



# CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Ave.  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(510) 537-1787

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

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](#)

## MAY 2011 BULLETIN

NISAN~IYAR 5771

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**Sunday, May 1,  
Shir Ami Yard Clean  
Up. Bring gloves,  
pruners, a hat and  
come join us!**

### EVENT CALENDAR

Day	Date, Time		Location
Sun.	May 1, 10 am- 3 pm	<b>Yard Clean Up Day</b> , lunch included	Shir Ami
Wed.	May 4, 7 pm	<b>Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood</b>	Home of Rose Firestone
Fri.	May 6, 6:30 pm 8:00 pm	<b>Potluck Dinner Shabbat Service</b> , led by Rabbi Lara	Shir Ami
Sat.	May 7, 3 pm	<b>Adult Learning: Trope</b> with Rabbi Lara	Shir Ami
Sat.	May 7, 4:30 pm	<b>Book Club</b> with Rabbi Lara	Shir Ami
Fri.	May 13, 8 pm	<b>Shabbat Service</b> Led by Rabbi Andrew	Shir Ami
Sat.	May 14, 7 pm	<b>Havdallah &amp; a Movie</b> with Rabbi Andrew	Shir Ami
Tue.	May 17, 7 pm	<b>Jewish Heritage Night</b> , Oakland A's	Oakland Coliseum
Sat.	May 21, 9 - 11am	<b>Adult Learning:</b> Torah study & connections between holidays with Diana Zankowsky	Shir Ami
Sun.	May 22, 11:30 am 12:15 pm	<b>End of Year Potluck Lunch &amp; Annual Community Meeting</b>	Shir Ami
Thur.	June 2	<b>Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood</b>	TBD
Fri.	June 3, 8 pm	<b>Shabbat Services:</b> Confirmation, Shavuot and Senior Graduation Blessing, led by Diana Zankowsky	Shir Ami
<b>Dates for Summer Services</b>			
	June 3	Diana Z	
	June 17	Emma & Spencer	
	July 8	Hana & Ruth	
	July 15	Ricki W	
	August 12	Harriet & Rose L	
	August 26	Diana Z	

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends:

April was a very busy month here at Shir Ami. We had a very well attended clean-up day on April 10<sup>th</sup>. A big thank you goes to Noah Markus for coordinating this effort! The following volunteers cleaned inside and out and made a huge difference to Shir Ami's appearance: Noah Markus, Barbara Ann Lewis, Peter Lewis, Milt Palmer, Jon Zimmerman, Toni Schulberg, Sara Lamnin, Barbara Heimowitz, Mickey Lange, Judy Ganz, Reuben Spitzer, Diana Zankowsky, Fred Zankowsky, Jeff Blum, and Gary Wolff. These members along with 25 other volunteers were honored at our special Volunteer Recognition Shabbat Service on April 15<sup>th</sup>. As you know it takes a community to raise a child and it takes a community to keep Shir Ami going! Members were honored for hosting the Rabbinic interns, participating in clean-up days, coordinating events such as the Tu B' Shevat seder, being active board members, implementing programs such as our recycling program, etc.

Another very successful event was our Community Passover Seder. We had our largest crowd yet – 113 guests! Thanks to our Seder leader, Ricki Weintraub and to the committee that drafted our new Haggadah for the occasion. Many thanks to the following people who planned the event, made a monetary donation,

made and/or donated food and/or helped with the set-up or clean-up: Maryann Leshin, Barbara Heimowitz, Toni Schulberg, Jeff Blum, Rose Firestone, Ruth Hartman, Melanie Einbund, Lily Erickson, Sara Lamnin, Jan Dombrower, Stan Heimowitz, Bruce Skelly, Marion Kramer, Jon Zimmerman and Sharon Golemo. Of course huge thanks go to Rev. Arlene Nehring and the members of Eden United Church of Christ for their gracious hospitality in hosting this year's Seder!

Coming up this month is our end-of-year potluck lunch on Sunday, May 22 at 11:30 am followed by our annual Membership meeting. We will review Shir Ami's accomplishments for the year, vote on our Board slate for 2011-2012, discuss the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget, and vote on next year's membership dues. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there!



