

June/July 2015 BULLETIN Sivan/Tammuz/Av 5775



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

Event Calendar Find up-to-the-minute event details at Shir Ami's website, www.congshirami.org

Sun.	May	31	12:00	pm	Potluck Lunch and Annual Membership Meeting
Wed.	June	3	7:00	pm	Shir Ami 50ish Anniversary Celebration Planning Meeting, events@congshirami.org
Fri.	June	12	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service with Cantor Shira Batalion
Sun.	June	14	10:00	am	Family-friendly Interfaith Service at Eden United Church of Christ, Hayward, CA
Wed.	June	17	7:30	pm	Drumming Circle , a special Jewish Meditation Group event, will be led by Cary Nasatir; Check the email reminder or contact Julie Greenfield at meditation@congshirami.org for details
Thu.	June	18	6:30	pm	Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood End-of-Year Dinner Celebration, hosted by Harriet Skelly and Pat Palmer. Look for details in your email update.
Fri.	June	26	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service with Barbara-Ann Lewis
Thu.	July	2	7:00	pm	Shir Ami Board Meeting, all are welcome
Fri.	July	10	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service with Saul Kaye
Fri.	July	10	4:00	pm	Shabbat at Camp Newman: reservations & info., www.campnewman.org/summer-camps/visitors
Sat.	July	11	12:00	pm	CV Pride Event at CV High School. Come visit the Shir Ami Booth and support our friends and neighbors within the LGBTQ community. 12:00 noon- 5:00 pm
Fri.	July	24	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service with Anastasia Zankowsky & Irene Gilchriese
Tue.	Aug.	4	7:00	pm	Jewish Heritage Night at the Oakland As, contact Fred Zankowsky
Fri.	Aug.	14	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service with Harriet Skelly & Jan Dombrower
Fri.	Aug.	28	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service with Diana Zankowsky
Sat.	Aug.	29	10:00	am	Religious Committee Meeting at the Schulberg home

Summer Services at Shir Ami

June 12	Shira Batalion	July 24	Anastasia Zankowsky & Irene Gilchriese
June 26	Barbara-Ann Lewis	August 14	Harriet Skelly & Jan Dombrower
July 10	Saul Kaye	August 28	Diana Zankowsky

Summer Oneg Hosts Needed

We need oneg hosts for summer services. The dates are: June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, August 14 and August 28. If you are able to provide oneg on one of these dates, respond to Sharon oneg@congshirami.org. Thank you!

President's Message

Dear Shir Ami Community,

I just finished compiling Shir Ami's list of 2014-2015 Achievements and Milestones (see list in this bulletin) and I am amazed (as always) about what our community has achieved. It amazes me that a small congregation with limited paid staff (school staff) can produce results equal to or exceeding those of much larger congregations!

Through the efforts of each of our members, Shir Ami is thriving in a time that many congregations are declining.

Among all of our accomplishments this year, there is one that I need to highlight: our school. Over the past few years, Shir Ami has been trying out different ways to run our Hebrew and Religious school. This year, we returned to the way school used to be successfully run at Shir Ami – by a team of our own members. Huge thanks go to Jane Steele, education director; Rick Goldhoff, operations director; and Bonnie Frey, parent communications director and Tot Talk leader.

This school team worked together along with our fabulous teachers and TAs to make sure all of our students had fun, hands-on experiences while learning about Jewish life cycle events. The oldest Hebrew learners took a field trip to Congregation Beth Emek to experience a Bar Mitzvah and all the students in the Religious school went to the Urban Adamah farm.

I am looking forward to another successful school experience next year

Enjoy the summer and I hope to see you at one of our summer services and Shabbat at Camp Newman on July 10.

Harriet Skelly
president@congshirami.org



Editor's Comments

Summer services will be held twice a month. Most will be led by Shir Ami congregants, others by guests. **Cantor Shira Batalion** has led services at Shir Ami for the past two summers, and served as cantor at our High Holiday services two years ago. We look forward to her return on June 12. **Saul Kaye** is an East Bay, Jewish, blues musician (www.saulkaye.com). His music is vibrant; his style is intimate and personal. His service on July 10 should be quite spiritual and enjoyable.

On July 10, there are two Shabbat services to choose from. A scheduling conflict resulted in this choice. You may join other congregants at Camp Newman (reservations required--www.campnewman.org/summer-camps/visitors) or you may attend the service at Shir Ami led by Saul Kaye.

This bulletin covers two months, June and July; the next bulletin will not be published until August. Two months between publishing means that there is a greater chance of changes in the schedule. Confirm up-to-date event details at our website, www.congshirami.org, and by reading the emails sent to you from Shir Ami.

