



CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Ave.
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Email: info@CongShirAmi.org
Web: www.CongShirAmi.org

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.unionforreformjudaism.org)

AUGUST 2013 (Av~Elul 5773)

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

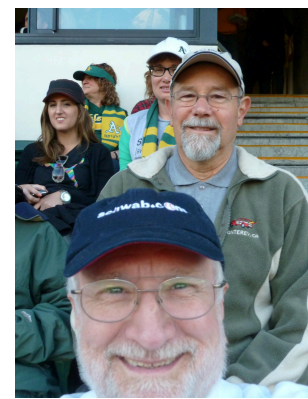
Check out the New Shir Ami Website!

Our new website is in operation! The Shir Ami Communications Committee has been working with web geniuses Bruce Skelly and David Schulberg and many other Shir Ami members to create content and structure for the new website. Our goals for the site are simple. We want the site to be attractive and useful to the internet user who knows little or nothing about our wonderful congregation and we also want the website to be a resource for our congregation members.

While we still have work to do, we are pleased with the website and encourage you to check it out. You will find the new site at our same website address, <http://www.congshirami.org>. Check out the site and give us your feedback.

In order to access the "Members" area of the site, all congregation members will need a gmail account. Instructions will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, enjoy the "new" site.

Photos from July 2013 Jewish Heritage Night at the A's baseball game



Event Calendar

- Fri. Aug. 9 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service, led by Harriet Skelly**
- Tue. Aug. 13 7:00 pm **[Family Out Reach](#) (F.O.R.) Committee Meeting.** The first meeting of this outreach committee.
- Tue. Aug. 20 7:00 pm **Board of Directors Meeting** All are welcome
- Fri. Aug. 23 7:30 pm **Shabbat Service, led by Diana Zankowsky.** Come meet our new Rabbinic Interns, Benj Fried and Megan Brudney.
- 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 2:00 pm **Shir Ami's Annual [Labor Day BBQ](#).** Held on Sunday, not Monday, this year.
- Wed. Sep. 4 7:30 pm **Rosh Hashanah High Holiday Evening Service** [See full schedule](#) on page 7.
- Fri. Sep. 13 7:30 pm **Kol Nidre Service begins Yom Kippur** [See full schedule](#) on page 7.
- Tue. Sep. 24 7:00 pm **Board of Directors Meeting.** All are welcome
- Sun. Oct. 20 1:00 pm **Movie: [Rescue in the Philippines](#)** Held at the Castro Valley Library.

Shir Ami thanks the following for their generous donations to Congregation Shir Ami (as of July 25)

- Nancy Kaufman, in Memory of Kevin Keil
- Adele Mendelsohn Keinon and Irwin Keinon, in Memory of Kevin Keil
- Joan Stern, in Memory of Kevin Keil
- Ruth Hartman and Gary Wolff, In Memory of Kevin Keil
- Rose and Bill Firestone, In Memory of Anne Firestone
- Hillie Levine, In Memory of Rose Levine
- Nate and Melanie Einbund, in memory of Steve Slavin
- Nancy Storch, in memory of her mother, Harriet Troy
- Edetha Speceal, Donation (in June and July)
- Ruth Hartman and Gary Wolff, in memory of Joan Wolff
- Harriet and Bruce Skelly, for the DSL Line (in June and July)
- Harriet and Bruce Skelly, in honor of Hillie Levine's 90th birthday
- Lina Teferi, in memory of her husband, David Teferi

President's Message

President's Message August 2013

Shalom Shir Ami,

I hope you're all having a fun and exciting summer. This month, I want to reflect on some recent goings-on in Castro Valley, across the nation, and across the Pond.

Back in late June, many – if not most – of us celebrated the Supreme Court decisions that found the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional and upheld the lower court's invalidity of California Proposition 8. These decisions resonate with the values of equality and inclusiveness that our Congregation possesses, as reflected in our mission statement and in our membership with the Union for Reform Judaism. Shir Ami members renewed our commitment to these values by participating in this year's Castro Valley Pride event on July 13th. As a child from the 1970's and 80's, I've often felt distant from the nation-changing events of the civil rights movement of the 1960's. The LGBTQ incarnation of this movement gives me a new appreciation for what others have gone through, as well as strong feelings of hope and pride as my generation (and those before and after me) rises to the societal challenges put before it.

This movement is by no means isolated to the U.S. On a recent trip to the United Kingdom, my family (wife Sara and mother-in-law Marlene) and I were touring central London and we found

ourselves smack-dab in the middle of their very own LGBTQ Pride festival, a few weeks before the UK's own Marriage Equality decisions. With no insult to the CV Performing Arts Center intended, such an event takes on an even more impressive demeanor when put on in Trafalgar Square, one of the most historic and culturally significant public spaces in all of London. This festival shows me just how much our values as Reform Jews reflect a broader, global society.

