

August 2015 BULLETIN Av/Elul 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

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|----|---------------|---|
| Sat. | Aug. | 1 | 6:00 pm | Memorial service for the father of Helen Marku: for details, contact religion@congshirami.org |
| Wed. | Aug. | 5 | 3:00 pm | Preparing for the High Holy Days , meets Weds., 3-4 pm for six weeks at Bodie's Java in CV |
| Wed. | Aug. | 5 | 7:00 pm | Shir Ami 50ish Anniversary Celebration Planning Meeting , events@congshirami.org |
| Thur. | Aug. | 6 | 7:00 pm | Shir Ami Board Meeting, all are welcome |
| Tue. & Wed., Aug. 11 & 12 | | | | Volunteer opportunity : assemble 150 backpacks with school supplies for children |
| Fri. | Aug. | 14 | 7:30 pm | Shabbat Service with Harriet Skelly & Jan Dombrower |
| Sat. | Aug. | 15 | 5:30 pm | Potluck at Shir Ami, all are welcome, no reservations needed |
| Sat. | Aug. | 15 | 8:00 pm | Smokey Joe's Café at the Chanticleers Theatre in Castro Valley, reservations required |
| Fri. | Aug. | 28 | 7:30 pm | Shabbat Service with Diana Zankowsky; meet our Rabbinic Interns Bryan & Julie at oneg! |
| Sat. | Aug. | 29 | 10:00 am | Religious Committee Meeting at the Schulberg home. RSVP to ensure enough food & seating |
| Mon. | Sept. | 7 | 2:00 pm | Shir Ami's Annual Labor Day BBQ , see flier for details |
| Tue. | Sept. | 8 | 7:00 pm | Shir Ami 50ish Anniversary Celebration Planning Meeting , events@congshirami.org |
| Sat. & Sun., Sept. 12 & 13 | | | | Shir Ami's Booth at CV Fall Festival: Ruth Hartman, coordinator, events@congshirami.org |
| Sun. | Sept. | 13 | 7:30 pm | Rosh Hashanah Evening Service |
| Mon. | Sept. | 14 | 10:00 am | Rosh Hashanah Morning Service |
| Mon. | Sept. | 14 | 2:00 pm | Rosh Hashanah Children's Service |
| Mon. | Sept. | 14 | 3:30 pm | Tashlich at Lake Chabot |
| Sun. | Sept. | 20 | 9:00/10:30 am | First day of Hebrew/Religious School |
| Sun. | Sept. | 20 | 3:00 pm | Visit to Chapel of the Chimes Cemetery |
| Tue. | Sept. | 22 | 7:30 pm | Kol Nidre Service |
| Wed. | Sept. | 23 | 10:00 am | Yom Kippur Morning Service |
| Wed. | Sept. | 23 | 1:30 pm | Children's Service |
| Wed. | Sept. | 23 | 2:00 pm | Discussion in the Garden |
| Wed. | Sept. | 23 | 3:30 pm | Yizkor and Concluding Service |
| Wed. | Sept. | 23 | 5:30 pm | Break the Fast with other congregation members |
| Sun. | Oct. | 18 | 10:00 am | Bagel & Lox Brunch at Shir Ami with author and screenwriter, Rita Lakin |

Do you want more details about an item/event? It's easy! Just click on underlined text (in blue) for a link to get more information.

President's Message

Guest Column from Jon Zimmerman, August 2015

Shalom Shir Ami Community,

As Shir Ami's Treasurer-Payables, I thought I'd give President Harriet a summertime respite and use this month's *President's Message* to answer a recurring question: "Where do all our dues payments and donations go?"

First, it's important to know how and from whom we get our income. For the total income collected last year (June 2014 through July 2015), about 64% came from membership dues and other fees Shir Ami collects (e.g. building fund, school tuition), 22% from event income including our High Holy Days, and 13% from donations that include Yartzheit donations. It's worth noting that a significant portion of these contributions came from outside of Shir Ami's membership, including past members, family of deceased members, and friends of the congregation. The remaining 1% of our income came from commercial sources, including bank account interest and donations through our participation in the eScrip and Amazon Smile programs. If you haven't already, please enroll in the eScrip program (<http://www.escrip.com>) so that your purchases at Safeway and elsewhere can benefit Shir Ami. Also, don't forget to do your Amazon shopping at <http://smile.amazon.com> and specify Congregation Shir Ami as your charity of choice.

