



# 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

*Event Calendar* All events are held at Shir Ami, unless otherwise indicated.

Find up-to-the-minute event details at Shir Ami's website, [www.congshirami.org/monthly-calendar](http://www.congshirami.org/monthly-calendar)

June 2, 3 & 4: Interfaith Activities with First Presbyterian Church of Hayward, See flier				
Fri.	Jun.	2	6:45 pm	Drop-in Orientation to Synagogue and Service, at Shir Ami
Fri.	Jun.	2	7:30 pm	Welcoming Shabbat/Shavuot Service, at Shir Ami. Led by Diana Zankowsky
Sat.	Jun.	3	10:00 am	Joint Adult Education: Jewish and Presbyterian approaches to study holy text & 10 commandments, non-religious childcare available. See flier
Sun.	Jun.	4	10:00 am	Inclusive Service at First Presbyterian Church of Hayward. See flier
Sun.	Jun.	4	12:00 pm	End-of-Year Potluck and Annual Membership Meeting. See flier
Fri.	Jun.	16	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service, led by Jessica Leash
Tue.	Jun.	24	7:30 pm	Rosh Chodesh Tamuz, check email for details or contact Jan, <a href="mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org">sisterhood@congshirami.org</a>
Fri.	Jul.	7	4:00 pm	Shabbat Service at Camp Newman. See flier
Sat.	Jul.	8	12:00 pm	Castro Valley Pride. Volunteers requested. <a href="mailto:socialaction@congshirami.org">socialaction@congshirami.org</a>
Fri.	Jul.	14	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service, led by Barbara-Ann Lewis and Tyler Dean
Fri.	Jul.	28	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service, led by Jan Dombrower and Harriet Skelly
Thur.	Aug.	3	7:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting. Open to the public
Fri.	Aug.	4	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service, led by Bryan Zive
Tue.	Aug.	15	7:00 pm	Oakland A's Jewish Heritage Night. Reservations due by July 15. See flier
Fri.	Aug.	25	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service, led by Diana Zankowsky

This bulletin is a June/July issue. Look to your email for weekly updates. Changes will be sent by email and you can also find up-to-the-minute event details at Shir Ami's website, [www.congshirami.org/monthly-calendar](http://www.congshirami.org/monthly-calendar)

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SLATE

On Sunday, June 4, at the Annual Membership Meeting, Shir Ami will vote on our 2017-2018 board. Following is the slate for Board of Directors and Proposed Dues.

President	Sara Lamnin
Vice-President	Mike Kasin
Secretary	Marlene Lamnin
Treasurer-Receivables	Vicky Sapper
Treasurer-Payables	Jon Zimmerman
Trustee	Toni Schulberg
Trustee	Harriet Skelly
Trustee	Melanie Einbund
Member-at-Large	Lina Teferi
Member-at-Large	Ruth Hartman

Building and Grounds Committee Chair	Milt Palmer
Core Committee Chair	Mike Kasin
Communications Committee Chair	Harriet Skelly
Finance Committee Chair	Jon Zimmerman
Lifelong Learning Committee Chair	Valerie Goldman
Membership Committee Chair	Barbara Heimowitz
Men's Club President	Art Liskewicz
Religious Committee Co-Chair	Diana Zankowsky
Religious Committee Co-Chair	David Schulberg
School Committee Co-Chair	Rick Goldhoff
School Committee Co-Chair	Jane Steele
Sisterhood President	Jan Dombrower Chimpky
Social Action Committee Chair	Julie Greenfield

### PROPOSED DUES:

The Shir Ami Board recommends a 10% increase of annual dues for the coming year in order to make income better align with anticipated expenses. This translates to single member dues of \$743/year (an increase of \$68) and family member dues of \$1,485/year (an increase of \$135).

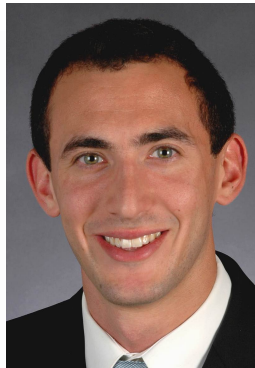
In addition, we also decided to commensurately raise our 1st year and 2nd year new member rates to \$250/\$500 [single/family] and \$500/\$1000 [single/family], respectively. The previous 2nd year rates of \$400/\$600 (all-inclusive) will still apply to existing members. The new 1st and 2nd year rates will only apply to members who join next year.

