

October 2015 BULLETIN Tishrei/Cheshvan 5776



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

<i>Event Calendar</i> Find up-to-the-minute event details at Shir Ami's website, www.congshirami.org				
Wed.	Sept.	30	7:30 pm	Meditation Under the Sukkah, contact Julie Greenfield at meditation@congshirami.org
Thur.	Oct.	1	7:00 pm	Shir Ami Board Meeting, at Shir Ami. Open to all
Fri.	Oct.	2	6:30 pm	Sukkot Potluck Dinner and Service in the Sukkah with Rabbi Julie Bressler
Fri.	Oct.	2	9:00ish pm	Family Shabbaton Sleepover, after Sukkot services
Sat.	Oct.	3	3:00 pm	<i>To Everything there is a Season</i> : a look at Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, w/ Rabbi Julie
Sat.	Oct.	3	4:30 pm	<i>Sharpening Our Jewish Gears</i> : a first look at Jewish Ritual, w/ Rabbi Julie
Sat.	Oct.	3	7:00 pm	<i>Wrestling Jerusalem</i> , a performance at Marines Memorial Theatre, San Francisco
Sun.	Oct.	4	9; 10:30 am	Hebrew and Religious School. See School Calendar
Wed.	Oct.	7	7:00 pm	Shir Ami 50ish Anniversary Celebration Planning Meeting , events@congshirami.org
Fri.	Oct.	9	7:00 pm	Simchat Torah Service with Rabbi Bryan Zive. Note 7:00 pm start time
Sat.	Oct.	10	10:00 am	<i>Coffee & Commentaries</i> : the week's torah portion w/ Rabbi Bryan at Starbucks on CV Bl.
Sat.	Oct.	10	3:00 pm	<i>Reform Judaism's Hot Button Issues</i> : Intro. to Reform Responsa (rulings), w/ Rabbi Bryan
Sat.	Oct.	10	4:30 pm	"Office Hours" w/ Bryan Zive: email at rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org
Sun.	Oct.	11	9; 10:30 am	Hebrew and Religious School. See School Calendar
Tue.	Oct.	13	7:30 pm	Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan. Look for details by email. Questions? sisterhood@congshirami.org
Sun.	Oct.	18	10:00 am	Bagel and Lox Brunch at Shir Ami with Author and Screenwriter, Rita Lakin
Sun.	Oct.	18		NO SCHOOL. See School Calendar
Fri.	Oct.	23	7:30 pm	Erev Shabbat Service and Installation of board members with Rabbi Bryan Zive
Sat.	Oct.	24	10:00 am	<i>Coffee & Commentaries</i> : the week's torah portion w/ Rabbi Bryan at Starbucks on CV Bl.
Sat.	Oct.	24	3:00 pm	<i>Reform Judaism's Hot Button Issues</i> : Intro. to Reform Responsa (rulings), w/ Rabbi Bryan
Sat.	Oct.	24	4:30 pm	"Office Hours" w/ our new Rabbinic Intern Bryan Zive: email rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org
Sun.	Oct.	25	9; 10:30 am	Hebrew and Religious School. Tot Talk at 11:30. See School Calendar
Wed.	Oct.	28	7:30 pm	Meditation Drumming Circle , contact Julie Greenfield at meditation@congshirami.org
Sun.	Nov.	1		NO SCHOOL. See School Calendar

President's Message

Dear Shir Ami Community and Friends,

Every now and again, and almost certainly no more than once, I write a guest column for the President. She does too much already, and it is my duty to help her sleep at night. She couldn't come up with anything Profound and Presidential to say this month, but as a guy (First or last, it doesn't matter), I know that being profound is not essential all the time. Women have a hard time understanding this, but that is part of what makes them so great. In any case, I hope you enjoy this column, and will find some time in your life for frivolity. It is part of God's creation, too, you know. Happy New Year.

