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 August, 2007



Aug 9	Israel Trip Information Mtg – 6:45 PM at Shir Ami	Sep 12	Erev Rosh Hashanah – 8 PM
		Sep 13	Rosh Hashanah – 10 AM
Aug 10	Shabbat Services – 8PM Led by Ricki Baird	Sep 16	School
Aug 24	Shabbat Services – 8PM	Sep 20	Board Meeting – 7 PM
	Led by Diana Zankowsky	Sep 21	Kol Nidre – 8PM
Aug 25	Religious Committee Mtg – 10AM	Sep 22	Yom Kippur – 10AM
Aug 26	Shir Ami Cleanup – 10AM	Sep 23	No School
Sep 3	Labor Day BBQ – 4 PM	Sep 28	Sukkot Pot Luck – 6:30 PM Shabbat Services – 8 PM
Sep 8-9	Fall Festival		
Sep 9	School – First Day	Sep 30	School - Sukkot

President's Message Ruth Hartman

Dear Congregation Shir Ami Members and Friends,

I hope you are enjoying this beautiful summer. I hope that in some way, however small, you are having a break from routine. Visiting with family or friends. Getting away for a weekend or a week. Spending time with your children while they're home from school or college, or sending them off to camp and having some time without them! Attending an outdoor concert, a play, or a ball game. Camping or fishing or biking or stargazing. Reading a good book. Gardening. Painting. I took a brief trip to Colorado in June and had almost a week at home by myself in July, which was very refreshing. Summertime, with its break from routine, gives me the chance to get a fresh perspective on what I really want, what I really care about, what gives my life meaning.

As our growing kaddish list shows, quite a few members of our community have recently lost loved ones. Shir Ami holds shiva minyans at these times; this brief service is an opportunity to share in comforting the bereaved and honoring the memory of the deceased. A number of our members have also been seriously ill or had surgeries. We wish each of them full healing. Illness and loss focus our thoughts on what matters and what doesn't. Among those things that do matter are loving friends and family and a supportive community like Shir Ami.

As summer draws to a close, our tradition offers us this marvelous annual ritual of reflection and rededication: the High Holiday season. The month of Elul, which beings August 15 this year, is traditionally a time to engage in t'shuvah, a process of spiritual preparation that culminates in the High Holidays. For the past couple of years, Diana Zankowsky has led an email-based "t'shuvah support group." Each weekday of Elul, Diana sends out a brief passage for us to reflect upon. Those who wish to share their thoughts can send an email to the rest of the group. Some interesting discussions and sharing can result. If you'd like to participate this year, send Diana a quick email at <u>dzankowsky@aol.com</u> and she will invite you to join the Yahoo Group.

Our Religious Committee Chair David Schulberg, returning HUC intern Rebekah Stern, new HUC intern Carla Fenves, and new High Holiday cantorial soloist Rachel Brott have already been meeting to prepare Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services that will be both beautiful and meaningful. This will be a great year to invite Jewish friends, whether they are former Shir Ami members or prospective new members, to our High Holiday services. See the ticket form in this month's bulletin for your guests.

But before we get to Rosh Hashanah, we must first celebrate Labor Day! Our annual Labor Day Barbeque is a great way to start the year with fun for all. It is also our major fundraiser of the year, with lots of raffle items and new, improved auction offerings this year. Please mark your calendars for September 3 and see the flier in this month's bulletin.

I wish you a delightful month of August and look forward to seeing you soon. B'shalom,

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

Member Feedback

At our annual membership meeting on May 19, we did a brief feedback exercise in which we divided up into pairs and discussed the following questions:

- 1. Thinking back on the past year at Shir Ami, what was an event or interaction that worked well for you, in which you felt connected, engaged, or inspired?
- 2. Looking ahead to the coming year, what is an area where you'd like to be more engaged at Shir *Ami? What could help make that happen?*

Here's a summary of your written responses (with some notes from Ruth).

