



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.urj.org)

SEPTEMBER 2013 (Elul 5773 ~ Tishrei 5774)



**Rosh Hashanah
is Sept. 4th**

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New Program, Tot Talk

Shir Ami is excited about launching our newest program, TOT TALK. Tot Talk is free-of-charge for children ages 0-5 years and their parents in the Castro Valley area. Tot Talk will provide a venue for traditional and nontraditional families with preschool-age children to connect, make new friends, schmooze, and have fun with their babies/toddlers. Tots will join the "big kids" for oneg (snack) to start off the morning. We'll sing songs, play games, and read stories. Bring your family; bring your friends! All are welcome. Tot Talk is scheduled to begin in October.

Being Jewish?

It's not just for "big kids."™

At our Tot Talk program, your child 0-5, will get a head start on learning about being Jewish.



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Congregation Shir Ami

4529 Malabar Avenue, Castro Valley, CA 94546

www.congshirami.org

For more information about our Tot Talk program,
email outreach@congshirami.org or call 510.537.1787.

Have you checked out our "new" website?
The website provides easy access to Shir Ami
events, articles and programs,
www.CongShirAmi.org

Event Calendar

Event details are available on the Shir Ami website, www.CongShirAmi.org



- Sun. Sep. 1 2:00 pm Shir Ami's Annual BBQ will be held on Sunday and features a new event/fundraiser, Balloon Pop!. Check out the flier: [Labor Day BBQ](#)
- Wed. Sep. 4 7:30 pm Rosh Hashanah High Holy Day Evening Service [See full schedule](#)
- Thu. Sep. 5 10:00 am Morning Service / Children's Service, 2:00 pm / Tashlich at Lake Chabot, 3:30 pm
- Fri. Sep. 13 7:30 pm Kol Nidre Service begins Yom Kippur [See full schedule](#)
- Sat. Sep. 14 10:00 am Morning Service / Children's Service, 1:30 pm / Discussion in the Garden, 2:00 pm / Yizkor Service, 3:30 pm / Break the Fast, 5:30 pm
- Sun. Sep. 15 1:00 pm [Sukkah Decorating Party](#) Come and have fun decorating our Sukkah
- Fri. Sep. 20 6:30 pm Potluck Dinner, Sukkot Service in the Sukkah led by Benj Fried
- Fri.-Sat. Sep. 20-21 Sukkot [Shabbaton Sleep Over](#)- after services. Bring your sleeping bag!
- Fri. Sep. 20 Reservation Deadline for Shir Ami members for the Oct. 20 event, [Rescue in the Philippines](#)
- Tue. Sep. 24 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting. All are welcome
- Fri. Sep. 27 7:00 pm Simchat Torah Service, installation of Shir Ami Board, led by Megan Brudney
- Fri. Oct. 11 6:00 pm Kid's Shabbat at 6:00 / Potluck Dinner at 6:45 / Shabbat Service at 7:30 led by Benj Fried
- Sun. Oct. 20 2:00 pm Event: [Rescue in the Philippines](#) Held at the Castro Valley Library.
- Fri. Oct. 25 7:30 pm Shabbat Service, led by Megan Brudney

Shir Ami thanks the following for their generous donations to Congregation Shir Ami (July to August 22, 2013)

- Marla and Leland Ball, In Memory of Mary Ball and Green Ball, Parents of Leland, and Matthew Ganz, Father of Marla
- Lori Santora, In Memory of Leo Knopf
- Sara Lamnin and Jon Zimmerman, to be used "as needed"
- Toni and David Schulberg, towards the cantor's salary
- Florrie Finkle, yahrzeit for husband, Maury Finkle
- Judy Ganz, yahrzeit for mother, Shaiva Berenstein
- Marion Kramer, donation
- Leonard and Debra Roudman, in Honor of Hillie Levine's 90th Birthday
- Daryl Berman and Lilly Erickson, yahrtzeit for Daryl's mother, Blanche Berman
- Edetha Speceal, donation
- Harriet and Bruce Skelly, DSL Line

President's Message

President's Message for
September 2013 Bulletin

Shalom Shir Ami,



I hope you had a great summer, and that you're ready to enjoy an exciting New Year with Congregation Shir Ami. We've got a lot to offer you this year, including new faces and happenings, as well as timeless traditions that we'll revisit together. All of these will give you the opportunity to get reacquainted with your Congregation friends, make some new connections, and expand your involvement with Shir Ami to help sustain its uniqueness and vibrancy.

