



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

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## APRIL 2013 (Nissan~Iyar 5773)

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### Shir Ami's Community Seder 2013



Ricki Weintraub

On Saturday, March 30, Shir Ami's Community Passover Seder was held at Eden United Church of Christ. The seder was by led by Ricki Weintraub. A capacity crowd filled the hall with song as the Passover Story was re-told and the Passover meal was eaten.



2013 Passover Seder at Eden UCC



## Event Calendar



4529 Malabar Ave.!

Castro Valley, CA 94546

### APRIL

- Wed. Apr. 10 7:30 pm Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood, hosted by Leeza Watstein.
- Fri. Apr. 12 7:30 pm [Shabbat Service](#) led by Allie Fischman. Volunteers will be honored.
- Sat. Apr. 13 9:30-12:30 Rabbi Allie will be available [to meet with congregants](#) by appointment at Starbucks.  
2:30 pm Trope Class with Allie Fischman  
5:30 pm Havdallah and Book Club Discussion with Allie Fischman. [Talk about Anne Frank.](#)
- 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.
- Sat. Apr. 27 7:30 pm Havdallah and [Movie \(A Serious Man\)](#), with Aaron Sataloff.

### MAY

- Fri. May. 10 7:30 pm Shabbat Service led by Aaron Sataloff.
- Fri. May 17 7:30 pm Shabbat Service led by Allie Fischman.
- Sat. May 18 9:30-12:30 Rabbi Allie will be available [to meet with congregants](#) by appointment at Starbucks.  
" " 2-3 pm Trope Class  
3:30-5 pm [Reform Judaism](#) Today
- Sun. May 19 Shir Ami Potluck -- Annual Membership Meeting -- Last day of religious school

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### Shir Ami thanks the following for their generous donations in March

- Skelly, for their [continuing](#) funding of our DSL (internet) Line
- Ganz, Yahrzeits, Matt, May, Samuel Ganz
- Blank, In Honor of the birth of May Grace Brown, Great-Grand Daughter of Judy Ganz
- Muriel Small, Yahrzeit of Harold Small, 27941 El Portal Drive, Hayward, CA 94542
- Lewis Family, Tzedakah
- Zankowsky, Yahrzeit of Matthew Zankowsky, Fred's father
- Skelly, Yahrzeits of Benjamin Halpern, Harriet's father, Jean Skelly and Jack Skelly, parents of Bruce; and In Honor of May Grace Brown
- Susan and Bruce Carter, "In Honor of two beautiful lives: Hillie Levine and Abigail Rose Levine, Hillie's Great-Grand Daughter
- Schulberg, General Fund
- Kramer, URJ Community of Practice
- Diana and Fred Zankowsky, in Honor of the birth of Judy Ganz's Great Granddaughter.
- Deena Levine-Lipsett, in Honor of Shir Ami's wonderful Sisterhood. "Thank you for the ways you remember my mother, for all your love to our family and to your spirit!"

## President's Message

### President's Message for April 2013 Bulletin

Shalom Shir Ami,

As President, I'm honored and oftentimes humbled by how much time and effort our members freely give to this Congregation. Whether it's attending committee meetings, planning the Community Passover Seder or the Labor Day BBQ, buying some treats for a Shabbat oneg, or even just helping to rearrange tables and chairs at our events, I value each and every contribution made by our volunteers. On many occasions, I've felt the generous spirit that permeates our synagogue. On Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, it will be my turn to honor these contributions. I hope you'll join me that evening for a special "Honoring Volunteers" Shabbat service.

As for my volunteer time with the Congregation, I've been trying to find new resources for our Congregation, as well as new ways for Shir Ami to have an impact on our community. Every so often, I find information on both at once and I want to tell you about my recent find. The Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay recently sent out a request for proposals (RFP) to award grants in the broad theme of community impact for the East Bay Area. Specifically, this RFP outlines three priorities/funding areas they want proposals to address: Enriching Jewish Community Life & Culture, Strengthening Jewish Identity & Education, and Caring for Those in Need.



You're probably saying to yourself, "My goodness, those sound like areas Shir Ami already does!" If so, I heartily agree. I see these areas reflected in the very structure of Shir Ami, as well as the many activities we do every year. Our Religious and Membership Lifecycle Committees plan and execute events that enrich our Jewish life as well as the culture of our close-knit community. The many Adult Education events Shir Ami puts on (thanks to both our members and our Rabbinic Interns) have indeed strengthened our Jewish identity and brought new knowledge to our Congregation. Our Religious and Hebrew Sunday School has successfully done the same for our younger members, infusing education with the music that is the cultural legacy of Shir Ami. And as for caring for the needy, one has to look no further than our Social Action Committee, as well as our collaborations with the South Hayward Parish and Eden UCC.