Gary Wolff

The above is an excerpt written by Gary Wolff, Ruth Hartman's husband, from the *President's Message* for the October 2009 bulletin when Ruth was Shir Ami's President. I loved it then and it especially rings true for me this month!

I want to welcome back Student Rabbi Julie Bressler and give a warm welcome to our new Student Rabbi

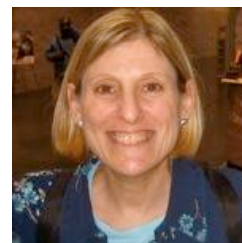
Bryan Zive. Thanks to you both for leading our High Holy Day services. I am looking forward to your leadership and teachings through the rest of this year! Thanks also to Judy Caplan Ginsburgh for leading us in song!

We had a great first day of Hebrew and Religious school, under the direction of Jane Steele, Rick Goldhoff and Bonnie Frey, with 19 students in attendance. I was thrilled to see the parent participation at their school meeting and I am excited about their decision to form a family chavurah.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you that helped to make the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services and Break the Fast go so smoothly. With the change in venue in mind, I would like to hear everyone's feedback regarding how the High Holy Days services were for you. You can email me at Harriet@CongShirAmi.org or just let me know the next time we see each other!

L' Shana Tova,

Harriet Skelly, President



Rabbinic Interns' October Clergy Column

Each month, our Rabbinic Interns take time to share their thoughts with us. This month's column was written by Rabbinic Intern Julie Bressler

The Power of Ritual

The scene is beautiful. Long swaths of fabric and tzitzit blow in the summer wind, blues and whites and purples jump out amongst the layer of tallitot that cover the prayer space. Campers hold each other close as the counselors at URJ Camp Newman create a literal *sukkat shalom*, a shelter of peace over their campers as the community prays *Hashkiveinu*. This ritual elevates the power of this prayer and this moment each and every week. Campers anticipate its arrival and counselors perform its words and actions with vigor as many of them have waited years to be in this position.

I love ritual. I love participating in activities that provide meaning and tangible action for lifecycle and liturgical moments. I feel connected to my ancestors and the Jewish community at large. These rituals have rich and fascinating history and learning the rationale behind them adds to our meaning and practice. Victor Turner, a well-known anthropologist and researcher of religion, stated that community is created in ritual

and these experiences that tie us together to an event and emotion. Judaism completely identifies with this concept and most of our important moments include ritual action.

This year, I hope to expand our understanding of ritual and our personal ritual practice. During most of my visits, I will devote an Adult Education class to learning about and experiencing a certain Jewish ritual. Some of these rituals (challah baking, havdallah) are repeated frequently throughout the Jewish year and are familiar to many of us. Others, such as brit milah (don't worry, we won't be performing this one!) and wrapping t'fillin may be less familiar to us individually, but have an important place in the Jewish story. I hope you will join me in these classes as we learn about these rituals and discuss ways to incorporate some aspect of them into our own families and experiences.

The holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah are full of ritual. From shaking the lulav and etrog to dancing with the Torah, we experience these holidays through our senses and with one another. Come join us!

Rabbinic Interns' Schedule



Rabbinic Interns, 2015-2016

Julie Bressler rabbi.julie@congshirami.org

Bryan Zive rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org

Julie Bressler, October 2-4:

Friday, 10/2, 6:30 pm: Sukkot Potluck Dinner and Service in the Sukkah! Join us for a potluck dinner under the stars. We'll join together outside for a brief service with lots of singing and fun. There will be a Sukkot Shabbaton Sleepover for children and their families following the service.

Saturday, 10/3, 3 pm: To Everything there is a Season. The Byrds, Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai and many others have used the words of Ecclesiastes (Kohelet) Chapter 3. What is so powerful about this section? What does it mean to us? How can its message help frame our year? In this session, we'll be looking at both popular and traditional usages of the text and thinking about our own understanding of the idea "to everything there is a season."

