



CONGREGATION
SHIR AMI

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism Congregations
May, 2009



May 1	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Matt Dreffin	May 17	School – Preschool through Confirmation; End of Year party- 11:30 AM, Annual Congregation Meeting – 12:30 PM
May 2	Havdalah, Israel Today Slide Presentation & Israeli Movie – 7 PM	May 26	Rosh Chodesh – 7:30 PM
May 3	School – Preschool through Confirmation	May 29	Shavuot , Confirmation, and Teen Grad Shabbat Services – 8 PM; Led by Diana Zankowsky
May 10	School – K through Confirmation	June 12	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by - TBD
May 15	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by Suzy Stone	Jun 22	Sisterhood End of year BBQ – 7:00 PM
May 16	Adult Ed – 3:30 PM	Jun 26	Shabbat Services – 8 PM Led by TBD

President's Message

Ruth Hartman

Dear Shir Ami members and friends,

Your Board members have been thinking about how to make volunteering at Shir Ami—whether as a member of the Board, on a committee, or by handling a specific task—more fun and satisfying. All of us in this community care deeply about our synagogue, but most of us have other passions as well and are trying to find balance in our lives. Meanwhile, Shir Ami needs each of us to share in the work of keeping our community vibrant and thriving.

As part of our effort to improve the quality of the volunteer experience, we are experimenting with having people take on roles in pairs. Each pair can discuss their respective talents and interests and agree on how they will share the work. They can encourage each other's creative ideas. They can follow up with each other to help keep projects on track. And in some cases, the more experienced member of the team can coach the newer person to be her/his eventual replacement.

Here are some current examples of the Shir Ami “buddy system” in action:

- Co-Treasurers: Toni Schulberg (receivables) and Maryann Leshin (payables)
- Religious Committee co-chairs: David Schulberg and Diana Zankowsky
- Membership Committee co-chairs: Barbara Heimowitz and Danielle Keil
- Social Action committee co-chairs: Sara Lamnin and Daryl Berman
- Webmasters: David Schulberg and Bruce Skelly

In addition, longtime Shir Ami member Julie Greenfield has agreed to join the Board in the role of First Vice President. I will continue to be President for one more year, during which Julie and I will work closely together. Next year, Julie will take on the very fulfilling role of Shir Ami President, and I will shift to being her support person.

We have one more new partnership to tell you about. Barb Haber will be joining the wonderful Jodi Blum as Religious School co-Director for the coming year. Running our school is a very big job, and we are very fortunate that Jodi has been willing to do it “solo” for the past three years. She has done a great job. Going forward, teaming with Barb's smarts, passion, and energy will be a great plus for Jodi and for the program.

Thank you to our Nominating Committee, Barb Haber, Jan Dombrower, and Julie Greenfield, for their thoughtful outreach in developing this year's Board slate (listed in this Bulletin). Thank you to our current and incoming Board members for their dedicated service. And I particularly want to thank Bruce Carter, who is leaving the Board after many years of service, including a turn as President.

I look forward to seeing all our members on Sunday, May 17 for our annual End-of-the-School-Year Potluck (11:30) and Annual Membership Meeting (12:30).

Ruth

Rabbis' Corner

Matt Dreffin

Suzy Stone

Without looking below, take a moment and think of the 7 most important events in Jewish History. Your list might look something like this:

- 1) God's call to Abraham
- 2) Exodus from Egypt (and subsequent revelation in the desert)
- 3) The building/destruction of the First Temple
- 4) The building/destruction of the Second Temple
- 5) The Spanish Inquisition/Expulsion
- 6) Ha'Shoah
- 7) Establishment of the State of Israel.

These last two events are remarkable in that they have occurred within some of our lifetimes. David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, noted that when the Knesset declared Yom Ha'Atzma'ut a public Holiday in 1949, it was the first time such an event was added to the Jewish Calendar in approximately 2000 years.

