



CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism Congregations
February, 2009



Feb 1	School – K through Confirmation	Mar 7	Adult Ed – 3:30 PM
Feb 6	Children’s Shabbat – 6 PM Potluck Dinner – 6:45 PM Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Matt Dreffin	Mar 8	School – Preschool through Confirmation Purim Carnival – 10:30 AM
Feb 7	Havdalah & Israeli Movie – 7 PM	Mar 12	Board Meeting – 7 PM
Feb 8	School – Preschool through Confirmation Tu B’ Shevat Seder – 5 PM	Mar 15	Bagel & Lox Brunch – 10 AM No school
Feb 12	Board Meeting – 7 PM	Mar 20	Special Yanov Shabbat & Pot Luck Dinner – 6 PM Shabbat Services – 8 PM led by Matt Dreffin
Feb 15	No School	Mar 21	Havdalah & Israeli Movie – 7 PM
Feb 20	NOTE CHANGE: No Shabbat Services	Mar 22	School – Preschool through Confirmation
Feb 20-22	Women’s Retreat	Mar 26	Rosh Chodesh – 7:30 PM
Feb 20	NOTE CHANGE: No School	Mar 27	Shabbat Services – 8PM Led by Matt Dreffin
Feb 25	Rosh Chodesh – 7:30 PM	Mar 29	School – Preschool through Confirmation
Mar 1	School – K through Confirmation		
Mar 6	Shabbat Service and Purim Party 7 PM – led by Suzy Stone		

President's Message

Ruth Hartman

Dear Shir Ami members and friends,

In this month's column, a snapshot of some of the many activities at Shir Ami:

- In early January, we learned of the tragic auto accident and subsequent death of longtime Shir Ami member **Zac Cohen**. Zac was a warm, kind man with a beautiful singing voice and a love of contract bridge, golf, and family. He was always with us at the High Holidays and our Passover Seder, and a friendly presence at our potluck Shabbat dinners. On January 18th, Diana Zankowsky led a memorial service at Shir Ami for Zac's many friends, family, and fellow congregants. A donation by Zac's partner, Christine Wright, will be used to purchase a plaque in Zac's memory on our Memory Wall, as well as to provide the flowers at our High Holiday services for the next several years.
- On January 23rd, Shir Ami hosted a lovely **interfaith service**, organized by Julie Greenfield, Sara Lammin, Daryl Berman, and led beautifully by Rabbinic Intern Suzy Stone. The service was timed to coincide with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday holiday, and it reflected the spirit of dialogue, alliance-building and hope that we associate with King's legacy. The service was a big step forward in our relationships with our Christian and Muslim neighbors.
- The following day, Suzy's **adult ed** session focused on a **discussion of the Middle East conflict**. After a chance to practice effective listening in small groups, we studied three articles that discussed the Israel/Gaza conflict from a variety of perspectives. Fifteen people participated, and there was general interest in continuing to study current topics together in this way.
- As word gets around, our **Havdallah and Israeli Film** adult ed programs with Rabbinic Intern Matt Dreffin have become very popular. The next film will be *Avanim* ("Stones") on Saturday, February 7 at 7 pm. Popcorn is provided!
- A reminder about two other upcoming events at Shir Ami. The first is our annual **Tu B'Shevat Seder**, led by Matt and Diana on Sunday, February 8th. The seder celebrates the bounty of the natural world and the cycle of the seasons, and includes a delicious dinner as well as lots of nuts and fruits. See the Evite or contact Barbara Heimowitz (membership@congshirami.org) to RSVP. And, I'll make one final pitch for our annual **women's retreat**, coming up February 20-22. See the flier in this month's bulletin; there's still time to register. Because Rabbi Suzy will be joining us on the retreat, there will be no Shabbat services or Religious School at Shir Ami that weekend.
- A huge thank you to **David Holsey** for designing the beautiful **new Shir Ami logo** that you see on the front of this month's bulletin. David has been attending adult ed classes led by our Rabbinic Interns, and asked how he could give something back to the congregation. When we discovered he has graphic design talents, the answer became crystal clear! The logo is based on the beautiful stained glass window that Jeff Blum created in honor of Spencer's recent bar mitzvah. So the project reflects several layers of Shir Ami creative talent and generosity.

