

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, 2008



Aug 8	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Julie Greenfield and Irene Gilchriese	Aug 28	Rosh Chodesh – 7:30 PM
Aug 21	Board Meeting – 7 PM	Sep 1	Labor Day Annual BBQ and Raffle/Fundraiser – 2PM to 5 PM; See flyer for the details!
Aug 22	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Diana Zankowsky	Sep 12	Shabbat Services (tentative) – 8 PM
Aug 23	Religious Committee Mtg – 10AM at the Schulberg's	Sep 29	Erev Rosh Hashanah – 8 PM
Aug 24	TV/TC Midrasha Summer Splash – 1:30-4:00 PM. See Youth Group News column for details.	Sep 30	Rosh Hashanah – 10 AM

President's Message

Ruth Hartman

Dear Congregation Shir Ami Members and Friends,

As we pass the midpoint of summer, I'm looking ahead with anticipation to an exciting fall at Shir Ami. Here's a preview of things to come:

- ★ **Two new Rabbinic Interns from Hebrew Union College:** Matt Dreffin and Suzy Stone. Both are second-year Rabbinic students fresh from a year of study in Jerusalem. We are eager to meet them and learn from them.
- ★ **Board Meeting, Thursday, August 21 at 7:00 pm:** The Shir Ami Board meets monthly, usually on the third Thursday evening of the month. All members are welcome to attend and contribute. (It helps if you let me know you're coming.)
- ★ **Religious Committee meeting, Saturday, August 23 at 10:00 am:** Every year in late August, the Shir Ami Religious Committee meets to plan the calendar of services and special events for the coming year. If you have input to offer or would like to attend the meeting, please contact committee Chair David Schulberg, religion@congshirami.org.
- ★ **Sisterhood Rosh Hodesh meeting, Thursday, August 28, 7:30 pm:** All Shir Ami women are welcome as we bring in the month of Elul. Since this is a time of year to reflect on ourselves and our behavior, we will have a program on *avera*, the Hebrew word for transgression. We will learn about the Jewish view of sin and the three categories of sin. And, speaking of sin, each woman will be asked to bring to the meeting their most "sinful" dessert! This can be an assurance that we have something to repent for.
- ★ **Labor Day Barbeque, Monday September 1 at 2:00 pm:** This annual event 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 live auction offerings. Please mark your calendars, watch for the Evite invitation, and see the auction item listing in this month's bulletin. Plan to invite friends and neighbors to join in the fun, whether they are Jewish or not!
- ★ **A New School Year:** Jodi Blum is working with our dedicated and talented teaching staff to line up a great program for the 2008-09 year. We're excited to welcome our students back for a fun and spirited year of learning and community-building. Registration and calendar information will be available later this month.
- ★ **Family Shabbaton, November 7-9:** Looking ahead, past the High Holidays, planning is advancing for the exciting family weekend at Camp Newman, featuring special Guest Artist/Scholar in Residence, Cantor Ellen Dreskin. The Shabbaton weekend is a joint project of several local congregations and will include programming for members of all ages and perspectives. Contact Barb Haber (bjhaber@sbcglobal.net) for more information. Financial support will be available.

Of course, we'll have a full calendar of High Holiday and Shabbat services, as well as adult education and women's Rosh Hodesh offerings this fall. There will also be programming for teens through Midrasha and our NFTY youth group.

At the end of August, I'll be taking my older daughter to Boston to begin her freshman year at Brandeis University. I am very grateful to the local Jewish community, beginning with Shir Ami and extending to Camp Kadima and Camp Newman, Midrasha, and NFTY, for all the ways that they supported her growth and development into a proud, confident young Jewish woman. It's an honor to begin my third year as your President and work to pass on some small part of what my family has received from this community.