In the fall, we celebrate the Religious High Holy Days. In the spring, we mark the so-called "secular" High Holy Days: Yom Ha'shoah, Yom Ha'Zikaron, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut. The way in which the people of Israel commemorate these holidays is almost as remarkable as the events themselves. For both Yom Ha'Shoah and Yom Ha'Zikaron, a siren is sounded in the morning to commemorate the memories of those lost in the Holocaust and in defense of the state. The ENTIRE country stops at the same moment to mark these sacred times.

While a week separates Yom Ha'Shoah from Yom Ha'Zikaron, there is no break between Israel's Memorial Day and Independence Day. Much like Passover moves from slavery to redemption, Israel commemorates the lives of those that died to build the state before they celebrate the country's existence. Solemn reverence is replaced by things we're very familiar with for our own Independence Day: concerts, Bar-B-Q's and those all-important fireworks.

Much like Israel, our Memorial Day also falls in the month of May, but the Israelis seem to place a different sort of reverence upon it. Maybe it's because the Israeli is so close to the violence. Maybe it is because every Israeli can relate. Here in the United States, we commemorate our Servicemen and women in a different way. We think of the day off we're going to enjoy as if it were the Fourth of July.

I think it's important we take a lesson from our Israeli brethren. We will have our time to celebrate our country's independence, but for now we need to recognize the men and women of our military in the proper way. Take some time on this Memorial Day to properly recognize those that deserve it. It is important that we let those abroad and at home know that we appreciate and respect what they do to ensure the liberties that we so freely enjoy.

Shalom v'simcha l'culam.

Peace and happiness to all.

Matt

We'd like to hear from you

Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in Los Angeles is the graduate school that our student rabbis attend. The school, in the interests of helping our students learn and grow while at their student pulpits, has asked us to provide regular, written feedback to the students and their advisors. That means that they want to hear from us after EVERY visit by each of the student rabbis. Diana Zankowsky has taken on the job of Lay Advisor and she will collect and convey that feedback. Please communicate both positive and corrective feedback to Diana, (at dzankowsky@aol.com) no later than Tuesday after a rabbi's visit. Thank you in advance for contributing to our student rabbis' educations.

Sunday School

May 3rd Preschool to Confirmation- Rabbi Suzy

May 10th K to Confirmation

May 17th Preschool to Confirmation-Rabbi Suzy

May 17th End of Year Party and Potluck

The Education Committee met twice in April to plan for next year. Among other topics, we discussed ways to strengthen curriculum at all grade levels. Thanks to Rabbi Suzy for making time to meet with us on April 11 and facilitating a very useful brainstorming session about three kinds of learning: Affective, Behavioral, and Cognitive.

Suzy and Matt will be helping us over the summer by identifying curriculum resources available at the Hebrew Union College to support thematic studies in our classrooms next year.

Please join us on Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 for our annual End-of-the-School-Year potluck. We'll be presenting certificates to the children and honoring our teachers. The annual membership meeting will follow at 12:30. Your presence is very important!

Yours,

Jodi Switzer Blum

Adult Education

Diana Zankowsky

Adult Education

In May, Congregation Shir Ami will continue to offer several different adult education classes and gatherings.

Saturday, May 2nd, Shir Ami will bring you the last Havdalah and Movie until next fall. Please come and watch "The Stars of Shlomi" (*Ha'Kochavim Shel Shlomi*). Shlomi is a 17-year-old boy who has unwittingly become the most important member of his household -- with his mildly-paranoid father divorced from his mother. Shlomi looks after his aging grandfather, cooks the meals, keeps tabs on his brother, and tries to keep the house clean. With so much going on, Shlomi doesn't have much time for (or interest in) his schoolwork. This film, a comedy, nominated for 12 Israeli Academy Awards, will tell a story of the Israeli family and how with the power of love, the sky's the limit. The movie will follow Havdalah which begins at 7pm Saturday, May 2.

Rabbinic Intern Suzy Stone will be here on May 16th and will lead a study of Parashat Behar-Bechukotai beginning at 3:30 pm at the synagogue.



Judy Ganz continues to teach the weekly "Learning Hebrew through Prayer" class, for those who already have basic literacy skills. Please contact Judy at jbganz@aol.com if you are interested in joining.

