

Shir Ami News

The Monthly Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami
4529 Malabar Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546
(call (510) 537-1787 for a recording of upcoming events)

Please visit our website at

www.congshirami.org

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism Congregations
January, 2007



Jan 5	Shabbat Services – 8PM Led by Joel Nickerson	Feb 2	Tu B'Shevat Seder w/dinner 5:30 PM
Jan 7	School – Grades 3 & up – 9:15 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Ed. – 10:30 AM-12:30 PM	Feb 3	Bat Mitzvah – Rachel Markus 4 PM
Jan 14	No School	Feb 4	School – Grades 3 & up – 9:15 AM – 12:45 PM K-2 – 10:30 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Ed. – 10:30 AM-12:30 PM
Jan 17	Rosh Chodesh – 7:30 PM	Feb 9	Musical Shabbat Services – 8 PM; Led by Bekah Stern
Jan 18	Board Meeting – 7PM	Feb 11	School – Same as Jan 21
Jan 21	School – Grades 3 & up- 9:15 AM – 12:45 PM Pre K, K-2 – 10:30 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Ed – 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Feb 15	Board Meeting – 7 PM
Jan 26	Potluck Dinner – 6:30 PM Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Bekah Stern	Feb 18	No School
Jan 27	Religious Committee Mtg – 10 AM – 1 PM	Feb 20	Rosh Chodesh – 7:30 PM
Jan 28	School – Grades 3 & up – 9:15 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Ed – 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Feb 23-25	Women's <u>Retreat</u>
		Feb 23	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Joel Nickerson
		Feb 25	School – Same as Feb 4

President's Message

Ruth Hartman

Dear Congregation Shir Ami Members and Friends,

I have to admit that I'm usually glad to see December end. The "holiday season" can be difficult, and some years I find myself feeling resentful and just wanting it to be over. But this year I had a different experience. Somehow, I was able to use the rituals of the holiday season to feel more connected with what matters to me.

I was more touched than usual by the cards and notes (and even a few phone calls) I received from loved ones in distant places. I enjoyed sending gifts to my nieces and nephews and to the folks I work with all year. Two of my subcontractors managed to overcome my usual resistance and convince me that we should send gifts to our clients. It turned out to be really fun to send cookie boxes out into the world and receive surprised and pleased emails in return.

It was lovely to light the Hanukkah candles with Gary and our two daughters, and to bake Hanukkah butter cookies with the girls. It was great to have a bit of time off from work and school, to have the homework pressure lift and the phone ring a little less often. It was fun to stay up late knowing we could sleep in an extra hour in the morning.

One of the best parts was sharing a couple of holiday meals with my mother and stepfather. In my mother's kitchen in San Francisco on December 25, we lit candles, spoke the names of those no longer with us, and said a memorial "Oseh shalom." I felt deeply grateful to have my parents alive and to be able to be with them.

As December fades and the new secular year begins, I hope to carry that sense of gratitude and connection into 2007. Our tradition offers us Shabbat as a brilliant weekly chance to "check in" (as the teens say) with what matters most to us. The moments of quiet over the lighting of the candles, the silent reflection during the Amidah portion of the service, even the chance to greet friends and share stories after the service ends, these are all ritual moments that can help us remember who we want to be and how we want to live.

Our rabbinic interns and lay leaders work hard to make our Shabbat services meaningful for all of us. Sometime in 2007, we'll be receiving our copies of the new Reform siddur (prayerbook), Mishkan T'filah, which will offer us new ways to use Shabbat worship to achieve greater connection with ourselves, God, and one another.

So I wish you all a happy, healthy New Year filled with human connection, growth of the mind, care of the body, gratitude for the moment, and the chance to pursue that which matters most to you. And I look forward to seeing you at Shir Ami throughout the year.