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## 2017-2018 RABBINIC INTERNS SAM KLEIN AND MIRA WELLER

### Sam Klein

Sam is beginning his journey to become a rabbi at HUC-JIR and just finished his first year in Jerusalem as part of the program. He grew up in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois where his father was the rabbi of the local Reform congregation for nearly two decades. Throughout the years, Sam has been highly involved Jewishly, attending the URJ camp OSRUI for several years and went on to lead his temple's NFTY youth group and Hillel in college (Cornell University) as President for the Reform movement on campus. While in Israel studying at HUC-JIR, Sam participated in the Shalom Hartman Institute and a rabbinical internship with the Reform community of Be'er Sheva. This summer he will be a lead educator for NFTY in Israel, guiding teens in the Reform youth movement across Europe and Israel. He is very much looking forward to joining Congregation Shir Ami this August!



Rabbi Sam Klein  
[rabbi.sam@congshirami.org](mailto:rabbi.sam@congshirami.org)

### Mira Weller

Mira Weller is a student of HUC's rabbinical school and the Ziegler School of Jewish Nonprofit Management. A Southern California native, she trained as a child in viola, violin and piano performance. She is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service ('12) in Washington, D.C. where she studied Culture, Politics and Foreign Service and played endless chamber music. She has served both as an educator and curriculum builder for University Synagogue's religious school in West Los Angeles since graduation, as well as a music teacher and performer. In 2015, she was awarded the Kathryn Davis Peace Fellowship for her work in conflict mediation and peace building across the Jewish community. Excited to share this sacred connection between Jewish worship, music and community, she looks forward to joining Congregation Shir Ami in the fall.



Rabbi Mira Weller  
[rabbi.mira@congshirami.org](mailto:rabbi.mira@congshirami.org)

## SCHOOL NOTES

May was a joyous month for Shir Ami. We celebrated two students reading from the Torah for the first time. Rabbi Bryan officiated as Gaby Lewis became Bat Mitzvah on May 6th and Rabbi Liora officiated as Sean Lange became Bar Mitzvah on May 20th. Gaby and Sean each chanted Torah and Haftarah wonderfully and then shared with us how the words of Torah are still relevant today. Their families were beaming with pride. Mazel Tov, Gaby! Mazel Tov, Sean!

## ROSH CHODESH

**On Tuesday, June 24, we will bring in the new month of Tamuz.** Details will be sent by email.

## SISTERHOOD/ROSH CHODESH

Interested in Sisterhood events?  
**Contact** Jan Dombrower Chimpky at [sisterhood@congshirami.org](mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org)



## A'S BASEBALL

**Tuesday, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.**

Hello Shir Ami Oakland A's (and baseball-in-general) fans,

It is time once again to mark your calendars for a fun night out at the ballpark in Oakland!

I have reserved 70 tickets from our JHN representative for the game, which will be...

Date: Tuesday, August 15th

Opponent: A's vs. KC Royals

Cost: \$29

Seating: Sec 128, Rows 27-34, 3rd base side, in the shade!

Swag: An A's JHN Beanie! For those chilly October Playoff games!

Parking: FREE!

Gates open at 4:30 PM for viewing of A's batting practice! New this year!

JHN activities begin at 5:30 PM in the East Side room, 7:05 game time.

The A's require that we commit for all tickets by July 15th; I will need YOUR commitment by that date! Fred Zankowsky [fredzsky@yahoo.com](mailto:fredzsky@yahoo.com) or 510-290-5743.

## RABBINIC ORDINATIONS

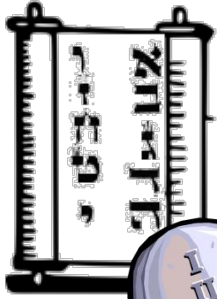


The Zankowskys, Skellys & Schulbergs were honored to witness the ordination of two of our former student rabbis: Rabbi Benj Fried who was with us from 2013-2015 and Rabbi Aaron Sataloff who was with us from 2012-2013. Rabbi Benj will be the new Rabbi Educator at Temple Emanu-El in San Diego and Rabbi Aaron will be the sole rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in Macon, Georgia. We wish them much luck and joy as they travel down their rabbinic paths.



