

4529 Malabar Ave. Castro Valley, CA 94546 (510) 537-1787

Email: info@CongShirAmi.org
Web: www.CongShirAmi.org

Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley is an intimate, inclusive, intergenerational Reform Jewish Community that welcomes interfaith families

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

NOVEMBER 2010 BULLETIN

(CHESHVAN~KISLEV 5771)

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EVENT CALENDAR				
Day	Date, Time	Event	Location	
Tues.	Nov. 9, 7:30 pm	Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood	Home of Sharon Golembo	
Fri.	Nov. 12, 8 pm	Shabbat Service Led by Lara Pullan Regev	Shir Ami	
Sat.	Nov. 13, 3 pm	Adult Learning: Trope with Lara Pullan Regev	Shir Ami	
Thur.	Nov. 18, 7 pm	Board Meeting (open to all members)	Shir Ami	
Sat.	Nov. 20, 12 noon	Adult Learning with Diana Zankowsky	Shir Ami	
Fri.	Dec. 3, 6:30, 8 pm	Chanukah Potluck & Shabbat Service Led by Andrew Terkel	Shir Ami	
Sat.	Dec. 4, 3 pm	Book Club with Andrew Terkel	Shir Ami	
Tues.	Dec. 8	Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood Chanukah Party	Home of Bettina Skehan	
Fri.	Dec 17, 8 pm	Shabbat Service Led by Lara Pullan Regev	Shir Ami	
Sat.	Dec. 18, 3 pm	Adult Learning: Trope with Lara Pullan Regev	Shir Ami	
Sat.	Dec. 18, 7 pm	Havdallah & a Movie with Lara Pullan Regev	Shir Ami	

- New Community Page Editor, see page 11
- Shir Ami's Going Green, see page 2
- Social Action Committee seeking volunteer/writer for Tzedakah Box, see page 13



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Shir Ami Members and Friends:

In last month's bulletin I wrote to you about our new membership outreach initiative and I am happy to tell you that as of this writing we have 6 new members/families! A tradition at Shir Ami is to formally welcome and honor our new members at a Shabbat Service in November. This year that service will be on Friday, November 12 at 8 pm. I invite you to join us at this service and welcome Marlene Lamnin, Barbara-Ann Lewis, Thomas and Susan Spitzer and their son Reuben, Gail Steele and her son and grandson Todd and Jason, Lina Teferi, and Wendy Wolfson and Yishak Tsabba and their twins Benjamin and Esther.

Chanukah comes very early this year! We light the first candle on Wednesday, December 1, when we've barely finished the leftovers from Thanksgiving! Mark your calendars now to celebrate with old and new Shir Ami friends at our Chanukah Potluck (and latke tasting) on December 3 at 6:30pm with services following at 8pm. The Religious School will have their annual Chanukah party on Sunday, December 5 at Temple Beth Sholom, and all are welcome to help out and join in the fun.

As part of our Adult Education, or Lifelong Learning program we are starting a book club for Congregation Shir Ami. Our first book is "Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle" by Dan Senor and Saul Singer. The book club will meet with Rabbi Andrew on December 4th (time to be announced). I am almost finished reading the book and look forward to the discussion. There is still time to get a copy and read it it is an easy read and very contemporary! I hope to see many of you there!

Harriet Skelly
President
president@congshirami.org



Shir Ami is Going Green!

Thanks to Bonnie Frey, Shir Ami now has recycling and green waste bins as part of our regular trash pick-up. More recycling details later. In the meantime, look for signs and put all recyclables in the proper recycling containers.

We are also encouraging use of our dishes and silverware for onegs and potlucks whenever possible, and purchase and use of recyclable materials.



RABBINIC INTERNS' PAGE

Shalom! The past month of learning and growing with all of you has been so wonderful, and we have loved every minute of it. We're excited to spend the next year continuing our study of text, our learning of Torah chanting, our watching of movies, our celebrating of Havdallah, and our spending Shabbatot together, in services, in study, and in song. Please read the following information carefully, and we look forward to seeing you at whatever opportunities you choose to attend with us

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER SERVICES LED BY RABBIS LARA AND ANDREW:

Friday, November 12th: This Shabbat service will be held at 8:00pm and will be led by Rabbi Lara. We will read from the beginning of the Torah portion Vayeitze, hearing the story of Jacob's dream. Also at this service we will honor the new members of the Shir Ami community.

