



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 2013 Bulletin (Adar-Nissan 5773)

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Shir Ami's Community Seder

On Saturday, March 30, Shir Ami's Community Passover Seder will again be held at Eden United Church of Christ, 21455 Birch Street, Hayward. Eden UCC is conveniently located at the corner of Birch Street and Grove Way (between Foothill and Mission).

The seder will be led by Ricki Weintraub, Shir Ami's Education Director and musician extraordinaire.



Ricki Weintraub

Enjoy a Kosher-style meal of great food as we tell the Passover story through music and song. Seating is limited, so register for the Passover Seder soon. See page 8.



Passover Seder at Eden UCC with Ricki Weintraub

Event Calendar



4529 Malabar Ave.

Castro Valley, CA 94546

MARCH

- Sun. Mar. 3 1-4 pm **Alameda County Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity.** See [page 6](#).
- March 8-10 [Women's retreat](#). As of publication, there was still ONE space available. Contact Ruth Hartman for information on signing up, events@congshirami.org
- March 10 & 14 **International Jewish Film Festival** at the Vine Theatre in Livermore. Sponsored by Congregation Beth Emek. www.eastbayjewishfilm.org 510.318.6484
- Tue. Mar. 12 7:30 pm **Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood event at Shir Ami**, co-hosted by Melanie Einbund, Barbara Heimowitz and Nancy Liskewicz. See the [Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood](#) page.
- Tue. Mar. 19 7:00 pm **Board Meeting at Shir Ami.** All are welcome to attend, no rsvp needed.
- Fri. Mar. 22 6:30 pm **Potluck Dinner**
7:30 pm **Shabbat Service** Led by Aaron Sataloff
- Sat, Mar. 23 11:00 am **Text Study on Pesach** with Aaron Sataloff.
- Sat, Mar. 23 4:00 pm **Matinee Movie** with Aaron Sataloff--"The Ten Commandments."
- Sat. Mar. 30 4:30 pm **Community Passover Seder** with Ricki Weintraub at **Eden United Church of Christ**

APRIL

- Wed. Apr. 10 7:30 pm **Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood**
- Fri. Apr. 12 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service** led by Allie Fischman. Volunteers will be honored.
- Tue. Apr. 16 7:00 pm **Board Meeting at Shir Ami.** All are welcome to attend, no rsvp needed.
- Fri. Apr. 26 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service**, Aaron Sataloff. Pre-K to 4th Grade Students will participate in the service.

Shir Ami thanks the following for their generous donations in February

- Edetha Speceal
- Jan Dombrower, Yahrzeit, Harold Dombrower, Father; Yahrzeit, Syd Kramer, Uncle
- Florrie Finkle, for mailing Bulletin and Memorial, Susan Weinberg Andersson
- Judy Ganz, Memorial for Susan Weinberg Andersson
- Karl and Audrey Hand, (former members, and Karl is Past-President of Shir Ami), in honor of birth of Hillie Levine's Great Granddaughter, Abigail Rose Levine
- Karl and Audrey Hand, in honor of the birth of Judy Ganz's Great Granddaughter, May Grace Brown
- Judy Ganz, in honor of the birth of Judy's Great Granddaughter, May Grace Brown
- Ann and Sam Blank, in honor of the birth of the Barbara and Stan's grandson, Blake Simon Azicri.
- Ann and Sam Blank, in honor of the birth of Abigail Rose Levine.
- Ann and Sam Blank, donation to the Rolf Weinberg Education Fund for the Yahrzeits of Rolf Weinberg and Ingrid Weinberg, and in memory of Susan (Weinberg) Andersson.

President's Message

President's Message for March 2013 Bulletin

Shalom Shir Ami,

In this column, I've written about many of the past and upcoming Jewish holidays, how Shir Ami celebrates these holidays and what they mean to me. One holiday that I haven't discussed much is one that comes every week, Shabbat. Of the many festivals in the Jewish calendar, Shabbat is the one that resonates most with me on both a personal and spiritual level. To my recollection, both of our current Rabbinic Interns (and several of our past ones) have sermonized that Shabbat is a period of time that we carve out to disentangle ourselves from the outside world and pause to reflect on our lives. I share this perspective and try to minimize how much I do on this day, while maximizing how much I contemplate the goings-on in my life.

