



















# CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

May, 2010

May 2 	School	May 23 	School
May 2 2 PM	Mens Club - meet at Shir Ami; see flier for details	11:30 AM 	<b>School End of Year party and potluck Annual Members Meeting</b>
May 9 	No School	Jun 11 8 PM 	Shabbat Services led by Diana Zankowsky and Senior graduation blessings
May 12 7:30 PM 	Rosh Chodesh	Jun 14 TBD	Rosh Chodesh End of Year BBQ
May 14 8 PM	Shabbat Services led by Matt Dreffin	Jun 25 8 PM 	Shabbat Services led by Rachel Brott
May 15 10 AM 	Bar Mitzvah - Ryan Seideman	Jul 9 8 PM 	Shabbat Services led by Irene Gilchriese & Kaitlin Beckman
May 15 7 PM 	Havdalah and Movie Night led by Matt Dreffin	Jul 11	Sisterhood Field Trip TBD
May 16 	School	Jul 23 8 PM 	Shabbat Services led by Julie Greenfield & Rose Levine
May 21 8:00 PM 	Shabbat Services led by Suzy Stone and Diana Zankowsky; Shavuot & Confirmation	Aug 13 8 PM 	Shabbat Services led by Harriet Skelly & Rose Levine
May 22 2 PM 	Adult Ed led by Suzy Stone	Aug 15	Sisterhood Field Trip TBD
		Aug 27 8 PM 	Shabbat Services led by Diana Zankowsky

Congregation Shir Ami, 4529 Malabar Ave, Castro Valley CA 94546 - (510) 537-1787

[www.CongShirAmi.org](http://www.CongShirAmi.org) - [info@CongShirAmi.org](mailto:info@CongShirAmi.org)

Affiliated with the [Union for Reform Judaism](http://www.ura.org)

**President's Message**  
*Ruth Hartman*

As we head into the final months of our 2009-2010 year, I am proud of what we have achieved this year and looking forward to exciting events still to come. Highlights:

- **Building improvements:** We repaired and painted interior spaces, fixed electrical problems, and, most excellently, renovated both bathrooms! All thanks to your generosity.
- **Men's and Women's programs:** Our revived Men's Club is off to a great start with an enthusiastic core group and creative program ideas. At 2 pm on May 2, Jeff Blum will be revealing culinary secrets. And our Women's Rosh Chodesh group continues to be a wellspring of connection and leadership for our community.
- **Adult education:** Our two wonderful rabbinic interns brought us great riches this year. Rabbi Matt's Havdalah and Movie Night was popular and thought-provoking (final meeting, 5/15 at 7 pm). Rabbi Suzy's series on Life, Death, and the Afterlife was also well attended and fascinating (final meeting, 5/22 at 2 pm).
- **Hebrew and Religious School:** Under the leadership of Jodi Blum and Barb Haber, we had a very fun and inspired school year. Our Chanukah, Purim, and Passover celebrations were stellar. Jacob, Sarah, Kaitlin, and Ryan (May 15) became bnai mitzvah. We are making good progress on the combined school with Temple Beth Sholom and looking forward to exciting new programming for next year.
- **Teens:** Our teens continue to be leaders at Shir Ami, at Castro Valley High School Jewish Club and Days of Diversity, at Tri-Valley/Tri-Cities Midrasha, at BBYO, in the EDJY youth group, and at regional NFTY events. Two teens will be Confirmed on May 21, and we'll bless two new high school graduates on June 11. We are so proud of them all!
- **Technology:** We acquired a new projector and a new PA system with wireless microphone. All the better to see and hear each other when we're together.
- **Leadership:** We held our first annual Volunteer Appreciation Shabbat in April. Each of our wonderful volunteers is a community leader in his or her own way. Please join us for our Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, May 23 at 12:30 to vote on our 2010-11 Board Slate and review our finances for the coming year.

B'shalom,  
Ruth  
[president@congshirami.org](mailto:president@congshirami.org)

## School News

**May 2 Special Tzedakah Fair**

**May 9 No School – Happy Mothers Day**

**May 16 School**

**May 23 School – Final Day, End of Year Potluck and Awards**

Dear Shir Ami families,

How can it already be May? We only have three more weeks of Religious School and six more weeks of regular school. Then summer!

Camp Kadima still has openings for some sessions. Register at <http://campkadima.bethemek.org/index.shtml>. Financial Aid is available for families in need – so please do not fail to enroll for financial reasons!