What worked well

- Community Passover seder (6 mentions)
- Women's Rosh Hodesh retreat and monthly events (4 mentions)
- Bekah Stern's services (2 mentions)
- Participation in services, including High Holidays
- Potluck dinner under the Sukkah
- Atmosphere: supportive of children, inclusive, family-oriented, not hierarchical
- Learning by helping others to learn: adult ed, retreat, school
- Support from Shir Ami community in times of illness and death (shiva minyan)
- Friendship and support among b'nai mitzvah families (2 mentions)
- Support of rabbinic interns and lay leaders in b'nai mitzvah training
- My children love the school (2 mentions)
- Enjoy seeing the kids at their b'nai mitzvah services
- Religious School children's seder
- Midrasha and teen programs
- Older kids so involved with younger kids (2 mentions)
- Jodi Blum taking over as educator
- This membership meeting (2 mentions)
- Ruth! Great vision. "Without a vision, the people will perish." Proverbs

What would help me engage next year

- Several people said they intend to continue with their volunteer activities on behalf of Shir Ami *(Thank you!)*
- Participate in adult ed—prefer Saturday meetings (Our rabbinic interns will be teaching adult ed on Saturdays this year; details to follow. In addition, Diana is starting an evening adult ed book discussion; see notice in this bulletin)
- Interested in adult b'nai mitzvah, conversion Hebrew (several mentions) (In addition to Saturday adult ed led by our rabbinic interns, Shir Ami member Judy Ganz is starting an beginning Hebrew class for adults; contact Judy if you are interested)
- Have regular Rosh Hodesh schedule (*This will be in next month's bulletin*)
- Family services with earlier start times (2 mentions) (We are planning several early services for the coming year; details to follow)
- More young people reading Torah at services (Our teens will be reading Torah on Yom Kippur)
- More Saturday services and events
- More congregational involvement with building and yard upkeep (*Jeff would love some help. Any volunteers?*)
- "I question our support of Israel without criticism. Could we open a discussion about this?" (Yes! Please contact Ruth Hartman.)



Greetings Shir Ami Sunday School families:

Well, summer is once again sailing by. At our house, we are getting into soccer practice schedules and, and - oh my gosh - come to think of it, Sophia even has a book to read, and document the reading thereof. David Schulberg has begun the annual process of setting the Shir Ami schedule which involves coordinating with the rabbinic interns, Castro Valley, Hayward, and San Leandro school calendars, and yearly holidays and events. This means it also has been time to work on the Religious School Calendar which coordinates with the overall synagogue calendar. As soon as all is finalized, I'll get the information to you. Harriet has kindly included in this bulletin the Religious School Student Information form, and Emergency Contact form. If at all possible, I would appreciate receiving these forms prior to the start of school. This is just to help me get as much of a jump on things as I can. The first day of Sunday School is presently set as September 9, 2007. You could mail completed forms directly to me or bring them to the Labor Day BBQ. I'll also print a batch and bring them to the BBQ for those who don't have printer capability. I looked these forms over again today, and I think it would be best if I could get one of each form for each child in a family. However, in families with multiple children I don't need redundant information on each form. By way of example, for my family I'll need six forms. A Student Information sheet, and Emergency Contact form each for Sophia, Spencer, and Adam. For one of the Student Information sheets and one Emergency Contact form, say Sophia's, I'll answer every question. For Spencer and Adam I'll skip those questions where the answer is the same as for Sophia, i.e. we all have the same address, and only answer the questions specific to each child, i.e. Adam is allergic to peanut butter, but not the other two. Hopefully, this will save a little time.

I am scheduling a synagogue cleanup day for 10 to noon on Sunday, August 26th. More information to follow, but the general plan is to polish up the rooms before the Labor Day BBQ, High Holy Days, and start of school. Please save the date if you can.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon to begin what is sure to be an enriching year for us at Shir Ami.

Sincerely,

Jodi Switzer Blum education@congshirami.org

Adult Education Díana Zankowsky

In 5768, the adult education class, facilitated by Diana Zankowsky, will meet one weekday night each month, starting in October. We will be studying from one book, <u>Yearnings</u> by Irwin Kula (Rabbi), published in 2006. The book treats seven major of spirituality, including Truth, Meaning, Create, and we will look at one of these sections each month. This book is available in hardcover, paperback and audio. If you are interested in joining the class, please indicate your availability to Diana, <u>dzankowsky@aol.com</u>.



Fall Festival Information

Hi everyone,

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I wanted to let everyone know the dates of the Castro Valley Fall Festival this year. It will be held on Saturday September 8th and Sunday September 9th. The Festival is a great opportunity for our Congregation to get exposure to the community and to attract new members.

We will need volunteers to set up, work and take down the booth. Teenagers are encouraged to help! Please try to find a couple of hour on the weekend to help. Each day runs from 9:30-6:30. You can contact me if you have a specific time you would like or I will contact you as the date gets closer. Thank your in advance for your help.

Angie Ross 510-633-0581

The Tzedakah Box A Social Action Column Sara Lamnín Daryl Berman

Back to School with Tools 4 School

Listen closely. One can almost hear the collective groan of school children throughout Alameda County as talk of the new academic year begins. Underneath the splashing in sprinklers and warm evening walks runs a current of anxiety for many families. The cost of preparing a child for school is soaring. The school supply list – including the ubiquitous backpacks – gets longer and more expensive every year. Many families struggle to meet these essential educational needs. Schools and teachers face the same challenge.