Harriet Skelly

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

### Preservation and Clean-Up day

Getting older isn't easy, but it helps when you're loved. On Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>, members of Shir Ami gathered for a Preservation and Clean-Up day to put sweat equity into our 125 year old synagogue. Under the leadership of Noah Markus, congregants were hard at work cleaning, sanding, dusting and power-washing much of Shir Ami's interior and exterior. A pizza lunch helped everyone recharge, and much of Noah's to-do list was accomplished. Thanks to everyone who participated, including Jeff Blum, Judy Ganz, Barbara Heimowitz, Sara Lamnin, Mickey Lange, Barbara-Ann Lewis, Peter Lewis, Milt Palmer, Toni Schulberg, Reuben Spitzer, Gary Wolff, Diana Zankowsky, Fred Zankowsky and Jon Zimmerman.



## RABBINIC INTERNS' PAGE

Shalom from Rabbi Andrew and Rabbi Lara! We have a lot of exciting events coming up in the month of May, our last month with you this year. This month we will be commemorating many holidays together as a Shir Ami community, including Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Remembrance Day) and Yom Ha'atzma-ut (Israel's Independence Day). We would like to wish you all a wonderful summer filled with laughter, good times, and some Torah study, and we look forward to seeing you again at the end of August!

### MAY SERVICES:

**Friday, May 6th:**

**6:30 pm, Potluck Dinner**

**8:00 pm, Shabbat services** for all, including a ceremony commemorating Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, led by Rabbi Lara.

**Friday, May 13th, 8:00 pm: Shabbat services** for all, including a ceremony commemorating Yom HaZikaron, Israel's Remembrance Day, and Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, led by Rabbi Andrew.

### SHIR AMI BOOK CLUB!

Our second book for the year is "Have a Little Faith: A True Story" by Mitch Albom. The book club will meet to discuss this book (after reading it) on May 7th (there is still time!). The book discussion will be led by Rabbi Lara.

Lara Pullan Regev [Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org](mailto:Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org)  
Andrew Terkel [Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org](mailto:Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org)

We hope to see you all at these Shabbat services and events throughout our weekends with you in May, and are looking forward to continuing what has been a fabulous year of learning with all of you throughout this month and in the year to come!

### ADULT LEARNING, SATURDAY

The following information and opportunities will, we hope, bring new experiences into your lives, and also some familiarity and continuity as we move through our year together.

**May 7th, 3:00 pm**, will be another session of the Trope class. This session will be taught by Rabbi Lara. Please note: we are not taking any newcomers for the rest of this session. Rabbi Lara hopes to start another series of trope classes for new learners after this series has been completed.

**May 7th, 4:30 pm** will be a meeting of the Book Club. Our second book for the year is "Have a Little Faith: A True Story" by Mitch Albom. Rabbi Lara will lead the discussion for this book. ALL are welcome.

**May 14th at 7:00 pm** will be another wonderful Havdallah and movie night, followed by a discussion based on the movie to be viewed that evening. Led by Rabbi Andrew.



## SERVICES & POTLUCK, MAY 6

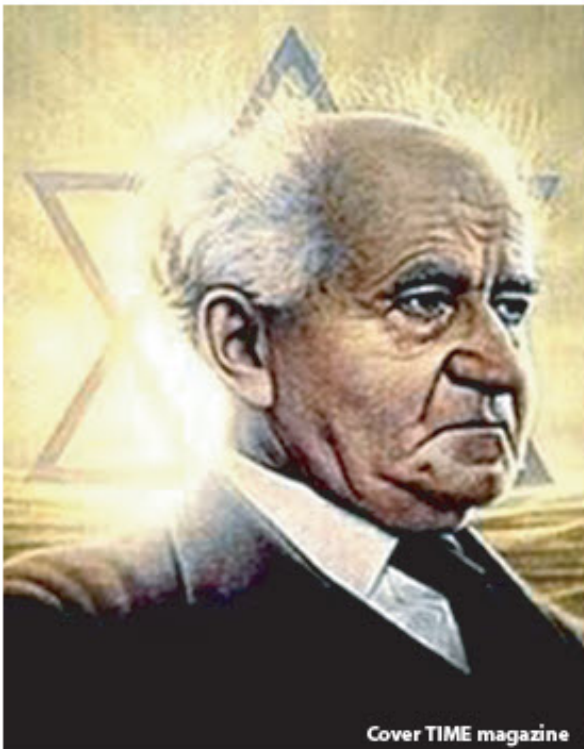
### Shir Ami Services

Friday, May 6, 2011

will be led by

**Lara Pullan Regev**

David Ben Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister and Theodor Herzl, advocate for a Jewish State



