving community.

And finally, it's really hard to believe that one year of my Presidency is over. In reflecting on these past twelve months, I am struck by how remarkable, enjoyable, and fun it has been. I am incredibly grateful for being afforded the privilege of serving the congregation.

## Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco CA 94103

**VOICE** 415-861-6932

**WEB** <https://www.shaarzahav.org>

Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, California Interfaith Power & Light, and the San Francisco Interfaith Council

Our Journey to Judaism program is supported by grants from the National Center to Encourage Judaism

## Sha'ar Zahav Staff

### SENIOR CLERGY

Rabbi Mychal Copeland (she/her)

[rabbi@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rabbi@shaarzahav.org)

Cantor Sharon Bernstein (she/her)

[cantorbernstein@gmail.com](mailto:cantorbernstein@gmail.com)

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Danny Shapiro (he/him)

[danny@shaarzahav.org](mailto:danny@shaarzahav.org)

### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Rabbi Q (Lisa Levenberg, she/her)

[educator@shaarzahav.org](mailto:educator@shaarzahav.org)

### DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Kerasa Tsokas (she/her)

[kerasa@shaarzahav.org](mailto:kerasa@shaarzahav.org)

### WELCOME HOME PROJECT

Rabbi Reuben Zellman (he/they)

[rabbireuben@shaarzahav.org](mailto:rabbireuben@shaarzahav.org)

## Officers

**PRESIDENT** Mike Shriver

[president@shaarzahav.org](mailto:president@shaarzahav.org)

**VICE PRESIDENT** Patty Caplan  
Sara Haber  
Steve Mazer

**RECORDER** Morey Lipsett  
**TREASURER** Martin Tilzer

By DANNY SHAPIRO



At Sha'ar Zahav, we are always looking for ways to improve how we connect, communicate, and celebrate together. Over the past few months, we've been working hard behind the scenes to update and streamline many of our systems—from how we handle event planning to how we share information about our events. One big step forward is the new [Events Calendar](#) now live on our website!

This calendar makes it easier than ever to stay in the loop. You can view all our upcoming events either in a list format or as a traditional monthly calendar—whichever works best for you. Whether it's Shabbat services, learning opportunities, community gatherings, or special holiday celebrations, everything is now in one easy-to-find place.

When I finished entering all the events into the system, I was genuinely amazed at how many incredible activities our community offers. From weekly services to book clubs,

social justice meetings to musical gatherings, our calendar is bursting with activity. It's a beautiful reflection of the passion, creativity, and dedication that lives in our members.

We invite you to explore the new calendar and find the events that speak to you. Whether you're a long-time member or someone new to our community, there's something for everyone—and we can't wait to see you. And if you want more assistance getting involved, please reach out to me.

Visit the calendar at [shaarzahav.org/calendar](https://shaarzahav.org/calendar) and stay connected with all that's happening at Sha'ar Zahav!

We are preparing this issue before SZ's Annual Meeting; but by the time you read this, SZ's new *Va'ad* (board) has been elected. The masthead of this issue reflects the 2024-2025 *Va'ad*. Please check the weekly email for the new *Va'ad*, which will appear in the September JGF masthead.

## Va'ad Members

William Baim, Barbara Cymrot, Brad Friedman, Quinn Martinez, Josh Muller, Tirtza Pearl, Shelli Rawlings-Fein, Ruth Schoenbach, Brandie Solovay

## Membership

Danny Shapiro  
[danny@shaarzahav.org](mailto:danny@shaarzahav.org)

## Hineni Caring Community

If you need help or can volunteer to help other Sha'ar Zahav members in need:  
[webmarla@mc.com](mailto:webmarla@mc.com)

## Jewish Gaily Forward

Read the JGF online:  
<https://www.shaarzahav.org/newsletter/>

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Ann Daniels, Mark Mackler,  
Sharyn Saslafsky, Andrew Williamson

To reach the JGF editorial team:  
[jgf@shaarzahav.org](mailto:jgf@shaarzahav.org)

### DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Hien Nguyen: [hien.h.nguyen@hotmail.com](mailto:hien.h.nguyen@hotmail.com)

**JGF is published with a generous donation from Jan Half.**

Permission to reprint with attribution granted.

