

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

April, 2007



Apr 1	School – Grades 3 & up – 9:15 AM – 12:45 PM K-2 – 10:30 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Ed – 10:30- (join model seder)	Apr 29	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
Apr 7	Community Passover Seder 5:45 PM – 9:00 PM at CV Community Center – see flier	May 4	<i>Shabbat Across America Dinner</i> 6:30 PM; Shabbat Services 8PM PM Led by Joel Nickerson
Apr 8	No School	May 6	School - Same as April 22 Adult Ed 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Apr 13	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Joel Nickerson	May 11	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Bekah Stern
Apr 14	Bat Mitzvah – Alena Liskewicz 10AM (service is not at Shir Ami)	May 12	Bat Mitzvah – Olivia Seidman 10 AM
Apr 15	No School	May 13	School – Same as April 29
Apr 18	Rosh Chodesh – 7:30 PM	May 16	Rosh Chodesh – 7:30 PM
Apr 19	Board Meeting – 7 PM	May 18	Shabbat & Confirmation Services - 8 PM; Led by Diana Zankowsky and Sara Tunik
Apr 22	School – Grades 3 & up : 9:15 AM-12:45 PM Pre K, K-2-10:30 AM – 12:45 PM Adult Ed – 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM	May 20	School – Same as April 22 End of Year Party-11:30 AM Annual Membership Meeting – 12:30 PM
Apr 27	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Bekah Stern		
Apr 28	Bar Mitzvah – Matthew Beckman 10 AM		

President's Message

Ruth Hartman

Dear Congregation Shir Ami Members and Friends,

Passover is here! A season rich in symbols and metaphors, smells and tastes, rituals and memories. It's a holiday of paradoxes. We work *so* hard cleaning, cooking, and preparing for the Seder in order to be able to recline and celebrate freedom. We strive to preserve the core traditions of the festival while seeking out new rituals and interpretations that help keep the story fresh in changing times. We retell a story about our formation as a unique people and invite our friends and neighbors to share in its universal meanings.

At Passover time, I like to reflect on the theme of leaving behind the familiar and launching into the unknown. Even though slavery was harsh and miserable, it was familiar. We stuck with it a long time. We weren't so sure we wanted to leave Egypt at all. We didn't know what awaited us, and we were afraid. And once we crossed to the desert, we had second thoughts. But we persevered and—well, the rest is history.

At Shir Ami this Pesach, we have had to leave behind the familiar and launch out in new directions. For many years, longtime Shir Ami member Elaine Leavitt generously and competently hosted our annual Seder. We will always be grateful to the Leavitt family for their tremendous contributions to Shir Ami, but the time came this year for us to organize a different Seder, without Elaine's guidance.

Our community has come together beautifully to organize a community-wide Seder that will be held Saturday night, April 7 at the Castro Valley Community Center. At this writing, we have nearly 80 reservations for what promises to be a wonderful evening. I'm very proud of how our community has come together to plan this year's Seder. I'm grateful to each member who has given time, energy, and funding, particularly Maryann Leshin, who chaired the committee. (I won't mention other names here for fear of leaving people out, but many contributed and all deserve our thanks.) It is through efforts and events like this that we continue to build a strong and vibrant community that can keep our heritage alive for our children and ourselves.

Chag sameach, Happy Passover,

Ruth Hartman
510-582-3379
president@congshirami.org

Rabbi's Corner

Bekah Stern

Holidays are good for adding punctuation to our lives. I often find myself aware of and surprised by the passage of time whenever the next holiday rolls around. “Wow,” I’ll marvel, “I can’t believe it’s already—insert-holiday-here—time!” It is also around holidays that I find myself reflecting on the previous year at this time, or on holidays going back several years. This Passover season is no different. I am amazed that it’s already been a year since last Passover, and I’d like to share with you some of my memories.

My memories of last Passover really start two Passovers ago when Sean and I were living in El Cerrito. The first night we spent with my family and the second night we hosted a seder for our friends. It was at our second night seder, when one of our friends who is studying with me at HUC was also present, that we became very aware of the reality of—and excitement in—our saying “next year in Jerusalem!” I remember vividly the thrill we felt when, catching each others’ eyes across the room, we dreamed a little bit about what that next Passover, that is, last Passover, would be like. As it turned out, it was like no other Passover we had ever experienced.