After the First Zionist Congress (1897) in Basel, Switzerland, Theodor Herzl wrote: "In Basel I founded the Jewish State. If I said this aloud today, I would be answered by universal laughter. Perhaps in five years, and certainly in fifty, everyone will agree."

The State of Israel was recognized by the United Nations in 1948, fifty-one years later..

*Yom Ha'atzmaut - Israel Independence Day May 5th - Israel's 63rd birthday*

**POT LUCK 6:30 PM; SERVICES 8:00 PM**

Please participate in our rotating assignment

Initials

A to K...Main Dish

L to Z....Side Dish or Dessert

Drinks, Setup, Cleanup

Hillie

## SHABBAT SERVICE, MAY 13

### Paresha *Emor* "Speak" - Moses is commanded to *speak* to the Kohanim

The Torah section of Emor discusses the special laws pertaining to the Kohanim ("priests"), the Kohen Gadol ("High Priest"), and the Temple service: A Kohen may not become ritually impure through contact with a dead body, except on the occasion of the death of a close relative. A Kohen may not marry a divorcee or a woman with a promiscuous past; a Kohen Gadol can marry only a virgin. A Kohen with a physical deformity cannot serve in the Holy Temple, nor can a deformed animal be brought as an offering.



Shir Ami Services  
Friday, May 13 th, 2011 at 8:00 PM  
will be led by Rabbinic Intern  
**Andrew Terkel**

## OAKLAND A's, MAY 17

The deadline for purchasing tickets through the group is past. (People can still purchase individual tickets through the A's Website.)

Join Congregation Shir Ami for the  
*First Annual Jewish Heritage Night at the Oakland A's*

 **JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT**

**TUESDAY, MAY 17 @ 7:05 PM**  
**Oakland A's vs LA Angels**

**Tuesday, May 17 at 7:05 PM vs. LA Angles of Anaheim**

Ticket price of \$27 includes:

- Plaza infield seat
- Free parking
- A's yarmulke
- \$5 voucher toward any food, drink, or fan item

See [www.oaklandathletics.com/jewish](http://www.oaklandathletics.com/jewish) for more event details.

This will be a fun outing for all ages. Our goal is to have a group of 25 so we can waive ticket fees and see Shir Ami's name in lights alongside other East Bay Jewish groups attending.

Feel free to invite friends, (Jewish or not).

Email or Facebook Ruth Hartman,  
[events@congshirami.org](mailto:events@congshirami.org), if you plan to attend or have questions.



The deadline for purchasing tickets through the group is past. (People can still purchase individual tickets through the A's Website.)

# END OF YEAR LUNCH & COMMUNITY MEETING, MAY 22

**Sunday, May 22**  
**End of Year Potluck Lunch -11:30 AM**  
**Annual Community Meeting 12:15 PM**

**Potluck Assignments:**  
**A to K ... Side dish, dessert, drinks. Set up, Clean up**  
**L to Z .... Main Dish**



**Board Candidate Slate**  
**Congregation Shir Ami 2011-2012 Board**  
**To be voted at the Annual Membership Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 22, 2010**

President	Harriet Skelly
First Vice President	Jon Zimmerman
Secretary	Bonnie Frey
Treasurer, Receivables	Judy Ganz
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	Milton Palmer
Member At Large	Peter Lewis
Member At Large	Rose Firestone

## ODDS & ENDS

### **Shir Ami Yard Clean Up**

Sunday, May 1, 10 am - 3 pm. Bring work gloves, a hat, tools and come & help. Lunch provided!

### **Greenwaste/Recycling/Garbage**

Thanks to Bonnie Frey, Shir Ami has expanded it's recycling services.

