



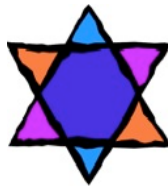
Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley is an intimate, intergenerational Reform Jewish Community that welcomes interfaith families.
Affiliated with the [Union for Reform Judaism](http://www.uroj.org)

JANUARY 2013 Bulletin (Tevet-Shevat 5773)

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Chanukah Faire & Boutique

On Sunday, December 2nd, Shir Ami held its first

Chanukah Faire and Boutique. This event featured eight arts and crafts vendors selling a variety of holiday gift items, delicious eats including Chanukah latkes, raffle prizes, a Silent Auction, and many kids activities including face painting, singing and retelling of the story of Chanukah. The Faire was a huge success and raised over \$1,400 for the Congregation. Many thanks go to the Faire planning committee (Valerie Goldman, Barbara Heimowitz, Danielle Keil, Vicky Sapper, Jon Zimmerman and Bonnie Frey) as well as to the many volunteers for the event including Lilly Erickson, Bill Firestone, Rose Firestone, the entire Keil family (Kevin, Sarah, Gabriella and James), Sam Krantz, Sara Lamnin, Mickey Lange, Alena Liskewicz, Lisa Silver, Nancy Storch and Fred Zankowsky. A special thanks goes to the Religious school committee and staff (Jodi Blum, Jan Dombrower, Allie Fischman, Emma Silver, Jane Steele, Ricki Weintraub, Diana Zankowsky) for their help in executing the kids activities.



As is our tradition, Shir Ami spent the holiday of Chanukah basking in the glow of candles and the smell of well-cooked latkes. Our Chanukah and Shabbat service, led by Student Rabbi Aaron on December 14th, brought many of our members to the shul with their own menorahs to light and say the holiday prayers in unison. The evening also featured a potluck dinner where members shared their own latke recipes. It was a special evening enjoyed by all.

Click [picture](#)s to see more pictures on Facebook

Click [HERE](#) to see more on Page 6

Event Calendar



4529 Malabar Ave.

Castro Valley, CA 94546



JANUARY

- Fri. Jan. 4 7:30 pm **Shabbat [Service](#)** led by Aaron Sataloff
- Sat. Jan. 5 7:30 pm **Havdallah and a movie** led by Aaron Sataloff. See [Rabbinic Interns' Page](#)
- Tue. Jan. 15 7:30 pm **[Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat](#) Sisterhood event.** See Rosh Chodesh page
- Fri. Jan. 18 7:30 pm **[Welcoming Shabbat Service](#)** led by Allie Fischman
- Sat. Jan. 19 10:00 am **Religious Committee Meeting** at the Zankowsky home. All are welcome, but r.s.v.p. to religion@congshirami.org
- 2:00 pm **Trope Study** with Allie Fischman. See [Rabbinic Interns' Page](#)
- 7:00 pm **Shir Ami Shirah (Music Night!)** with Allie Fischman. Join together at Shir Ami for snacks, havdallah and festive singing! See [Rabbinic Interns' Page](#)
- Tue. Jan. 22 7:00 pm **Board of Directors' Meeting** at Shir Ami. All are welcome. Note: this is the 4th Tuesday.
- Fri. Jan. 25 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service.** Led by Aaron Sataloff
- Sat. Jan. 26 12 noon **[Tu B'Shvat Sedar](#)** with lunch. Led by Aaron Sataloff
- 4:00 pm **BOOK CLUB *Everything is Illuminated*.** Led by Aaron Sataloff. See [Rabbinic Interns' Page](#).

FEBRUARY

- Fri. Feb. 1 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service** led by Allie Fischman. (Olivia Bracken's Bat Mitzvah is Feb.2nd)
- Sat. Feb. 2 10:00 am **Olivia Brackin Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Sholom.** All are welcome to attend this religious service. Led by Allie Fischman.
- Fri. Feb. 15 6:00 pm **Kid's Shabbat Service and Potluck** led by Allie Fischman.
- 6:45 pm **Potluck** follows Children's Service, before regular service
- 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service**
- Sat. Feb. 16 2:00 pm **Trope Class, 2-3pm**
- 3:30 pm **Adult Education, 3:30-5pm- The *Tanakh*.** Join Rabbi Allie for an overview of our Hebrew Bible
- Tue Feb. 19 7:00 pm **Board of Directors' Meeting** at Shir Ami. All are welcome.
- Fri. Feb. 22 7:00 pm **Purim Shabbat Service** led by Aaron Sataloff
- Sat. Feb. 23 7:30 pm **Havdallah and a movie** led by Aaron Sataloff. Movie, *Everything is Illuminated*.
- Sun. Feb. 24 time TBD **Purim Carnival.** See upcoming February Bulletin for details.



