



CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Ave.
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Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley is an intimate, intergenerational Reform Jewish Community that welcomes interfaith families.

Affiliated with the [Union for Reform Judaism](#)

AUGUST 2014 ~ Av/Elul 5774

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Summer and Fall Activities

The High Holy Days begin on September 23rd and mark a new year for us, but don't write off 5774 yet! We still have many summer activities ahead before we reach the new year of 5775.

- Aug. 8 Shabbat Service led by Benj Fried
- Aug. 19 Jewish Heritage Night, Oakland A's baseball
- Aug. 22 Shabbat Service led by Diana Zankowsky
- Aug. 24 Rosh Chodesh picnic and music at Chouinard Winery in C.V.
- Aug. 31 Annual Labor Day BBQ (held on Sunday!)
- Sep. 13/14 C.V. Fall Festival (Shir Ami has a booth)

Be sure to read your weekly email blast or visit our website www.CongShirAmi.org to confirm details.

What is the difference?

www.congshirami.org

www.CongShirAmi.org

They both take you to the Shir Ami website. Some people find it easier to read when the address uses capital letters.

In the bulletin, you'll find we use both styles. It depends on who wrote the article.

This is also true with email addresses.

It's your choice.

editor@congshirami.org

editor@CongShirAmi.org

Editor@CongShirAmi.org

Great ball cap!

Jewish Heritage Night-- baseball with the Oakland A's, August 19.



Event Calendar

Thu.	Aug. 7,	7:00	pm	Board of Directors Meeting at Shir Ami, all are welcome
Fri.	Aug. 8,	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service led by Rabbinic Intern Benj Fried
Sat.	Aug. 9,	9:00	am	Introduction to Judaism , all are welcome to this ongoing class
Sat.	Aug. 16,	9:00	am	Introduction to Judaism , all are welcome to this ongoing class
Tue.	Aug. 19,	7:05	pm	Jewish Heritage Night , the Oakland A's vs NY Mets. SOLD OUT! All the A's tickets for Jewish Heritage Night that were allocated to Shir Ami have been sold. Thank you so much for your support of this great event. The game is NOT sold out, however, and anyone wishing to go can buy tickets directly from the Oakland A's.
Fri.	Aug. 22,	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service led by Diana Zankowsky
Sat.	Aug. 23,	10:00	am	Religious Committee Meeting at the Schulberg Home
Sun.	Aug. 24,	10:00	am	Shir Ami Clean Up, join us as we prepare Shir Ami for a sparkling new year
Sun.	Aug. 24,	3:30	pm	Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood summer event will be at Chouinard Winery in C.V. See Sisterhood page and look for more information by email. Join us!
Sun.	Aug. 31,	2:00	pm	Annual Labor Day BBQ , 2-5 pm
Thu.	Sep. 4,	7:00	pm	Board of Directors Meeting at Shir Ami, all are welcome
Sun.	Sep. 7,	9:00	am	First Day of Hebrew School
Sun.	Sep. 7,	10:30	am	First Day of Religious School
Fri.	Sep. 12,	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service
Sat./Sun.	Sep. 13/14			Castro Valley Fall Festival, volunteer to help us staff Shir Ami's booth
High Holy Day Schedule				
Wed.	Sep. 24,	7:30	pm	Erev Rosh Hashana, Rosh Hashana Evening Service
Thu.	Sep. 25,	10:00	am	Rosh Hashana Morning Service
Sun.	Sep. 28,	3:00	pm	Annual Shir Ami visit to Chapel of the Chimes Cemetery
Fri.	Oct. 3,	7:30	pm	Kol Nidre Service, Yom Kippur eve
Sat.	Oct. 4,	10:00	am	Yom Kippur Morning Service



Look for the High Holiday yizkor information in next month's September Bulletin.



We give a huge **thank you** to all the volunteers throughout the years who have helped to make Shir Ami the wonderful place it is.

Here's a picture from the past of some of our volunteers. Taken in 2011?

President's Message

President's Message for August, 2014

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends,

I am privileged and honored to serve again as your President this year. I would like to thank Jon and the board of directors for the last two years for continuing Shir Ami's growth in membership, leadership, and communication.