### School meets:

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 2  | 10:00 for everyone Tzedakah Fair at the Golden Tee MiniGolf on CV Boulevard. See the flier in your email box for the details. \$10.00 per golfer (FINANCIAL AID available) |
| May 9  | <b>NO SCHOOL – HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY</b>  |
| May 16 | Regular School<br>9:15 Hebrew School<br>10:30 Religious School   |
| May 23 | FINAL DAY<br>9:15 Hebrew School<br>10:30 Religious School<br>11:30 All School Pot Luck/Awards<br>12:30 Annual Shir Ami Community Meeting                                   |

This year has gone by so fast. I must say that it has been a pleasure to see you and your children each time we had school. I have witnessed the growth of each student, both physically/intellectually and in their Jewish knowledge and identity.

There have been miracles a plenty this year. Three B’Nai Mitzvot celebrations and preparation begun for two next year. Confirmation of two High School Students who have stayed with Shir Ami as TA’s in the school and attending the occasional service – one often chanting Torah and the other lifting it. One of our Preschoolers bursting out in the Motzi prayer after a service to get the adults moving toward Oneg! Art, laughter and giggles have been everywhere accompanying the learning. We are indeed fortunate to have such a vibrant school community.

As you know, we will be joining the Shir Ami Religious School and the Temple Beth Sholom Religious School next year. This will be another great adventure for our teachers, families and students. I am confident that the Ruach (spirit) of Shir Ami Religious School will define the new school. All the Administrators and Teachers (and the Boards and Parents) are committed to making the combined school a success. It will take all of our efforts, maybe a little suspended

disbelief and lots of love, but this will be a great school, with plenty of students in each grade so no one will study alone, more Jewish friends, and creative curriculum to continue the education of your children. Rinat Manhoff is a gifted teacher and has already shown us her leadership as we have been planning. Parents are encouraged and welcome to participate in the school planning and the school. Parents will be needed to help coordinate car pools, oneg and for the special events, like the Chanukah Party, Purim carnival, Passover and Tu B' Shevat Seders and any number of other tasks. Please be as generous with your time and effort next year as you have been this year!

We say Goodbye to two of our teachers, Michelle Ross and Sophia Blum, off to College. What a hole in our community these two wonderful women will leave! We are fortunate to have two hugely capable and committed women coming up to fill their shoes, Hana Hartman and Shashana Markus. But soon they too will be off to College, so we need to keep developing our youth. I encourage you to fight all those early morning battles to keep your students coming to Religious School each week, and most importantly, beyond their B'Nai Mitzvah for Confirmation Class. Youth role models are what make Shir Ami Religious School so special. We know that there are so many competing activities for your precious 'free' time, please help make Shir Ami Religious School one of the priorities for your student.

We will be thanking the entire staff and recognizing our students at the pot luck on May 23, so please make a special effort to be there for this event.

I could not end this last column without recognizing Jodi Blum. She is the tireless force that has made our school for the past four years. While she would never characterize herself this way, Jodi is a Jewish Educator. You may never know how much she gives to each student at the school. It is a rare gift that we have in Jodi. We would not have a school without her love and care. It has been my pleasure to work with Jodi this year.

Thank you to all the students, parents and teachers for your love of the Shir Ami Religious School.

## Adult Education

In May 2010, Congregation Shir Ami will have several different adult education offerings.

**Introduction to Judaism:** We have expanded our on-going monthly class for adults interested in conversion. We are now welcoming any member of our community interested in learning more about Judaism. We will continue to meet on Saturdays. Our next meeting will be on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 1 pm to 3 pm. At this class, we will be discussing the holiday of Shavuot, the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai, the 10 Commandments and maybe even what is a mitzvah. Contact Diana Zankowsky, [dzankowsky@aol.com](mailto:dzankowsky@aol.com) for more information.

**“What does GOD have to do with it? Jewish Perspectives on Life, Death and the Afterlife”** Rabbi Suzy Stone’s last class will meet on May 22nd from 2pm to 4pm. We will be concluding our study of Jewish views on medical ethics at the end of life. Then we will revisit our personal theologies from the beginning of the year and see how they have evolved as we’ve studied together.

**Adult Hebrew:** 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](mailto:jbganz@aol.com) if you are interested in joining.



