



CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Avenue
Castro Valley CA 94546

Web: www.CongShirAmi.org
Email: Info@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 ***All events are held at Shir Ami unless otherwise noted.***				
Thur.	Mar.	3	7:00 pm	Shir Ami Board Meeting, held at Shir Ami. Open to all members
Sun.	Mar.	6	9; 10:30 am	9 am, Hebrew School; 10:30 am, Religious School
Sun.	Mar.	6	1:00 pm	EAIC-sponsored volunteer work at Alameda County Food Bank, 1 to 4 pm
Tue.	Mar.	8	7:00 pm	Shir Ami 50th Anniversary Celebration Planning Meeting, events@congshirami.org
Thur.	Mar.	10	7:30 pm	Rosh Chodesh, check your email for updates or email Jan Dombrower Chimpky
Fri.	Mar.	11	7:00 pm	<i>Kabbalat Shabbat Service</i> , with pre-K to 3rd grade participation, led by Rabbi Bryan Zive
Sat.	Mar.	12	10:00 am	<i>Coffee & Commentaries</i> , with Rabbi Bryan Zive. Held at Shir Ami, coffee provided
Sat.	Mar.	12	TBD pm	<i>Men's Event: Bowling and Havdallah</i> , with Rabbi Byran Zive. Check your email for updates.
Sun.	Mar.	13	9; 10:30 am	9 am, Hebrew School; 10:30 am, Religious School
Fri.	Mar.	18	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Julie Bressler
Sat.	Mar.	19	10:00 am	<i>Coffee & Commentaries</i> , with Rabbi Julie Bressler. Held at Shir Ami, coffee provided
Sat.	Mar.	19	3:00 pm	<i>Storytelling- the Original Social Network</i> , with Rabbi Julie Bressler
Sun.	Mar.	20	11:00 am	Shir Ami 50th Anniversary Celebration. Go to: shirami50.mydagsite.com
Sun.	Mar.	20		NO SCHOOL. (Shir Ami 50th Anniversary Brunch Celebration)
Wed.	Mar.	23	7:30 pm	Meditation group, no experience needed. Contact Julie Greenfield meditation@congshirami.org
Fri.	Mar.	25	7:00 pm	Purim Shabbat Service: <i>Chag Purim Sameach!</i> , led by Rabbi Julie Bressler:
Sat.	Mar.	26	3:30 pm	<i>Megillat Esther: the Purim Story</i> , with Rabbi Julie Bressler.
Sat.	Mar.	26	5:00 pm	<i>Jews and Comedy</i> , with Rabbi Julie Bressler
Sun.	Mar.	27	9; 10:30 am	9 am, Hebrew School; 10:30 am, Religious School
Sun.	Mar.	27	11:30 am	Tot Talk, a free monthly program for preschoolers and their families
Sun.	Mar.	27	11:30 am	Purim Carnival: Sunday school children, Tot Talk preschoolers, and their families join in the fun
Thur.	Apr.	14	5:30 pm	Daughters of Miriam Seder at Temple Beth Torah in Fremont. Info: Save the Date invitation
Sat.	Apr.	23	4:30 pm	Shir Ami Community Passover Seder, at Oliver Hall Eden UCC, led by Rabbi Julie Bressler

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Shir Ami Community and Friends,

Did you know that we have a Religious Events Coordinator (REC) position on the board? The role of the REC is to find those people interested in coordinating a religious event such as the Tu BiSh'vat seder, Purim carnival, the community Passover seder, etc. Currently Shir Ami's REC is Jeremy Templeton.

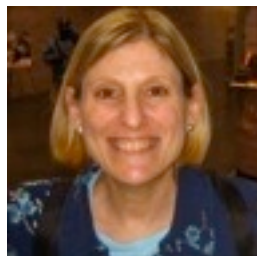
Each religious event is documented so that volunteer event leaders can know all of the tasks that need to be done in order to have a successful (and less stressed) event. The agreement with the REC is that a leader needs to be identified or the event will not occur – in other words, Jeremy is not responsible for leading all events, simply for identifying leaders and assisting them as necessary.

Why am I writing about this now? One of our biggest religious events is coming up – the Community Passover Seder. For many years Barbara Heimowitz, Toni Schulberg and I have been leading this very successful event. We would like to invite some new people to work with us this year with the intention of handing over the reins and giving some new thought to the seder. We have documented everything about this event from the place settings on each table to how many pounds of potatoes we need. We even have a list of volunteers documented that love to help with set up, clean up, cooking food, etc.

This year's seder will be held on Saturday, April 23 at Oliver Hall, Eden United Church of Christ in Hayward. Rabbinic intern Julie Bressler will be leading the service. I truly have enjoyed leading this event and I think it is time to invite new people with new ideas to join in.