Saturday, 10/3, 4:30 pm: Sharpening Our Jewish Gears, Session 1. Throughout 5776, Rabbi Julie Bressler will be leading a series of sessions related to Jewish ritual. In this first session, we will discuss the importance of ritual and its role in Jewish practice. We will learn from ritual theorists and begin to understand the components of Jewish ritual. This session will end with Havdallah (the subject for Session 2!).

Bryan Zive, October 9-11

Friday, 10/9, *7:00 pm (note start time): **Simchat Torah Service.** Bryan Zive will be leading a special Simchat Torah service. We will sing and dance as we carry Shir Ami's torahs around the synagogue, **so please wear your dancing shoes and bring your ruach (spirit!).**

Saturday, 10/10, 10:00 am: Coffee and

Commentaries: Enjoy your Shabbat morning with Rabbi Bryan. Sip on your latte or a spot of tea while we study the weekly Torah portion in an relaxed setting (Nothing formal, just fun!) **Location: Starbucks on Castro Valley Blvd (Next to Posh Bagel)** (Prerequisite: Come ready for an engaging conversation!) This week's edition: *B'reisheet: How are we like Adam and Eve?*

Saturday, 10/10, 3:00 pm: Reform Judaism's Hot Button Issues (ongoing series): Our introduction to Reform Responsa (Rabbinic committee rulings) will include the most pressing, controversial and hot topic issues facing the Reform Movement. This will be the first of our series. We'll use Responsa to help clarify some of your burning questions! Bring topics for future discussions! **Location: Shir Ami**

Sat., October 10, 4:30 pm: Office Hours. Meet and greet our new Student Rabbi Bryan Zive. You'll have the chance to sign up in 15 minute blocks, from 4:30-5:30 pm, for a little one-on-one time over some coffee. We can talk about life, questions you might have, a little guidance or just sit and enjoy each other's company. The choice is yours! **Location: Starbucks on Castro Valley Blvd (Next to Posh Bagel)**

Bryan Zive, October 23-25

Friday, 10/23, 7:30 pm: Erev Shabbat Service and Board Installation. Rabbi Bryan Zive will lead us in a musical and participatory Shabbat evening service, including a special blessing as we install Shir Ami's newest Board of Trustees.

Saturday, 10/24, 10:00 am: Coffee and Commentaries: Meet and greet with Student Rabbi Bryan Zive. Sip on your latte or a spot of tea while we study the weekly Torah portion in an relaxed setting! **Location: Starbucks on Castro Valley Blvd (Next to Posh Bagel)** (Prerequisite: Come ready for an engaging conversation!) This week's edition: *Lech L'kha: Get up and go!*

Saturday, 10/24, 3:00 pm: Reform Judaism's Hot Button Issues (ongoing series): Our introduction to Reform Responsa (Rabbinic committee rulings) will include the most pressing, controversial and hot topic issues facing the Reform Movement. We'll use Responsa to help clarify some of your burning questions! Bring topics for our next session! **Location: Shir Ami**

Saturday, 10/24, 4:30 pm: Office Hours. Meet and greet our new Student Rabbi Bryan Zive. You'll have the chance to sign up in 15 minute blocks, from 4:30-5:30 pm, for a little one-on-one time over some coffee. We can talk about life, questions you might have, a little guidance or just sit and enjoy each other's company. The choice is yours! **Location: Starbucks on Castro Valley Blvd (Next to Posh Bagel)**

Community Information

Meditation Drumming Circle

Weds., October 28, 7:30 pm

On Wednesday, October 28 at 7:30, there will be a special Meditation Group event--back by popular demand--a Drumming Circle, led by Cary Nasatir. Drumming is a powerful way to express feelings and connect with yourself and others. Cary 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 also have some of drums on hand to use. We look forward to seeing you! Julie Greenfield, meditation@congshirami.org

Screen Writer & Mystery Book Author, Bagel and Lox Brunch

Sunday, October 18, 2015 , 10 am-12 noon.