It should come as little surprise that our largest set of expenses were our Religious activities (39%), which included costs of hosting our Rabbinic Interns from the Hebrew Union College. These costs covered not only a fee to the College itself, but also lodging and travel expenses incurred during the Interns' visits. Our Hebrew & Religious School made up 19% of our expenses, 12% for Repair & Maintenance (including building cleaning and grounds upkeep), 12% for Event Expenses, 7% for Operations, 6% for Utilities (e.g.

water, gas, electric), and the remaining 5% for miscellanea, such as insurance, advertising, and our membership in the Castro Valley Chamber of Commerce. It's interesting to note that our membership in the Union for Reform Judaism is only about 5% of our expenses, roughly costing us about \$80 per member unit.

This accounting of our income and expenses reveals a lot about Shir Ami. Our expenses show that Religion and Education remain our congregation's top priorities. The latter priority was evident by the increased participation in our School last year, both on the student side and by their parents and caregivers too. Our income shows that the whole congregation supports these priorities (not just those who partake of these services), and that we're sustained by the generosity of many members who go above and beyond their dues commitments.

Finally, I wanted to point out that the information above does not include the many "in-kind" expenses that are routinely donated by Shir Ami members. For 2014-15, this contribution totaled almost \$4,000, and served to lessen our expenses to a significant degree. This generosity of both materials and time shows how this community continues to support one another and makes our congregation thrive.



Thank you,

Jon Zimmerman, Treasurer - Payables

Preparing for the High Holy Days, 6-week class begins Wed. Aug. 5, 3 pm

The Jewish month of Elul, which precedes the High Holy Days, is traditionally a time of renewal and reflection. It offers a chance for spiritual preparation for the Days of Awe. We look to begin the year with a clean slate, starting anew, refreshed.

Diana Zankowsky will be facilitating a 6-week class (starting before Rosh Chodesh Elul) to help us prepare for the High Holy days. The class will meet on Wednesday afternoons at 3 pm for 1 hour. Our first meeting will be on August 5th at Bodi's Java on E. Castro Valley Blvd. The initial class will be a discussion of t'shuvah. Subsequent classes will discuss Jewish values for which we may want to do t'shuvah.

There is no cost for the class (except for the purchase of a beverage) and no required text. Handouts will be provided by the teacher and emailed to the students prior to the class. For additional information contact [Diana Zankowsky](#).

Rabbinic Interns' Page

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 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.

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.



Rabbinic Interns, 2015-2016

Julie Bressler

rabbi.julie@congshirami.org

Bryan Zive rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org

Meet Bryan and Julie at oneg on August 28!

Message from Julie Bressler

By the time of this bulletin's printing, I will be about to enter my 10th Shabbat at URJ Camp Newman this summer. For the past nine weeks, I have spent my days organizing educational programming, Israeli dancing, chatting with campers, leading tefillah, mentoring staff members and so much more. It feels like I have been here forever and that the time has passed by in a minute all at once. I may be exhausted and in need of some non-camp food, but through it all, I can say without hesitation that I am having the best time.

As a young child, camp gave me the opportunity to breathe Judaism into my daily activities. As we prayed before and after every meal and Israeli danced on Friday nights, I learned how to live on Jewish time. However, the Camp Newman mission statement, to inspire a love of Judaism, does not only impact our campers in these obviously Jewish moments. The campers' and staff members' love of Judaism grows as their cabin creates a *brit*, or covenant, on the first night of camp; their Israeli counselor brings her favorite chocolate from home and talks about what it was like to be in the IDF; they sing their hearts out during session songs and play together in the pool.

Camp plays an incredibly important role in the lives of children, like the young people of Shir Ami and myself, who grow up in a region where the Jewish population

is small. At camp, I finally was not Julie the Jewish girl, but Julie – the camper who loved gaga, Israeli dance, sharing secrets with my cabin-mates and making friendship bracelets. Judaism united us all and my counselors served as role models and big sisters and brothers who made each day joyous and exciting. We celebrate Shabbat with 700 of our peers and have the opportunity to build deep friendships that can last a lifetime. I love reading the comments of campers as they reflect on their experiences. While there are always many comments about how much they loved climbing the tower and playing sports, the common theme of "I am my best self at camp" rings loud and clear.

