



CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Ave.
Castro Valley, CA 94546

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Web: www.CongShirAmi.org

Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley is an intimate, intergenerational Reform Jewish Community that welcomes interfaith families.

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

NOVEMBER 2011 Bulletin (Cheshvan-Keslev 5772)

EVENT CALENDAR

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Day	Date, Time		Event	Location
Fri.	Nov. 4, 6:00 pm 6:45 pm 8:00 pm		Potluck Dinner Children's Service Shabbat Service	Shir Ami
Sat.	Nov. 5, 3 pm		Adult Study of Ecclesiastes	Shir Ami
Tue.	Nov. 15, 7 pm		Board Meeting open to all	Shir Ami
Fri.	Nov. 18, 7:30 pm		Shabbat Service with all Shir Ami 5 th grade-B'nai Mitzvah students	Shir Ami
Sat.	Nov. 19, 3 pm		NEW Trope class, Rabbi Lara	Shir Ami
Sat.	Nov. 19, 7:00 pm		Havdallah & a Movie	Shir Ami
Sun.	Nov. 20, 1:30 pm		Lunch w Travel Author	Shir Ami
Sun.	Nov. 20, 9 am-12		Family Volunteer Day	Alameda County Food Bank
Tue.	Nov. 29, 7:30 pm		Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood	Home of Valerie Goldman
Fri.	Dec. 2, 7:30 pm		Shabbat Service Honoring New Members	Shir Ami
Sat.	Dec. 3, 7:00 pm		A Night of Song w Rabbi Andrew	Shir Ami
Sat.	Dec. 3, 3 pm		Give the Gift of Acceptance	Castro Valley Library
Fri.	Dec. 9, 7:30 pm		Shabbat Service	Shir Ami
Sat.	Dec. 10, 1 pm		NEW Trope class, Rabbi Lara	Shir Ami
Sat.	Dec. 10, 3 pm		Book Club w Rabbi Lara	Shir Ami
Tue.	Dec. 13, 7 pm		Board Meeting open to all	Shir Ami



Decorating the Sukkah.

There are four more Sukkah pictures sprinkled throughout the Bulletin. Can you find them?

Rose Firestone, Editor
editor@CongShirAmi.org

Children's Services

- Friday, November 4: 6 pm children's service, followed by a potluck at 6:45 and then services-for-all at 8:00 pm
- Friday, November 18: Shabbat services start at 7:30pm with participation from our 5th graders to B'nai Mitzvah students

Did you notice the new, earlier start time of 7:30 pm for Shabbat services? (8pm if a potluck)

President's Message

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends:

I can't believe how fast this past month went! As much as October was filled with holidays, November has none. I am glad to have this quiet time to reflect on the holidays and to "regroup".

I am so proud of our Shir Ami community. After the holidays we received some donations from a few of our guests along with letters telling me how warm, friendly and welcoming our community is. They liked how our members participated in the services and how we celebrated together.

It is amazing to me just how much we accomplish despite the fact that we are a small community. We have many volunteers who are willing to lend their skills, talents and time to Shir Ami. I want to thank David Schulberg, Diana Zankowsky, Rachel Brott and Rabbinic Interns Andrew and Lara who spent many hours planning and preparing for the High Holy Day services. The services were so well choreographed! Thanks also go to Ruth Hartman for the overall planning for Break the Fast, to Danielle Keil for food shopping and to Ruth Rosenthal for coordinating the set up and clean up.

Celebrating Sukkot was especially fun this year. Thanks to Peter Lewis, Milt Palmer, Jeff Blum, David Schulberg and Bruce Skelly for building our beautiful Sukkah. Thanks to Barbara Heimowitz for preparing the beautiful "walls" of the Sukkah and to Jan Dombrower, Bonnie Frey, Sharon Golembo, Melanie Einbund and Diana Zankowsky for working with me to create the decorations. More thanks go to Mickey Lange, Fred Zankowsky and Mike Loss for supplying the bamboo and preparing the roof. We had such a fun potluck and service under the sukkah that many of us brought our dinners the next night to eat together in the sukkah before Havdalah and Movie night! Last but not least thanks go to Toni Schulberg, Barbara-Ann Lewis, Bruce and Harriet Skelly and Fred Zankowsky for taking down the walls and decorations and cleaning up the bamboo.