What do you need to do if you are interested in working with us to co-lead or learn more about this event? You can get in touch with Jeremy Templeton, Barbara Heimowitz, Toni Schulberg or me. We look forward to working with you!

Harriet Skelly
President
president@congshirami.org



Shir Ami Community Passover Seder

Saturday, April 23, 4:30 PM

Location: Oliver Hall, Eden United
Church of Christ in Hayward.

Service will be led by Rabbinic Intern
Julie Bressler.



TOGETHER LET'S DERAILED
HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER TO SORT FOOD

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 | 1 TO 4 P.M.
ALAMEDA COUNTY FOOD BANK | OAKLAND



LEARN MORE & REGISTER:
www.bit.ly/1QchJQa



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Eden Area Interfaith Council
EDENINTERFAITH.ORG

RABBINIC INTERNS' CLERGY COLUMN

Each month, our Rabbinic Interns take turns sharing their thoughts with us. This month's Rabbinic Interns' column is submitted by Student Rabbi Bryan Zive

Close your eyes, hear the tune and feel the beat. "Ce---lebrate good times, come on!" Ah yes, Kool & the Gang's hit song, "Celebration" is the perfect song to bring in Adar, the Hebrew month that we read from the *Megillah* and celebrate *Purim*. It's known as the month of celebration and happiness, so let's learn a little bit about the month that is designated to bring us joy!



Since we are in a leap year, Adar comes around two times! It occurs about once every three year, and we celebrate Purim during Adar II. The Talmud tells us that "when Adar arrives, we increase in joy" to welcome a season of miracles. Adar comes from the Hebrew root "*Adir*" which derives from strength and power. That word may be familiar to you, for on Passover, we sing "*Adir Hu*", *God is Strong*".

Why is it that we celebrate and party throughout Adar? *Megillat Esther* teaches us the story of the evil Haman (*sound your groggers!!!*) and the courage of Mordechai and Queen Esther. But, did you know that Moses had something to do with the Purim story? Moses passed away during the month of Adar. The Talmud recalls Haman wishing to destroy our people and staged a lottery to determine the most opportune date. When the lot, or *Pur*, for which we get the holiday's name, fell on Adar, he rejoiced. But, what Haman did not know was that Moses passed away on the same day he was born, the 7th of Adar! The Talmud relates that his birth helped avert Haman's evil decree. Since we were able to be free, why not celebrate? And speaking of freedom, Adar was the final month the Israelites spent in Egypt before God redeemed them from slavery.

Adar's joy is so great, not only for the heroic and miraculous stories that we read in *Megillat Esther*, but because it serves the ideal opening to the ultimate rejoicing: the miracles of Passover, which comes about a month later. As we think ahead to our *Seders*, let us not overlook how fun and joyful *Purim* and Adar should be! Dress up, have a few beverages (adult or otherwise) and enjoy the month as it was meant to be celebrated...with endless happiness!

Sing it with me... "CE-----LEBRATE GOOD TIMES, COME ON!"

Student Rabbi Bryan Zive

UPCOMING EVENT

Save the Date!

Daughters of Miriam Seder

Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 5:30 pm

Temple Beth Torah

42000 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont, CA 94539



Mothers, daughters and friends: connect with women of the Exodus and the heroines of today as we rejoice in our freedom. Celebrate together as we tell the story with blessings, rituals, singing and dancing! The Sisterhood of Congregation Shir Ami is one of the event sponsors.

For additional information: [Save the Date invitation](#)

RABBINIC INTERNS' SCHEDULE

MARCH 11-13, with Rabbi Bryan Zive

Fri., Mar. 11, 7:00 pm: *Kaballat Shabbat Services*

Join us for a spiritual and musical Shabbat service with our wonderful Pre-K through Third Graders! Rabbi Bryan will tell a wonderful story to help us prepare for Purim and bring in lots of joy and happiness!

Sat., Mar. 12, 10:00 am, *Coffee and Commentaries:*

Do you enjoy studying *Torah*? Interested in learning about how *Torah* relates to your everyday life? Do you have opinions to share? Do you like listening and learning from others? If your answer to any of these questions is "yes", join us for ***Coffee and Commentaries***, Shir Ami's engaging Shabbat morning *Torah* study! At Shir Ami, coffee provided.

Sat., Mar. 12, Time TBD, *Men's Event: Bowling and Havdallah*

Why shouldn't the men have some fun together, too? Join Rabbi Bryan and the guys for a fun night of bowling, concluding with a beautiful *Havdallah* service back at Shir Ami. Look for more information about the cost, timing and RSVP for the event. The only way you can see if you can beat Rabbi Bryan is if you come play! See you there!