**Movies:** Saturday, May 15, Shir Ami's Israeli Movie night will be showing *A Matter of Size (Sippor Gadol)*. This film follows some of Israel's "heavier" citizens as they experience the hurt of a society that imposes pressures upon them to conform. By working at a Japanese restaurant, one of the main characters discovers the world of Sumo wrestling, a world where heavyset men like himself are honored. In the creation of an Israeli Sumo team, the characters simultaneously embark on a journey of self discovery and communal harmony. Nominated for 12 Israeli Academy Awards in the most recent ceremony (2009), this film promises to end the year with a bang. Havdalah will start promptly at 7pm with the film to start immediately afterwards. See you there!

# Rosh Chodesh Group

*Jan Dombrower*



## **Sisterhood:**

Last months Rosh Chodesh we met at the home of Judy Ganz. We blessed the new month of Iyar with readings, candle lighting, and prayer. Then, we learned about Israeli Independence Day, **Yom Ha'atzmaut**. We were taught the background and history which led up to the historical day: David Ben Gurion in Tel Aviv on May 14, 1948 (5 Iyar, 5708), made the declaration at the end of the British Mandate of Palestine. We learned of the immediate war that broke out the day after the United Nations declared Israel a State. Women in the group who witnessed the historical day recounted their emotional response and shared what that day was like for them and their families and communities.

We learned the translation of Hatikva **the National Anthem of Israel** and we all joined in to sing it. We said a blessing for the Omer, as it is now the time between Passover and Shavuot when this is done.

Delicious refreshments were served and everyone was wished a good month.

Thank you to all the sisterhood members who brought dinners to Rose Firestone to assist in her recovery from knee replacement surgery. She and Bill much appreciated it and was very grateful. It was a big help to them. We continue to wish Rose a speedy recovery.

Next month we will bring in the month of Sivan. Harriet Skelly and Ellen Gave will host the meeting on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 PM at Shir Ami. This is the month where we celebrate Shavuot. Come and find out why we eat dairy treats, why people study all night and why we read the Book of Ruth during this holiday. Dairy treats will be served. Look for a reminder in email as we get closer to the event. Hope to see you there.

## Community Page May 2010

The aunt of Emma and Sophia and sister-in-law of Lisa Silver, Deborah Silver, will be ordained as a Rabbi from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles in mid May, 2010. Deborah will be assuming the position of Assistant Rabbi at Adat Ari El, in Valley Village, California after her ordination. The Silver girls will be celebrating with "Aunty Deb" the weekend of May 15<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles. Mazel Tov!

Olivia Brackin played in the National Junior Basketball League end of season All-Star Tournament in Los Angeles over the weekend of April 9<sup>th</sup>. The fourth grade CV All-Star team won all three games played on Saturday against Flagstaff, Arizona, Capo/Dano and the Porterville Orange Stars. On Sunday they lost their first game to the Walnut Tsunamis, but came alive again to win their second and final game against the well-matched Porterville Orange Stars. In the end, they came away with third place trophies. It was a very proud moment. Congratulations to Olivia and her team!

We send our best wishes and prayers to Rose Firestone as she recuperates from knee replacement surgery. Heal well, Rose!

Congratulations to the Firestone family on David's engagement to Rachelle Birmingham.

Julie Greenfield participated in a five day Passover experience in the desert near Death Valley sponsored by Wilderness Torah.

### **Thanks to the following Oneg hostesses/hosts in April:**

April 2—Nate and Melanie Einbund

April 16—Ruth Hartman and family

April 23—Jan Dombrower and Sharon Golembo

### **Appreciation for the contributions received by our congregation this month:**

From **Lori and Scott Dreffin**, in appreciation for **Lisa Silver** hosting them for dinner on April 2.

From **Lori and Scott Dreffin**, to thank Congregation Shir Ami for welcoming them, and for the community's commitment to the rabbinic interns, especially Matt Dreffin.

From Judy Ganz, wishing Rose Firestone a speedy and complete recovery.