B'shalom/In peace,
Ruth Hartman

Rabbis' Corner

Matt Dreffin

Suzy Stone

Meet Suzy Stone:

Shalom L'Kulam,

Hi Everyone-- My name is Suzy Stone and I'm very excited to be working as one of your new student rabbis this year at Shir Ami. I am originally from Minneapolis, MN where I lived until I was 18 years old. I then went to Boston, MA where I earned a B.A. from Brandeis University in History and Sociology. When I graduated from Brandeis in 2002, I decided to stay in Boston for a few years where I worked for several different organizations in the non-profit sector. In 2002-2003 I was a fellow in a program known as the Jewish Organizing Initiative (JOI). JOI is a program that trains young Jewish adults to be grassroots organizers who understand the connection between Judaism and Social Justice. This was the first time that I really connected to Jewish texts and ritual. From there, my interest in Judaism grew and I found many rabbinic mentors in Boston to help me learn about Judaism in a much deeper way. After the JOI fellowship, I became the Regional Director of a small non-profit known as the Jewish Labor Committee (JLC). After two years of community organizing I decided take some time to reflect on my long-term goals. During this time, I taught English as a Second Language (ESL) at several different schools throughout the city. It was at this time that I also realized that I wanted to explore Judaism in a much deeper way. In 2006, before I left for my year in Israel, I moved to Phoenix, Arizona (where my parents retired) to work at Temple Chai as a Religious School Teacher and as their Retreat Coordinator. I loved my experience at Temple Chai and it only reinforced my decision to attend rabbinical school. In many ways, I now see Phoenix as my new home. Having just returned from my year in Israel, I am very excited to share with you some of my experiences, insights, and struggles. I am looking forward to getting to know the community and learning with – and from—you. I know that I have a lot to learn from all of you, so I hope that this year will be a year of growth for all of us!

Sisterhood/Rosh Chodesh Group

Jan Dombrower



Sisterhood:

Sisterhood ended the year with some great gatherings. First, we had the end of year barbeque at a new location, the Cull Canyon Regional Park. We barbequed Kosher hot dogs and had a variety of side dishes that we enjoyed.. We had a great time sharing, laughing, and talking.

Then we gathered at Sharon Golembo's home for Shavuot. We had cheese fondue, cheese cake, and other dairy foods. We had a brief discussion of Shavuot with some readings. It was a great way to celebrate the holiday.



The Sisterhood of Congregation Shir Ami took the lead among our neighboring congregations in supporting a new community initiative: "Rosh Chodesh, It's a Girl Thing". Rosh Chodesh is a holiday that occurs on the first of every month and has been reclaimed by women and women's groups. The program that we are supporting is a values-based, experiential, trans-denominational program for girls entering 6th and 7th

grades that strengthens self-esteem and Jewish values. It is open both the girls in our synagogue as well as unaffiliated Jewish girls. Our Sisterhood contributed \$500 towards the start-up costs of training leaders and we expect the program to begin later this year. More information will be available in the next Bulletin or you can check out their website: <http://roshhodesh.org/>

This month we will meet on Thursday, Aug 28 at Shir Ami for our first Rosh Chodesh gathering of the year. We will bring in the month of Elul. This meeting will be preparation for the high holidays. Since this time of year is a time to reflect on ourselves and our behavior, we will have a program on avera, the Hebrew word for transgression. We will learn about the Jewish view of sin and the three categories of sin. And, speaking of sin, each woman will be asked to bring to the meeting their most "sinful" dessert! This can be an assurance that we have something to repent for. Hope you will join us.

Youth Group News



Join TV/TC Midrasha for an afternoon of fun, foods, and friends at
SUMMER SPLASH: Reunion, Pool Party and BBQ
Sunday, August 24th, 1:30 - 4 pm
730 Sycamore Road in Pleasanton

With an awesome pool, fun games and meeting old and new friends - this is an event not to be missed! Prospective students, TV/TC Midrasha graduates, and current students are all welcome.

RSVP by August 20 to tvtcmidrasha@gmail.com.

The Tzedakah Box
A Social Action Column
Sara Lamnin
Daryl Berman

From the Religious Action Center of the URJ...

You shall not abuse a needy and destitute laborer, whether a fellow Israelite or a stranger in one of the communities of your land. You must pay out the wages due on the same day, before the sun sets, for the worker is needy and urgently depends on it; else a cry to the Eternal will be issued against you and you will incur guilt. (Deuteronomy 24:14-15)

The South Hayward Parish (of which, Shir Ami is a member congregation) was founded over 40 years ago "to engage people of faith in the endeavor and partnership of building and maintaining a just and nurturing community." One year ago, the Parish founded the Hayward Day Labor Center to enable local workers to attain "self-sufficiency through employment and community integration programs." The multi-service center facilitates connections between workers and employers, assists with legal issues, financial planning, health care, basic needs services, and literacy. If you are in need of workers, contact Daryl Berman at baryl@pacbell.net for more information. Furthermore, the last Saturday of every month from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. is the South Hayward Parish Day laborer breakfast preparation, South Hayward United Methodist Church, 628 Schafer Rd., Hayward. Volunteers are always needed.