Our on-going monthly class for adults interested in conversion to Judaism will continue to meet on Saturdays. Contact Diana Zankowsky, dzankowsky@aol.com, for more information or if you are interested in joining.

Sisterhood/Rosh Chodesh Group

Jan Dombrower



Sisterhood:

Last month's Rosh Chodesh we had the countdown...."From Ruin to Renewal." We welcomed the new moon and the new month of Iyar at Anthony Chabot Regional Park on Thurs. 4/23. We gathered at a campsite and enjoyed a delicious picnic dinner of Israeli food. We discussed the many holidays in the new month and their significance. These included Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), Yom HaAtzmaut (Israeli Independence Day), Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day), Yom Yerushalayin (Day of Jerusalem) Pesach Sheni (Second Passover) and Lag B'omer. We also talked about counting the Omer and also had inspirational words about not just "counting the days and counting our blessings" but also making each day and all of our blessings count! We shared that Iyar is often a month of healing, learning, telling, and new discoveries.

We concluded with the warmth of a campfire (bonfires are a tradition on Lag B' Omer) and of course S'mores. Thank you to Sharon Golembo who was the hostess, organizer, and inspiration for this creative and unique Rosh Chodesh.

Next Month's Rosh Chodesh will be on Tuesday, May 26th at 7:30. Hosted by Joan Hirschberg, we will have a Falafel party!! We will bring in the month of Sivan and prepare for Shavuot. Please mark your calendars for this fun gathering and bring your appetites for Falafel and cheese cake. Watch your email for final details as the date gets closer. We will want an RSVP for those who plan to attend.

Our last Sisterhood gathering will be on Monday, June 22 at 7:00pm for our annual end of year bar-b-que held at Deerview Park on Columbia Drive in Castro Valley. Stay tuned for more to come on this bar-b-que pot luck.

The Community Page

May, 2009

Yahrzheits:

May 1 , 2009

Keith Carter, brother of Bruce Carter
Harriet Cohn, grandmother of Ruth Hartman
Gordon Greenfield, father of Julie Greenfield
Harold Small, uncle of Toni Schulberg and former member of Shir Ami

May 15 , 2009

Morris Berman, father of Daryl Berman
Hyman Abraham Rebotsky, grandfather of Jonathan Zimmerman
Harriet Troy, mother of Nancy Storch

May 29, 2009

Sarah Blank, mother of Sam Blank
Arthur Kramer, father of Marion Kramer
Robert Levinson, lay leader of Shir Ami for many years

Kaddish List: (to be read at all services in May)

Jack Skelly, father of Bruce Skelly
Jean Skelly, mother of Bruce Skelly
Bridget Laky, past president & long time former member of Shir Ami
Zac Cohen, long time member of Shir Ami
Lazarus Lewis, father of Peter Lewis
Sheila Arthur, long time former member of Shir Ami

May their memory be a blessing...

Ever wonder how the names read out loud for Yahrzeit and Kaddish at Friday night services get on that list? If you are a member of Shir Ami, and want a personal reminder for the Yahrzeit of a loved one, just send Toni Schulberg the following information: the name of the deceased; the relationship of that person to the member of Shir Ami; the full date (month, day, year) that person died; and whether you want to use the Hebrew or English calendar for their Yahrzeit (Toni will look up the Hebrew date for you). Questions? Call Toni at 278-1695 or e-mail her at yahrzeit@congshirami.org.

TODAH RABAH FOR THESE GENEROUS DONATIONS:

- From Irina and Alex Druker: in Memory of Vetya Druker at her Yahrzeit.
- From Bruce and Susan Carter: in Memory of Esther Carter and Matt Ganz at their Yahrzheits.
- From Judy Ganz: at the Yahrzheits of May and Sam Ganz
- From Bruce and Harriet Skelly in memory of Jean and Jack Skelly and at the Yahrzheit of Benjamin Halpern.
- From Jill and Bob Hartmann in memory of Jean and Jack Skelly.

A contribution to Shir Ami is a great way to honor, remember, or show appreciation for someone special. It's easy. Send a check and note to: Florrie Finkle. She will send a card to the person you are honoring and your dedication will appear on this page.

