



# CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

## June-July, 2010

June 3	7 PM	Board Meeting	Jul 11	Sisterhood Field Trip TBD
				
Jun 5	1 PM	Adult Ed led by Diana Zankowsky	Jul 23	8 PM Shabbat Services led by Julie Greenfield & Rose Levine
				
Jun 11	8 PM	Shabbat Services led by Diana Zankowsky and Senior graduation blessings	Aug 13	8 PM Shabbat Services led by Harriet Skelly & Rose Levine
				
Jun 12	8 PM	Havdalah & Movie Night	Aug 15	TBD Sisterhood Field Trip TBD
				
Jun 14	TBD	Rosh Chodesh End of Year BBQ	Aug 19	7 PM Board Meeting
				
Jun 25	8 PM	Shabbat Services led by Rachel Brott	Aug 21	8 PM Havdalah & Movie Night
				
Jul 9	8 PM	Shabbat Services led by Irene Gilchriese & Kaitlin Beckman	Aug 27	8 PM Shabbat Services led by Diana Zankowsky
				
Jul 10	8 PM	Havdalah & Movie Night	Aug 28	10AM Religious Committee Mtg
				

**President's Message**  
*Ruth Hartman*

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends,

I have loved being your President. I'm proud of the things we have accomplished together during these four years: strengthening our school and our teen programs, building a thriving adult ed program that includes adult Hebrew and a Conversion class, expanding our Passover Seder as a community-wide event, building stronger ties with our Jewish and non-Jewish neighbors, creating an events coordinator position and a volunteer appreciation Shabbat, developing strong new leadership, clarifying our identity and mission through a congregation-wide process to create a welcoming statement, trying out new approaches to fundraising, continuing to improve our financial tracking, investing in our building and in needed equipment, and more.

Even after belonging to three other synagogues around the East Bay, and after 10 years as a member of Shir Ami, I didn't really understand what a Jewish community could be until these past four years. I have learned a lot about how to value diversity of needs, perspectives, and personalities, how to navigate difficulties, and how to think strategically about an organization and move a group of people toward a set of shared goals.

I'm most grateful for how these four years have deepened my own Jewish identity and my personal faith. This experience has been a milestone in my lifelong quest to figure out what it means to be a Jewish woman.

I have felt deeply supported by every one of you. In particular, I appreciate your thoughtful support and care around my visual impairment. I do want to publicly thank Diana Zankowsky. When I was asked to take on being president, I told Diana that I would only agree to it if she would be my sidekick. Diana has listened to me, advised me, and occasionally even nudged me. Anyone who leads anything should have such a wise and steadfast friend and counselor.

Thank you for the opportunity to grow in so many ways. I am very much looking forward to supporting Harriet's leadership in the coming year(s).

With love,  
Ruth

## Congregation Shir Ami 2009-2010 Achievements and Milestones

- Developed welcome/mission statement for our Congregation
- Successful year of Religious School, including outreach Chanukah party and three special events in collaboration with neighboring synagogues
- Four students became B'nai Mitzvah
- Two teens Confirmed and two honored at Senior Grad blessing
- Entered into partnership with Temple Beth Sholom to merge our Religious Schools starting in Fall, 2010
- Provided camperships for our youth to attend Jewish summer camps
- Participated in regional NFTY youth group and events
- One teen went to Israel on Federation High School trip
- Many teens attending TV/TC Midrasha programs; Shir Ami serving on TV/TC Midrasha Board
- Presented on "Jews Around the World" at CVHS Days of Diversity
- Offered four series of successful adult ed classes
- Participated in press conference and photo exhibit in support of GLBT inclusion in the CVHS Days of Diversity program
- Mounted interfaith holiday display at the CV Public Library
- Attended regional URJ Small Congregations meeting and URJ Webinars on a variety of topics
- Participated in Martin Luther King day community observances
- Hosted successful interfaith Shabbat service
- Participating in South Hayward Parish as President and active member
- Held luncheon for Russian speaking members
- Held successful Labor Day BBQ and fundraiser
- Had outreach table at Castro Valley Fall Festival
- Participated in High Holiday food drive and collected funds for Haiti earthquake relief
- Hosted successful Tu B'Shevat and Passover Seders
- Held 14th annual sisterhood retreat and monthly Rosh Chodesh meetings
- Launched new Men's Club
- Established Facebook page
- Held volunteer appreciation Shabbat service
- Made visits to the sick and in nursing facilities; brought meals to families in temporary crisis
- Performed electrical repair work; renovated bathrooms; repaired damaged window wall near bimah
- Purchased new video projector and portable audio equipment