This year, my two main areas of focus are our religious school and Shir Ami's 50th anniversary celebration.

Shir Ami School:

- At the end of this past school year, the Board created a school committee (consisting of the school liaisons to the board, Shir Ami parents of school-aged children, Shir Ami teachers and two members of the board). The committee, with Board approval, decided not to go to the outside for an Education Director for this coming year.
- At the annual members meeting on June 1, interested members participated in a high-level discussion led by Jane Steele and Rick Goldhoff about what they want the school to look like.
- Currently, Jane is the single point of contact for the religious school.
- Jane has scheduled meetings over the summer to iron out the details of school administration, curriculum, scheduling, etc.
- Administrative duties will be a paid position – not a volunteer position.

- Be on the lookout for start of school information sometime in August with a tentative school start date of the beginning to mid- September.
- If you are interested in participating in this endeavor, either in the planning or in the actual administrative or teaching roles please contact Jane:
education@CongShirAmi.org

Shir Ami's 50th Anniversary

- We have begun planning a celebration for the 50th anniversary of Shir Ami for 2015.
- Melanie Einbund and Barbara Heimowitz have taken the lead to find a venue for this celebration.
- In honor of our 50th anniversary (and because it is sorely needed) several of our members have started to renovate the front and back yards, making the access safer and easier.
- If you are interested in working on the planning of the celebration please contact Melanie or Barbara:
outreach@CongShirAmi.org

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward



to seeing you at our annual Labor Day BBQ on **Sunday, August 31** at 2pm. For the details please refer to the flier in this bulletin.

Harriet Skelly,
president@CongShirAmi.org

September 13-14, C. V. Fall Festival

SAVE THE DATE. Congregation Shir Ami will once again have a booth at the upcoming Castro Valley Fall Festival. We'll be asking members to volunteer to staff the table for two hour shifts on Saturday or Sunday, September 13 or 14. This is a great chance to meet prospective members and raise the visibility of our Jewish community. Details to follow—look for an email coming soon!

August 2014 Rabbinic Intern Message

Reflections on Israel and Tisha B'Av

On August 5th we will celebrate our community's day of mourning, Tisha B'Av. This is a day of calamity for the Jewish people that most notably commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temple in Jerusalem, which both happened in this season. However, this day has resonances far beyond the temples as the ninth of Av is said to be the day that the Golden Calf was erected, the day that the expulsion from Spain took effect, and the day of the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto. All of Jewish history is collapsed into one day, and our fast is symbolic of our mourning.

The Talmud teaches us something important about what the rabbis attributed our exile to. When asked why we lost the First Temple, the Talmud answers that it was taken from us because of idolatry, adultery, and violence. However, all of these practices were eradicated by the time of the Second Temple, so why did we lose that Temple too? The Talmud continues by saying that *sinat chinam*, baseless hatred, earned us our second exile. This text teaches us something important: equal to violence, idolatry, and sexual licentiousness is senseless hatred.

The events in Israel in the past several weeks have caused all of us tremendous pain and heartache for our homeland. Both sides have suffered greatly—from rockets fired, property destroyed, and lives lost. This is not a good time for Israel. However, I can't help but note that this violence is happening during our season of lament that surrounds the ninth of Av. Many Jews believe that the modern Jewish state of Israel is our Third Temple. We have regained sovereignty in the land of our ancestors. And yet, many Jews have not learned the lesson of Tisha B'Av—senseless hatred abounds in the Jewish state.

I am not making an argument of moral equivalency between the Jewish army and the terrorist organization Hamas. As Prime Minister Netanyahu put it: We use our weapons to protect our bodies; they use their bodies to protect their weapons. The firing of rockets from Gaza into Israel is morally repugnant and does tremendous damage to their own people and livelihood. That being said, Israel and her people do not have clean hands in this matter either.