Thank you to our Oneg Hosts:

- April 10th: Nancy Storch
- April 24th: Maryann Leshin

Thank you to all who helped make the Community Seder a success!

- The Seder Committee was headed by Harriet Skelly and Maryann Leshin with much help from committee members Barbara Heimowitz and Toni Schulberg. In addition, many thanks go to the following (in no particular order) for their contributions of food, supplies, and time:
 - Jeff Blum, Angie Ross, Michelle Ross, Sophia Blum, Ruth Hartman, Jan Dombrower, Diana Zankowsky, Melanie Einbund, Barbara Haber, Rose Firestone, Matt Beckman, Kaitlin Beckman, Lexi Skelly, Bruce Skelly, Lilly Erickson
- The Shir Ami children had their own tables and crafts with teenage helpers.
- Our wonderful leaders were Rabbi Suzy and Cantor Rachel Brott.
- There were table discussions and sharing as to the importance of items on the Seder plate.
- It was a multi-media event to delight all the senses.
- Eighty-three people attended the Community Seder.

What's Nu?

- Congratulations to Sara Lamnin on her upcoming graduation from the Emerge California Program (www.emergeca.org). This program selects 25 women each year to learn the essentials of running for office. Sara met with local leaders, elected officials, and campaign experts and began to gather the tools to pursue a campaign for political office.
- Lola and her dad, Charlie Ridgell were in Mexico this month attending the opening of two art exhibits displaying the work of Lola's great grandmother and namesake, Lola Cueto (Charlie's grandmother).
- Congratulations to Shashana Markus and Hana Hartman, who will be Confirmed at Congregation Shir Ami on Friday, May 29 at 8 pm. Please join us for a very special Shabbat service that evening.
- Congratulations to our three graduating high school seniors: Lola Ridgell, Michelle Ross, and Lisa Carmack. Lola and Lisa will be attending San Francisco State University in the Fall. These three young women will also be honored as part of our Shabbat service on May 29.



**The Tzedakah Box
A Social Action Column**

Daryl Berman, Julie Greenfield, Sara Lamnin



KASHRUT - MORE THAN MEAT AND MILK

You shall not abuse a needy and destitute laborer, whether a fellow countryman or a stranger in one of the communities of your land. You must pay him wages on the same day, before the sun sets, for he is needy and he urgently depends on it.

Deuteronomy 24:14-15

Jewish tradition advocates employment with dignity and supports the right to employment with dignity. The Hekhsher Tzedek Campaign brings social justice standards to augment the existing regulations for kosher food production. The new symbol, which would be added to kosher food packages, is an “emanating” multi-layered Star of David. This new mark would indicate that the workers producing the kosher food receive adequate wages and benefits and that the company complies with environmental, corporate transparency, integrity, and employee health and safety standards. With the exception of transparency, which is considered a measure of trustworthiness, each of the other ethical certification areas represents a code within Jewish law.

The development of these standards follows investigation into kosher food factories and concerns regarding the working conditions and number of fines levied on particular companies. Started in 2007, Hekhsher Tzedek is a joint project of the Rabbinical Assembly and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Though the initiative, as well as the actual seal - the Magen Tzedek - the Hekhsher Tzedek commission will be responsible for credentialing manufacturing companies based on the aforementioned criteria. The Commission anticipates implementation of the Magen Tzedek by Rosh Hashannah this year. "By introducing Magen Tzedek, we are inviting the public to be a part of the conversation about kashrut, justice and Judaism," said Commission Co-Chair Jerold Jacobs. "Magen Tzedek draws together consumers of kosher food around the communal table to contemplate how to bring tzedek - justice - to the world."

"Our initiative has captured the hearts and minds of American Jews, reflecting deeply-held social and religious values," said Rabbi Morris Allen, creator and founder of the Hekhsher Tzedek initiative. "Magen Tzedek presents an opportunity to deepen one's observance of kashrut alongside social responsibility."