Shabbat is one of the few holidays through which I've been able to view Orthodox (by spending weekends with my grandparents), Conservative (growing up with my parents) and Reform Jewish practices and attitudes, comparing their similarities and contrasting their differences. One common aspect to all three of these types, and generations, of Judaism is the practice of doing something different on Shabbat. Going to Shul on a Saturday morning, playing Chinese Checkers with my grandfather, and attending a Shir Ami Adult Ed class are all great examples of how this day is different from all other days, so to speak.

Reflecting on Shabbat recently intersected with my secular life, as I was listening to NPR while



driving home and caught an interview with author Judith Shulevitz by Fresh Air host Terry Gross. Shulevitz's book, *The Sabbath World: Glimpses of a Different Order of Time*, details how she changed from being ambivalent about the weekly holiday, to seeing it as an important part of her week. In particular, she noted her practice of limiting her family's use of electronics on Shabbat, which was less about creating electricity and thus doing work, but more about limiting the distractions by the outside world and enabling her family to focus on both the holiday and spending time with one another. To me, this practice embodies the true meaning of Shabbat, namely that it is not a time for fixating on what one is not permitted to do, but to think deeper about what has one learned by the previous week's experiences. This same lesson is the one my wife and I try to take away on Yom Kippur. Namely, that fasting on that holiday is not about going without food, but rather about eliminating the distraction of meals to focus on how we've interacted, and should have interacted, with others over the past year.

I hope my ramblings here have given you some time to think about what Shabbat means to you, and how this special holiday is celebrated in your own life, with your family, or with Shir Ami.

Toda Raba,

Jon Zimmerman,
president@congshirami.org



Rabbinic Interns' Page



ADULT EDUCATION

Saturday, March 23 ~*Rabbi Aaron*

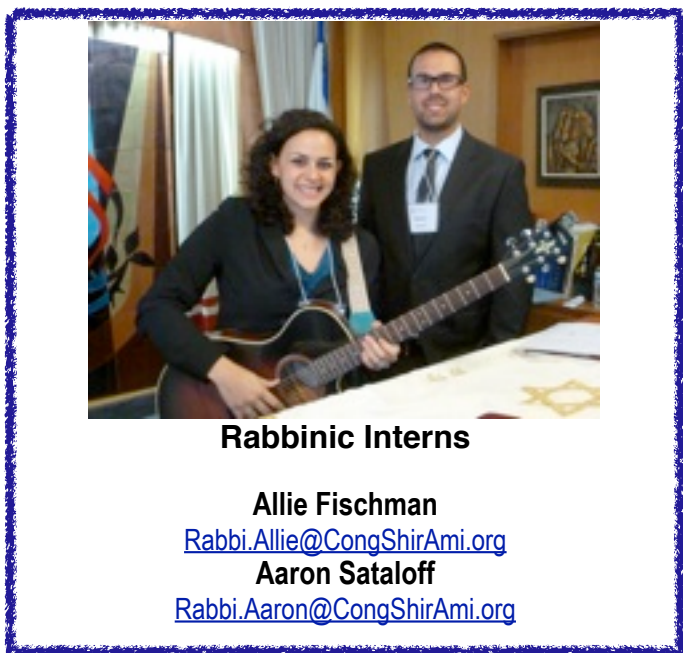
11:00 am Rabbi Aaron will lead a text study on Pesach.

At 4:00 pm there will be a matinee movie showing "The Ten Commandments."

Every year, as Passover approaches, I recall previous *seders* with family and friends. We sat together, retold the story of the Exodus from Egypt, enjoyed wine (or grape juice!) and had quality family time. I always saw Passover as an important piece of the Jewish historical puzzle but I only recently embraced and understood what the Haggadah means in quoting the Mishnah that "in every generation, a person is obligated to view oneself as having personally experienced the Exodus from Egypt." Each of us must find ourselves in the Exodus story. We may feel the heavy burden of slavery followed by the spray of the walls of water around us as we march to freedom. Or we may feel enslaved by new and different issues; trapped by "Pharaoh" forces in our modern world. Whatever way you find yourself in the Exodus story, may you first taste the bitterness of *maror* followed by the sweetness of *charoset*. May you all have sweet seders with family and friends and find your own path to freedom. *Chag Pesach sameach*, happy Passover!