Government officials in Israel have fanned the flames of hatred in their own people by saying blatantly racist things about Palestinians and using ethnic slurs about Arabs. Right Wing Israeli rapper Yoav Eliasi decried against the IDF and the Israeli left for shutting down the blatantly Fascist organization Kahane Hai that encourages anti-Arab violence in the name of Israeli nationalism. Jeremy Leigh, professor at HUC in Israel, reported that taking a cursory look at his daughter's Facebook page revealed many thousands of Israelis "liking" statuses such as "Violence against Arabs is not a crime but a value" and "Shoah (Holocaust) for the Arabs." The group Tag M'Chir (Price Tag), a group of fundamentalist religious right-wingers, regularly desecrates Mosques and Arab residences and business, sending the message that they are not welcome, even though they are citizens of Israel.

This racism and hatred is an embarrassment to the entirety of the Jewish people. I hope that we will educate ourselves and our communities in ways that are both honest to what is happening on the ground in Israel and helpful for the peace process. I hope that we will have the wisdom to love our homeland while being appropriately critical of the aspects of it that are destructive to peace and to our people. And I hope that we will all cultivate in ourselves the open-heartedness for both Israelis and Palestinians who are suffering so much in this horrible conflict. Baseless hatred according to the rabbis destroyed the Second Temple. I hope that the flames of hatred burning on both sides be doused out in our Third Temple.

Rabbinic Intern Benj Fried



Benj Fried
rabbi.benj@CongShirAmi.org



Julie Bressler
rabbi.julie@CongShirAmi.org

**Rabbinic
Interns**

Introduction To Judaism Class

The Introduction to Judaism class began in June and has now met four times. We began by studying Shabbat but because of the press of current events, we switched up the syllabus to focus on Israel and devoted two sessions to that topic. We will continue to discuss Israel and Zionism as events warrant. Our next classes will be about the High Holidays and Sukkot.

We will meet twice in August, on Saturday, August 9th and Saturday, August 16th, both days at 9 am. Please note: this is a correction to the information provided in the previous Bulletin. We will be meeting on Saturdays. In September and through the school year, we will be meeting only once per month, intentionally on a Saturday when the rabbinic interns are not in town. The schedule will be announced in the September Bulletin.

There is no cost for the class except for the purchase of the required text: "Every Person's Guide to Judaism" by Stephen J. Einstein and Lydia Kukoff. If you haven't yet attended but want to join, please email Diana (religion@congshirami.org) with any questions and to confirm your attendance.

Labor Day BBQ Raffle Donations Needed

Our committee is looking for services you can provide as "bag" items for our upcoming BBQ/Fundraiser. Following are examples of services you may provide:

Knitting and/or sewing lessons
Cake Decorating lessons
Challah Making
An evening of babysitting
Jewelry making
Music Lessons
Cooking/Baking lessons
Gardening help
A craft afternoon

Dinner for 4-6 at your home
Errand running services
Airport Shuttle by appointment
Pet sitting
Tutoring
Shabbat dinner at your home

~And any other service you can teach or provide. Be creative. Think out of the box!

You provide the amount of hours or days you're willing to donate this item. For example: 4 hours of babysitting, 2 hours of baking lessons, 1 round trip to the airport, one weekend of pet sitting, etc..

Please contact Barbara Heimowitz at events@congshirami.org by August 20 with your donation so it can be included in this year's fundraiser! Please note "raffle donation" in the subject line.

On-going Easy Fund Raiser for Shir Ami



- Have you noticed the Shir Ami mugs during oneg? And have you wanted your own for your home?
- What about a tee shirt with the Shir Ami logo? Or a hoodie, either zip front or pullover sweatshirt style?
- Do you need a notebook for one of the classes that the synagogue offers?



All of these items and many more are available in the Congregation Shir Ami store, <http://www.cafepress.com/congshirami>, on the Café Press website. And not only do you get to represent Shir Ami but by purchasing in this store you also support our synagogue.