Friday, December 3rd: This evening will be a funfilled Chanukah celebration filled with songs, latkes, and dreidel fun. The evening will begin at 6:30pm with a group lighting of the chanukah menorah, so please bring your own if you have one to light, followed by a pot-luck dinner for all. Services will begin at 8:00pm in the Sanctuary, led by Rabbi Andrew. The Torah portion for this week is Miketz, Genesis 41:1-44:17.

Friday, December 17th: On this Friday, Rabbi Lara will be leading a regular Shabbat service at 8:00pm at Shir Ami. The Torah portion for this week is Vayechi, Genesis 47:28-50:26.

ADULT LEARNING

The following information and opportunities will hopefully bring new experiences into your lives, and also some familiarity and continuity as we move into our new year together.

November 13th at 3:00pm will be the continuation of a series of Trope class (the signs used to help us chant our sacred texts). This class will continue to run throughout the year on Saturday afternoons during the weekends when Rabbi Lara is in town. All levels are welcome, even if you missed the first session!

December 4th at 3:00pm will be the first meeting of the Shir Ami book club. We will be discussing the book "Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle" by Dan Senor and Saul Singer. The discussion for this book will be led by Rabbi Andrew.

December 18th at 3:00pm will be another session of the Trope class. This session will be taught by Rabbi Lara.

December 18th at 7:00pm will be the second movie night of the year, beginning with Havdallah and ending with a discussion based on the movie to be viewed that evening. Led by Rabbi Lara.

To follow up from Rabbi Lara's October sermon on Israel, the following resources are provided:

Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism: http://www.reform.org.il/eng/index.asp

Hiddush: http://hiddush.org/

Israel Religious Action Center: http://www.irac.org/ Association of Reform Zionists of America:

http://www.arza.org/index.cfm?



Lara Pullan Regev <u>Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org</u> Andrew Terkel <u>Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org</u>

We hope to see you all at these Shabbat services and events throughout our week ends with you in the months of November and December, and are looking forward to continuing what has been so far a fabulous year of learning with all of you!



SERVICES HONORING NEW MEMBERS

Honoring New Members



A special Shir Ami Service will be led by Rabbinic Intern Lara Pullan Regev on Friday, November 12th at 8:00 PM

Welcoming this year's New Shir Ami Members:

Barbara-Ann Lewis, Gail Steel, Wendy Wolfson and Yizhak Tsabba, Lina Teferi, Marlene Lamnin, Thomas and Susan Spitzer

Hillie



CHANUKAH DEC. 3



Services will be led by Rabbinic Intern Andrew Terkel at 8:00 PM

Please participate in our rotating assignments

Initials L to Z....Main Dish Initials A to K....Side Dish or Dessert, Drinks, Setup, Cleanup

Hillie



CHANUKAH BAZAR: BETH SHOLOM



Temple Beth Sholom

642 Dolores Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577 (510) 357-8505





Sunday, November 14, 2010 Hours: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

In addition to the Judaica Shop, we have other wonderful vendors:

Yvonne's Pearls – Yvonne Garcia (pearl jewelry)
Scent Genie – Apryl Yarbor (Scented Candles and scent packs and more)

Shelly Mazer (Wire wrapped earrings and necklaces)

Arlene Hazelkorn and BJ Borris (Juice Plus and handmade market satchels)

Organization by Aviva – Aviva Gonzalez (homemade quiche and home organization services)

Vegan Local Love – Jennifer and Barry Jones Horton (homemade vegan food and gift certificates)

Laury Harroch (original paintings and jewelry)
Tali Risse and Barbara Rossillon (aprons, gift baskets, and special note cards)

Patricia Baxter (fused glass plates and fused glass jewelry)

Gerry O'Brien (jewelry)

Art of the Earth – Lydia Osias (pottery)
TBS Library – Eleanor Tandowsky (new Jewish books and a display of library items)



Sunday, November 14, 2010 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Invite your friends and family



Sponsored by Beth Sholom Sisterhood





We have Sabbath candlesticks,
Havdalah sets, Yahrzeit candles,
Chanukah candles, Chanukah
decorations, Marsha Anderson clocks,
Chamsa wall hangings, travel
candleholders, fabulous crystal
mezuzot and decorations, Bar and Bat
Mitzvah gifts, Children's gifts, Seder
plates, Talitot and Kipot, gift wrap
paper, greeting cards for all
occasions, and much more.



