



# CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Ave.  
Castro Valley, CA 94546

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, intergenerational Reform Jewish Community that welcomes interfaith families.  
Affiliated with the [Union for Reform Judaism](#)

## MARCH 2012 Bulletin (Adar/Nisan 5772)

### In This Issue

(Numbers are links, just click)

- Event Calendar.....[2](#)
- President's Message .....[3](#)
- Rabbinic Interns' Page .....[4](#)
- Purim Shabbat Service.....[5](#)
- Camp Kadima Fundraiser .....[6](#)
- Potluck Dinner & Shabbat Services...[7](#)
- Shabbat Services with Pre-K - 5th  
Grade .....[8](#)
- Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood .....[9](#)
- 2012 Sisterhood Retreat.....[10](#)
- Yahrzeit List.....[11](#)
- CONTACTS .....[12](#)



Tu B' Shevat at Shir Ami February 4

### Camperships Available !!!!

Did you know that Shir Ami provides camp scholarships to our members' children and grandchildren? It is not too early to get started planning for the summer. Registration is open for overnight camps such as Camp Newman and Camp Towonga and will soon be open for Camp Kadima.

You can request a campership by contacting Harriet Skelly at [president@congshirami.org](mailto:president@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?

### MARCH

- Sun. Mar. 4 8:30 am **Alameda County Food Bank** Volunteer event. Meet at TBS. Contact Tom Spitzer.
- 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
- Sat. Mar. 10 7:00 pm **Camp Kadima** Fundraiser See Flier
- Sun. Mar. 11 10:00 am **Purim Carnival** A Shir Sholom 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
- Tue. Mar. 27 7:30 pm **Rosh Chodesh** at the home of Sara Lamnin
- Fri. Mar. 30 7:00 pm **Shabbat Service** led by Rabbi Andrew with Pre-K to the 5th grade
- Sat. Mar. 31 10:00 am **Men’s Club Hike** around Lake Chabot led by Rabbi Andrew
- Sat. Mar. 31 3:00 pm **Ketuvim Text Study** Led by Andrew Terkel
- Sat. Mar. 31 7:00 pm **Havdallah and a movie** Led by Andrew Terkel



### APRIL

- Sun. Apr. 8 4:30 pm **Community Passover Seder** Led by Ricki Weintraub
- Tue. Apr. 17 7:00 pm **Board Meeting** Open to all members.
- Tue. Apr. 24 7:30 pm **Rosh Chodesh** at the home of Jan Dombrower
- Fri. Apr. 27 7:30 pm **Shabbat Services Honoring Volunteers** Led by Rabbi Andrew
- Sat. Apr. 28 10:00 am **Bar Mitzvah** Reuben Spitzer

## President's Message

### Please welcome guest columnist Ruth Hartman

#### Shir Ami Bylaws Update

Bylaws are the rules that govern the internal management of a business or nonprofit organization. Congregation Shir Ami's current bylaws date back to 1987. For more than a year, a committee of four Board members has been meeting to update our bylaws to reflect URJ recommended best practices, the Congregation's current practices, and some directions/ goals for our future.

The committee members were the Immediate Past President Ruth Hartman (myself), chairing the group; the President, Harriet Skelly, the Vice President, Jon Zimmerman; and At-Large Board member Rose Firestone. Any of us will be happy to answer your questions about the process.

Our updated bylaws were reviewed by an attorney and by your Shir Ami Board of Directors. We addressed their comments and suggestions, and the Board approved the revised draft at its February 21 meeting.

The updated bylaws will be brought before the Annual Membership meeting for adoption on Sunday, May 20. Before that, we want to invite all interested Shir Ami members to read and comment on the draft. We will carefully consider all your questions and comments before finalizing the version that is offered for adoption in May.

**If you are interested in reviewing the new draft bylaws, please email me at [events@congshirami.org](mailto:events@congshirami.org). I will send you the current (1987) bylaws and the new bylaws draft. All comments must be returned to me in writing by Monday, March 26.**

Thank you! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Ruth H.

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



Harriet Skelly, President

### 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](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

Purim is traditionally one of the most joyous days in the Jewish calendar, where we celebrate our people's miraculous triumph over Haman. Haman wanted to destroy the Jews, and cast lots to decide which day would be the last day for the Jews. Instead Haman's plan got turned upside down, and Jews celebrated a great victory. On Purim we turn lots of things upside down, our ceremony for reading the Megillah is filled with rowdy shouting and yelling. We dress up in silly costumes and give gifts to the poor and to our friends.