B'shalom,

Ruth Hartman
510-582-3379, ruth@wordcrtf.com, AIM: ruthwordcrtf



Thanks to all who helped make the Chanukah party a wonderful event. Bekah's singing, kitchen helpers, staffers of stations, and participating children and parents all contributed to a great feeling in the building, and fun for all involved. Barbara Haber has generously contributed her Sufganiyot recipe for anyone who wants to try the donuts at home.

Sufganiyot

1 Package dry yeast
1/4 cup warm water (110-115 degrees, please use a thermometer)
1 egg, beaten
1 3/4 cups milk
1 stick butter
3/4 cup sugar
3 dashes salt
dash of nutmeg
dash of cinnamon
grated rind of 1 lemon
5 1/2 cups flour
oil for frying

1. Dissolve yeast in warm water in glass bowl. Set aside for 10 minutes.
2. After 10 minutes, add beaten egg to yeast and stir.
Set aside.
3. Scald milk in small pot (scalding is heating to almost boiling but not bubbling.)
4. Add butter to milk and remove from heat. Let butter melt.
5. When milk is lukewarm (not hot to the touch) add sugar, salt, spices and lemon rind.
6. Add egg and yeast mixture and stir.
7. Blend in flour 1 cup at a time. This can be done by hand or in a stand mixer. The dough will quickly overpower a hand mixer, so I wouldn't recommend it.
8. Set aside in a warm place to rise for two to three hours. Dough should double in size.
9. Punch dough down and begin to pinch off walnut sized pieces. They can be flattened or rolled into balls.
10. Heat oil in deep pot. Test by dropping one of the donuts in – oil should bubble around the dough.
11. Cook a few donuts at a time to preserve the oil temp.
12. Drain donuts on paper towel.
13. Poke holes for jelly or pudding. With finger.
Use zip lock bags for jelly or pudding.
14. Roll in powdered sugar after adding jelly.

From Benji's Family Cookbook for the Jewish Holiday's, written and illustrated by Jane Breskin Zalben, Henry Holt and Company, 1996 ISBN 0-8050-3735-7

Sunday School at Shir Ami resumes on January 7th, and Joel will be here to start us off right for 2007. The B'nai Mitzvah class is busy preparing for upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvahs that are sure to be moving events. Our 2007 programming will include activities for Tu B'Shevat, Purim and Passover. The students in the confirmation class are working on a plan to run chugs (electives) during the last part of Sunday School on selected weeks. More information will follow on this as it is currently a plan in progress.

The preschool class is not in session on January 7th, but will meet on the following dates:

January 21
February 11
February 25
March 4 (Purim Carnival)
March 25
April 22
May 6
May 20

I'm looking forward to a great 2007 at Shir Ami.

Jodi Switzer Blum

Adult Education *Diana Zankowsky*

Adult education will be split into two groups for the remainder of the year. The parents of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah students will be joining their children for the last hour of class on Sundays when school is in session but the rabbis are not in town. The next meeting of this class will be on Sunday, January 21.

Adult education (not part of the B'Nai Mitzvah class) will continue as we have been, with a little bit of Torah, a little bit of Hebrew and a bit of general study. In January, we will meet on the 7th and 28th. Locations will be posted at the synagogue those mornings.



January 21st with the B'Nai Mitzvah class at
11:45 am
January 7th, January 28th, and
February 4th
just for adults
from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Sisterhood/Rosh Chodesh Group

Jan Dombrower



Our Chanukah party was a joyous event. We entered the house of Harriet Skelly, to the smell of Latkas and then enjoyed them fresh off the griddle. We had 10 Menorah's ablaze. Next to them were our Rosh Chodesh candles. In this candlelit setting we recited each blessing followed by a chorus of songs. Next we had a fun gift exchange. We each picked a number, and the woman with the lowest number chose the first gift from the table. As each woman takes her turn, she can either pick a present and open it or steal a present that has already been opened. There were lots of laughs and fun. We each took home a plate of cookies from the cookie swap as well as sampling them through out the night.