- Greenwaste: includes food scraps in addition to plant trimmings. Food scraps includes all paper and cardboard that held food – for example, pizza boxes. When we take out the green waste, we are allowed to place the entire garbage bag in the green waste cart outside, but it must be untied and left open. This applies only to green waste.
- The recycling must not be left in a garbage bag in the cart, it needs to be loose.
- This is a special rule for Shir Ami as a business, which is different than the rules for residential customers in Castro Valley.

### **Summer Oneg Hosts Needed**

Summer oneg hosts are needed for the following dates: 6/3, 6/17, 7/8, 7/15, 8/12, and 8/26. Please email Sharon if you are able to host one of these dates. Thank You!

### **Men's Saturday Service**

A Saturday service for men, sponsored by the Men's group and led by Rabbi Andrew, was held on March 26. The short service, conducted mostly in English, concluded with a lively and enthusiastic discussion about the early influences in our personal Jewish life and culture. The participants agreed that this was an interesting and worthwhile morning that should be repeated.

### **Maintenance Day Jobs Still Pending**

Of the 23 items on the April 10, 2011 clean-up day 6 still need completion: 1) secure area carpets to floor as needed. 2) Prep and clean wooden steps and porches on west side of building. 3) Wash windows throughout building. 4) Wipe blinds throughout building. 5) Arrange for pick-up of unused materials below the floor including; floor tiles & fluorescent light bulbs. 6) Clean above wooden built-in cupboards located in back office.

### **2011 Relay for Life**

Sisters– Please join Sisterhood in The 2011 Relay for Life and help the American Cancer Society.

This is especially meaningful to our community and the community at large as we would like to honor the memory of Sherri Kidwell. Many of our friends and families have also been effected by cancer, and two of our congregants have recently been diagnosed with cancer.

The Relay for Life will take place:

Saturday, July 16, 2011 9 AM at Canyon Middle School

We are lucky enough to join Lisa Silvers already established team, The Silver Lining.

There are several ways to contribute and each of you can decide how you would like to do that.

Contact Jan Dombrower for more information: [sisterhood@congshirami.org](mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org)



## LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING

### Introduction to Judaism

*Judaism 101*

**Saturday, May 21**

**9 am to 11 am**

**At Congregation Shir Ami**

Introduction to Judaism

We will have some breakfast-type food to nibble on while we study.

At this class we will divide our time between studying the Torah portion for the week and looking at the connections between the holidays since we will be just completing the first part of the days between Passover and Shavuot.

Newcomers are welcome! Hope to have you join us. If you have questions, please contact Diana Zankowsky at [adulded@congshirami.org](mailto:adulded@congshirami.org)



### Adult Hebrew

***Learning Hebrew through Prayer***

**Mondays, 7:30-9:00 pm**

This weekly class is taught by Judy Ganz. If you have basic Hebrew literacy skills and you want to improve your:

- Hebrew Reading Skills
- Understanding of the Meaning of Prayers

Please contact Judy at

[adulthebrew@congshirami.org](mailto:adulthebrew@congshirami.org)



### ADULT LEARNING WITH RABBIS LARA AND ANDREW

May 7th, 3:00 pm, Trope class, Rabbi Lara.

May 7th, 4:30 pm, Book Club, Rabbi Lara

May 14th at 7:00 pm, Havdallah and Movie night, Rabbi Andrew.

See [Rabbis' Page](#)  
for details.

## ROSH CHODESH/ SISTERHOOD

**MAY ROSH CHODESH: Iyar**  
**Wednesday, May 4,**  
**Dinner at 7:00 pm**  
**Home of Rose Firestone**

Iyar is a month of transition, falling between Pesach and Shavuot. The days are ritualistically counted for 49 days and the period is observed as a time of semi-mourning.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> day, however, Lag B'Omer, is a special day, associated with bonfires, picnics and celebration. Haircuts, not allowed during most of the period, are permitted, and many three year olds receive their first haircut on this day.

We will celebrate Lag B'Omer with a "picnic" dinner at 7:00 pm. We will (weather permitting) enjoy a bonfire in a firepit, followed by a discussion of Iyar, a month of transitions.