In the days leading up to Passover, much like every Friday leading up to Shabbat, the entire city of Jerusalem got turned inside out. People rushed around the city, on foot and in cars, gathering the ingredients for their Passover meals. Laundry lines strung from apartment buildings hung heavy with rugs, bedding, and tablecloths, having been recently washed and hung to dry, free of every crumb of *chametz*—leavened bread products. And in the last two days before the festival began, little fires were lit on every street corner, fed by the last bit of *chametz* that families symbolically burned and said blessings over, marking the true beginning of the holiday.

On *Erev Pesach*, the night of the first seder, Sean and I boarded a bus and joined a group from a Los Angeles synagogue headed for the most incredible seder experience any of us had ever had. We drove a couple of hours—in holiday traffic!—into the southern desert. The setting sun painted rainbow colors on the desert cliffs. Soon we arrived at the Bedouin encampment in the middle of the desert, surrounded by nothing but earth and sky. The camp was abuzz with large tourist groups, both foreign and Israeli, who had come to enjoy Passover as our ancestors did. The sounds of seder music came from tents all around us. We found our tent and discovered a beautiful low table bordered with cushions of all shapes and sizes. We retold our people’s story while seated on the ground—as our ancestors might have been—eating and drinking and giving thanks for our own blessings and for our freedom.

And this year, as I repeat that same old refrain, “next year in Jerusalem,” I can once again dream ahead to next year when I will be reliving that incredible seder experience over again. Our joint Shir Ami/Beth Emek trip will take us to the southern desert on *erev Pesach*, and, instead of boarding a bus, we will walk to our Passover seder in a tent surrounded by nothing but earth and sky. We will again tell our people’s story while seated on the ground—as our ancestors might have been—eating and drinking and giving thanks for our own blessings and our freedom. I hope you will join us for that unforgettable seder, and that you will find someone whose eyes you can catch across your seder table this year, with whom you can share the feeling of excitement when you say, “next year in Jerusalem!” and dream a little bit about what next Passover will be like.

For more information on next year’s Passover congregational trip to Israel, see the flyer in this bulletin. With any questions, please contact me at rabbi.rebekah@congshirami.org. I look forward to talking with you about our exciting plans!



April 8 No School

April 15 No School

April 22 School for all ages including Preschool

April 29 School K- Confirmation with Chugim

Religious School continues to be a busy place at Shir Ami with Purim and Passover activities in full swing throughout the month of March. Teacher Karen's preschool class had the modge podge flying as they learned about all of the items on a Seder plate, and decorated their own plates. The Preschoolers as well as Stacey and Irene's K – 2nd grade also made Purim groggers this month.

Please note that when the preschool is meeting in the kitchen we need to try to keep conversations quiet and at a minimum in there. Jan's class was busy artistically depicting the crossing of the Red Sea as well as painting a plagues worth of wooden frogs. Jan finds the best stuff at the dollar store. They also developed and performed a great Purim puppet show for the Purim Shabbat service. Leah was teaching her 5th-6th grade class about Israel last Sunday, and I wanted to sit down and listen in every time I walked through. The B'nai Mitzvah students are hard at work on Torah portions. I find it so moving when they get the Torah out to practice. The confirmation class is working on a project that will add a new Passover tradition to each of their family's celebrations. Our students are making great strides in Hebrew learning as well. Todd reports great progress from the Aleph learners. Stacy and Irene's class has been learning the Ve-ahavta and for Passover the four questions. The 5th-6th graders had a lot of fun adding some conversational Hebrew to their repertoire. Thanks to all of our teachers for their dedication.

Our annual Purim Carnival was a great success. Thanks to all of the volunteers, especially Nancy and Art Liskewicz who coordinated the event. A special thanks also to Rose Firestone who brought in the tables full of wooden toys and games that were a great new addition to the day. The Firestones showed up again the next week with an oven that we used to bake clay mezuzahs in. It was much appreciated.

Oneg note: Frequently on Sunday mornings families bring leftovers from Bar/Bat Mitzvah celebrations or other events to contribute to the morning's oneg. This is a part of the sense of community we have at Shir Ami, and I don't want to discourage it. I just want to remind everyone to be very respectful of our oneg families each week. If at all possible, let Ruth Rosenthal or myself know if you will have food to contribute. This way we can let whoever is responsible that week know before they shop. If this is not possible, by all means bring your contribution, but please be respectful of the family who prior to your arrival thought that they were providing the entire oneg for the day.

