



CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Ave.
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Email: info@CongShirAmi.org
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](#)

FEBRUARY 2012 Bulletin (Shevet/Adar 5772)

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Shir Ami at Martin Luther King, Jr Event on January 16

<https://www.facebook.com/me> Share this album with anyone by sending them this public link: [dia/set/?set=a.10150743911577222.510676.243740382221&type=3&l=db385cd955](https://www.facebook.com/dia/set/?set=a.10150743911577222.510676.243740382221&type=3&l=db385cd955)

Do you want to see more pictures? Even if you are NOT a Facebook member, you may view the pictures on Shir Ami's photo page by clicking the LINKS accompanying a photo.

Shir Ami continues to GO GREEN

Shir Ami, in its effort to go green, has purchased compostable Kiddush cups. Our new Kiddush cups are made of PLA. They look very much like the old plastic ones, but they are biodegradable and are made from corn. Although our old plastic cups were recyclable, the new PLA cups are placed in the green waste and can be turned into beneficial compost. What a great way to celebrate Tu B'Shevat, by returning our Kiddush cups to the earth and providing food for the trees. We can now enjoy an environmentally friendly Oneg without the use of disposable plastic.

Features and Benefits:

- 100% Biodegradable and Compostable
- PLA stands for Poly Lactic Acid, a plastic made from corn, an annually renewable resource.
- At the end of life, PLA based products can be commercially composted 90% within 60 days and the balance within 90 days

We still have some old cups left, so before discarding your cup, ask the oneg host which container to use .

Comments, corrections or additions? Please contact Rose Firestone, Editor editor@CongShirAmi.org

Event Calendar

Please note that the “regular” start time for Friday night Shabbat service will now be 7:30 pm. All 8:00 pm start times have been changed to 7:30 pm. Do you need to correct your calendar?

FEBRUARY

- Sat. Feb. 4 12:00noon **Tu B' Shevat Seder and Tree Planting** Led by Diana Zankowsky Catered lunch and tree planting (Date & time change from Sunday at 5 pm.)
- Fri. Feb. 10 6:00 pm **Kids' Shabbat and Potluck Dinner:** Kid's Shabbat Service at 6:00 pm; Potluck Dinner at 6:30; followed by a regular Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm. Led by Lara Pullan Regev
- Sat. Feb. 11 7:30 pm **Anat Hoffman, Chair of Women at the Wall at Cong. Netivot Shalomin Berkeley:** with Lara Pullan Regev. (This a change from original schedule) See flier <http://cnsberkeley.blogspot.com/2011/12/save-date-anat-hoffman-cns-on-feb-11th.html>
- Sun. Feb. 19 4:00 pm **Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood** at the home of Barbara Ann Lewis. (This event was moved from the 21st)
- Tue. Feb. 21 7:00 pm **Shir Ami Board Meeting** All members are welcome
- Feb. 24-26 **Women's Retreat** Join us for our 16th annual women's retreat *Questions? Contact Ruth Hartman, events@congsHIRAMI.org*



MARCH/APRIL

- Fri. Mar. 9 7:00 pm **Purim Shabbat Service** Led by Andrew Terkel
- Sat. Mar. 10 7:00 pm **Havdallah and a movie** Led by Andrew Terkel
- Sun. Mar. 11 **Purim Carnival** A ShirSholom event held at Temple Beth Sholom.
- Tue. Mar. 13 7:00 pm **Shir Ami Board Meeting** All members are welcome
- Fri. Mar. 23 6:45 pm **Pot-Luck Dinner at 6:30 pm Shabbat Service** at 7:30 pm. Led by Lara Pullan Regev.
- Sat. Mar. 24 3:00 pm **Trope class** Led by Lara Pullan Regev. All are welcome
- Sat. Mar. 24 7:00 pm **Music Night** with Lara Pullan Regev. A night of song with Rabbi Lara
- Sat. Apr. 1 3:00 pm **Ketuvim Text Study** Led by Andrew Terkel
- Sat. Apr. 1 7:00 pm **Havdallah and a movie** Led by Andrew Terkel



Did you see the pictures were taken at December's Chanukah celebration. If you want to see them, click [HERE](#) for a public look at the photos on Shir Ami's Facebook page.

President's Message

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends:

Are there really three types of Jews???