Have a great summer!

Sisterhood/Rosh Chodesh

END-OF-YEAR DINNER CELEBRATION

We will bring in the month of Tammuz on **Thursday, June 18th at 6:30 pm.**

The evening will be hosted by Pat Palmer and Harriet Skelly. Look for details in email update.

ROSH CHODESH RECAP

ROSH CHODESH SIVAN was hosted by Marlene and Sara Lamnin. We read and discussed various Proverbs from the Torah. We also showered Jan Dombrower with rose petals and well wishes on her upcoming marriage to David Chimpky.

2014-2015 Achievements and Milestones

- Convened lay-led summer Shabbat services
- Had outreach table at Castro Valley Pride Festival
- Participated in visitors' Shabbat evening at Camp Newman
- Held successful Labor Day BBQ and fundraiser
- Welcomed ten new member families
- Held High Holiday services and break-the-fast
- Welcomed a new cantorial soloist for our High Holiday services
- Welcomed one new and one returning Rabbinic Intern
- Held successful year of Shir Ami Hebrew & Religious School
- We had one Bat Mitzvah and 2 confirmands.
- Hosted Sukkah Decorating Party and Sukkot-Shabbaton sleepover
- Held Holiday/Shabbat services for Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim and Passover
- Held successful Chanukah Faire & Boutique fundraiser
- Held special Chanukah Celebration service
- Co-sponsored "Holidays in the Holy Land" display at Castro Valley Library
- Hosted successful Tu B'Shevat Seder
- Participated in Martin Luther King day community observances
- Held School Purim Carnival, during which over 40 toiletry kits for those in need were filled
- Held Tikkun Leyl Shavuot evening of study
- Hosted successful Welcoming Shabbat service with Pastor Chuck Horner
- Visited and participated in Calvary Baptist Church Sunday service
- Attended a successful joint Shabbaton weekend with Congregation Beth Emek and Temple Beth Torah
- Began planning Shir Ami's 50ish Anniversary celebration
- 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 participating in a Sunday service at Eden UCC
- Held volunteer appreciation at the Annual Members' Meeting
- Provided camperships for our youth to attend Jewish summer camps
- Participated in regional NFTY youth group and events
- Offered successful adult education classes including book discussions, text study, Adult Hebrew, poetry, art, philosophy, and more!
- Held 19th annual sisterhood retreat and monthly Rosh Chodesh meetings
- Held successful Men's Club events, including nature walks at Lake Chabot
- Participated in Jewish Heritage night at Oakland A's Stadium
- Made visits to the sick and infirm; brought meals to member families
- Received national recognition for our Tot Talk program
- Completed Internal and External Communications Policies and Processes
- And oh... the Potlucks!

School Notes & Tot Talk

Hello Shir Ami Families

We just finished what I think was a very successful year of Religious School and Tot Talk at Congregation Shir Ami.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make it a success, from our leadership and our board, to our school committee, our teachers and staff and all of our many volunteers. Thank you especially to Jane for all your hard work as the school director. And of course, if it were not for our wonderful families, "YOU," Shir Ami would not be the special place that it is. So thank you, you are all appreciated!

As you all know, Shir Ami is mostly run by volunteers so I encourage everyone to get involved, and help to co-create our community with us. Harriet has made suggestions that the families create more social events and get together so that we can get to know everyone better. Danielle Keil started the ball rolling and hosted a lovely potluck in her home a few months ago. Julia Blackburn has informally offered to host a gathering some time this summer. Social events could happen in the park or a cafe, whatever people choose. You just need to make it happen.

Are there ways that you would like to become more involved with Shir Ami and the school, to help it grow and improve? Would someone like to step up and help to organize family events for this next year? It would be very helpful if someone else could fill that role.

Speaking of growth and improvement, we would like to hear your suggestions for improvement, and your feedback, regarding school and Tot Talk and your experience as a family at Shir Ami.

Please email or feel free to call me. 510-582-8283

B'Shalom, Bonnie Frey, membership@congshirami.org

Jewish Meditation Group

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 pm

On Wednesday, June 17 at 7:30, there will be a **special Meditation Group event--a Drumming Circle**, led by our own Cary Nasatir. Drumming is a powerful way to express feelings and connect with your core vibrations. Cary, besides being an accomplished percussionist and teacher, is an experienced Drum Circle leader. Please bring a drum or other percussion instrument (like a tambourine--no Western style drums) if you have one. We will have a limited number of drums to lend.