This month we have a Kids Shabbat service on Nov. 4th at 6pm followed by a community wide potluck dinner at 6:45pm. Regular Shabbat services start at 8pm.

On Nov 18th Shabbat services start at 7:30pm with participation from our 5th graders to B'nai Mitzvah students. I look forward to seeing you there!



Harriet Skelly, President

President@congShirAmi.org

Harriet

Bulletin Editor's Note: Shir Ami recently received a letter from Norma O'Brien, who lives out of the area and attended services in October with the Liskewicz Family. The letter was addressed to Harriet and is excerpted below.

October 15, 2011

Dear Harriet,

What a wonderfully warm, friendly congregation you have! ...I wanted you to know how much I enjoyed the services and being with you all for the Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services this year.

...

The services were wonderful and the warmth I felt in your little temple was outstanding. Thank you for making me feel a part of your lovely temple.

Sincerely,

Norma O'Brien

Rabbinic Interns' Page

Fall is upon us. The leaves are changing, the new year has begun, and we have started the Torah with new and fresh eyes for the year 5772. The next few months bring us many opportunities to expand our mind and stretch and push ourselves to learn new things. Join us for some trope learning. Read the book for book club. Join us in singing on December 3rd. Take advantage of the chances to enrich our lives Jewishly with the wonderful community of Shir Ami. Whatever it is you do, we look forward to seeing you as we begin our new year together!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SERVICES:

Friday, November 4th, 2011:

6:00 pm, Children's Service: Rabbi Andrew will be leading a service filled with story, song, and fun Shabbat experiences for all ages of children.

6:45 pm, Potluck Dinner

8:00 pm, Shabbat service for all

Friday, November 18th, 7:30 pm: A Shabbat service involving all Shir Ami 5th grade-B'nai Mitzvah students in our school. Led by Rabbi Lara.

Friday, December 2nd, 7:30 pm: Join us as we welcome Shabbat and honor all new members of Shir Ami. Led by Rabbi Andrew.

Friday, December 9th, 7:30 pm: A Shabbat service for all! Led by Rabbi Lara.

ADULT LEARNING, SATURDAY

We hope the following opportunities will bring new experiences into your lives, and also promote familiarity and continuity as we move into our new year together.

November 5th, 3:00 pm: a discussion on the book of *Kohelet* (Ecclesiastes). Taught by Rabbi Andrew. Everyone is welcome.

November 19th, 3:00 pm: a new **Trope class** session. Taught by Rabbi Lara. New learners are welcome.

November 19th, 7:00 pm: Movie and Havdallah. Bring popcorn for a fun movie and havdallah service with Rabbi Lara. Last time we had a great discussion, so come enjoy another night of enlightening film discussion.

December 3rd at 7:00 pm Rabbi Andrew in a night of songs from liturgy, tradition and contemporary sources.

December 10th, 1:00 pm: Trope class taught by Rabbi Lara. New learners are welcome.

December 10th, 3:00 pm: Book Club Join Rabbi Lara for a book discussion on *My Michael* by Amos Oz.

BOOK CLUB IS HAPPENING AGAIN FOR 5772!

We will be reading two books this year, one for December and one for April. Rabbi Lara will be leading a discussion on **December 10th at 3:00pm** on the book *My Michael* by Amos Oz. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Lara Pullan Regev
Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org

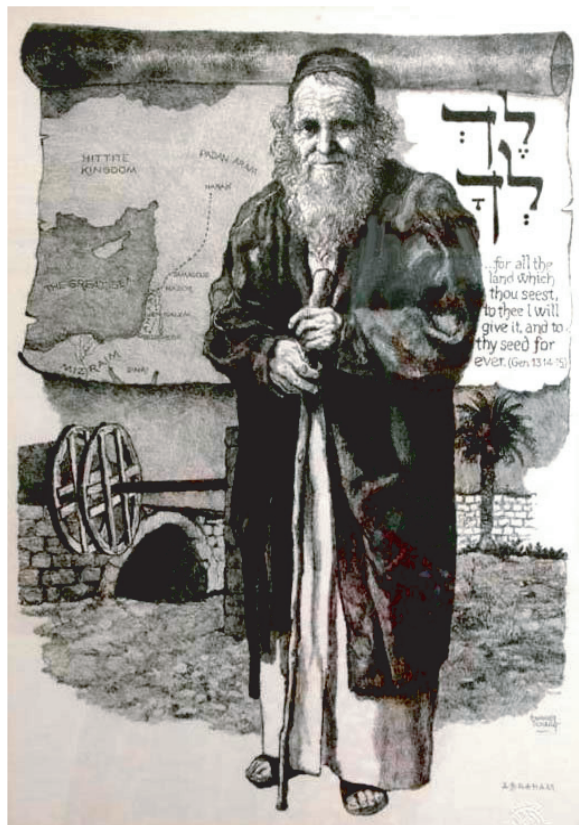
Andrew Terkel
Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org

We hope to see you all at these Shabbat services and events throughout our weekends with you in the month of November.