Barbara Heimowitz, Diana Zankowsky, Bruce and I recently attended a Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Membership Workshop for Small Congregations.

We learned about three types of Jews:

- Head – Jews who are intellectually involved in Judaism.
- Heart – Jews who seek and feel a spiritual connection to Judaism.
- Hand – Jews who seek hands on involvement in “*tikkun olam*”, repairing the world.

Given these three broad categories, how would you identify yourself? How do the offerings of Shir Ami meet your needs? I am interested in your thoughts on this. You can reach me by email at president@CongShirAmi.org or we can chat when I see you at Shir Ami.

Harriet



Harriet Skelly, President

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARA LAMNIN



On November 10, 2011, Bank of America honored member Sara Lamnin as a "Local Hero" in its Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Awards. Sara was chosen for her past work as a co-founder of Alameda County's Tools 4 School program (which has supplied backpacks and other school supplies for thousands of children in need living in Alameda County), as well as her current work as Program Director of the Hayward Community Action Network (a program devoted to ending homelessness in the Hayward area). For her service to the community, Sara was awarded \$5,000, to be donated to the charitable organization of her choice. Mazel Tov Sara, and keep up the good work!

Do You Have a Donation? Do you Need a Form for Reimbursement?

An official invoice form is now available for those who provide services or goods to the Congregation and need to request payment. This form may also be used for contributions of services or goods. It is available on the Shir Ami website at:

http://congshirami.org/attachment/ShirAmi_InvoiceForm.pdf

You can also find the link at the bottom of the CONTACTS page each month in the BULLETIN.

Rabbinic Interns' Page

Tu Bishvat celebrates something vital to our lives, TREES! Trees give us air, shade, delicious fruit, and the houses in which we live. But without our help and care, there won't be enough trees left to provide all of these things into the future. Tu Bishvat celebrates the birthday of the tress, and reminds us that we are partners with God in the work of creation. It is our job to ensure that this beautiful world stays that way. This Tu Bishvat there are lots of fun ways to celebrate. You could donate a tree to be planted in the land of Israel, or you could plant a new tree in your own backyard! Don't miss Shir Ami's own Tu Bishvat seder with lots of great food and fun also. Happy Tu Bishvat!

Rabbinic Interns

Lara PullanRegev

RabbiLara@congregationshirami.org

Andrew Terekel

RabbiAndrew@congregationshirami.org



Congregation Shir Ami's Tu B'Shevat celebration will be held on Saturday, February 4th at 12 noon. Services will be led by Diana Zankowsky and include a catered lunch. This year we will be planting 3 trees. We will also sow parsley seeds that will, hopefully, be ready for Passover.

Welcome Shabbat Interfaith Service, January 20, 2012



Bishop JW Macklin of Glad Tidings Church of God in Christ in Hayward at the interfaith service on January 20.

To see more pictures of this event, go to the link below.

Even if you are NOT a Facebook member, you may view the pictures on Congregation Shir Ami's photo page on Facebook by clicking the LINKS accompanying a photo.

[Share this album with anyone by sending them this public link:](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150743819842222.510654.243740382221&type=3&l=9f08121340)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150743819842222.510654.243740382221&type=3&l=9f08121340>

**Tu B'Shvat Celebration Dinner February 5, 2012
Recalling Israel's Festival of the Trees**



PHOTO BY HILLIE

**Date and time change to
Saturday, Feb. 4, 12 noon**

Services will be led by

Diana Zankowsky

on Sunday, February 5th at 5:00 PM

Delicious Seder Dinner

Charges \$15 Members, \$18 Non-Members

**Please RSVP by January 28th by Evite, or by sending an email to
events@congshirami.org**

Send your check payable to Congregation Shir Ami to:

**Tu B'Shevat Seder, Congregation Shir Ami
4529 Malabar Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546**



Kids' Shir Ami Shabbat



*Services conducted by Lara Pullam Reggev 8:00 PM Friday, February 10th
6:00 PM*

Pot Luck 6:45 PM

Please participate in Shir Ami's rotating food assignment

*A through N.....Salad or side dish,help with cleanup
O through Z.....Main dish*

Bring a friend

*****NOTE: Change of time...Potluck will begin around 6:30**

Save the Date! Feb 11th, 7:30pm
An Evening with Anat Hoffman, Chair of Women
of the Wall @ Netivot Shalom
"Women of the Wall, Social Justice and Human
Rights in Israel"



Anat Hoffman is a pioneer of civil rights in Israel. She has promoted Jewish Pluralism, tolerance, and equality in Israeli society and is a leader in the struggle for the right of women to wear a pray shawl and read from the Torah scroll at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Anat Hoffman is a dynamic and passionate speaker. Please join us for this unique opportunity to hear this trail blazing advocate and to honor her work.

