



CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

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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)

DECEMBER 2011 Bulletin (Keslev/Tevet 5772)

Where is the EVENT CALENDAR?

Rose Firestone, Editor
editor@CongShirAmi.org

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You will find the NEW and IMPROVED Event Calendar on page 2 of the Bulletin. Previous Bulletins listed events in several locations. The Event Calendar now contains all events in ONE list, and allows readers to link (in BLUE) to more information. We hope you find this simplified format easier to use.

We have added an ODDS & ENDS page for miscellaneous items submitted to the Bulletin. This page will be included in the Bulletin as needed. If you would like to submit an article or picture to the Bulletin, send to editor@CongShirAmi.org before the 25th of the month.

Some December HIGHLIGHTS:

- Chanukah Service, Latke Tasting Party & Potluck- Friday, December 23, 6:30 pm
- A Night of Song with Rabbi Andrew- Saturday, December 3. Don't miss this new event!

Volunteering at the Food Bank. See article on page 4



Event Calendar

DECEMBER

- Fri. Dec. 2 7:30 pm [Shabbat Service](#)-- Led by Andrew Terkel. **New Members** will be honored.
- Sat. Dec. 3 1:00 pm ["Gift of Acceptance"](#)—Discussion at Castro Valley Library, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm.
- Sat. Dec. 3 7:00 pm **A Night of Song with Rabbi Andrew**-- Join Rabbi Andrew in a night of songs from liturgy, tradition and contemporary sources.
- Fri. Dec. 9 7:30 pm [Shabbat Service](#) A service for all led by Lara Pullan Regev.
- Sat. Dec 10 1:00 pm **Trope class** Led by Lara Pullan Regev New learners are welcome.
- Sat. Dec 10 3:00 pm [Book Club](#)-- Join Rabbi Lara for a book discussion on *My Michael* by Amos Oz
- Fri. Dec. 23 6:30 pm [Chanukah](#)-- **Pot Luck and Chanukah Party/Service** Led by Diana Zankowsky & Sara Lamnin Potluck begins at 6:30, followed by a short service. Bring your favorite Chanukah menorah & candles for group candle lighting. This is the 4th night of Chanukah.
- Tue. Dec. 27 7:30 pm [Rosh Chodesh](#) Women's Chanukah celebration at the home of Bettina Skehan.

JANUARY

- Fri. Jan. 6 8:00 pm **Shabbat Service** Led by Andrew Terkel
- Sat. Jan. 6 3:00 pm **Ketuvim Text Study** Led by Andrew Terkel
- Fri. Jan. 20 8:00 pm **Welcome Shabbat Service with other faith leaders** Led by Lara Pullan Regev
- Sat. Jan. 20 3:00 pm **Trope class** Led by Lara Pullan Regev .
- Wed. Jan 25 7:30 pm **Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood** at the home of Sharon Golembo
- Fri. Jan. 27 8:00 pm **Shabbat Service** Led by Andrew Terkel
- Sat. Jan. 28 10:00 am **Religious Committee Meeting** at the home of Diana Zankowsky

FEBRUARY

- Fri. Jan. 6 8:00 pm **Shabbat Service** Led by Andrew Terkel
- Feb. 24-26 [Women's Retreat](#) Join us for our 16th annual women's retreat

How do you spell Chanukah?

Throughout the Bulletin you will find Chanukah spelled in various ways. A Google search for usage in 2010 revealed the following hits, with Hanukkah in the lead, though an NPR show said that Chanukah was #1. Your choice?

Hanukkah: 2,590,000 hits.

Chanukah: 612,000 hits

Hannukah: 214,000 hits

Hanuka: 68,200 hits

Hanukah: 56,000 hits

Chanuka: 50,400 hits

President's Message

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends:

Did you know that the Alameda County Food Bank provides food for 1 out of 6 county residents? Did you know that the Food Bank has very few paid staff and is mostly run by volunteers? These are just two facts that I learned when I volunteered at the Alameda County Food Bank on November 20. I want to thank Diana Zankowsky for coordinating this very successful and fun Family Volunteer Day. I don't think I would have thought to volunteer at the food bank on my own. Now I would like to go back and do more work there.