Next month Rosh Chodesh is going to be PIZZA AND PARSHA night. We will meet on Wednesday, January 17th at 7:30 at Shir Ami. We will enjoy a dinner of pizza and bring in the new moon and month of Tevet. Then we will take out the Torah and read the Parsha, Va-era which includes the 10 plagues. We will continue with discussion and reactions to the portion.

Our annual women's retreat is coming up soon, on February 23-25. Please see the flier in this month's bulletin and send your registration information to Ruth Hartman by January 20. Call Ruth if you have any questions about this fabulous weekend (contact info on the flier).

All women of Shir Ami and the community are welcome to attend our monthly meetings and annual retreat.

Questions? Contact Jan at Jandom@comcast.net

The Tzedakah Box

A Social Action Column

Sara Lamnin

Daryl Berman

The South Hayward Family Resource Center currently distributes blankets to those in need. If you have a blanket in good condition that could use a new home, please consider the Resource Center. For more information, contact Karen Norrel (510) 782-2947 or Sara Lamnin (510) 867-0957.

Martin Luther King, Jr. March – Monday, January 15, 2007

Please see the flier included in this newsletter for details for the Martin Luther King, Jr. march in Hayward. Volunteers are welcome to help represent Shir Ami at the MLK walk.

New Year News from Midrasha in Oakland

The New Year brings new events and beginnings to Midrasha. We have new electives starting on January 9, a great time for new students to enroll. We also hope you will save the dates of our upcoming special events and join us:

➤ On January 2 at 8:00 pm we will be “**Starting the Year with a Song!**” -- Do you want to be touched by the making of music? Wrap up the holidays and launch the New Year with a musical treat as we host the “Shabbatones.” This premier Jewish A Capella from the University of Pennsylvania is known for their energetic arrangements and entertaining performances. The group sings a variety of traditional and modern Jewish and Israeli songs in English and Hebrew. The concert will take place in the Sanctuary of Temple Sinai, 28th and Webster Streets in Oakland. It is open to the public. Tickets can be purchased in advance from the Midrasha office for \$ 5.00 or at the door for \$7.00; there is no charge for Midrasha or religious school students.

- On February 27 at 7:15 pm we will again open our doors for a “**Taste of Midrasha**”

For both parents of our current students and new families interested in future enrollment, this event is a great way to experience our curriculum and teachers. After a sumptuous dessert reception you will select a course topic and become part of the class, participating in the activity and discussions of the evening. Midrasha students, bring your parents and friends to school with you. In addition, we look forward to introducing families of 7th graders or higher to our wonderful teen community and look forward to seeing both parents and students at “Taste of Midrasha.”

- New Year’s Clean Up – think of us! **Merchandise and a Maven Still Needed!**

We are continuing to accept donations for the annual Midrasha Garage Sale which will be held on April 22. Help make this year’s sale the best one yet! We’re looking for collectibles, jewelry, furniture, art and other saleable merchandise for this annual fundraiser for Bay Area Midrasha. Please email midrasha-oak@wli.net or leave a message at 510-444-6744 to arrange for drop off or pick-up of merchandise.

- Perhaps you are a Maven in the Making but don’t know the word? Yiddish isn’t

required—only dedication, an appreciation of fine old “stuff”, and the time and willingness to work hard and direct our corps of volunteers in organizing the sale and bringing in much needed bucks for all our great programs for Jewish teens. We can provide a financial incentive in return for your time and trouble—call Elaine at 444-6744 to discuss what is possible. Become a Garage Sale Maven and help us do this magic act of turning straw into gold (and junk into scholarships!) again this year.

SHIR AMI BULLETIN BOARD



Magnes Docent Training Class

The Magnes Museum announces its 2007 Docent Training Class, beginning January 18th. Join us on Thursday evenings, from 7-9 p.m. at the Museum, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley. The class is open to all who are interested in taking an educational journey through Jewish art, history, and observances, then sharing what they have learned with Museum visitors. For more information contact Carin Jacobs, 510-769-8461 or cjacobs@magnes.org.