March 8-10 **[Women's retreat.](#)** See flier, page 10

July 30 **Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night--** Save the date!

President's Message

President's Message for January 2013 Bulletin

Happy New Year Shir Ami,

While I'm fond of maintaining old traditions, one of the themes of my Presidency has been to encourage trying new things. I believe strongly in the concept of evolution, in that all organizations need to evolve in order to be self-sustaining. This month, I'd like to share some of the new endeavors that members of our community, and beyond, are taking upon them to try, thereby bringing new vitality to Shir Ami.

Let me first note the ambitious efforts that Barbara Heimowitz and Bonnie Frey have made as Co-Chairs of our Membership Outreach Committee. They have used multiple means to enhance our visibility and advertise our events within Castro Valley and the surrounding area. With help from many at Shir Ami, they've placed postings in local newspapers, fliers at the CV library as well as in local shops, e-mails, electronic news and discussion groups, the Castro Valley Mothers' Club, and numerous other venues where the community at large shares information. Our recent success with the Chanukah Faire and Boutique has shown that all of these distribution points are vital, and I applaud their vision to ensure that we're reaching as many people as possible.

The Chanukah Faire is another example of Shir Ami trying new tactics. Early on in the fiscal year, the Board of Directors recognized that attendance at the Labor Day BBQ had been in decline over the past few years, and that by placing a large expectation on this yearly fundraiser, we were putting ourselves in a vulnerable position. This said, we also discussed the value in having a "kickoff" event to welcome back Shir Ami members from the summertime hiatus. From this discussion was born the idea of having a pre-Chanukah fundraising event, thereby relieving some of the financial responsibility of the BBQ. The Faire was very successful, both as a

fundraiser and as a festival enjoyed by Shir Ami and many of our friends and neighbors. Suffice to say that a new tradition has been started, and plans are already being discussed for a 2013 Faire and Boutique.

Shir Ami is not alone in trying new things this year; the URJ has caught this fever too. Starting in January, the URJ is sponsoring "Communities of Practice" – a series of workshops and webinars that will enable congregations with shared concerns and interests to advance their strategies. The first Communities of Practice bring together a select number of congregations to focus on early childhood education, engaging young families, attracting young adults, and reimagining financial support. I'm proud to say that Shir Ami will be part of this evolution as we've been accepted to participate in the engaging young families community and will be sending our own Bonnie Frey to act as our eyes, ears and voice at the kickoff workshop in Chicago. Our participation goes beyond January, however. It is a yearlong commitment to help reshape how URJ congregations recruit new members, one that has my and our Board's full support.

Also new this year from the URJ is a website: ReformJudaism.org. This website is specifically designed for reaching out to unaffiliated Jews, as well as to anyone who is curious about the customs and culture of Reform Judaism. I anticipate this website will be a useful resource, as it has links on Social Justice, Israel and other topics that are constantly changing in content.

It is my hope that all of us will find new energy and opportunities this year, whether through Shir Ami, the URJ, or elsewhere.

Jon Zimmerman,
president@congsHIRAMI.org



Rabbinic Interns' Page

The Mishnah teaches that there are four Jewish new years including one for the trees. This minor holiday, Tu B'Shevat, allows us to rejoice in the nature that surrounds us and thank God for the plentiful fruit of the trees and vines that we consume. Many commemorate Tu B'Shevat by taking part in a special seder modeled after the Passover seder.

Tu B'Shevat marks the beginning of spring in Israel yet here in California, the end of January will not quite feel like spring. However, we can still find ways to celebrate Tu B'Shevat. Many American Jews use the holiday to self-reflect, helping them connect to the sense of renewal that accompanies spring. Tu B'Shevat does not need to just be about the growth around us but also about the growth within each of us!

May the secular new year and the coming of spring in Israel provide all of us the opportunity to wonder at our gorgeous natural surroundings and celebrate our ongoing personal growth.