There were 29 volunteers from Shir Ami and Temple Beth Shalom, including Rabbi Lara. We were brought into a classroom with several other volunteer groups and were taught how to separate out the can goods from the dry food and how to recognize donations that were not suitable for the food boxes that are prepared for the clients. Our group's assigned work was to weed out the non-suitable cans and dry food and to sort the good food items into the appropriate bins. Another group took those sorted items and prepared the boxes for the clients. We were told that within the 2 hours of

work, our groups had processed 29,000 pounds of food!

I thoroughly enjoyed the work at the food bank and I enjoyed working alongside our teens and their families! We have such a great community here at Shir Ami and that makes me very proud!



Harriet Skelly, President

Coming up soon will be another opportunity to make a difference – Lisa Silver will be leading the Relay for Life fundraiser again this year which you can read about in this month's bulletin.

Harriet
President@congShirAmi.org

Editor's Note: See information below from Lisa Silver regarding the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

A note from Lisa Silver

You may remember that Lisa Silver's female a capella group, *The Silver Lining*, and Congregation Shir Ami joined forces in 2011 to raise money for The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. With a combined effort, we came close to raising \$9,000, a great accomplishment for a first time Relay team. This year, Lisa would like to throw down the gauntlet and challenge those who are interested in helping fight back against cancer by filling a 16 oz plastic water bottle full of dimes ... once it is full, you will be able to contribute \$100.00 for the cause! Just imagine if each of our families at Shir Ami had a water bottle sitting in their living room and casually filled it with dimes between now and July 21st, 2012, which is the Relay date set for next year your sense of accomplishment and pride will be great and so much appreciated. Lisa is happy to provide the water bottles and will bring them to Shir Ami with labels so you can name your bottle and start saving your spare change! One recommendation ... remember to drink the water first!



If you have questions about Castro Valley's Relay for Life, 2012, or wish to join Lisa's team, please email her directly at hirelisa@yahoo.com.

Thank you in advance, Congregation Shir Ami, for helping to fight back in 2012!

Lisa Michelle Silver

"Never Never Never Give Up" ... Sir Winston Churchill

Rabbinic Interns' Page

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!

Thoughts on Hanukkah

Contrary to popular belief, Hanukkah (translation: "Rededication") is not a major Jewish holiday. Pesach, Sukkot, and Yom Kippur all come directly from the Torah. But the celebration of the Macabees' victory over the Greek army, and the rededication of the sacred Temple around the 2nd century BCE that we know today was instituted by the rabbis much later. The holiday is mentioned briefly in the Talmud, and the books relating the story (Macabees 1 and 2) were not included in the Biblical canon.

So why the big fuss over Hanukkah today? It's placement in the calendar, smack dab in the middle of general American holiday euphoria is one reason. Another is that Hanukkah is a joyous holiday, celebrating Jewish triumph and resilience in the face of annihilation. We never tire of telling the tale of brave Judah Macabee and the magical oil that lasted for 8 days. Spinning the dreidle for 8 nights,

singing Maoz Tzur and frying latkes never fail to bring joy and gladness to our friends and families.

May this Hanukkah bring us all the happiness in the world, may your Hanukkiot shine brightly, and may your latkes be delicious. For on Hanukkah we celebrate the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to Jewish life and practice, and to do so joyously.

Submitted by Andrew Terkel, November 2011



Lara Pullan Regev

Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org

Andrew Terkel

Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org

Are You Hungry? Do You Know Someone Who Is?

1 in 6 people in Alameda County rely on the Food Bank and its partners for some food during the month.