## WELCOMING SHABBAT JUNE 2, 3 & 4

### WELCOMING SHABBAT/SABBATH SERVICES



Congregation Shir Ami, a Reform Jewish Congregation, welcomes First Presbyterian Church of Hayward in a weekend of learning, worship, and interfaith exchange.



Join in to meet our Castro Valley neighbors and celebrate Shavuot – the time of receiving the Ten Commandments.

Everyone is welcome to attend all events.



**Friday, June 2 at Congregation Shir Ami**

4529 Malabar Ave, Castro Valley

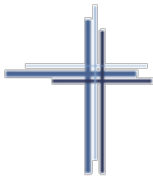
6:45 to 7:15 pm – Drop-in orientation of synagogue & service

7:30 pm – Shavuot Shabbat service, followed by oneg (refreshments)



**Saturday, June 3 at Congregation Shir Ami**

10am-12pm – Joint Adult Education session regarding how our faiths approach study of the holy texts and a discussion of the Ten Commandments from various perspectives.



9:30a-12:30p Non-religious Childcare is available for Shir Ami and First Pres participants at First Presbyterian Church



**Sunday, June 4 at First Presbyterian Church of Hayward**

2490 Grove Way, Castro Valley

10:00 am – Inclusive Sunday service

For more information, call (510) 432-7703  
or e-mail: [ledorvdor@yahoo.com](mailto:ledorvdor@yahoo.com) or [laurel@firstpreshayward](mailto:laurel@firstpreshayward)

# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 4, 12 NOON

**Facility Possibilities! Dues! Accomplishments! Next Year's Board! And More!**

***Come to the Annual Meeting and Potluck  
Share your insights and catch up with fellow members.***



**Sunday, June 4  
12pm-3pm**

***Childcare will be provided during the meeting for those children who do not wish to participate in the discussion.***

## **Please bring a potluck dish to share**

**Tentative agenda:**

**12-1pm Potluck and Schmooze**

**1pm-2:30pm Annual Meeting**

**Review of the 2016-2017 year**

***Accomplishments***

***Capital and Operating Expenditures***

**Board of Directors for 2017-18**

***Presentation of the Slate***

***Nominations from the Floor & Vote***

**Finances for 2017-18**

***Budget***

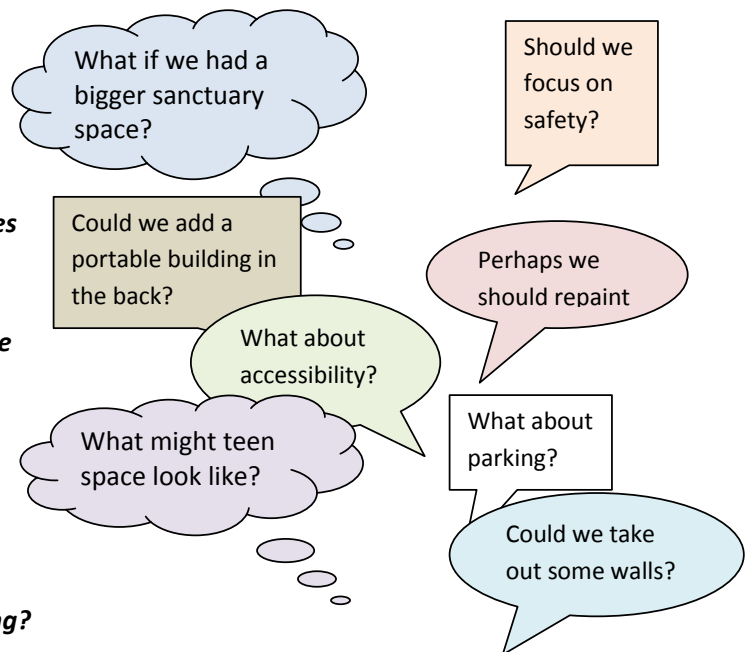
***Dues***

**Building Priorities and Strategy**

***What have we heard?***

***What do we know?***

***What is your dream for the building?***



**Help Envision Your Shir Ami**

# MESSAGE FROM THE CORE COMMITTEE

Reprinted from the May bulletin

Shalom!

The Jewish calendar highlights multiple new years (Rosh Hashanah, Tu BiSh'vat, Pesach...)