Articles reflect the opinion of their authors and not those of Sha'ar Zahav. Proofing errors will be atoned for each Yom Kippur. The Jewish Gaily Forward is published four times a year: September, December, March, and June. To submit an article, please contact [jgf@shaarzahav.org](mailto:jgf@shaarzahav.org) for info about deadlines, editorial requirements and length requirements.

**ADVERTISERS:** contact  
[jgf@shaarzahav.org](mailto:jgf@shaarzahav.org)

Sha'ar Zahav reserves the right to reject any advertisement.

Specifications supplied upon request.

## SHAVUOT: A FESTIVAL OF JEWISH INCLUSIVENESS

By RABBI Q



Quick, what's your favorite Jewish holiday?

I don't know what holiday you listed, but I know which one you *didn't*: poor Shavuot gets no love. It's the pilgrimage festival that marks

the giving of our Torah, now commonly observed through all-night study sessions and midnight cheesecake tastings. But did you know that Shavuot also offers us some deeply radical, perhaps even subversive, ideas about knowledge and belonging?

First, the Torah was given to all of us – irrespective of age, gender, educational attainment, or citizenship status. In Deuteronomy, we read, “You are standing here today, *all of you*, in the presence of the

Eternal your God — your leaders and chief men, your elders and officials, every man of Israel, your children and your wives, and the immigrants living within your camps, from those who chop your wood to those who carry your water.” The text doesn't obscure the inequality and class hierarchy found in every society. Instead, it affirms that Torah transcends those human categories.

The covenant extends beyond everyone who was physically present: “I am making this covenant, with its oath, not only with you who are standing here with us today in the presence of the Eternal our God but also with those who are not here today.” The principle that “we all stood at Sinai” is the great equalizer. Whether we were born into the Jewish community or found our way in, these ancient words and timeless words belong to us all.

SEE SHAARZAHAV.ORG/CALENDAR FOR FULL DETAILS AND TO SIGN UP!

| Event  | Date  | Time   | Location / Partner                 |
|--|---|--------|------------------------------------|
| <b>PRIDE EVENTS - LINE UP</b>                        |   |        |                                    |
| <b>TRANS SHABBAT</b>                                 | FRI JUNE 6  | 7:30pm | with Rabbi Reuben Zellman          |
| <b>PRIDE TOT SHABBAT &amp; PARK DAY!</b>             | SAT JUNE 7  | 10am   | in partnership with Or Shalom      |
| <b>THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL</b>           | SUN JUNE 8  | 11am   | in partnership with A Wider Bridge |
| <b>THURS JUNE 12</b>                                 | 7:30pm  |        |                                    |
| <b>EARLY QUEER JEWISH LITURGY</b>                    | with Rabbi Yoel Khan                                      |        | in partnership with New Lehrhaus   |
| <b>FRI JUNE 13</b>                                   | 6pm   |        |                                    |
| <b>PRIDE YIZKOR</b>                                  | with Rabbi Reuben Zellman                                 |        |                                    |
| <b>JUNETEENTH OBSERVANCE: REPORT BACK FROM SELMA</b> | FRI JUNE 20   | 6pm    |                                    |
| <b>SHABBES BEAT</b>                                  | honoring Juneteenth with a special drash by Ilana Kaufman |        |                                    |
| <b>FRI JUNE 20</b>                                   | 7:30pm  |        |                                    |
| <b>PRIDE SHABBAT</b>                                 | FRI JUNE 27   |        |                                    |
| <b>SUN JUNE 29</b>                                   |   |        |                                    |
| <b>PRIDE PARADE</b>                                  | with United in Spirit and JCCSF                           |        |                                    |



## THANK YOU SHA'AR ZAHAV

By DEB FARKAS

[The Gubbio Project](#) provides unhoused guests with daily provisions, supplies, connections to resources, and a safe place to sleep during the day. The Social Action Committee has been collecting donations for Gubbio at SZ. Heartfelt thanks to Sha'ar Zahav for the ongoing donations of clothing, blankets, and other items for all our unhoused neighbors who are served by the Gubbio Project.



*The Gubbio Project Staff: (L-R) Baltazar, Rath, Andy, Lydia, Rigoberto, and Calder*

## AN ENDOWMENT SECURING OUR FUTURE

By MICHAEL CHERTOK

In a topsy-turvy world, it is reassuring to know that Sha'ar Zahav has become more financially secure, thanks in part to generous SZniks over the years who have left bequests to our congregation. These bequests become part of SZ's Endowment Fund - a separate investment portfolio meant to ensure the long-term health of our community.