Children's Shabbat, Nov. 4 Potluck & Shabbat, Nov. 4

Paresha **לך לך** Go forth

And the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you. And I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will aggrandize your name, and you shall be a blessing



Lithograph by Emanuel Schary,
Hebrew Academy Morris County, NJ

Kids' Shabbat Friday, November 4th, 2011

Will be conducted at 6:45 PM by

Andrew Terkel

POT LUCK at 6:00 PM

Please participate in Shir Ami's rotating food assignment

O to Z --- Main Dish

A to N---Side Dish, Dessert

Help in cleanup

Shabbat, Nov. 18

Paresha Sarah

The burial of Sarah

in a cave, purchased by Abraham 3700 years ago;
the Paresha recounts the lives, marriages and deaths of our
Biblical Forefathers

The Cave of Machpelah Tomb of the Patriarchs



*Burial place of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca and Leah
Hebron, West Bank*

**Fifth grade to B'nai Mitzvah Services on Friday, November 18 at 7:30 PM
will be led by**

Lara Pullan Regev

Sun., Nov. 20, 'Travel' Brunch

Award-winning travel author to visit Shir Ami

Come Along with Carol on a Few Weekend Adventures



*Discussion: Sunday, November 20th, 2011
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM*

Carol Terwilliger Meyers' Book "Weekend Adventures in San Francisco and Northern California" has been reviewed favorably by the San Francisco Chronicle, the Chicago Tribune and the San Diego Union Tribune.

Autographed copies will be available for purchase.

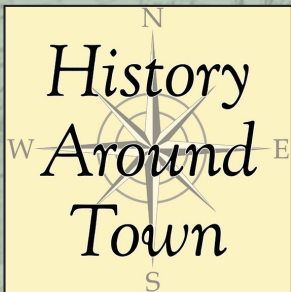
<http://www.carousel-press.com/weekend.html>

Brunch donation: \$7:00 members; \$10:00 non-members

*Lox, bagels, cream cheese, coffee and tea provided
Members please bring salads, desserts or fruit to share*

*RSVP by November 14th by email: bheimowitz@aol.com
or call 510-537-2066 after 5:00 PM*

Sat., Dec. 3, Gift of Acceptance



Give the gift of acceptance

Saturday, December 3, 2011

1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Castro Valley Library Learning Center
3600 Norbridge Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546

FREE ADMISSION

Celebrate the season of light and the spirit of acceptance by joining us for an inspirational conversation with members of Castro Valley Citizens for Middle Eastern Awareness. We welcome Sahar Kordahi, Palestinian, and Ruth Hartman, Jewish-American. Joining them from Israel is Tzvia Shelef.



Tzvia Shelef & Sahar Kordahi

These three women will share their personal stories and experiences building friendship and understanding across differences. Tzvia and Sahar will share the “Seven Steps of Acceptance.” Light refreshments will be provided.



Ruth Hartman

Presented by the Hayward Area Historical Society, the Castro Valley Library, Castro Valley Citizens for Middle Eastern Awareness, and Congregation Shir Ami.

What is “History Around Town?”

History Around Town features lectures, workshops, concerts, special tours, and living history events at different HAHS sites and places in the community. Visitors will learn more about our history and the people who have and continue to shape our community. Each program takes place on the first Saturday of the month.



(510) 581-0223 | www.haywardareahistory.org

Adult Lifelong Learning

Adult Hebrew for Beginners

There's Still Time

- If you've always wanted to learn to read Hebrew.
- If you've always wanted to understand the Hebrew prayers.
- If you've always wanted to participate more fully in our services.

Whether you learned to read Hebrew as a child and have forgotten how, or never learned at all, this is the class for you.

You still have time to join a newly-forming Hebrew class! This is an all adult group, probably meeting one evening a week, day and time to be determined by the participants.

Want more information?