Most Sincerely,

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. In April, we are scheduled to meet twice: April 1st and April 22nd. April 1st will be the day when the school-wide seder is held. On April 22nd, we will meet as usual from 11:30 to 12:45 pm. In May, we will have one class together, the last day of the school year, May 20th. Stay tuned for how that day will go, as several events are planned for that day.

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 April, we will meet on the 29th. In May, we will meet on May 6th and May 13th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.



April 1st at 10:30 for the school-wide seder, April 22nd at 11:30 and May 20th for the end of the year events.

Just for Adults: April 29th, May 6th and May 13th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Youth Group News *Leah Hartman*

Hey teens,

More youth group news! Last Saturday we volunteered at a food storage facility in Dublin which often receives donations from synagogues' holiday food drives. The four top-ranking EDJY board members, in a Rosie-the-Riveter-esque endeavor, deconstructed 30 feet of shelves and rebuilt them in a new location. Also on Saturday EDJY was well-represented at LAFTY-TESTY Bridgin' the Bay Prom, a hyphy dance in Lafayette.

Upcoming events are mostly in May, since April is full of various people's Spring Breaks. On May 5th we invite you to unwind from the SAT with EDJY bowling. This event is at Castro Valley Bowl in order to make it easier for Shir Ami teens to attend, so please represent. On May 17th your EDJY Programming Vice President, Michelle Ross, will be performing in a dance show including hip-hop and tap numbers. EDJY will be attending to support her. We are trying to get a Shavuot sleepover going as well, so keep your eyes open.

Also note that the last NFTY regional event of the year is May 11-13, so if you want an amazing weekend and an intense experience of what NFTY's all about, you should consider going. The price is usually between one and two hundred dollars and bus transportation is provided from a drop off point in Lafayette. Registration will be opening soon and closes a few weeks before the event, so tell me if you're interested in going and I'll get you the forms.

A special regional event for 7th and 8th graders, called Hatikvah, is also being held. It will be over the night of April 21, in Stockton. This is a great way for middle schoolers to check out NFTY, and 8th graders who attend can go to the May regional event for free! Ask Ruth Hartman for the flyer if you want more information.

Thanks so much for your time spent reading this. On a final note, EDJY board is lookin for a Communications Vice President, so if you like making phone calls and want to get involved, contact me a.s.a.p. Shalom out,

Leah Hartman
Social Action Vice President

Sisterhood/Rosh Chodesh Group

Jan Dombrower



Last month the Sisterhood met at Aran's Paint and Glaze in Castro Village. A big crowd of mothers and daughters gathered to paint pottery for Passover. Some selected other pieces to decorate. We painted, visited and had great snacks. We blessed the new month of Nissan with our candle lighting ritual. Your pottery is finished now so please stop by Aran's and pick up your piece of completed pottery.

Women's Seder:

Women from Beth Torah, Beth Emek, and Shir Ami all joined together to partake in the women's seder on Sunday, March 25. Bekah Stern did a wonderful job leading us through song and prayer along with leaders Sharon Cohen and Cheryl Cohen. We sang, danced, shared in new and traditional rituals, and enjoyed a delicious Passover feast.

This month, please join us for Rosh Chodesh on Wednesday, April 18th to bring in the new moon of Iyar. We will gather at the home of Rose Firestones, 19592 BARCLAY ROAD, CASTRO VALLEY, CA 94546. Rose will present a great program including a slide show of the women's retreat. We will also learn about the phases of the moon.

Our main focus will be a Post Passover discussion on Haggadahs, seders, and family rituals we have chosen to pass on and why.

Please join us at 7:30 for a rich evening.

The Tzedakah Box

A Social Action Column

Sara Lamnin

Daryl Berman

South Hayward Parish News:

The following article appeared recently in the South Hayward Parish (SHP) newslines:

South Hayward Parish - From Ecumenical to Interfaith February 15th of this year marked a momentous milestone in the 42-year history of this enduring Hayward coalition, whose mission it is to build and maintain a just and nurturing community. On that date, Congregation Shir Ami's Board of Directors voted to formally affiliate this Reform Jewish congregation with the South Hayward Parish, moving the South Hayward Parish from an ecumenical association of churches to an interfaith association of faith communities. Welcome Shir Ami and congratulations South Hayward Parish!