Screen writer and book author Rita Lakin will be our guest speaker for a Bagel and Lox Brunch from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon on **Sunday, October 18, 2015.**

Hired as a secretary by Universal Studios in the 1960's, Rita later gained acclaim as the screenwriter and producer of shows including *The Mod Squad*, *Peyton Place*, *The Rookies*, and *Dynasty*.

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

Reservations will be limited to those who respond by email to events@congshirami.org or who respond to an EVITE.

Rita is the author of seven *Gladdy Gold Mysteries*, which could be ordered through Amazon. She will do a book signing after her presentation.

Cost: \$10.00 for members, \$13.00 for non-members, which helps defray the cost of the food.

Learn more about Rita Lakin on her website: ritalakin.com

See you there!

Stan Heimowitz and Barbara Heimowitz
Bagel and Lox Co-Chairs

Shir Ami Village

There's an old African saying (recently quoted by Hillary Clinton) that states that "It takes a village to raise a child." Recently, Joseph had a serious fall that required hospitalization and 2 weeks in a rehabilitation facility. Once the word spread about this situation, we discovered that there was a whole village/family of friends, standing ready to help out. Although our challenge doesn't take as long as it does to raise a child, it requires the same dedication and willingness to take on various responsibilities. Such tasks as moving furniture, providing rides to the BART station, sharing a Shabbat service in the hospital chapel, and sending lots of get well wishes, all contributed to the healing process. I hope no one ever has to face an event like ours in the future, but I feel sure that our Shir Ami village will be ready to provide a helping hand.

With deep gratitude,
Marlene Lamnin

L'Shana Tovah

Life in Placerville...

In the previous article, Marlene quoted, "It takes a village to raise a child." When our granddaughter, Viola Rose, was born in June, Bill and I both strongly desired to be a part of her "village." We leased a little house near her, and we are enjoying the opportunity to be her workday caregivers. We are keeping our Castro Valley home (we have a roommate) and we come "home" to CV on some weekends. We miss access to our Shir Ami family and hope to see you at some weekend events. ~Bill & Rose Firestone

Diana Zankowsky Quoted in "J"

The following text, sent to us by Milt Palmer, is quoted from J magazine. Thanks, Milt!

Press coverage of Mishkan HaNefesh — which means, roughly, "dwelling place of the soul" — has focused on its progressive elements, including LGBT-friendly changes in language; radical liturgy, such as prayers of protest; and commentary and readings from a diverse range of thinkers, writers and poets.

That's what attracted Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley. "We were early adopters of Mishkan T'filah," the Shabbat and daily prayerbook released in 2007, said **Diana Zankowsky**, co-chair of the synagogue's religious committee. "We've been waiting a long time to get rid of the masculine God language" used in previous machzors, she said. "That was a driver, the gendered language. We've been waiting to move on past that ever since we moved on to Mishkan T'filah."

Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder spoke of a similar motivation. At his synagogue, Congregation Beth Emek in Pleasanton, which also uses Mishkan T'filah, he saw an "opportunity for our High Holy Days to match the feel of the rest of the year."

Wrestling Jerusalem, October 3

Wrestling Jerusalem is a riveting 90-minute solo performance, following one man's journey to understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. See flier, page 9.

Wrestling Jerusalem, Performance & Film Shoot

- October 3rd, Marines Memorial Theatre*, SF, 7 PM (609 Sutter St. SF)
- Followed by an interfaith panel discussion
- Tickets range from \$50-\$125, with **\$35 discounts** (Balcony) & **\$60 discounts** (selected orchestra sections) for groups of 10 or more.
- Tickets at cityboxoffice.com, 415-392-4400
- For more information on group discounts, contact Deena Levine, Outreach and Community Manager (925 451-3556; deenalevine@mac.com)

*Marines Memorial Theatre, 609 Sutter St. Walking distance from Powell St. BART. Convenient parking around Union Square.

Shir Ami's 50th Anniversary Event

Congregation Shir Ami 50th Anniversary Event has some reporting to do!