Contact Judy Ganz,.

adulthebrew@congshirami.org

Adult Hebrew Ongoing Classes

Learning Hebrew through Prayer

Monday, 7:30-9:00 pm

Wednesday, 7:30-9:00 pm

These ongoing weekly classes are taught by Judy Ganz, If you have basic Hebrew literacy skills and you want to improve your Hebrew reading skills and your understanding of the the meaning of prayers, contact Judy to determine if one of these classes is right for you.

Learning with the Rabbis

See the [Rabbinic Intern's Page, Page 3](#), for details.

ADULT LEARNING IN 5772

Rabbi Lara and Rabbi Andrew are bringing an exciting array of programming this year:

- movie nights
- an evening of song.
- book discussion
- text study
- trope classes

We look forward to seeing you at these events!

Sukkot preparations



Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING Rosh Chodesh: Kislev, Tuesday, Nov 29, 7:30 pm

We will bring in the new month of Kislev on Tuesday, November 29th at the home of Valerie Goldman with creative art, rituals and snacks and sweets. More information will be sent by email, or contact Jan Dombrower below.

Rosh Chodesh Recap: Women Gathered Under the Sukkah

In October, Sisterhood met under the Sukkah at the home of Diana Zankowsky. It was a beautiful night and a big turnout enjoyed a delicious fall meal. We blessed the Lulav in "Lulav circles," groups of four or five where each woman waved the Lulav and then the group recited the prayer.

For the evening program we discussed what Sukkot meant to us this year.

Reflections on Sukkot were posted inside the Sukkah. Each woman walked around inside the dwelling and read each reflection. In the group discussion that followed, we each commented on something that stood out for us. The meaningful topics included seeing us as wanderers who need the shelter of God's presence or the security we find within the walls. Other thoughts were on the joy that Sukkot brings; the guests we invite into the Sukkah; opening our homes and our hearts; and giving and receiving.

We ended the evening by planning the year's Rosh Chodesh events.
(see schedule below)

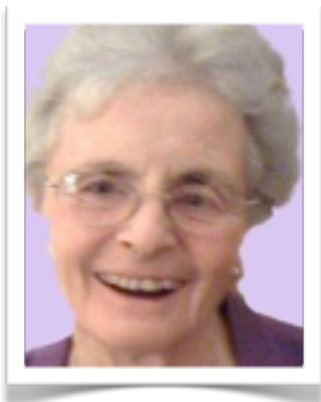


Jan Dombrower, Sisterhood
Sisterhood@congShirAmi.org

Rosh Chodesh	2011-12	Schedule	
Kislev	Tue, Nov 29	Valerie Goldman	Castro Valley
Chanukah Party	Tue, Dec 27	Betinna Skenhan	Union City
Shevet	Wed, Jan 25	Sharon Golembo	Fremont
Adar	Tue, Feb 21	Barbara Ann Lewis	Castro Valley
Women's Retreat	Fri- Sun, Feb 24-26	Westminster Retreat Cntr	Alamo
Nisan	Tue, Mar 27	Sara & Marlene Lamnin	Hayward
Iyar	Tue, Apr 24	Jan Dombrower	Hayward
Sivan	Tue, May 22	Nancy Storch/ Lilly Erickson	Pleasanton
End of year BBQ Tamuz	Wed June 20	Harriet Skelly/ Pat Palmer	Deerview Park , Castro Valley

Community Page

ROSE'S RAMBLINGS



Note from the Community Editor: Wouldn't you like to share some of your activities with the rest of us?? Come on, let's hear from you!

Please send your shmooze and news to:

community@congshirami.org

HISTORY OF CONGREGATION SHIR AMI (Part 1)

In last month's September Bulletin we wrote about the history of our two Torahs. This month we've received requests for the story of our Shir Ami building.

On a June day in 1965 Rose Levine, while exploring her new neighborhood around Redwood Road- the Levine family had just moved into their new home a few blocks away- she spotted a sign outside 4529 Malabar Avenue, that read "FOR SALE". From the front, she could see a charming Victorian house and an expanse of grass with a huge tree growing on one side of the lawn; and in the back, a pink flagstone-tiled patio was visible. Rose lost no time calling the Synagogue Search Committee to view the property. Among them were Leon Meyer, Rolf Weinberg, and Hillie Levine.

