



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

JUNE/JULY 2013 (Sivan~Tammuz~Av 5773)



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Have a wonderful summer; are you ready for Rosh Hashanah?

Summer has not yet begun and we are already planning for the High Holy Days!? Yes, we are. There are two reasons for this:

1. We only publish the Bulletin 11 times per year. During the summer, we combine June and July into one publication, which means our next Bulletin will not be published until August 1
2. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur come early this year. (Yes, we know they really come *on time*, but this year Rosh Hashanah begins on September 4! Chanukkah also comes early. The first night of Chanukkah begins Wednesday evening, November 27, the day before Thanksgiving.)

So have a wonderful summer: enjoy Shir Ami's planned activities; check your email for summer updates; and be ready for Shir Ami's first fall activity, our Labor Day BBQ on Sunday, September 1st.



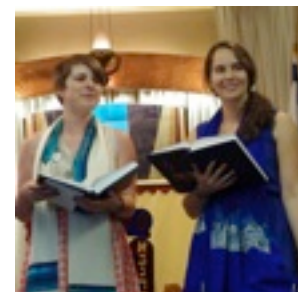
Photos from May 2013
potluck picnic



Find more pictures on [Shir Ami's Facebook page](#) or type in <https://www.facebook.com/CongShirAmi>

Event Calendar

- Wed. June 5 7:00 pm** Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood's [End of Year Potluck Picnic at Deerview Park](#) on Columbia Drive in Castro Valley
- Fri. June 7 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service, led by Diana Zankowsky** co-led by confirmands: Adam Blum, Sarah Keil and Sophia Silver. High School Grads to be honored: Spencer Blum, Emma Silver, Ace Spitzer and Jacob Carmack
- Sat. June 15 12-5 pm** **Castro Valley Pride Event.** Held in front of the Performing Arts Center on Redwood Road at Heyer. A festival with music, food, art & vendors, in support of the LGBT community.
- Sat. June 15 7:30 pm** Julie Greenfield will be hosting our first summer **Movie Night**. **"The Other Son"** (France, 2012) tells the story of Joseph. As he prepares to join the Israeli army for his national service, Joseph discovers that he is not his parents' biological son, but that he was inadvertently switched at birth with Yassin, the son of a Palestinian family from the West Bank. The revelation turns the lives of these two families upside down, forcing them to reassess their respective identities, their values, and their beliefs.
Popcorn on the house; discussion following film.
- Tue. June 18 7:00 pm** **Shir Ami Board Meeting.** All are invited to this meeting.
- Fri. June 21 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Sara Shendelman**
- Fri. July 5 7:30 pm** **Shabbat [Service at Camp Newman](#)**-- Reservations required.
- Fri. July 12 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service, led by Stacey Zankowsky and Irene Gilchriese**
- Fri. July 26 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service, led by Barbara-Ann Lewis**
- Tue. July 30 7:05 pm** **A's Baseball [Jewish Heritage Night](#).** Get your reserve tickets from Fred Zankowsky by July 15
- Fri. Aug. 9 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service, led by Harriet Skelly**
- Fri. Aug. 23 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service, led by Diana Zankowsky**
- Sat. Aug. 24 10:00 am** **Shir Ami's semi-annual Religious Committee Meeting.** Held at the Schulberg home. Please RSVP for brunch, religion@congshirami.org
- Sun. Sep. 1** **SAVE the DATE! Shir Ami's annual Labor Day BBQ.** Held on Sunday this year, not Monday.
- Wed. Sep.4** **Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown. See complete High Holiday schedule in August Bulletin.**



Shir Ami thanks the following for their generous donations in May (as of May 25)

- Bruce and Harriet Skelly, for their continuing support of our DSL Line
- Melanie and Nate Einbund, yahrzeits for Nikki Harris and Lisa Cheryl Barth
- Sara Lamnin and Jon Zimmerman, yahrzeit for Hiram Rebotsky
- Daryl Berman and Lily Erickson, yahrzeit for Morris Berman
- Richard Becker TRTEE, Verla R Becker Living Trust, yahrzeits for Jerry Becker & Verla Becker
- Pat and Milt Palmer, general donation

President's Message

Shalom Shir Ami,

This month concludes my first term as President, and launches what I hope will be an even better second year. Being President has brought both challenges and rewards that I hadn't anticipated, and I'm grateful for the support everyone has given me over the past year. In particular, I'm always impressed by the smooth operation of our Board of Directors. While in many Congregations the Board can be a source of dissension and destructive chaos, I'm proud to say that Shir Ami benefits from a dedicated group of individuals, who passionately debate ideas and principles, yet are able to make thoughtful decisions built by consensus. For this, they have my respect and gratitude.