## **May 2010 Yahrzeit List**

### **May 14, 2010**

Morris Berman, father of Daryl Berman

Harriet Cohn, grandmother of Ruth Hartman

Arthur Kramer, father of Marion Kramer

Hyman Abraham Rebotsky, grandfather of Jonathan Zimmerman

Harold Small, uncle of Toni Schulberg, and former member of Shir Ami

Harriet Troy, mother of Nancy Storch

**May 21, 2010**

George Berenstein, father of Judy Ganz

Sarah Blank, mother of Sam Blank

Doris Greenfield, mother of Julie Greenfield

Robert Levinson, lay leader of Shir Ami for many years

**Kaddish List *(those who have died during the past 11 months)***

**{Please read at both services in May}**

Clara Schneider, mother of Marilyn Schneider, and grandmother of Irene, Sarah and Carolyn Gilchriese

Darlene Golembo, sister of Sharon Golembo

Ita Klebanova, mother of Sofiya Blank

Sharon Lawrence, aunt of Kaitlin and Matt Beckman (Barbara Haber's ex-sister-in-law)

Jack Farbstein, uncle of Ruth Rosenthal

Sarah Leona Markus, grandmother of Noah Markus

David Sapper, father of Danielle Keil

Alyce Nasatir, mother of Cary Nasatir

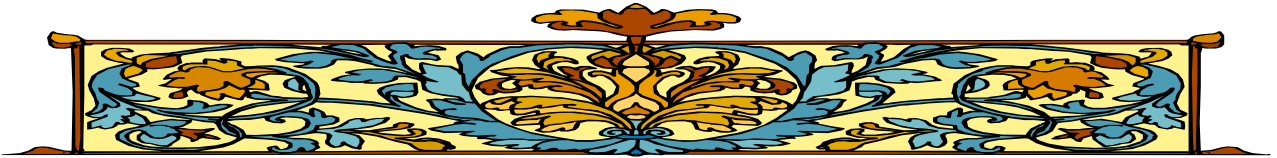
Jacob Ross, father of David Ross



**The Tzedakah Box**  
**A Social Action Column**  
**Daryl Berman, Julie Greenfield, Sara Lamnin**

**UNITED IN UNIQUENESS**

Recently, I heard a woman talk about growing up Afghani in an American school system. The schools she attended were tolerant of her need to be absent periodically, but had no insights into her culture's celebrations. The story sounded familiar. Most of my schooling was in California, where the words Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were equally foreign. In schools such as this woman and I experienced, being different meant simply explaining or just avoiding the topic as we chose. This year, in Mississippi, being different meant one young woman could not take her date to their prom. In Hayward, youth have had a safe place to dance, talk, gather resources, play games, eat, and enjoy a great prom for about 16 years. You can help to keep this annual event safe by volunteering to greet youth as they arrive, bringing welcoming signs, or sponsoring a ticket for a local youth. Visit [www.gayprom.org](http://www.gayprom.org) for details.



**Help your community by reducing greenhouse gas and providing food for those in need. Join the URBAN ORCHARD PROJECT!** Do you have a fruit tree that provides more than your family can eat? Would you like to share it with people in our community who need food for their families? Call (510) 782-3663. We will come to your home and harvest your fruit. We then share it with the hungry in our community. This free service is provided through the South Hayward Parish with the generous support of a grant from Stopwaste.org.



**Want change in your community, county, state...? Like things the way they are and want to make sure they stay that way? VOTE!** The June 8<sup>th</sup> election is right around the corner and absentee ballots are on their way to you. Not registered to vote? No problem. The last day to register is May 24<sup>th</sup>. Pick up a voter registration form at your local post office or library, or visit [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_vr.htm](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm)  
Want to learn more about local candidates? Many groups are hosting forums for Supervisor, Judicial, City, and other candidates and the propositions. Check the Tri City Voice for information, or contact Sara Lamnin for details.

# SHIR AMI BULLETIN BOARD



## **Casino Night '10**

*a fun-filled evening for those 21 and older*

You are invited to a very special, fun evening benefiting Tri-Valley/Tri-Cities Midrasha and Camp Kadima.

Join us – and bring your friends – for our biggest event of the year!

Featuring Blackjack, Texas Hold 'em, Craps and more!!!

Saturday, June 5th - 8:00 to 11:30 PM

Congregation Beth Emek Social Hall (3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton)

**To take advantage of early-bird pricing**, click on the link below:

<https://midrashatvte.wufoo.com/forms/casino-night-10-let-the-gaming-begin>

*Cocktail attire encouraged.*

For more information:

Karen Holtz

925-600-9130 or [kholtz@comcast.net](mailto:kholtz@comcast.net)

Sharon Cohen

925-367-5633 or [campkadima@bethemek.org](mailto:campkadima@bethemek.org)

## **Emergency Shortage of Used Cell Phones.**

Turn your cell phones into cash now. Please bring your used cell phones in to Shir Ami and Barbara Heimowitz will collect them and send them in for cash for Shir Ami.

