



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.urj.org)

MAY 2013 (Iyar~Sivan 5773)

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Shir Ami: Recognized and Rewarded!

If you're on Facebook, you might have noticed that the Shir Ami Facebook page shows more activity recently. Jan Dombrower has been posting information on various *simchas* and other member events. She's been reporting on birthdays and anniversaries and noting illnesses as well, and you, our readers, have noticed, 'liked' and 'shared' this information.

The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) sponsors a competition between synagogues regarding Outreach and Membership. Diana Zankowsky submitted a description of Jan's outreach activities and on April 24 we were notified that Jan's work has received a Belin Award and that Shir Ami will receive a \$1,000 check from the Belin Awards Committee at the URJ Biennial in San Diego, December 2013.

Here's what the URJ said about Shir Ami's award:

Congratulations! The Belin Awards Committee has chosen your synagogue's wonderful Outreach and Membership program as one of 8 award winners. These awards are given to recognize superior programs from around North America that demonstrate a very high level of creativity, originality, and replicability. Many of these programs address cutting edge issues of Outreach and Membership, others exhibit fresh ways of reaching our target populations.

Best of all, your submission will be able to be a resource for congregations all across the United States and Canada. In addition, through the foresight and generosity of David Belin, your congregation will receive a \$1000.00 check. Again we thank you for sharing your efforts with us and the Reform movement.

Please continue to help Jan's wonderful work in two ways. Make sure she knows of events in your life and your family's lives. And when you see a posting in your Facebook feed from the Congregation, please 'Like' and 'Share' the posting, so that the largest number of readers may view the post. Then we will continue to grow our readership and hopefully, our membership as well.

Here is a link to [Shir Ami's Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/CongShirAmi) or type in <https://www.facebook.com/CongShirAmi>

Event Calendar

- Tue. May 7 7:30 pm **Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood**, hosted by Sara & Marlene Lamnin. Look for details by email
- Fri. May 10 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service** led by Aaron Sataloff
- Sat. May 11 1:00 pm **Rabbi Aaron will lead a text study discussion, *How do books and movies affect our understanding of Judaism?***
7:00 pm **Havdallah and a Movie** with Rabbi Aaron
- Sun. May 12 10:30 am **Mother's Day Service and Brunch (members only)**, *RSVP needed-- please let Ricki Weintraub know if you are attending, Yes or No. Contact ricki.weintraub@me.com*
- Tue. May 14 9:00 pm **Tikkun Leil Shavuot** at Shir Ami. Led by Diana Zankowsky and Barbara-Ann Lewis. This special program goes from 9 pm to *midnight*.
- Fri. May 17 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service, Shavuot** 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**, Rabbi Allie
3:30-5 pm **Reform Judaism Today**, Rabbi Allie
- Sun. May 19 11:30 am **Shir Ami Potluck and End-of School Year celebration: Last day of religious school**
12:30 pm **Annual Membership Meeting** Please review [slate for Board of Directors](#) before meeting
- Fri. Jun.7 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service, led by Diana Zankowsky** co-led by the Confirmants: Adam Blum, Sarah Keil and Sophia Silver. High School Grads to be honored: Spencer Blum, Emma Silver, Ace Spitzer and Jacob Carmack

Shir Ami thanks the following for their generous donations in April

- Sisterhood - In Honor of Judy Ganz's Great-Granddaughter
- Melanie and Nate Einbund - Yahrzeits for Sydney Black, father; Faye Felgoise, aunt; and Shirley Cooperman, cousin
- Ruth Hartman - In Memory of Marjorie Wolf and Harriet Cohn
- Irina Druker - Yahrzeit
- Lilly Erickson and Daryl Berman - Seder Donation
- Nancy Storch - Seder Donation
- Marion Kramer - Seder Donation
- Russell and Susan Newman - Seder Donation
- Allen Gardiner - Seder Donation
- Sharon Golembo - Seder Donation
- Cary Nasatir - Donation
- Harriet and Bruce Skelly - donation for Chamber of Commerce dues

Thank you to Judy Ganz for the following "Funny but true items found in synagogue newsletters and heard in congregational announcements":

Don't let worry kill you. Let your synagogue help. Join us for our oneg after services. Prayer and medication to follow. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our congregation.