Given our obvious expertise in these priority areas, I put the challenge to all of you: Is there some new program we could propose and lead for any of these funding themes? Is there a way to take the energy and creativity we already give to one another, as I've mentioned above, and use it to the benefit of the larger Eden Area community? Is there an existing Shir Ami program that could use additional funds to reach a larger audience? I encourage you to view the Jewish Federation's website ([http://www.jfed.org/who\\_grants.html](http://www.jfed.org/who_grants.html)), learn more about this opportunity, and come talk with me about your ideas for Shir Ami leveraging these outside resources for everyone's benefit.



Toda Raba,

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

## Rabbinic Interns' Page

This past month we celebrated Passover, retelling the story of the Exodus, eating a festive meal, and gathering with family. The Exodus story for us as a people is not just a story, but also an integral piece in the formation of our identities as Jews. We tell of the hardships the Israelites faced in the desert, conquered and oppressed by an overlord. We tell of a chosen man who successfully leads the people out of slavery and into freedom. Unfortunately, the exodus story is not our only story of oppression and hardships faced by the Jews – there is a much more recent story. The Holocaust. On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Yom HaShoah, we remember the victims of the Holocaust, letting their memories be for us a blessing. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, we also remember Israeli's fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism on Yom HaZikaron. But just as there comes eventual freedom for the Israelites, we also commemorate our freedom by celebrating Yom HaAtzma'ut on the 16<sup>th</sup>, Israel's national independence day. The juxtaposition of these holidays next to one other is quite an emotional roller coaster, but represent the mixture of emotions felt by many who struggle with the pain of those lost in times of war for independence and the joy of freedom. So, let this month be for us a time to remember the more recent stories of Jewish struggles and times of sorrow, while also making time to celebrate the envisioned birthplace for every Jewish soul – Israel.



Rabbi Aaron Sataloff

WHAT SHALL I ASK of You, God?

I have all I need; I lack not a thing.

And I ask not for me alone, but for many mothers,  
children and fathers.

And not only in this land but also in strange and enemy  
lands.

I wish to ask You for peace. Yes, peace I want,  
and I know you will not refuse a single request from a  
young girl.

You created a Land of Peace and in it is the City of Peace,  
in which stood a Temple of Peace;  
come yet . . .

What shall I ask of You, God?  
Haven't I all that I need?  
I will ask only for peace,  
Peace.



Shlomit Grossberg, age 13

### ADULT LEARNING

**Saturday, April 13 - Rabbi Allie available at Starbucks, 9:30am-12:30pm**

*Please email Allie if you are interested in making a 30 minute or 1 hour meeting to talk about something specific or anything at all!*

**Saturday, April 13.** Led by Rabbi Allie.

• **2-3 pm: Trope Class**

• **5:30pm: Havdallah, a Nosh & Book Club**

We will be discussing the book, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*.

Happy reading!

**Saturday, April 27** Rabbi Aaron

• **7:30 pm: Havdallah and a Movie**

Movie, **A Serious Man**. In a retelling of the biblical story Job, a Midwestern professor watches his life unravel through multiple sudden incidents. Though seeking for meaning and answers he seems to stay stalled.

**Saturday, May 18.** Rabbi Allie

• **9:30am-12:30pm Rabbi Allie at Starbucks**

• **2-3 pm: Trope Class**

• **3:30-5 pm: Reform Judaism Today**

Join us for a lively discussion that will be the follow-up from the Ask The Rabbi class held earlier in the year. We will discuss topics that pose issues for us as Reform Jews as well as Reform opinions on topics suggested by all of you (closer to the date of the class). We will end with **havdallah**.



**Rabbinic Intern Allie Fischman**

[Rabbi.Allie@CongShirAmi.org](mailto:Rabbi.Allie@CongShirAmi.org)

**Rabbinic Intern Aaron Sataloff**

[Rabbi.Aaron@CongShirAmi.org](mailto:Rabbi.Aaron@CongShirAmi.org)

# Community News

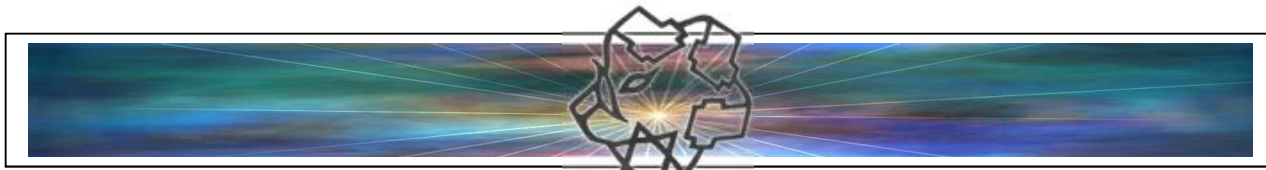
## Oakland A's Jewish heritage Night, July 30

Last month, Shir Ami was the first Jewish group to reserve tickets (50!!!) for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Jewish Heritage Night 2013, which will take place on **Tuesday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**. The ticket prices will be the SAME as LAST year (imagine!), \$23 / ticket. Once again, the event will feature a special giveaway item, a kepah, and free parking for all attendees.