In July, the Meditation Group meeting date is yet-to-be-decided. Details will be sent out in e-mail blast and posted on the Shir Ami website. Have a great summer meditation@CongShirAmi.org

Recycled Water Available For Gardens

Have you thought about using recycled water for your yard or lawn? The Dublin/San Ramon wastewater treatment facility (www.dsrsd.com) is making their treated effluent available (after tertiary treatment) to residents for use on vegetable and ornamental gardens, lawns, washing cars, and other non-drinking purposes. The effluent is disinfected with UV light but it is not for use in swimming pools. The current water quality reported for the effluent is better than the average irrigation water in California.

There is no charge for the water. Check out the website, www.dsrsd.com, for information on quality of the water, restrictions for use, application form to obtain the water, facility location and hours for water collection, and other information. They do not deliver water to home owners.

From our perspective in Castro Valley, the main problem is transporting the water from the treatment plant (near the Stoneridge Mall in Pleasanton) to home. Water is heavy --- about 8 pounds per gallon. Unless you have a pick-up truck and 50-gallon containers, you may not be able to haul large quantities without overloading your vehicle, so multiple trips with smaller loads may be required. (In our case, the back of our small SUV holds two 25-gallon squarish plastic tanks without removing the back seat. We fill them and empty them without removing the tanks from the car).

There is at least one commercial hauler with a 3200 gallons capacity truck who would be willing to pick up and deliver water in Castro Valley if there are enough customers to make it worth his time and expense of hauling. The cost, of course, will be split up among the customers. If you are interested in having the water delivered to your home on a weekly basis, make an estimate of how much water you would need per week, and contact Barbara-Ann Lewis, below, within the next 2 weeks. The DSRSD does not recommend storing the recycled water after delivery more than a week or so, due to growth of algae and bacteria.

You might say that using recycled water means saving water but uses gasoline: there is a rule that holds for engineering, the environment, and life ---- there is no free lunch! As population growth increases, water resources are being depleted, drought or no drought. Think about it.

Barbara-Ann Lewis is collecting names of potential users of the delivery service; she will then contact the hauler to determine the cost for the respective user.

Email b-lewis@northwestern.edu or Telephone (510) 690-0173.

Rabbinic Interns 2015-16

Bryan Zive

Rabbinic Intern Bryan Zive is joining Shir Ami. Bryan, a rising second year student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles, is honored and excited to be serving as a student rabbi with Julie Bressler at Congregation Shir Ami! He grew up in Los Angeles, CA, was a camper and staff member for over 10 years at URJ Camps Newman and Swig.



Bryan is married to his beautiful wife, Melyssa. He and Melyssa live in Anaheim, CA with their two wonderful dogs and are excitedly expecting the birth of their son in July 2015!

Julie Bressler

Shir Ami is delighted to welcome back Julie Bressler, who will be returning for the 2015-2016 year.

Bryan graduated from Ohio State University in Columbus with a B.A. in Jewish Studies and Ethnomusicology and attended the Cantorial School of The Academy for Jewish Religion, CA in 2009. He served Temple Israel in Columbus as their Music Director from 2005-2009, and most recently served Temple Sinai in Denver, CO as the full-time Cantorial Soloist. Bryan also visits various synagogues, camps and Hillel institutes throughout the year to perform, educate and create community through his original contemporary Jewish music. You can visit his music website at www.bryanzivemusic.com.



Rabbinic Interns, 2015-2016

Julie Bressler rabbi.julie@congshirami.org
 Bryan Zive rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org

Yahrzeits (as of 0/19/15)

June 12, 2015

Ted Balmforth, Jerry Becker, Sheila Frey, Robert Levinson,	son-in-law of Ann and Sam Blank early active member of Shir Ami mother of Bonnie Frey lay leader of Shir Ami for many years
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June 26, 2015

Fran Johnson, Rose Levine, Alyce Nasatir, Jacob (Jack) Ross, Steven Slavin, David Teferi,	long-time member of Shir Ami wife of Hillie Levine, and long-time founding member of Shir Ami mother of Cary Nasatir father of David Ross long-time friend of Nate Einbund husband of Lina Teferi
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July 10, 2015

Deborah Mitchell,	mother of Helen Markus
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July 24, 2015

Stanley Blackfield, Leo Knopf, Manya Kostovetskiy, Hans Schwarzenberger, Frances Wolch,	founder and 3-time president of Shir Ami father of Lori Knopf Santora mother of Lina Teferi father of Barbara Heimowitz former member of Shir Ami who made the Ark door tiles
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Kaddish List (those who have died during the past 11 months)