We have much to be pleased about as a community. I am grateful to all the volunteers who are the force behind everything we do. Your Board is actively working on ideas and plans to make volunteer projects more enjoyable, collaborative, and Jewishly meaningful.

I wish you and yours a happy February and look forward to seeing you soon,

Ruth Hartman
president@congshirami.org

Rabbis' Corner

Matt Dreffin
Suzy Stone

"I YHVH am your G-d, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage:

You shall have no other G-d's beside me. You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them."
(Exodus 22:2-5)

Each year, when we begin the book of Exodus anew, I am eager to study this foundational story of the Jewish people—from slavery and oppression to freedom and revelation. This year, however, in light of the conversation that was held on Friday, January 23rd, 2009 at Shir Ami's Interfaith Service, I am provoked by a new question: What does Judaism have to say about non-believers?!

In other words, is it okay for someone to not believe in God? If you are Jewish, are you "commanded" to believe in Adonai? What if you simply don't? Can you still be a committed Jew if your faith in God is sometimes questionable? Basically, does Judaism have a creed or a dogma that separates those who believe from those who do not?

In order to begin this investigation, it is helpful to look critically at the quote cited above from the book of Exodus, Chapter 20: Parashat Yitro.

For many, the statement above is often categorized as the first and second commandments of the "Ten Commandments." However, calling this section of the Torah a list of '*Commandments*' is somewhat a misnomer.

First, of all, the so-called "Ten Commandments" appear at least twice in the Torah—in Exodus 20:2-7 and again Duet. 5:6-21. While some scholars call these two sections the "ethical" Ten Commandments, there is another set of commandments (found in Ex. 34), which is called the Aseret Ha'Dvarim, which literally means the Ten "sayings," "utterances," or "words."

And this brings us back to the original question. What does it mean, then, that the first statement is: "I am the Lord Your God." Does that mean that we are *commanded* as Jews to believe in God, or is this simply a strong suggestion?!

According to Maimonides, this is statement is indeed a commandment. Furthermore, it is one of the most important commandments because without sound belief, there is no covenant between the Jewish people and God.

On the other hand, another famous medieval Spanish-Jewish philosopher known as Cresca argues that the first commandment is not a commandment at all. He argues that the very nature of a mitzvah is that fact that it can only apply to matters of free will choice.

Whether this first statement is a commandant or not, does not preclude the fact that no where in this statement does it say, "I am the Lord Your God...(And you shall believe in me)!" Many may argue that this part of the parenthetical should simply be inferred by a knowledgeable reader. However, according to the mode of rabbinic interpretation, there one could argue that if there are no superfluous words or statements in the Torah, that the opposite could be true as well. There are no oversights or silences that could be written off as something we should simply infer from logic. I think there is great significance in the fact that the Torah never says: "Thou shall *believe* that I am the Lord Your God."

At any rate, this is only the beginning of a very long and complex conversation about whether or not Judaism is a religion of “dogma” or not. My only hope is that this article will provoke others to think about this topic so that we can engage, challenge, and push one another to think about what beliefs we feel certain about, and what beliefs we are struggling about. While the story of the Exodus is certainly about a birth of a nation, it is also about the birth of a new set of beliefs that were often seen as countercultural and unpopular at that time in history.

With this, I would like to thank everyone who joined as at the Interfaith Service, as well as, the committee who made the event such a success. And to our guests:

*Reverand John Wichman, Westminster Hills Presbyterian Church
Qari Abdulwahid Moshref- Ali Islamic Center*

Suzy

Feedback: The Good and the Difficult

Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Los Angeles is the graduate school that our student rabbis attend. In the interests of helping our students learn and grow while at their student pulpits, the school has asked us to provide regular, written feedback to the students and their advisors. Diana Zankowsky (dzankowsky@aol.com) will collect and convey that feedback. Please communicate both positive and corrective feedback to Diana, no later than Tuesday after a rabbi's visit. Thank you in advance for contributing to our student rabbis' educations.



Feb. 1st Kindergarten to Confirmation

Feb. 6th – Friday night Children’s Service 6 p.m.