What to bring:

- We will be discussing our personal transitions. As a discussion springboard, **please bring a picture** (or two) of you when you had a different hairstyle.
- We need a few people to bring your favorite olive oil for French bread dipping

Mark your calendar and look for an email with complete event details and directions.

For questions or information about Sisterhood, please contact Jan Dombrower at [Sisterhood@congshirami.org](mailto:Sisterhood@congshirami.org)

UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH- Sivan, June 2, Thursday

Photos below from April Rosh Chodesh. See next page for article.



## ROSH CHODESH RECAP

### April Rosh Chodesh:

Last month we celebrated the month of Nisan, the month of our people's freedom. We gathered at the home of Jan Dombrower for an evening of baking Kosher for Passover cupcakes and making pedestal glass cake plates.

The evening started with a reading about the month of Nisan, candle lighting, and a blessing for the new month. Then, we divided into stations. Some were baking while others were decorating their cake plates with cupcake cutouts, dollies, and beads. The outcome was an array of lovely decorated cake plates that each woman took home.



There were two recipes for kosher for Passover cupcakes. One was a choroset cupcake and the other was a flour-less chocolate fudge cupcake. When they were done baking, we all sampled them and then we each took some home on our plates to share and eat at Passover.

Sisterhood acknowledged and celebrated Jan Dombrower's birthday which was to be two days later. There were balloons, cake, candles, cards, and a song. What a delightful ritual that sisterhood has.



## COMMUNITY PAGE

### “ROSE’S RAMBLINGS”

Note from the Community Editor:  
If you have news to share, let’s  
hear from you! Please send your  
items to  
[community@congshirami.org](mailto:community@congshirami.org)



News of Members

#### **Yom Hooledeth Sameach- Happy Birthday**

Harriet and Bruce Skelly drove to Southern California to celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday of Harriet’s mother, Gloria Halperin. They were joined by family from both the West Coast and Wisconsin in the celebration. Mazeltov to all.

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Mark Levine, son of Hillie and Rose. A family celebration took place at Lake Tahoe. Mark was an organizer of the Shir Ami Teen Club in the late 60’s.

Happy Birthday to the State of Israel! This year May 14 marks the 63<sup>rd</sup> year of Israel’s independence. Watch for two Community Page articles featuring Israel: “Maimouna” and “Birthright”.

It was good to see Reuben Spitzer and his parents at the April 15 service. Reuben was honored for his volunteer work at Clean-up Days.

**Kol Hakaod-Kudos to Shashana Markus**, who will be attending San Francisco State University as a newly admitted freshman. She has been awarded a Presidential Scholar by the President of S. F. S. U. This is the most distinguished academic award the University can bestow on an entering undergraduate student. We’re proud of you, Shashana!

**Refuah Shlemah-Good Health-to Lori Santora**, who is continuing chemo treatment. Lori would appreciate having company from her Shir Ami friends.

### **Todah Rabah-Thank You to:**

Barbara Ann Lewis for hosting Rabbiic Intern Andrew Terkel April 15-17 AND for providing the Oneg at the April 15 service as well.

Thank you to the following for their generous donations to Shir Ami:

- Judy Ganz in honor of her grandson Aaron's wedding.
- Irina and Alex Druker in memory of Betya Druker at her yearzeit.
- Rochelle Shwartz in memory of Ingrid Weinberg.
- Karl and Audrey Hand in memory of Ingrid Weinberg, and in honor of Aaron Brown's wedding.
- Aletha & Jeffrey Jensen in memory of Ingrid Weinberg
- Judy Ganz in memory of May and Sam Ganz on their yearzeits.
- Ilene & Irv Herman in memory of Ingrid Weinberg
- Aletha & Elgin Speecal for tsunami victims in Japan

### **THE MAIMOUNA- by Rose Levine**

Israel is a land where there is an exciting meld of many cultures and customs. Three years ago Hillie and I were in Israel for Pesach. We stayed with friends in Mevasereth Tzion, an affluent community just outside Jerusalem. Their Seder incorporated a combination of Ashkenazi and Iraqi traditions.