This event is free and open to the public.

RSVP requested but not required to Valerie Sopher (510) 232-6244 or
vsopher@sbcglobal.net.

Sponsored by: Congregation Netivot Shalom of Berkeley, Temple Sinai of Oakland, Women of Temple Sinai, The Israel Center of the Jewish Federation of the East Bay, Congregation Beth El of Berkeley, Oakland Ruach Hadassah, Congregation Ner Tamid of San Francisco, Congregation Beth Israel Judea of San Francisco, JCC of San Francisco, The New Israel Fund, Rabbis for Women of the Wall

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@congshirami.org

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING Rosh Chodesh

Sunday, Feb 19, 4:00 pm. We will meet at the home of Barbara-Ann Lewis. Please note the change of time. We will be welcoming the new month of Adar. Please come out for a wonderful program. The month is filled with interesting topics such as Purim, Queen Esther, things that are hidden and revealed, spring, and leap year. It should be a very fun filled and interesting night. In addition we will have Rosh Chodesh rituals, blessings, visiting, and refreshments. Stay tuned for an email with reminders and directions.

Rosh Chodesh Recap January:

January recap: Last month's Rosh Chodesh was a fabulous time bringing in the month of Sh'vat. Sh'vat, the month of Tu'B Sh'vat is the birthday of the trees. At the home of Sharon Golebo's, we had all tree themed activities. First, everyone brought fruits from each of the "worlds" We made a friendship salad out of all of the different categories of fruit and enjoyed eating them! We all shared something that we personally brought to sisterhood and what we got back in return. Some of the ideas shared were, friendship, knowledge, comfort, community, laughter, fun, Hebrew language, organization, learning, creativity etc. etc. etc. We ended with a "name that tune" game about songs that had trees in the lyrics. There were prizes,

Women's Retreat: February 24-26, 2011

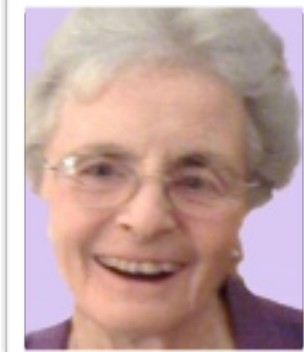
Register now for our [Sisterhood annual retreat](#). Join us for a weekend of women's friendship, worship, creativity, inspiration, and play.



Jan Dombrower, Sisterhood
Sisterhood@congShirAmi.org



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:

Rose Levine
community@congsHIRAMI.org

NEWS OF MEMBERS

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Sam Krantz and Valerie Goldman

Valerie Goldman and Sam Krantz are also artistic and talented. Valerie is an interior designer with emphasis on designing community buildings, especially health centers and clinics. Valerie belonged to Shir



Ami in the early 90s and is now back after an absence and is happy to be back. She finds Shir Amier's to be very friendly and welcoming.

Valerie has become involved with the Sisterhood, and hopes to join in on other activities soon.

Sam Krantz is an immigration lawyer. He works for Catholic Charities and has traveled extensively for his work. Sam and Valerie have a poodle named Sadie who is very much part of the family. Welcome to Shir Ami, Valerie, Sam and Sadie. We look forward to your participation in many Shir Ami activities.

Suzanne Gayle and Family

"If I don't answer the phone, it's because I'm painting. Just keep trying," Suzanne explained. "I paint almost every night, and I get so absorbed that I don't hear the ring." I asked her what time she stopped working. Her answer surprised me. She often paints the surrounding panorama of Hayward until long past midnight. Currently she's creating a mural depicting B Street. Suzanne Gayle is an artist, a muralist, a researcher, and a teacher of art. Several of her murals can be seen in downtown Hayward.

One mural shows the actual stores and restaurants near the Bart station.