It is this efficiency that enables our small community to accomplish so much every year. While the full list of Achievements and Milestones appears elsewhere in this bulletin, (see page 8) let me highlight some of them here...

Community Outreach: Shir Ami members actively participated at many Eden area events including the Castro Valley Pride Festival, the Martin Luther King Jr. Day march in downtown Hayward, and the CV High School Days of Diversity. We continued to strengthen our relationship with the Eden United Church of Christ in Hayward through several interactions, including co-hosting the Interfaith Purim Retreat, a workshop on tolerance and solidarity to combat religious and sexual identity discrimination. We also brought the outside community a clearer, wider vision of Jewish religion and customs through the Community Passover Seder and the Welcoming Shabbat, both well-attended events.

Religious Activities: This year we greeted 2 new Rabbinic interns, who helped us celebrate Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Chanukah, Tu B'Shvat, Purim, and Passover, just to name a few. Rabbis Allie and Aaron also provided us with plenty of life-long learning opportunities, including text studies, book discussions, movie nights, and trope training. Adult Education is not just the purview of our part-time Rabbis however,

several of our own members took an active role in teaching. Judy Ganz's Beginning and Ongoing Hebrew Classes continue to be the talk of the town, and this year saw the rise of a new tradition, Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a late-evening study session led by Barbara-Ann Lewis and Diana Zankowsky to uncover the mysteries, and mysticisms, of the Shavuot holiday. Finally, Shir Ami continued its tradition of preparing the next generation of Jewish learners as we celebrated a Bat Mitzvah, three confirmations, and four graduating senior blessings.

Union of Reform Judaism (URJ) Involvement and Leadership Development: Shir Ami deepened its involvement with the URJ by participating in several of their sponsored workshops and webinars this year. In January, Shir Ami was selected to play an active role in the URJ's Communities of Practice, an effort to enable congregations with shared concerns and interests to collaborate on ideas and spawn new strategies. Our focus has been, and continues to be, engaging young families, which we hope will enable us to enrich and sustain our membership in the months and years to come. I participated in the Scheidt Seminar, a workshop designed for new and incoming Presidents to help shape their leadership vision and make them aware of available resources and effective strategies. I learned much at this event and plan to use this knowledge to the betterment of Shir Ami in the coming year.

Our Community: Finally, I would like to note several accomplishments that had a strong impact on the Shir Ami Community. We started a new Hebrew & Religious School. Our Sisterhood held its 17th annual retreat. We broke ground on a brand new Founder's Garden. We designed a new Shir Ami website (planned to go on-line this summer). We gained a new member. And, we won a \$1,000 URJ Belin Award for innovative



activities honoring and engaging current members of Shir Ami.

All of these achievements demonstrate the dedication and hard work of Shir Ami's Committees (School, Sisterhood, Communications, Membership Outreach and Membership Lifecycle), and especially their Chairs.

This list shows just how much our Congregation does in a year, and how hard our fellow congregants are working to make Shir Ami membership a rich experience that reaps its own rewards.

I wish you all a fun and fantastic summer,

Jon Zimmerman, president@congshirami.org

Remembering Kevin Keil

On May 11th, the Congregation lost one of our treasured members, Kevin (Gus) James Keil. Husband to Danielle, father to Sarah, Gabriella and James, and son-in-law to Vicky Sapper, Kevin was a warm, caring man who was a true joy to everyone who knew him. He had an incredible talent to bring laughter in the most difficult times, and was a strong presence in the lives of his family and many friends. Kevin will be long remembered at Shir Ami for his generosity, kindness, strength and spirit. The Shir Ami Community offers condolences and support to the family in this time of grief, and in the months and years ahead.



Donations in Kevin's memory can be made to the Keil Family Memorial Fund - Bank of the West, Account # 031381699 (3396 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley, CA 94546).

Shir Ami welcomes our two new Rabbinic Interns!