But on the last day of Pesach, we were told that we would be experiencing a different tradition. We were invited to a neighbor’s home to celebrate the Maimouna. The Maimouna is unique to Moroccan Jewry, and is celebrated by Israel's Moroccan Jewish community immediately following the con-



## COMMUNITY PAGE, P2

clusion of Passover, on the eve of the eighth day.

We were not the only ones to be invited; it seemed that the whole neighborhood was there. We were greeted warmly by the host and hostess, who were dressed in traditional Moroccan robes.

Their home was decorated with Moroccan art and artifacts. A huge long table was set with symbolic foods and an incredible array of food and drink. Especially impressive was the sweet table, covered with flowers and stalks of wheat. It held dozens of platters filled with pastries, chocolate covered apricots, marzipan fruits and vegetables, sesame candies



and even baskets made of sesame seeds. A special pancake with honey called muflita was served, as was fish and various other greens to symbolize good luck and fertility in the coming year. The ladies of the family had been preparing for this feast since Purim!

It is a very joyous holiday. Besides the evening home visits such as we experienced, on the next day, the eighth day of Passover, it is also customary to continue the festivities with lively family picnics and bar-b-cues.

There is no clear explanation of the name. Some say the word Maimouna derives from the name Maimon ben Joseph, a scholar who lived in Fez, Morocco, father of



the great philosopher Maimonides. Others claim it comes from the Arabic word for wealth and good fortune, ma'amoun. Still others claim that it originates in Ani Ma'amin, I believe, and that it is an expression of faith. Since Pesach is the beginning of the new agricultural year, it is the time to pray for plentiful crops, prosperity and fertility.

### BIRTHRIGHT TRIP TO ISRAEL

Maryanne Leshin's daughter, Lola Ridgell, is a Freshman at SF State. She participated in a Birthright trip to Israel during Winter Break. When she returned, we asked her to tell us about the trip. Here are some of the questions put to her, and the answers she gave us.

**1. Question: Why were you interested in going on this trip?**

Who would turn down a free trip to Israel? But really, I was initially drawn to the trip because someone I met in the dorms had gone over the summer and said it was amazing

**2. Q. How many people were in your group? Were they all from the Bay Area? How old were they? Did you know any of them beforehand?**

There were 30 people in my group not counting 2 very cool group leaders. The people on my trip were from all over California. Most people were around 19 or 20 but there were people from 18-26. I didn't know anyone before hand, which made me experience in Israel even better.

**3. Q. How many days were you gone? Where did you stay?**

I was gone for 12 days (2 days dedicated completely to departure and arrival) we spent time in Tel Aviv, the Negev (the desert area), the Dead Sea, and so many other places. We spent our nights in hotels for the most part as well as kibbutzim and we even spent a night in a tent which was actually a lot of fun

**4. Q. What was your first impression when you landed at Ben Gurion Airport? How about your later impressions? Did anything about Israel surprise you? Did the trip come up to your expectations?**

That's a long question! Um, when I first landed in the air port I was tired, didn't know anyone but some people were already starting to talk to me. Many things about Israel surprised me, like the diversity and all the beautiful places there are despite what we see in the news. The trip exceeded my expectations by far.

## COMMUNITY PAGE, P3

**5. Q. What activities did you participate in? What place was your favorite place to visit?**

One of the most memorable days was when we visited a communal farm. It was so cool that I wanted to extend my trip right then and there but the extension option didn't work with my schedule. We went on some really cool hikes through the desert areas. When we were in Tel Aviv we had a free night to spend however we wanted. Most of my group went to some local club but I got



sp  
lit

up from the group and couldn't find my way there. Words of advice: DON'T spend forever getting ready and get left by the group. We got to swim in the Dead Sea which was cool cause I'm sure everyone knows make you float (don't get the water in your mouth it doesn't taste good). We climbed mount Masada very early and watched the sun rise which sound like a pain, but it was very fun. We also spent two days in Jerusalem which is a very beautiful city, and we were given lots of time to explore with out our group leaders

**6. Q. How did you spend Shabbat? What was your reaction to the Western Wall?**

One of our Shabbat celebrations was held in a conference room of the hotel we were staying at, they brought in a really cool local rabbi who lead a very relaxed casual service. The Western Wall was packed when I went but it was still very cool because I got to put not only a note from myself but notes from other people that might not ever get a chance to go to Israel which I suggest you do.

