



# CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

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Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley is an intimate, inclusive, intergenerational Reform Jewish Community that welcomes interfaith families  
Affiliated with the [Union for Reform Judaism](#)

## AUGUST 2010 NEWSLETTER (AV~ELUL 5770)

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### EVENT CALENDAR

Day	Date, Time	Event	Location
Fri.	Aug. 13, 8 pm	Shabbat Service led by Harriet Skelly and Rose Levine	Shir Ami
Sat.	Aug. 14, 1 pm	Adult Ed. led by Diana Zankowsky	Shir Ami
Sun.	Aug. 15, 6 pm	Rosh Chodesh event: <i>Broadway Bound</i>	Chanticleers Theatre
Thur.	Aug. 19, 7 pm	Board Meeting (open to all members)	Shir Ami
Sat.	Aug. 21, 8 pm	Movie Night: Havdallah and a Movie	Shir Ami
Sun.	Aug. 22, 12 noon	Clean-Up Day	Shir Ami
Fri.	Aug. 27, 8 pm	Shabbat Service led by Diana Zankowsky Meet the new Rabbinic Interns	Shir Ami
Sat.	Aug. 28, 10 am	Religious Committee Meeting	Schulberg Home
Mon.	Sept. 6, 2 pm	Shir Ami Labor Day Barbeque	Shir Ami
Wed.	Sept. 8, 8 pm	Rosh Hashanah Evening Service	Shir Ami
Thur.	Sept. 9, 10 am	Rosh Hashanah Morning Service	Shir Ami
Sat/Su	Sept. 11 & 12	Castro Valley Fall Festival	C.V. Blvd.
Sun.	Sept. 12, 9:30 am	First Day of Religious School	Shir Ami
Thur.	Sept. 16, 7 pm	Board Meeting (open to all members)	Shir Ami
Fri.	Sept. 17, 8 pm	Kol Nidre Service	Shir Ami
Sat.	Sept. 18, 10 am	Yom Kippur Service	Shir Ami

#### Shir Ami Newsletter Notes

- The Event Calendar remains on page 1 and now includes event location and day of the week.
- Links have been added for easier navigation. Blue text that is underlined is a link.

We hope it is easier for you to access information about Shir Ami. Your questions, comments and corrections are welcome. Contact Rose Firestone, [Newsletter Editor](#).

### Heads Up!

- The new year, 5771, begins next month– help Shir Ami get ready by volunteering at **Clean-Up Day**, August 22
- **Meet the new Rabbinic Interns** at Shabbat Services on August 27
- Shir Ami's **Labor Day BBQ** is September 6
- **Rosh Hashanah** begins the evening of September 8– mark your calendar!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends,

I am honored and excited to be President of the Shir Ami community this coming year. I gave this decision a lot of thought before I decided to put my name on the slate. I was hesitant at first for several reasons. I don't consider myself to be religious, I have confessed that I really don't know how to pray and I don't know as much about Reform Judaism as I think I should. So how could I be a President that would move our Shir Ami community forward? What can I bring to the table?

Well, first and foremost I bring my love of our Shir Ami community. Bruce, Lexi and I have been members for 11 years and Shir Ami has become a big part of my life. I have found loving support here and Bruce and I have made some very special and close Shir Ami friends. So the future of Shir Ami is very important to me.

Secondly I bring 30 years of management experience from the secular world. As President I am not the spiritual leader, I am not the educator and I don't have all the answers. But I do have the skills to help identify and resolve issues, prioritize needs and keep us on track with meeting agreed upon goals. I have learned from experience that it works best to focus on only one or two attainable goals at a time.

So what are the top goals I want to focus on for Shir Ami? First, I want us to retain our current membership and to generate growth, and next, connected to that, I want to ensure that we continue to be a welcoming and inclusive Jewish community. Hopefully these goals are important to you as well. I'd love to hear your ideas

about ways we can work together to achieve them.

We are off to a good start with retaining our current members by merging our Religious and Hebrew school with Temple Beth Sholom's



school. This will meet the need to have viable class sizes and peer groups for our families with school aged children. Be watching the School News column in the monthly newsletter for more information. A few of our members have attended URJ sponsored outreach seminars and webinars to learn about what we can do to grow our community and to become more diverse and inclusive. We will be sharing this information with you in the coming months so that we can all work on this together.