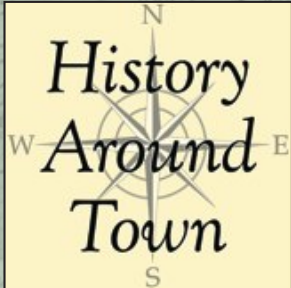
On Sunday, November 20th, 9 students from the Shir Sholom School and 17 adults from Congregation Shir Ami and Temple Beth Sholom met at the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) in Oakland for a Mitzvah project. The Food Bank had tons of food from the Boy Scout and Safeway collections on that weekend and they needed help sorting and boxing food for their clients. We worked for 2.5 hours, looking at expiration dates, separating cans from dry goods, and preparing boxes of food for distribution. It was enjoyable and rewarding and much appreciated by the folks at ACCFB. Rabbi Lara helped to conclude the

day for us by providing some Biblical texts and guiding us in a discussion of sharing food with the needy.



If you were unable to attend the event and want to learn more or to help the Food Bank with a donation, their website is www.accfb.org.

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

Odds & Ends

Editor's Note: We've added this page to include miscellaneous items submitted to the Bulletin.

Help Needed for Grant Writing Research

To address some of Shir Ami's larger maintenance and facilities needs, Vice President Jon Zimmerman is researching grants and grant-awarding organizations... and he could use your help. If you would like to join Jon in brainstorming innovative ways to improve our synagogue and expand its capabilities, working with Jon to develop a compelling story of why Shir Ami is deserving of outside support, or you have experience or interest in grant application writing, then please contact Jon at mensclub@congshirami.org or (510) 220-3345.

Giving Acceptance and Noshes

As you read in this last and this month's Bulletin, Ruth Hartman is participating in a community conversation about Giving the Gift of Acceptance, to be held on Saturday, December 3rd at 1 pm in the Castro Valley Library. Shir Ami will play a larger role in this year's conversation by helping to provide challah, juice and other refreshments for the attendees. If you'd like to help contribute, please contact Jon Zimmerman at mensclub@congshirami.org or (510) 220-3345. Hope to see you there!

High Holiday Food Drive... the Numbers tell the Story!

Many thanks to all who donated food and funds to the South Hayward Parish Food Drive during Yom Kippur! Collectively, we donated nearly 400 pounds of food and raised over \$1,000 dollars. Hundreds of families in need in our area now have eggs and milk and other important staples thanks to your generosity! Many thanks also to those who supported South Hayward Parish's fundraiser last month. As a member congregation of the South Hayward Parish non-profit organization, our support helps to make sure that individuals of all ages in our community have the food, services, and opportunities they need to be self-sufficient. For more information, visit www.southhaywardparish.org Again, Thank you!

Thanks

Stan and I wanted to thank Melanie Einbund for coming early and helping us set up the Lox and Bagel Brunch yesterday. We had a nice turnout of people who heard Carole Terwilliger Meyers talk about her book, "Weekend Adventures in San Francisco and Northern California."

Many thanks for including this on the community page.

Barbara and Stan Heimowitz

(Editor: this was submitted too late to include on Community Page.)

Adult Learning

Adult Hebrew Learning Hebrew through Prayer Adult Hebrew classes are ongoing.

Want more information?

Contact Judy Ganz,
adulthebrew@congshirami.org

Note from Editor:

Thanks to Milt Palmer for sending me a link to an article from the **U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum** website a few months ago. It was an article on educating youth to speak out against hate and indifference. I no longer have the link, but here's a link to the main site.

<http://www.ushmm.org/>

Shabbat Service Dec. 2

Shabbat Service and Welcome of New Members

Paresha Vayetze: "And he left..."



Jacob's Dream
after Gustave Doré, 1832-1883

And Jacob dreamed and behold a ladder set up on earth...the top of it reached the heaven...and God said: "The Land whereupon thou liest to thee will I give it and to thy seed..."