What we've done: Determined the type of event--an affordable and elegant reunion that is fun for adults and children. Current members, former members and friends are invited. The atmosphere encourages mingling and talking. Activities will include the history of Shir Ami and music.

Event Date: March 20, 2016 - 11 am - 3 pm

Where: Crow Canyon Country Club, San Ramon

Featuring: Brunch with music and Shir Ami history

Pricing: In progress

Sent: 'Save the Date' notices via email to 200 contacts. 24 have responded with their interest.

Web Page: is in development on the Shir Ami web site. The web page will allow payments to be made with Pay Pal.

Budget: is in progress - \$2,500 is funded by Shir Ami. Additional costs will need to be covered by other sources.

The Program: will include Shir Ami's history in a 30 minute slide show on a continuous loop so people can see it at their leisure throughout the program.

The Darryl Berk Trio: will provide background music (Klezmer, Broadway, Jewish, oldies and rock 'n roll music)

Established Committees, Committee Chairs and Members

History - David Schulberg (Chair), Toni Schulberg, Harriet Skelly, Judy Ganz, Ann and Sam Blank

Hospitality - Lina Teferi and Nancy Liskewicz (Chairs), Valerie Goldman, Lily Erickson, Vicky Sapper, Toni Schulberg, Tom Spitzer,

Publicity/Marketing/Web and Community and Friends Sponsorship Committee - Rick Goldhoff (Chair), Rita Weikel, Danielle Keil, Sara Lamnin,

Sharalyn Stebben, Debbie Schreiber, Bruce Skelly, Tom Spitzer,

Event Program - A chairperson is needed. Ruth Hartman will work on content. Valerie Goldman will work on graphics.

Photography - Helene Paz (Chair), Darwin Paz, Jessica Colette, Nate Einbund, Milton Palmer

Entertainment - Stan Heimowitz (Chair), Marlene Lamnin, Mike Kasin, Cary Nasitir

Children's Committee - Jane Steele and Jan Dombrower

Invitation - Barbara Heimowitz, Julie Greenfield, Judy Ganz, Ruth Hartman

Volunteers are needed for these committees and activities:

2 additional **Photographers** to take pictures in shifts at the event

Web Site: Needs a chairperson and volunteers for Content and Graphics

Event Program: Needs a chairperson and volunteers for Content and Graphics

Project Management skills to help Melanie and Barbara make calls to committee members and chairs, help with meeting minutes.

Children's Committee - volunteers to help develop children's material for the event. This group will display our children/school program and what they achieve.

Hospitality - to welcome guests at the event, make certain all is in place for the event, answer questions of attendees.

Publicity Sponsorship - public relations and obtaining ads for the event program, as well as working on the event program and web site. Sponsorship program.

Invitation - to assist with contact listings, follow up on invitations. Monitor attendance and payments. Create attendance listing. Follow up with invitees and rabbinic interns to determine interest.

Important Information

Please submit photos to David Schulberg in care of Shir Ami. It was requested that electronic files not be sent as the resolution will be poor. If you wish to have your photos returned, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Please put your identification on the photos that you submit. Photos can also be left at Shir Ami by the kitchen entry way counter.

Meeting Dates at Shir Ami, 7pm

October 7, 2015, next meeting

November 10, 2015

December 8, 2015

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.

B'Shalom, Melanie and Barbara

Sisterhood/Rosh Chodesh

Shir Ami Sisterhood meets monthly at the time of the new moon. Information is sent by email each month with details on the upcoming Rosh Chodesh event.

Contact Jan Dombrower Chimpky, sisterhood@congshirami.org, for information and to be added to our email list.



Our first meeting of the year was held on September 28 in the sukkah at the home of Diana Zankowsky. The evening included supper in the Sukkah; blessing the etrog and lulav; inviting in guests; a craft; and a business and yearly planning meeting.