Aaron and I hope everyone had a wonderful end to 2012!

-Allie

Allie Fischman, M.A.J.E.
Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion
Rabbinical Student



Rabbinic Interns

Allie Fischman

Rabbi.Allie@CongShirAmi.org

Aaron Sataloff

Rabbi.Aaron@CongShirAmi.org

ADULT EDUCATION

Saturday, January 5 ~Rabbi Aaron
Havdallah and a movie, 7:30 pm

Movie, *The Bubble*

The movie follows a group of young friends (gay & straight, Jew & Arab, men & women) in the city of Tel Aviv

Saturday, January 19 ~Rabbi Allie

Trope Class, 2-3pm A (mostly) Torah trope class.

Learn the cantillation (musical markings) that enable us to chant from the Torah.

Shir Ami Shirah (Music Night), 7:00 pm

Join together at Shir Ami for snacks, havdallah and festive singing!

Saturday, January 26, 4:00 pm ~Rabbi Aaron

BookClub, *Everything is Illuminated*

(See below)

Saturday, February 16 ~Rabbi Allie

Trope Class, 2-3pm

Learn the cantillation (musical markings) that enable us to chant from the Torah.

The Tanakh, 3:30-5:00pm *Join Rabbi Allie for an overview of our Hebrew Bible and a lively discussion about the Bible's role in our modern lives. Havdallah follows the discussion.*

Saturday, February 23 ~Rabbi Aaron

Havdallah and a movie, 7:30 pm

Movie: *Everything is Illuminated*

The movie version of the book we read for Book Club.

BOOK CLUB

Saturday, January 26, 4:00pm

Book: *Everything is Illuminated*

There is still plenty of time to read our next BOOK CLUB selection, ***Everything is Illuminated***. *Synopsis: A young Jewish American man endeavors to find the woman who saved his grandfather during World War II. Set in a Ukrainian village that was ultimately razed by the Nazis. Discussion led by Rabbi Aaron*

Shir Ami thanks the following for their generous donations in December

- Diana and Fred Zankowsky, in memory of Frieda Greenbaum.
- Edetha Speceal, for her monthly donation.
- Florrie Finkle, in memory of her father, Joseph Bresslar.
- Marlene Balmforth, "In honor of my parents, Sam and Ann Blank, for Chanukkah.
- Sarah Lipsett Allison and Brent Allison, (Sister-in Law and Brother-in-Law of Deena Levine-Lipsett, daughter of Rose Levine) "...in loving memory of Rose Levine."

Save the Date: Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night- Tues., July 30

Hello baseball fans! Here is information about this year's Jewish Heritage Night from the Oakland A's. I'm putting this on my calendar now to prevent forgetting about it in all the excitement of the New Year, President's Day, Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, Toothache Day, Leap Day, National Pig Day (OK, we don't have to worry about this one), I am in Control Day, National Shrimp Scampi Day (more treif), Lost Sock Memorial Day, real Memorial Day, World Sauntering Day, July Days, National Caviar Day (treif? not sure about that), or Take Your Pants For A Walk Day (especially dangerous because it occurs close to JHN)! Tell your Jewish friends!

Fred Z

Announcement: Jewish Heritage Night at the A's - Save the Date for 2013!

The A's are excited to announce that **Jewish Heritage Night** will be back for the 2013 season! The 3rd annual Jewish Heritage Night will take place on **Tuesday, July 30th**. Once again, the event will feature a special giveaway item and free parking for all attendees. Information on how to purchase your event ticket will be available soon. If you have ANY questions in the mean time, please do not hesitate to let me know. We look forward to seeing you once again... and don't forget to save the date!

Thanks & Go A's!

Josh Feinberg



Josh Feinberg

Group Sales Manager

(510) 563-2205

jfeinberg@oaklandathletics.com

7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, CA 94621

oaklandathletics.com

Tzedakah Box

Don't forget our tzedakah box on the wall as you enter the sanctuary from the kitchen-- easily available for any of us to drop a few coins and fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah.

Alameda County's Homeless Count

EveryOne Counts! Please volunteer with Alameda County's 2013 Homeless Count!

Count is held on January 30.

Please contact EveryOne Home at [510-670-9796](tel:510-670-9796) or everyonehome@acgov.org.