Allie

Allie Fischman
Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion
Rabbinical Student



Rabbinic Interns

Allie Fischman

Rabbi.Allie@CongShirAmi.org

Aaron Sataloff

Rabbi.Aaron@CongShirAmi.org



Jewish Film Festival March 10 & 14 www.eastbayjewishfilm.org 510.318.6484

International Jewish Film Festival at the Vine Theatre in Livermore. Sponsored by Congregation Beth Emek.

Kolot Nashim (Voices of Women) 6th Annual East Bay Women's Torah Study Monday, March 11, 2013 (Rosh Hodesh Nisan) from 7:00 to 9:30 pm

Hosted by Kehilla Community Synagogue, 1300 Grand Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94610

This evening event will bring together women from throughout the East Bay to discuss and explore a wide range of religious and spiritual topics from a female-centric perspective. Workshops run the gamut from artistic to practical. Our teachers are donating their time so there is no fee to attend

Kolot Nashim is supported by a wide consortium of East Bay synagogues and community organizations and draws women from all streams of Judaism. Trans and gender-queer people are very welcome.

This year's workshops include:

- **Miriam Ferris** of Berkeley Chabad House - The Mystery of the Mikvah
- **Rabbi Pam Frydman**, Co-Chair of Rabbis for Women of the Wall - Zikr is Quicker
- **Rabbi Chaya Gusfield**, currently serving as a chaplain resident at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center - Lessons to be Learned From Our Matriarch Rachel, Who Died in Childbirth, Shared Her Beloved with Her Sister, and is Associated with the Shekhinah
- **Cantor Linda Hirshhorn**, Temple Beth Shalom - Singing Because We Love To
- **Rabbi Me'irah Illinsky**, teacher and artist - Illuminated Verses: Visual Access to Sacred Texts
- **Rabbi Dev Noily**, Director and Spiritual Leader at Kehilla - Serakh - The Woman Who Holds Jewish Memory
- **Ma'ayan Rabinovich**, Merkavah Torah Institute teacher, a center for Jewish Studies for Women, and Youth Director of Congregation Beth Israel - In Every Generation - Leaving Egypt 2013
- **Rabbi Dorothy Richman** of Makor Or Jewish Meditation – Mindfulness Torah
- **Ariela Ronay-Jinich**, of Wilderness Torah and Kevah Education Fellow - She is a Tree of Life: Midrashic Sources on the Nature of Torah
- **Carlie Seelig**, Kevah - And You Shall Teach Them To Your Children: Mitzvot For The Next Generation
- **Rabbi Alissa Wise**, Jewish Voice for Peace - Mussar for Social Justice

For more information please contact: Shoshana Finacom at kolotnashim2013@gmail.com.

Daughters of Miriam Seder Experience.

Monday, March 11, 2013, 5:30 pm, Ages 8-108

You're invited to the Daughters of Miriam Seder!

Invite your mother's daughters and friends. Feel free to add more people to invitation.

We organize this event every other year we hope you can make it!

Please click on the invitation link below to see more details and to RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you, bring your timbrel if you have one!

[Open your invitation](#)

Contact: Cheryl Cohen [925-922-0765](tel:925-922-0765) or Sharon Cohen [925-367-5633](tel:925-367-5633)

Or email womensseder2011@gmail.com

Community Action Events

Volunteer Opportunity

Sunday, March 3, 2013, 1:00 – 4:00 pm Congregation Shir Ami Invites YOU to
Another Food Sorting and Boxing Day at the Alameda County Food Bank
7900 Edgewater Dr., Oakland (off Hegenberger, across from the Coliseum)

Who: Anybody over ten years of age (bring your friends!)

Why: Its a great way for us to fulfill both Purim and Pesach mitzvot about giving food to the poor. This is also a great way to practice Tikkum Olam and to get better acquainted with your Shir Ami community and others from the southern Alameda County Jewish community.