## Rabbis' Corner

*Matt Dreffin*  
*Suzy Stone*

Dear Congregation Shir Ami,

On behalf of Rabbi Matt and I, we would like to present you with a small token of our appreciation for two great years with you. You have supported us, nurtured us, and taught us so much! For this, we are infinitely grateful.

We know that you value song, prayer, and laughter and we hope that this small gift will help you increase all three of these values! In honor of your name, *Shir* Ami, we are providing you with a drum and a tambourine for the congregation to use during prayer or religious school.

We hope that you will use these beautiful instruments in health and happiness and that you will think of us every time you make music and bring joy into the world.

Sincerely,

*Rabbi Matt Dreffin*

*Rabbi Suzy Stone*

*Editor's note: These beautiful instruments were given to Shir Ami at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Shabbat Services,*

### Suzy's Top 10 Shir Ami Memories

1. Making mistakes that no one will ever let me live down (i.e., Diana Schulberg!?)
2. The "beautiful and talented" ladies, Barb Haber and Jodi Blum and all the hard work they put into the religious school. This includes Barb's amazing Challahs—which seemed to get better each and every visit!
3. All of the Bar and Bat Mitzvah students who grew up before my very eyes: Ryan Seideman, Kaitlin Beckman, Sarah Keil, Jacob Carmack, and of course, Spencer Blum!
4. All of my gracious hosts from week to week, who without a doubt, dealt with all my food restrictions and what probably turned out to be the best homemade meals that I had each month - including my favorite: tamale pie by the Palmers.
5. Being invited to attend not one, but two women's retreats with the sisterhood! I will have more special memories from those two weekends than I could ever hope for. Not only were they a chance for me to teach,

but I learned so much from all of you ladies about how I needed to take time for myself to renew and to reflect!

6. Likewise, I will remember not one, but two interfaith services. I won't forget how powerful it was to sit with a Christian minister and a Muslim Imam in ONLY my first year as a rabbinic intern. I will always remember this occasion because it represents the bravery and courage of a congregation truly committed to social justice and increase *darchei shalom*—"the ways of peace." Thank you to the leaders of this committee for also trusting me to lead you in this visionary process. I can tell you, for certain, that I do not know of any other student congregations who allowed their rabbinic interns to officiate at an interfaith service. You have no idea how much experience and confidence this gives me going forward seeing as this is one of my passions in the rabbinate.
7. To all the participants in adult education—you were so patient with me as I both taught—and learned with you—from *parashat hashavuah*, to God and medical ethics. I could not have asked for a more committed, engaged, and supportive group to study with. And to Bruce, who always kept me on my toes in class! As you know, I love adult education and you brought so much energy and enthusiasm with you to the table.
8. To last year's Purim *schpiel* (The Music Man) to this year's Passover celebration (Michael Jackson style), to Barb's *suvgoniot*-making in the kitchen, to the celebrity poker night (where we were the celebrities), to Jeff and Sharon's amazing food at all of the events—what can I say?! They say we are the "*people of the book*," but sometimes I wonder if we aren't really the "*people of food*"!
9. To your tried and true leaders who have led me through these last two years—including, but not limited to: Ruth Hartman, David Schulberg, Diana Zankowsky, and soon-to-be-president - Harriet Skelly.
10. And last but not least, to every single one of you - your presence in this community has added to my learning and my growing in ways that I cannot even begin to articulate. Your individuality and experience will continue to shine upon me even from afar.

