

# ***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](http://www.congshirami.org)

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism Congregations  
February, 2007



<b>Feb 2</b>	Tu B'shevat Seder w/ dinner 5:30 PM	<b>Feb 23</b>	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Joel Nickerson
<b>Feb 3</b>	Bat Mitzvah – Rachel Markus 4 PM	<b>Mar 4</b>	School – Grades 3 & up – 9:15 AM – 12:45 PM K-2 – 10:30 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Ed – 10:30-11:30 AM All grades inc Pre-K – PURIM Carnival - 11:30 AM
<b>Feb 4</b>	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	<b>Mar 9</b>	<b>Purim</b> Shabbat Services – 8 PM
<b>Feb 8</b>	Sisterhood trip to Magnes Museum in Berkeley, meet 6PM at Shir Ami	<b>Mar 11</b>	School – Same as Feb 4 Pre B'nai Mitzvah Mtg 1 PM – 3 PM
<b>Feb 9</b>	Musical Shabbat Services – 8 PM; led by Bekah Stern	<b>Mar 15</b>	Board Meeting – 7:00 PM
<b>Feb 11</b>	School – Grades 3 & up- 9:15 AM – 12:45 PM Pre K, K-2 – 10:30 AM – 12:45 PM 10:45, Film screening: <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>	<b>Mar 18</b>	School – Grades 3 & up – 9:15 AM – 11:45 PM K-2 – 10:30 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Ed. – 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM
<b>Feb 15</b>	Board Meeting – 7 PM	<b>Mar 20</b>	Rosh Chodesh – 7:30 PM
<b>Feb 18</b>	No School	<b>Mar 23</b>	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Joel Nickerson
<b>Feb 23-25</b>	Women's Retreat	<b>Mar 25</b>	School – Same as Feb 11

## President's Message

*Ruth Hartman*

Dear Congregation Shir Ami Members and Friends,

Last week, I was very pleased to accept a new membership application. This individual has attended Friday night services and adult education at Shir Ami regularly for several years, has helped out at many of our special events and holiday celebrations, and has formed caring relationships with many members of our community. We are delighted that he has decided to become a member of Shir Ami. Would it surprise you to know that our newest member is not Jewish?

Here's what our bylaws have to say about the criteria for membership in Congregation Shir Ami, "*Anyone who subscribes to the basic tenets of Judaism shall be eligible for membership.*" Unlike most other synagogues (including Reform congregations), our bylaws do not require that at least one member of each household be a Jew. We welcome any person who wants to join with us in living a Jewish life in Jewish community.

This spirit of inclusiveness has long been one of the hallmarks of our congregation. I asked Hillie Levine, a founding member and past President of our congregation, about the history of this philosophy. Hillie recalled a very well attended community meeting many years ago, at which the issue of participation by non-Jews was vigorously debated. There were some who felt that religious precedent required that certain kinds of ritual participation be reserved only for members of the Jewish faith. But the inclusive position prevailed, in part by citing several passages from Torah, including Numbers 15:15:

*One ordinance shall be both for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourneth with you, an ordinance forever in your generations: as ye are, so shall the stranger be before the Lord.*

Since that time, Shir Ami has allowed and encouraged (with limited restrictions) participation by non-Jewish members in ritual and leadership activities.

Today, about a third of our member households include at least one non-Jewish adult, and more than half of our young people are growing up in mixed-heritage Jewish families. Gentile members of Shir Ami are among the most active and visible supporters of our community life. Many participate not only on behalf of their Jewish children or partners, but also to meet their own needs for spiritual connection, friendship, and community involvement.

There is so much more to say on this topic, but right now I want to focus on one point. As Reform Judaism becomes more and more inclusive, we need to find ways to meet the needs of all our congregants for Jewish literacy and continuous learning. We want all to be able to participate fully in worship, to support the Jewish education of our young people, and to enjoy the depth of wisdom contained in Jewish history, culture, and texts.

Starting next fall, Congregation Shir Ami plans to offer a special class for adults who would like to learn more about Judaism in a systematic way. The class will be open to all: non-Jewish members of our community, people raised Jewish who would like to deepen their understanding of Judaism, and Jews-by-choice who want to continue their Jewish learning. The class will be taught by our Rabbinic interns on Saturdays throughout the year (details to follow).

We are very excited about this upcoming program, and hope you will consider making time to attend.

