



**Igniting the passion  
to connect**

**Congregation Rodef Sholom**

Igniting the passion to connect  
with Jewish values  
with each other  
and with our world.



On the surface, the thought of igniting passion is irresistible. The daily routine upended and in its place, the promise of adventure and transformation.

Igniting passion, however, can be daunting. We must be willing to venture out of our comfort zones and question old perceptions. Challenge the personal status quo. Upset long-standing balances. Open up hearts and minds.

Congregation Rodef Sholom asks no less of its congregants than to start something—ignite a passion to connect in any way that enriches our own community and the world around us. On Mitzvah Day, we roll up our sleeves in shelter kitchens and school gardens. During the winter months, members from 12 to 70 years old serve dinners to homeless members of the community while the synagogue provides space for sleeping bags and a little peace for a night. Lectures and classes shine a different light on long-held ideas, while Shabbat creates pathways for discovery and interpretation.

Every day, our community embraces  
the call to ignite passion.

Passion to  
**grow.**

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Multiple portals of entry to Jewish learning have created a congregation of learners. Music, firepits, and play are woven with Torah, giving our students a deep sense of their Jewish identities. Adult study provides time and space for learners to develop a personal expression of Judaism.

We are *Rodef sholom, rodef limmud*: pursuers of peace, pursuers of learning.



Passion to  
**explore.**

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Israel — Our promised land.

A spiritual homeland. An extraordinary achievement.  
At Rodef Shalom, we celebrate Israel's sacred history and  
its unparalleled contribution to the modern world.

As we support Jewish communities the world over,  
we take particular pride in our engagement with Israel.  
While we acknowledge the mighty challenges that Israel  
continues to face, we are inspired by a vision of peace,  
human rights and security in this thriving nation that  
embodies our people's history.



Passion to  
**touch.**

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We are a dynamic and compassionate, warm and supportive collection of families and individuals who believe in the importance of Jewish values in our lives. We share Shabbat dinners; we bring challah and sit shiva. We study together; we talk about mental health. We work to make a difference in our world.

We celebrate our varying points of connection with Judaism and God, and make sure there is room for discourse and the opportunity to create and innovate.



Passion to  
**disrupt.**

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Our commitment to tikkun olam is unquestionable, axiomatic. By fighting for the rights of the most vulnerable among us, we embody the words of the prophet Isaiah, who challenged us to “learn to do good, seek justice, defend the oppressed.”



Passion to

# breathe.

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Prayer can be comforting, experimental, inscribed in memory or spontaneous, practiced in sanctuaries built by humans or provided by nature. There is no single way to make prayer come alive, but when we bring our curiosity and generous hearts, we open up the higher worlds that bring down blessings.



Passion to  
**give.**

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It is not what you gather but what you scatter that tells the story of a life.

We are here for each other. For a larger us, and our community that plays a critical role for us here, and for those beyond our walls.

We need each other. We need our synagogue, and a strong, vibrant Judaism. One which welcomes—and is strengthened by—the newcomer, the curious, the stalwart and the stranger.

Our members' generosity allows Rodef Sholom to educate, participate, pray, and repair the world in the spirit of grace and loving kindness. Without fail. Without question.

Thank you.





We are grateful to the Tradition of Giving Annual Fund Donors for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$458,000, put immediately to work for our Rodef Sholom community.

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### PEACE

Anonymous  
Hilda Namm

### BLESSINGS

Sigmund Anderman  
Lawrence Feld  
Bruce & Jacque Gribens

### HONOR

David Becker &  
Ann Peckenpaugh Becker  
Martin & Farron Brotman  
Eugene Palmer & Hali Croner  
Joseph & Eda Pell  
Mike & Sharon Stone  
Suzanne Waterman

### WISDOM

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Jeff & Kate Colin

Stuart & Emily Dvorin  
David Rudnick & Julie Fingersh  
Richard & Susan Goldwasser  
Ralph & Christine Jacobson  
Martin & Beth Katz  
Loren & Rachel Kertz  
Alexander & Anna Lushtak  
Marc & Kimberly Press  
Gary & Joyce Rifkind  
Andrew & Ingrid Tolson

### RIGHTEOUSNESS

Gary & Suzanne Alpert  
Seth & Amy Barad  
Frank & Lee Battat  
William & Cassandra Bernstein  
Robert & Barbara Bleckman  
Lee Unkrich & Laura Century  
Andrew & Stacey Ellison  
Jeff & Rena Fox  
Frank & Stacy Friedman

Abe & Suzanne Froman  
Edward & Kris Grossman  
Douglas & Carolen Herst  
Jodie Silberman & Donna Isralsky  
Lorin & Becky Kaplan  
Jeffrey & Judith Kirshbaum  
Darell & Elizabeth Krasnoff  
Duff & Carol Kurland  
Rob & Naomi Leonard  
David & Kina Mandelbrot  
Stephen Swire &  
Jacqueline Neuwirth Swire  
Russell & Joan Pratt  
Tom & Patty Rosbrow  
Sterling & Jane Ross  
Martin Konopken &  
Richard Schneider  
Michael Kamler & Patricia Shiu