Feb. 8th Preschool to Confirmation

Feb. 15th and 22nd – No School

March 1st Kindergarten to Confirmation

March 6th - Friday night Purim service 7 p.m. Kindergarten through 4th grade participating

March 8th – Purim Carnival for All

Religious School Families,

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Rabbi Matt will be back on February 6th for our 2nd and final children’s service of the year. It will be fun to see what he comes up with to top the five senses Shabbat he led for our children in November. No pressure, Matt!

A reminder that there is a schedule change for Feb. 22nd: School will not be held to allow Rabbi Suzy as well as several of our teachers and myself to attend the fabulous Shir Ami women’s retreat.

Mark your calendars in March for the Purim weekend events. Friday, March 6th services will be child focused with Kindergarten through 4th grades participating. We will have an earlier than usual 7 p.m. start to make the service easier for kids to attend. March 8th during Religious School is our Purim Carnival. Barb Haber has kindly volunteered to coordinate this event, and I’m sure she would be happy for helpers.

With affection,
Jodi

Adult Education

Diana Zankowsky

In February, Congregation Shir Ami will continue to offer several different adult education classes and gatherings.

After Havdalah, Shir Ami is happy to present this month's Israeli movie, *Avanim* ("Stones"). Michal is a thirty year old woman who splits time between men in her life: her boss, her father, husband, son, and lover. One day, something tragic happens to one of these important men that will shatter her worldview. Her new situation will cause her to be at odds with all that she knew. This film is intended to give us insight into the gender roles that take place in Israel. This winner of several awards in 2004 and 2005, *Avanim* promises to enlighten and entertain. See you there on Saturday, February 7th at 7pm! Snacks and a group debriefing will follow.

I have given up on studying from Back to the Sources: Reading the Classic Jewish Texts, edited by Barry W. Holtz. Not because several people haven't tried, but because I made a bad choice of books! It is just too academic and too difficult. I am looking for suggestions for our time together for the second half of the year. So we will not have a class in February. Please email me, Diana Zankowsky, dzankowsky@aol.com, with your suggestions for a book to study together.



Judy Ganz continues to teach the weekly "Learning Hebrew through Prayer" class, for those who already have basic literacy skills. Please contact Judy at jbganz@aol.com if you are interested in joining.

Rabbinic Intern Suzy Stone will be on retreat with the women of Shir Ami during her monthly visit. Thus, there will not be an adult education class at Shir Ami on that Saturday.

Our on-going monthly class for adults interested in conversion to Judaism will continue to meet on Saturdays. Contact Diana Zankowsky, dzankowsky@aol.com, for more information or if you are interested in joining.

Sisterhood/Rosh Chodesh Group

Jan Dombrower



Sisterhood:

Last month Sisterhood participated in several events. First, Sisterhood was a major participant in the memorial for Zac Cohen. The committee of Harriet Skelly, Maryann Leshin, Rose Firestone, Jan Dombrower, and Lilly Erickson did a wonderful job of creating the set up for a lovely after service spread for all the friends and family of Zac Cohen. The group volunteered their time from the beginning to the clean up and were much appreciated. Diana Zankowsky did a wonderful job in facilitating the memorial service.

At our last Rosh Chodesh meeting we brought in and blessed the new month of Shevat. First, we had a reading and discussion on the features of the new month, which includes Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of song) Tu B'shvat, and the astrological sign of the month being the vessel of water. The program led by Diana Zankowsky and Sophie Miron was on one of the aspects of Kabbalah, A lively discussion followed and lots of information was imparted. Delicious sweets were then enjoyed. We were pleased to see new faces as well as many current members.

In the tradition of doing Mitzvahs for Sisterhood, we decided to dedicate a memory plaque at Shir Ami for our former Sisterhood member and dear friend Sheila Arthur who passed away last month. Sheila's son Alan also contacted Sisterhood to ask where Sheila's clothes might be donated. It was suggested that he look into Wardrobe for Opportunity or Dress for Success, both recommended by the Jewish Family Services. We also decided to make a contribution to Shir Ami in memory of Zac Cohen. For the holiday of Pesach, we discussed bringing baskets of food and treats to the Russian Immigrant families provided by the Jewish Family Service organization. A get well and thinking about you card was also sent to Sherrie Kidwell with our best wishes in her challenging time of her illness.