## Shir Ami Contacts

### President:

Ruth Hartman  
[president@congshirami.org](mailto:president@congshirami.org)

### Membership:

Barbara Heimowitz  
Danielle Keil  
[membership@congshirami.org](mailto:membership@congshirami.org)

### School:

Jodi Blum  
Barb Haber  
[education@congshirami.org](mailto:education@congshirami.org)

### Religious:

David Schulberg  
Diana Zankowsky  
[religion@congshirami.org](mailto:religion@congshirami.org)

### Oneg Shabbat:

Sharon Golembo  
[oneg@congshirami.org](mailto:oneg@congshirami.org)

### Newsletter:

Harriet Skelly  
[editor@congshirami.org](mailto:editor@congshirami.org)

### Newsletter mailing:

Lily Erickson  
[editor@congshirami.org](mailto:editor@congshirami.org)

### eScrip:

Danielle Keil  
[escrip@congshirami.org](mailto:escrip@congshirami.org)

### Community Page:

Julie Greenfield  
[community@congshirami.org](mailto:community@congshirami.org)

### Dues:

Toni Schulberg  
[treasurer@congshirami.org](mailto:treasurer@congshirami.org)

### Invoices/Payables:

Maryann Leshin  
[treasurer@congshirami.org](mailto:treasurer@congshirami.org)

### Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood:

Jan Dombrower  
[sisterhood@congshirami.org](mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org)

### Social Action:

Daryl Berman  
Julie Greenfield  
Sara Lamnin  
[socialaction@congshirami.org](mailto:socialaction@congshirami.org)

### Yahrzeit Listings:

Tonia Schulberg  
[yahrzeits@congshirami.org](mailto:yahrzeits@congshirami.org)

### Donations:

General Funds, Special Funds,  
Wall Plaques  
Florrie Finkle  
[donations@congshirami.org](mailto:donations@congshirami.org)

**Slate**  
**Congregation Shir Ami 2010-2011 Board**  
**To be voted at the Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 12:30 PM at Shir Ami**

President	Harriet Skelly
First Vice President	Jon Zimmerman
Secretary	Bonnie Frey
Treasurer, Receivables	Barbara Haber
Treasurer, Payables	Maryann Leshin
Membership Chair	Barbara Heimowitz
Religious Committee Co-Chair	David Schulberg
Religious Committee Co-Chair/ Trustee	Diana Zankowsky
Trustee	Ruth Hartman
Trustee	Toni Schulberg
School Liaison	Jodi Blum
Building & Grounds Chair	Noah Markus
Member At Large	Peter Lewis
Member At Large	Milton Palmer



Shir Ami Men's Club  
*presents*

# Cooking Class & Yard Fun *with Jeff Blum*



**Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**2:00 pm @ Shir Ami**

Men, come join us for a relaxing afternoon as Jeff Blum instructs our group in the culinary arts. Menu items include BBQ'd pot roast, couscous, and fresh fruit pie.



**RSVP to Jon  
Zimmerman  
zimbobaby@  
hotmail.com,  
510-220-3345**



## **Paresha BaMidbar (in the desert)**

In the Desert of Sinai Moses was commanded to take a census of the Congregation of Israel that had left Egypt and which was to include every male, 20 years of age and older, by their names and families, able to wage war in Israel.



**Shir Ami Services**  
**Friday, May 14 at 8:00 PM**  
**Led by Matt Dreffin**

**Bring a friend, all are welcome**

## **Paresha Naso** (take a census)

Moses is commanded to take a second census after fleeing Egypt – this time of the sons of Gershon who will be charged with the task of adorning the *Mishkan* (Tabernacle) and the desert tent harboring it.



**Shir Ami Services and Student Confirmation**  
**Friday May 21 at 8:00 PM**  
**Led by Suzy Stone**

**Come with a friend!**

**WE NEED YOU AT SHIR AMI!**



## **End of Year**

**Sunday, May 23rd, 2010**

**Potluck, School Recognition and Annual General Membership Meeting**

**11:30 AM Pot Luck and End of School Party**

**Recognition of School Staff and Students**

**All members are invited**

**12:30 PM Annual Membership Meeting**

**Vote for 2010-2011 Board**

**Discussion of Dues information**

### **POT LUCK ASSIGNMENTS**

**Please cooperate with Shir Ami's rotating food assignment**

**A-L Main Dish**

**M-Z Side dish/Salads/Desserts**

**A-Z Clean up**