### LOVING KINDNESS

Michael Barnett & Judith Bloomberg

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River Cohen  
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Yury & Evgenya Friedman  
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David & Lani Gershik  
Fred & Joanne Greene  
Herbert & Gloria Herzog  
Janet Kaplan  
Jim & Joan Kirsner  
Aaron & Leah Lamstein  
Wayne & Johanna Malen  
John & Harriett Michael  
Adam Wolfson & Dana Oliver  
Dave & Virginia Pell  
Len & Elssy Rifkind  
Bernie & Yetta Robinson  
Steven & Joanne Saxe  
Donald Share  
Fereydoon & Rhonda Soofer  
Harold & Mary Zlot

### COMPASSION

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Rosemary & Christopher Barlow  
Richard & Dorothy Breiner  
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Lawrence Baskin &  
Kathlynn Capdeville  
Scott & Laurie Dubin  
Edward Zimmerman &  
Deborah Geller  
Robert & Gail Haar  
Peter Haas  
Bradly Jacobs & Julia Isen-Jacobs  
Richard Jeweler  
Don & Bobbie Kamler

Scott & Juli Kauffman  
Chris & Rebecca Lien  
David & Marney Margules  
Jonathan & Jessica Marker  
Barbara Musser  
Gary & Dona Novack  
Richard & Susan Perlstein  
Max Bernstein & Karen Robbins  
Mark & Susan Schatzberg  
Richard Thalheimer &  
Christina Simonelli  
David Lazerwitz & Alyson Sinclair  
William & Susy Stewart  
Maurice & Emily Weinger  
Harvey Lerchin & Betty Wood  
Selma Abdo

### GENEROSITY

Robert Kerson &  
Andee Abramson Kerson  
Diane Amarillas  
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Karen Arnold  
Michael & Katharine Arrow  
Sharron Baker  
Bahram & Sima Bakhshi  
John & Susan Barnes  
Maxine Epstein & Geraldine Barr  
Leslie & Carol Benet  
Alan & Ellen Berkowitz  
Carol Berl  
Allan & Joanna Berland  
Joanna Berman Mandel  
Suzan Berns  
Jeffry & Diane Bernstein  
Bruce Berrol  
Marian Blanton  
Ronald Zimmerman & Ann Blender

Paul Price & Laura Bloch  
David & Rosalind Bloom  
Mark & Julie Bloomberg  
Steven & Karen Bluestone  
Michael & Susan Blum  
Catherine Blumberg  
Jan Bolgla  
Nancy Boughey  
Cynthia Boyd  
Mark & Theresa Brady  
Janet Braff  
John Law & Aana Brenman  
David & Suzanne Broad  
Evan Pontoriero & Sara Brown  
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Rick Burg &  
Deborah Burg-Schnirman  
Shale & Courtney Butler  
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Peter Zwerling & Barbara Cohen  
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Michael DeAngelis  
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Michael & Bronner Deixler  
Michael & Kristine Dell  
Robert & Ruth Dell  
Bruce & Sheryl Denker





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 Joyce Pavlovsky  
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 Dorie Rosenberg  
 Gary & Barbra Rosenstein  
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 Max & Marlene Scherer



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Joyce Share  
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Mona Steinberg  
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Jerald & Sharon Young  
Chandra Zieff  
Kory & Linda Zipperstein  
Jeff & Connie Zlot  
Jeffrey & Sharon Zwerin  
Marvin & Michele Zwerin

Todah rabah!

*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this Annual Report.  
Please contact the Development Office with any omissions or changes.*



# A SNAPSHOT OF 2017-2018

## LIFECYCLES



14

Births



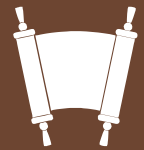
44

New members



66

Congregants over 90 years old



64

B'nai Mitzvahs



288

Congregants with more than 35 years of membership

## EDUCATION



249

Enrolled in religious school



6.7

hours one student sings Tefillah in a year

## SOCIAL JUSTICE



400

Volunteers for 17 Mitzvah Day projects



2160

Meals served to the homeless



2

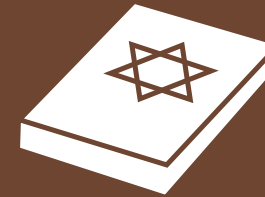
Tons of food collected in High Holy Days food drive



9

Speakers, with a total of 1,150 attendees

## COMMUNITY



1150

Clergy visits



1600

Challahs delivered



1130

Mitzvah Kitchen and Nichum meals cooked and delivered

## ISRAEL



2

trips

41

participants



205

pounds of hummus consumed



20

Average number of minutes spent in the Dead Sea per traveler

## WORSHIP



176

Tunes sung at Shabbat Unplugged



24

Miles walked in Torah on the Trails



300

Hours of Sanctuary Committee planning for HHD



1650

Meals served at Shulchan Shabbat



43

High Holy Days greeters



60

Participants at Civic Center services

C O N G R E G A T I O N  
R O D E F S H O L O M



Igniting the passion to connect

170 North San Pedro Rd., San Rafael, CA 94903

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