Labor Day BBQ



**Sunday, August 31, 2014
(the day before Labor Day)**

2:00 to 5:00 PM

at Congregation Shir Ami

4529 Malabar Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Fun! Games! Raffle Prizes!

Hot Dogs, Beef, Salmon and Veggie Burgers

Costs:

**If prepaid by August 24th: Adults \$12, Children 12 and under \$5
(Make checks payable to: Congregation Shir Ami
and send to address above)**

**If paid at the door: Adults \$15, Children 12 and under - \$6
Prospective members: No charge**

**Shir Ami Members, please participate in our revolving potluck
food assignments:**

A to N – Beverages or Side Dishes

O to Z - Dessert

For more information, contact: events@congshirami.org



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High Holy Days Services, 2014/5775



Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 24 Evening Service	7:30 PM
Thursday, September 25	
Morning Service	10:00 AM
Children's Service	2:00 PM
Tashlich at Lake Chabot	3:30 PM

Yom Kippur

Friday, October 3 Kol Nidre Service	7:30 PM
Saturday, October 4	
Morning Service	10:00 AM
Children's Service	1:30 PM
Discussion in the garden	2:00 PM
Yizkor and Concluding Service	3:30 PM
Break the Fast	5:30 PM

For information on ticket costs for non-members, contact David Schulberg (religion@congshirami.org)

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH

Sunday, August 24

A Sisterhood field trip in August? Bring your man too!

How about at the Chouinard Winery in Castro Valley'? On Sunday, Aug 24 at 3:30 the gates open and the concert starts at 4:30. The cover band is **The Leandroids**.

Tickets are \$45.00 **per car load**

<http://www.chouinard.com/events/music-at-the-winery/>

Bring a picnic dinner and will sit together at the picnic table in the wooded venue.

ROSH CHODESH RECAP

We had two wonderful Rosh Chodesh meetings in May and June.

Sara and Marlene Lammin led a wonderful meeting as we brought in the new moon of Sivan. We discussed Shavuot and did a very interesting project of creating our own personal 10 commandments. We shared them and then shared delicious dairy desserts.

We ended our year bringing in the new moon of Tammuz. Led by Rita Weikal and Toni Schulberg, we had our ending meal of delicious salmon tacos! The meal was complete with all the salads and pies that added to a delicious feast. We reviewed the wonderful year that we had and look forward to the next year, 2014-15, of our wonderful Rosh Chodesh gatherings.



For more information on Sisterhood/Rosh Chodesh, contact Jan Dombrower
Sisterhood@CongShirAmi.org



August Yahrzeit List

August 2014 Yarzheit List

(as of 7/03/14)

August 8, 2014

Stanley Blackfield, founder and 3-time president of Shir Ami
Scott Kendall, former student at Shir Ami
Manya Kostovetskiy, mother of Lina Teferi
Layah Laks, long-time former member of Shir Ami

August 22, 2014

Georgie Brooke, mother of Toni Schulberg
Mildred Einbund, mother of Nate Einbund
Barnett Levine, father of Hillel Levine
Rae Palmer, mother of Milton Palmer
Fred Rosener, long-time active member of Shir Ami
Betty Schulberg, mother of David Schulberg
Moshe Vanous, long-time active member of Shir Ami
Joan Wolff, mother of Gary Wolff

Kaddish List (*those who have died during the past 11 months*) (read at both services)

Bobbie Clark, sister of Marci Loss
Leona Rosenthal, mother of Ruth Rosenthal and grandmother of Evelyn, Lisa, and Jacob Carmack

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.

Donations, through July 2014

Donations:

- Susan Spitzer, "Thank Harriet Skelly for spending the time to share our religion with my friend's Bible group"
- Marla & Leland Ball, In Memory of Marla's father, Matthew Ganz, and in Memory of Leland's parents, Mary and Green Ball
- Mel & Nate Einbund, In Memory of Lillian T. Black and Samuel M. Theil
- Barbara and Stan Heimowitz, Yahrzeit for Barbara's father, Hans Schwarzenberger
- Marlene and Joseph Lamnin, "In recognition of all the efforts of the members who helped in Sara's campaign for City Council."
- Edetha Speceal, donation
- Lina Teferi, Yahrzeit for her husband, David Teferi
- Ruth Hartman and Gary Wolff, Yahrzeit for Gary's mother, Joan Wolff

Donations In Honor of Bruce Skelly's Conversion:

Barbara and Stan Heimowitz ~ Marion Kramer ~ Lina Teferi ~ Sara Lamnin and Jon Zimmerman ~ Hillie Levine ~ Judy Ganz ~ Ruth Hartman and Gary Wolff