Upcoming SHP events:

Vigils of Caring to honor those who lost their lives to violence in our community are held at various locations on the last Friday of each month, at noon. The next one will be held April 27th. Contact Daryl Berman for more information (510) 538-6022 or baryl@pacbell.net

The Parish has decided to support a group of Fijian Muslims who are trying to build a mosque in South Hayward, but have run into a lot of opposition. Most of the opposition appears to be related to anti-Muslim sentiment. Mohammed Khan, the group's president has met with SHP and is working with them to plan an educational event. This event may tie in with other activities to promote Muslim-Jewish understanding currently under development at Shir Ami. More details to come.

August 17th, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Daryl Berman will be hosting the 20th annual People Against Racism vigil. "This is an opportunity for any of our members to think about racism and participate," writes Daryl.

FROM THE RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER (RAC) OF REFORM JUDAISM

Global Days for Darfur

On April 23rd-30th, 2007 organizations throughout the world will come together for "Global Days for Darfur" to highlight the need for an international peacekeeping force to end the violence in that region. The "Save Darfur Coalition" has information about local events and explanations of the issues involved. E-mail global@savedarfur.org or visit <http://rac.org/>

Consultation on Conscience

Learn from key policy and government leaders, explore the connection between Jewish texts and current events, and build strong social action and advocacy skills to use in your congregation. On line registration is now open! Visit <http://rac.org/>

Please let Sara Lamnin (510) 733-5114 or ledorvdor@yahoo.com know if you plan to attend.

Tzevet Mitzvot: Adult Mitzvah Corps

Join the Northeast Lakes Council/Detroit Federation and the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism in an intensive week of social action, study, and worship in Buffalo, NY, July 8-14, 2007. Participants will rehab homes during the week, enjoy a trip to Niagara Falls, and share a meaningful Shabbat worship experience together. Open to members of Reform congregations in good standing (must be over 16). Registration limited. Go to <http://urj.org/csa/mitzvahcorps> for more information and registration materials.

Cover the Uninsured Week: April 23-29, 2007

This year, Cover the Uninsured Week (April 23-29) will promote the importance of children's health coverage and demonstrate broad support for the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Throughout the week, activities such as health and enrollment fairs, small business events, campus activities and interfaith events will take place in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

On April 19th, the Community Healing Network will hold its annual interfaith breakfast to educate and plan for local uninsured community members. The event will be held at 8:30am at Glad Tidings Church, on Tennyson, near Tampa in South Hayward. For more information, contact Sara Lamnin (510) 733-5114 or email ledorvdor@yahoo.com

SHIR AMI BULLETIN BOARD



Interested in Learning Hebrew?

Some of our members have expressed an interest in learning to read Hebrew. If you would like to participate in a beginning adult Hebrew class, call or e-mail Judy Ganz, 581-6268, Jbganz@AOL.com and we will meet to discuss the possibilities.

Message from our Religious Committee Chair: David Schulberg **High Holiday News**

Last Saturday, Toni & I hosted a small dinner for Rochelle Schwartz. Rochelle had been our High Holiday cantor for the last 15 years. The following is an excerpt from her Thank You note: "Thank you so much for a lovely farewell dinner to my years at Shir Ami. I will cherish the Chalah Plate. I never imagined I would be a cantorial soloist for so long. Shir Ami made that possible & created many wonderful memories for me. Good Luck to you all. Love Rochelle."

We welcome Rachel Brott, our newly hired Cantorial Soloist for the upcoming High Holidays.

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

April 2007

Yarzheits

April 13, 2007

May Ganz, former member and mother-in-law of Judy Ganz

Benjamin Halpern, father of Harriet Skelly

Marjorie Wolf, aunt of Ruth Hartman

April 27, 2007

Bernard Nasatir, father of Cary Nasatir

Kaddish List

Syd Kramer, uncle of Jan Dombrower

Leon Meier, long-time member and founder of Shir Ami

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.

Todah Rabah

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

- Helen and Noah Markus in honor of their daughter Rachel's Bat Mitzvah, to go toward the repair of our fence
- Bruce and Susan Carter, in memory of Esther Carter and Leon Meier

- Rose and Hillie Levine, in memory of Leon Meier and Matt Ganz
- Ann and Sam Blank, in memory of Leon Meier and the yartzheit of Edna Vanous and Matt Ganz
- Harriet and Bruce Skelly, for the yartzheit of Benjamin Halpern, father of Harriet Skelly
- Ruth Hartman and Gary Wolff, wishing a “get well” to Sam Blank and in memory of Leon Meier
- Marion Kramer, in honor of Leon Meier

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.

