



# CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Avenue  
Castro Valley CA 94546

Web: [www.CongShirAmi.org](http://www.CongShirAmi.org)  
Email: [Info@CongShirAmi.org](mailto: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, <a href="http://www.congshirami.org">www.congshirami.org</a> ***All events are held at Shir Ami unless otherwise noted.***					
Tue.	Nov.	1	7:00	pm	Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood: Bring in the month of Cheshvan- check your email for details
Thur.	Nov.	3	7:00	pm	Shir Ami Board Meeting, held at Shir Ami. Open to all members
Fri.	Nov.	4	7:30	pm	Kabbalat Shabbat & Torah Service led by Rabbi Liora Alban with our 5th to 8th graders
Sat.	Nov.	5	10:00	am	Coffee and Commentaries with Rabbi Liora Alban
Sun.	Nov.	6	9; 10:30	am	SCHOOL: 9 am, Hebrew School; 10:30 am, Religious School
Sun.	Nov.	6	10:30	am	School Parent Meeting 10:30-11:30
Sun.	Nov.	6	2:00	pm	URJ Afternoon of Leadership, 2:00-5:00 pm. Carpools will leave Shir Ami at 1:15 pm.
Wed.	Nov.	9	7:00	pm	The Story of Henry Oster, at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette. See flier on page 7
Sun.	Nov.	13			NO SCHOOL
Fri.	Nov.	18	6:00 6:45 7:30	pm	Erev Shabbat Childrens' Service, 6:00 pm, led by Rabbi Bryan Zive Potluck Dinner, 6:45 pm Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm, led by Rabbi Bryan Zive
Sat.	Nov.	19	10:00	am	Coffee and Commentaries with Rabbi Bryan Zive
Sat.	Nov.	19	3:00	pm	The Journey of Jewish Music Continues, with Rabbi Bryan Zive
Sun.	Nov.	20	9; 10:30	am	SCHOOL: 9 am, Hebrew School; 10:30 am, Religious School
Sun.	Nov.	20	9:00	am	"Older Kids" Field Trip to Food Bank, 9-11:30 am
Sun.	Nov.	20	9:00	am	Food Bank Service Day, 9-11:30 am. See page 2 for more information
Sun.	Nov.	20	11:30	am	Tot Talk: a program for families w/ children under age 5. Interfaith families welcome
Sun.	Nov.	20	4:00	pm	Sisterhood Thanksgiving, gathering of women at Shir Ami, sponsored by Harriet Skelly
Sun.	Nov.	27			NO SCHOOL
Fri.	Dec.	2	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service with Rabbi Bryan Zive
Sun.	Dec.	4	12:20	pm	Food Security Panel: 11:45-12:15 with schoolchildren; 12:20-1:15 adult panel. See page 4
Fri.	Dec.	16	6:30	pm	Potluck Dinner
Fri.	Dec.	16	7:30	pm	Pre-Chanukah Service and Celebration with Rabbi Liora Alban
Sat.	Dec.	24			First Night of Chanukah
Fri.-Sun., February 24-26, Save the date for our 2017 Annual Women's Retreat					

---

## COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This month's column is written by Shir Ami Membership Committee Co-Chair, Barbara Heimowitz.

### Committee Spotlight: Membership

Shir Ami is a hands-on synagogue. The members are the backbone of our community. Many hands make light work! Everyone pitches in and takes turn at the school, sponsoring onegs, planning social activities, helping at special events, hosting our Rabbinic Interns, participating in adult education, participating in Rosh Chodesh and participating with the Men's Club.

As our mission statement says, in part: "Shir Ami is an intimate, inclusive, intergenerational Reform Jewish community that welcomes interfaith families. We nurture our members' spiritual growth and cultural identity, and we make Jewish education fun and joyful for children and adults alike."

We are delighted to welcome 6 new families to Shir Ami this Fall. They represent both families with young children as well as adults with grown children.

#### Meet our newest members:

**Joan**, from San Leandro, is already an active member of Sisterhood.

**Oren and Rosa**, of Castro Valley, have joined us with their children: **Jonah**, who is 5 years old and **Zoey**, who is 3 years old.

**Brian and Jaylene** of San Ramon, are new members who have joined with their daughter, **Hannah**, who is 3 years old.

**Peggy and Demian** of San Leandro, are new members. Peggy is already an active member of Sisterhood.

**Brian and Bianca** of Castro Valley, have joined with their children: **Issac**, 3 years old, and **Liliana**, who is 2 years old.