President's Message

President's Message for May 2013 Bulletin

Shalom Shir Ami,

I cannot believe it's May already. Much has happened this year, and I'll be doing a mini-review of our activities and accomplishments in next month's bulletin. This month, I'd like to acknowledge the contributions made to Shir Ami this year by our Rabbinic Interns, Allie Fischman and Aaron Sataloff. Among the many advantages of hosting Rabbinic Interns is that each year brings different perspectives on religious education and practice, as well as Jewish culture. Certainly this was the situation for both Aaron and Allie.

I know that many in the Congregation enjoyed the year long regimen of Trope Study led by Rabbi Allie, and I myself appreciated the Shirah (Music Night) she conducted back in mid-January. This evening was filled songs ranging from familiar favorites to newer tunes lifted from her camp and other experiences. I also fondly recall the service she led in our Sukkah, as it too was filled with song as well as peaceful reflection. Rabbi Allie led several Adult Education discussion sessions, the most memorable for me being the one on The Tanakh back in mid-February. I've always been a bit uncertain regarding the various books and other documents that detail Jewish history and prescribe Jewish life; Allie did a great job of explaining the differences between these sources, as well as the historical context of each.

Rabbi Aaron brought his own perspective and style to the services and activities he led throughout the year. Aaron helped us celebrate many of the year's festivals, with services on Chanukah, Tu B'Shvat, and Purim. In late March, Sara and I participated in his text study on Pesach. We very much enjoyed the exploration of social justice, societal economics, and cultural values that he led with this study. Rabbi Aaron also hosted many movie nights this year, including a

special outing to the Jewish Film Festival in Palo Alto.

Although it's not always easy to take on the training and guidance of Rabbinic students, whose experience prior to joining us can range from the novice-level to that of a seasoned professional, I'm proud that Shir Ami takes on this challenge. Many thanks are due to Diana Zankowsky and David Schulberg, our Religious Committee Co-Chairs, who mentor our student rabbis throughout the year. I'm both proud and thankful for the effort expended by Allie and Aaron in sharing themselves with us this year. I wish them both well in their continued education and hope that like many past Interns, they keep in touch with the Congregation and its members.

As we approach the summer, I would remind you that our summertime services are lay-led and rely on members of the Congregation to step up and take on the service-leading role. This does not need to be done alone; many of these services have 2 or 3 people collaborating on the structure and content of a given service. Plus, many within the Congregation have some talent in Torah chanting (*newly* acquired talent, in some instances) and who would be more than willing to show off this skill if asked. I would encourage those of you familiar with Shir Ami's Friday night service – and that's most of you – to consider helping to lead a summer service. If you're interested, please contact David Schulberg and Diana Zankowsky (religion@congshirami.org).

Have a wonderful month,

Jon Zimmerman,
president@congshirami.org



Rabbinic Interns' Page

After a year of careful study, I have concluded that Congregation Shir Ami is what I can decisively label as a *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy community. In Deuteronomy, Parshat Netzavim, Moses paints a dramatic image of all the freed Hebrews waiting at the foot of Mount Sinai. They're ready to accept a new covenant with God with Torah as this covenant's symbol. This group stands waiting as a *kehillah kedoshah*, a holy community.

Shir Ami is incredibly special. During my short time in the field, I have been fortunate enough to work at or visit many congregations of various sizes. Never have I met a group so engaged and passionate about Jewish learning. You are an exemplary model of a small synagogue that is more than just a group of Jews meeting together to pray, you are truly a family.

It is such an honor for rabbinical students to be welcomed to join a community and serve as a congregation's leader. We are given the gift of meeting people, teaching Torah, laughing together with new friends over Shabbat dinner, and a safe space to practice the various skills of a pulpit rabbi.

I feel blessed to have been given this gift of being part of your lives. You have touched my heart and taught me how a holy community looks and acts. I am so thankful to each of you for listening to my words of Torah, welcoming me into your homes, and teaching me your own Torah.

As Shavuot approaches, I will not only commemorate God giving the Torah at Mount Sinai but also revel in the Torah I have been given this year. I will revel in knowing that Shir Ami, a *kehillah kedoshah*, will continue to reveal Torah to each rabbinical student welcomed with open minds, arms, and hearts.