Rabbinic Intern, Benj Fried

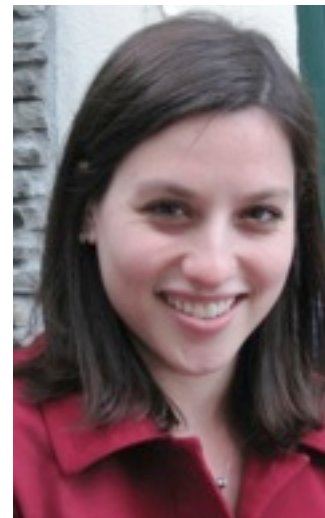


My name is Benj Fried, and I am very excited that I will be working with Congregation Shir Ami in the coming year with Megan Brudney. From what I can tell from what I've read, it sounds like Shir Ami is a lovely synagogue with really dedicated members.

I would like to give you some background about myself so that you and your community can get to know a little bit about me. I grew up in Palo Alto, so my roots are definitely in the Bay Area. I went to Stanford University for undergraduate and graduated in 2010 with a BS in Biology. Following that I attended Harvard Divinity School, receiving a masters degree in Theology. I have worked in the Jewish community through Stanford Hillel, Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos, CA as a religious school teacher, and URJ Camp Kalsman as a songleader and counselor. I am finishing up my first year at Hebrew Union College, and this summer I will be working as a Rabbinical Intern at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Rabbinic Intern, Megan Brudney

Megan Brudney is a rising third-year rabbinical student hailing from Athens, Georgia (the home of the Georgia Bulldogs), and is a proud graduate of Duke University, where she majored in linguistics and minored in Spanish.



After graduation she spent four years in Washington, DC, where she worked at PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values, gaining experience in youth work, grant-writing, grant management, and fundraising. In 2010 Megan moved to Jerusalem for her first year of HUC and then elected to spend an extra year in Israel before returning to Los Angeles for her second year. Megan works as a songleader and teen educator at the Santa Monica Synagogue in Los Angeles and last year served as the student rabbi of Sun Valley, ID. Over winter break Megan traveled to El Salvador on an American Jewish World Service Rabbinical Student Delegation. This summer you can find Megan at JCC Camp Kingswood in Bridgton, ME, where she will be working as their Judaics Director and songleader.

Megan is looking forward to meeting you all and growing and learning together in 5774!

Community News

Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night, July 30, 7:05 pm

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. The event will feature a special giveaway item, a kepeh, and free parking for all attendees. Contact Fred Zankowsky at mensclub@congshirami.org



Reserve your tickets prior to July 15th. (That way I can get more tickets if we need them, and we will be seated reasonably together.) Go A's! Fred Zankowsky

Castro Valley Pride Event-- Saturday, July 13th, 12-5 pm

Congregation Shir Ami will be a vendor and supporter at the summer's Castro Valley Pride event at Castro Valley High School, in front of the Performing Arts Center at 19501 Redwood Road, Castro Valley. CV Pride is a local, yearly festival with music, speakers, food, art and vendors, all in support of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) members of the Eden Area community.

We encourage all of you to attend this event and we are looking for a few individuals to volunteer to work the Shir Ami booth. This work would consist of handing out flyers about Shir Ami, and talking with folks about all the activities we do as a Congregation. Setup at begins at 10:30 am, cleanup ends at 5:30 pm. If you're available for a 2 to 2.5 hour shifts during this period, please e-mail Jon Zimmerman at president@congshirami.org.

Shir Ami is URJ Belin Award Winner

A press release announcing the 2013 Belin Award Winners went out to national and local media. The release also appears on the URJ website- http://urj.org/about/union/pr/2013/?syspage=article&item_id=103940

New York, New York, May 21, 2013--The URJ is pleased to announce the winners and honorable mentions of the [2013 Belin Outreach and Membership Awards](#). The Belin Outreach and Membership Awards have been designed to encourage and honor Reform synagogues with outstanding Outreach and Membership programs

...
All winners and honorable mentions will be honored at the [Union for Reform Judaism Biennial](#) in San Diego, December, 2013. ...The eight winners, with Outreach and Membership programs that demonstrated a high level of creativity, originality and excellence include (*Shir Ami is listed first*):

1. Congregation Shir Ami, Castro Valley, CA: Membership Hospitality Using Social Media, designed to strengthen congregants' ties to the congregation by creating a synagogue Facebook page in which congregants, clergy and staff can post wishes and words of praise, encourage one another with "likes" and repostings and are able to see a list of members' birthdays and anniversaries.



Support Camp Kadima, purchase large reusable shopping bags

You can support Camp Kadima with your purchase of these beautiful cloth shopping bags with handles. Contact Angie Apple (Ross) to purchase bags. angelaapple2.2@gmail.com, 510-682-0434. \$3.50 each or 3 for \$10.