It's important for our members to earmark the date and sign up family and friends for the game soon. That way I can get more tickets if we need them, and we will be more or less together in our seats. Save the date! Go A's!

Fred Zankowsky



*Our congregation is a part of South Hayward Parish and therefore, we are ALL members. Come learn more about this organization, how they use our support, and all their accomplishments over the last year. Contribute your voice, your vote, and your ideas.*

*\*Snacks will be provided\**

What

- South Hayward Parish
- Annual Meeting

When

- Sunday, April 21st
- 5 - 7pm

Where

- Westminster Hills Outreach Center
- 27287 Patrick Ave, Hayward

*For more information, please see our website at [www.southhaywardparish.org](http://www.southhaywardparish.org) or contact Betty DeForest at 510.785.3663*

**South Hayward Parish's Mission is to engage people of faith in the endeavor and partnership of building and maintaining a just and nurturing community. The Parish actively advocates for the rights and dignity of all people, regardless of sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, race, or geographic origin.**

**Sunday, May 19--Save the Date (More information next month.)**

- Last day of Religious School, End of Year Celebration.
- Shir Ami Potluck and Annual Membership Meeting



## Pareshas Tazia/Metzorah

The Pareshahs of Tazia and Metzora discuss the laws of tumah v'taharah, ritual impurity and purity. A woman giving birth should undergo a process of purification, which includes immersing in a mikvah (a naturally gathered pool of water) and bringing offerings to the Holy Temple. All male infants are to be circumcised on the eighth day of life.



Services at Shir Ami will be conducted by  
Allie Fischman  
on Friday April 12 at 7:30 PM

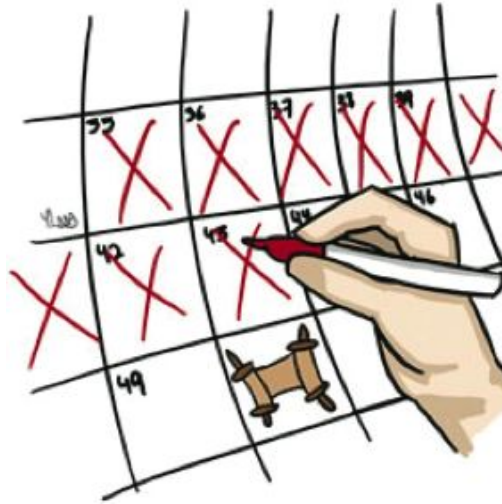
The evening will honor Shir Ami volunteers  
for their loyal support and efforts  
to keep the Congregation  
vital and successful

## Shabbat, April 26, with Pre-K to 4th

Paresha Emor – Speak to Aaron (about handling those who have died)

### Also the 32nd day of the Omer

From the second night of Passover until the day before the holiday of Shavuot, the Jewish people engage in an unique mitzvah called sefirat ha'omer (counting of the omer). The Torah commands us during this time each year to count seven complete weeks for a total of 49 days. At the end of the seven-week period, we celebrate Shavuot, which means "weeks."



Shabbat Service (Pre-K to 4th) will be conducted by  
Aaron Sataloff  
on Friday April 26th at 7:30 PM

Remember Shir Ami's Food Drive

# Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

## UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH

Wed. April 10th at 7:30. We will bring in the month of Iyar. It will be hosted by Leeza Watstein. Please check your email for update on details and location.

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love for her and dedicated a rose bush to her to be planted in the "Founder's Grove" at Shir Ami. It was a wonderful retreat and everyone came away from it filled to the brim with full-illment.



Thanks to Melanie Einbund, Nancy Liskewitz, and Barbara Heimowitz we had a lovely and moving **Rosh Chodesh Nissan**. We planted Rose Levine's rose bush in the Founder's Grove. Special guests, Hillie and Deena Levine joined us. Hillie spoke beautifully about his beloved while we took

## ROSH CHODESH RECAP

Last month we had two amazing Sisterhood events: the Women's Retreat and Rosh Chodesh Nissan.