Next month, we will meet for Rosh Chodesh on Wednesday, Feb 25th at Shir Ami at 7:30. The theme will be Judaism and Games. Games have always been a part of the Jewish people's lives whether it be children's holiday games, board games, Maj jong, the Macabee sports games or the Olympics. In this tradition, this month we will be participating in game night hosted by Barbara Feinstein. Please come out and join us to express your playful and creative side. We will bring in the month of Adar, mingle, and enjoy refreshments.

Lisa Silver once again is in the musical production of Kiss Me Kate. Sisterhood could go as a group for a fun outing. Please check this website for dates and times if you are interested: <http://www.dmtonline.org/>. Stay tuned for the organization of this event.

The Tzedakah Box
A Social Action Column
Sara Lamnin
Daryl Berman

SHIR AMI SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY!

The Alameda County Community Food Bank congratulates the members of Congregation Shir Ami for collecting 290 pounds of food in its High Holy Days food drive! In all, the High Holy Days Food drive provided 20,550 meals for the children and adults facing hunger in our community.

Diana, Todd, Marlene, Sara, Daryl, and Julie join over 100 community members in downtown Hayward to honor Martin Luther King and walk for peace, January 19, 2009.



SHIR AMI BULLETIN BOARD



The 24th Jewish Music Festival, February 11

The 24th Jewish Music Festival presents Bukharan Jewish Folk Ensemble
"Hai, Nozanin" ["Hi, Beauty!"]

Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 7:30 pm
JCC East Bay: 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, CA 94709

\$18 General/ \$15 Seniors, Students, JCC members
Tickets: 1-800-838-3006 or www.brownpapertickets.com

A riveting blend of Central Asian, Sephardic and Arab styles, Bukharan Jewish music reflects a community with roots in Central Asia going back to the seventh century BCE. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear the leading proponents of an ancient musical tradition saturated with unique rhythms and entrancing tone colors. Info: (510) 848-0237, x 148
Co-Sponsored by Silk Road House and Afsaneh

JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT

Sunday, March 1st
Golden State Warriors vs. Utah Jazz

Opportunity for Special Savings

The Warriors invite you to take part in their fourth annual Jewish Heritage Night, as they take on the Utah Jazz at ORACLE Arena. Your ticket purchase includes:

- * A commemorative Jewish Heritage Night T-shirt
- * An invitation to a family-friendly tailgate party from 3:30-5:30pm featuring Jewish music, dancing, a Kosher Barbeque, raffle prizes and more!
- * Seating in the Jewish Heritage sections
- * And much, much more

Tickets for this event are now just \$30! Groups of 20 or more are eligible for further benefits! For more information, please contact Chris Murphy at 510-986-2214 or ctmurphyt@gs-warriors.com

Purchase your tickets today by clicking on the link below and following the instructions to purchase https://www.gs-warriors.com/forms/secure/fct_jewish_0809.html

The Community Page

February, 2009

Yahrzheits:

February 6, 2009

Paul Bergel, father of Marci Loss

Tessie Bressler, mother of Florrie Finkle

Shellie Cohen, active member of Shir Ami

Gene Gash, Shir Ami organist for many years

Melvin Johnson, husband of Frances Johnson, father of Delores Wesley

Syd Kramer, uncle of Jan Dombrower

Leon Meier, long-time member and one of the founders of Shir Ami

Chris Partridge, son of Ricki Weintraub (Baird), former member of Shir Ami

Rivka Rosenberg, grandmother of Alex Druker

Jacob Small, grandfather of Toni Schulberg

Rolf Weinberg, husband of Ingrid Weinberg; a charter member and mainstay of Shir Ami for many, many years

Kaddish List:

(those who have died during the past 11 months)

Bridget Laky, past president and long-time former member of Shir Ami

Zac Cohen, long-time member of Shir Ami

Sheila Arthur, long-time former member of Shir Ami

Lazarus Lewis, father of Peter Lewis

Betya Druker, mother of Alex Druker

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 yarhrzeit@congshirami.org



TODAH RABAH TO OUR ONEG HOSTS

For January 9th: Barb Haber

For January 23rd: Stan and Barbara Heimowitz



TODAH RABAH FOR THESE GENEROUS DONATIONS:

- From Henry Bennett: in Memory of Sheila Arthur.
- From Tyler Dean: In Memory of his father at his Yahrzeit.
- From Jan Dombrower: in Honor of Rose & Hillie Levine's 59th wedding anniversary, and in Memory of Sheila Arthur.
- From Ann & Sam Blank: in Memory of Sheila Arthur, in Memory of Zac Cohen, and in Memory of Bridget Laky.
- From Ann & Sam Blank: a donation to the Rolf Weinberg Fund for Education in Memory of Rolf Weinberg at his 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, her address is listed in our Shir Ami roster. If you do not have a roster, please write to president@congshirami.org to request one. Florrie will send a card to the person you are honoring and your dedication will appear on this page.



What's Nu?

In these hard times, it's nice to know that you can get boxes of Chanukah cards, dreidels, etc, for 10 cents at the Longs in the Greenhouse Shopping Center.

Mazel Tov to Debbie Heimowitz in her engagement to Jason Azicri. A 2010 wedding is being planned by Barbara and Stan Heimowitz!

Sad news from Ann Blank about the passing on January 10 of Bridget Laky, a past President of our Congregation. Bridget had been living in San Francisco. May her memory be a blessing.

From Spencer Blum: *Over Martin Luther King weekend there was a retreat at Camp Newman Swig called West Coast Party Jr. This was a retreat for sixth, seventh and eighth graders. Four kids from the temple went on this retreat: Adam Blum, Jacob Carmack, Emma Silver, and me, Spencer Blum. There we met 100 other Jewish teens from the west coast. The next day at Camp Newman we had a discussion about what is going on in the world and what changes we can make to it so we would have a better future and a better economy. While we were there we also played some sports like gaga, basket ball, and Frisbee. While we were there they also said that they were going to put in a 380 foot zip line. We all had a lot of fun and we hope that we will have the opportunity to do it again.*

Shir Ami Contacts

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Danielle Keil
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Tonia Schulberg
yahrzeits@congshirami.org

Donations:

General Funds, Special Funds,
Wall Plaques
Florrie Finkle
<mailto:donations@congshirami.org>

Would you like to honor or memorialize someone at Shir Ami? Are you celebrating a special occasion or life cycle event? Have a plaque added to the Memorial Wall.

Each 2" x 5" plaque will be engraved on satin finished brass, with 3-4 lines of information. You can add a plaque to our Memorial Wall for a donation of \$150.

Sample #1:

Tonia Schulberg
In Memory of my parents
Tyler & Georgie Brooke
1912-1997; 1914-2007

Sample #2:

IN HONOR OF
BROOKE PLEASANTON
BAT MITZVAH
MAY 22, 1990

Sample #3:

IN MEMORY OF
ZAC COHEN
1948 - 2009

Sample #4:

Ruth and Gary
In Honor of Our
20th Anniversary

Complete the form (Please print clearly) and send it, along with your check made out to Congregation Shir Ami, to Florrie Finkle (see roster or email president@congshirami.org for her address).