Each year, SZ's annual budget receives a portion of the revenue from the Endowment portfolio. In coming years, we anticipate that this will make up as much as 10% of our annual budget. A portion of the principal of the Endowment can also be tapped to pay for important capital expenses (for example, needed improvements to our building), if the Va'ad requests this and it is approved by the Endowment Board. Most of the principal, however, cannot be touched unless our community faces a financial threat to our existence, thus ensuring that the Endowment doesn't get depleted.

The Endowment Fund has its own Board, composed of the past five Presidents of the congregation. I am honored to serve, together with Deborah Levy, Marc Lipschutz, Nancy Levin and Laura Lowe. The San Francisco Jewish Community Federation oversees the investment of these funds. The Endowment Board is working to ensure that they are invested in ways that offer a strong financial return and are also aligned with our community's values.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported Sha'ar Zahav through a legacy gift, including Sam Thal z"l, Ray Bernstein z"l, and many others. As you think about your own legacy, please consider helping to ensure our future by including Sha'ar Zahav in your plans. For more information, please contact Danny Shapiro, our Executive Director, or Alex Ingersoll, who will be overseeing our legacy awareness efforts going forward.

We are grateful to all our donors! Your generosity supports everything that Sha'ar Zahav does. This issue lists donations through April 28.

### **General Fund**

**Jessie Ap'neva and Nina Wouk**

in memory of Ada Rosenbaum

**Wayne Bender and Junichi Nakajima**

in memory of their friend July Woo

**Alexander Borsboom**

in memory of Rick Wilson

**James Carlson**

in memory of his father, Ray Carlson,  
and his husband, Richard Roginski

**Lilith Clement**

**Barb Cymrot and Andrea Kress**

**Ryan Dudak**

**Jim Edlin and Eve Meyer**

**Lisa Finkelstein and Sarah Grams**

in honor of Martin Tannenbaum and all  
the volunteers for the Passover Seder

**Ernest and Kathleen Friedlander**

in celebration of Randy Weiss and  
Music in the Mishkan

**Jonathan Funk and John Arnold**

in memory of Judy Davis  
in memory of Stanley Irwin Ross

**Eva Gillis-Buck and Ben Berman**

**Joseph and Anna Harkman**

**Sasha Harris-Cronin and Nyx Taylor**

**Clara Jaeckel**

**Deanne Katz and Jeffrey Cohen**

**John Klopacz**

in honor of Sara Haber  
in honor of Kerasa Tsokas

**Lewis Lehman and Francois Perrin**

in celebration of Danny Shapiro

**Deborah Levy**

in honor of Tom Medin and Ed  
Fristoe's marriage

**Marc Lipschutz**

in honor of the bat mitzvah of Galit and  
bar mitzvah of Yeroham

**Daniel Loftus and Christopher Nguyen**

**Don Margolin**

**Steve Mazer**

in memory of Donna Fein

**Richard Meyerson**

in memory of Robert Rawlings

**Michael Peirce**

in celebration of Alex Ingersoll's  
birthday

**Janis Portal**

in memory of Doris Manning Clark

**Martin and Shelli Rawlings-Fein**

in memory of Donna Fein

**Lori Roniger**

**Sharyn Saslafskey and Jan Half**

in memory of Stanley Ross, father of  
Beth Ross

**Karen Schiller**

in memory of her grandfather, Joseph  
Landman; her grandmother, Martha  
Landman; and her mother, Bobbi  
Schiller

**Michael Shriver and Susan Wolfson**

in memory of Stanley Ross

**Michael Tyler, Amy Schustack, and Scott  
Kramer**

in memory of Donna Fein

**Harriet Vogel**

in honor of Zoom Seder Leaders

**Nancy Wecker and Lisa Wuennenberg**

in honor of Geri Kahn, Shawn Matloob,  
Kerasa, Jason, and Matt, for making  
Immigrant Shabbat such a success

**Lonnie Weiss**

in memory of Rick Wilson

**Donovan Wheeler-Dubin**

**Judith Wolfe and Jennifer Hughes**

in memory of Donna Fein

**Olga Zilberbourg and David Grenetz**

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

**Amie Baron**

**John Klopacz**

**Nancy Wecker and Lisa Wuennenberg**

in celebration of Rabbi Copeland's  
officiating and blessing Tito and  
Emilia's marriage