The Alameda County Tools 4 School Collaborative strives to ease this anxiety and to provide students with the basic supplies they need to actively participate in learning. Tools 4 School ties together community based non-profits, schools, and businesses, consolidating the number of repetitive and competitive requests potential donors receive. Through this collaboration, limited time and fiscal resources can reach further, thus expanding the scope of service we can all provide to our community. According to a 2002 study by the California Food Policy Advocates, 13.8% of Alameda County Children live in poverty. 35% qualify for free or reduced lunch programs.

By participating in this effort, businesses can reach potential consumers, reduce clutter, and, of course, help the families in our city. Every backpack we send out to the community contains a sponsor sheet with the names of all donors and partners. In past years, some businesses have sponsored a particular item (rulers, for example) with their business name and number. We can also use items with errors. For example, one promotional company donates items with misspellings or outdated information. We can even use old letterhead for school and tutoring programs. Getting rid of useful, but unusable business supplies can help free up valuable storage space.

What can YOU do to help?

The cost to outfit one child for a school year is \$25. All proceeds raised through this collaborative effort go directly to Alameda County students and are tax deductible, through our fiscal agent, Lincoln Child Center. For more information, please contact Sara Lamnin, Program Coordinator, (510) 867-0957 or saralamnin@lincolncc.org. Checks can be made out to Lincoln Child Center. Please write "Tools for School" in the memo line and send them to Sara Lamnin at 22245 Main Street, Suite 102, Hayward, CA 94541. www.lincolncc.org/tools4school.

SHIR AMI BULLETIN BOARD



Home Away From Home: Visit a Reform Congregation Abroad

If you will be traveling abroad in the coming months and would like to know where you can celebrate Shabbat or a Jewish holiday, visit the World Union for Progressive Judaism's New Congregations Worldwide webpage before you leave home.

www.wupj.org

Here you will find listings and contact information for many countries throughout Europe, the former Soviet Union, Asia, Latin America and, of course, Israel.

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.

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.

Labor Day BBQ and Raffle

The following businesses have generously made donations to our Labor Day BBQ. Please consider supporting them.

Chabot Theater Castro Village Bowl Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi, Too Elephant Bar Restaurant Punchline Sweet Tomatoes Cal Shakespeare Theater La Mediterranee Restaurant Wax Museum-SF Ripley's Believe it Or Not Blackhawk Museum Asian Art Museum-SF See's Candies Chabot Space & Science Center Boxed Greeting Cards by Harriet Skelly

The Community Page August, 2007

Yarzheits:

August 10, 2007 Scott Kendall, former student of Shír Amí Anna Kurz, mother of Frances Johnson Barnett Levíne, father of Hillel Levíne Fred Rosener, long tíme member of Shír Amí

August 24, 2007 Shaiva Bernstein, mother of Judy Ganz Blanche Rose Berman, mother of Daryl Berman Ben Blank, father of Sam Blank Betty Meininger, mother of Ingrid Weinberg Betty Schulberg, mother of David Schulberg Joan Wolff, mother of Gary Wolff

Kaddish List: (to be read at both services in August)

Hyman Abraham Rebotsky, grandfather of Jonathan Zimmerman Gordon Greenfield, father of Julie Greenfield Keith Carter, brother of Bruce Carter Leon Meier, long-time member and founder of Shir Ami Syd Kramer, uncle of Jan Dombrower Martín Michelson, brother-in-law of David Schulberg Blanche Rose Berman, mother of Daryl Berman

May their memory be a blessing ...

Ever wonder how the names read out loud for yarzheit and kaddish at Friday night services get on that list? If you are a member of Shir Ami, and want a personal reminder for the yarzheit of a loved one, just send Toni Schulberg the following information: the name of the deceased; the relationship of that person to the member of Shir Ami; the full date (month, day, year) that person died; and whether you want to use the Hebrew or English calendar for their yarzheit (Toni will look up the Hebrew date for you). Questions? Call Toni at 278-1695 or e-mail her at toniaps@comcast.net

A contribution to Shir Ami is a great way to honor, remember, or show appreciation for someone special. It's easy, send a check and note to:

Florrie Finkle 18730 West Cavendish Castro Valley, CA 94552

Florrie will send a card to the person you are honoring and your dedication will appear on this page.

<u>Todah Rabah</u> to our Oneg hosts: For July 13th, Toní and Davíd Schulberg For July 27th, the Ross famíly

What's Nu?

