



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

## SEPTEMBER 2012 Bulletin (Elul 5772~Tishrei 5773)

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Photos, August 2012:

Barb Haber (at left, second from left) with friends from Congregation Shir Ami. Barb was visiting from Virginia where she currently lives and works.

# Event Calendar



CONGREGATION  
**SHIR AMI**

4529 Malabar Ave.

Castro Valley, CA 94546

## SEPTEMBER

**Mon. Sept. 3 2-5 pm** Labor Day BBQ at ShirAmi, please RSVP to Barbara Heimowitz [membership@congshirami.org](mailto:membership@congshirami.org),

**Sat-Sun, Sept 8 & 9** **Castro Valley Fall Festival** Shir Ami will have an information booth at the festival

### Rosh Hashanah

Photo: Shabbat Service led by  
Irene Gilcherese & Stacey Zankowsky.8/2012

**Sun. Sept. 16 7:30 pm** Evening Service

**Mon. Sept. 17 10:00 am** Morning Service

**2:00 pm** Children's Service

**3:30 pm** Tashlich at Lake Chabot

### Yom Kippur

**Tue. Sept. 25 7:30 pm** Kol Nidre Service

**Wed. Sept. 26 10:00 am** Morning Service

**1:30 pm** Children's Service

**2:00 pm** Discussion in the Garden

**3:30 pm** Yizkor and Concluding Service

**5:30 pm** Break the Fast

**Sun. Sept. 30 12:30 pm** Sukkah Decorating Party at Shir Ami. Refreshments will be provided



## OCTOBER

**Tue. Oct. 2 6:30 pm** Rosh Chodesh Sukkot Women under the Sukkah at the home of Diana Zankowsky

**Fri. Oct. 5 6:30 pm** Potluck Dinner and Sukkot Service led by Allie Fischman



## President's Message

### President's Message

Shalom Shir Ami,

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the new year of the Jewish calendar, I find myself reflecting on new beginnings going on within Shir Ami. First, we have a new Board of Directors to guide our Congregation. This Board is a fantastic mix of experienced hands and enthusiastic new members. This new Board is committed to generating new ideas on key aspects of our synagogue – including communication, membership, and family activities – and I hope that we can count on you to help implement these ideas and make Shir Ami better than ever.

We also have two new Rabbinic interns from the Hebrew Union College: Allie Fischman and Aaron Sataloff. Both are very excited to be coming to Shir Ami, and are eager to meet our members and become integral components of all of our Congregation's activities, including our Religious School.

Which brings me to another new beginning for Shir Ami, our new Sunday Religious and Hebrew School, with a new Educational Director (ED), Ricki Weintraub. Ricki is an experienced educator who's been a longtime friend (and past ED) to Shir Ami. Although our relationship with Ricki

isn't new, it's great to have her onboard as we begin a new chapter in our School's organization. With guidance from her and our School Committee Chairs, Jodi Blum and Jane Steele, I have the utmost confidence that our kids will have a great year of learning.

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for the commitment you bring to Shir Ami. In August, dues invoices were sent out for the 2012-13 year. In a time of ever-increasing costs, your financial commitment to Shir Ami makes all of our activities possible. For those who find themselves burdened by financial hardship, I urge you to contact me regarding dues adjustment possibilities. Also, I'm thankful to you for your commitment of time. Whether it's serving on the board, participating in services and holiday celebrations, sponsoring an oneg or hosting a Rabbi, I appreciate the time and effort you give to the Congregation. Please know that I don't take your service for granted.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year,

Jon Zimmerman,  
[president@congshirami.org](mailto:president@congshirami.org)



Barb Haber (4th from left) during her August visit.

[Editor: Barb is a former Board president. How many Board Presidents do you see in this picture?]