**In memory of Donna Fein:**

**Janine deManda and Juba Kalamka**

**Thomas Fullhart**

**June Locke**

**Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz**

**Lori Roniger**

**Karen Schiller**

**Ruth Wiedemann**

**Cantor's Discretionary Fund**

**Jeannie Anderson**

in memory of Donna Fein and the  
support for her family

**Stephanie Godt and Ellen Novogrodsky**

in honor of Cantor Bernstein's 18 years  
at SZ

**Clyde Jones**

in memory of Donna Fein

**Geri Kahn**

**Rabbi Julius and Pearl Funk**

**Music Fund**

**James Carlson**

in honor of Jonathan Funk and John  
Arnold

**Jonathan Funk and John Arnold**

in memory of Gloria Aron

in honor of the birth of Lev Chaim  
Slifer

in memory of Mike Kozlowski

**Ron Lezell**

in memory of his father, Sam Lezell

**Passover Sponsors**

**Donald Abrams**

**Haïm Balderas**

**Ann Bauman and Kelly Thiemann**

**Ila Cherney**

**Deanne Edwards**

**Lisa Finkelstein**

**Jan Half and Sharyn Saslafsky**

**Lisa Katz**

**Ed Korthof**

**Don Margolin**

**Tom Medin and Ed Fristoe**

**Irene Ogus**

**Rebecca Robbins**

**Music in the Mishkan**

**Deborah Levy**

in honor of Randy Weiss

**Sharyn Saslafsky and Jan Half**

**David Stein**

in honor of Randy Weiss

**Phil Charney**

**Jeffrey Levin**

in honor of his brother, Allen

**Rose Katz**

with enormous appreciation

**Irene Ogus**

**Ryan Dudak**

**Allen Levin**

### **Rainbow Donations**

**Donald Abrams and Clint Werner**

**Pierre and Yvette Adida**

in memory of their parents

**Jessie Ap'neva and Nina Wouk**

**Christopher Archuleta**

**Hadar Aviram**

in memory of Haim Aviram

**Warren Baim**

**Marianne Balin and Prudence Carter**

**Demir Barak**

**Wayne Bender and Junichi Nakajima**

**Andrew Berger**

in honor of Marty Tilzer

**Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman**

**Donna Blow and Nancy Muller**

**Francesco Spagnolo and Sharon Bernstein**

**Ilana Bernstein and Diane Desmond**

**Matthew Patchell and Ruth Bernstein**

**Larry Best**

in honor of clergy and lay leadership

**Michael Bettinger and Robert Goldstein**

**Sid Bradford**

**Diana Buchbinder and Jeane Redsecker**

**Jonathan Simonoff and Patricia Caplan**

**James Carlson**

**Tiela Chalmers and Kailin Koch**

**Philip Charney**

**Michael Chertok**

**Michael Cooper (O'Rourke) and Geoff Cooper**

**Mychal and Kirsti Copeland**

**Mary Crawford**

**Barb Cymrot and Andrea Kress**

in memory of Bettie Cymrot

**Jonathan Zingman and Ann Daniels**

**Lisa Danzig**

in memory of Jerry Rosenstein

**Ron Edelman**

in honor of Barb Cymrot for the reading table cover

**Linda Edelstein and Marion Gillen**

**Jim Edlin and Eve Meyer**

**Steven Elman and Tom Holt**

in memory of Steve's sister, Judith  
Brooke Elman

**Deborah Farkas and Mary Faria**

**Joseph Feiner**

**Donald Fischer**

**Rebecca Foster and Jamie Meltzer**

in honor of Sharon Wildstein

**Martin and Meagan Fox**

**James Frazin**

**Ernest and Kathleen Friedlander**

in honor of Sara Haber and Beth Sousa

**Nick and Stacey Friedman**

**Brad and Irene Friedman**

**Jonathan Funk and John Arnold**

**Andrew Fyne**

**Steven Gaynes**

**David Gellman and Salo Rawet**

**Allan Gold**

**Alan Gordon and Steven Schumacher**

**Bob Gordon and Juan Patino**

**Sarita Groisser**

**Sara Haber and Beth Sousa**

**Howard Hahn**

**Jan Half**

in honor of her wife, Sharyn Saslafsky,  
whom she met at Sha'ar Zahav