We are delighted that **Melly and Zac** of Union City, have re-joined with their 2 children: **Berke**, 6 years old, and **Tobiah**, who is 4 years old.

We warmly welcome these new families and look forward to having them as part of our Shir Ami Community!

Submitted by Barbara Heimowitz, Co-Membership Chair

Editor's note: we are not using last names in this article in order to protect family privacy (in particular the children's privacy) as this bulletin is publicly available through our email distribution list and is online at the Shir Ami website. The membership roster, available to members, includes family names.

---

## FOOD BANK SERVICE DAY NOVEMBER 20

We will be making our annual pre-Thanksgiving trip to the Alameda County Community Food Bank on Sunday November 20. Our food sorting and packing session will run from 9:00 to 11:30. If anybody wants to car-pool meet me in the Shir Ami parking lot at 8:30. We should have room for 2 - 3 more in our car and more carpools can be arranged if a ride is needed.

Kids between the ages of 10 and 17 are welcome, but they need to have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. You can download the waiver from the ACCFB volunteer page, or let Tom Spitzer know you need one and he'll get it to you. Adults can sign in and accept their responsibilities on-site.

The older children at the school are encouraged to attend.

For those of you new to this activity, and as a reminder for the veterans, please note that:

- Sturdy, closed (both toe and heel) shoes are required.
- Dressing in layers is recommended since the warehouse is not climate controlled.
- Please do not bring headphones, MP3 player or other personal music devices, and leave your bags and backpacks in your cars

Note for those of you with young children: this is the same day as Tot Talk

---

## RABBINIC INTERNS' CLERGY COLUMN

Shalom, Shir Ami,

During my November visit, we will be reading from Parshat Noach. This parsha not only contains the well-known story of Noah and the flood, but further, it contains the folkloric tale of the Tower of Babel. This story begins directly following the giant flood. At this point, all of humanity is united as one. Everybody speaks the same language, and together, everyone migrates eastward towards a land called Shinar. Once there, the people band together to build the giant Tower of Babel that they hope will reach heaven. They proclaim, "Come, let us build us a city, and a tower with its top in the sky, to make a name for ourselves; else we shall be scattered all over the world" (Genesis 11:4). God is troubled by humanity's endeavor. He finds it disrespectful and even threatening. God decides to confront the people, to mix up their speech, and to scatter humanity across the earth. From this point forward, humanity is plagued with different languages and an inability to understand those who are different.

While this tale is certainly far-fetched, I believe that it teaches an important lesson of which it is always

worth being reminded. Our tradition teaches that at the beginning of history, humanity was united. Too often, we allow differences—social, political, socioeconomic—to get in the way of our connections with others. We become afraid and closed off towards those who might challenge us or even disregard our thoughts. Yes, it may be uncomfortable to confront those who are different. Still, it is direly important. Connecting with difference forces us to confront our vulnerabilities, accept our oversights, and strengthen our senses of self. Connecting with difference forces us to either reify or rethink our beliefs.

Thus, I encourage our community to think of the Tower of Babel as we move into November. At one time, everyone was one. While it would be quixotic to say that humanity can one day unite completely again, it is critical for us to think about how we can respect others' differences in opinions, and ultimately, others' humanity.

I look forward to seeing everyone November 4th-6th to delve deeper into lessons such as this and more!

Student Rabbi Liora Alban

---

## RABBINIC INTERNS

### Rabbinic Interns, 2016-2017

Liora Alban [rabbi.liora@congshirami.org](mailto:rabbi.liora@congshirami.org)

Bryan Zive [rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org](mailto:rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org)



---

### November 4-6, w/ Rabbi Liora Alban

**Fri., Nov. 4, 7:30 pm, *Kabbalat Shabbat & Torah Service*** Please join us for a Kabbalat Shabbat service. We will bring in Shabbat through music and prayer. In addition, we will be reading Parshat Noach from the Torah and Rabbi Liora will be sharing her thoughts on this portion.

**Sat., Nov. 5, 10:00 am: *Coffee and Commentaries.*** Please join us for a learning session on Parshat Noach. Not only will we look at the Torah text together, but further, Rabbi Liora will bring commentaries and midrashim to enlighten our discussion. You may think you know the story of Noah's ark. You may think you know the story of the Tower of Babel. Come to Coffee and Commentaries, and you will learn about these stories and more in entirely new ways!