Camp Kadima is nonprofit Jewish day camp that provides a fun, educational and safe place for our children to grow and celebrate their heritage.



Shabbat at Camp Newman, July 5

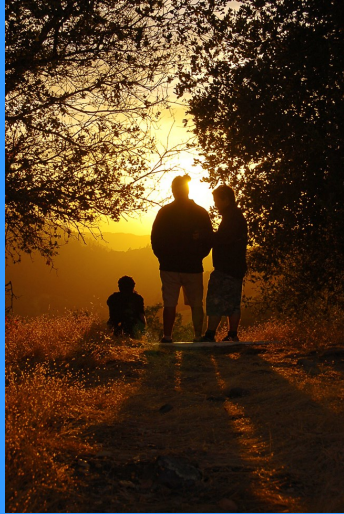


Congregation Shir Ami Shabbat at Camp Newman

Members and staff are warmly invited
to share a Shabbat at Camp Newman!

Reception with our Camp Directors,
Shabbat dinner, singing and dancing

For details visit:
[www.newman.urjcamps.org/
alumni/reunions/synagogue](http://www.newman.urjcamps.org/alumni/reunions/synagogue)



Friday, July 5th

Important Notes for Visitors:

- We are asking **all visitors** to make a minimum contribution of \$36 per adult (at the time of registration you will be directed to our donor webpage)
- Online registration is required
- We discourage parents from visiting their child in session, for this may make other children feel sad and cause problems in the cabins
- Anyone under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by their own parent **at all times**



For questions, please call or email:

Tracey Klapow, tklapow@urj.org
(415) 392-7080x13 until June 1st
(707) 571-8641 after June 1st



2013-2014 Achievements & Milestones

- Convened lay-led summer Shabbat services
- Had outreach tables at Castro Valley Pride Festival, Hayward Street Party, and Castro Valley Fall Festival
- Participated in visitor's Shabbat evening at Camp Newman
- Held successful Labor Day BBQ and fundraiser
- Welcomed one new member
- Held High Holiday services and break-the-fast
- Welcomed two new Rabbinic Interns
- Started new Shir Ami Hebrew & Religious School
- Hosted Sukkah Decorating Party
- Held Holiday/Shabbat services for Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim and Passover
- Held first-time Chanukah Faire & Boutique fundraiser
- Hosted successful Tu B'Shevat Seder and planted new fig tree
- Participated in Martin Luther King day community observances
- Hosted successful Welcoming Shabbat service
- Participated in South Hayward Parish with 2 SHP Board members
- Continued building our partnership with Rev Arlene and the Eden United Church of Christ by Hosting a Community Passover Seder, Contributing to the Comida para Cherryland, and Collaborating on Interfaith Purim Retreat, a workshop on tolerance and solidarity to combat religious and sexual identity discrimination
- Followed-up on member requests to further improve Shir Ami's bylaws
- Held volunteer appreciation Shabbat service
- One student became Bat Mitzvah
- Three teens Confirmed and four honored at Senior Grad blessing
- Provided camperships for our youth to attend Jewish summer camps
- Participated in regional NFTY youth group and events
- Offered successful life long learning classes including book discussions, Trope classes, Adult Hebrew classes, and text study
- Attended URJ Leadership Education Workshops: Communities of Practice on Engaging Young Families and Scheidt Seminar
- Volunteered at the Alameda County Food bank
- Held 17th annual sisterhood retreat and monthly Rosh Chodesh meetings
- Dedicated and planted Rose (Levine) bush in new Founders' Garden
- Participated in Jewish Heritage night at Oakland A's Stadium
- Participated in Castro Valley High School Days of Diversity
- Eight congregants visited Israel for the first time
- Made visits to the sick and in nursing facilities; brought meals to families where needed
- Continued effort in developing a new Shir Ami website
- Won \$1,000 URJ Belin Award for innovative Membership Lifecycle activities

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH

Wed., June 5, 7 pm

Please join us on Wednesday, June 5th for our end of year Sisterhood gathering. We will meet at Deerview Park on Columbia Drive in Castro Valley (5780 Thousand Oaks Dr, at Columbia, Castro Valley).at 7:00 pm for a picnic dinner hosted by Sharon Golembo, Lilly Erickson and Toni Schulberg. Please watch for the email reminder and more information.