**Stephanie Hannaford and Christine Witzel**

**Sasha Harris-Cronin and Nyx Taylor**

**Stephen Hauptman**

in memory of Joel Hauptman  
in memory of Geoffrey Bayley



**Robert Geller and Alana Herron**  
**Hershey Hirschkop and Leigh Peake**  
 in memory of Ray Bernstein  
**Ira Hirschfield and Tom Hansen**  
**Michael Hulton and David Stewart**  
**Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum**  
**Clara Jaeckel**  
**Yoel Kahn and Dan Bellm**  
**Geri Kahn**  
**Jo Ellen and Zoe Kaiser**  
**Michael Kalb and Brian Heng**  
**Bonnie Kates**  
**Reuben Zellman and Erika Katske**  
**Anna and Josh Katz**  
**Robert Katz**  
**Rose Katz**  
**Jane Kenner**  
 in memory of Judith Cohen  
**Mike Klayman**  
 in memory of Batya Kalis  
**Janet Klein and Lisa DiGirolamo**  
**Sarah Klevan and Dylan Beighley**  
**Danny Kodmur**  
**Andrea and Oleg Korsunsky**  
**David Kover and Dagny Dingman**  
**Joel Lachter and Jill Ludwig**  
**Watson Ladd**  
**Deena Lahn and Mary Schroeder**  
**Tom Lakritz**  
**Mark Leno**  
**Nancy Levin**  
 in honor of Steve Mazer  
**Deborah Levy**  
**Ron Lezell**  
**Marc Lipschutz**  
**Morey Lipsett**  
**Stanley Llewellyn**  
 in memory of William Coertnik

**Daniel Loftus and Christopher Nguyen**  
 in memory of Scott Lloyd Philips  
**David Lowe**  
**Laura Lowe**  
**Reva and Adam Luftman**  
**Benny Lunine**  
**Eileen Lynette and Charlene O'Neil**  
**Mark Mackler and Wendell Choo**  
**Julie Mamet**  
**Quinn Maya Martinez and Kailin Jones**  
**Steven Mazer**  
**Tom Medin and Edward Fristoe**  
**Nancy Meyer**  
**Richard Meyerson**  
**Alan Michels and Laureen Kim**  
**Eric and Eleyne Milstein**  
 in honor of The Trans Community!  
**Joshua Muller**  
**Mindy Oppenheim**  
 in memory of Lisa Niebauer  
**Drew Parker-Rose and Flavio Epstein**  
**Barry and Tirtza Pearl**  
**Jeffrey Piade**  
**Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz**  
**Adam Pollack**  
**Steve Polsky and Mark Oliver**  
 in memory of Norman and Elaine Polsky  
**Janis Portal**  
**Ora Prochovnick and Rena Frantz**  
**Nina Raff and Annie Winters**  
 in memory of Malik Bernstein  
**Eli Andrew Ramer**  
 in memory of Irmgard Baum  
**Debra Reabock**  
**Robert Reinhard**  
**Carolyn Reiser and Karren Shorofsky**  
**Michael and Jane Rice**  
**Gina Roccanova**  
**Marvin Lehrman and Paisha Rochlin-Lehrman**

**Sharyn Saslafsky**  
**Lillian Schaechner and Elaine Weissman**  
**Karen Schiller**  
**Yolande Schneeman**  
**Ruth Schoenbach and Lynn Eden**  
**Andrew Schwartz**  
**Danny Shapiro**  
**Michael Shriver and Susan Wolfson**  
**Arlene Singer and Barbara Leff**  
**Arthur Slepian and Gerry Llamado**  
 in honor of Mike Shriver  
**Debra Solomon and Gil Carmel**  
**Brandie and Sondra Solovay**  
**Elliott Sprehn and Rachel Nancollas**  
**Marika Straw**  
**Gina Surber and Merle Malakoff**  
**Robert Tat**  
**Martin Tilzer**  
**Laura Trupin and Beth Ross**  
**Susan Tubbesing and Sarah Nathe**  
**Michael Tyler, Amy Schustack, and Scott Kramer**  
**Samuel Walters and Roberto Acordi**  
**David Wasserman and Neil Hart**  
**Nancy Wecker and Lisa Wuennenberg**  
**Elias Weinstein**  
**Sylvia Weisenberg**  
**Larry Wexler**  
**Andrew Williamson and Michele Sullivan**  
**Gary Winter**  
**Judith Wolfe and Jennifer Hughes**  
**Christine Young and David Gluck**  
**Neil J Young**  
**Hilary Zaid and Lauren Augusta**  
 in memory of Hugh Groman  
**Ami Zusman**  
 in honor of this amazing community that continues to hold me in times of both joy and crisis