We read the story of our heroes Mordechai and Esther in a special scroll called the Scroll of Esther, and as we read we try to drown out the name of Haman from our reading. Our Purim celebration is a way of turning the tables on the norms of daily life, and celebrating our people's survival.

On another note, we want to remind all of you about the Book Club event in May. Now's the time to pick up your copy of *As A Driven Leaf* by Milton Steinberg and begin reading. It's a great read and will surely bring some great discussion. Don't wait until the last minute!

### Recipe for Hamentaschen

- 2/3 cup butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup orange juice (the smooth kind, not the pulpy)
- 1 cup white flour
- 1 cup wheat flour (DO NOT substitute white flour! The wheat flour is necessary to achieve the right texture!)
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- Various preserves, fruit butters and/or pie fillings.

Blend butter and sugar thoroughly. Add the egg and blend thoroughly. Add OJ and blend thoroughly. Add flour, 1/2 cup at a time, alternating white and wheat, blending thoroughly between each. Add the baking powder and cinnamon with the last half cup of flour. Refrigerate batter overnight or at least a few hours. Roll as thin as you can without getting holes in the batter (roll it between two sheets of wax paper lightly dusted with flour for best results). Cut out 3 or 4 inch circles.

Put a dollop of filling in the middle of each circle. Fold up the sides to make a triangle, folding the last corner under the starting point, so that each side has corner that folds over and a corner that folds under (see picture at right). Folding in this "pinwheel" style will reduce the likelihood that the last side will fall open while cooking, spilling out the filling. It also tends to make a better triangle shape.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 15-20 minutes, until golden brown but before the filling boils over!

### Rabbinic Interns

#### Lara PullanRegev

[Rabbi.Lara@congregationshirami.org](mailto:Rabbi.Lara@congregationshirami.org)

#### Andrew Terekel

[Rabbi.Andrew@congregationshirami.org](mailto:Rabbi.Andrew@congregationshirami.org)



*Purim Service at Shir Ami!!*  
*Saturday, March 9th at 7:00 PM*



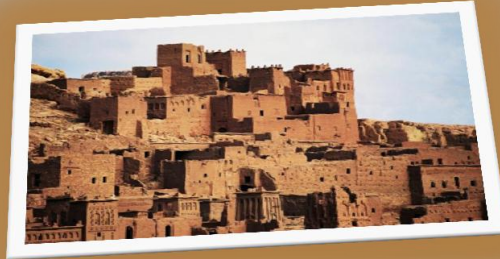
*Come in costume*  
*Fun for all*  
*Bring a friend*  
*Services by*

*Andrew Terkel*

# Camp Kadima Fundraiser

Come to a Murder Mystery Event benefitting Camp Kadima

## "Mishpachatamia Mayhem" Murder Mystery



**Date!**

**Saturday, March 10, 2012**

**Time!**

**7:00 – 10:00 pm**

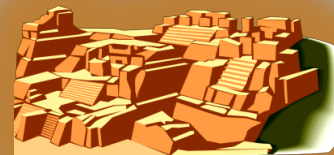
Scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and an assortment of wine and refreshments will be catered by Treya Weintraub!

**Location!** Congregation Beth Emek 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton, CA 94566  
To reserve your seats, contact [Campkadima@campkadima.org](mailto:Campkadima@campkadima.org)  
or call 925-931-1055, ext 11

\$100.00 per couple, or \$50.00 per person  
Childcare will be available and is included!

What is a Murder Mystery Party?  
It is a role acting party game.

Clues revealed through the evening,  
Figure out whodunit!



Come in costume, if you like! Date of the murder is June 22, 1895!  
It is near the end of the Victorian period, and Grover Cleveland is our President.

### 'Mishpachatamia Mayhem' Murder Mystery Event

Saturday, March 10, 2012 ~ 7:00 - 10:00 pm ~ Congregation Beth Emek, Pleasanton

Yes! I would love to participate in this event! Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats for me!

- I will send in my check to Camp Kadima for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  I will pay at the door.  
 I would like to request childcare for \_\_\_\_\_ children, ages: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Childcare is available 15 minutes prior to the start, until 10:00pm)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No, I can't go, but, I'd love to support Camp Kadima!  
Please keep Camp affordable with my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_!

# *Vayikra (Offering)*

The parasha deals with the differing requirements, nature and reasoning for burnt sacrificial offerings.