Used Cell Phones Wanted

Barbara Heimowitz is still collecting used/old cell phones that you leave at Shir Ami and to send them in for cash. You can bring in your cell phones to Shir Ami anytime – just leave them in the box in the kitchen. Any questions? Please call Barbara.

Used Ink Cartridges Wanted

Bruce Skelly is collecting used ink cartridges to trade in for reams of copy paper and other supplies for Shir Ami. Please bring in your used ink cartridges and place them in the box in the kitchen (by the cell phone box). Any questions? Please call Bruce.

The Community Page

January, 2007

Yarzheits

January 5, 2007

- Joseph Bressler, father of Florrie Finkle
- Peter Rosenberg, uncle of Alex Druker
- Helen Rosner, long time active member of Shir Ami
- Charmion Stein, mother of Karen Gelender and Shoshana Bennett

January 26, 2007

- Tyler Brooke, husband of Georgie Brooke, father of Toni Schulberg, and uncle of Sidney Simpson
- Cecilia Kramer, grandmother of Marion Kramer
- Rolf Weinberg, husband of Ingrid Weinberg; a charter member and mainstay of Shir Ami for many, many years

Kaddish List (To be read at both services in January)

- Martin Michelson, brother-in-law of David Schulberg
- Blanche Rose Berman, mother of Daryl Berman
- David Teferi, father of Rahel Ruiz
- Morris Berman, father of Daryl Berman
- Harriet Cohn, grandmother of Ruth Hartman
- Byrle (pronounced "BURL") Belden, former member of Shir Ami

May their memory be a blessing...

Ever wonder how the names read aloud for yartzheit and kaddish at Friday night services get on that list? If you're a Shir Ami member, and want a personal reminder for the yartzheit of a loved one, just send Toni Schulberg the following information: the name of the deceased; the relationship of that person to the Shir Ami member; the full date (month, day, year) that person died; and whether you want to use the Hebrew or English calendar for their yartzheit (Toni will look up the Hebrew date for you). Toni is updating the list in January, so now is the time to give her your names. Questions? Call or email Toni (278-1695); toniaps@comcast.net.

Today Rabah

Thanks to the following for their generous contributions to Shir Ami:

- Ruth Hartman, in appreciation of Jodi Blum for her dedicated leadership as Shir Ami Interim Educator
- Jan Dombrower in honor of Ruth Hartman's birthday
- Maryann Leshin in honor of Ruth Hartman's birthday

A contribution to Shir Ami in is a great way to honor, remember, or show appreciation for someone special. It's easy, and all amounts are gratefully accepted. Just send a check and a note to Florrie Finkle, 18730 West Cavendish, Castro Valley, 94552. Florrie will send a card to the person you are honoring, and your dedication will appear on this page.

Thank you to our Oneg Shabbat hosts:

- December 8th: Nancy Liskewicz and Angie Ross organized a group effort that included their families, the Liebreich/Benson family and the Silver family.
- December 15th: This was our Chanukah potluck service. Thanks to all who participated...it was a great success!! Special thanks to Sharon Golembo for baking a challah for the evening.

Thanks also to those who hosted our Rabbinic Interns:

- December 8th – 10th: Markus Family
- December 15th – 17th: Levine Family

The December 8th service was a “**Welcome to New Members**” service and special thanks go to the following people who made it a very memorable experience:

- ❖ Barbara Heimowitz for making New Member Gift Baskets
- ❖ Harriet Skelly for making Welcome Cards
- ❖ Sharon Golembo for making mini-challahs.

Our new Shir Ami members appreciated your creativity and effort!

Please send items for the Community Page to Maryann Leshin at leshin236@comcast.net or 510-635-2898. Deadline is the 26th of the month.