Hillie Levine,	charter member and mainstay of Shir Ami for many years
Beatrice Dombrower,	mother of Jan Dombrower
Lorraine Golembo,	step-mother of Sharon Golembo
Harry Yoseph Mitchell,	brother of Helen Markus

Donations March, April, May

Kramer, Marion	In honor of Evelyn Gertler's 90th Birthday
Kramer, Marion	In memory of Jan Dombrower's mother
Druker Family	Unspecified donations
Einbund, Melanie and Nate	Yahrzeit of Sidney Black
Kramer, Marion	In Memory of Hillel Levine
Oppenheimer, MD Steven and Charlotte	In memory of Hillel Levine.
Roudman, Leonard and Debra	In memory of Hillie Levine
Ganz, Judy	In memory of Hillel Levine
Heimowitz Family	In memory Of Hillel Levine
Hartman/Wolff Family	In memory of Hillie Levine
Hartman/Wolff Family	In memory of Marjorie Wolf and Harriet Segal Cohn
Sapper, Raquel	In memory of Hillel Levine
Keil Family	In memory of Kevin Keil
Gardiner, Allen	Passover
Kramer, Marion	Passover
Skelly Family	Passover
Lamnin, Marlene	Passover
Lewis, Barbara-Ann	Passover
Ford, Evangelina V.	from Toastmasters
Storch, Nancy	Passover
Hand, Audrey and Karl	Donation for the 50th Anniversary
Hartman/Wolff Family	Donation for use of building
Barr, Phillip and Julie	In memory of Hillel Levine
Lipsett, Michael & Deena Levine Lipsett	In memory of Hillie Levine from the whole family
Loss Family	In memory of Hillie Levine
Kramer, Marion	In memory of her father Col. Arthur Kramer
Becker, Verla	Yahrzeit of Vedat Jerry Becker
Dombrower, Jan	In memory of Hillie Levine
Keil Family	In memory of Kevin Keil
Lamnin/Zimmerman Family	In memory of grandfather Hyman Rebotsky
Erickson/Berman Family	Yahrzeit of Morris Berman
Ir, Margalit A and Sidney Landman	In memory of Hillel Levine
Finkelstein, Tamara and Nathan	In memory of Hillel Levine
Finkelstein, Tamara and Nathan	Donation on behalf of Shayla & Bruce Cole, In memory of Hillel Levine
Hinds, Rachel J.K.	In memory of Hillel Levine
Einbund, Melanie and Nate	In memory of Nikki Harris, Lisa Sheryl Barth, Lillian Theil Black, Samuel Mantoa Theil
Templeton, Jeremy and Dennise	Yahrzeit of John Templeton
Ganz, Judy	Yahrzeit in memory of George Berenstein, Judith's father
Pat and Milt Palmer	In honor of Jan Dombrower and David Chimpky's wedding

The 50ish!

The 50ish Celebration of the forming of Congregation Shir Ami is taking shape!

Announcing a date and a place!

We will celebrate on Sunday, March 20, 2016 at Crow Canyon Country Club with a Brunch!

This is very exciting! We hope that members will participate on whatever level and/or committee that they wish.

Some committees and members are:

Historian: Judy Ganz, David Schulberg, Toni Schulberg and Harriet Skelly.

This committee is gathering our Shir Ami history and planning a presentation. For those of you who love to delve into history and research – this committee is for you! If you have audio/video skills we know they will be appreciated.

Sponsorships: Danielle Keil, Rita Weikel, Sara Lamnin, Barbara Heimowitz are seeking sponsors for our programs, tables and other items. This committee is a natural for those who love working with people for a common cause.

Entertainment/Program: Stan Heimowitz and Marlene Lamnin. This committee is responsible for the entertainment and event programs. Perfect for our members who love to plan the fun part of event and get things going.

Marketing: Sharalyn Stebbin, Rick Goldhoff and Debbie Schriber. A committee that needs lots of people to get the word out, if by print, e-mail, web, etc. Calls for creativity and keeping the information flowing.

Photographer: Helene Paz, Nate Einbund. 'You ought to be in pictures' stands true for this group. We'd like a lot of pictures, videos to keep a record of what we're doing and where we are going. We'll need lots of picture taking to honor our current and past members, Rabbinic interns and friends.

Hospitality: Nancy, Lina, Vicky and Valerie. This committee includes the facility, catering menu, welcoming guests, creating carpools, arranging

accommodation rates for out of town guests, decorations, programs, favors as well as many other items. Lots of people are needed to assist in making this a spectacular event. If you are at all interested, please join this committee – your talents will be deeply appreciated.