Thank you for passing on our rich tradition and heritage, and for giving me another place that I can call home.

-Rabbi Allie



ADULT LEARNING

Saturday, May 11. Rabbi Aaron

- **1:00 pm: Text Study/Discussion** - How do movies and books affect our understanding of Judaism (culturally, religiously, spiritually, theologically)? A review of movies and books that provide a lense through which we can approach these facets of Judaism
- **7:00 pm: Havdallah and Movie**, Join us for havdallah followed by a movie (surprise!). A wonderful evening for all.

Saturday, May 18. Rabbi Allie

- **9:30 am -12:30pm Rabbi Allie at Starbucks**
Please email Allie if you are interested in making a 30 minute meeting to talk about something specific or anything at all!
- **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

Rabbinic Intern Aaron Sataloff

Rabbi.Aaron@CongShirAmi.org

Community News

Oakland A's Jewish heritage Night, July 30

Shir Ami has reserved 50 (!) tickets for the third annual Jewish Heritage Night 2013, which will take place on **Tuesday, July 30**. The ticket price is \$25 per ticket. Once again, the event will feature a special giveaway item, a kephah, 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 seated reasonably together.

Save the date! Go A's!

Fred Zankowsky

The following good news was submitted by Julie Greenfield

Our former rabbinic intern, Lauren Silverstein Cohn, married her fiance, Matt Ruggles yesterday (4/20/2013) in Atlanta, where she is Rabbi/Educator at Temple Emmanu-el.

Shir Ami Social Action Update for April - South Hayward Parish news

South Hayward Parish (SHP) held its first annual membership meeting in April. The main order of business was the election of new officers. The new president is Don Miller, pastor of New Bridges Presbyterian Church. Daryl Berman steps down from president to vice-president. Don gave an informative presentation on SHP programs (which Sara Lamnin was instrumental in preparing as manager of the Community Action Network). The need in the community is substantial, and the number of people that SHP touches is significant. SHP needs resources, both financial and human. The easiest way to make a financial donation is by visiting the [SHP website](#). OR you can send a check to South Hayward Parish, 27287 Patrick Avenue, Hayward, CA 94544. Human resource contributions can take a number of forms. The SHP food pantry serves people four afternoons a week from 3:00 to about 5:00, and needs people to pick up sort, and help distribute food from area restaurants. Also, we are looking for people who can pick fruit from area fruit trees. Other volunteer opportunities include tutoring students in the SHP sponsored GED program; general data entry as we try to improve our record keeping and data collection; and helping with client intake as we launch a new program to combat diabetes with better nutrition (funded with a Kaiser grant) later this spring. Insofar as Shir Ami is a member congregation of SHP, and all Shir Ami members are members of SHP; this gives us a great vehicle for contributing our financial or human resources to programs that have a direct benefit to the local community.

Thanks.

Tom Spitzer

Just for Fun. Editor's favorite winners of the Washington Post's annual neologism contest, in which readers supply alternative meanings for common words:

- Coffee (n.), the person upon whom one coughs
- Oyster (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.
- Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline
- Pokemon (n.), a Rastafarian proctologist

Paresha Be'midbar - In the Desert

The Lord spoke to the Israelites in the Sinai Desert. He counted them repeatedly during their journey from Egypt, concerned about their survival .



Services at Shir Ami will be led by
Aaron Sataloff

On Friday, May 10th at 7:30 PM

Bring a friend, remember Shir Ami's food drive

CELEBRATE SHAVUOT on May 14 and on May 17

**Shavuot Shabbat:
Friday, May 17
7:30 pm**

**Service will be led by
Rabbi Allie**

The Torah was given 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 this gift, and God “re-gives” the Torah to us.

**Tikkun Leil Shavuot:
Tuesday, May 14
9:00 pm - 12 Midnight**

Tikkun Leil Shavuot is the all-night study session used to prepare for Shavuot. At Shir Ami, of course, we adapt the traditions to meet our contemporary needs. So, we will study from 9:00 pm to midnight at Shir Ami. Why midnight? Because the mystics believe that at midnight the heavens open and favorably receive the thoughts, study, and prayers of those who remain awake on the anniversary of the Revelation. We will have four teachers, each with a different topic. We will also have lots of cheesecake, ice cream, drinks and other nosherie to help us stay awake. Please come join us, for one class or for all four!