Shir Ami Contacts

Area code is (510) unless specified

President:

Ruth Hartman
582-3379

Membership:

Barbara Heimowitz
537-2066

School:

Jodi Blum
881-5672

Religious:

David Schulberg
276-6100

Oneg Shabbat:

Sharon Golembo
795-0607

Newsletter:

Harriet Skelly
538-8105

Newsletter mailing:

Lily Erickson
538-6022

Scrip/eScrip:

Jodi Blum
881-5672

Community Page:

Maryann Leshin
635-2778

Dues:

Toni Schulberg
278-1695

Invoices/Payables:

Inna Massen
881-5646

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood:

Jan Dombrower
(925) 462-3205

Social Action:

Daryl Berman
538-6022
Sara Lamnin
733-5114

Yahrzeit Listings:

Tonia Schulberg
276-6100

Donations:

General Funds, Special Funds,
Wall Plaques
Florrie Finkle
538-9660

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Vayechi (and it came to pass)

On his death bed, Jacob blesses his sons, assigning to some their role as a tribe leader: Judah will produce legislators and kings. Although Levi and Shimon were rebuked, priests will come from Levi. Scholars will be produced by Issachar, seafarers by Zebulun, and schoolteachers by Shimon. Soldiers will come from the tribe of Gad, and judges from Dan. Olive growers will be the legacy of Asher, and Naphtali shall deliver words of beauty. Joseph is granted the blessings of fertility. Benjamin is likened to a wolf and spoiler.



Services at Shir Ami will be held on
Friday, January 5th at 8:00 PM
and will be led by

Joel Nickerson

Bring a friend to the Temple

... nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral question of our time – the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to violence and oppression.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday March

Monday 15 January 2007

- 9:30 a.m.** **Gathering at Hayward City Hall Plaza**
777 B Street (at Watkins) • Hayward
for music and the words of Dr. King.
- 10:00 a.m.** **March of Witness**
In celebration of Hayward's diversity, we invite you
to carry your organizational banner
and to wear national dress.
- 10:30 a.m.** **Returning to Library Plaza**
where we will join in song and will be inspired
by Dr. King's words of courage, hope and justice.



You are invited to join us
to usher in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday in Hayward



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Paresha Bo (Go)

And the lord said unto Moses: 'Go unto Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart...'



Potluck and Shir Ami Services, Friday, January 26th at 6:30 PM

Services will be conducted by
Bekah Stern

Please participate in Shir Ami's rotating food assignment

A to K and P to Z

Main dish

L to O

Salad or side dish

Tu B'Shevat
Israel's Festival of the Trees



*Tu B'Shevat Seder and catered dinner by
Palomares Café at Shir Ami
Friday, February 2nd at 5:30 p.m.
Service will be led by
Diana Zankowsky and Joel Nickerson*

*Adults \$15, under 12 yrs \$12, non-members \$18
RSVP by January 26th by check payable to Shir Ami and
mailed to Barbara Heimowitz, 19942 Jessee Ct, Castro
Valley, Ca. 94552. For more information contact Barbara
at 537-2066 (after 5 p.m.) or bheimowitz@aol.com*

**Join Us for the *Eleventh* Annual
Shir Ami Women's Retreat**

**Discovering Jewish Rituals and
Blessings**

Friday, February 23 – Sunday, February 25, 2007

Raindance Retreat and Conference Center
Ben Lomond, California

You are warmly invited to join in this weekend of connection, worship, creativity, inspiration, and play. This retreat is a great way to get closer to other women of our community in a beautiful and relaxing setting. Newcomers are *very* welcome.

All Shir Ami women are encouraged to attend. Please register by January 20. Questions? Call Ruth Hartman at 510-582-3379 (ruth@wordcraft.com).

Name/address: _____

Congregation: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is a check for \$235, OR

Enclosed is a deposit of \$_____. I will pay the balance on _____

I need a ride

I have the following special needs (mobility, dietary, etc.):

Make check payable to **Ruth Hartman and mail by 1/20/2007 to:**
18850 Cull Canyon Road, Castro Valley, CA 94552