And speaking of Reform Jews in the U.K., Sara, Marlene and I took the opportunity to visit many sights in both England and Scotland, including the Glasgow Reform Synagogue. This lovely community warmly welcomed us to their Friday night Shabbat service, giving me the opportunity to hear Hebrew chanted with a Scottish brogue. And while we did appreciate such novelties, it was equally comforting to hear many of the same melodies and prayers that Shir Ami uses on a regular basis, albeit at an accelerated pace.

I've certainly learned a lot about my country, my world, and myself this summer. I hope you're finding it to be equally educational and exhilarating. I am including a few photos from our UK trip.



See you in September!

Jon Zimmerman, president@congshirami.org



Windsor Palace



Sara & Marlene, Edinburgh Castle



Edinburgh Cathedral Buttress

Community News

Family Out Reach (F.O.R) Committee Meeting: August 13th, 7:00 pm, at Shir Ami.

This is the first meeting of the Family Out Reach (**F.O.R**) committee. We will be brainstorming how to bring more families with young children into our congregation. This group will help manifest some of the ideas that have come from the URJ's Communities of Practice meeting that Bonnie Frey attended in Chicago. Bring your creativity and enthusiasm to help Shir Ami grow **F.O.R** our future. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Movie: Rescue in the Philippines (How the Filipino government rescued over 1300 Jews during WW II)

Sunday October 20, 2013, 1-5 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE for this special event held at the Castro Valley Library

Reservations limited to the first 80 people

EVITE to follow

URJ 2013 BIENNIAL Priority Registration Open Now until August 19

We are delighted to let you know that [priority registration is now open for the URJ's 2013 Biennial](#) for those who belong to URJ-member congregations. The Biennial will take place from December 11-15 in sunny San Diego, California. The URJ Biennial is the place where the Reform Jewish family comes together to study, worship, network, sing, dance, share, grow and celebrate at North America's largest Jewish gathering.

The ties of community and friendship will be strong. Biennial is the largest Jewish gathering in North America-the place to connect with camp friends, get to know fellow congregants better, and meet someone completely new over a cup of coffee or in a session. If you are a member of a URJ congregation [register now!](#) If not, registration will open on August 19. No matter when you register, please encourage your friends and family members to join you in San Diego for what promises to be a not-to-be-missed event!

Sincerely, Edward Burger and Jan Marion, 2013 Biennial Co-Chairs

Comida para Cherryland Receives Award

Comida para Cherryland has received the New Agency Partner of the Year Award from Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB). This award was given to Eden Church for our demonstration of overall excellence in food programming and supporting our community. The great collaboration Eden Church has had with the Cherryland Community, our friends at Shir Ami and other wonderful volunteers has been the continuing force that makes this project so special in our community. This award reaffirms our commitment to advocacy around food insecurity by providing our neighbors access to more protein and fresh produce in a space that they feel safe, welcomed, and supported. Eden Church was presented with the New Agency Partner of the Year award at the ACCFB's Annual Conference, held in Oakland on July 11, 2013.

Article submitted by Eden United Church of Christ

SEWING SEEDS OF CHANGE

In 2008, two veterans named themselves “Homeless Angels”. While living on the street, themselves, Jose and Joe, worked to help their peers attain stability and safety. In 2010, Jose lost his life helping a woman to achieve safety. In his memory and in reflection of our commitment to continue the work to eliminate obstacles to self-sufficiency, the Hayward Community Action Network (a program of South Hayward Parish) launched the Homeless Angles Economic Development Effort. Homeless Angels builds on the skills and talents of those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through jewelry, art, catering, and sewing projects. Individuals create items sold at local craft fairs, plan and cater events, and have recently launched a reusable bag manufacturing effort in collaboration with StopWaste.



Shir Ami members Diana and Fred Zankowsky (left) and Milt and Pat Palmer visit Snappy’s Cafe during a Homeless Angels reception in February.

South Hayward Parish has learned that the opportunity to contribute, to be productive, and actively engaged in one’s own success and that of others is often the most effective social service program we can offer. With the addition of the reusable bag program (inspired by Shir Ami’s own Gary Wolff and greatly assisted by sewing teacher and Shir Ami member Barbara Heimowitz) we continue to increase opportunities for meaningful engagement.