Shir Ami Services
Friday, December 2nd, 8:00 PM
Conducted by
Andrew Terkel

Shabbat Service Dec. 9

Paresha Vayishlach (<Jacob> sent <messages>)

Chanukah coming up! See flier for 12-23-2011



Friday, December 9th at Shir Ami
Shabbat Services at 8:00 PM
Led by Lara Pullan Regev

See flier for 12-23-2011 (this Bulletin) for
party information and food assignments

Chanukah Service, Latke Tasting Party & Potluck: Dec. 23

Shabbat, Friday December 23 at Shir Ami



Pot Luck Dinner at 6:30 PM

Followed by a short Service by Sara Lamnin and Diana Zankowsky

Bring your favorite Menorah and Candles for a community light-up

(This is the 4th night of Chanukah)

PLEASE COOPERATE IN THESE SPECIAL FOOD ASSIGNMENTS

**A to Les and Sa to ZLatkes, Chanukah dish, or take-out
"kosher-style" Chinese food**

**Lev to Rui.....Side Dish or Dessert and help with
Clean Up.**

Women's Retreat, Feb. 24-26

Please join us for our 16th Annual
Shir Ami Women's Retreat

**Spread Over Us
A Shelter of Peace**

Friday, February 24 – Sunday, February 26, 2012

At the beautiful Westminster Retreat Center
in Alamo, California

Discover Jewish sources of inner peace and comfort. Join us for a weekend of women's friendship, worship, creativity, inspiration, and play. Rabbinic Intern Lara Pullan Regev joins us once again to share her musical and spiritual leadership. As always, newcomers are *very* welcome.

The cost for the weekend is \$250.

Please register online at <http://tinyurl.com/6wa2p4h>, and mail your check, payable to Ruth Hartman, the same day. (Mailing address is at the online registration site.)

Our group is limited to 19 women.
*Register ASAP, no later than **February 1.***

Questions?

Contact Ruth Hartman: 510-582-3379 or events@conghshirami.org

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING Rosh Chodesh: Chanukah Party Tuesday, December 27

Sisterhood’s annual Chanukah party will be hosted by Bettina Skehan on Tuesday, December 27. Please join us for latkes, candle lighting and gift exchange. Check your email for address and directions. See you there.

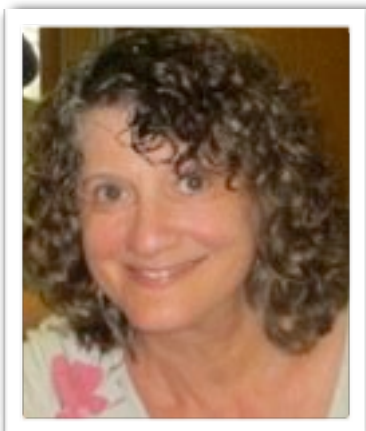
This is a sisterhood Chanukah event. Shir Ami’s [Chanukah party](#) will be held at Shir Ami on Friday, December 23.

Rosh Chodesh Recap:

Last month we gathered for the month of Chesvan at the home of Naomi Bareket. It was a wonderful afternoon of viewing and selecting jewelry from the stunning collection. After bringing in the month of Chesvan with a reading and wishing all a Chodesh Tov- a good month- we played a fun Israeli card game, had Israeli dancing, visited, and ate delicious homemade breads, cakes, fruits, and humus. Thank you Naomi for a great time.

Women’s Retreat: February 24-26, 2011

Register now for our [Sisterhood annual retreat](#). Join us for a weekend of women’s friendship, worship, creativity, inspiration, and play.



Jan Dombrower,
Sisterhood@congShirAmi.org

Rosh Chodesh	2011-12	Schedule	
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 2 continued from the November Bulletin...



Last month's Community Page described the early years of the Shir Ami building. In this section we will continue with the story.

When last we left them, the members were still on ladders. The ceiling was unfinished and the floor tiles were only partially fixed to the underflooring. There were only two weeks left to Rosh Hashanah, and everything needed to be finished before we officially opened our doors for our first service in the new building. The late Rabbi Eliot Grafman, who was to conduct the service, came to check on our progress a few days beforehand. Some members were in their work clothes and apologized to him that they hadn't cleaned up yet for his visit. "Oh no," he replied, "you can't imagine how thrilled it makes me feel to see you all like this." And yes, we did indeed manage to put in all the finishing touches and open our doors in time.

