



# 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](#)

## JUNE/JULY 2011 BULLETIN

IYAR~ SHAVUOT~TAMMUZ 5771

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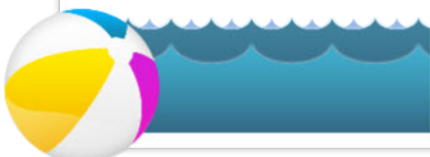
## EVENT CALENDAR

Day	Date, Time		Location
Thur.	June 2, 7 pm	Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood end of year barbeque	Deerview Park, Castro Valley
Fri.	June 3, 8 pm	<b>Shabbat Service:</b> Confirmation, Shavuot and Senior Graduation Blessing, led by Diana Zankowsky	Shir Ami
Fri.	June 17, 8 pm	<b>Shabbat Service</b> Led by Emma Silver & Spencer Blum	Shir Ami
Fri.	July 8, 8 pm	<b>Shabbat Service</b> Led by Hana & Ruth Hartman	Shir Ami
Fri.	July 15, 8 pm	<b>Shabbat Service</b> Led by Ricki Weintraub	Shir Ami
Fri.	August 12, 8 pm	<b>Shabbat Service</b> Led by Harriet Skelly & Rose Levine	Shir Ami
Fri.	August 26, 8 pm	<b>Shabbat Service:</b> led by Diana Zankowsky	Shir Ami

### Summer Services

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

- \* **Do you want to learn Hebrew? A NEW *Beginning Adult Hebrew* class is forming.** See [page 7](#).
- \* June/July Bulletin covers two months. The next edition will be published August 1.
- \* Looking for ***Havdallah & a Movie*** dates? Dates to be set. Check your email for updates.
- \* Have a great summer and enjoy Shir Ami's special summer events.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends:

Here we are at the close of another school year. It seems like just a few weeks ago I was sitting down to write my first column for the bulletin and feeling very nervous about being Shir Ami's President. I am more confident with almost a year behind me and with all of the support I received from this community. I thank all of you for that! I also want to thank you for all that we accomplished this year. I have included a list of those accomplishments separately in the bulletin – there were too many to list here.

We held our annual community meeting on May 22, which was well attended. We approved a small dues increase: family membership went from \$1200 to \$1260 and single membership went from \$600 to \$630. We also voted in our new officers for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

Even though the school year is done we still have much to look forward to at Shir Ami. The Rosh Chodesh and sisterhood end of year picnic will be held on Thursday, June 2 at 7 pm. Details are in the bulletin and will also be mailed out separately. We have six Shabbat Services

scheduled this summer, the first of which is June 3, 8 pm, led by Diana Zankowsky. At this service Spencer Blum and Emma Silver will be confirmed and we will give special blessings to our four graduating seniors: Carolyn and Sarah Gilchriese, Hana Hartman and Shashana Markus. The other 5 services are listed in the bulletin so don't forget to mark your calendar.

We are also planning to have the popular movie nights this summer. Be watching for email notices regarding the dates, times and movie titles. We are also looking forward to having Rabbinic interns Lara and Andrew back again for the next school year!

Enjoy your summer!  
Harriet Skelly

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



Thank you to the Shir Ami Board for a great year.

Photo at left shows some of the 2010-2011 Board Members.