So it is with Shir Ami. We not only celebrate all the Jewish New Year holidays and our secular New Year, but we also follow a fiscal year. As we near the end of our fiscal year (June 30) and plan for the next, it's time to reflect on our financial status.

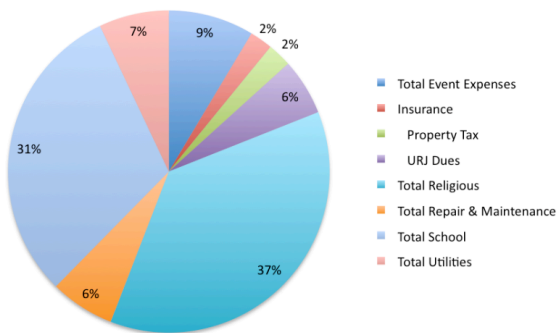
As you can see from the data below, there are costs to keeping our Congregation served and supported. Through your generous contributions during the year (dues, donations, in-kind support, recognitions) and tight fiscal management by the Board, we've managed for several years to keep Shir Ami's vibrant operations, which serve about 130 people each year, within our budget. Additionally, this past year, we've begun to address some of the safety issues in our 100+ year-old facility. To do that, we've accessed some of our reserves.

As our membership has grown, so has our programming. In the past, we would usually have offered only one or two activities on a Rabbinic Weekend. Now, not only do we have a variety of activities on a Rabbinic Weekend, but we also provide education, movies, brunches, community exploration and volunteering, and social events during the time between Rabbinic visits.

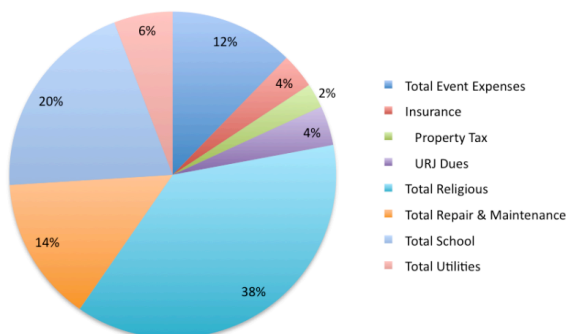
At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, we will talk about our successes, vote for the Board of Directors, and review our increasing costs. We will also review our dues, which have remained fixed over the past five years.

We will envision possible changes to our lovely home. Our growth over the past few years has been welcome and wonderful. We are glad to have members of all ages, including singles and couples, as well as our families. At the same time, we now find that our potlucks and services have gotten rather cramped. Our expanding school and Tot Talk programs serve more than 2 dozen children. We regularly have more than 40 people at a service and 50-60 at other events. How can we make our home work better for us? The Annual Meeting is a chance to connect, relax, review, discuss, and dream. See you there!

**FY12 Expenses**



**FY17 Expenses (Projected)**



	A	B	C	D
1	Congregation Shir Ami			
2	Budget Multi-Year Comparison			
3		FY12 Actuals	FY17 Projections	FY18 Budget
4	<b>Income</b>			<b>DRAFT</b>
11	Total Donations	\$ 7,368.00	\$ 4,910.00	\$ 3,300.00
17	Total Dues and Fees	\$ 43,905.00	\$ 56,231.50	\$ 60,315.00
29	Total Event Income	\$ 10,691.00	\$ 16,877.00	\$ 16,777.00
34	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 63,061.30</b>	<b>\$ 80,860.50</b>	<b>\$ 81,252.00</b>
35				
36	<b>Expenses</b>			
41	<b>Event Expenses</b>			
50	Total High Holidays	\$ 2,984.88	\$ 6,649.35	\$ 5,350.00
54	<b>Total Event Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,789.46</b>	<b>\$ 9,140.79</b>	<b>\$ 7,700.00</b>
55	Insurance	1,278.89	2,570.00	2,670.00
60	<b>Operations</b>			
64	Property Tax	1,344.38	1,811.74	1,900.00
68	URJ Dues	3,149.17	2,907.00	3,000.00
69	<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>\$ 5,930.93</b>	<b>\$ 6,099.86</b>	<b>\$ 6,700.00</b>
80	<b>Total Religious</b>	<b>\$ 20,530.88</b>	<b>\$ 27,993.99</b>	<b>\$ 29,871.28</b>
81	<b>Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>			
88	Total Gardening	\$ 685.00	\$ 4,383.03	\$ 3,050.00
93	<b>Total Repair &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 3,612.12</b>	<b>\$ 10,703.03</b>	<b>\$ 10,750.00</b>
106	<b>Total School</b>	<b>\$ 17,006.70</b>	<b>\$ 15,017.97</b>	<b>\$ 17,036.50</b>
115	<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$ 3,915.25</b>	<b>\$ 4,336.57</b>	<b>\$ 4,672.00</b>
117	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 58,388.80</b>	<b>\$ 79,743.79</b>	<b>\$ 85,324.78</b>
118	<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,672.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,116.71</b>	<b>\$ (4,072.77)</b>
119				
120	<b>Other Income</b>			
121	In Kind Contributions - Income		1,000.00	1,000.00
122	<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
123	<b>Other Expenses</b>			
124	In Kind Contributions A - Expense		1,000.00	1,000.00
125	<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
126	<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