The text 'LABOR DAY BBQ' is displayed in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Each letter is filled with a pattern of the American flag (stars and stripes) and has a thick blue outline. The letters are arranged in two rows: 'LABOR' on top and 'DAY BBQ' on the bottom.

at Congregation Shir Ami!  
Monday, September 3, 2012 from 2 to 5 PM

### Costs

If prepaid in advance by August 25th  
Adults \$12.00; children 12 and under \$5.00  
At the door: Adults \$15.00; Children 12 and under \$6.00

New prospective members ~ no charge

Please bring a potluck item

A to L	Salad or Side Dish
M to Z	Desserts

RAFFLE PRIZES GALORE!

MENU: kosher hot dogs, beef, salmon and veggie burgers  
Come and mingle with new, old and prospective members!

### PREPAYMENT

By check made out to Congregation Shir Ami, Attention:  
Barbara Heimowitz, 4529 Malabar Ave., Castro Valley CA 94546

Bring empty ink cartridges and old cell phones  
for our recycling program

Hillie

## High Holidays at Shir Ami, 2012, 5772-5773



### Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 16, Evening Service.....7:30 PM  
Monday, September 17, Morning Service.....10:00 AM  
Children's Service, September 17.....2:00 PM  
Tashlich at Lake Chabot, September 17.....3:30 PM

### Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 25, Kol Nidre Service.....7:30 PM  
Wednesday, September 26, Morning Service.....10:00 AM  
Children's Service, September 26.....1:30 PM  
Discussion in the garden, September 26..... 2:00 PM  
Yizkor and Concluding Service, September 26.....3:30 PM  
Break the Fast.....5:30 PM

## High Holiday Information



*Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism*

4529 Malabar Avenue • Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510-537-1787 • www.congshirami.org

July 25, 2012

Dear Friends:

You are undoubtedly aware of our upcoming High Holiday Services, Rosh Hashanah on September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> and Yom Kippur on September 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. This year, we look forward to welcoming our two new student Rabbis from Hebrew Union College: Allie Fischman and Aaron Sataloff. Allie is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student and Aaron is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year just back from Israel. In addition, we are very pleased to once again have Rachel Brott as our Cantorial Soloist. We are looking forward to beautiful High Holiday services. We know that you will enjoy our program with more participation from our younger members.

This year's High Holiday ticket prices will be the same as last year. If you have any guests, we will have tickets for \$300 per family and \$150 for singles available by contacting me. This donation can again represent partial membership at Congregation Shir Ami. Full-time college students and members of the armed forces on active duty are always welcome as our guests at no charge.

Our current budget does not allow for these services. Once again we ask you for a Memorial Contribution. Please return the stub below to my address as soon as possible, for *tickets* (non-members only) and *memorials*. The names of the departed will be read at the Yom Kippur Memorial (Yizkor) Service. We do **not** depend on last year's list.

Thank you for your help. I would like to extend my best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year to you and your family.

Sincerely,  
*David Schulberg*  
Co-Religious Committee Chair  
(510) 276-6100

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To: David Schulberg  
16174 Via Arroyo  
San Lorenzo, CA 94580-2506

Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$\_\_\_\_\_ for

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my Memorial Contribution for \$\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print Clearly)

# HIGH HOLY DAYS FOOD DRIVE!



From Rosh Hashanah  
to Yom Kippur

***Benefiting our partner  
organizations, Eden UCC's  
Comida para Cherryland  
and South Hayward  
Parish's Food Pantry***

As is our custom at Shir Ami, our fast will be dedicated to those in need of food. The South Hayward Parish (a non-sectarian, non-profit organization of which Shir Ami is a member, serving Hayward and Castro Valley) and Eden UCC's Comida para Cherryland (food for Cherryland) are requesting healthy food, especially:

**Fresh or powdered Milk, Eggs, Fresh produce,  
Cheese, Canned Protein (chicken, fish, beans),  
Cooking Oil, Tortillas**

**Please return your full bags on Yom Kippur**

**Alternative:** Write a check to Eden UCC or South Hayward Parish  
Cash goes even further than groceries: \$1 donation buys \$7 of food!