As I said, I am excited about this coming year at Shir Ami. As your President I want to hear from each of you what is working well, what is not working well and what your passions are for Shir Ami. I look forward to seeing you at our annual Labor Day BBQ on September 6 followed by Rosh Hashanah just two days later!

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

## RABBINIC INTERNS' PAGE

### Shir Ami Welcomes Rabbinic Interns **Lara Pullan Regev and Andrew Terkel**



**Meet the new Rabbinic Interns at Shabbat Services on Friday, August 27, 8 pm.  
Rabbi Lara and Rabbi Andrew will be attending services led by Diana Zankowsky.**

#### **Lara Pullan Regev**     [Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org](mailto:Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org)

My name is Lara Pullan Regev, and I will be serving as one of your two student Rabbis for the next year! I am so excited for this opportunity, and cannot wait to meet you and the rest of the community at Congregation Shir Ami, and to spend the year learning, praying, and growing together with all of you.

A little bit about me: I was born and raised in Los Angeles, except for a short 4-year stint in Palo Alto in my middle-school years. I grew up attending different Jewish resident camps almost every summer, and spent the last 8 summers on staff at the Union for Reform Judaism's Camp Newman

in Santa Rosa. I play guitar and piano, and have been songleading in various Jewish organizations, including synagogues, camps and youth groups since I was a teenager in NFTY. Prior to arriving in Jerusalem to begin the HUC Rabbinical program, my husband Yoni and I lived for three years in Cleveland, where I worked as the NFTY-Michigan Regional Advisor. Yoni is also a first-year Rabbinical student at HUC, and he and I will be returning to Los Angeles for the remainder of our years of learning at HUC, after spending this upcoming summer at URJ Kutz Camp in Warwick, NY, where I will be serving as one of their three head songleaders.

#### **Andrew Terkel**     [Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org](mailto:Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org)

Andrew Terkel: I was born and raised in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and my family was active in the Reform congregation in Tulsa. I went to the URJ Greene Family Camp in central Texas, and was active in the NFTY youth movement as a songleader and regional board member for two years. After high school I went to the University of Kansas where I studied political science and was involved with KU Hillel. I led the Reform minyan at Hillel, as well as sang in the Jewish a capella choir. After college I

worked at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, in Jackson, Mississippi and Austin, Texas. My job was to be a traveling Jewish educator for small communities in the South, and I loved the job and the travel. That job led me to applying to HUC, and I have just finished my first year in Jerusalem. I play guitar and songlead, and love Jewish music. Lara and I are looking forward to bringing some of the Israeli tunes that we have learned back to the States.

## EVENT: CLEAN-UP DAY

# Congregation Clean-up



Shir Ami needs your help to be clean and green for the High Holy Days!



**Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Starting at 12:00 Noon**  
**at Shir Ami**

Come spend an enjoyable afternoon helping to clean-up and take care of our synagogue. Snacks and beverages provided by the Men's Club.



Please bring along work gloves, rakes, shovels, clippers... anything useful for garden and indoor clean-up. Most importantly, bring along yourself!

Questions? E-mail Jon Zimmerman  
([zimbobaby@hotmail.com](mailto:zimbobaby@hotmail.com))

## EVENT: LABOR DAY BBQ

# LABOR DAY BBQ

**Save the Date! Labor Day BBQ and Raffle  
Monday, September 6, 2:00-5:00 p.m.**

**Adults \$15; Children, ages 12 and under, \$6  
(If prepaid by September 1, Adults are \$12, Children are \$5)**

**New Prospective Members - No Charge**

**An EVITE will be sent soon.**

**If you have a high-quality item to donate to our raffle, or can provide a service such as homemade challah, a homemade baked good, babysitting or any other service, please contact Barbara Heimowitz.**



**Donations that have already been received:**

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria  
Lark Creek Walnut Creek  
La Mediterranee- Berkeley  
Golden Spoon  
Panera Bread  
Charles Schulz Museum  
American Swim Academy  
Winchester Mystery House  
Beach Blanket Babylon  
Children's Discovery Museum  
Asian Art Museum  
Blackhawk Museum