MARCH 18-20, with Rabbi Julie Bressler

Fri., Mar. 18, 7:30 pm: As we enter our weekend of celebrating our history, we appropriately land on Shabbat Zachor – the Shabbat of Remembrance.

Join us for a spiritual and reflective Shabbat evening service full of prayer, song and connection. Rabbi Julie's sermon will explore why remembrance is such an important aspect of Jewish practice and what we can learn from reflecting on our history.

Sat., Mar. 19, 10:00 am, *Coffee and Commentaries:*

The *alef* at the end of the first word in the book of Leviticus (*Vayikra* in Hebrew) is written in a smaller size than the rest of the word. This is not a typographic error – it's found in every Torah scroll across the world! Reflect on this surprising choice and other interesting pieces of Parshat *Vayikra*.

Come for the coffee, stay for the conversation.
Location: Shir Ami (coffee provided)

Sat., Mar. 19, 3 pm, *Storytelling: The Original Social Network*

In this weekend of celebrating and reflecting on Shir Ami's history, let's come together to learn more about the practice of storytelling, its connection to Judaism and get to know one another even better. We will end the workshop with *Havdallah*.

MARCH 25-27, with Rabbi Julie Bressler

Fri., Mar. 25, 7:00 pm, *Chag Purim Sameach!* Since everything is a bit crazy at Purim, come to services dressed in your best costume and get ready for fun! We will pray in a unique way, hear from our youngest students, read some megillah and act out a hilarious spiel. If you are interested in participating in the spiel, please email Rabbi Julie at rabbi.julie@congshirami.org

Sat., Mar. 26, 3:30 pm, *Megillat Esther* – God-less, feminist, history, comedy, tragedy - this popular narrative has been told and retold a hundred different ways! In this session, we will discuss the many intricacies of the text and think about how best share the Purim story today.

Sat., Mar. 26, 5:00 pm, *Jews & Comedy* – In the spirit of Purim, we will have a brief conversation about the Jewish connection to comedy and then watch the film *When Jews Were Funny*. They say laughter is the best medicine, so let's laugh together! After the movie, we will close Shabbat with *Havdallah*.



Rabbinic Interns

Julie Bressler rabbi.julie@congshirami.org

Bryan Zive rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org



SCHOOL NOTES

On January 24th Diana and Rabbi Bryan co-lead the TuBiSh'vat seder for children and their parents. Everyone was quite engaged in the singing and whole body movements of being a tree. Older children read from the haggadah and younger ones colored pages. Everyone sampled the wonderful gifts from the trees (and vines). Afterwards the students planted a tree with the help of Peter Lewis and Milt Palmer.

We have started a new drama chug. Mike Kasin is leading one group in improvisation. Jan and Helene are having students make masks and tell the Purim story. Diana and Olivia are having students act out bible stories. Students will rotate through each section.

Coming up in March: children will be participating in the Purim Friday night service on March 25 and in the Purim Carnival on March 27.

TOT TALK

Our next Tot Talk is on **Sunday, March 27, at 11:30 am**

Tot Talk is a free, monthly program for preschoolers and their families, providing an opportunity to connect with the Jewish community.



SISTERHOOD/ ROSH CHODESH, MARCH

Next Rosh Chodesh will be held on **Thursday, March 10**. We will bring in the month of Adar II. Stay tuned for more details by email. sisterhood@congshirami.org.

Last month, we brought in the first month of Adar (we get to bring in Adar twice this year due to the leap year addition of another month) in a Rosh Chodesh event hosted by Jessica Collett and Valerie Goldman. We focused on



the themes of hiding and revealing and talked about ways in which we had hidden and then revealed that we are Jewish. Several of us brought pieces of Judaica related to this theme. We created a pair of masks covered in symbols of hiding and revealing and concluded with an excellent snack, also provided by our hosts. Thank you Valerie and Jessica for a great evening.

SHIR AMI SISTERHOOD

For information on Sisterhood events and to be added to our email list, contact Jan Dombrower Chimpky: sisterhood@congshirami.org

MEDITATION GROUP

The meditation group will meet **Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 pm**. No experience needed. Contact Julie Greenfield, meditation@congshirami.org

Photo from Congregation Shir Ami's Facebook page.