That same year our predecessor, the Jewish Community Association of Southern Alameda County, had voted to disband and to become a

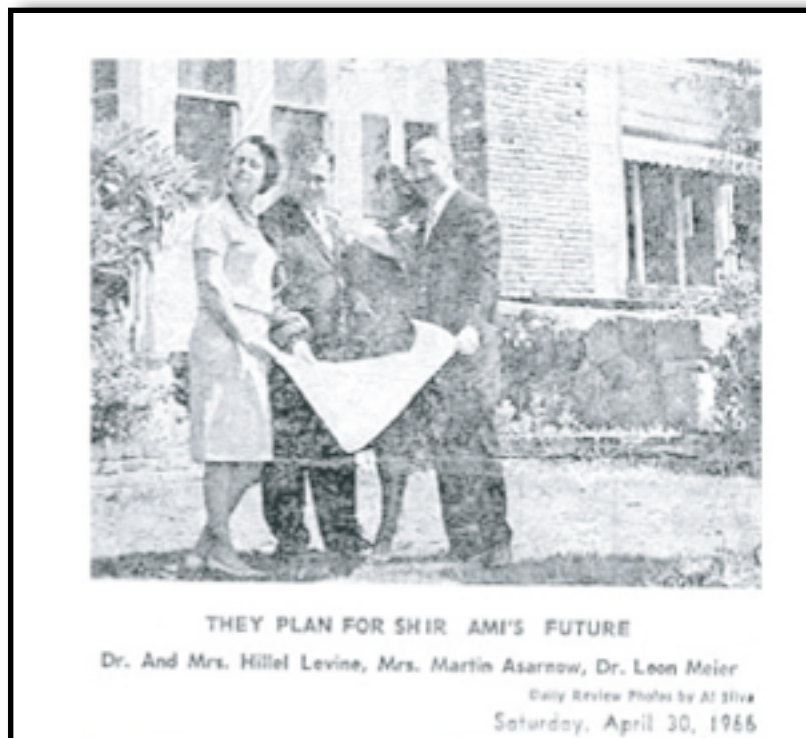
congregation; our task now was to keep an eye out for a suitable building for a synagogue.

The committee made inquiries. The 1870's house originally belonged to a sea-faring man who spent his time in the loft, peering out a window with a spy glass,

looking out at the bay. This gave the house its name: "Pilot's Knob." After about three other owners, it was now the home of an elderly mother, her son and his partner. The rooms were lavishly furnished with antiques. In two of the rooms there were large mahogany consoles fitted with music boxes. A beautiful crystal chandelier hung from the ceiling. The back garden had a variety of fruit trees, such as apricot, olive, and an enormous pepper tree. And to top it off, three magnificent peacocks walked around the grounds.



Rolf and Ingrid Weinberg, Founders of Congregation Shir Ami



THEY PLAN FOR SHIR AMI'S FUTURE
 Dr. And Mrs. Hillel Levine, Mrs. Martin Asarnow, Dr. Leon Meier
 Daily Review Photo by Al Silva
 Saturday, April 30, 1965

The next few months were spent inspecting every corner of the building to convert it for use as a school, a synagogue and a community center. That summer, willing members spent full days volunteering their skills as movers, carpenters, electricians, and interior decorators. With the help of

the part that the women played, will appear in the next issue of the Community Page..

To be continued in the December Bulletin...



Jerry Becker, who was in construction, Henry Ball, Hi Wolch, Charles Keegan, Hillie Levine, and others, it started to take shape. The story is told that one time a member of another synagogue came in to observe the process and to "kibbitz." Hillie and Hi were working. The walls were not yet affixed to the studs. The ceiling was unfinished and the floor tiles were only partially affixed to the underflooring. It was only two weeks to Rosh Hashanah. The curious visitor said cynically, "You'll never get this building put back together in time." Why, he was asked "because Jews are not skilled in such work!"

LETTERS

(From Ruth Rosenthal)

Dear Rose,

The following is a list of people who helped with the Break the Fast on Yom Kippur. Nancy Storch, Bonnie Frey, Lorraine Lewis, Harriet Skelly, Toni and David Schulberg, Jeff and Jodi Blum, Sara Lamnin, Marlene Lamnin, Jon Zimmerman, Lina Teferi, Marci Loss, Danielle Keil, Ruth Hartman, and me (Ruth Rosenthal). These are the people who officially helped by bringing food, buying food (Danielle), coordinating everyone in advance (Ruth Hartman), coordinating volunteers at the event (me), and actually helping set up, replenish the table, and clean up that evening and the next day.