### **The Welcome Home Project**

*in memory of Paul Cohen z"l and Ray Bernstein z"l:*

**First Mennonite Church of San Francisco**  
**Jo Ellen and Zoe Kaiser**

in honor of Martin Tannenbaum and Alex Ingersoll

**Nancy Meyer**  
**Larry Wexler**

### SHA'AR ZAHAV SPONSORSHIPS

#### **MARCH**

*Flower Sponsors:*

**Kerasa Tsokas**

in memory of her father, Dimitrios Tsokas

*Oneg Sponsors:*

**Michael Tyler, Amy Schustack, and Scott Kramer**

in memory of Ruth Tyler

**Kathleen and Ernest Friedlander**  
 in celebration of their anniversary

**Marius Greenspan**  
 in memory of his mother, Evelyn Greenspan

*Saturday Kiddush Sponsors*

**Stuart Dick**

in honor of the Saturday morning community

#### **APRIL**

*Oneg Sponsors:*

**Howard Hahn**

in memory of his father, Sha'ar Zahav member Fred Hahn

**Sasha Pikul**

honoring the first yahrzeit of his late boyfriend, Jared Roseman

*Flower Sponsors:*

**Marianne Balin and Prudence Carter**  
 in memory of Marianne's father, Howard Balin, and Prudence's sister, Marianne Howard

## SHA'AR ZAHAV SPONSORSHIPS

### MAY

*Oneg Sponsors:*

**Tom Medin**

in honor of his grandmother, Caroline Levitt; his father, Aaron Louis Medin; and his mother, Julia Adele Medin

**Richard Meyerson**

in memory of Stanley Meyerson

*Flower Sponsors:*

**Annette and Steve Spector**

in memory of Sue Ann Spector

*Saturday Kiddush Sponsors*

**Joel Lachter and Jill Ludwig**

in memory of Jack Lachter

## SHA'AR ZAHAV PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS!

### FEBRUARY

**Chad Armstrong (he/him)**

### MARCH

**Eugene Rabinovich (he/him) and Katie Bondy (she/her)**

**Michael Roderick Jr (he/him)**

## SHA'AR ZAHAV CONDOLENCES

Sha'ar Zahav mourns the loss of our members, and extends our sympathy to their loved ones:

**Donna Fein**

mother of Shelli Rawlings-Fein

**In Memoriam**

The congregation notes with sorrow the deaths of:

### FEBRUARY

**Meeching Leung**

mother of Ming Leung

**David Lieberman**

friend of Jan Half

## SHA'AR ZAHAV CONDOLENCES

**Robert Rawlings**

father of Martin Rawlings-Fein

**Stanley Irwin Ross**

father of Beth Ross

### MARCH

**Charles Fenstersheib**

father of Martin Fenstersheib

**Dan Pearlman**

proxy father of Smadar Lavie

**Stuie Smoller**

cousin of Martin Tilzer

### APRIL

**Yoshito Fukushima**

father of Naomi Shalowitz

**Richard Hafter**

former brother-in-law of Jan Half

**Carlos Zamora-Miranda**

father of Carlos Zamora

**Weldon Ray Wright**

uncle of Martin Rawlings-Fein

## SHA'AR ZAHAV MAZEL TOV

Got something to celebrate? Send your Mazel Tov Announcements to [office@shaarzahav.org](mailto:office@shaarzahav.org) to be included in future newsletters.