Also available for purchase are Cantor Hirschhorn's music CD's And TBS Cookbooks

We'll also have a food court with yummy snacks and latkes lunch.



BULLETIN BOARD (COMMUNITY RESOURCES)



The Israel and World Jewry Committee of Temple Isaiah & BlueStar invite you to....

Become a more effective advocate for Israel!

Turn your frustration about Israel's treatment by the media into action!

Learn how to become media savvy and turn things around for Israel with Temple Isaiah member and Campolindo high school student, Rachel Kaufman, as well as Dan Pine, Write On For Israel journalism educator.

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

Where: Adult Lounge at Temple Isaiah Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Learn how to:

Improve your writing and speaking effectiveness
 Deepen your media analysis skills
 Develop your critical thinking capabilities
 Learn how to defend Israel

We will present an interactive group exercise followed by a sneak preview of the film, "For Israel", premiering next March at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco.

Presented by



925,283,8575

www.temple-isaiah.org

3800 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette, CA 94549

temple-isaiah@temple-isaiah.org



LIFELONG JEWISH LEARNING

Introduction to Judaism *Judaism 101*

Saturday, November 20 12 noon to 2 pm At Congregation Shir Ami

Introduction to Judaism

Please bring your lunch, as studying and food always go together!
At this class we will continue with our study of Pirke Avot,
The Sayings of the Fathers.

All are welcome, including first-timers.

Contact Diana Zankowsky, adulted@congshirami.org for directions and additional information.

Adult Hebrew

Learning Hebrew through Prayer Mondays, 7:30-9:00 pm

This weekly class is taught by Judy Ganz. If you have basic Hebrew literacy skills and you are interested in joining, please contact Judy at adulthebrew@congshirami.org



ADULT LEARNING WITH RABBIS LARA AND ANDREW

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SCHOOL NOTES

The Shir Sholom Religious and Hebrew School has continued with great success. Children spend Sundays studying, playing, singing, creating, and, of course, eating together. With the guidance of a fabulous teaching staff and Rabbis Andrew, Lara, and Manhoff, our students have delved deeper and deeper into the concept of prayer. October classes centered around the questions, "Why do I pray?" and "Who do I pray to?" The range of activity and thought throughout the building has been phenomenal to observe.

Let me share just some of the examples of what has been going on around the school this month. The preschool/kindergarten class mimicked our forefather, Abraham, by making idols and then destroying them, affirming their beliefs in one God. The third and fourth graders were "forced" to learn what resting meant to study the meaning of Shabbat. The debate that came about whether or not it was necessary afterwards was fascinating. And our oldest students worked with Adonai's name, as presented in the Torah, a complex and mature task.

Tuesday Hebrew School perhaps brings the clearest moments of academic growth. Kita Alef (the beginner class) can be heard outside of its room shouting out the letters and vowels they have mastered since September. Kita Bet (the beginning/intermediate class) is often found racing to the board to show how well they recognize fully formed words. Kita Gimmel (the intermediate class) can be found outside playing prayer tag, as they master more and more of each piece of t'fillah. And Kita Daled (our advanced students) is often deep in discussion regarding the meaning of prayer, Judaism, and life. The maturity in the learning that continues on Tuesdays is sometimes mindboggling.

As October comes to a close, the next stage of the Shir Sholom School is approaching. We will head to Temple Beth Sholom for the next quarter of the school year for both Sunday and Tuesday classes from October 31st until January 23rd. This is an exciting opportunity for the school, and we are all looking forward to seeing what the next quarter will provide for our students.

L'Shalom, Rinat Manhoff





ROSH CHODESH/ SISTERHOOD

NOVEMBER ROSH CHODESH Tuesday, November 9, 7:30 pm **Home of Sharon Golembo**

Sisterhood:

This month we will bring in the month of Kislev on Tuesday, Nov 9th at 7:30 until 9:30.pm.