# SHIR AMI 2010-2011

## Congregation Shir Ami 2010-2011 Achievements and Milestones

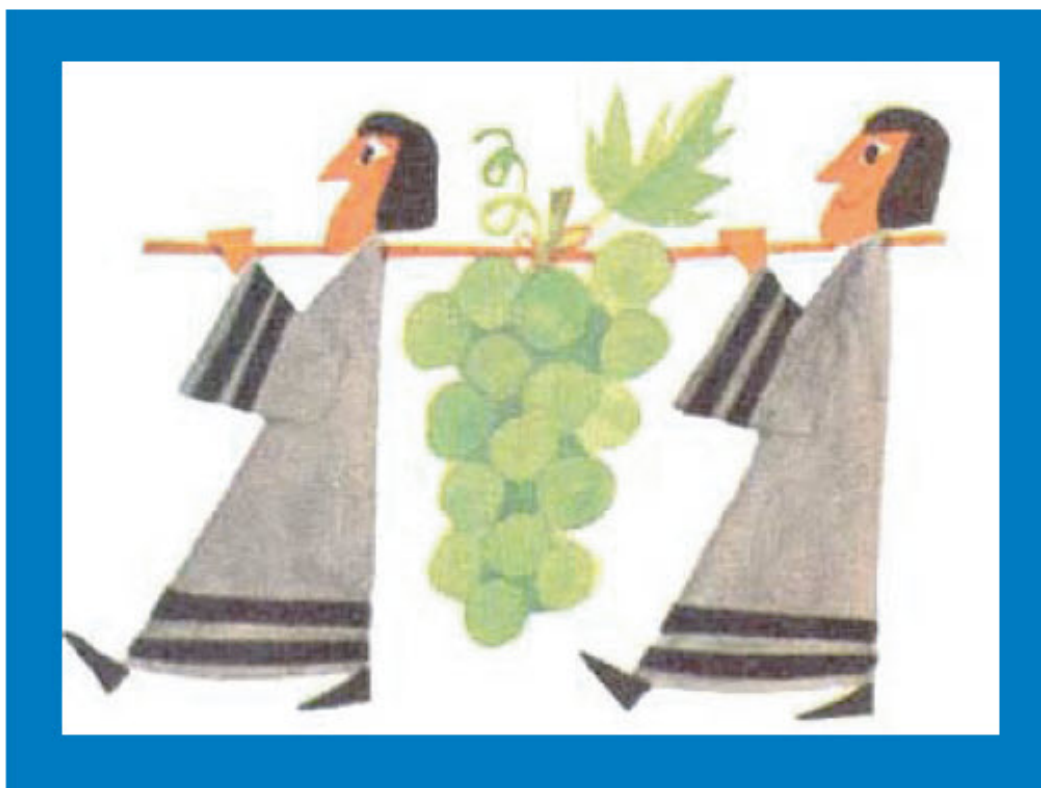
- Successfully merged Shir Ami's religious school with Temple Beth Sholom's school and created the Shir Sholom School.
- Implemented a temple wide recycling program
- Have transitioned from paper to reusable dishes and cutlery for most events
- Implemented a new member dues schedule to attract new members
- Held several very successful clean up days including significant building upgrades such as a new floor in our back classroom, electrical upgrades and completed plans to rebuild the Sukkah, replace the sign and fence in the front of our property
- Implemented a redesign of our monthly Bulletin
- Researched and selected a new and better property insurance policy
- Two students became B'nai Mitzvah
- Two teens Confirmed and four honored at Senior Grad blessing
- Provided camperships for our youth to attend Jewish summer camps
- Participated in regional NFTY youth group and events
- One teen went to Israel on a Birth Right trip
- Many teens attending TV/TC Midrasha programs
- Presented on "Jews Around the World" at CVHS Days of Diversity and "Jews and Judaism" to 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Hayward's Park Elementary school
- Offered four series of successful adult ed classes
- Mounted interfaith holiday display at the CV Public Library
- Attended URJ Outreach and Think Tank Webinars
- Participated in Martin Luther King day community observances
- Hosted successful interfaith Shabbat service
- Participated in South Hayward Parish as President and active member and the Hayward Festival
- Held successful Labor Day BBQ and fundraiser
- Had outreach table at Castro Valley Fall Festival
- Hosted successful Tu B'Shevat Seder
- Hosted a very successful Community Passover Seder and continued building our friendship and partnership with Rev Arlene and the Eden United Church of Christ
- Held 15th annual sisterhood retreat and monthly Rosh Chodesh meetings
- Men's Club sponsored a bagel and lox brunch with a speaker and several clean up days
- Held volunteer appreciation Shabbat service
- Made visits to the sick and in nursing facilities; brought meals to families in temporary crisis
- Formed a committee to review Shir Ami's bylaws (in progress)