Eden UCC: 21455 Birch Street Hayward, CA 94541

South Hayward Parish: 27287 Patrick Avenue, Hayward, 94544

Or Donate online: [www.southhaywardparish.org](http://www.southhaywardparish.org)

[http://www.edenucc.com/documents/PledgeForm2012\\_2013v3.pdf](http://www.edenucc.com/documents/PledgeForm2012_2013v3.pdf)

## *Sukkah Decoration Party at Shir Ami*

*Starts Sunday, September 30th at 12:30 PM*



*All are Invited to this fun event*

*Bring decorations, fruits, vegetables, flowers and imaginations!  
and also don't forget friends and potential new members*

*Refreshments will be served*



# SUKKOT סוכות



## **Sukkot Service and Pot Luck Dinner Friday October 5th at 6:30 PM**

Services will be led by  
**Allie Fischman**

**Please participate in our rotating food Assignment**

A to N ... Main Dish  
O to Z ... Salad, Dessert or  
Side Dish, Clean up assist

## Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

### ROSH CHODESH RECAP

Elul is a month of reflection and repentance as we prepare for the upcoming High Holy Days. We gathered at Shir Ami as we began the process of repentance.

We reviewed the "Jewels of Elul", online writings on the Month of Elul, and we wrote in our own "Elul diaries" as we explored the concepts of

1. Stopping a sin
2. Regretting a wrong action
3. Confession before G-d and to another saying, "I have sinned and I deeply regret my actions"
4. Committing not to do that wrong doing again.

We reviewed the five languages of apologies by Gary Chapman as a modern way of looking at repentance, and enjoyed an in depth discussion about forgiveness and its complexities.

For dessert we tasted a variety of apples and honey treats.



Jan Dombrower and Sharon Golembo, August 2012

For more information about Rosh Chodesh (sisterhood) events, contact Jan at [Sisterhood@CongShirAmi.org](mailto:Sisterhood@CongShirAmi.org)

## UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH.. Tuesday, October 2, 7 pm

As we come into the new year, we will meet under the Sukkah at the home of Diana Zankowsky on October 2 at 7:00 pm for a potluck dinner. We will be planning the year and assigning hostess and programs for the year.

### DO YOU LIKE TO PLAN AHEAD?

Here's the entire year's schedule for your calendar. Mark your calendar now. This schedule may change. Check your email for monthly reminders and updates.

### Rosh Chodesh 2012-13

Tue. Oct 2 **Women under the Sukkah**  
Tue. Oct 16 Cheshvan  
Wed. Nov 14 Kislev  
Wed. Dec 12 Tevet- **Chanukah Party**  
Tues. Jan 15 S'vat  
Tues. Feb 12 Adar

Fri.-Sun. Mar. 8-10 **Women's Retreat**

Tue. Mar 12 Nissan  
Wed. April 10 Iyar  
Wed. May 8 Sivan  
Wed. June 5 Tammuz

### August Cleanup

On Sunday, August 19, a ready, willing and able group of volunteers spent the day beautifying the grounds of our Synagogue.

Their accomplishments have made a spectacular improvement to the appearance of both our front and back yards as we will all enjoy at the Labor Day BBQ.

Thanks go out to our ten energetic workers: Toni and David, Bonnie and Mickey, Pat and Milt, Judy, Jane, Rick, and Peter.

A special thanks to Rick, who left before the picture was taken, but left

us his truck for hauling the debris to the Davis St. transfer station. It took two trips! Thanks also goes to Fred and Diana Zankowsky, for putting in extra hours of yard-work and lightbulb replacement during the week prior to the cleanup.

Milt



### Books from the Shir Ami Library - Available for You!

We are introducing a new feature page in the Shir Ami Bulletin; reviews of books on the Shir Ami library shelves. This month this column spotlights two books; a children's book and a second book that can assist teachers and parents when discussing Bible stories with children.