C.V. Bowl  
Berkeley Iron Works  
Wax Museum  
Oakland Zoo  
Punchline Comedy Club  
Boomers  
Children's Fairyland  
Cheese Steak Shop  
I Fly SF Bay  
San Jose Repertory Theater  
Contemporary Jewish Museum in SF  
Theater Works in Palo Alto  
Lawrence Hall of Science  
Handmade Greeting Cards by Harriet Skelly

## HIGH HOLIDAYS: SCHEDULE

### High Holidays at Shir Ami, 2010, 5770-5771



### Rosh Hashanah

**Wednesday, September 8, Evening Service.....8:00 PM**  
**Thursday, September 9, Morning Service.....10:00 AM**  
**Children's Service, September 9.....2:00 PM**  
**Tashlich.....3:30 PM**

### Yom Kippur

**Friday, September 17, Kol Nidre Service.....8:00 PM**  
**Saturday, September 18, Morning Service.....10:00 AM**  
**Children's Service, September 18.....1:30 PM**  
**\*\*Study of the Story of Jonah.....1:15~1:30 PM**  
**Discussion in the garden, September 18.....2:00 PM**  
**Yizkor and Concluding Service, September 18.....3:30 PM**  
**Break the Fast.....5:30 PM**

# HIGH HOLIDAYS: TICKETS & MEMORIALS

*Congregation Shir Ami*

4529 Malabar Avenue Castro Valley, CA 94546

[www.congshirami.org](http://www.congshirami.org)

August 1, 2010

Dear Friends:

You are undoubtedly aware of our upcoming High Holyday Services on September 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> and September 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. This year, we look forward to welcoming our two new student Rabbis from Hebrew Union College: Lara Pullan Regev and Andrew Terkel, both 2<sup>nd</sup> year students. In addition, we are very pleased to once again have Rachel Brott as our Cantorial Soloist. We are looking forward to beautiful High Holyday services. We know that you will enjoy our program with even more surprises from some younger members.

This year's High Holyday ticket prices will be the same as last year. If you have any guests, 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. Once again we ask you for a Memorial Contribution. Please return the stub below to my address as soon as possible, for *tickets* (non-members only) and *memorials*. The names of the departed will be read at the Yom Kippur Memorial (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*  
Co-Religious Committee Chair  
(510) 276-6100

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

Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$\_\_\_\_\_ for

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my Memorial Contribution for \$\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print Clearly)

## SCHOOL NOTES

I hope this issue of the Shir Ami bulletin finds all of you in a summery relaxed state of being.

Plans for the upcoming religious school year are underway, and our new director for the combined schools, Rinat Manhoff, has already held a planning meeting with next year's teaching staff. Many of our Shir Ami staff members will be returning and your children will be welcomed back in the fall by some familiar faces as well as some enthusiastic and dedicated new teachers.

The biggest change that will happen as the schools combine is that the meeting time and day for Hebrew class is going to be different. Combining the schools allows us to strengthen our Hebrew program by providing the opportunity for class to meet for two hours on Tuesday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Religious school will meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. All of us involved with planning for the school want to make this transition to the new schedule as supportive as possible.

Please let me know your thoughts about what will be most helpful for your family.

**First Day of Religious School:  
Sunday, September 12**

**First Day of Hebrew School:  
Tuesday, September 14**

The first day of school will be Religious School scheduled for Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at Shir Ami for both

Hebrew and Religious School for the first quarter of the year. A complete schedule, as well as registration materials, will be forthcoming. With the addition of the Beth Sholom staff to our Religious School team we will be able to meet a few more weekends per year than we have been able to manage in previous years. This represents an additional boost to the program.

I realize that change can be difficult, but it can also be exciting. I am confident that our Religious School community will support each other through these changes to build a program which continues to be a wonderful source of Jewish identity and learning for our students. I know that as my daughter, Sophia, prepares to leave for college, she is a stronger and more balanced young woman because of her association with Congregation Shir Ami. It is the benefit I've seen this program provide for my family that motivated me to take on leadership responsibilities with the Religious School. These steps for change will help ensure continuity of this valuable program into the future.

Once again, please feel free to contact me with any and all concerns or comments that you have.

I can be reached by email at [ianjblum@comcast.net](mailto:ianjblum@comcast.net) or by phone at 510 881-5672.