Please note that the data listed above are summary categories intended to illustrate changes over time. As such, the numbers are not inclusive of all income and costs. Therefore, the total categories should be taken at their value rather than a sum of the items above.

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## **June and July 2017 Yahrzeit List**

### **June 2, 2017**

Ted Balmforth,	son-in-law of Ann Blank
George Berenstein,	father of Judy Ganz
Sarah Blank,	mother-in-law of Ann Blank
Lilian Theil Black,	mother of Melanie Einbund
Debra Blum,	mother of Jeff Blum
Sheila Frey,	mother of Bonnie Frey
Doris Greenfield,	mother of Julie Greenfield
Samuel Manton Theil,	grandfather of Melanie Einbund
Robert Levinson	

### **June 16, 2017**

Jerry Becker	
Francis Johnson,	
Sam Blank,	husband of Ann Blank
Robert Krantz,	father of Sam Krantz
Jacob (Jack) Ross,	father of David Ross

### **July 14, 2017**

Rose Levine,	founding member of Shir Ami
Deborah Mitchell,	mother of Helen Markus
Irwin Martin Mitchell,	father of Helen Markus
Alyce Nasatir,	mother of Cary Nasatir
Steven Slavin,	friend of Nate Einbund
David Teferi,	husband of Lina Teferi

### **July 28, 2017**

Fred Rosener,	
Frances Wolch,	
Hans Schwarzenberger,	father of Barbara Heimowitz

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

Bernard Jadeson,	father of David Jadeson
Selma Edelstein,	mother of Joan Edelstein
Les Golembo,	brother of Sharon Golembo
Marvin Schuelke,	father of Susan Spitzer

## CAMP NEWMAN INVITES SHIR AMI TO SHABBAT, JULY 7



URJ Camp Newman  
invites you for a  
magical Shabbat with  
your congregation!

Friday  
Jul 7, 2017  
4pm - 9pm



Join your friends & community for a Camp Newman  
Shabbat! Festivities include a reception with our  
Camp Directors, Shabbat dinner, singing and dancing!

Please register for your visit at:  
[CampNewman.org/summer-camp/visitors](http://CampNewman.org/summer-camp/visitors)

*Parents: You are welcome to visit camp on almost any Shabbat this summer with one exception: you may not have a child/grandchild/relative who is a camper at camp during your visit because it causes homesickness and issues within the cabin. Thank you!*

Located at URJ Camp Newman  
4088 Porter Creek Rd., Santa Rosa





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## **TUESDAY, AUGUST 15**

### **Oakland A's vs Kansas City Royals**

Game Starts at 7:05 PM

Gates Open at 4:30 PM for A's batting practice

Activities Begin at 5:30 PM



Pre-game events are in the Eastside Club

A sandwich and a drink are included.

Take home an A's Jewish Heritage Night Beanie for those chilly October Playoff Games!

Free Parking Tuesday!