- Rachel and Shashana Markus attended Camp Tawonga.
- Sophia, Spencer and Adam Blum attended Camp Newman, where Leah Hartman was a counselor-in-training.
- Michelle Ross was a counselor at Camp Kadima. Daniel Ross attended the Camp Kadima La'atid program.
- Lisa Carmack spent four weeks in Israel with the Jewish Federation's Let's Go
 Israel! trip.
- Diana and Fred Zankowsky took a two-week road trip to the Canadian Rockies and visited Fred's mother in Wyoming.
- Stacy Zankowsky spent five weeks in a Spanish-language Immersion program in Quito, Ecuador.
- Barb Haber took Matt and Kaitlin to visit historic sites in and around Boston.
 Matt and Kaitlin will also be attending Camp Newman in August.

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: Lori Knopf Santora 614-5929 Dues: Toni Schulberg 278-1695 Invoices/Payables: Maryann Leshin 635-2898 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

Scrip SAFEWAY

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If you have not renewed, our contributions have stopped. Renew now to start earning again! Safeway is proud to partner with eScrip to support the education of youth.

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Pareshat Re'eh - Behold!

The blessings of upholding the tradition are described as are the fates of rejecting the teachings of Torah.



New Synagogue in London, 1850, from "The Jewish World" (Kedourie, Harrison House, New York 1979)

Shir Ami Services

Friday, August 10th at 8:00 PM

led, with music, by

Ricki Baird

Pareshat Ki Tetze (As You Go Forth)



Thou shalt not pervert the justice due to the stranger, or to the fatherless; nor take the widow's raiment to pledge. But thou shalt remember thou wast a bondsman in Egypt..

> Shir Ami Services Friday, August 24 at 8:00 PM Led by Diana Zankowsky

Remember Shir Ami's bread basket

September 3, 2007

Shir Ami's traditional Labor Day Picnic! Meet fellow members and new members



Great BBQ food (including vegetarian), games for the kids, raffles, silent auction

Charges Adult members \$10.00, children 12 and under \$5.00 Potential members ~ no charge

> Members A to L please bring a salad or side dish M to Z please bring a dessert

School use only: **□** Emergency Contact Form attached

Shir Ami Religious School Student Information Use a separate form for each child; photocopy this form as needed. Note that,

in addition to this form, an Emergency Contact Form is required for each student.

Student's Full Name	
Hebrew Name	
Name of Parent 1 or Guardian	I
Home Address	
Home #	Work #
Cell #	Work # E-mail:
Name of Parent 2 or Guardian	i l
Home Address (if different fro	om above)
Home #	Work #
Cell #	Work # E-mail:
□ Part-time each (joint custo On School Roster, please list: □ Check here <i>if attaching sep</i> Student's birth date Daytime school name Previous Jewish religious scho Hebrew/Religious School(s) a If 13+ years: □ has had Bar/F	rents Parent 1 only Parent 2 only ody) Legal guardian. Relationship:
Below please give any useful	information about child's style of learning.
Special needs or comments	
• •	mi Religious School to take and use photographs of my ir Ami's website or in future literature regarding Shir Ami.
□ I would like to discuss spe	ecial concerns. Please call

Parent 1 Parent 2 either parent Guardian

Please complete b	ooth sides!		For office use: 🛛 complete
Student name:		Date of birth:	
Teacher(s):	Grade:	Hebrew class:	
	ni Religious	School Emergency	y Contact Form
			orm is completed and returned.
Doctor's Name:			
Ofc. Phone:		After hours phone #	
Fax:			
City	St	tate: Zip:	
Student's Health Ins	surer:	tate: Zip: Member #	
Policy/Plan #	•	Member #	
Preferred hospital/c	ity:		
EMERGENCY CON			
Parent or Guardia	n#1:		
Work/Additional Ph	ione:	Home Phone:	
Parent or Guardia	n#2:		
		Home Phone:	
work/Additional Pr	ione:	Home Phone:	
ALLERGIES (check			
\Box My child has no \Box My child has an a		owing food(s):	
	unergy to the folio	wing 100d(3).	
A food listed above Describe reaction if	causes anaphylax	is : □yes (_) 口no
☐ My child is allers			
A substance listed a	hove causes anap	nylaxis : 📮 yes () D no
		g medication(s):) ⊔10
□ My child has the	following chronic	e health condition(s):	
□ My child is on th	e following medic	cation*:	
Shir Ami staff will permission of paren		cation: medication, except in an emo	ergency situation, with
can/should do. You	may also include		your concerns, and what we e us to know about your child's

Please complete other side!