With love and care,  
Jodi



## ADULT ED

Even in the heart of the summer, Congregation Shir Ami continues to have several different adult education offerings.

### **Introduction to Judaism**

**Saturday, August 14, 1 to 3 pm**

***Preparing for the High Holidays***

This ongoing class meets monthly. Any member of our community interested in learning more about Judaism is welcome.

The class was originally designed for adults interested in conversion, but was expanded to include all congregants when Jewish members expressed that they, too, would like to learn more about Judaism. The class is led by Diana Zankowsky. Contact Diana for more information, [dzankowsky@aol.com](mailto:dzankowsky@aol.com)

### **Adult Hebrew**

***Learning Hebrew through Prayer***

**Mondays, 7:30-9 pm.**

This weekly class is taught by Judy Ganz. If you have basic Hebrew literacy skills and you are interested in joining, please contact Judy at [jbganz@aol.com](mailto:jbganz@aol.com).



### **Movie Night**

**Saturday, August 21, 8:00 pm**

We will continue the tradition established by Rabbi Matt Dreffin– Havdallah and Movie Night. Havdallah will be at 8pm and the movie will begin shortly thereafter.

In an attempt to have a truly comedic offering for summer, we will be showing *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, starring Alan Alda, Anjelica Huston, Diane Keaton and Woody Allen; written and directed by Woody Allen.

A really brief summary: a bored Manhattan housewife becomes convinced that her next-door neighbor has committed a murder.

See you there!

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### **CASTRO VALLEY FALL FESTIVAL**

Congregation Shir Ami will once again have a booth this year at the Castro Valley Fall Festival. The Festival is September 11 and 12, and Ruth Hartman will be organizing staffing for our booth. Please save the date and watch for an email about taking a 2-hour shift at the booth, or email Ruth directly.

Thank you!

## ROSH CHODESH/ SISTERHOOD

**Calendar: Sunday August 15th, 6:00 p.m.**  
*Broadway Bound* by Neil Simon at the Chanticleers Theatre, Castro Valley. Details below.

In June, sisterhood held our end-of-year barbecue at Deerview Park in Castro Valley. We ate kosher hot dogs and a variety of delicious side dishes. One of the highlights as we welcomed the month of Tammuz was when we spotted the sliver of the new moon (see picture below).



Sisterhood celebrates each Rosh Chodesh (new moon, new month) with a different activity. We were impressed as we reviewed the past year and recalled the variety of activities we enjoyed. We met under the Suckah to start the year. Then, at Aran's Paint and Glaze Shop, we created a beautiful fused glass Menorah that we dedicated to the Synagogue.

For Hanukkah, we enjoyed latkas, gift exchange and candle lighting. This was followed by Jewish Jeopardy and game night. For Shushan, we made masks, Hammantashan, and had a wonderful Persian feast.

Our annual women's retreat, "Delight in Your Soul" was held at a new retreat site in Alamo and was, indeed delightful.

For Pesach we made fresh flower arrangements and sampled delicious "kosher for Passover" desserts. We celebrated and learned about Israeli Independence Day and enjoyed Golden Spoon Frozen yogurt and cheese cake for Shavous.

A summer field trip to the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco was enjoyed in combination with the adult Hebrew class. We saw the *As It Is Written* exhibit with the resident scribe, Julie Seltzer. She is a soferet (a professionally trained female scribe) who is writing the entire text of the Torah, at the Museum, over the course of a year. She will be one of the few known women to complete an entire Torah scroll, an accomplishment traditionally exclusive to men.

We toured a few more exhibits, including *Reinventing Ritual and Being Jewish*. Afterward, we browsed in the Museum gift shop and enjoyed a bite in the museum cafe. Some also went across the street to enjoy the Jewish Music Festival. It was a great day.

### August field trip:

Please join us to see *Broadway Bound* by Neil Simon, Sunday, August 15 at 6:00 pm at the Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546 Family members and friends (10 yrs and up) are welcome.

"The best play of the 1980's" is about a family's dreams: Grandpa, Mom, Dad and their two Broadway-bound sons.