For more information:

[Oakland Athletics Jewish Heritage Night](#)

To reserve your tickets, call Fred Zankowsky at

510-290-5743 or email [fredzsky@yahoo.com](mailto:fredzsky@yahoo.com)

Ticket prices are \$29.00 each and payable by a check made out to Fred



## A TRIBUTE TO OUR BULLETIN EDITOR

### ROSE FIRESTONE

*“Caring, loving, artistic, creative, patient, dedicated, diligent”.  
These traits immediately come to my mind when I think of  
Rose.*

In 2010 when I became President of Shir Ami, I needed to give up my job as Editor of the bulletin. The Editor position was no small task. Rose was willing to take on this job – she had some big ideas for the bulletin! She knew how to make it look professional, easy to read and easy to find the information members look for. Behind the scenes there are quite a lot of details, coordination and sometimes pulling of teeth to get contributors to get their information in on time so the bulletin would always be ready at the beginning of the month. She was so patient! Her attention to detail and her creativity are top-notch.

In addition to being the bulletin Editor, Rose was a co-chair of the communications committee with Ruth Hartman and me. Again, I found Rose so easy to work with and she (and Ruth) actually made it fun for me to work on process and documentation – not something I really enjoy doing!

Rose, most of all, I thank you for being YOU! I will miss you very much – even though you moved away we stayed in touch through the bulletin and retreat. I promise to stay in touch even though you will no longer be the Editor.