Regarding new faces, we certainly have a lot of them. At our upcoming High Holiday services, you'll meet Cantor Shira Batalion – who'll be bringing her lovely voice to our festivities – as well as Rabbinic Interns Megan Brudney and Benj Fried. Our young Congregation members will soon meet our new Education Director, Daniel Farkas, once Hebrew & Religious School starts later in the month. In addition, I'm pleased to welcome some recent additions to our Congregation: Rita Weikal, the Paz family and the Templeton family. Hopefully you'll get to meet our new members at an upcoming service or event, and I encourage you strike up a conversation to welcome them to Shir Ami.

Regarding new happenings, we have those too! First off, Shir Ami recently received the honor of being only one of three congregations to be awarded a grant from the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) to host a visiting Cantor from another congregation for an entire Shabbat weekend. This opportunity will bring us another new face, Cantor Kenneth Cohen from the Hebrew Wizards School & Congregation in Santa Monica, CA. I'm looking forward to Cantor Cohen's visit and will be certain to advertise the date once it's been set. Diana Zankowsky has my appreciation for applying to this program on the Congregation's behalf.

Another new aspect of Shir Ami will be our "Tot Talk" family program. Tot Talk sessions, to be held once a month at Shir Ami during Sunday School for about an hour, will feature group discussions, crafts, story telling, and other activities that engage parents and their children who are too young for regular Sunday School classes. Tot Talk is one of the newest ideas developed by Harriet Skelly, Bonnie Frey, and others who've been leading Shir Ami's involvement in the URJ Community of Practice on Engaging Young Families. Details about Tot Talk will be coming soon. In the meantime I encourage you spread the word to friends, family and members of the community you think might be interested in participating, non-members welcome!

Finally, this month features many of Shir Ami's timeless traditions, including our Labor Day BBQ on September 1st, Rosh Hashanah services on September 4th and 5th, Yom Kippur on September 13th and 14th, our Sukkot potluck dinner and service on September 20th, and Simchat Torah festivities on September 27th. Specific days and times for these events can be found in this month's Bulletin, as well as on our newly revamped website: www.CongShirAmi.org. If you haven't seen the website lately, you should definitely take a look!

This will indeed be a "New" Year for Shir Ami, and I know that it'll be one our best ever.

L'Shanah Tovah,



Jon Zimmerman, president@CongShirAmi.org

Family Events and Programs at Shir Ami

Tot Talk

Shir Ami is in the planning stages of an exciting new program called **Tot Talk**. The program will be for children 0-5 and their parents, once a month on Sundays. We hope that it will provide a playful opportunity for families with young children to socialize and begin the joyful experience of educating their children about being Jewish.

Tot Talk is scheduled to begin in early October.

Here are some other fun family activities that are coming up.

Our **Sukkot Shabbaton Sleep Over** will be happening on **Friday, September 20th after Sukkot services**. Pitch a tent outdoors, sleep under the Sukkah, or roll out a mattress inside the building. The kids had a blast last year, and can't wait to do it again. Hope your family can join us!

On **Saturday, November 9th**, we will be having a **Chanukah Card and Cookie-Making** event. The lovely and talented Harriet Skelly has agreed to share her creativity and knowledge with us. This will be a fun event for the whole family. Bring a friend, everyone is welcome!

Keep an eye on the Shir Ami Calendar for further details and timing, <http://www.CongShirAmi.org>. For more information about family programs, email outreach@CongShirAmi.org



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

Sunday October 20, 2013, 2-5 p.m.

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

Reservations are limited. R.S.V.P. required, see flier [Rescue in the Philippines](#)

Adult Beginner's Hebrew Class at Shir Ami

Have you always wanted to learn Hebrew?

Shir Ami member Judy Ganz will be starting an **Adult Beginner's Hebrew Class** this fall. Judy is a patient guide as students learn to read Hebrew, become knowledgeable and comfortable with the prayers recited at services, and gain a better understanding about the language of Judaism.

This class is for BEGINNERS. No knowledge of Hebrew is needed. This class will be started **only** if there are at least four people **and a suitable time can be arranged**. Please contact Judy directly if you're interested, hebrew@CongShirAmi.org. Classes will start after the High Holidays.

Labor Day BBQ: Sun., Sept.1

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

Please RSVP to ensure
that we have plenty of
food!

