



Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley is an intimate, intergenerational Reform Jewish Community that welcomes interfaith families.
Affiliated with the [Union for Reform Judaism](#)

JUNE/JULY 2012 Bulletin (Sivan, Tammuz, Av 5772)

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**This is a June/July Bulletin.
Our next Bulletin will be published August 1st!**

See page 2 for the schedule of summer services and the special guests who will be leading these services.

Congratulations to the new Shir Ami Board.
See page 4 for the complete list of officers.

**Shir Ami had a
busy year!**

**See page 5 for a list of
the year's
accomplishments**



Current Board President, Harriet Skelly, and incoming President, Jon Zimmerman, are among those relaxing at the potluck dinner in May

Event Calendar



CONGREGATION
SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Ave.

Castro Valley, CA 94546

Please note that the “regular” start time for Friday night Shabbat service is now 7:30 pm

JUNE

- Fri. June 1 7:30 pm **Shavout & Confirmation Shabbat Service** Led by Diana Zankowsky
- Sun. June 3 2:00 pm **Ingrid Weinberg's** headstone unveiling: at Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward
- Fri. June 15 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service** led by Ricki Weintraub
- Mon. June 18 7:00 pm **Shir Ami Board Meeting-- all are welcome**
- Tue. June 19 7:05 pm **A's Baseball**: Jewish Heritage Night . Contact Fred Zankowski for more information. The Oakland A's play the LA Dodgers. (Cost: \$25. Sign up deadline is June 4)
- Wed. June 20 7:00 pm **Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood** End-of-year BBQ, our last gathering this 2011-2012 year At Deerview Park in Castro Valley. 5780 Thousand Oaks Dr (corner of Columbia Ave & Thousand Oaks)



JULY

- Fri. July 13 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service** led by Hana Hartman
- Fri. July 27 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service** led by Harriet Skelly

AUGUST

- Fri. Aug. 3 **Shabbat Service** at Camp Newman (must register see flier)
- Fri. Aug. 10 or 17 **Shabbat Service** TBD
- Tue. Aug 21 7::00 pm **Shir Ami Board Meeting-- all are welcome**
- Fri. Aug. 24 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service** led by Diana Zankowsky

Debbie Antonoff, Ingrid Weinberg's daughter, called to invite Shir Ami congregants to the unveiling of Ingrid's headstone on Sunday, June 3rd at 2pm at the Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward.

President's Message

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends:

I absolutely loved being your President for the last two years and I am so proud of our Shir Ami community. Together **we** have accomplished many things during my tenure: creating the Shir Sholom School in partnership with Temple Beth Sholom, creating a special introductory dues schedule to attract new members, implementing a Temple-wide recycling program, bringing our 1985 Bylaws up to date, continuing to improve our financial management, investing in our building and property and so much more. I hope you will take a minute to read the list of the 2011-2012 Accomplishments that I have included in this bulletin. None of these milestones could have happened without our members who volunteered time and talents to Shir Ami.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for the last two years for their support, candidness and willingness to tackle important issues. I thank each Board member for their mentoring of me and of each other - I am extremely proud of our team! I also want to

acknowledge all of the support and encouragement I received from Ruth Hartman, my role model, mentor and friend.

This was one unexpected journey in my life that I thoroughly enjoyed and that taught me a tremendous amount about myself, Reform Judaism and Judaism in general. I formed new or different relationships with other Jewish organizations, our interfaith community and partners. I have to say again that I am extremely proud of Shir Ami and was honored to represent our congregation.

Thank you, my Shir Ami family, for this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to continuing on the Board and to supporting Jon's leadership in the coming year.

With love,
Harriet



Harriet Skelly, President

Florrie Finkle

Florrie Finkle is retiring from the job of processing donations and sending acknowledgements for Shir Ami.

Congregation Shir Ami thanks Florrie for her many years of volunteering. Florrie, you are so appreciated!

Please send future donations to:
Donations
c/o
Cong.
Shir Ami
PO Box 2099
Castro Valley, Ca
94546

American Cancer Society. Relay for Life

This year's Relay for Life in Castro Valley is July 21st at Canyon Middle School. Our theme is "Around the World in 24 Hours". If you visit, stop by The Silver Lining's Booth for "English afternoon tea"! Naturally, our booth is fashioned after the United Kingdom!!!

Raising money for the American Cancer Society continues to be near and dear to my heart. This year I am Entertainment Co-Chair. We have some really cool bands lined up, including Top Shelf, one of the best R&B bands in the Bay.