## Adult Education

Even though it is summer (except for our weather), Congregation Shir Ami continues to have several different adult education offerings in June and July.

**Introduction to Judaism:** We have expanded our on-going monthly class for adults interested in conversion. We are now welcoming any member of our community interested in learning more about Judaism. We will continue to meet on Saturdays. Our next meeting will be on June 5<sup>th</sup> and the subsequent meeting on July 17<sup>th</sup>, both classes will meet from 1 to 3 pm. During these classes, we will study all of the historic events that are included in the holiday of Tisha B'Av. We'll look at how the holiday is observed and if we have time, study Lamentations, the last of the Megillot. So, a mixture of some history, some ritual, some liturgy and some text study. Tisha B'Av occurs on July 20<sup>th</sup> this year. Contact Diana Zankowsky, [dzankowsky@aol.com](mailto:dzankowsky@aol.com) for more information.

**Adult Hebrew:** 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](mailto:jbganz@aol.com) if you are interested in joining.



**Movies:** We will continue the tradition established by Rabbi Matt Dreffin, and meet once a month on Saturday evenings for Havdallah and Movie Night. In an attempt to have a truly comedic offering for summer, we will be showing a series of Woody Allen movies. The dates are June 12<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup> and the time will be 8pm (it stays light later in the summer). Our first movie will be "Radio Days" from 1985. This movie, starring Mia Farrow and Seth Green, written and directed by Woody Allen, is a "gentle and nostalgic tribute to the glory days of radio and coming-of-age during World War II [that] plays like Fellini's Amarcord filtered through Neil Simon. The nominal star is Seth Green as Joe, a teenage Jewish boy, growing up with a house full of relatives in Brooklyn. Allen cuts between Joe's working class neighborhood of Rockaway Beach, Queens, and the glittery and glamorous world of radio in Manhattan" (summary from Paul Brenner, All Movie Guide). Havdallah will be at 8pm and the movie will begin shortly thereafter. See you there!

# Rosh Chodesh Group

*Jan Dombrower*



## **Sisterhood:**

### **Sisterhood Calendar: End of Year Barbeque June 14**

Last month's Rosh Chodesh was a huge success with an outstanding turnout for our Sivan new moon and Shavuot program. Harriet Skelly led the program with a very informative overview of the different aspects of Shavuot,

We learned about the meaning of Shavuot, why we eat dairy, and why we have the option to study the entire night on erev Shavuot.

Ellen Gave and Harriet Skelly hosted a beautiful dairy refreshment table with frozen yogurt sundaes with different toppings. We also had a variety of cheesecake. It was delicious.

We honored the new month of Sivan with candle lighting, readings, and blessings. We had plenty of time for interacting and catching up with each other.

Please join us for our end of year Barbeque. We will meet on Monday, June 14th at 7:00 at **Deerview Park in Castro Valley**, 5780 Thousand Oaks, Castro Valley, 94552. It is located in the Columbia neighborhood (corner of Columbia and Thousand Oaks).

Please bring a side dish or dessert. Kosher hotdogs and turkey burgers will be provided. Look for an email to remind you of the event.

## **Men's Club Minutes**

On Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>, Shir Ami members Daryl Berman, Jeff Blum, Todd Finlay, Milton Palmer, David Schulberg, Bruce Skelly, Fred Zankowsky and I convened at Doug's Place in Castro Valley for brunch and the first meeting of the new Men's Club. After a lively discussion of objectives for this newest iteration of a Shir Ami Men's Group, and activities we would all want to participate in. We agreed that in order for our group to be sustainable, we needed to combine a mixture of service to the synagogue, community involvement and fun social events. Like Shir Ami itself, our club will only do activities its members are willing to help organize and are eager to participate in.