You too can get involved. We are gathering large fabric remnants, tablecloths, strong thread, and other items for this project. We are also launching a garden for those who are not interested in hand crafts and are seeking help with tools, seeds, soil, and plants.

Another way to help not only assists those who are working towards self-sustainability, but also our local food bank. South Hayward Parish’s food pantry serves nearly 10,000 individuals each year with numbers doubling for the last two years. Contributions to South Hayward Parish not only help families, but also the Alameda County Food Bank as South Hayward Parish purchases their food at the Food Bank. Every dollar contributed to South Hayward Parish, buys \$7 worth of food at the Food Bank through their networking and leveraging.

For more information on these and other programs and to learn about volunteering or other contributions visit www.southhaywardparish.org, find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SouthHaywardParish, or call (510) 785-3663



Students from Golden Oak Montessori (including our own Violet Gayle, see picture at left) assist South Hayward Parish Peer Advocate, Bob, to test out manufacturing techniques in 2012.

Labor Day BBQ, Sun., Sept. 1st

LABOR DAY BBQ

at Congregation Shir Ami

Sunday, September 1, 2013 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

The day before Labor Day

COSTS

If prepaid by August 23rd

Adults \$12.00; Children 12 and under \$5.00

If paid at the door

Adults \$15.00; Children 12 and under \$6.00

Prospective members, no charge

Fun! Games! Raffle prizes!

Information, e-mail: membership@congshirami.org

Reminder, prepay by August 23rd

by check made out to

Congregation Shir Ami,

Attention Barbara Heimowitz, Membership

4529 Malabar Ave., Castro Valley CA 94546

Two free raffle tickets for each donated recyclable cell phone

Shir Ami Members please participate in our revolving food assignment

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A TO N BEVERAGES, SIDE DISHES

High Holidays at Shir Ami, 2013, 5774



Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 4, Evening Service.....7:30 PM
Thursday, September 5, Morning Service.....10:00 AM
Children's Service, September 5.....2:00 PM
Tashlich at Lake Chabot, September 5.....3:30 PM

Yom Kippur

Friday, September 13, Kol Nidre Service.....7:30 PM
Saturday, September 14, Morning Service.....10:00 AM
Children's Service, September 14.....1:30 PM
Discussion in the garden, September 14..... 2:00 PM
Yizkor and Concluding Service, September 14.....3:30 PM
Break the Fast.....5:30 PM

High Holy Days Memorial Information



Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

4529 Malabar Avenue • Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510-537-1787 • www.congshirami.org

Dear Friends:

You are undoubtedly aware of our upcoming High Holiday Services, Rosh Hashanah on September 4th & 5th and Yom Kippur on September 13th & 14th. This year, we look forward to welcoming our two new student Rabbis from Hebrew Union College: Megan Brudney and Benj Fried. Megan is a 3rd year student and Benj is a 2nd year just back from Israel. In addition, we will have a surprise as far as our cantorial soloist. We are looking forward to beautiful High Holiday services. We know that you will enjoy our program with more participation from our members.

This year's High Holiday ticket prices will be the same as last year. If you have any guests, we will have tickets for \$300 per family and \$150 for singles available by contacting me. This donation can again represent partial membership at Congregation Shir Ami. Full-time college students and members of the armed forces on active duty are always welcome as our guests at no charge.

Once again we ask you for a Memorial Contribution. Please return the stub below to my address or my email as soon as possible, for *tickets* (non-members only) and *memorials*. The names of the departed will be read at the Yom Kippur Memorial (Yizkor) Service. We do **not** depend on last year's list.

Thank you for your help. I would like to extend my best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year to you and your family.

Sincerely,

David Schulberg

Co-Religious Committee Chair

religion@congshirami.org

To: David Schulberg 16174 Via Arroyo San Lorenzo, CA 94580-2506

Enclosed is a check for ___ tickets @ \$_____ for

Name: _____

Address: _____ Enclosed is my

Memorial Contribution for \$_____ in memory of: _____

(Please Print Clearly)

Yahrzeit List

August 2013 Yahrzeit List (as of 7/18/13)

August 9, 2013

Scott Kendall,	former student at Shir Ami
Layah Laks,	long-time former member of Shir Ami
Barnett Levine,	father of Hillel Levine

August 23, 2013

Shaiva Berenstein,	mother of Judy Ganz
Blanche Rose Berman,	mother of Daryl Berman
Ben Blank,	father of Sam Blank
Maurice Finkle,	husband of Florence Finkle, and former president of Shir Ami
Joan Wolff,	mother of Gary Wolff

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

Deborah Mitchell,	mother of Helen Markus
Stephen Slavin,	long-time close friend of Nate Einbund
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