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

We will have the bag raffles as usual, and this year we have added a special and fun fundraiser called the **BALLOON POP!** **Anyone can play – even if you cannot attend the BBQ.** You can purchase a balloon for \$20 and you are **guaranteed** to win a prize worth at least \$24, most much more! Prizes in the balloon pop include:

- 4 admissions to Aquarium of the Bay exp 12-31-13, \$44 value
- 2 passes Asian Art Museum exp. 9-30-14, \$24 value
- Family Style Pasta at Amici's East Coast Pizzeria, \$30 value
- 4 Blue and Gold Fleet rides around the Bay exp. 12-31-13
- \$50 gift card to the Cheesecake Factory
- \$25 to Bette's Diner, Berkeley
- Lunch for 2 at Pacific Coast Brewing Co Oakland, \$30 value
- Oakland East Bay Symphony, 2 tickets. Good Jan-May 2014
- Douglas Morrison Theater 2 tickets, \$58 value for 2 selected plays
- 1 Household Membership to the Contemporary Jewish Museum and a book for 1 year, \$95 value

New Event
**Balloon
Pop!**

Purchase a balloon at the BBQ or if you are unable to attend, please contact Barbara Heimowitz at membership@congshirami.org by Saturday, August 31.

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)

*Sukkah Decorating Party
at Shir Ami*

Sunday, September 15th at 1:00 PM



All are Invited to this fun event

*Bring your home-made decorations, or
come make new decorations with the
families of Shir Ami.*

*Friends, relatives and potential new
members are welcome!*

Refreshments will be served

HIGH HOLY DAYS FOOD DRIVE!



From Rosh Hashanah
to Yom Kippur

***Benefiting our partner
organizations, Eden UCC's
Comida para Cherryland
and South Hayward
Parish's Food Pantry***

As is our custom at Shir Ami, we dedicate our fast to those in need of food. The South Hayward Parish Food Pantry and Eden UCC's Comida para Cherryland (food for Cherryland) need healthy food, especially:

**Fresh or powdered Milk, Eggs, Fresh produce,
Cheese, Canned Protein (chicken, fish, beans),
Cooking Oil, Tortillas**

**Pick up bags at Labor Day Picnic or
Rosh Hashanah services, fill and return
them on Yom Kippur**

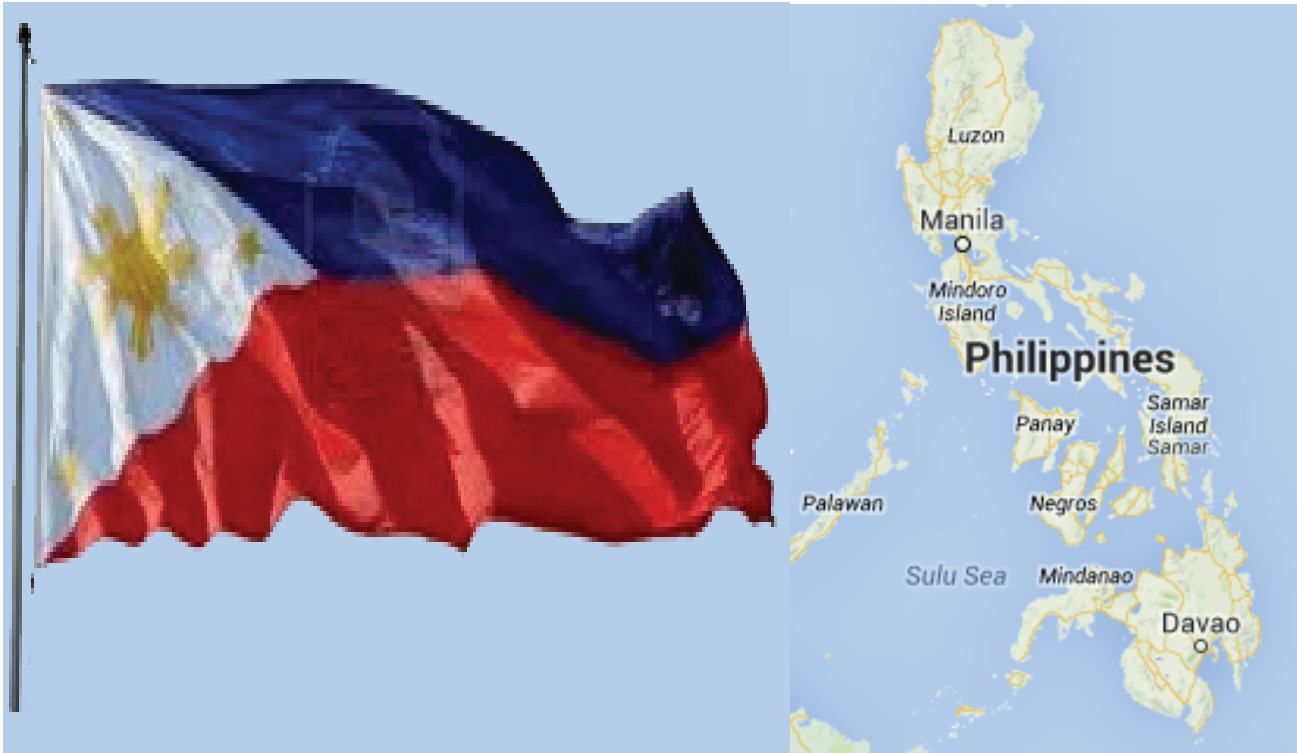
Alternative: Make a cash donation to Eden UCC or South Hayward Parish

Cash goes even further than groceries: \$1 donation buys \$7 of food!