## SHABBAT SERVICE, JUNE 17

### Paresha Shelach: *Send thou out men (spies)*

Moses sends twelve spies to the Land of Canaan. Forty days later they return, carrying a huge cluster of grapes, a pomegranate and a fig, to report on a lush and bountiful land. But ten of the spies warn that the inhabitants of the land are giants and warriors "more powerful than we"; only Caleb and Joshua insist that the land can be conquered, as God has commanded



Graphic by M. Sasek

Shir Ami Summer Services  
Friday June 17th at 8:00 PM

**Led by Emma Silver and Spencer Blum**

Oneg to Follow, bring a friend



## SHABBAT SERVICE, JULY 8

### Paresha Balak

Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, grew alarmed at the Israelites' military victories among the Amorites. He consulted with the elders of Midian and sent elders of Moab and Midian to the land by the Euphrates to invite the prophet Balaam to come and curse the Israelites for him. Balaam told them: "Spend the night here, and I shall reply to you as the Lord may instruct me. Balaam received a divine warning in his sleep: "You must not curse the Israelites, for they are blessed. Balaam recognized that God would not favor a curse. He obeyed and left for the desert wilderness, no longer to practice prophetic divinations .



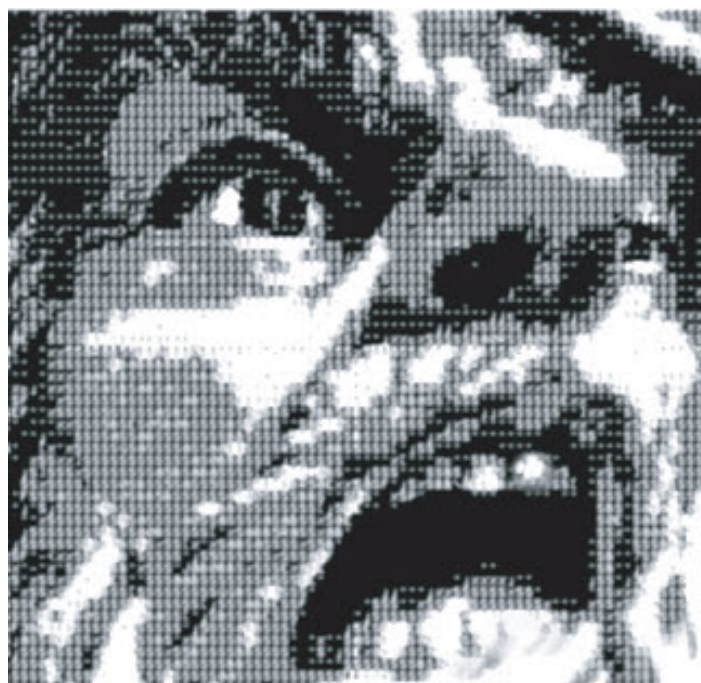
New Century Encyclopedia graphic

Shir ami summer program  
Friday, July 8 at 8:00 PM  
Led by Hana and Ruth Hartman

## SHABBAT SERVICE, JULY 15

# Paresha Pincus

**Phinehas (Pincus) summarily killed an Isrealite man and a Midianitish woman for consorting. He and his family were then given everlasting priesthood by God. Was this a Biblical legitimization of violence?**



**Shir Ami Services**  
**Friday, July 15, 8:00 PM**  
**Led by Ricki Weintraub**

## LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING

### **NEW CLASS!**

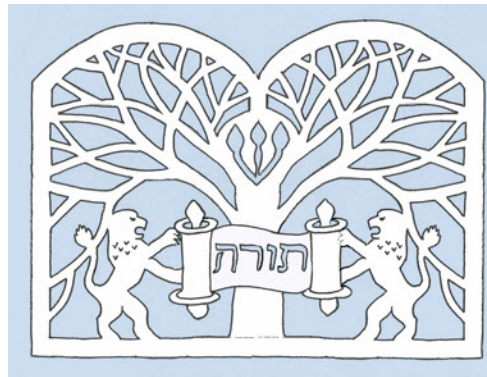
#### **Beginning Adult Hebrew**

Are you ready to make the commitment?  
Is now the time?  
Then join other Shir Ami members in a newly-forming class in beginning adult Hebrew. We'll learn the Hebrew alphabet and vowels. After that, we'll learn to read and understand the prayers in our siddur, Mishkan T'filah. Interested? Call Judy Ganz and let her know.