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

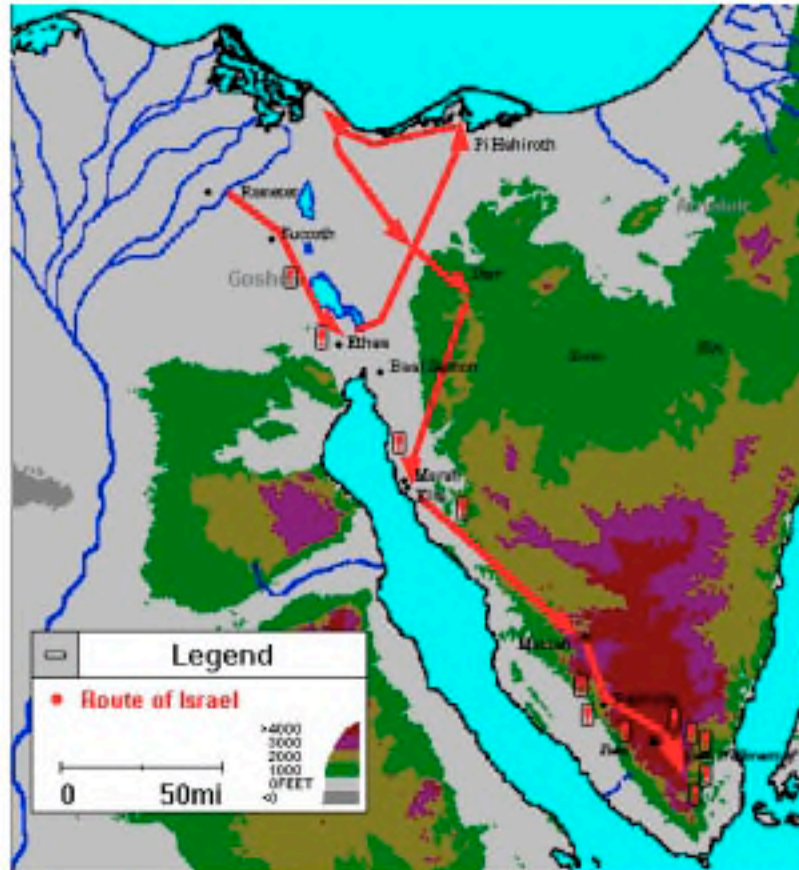
Line 3: _____

Line 4: _____

Your Name: _____

Your email or phone #: _____

Beshalach (when <he> let go)



Route of Israel across the Reed (Red) Sea

It came to pass when Pharaoh let the people go, that G-d did not lead them [by] way of the land of the Philistines for it was near war, because G-d said, lest the people reconsider when they see war and return into Egypt. So G-d led the people around [by] way of the desert [to] the Red Sea, and children of Israel were armed when they went up out of Egypt.

Kids' Shabbat 6:00 PM, Friday. Fenruary 6, 2009

Pot Luck 6:45 PM

Service 8:00 PM

Services led by Matt Dreffin

Please participate in Shir Ami's rotating food assignment

O to Z – Main dish

A to N -- Salad or side dish

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה ה' אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם
בוֹרֵא פְּרֵי הָעֵץ



Catered Tu B'Shevat Seder and Dinner

Sunday, February 8th at 5:00 PM

Adults \$15.00 Under 12 years old \$10.00

Non-members \$18.00

Services will be led by Matt Dreffin and Diana Zankowsky

Please RSVP by February 3 by check made payable to

Congregation Shir Ami and sent to:

Barbara Heimowitz @ Shir Ami,

4529 Malabar Ave., Castro Valley 94546

Friends welcome and encouraged

Subject: Job Planning Workshop

Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay

In these difficult economic times, JFCS/East Bay is working to offer a variety of services to support the community. Please see below for information about a FREE upcoming job planning seminar, presented in partnership with Jewish Vocational Service.

Smart Job Planning for Hard Times

Please join JFCS/East Bay and JVS for this important free workshop. The employment outlook may be bleak but there is much you can do to keep your career (and income) on track. This workshop will give you the positive outlook and hands-on tools (from filling employment gaps to refreshing your resume) you need to succeed in an unstable economy.

Co-sponsored by Beth Chaim Congregation, Congregation B'nai Shalom, Congregation B'nai Tikvah, and Temple Isaiah

Registration is requested.

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Place: JFCS/East Bay Contra Costa Office, 1855 Olympic Blvd., Suite 200, Walnut Creek

Coming Soon!

Job Search Support Group

This four-part workshop in our Berkeley office will offer techniques, resources, and the support necessary for a successful job search.

JVS Workshops

In the coming months, JFCS/East Bay and Jewish Vocational Services will co-sponsor additional workshops aimed at helping people with employment and career issues.

Further information about these programs will be released as details are finalized.

Jewish Family & Children's Services of the East Bay

Main Office
2484 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 210
Berkeley, CA 94704

(510) 704-7475

Suse Moyal Center
for Older Adult Services
828 San Pablo Ave., Suite 104
Albany, CA 94706
(510) 558-7800

Contra Costa Office (new site!)
1855 Olympic Blvd., Suite 200
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

(925) 927-2000

Family Justice Center
470 27th Street
Oakland CA 94612
(510) 704-7480, ext. 700

www.jfcs-eastbay.org

Temple Beth Sholom Film Festival

- \$8 is the suggested donation per evening/ double feature
- Refreshments available for purchase are to be
- Drinks, Popcorn, Yummy Sandwiches, Candy, & More!
- There will be FREE ONSITE CHILDCARE,

BUT!!! You must have advanced registration!