This intent was realized on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, when Jeff Blum, Stan Heimowitz, Michael Lange, Peter Lewis, Milton Palmer, David Schulberg, Bruce Skelly, and I gathered at Shir Ami for an afternoon of cooking fun and yard work. Jeff Blum expertly instructed us in the preparation of a gourmet meal of barbequed pot roast, marinated and roasted asparagus, couscous, avocado & grapefruit salad and apple pie. While the food cooked, we worked up an appetite by cutting, mowing and clearing much of the overgrown jungle that is Shir Ami's backyard. We concluded the day by sitting down to a delicious, well-prepared, and well-deserved meal together.

In the coming year, we hope to have activities every other month that are varied enough to engage all of the male members of Shir Ami.

My request to all is your promise to speak up if the Club is not reaching its potential, or if there's some activity you would like to the group to do. Your ideas and suggestions could give a valuable perspective that no one else sees.

Please keep the ideas and enthusiasm coming.

My thanks,

Jon Zimmerman

## Community Page June-July, 2010

Congratulations to our two graduating high school seniors, Sophie Blum and Eric Mori. Sophie will be attending the University of Oregon in the fall to study elementary education, and Eric will be attending Ohlone Community College to study Business. Good Luck to Michelle Ross, who will be attending Arizona State University, studying Early Childhood Education!

Congratulations to Ryan Seideman and his family on becoming Bar Mitzvah on May 15. Mazel Tov!!! We are very proud of you!

Congratulations to Elena Liskewicz and Matt Beckman on their Confirmation at the Shabbat service on May 21!!! We are very proud of you!

We wish a very fond farewell to our two excellent rabbinic interns for the past two years, Suzy Stone, and Mat Dreffin. We really enjoyed both of you teaching and learning along with us!

Thank you to Matt and Suzy for the drum and tambourine they gave to our congregation. These beautiful instruments will help us remember the two of them as we live out the "song" in our name.

Thanks to Rose and Bill Firestone for hosting a farewell potluck for Suzy the last night she was with us.

Thank you to Harriet Skelly for her fantastic work as our Bulletin Editor for the past many years. Beginning with the August issue, Rose Firestone will be the new editor of this Bulletin.

Thanks to the following families for providing oneg for recent Shabbat services:

May 14 - Seideman

May 21 - Haber and Liskewicz

**Thanks for donations to Congregation Shir Ami from:**

Cary Nastir, in memory of Bernard Nasatir at his Yahrzeit.

Muriel Small, in memory of Harold Small at his Yahrzeit.

Jonathan Zimmerman & Sara Lammin, in memory of Hyman Rebotsky.

Julie Greenfield in memory of her parents, Gordon and Doris at their yahrzeits.

Editor's note: There have been requests for Pat Palmer's delicious Tamale Bean Pie recipe. Thanks Pat for graciously sharing your recipe with us!

## PAT'S TAMALES BEAN PIE

### SOFT CRUST

#### INGREDIENTS:

CORN MEAL	¾ CUP
MILK	2 CUPS
VEGETABLE OIL	2t
SALT	1/4t
EGGS(or eggbeaters) BEATEN	2

### **FILLING**

VEGETABLE OIL	2T
ONION MED. CHOPPED	1
GARLIC CLOVE	1 OR MORE
CANNED TOMATOES	1 -15 OZ. CAN
GREEN PEPPER CHOPPED	½ CUP
OLIVES CHOPPED	¼ CUP
CHILI POWDER	2t
SALT	1t
PINTO BEANS	1-15 OZ. CAN

### **TOPPING**

Grated jack or cheddar cheese 1/3 CUP

To make filling:

- Heat oil in large skillet.
- Sauté onion and garlic a few minutes, then add balance of ingredients except beans.
- Simmer 10-15 minutes and break up tomatoes in necessary. Cook until slightly thickened.
- Add beans and continue to simmer lightly while making the crust.