Click [The Silver Lining](#) to see our progress in meeting our goal of raising \$2000. We appreciate whatever you can do to help! . Every dollar and cent counts. I thank you in advance for your contribution for helping fight this terrible disease with your tax-deductible donation today. Lisa Silver xo

Incoming President's Message

Shalom Shir Ami,

It's my pleasure and privilege to be your President for the coming year. I hope to live up to your expectations, and to the examples set by our past Presidents, many of whom continue to inspire me through their leadership and engagement at Shir Ami.

For those of you who don't know me very well, I joined Shir Ami in 2006, after roughly two years of dating my wife Sara. Sara and Shir Ami helped me reconnect with Jewish traditions that had been absent from my life for some time. Together, Sara and I have attended services, participated in many of Shir Ami's wonderful holiday traditions, and even gotten married by a Rabbinic Intern. Over time, I've made many friends at Shir Ami and had my life enriched in unanticipated ways.

One of these ways has been by serving on the Shir Ami Board of Directors. In 2009, I was elected to the Board as a Member-at-Large, and in 2010, as Vice President. Serving on the Board has been a rewarding experience, as it has enabled me to listen to perspectives different from my own, and to learn how to work together to make things happen. As with any body of people, especially Jewish people, we don't always agree on what actions to take. But, this Board is unique in its ability to support one another once decisions have been made. It is this trait that I most respect in my fellow Board members, and the one that makes the Presidency an exciting prospect. I'm looking forward to working with Board members old and new to maintain this tradition.

This theme of listening, learning, and taking action is one I'd like to continue during my term as President. At our Annual Meeting, a group activity was held to brainstorm about novel ways that three of our Standing Committees – Communications, Membership Outreach, and Membership Lifecycle (more about these in an upcoming President's Message) – could perform their primary functions. This activity embodied this theme as we listened, without judging or debating, to one another's ideas; learned about what's worked, what hasn't, and what has yet to be tried; and discussed what needed to be done to implement our collective vision.

As your President, I promise that the Board and I will always be willing to listen to your opinions and ideas and learn from them. In return, I hope that I can count on you to help turn these ideas into reality and make Shir Ami a vibrant and joyful place for all its members and friends.

Have a fun and sunny July,

Jon Zimmerman
president@congrshirami.org
CONGREGATION SHIR AMI



2012-13 Shir Ami Board Elect

President	Jon Zimmerman
First Vice President	Harriet Skelly
Secretary	Lina Teferi
Treasurer, Receivables	Judy Ganz
Treasurer, Payables	Melanie Einbund
Trustee	Harriet Skelly
Trustee	Ruth Hartman
Trustee	Toni Schulberg

Committee Chairs

Adult Education Chair	Stan Heimowitz
Building & Grounds	Milton Palmer
Children's Activities	Bonnie Frey
Communications Co-Chair	Harriet Skelly
Communications Co-Chair	Rose Firestone
Membership Outreach Co-Chair	Barbara Heimowitz
Membership Outreach Co-Chair	Bonnie Frey
Membership Life Cycle	Jan Dombrower
Mens Club	Fred Zankowsky
Religious Committee Co-Chair	David Schulberg
Religious Committee Co-Chair	Diana Zankowsky
School Co Chair	Jodi Blum
School Co-Chair	Jane Steelle
Sisterhood	Jan Dombrower
Social Action	Tom Spitzer
Social Activities	(vacant)

Member At Large	Rick Goldhoff
Member At Large	Peter Lewis
Member At Large	Vicky Sapper

Shir Ami Accomplishments 2011-12



Congregation Shir Ami 2011-2012 Achievements and Milestones

- Held successful Labor Day BBQ and fundraiser
- Had outreach table at Castro Valley Fall Festival
- Completed the second year of the new member dues schedule to attract new members and welcomed 4 new member families
- Have transitioned from paper to reusable dishes and cutlery for most events
- Built a new and improved Sukkah.
- Refurbished the Congregation Shir Ami sign
- Repaired the front fence
- Started work on building a new Shir Ami website
- Hosted successful Tu B'Shevat Seder
- Planted fruit trees and parsley for Tu B'Shevat
- Participated in Martin Luther King day community observances
- Hosted successful Welcoming Shabbat service
- Presented on "Jews Around the World" at CVHS Days of Diversity
- Participating in South Hayward Parish as President and active member
- Hosted a Community Passover Seder and continued building our friendship and partnership with Rev Arlene and the Eden United Church of Christ
- Completed updating Shir Ami's bylaws
- Held volunteer appreciation Shabbat service
- Two students became B'nai Mitzvah
- One teen Confirmed and two honored at Senior Grad blessing
- Completed the 2nd year of the Shir Sholom School.
- Provided camperships for our youth to attend Jewish summer camps
- Participated in regional NFTY youth group and events and formed the Sassy teen group
- One teen spent a semester of her Jr year of high school in Israel
- Offered successful life long learning classes including book discussions, Trope classes, Adult Hebrew classes, text study
- Mounted interfaith holiday display at the CV Public Library
- Attended URJ Outreach and Think Tank Webinars
- Volunteered at the Eden UCC food pantry
- Volunteered at the Alameda County Food bank
- Held 16th annual sisterhood retreat and monthly Rosh Chodesh meetings
- Men's Club sponsored a bagel and lox brunch with a speaker and clean up days
- Made visits to the sick and in nursing facilities; brought meals to families where needed