**The Sisterhood Retreat** was held at the Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo. The theme of the retreat- "What's my Next Chapter?"- continued throughout the weekend allowing us to examine our own lives and OUR next step. We had two beautiful services, a song fest, game night, a wonderful play, talking and listening circle, art project, book discussion, and Jewish Ritual workshop led by Rabbi



turns watering the rose bush. We sang Erev Shkel Shoshanim, lit candles for Nissan, and shared our "Jersusalem" (a highlight of our month). A poem about Nissan followed with a craft of putting

together sachets of rose petals. We enjoyed delicious refreshments and each person left with a single rose.



Allie. Saturday evening's program was in honor of Rose Levine, a loyal and active Sisterhood member and retreat participant. We shared our memories and

[More photos of Retreat](#) are on Facebook. You do not need to be a Facebook members to view . More [photos of Rosh Chodesh](#)

## Upcoming Rosh Chodesh

Tues. May 7 Sivan (new date)

Wed. June 5 Tammuz



# Yahrzeit List

## April 2013 Yarzheit List (as of 03/22/13)

### April 12, 2013

Betya Druker,	mother of Alex Druker
Benjamin Halpern,	father of Harriet Skelly
Bernard Nasatir,	father of Cary Nasatir
Jack Skelly,	father of Bruce Skelly
Marjorie Wolf,	aunt of Ruth Hartman

### April 26, 2013

Gordon Greenfield,	father of Julie Greenfield
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**Kaddish List:** those who have died during the past 11 months (to be read at all service in April)

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 Levine 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](mailto: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 .....	<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>
President .....	Jon Zimmerman .....	<a href="mailto:president@congshirami.org">president@congshirami.org</a>
Vice-President .....	Harriet Skelly .....	
Secretary .....	Marlene Lamnin .....	<a href="mailto:secretary@congshirami.org">secretary@congshirami.org</a>
Treasurer, Payables**.....	Melanie Einbund.....	<a href="mailto:treasurer@congshirami.org">treasurer@congshirami.org</a>
Treasurer, Receivables.....	Judy Ganz.....	<a href="mailto:treasurer@congshirami.org">treasurer@congshirami.org</a>
Adult Education Committee Chair .....	Stan Heimowitz.....	<a href="mailto:adulthoodeducation@congshirami.org">adulthoodeducation@congshirami.org</a>
Building & Grounds Committee Chair .....	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>
Children's Activities Committee Chair .....	Bonnie Frey .....	<a href="mailto:children@congshirami.org">children@congshirami.org</a>
Communications Committee Co-Chair .....	Harriet Skelly .....	<a href="mailto:communications@congshirami.org">communications@congshirami.org</a>
Communications Committee Co-Chair .....	Rose Firestone .....	<a href="mailto:communications@congshirami.org">communications@congshirami.org</a>
Donations: General, Special, Wall Plaques eScrip .....	Ruth Hartman .....	<a href="mailto:donations@congshirami.org">donations@congshirami.org</a>
Membership Outreach Committee Co-Chair .....	Danielle Keil.....	<a href="mailto:escrip@congshirami.org">escrip@congshirami.org</a>
Membership Outreach Committee Co-Chair .....	Bonnie Frey.....	<a href="mailto:membership@congshirami.org">membership@congshirami.org</a>
Men's Club.....	Barbara Heimowitz.....	<a href="mailto:membership@congshirami.org">membership@congshirami.org</a>
Oneg Shabbat (hospitality).....	Fred Zankowsky.....	<a href="mailto:mensclub@congshirami.org">mensclub@congshirami.org</a>
Religious Committee Co-Chair .....	Sharon Golembo.....	<a href="mailto:oneg@congshirami.org">oneg@congshirami.org</a>
Religious Committee Co-Chair .....	David Schulberg.....	<a href="mailto:religion@congshirami.org">religion@congshirami.org</a>
Rosh Chodesh (sisterhood) .....	Diana Zankowsky.....	<a href="mailto:religion@congshirami.org">religion@congshirami.org</a>
School Committee Co-Chair.....	Jan Dombrower.....	<a href="mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org">sisterhood@congshirami.org</a>
School Committee Co-Chair .....	Jodi Blum.....	<a href="mailto:education@congshirami.org">education@congshirami.org</a>
Social Action Committee Chair .....	Jane Steele.....	<a href="mailto:education@congshirami.org">education@congshirami.org</a>
Yahrzeit Listings .....	Tom Spitzer .....	<a href="mailto:socialaction@congshirami.org">socialaction@congshirami.org</a>
	Toni Schulberg.....	<a href="mailto:yahrzeit@congshirami.org">yahrzeit@congshirami.org</a>