Invitation and Connections: This committee will create the invitations, 'save the date' notices and work to catalog all of Shir Ami's names and contact information of current and past members, friends and Rabbinic interns. We need volunteers to connect with people and let them know what we are doing!

We need your input and volunteerism. As committees are formed and Chair People named hopefully you will find a group that interests you. We can certainly use your skills.

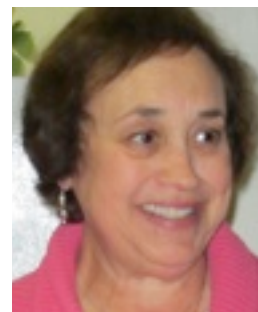
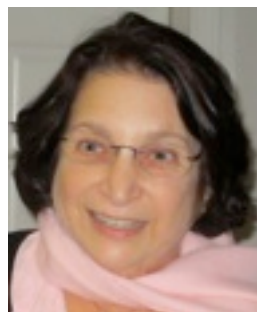
Please come to our next meeting, learn what we are doing, see what interests you and volunteer! Big or small your input and skills are welcome.

NOTE: The history committee has asked that if you have pictures, videos, sound recordings of events/ thoughts of Shir Ami that you would like to share, please start to collect them. We will let you know where they can be sent, delivered or e-mailed in a few weeks.

Next meeting: June 3, 7 PM Shir Ami

B'Shalom, Melanie and Barbara

Please contact us at events@congshirami.org if you want to help but cannot make this meeting.



Jewish Heritage Night at the Oakland As



A's JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT with Congregation Shir Ami

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4 @ 7:05 PM

Oakland A's vs. Baltimore Orioles

Jewish Heritage Night Highlights:

- Pregame event in the Eastside Club
- Exclusive A's Jewish Heritage Giveaway Item
- Traditional Jewish Food Item
- Field Level Ticket in the Jewish Heritage Night Section
- FREE Parking Tuesday!

Discounted Group Tickets:

- Field Level - \$28 each



To order your tickets or for more information contact Fred Zankowsky at 510-290-5743 or fredzsky@yahoo.com

**Make checks payable to Fred Zankowsky Send checks to:
Fred Zankowsky/ 17276 Columbia Dr. / Castro Valley CA, 94552**

Prayer Books for the High Holidays



*Congregation Shir Ami will be purchasing new prayer books for our High Holy Days services. This new machzor, called **Mishkan HaNefesh**, will have modern and gender-equality content, similar to our current Shabbat prayer book (Mishkan T'filah) and an evolution from the High Holy Days machzor we've been using for several years, Gates of Repentance. It will contain updated translations, elucidating essays, rich commentary, and a beautiful selection of poetry. Mishkan HaNefesh provides an environment for those of all backgrounds to find meaning in the High Holy Days.*

For a limited time, members and friends of Shir Ami have the opportunity to sponsor one or more of these two-volume sets (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur). Each regular print set may be sponsored for a donation of \$50; large print and pulpit editions are also available for sponsorship. Each volume of the set may be dedicated separately (or both may have the same dedication) and the donor may choose the message. Mishkan T'filah was also underwritten by our members and friends in this manner. Your donation is a great way to recognize important people and events in your life and a legacy to pass on to future generations at Shir Ami.

To sponsor a set of Mishkan HaNefesh prayer books, please fill out and send in the form on the next page. For questions please contact mishkan@congshirami.org, or call Jon at 510-220-3345.

Mishkan HaNefesh – continued

Minimum donations (# available): Regular Set - \$50 (85),

Large Print Set - \$75 (15), Pulpit Set - \$100 (4)

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Inscription suggestions:

In Honor Of... Friends, Teachers, Rabbis, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation,
Wedding, Anniversary, Baby Naming, Graduation, Ordination, Birthdays
In Memory Of... Family Members, Lost Friends, (deceased) Public Figures

Examples:

Dedicated by Jon Zimmerman In Honor Of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ruth & Walter Zimmerman

Dedicated by the Lamnin Family In Honor Of the Ordination of Rabbi Suzy Stone

Dedicated by Jon Zimmerman In Memory Of Grandfather Hyman Rebotsky

*To sponsor a set of Mishkan HaNefesh prayer books, please fill out and send in the form below by **June 30, 2015:***

Make check payable to: Congregation Shir Ami
Send to: HHD Prayer Book, c/o Congregation Shir Ami
P.O. Box 2099, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ for ____ set(s) of Mishkan HaNefesh
(for multiple sets, please include as many types & inscriptions as appropriate)

Name: _____

Phone/Email: _____

Set Type (Regular/Large Print/Pulpit/Music): _____

Inscription #1: _____

Inscription #2: _____