- You will be sorting, screening, shelving and/or boxing food. Dress for messy work.
- Temperatures in the warehouse are highly variable; dress in layers for outdoor temperatures.
- Shorts are acceptable but sandals, flip-flops and other open-toed shoes are not.
- Please do not bring headphones, MP3 players, etc.
- You may not to bring back packs, shoulder bags, purses, etc. into the warehouse. Leave them at home or plan to lock them in your vehicle.
- Let Tom Spitzer know (socialaction@congshirami.org or 415 572 4156) you will be joining us and then register on the Food Bank website: Sunday (March 3) Volunteering.
- making sure to enter the *name of each volunteer's congregation* in the field labeled "Company/ Organization."

Interfaith Purim Retreat Tom Spitzer

On Saturday, February 23rd, a number of Shir Ami members (including three of our teens), participated with our friends from Eden UCC in an inter-faith Purim retreat, which included a workshop on tolerance and interfaith solidarity. The day started with welcomes and context setting from Reverend Arlene of Eden UCC and our President Jon Zimmerman and introduction of Lynn Bravewomon, who served as moderator for the workshop.

Rabbi Aaron then told the story of Purim, and presented the group sort of a mini-text study. Of great relevance to the discussion of the issues at hand were Esther's taking a stand on behalf a larger group, and using tactics of mass solidarity, namely a general hunger strike, to bring attention to the group's demands.

Next on the agenda were two teen panels, one consisting of Shir Ami teens (Spencer Blum, Emma Silver, and Ace Spitzer), and the other of members of the CVHS Spectrum club, which represents the LGBTQ community. The teens related incidents where they had been confronted with at best insensitive and at worst hateful language and behavior at CVHS, and then suggested some tactics the school and the larger community might try in order to reduce insensitivity, promote tolerance, and create a culture of intolerance of hate.

Following the student panel, Lynn Bravewomon gave a very provocative and moving presentation on modes and impacts of childhood bullying, which led to some passionate lunchtime discussion. After lunch we reconvened and Lynn asked everybody to share the thing or things that affected them the most. A lot of people mentioned how courageous and articulate the student-presenters were. Ace said that the lunch that the community parents prepared for us was the highlight of the day. I agree, it was fantastic.

Finally, Ruth Harman and Reverend Arlene, who had worked very hard over the past three months to organize the event, made some closing remarks. They reminded us that it is important to follow Esther's lead and stand up for our children and that to be effective we have to be united as a faith community that is committed to tolerance and inclusion in the schools and throughout the larger community.

Editor's comment: The "No Labels" strategy with regard to bullying behavior is important. By not labeling either the bully or the victim it is easier for behavior to be changed as it is not tied to their sense of self

Paresha Shabbat HaGadol (The Great Shabbat)

Many communities recite special hymns during the morning services on Shabbat HaGadol. The main theme of these hymns is the laws of Passover, which are presented in verse form in order to make it easy for people to become acquainted with the laws. The presentation is made during the full moon evening of the Passover Service.



Services will be led by Aaron Sataloff on Friday, March 22nd at Shir Ami

Pot Luck at 6:30 PM, Service at 7:30 PM

Please participate in Shir Ami's revolving food assignment

A to LMain Dish
M to Z ...Side Dish or Dessert, help with clean up

Passover Seder, March 30

Congregation Shir Ami Community-Wide Passover Seder



Saturday, March 30th, 2013, 4:30 - 8:00 PM
at Eden United Church of Christ
21455 Birch Street, off Grove way
Hayward, CA 94541

Shir Ami will be retelling the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery and their redemption. The Evening Service will feature Passover songs and music and will be conducted by Ricki Weinberg

A festive kosher-style Holiday meal will be served.

Please indicate if you prefer a vegetarian option

Costs: Shir Ami Members \$25, all children 12 and under \$10.

Adult Non-Members \$35. No charge to military personnel.

Additional contributions to defray costs are appreciated. No Shir Ami member will be turned away because of inability to pay.

Please RSVP by March 25th; seating is limited



Vegetarian meal (s)? _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

No. _____ adult Shir Ami members @ **\$25** = \$ _____ No. _____ adult non-Shir Ami members @ **\$35** = \$ _____

No. _____ children 12 and under @ **\$10** = \$ _____ Additional donation to help defray costs = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Your Reservation is made by check, payable to Congregation Shir Ami, and mailed with the information above no later than MARCH 25 to:

**Congregation Shir Ami
ATT'N: Community Passover Seder
4529 Malabar Ave
Castro Valley, CA 94546**

Please include your check; money will not be accepted at the door

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH

The next Rosh Chodesh will be on
Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 at Shir Ami.