Those guys in their grubby work clothes: that was the central theme of Rabbi Grafman's Yom Kippur sermon that year. In his words, he had witnessed a unique spirit that afternoon among the sweaty workers: the devotion and determination to build a

Jewish community. The guys in their grubby clothes had inspired the rabbi more than any building or ritual object could have done.

The work goes on! We are proud to say that this same spirit of building and collaboration continues to this day, more than sixty years later, in work parties and projects. Only recently a fence needed repairing, and Bruce Skelly, Milt Palmer, Fred Zankowsky, Peter Lewis, David Schulberg and Jeff Blum tore it down and built a whole new, and freshly painted fence around the entire front of the property, from driveway to driveway. The Shir Ami spirit lives on! Thanks to Bruce Skelly, Jeff Blum, Milton Palmer (Task Leader), and, not shown in the picture, Fred Zankowsky and Peter Lewis.



NEWS OF MEMBERS

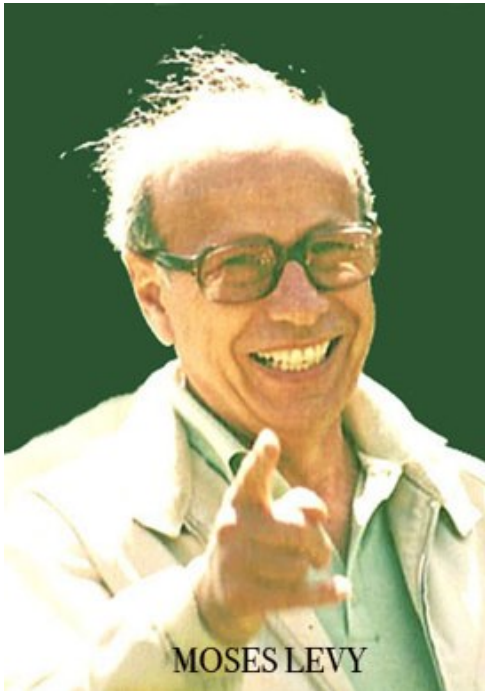
Lori Santora tells us that her doctor has pronounced her in remission after a long and difficult treatment. Good news for which we are all grateful!

ZICHRONO LEVRACHA -- MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING

MOSES LEVY 1920-2011

Moe Levy was a former very active member of Shir Ami. He died on October 24. Rose Levine presented the following at the Memorial Service.

When I think of Moe, many pictures of the person comes to my mind: a man devoted to his family; a serious, gentle man but nevertheless one who loved to tease and make jokes; someone who was deeply committed to liberal thought who could argue politics for hours; a teacher; a tennis player; but above all, I think of a proud Sephardic Jew. As a matter of fact, Moe was the first Sephardi I had ever met. I am ashamed to say that even with years of Hebrew and Jewish education in my background, it was not until I was an adult did I learn that there existed in the world an extensive population of non-Ashkenazi Jews, Sephardim. It was from Moe that I first learned about Ladino, the language that Spanish and Portuguese Jews brought with them when they were expelled from the Iberian Peninsula. Moe's Ladino was peppered with songs and stories and



sayings that we all enjoyed at our family get-togethers.

And speaking of get-togethers, I had a tradition in our home of making an elaborate holiday lunch on Rosh Hashanah after morning services at

Shir Ami. Moe would always be invited, and now when I think about it, I wonder what he thought of the menu. If it was a dairy meal, it consisted of borscht and gefilte fish and kugel; for a meat meal chopped liver was served- it couldn't be more Ashkenazi in taste! A pleasant memory I have of that lunch was that we would always end the meal with table singing, and Moe and I would reminisce about the early Zionist days and sing, *"Ba Menucha Le Yageah oo Margoa Lea 'mel..Layla Chiver Mistarea, Al S'dot Emek Yizrael..-Night comes to the valley of Jezreel, sleep on, we shall guard you."*

Moe was proud of his children: Bethy, Nathan and Rebekah. Rebekah served as cantor at Shir Ami for six years, and I remember how he would beam and burst with pride when she sang the melodies that he grew up with-especially the Nehilah prayer on Yom Kippur. These are all good memories of our dear friend. He'll be missed.