Sisterhood's Rosh Chodesh Schedule 2015-2016

Tues., Oct. 13, Cheshvan
 Wed., Nov. 11, Kislev
 Thurs., Dec. 10, Tevet
 Tues., Jan. 12, Sh'vat
 Tues., Feb 9, Adar I
 Women's Retreat, Fri.-Sun., Feb. 26-28
 Thur., Mar. 10, Adar II
 Tues., April 12, Nisan
 Tues., May 10, Iyyar

October 2015 Yahrzeit List (as of 09/26/15)

October 2, 2015

Rabbi Joseph Glaser,

Helen Knopf,
 Mayer (pronounced ma-YARE) Yashar,
 Sylvia Wolf,

[Sukkot Service]

HUC area Rabbi when Shir Ami began,
 and a great help to Shir Ami
 mother of Lori Knopf Santora
 brother-in-law of Ruth Hartman
 mother of Ann Blank

October 9, 2015

Jeanette Brody,
 Ira Frey,
 Moe Levy,

[Simchat Torah Service]

grandmother of Noah Markus
 father of Bonnie Frey
 long-time former member of Shir Ami

October 23, 2015

Ruth Bergel,
 Beatrice Harrison-Golembo,
 Katherine Schuelke,

mother of Marci Loss
 mother of Sharon Golembo
 mother of Susan Spitzer

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

Sonja Romero
 Karl Felperin,
 Florrie Finkle,
 Sara Belenki
 Irwin Martin Mitchell,
 Hillie Levine,
 Beatrice Dombrower,
 Lorraine Golembo,

birth mother of Lori Knopf Santora
 member of Shir Ami
 long time member of Shir Ami
 mother of Arkady Massen
 father of Helen Markus
 charter member and mainstay of Shir Ami for many years
 mother of Jan Dombrower
 step-mother of Sharon Golembo

Donations: August and September

Ruth Hartman and Gary Wolff	In memory of Florrie Finkle
Jan Dombrower Chimpky	In memory of Florrie Finkle and in honor of Toni Schulberg's 70th birthday
Rhoda and Seymour Cohen	In memory of Florrie Finkle
Marion Kramer	In memory of Florrie Finkle
Marion Kramer	In memory of Gertrude Kramer
Audrey and Karl Hand	In memory of Florrie Finkle and Hillie and Rose Levine

School Calendar

Shir Ami School Calendar (2015/2016)

9:00 am - 10:30 am Hebrew School (generally for third graders and above)
 10:30 am - 12:30 pm Religious School for all children
 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Tot Talk (One Sunday a month for children 0-5 and their caregivers)
 (Please see www.congshirami.org/monthly-calendar for more information about other events and services)

DATE	
September 20, 2015	First Day of School
September 27, 2015	School and Tot Talk
October 2, 2015 (Friday)	<i>Evening Sukkot Service, and Shabbaton Sleepover for families</i>
October 4, 2015	School
October 9, 2015 (Friday)	<i>Evening Simchat Torah Service</i>
October 11, 2015	School
October 18, 2015	No School
October 25, 2015	School and Tot Talk
November 1, 2015	No School
November 8, 2015	School and Tot Talk
November 13, 2015 (Friday)	<i>Evening Children's Shabbat</i>
November 15, 2015	School
November 22, 2015	School (Food bank field trip for children 11 and over, no Hebrew)
November 29, 2015	No School
December 6, 2015	School and Tot Talk
December 13, 2015	School
December 20, 2015	School
December 27, 2015	No School
January 3, 2016	No School
January 8, 2016 (Friday)	<i>Evening Children's Shabbat</i>
January 10, 2016	School
January 17, 2016	No School
January 18, 2016 (Monday)	<i>Martin Luther King Celebration (families welcome)</i>
January 24, 2016	School and Tot Talk (Tu B'Shvat)
January 31, 2016	School
February 7, 2016	School
February 14, 2016	No School
February 21, 2016	School and Tot Talk
February 28, 2016	No School
March 6, 2016	School
March 11, 2016 (Friday)	<i>Evening Children's Shabbat</i>
March 13, 2016	School
March 20, 2016	No School
March 25, 2016 (Friday)	<i>Evening Purim Service and Purim Shpiel</i>
March 27, 2016	School and Tot Talk (Purim Carnival)
April 3, 2016	No School
April 10, 2016	School
April 17, 2016	School and Tot Talk
April 24, 2016	No School
May 1, 2016	School
May 8, 2016	No School
May 15, 2016	School
May 22, 2016	Last Day of School and Tot Talk