"A Street in Hayward"

Suzanne and her family are all talented artistically; it seems that her two daughters, Violet and Tanzania, are following in their mother's footsteps. The family is also very involved with music, performing in musical shows and choral presentations. The girls are very happy at Shir Ami particularly because they love the music and singing. Their dad, Steven, is retired and is a "house husband" taking care of the girls while mama works



Violet

Tanzanite



AN INTERESTING SEPHARDIC TRADITION

In a Sephardic home, visitors are welcomed with sweet snacks at any time, and especially at holiday and life cycle events. Sweets were thought to placate evil spirits and keep them away. A silver sweets tray (tavla de dulsé) was one of the most important items brought by a Jewish bride in her dowry. A tavla de dulsé might have held sugar coated almonds.... or marzipanor little individual cakes or perhaps Baklava, Turkish or Greek in origin. Baklava is a pastry made of sheets of fillo dough filled with nuts and a syrup of honey or sugar and water. (For weddings in India, the bridegroom sent gifts of jewelry to the bride on a plate with baklava "to sweeten the mouth.")

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION TO SHIR AMI

Sara Yashar in honor of Hana Hartman for her youth programs.

Florence Finkle in memory of her father, Joseph Bressler at his yahrzeit.

Emily Eisbruch to the youth program in honor of Hana Hartman.

Ruth Hartman and Gary Wolff for their generous donation to Cong. Shir Ami.

Tyler Dean for the yahrzeit of Larry Dean.

AND THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN ONEGS AND HOSTING OUR RABBIS IN JANUARY

Thomas and Susan Spitzer

Milton and Pat Palmer

Julie Greenfield

The Ross Family

Other artworks by Suzanne deal with nature (frog) and school sports (high school locker).



“Red eye tree frog”

“High School Locker”



We welcome the four of you to Shir Ami and hope we'll get to meet you and see all that exciting artwork soon.

Yahrzeit List

February Yahrzeit List

February 10, 2012

Paul Bergel,	father of Marci Loss
Tessie Bressler,	mother of Florrie Finkle
Shellie Cohen,	active member of Shir Ami
Gene Gash,	Shir Ami organist for many years
Sherrie Kidwell,	Shir Ami member and wife of Bernard Kidwell
Syd Kramer,	uncle of Jan Dombrower
Leon Meier,	long-time member and one of the founders of Shir Ami
Sy Mouber,	long-time former member of Shir Ami
Chris Partridge,	son of Ricki Weintraub, former member of Shir Ami
Rivka Rosenberg,	grandmother of Alex Druker
Civia Rudman,	former member of Shir Ami
Jacob Small,	grandfather of Toni Schulberg
Rolf Weinberg,	husband of Ingrid Weinberg; a charter member, and mainstay of Shir Ami for many, many years

Kaddish List (to be read at the service in February)

George Lange,	brother of Mickey Lange
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
Harold Dombrower	father of Jan Dombrower
Ingrid Weinberg,	long time founding member of Shir Ami
Florence Lewis,	mother of Peter Lewis

Adult Learning

Adult Hebrew :Learning Hebrew through Prayer

Adult Hebrew classes are ongoing.

Do you want more information?

Contact Judy Ganz,.

adulthebrew@congshirami.org

CONTACTS

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 (510) 537-1787

Email: info@CongShirAmi.org
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Rabbinic Intern.....	Andrew Terkel.....	Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org
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Bulletin Mailing.....	Lilly Erikson.....	editor@congshirami.org
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Special Fund, Wall Plaques		
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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
Rosh Chodesh (sisterhood).....	Jan Dombrower.....	sisterhood@congshirami.org
Social Action.....	Daryl Berman.....	
Social Action.....	Julie Greenfield.....	socialaction@congshirami.org
Treasurer- Payables**	Melanie Einbund.....	treasurer@congshirami.org
Treasurer- Receivables.....	Judy Ganz.....	dues@congshirami.com
Yahrzeit Listings.....	Toni Schulberg.....	yahrzeit@congshirami.org

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

Invoice Form for reimbursement of goods or services or goods provided to Congregation Shir Ami.
 This form may also be submitted in order to receive a receipt for contributions.
http://congshirami.org/attachment/ShirAmi_InvoiceForm.pdf