If we have enough people—minimum four— we'll arrange a time to get together and determine a class day and time. You know you always wanted to, and now you can learn Hebrew and participate more fully in our religious services.

What are you waiting for? Call Judy!  
Or email! [adulthebrew@congshirami.org](mailto:adulthebrew@congshirami.org)

### **NEW CLASS!**



#### **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 Hebrew Class March 2011



## ROSH CHODESH/ SISTERHOOD

### **MAY ROSH CHODESH: Sivan Thursday, June 2 @ 7:00 Barbeque at Deerview Park in Castro Valley**

Our end of year barbeque will be hosted by Harriet Skelly. We will have turkey burgers and kosher hot dogs. Deerview Park is located in the Columbia Housing complex in Castro Valley. The proper address is 5780 Thousand Oaks Dr, but it appears to be on Columbia drive.

Please bring a side dish to share of salads, beans, chips, or etc. Drinks will be provided. An email will be sent as a reminder. Hope to see you there for the month of Sivan and the ending of our year.

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)

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### **Relay for Life Mitzvah**

Sisterhood has taken on the Mitzvah of joining Lisa Silver's team, THE SILVER LINING, for the American Cancer Fund Raiser Run.

- The run will take place on Saturday, July 16th in Castro Valley, at Canyon Middle School.
- There are 55 days left until the Run. Some members of sisterhood have joined the team and others are making contributions to the cause.
- Sisterhood would like to open up this mitzvah to the congregation as it is very easy to make a contribution and it is a worthwhile cause that has affected everyone. A donation of \$10.00 would be appreciated.
- There are several ways to donate. It is very easy. Please go to the website: [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY11CA?pg=personal&fr\\_id=31223&fr\\_id=31223&px=17544279](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY11CA?pg=personal&fr_id=31223&fr_id=31223&px=17544279)
- Click on DONATE or LUMINARIA and make your donation on line. If you contribute to the Luminaria, a lighted candle will honor someone who has lost their battle ( explained in the website.)
- Any contribution will be very welcome.

Please contact Lisa Silver if you have any questions. **Thank you very much**

Photo at right from May Rosh Chodesh. See next page for





## ROSH CHODESH RECAP

### May Rosh Chodesh

There was a big turnout for our last Rosh Chodesh when we brought in the month of Iyar at the home of Rose Firestone. The month of Iyar contains the holiday of Lag B' Omer so we honored several rituals that reflected that holiday. We read about the month and the meaning of Lag B' Omer to get an understanding of the background and the rituals. We had a meal with roasted potatoes, a traditional dish in Israel during Lag B' Omer. We picked our toppings for the potatoes from chili, cheese, green onions, and sour cream.



Another tradition during Lag B' Omer is to have bon fires. We were able to have our own bon fire in the lovely fire pit in Rose's backyard. We roasted marshmallows and made S'mores. During Lag B' Omer, marriages, celebrations, and hair cutting is permitted, which are not allowed during the entire Omer from Passover to Shavuot. We focused on our hair—bringing pictures of ourselves with a different style or cut. Each woman shared her picture with that different hair style and expressed how she felt and how others felt about her. We learned a lot about each other and enjoyed the sharing. It was a full and rich evening. Thank you to Rose Firestone for your hospitality and creativity.