Thank you!

Reform Action Committee of Reform Judaism and Gun Control Legislation

The recent tragedy in Newtown, CT is a tragic reminder that over 30,000 Americans die each year as a result of gun violence. The number and severity of violent shootings in recent years can only be described as an epidemic.

Against this backdrop, the Reform Action Committee of Reform Judaism has taken a leadership position in the re-energized movement to enact sensible gun laws. Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism coordinated a news conference on December 21, where representatives of mainline and evangelical Protestants, Catholics, Jews and Muslims, announced plans to lead off the campaign to mobilize their congregants to push for gun control legislation and provide the ground support for politicians willing to take the initiative on developing rational national policy around weapons ownership and distribution.

RACs actions are inspired by a Jewish tradition that emphasizes the sanctity of human life, and commands us to turn weapons of destruction into tools for the greater good of society. RAC is calling on members of the Jewish community to engage in this effort by contacting their representatives; you can learn more about this on the RAC web site at

http://action.rac.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=12360

The Shir Ami Board discussed RAC's position at its December 18 meeting, and at its next meeting on January 22, 2013 will consider joining other congregations in endorsing RAC's call for sensible gun laws. If you have thoughts on this issue that you would like the Board to consider, please feel free to contact any of the Board members or Tom Spitzer, Social Action Chair (socialaction@congshirami.org)

CHANUKAH at Shir Ami



Chanukah 2012 Potluck & Service,
Click [here](#) to see more photos on Facebook



Chanukah Faire & Boutique, 2012



Shabbat Service, Jan. 4

Paresha Tevet

On the 10th day of the Jewish month of Tevet (425 BCE), the armies of the Babylonia laid siege to Jerusalem. Thirty months later, the city walls were breached and the Holy Temple was destroyed. The Jewish people were exiled to Babylonia for 70 years. Many observe the 10th of Tevet as a day of fasting and mourning.



Present Walls of Jerusalem

Shabbat Services at Shir Ami
Friday, January 4th at 7:30 PM
will be led by
Aaron Sataloff

Remember Shir Ami's food basket

Bring a friend, a potential member

**Congregation Shir Ami's Annual
Welcoming Shabbat/Sabbath Service**

Friday, January 18, 2013 at 7:30 PM

Congregation Shir Ami

4529 Malabar Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546

*Come join Student Rabbi Allie Fischman and the
members of Shir Ami to get a glimpse of the
prayers, customs and teachings of
Reform Judaism.*

Everyone is Welcome!

**For more information, call (510) 537-1787 or
e-mail: president@congshirami.org**

Tu B'Shevat Service, Sat., Jan. 26

Tu BiSh'vat Celebration

Recalling Israel's Festival of the Trees



*Co-led by Rabbinic Intern Aaron Sataloff
and Lay Leader Diana Zankowsky*

*We will plant fruit trees on the Shir Ami property during the service
Saturday, January 26th, 2013 at noon*

*Adults \$15.00, under 12 years old \$10.00
Non-members \$18.00*

*Please RSVP by Evite or by check made out to:
Shir Ami TuBiSh'vat Celebration
4529 Malabar Ave.,
Castro Valley CA 94546*

Join us for our 17th Annual

Shir Ami Women's Retreat

Friday, March 8 – Sunday, March 10, 2013

At the beautiful Westminster Retreat Center
in Alamo, California

Connect with your Jewish sisters and yourself! Join us for a weekend of women's friendship, worship, creativity, music, and play. Rabbinic Intern Allie Fischman joins us 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/co4xkkt>, 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 20**.*

Questions?
Contact Ruth Hartman: 510-582-3379 or events@congshirami.org

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH

Wednesday, January 15th at 7:30 pm

at the home of Vicky Sapper in Danville at 7:30. We will bring in the month of Sh'vat.

The evening will be presented by Vicky Sapper and Diana Zankowsky. Look for an e mail reminder with details.

ROSH CHODESH RECAP

Last month's Sisterhood gathering was our annual Chanukah party. It was a wonderful time with hostess, Bettina Skehan, welcoming us into her beautiful home. We had a delicious meal of



Latkas, salads and desserts, and then we lit our Menorahs for a beautiful 5th night display of glowing lights. Lastly, we had a lively gift swap.