Chanticleers Theatre Prices:

Senior, \$16.99 (w/service fee)

General, \$19.99 (w/service fee)

Info Line 510-733-5483

Web site <http://www.chanticleers.org/>

Please purchase your own tickets, but RSVP to [Jandom@comcast.net](mailto:Jandom@comcast.net) for a count. We may go to an early dinner before the show. Please get your tickets asap. The show opened July 23.

## TZEDAKAH BOX (SOCIAL ACTION)

### TZEDAKAH BOX

*Social Action News and Opportunities*

*You shall not see, and ignore -  
The plain meaning here is that you shall not notice only in order to ignore.  
- Rabbi Rashi on Deuteronomy 22:1*

### TAKE ACTION

Employees at the Castlewood Country Club have been unionized for over 30 years. In September of 2009, these servers, event staff, cooks, and janitors began their contract negotiations in good faith. Castlewood expected to raise the employee cost for healthcare benefits from \$0 to \$739 per month. Average hourly wage for Castlewood workers is \$12.50 per hour. Workers countered with an offer of \$225 per month. Castlewood broke off negotiations and locked out the workers. The 61 workers have been locked out of the jobs they've held for 2-20 years for 5 months now.

Make your dollars speak for you. If you want to promote fair working conditions, learn about a company before you reserve their site for event, utilize their services, or purchase their products. Your choices can make a world of difference.

If you would like more information about the lockout at Castlewood, please visit [www.endthelockout.org](http://www.endthelockout.org)

### OATMEAL AND PEANUT BUTTER AND PASTA,



### OH MY!

No, this list is not the recipe for the oddest cookie contest. Rather it is a call for help.

The South Hayward Parish (of which Shir Ami is a member congregation) and Alameda County Food Bank are in need of food. Summer is the loneliest time on the food pantry shelves and nary a box of oatmeal is to be found.

Please bring oatmeal, cereal, peanut butter, and pasta to the South Hayward Parish Food Pantry at 27287 Patrick Avenue, Hayward CA 94544, or Shir Ami, or use a Food Bank Drop barrel in your local grocery store or other location. You can also call (510) 785-FOOD for a pick up.

If you prefer not to shop or cannot find those ever-so-useful "Buy one, get one free offers", please consider a monetary donation. Food banks work with wholesalers to get the best prices, so your money goes even further. You can send a check to South Hayward Parish, 27287 Patrick Ave., Hayward, CA 94544 or visit [www.accfb.org](http://www.accfb.org)

**TZEDAKAH BOX continued on next page**

## Tzedakah Box, Continued

### NO ROOM FOR RACISM

Join concerned community members in a weekly opportunity to be a presence for tolerance at the No Room for Racism Vigil. Hayward made a pledge to be a safe place for individuals of all backgrounds and is one of the most diverse places in the nation. Help remind local residents of this commitment to avoid persecution based on race, religion, age, or any other characteristic. Simply come to stand or sit (bring your own chair) at the five flags intersection in Downtown Hayward (Intersection of Foothill, Mission, and Jackson – Parking on E Street) every Friday from 5pm-6pm. Signs provided.



One hour of your time can make a positive impact. Join in.

### PRESCRIPTION FOR FAILURE

Roger is a 10 year resident of Hayward. While he has always been sober, he has not been able to maintain housing long term. Now working with vocational services to get more stability, he is still on the street and has developed an infection. When he sought medical services, they gave him a paper prescription for medication. Without an income or transportation, this piece of paper was unable to cure his infection. When he sought further medical treatment, feeling worse after a few weeks, the second paper prescription netted the same results.



The Hayward Community Action Network (CAN) brings together individuals who are homeless, faith communities, businesses, and social and government services to develop sustainable solutions. CAN facilitates connection to services, food, clothing, and basic needs resources through information and referrals, advocacy, direct service, and coalition building. Through a donation to CAN, Roger was able to fill his prescription and is back on track with his vocational program. Other individuals have been able to reach Highland Hospital through donated BART Tickets or to apply for work with an AC Transit ticket or phone card. Donations to CAN are tax-deductible, though our parent organization, South Hayward Parish (see address above). Small donations for Walgreens or CVS gift cards, Public Transportation Tickets, or Phone Cards (Tracfone or similar) can help individuals to take an active role in their own success.