Shir Ami Services and Pot Luck Friday, March 23th at 6:30 PM  
Services begin at 7:30 PM  
and will be led by  
**Lara Pullan Regev**

Please participate in Shir Ami's revolving food assignment  
O to Z---- Main Dish  
A to N --- Dessert or Side Dish  
Help with cleanup

*BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU TO SERVICES*

## ***Shabbat haGadol – the great Sabbath***

We read part of the Passover Haggadah on Shabbat haGadol, beginning from the paragraph that begins with the words: Avadim hayinu, "We were slaves" until the words "to atone for all of our sins." One reason for this is that our redemption from slavery began on Shabbat haGadol.



***Shir Ami Services, pre-kindergarten to 5th grade  
will be held on Friday, March 30th at 7:00 PM***

***and will be conducted by***

***Andrew Terkel***

***Invite potential new members with young children***



## Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

### UPCOMING Rosh Chodesh

Tuesday, March 27, 7:30pm. The next Rosh Chodesh will be on Tuesday, March 27 at the home of Sara Lamnin. This program will be co-hosted by Marlene Lamnin. We will welcome the month of Nisan and embrace our upcoming holiday of Passover. Watch your email for reminder, directions, and specifics.

We are in the process of making some shifts, possibly about the day and time of upcoming Rosh Chodesh events. Input is coming in about people's wishes

### Rosh Chodesh Recap February:

#### February recap:

Last month's Rosh Chodesh, with its delightful turnout, was a wonderful gathering. Hosted by Barbara-Ann Lewis, we immersed ourselves in the Book of Esther and reviewed all the many times that Rosh Chodesh is cited in the Bible. This was very eye-opening to many of us and something unique that we had not discovered previously. We all had preparation to do upon arriving to the get-together regarding the Book of Esther. A list was sent to us with the more "unknown" persons in the story. Although unknown, we discovered that they were significant, none the less. We each shared at least two of the supporting cast members enlightening us to a broader story. We had delicious refreshments including hamantachen, fruits, humus, breads, and sweets. We were also graced with the presence of Rose Firestone and we were all delighted to see her. The last part of the evening, we discussed personal themes to the story. Esther turned her people "upside down" with her heroism and cleverness. We were asked, "When has your world been turned upside down?" Secondly, Esther had to hide her identity in order to ultimately save her people. We discussed if we had ever hid our identity as Jewish women. The discussion was personal and engaging.



Jan Dombrower, Sisterhood  
[Sisterhood@congShirAmi.org](mailto:Sisterhood@congShirAmi.org)



## 2012 Sisterhood Retreat

What a wonderful time everyone had at our 2012 Women's Retreat!

This year's theme was Spread over us a Shelter of Peace. Everyone arrived on Friday and the retreat started out with an ice breaker followed by Shabbat dinner which was delicious! The retreat center even baked challah for us! We had four women who were first timers and two women who came back after a break.

On Friday night we had a beautiful service led by Rabbi Lara and Ruth. There were several readers during the service and Jan presented the Dvar Torah. After the service, we had a sing-a-long led by Rabbi Lara. it was great fun.

On Saturday morning we met for breakfast then had our Saturday morning service. Harriet led the Torah service and Dvar Torah. Torah was read by Barbara-Ann, Elie, Rachel, Lisa, Ruth, and Diana. Haftarah was read by Jodi. The service was followed by the Listening Circles led by Ruth. In the afternoon, the sisters had a choice of activities. They could either make pendants or necklaces made from Filo clay, then baked or they could study text about the Shechinah, led by Elie. After a bit of free time we were joined by Rose and Dina for a beautiful Havdalah ceremony led by Sharon. Dinner followed and then we all met for the evening drama program "The Wizard of Yid." This play, written by Sara and Marlene included every woman. There were costumes, props, music, and a great plot. Devorah was on her way to find the Shelter of Peace. Along the way she met Tin, Rags, and Lion. The great wizard, finally granted her wish. We all had a great time laughing, acting, and enjoying the play.

Sunday after breakfast Rabbi Lara led us in a lovely spiritual journey through parts of the weekday morning service, focusing mainly on a personal experience with Amidah. Diana then led us in a very engaging discussion of Great House, the book that was chosen for our retreat. After lunch we ended the awesome weekend with our closing circle and closing song written by Lisa, Joy and Elie. [Click here](#) to view all of the retreat pictures.