B'shalom,

Ruth Hartman  
510-582-3379, [ruth@wordcraft.com](mailto:ruth@wordcraft.com), AIM: ruthwordcraft

## Rabbi's Corner

### *Bekah Stern*

I am writing this month with two different items for your consideration. The first is an invitation to an event happening on Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup>, and the second is an announcement about exciting plans in the works for next year. I would *very much* appreciate your feedback on those plans!

It has been such a pleasure to share with you my passion for our peoples' rich heritage and rituals over the last several months. On Shabbat February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Jewish people will celebrate the new year of the trees, called *Tu B'Shevat*. Each year at this time, we turn our attention to the natural world and the to the beginning of the transition from winter to spring. We often plant trees, both here and/or in Israel.

I am excited that this time of year brings an opportunity for me to share with you another of my passions—environmental activism. During our annual focus on the earth, it has become increasingly important that we spend some time reflecting on the ways that our daily actions have an impact on the natural world.

To that end, I would like to invite you to join the *b'nai mitzvah* and confirmation classes on **Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am** as we view the film [An Inconvenient Truth](#). I hope to begin a conversation about what Judaism says about our stewardship for God's creations, and to engage our youth—our people's and humanity's future—in thinking seriously about these issues. If you have any questions or thoughts about this event, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you there!

\*\*\*\*\*

In conversation with many of you over the last few months, I have heard that most of you have never been to Israel and that for those who have been, it has been several years since you were last there. As many of you know, I spent an incredible year living in Jerusalem and traveling around the country last year. After hearing that so many of you have never experienced Israel firsthand, I was motivated to act to change that. On the joint congregational family retreat in early November, I continued this conversation about visiting Israel with you and with members of Congregation Beth Emek. Since that time, Rabbi Rick Winer of CBE and I have begun the preliminary stages of planning a joint congregational Israel trip. We are thrilled to welcome first-timers and veterans alike, families with children and singles, the very young and the not-so-very young. I am working with a number of individuals and organizations to create an exciting itinerary that is as cost-effective as possible, as well as looking into possible grants and sources of funding to subsidize the cost of the trip. I will work with anyone who is interested in coming with us to find ways to make it financially viable.

Finding a time that both Rabbi Rick and I are available to co-lead this trip was a challenge. The only block of time we could come up with is during Passover of next year, that is Friday April 18<sup>th</sup> through Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008. We understand that this does not fall during a school vacation, so, before we move forward in our planning, we need to have an idea of how many people would join us if we scheduled a trip during these approximate dates. ***Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in possibly joining us.*** It's sure to be an incredible week of fun, bonding, and growth. I very much hope that many of you will come along.

Please contact me at [rebekahstern@gmail.com](mailto:rebekahstern@gmail.com) as soon as possible with your thoughts. Thank you!

B'vracha (with blessing),  
Bekah Stern



**February 4**  
**February 11+ preschoolers**  
**February 25 + preschoolers**  
**March 4 Purim Carnival**

Sunday School at Shir Ami continues to be a dynamic environment with a new plan being developed by our confirmation class: Starting February 4<sup>th</sup> with a Tu B'Shevat themed program the girls in the confirmation class, Sophia Blum, Sarah Gilchriese, Carolyn Gilchriese, Hana Hartman, Shashana Markus, and Lola Ridgell, will be bringing the chug or elective period back to our program.

The basic idea is that after snack on selected Sunday mornings the students in the Kindergarten through B'nai Mitzvah classes will be able to choose between an art, drama, or Tikkun Olam (community service) elective to participate in. As an introduction on February 4<sup>th</sup> all students will have a chance to get a taste of each elective. The confirmation students remember this program as "an important part of our development as Jewish youth." They have worked hard developing a plan to make this possible for our present Sunday School configuration. This idea has originated and will be carried forth because of the enthusiasm of the confirmation class, but they will also have the able assistance of our Shir Ami teaching staff.

Last week, the confirmation class took a break from chug planning to go on a field trip to the Magnes Museum in Berkeley to experience the THROUGH THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE fabric art exhibit. They had a good time being together, and the exhibit is reportedly very wonderful. Thanks to Ruth Hartman, Maryann Leshin, Marilyn Schneider, and Sarah Tunik for making this possible.

Tu B'Shevat activities have been going on around the school recently. The members of Jan Dombrower's 3rd and 4th grade class had a great discussion of the different types of fruits recognized at Tu B'Shevat. Ask them if an apple is a fruit that you eat entirely or a fruit that you only eat the outside of. Preschoolers through 4<sup>th</sup> graders all decorated various planters, and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders did some clean-up in the yard.