To make crust:

- Mix corn meal and ½ cup milk and set aside momentarily.
- Bring remaining milk, oil and salt to a light boil.
- Slowly add the wet corn meal mixture while stirring.
- Simmer continuously, stirring until thick and bubbly (about 5 min.)
- Remove from heat and stir in beaten eggs until they are well blended.

To assemble:

- Spoon half of crust mix into bottom of a greased 9 or 10 inch square pan.
- Cover with the entire filling.
- Spoon on remaining crust mix and spread to cover.
- Sprinkle top with cheese.
- Bake at 375 degrees for 35 minutes

Serves 4.

## **June 2010 Yartzheit List**

### **June 11, 2010**

Ted Balmforth, son-in-law of Ann and Sam Blank

Jerry Becker, early active member of Shir Ami and husband of Verla Becker

Sheila Frey, mother of Bonnie Frey

### **June 25, 2010**

Clint Carter, father of Bruce Carter

Alyce Nasatir, mother of Cary Nasatir

Jacob Ross, father of David Ross

David Teferi, father of Rahel Ruiz

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

**(Please read at both services in June)**

Clara Schneider, mother of Marilyn Schneider, and grandmother of  
Irene, Sarah and Carolyn Gilchriese

Darlene Golembo, sister of Sharon Golembo

Ita Klebanova, mother of Sofiya Blank

Sharon Lawrence, aunt of Kaitlin and Matt Beckman (Barbara Haber's ex-sister in-law)

Jack Farbstein, uncle of Ruth Rosenthal

Sarah Leona Markus, grandmother of Noah Markus

David Sapper, father of Danielle Keil

## **July 2010 Yartzheit List**

### **July 9, 2010**

Naomi Greenblatt, sister of Hillie Levine

Ana Marie Haber, mother of Barbara Haber

Joseph Haber, father of Barbara Haber

Hans Schwarzenberger, father of Barbara Heimowitz

### **July 23, 2010**

Stanley Blackfield, founder and 3-time president of Shir Ami

Scott Kendall, former student at Shir Ami

Leo Knopf, father of Lori Knopf Santora

Anna Kurz, mother of Frances Johnson

Fred Rosener, longtime active member of Shir Ami

Betty Schulberg, mother of David Schulberg

Moshe Vanous, longtime active member of Shir Ami

Frances Wolch, former member of Shir Ami who made the Ark door tiles

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Clara Schneider, mother of Marilyn Schneider, and grandmother of  
Irene, Sarah and Carolyn Gilchriese

Darlene Golembo, sister of Sharon Golembo

Ita Klebanova, mother of Sofiya Blank

Sharon Lawrence, aunt of Kaitlin and Matt Beckman (Barbara Haber's ex-sister  
in-law)

Jack Farbstein, uncle of Ruth Rosenthal

Sarah Leona Markus, grandmother of Noah Markus

David Sapper, father of Danielle Keil

**The Tzedakah Box**  
**A Social Action Column**  
**Daryl Berman, Julie Greenfield, Sara Lamnin**

**UNITED IN UNIQUENESS**

Recently, I heard a woman talk about growing up Afghani in an American school system. The schools she attended were tolerant of her need to be absent periodically, but had no insights into her culture's celebrations. The story sounded familiar. Most of my schooling was in California, where the words Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur were equally foreign. In schools such as this woman and I experienced, being different meant simply explaining or just avoiding the topic as we chose. This year, in Mississippi, being different meant one young woman could not take her date to their prom. In Hayward, [gay, Lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer] youth have had a safe place to dance, talk, gather resources, play games, eat, and enjoy a great prom for about 16 years. You can help to keep this annual event safe by volunteering to greet youth as they arrive, bringing welcoming signs, or sponsoring a ticket for a local youth. Visit [www.gayprom.org](http://www.gayprom.org) for details.