Please consider a donation to Hayward CAN to help with these interim steps to self-sufficiency. For more information, visit <http://haywardcan.weebly.com> or call (510) 432-7703.

## COMMUNITY PAGE

### Chuppah News!

Mazel Tov to **Debbie Heimowitz and Jason Azicri** their marriage, and to the proud parents, **Stan and Barbara Heimowitz!** Debbie and Jason celebrated their wedding at a gala affair in Danville, followed by a second wedding reception in Miami. They then left for their honeymoon in St. Lucia.



Meanwhile, parents Stan and Barbara vacationed on a Caribbean cruise. Barbara retired in June from a career of 30 years of teaching, and will now work full-time for the

Heimowitz' party-planning and entertainment business, Celebrity Gems. Congratulations to the whole family!!!

The Levine family is likewise celebrating some momentous events—**Hillie and Rose's** grandson, **Joshua**, married in July in a lovely ceremony overlooking the ocean in Aptos. The family is also looking forward to the bridegroom's sister's marriage in September!



Joshua Levine with Hillie's and Rose's new Granddaughter in law Kathleen Norris Levine

**Nancy Storch** announced the engagement of her son, **Isaac**, to his long-time girlfriend **Natalia**. Nancy is also looking forward to the visit of her grandson, **Jonah**, who will go camping with his grandma!

**Get well wishes** to several Shir Ami members who underwent surgical procedures during the past two months, large and small: **David Schulberg, Spencer Blum, Aliya Finlay, and Hana Hartman.** May you have complete and speedy recoveries!

**The Zankowsky family**, including extended family ventured into the wilderness of Alaska, on both ocean and land cruises. They experienced a baseball game during the Solar Equinox, which went on until 2 AM, in daylight!

**Fred Zankowsky** recently completed 15 years with the **Team in Training**, benefitting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, with a bicycle ride from Seattle to Portland. Way to go, Fred. Likewise, son **David** completed the awesome **Iron Man Death Ride** in the Sierras (123 miles, 5 passes, 15,000 feet of climbing) on his first attempt! Congratulations to you both!

Congratulations to **Rose Firestone** on her retirement from the Hayward Unified School District, after 21 years of teaching!

**Hana Hartman and Carolyn Gilchriese** spent 13 days traveling in Italy and Greece, on a school-sponsored art study trip, and had an awesome time!

**Brooke Pleasanton**, daughter of **Toni and David Schulberg**, graduated from Samuel Merritt School of Nursing, and is now gainfully employed in the Emergency Department at San Francisco General Hospital. Mazel Tov, Brooke!

(continued, next page)

## COMMUNITY PAGE, CONTINUED

Several Shir Ami young people had the opportunity to work at or attend a Jewish camp this summer, including: **Sophia Blum, Matt Beckman, and Shashana Markus**, who were counselors-- Sophia at Camp Newman, and Matt and Shashana at Camp Kadima; **Spencer Blum, Adam Blum, Emma Silver, and Sophia Silver**, who were campers at Camp Newman; and **Olivia Brackin and Sarah Keil**, who were campers at Camp Tawonga! We look forward to hearing their camp stories and songs!

**Thanks to the following members for providing oneg following services in the past two months:**

6/11= Ruth Hartman  
6/25= Rachel Brott  
7/9= Marilyn Schneider and the Gilchriese Family  
7/23= Nancy Storch

**Todah Rabah to the following members and supporters for their generous donations to Shir Ami:**

- **Cary Nasatir** in memory of **Bernard Nasatir** on the occasion of his yahrzeit
- **Muriel Small** in memory of **Harold Small**, on the occasion of his yahrzeit
- **Johnathan Zimmerman and Sara Lamnin** in memory of **Hyman Robotsky**
- **Nancy Storch** in memory of her mother, **H. Troy**
- **David Ross** in memory of **Jacob (Jack) Ross**
- **Ruth Hartman**, in honor of **Barbara Heimowitz**'s retirement and **Debbie and Jason**'s wedding
- **Marla and Leland Ball** in memory of their fathers on Father's Day—**Matt Ganz** and **Green Ball**; also in memory of Leland's mother, **Mary Ball**, on Mother's Day