### APRIL

**Eva Gillis-Buck and Ben Berman**

on the birth of baby Mila

**Ina Turpen Fried**

on winning the Guardians of Truth of Journalism Award from the HRC

### MAY

**Erika Katske**

on graduating the joint PhD program at UC Berkeley and the Graduate Theological Union

**JUNE**

Brian Ellis  
 Mark B. Feldman  
 Janet Gaby  
 Duff Kreitzberg  
 Robert Nehemiah Mackey  
 Judy Macks  
 Gili Patir  
 Richard Rath  
 David Shaber  
 Barry Siegel  
 Herb Siegel  
 Albert Stern  
 Joe Zygielbaum

**JULY**

David Roy Custead  
 Edwin Gabay  
 Trudi Hauptman  
 Jeanette Klein  
 Alexander Louis Konski  
 Rachel Mailman  
 Ron Miguel  
 Seth Miller  
 Phillip Resnick  
 Richard Riffer  
 Matthew Rostoker  
 Sarah Schumann  
 Eli Shaber  
 Sam Thal

**AUGUST**

Maria Bautista  
 Allan Berenstein  
 Jordan Berger  
 Jay Feinstein  
 David H. Kotch  
 Mark Landsberger  
 Shoshana Levenberg  
 Jay Platt  
 Hal Podgur  
 Lisalotte (Lottie) Richards  
 Peter Rosenfeld  
 Patricia Ryan  
 Elliot Schneck  
 Alex Smith  
 Madelyn Gross Walters  
 Ernie Weinstein  
 Michael Zimmerman

**COMMUNITY, COURAGE, AND CONNECTION IN TROUBLED TIMES**

In February and March 2025, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav hosted *The Narrow Bridge: A Time of Perseverance*, a series of seven gatherings offering emotional, spiritual and practical support in the wake of rising uncertainty under the newly-inaugurated administration. It was a space for reflection, healing, and resilience, guided by distinguished speakers.

We began with *Public Lament* led by Rabbi Mychal Copeland and Rabbi Reuben Zellman, engaging in Jewish rituals of grief and communal resistance. Therapist Karen Erlichman led *Trauma and Transformation*, addressing intersectional trauma and offering healing tools. Attorney and advocate Neil Grungras led *Spectra of Political Freedoms*, which explored lessons from those living under repressive regimes, and *Does Emigration Make Sense for You?*, offering guidance on relocation in response to rising threats. In *Is California Truly a Sanctuary?*, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, Rabbi Eliana Kayelle, and State Senator Scott Wiener discussed California's role as a safe haven. The series also explored the *Synergistic Effects of Queerphobia, Racism, and Antisemitism*, with Beco Lichtman, Dr. Gregg Drinkwater, and Neil Grungras, followed by Rabbi Amy Eilberg's session on *Mussar Practice in a Troubled Time*, with spiritual tools for resilience.

The Narrow Bridge taught and reminded us that in difficult times, we draw strength and hope from our community. Community leaders noted that Sha'ar Zahav had yet again offered cutting-edge programming, speaking truth to adversity. We are grateful to all the speakers and participants whose wisdom and compassion will help us cross this bridge together.

## Alex Goldstone



Alex Goldstone, the younger child of Vicki and Gary Goldstone, will be called to the Torah on August 30th, 2025 after growing up with Beit Sefer at Sha'ar Zahav.

Alex is a seventh grader at Willie Brown Middle School, where he enjoys his robotics and design classes. He is a passionate fan of planes and anything that flies. He can be found near the airport watching planes take off and land, hoping to become a pilot one day. When not looking at planes, Alex enjoys playing with his dog, Rosie, and hanging with his friends.

Alex would like to thank his wonderful mentor Michael Chertok and all the Beit Sefer teachers who have dedicated their time to developing and nurturing his Jewish identity.

## Sam Kover



Sam Kover, son of Dagny Dingman and David Kover, older brother to Eilah, will be called to the Torah on August 23rd.

At the time of his b'mitzvah, Sam will be starting his 8th grade year at James Denman Middle School. At school, Sam plays on the baseball team, runs track, and is a member of the robotics team. Outside of school, Sam plays soccer, enjoys curling up with a good fantasy novel, and spending some time in a Minecraft world.

Sam would like to thank his Hebrew mentor, Frank Yellin, for all of the time and support. He would like to thank Ann Daniels for her guidance in crafting his *drash*. He would like to thank Laurie Trupin and Rabbi Q for their help through the b'mitzvah process.

***Save the Date!***

**Friday, September 5**

Shabbat services will celebrate our wonderful  
Cantor Sharon Bernstein's 18th year with SZ!