Sunday, May 19th

Potluck and End of School Celebration – 11:30 AM

Annual Membership Meeting – 12:30 PM

Please participate in Shir Ami's rotating food assignment:

M to Z... main dish

A to L... side dish or dessert

All... help with cleanup



Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH

The next Rosh Chodesh will be on Tuesday, May 7. Hosted by Marlene and Sara Lamnin, we will bring in the month of Sivan. Please note this is a change of the original date so please mark your calendars. Watch your email for location and more information



ROSH CHODESH RECAP

Last month's Rosh Chodesh, led by Leeza Watstein Moto, was delightful. Our program was about bringing in the month of Iyar and counting of the Omer.

We learned about what the different days represent. We had a special program of toasting with drinks that are meaningful to us. We had fun tasting and making toasts with a variety of drinks, including Manischewitz wine, apple cider, vodka and Lemonade, White Russians, and cleansing tea. Thank you to Leeza for a wonderful program.

Upcoming Rosh Chodesh

Tues., May 7, Sivan (new date)

Wed., June 5, Tammuz



Sisterhood has a public page on Facebook. You do not need to be a Facebook members to view this page and see the latest Sisterhood activities. Here's the URL address.

https://www.facebook.com/SisterhoodAtShirAmi/photos_streamx



For more information on Sisterhood, contact Jan Dombrower at sisterhood@congshirami.org

Board of Directors Slate

Shir Ami Board of Directors Slate 2013-2014

Come to the Annual Potluck and Membership Meeting, Sunday, May 19 at 11:30 am (potluck) and vote for your new board.

President: Jon Zimmerman

Vice-President: Harriet Skelly

Secretary: Marlene Lamnin

Treasurer-Receivables: Judy Ganz

Treasurer-Payables: Melanie Einbund

Trustee #1: Harriet Skelly

Trustee #2: Ruth Hartman

Trustee #3: Toni Schulberg

Communications Committee Co-Chair: Harriet Skelly

Communications Committee Co-Chair: Rose Firestone

Religious Committee Co-Chair: Diana Zankowsky

Religious Committee Co-Chair: David Schulberg

Membership Outreach Committee Co-Chair: Barbara Heimowitz

Membership Outreach Committee Co-Chair: Bonnie Frey

Membership Lifecycle Committee Chair: Jan Dombrower

School Committee Co-Chair: Jane Steele

School Committee Co-Chair: Rick Goldhoff

Building & Grounds Committee Chair: Milt Palmer

Religious Events Committee Co-Chair: Ruth Hartman

Sisterhood Chair: Jan Dombrower

Men's Club Co-Chair: Fred Zankowsky

Men's Club Co-Chair: Jeff Blum

Adult Education Committee Co-Chair: Valerie Goldman

Adult Education Committee Co-Chair: Sam Krantz

Social Action Committee Chair: Tom Spitzer

Member at Large: Marion Kramer

Member at Large: Peter Lewis

Member at Large: Vicky Sapper

Yahrzeit List

May 2013 Yahrzeit

(as of 04/16/13)

May 10, 2013

Verla Becker,	active early member of Shir Ami
Harriet Cohn,	grandmother of Ruth Hartman
Nikki Harris,	cousin of Nate Einbund
Hyman Abraham Rebotsky,	grandfather of Jonathan Zimmerman
Harold Small,	uncle of Toni Schulberg, and former member of Shir Ami

May 17, 2013

Lisa Sheryl Barth,	niece of Melanie Einbund
George Berenstein,	father of Judy Ganz
Morris Berman,	father of Daryl Berman
Sarah Blank,	mother of Sam Blank
Anne Firestone,	mother of Bill Firestone
Doris Greenfield,	mother of Julie Greenfield
Arthur Kramer,	father of Marion Kramer
Robert Krantz,	father of Sam Krantz
Robert Levinson,	lay leader of Shir Ami for many years
Harriet Troy,	mother of Nancy Storch

Kaddish List: those who have died during the past 11 months (to be read at both services in May)

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 longtime founding member of Shir Ami
Fran Johnson,	longtime member of Shir Ami

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
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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