### November 18-20, w/ Rabbi Byran Zive

**Fri., Nov. 18, Erev Shabbat *Children's Service (6:00 pm) and Regular Erev Shabbat Service (7:30 pm)*** Have kids or are a kid at heart? Join Rabbi Bryan for a children's service at 6:00 pm, complete with fun music and an entertaining story! Following the pot luck dinner, Rabbi Bryan will lead a regular Erev Shabbat service filled with beautiful music, prayer, a sermon and plenty of spirituality,

**Sat., Nov. 19, 10:00 am: *Coffee and Commentaries.*** Please come to Shir Ami and enjoy some coffee, a nosh and an engaging conversation about the weekly Torah portion, Vayera, No RSVP required, just your opinions. And yes, all opinions are welcome and encouraged!

**Sat., Nov. 19, 3:00 pm:** We'll continue our *Journey of Jewish Music* throughout the world to North America and learn of the development of Contemporary Jewish music on our own continent! Bring your ears to listen and your voices to sing along!

---

## SCHOOL NOTES

Chag Semach! This month included three holidays. School did not meet for two weeks in order for families to participate in Congregation Shir Ami's services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. There was going to be the 5th annual sleepover for Sukkot, but due to illness and families' busy schedules, it was canceled. However a group of families did stay after Friday night services and made s'mores. Thank you Bonnie and Helene for the supplies.

All classrooms have made tzedakah boxes. Children are encouraged to bring money each time they meet. We would like parents to discuss with their children what kinds of contributions they make. We are encouraging those that get allowance to give a portion of what they get to the class box. We are encouraging the younger ones to have an adult give them money that they can put in the box. It would be nice to see it grow and have them decide where the money should go.

## TOT TALK

**Sunday, November 20th, 11:30 am**, is the next date for Tot Talk so mark your calendars. Tot Talk, a free program for the little ones ages 0-5, is designed for children and their parents / caregivers to learn a little bit about being Jewish, to socialise and have fun.

*It's not necessary, but it is always very helpful if you can RSVP your plans for attending Tot Talk. We, of course, always understand that with little ones, plans do change.*

## AMAZON SMILE

Do your online shopping at Amazon Smile, and Amazon will donate to Congregation Shir Ami., [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com),

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2017 WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 24-26, 2017  
San Damiano Retreat Center,  
Danville

Connect with your Shir Ami sisters and have a great getaway! Join us for this annual weekend of women's friendship, worship, creativity, music, and play. Rabbinic Intern Liora Alban joins us to share her spiritual leadership. Newcomers are very welcome! More details to follow soon. Contact Ruth Hartman, [retreat@congshirami.org](mailto:retreat@congshirami.org), if you have questions.

## SISTERHOOD/ROSH CHODESH

Last month's event of *Sisters Under the Sukkah* was a huge success. 18 women gathered to watch the luluv be blessed and shaken as we partook in the mitzvah of sitting under the Sukkah.

We invited in our guests, our Ushpinzin, to joins us. We enjoyed a wonderful fall feast and made a simple craft to hang up in the Sukkah.

## UPCOMING SISTERHOOD EVENTS

**Next month's Rosh Chodesh** will take place on **Tuesday, Nov 1**. Valerie Goldman and Jessica Collett will be the hostesses as we bring in the new month of Cheshvan, the "darkest month," and see what ray of light we might find. Look to your email for more information as the date nears.

**Mark your calendars for our Sisterhood Thanksgiving gathering on Sunday Nov 20**, at 4:00 pm, sponsored by Harriet Skelly. More information to follow.

**Questions?** Contact Jan Dombrower Chimpky at [sisterhood@congshirami.org](mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org)

## THE STORY OF HENRY OSTER, NOV 9, 7:00 PM

Come and hear first hand the extraordinary story of Henry Oster, a person who endured all kinds of indignities as a survivor of Birkenau, Auschwitz and the Lodz Ghetto. He is a compelling speaker as he recounts his story of survival with optimism, dignity and yes, a sense of humour. I heard him speak over a year ago and he is a wonderful raconteur, whose story continues to echo in my mind...

See flier, **page 7**; please RSVP. Hope to see you at this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

## HIGH HOLY DAY FOOD DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who donated to our High Holy Day Food Drive. This year, we collected a record-level \$3,700 in monetary donations, plus a couple bags of groceries. These donations will benefit the Eden United Church of Christ's Comida para Cherryland food pantry, and the South Hayward Parish's Emergency Food Pantry.