The B'nai Mitzvah class is hard at work on Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparations. Rachel Markus will become Shir Ami's first Bat Mitzvah this school year on Saturday, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. She was busy practicing chanting from the Torah, and it sounded great.

Please mark **March 4<sup>th</sup>** on your calendars for the Purim Carnival, which will begin at 11:30. As a note, this is a change of date from the original school calendar for this event. Even though there isn't a preschool class meeting with Karen that day, the presence of the preschoolers and their families is most desired at this Purim celebration which is always a lot of fun.

Jodi Switzer Blum

## Adult Education

*Diana Zankowsky*

Adult education has been split into two groups for the remainder of 5767. 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. There will be no meeting of this class in February. In March, the class will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup>, which is the Purim Carnival. The parents will meet with the class at 10:30 am for one hour and then help, as necessary, with the Purim Carnival. We will meet as usual on March 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am until 12:45 pm.

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 February, we will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup>. In March, we will meet on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 12:30 at Congregation Shir Ami. Please note that there are no classes on February

11<sup>th</sup> because of the Regional Biennial or on February 25<sup>th</sup> because of the Women’s Retreat.



March 4<sup>th</sup> with the B’Nai Mitzvah class at 10:30 am, followed by the Purim Carnival

February 4<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and  
March 25<sup>th</sup>

Just for adults

From 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



### Hey Shir Ami Teens,

Our youth group is going well, from our babysitting fundraiser last month to our more recent hot tub party. Our next big event will be near the end of the month, after NFTY Convention. On February 24<sup>th</sup> we want to volunteer at the Alameda County Food Bank. Afterwards, we plan to have lunch and possibly see a movie. And, on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we’ll be having our big Purim Game Day from 1-5pm at Beth Emek. We’ll also be distributing EDJYgrams, which are explained in more detail elsewhere in the bulletin. On March 17<sup>th</sup> Dan Nichols, a Jewish rock musician, will be giving a concert to which NFTY is invited. That same weekend, one of our youth group members is in a production of *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* so EDJY will be going to support him; which night we go is dependent upon people’s schedules.

I know that it is hard to make time in your busy schedules and to arrange rides all the way to Pleasanton. Youth group events, however, are not onerous or unpleasant. They’re a way to have youth-led, Jewish fun, and it’s the members that make them that way. We really want you to be a part of our community.

Thanks,

Leah Hartman

# Sisterhood/Rosh Chodesh Group

*Jan Dombrower*



We brought in the new month of Shevat with Pizza and Parsha. A minion of us feasted on Pyzano's Pizza as we visited and checked in. Then we brought in the new month of Shevat with candles, readings, and a blessing. With Diana Zankowsky's leadership, we viewed our two Torahs looking for particulars of each Torah. We learned the background of our Torahs and became informed about the creation of Torahs in general. Diana then read from Parsha Va-era which included the 10 plagues. We continued with a discussion and some planning for the months to come.

This month, on Thursday, February 8th, we will be going as a group to the Magnes Museum. We will be seeing the exhibit, THROUGH THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE. We will arrive at the Magnes Museum for a 6:30 group tour.

This fabric art exhibit is by Esther Nisenthal Krinitz. She and her sister Mania, were the only members of their family from the Polish village of Mniszek to survive the Holocaust.

Sisterhood will be picking up the cost of the show. You must RSVP only if you are going .  
Jandom@comcast.net or  
rosedocent@comcast.net. Carpools will be arranged and we will leave Shir Ami at 6:00 PM.

Magnes Museum is located in Berkeley at 2911 Russell Street  
[www.magnes.org](http://www.magnes.org)

There will not be a Rosh Chodesh gathering this month due to the field trip and Women's Retreat.

If you are interested in the Women's Retreat Discovering Jewish Rituals and Blessings, Friday, February 23 – Sunday, February 25, 2007 at the Raindance Retreat and Conference Center Ben Lomond, California, please contact Ruth Hartman as soon as possible at [ruth@wordcraft.com](mailto:ruth@wordcraft.com). All Shir Ami women and the community are welcome. We look forward to another great retreat this year.