To make a cash donation, write a check to one of the organizations and deliver it to Tom or Jon at High Holiday services, or you can donate online to SHP at

www.southhaywardparish.org

Coming Event



Barbara-Ann Lewis

***will host a discussion and preside over a documentary film
on how The Philippines rescued 1200 Jews from Germany during WWII***

***Sunday, October 20th, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
at the Castro Valley Library***

Speakers

***David Nigel, Historian and Mary Farquer, daughter of survivors
Both speakers were living in The Philippines during the rescue operations***

Limited seating; RSVP by September 20th to
events@congshirami.org

(Free and open to the public)

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH

Welcome Shir Ami Sisters to a new year of Rosh Chodesh and Sisterhood events. We are a strong and welcoming group and look forward to a year of fun, meaningful, connecting gatherings. We are excited to meet our new Shir Ami members and welcome them to our group.

Our first gathering will be **UNDER THE SUKKAH at the home of Diana Zankowsky on Wed, Sept 18 at 7:00 for an autumn potluck**, Sukkot program, and planning for the year. As always, look to your email for reminders and specifics.

Our new calendar is in place. We look forward to a year of monthly Rosh Chodesh meetings, holiday get togethers-- like our Sukkah gathering and Chanukah party--, and our annual Women's Retreat. We look forward to seeing you all! Our group also is instrumental in honoring celebratory events and acknowledging difficult times of our members.

June Recap:

We wrapped up last year with our annual Barbeque. We feasted on a great taco bar provided by Sharon Golembo with additional fixin's provided by the group. We enjoyed recapping the year and enjoyed our final program.

August Recap:

Our First annual Shabbat Tea was lovely and elegant. One dozen women attended for a delightful afternoon. We chose from a selection of teas, including chocolate mint (the favorite), carmel, vanilla, and green teas. Then we were served a variety of dainty sandwiches and a dessert. The conversation was lively



and a perfect way to spend Shabbat afternoon together. We decided we would make this a new tradition. Thank you to Jan Dombrower and Sara Lamnin for organizing and managing the event.

Rosh Chodesh Schedule 2013-2014

Wed Sep 18: Women under the Sukkah

Wed Oct 8: Cheshvan

Wed Nov 6: Kislev

Wed Dec 4: Tevet- Chanukah Party

Tues Jan 7: Sh'vat

Tues Feb 4: Adar

Fri-Sun Feb 21-23: Women's Retreat

Tue Mar 4: Adar 2

Tue Apr 1: Nissan

Wed Apr 30: Iyar

Wed May 28: Sivan

Wed Jun 25: Tammuz



Jan Dombrower,
Sisterhood

Rosh Chodesh/ Sisterhood -- some pictures to remember the year, 2012-2013



September Yahrzeit List

September 2013 Yahrzeit List (as of 8/25/13)

September 4 & 5, 2013 (Rosh Hashanah)

Martin Brody,	grandfather of Noah Markus
Georgie Brooke,	mother of Toni Schulberg
Mildred Einbund,	mother of Nate Einbund
Charles Einbund,	father of Nate Einbund
David Sapper,	father of Danielle Keil, and ex-husband of Vicki Sapper
Abraham Wolf,	father of Ann Blank

September 13 & 14, 2013 (Yom Kippur)

Maurice Aronowitz,	father-in-law of Hillie Levine
Gertrude Kramer,	mother of Marion Kramer
Sarah Leona Markus,	grandmother of Noah Markus

September 20, 2013 (Sukkot Service)

Jack Farbstein,	uncle of Ruth Rosenthal
Rabbi Joseph Glaser,	HUC area Rabbi when Shir Ami began, and a great help to Shir Ami
Sylvia Wolf,	mother of Ann Blank

September 27, 2013 (Simchat Torah Service)

Leo Knopf,	father of Lori Knopf Santora
Mayer (pronounced ma-YARE) Yashar	brother-in-law of Ruth Hartman
Beatrice Goldman,	grandmother of Nancy Storch

Kaddish List (for 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.