**7. Q. Did you visit Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial? If so, what impressions do you have of it?**

The Yad Vashem museum was amazing, I doubt you will see anything like in the states, and if you have an awesome tour guide like I did it will definitely add to your experience! Something to know about Yad Vashem though, while it may make you very emotional (it might make you cry) the atmosphere is very uplifting.

**8. Q. How is it different to be Jewish here, and Jewish in Israel?**

Have you ever found yourself trying to explain why your eating what your eating or doing what your doing or trying to explain why Jews do this or why being Jewish means that? Or felt uncomfortable talking about Judaism? You don't have to feel that way in Israel. Something that was cool: Everything closes at around 3 o'clock on Fridays for Shabbat. The candle lighting times are on the front pages of the papers. It may not seem like that big of a deal just reading it but when your there, and you see everyone closing down shop to get home before Shabbat you see that it's really a beautiful thing.

**9. Q. Did you meet with Israelis your age? Were any of them Arabs? Do you think the young people there lead the same kind of life as young people here?**

5 days into the trip we were joined by Israeli soldiers our age and they were some of the coolest people ever. We met all sorts of people. I met Indian people, Arab people, Black people, people from Argentina, people from other Spanish speaking countries, other Americans who were visiting. Being in Israel is truly a unique experience

**10. Q. Did they speak of the political situation? Did you feel safe? Were you able to communicate with your parents?**

I felt COMPLETELY safe there wasn't a moment I was worried about my safety. As far as talking about politics I *learned* a lot about certain political situations but I didn't get to deep into conversations about politics. I was able to communicate with my parents but I didn't do much of that as you can imagine.

## COMMUNITY PAGE, P4

**11. Q. Now that you've gone on the trip, do you feel differently about Israel than you did before? What did you learn?**

I do feel differently about Israel, it's hard to say in what ways. The experience is going to have different affects on everyone. I learned so much, I learned about camels, and Bedouins, water, plants, Israeli government, history, Hebrew and much, much more.

**12. Q. What do you think is the purpose of the trip? In your opinion, did it fulfill its purpose?**

I know many people feel that birthright trips have an agenda, can't say this about all birthright organizations, but the trip I went on, Israel outdoors, was really just about enjoying your time in Israel and teaching you about the land of Israel. We weren't pushed to think a certain way, or begged to move there. Personally, I would love to live there in the future but that wasn't part of any "agenda".

**13. Q. Will there be a follow up on the trip? Are you in touch with anyone you met?**

I am Facebook friends with nearly everyone I went on the trip with including the Israeli soldiers and our awesome security guard/ medic, who was soooo funny. I was surprised at how close I became with people. I still keep in touch with a lot of people from the trip, I would say I'm BFF's with anyone from the trip but it's a very unique bond that we all have with each other; we share inside jokes, memories, we follow up on things we talked about while in Israel.



**14. Q. Would you recommend this trip to others at Shir Ami?**

I would definitely recommend Israel outdoors! If your going to pick a different group to go with make sure to

do your research. I also recommend that you DON'T go with someone you know. You have a much better chance of making really strong connections with new people if your not being surrounded by someone you know. I came home with tons of stories! I really recommend going.



**May 2011                      Yahrzeit                      List**

**MAY 6, 2011**

Harriet Cohn,	grandmother of Ruth Hartman
Bernard Nasatir,	father of Cary Nasatir
Harold Small,	uncle of Toni Schulberg, and former member of Shir Ami

**MAY 13, 2011**

Morris Berman,	father of Daryl Berman
Gordon Greenfield,	father of Julie Greenfield
Hyman Abraham Rebotsky,	grandfather of Jonathan Zimmerman
Harriet Troy,	mother of Nancy Storch

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

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

Civia Rudman,	former member of Shir Ami
Sherie Kidwell,	Shir Ami member and wife of Bernard Kidwell
Harold Dombrower,	father of Jan Dombrower
Ingrid Weinberg,	long time founding member of Shir Ami
Florence Lewis,	mother of Peter Lewis
Frederick Apple,	father of Angie Ross
Frieda Greenbaum,	grandmother of Diana Zankowsky
Layah Laks,	long time former member of Shir Ami

## SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

### Camp Kadima is having a Shul-In!

A Shul-In is a fun-filled sleepover and Camp Kadima fundraiser rolled into one! The evening and morning will be filled with music, games, art and more! This is a great way to get a jump-start on summer, connect with other youth who will be attending Camp Kadima, and provide much-needed financial support for Camp programs and field trips. Shir Ami is a sponsoring synagogue with Temple Beth Sholom on May 21-22

Information at [www.campkadima.org](http://www.campkadima.org)

### Camp Kadima



**CAMP KADIMA CONTACT INFORMATION**  
Contact: Sharon Cohen, Director  
[campkadima@bethemak.org](mailto:campkadima@bethemak.org)  
[www.campkadima.org](http://www.campkadima.org)  
925-931-1055 x11 925-931-1054 fax  
925-899-8377 Onsite Call (June 20-Aug 5)

**GIVE A CHEER**  
**CAMP KADIMA's 18th SUMMER IS HERE!**

**WHO CAN BE A CAMPER?** Kids ages 4.5 - 13

**2011 Camp Session Dates**

Session 1	June 27 - July 1*
Session 2	July 5 - 8 (Closed Monday July 4th)
Session 3	July 11 - 15*
Session 4	July 18 - 22
Session 5	July 25 - 29*
Session 6	Aug 1 - 5
LA'ATID*	July 18-29

\*Overnight sessions  
More details available on [www.campkadima.org](http://www.campkadima.org)

### Camp Gan Israel



**CAMP GAN-ISRAEL**  
Chabad of the East Bay  
*For a Summer Experience That Lasts a Lifetime!*

**Great Counselors •**  
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**Drama • Fun**  
**Sports • Arts • Trips**  
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**Everlasting Friendship**

**Summer 2011**  
**at Lake Temescal**  
**June 20 - June 29 • 9:00 am - 3:30 pm**  
Ages 4-14 • Extended Care Available

For more information, please call  
Call: 510-540-5824  
Email: [campganisraelberkeley@gmail.com](mailto:campganisraelberkeley@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.ganisraelberkeley.com](http://www.ganisraelberkeley.com)

*Camp Gan Israel is dedicated to enriching the lives of children from diverse Jewish backgrounds and affiliations through a stimulating camp experience.*

## All Alumni Camp Swig, Saratoga, and Newman Come back to camp, and bring your family

Enjoy a Magical Shabbat at Camp

**Celebrating the Legacy of Debbie Friedman July 22 and 23, 2011**

Get all the event details online:

[www.newman.urjcamps.org/alumni/reunions/alumcit](http://www.newman.urjcamps.org/alumni/reunions/alumcit)



## CONTACTS

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

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



**Rabbinic Intern**  
**Rabbinic Intern**

**Lara Pullan Regev**  
**Andrew Terkel**

[Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org](mailto:Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org)  
[Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org](mailto:Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org)

**President**  
**Membership**  
**School Liaison**

**Harriet Skelly**  
**Barbara Heimowitz**  
**Jodi Blum**

[president@congshirami.org](mailto:president@congshirami.org)  
[membership@congshirami.org](mailto:membership@congshirami.org)  
[education@congshirami.com](mailto:education@congshirami.com)

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Men's Club  
Religious  
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Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood  
Social Action  
Social Action  
Yahrzeit

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Sharon Golembo  
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Jon Zimmerman  
David Schulberg  
Diana Zankowsky  
Jan Dombrower  
Daryl Berman  
Julie Greenfield  
Toni Schulberg

[facilities@congshirami.org](mailto:facilities@congshirami.org)  
[editor@congshirami.org](mailto:editor@congshirami.org)  
[editor@congshirami.org](mailto:editor@congshirami.org)  
[oneg@congshirami.org](mailto:oneg@congshirami.org)  
[community@congshirami.org](mailto:community@congshirami.org)  
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[socialaction@congshirami.org](mailto:socialaction@congshirami.org)  
[socialaction@congshirami.org](mailto:socialaction@congshirami.org)  
[yahrzeit@congshirami.org](mailto:yahrzeit@congshirami.org)