# **The Tzedakah Box**

## **A Social Action Column**

*Sara Lamnin*

*Daryl Berman*

### **Combatants For Peace Event, February 4th, 2006**

Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, the Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace, is a national organization with the mission to educate and mobilize American Jews in support of a Negotiated, two-state resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The "Combatants for Peace" movement was started by Israelis and Palestinians who had taken part in the cycle of violence between the two peoples. After brandishing weapons for so many years, these former combatants decided to put down their guns and instead fight for peace.

Learn more about this proposal for peace on Sunday, February 4, 12 to 2pm at the Grand Lake Theatre, 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Tickets are \$5. Speakers include:

Shimon Katz, former member of the an elite Israeli Defense Forces combat unit before studying non-violence. While he continued to serve a few weeks each year in the army he recalls "I tried finding a bridge between the obligation to 'serve' the country and my inner voice that told me that isn't the way to act." He says he served in the army "refusing to carry a gun, until I realized that serving in a combat unit is not something I believe in any more."

Sulaiman Al Hamri, Palestinian coordinator for Combatants for Peace. He spent four-and-a-half years in Israeli prisons for his involvement in anti-occupation protests and demonstrations, before deciding to pursue a non-violent approach to resolving the conflict.

This event is part of a 22-city US tour jointly sponsored by Brit Tzedek v'Shalom and Combatants for Peace. Contact: [sf-bayarea@btvshalom.org](mailto:sf-bayarea@btvshalom.org) or [info@btvshalom.org](mailto:info@btvshalom.org) (312) 341-1205 National Office, 11 E. Adams, Chicago, Illinois, 60603. You can also visit [www.btvshalom.org](http://www.btvshalom.org) or contact Shir Ami member Julie Greenfield: [juliegreenfield@gmail.com](mailto:juliegreenfield@gmail.com)

### **The South Hayward Food Pantry Needs Our Help.**

Each year, the pantry provides enough food for 62,000 meals to more than 2,000 individuals, with an average of 90 families per month. Food boxes are available once a month and drop in emergency supplies, including fresh produce, are on hand daily.

These services are provided primarily with volunteer help to pick up supplies, organize, and distribute. They did receive a grant from FEMA to purchase additional food not available through FDA, Hope for the Heart, and community donations. The grant is not available to them in 2007, yet the need is consistent.

"Thank you for your efforts," writes Tereza Wichman, Food Pantry Coordinator. "Every penny/BEING .....COUNTS!"

If you can help, please contact Daryl Berman, baryl@pacbell.net or (510) 538-6022.

### **Have Time To Make A Social Call?**

Senior Services Foundation's Friendly Visiting Program is looking for caring volunteers to spend just one hour a week with an isolated senior in central Alameda County. Volunteering for this program is fun and rewarding in addition to improving the quality of life for the elders in our community. Families, groups, and individuals are welcome to volunteer.

Give back to your neighborhood by helping a senior in need through friendly visiting, sharing a hobby, helping with correspondence, or enjoying light gardening. Shared activities are designed to help build trust and improve social and emotional outcomes for individuals in our community.

The upcoming Friendly Visiting Program Volunteer Training date is **February 3, 2007**, from 10am until 2pm at Davis Street Family Resource Center, 3081 Teagarden Street, San Leandro 94577. Please call: 510-347-4620 x180 or 179 to register for the training or for more information about our program.

-----

You don't have to act alone. Make your social action a family and friend fun occasion. Transform your Super Bowl party into a Souper Bowl party and encourage people to bring a food pantry donation to the festivities.

For other ideas, including an action guide for TuB'Shvat, visit <http://rac.org/pubs/holidayguides/tubshvat/>

If you have social action items or events to share, please contact Sara Lamnin at ledorvdor@yahoo.com or (510) 733-5114 or Daryl Berman at baryl@pacbell.net or (510) 538-6022.



## SHIR AMI BULLETIN BOARD



### **22<sup>nd</sup> Jewish Music Festival March 8-25, 2007**

The Jewish Community Center of the East Bay (JCCEB) presents the 22<sup>nd</sup> Jewish Music Festival with concerts throughout the Bay Area. For tickets call: 800-838-3006. For more information check their website: [www.jewishmusicfestival.org](http://www.jewishmusicfestival.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

## February 2007

### Yarzheits

*February 2, 2007*

Jacob Small, father of Georgie Brooke, and grandfather of Toni Schulberg and Sidney Simpson