So did we get the job done? The goal was to complete the task by Rosh Hashanah, when we were scheduled to have our first service in the new building. The answer to that question, as well as to

(LETTERS, continued)

There were many other people who pitched in and/or brought food that day without having responded in advance and whose names I can't remember. As usual, our lovely community always rallies to make such events run smoothly. Thank you to all and apologies to those whose names were omitted.

L' Shana Tova, Ruth Rosenthal

NEWS OF MEMBERS

KOL HAKAVOD-CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to all who participated in the building and decorating of our lovely new Succah- what a beautiful and professional job. Succoth this year was on a warm evening, and we enjoyed having our meal together in the Succah. Since we used it for the first time, we all joined in saying a hearty "Shehecheyanu" May Shir Ami'ers get pleasure from it for many more years!

Mazeltov to James Keil, who received a miniature Torah and honey because he's starting in our school this year. Reuben Spitzer is beginning his Hebrew studies, so he too received a gift of honey. This is a sweet tradition at Simchat Torah.

ZICHRONO LEVRACHA -- MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING

Our sincere condolences to Ruth Hartman and family on the loss of Mayer Yashar, husband of Ruth's sister Sara Yashar, of Redmond, Washington.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Valerie Goldman and Sam Krantz
Castro Valley
Daughter: Marlo, Age 3.5

Suzanne and Steve Gayle
Hayward
Daughters: Violet, nearly Age 11 (11/ 29)
Tanzanite, Age 8

TODAH RABA – THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING

Thanks to the Skellys, the Schulbergs, the Zankowsky's and the Keil family for hosting our intern rabbis in September and October.

And Thanks to Ruth Hartman & Barbara Heimowitz, Diana Zankowski, and Lorraine and Peter Lewis, for providing the Oneg in Sept. and Oct. To Ruth Rosenthal for coordinating the Break the Fast on Yom Kippur night (see letters, above).

AND FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION TO SHIR AMI

Audrey and Karl Hand in honor of Sam and Ann Blank on becoming great-grandparents

Toni and David Schulberg in honor of Judy Ganz, thanking her for conducting the Adult Hebrew Class.

Noah Markus in memory of his grandparents- Jeanette and Martin Brody and Leona Markus at their yahrzeits.

Sharon Golembo-. at the time of their yahrzeits, In memory of her mother, Beatrice Golembo Oct.21 and in memory of her sister,.Darlene Jan.5, 2012

Rose Levine, in memory of her parents Maurice and Anne Aronowitz also in memory of Mayer Yasharn Ruth Hartman's brother-in-law.



Yahrzeit List

November 2011 Yahrzeit List

November 4, 2011

Anne Aronowitz, Freda Hansen,	mother of Rose Levine aunt of Toni Schulberg
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November 18, 2011

Sidney J. Leshin,	father of Mary Ann Leshin
Martin Michelson,	brother-in-law of David Schulberg
Ada & Jack Rubenstein,	mother and father of Ron Rubenstein

Kaddish List (to be read at all services November)

Moe Levy,	long-time former member of Shir Ami
Mayer (pronounced ma-YARE) Yashar,	brother-in-law of Ruth Hartman
James Wallace Bergmann,	father of Ruth Levin
Anne Firestone,	mother of Bill Firestone
Civia Rudman,	former member of Shir Ami
Sherrie 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



CONTACTS

Congregation Shir Ami

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Rabbinic Intern.....	Andrew Terkel.....	Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org
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Building Maintenance.....	Milt Palmer.....	facilities@congshirami.org
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Special Fund, Wall Plaques		
eScrip.....	Danielle Keil.....	escrip@congshirami.org
Men's Club.....	Jon Zimmerman.....	mensclub@congshirami.org
Newsletter.....	Rose Firestone.....	editor@congshirami.org
Newsletter Mailing.....	Lilly Erikson.....	editor@congshirami.org
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Religious.....	David Schulberg.....	religion@congshirami.org
Religious.....	Diana Zankowsky.....	religion@congshirami.org
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Social Action.....	Julie Greenfield.....	socialaction@congshirami.org
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**Please submit invoices/reimbursement requests to PO Box, not to street address.

Congregation Shir Ami-- Treasurer, PO Box 2099, Castro Valley, CA 94546