As I have the opportunity to engage with camp from a new perspective, I am also looking forward to entering this second year as a student rabbi with Congregation Shir Ami. I have loved getting to know all of you over this past year and praying and learning together. If you have any topics or ideas you would like to learn about or discuss this year, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at rabbi.julie@congshirami.org.

Thank you for being a part of my journey and opening your doors to me! I look forward to another great year together.

Shir Ami's 50ish Anniversary Celebration Planning

Please join us at the next meeting of the 50ish Anniversary Committee, August 5 at Shir Ami, 7PM

Committees are beginning to take shape and are actively working on many tasks for the event!

A quick glimpse of where we are:

The **Entertainment** Committee has created an event program and is busy seeking musical talent. It is going to be very exciting!

The **History** committee is looking into our past and gathering information and photos. David Schulberg encourages members who have past and present photos of events and members engaging in a Shir Ami activity to burn a CD for his usage. Shortly we will tell you how to submit your photos and information.

The **Publicity** Committee is taking shape but could use a few extra hands. It's just not newspapers anymore; there is a whole electronic world out there!

The **Photography** Committee has some great talent. If you like to snap and shoot we encourage your help on the day of the event.

Community and Friend Sponsorships committee is looking into a Facebook page and a website.

Backpacks/School Supplies for Children, August 11 & 12

There will be an opportunity for volunteers to help assemble back packs and school supplies to be distributed to families through the Comida in Castro Valley. Contact [Barbara Heimowitz](#) if you have donations or can help with the assembly at Eden United Church on Aug.11 at 12:30 pm or Aug. 12 at 1:30 pm. The goal is to provide 150 back packs.

Potluck, Aug. 15, 5:30 pm

Enjoy a **potluck dinner at Shir Ami** on Saturday, August 15. Everyone is welcome.

Smokey Joe's Cafe at the Chanticleers Theatre Aug. 15

The longest running musical review on Broadway is at the Chanticleer's Theatre on Lake Chabot Road. Produced by our own Mike Kasin, the show runs July 31- August 30. Reservations required.

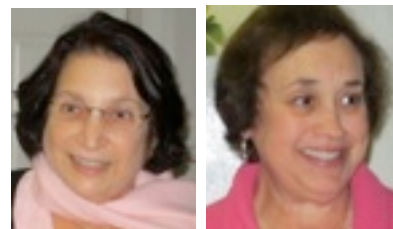
The **Childrens Committee** has some creative ways for our school, children and small tots to be showcased.

The **Invitation Committee** has gotten our rosters of members, friends and rabbinic interns back to the early 90's. Lots of people to contact and invite. Your help would be welcome!

Hospitality is off to a good start; however, we are in need of a chair person. There is a lot to do here, so no task is too small.

Volunteers are needed to help make this event happen. If you can only offer an hour or 2, month by month, or on the day of the event, that would be great.

We encourage interested members of Shir Ami to come to this meeting.



If you are unable to attend, but wish to volunteer please contact [Barbara or Melanie](#) (events@congshirami.org)

L'Shalom Melanie and Barbara

Memorial Service August 1

There will be a memorial service for Irwin Martin (Marty) Mitchell, father of Helen Markus, grandfather of Michael, Shashana and Max Markus, on Saturday, August 1, 2015. The service will be held at the Markus home, 562 "B" St., Hayward, beginning at 6 pm.

It is customary to bring food to the family during this time of mourning.

Shir Ami at the CV Fall Festival, Sept. 12 & 13

Congregation Shir Ami will again have a booth at the Castro Valley Fall Festival, September 12 and 13. Ruth Hartman will be organizing volunteers to staff the booth in 2-hour, 2-person shifts from 9:30 to 6 on both Saturday and Sunday. This is a fun and easy way to represent our Jewish Community and meet our diverse neighbors. Many folks don't realize that there are Jews in CV, much less a thriving synagogue! No experience or special knowledge is needed to work the booth. If you're interested, please contact Ruth at events@congshirami.org. Thank you!