**Help your community by reducing green house gas and providing food for those in need. Join the URBAN ORCHARD PROJECT!** Do you have a fruit tree that provides more than your family can eat? Would you like to share it with people in our community who need food for their families? Call (510) 782-3663. We will come to your home and harvest your fruit. We then share it with the hungry in our community. This free service is provided through the South Hayward Parish with the generous support of Waste Management's Stop Waste Program.



**Want change in your community, county, state...? Like things the way they are and want to make sure they stay that way? VOTE!** The June 8<sup>th</sup> election is right around the corner.

Want to learn more about local candidates? Many groups are hosting forums for Supervisor, Judicial, City, and other candidates and the propositions. Check the Tri City Voice for information, or contact Sara Lamnin for details.

# SHIR AMI BULLETIN BOARD



## **Casino Night '10**

*A fun-filled evening for those 21 and older*

You are invited to a very special, fun evening benefiting Tri-Valley/Tri-Cities Midrasha and Camp Kadima.

Join us – and bring your friends – for our biggest event of the year!

Featuring Blackjack, Texas Hold 'em, Craps and more!!!

Saturday, June 5th - 8:00 to 11:30 PM

Congregation Beth Emek Social Hall (3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton)

**To take advantage of early-bird pricing**, click on the link below:

<https://midrashatvtc.wufoo.com/forms/casino-night-10-let-the-gaming-begin>

*Cocktail attire encouraged.*

For more information:

Karen Holtz

925-600-9130 or [kholtz@comcast.net](mailto:kholtz@comcast.net)

Sharon Cohen

925-367-5633 or [campkadima@bethemek.org](mailto:campkadima@bethemek.org)

## **South Hayward Parish Fundraiser**

Celebrate the Prophets of Social Justice

Faith Leaders from communities (Including Shir Ami) throughout our area will be recognized in this first ever event. Dinner, Music, Networking. Saturday, August 7, 6pm at Westminster Hills Presbyterian, 27287 Patrick Avenue, Hayward, 94542.

More details to be sent by email.

## **Emergency Shortage of Used Cell Phones.**

Turn your cell phones into cash now. Please bring your used cell phones in to Shir Ami and Barbara Heimowitz will collect them and send them in for cash for Shir Ami.

## Shir Ami Contacts

### President:

Harriet Skelly  
[president@congshirami.org](mailto:president@congshirami.org)

### Membership:

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Danielle Keil  
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### Social Action:

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Julie Greenfield  
Sara Lamnin  
[socialaction@congshirami.org](mailto:socialaction@congshirami.org)

### Yahrzeit Listings:

Tonia Schulberg  
[yahrzeits@congshirami.org](mailto:yahrzeits@congshirami.org)

### Donations:

General Funds, Special Funds,  
Wall Plaques  
Florrie Finkle  
[donations@congshirami.org](mailto:donations@congshirami.org)

# Paresha Korach

The Paresha describes the Korach Rebellion. Korach and 250 of his colleagues challenged Moses on ritual meanings. The mutiny fails and the mutineers are swallowed up by the earth. Aaron becomes High Priest and rewards of grain, oil, wine and animals are specified as gifts to the priestly class.



Photo by Anshe organization

## Shir Ami Services

Friday, June 11th at 8:00 PM

will be led by

Diana Zankowsky

**Bring a friend; introduce Shir Ami to a friend!**

# Paresha Balak

Balak, King of Moav, feared the Israelites journeying to the Promised Land. He summoned the prophet Bilaam to curse the Nation of Israel that they may be defeated in battle. But the plot failed; en route Bilaam received a message from on high that Israel is blessed and should not be cursed. Even Bilaam's donkey understood and refused to move. Bilaam then advised Balak's officers to go back to their own land.



LIFE Magazine, with permission

Shir Ami Services  
Friday, June 25th at 8:00 PM  
led by  
RACHEL BROTT

Your friends and neighbors are welcome