

STATE OF CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RECOGNITION BY THE HONORABLE MIKE MCGUIRE ACTING GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Rabbi George Gittleman Day

It is my great honor to recognize Rabbi George Gittleman for his 28 years of service at the helm of Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa, California. Rabbi George has led the congregation with extraordinary energy, spiritual passion, and success and has helped to establish its presence as a leading regional religious institution.

Rabbi George moved to California after graduating from the University of Vermont, ultimately joining Shomrei Torah as their first full-time rabbi in 1996.

Founded in 1974 by a group of 11 Sonoma County families, Shomrei Torah translates to "Keepers of Torah" in honor of the congregation's Holocaust Torah, which was rescued from Strakonice, Czechoslovakia. Under Rabbi George's leadership, the Congregation Shomrei Torah has created and strengthened many programs, expanding its presence in the local faith community.

Rabbi George is a pillar in our community, from his thoughtful, heartfelt sermons, to his advocacy to lift up the most vulnerable to his social justice work throughout the North Bay, he has dedicated his life to advancing positive change, and the North Bay is stronger because of his work.

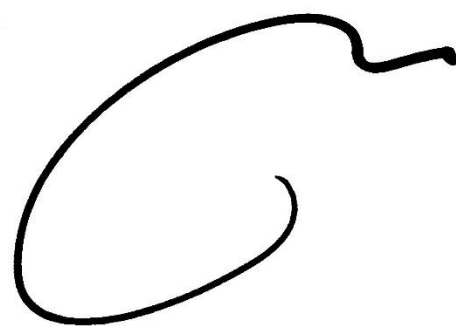
Rabbi George has been a strong and unequivocal leader against antisemitism, and he has been a pillar of strength supporting members of the community feeling pain and despair over the October 7th attack on Israel and the war in Gaza.

Firmly rooted in civic engagement and a strong sense of community, Rabbi George has served as a member of the Santa Rosa Police Chief's Community Ambassador Team, on the Board of the Redwood Empire Food Bank, as a member of the Clergy Council of the North Bay Organizing Project, and as a leader of the Interfaith Fast Initiative.

He is also a Senior Rabbinic Fellow at the prestigious Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, and a graduate of the Rabbinic Leadership Program and the Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Certificate Program of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality.

Rabbi George retired as the Rabbi of Congregation Shomrei Torah in June 2024, leaving a lasting legacy of work in service to Santa Rosa. He is an inspiration to our community and throughout the Golden State. Rabbi George will be greatly missed by all, and the 'Shabbat ShaBoogie' at Shomrei Torah will never quite be the same.

I am honored to recognize 'Rabbi George Gittleman Day' on this eighth day of July of the year two-thousand and twenty-four.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike McGuire', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Mike McGuire
Acting Governor of California