Please join us to celebrate the coming of Nisan, the month of Spring. The evening will be hosted by Melanie Einbund, Barbara Heimowitz and Nancy Liskewicz at Shir Ami. We will also remember Rose Levine as we plant a special rose bush in her memory.

ROSH CHODESH RECAP

Our February Rosh Chodesh was a Purim celebration hosted by Rose Firestone and Valerie Goldman at the Firestone's home. Many women came in costume, and costumes were available for those who came without but who wanted to wear a costume. We read a translation of the first three chapters of the Esther Scroll and discussed the courage and conviction of both Esther and Vashti.



[Link to more photos](#) on Facebook.

You do not need to be a Facebook members to [view these photos](#).



Women's Retreat-- Fri.-Sun. Mar. 8-10 At the time this Bulletin was finalized, there was still ONE space left. Please contact Ruth Hartman if you are interested-- ruth@wordcraft.com.

Upcoming Rosh Chodesh 5773 (2013)

Wed. April 10 Iyar
Wed. May 8 Sivan
Wed. June 5 Tammuz

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



at Sisterhood@CongShirAmi.org



Sisterhood Centennial Celebration- WRJ Saturday March 2, 2013, 4-7 pm

Temple Sinai, 2808 Summit Street, Oakland, CA

Program: Afternoon Torah study with women's commentary; Havdallah service; Reception; Optional potluck
Please RSVP <http://womenoftemplesinaioakland-eac2.eventbrite.com/>

Yahrzeit List

March Yahrzeit List

(as of 2/23/13)

March 22, 2013

Sydney Black,	father of Melanie Einbund
Shirley Cooperman,	cousin of Melanie Einbund
Faye Felgoise,	aunt of Melanie Einbund
Clara Finlay,	mother of Todd Finlay
James Finlay,	father of Todd Finlay
Matt Ganz,	long-time active member and former president of Shir Ami, and husband of Judy Ganz
May Ganz,	former member and mother-in-law of Judy Ganz
Sam Ganz,	former member and father-in-law of Judy Ganz
Dalton Gautreaux,	uncle of Toni Schulberg,
Elsie Maas,	grandmother of Toni Schulberg
Joslyn Miner,	former member of Shir Ami, and wife of Syd Miner, past president of Shir Ami
Jean Skelly,	mother of Bruce Skelly
Stella Small,	grandmother of Toni Schulberg
Edna Vanous,	long time active member of Shir Ami
Sylvia Weingarton,	aunt of Stan Heimowitz
Matthew Zankowsky,	father of Fred Zankowsky
Ruth Zelezny,	grandmother of Julie Greenfield

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

Susan Weinberg Andersson,	daughter of Rolf & Ingrid Weinberg, and former member of Shir Ami
Tom Manley,	former member of Shir Ami
Joseph Forman,	father of Lorraine Lewis
Katherine Schuelke,	mother of Susan Spitzer
Rose Levine,	wife of Hillie Leviine, and long-time founding member of Shir Ami
Fran Johnson,	long-time member of Shir Ami
Robert Krantz,	father of Sam Krantz

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 simple. **Please email Toni Schulberg** (yahrzeit@congsHIRAMI.org) and include 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 you want to use the English or the Hebrew calendar for your reminder. Toni will send the reminders as requested

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	Rabbi.Allie@congshirami.org
Rabbinic Intern.....	Aaron Sataloff	Rabbi.Aaron@congshirami.org
President	Jon Zimmerman	president@congshirami.org
Vice-President	Harriet Skelly	
Secretary	Marlene Lamnin	secretary@congshirami.org
Treasurer, Payables**.....	Melanie Einbund.....	treasurer@congshirami.org
Treasurer, Receivables.....	Judy Ganz.....	treasurer@congshirami.org
Adult Education Committee Chair	Stan Heimowitz.....	adulthoodeducation@congshirami.org
Building & Grounds Committee Chair	Milt Palmer.....	facilities@congshirami.org
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
Yahrzeit Listings	Tom Spitzer	socialaction@congshirami.org
	Toni Schulberg.....	yahrzeit@congshirami.org