Details to follow in the weekly email.



## *Advertise in the JGF!*



Let the Sha'ar Zahav community  
and all our friends know about  
your business or services!

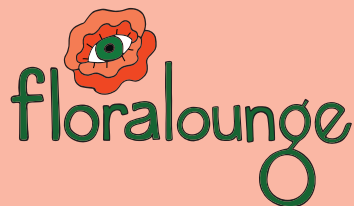
Contact: [office@shaarzahav.org](mailto:office@shaarzahav.org)

### *2024-5 Display Advertising Pricelist*

| Ad size        | Ad size in inches | Ad size in picas | Members  | Nonmembers | Note  |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|------------|---|
| 1/12 page      | 2.25 x 2.25       | 13p6 x 13p6      | \$45.00  | \$55.00    |   |
| 1/6 page       | 2.25 x 4.5        | 13p6 x 27p       | \$75.00  | \$90.00    | 10% discount for four issues: must be prepaid |
| 2-col box      | 4.625 x 4.5       | 27p9 x 27p       | \$250.00 | \$165.00   | 15% discount for four issues: must be prepaid |
| 1/2 page horiz | 7 x 4.5           | 42p x 30p        | \$170.00 | \$220.00   | 20% discount for four issues: must be prepaid |
| Full page*     | 7 x 10.5          | 42p x 63p        | \$305.00 | \$365.00   | 25% discount for four issues: must be prepaid |

\*Inquire as to availability

Please note: Advertising deadline for our next issue is July 20th!



BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS  
FOR EVERY OCCASION

ALWAYS FRESH,  
NEVER ORDINARY

USE CODE: ZAHAV2024  
FOR 10% OFF  
YOUR FIRST ORDER



2240 4TH STREET  
SAN RAFAEL

FLORALOUNGE.COM

## Hills of Eternity Memorial Park

### Home of Peace Cemetery

## Salem Memorial Park

*Serving Northern California's  
Jewish Community Since 1850*

- Dedicated section for congregants
- In-Ground Burial Plots
- Indoor and Garden Mausoleum Crypts
- Niche and In-Ground Urn Gardens
- Convenient Payment Plans

**For an appointment,  
please call 650.755.4700**

Susan Solomon, Executive Director  
Benjamin J. Ruhs, Director of Sales

1299 El Camino Real  
Colma, CA 94014-3238

[www.jewishcemeteries-sf.org](http://www.jewishcemeteries-sf.org)

## Nourish your values with your investments

- Holistic personal financial planning aligned with your progressive values
- Fee-only\* CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER® practitioner specializing in Socially Responsible Investments
- Small business retirement plans and consulting
- Free initial consultation



**Jim Frazin, CFP®, AIF®**

**415.337.4566 x 101**

[jim@CommunitasFinancial.com](mailto:jim@CommunitasFinancial.com)

Jim Frazin, is an Investment Advisory Representative of Communitas Financial Planning Inc, an independent investment advisory firm registered in California. \*No product sales. 8/9/12



Sinai is a century old nonprofit funeral home and cemetery organization. We provide death care services to all Jewish people and their loved ones. As a charitable institution, we honor Jewish traditions while embracing evolving Jewish practices, respect the dignity and the choices of the deceased and their families, and provide compassionate support for the living. Sinai serves all cemeteries - locally and globally.

FD262

North Bay  
/San Francisco  
(415) 921-3636

FD1523

East Bay  
/Tri-Valley  
(925) 962-3636

FD1830

South Bay  
/Peninsula  
(650) 369-3636

## Thank you for advertising!

Your contributions help us realize our commitment to building and maintaining a vibrant, living community for Sha'ar Zahav. With your financial support, we continue to prosper, grow, and celebrate our future.



290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco CA 94103  
Voice 415 861 6932  
Web [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)  
Rabbi Mychal Copeland  
Cantor Sharon Bernstein

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
San Francisco, CA  
Permit # 12628



## Sha'ar Zahav at Pride Through the Years



*Do you have digital photographs or video of Sha'ar Zahav activities or events? The Archives Project, documenting our history, would like to have copies. Contact Lawrence Helman ([heytheresells@gmail.com](mailto:heytheresells@gmail.com)) or Robert Tat ([rob@roberttat.com](mailto:rob@roberttat.com))*