With much love,  
Harriet

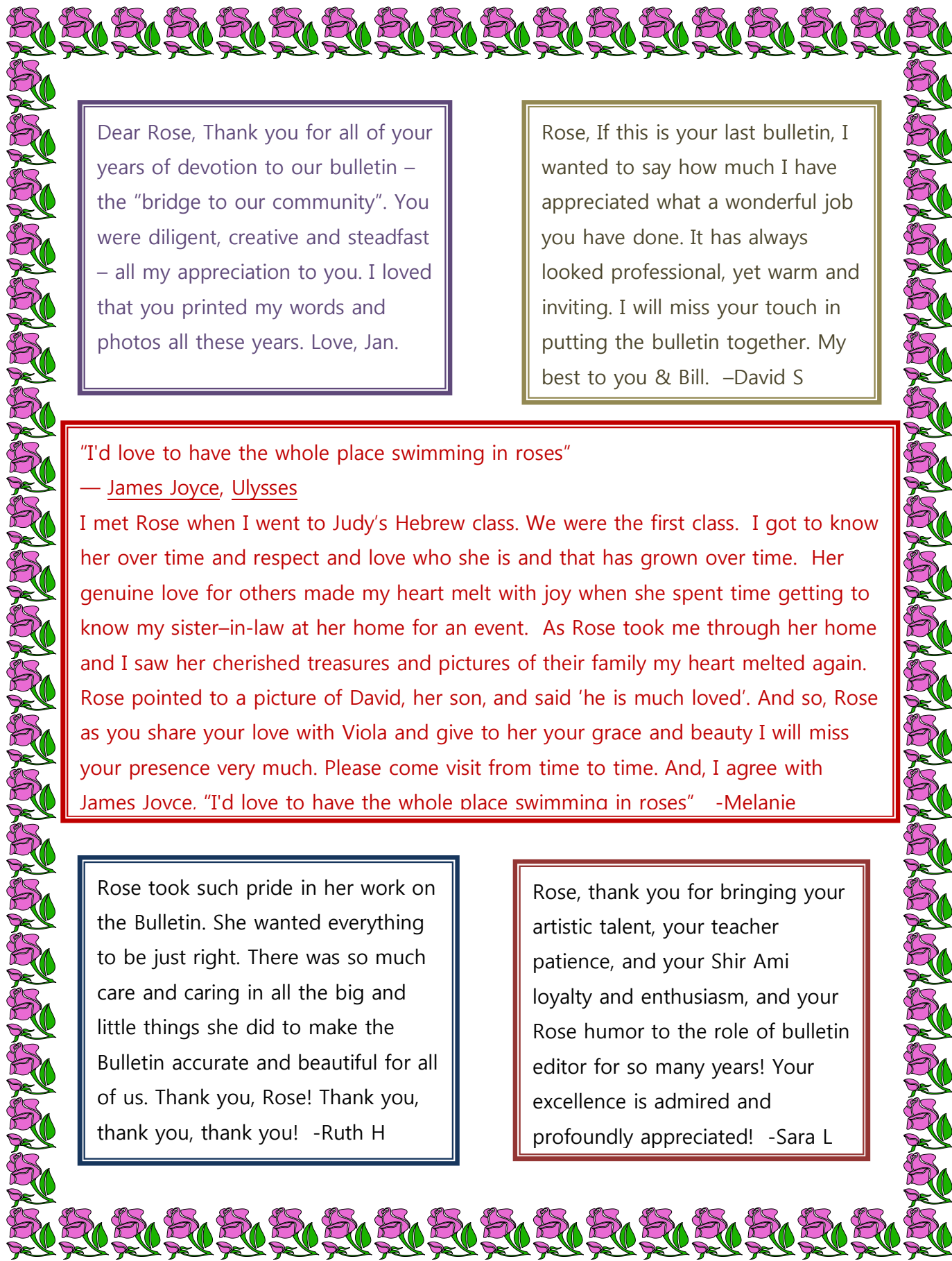


PS: I'm not the only one who noticed what an amazing job you do. On this page and the next are thoughts from others who are thinking about you!

*You've done such a great  
job with the bulletin for so  
many years. I love you and  
will miss you. xxx -Toni*

**BUT WAIT... THERE'S MORE...**

Rose, I will miss your great  
creativity and beautiful prose in our  
bulletin. Thank you for all of your  
dedication and hard work in  
bringing us temple news. Love you  
Rose! -Sharon



Dear Rose, Thank you for all of your years of devotion to our bulletin – the “bridge to our community”. You were diligent, creative and steadfast – all my appreciation to you. I loved that you printed my words and photos all these years. Love, Jan.

Rose, If this is your last bulletin, I wanted to say how much I have appreciated what a wonderful job you have done. It has always looked professional, yet warm and inviting. I will miss your touch in putting the bulletin together. My best to you & Bill. –David S

“I’d love to have the whole place swimming in roses”

— James Joyce, Ulysses

I met Rose when I went to Judy’s Hebrew class. We were the first class. I got to know her over time and respect and love who she is and that has grown over time. Her genuine love for others made my heart melt with joy when she spent time getting to know my sister-in-law at her home for an event. As Rose took me through her home and I saw her cherished treasures and pictures of their family my heart melted again. Rose pointed to a picture of David, her son, and said ‘he is much loved’. And so, Rose as you share your love with Viola and give to her your grace and beauty I will miss your presence very much. Please come visit from time to time. And, I agree with James Jovce. “I’d love to have the whole place swimmina in roses” -Melanie

Rose took such pride in her work on the Bulletin. She wanted everything to be just right. There was so much care and caring in all the big and little things she did to make the Bulletin accurate and beautiful for all of us. Thank you, Rose! Thank you, thank you, thank you! -Ruth H

Rose, thank you for bringing your artistic talent, your teacher patience, and your Shir Ami loyalty and enthusiasm, and your Rose humor to the role of bulletin editor for so many years! Your excellence is admired and profoundly appreciated! -Sara L

One final tribute submission:

"An editor's job is so difficult: achieving a united voice from disparate contributors; creating content when there is none; keeping everyone to a schedule; and you've done all this and more with grace, calm and wit. I will miss working with you as I've already missed you in so many activities that used to be easy for you to attend. Enjoy your country life and please come visit."

Love,  
Diana

Dear Shir Ami Congregants—

The June/July Bulletin is the last Bulletin I will be editing. My plan was to disappear quietly as editor when this edition was completed. Then I received the 2 page submission, *TRIBUTE to Rose Firestone*, to be included in this issue of the bulletin. Awkward! I considered simply not including the *TRIBUTE* (I **am** the editor and it was, after all, received after the “due date” for content submissions) but that action ran against my practice of including content submissions whenever possible. And frankly, I was touched by the sentiments. Thank you.

Shir Ami is a remarkable community of loving, caring, generous, intelligent and knowledgeable individuals who come together synergistically to create this magical small synagogue in Castro Valley. The entire community makes this magic happen and if you think I might be referring to you, as part of this, you're right. I *do* mean you. All of you.

Bill and I are happy we moved to El Dorado County. Bill calls our home his “castle” and we love our life with the trees, sky, clouds, sunrises, sunsets, wildlife and our family. We seem to finally be keeping the deer out of our 30+ tree orchard. Yea! (we fixed the 8' high fence). Our granddaughter, V., our main reason for moving here, turns two this week and she's delightful.

Still, I miss Shir Ami and the wonderful people we have grown to love. Stay in touch.

May you be blessed with continuing joy.

love,  
Rose Firestone