- **Ann and Sam Blank** in memory of **Verla Becker**, a former active member and friend of Shir Ami
- **Ann and Sam Blank**, wishing Mazel Tov to **Barbara and Stan Heimowitz** on the recent marriage of their daughter, **Debbie**; Mazel Tov to **Rose and Hillie Levine** on the marriage of their grandson, **Joshua**; Mazel Tov to **Elaine and Gary Woodruff** of Roseville, CA on the recent marriage of their daughter; and in remembrance of former member **Isa "Elsie" Blum**, who passed away in June at the age of 101
- **Barbara and Stan Heimowitz** in honor of her father, **Hans Schwartzenberger**, in honor of **Debbie and Jason**'s marriage, and Barbara and Stan's 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

## Yahrzeit List

### August 13, 2010

Blanche Rose Berman,	mother of Daryl Berman
Ben Blank,	father of Sam Blank
Barnett Levine,	father of Hillel Levine
Betty Meininger,	mother of Ingrid Weinberg

### August 27, 2010

Shaiva Berenstein,	mother of Judy Ganz
Martin Brody,	grandfather of Noah Markus
Georgie Brooke,	mother of Toni Schulberg
Maurice Finkle,	husband of Florence Finkle, & former Shir Ami president
Joan Wolff,	mother of Gary Wolff

### Kaddish List (those who have died during the past 11 months) {Please read at both services in August}

Clara Schneider,	mother of Marilyn Schneider, & grandmother of Irene, Sarah and Carolyn Gilchriese
Darlene Golembo, Ita Klebanova, Sharon Lawrence,	sister of Sharon Golembo mother of Sofiya Blank aunt of Kaitlin & Matt Beckman (Barbara Haber's ex-sister-in-law)
Jack Farbstein, Sarah Leona Markus, David Sapper,	uncle of Ruth Rosenthal grandmother of Noah Markus father of Danielle Keil

## COMMUNITY PAGE, CONTINUED

### CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM VISIT

What a trip!

Really.

Seventeen Shir Ami members and friends went on a trip to the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco on July 11 to see the current exhibit, "As It Is Written: Project 304,805." The number 304,805 refers to how many Hebrew letters there are in a Sefer Torah.

First we had an opportunity to talk with the Soferet, Julie Seltzer, who is actually hand writing a complete Torah right at the museum. We asked her questions ranging from how the ink is made to how the parchment sheets are sewn together. We even asked her about how it feels to write a Torah. She explained that she prepares herself both physically and mentally through traditional prayers and techniques of concentration.

Then we toured the exhibit with a private docent who explained how the elaborately-decorated Holy Ark from Cochin, India came to be in the museum. We saw a Torah scroll encased in a silver "tik" or box in the manner of the Sephardic Jews. We watched a presentation of how each letter is formed in the beautiful Stam "hand" that is universally used for writing a Torah. And we actually were able to touch a sample of parchment, saw how a turkey feather is made into a quill, and were amazed by the shine of the ink on Ms. Seltzer's newly-written pages.

Those of us who could linger after our tour enjoyed a light meal at the museum's café and posed for the picture accompanying this article. Some of us enhanced our trip by viewing the museum's other exhibits and ended our museum visit with the obligatory stop in the gift shop. We all agreed that the day had been an adventure and an inspiration.



#### SEEKING COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY PAGE EDITOR

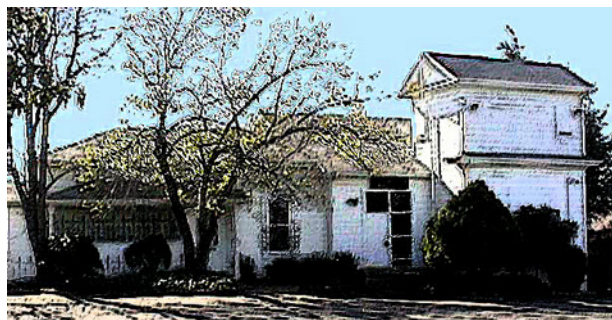
Please, if you have any news which you would like to share with your Shir Ami community, send it in to Julie Greenfield at: [community@congshirami.org](mailto:community@congshirami.org)

Also, if you are interested in becoming editor of this page (and knowing all the goings-on), please contact bulletin editor Rose Firestone at: [editor@congshirami.org](mailto:editor@congshirami.org)

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