While your child is in our care, an accident, emergency, or illness may occur that requires immediate medical attention without sufficient time to contact parents/guardians. The California Legislature has authorized consent in advance by parents or legal guardians for such treatment (Family Code Section 6910).

Emergency Contact Person #1:		
Best phone # to call		
Additional Phone #(s):		
Relationship to Child:		
Is this person authorized to pick up your child? \Box yes	□ no	
Emergency Contact Person #2:		
Best phone # to call		
Additional Phone #(s):		
Relationship to Child:		
Is this person authorized to pick up your child? \Box yes	□ no	
Who else is authorized to pick up your child?		
Name:		
Phone #(s):		
Name:		
Phone #(s):		

Authorization to Consent to Treatment of a Minor

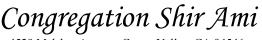
I hereby authorize the Congregation Shir Ami/Religious School representative to consent to any X-ray examination, anesthetic, medical, or surgical diagnosis or treatment or hospital care that is deeme advisable by, and is to be rendered under the supervision of any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of the Medical Practice Act or to consent to any X-ray examination, anesthetic, medical, or surgical diagnosis or treatment or hospital care that is deemed advisable by, and is to be rendered under the supervision of any dentist licensed under the provisions of the Dental Practice Act, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said physician or dentist, hospital, or otherwise.

It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis, treatment or hospital care being required but is given to provide authority and power on the part of said agent(s) to give specific consent to any and all such diagnosis, treatment and hospital care that such physician or dentist in the exercise of his/her best judgment may deem advisable.

This authorization is given pursuant to the provisions of Family Code Section 6550-6552 of California and shall remain effective until revoked. It is understood that every effort will be made by Congregation Shir Ami /Religious School to contact me before exercising this authorization. I hereby authorize Congregation Shir Ami /Religious School to engage for my child

at my expense any necessary emergency medical or dental care, until I can be informed and make further arrangements. I hereby incorporate by reference the "Authorization to Consent to Treatment of a Minor" as set forth above. This authorization will expire on June 30, 2007. PRINT Parent/Guardian Name: Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date signed:



4529 Malabar Avenue Castro Valley, CA 94546

August 1, 2007

Dear Friends:

You are undoubtedly aware of our upcoming High Holiday Services in September. This year, we will once again have 2 student rabbis from Hebrew Union College: Bekah Stern will be returning with her wonderful voice and our new student rabbi will be Carla Fenves. In addition, we are very pleased to welcome our new Cantorial Soloist, Rachel Brott. We are looking forward to beautiful High Holiday services. We know that you will enjoy our program with even more surprises from our younger members.

After many years of keeping our High Holiday ticket prices the same, the board has decided to increase them slightly. If you have any guests, this year, we will have tickets for \$300 per family and \$150 for singles available by contacting me. This donation can again represent partial membership at Congregation Shir Ami. Full-time college students and members of the armed forces on active duty are always welcome as our guests at no charge.

Our current budget does not allow for these services, so once again we ask you for a Memorial Contribution. Please return the stub below to my address as soon as possible, for <u>tickets</u> (non-members only) and *memorials*. The names of the departed will be read at the Yom Kippur Yizkor Service. We do **not** depend on last year's list.

Thank you for your help. I would like to extend my best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year to you and your family.

Sincerely, *David Schulberg* Religious Committee Chair (510) 276-6100

Attachment

To: David Schulberg 16174 Via Arroyo San Lorenzo, CA 94580-2506

Please send me	tickets @ \$	for		
Name:				
Address:				
Enclosed is my Me	emorial Contributi	ion for \$	in memory of:	
		<u> </u>		.1)

(Please Print Clearly)



Sail Into San Diego

Join 5,000 Reform Jews in sunny San Diego for the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial Convention!

Mark the date: December 12-16, 2007. REGISTRATION IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON AUGUST 1, 2007.



The official Biennial program begins at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12 and concludes at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 16.

The URJ is offering an Early Bird registration fee of \$540.00. The Early Bird deadline is October 19, 2007. Subsidies, based upon need, are available to members of small congregations.

Your registration fee includes the following:

- Admission to all general sessions
- Admission to all workshops
- Daily and Shabbat worship
- The Exhibit Hall
- All concerts and late night entertainment
- Friday night regional Shabbat dinner with others from your region
- Shabbat morning Torah study breakfast
- Shabbat Study Luncheon

More information is available at <u>http://biennial.urj.org/</u> or you may contact Diana Zankowsky at <u>dzankowsky@aol.com</u> or at 510-881-5884.