## 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)



Letter to the Editor: (from Julie Greenfield)  
I just read your very interesting column in last month’s  
newsletter about Lola Ridgell’s Birthright trip to Israel.  
By coincidence my daughter Aliya and Elizabeth  
Bercovich, both Shir Ami bat mitzvot, will be going  
on a Birthright trip together in June; also in the same  
program, Israel Outdoors.  
**Nesiyah Tovah**, Have a good trip Aliya and Eliza-  
beth!

### NEWS OF MEMBERS

#### Yom Hooledeth Sameach- Happy Birthday to:

- Lexi Skelly , who celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday with her parents, Harriet and Bruce, at Scott’s Restaurant in Jack London Square.
- twins Esther and Benny Tsabba, who had their fourth birthday party at Sulfur Creek Nature Center. Among the invited guests were Rita the Tarantula, Malcolm the Tortoise and Rocky the Burrowing Owl.



#### Kol Ha Kavod-Kudos to:

- Stacey Zankowsky, a senior at Northeastern University in Boston, who made the Dean’s List this semester. Shir Ami is proud of you, Stacey.
- Rebekah Stern, formerly a Shir Ami intern rabbi, who was ordained as a full-fledged rabbi on May 15. Harriet and Bruce Skelly were happy to attend the impressive ceremony of ordination, which took place at the Wilshire Blvd. Temple in Los Angeles. Bruce and Harriet also bring regards from another former intern, Suzi Stone.

Mazeltov, Bekah!

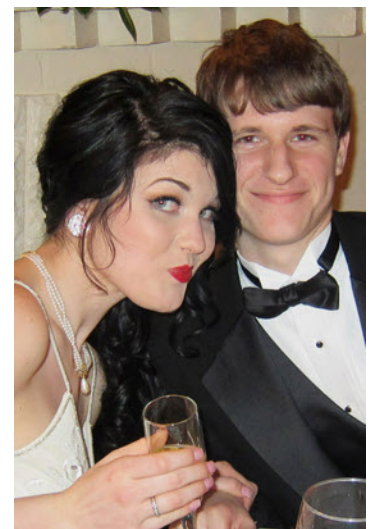


#### Mazeltov to our Confirmation students

Spencer Blum & Emma Silver, who will be confirmed at Shir Ami Shavuoth services on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Weddings- Mazal Tov

to Aaron (Judy Ganz’ grandson) and Ashley Brown, who were married this past March.





## COMMUNITY PAGE, P2

### Thank you to:

- Bill and Lori Santora for generously sponsoring the hosting of rabbinic intern Lara on May 6-8
- Lisa Silver, for hosting rabbinic intern Andrew May 13-15.
- Bettina Skehan for providing the Oneg on May 6.
- Maryann Leshin for sponsoring the Oneg on May 13.

**Todah Rabah-Thank you** to the following for generous donations to Shir Ami:

- Daryl Berman in memory of Morris Berman at his yahrzeit.
- Nancy Storch in memory of her mother Harriet Troy at her yahrzeit.
- Muriel Small in memory of Harold Small.
- Melanie Eibund on the yahrzeit of her niece Lisa Sheryl Barth.

### TRIVIA COLUMN

Did you know that the last surviving son of the Mexican Revolutionary hero Pancho Villa, died in Castro Valley? Yes, it's true. Furthermore, Ernesto Nava Villa, who died December 2009, is buried in the Chapel of the Chimes Cemetery in Hayward.

<http://www.lifemarkgroup.com/obituary.aspx?id=15054>

### June & July 2011 Yartzheit List

#### JUNE 3, 2011

Ted Balmforth,	son-in-law of Ann & Sam Blank
Sarah Blank,	mother of Sam Blank
Sheila Frey,	mother of Bonnie Frey
Arthur Kramer,	father of Marion Kramer

#### JUNE 17, 2011

Jerry Becker,	early active member of Shir Ami and husband of Verla Becker
George Berenstein,	father of Judy Ganz
Doris Greenfield,	mother of Julie Greenfield
Robert Levinson,	lay leader of Shir Ami for many years