*February 9, 2007*

Paul Bergel, father of Marci Loss

Gene Gash, Shir Ami organist for many years

Rivka Rosenberg, grandmother of Alex Druker

*February 23, 2007*

Tessie Bressler, mother of Florrie Finkle

Shellie Cohen, active member of Shir Ami

Fannie Heimowitz, mother of Stan Heimowitz

Melvin Johnson, husband of Frances Johnson

Miriam Levine, mother of Hillel Levine

### **Kaddish List (To be read at all services in February)**

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

***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](mailto:toniaps@comcast.net).***

## Todah Rabah

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

- Sam and Ann Blank in memory of Rolf Weinberger on his yartzheit
- The Druker Family in memory of Peter Rosenberg on his yartzheit
- Edetha Speceal, former Shir Ami member who now lives in Salem, Oregon, in appreciation for her family's warm welcome at Shir Ami many years ago

**A contribution to Shir Ami 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.**

### Torah Fund

Todah Rabah to Judy Ganz for her generous donation to the Torah Fund.

### Year End Contributions:

The following members responded generously to the year-end fundraising appeal:

- Stan and Barbara Heimowitz
- Henry Bennett
- Marci and Mike Loss
- Marilyn Schneider and Gil Gilchreise
- Ruth Hartman and Gary Wolff
- Arthur and Linda Hartman
- Maryann Leshin
- Ruth Levin

Thank you to our Oneg Shabbat hosts:

- January 5th: Marlene Rodgers and Family
- January 26th: Julie Greenfield

Thanks also go to those who hosted our Rabbinic Interns:

- January 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>: Hartman/Wolff Family
- January 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>: Skelly Family

## Welcome New Members!

Shir Ami warmly welcomes new member Tom Manley.

***Please send items for the Community Page to Maryann Leshin at [leshin236@comcast.net](mailto:leshin236@comcast.net) or 510-635-2898. Deadline is the 26<sup>th</sup> 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

## HELP RAISE MONEY FOR SHIR AMI



**IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY, IT'S POWERFUL!**

Sign up with eScrip and every time you shop at any of the over 6,000 merchant locations, a percentage of your purchase will go to our group.

Most eScrip retailers make contributions on purchases made with a registered credit/debit card. Maximize your participation by making sure all your credit/debit cards are registered!

- ✓ Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
- ✓ Enter our Group ID# 137107269 for Safeway  
**It's time to renew your E-Scrip at no cost to you!**
- ✓ Enter our Group ID# 49000114746 for Albertsons
- ✓ Enter our Group ID# 137107269 for Macy's

A decorative border surrounds the text, consisting of stylized musical staves with various notes (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) in blue, red, and purple. The staves are wavy and interspersed with small, colorful confetti-like shapes in yellow, green, and red.

# *Shabbat Shira*

*Musical Shabbat Service*

*led by*

*Bekah Stern*

*Friday, February 9 at 8:00 PM*

*And, bring a friend to this  
musical evening*

## Parasha Terumah (Offering)



University of Pennsylvania model illustration

In Parashat Terumah and the following two parashiyot, God gives Moses detailed instructions for the design and construction of the mishkan, the portable sanctuary that accompanied the Israelites on their journey from Mount Sinai to the Promised Land.

Services at Shir Ami  
Friday, February 23rd  
8:00 PM

Led by

**Joel Nickerson**

Remember Shir Ami's food basket

Hey everyone,

This year for **Purim** our youth group, **EDJY**, will be combining two Purim mitzvot: *mishloah manot* and *matanot la'evyonim*. The mitzvah of *mishloah manot*, also called *shlach manos*, requires that Jews send each other packages of food which include at least two different items and are ready to be eaten. This is meant to encourage **love and friendship** and commemorate the friendship between Esther and Mordecai. The second mitzvah, *matanot la'evyonim*, means “gifts to the poor.”

To fulfil these mitzvot we will be selling **EDJYgrams** (consisting of candy, a soda, and a personalized note) for delivery to our teens at our **Purim Game Day on March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. **Proceeds** above the price of the food **will be donated to charity**, most likely to the local food bank.

EDJYgrams can be purchased for **\$3 each or two for \$5** by teens or by adults who would like an EDJYgram sent to their teen. An order form will be available soon. Teens who cannot attend the Purim Game Day, which will be from 1:00-5:00 at Congregation Beth Emek, can pick up their EDJYgrams at the next youth group event.

**EDJYgrams are a great way to fulfil the mitzvot of Purim, raise money for charity, and support your youth group. Please watch for a forthcoming flyer and order form.**

EDJY's Social Action Vice President,

Leah Hartman