Rabbinic Interns' Page

My name is Allie Fischman and I'm thrilled to be working at Congregation Shir Ami next year. I am currently finishing my Master of Arts in Jewish Education at HUC before continuing in the rabbinical program. I grew up at a Reform synagogue in the Chicago Suburbs before moving to Israel and Los Angeles for HUC. I began songleading in high school and hope to share my love of Jewish music with the congregation. Prayer and ritual are two of my favorite Jewish topics to discuss and I love reading (both Jewish literature and fiction). I'm looking forward to spending the summer as a unit head at Camp Newman, so if you come up for the Shir Ami Shabbat, please find me and introduce yourself! I'm eager to meet all of you and have a rich, fruitful year of study and celebration. Have a wonderful summer!

Rabbinic Intern



Allie Fischman

Shalom from Aaron Sataloff! I wanted to introduce myself, as I will be working with congregation Shir Ami in the coming year as the student rabbi. I am very excited about this opportunity and I know it will be a great year. As requested, I wanted to send you my bio to be included in the newsletter. I was born in Memphis, TN, and grew up in Bellevue, WA and Richmond, VA. My family and I moved to Palo Alto, CA in high school, where my father works as the CEO of the Oshman Family JCC. I attended the University of Oregon, where I majored in Judaic Studies and became a brother of Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity. I took a year off from my studies to participate in OTZMA, which is a volunteer program in Israel. Last year I returned to Israel to live on Kibbutz Tzuba and study in Ulpan, and currently I am finishing my first year in Jerusalem at HUC. I look forward to working with Congregation Shir Ami.

Rabbinic Intern



Aaron Sataloff

**Congregation Shir Ami welcomes our new Rabbinic Interns!
We look forward to a marvelous year with you.**

Shavuot - "Weeks"

The Torah was given by G-d to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. Every year on the holiday of Shavuot we renew our acceptance of G-d's gift and G-d "re-gives" the Torah. The word Shavuot means "weeks." It marks the completion of the seven week counting period between Passover and Shavuot.



Shir Ami Services will be led by

Diana Zankowsky

**on Friday, June 1st, 2012 at 7:30 PM
in honor of the Confirmation of
Reuben Spitzer, Jacob Carmack, HS Grads: Rachel Markus,
Olivia Seideman and Danny Ross.**

 **JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT**

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

Oakland A's vs LA Dodgers
7:05PM

**Join the A's & Congregation Shir Ami for the
2nd annual Jewish Heritage Night!**

Your Plaza Infield ticket will include a special Jewish Heritage giveaway AND a delicious food item served in the Westside Club. Tickets are only \$25 if purchased with Congregation Shir Ami's group!

BENEFITS AND AMENITIES

- Includes a delicious food item served in the Westside Club
- Includes a special Jewish Heritage giveaway
- Great seat in the Plaza Infield, right outside the Westside Club
- Free Parking Tuesday driven by Chevy



www.oaklandathletics.com/jewish

**To reserve your discounted tickets or for more information, call
Fred Zankowsky at 510-290-5743 or email fredzsky@yahoo.com**

**Congregation Shir Ami
Magical Shabbat at Camp Newman**

**Members and Staff
Are Warmly Invited to Share Shabbat at Camp Newman**

Reception with our Camp Directors,
Shabbat Dinner, Singing and Dancing



Friday, August 3

all details are available online at:
www.newman.urjcamp.org/alumni/reunions/synagogue

Your visit must be with your synagogue on this date only

Important Notes for Visitors:

- **We are asking all visitors** to make a minimum contribution of \$25 per adult. At the time of registration you will be directed to our donor webpage. (under 18 is free)
- **Online registration is required**
- We HIGHLY discourage parents from visiting while their child is in session. This can make other children feel sad and cause problems in the cabins. We are happy to accommodate your visit, with your child(ren), at another time.
- ***Anyone under age 18 MUST be accompanied by their own parent at all times***

For Questions, please call or email
Dena Morris Kaufman, dkaufman@urj.org
(602) 740-3362 until June 1 After June 1, (707) 571-7657
URJ Camp Newman 4088 Porter Creek Rd. Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING Rosh Chodesh: Wednesday, June 20, 7:00 pm

Our end-of-year Bar-be-Que, hosted by Harriet Skelly and Pat Palmer, will celebrate the month of Tamuz. We will meet at Deerview Park in Castro Valley, 5780 Thousand Oaks Dr (corner of Columbia & Thousand Oaks) K kosher hot dogs, turkey burgers and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

We will wrap up the year and discuss ideas for next year. Watch for an email for a reminder and directions.