#### JULY 8, 2011

Alyce Nasatir,	mother of Cary Nasatir
Jacob (Jack) Ross,	father of David Ross
David Teferi,	father of Rahel Ruiz and husband of Lina Teferi

#### JULY 15, 2011

Naomi Greenblatt,	sister of Hillie Levine
Leo Knopf,	father of Lori Knopf Santora
Hans Schwarzenberger,	father of Barbara Heimowitz
Frances Wolch,	former member of Shir Ami who made the Ark door tiles

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

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

Anne Firestone,	mother of Bill Firestone
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



## CLEAN UP DAY RECAP

### MAY 1ST YARD CLEAN UP

We had a very successful clean up on May 1st. Thanks so much to the hard working Shir Ami crew who truly beautified our grounds. We trimmed so much yard debris that we needed to rent a large green waste container to handle it all.

We had many serious pruners on the job and more folks showed up to help than we expected. Seemed like the Schulbergs had felled two trees even before we all arrived. We focused on opening up the area in the front yard between the parking lot and the sidewalk. It looks very light and open now, and no longer is an eyesore. If we want to put in a fence, or put back the Shir Ami sign that Milt has been working on, we can now be proud of the area.

The other main effort (of both this clean up and the last) was to tidy things up for the end of the year meeting. Our hard working gang really cleaned out the area around the sukkah. Thank you Fred, Milt, Mickey, Peter, Jeff and Todd. Todd, when it comes to wielding a pick axe, you are the main man.

And by the way... say your goodbyes, because our sukkah will not be around for long. Out with the old and in with the new. I hear Peter has ideas for a bigger and better one.

Thank you Toni, David, Diana, Rose, Nancy, Judy B., Judy G. and Sarah K. for your efforts in cleaning up, pruning and beautifying the temple. All your hard work really shows, the grounds look great.

Jane, thank you so much for your help and all your hard work coordinating the clean up with me. You said that you have never come across a group of such hard working people before, and I totally agree. You are an awesome group of people.

Barb Haber always used to refer to Shir Ami as a "do it yourself" temple. Group efforts like this really remind me of those words.

Bonnie



**Shir Ami Clean Up Day  
May 1, 2011**



## SHIR AMI ACTIVITIES RECAP

### MAY 1ST PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH HAYWARD COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

On Sunday May 1st, Shir Ami was one of the many vendors that attended the South Hayward Community Festival. This event, now in its fourth year and held this year at Mt. Eden park, is organized to bring residents of the South Hayward area face-to-face with local organizations that provide community services. Jon Zimmerman, Harriet Skelly, Marlene Lamnin and Ruth Hartman manned a booth to give festival participants some info about Shir



Ami services and activities. As this date coincided with Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Jon and Ruth gave a special presentation to festival attendees; Jon read the poem "The Butterfly" by Pavel Friedman, and Ruth sang the song "Eli, Eli" in three languages: English, Hebrew and Spanish. To go along with the Friedman poem, children at the Shir Ami booth received materials and help to create their own paper butterfly. In addition to Harriet, Marlene and Ruth, Jon would like to also thank Rabbi Andrew and Sara Lamnin for their helpful suggestions while preparing for this event.



### JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT MAY 17

Jewish Heritage night was quite a success. 30 strong weathered the rain to watch the 14 to 0 win for the A's over the Angels. We had box dinners, got A's Kippahs as a gift give away, and Spencer Blum caught a foul ball !! A great time was had by all.



## CONTACTS

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Community Page  
Donations: General & Special Fund,  
Treasurer-Receivables  
eScrip  
Treasurer-Payables  
Men's Club  
Religious  
Religious  
Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood  
Social Action  
Social Action  
Yahrzeit

Milt Palmer  
Rose Firestone  
Lilly Erikson  
Sharon Golembo  
Rose Levine  
Florrie Finkle  
Judy Ganz  
Danielle Keil  
Maryann Leshin  
Jon Zimmerman  
David Schulberg  
Diana Zankowsky  
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