To the Levys, go the heartfelt condolences of all Shir Amiers who knew the Levy Family and the roles they played at Shir Ami..

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Oops. We listed new members in our last issue but there were errors in references to city locations. Our apologies to:

Melanie and Nate Einbund, Hayward.

Valerie Goldman and Sam Krantz, Castro Valley.

Rick and Mary Goldhoff and daughter Marlo, Castro Valley.

Suzanne & Steve Gayle, Castro Valley, and daughters Violet and Tanzanite.

Welcome to all. We look forward to meeting you!

Watch for the next month's new member profile of Melanie and Nate Einbund.

TODAH RABA – THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING

The Schulbergs, the Zankowskys, and the Keil family for hosting our rabbis during the holidays; and Jan Dombrower and the Blums in November. Todah Raba to RuthHartman, Barbara Heimowitz, Diana Zankowsky, Lorraine and Peter Lewis and Bonnie Frey for providing the Onegs in October and November.

AND FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION TO SHIR AMI

Barbara and Florence Finkle, in memory of Moe Levy.

Rose and Hillie Levine, in memory of Moe Levy, beloved father of Rebekah, Nathan and Elizabeth Levy.

Yahrzeit List

December Yahrzeit List

December 2, 2011

Dora Alperovich, Henry Ball, Larry Dean, Lazarus Lewis,	aunt of Irina Druker very active former member of Shir Ami father of Tyler Dean father of Peter Lewis
--	--

December 9, 2011

Frederick Apple, John Blum, Inez Gautreaux, (pronounced GO-TRO) Max Schulberg,	father of Angie Ross father of Jeff Blum aunt of Toni Schulberg father of David Schulberg
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December 23, 2011

Sheila Arthur, Ann and Michael Bruser, Joseph and Meshka Druker, Frieda Greenbaum, Elisabeth Levin, Jan (pronounced YAHN) Okoniewski, Isaac Rosenberg,	long time former member of Shir Ami active early members of Shir Ami grandparents of Alex Druker grandmother of Diana Zankowsky mother-in-law of Ruth Levin husband of Marion Kramer grandfather of Alex Druker
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Kaddish List (to be read at all services December)

Moe Levy, Mayer (pronounced ma-YARE) Yashar, James Wallace Bergmann, Anne Firestone, Civia Rudman, Sherrie Kidwell, Harold Dombrower Ingrid Weinberg, Florence Lewis,	long-time former member of Shir Ami brother-in-law of Ruth Hartman father of Ruth Levin mother of Bill Firestone former member of Shir Ami Shir Ami member and wife of Bernard Kidwell father of Jan Dombrower long time founding member of Shir Ami mother of Peter Lewis
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11/29/11

CONTACTS

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Rabbinic Intern.....	Andrew Terkel.....	Rabbi.Andrew@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
Oneg Shabbat (hospitality).....	Sharon Golembo.....	oneg@congshirami.org
Religious.....	David Schulberg.....	religion@congshirami.org
Religious.....	Diana Zankowsky.....	religion@congshirami.org
Rosh Chodesh (sisterhood).....	Jan Dombrower.....	sisterhood@congshirami.org
Social Action.....	Daryl Berman.....	
Social Action.....	Julie Greenfield.....	socialaction@congshirami.org
Treasurer- Payables**.....	Diana Zankowsky.....	treasurer@congshirami.org
Treasurer- Receivables.....	Judy Ganz.....	dues@congshirami.com
Yahrzeit Listings.....	Toni Schulberg.....	yahrzeit@congshirami.org

**Please submit invoices/reimbursement requests to PO Box, not to street address.
 Congregation Shir Ami-- Treasurer, PO Box 2099, Castro Valley, CA 94546