## FOOD SECURITY PANEL DEC. 4

The Social Action Committee is sponsoring a Food Security Panel which will be held at Shir Ami on Sunday, **December 4**.

We will start with a session with the schoolchildren from 11:45 to 12:15, and then a **panel from 12:20 to 1:15**.

We are working on getting panelists from a number of area organizations involved in ensuring that Hayward and Alameda County residents are able to get the food they need.

---

## NOVEMBER 2016 YAHRZEIT

### November 4, 2016

Joseph Foreman,  
Freda Hansen,  
Ralph Loss,

father of Lorraine Lewis  
aunt of Toni Schulberg  
father of Mike Loss



### November 18, 2016

Lorraine Golembo,  
Sidney Leshin,  
Martin Michelson,  
Ada & Jack Rubenstein,

step-mother of Sharon Golembo  
father of MaryAnn Leshin  
brother-in-law of David Schulberg  
mother and father of Ron Rubenstein

### Kaddish List (those who have died during the past 11 months) (Please read at all services)

Sam Blank,  
Debra Blum,  
Travis Mahoney,  
Loren Simpson,  
  
Neil Joseph Kellman,

husband of Ann Blank and long time member of Shir Ami  
mother of Jeff Blum  
nephew of Wendy Crow  
husband of Sidney Simpson, prior member of Shir Ami,  
and cousin of Toni Schulberg  
brother of Jessica Collett

---

## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO SHIR AMI

Markus Family	Yahrzeit donation
Cary Nasatir	In honor of parents Yahrzeit
Ann Blank	In honor of Joanna & Eric Westerfield's 50th wedding anniversary
Rosenthal/Carmack Family	Yahrzeit donation for Lee Rosenthal
Sharon Golembo	Yahrzeit donation in honor of Beatrice Harrison Golembo
Keil Family	Yahrzeit in honor of David Sapper
Audrey and Karl Hand	In memory of Sam Blank
Frey/Lang Family	Donation for sukkot lantern craft project

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Please don't forget to include a note regarding the individuals you're honoring/remembering so that we can include it here. Thank you!

# "THANK YOU" FROM LA COMIDA PARA CHERRYLAND



You're  
Welcome  
Here.

October 24, 2016

Congregation Shir Ami  
Att: Sara Lamnin, President and  
Tom Spitzer, Social Action Committee Chair  
4529 Malabar Avenue  
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your continuing generosity and partnership in addressing the food security needs in our community!


Your recent holiday gift of \$1850 to La Comida para Cherryland will provide a bag of nutritious groceries for 411 families, including approximately 1650 children, most of whom live in the Cherryland neighborhood.


Every dollar that you've contributed will go directly to the purchase of food. The direct costs of the Comida are solely supported by donations from good neighbors like you and the members of Eden Church.

A contribution of \$4.50 buys one bag for a family of 4-7 and includes one bag of rice and one bag of beans, a can of peanut butter, a can of tuna, a can of tomato product, oatmeal, fresh fruit and vegetables, and a bag of chicken legs.

For information about volunteer opportunities at the Comida, please contact Corina Vasare, our Compañeras Ministry Coordinator. For information about the Comida budget, see the Rev. Rob Parrish. To discuss a financial contribution to the Comida, contact Michael Stuber or Pastor Arlene.

*Muchas gracias por todo!*

  
The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring

  
Corina Vasare

**The Rev. Dr. Arlene Nehring**

21455 Birch Street • Hayward, CA 94541 • (510) 582-9533 • [www.edenucc.com](http://www.edenucc.com)

**MISHKAN HANEFESH**



*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](mailto: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): \_\_\_\_\_

Inscription #1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Inscription #2: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** For large print set, please include a 3<sup>rd</sup> inscription.

## THE STORY OF HENRY OSTER, NOVEMBER 9, 7:00 PM



The Israel and World Jewry Committee Presents  
Holocaust survivor, Henry Oster  
Author of *The Kindness of the Hangman*

### "Even In Hell, There Is Hope"



**Wednesday, November 9, 2016**  
**7pm - Sanctuary**  
**Temple Isaiah 945 Risa Road, Lafayette, CA 94549**

As a young German boy Henry Oster survived deprivation in the Lodz Ghetto, a life-or-death selection in the Birkenau extermination camp, a firing squad in Auschwitz, being strafed by an Allied fighter, and starvation in Buchenwald. Henry rebuilt his life in America, arriving at 18 with no family, no English, no money and no education. Of 2,011 Jews uprooted from Cologne, Germany in 1941, he is the only survivor. He was still working as a world-respected Professor of Optometry on his 85th birthday, helping the world to see.