It is a commandment on each and every wise person, to teach every student even though they are not their children...since the students that one teaches are called one's children. (Maimonides, Mishneh Torah, The Laws of Talmud Torah, Chapter 1 Law 2)

According to the Public Health Department, Alameda County maintains the largest poverty rate in the state and children are the highest proportion of that population.

- Call 800-870-FOOD or visit <http://www.bayareahunger.org/> or the Alameda County food bank to join the "Help End Hunger Now" Campaign.
- Contact the Alameda County Tools 4 School Collaborative to help provide school supplies to 1,500 students in need throughout Alameda County. Volunteers and donations are needed. Visit www.actools4school.org or call Sara at (510) 867-0957

Looking for another volunteer opportunity? The last Friday of every month from 12 to 3 p.m. is a USDA food distribution for families in need at the Eden Youth and Family Center, 680 W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward. Volunteers are always needed. Call (510) 785 3663 if you want to help.

If you know about volunteer opportunities or are participating in community service you think Shir Ami should know about, please contact Sara Lamnin at ledorvdor@yahoo.com or (510) 733-5114 or Daryl Berman at baryl@pacbell.net.

Congregation Shir Ami

ANNUAL LABOR DAY BBQ & RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Featuring a Silent and Live Auction and "Bag" Items



Monday, September 1, 2008
2:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Adults: \$12.00 in advance, \$15.00 at the door

Children (12 and under): \$5.00 in advance,

\$6.00 at the Door ~ under age 3 – free

~Prospective Members are free~

Bringing friends and family is encouraged!

Enjoy hamburgers, veggie burgers and hotdogs

Please participate in our potluck:

A-L: Bring a salad or side dish

M-Z Bring a dessert and drink

Please remember cell phones for our ongoing fundraiser.
Also, bring gently used paperbacks for a paperback book sale fundraiser.



Cut off and return by August 26

Name _____ # adults _____ # children _____

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Congregation Shir Ami

Mail checks to Barbara Heimowitz, c/o Shir Ami, 4529 Malabar Ave.

Castro Valley, CA 94546

CONGREGATION SHIR AMI
2008 Labor Day BBQ Raffle and Live Auction
List as of August 1

This year we are starting the auction via email. If you're interested in placing a bid, please email Barbara at bheimowitz@aol.com with your minimum and maximum bids.

The bidding will continue at the Labor Day BBQ on Monday, September 1 at Shir Ami. If you're not able to attend that day, you can still bid on these terrific auction items. We will notify you if you're the highest bidder.

Good Luck!

<u>Item # and Description</u>	<u>Opening Bid</u>
1. <u>Hagafen Cellars, Napa</u> : Case of wine and winery tour for 6, \$500 value	\$200
2. <u>Berkeley Repertory Theater</u> : 2 tickets for the 2008-09 season, \$96 value and <u>La Mediterranee Restaurant</u> , Berkeley, \$25 certificate for brunch or lunch	\$45
3. <u>Pleasanton Playhouse</u> : 2 tickets for "Miss Saigon," \$60 value, and <u>Hana Japan</u> Restaurant, Dublin \$25.00 gift certificate	\$35
4. <u>San Jose Repertory Theater</u> , 2 tickets, \$74 value	\$30
5. <u>California Shakespeare Theater, Orinda</u> : 2 tickets for the 2009 season, \$80 value, and <u>Armadillo Willy's</u> in Dublin and other locations, \$30 certificate for dinner	\$45
6. <u>San Francisco Experience</u> : 4 tickets for Ripley's Believe it or Not , Wax Museum, and a Pier 39 Package including a Bay Cruise for 4, 4 carousel rides, 48 tokens, 4 turbo rides and 2 hours parking, \$275 value	\$100
7. <u>Charles Schultz Museum</u> , Santa Rosa: 4 tickets, T-shirt, and note cards \$52 value	\$20
8. <u>San Jose Family Adventure</u> : 2 passes to Winchester Mystery House, 4 passes to Happy Hollow Park, 2 passes to Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum, \$130 value	\$50

We hope you'll support this year's major fundraiser!!