Much appreciation goes to Jeff Blum for all his hard work keeping the Shir Ami landscaping looking beautiful, and in particular for planting new trees, including lulav varieties and an almond tree.

Thank you to our Oneg Shabbat hosts:

- March 9th: Jan Dombrower
- March 23rd: Judy Ganz

Thanks also go to those who hosted our Rabbinic Interns:

- March 9th – 11th: Jan Dombrower
- March 23rd – 25th: Silver Family

Thank you to the Shir Ami Sisterhoof for the donation of a lovely Jerusalem-themed ritual handwashing cup, now located above the sink in our kitchen.

Welcome New Members!

Shir Ami warmly welcomes new members Cheryl Solomon and Mike Ferry and their children Joshua and Adam.

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:

Lisa Silver
881-2616

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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Congregation Shir Ami
Community-Wide Passover Seder

will be led by Ricki Baird
on Saturday, April 7, 2007, 5:45 - 9:00 PM
at the Castro Valley Community Center

information: (510) 537-2066 or passover@congshirami.org



The Community, including unaffiliated and interfaith families, are invited to join the Congregation in a great festival retelling the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery and their redemption. The Evening Service will feature Passover songs and music by the very talented Ricki Baird and a festive, kosher-style Holiday meal.



Seating is limited ~ please provide the information below:

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

No. _____ adult Shir Ami members @ **\$23** = \$ _____ No. _____ adult non-Shir Ami members @ **\$26** = \$ _____

No. _____ children 12 and under @ **\$10** = \$ _____ Additional donation to help defray costs \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Your Reservation is made by check, payable to Congregation Shir Ami, and mailed with the information above no later than March 28th to:

**Congregation Shir Ami
Community Passover Seder
4529 Malabar Ave
Castro Valley, CA 94546**

Thursday, April 17

Departure from SFO in the morning.

Friday, April 18

Arrival at Ben Gurion airport in the morning. Opening program on "Routes to Roots" before setting off for Mitzpeh Ramon in the Negev. Picnic Lunch. Check-in and prepare for Shabbat. Kabbalat Shabbat as a group overlooking the beautiful Ramon Crater followed by festive Shabbat dinner. Overnight: Har Hanegev Field School, Mitzpeh Ramon

Saturday, April 19 Erev Pesach

Sunrise Shabbat morning services on the edge of the Ramon Crater followed by breakfast. Late lunch and study session on Parshat Hashavua and the Exodus from Egypt. Re-enact the Exodus by hiking to your Pesach Seder in a Bedouin tent. Overnight: Har Hanegev Field School, Mitzpeh Ramon

Sunday, April 20 Pesach

Late wakeup followed by Pesach Tefilot. Learn more about this geological wonder at the Mitzpeh Ramon visitor's center. Enjoy lunch and swimming at the nearby Pundak Ramon. Late afternoon walk to the Alpaca Ranch. Dinner at Field School. Evening: Nocturnal jeep ride in the heart of the Crater. Overnight: Har Hanegev Field School, Mitzpeh Ramon.

Monday, April 21

Exodus from the Negev. Travel north to Tel Aviv. En route, volunteer with Project Leket, picking left over fruits and vegetables to be donated to local soup kitchens. See where David ben Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel at Independence Hall. Explore the alleyways of Old Jaffa. Overnight: Prima Hotel, Tel Aviv

Tuesday, April 22

Depart for the Galil. Visit the Talmudic city of Zippori, where Rabbi Yehuda Hanassi compiled the Mishnah and site of some of the most beautiful mosaics in the Middle East. Picnic Lunch. Ascend the Golan Heights. Magical hike to the Jilaboun waterfall at Nahal Devorah. Check-in and dinner at hotel. Overnight: Golan Hotel, Tiberias

Wednesday, April 23

Enjoy a refreshing nature hike to the Tel Dan Nature Reserve. Text study on the "Golden Calif" at the ancient Israelite remains. Picnic Lunch. Bring care packages to IDF soldiers serving on the Lebanese Border. Strategic briefing by Colonel (Res.) Kobi Merom. Enjoy dinner across from the Sa'ar Waterfall with live music. Overnight: Golan Hotel, Tiberias

Thursday, April 24

Explore the mystical city of Zefat's ancient synagogues and artist colony. Art & Kabbalah program with local artist and shopping time. Continue to Jerusalem. Outlook over Jerusalem from the Haas Promenade. Torah study: Did Abraham pass the Test? Evening: Israel & the Media with analyst, Neil Lazarus. Overnight: Prima Royale, Jerusalem.