# Yahrzeit List

## March Yahrzeit List

### March 9, 2012

Esther Cooper,  
Harold Dombrower,  
Clara Finlay,  
Dalton Gautreaux,  
(pronounced "GO -TRO")  
Fannie Heimowitz,  
Florence Lewis,  
Miriam Levine,  
Elsie Maas,  
Joslyn Miner,

Stella Small,  
Ingrid Weinberg,  
Matthew Zankowsky,

aunt of Ann Blank  
father of Jan Dombrower  
mother of Todd Finlay  
uncle of Toni Schulberg,

mother of Stan Heimowitz  
mother of Peter Lewis  
mother of Hillie Levine  
grandmother of Toni Schulberg  
former member of Shir Ami, and wife of Syd Miner,  
past president of Shir Ami  
grandmother of Toni Schulberg  
long time founding member of Shir Ami  
father of Fred Zankowsky

### March 23, 2012

James Finlay,  
Matt Ganz,

Jean Skelly,  
Edna Vanous,

father of Todd Finlay  
long-time active member and former president of Shir Ami,  
and husband of Judy Ganz  
mother of Bruce Skelly  
long time active member of Shir Ami

### March 31, 2012

Blanche Fink,  
Sam Ganz,  
Jack Skelly,  
Ruth Zelezny,

very active early member of Shir Ami  
former member and father-in-law of Judy Ganz  
father of Bruce Skelly  
grandmother of Julie Greenfield

### Kaddish List (to be read at all March services)

George Lange,  
Moe Levy,  
Mayer (pronounced ma-YARE) Yashar,  
James Wallace Bergmann,  
Anne Firestone,

brother of Mickey Lange  
long-time former member of Shir Ami  
brother-in-law of Ruth Hartman  
father of Ruth Levin  
mother of Bill Firestone

# 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.....	Lara Pullan Regev.....	<a href="mailto:Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org">Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org</a>
Rabbinic Intern.....	Andrew Terkel.....	<a href="mailto:Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org">Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org</a>
President.....	Harriet Skelly.....	<a href="mailto:president@congshirami.org">president@congshirami.org</a>
Membership.....	Barbara Heimowitz.....	<a href="mailto:membership@congshirami.org">membership@congshirami.org</a>
School Liaison.....	Jodi Blum.....	<a href="mailto:education@congshirami.com">education@congshirami.com</a>
Building Maintenance.....	Milt Palmer.....	<a href="mailto:facilities@congshirami.org">facilities@congshirami.org</a>
Bulletin Editor.....	Rose Firestone.....	<a href="mailto:editor@congshirami.org">editor@congshirami.org</a>
Bulletin Mailing.....	Lilly Erikson.....	<a href="mailto:editor@congshirami.org">editor@congshirami.org</a>
Community Page.....	Rose Levine.....	<a href="mailto:community@congshirami.org">community@congshirami.org</a>
Donations: General Fund, .....	Florrie Finkle.....	<a href="mailto:donations@congshirami.org">donations@congshirami.org</a>
Special Fund, Wall Plaques		
eScrip.....	Danielle Keil.....	<a href="mailto:escrip@congshirami.org">escrip@congshirami.org</a>
Men's Club.....	Jon Zimmerman.....	<a href="mailto:mensclub@congshirami.org">mensclub@congshirami.org</a>
Newsletter.....	Rose Firestone.....	<a href="mailto:editor@congshirami.org">editor@congshirami.org</a>
Newsletter Mailing.....	Lilly Erikson.....	<a href="mailto:editor@congshirami.org">editor@congshirami.org</a>
Oneg Shabbat (hospitality).....	Sharon Golemba.....	<a href="mailto:oneg@congshirami.org">oneg@congshirami.org</a>
Religious.....	David Schulberg.....	<a href="mailto:religion@congshirami.org">religion@congshirami.org</a>
Religious.....	Diana Zankowsky.....	<a href="mailto:religion@congshirami.org">religion@congshirami.org</a>
Rosh Chodesh (sisterhood).....	Jan Dombrower.....	<a href="mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org">sisterhood@congshirami.org</a>
Social Action.....	Daryl Berman.....	
Social Action.....	Julie Greenfield.....	<a href="mailto:socialaction@congshirami.org">socialaction@congshirami.org</a>
Treasurer- Payables**.....	Melanie Einbund.....	<a href="mailto:treasurer@congshirami.org">treasurer@congshirami.org</a>
Treasurer- Receivables.....	Judy Ganz.....	<a href="mailto:dues@congshirami.com">dues@congshirami.com</a>
Yahrzeit Listings.....	Toni Schulberg.....	<a href="mailto:yahrzeit@congshirami.org">yahrzeit@congshirami.org</a>

**\*\*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](http://congshirami.org/attachment/ShirAmi_InvoiceForm.pdf)