ROSH CHODESH RECAP

We brought in the month of Sivan with a Mexican Flair! Hosted by Marlene and Sara Lamnin, our theme was Ole' Oy Vey. A special guest speaker, Sylvia Brandon Perez, spoke to us about Sephardic/Spanish Jewry. We then shared about our own heritage and family migration. The diversity was amazing and interesting. We snacked on dishes from our different backgrounds, such as Danish cookies, blintzes, and Indian and Mexican treats.

We each got a lovely long-stemmed rose to decorate our homes for the upcoming Shavuot.

Upcoming Rosh Chodesh

Rosh Chodesh activities are not formally scheduled for the summer months, but look to your email for any spontaneous summer get togethers and for our gatherings in the new year.



To see more Sisterhood photos, you may visit the Shir Ami Sisterhood page on Facebook by clicking [HERE](#)

or by typing <https://www.facebook.com/SisterhoodAtShirAmi?ref=ts>

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



Board of Directors Elect

Shir Ami Board of Directors Elect, 2013-2014

(Term begins July 1)

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 Chair: Ruth Hartman

Sisterhood Chair: Jan Dombrower

Men's Club Co-Chair: Fred Zankowsky

Yahrzeit List

June 2013 Yahrzeit List (as of 05/23/13)

June 7, 2013

Ted Balmforth	son-in-law of Ann and Sam Blank
Jerry Becker	early active member of Shir Ami
George Berenstein	father of Judy Ganz
Lilian Thiel Black	mother of Melanie Einbund
Sheila Frey	mother of Bonnie Frey
Jacob (Jack) Ross	father of David Ross
Samuel Manton Thiel	grandfather of Melanie Einbund

June 21, 2013

Fran Johnson	long-time member of Shir Ami
Rose Levine	wife of Hillie Levine, and long-time founding member of Shir Ami
Alyce Nasatir	mother of Cary Nasatir
David Teferi	father of Rahel Ruiz and husband of Lina Teferi

Kaddish List: those who have died during the past 11 months

(to be read at both services in June)

Kevin Keil	husband of Danielle Keil, father of Sarah, Gabriella and James, and son-in-law of Vicky Sapper
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

July 2013 Yahrzeit List (as of 5/19/13)

July 12, 2013

Stanley Blackfield	founder and 3-time president of Shir Ami
Naomi Greenblatt	sister of Hillie Levine
Hans Schwarzenberger	father of Barbara Heimowitz

July 26, 2013

Leo Knopf	father of Lori Knopf Santora
Fred Rosener	long-time active member of Shir Ami
Betty Schulberg	mother of David Schulberg
Moshe Vanous	long-time active member of Shir Ami
Frances Wolch	former member of Shir Ami who made the Ark door tiles

Kaddish List (those who have died during the past 11 months)

Kevin Keil	husband of Danielle Keil, father of Sarah, Gabriella and James, and son-in-law of Vicky Sapper
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

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



4529 Malabar Street
Castro Valley, CA 94546



(This list is accurate through June, 2013. The new slate takes office July 1. Most of the positions will remain unchanged. See page 10. You may contact any new jobholders through the previous email addressee.)

Rabbinic Intern.....	Megan Brudney	email address in August Bulletin
Rabbinic Intern.....	Benj Fried.....	email address in August Bulletin
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	Ruth Hartman	donations@congshirami.org
eScrip	Danielle Keil.....	escrip@congshirami.org
Membership Outreach Committee Co-Chair	Bonnie Frey.....	membership@congshirami.org
Membership Outreach Committee Co-Chair	Barbara Heimowitz.....	membership@congshirami.org
Men's Club.....	Fred Zankowsky.....	mensclub@congshirami.org
Oneg Shabbat (hospitality).....	Sharon Golembo.....	oneg@congshirami.org
Religious Committee Co-Chair	David Schulberg.....	religion@congshirami.org
Religious Committee Co-Chair	Diana Zankowsky.....	religion@congshirami.org
Rosh Chodesh (sisterhood)	Jan Dombrower.....	sisterhood@congshirami.org
School Committee Co-Chair.....	Jodi Blum.....	education@congshirami.org
School Committee Co-Chair	Jane Steele.....	education@congshirami.org
Social Action Committee Chair	Tom Spitzer	socialaction@congshirami.org
Yahrzeit Listings	Toni Schulberg.....	yahrzeit@congshirami.org

**Please submit invoice and reimbursement requests to:

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