Friday, April 25

We learn and remember at Yad Vashem including the historical museum and Children's Memorial. Program on Israeli heroes at Mt. Herzl. Explore the Machaneh Yehuda market (shuk) as the city prepares for Shabbat. Kabbalat Shabbat at Kol Haneshama followed by festive Shabbat dinner at the hotel. Overnight: Prima Royale, Jerusalem

Saturday, April 26

Shabbat morning services at HUC followed by meeting with Anat Hoffman or Uri Regev. Shabbat lunch at Bet Shmuel followed by free time to visit Jerusalem's museums. Home Hospitality dinner to celebrate Chag with local families. Overnight: Prima Royale, Jerusalem

Sunday, April 27

Chag tefilot at Har El. Walking tour to the Christian Quarter and Church of the Holy Sepulchre followed by lunch at the hotel. Summary and conclusion session followed by Havdalah and check-out. Farewell dinner and transfer to airport for departing flight.

Monday, April 28

Arrival in SFO

- Program will be staffed by senior tour educator and security escort.
- All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.



Trip Price:

\$1750 double occupancy
Single supplement is \$275

Airfare prices will be released after May 18, 2007.

Please make checks payable to, and send to our NY Office:

Educational Encounters International, Inc.
626 Cortlandt Ave. Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Rates quoted reflect cash discount for payment by check or swift transfer. Payment by Visa/Mastercard is an additional 3 %

Price is based on a minimum of 25 participants and is not final.

Final price will be determined by the final number of participants

We suggest that an additional \$110 per participant (billed and paid separately) should be collected by the group leader prior to departure from USA or upon arrival in Israel, to cover standard tips for the guide, youth counselor, driver, bellstaff and waiters.

Includes:

- “Meet and Greet” service at Ben Gurion International Airport
- Group transfers from and to Ben Gurion International Airport
- All group transportation in Israel on private chartered bus
- Full time Keshet Senior Tour Educator
- Full time Security Escort
- All site admissions and programs per the itinerary
- All hotel accommodations, double occupancy
- All breakfasts plus **15** other meals (including Seder)
- Customized Sourcebook
- Keshet Hat, T-shirt
- Keshet Map of Israel
- Keshet Insulated Water Carrier
- Keshet Luggage Tags

Shir Ami/Beth Emek Pesach “Exodus” Experience

Led by Rabbi Richard Winer & Student Rabbi Rebekah Stern April 17-28, 2008

Join us for a unique opportunity to celebrate Passover- the holiday of freedom- in the land of Israel. Experience a seder in the desert “as if you yourself were leaving Egypt” and discover how the holiday permeates the country for a week.

Program Created and Operated by

**Keshet : The Center for Educational
Tourism in Israel**

www.keshetisrael.co.il

**For more information and for registration forms,
contact Student Rabbi Rebekah Stern at:
Rabbi.Rebekah@CongShirAmi.org**

Paresha Shemini (Eighth <day>)

The laws of kashrut and ritual purity



Shir Ami Services, Friday, April 13th at 8:00 PM

Led by

Joel Nickerson

April 14th -- The Bat Mitzvah Alena Liskewicz

On **May 4th** tens of thousands of
Jews across America will come together
to eat, drink, relax, dance, enjoy, debate
and celebrate at the **11th Annual**
SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA™

On Friday night, **May 4, 2007**, hundreds of synagogues across the continent
will take part in an historic national Jewish event to celebrate that which
unifies all Jews -- Shabbat! Everyone is invited... singles, couples, families --
all ages. So bring your neighbors, your friends, your co-workers -- and let's
celebrate, together!

888-SHABBAT
888-742-2228
WWW.NJOP.ORG

**NATIONAL
JEWISH
OUTREACH
PROGRAM**

A Congregation Shir Ami Outreach Event

Dinner at 6:30, services at 8:00 led by Joel Nickerson

*Share your Jewish community with your neighbors and friends
No charge for non-members; member dinner cost info will follow*

Call Barbara Heimowitz at 537-2066 or info@congshirami.org