October Bagel and Lox Brunch w/ Rita Lakin, Screenwriter & Author

Screenwriter and mystery book author Rita Lakin will be guest speaker at Shir Ami's Bagel and Lox Brunch on Sunday, October 18, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

Rita could be considered the 1960's first Hollywood feminist. She was hired as a secretary by Universal Studios, even though she neither typed nor took dictation. She later gained acclaim by her male co-workers when she became scriptwriter and producer of shows including: *Dr. Kildare*, *The Mod Squad*, *Peyton Place*, *The Rookies*, and *Dynasty*. She also wrote numerous "Movies of the Week" shown on WOR and ABC TV. Rita is the author of seven *Gladdy Gold*

Mysteries, which can be purchased online with a book signing by Rita.

Her topic will be her soon-to-be-released memoir, *The Only Woman in the Room*.

If you plan to attend, we recommend you view "In this Corner, Sol Alpert," a *Mod Squad* episode written by Rita Lakin which can be seen on YouTube.

Cost: \$10.00 for members, \$13.00 for non-members. This helps defray the cost of the food. Seating will be limited to the first 40 people. Reserve by [email](mailto:events@congshirami.org) to events@congshirami.org. Learn more about Rita Lakin on her website: ritalakin.com

August 2015 Yartzheit List

August 14, 2015

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Scott Kendall, | former student at Shir Ami |
| Layah Laks, | long-time former member of Shir Ami |
| 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 |

August 28, 2015

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Shaiva Berenstein, | mother of Judy Ganz |
| Blanche Rose Berman, | mother of Daryl Berman |
| Ben Blank, | father of Sam Blank |
| Martin Brody, | grandfather of Noah Markus |
| Georgie Brooke, | mother of Toni Schulberg |
| Mildred Einbund, | mother of Nate Einbund |
| Charles Einbund | father of Nate Einbund |
| Rose Theil, | grandmother of Melanie Einbund |
| Joan Wolff, | mother of Gary Wolff |

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

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Irwin Martin Mitchell, | father of Helen Markus |
| 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: May, June, July

| | |
|--|--|
| Gordon & Judith Levin | In memory of Hillel Levine |
| Michael Lipsett & Deena Levine Lipsett | In memory of Rose Levine |
| Lawrence & Virginia Katz | In memory of Hillel Levine |
| Judy Ganz | Mazel Tov to Jan & David |
| Marlene Lamnin | In honor of Jan & David's wedding |
| Danielle Keil | In honor of Jan & David's wedding |
| Lina Teferi | In honor of her husband, David Teferi |
| Vicky Sapper | In memory of Hillel Levine |
| Lina Teferi | In memory of Manya Kastovestking |
| Sam & Anna Blank | In memory of Rose & Hillie Levine |
| Sam & Anna Blank | In memory of Ingrid & Rolf Weinberg and their daughter, Susan Anderson |

Labor Day BBQ, Sept. 7



Monday, September 7, 2015

2:00 to 5:00 PM

Congregation Shir Ami

4529 Malabar Ave, Castro Valley, CA 94546



Fun! Games! Raffle Prizes!

Hot Dogs, Beef, Salmon and Veggie Burgers

Donation:

If prepaid by August 28th: 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 bring a potluck dish:

A to N – Beverages or Side Dishes

O to Z - Dessert

To RSVP or for more information,

e-mail: events@congshirami.org

High Holy Day Schedule



CONGREGATION
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High Holy Days Services, 2015/5776



Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 13

Evening Service 7:30 PM

Monday, September 14

Morning Service 10:00 AM

Children's Service 2:00 PM

Tashlich at Lake Chabot 3:30 PM

Sunday, September 20

Chapel of the Chimes Cemetery Visit 3:00 PM

Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 22

Kol Nidre Service 7:30 PM

Wednesday, September 23

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)

Memorial Letter



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 13th & 14th and Yom Kippur on September 22nd & 23rd. This year, we look forward to welcoming back student Rabbi Julie Bressler & our new student Rabbi Bryan Zive from Hebrew Union College. Julie will be a 3rd year student and Bryan is a 2nd year just back from Israel. In addition, we are welcoming back last year's wonderful cantorial soloist, Judy Ginsburgh from Louisiana. We are looking forward to beautiful High Holiday services. We know that you will enjoy our program with lots of 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)