MARCH 2016 YAHRZEIT

March 11, 2016

Bobbie Clark,
Esther Cooper,
Clara Finlay,
Matt Ganz,

sister of Marci Loss
aunt of Ann Blank
mother of Todd Finlay
long-time active member and former president of Shir Ami,
and husband of Judy Ganz
former member and mother-in-law of Judy Ganz
former member and father-in-law of Judy Ganz
uncle of Toni Schulberg,

May Ganz,
Sam Ganz,
Dalton Gautreaux,

(Pronounced "GO -TRO")

Elsie Maas,
Joslyn Miner,

grandmother of Toni Schulberg
former member of Shir Ami,
and wife of Syd Miner; past president of Shir Ami
long time active member of Shir Ami
long time founding member of Shir Ami
father of Fred Zankowsky

Edna Vanous,
Ingrid Weinberg,
Matthew Zankowsky,



March 18, 2016

Shirley Cooperman,
Faye Felgoise,
James Finlay,
Jean Skelly,
Stella Small,

cousin of Melanie Einbund
aunt of Melanie Einbund
father of Todd Finlay
mother of Bruce Skelly
grandmother of Toni Schulberg

March 25, 2016

Sylvia Weingarton,

aunt of Stan Heimowitz

KADDISH (*those who have died during the past 11 months*)

Neil Joseph Kellman,
Sonja Romero,
Karl Felperin,
Florrie Finkle,
Sara Belenki
Irwin Martin Mitchell,
Hillie Levine,

brother of Jessica Collett
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

We thank the following for their

DONATIONS TO SHIR AMI

Barbara Ann Lewis

In honor of Harriet Skelly for her donation through Amnesty International of
greeting cards to prisoners of conscience in 12 countries throughout the world

Tyler D. Dean

Yahrzeit for Larry Dean

Pat Palmer

In honor of Ruth Hartman

Anne and Alexis Brandon

In memory of Florence Finkle

Gary Wolff

In honor of Pat Palmer's birthday

Gary Wolff

General Fund

SHIR AMI 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, MARCH 20

Shir Ami 50th Anniversary Celebration

It's hard to believe that it is now March and our 50th anniversary celebration is only WEEKS away! All of the elements of the brunch have come together and we know that it will be an amazing and very memorable day.

Tickets for the brunch may still be purchased, but time is running out. You will NOT be able to buy tickets at the door, so please go to our website: shirami50.mydagsite.com and buy your tickets. You may still request seating with your friends and family.

If for some reason you are not able to attend please think of making a contribution to commemorate our congregation's 50th Anniversary.

It is very exciting to see the results of all of our efforts. Thank you to all of our volunteers for making this possible!

More than anything please join us in the joy of our Congregation's celebration.

We look forward to seeing you there!

B'shalom
Melanie and Barbara

SHIR AMI ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Shir Ami 50th Anniversary Brunch Celebration March 20, 11 am

Tickets for the brunch may still be purchased, but time is running out. You will NOT be able to buy tickets at the door, so please go to our website: shirami50.mydagsite.com and buy your tickets. You may still request seating with your friends and family.

We hope we see you there!



You're Invited!

**Congregation Shir Ami's
50th Anniversary**

March 20, 2016 at 11:00 AM

**Crow Canyon Country Club
711 Silver Lake Drive Danville, CA 94526**

Adults - 14 and over: \$36

Kids - 6-13 years old: \$18

3-5 years old: \$9

under 3: no charge

Please visit our website to make your
reservations: <http://shirami50.mydagsite.com>

Questions? E-mail: 50th@congshirami.org



Congregation Shir Ami *Cookbook*

Created by the 2015 Confirmation Class, this cookbook contains a collection of recipes from current members as well as featured favorites from the Congregation's 1969 edition cookbook .



The cookbook can be purchased for \$15 each, making it a great holiday gift! Fill-in, tear-off and mail-in the slip below to order now...

Yes! I would like to order ____ cookbook(s) at a price of \$15.00 each. Total amount enclosed: \$_____

Checks should be made payable to **Congregation Shir Ami**, and sent to: Congregation Shir Ami – Cookbook, P.O. Box 2099, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Questions? E-mail: treasurer@congshirami.org

מחזור לימים הנוראים

משכן הנפש

MISHKAN HANEFESH
Machzor for the Days of Awe



Congregation Shir Ami has purchased new High Holy Day prayer books. This new machzor, called **Mishkan HaNefesh**, has modern and gender-equality content, updated translations, 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.

Each regular print 2-volume set can be sponsored for a donation of \$50; large print for \$75; and pulpit edition for \$100. Your donation is a great way to recognize important people and events in your life. **To sponsor a set of Mishkan HaNefesh prayer books, please fill out and send in the form below.** Questions? Contact mishkan@congshirami.org, or call Jon at 510-220-3345.

 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
 (please include as many types & inscriptions as appropriate)

Name: _____

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

Inscription #1: _____

Inscription #2: _____