Please contact us in one of the three following methods:

- the office at 357-8505
- reply to this email, or
- send an email to: [childcare AT TBSSanLeandro DOT org](mailto:childcare@TBSSanLeandro.org)

You will receive confirmation via email.

And, here is the lineup for the Seventh Annual Donor Event of our JEWISH COMEDY FILM FESTIVAL 2009 Presented by Temple Beth Sholom 642 Dolores Ave, San Leandro, CA:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009

You Don't Mess with the Zohan, Adam Sandler, 6:30pm

Adam Sandler stars as Zohan, an Israeli counterterrorism soldier with a secretly fabulous ambition to become a Manhattan hairstylist. Zohan's desire runs so deep that he'll do anything – including faking his own death and going head to head with an Arab cab driver (Rob Schneider) - to make his dreams come true. (PG/UR) (14+)

Prop 8, The Musical, (YouTube Short)

The Bird Cage, Robin Williams, (1996), 7:45pm

Longtime lovers Armand Goldman (Robin Williams) and Albert Goldman (Nathan Lane) own a Miami drag club. When Armand's son announces his intent to marry Barbara (Calista Flockhart), the daughter of U.S. Senator (and vice president of the Committee for Moral Order) Kevin Keeley (Gene Hackman), Armand decides he has to fake a "normal" family. (R)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2009

Keeping the Faith, Ben Stiller, Jenna Elfman, (2000) 6:30pm

Despite differing faiths, the Rev. Brian Finn (Edward Norton) and Rabbi Jacob Schram (Ben Stiller) enjoy working together to spread "the word." But when Anna Riley (Jenna Elfman) enters the picture, it creates a love triangle that threatens to destroy the men's friendship as they jockey to win Anna's hand. (PG 13)

The Bands Visit, Bikur Ha-Tizmoret, (2007), 8:15pm

When an Egyptian police brass band travels to Israel to play at the opening of an Arab arts center, they wind up abandoned and lost in a remote desert town in this charming cross-cultural comedy. Defying expectations, the tiny Israeli community embraces the musicians, and both the Egyptians and the locals learn a few things about one another -- and themselves. (PG 13)

Kids Film Festival!

Sunday, February 8th, 10:00am

Zucker Hall

Film will be announced soon.

This film is Family Friendly & Kid Friendly. It is open to all Torah & Hebrew School kids, and the community! Come watch a great film on the big screen, munch on snacks & popcorn with your kids and have a great time!

QUESTIONS? Call 357-8505 or visit us at <http://TBSSanLeandroDOTorg/>

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

**Finding My Voice
Exploring My Values
Creating My Vision**

Friday, February 20 – Sunday, February 22, 2009

At the beautiful Sequoia Retreat Center
Ben Lomond, California

You are warmly invited to experience this weekend of
friendship, worship, creativity, inspiration, and play.
A great way to expand your Jewish women's connection.
Newcomers are *very* welcome.

Questions? Ruth Hartman: 510-582-3379 or ruth@wordcraft.com.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Congregation: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I enclose a check for \$275, OR

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

I need a ride.

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

Make check payable to **Ruth Hartman** and mail by **1/15/2009** to:
18850 Cull Canyon Road, Castro Valley, CA 94552

The Politics of Water: Is there a Water Crisis?



“Water - where we get it - how much water do we have in California - will the water crisis be one of the defining issues of California’s future?”

**This topic will be addressed at a Bagel and Lox Brunch
by Shir Ami Member**

**Gary Wolff, P.E., Ph.D.
Executive Director of StopWater.Org**

**Sunday, March 15th, 10:00 AM to 12 noon at Congregation Shir Ami
4529 Malabar Ave., Castro Valley**

**Cost: Complimentary, no charge, but please reserve with Stan Heimowitz
before March 11th at celebgems@aol.com**