We had a glorious time filled with laughter, as we joyfully opened, stole, and delighted in the gifts.



Rosh Chodesh 5773 (2013)

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

Jan Dombrower

For more information about Rosh Chodesh (sisterhood) events, contact Jan at

Sisterhood@CongShirAmi.org



Cabaret Fundraiser, Jan. 13

Fundraiser for American Cancer Society, Relay for Life

Presenting A Cabaret & Dessert Evening

- When: Sunday, January 13th, 2013*
- Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*
- Where: Linen Life Gallery
770 East Fourteenth
Downtown San Leandro, CA*
- Host: The Silver Lining
Female A Cappella Group*
- Why: Fundraiser for Relay for Life
Castro Valley, 2013*
- Ticket: \$20.00 (all proceeds to
the American Cancer Society)*

Register with your \$20.00 donation at this link:

<http://main.acsevents.org/goto/TheSilverLining>

*Note: Space is limited to 200 people. Please print
out your online donation confirmation as your
ticket entrance.*



Questions? Contact Lisa Silver at hirelisa@yahoo.com.

Yahrzeit List

January Yahrzeit List (as of 12/24/12)

January 4, 2013

| | |
|--|---|
| Joseph Bressler, Zac Cohen, Darlene Golembo, Bridget Laky, Peter Rosenberg, Helen Rosner, | father of Florrie Finkle long time member of Shir Ami sister of Sharon Golembo past president and long time former member of Shir Ami uncle of Alex Druker long time active member of Shir Ami |
|--|---|

January 18, 2013

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| George Lange, | brother of Mickey Lange |
|---------------|-------------------------|

January 25, 2013

| | |
|--|--|
| Tyler Brooke, Cecilia Kramer, Clara Schneider, | father of Toni Schulberg grandmother of Marion Kramer mother of Marilyn Schneider, and grandmother of Irene, Sarah and Carolyn Gilchriese |
|--|--|

Kaddish List (to be read at all services in January)

| | |
|--|---|
| Joseph Forman Katherine Schuelke, Rose Levine, Fran Johnson, Robert Krantz, Sylvia Weingarten | father of Lorraine Lewis mother of Susan Spitzer wife of Hillie Leviine, and long-time founding member of Shir Ami long-time member of Shir Ami father of Sam Krantz aunt of Stan Heimowitz |
|--|---|

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) 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.

Adult Learning

See [page 4](#) for details on Adult Learning provided by our Rabbinic Interns.

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

Have you always wanted to learn Hebrew?

Contact Judy Ganz 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

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
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| Rabbinic Intern..... | Aaron Sataloff | Rabbi.Aaron@congshirami.org |
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| Vice-President | Harriet Skelly | |
| Secretary | Marlene Lamnin | secretary@congshirami.org |
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| Treasurer, Receivables..... | Judy Ganz..... | treasurer@congshirami.org |
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| Bulletin Editor..... | Rose Firestone..... | editor@congshirami.org |
| Children's Activities Committee Chair | Bonnie Frey | children@congshirami.org |
| Communications Committee Co-Chair | Harriet Skelly | communications@congshirami.org |
| Communications Committee Co-Chair | Rose Firestone | communications@congshirami.org |
| Donations: General, Special, Wall Plaques eScrip | Ruth Hartman | donations@congshirami.org |
| Membership Outreach Committee Co-Chair | Danielle Keil..... | escrip@congshirami.org |
| Membership Outreach Committee Co-Chair | Bonnie Frey..... | membership@congshirami.org |
| Men's Club..... | Barbara Heimowitz..... | membership@congshirami.org |
| Oneg Shabbat (hospitality)..... | Fred Zankowsky..... | mensclub@congshirami.org |
| Religious Committee Co-Chair | Sharon Golembo..... | oneg@congshirami.org |
| Religious Committee Co-Chair | David Schulberg..... | religion@congshirami.org |
| Rosh Chodesh (sisterhood) | Diana Zankowsky..... | religion@congshirami.org |
| School Committee Co-Chair..... | Jan Dombrower..... | sisterhood@congshirami.org |
| School Committee Co-Chair | Jodi Blum..... | education@congshirami.org |
| Social Action Committee Chair | Jane Steele..... | education@congshirami.org |
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| | Toni Schulberg..... | yahrzeit@congshirami.org |