*My Name is Rachamim* by Jonathan P. Kendall and illustrated by Alemu Eshtie tells the story of the airlift of Ethiopian Jews through the eyes of Rachamim, a young boy, and his family. The author provides a bit of the history of Jews in Ethiopia and of the famine that spurred Operation Moses, the airlift rescue of approximately 8000 Falasha Jews in 1984-85. The story is illustrated with pencil sketches by a young Ethiopian artist, Mr. Eshtie, who resides in Israel. Published in 1987, the author writes only of the events of the time in a manner suitable for 4 years old and up.

A good story has the power to delight, to teach, to captivate the mind and heart. The stories in *God's Garden: Children's Stories Grown from the Bible* by Adam Fisher do all this and more--they engross children and adults in the narrative of the Bible. Based on the midrashic tradition, these modern stories complement each weekly Torah portion--filling in details "missing" from our sacred text, elaborating on biblical figures, and highlighting Jewish values. The book provides the framework the story and a list of props to enable a storyteller to tell the Biblical stories. Background material, suggested values and discussion questions will make any story teller more comfortable in front of children.

These two books will reside on the window in the kitchen and are available to be borrowed. Shir Ami's library circulates books on an honor system, so feel free to borrow these or any other books from the library.

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## Yahrzeit List

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### **September 2012 Yahrzeit List**

**September 16 & 17, 2012**

**[Rosh Hashanah]**

Martin Brody,	grandfather of Noah Markus
Jack Farbstein	uncle of Ruth Rosenthal
Maurice Finkle	husband of Florence Finkle and former president of Shir Ami
David Sapper	father of Danielle Keil and ex-husband of Vicki Sapper
Abraham Wolf	father of Ann Blank

**September 25 & 26, 2012**

**[Yom Kippur]**

Maurice Aronowitz	father-in-law of Hillie Levine
Gertrude Kramer	mother of Marion Kramer
Sarah Leona Markus	grandmother of Noah Markus

### **Kaddish List (to be read at all services in September)**

Rose Levine	wife of Hillie Levine and long-time founding member of Shir Ami
Fran Johnson	long-time member of Shir Ami
Robert Krantz	father of Sam Krantz
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

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### **Do you have a name you would like to have read for Kaddish at Friday services?**

Is there someone for whom you'd like a Yahrzeit reminder letter? The process is very simple. **Please email Toni Schulberg** ([yahrzeit@congshirami.org](mailto:yahrzeit@congshirami.org)) the following information: your name, the name of the person who died, their relationship to you, the date they died (month, day, year in the English calendar), and whether or not you want to use the English or the Hebrew calendar for your reminder. If you want the Hebrew calendar dates, Toni will get them for you, and send the reminders on the corresponding dates.

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## Adult Learning

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**Adult Learning: Learning Hebrew through Prayer (classes ongoing, various levels)**

**Have you always wanted to learn Hebrew?**

**Contact Judy Ganz** [AdultHebrew@CongShirAmi.org](mailto:AdultHebrew@CongShirAmi.org)

## Contacts

# Congregation Shir Ami

4529 Malabar Street  
Castro Valley, CA 94546



**\*\*Please submit invoice and reimbursement requests to:**

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

Rabbinic Intern.....	Allie Fischman .....	<a href="mailto:Rabbi.Allie@congshirami.org">Rabbi.Allie@congshirami.org</a>
Rabbinic Intern.....	Aaron Sataloff .....	<a href="mailto:Rabbi.Aaron@congshirami.org">Rabbi.Aaron@congshirami.org</a>
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Building & Grounds.Committee Chair .....	Milt Palmer.....	<a href="mailto:facilities@congshirami.org">facilities@congshirami.org</a>
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Communications Committee Co-Chair .....	Rose Firestone .....	<a href="mailto:communications@congshirami.org">communications@congshirami.org</a>
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	Toni Schulberg.....	<a href="mailto:yahrzeit@congshirami.org">yahrzeit@congshirami.org</a>