Presentation followed by discussion

Details and RSVP at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dafad2aa5f49-henry>

Light refreshments will be served in the oneg room following discussion.  
These events are free of charge and open to the public.

Sponsors: Morris and Bobbie Collen Endowment Fund and Israel and World Jewry Committee  
Co-sponsors: Anshei Isaiah and the Library Committee, Voluntolds



## VOTER INFORMATION

# VOTE!



“Young people need to vote. They need to get out there. Every vote counts. Educate yourself too. Don't just vote. Know what you're voting for, and stand by that.” -Nikki Reed

**LOCAL RACES NEED YOUR ATTENTION. BE AN INFORMED AND ENGAGED VOTER.**

Are you registered to vote? Do you want to vote by mail? Would you like a large print or audio version of the ballot? Go to: [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/)



Want to see your ballot or learn more about the candidates and measures?

Visit <http://votersedge.org/ca> and <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/>

Want to be paid to work at the polls? [www.acgov.org/rov/](http://www.acgov.org/rov/) (510) 272-6933

Who's funding various measures and candidates? [www.followthemoney.org/](http://www.followthemoney.org/)

### **INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES:**

#### **Hayward School Board Election**

General Info: [www.husd.k12.ca.us/boardm](http://www.husd.k12.ca.us/boardm) & [www.haywardcoalition.com](http://www.haywardcoalition.com)



#### ***Candidate Forum – open to everyone!***

10/5 5:30pm, Eden United Church of Christ, 21455 Birch St, Hayward, 94541

*Small community meal and child activities provided.*

#### ***Candidate information***

AnnetteWalker (incumbent): [www.facebook.com/AnnetteWalkerForHaywardSchools/](http://www.facebook.com/AnnetteWalkerForHaywardSchools/)

Todd Davis: <http://haywardclass.weebly.com/todd-davis.html>

Luis Reynoso (incumbent): <http://reynosoforkids.com>

Joe Ramos: <http://joeramos4husdschools.com>

Robert Carlson: <http://haywardclass.weebly.com/dr-robert-carlson.html>

Daniel Goldstein: <http://haywardclass.weebly.com/daniel-goldstein.html>

Wynn Grcich: [www.wynnforhaywardschools.com](http://www.wynnforhaywardschools.com)

John Taylor (incumbent): <http://http://it4hayward.wix.com/husd>



**MORE GOOD STUFF ON THE NEXT PAGE!**

## VOTER INFORMATION, CONTINUED



“It's heartbreaking that so many hundreds of millions of people around the world are desperate for the right to vote, but here in America people stay home on election day.” - Moby

### Castro Valley School Board Election (Vote for Three)

Suresh C. Gupta: [suresh.gupta@gmail.com](mailto:suresh.gupta@gmail.com)

Monica Lee: [edmolyneaux@comcast.net](mailto:edmolyneaux@comcast.net)

Jo A.S. Loss (incumbent): [jasloss@aol.com](mailto:jasloss@aol.com)

Tojo Thomas: [www.tojo2016.com](http://www.tojo2016.com)

Lavender Whitaker: [www.whitakerforcv.com](http://www.whitakerforcv.com)

### Local Tax Measures

Hayward Measure EE: [www.hayward-ca.gov/your-government/elections/ballot-measures](http://www.hayward-ca.gov/your-government/elections/ballot-measures)

Hayward Area Recreation District Measure F1: [www.haywardrec.org/664/Measure-F1](http://www.haywardrec.org/664/Measure-F1)

Alameda County Affordable Housing Bond Measure A1:

<https://www.acgov.org/board/housingbond.htm>



### DATES TO REMEMBER

October 10: Early Voting begins

October 24: Last Day to Register to Vote for this election

November 1: Last day to request a Vote by Mail Ballot

### DID YOU KNOW?

You can turn in your ballot at the Ballot Dropbox at Hayward City Hall! No postage necessary.



You can request assistance with voting at:

Hayward City Clerk office, 777 B Street, Hayward, 94541

Or

Alameda County Registrar of Voters Office, 1225 Fallon St, Rm. G-1, Oakland, 94612

“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”

-President Franklin D. Roosevelt



# VOTE