For more information about Hekhsher Tzedek, please call Shira Dicker at 917.403.3989 or visit www.hekshertzedek.org or www.pjalliance.org/article.aspx?ID=282&CID=1

*It is our pride and our glory that we are kind to those who work for us.
(Sefer HaChinukh 482)*

SOUTH HAYWARD STROLL



Saturday, May 16



1-4pm

Food

Fun

A Family Event

Take a “Stroll in the Park.” Join us in learning how to keep active, safe, and environmentally friendly. Check out new resources and services, play along with others in games, listen to music, and meet your neighbors.

Location: Tennyson Park on Panjon, Ruus, and Huntwood Road.
Behind Eden Youth and Family Center

Celebrate the diversity of our neighborhood; learn how you can make a change in your life, and much more!

MORE THAN 50 BOOTHS OF COMMUNITY INFORMATION!

Take a Walk on our Par Course- Exercise your body and mind

What are you interested in? Health, Safety, Support for Children and Families,
Nutrition, Changing Your Environment, Learning and Education, Jobs and Volunteer
Opportunities, Local Services

FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF FLOWERS TO ALL FESTIVITIES!

For more information, call Dave McKeown at (510) 887-1146
or email exedir@edenfamilyservices.org

Co-Sponsored by: South Hayward Neighborhood Collaborative, Hayward Area Recreation and Park District,
Eden Youth & Family Center, and La Familia Counseling Service

SHIR AMI BULLETIN BOARD



Israel Today

On **Saturday, May 2** there will be a short slide presentation and discussion following Havdalah, **7 PM**, and preceding the Israeli movie. Come and see what Israel looks like today.

CSUEB Jewish Studies Program Film Series

The following Wednesdays at 7 PM: May 6, May 13, May 20
CSUEB Hayward, Arts and Education Building
Admission is Free

Used Cell Phones Wanted

Barbara Heimowitz is still collecting used/old cell phones that you leave at Shir Ami to be sent in for cash. You can bring in your cell phones to Shir Ami anytime – just leave them in the box in the kitchen. Any questions? Please call Barbara.

Slate
Congregation Shir Ami 2009-2010 Board
To be voted at the Annual Membership Meeting
Sunday, May 17, 2009 at 12:30 PM at Shir Ami

President	Ruth Hartman
First Vice President	Julie Greenfield
Secretary	Harriet Skelly
Treasurer, Receivables	Toni Schulberg
Treasurer, Payables	Maryann Leshin
Membership Chair	Barbara Heimowitz
Religious Committee Co-Chair	David Schulberg
Religious Committee Co-Chair/ Trustee	Diana Zankowsky
School Co-Chair	Jodi Blum
School Co-Chair/Trustee	Barbara Haber
Building & Grounds Chair	Noah Markus
Member At Large	Bonnie Frey
Member At Large	Jon Zimmerman

Shir Ami Contacts

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Donations:

General Funds, Special Funds,
Wall Plaques
Florrie Finkle
<mailto:donations@congsHIRAMI.org>

Pareshot Acharei Mot (after the death <of Aaron's sons>) and Kedoshim (holiness)



And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corner of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleaning of thy harvest. And thou shalt not glean thy vineyards, neither shalt thou gather the fallen fruit of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and the stranger.

Shir Ami Services

Led by

Matt Dreffin

on

Friday, May 1st, 2009

Israel Independence Day, April 29th, 2009



Celebration of Israel Independence, Jerusalem, 2008



TV TC Midrasha's
MOST EXCELLENT OPEN HOUSE

and
BRING A BUD day

Sunday, May 3rd

7:15 to 9:15pm

I LOVE
MIDRASHA!

OMG! Don't miss this!

Bring your Jewish friends AND family!

ESPECIALLY ALL 7TH GRADERS!

Come experience what everyone's talking about!

3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton 925 549 1664

Pareshot Behar (on the mountain) and Bechukotai (if you keep)

On Mount Sinai the laws for the sabbatical year are given. The lord also said: "If ye walk in my statutes and keep my commandments, then I will give you rains in their season and the land shall yield her produce and the trees ...their fruit."



www.israelimon.org

Shir Ami Services Friday, May 15th at 8:00 PM

will be led by

Suzy Stone

This is the season's final Service before the Summer series begin

Friday 5/29/09 Confirmation (& teen grads) Service