The Community Page

August, 2008

Yahrzheits:

August 8 , 2008

- Stanley Blackfield, founder and former president of Shir Ami
- Scott Kendall, former student at Shir Ami
- Hans Schwarzenberger, father of Barbara Heimowitz

August 22 , 2008

- Georgie Brooke, mother of Toni Schulberg and aunt of Sidney Simpson
- Anna Kurz , mother of Frances Johnson
- Barnett Levine, father of Hillel Levine
- Fred Rosner, longtime member of Shir Ami
- Betty Schulberg, mother of David Schulberg
- Joan Wolff, mother of Gary Wolff
- Moshe Vanous, longtime active member of Shir Ami

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

- Betya Druker, mother of Alex Druker
- Sy Mouber, longtime former member of Shir Ami
- Chris Partridge, son of Ricki Baird, former member of Shir Ami

May their memory be a blessing...

Ever wonder how the names read out loud for Yahrzeit 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 Yahrzeit 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 Yahrzeit (Toni will look up the Hebrew date for you). Questions? Call Toni at 278-1695 or e-mail her at toniaps@comcast.net



TODAH RABAH FOR THESE GENEROUS DONATIONS:

- From Verla Becker : in Memory of Jerry Becker,
- From Bruce and Susan Carter: in Memory of Clint Carter at his Yahrzeit, and in Memory of Moshe Vanous,
- From Judy Ganz: in Memory of her father, George Berenstein at his Yahrzeit,
- From Marla and Leland Ball: on Father's Day, in Memory of their fathers, Matthew Ganz and Green (Lee) Ball,
- From Rahel and Michel Ruiz: in Memory of David Teferi,
- From Lori and Bill Santora: in Memory of Leo Knopf at his Yahrzeit,
- From Ruth Hartman and Gary Wolff: Get Well wishes for Rose Levine and Lori Santora,
- From Fran Johnson: in Memory of her mother Anna Kurz at her Yahrzeit.

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.



Thank you to our Oneg Hosts:

June 28th : The Silver Family
July 11th : Toni Schulberg
July 25th : The Santora Family



What's Nu?

- Mazal tov to the Silver Family on Emma's becoming bat mitzvah. We are very proud of her. And thank you to Lisa Silver for her generous contribution in honor of Emma. The funds will be used to purchase non-transliterated copies of the new Mishkan T'filah siddur for use by future bnai mitzvah students.
- Mazal tov to these graduates: Daniel Finley graduated from UC Irvine, and David Zankowsky graduated from Northeastern University. Mazal tov to Helen Markus who completed her training as a Certified Respiratory Therapist
- Happy Birthday to Barbara Heimowitz and Lori Santora.
- Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Rose Levine after hip surgery.
- We have a new member! Please welcome Bonnie Frey and Michael Lange and their son Sean Lange, aged 4. They live at: 18475 Plymouth Drive in Castro Valley.
- Tyler Dean went to Wales with the UC Irvine choir.
- Leah Hartman spent four weeks as a counselor at URJ Camp Newman in Santa Rosa.
- Adam and Spencer Blum were campers at Camp Newman in July.
- Sophia Blum traveled to Israel with the Let's Go: Israel! trip sponsored by the Jewish Federation.
- Michelle and Danny Ross, Shashana and Rachel Markus, and Hana Hartman all worked on the staff of Camp Kadima in Sunol this summer.
- Leah Hartman and Lexi Skelly traveled to France and Spain with the Castro Valley High School Art Club.
- Stacey and David Zankowsky traveled to Israel on a Birthright trip this summer.
- Maryann Leshin traveled to Great Barrington, Massachusetts for a 50th year celebration and reunion at URJ Eisner Camp. She reconnected with camp friends she had not seen in over 30 years.
- Gary Wolff and Ruth Hartman visited Zaragoza, Spain, where Gary spoke on a panel at "Expo Zaragoza: The Biggest Water Festival on Earth." They also spent time in Barcelona.
- Todah Rabah to Danielle Keil for taking care of some minor repairs to Shir Ami's water heater this summer.

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Donations:

General Funds, Special Funds,
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