Rosh Chodesh Recap:

We met at the home of Nancy Storch and brought in the month of Sivan-- we counted the Omer, told the story of receiving the Torah on Mt Sinai, and had dairy desserts.

A very exciting part of the evening was sitting under our own "Mt. Sinai" by viewing a very clear Mt Diablo from Nancy's backyard. We experienced a "reader's theatre" of the story of receiving the Torah, and then discussed two questions that reflected the story: "What have we done when we have gotten to our destination?" and "How easy is it to change directions when beset by a crisis?"

We had a very stimulating discussion with each woman sharing a their perspective on these questions.

Afterwards we enjoyed strawberry short cake, chocolate mouse cake, and ice cream.

It was a great night. Thank you to Nancy Storch for a wonderful program.

Sisterhood also sponsored a fun dairy ritual celebration on Shavout, Sunday, May 27th. We met at YOGURT



Jan Dombrower, Sisterhood
Sisterhood@congShirAmi.org



Yahrzeit List

June 2012 Yarzheit List

June 1, 2012

George Berenstein,	father of Judy Ganz
Lilian Thiel Black,	mother of Melanie Einbund
Sarah Blank,	mother of Sam Blank
Sheila Frey,	mother of Bonnie Frey
Doris Greenfield,	mother of Julie Greenfield
Robert Levinson,	lay leader of Shir Ami for many years

June 15, 2012

Ted Balmforth,	son-in-law of Ann and Sam Blank
Jerry Becker,	early active member of Shir Ami
Jacob (Jack) Ross,	father of David Ross

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

Sylvia Weingarten	aunt of Stan Heimowitz
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

July 2012 Yarzheit List

July 13, 2012

Naomi Greenblatt,	sister of Hillie Levine
Alyce Nasatir,	mother of Cary Nasatir
David Teferi,	father of Rahel Ruiz and husband of Lina Teferi

July 27, 2012

Stanley Backfield,	founder and 3-time president of Shir Ami
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)

Sylvia Weingarten	aunt of Stan Heimowitz
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

Donations to Shir Ami

Donations to Shir Ami in May. Thank you! We appreciate your support.

1. Daryl Berman- Yahrzeit in honor of his father, Morris Berman.
2. Ruth Hartman- in memory of her grandmother, Harriet Cohn.
3. Muriel Small- Yahrzeit in memory of Harold Small.
4. Richard Becker- in memory of mother Verla Becker, at her Yahrzeit.
5. Melanie and Nate Einbund- Yahrzeit of Lisa Cheryl Barth, Nikki Harris, and Melanie's mother, Lillian Thiel Black.
6. Nancy Storch- in memory of her mother, Harriet Troy, at her Yahrzeit.

Contacts

Congregation Shir Ami
4529 Malabar Ave.
Castro Valley, CA 94546
(510) 537-1787

Email: info@CongShirAmi.org

Web: www.CongShirAmi.org



The contact list for 2012-2013 will be updated in the August Bulletin

Rabbinic Intern.....	Allie Fischman.....	
Rabbinic Intern.....	Aaron Sataloff.....	
President.....	Harriet Skelly.....	president@congshirami.org
Membership.....	Barbara Heimowitz.....	membership@congshirami.org
School Liaison.....	Jodi Blum.....	education@congshirami.org
Building Maintenance.....	Milt Palmer.....	facilities@congshirami.org
Bulletin Editor.....	Rose Firestone.....	editor@congshirami.org
Community Page.....		community@congshirami.org
Donations: General Fund, Special Fund, Wall Plaques.....		donations@congshirami.org
Florrie has retired! Please submit donations to		
	Donations--Congregation Shir Ami	
	PO Box 2099	
	Castro Valley, CA 94546	
eScrip.....	Danielle Keil.....	escrip@congshirami.org
Men's Club.....	Jon Zimmerman.....	mensclub@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**.....	Melanie Einbund.....	treasurer@congshirami.org
Treasurer- Receivables.....	Judy Ganz.....	treasurer@congshirami.org
Yahrzeit Listings.....	Toni Schulberg.....	yahrzeit@congshirami.org

Please submit **invoice and reimbursement requests to PO Box (below), 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.

[Click HERE to view form](#)