Congregation Shir Ami's Hebrew and Religious School

9:00 am-10:30 am Hebrew School (generally for third graders and above)
10:30 am-12:30 pm Religious School for all children
11:30 am-12:30 pm Tot Talk (A free program, one Sunday a month for children 0-5 and their caregivers)
*School is on Sunday's, usually about three weeks a month, from September to May
The first day of school is on September 20th and the first Tot Talk is September 27th*



Our multi-age school program provides a fun environment where our children learn about Jewish practices, culture, holidays and experience the joy of living Jewishly. We have small classes and new this year, we will be having electives, such as drama, arts and crafts and cooking. We try to make Jewish education fun and make our Religious and Hebrew schools a place where children want to be and look forward to attending.

Hebrew classes are generally for children in 3rd grade and up, but can be made available depending upon the abilities of the child. Older children are also welcome in the school, without any prior Jewish education. Many of our children continue on beyond Bar or Bat Mitzvah through confirmation and become teaching assistants and teachers in our school.

For the little ones in the family, we have a free Tot Talk program, which is designed for children, ages 0-5 and their parents / caregivers to learn a little bit about being Jewish and to socialize and have fun. We meet one Sunday a month for the last hour of school.

We encourage parent participation in our school and family members often join us for parent education and holiday celebrations. We will have a shabbaton sleepover for Sukkot this year as well as field trips planned that all families can attend. Throughout the year, we have family friendly events and children's shabbat services.



The education of our children is central to our mission as a community and is supported by all of our members. To enroll in the school, your family needs to become a member of the congregation. We have an extremely affordable introductory membership fee of \$300 for families if they would like to join and enroll their children in school.

Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley, California is a small, friendly Reform Jewish community that welcomes interfaith and LGBTQ families. We make Jewish education fun and joyful for children and adults alike.

For more information, please contact us at

Education@CongShirAmi.org

Web address is: <http://www.congshirami.org>

Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/CongShirAmi>

Congregation Shir Ami
4529 Malabar Ave in Castro Valley, CA 94546
(510) 537-1787



Live Performance

LIVE PERFORMANCE SHOOT FOR THE FEATURE FILM
WRESTLING JERUSALEM

written and performed by Aaron Davidman | stage direction by Michael John Garcés
film directed by Dylan Kussman



"REMARKABLE SOLO PERFORMANCE...
YEARNING BEAUTY...RIVETING."
- San Francisco Chronicle

TICKETS GO ON SALE
MID-AUGUST
\$50 - \$125
(\$35 group discounts)
cityboxoffice.com

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 3

7PM Performance

at

MARINES MEMORIAL THEATRE, SAN FRANCISCO

BE IN THE AUDIENCE FOR THE LIVE PERFORMANCE TO BE FILMED

The film is being shot on location in the desert and live in the theatre.

The finished film will cut back and forth between the locations.

This performance is co-sponsored by

San Francisco Film Society
Intersection for the Arts
San Francisco Jewish Film Festival
New Israel Fund
Marin Interfaith Council
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
Jewish Community Relations Council
Kehila Community Synagogue

San Francisco Interfaith Council
Old First Presbyterian Church
Congregation Beth El
Congregation Emanu El
Congregation Shereth Israel
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Temple Sinai
Nat'l Council of Jewish Women San Francisco

wrestlingjerusalem.com