Sharon Golembo will be our hostess and we will meet at her home in Fremont

The months of Kislev and Tevet bring in the holiday of Chanukah every year.

In honor of the "miracle of the oil," we will be doing an olive oil tasting led by Sharon.

Kislev is also known as the "darkest month." Following in that theme, we will be making candles to bring in light to this darkest month.

Stay tuned for emails with directions to Sharon's by carpool or by BART. We will have an organized "shuttle" from the Union City BART to Sharon's nearby home for that option.

In addition to candle making and olive oil tasting, the evening will include refreshments and Rosh Chodesh rituals. readings, and blessings.

Women of Shir Ami, please join us for this welcoming, interesting, and fun monthly gathering.

UPCOMING

Chanukah Party: Tuesday, December 7th, the 7th night of Chanukah.

Next month, for Tevet, we will have our annual Sisterhood Chanukah party.

It will be at the home of Bettina Skehan. This traditional great party will include latka eating, candle lighting, and a present exchange.

Mark your calendar for this fun event.

ROSH CHODESH CALENDAR YEAR 5771 (2010-2011)

Tevet December 7- Tuesday Women's Chanukah Party **Sh'vat** January 6- Thursday Adar I February 3- Thursday Adar II Mar 8- Tuesday Nisan April 5- Tuesday Iyar May 4- Wednesday Sivan June 2- Thursday Summer field trip (TBA)

Please contact Jan Dombrower at Sisterhood@congshirami.org for questions or more information about Sisterhood



The Sisterhood celebrated Rosh Chodesh for the month of Cheshvan on Thursday, October 7th at the home of Toni Schulberg. In honor of Toni's birthday, we all learned about our "Birthday Torah Portions." We found the parasha (portion) for the week that included the date on which we were born. We then read bits of our portion and discussed its possible meanings and influences on our lives. We learned new things about old friends and also learned the histories of some new members. And of course, we had cake and wished Toni all sorts of blessings for the coming year.



COMMUNITY PAGE



We welcome Rose Levine as the new editor of the Community Page which features news and information about Shir Ami members. We welcome your inputsend your news and photos to Rose Levine at community@congshirami.org

This month Rose introduces a new feature, New Member Profile, a thumbnail sketch on our new members to help us get to know them. The first new member to be introduced is Barbara-Ann Lewis.

"ROSE'S RAMBLINGS"

New Member Profile: Barbara-Ann Lewis.

Professor, Grandmother, Violin Maker: all these describe the versatile Barbara-Ann Lewis.

Barbara-Ann was born and grew up in the Philippines. She was seven years old when the Japanese occupied the country; her wartime experiences are described in a children's book that she wrote especially for her grandchildren in order for them to learn of their family's history.

After graduating college in the Philippines she worked for several years in soil chemistry. In her late twenties she decided that she needed further studies and moved to California to attend UC Berkeley, where she was awarded a PhD in soil science. She met her husband, Roy, at the university, and when they completed their studies, they left for Illinois to take teaching positions: he in Physics at the University of Chicago and she in environmental engineering and science at Northwestern University. After more than 25 years of research and teaching, they retired and returned to California to be with their family consisting of three children, their spouses, and six grand-children ranging in age from 4 to 18.

To prepare for her retirement, Barbara-Ann had an unusual interest. She spent three years attending the Chicago School of Violin Making and is now creating violins and violas using methods of the old Italian masters. She hopes to sell these in the near future. She and Roy live in Castro Valley with their dog, Nellie. We're happy to see Barbara-Ann at services and at Shir Ami events. Welcome!

(Watch next month's Bulletin for more new member write-ups.)

Yom Hooledeth Sameach- Happy Birthday to Sam Blank, who turned ninety on October 14.

Simchas-Joyous Occasions:

Mazeltov to **Hillie and Rose Levine**, whose grand-daughter Rachel was married to Aaron Golden on September 26.



Kol Ha Kavod-Kudos To:

David Cygielman, the Oakland-based co-founder and executive director of Moishe House, has been named a winner of the 2010 Young Professional Award of the Jewish Communal Service Association. David Cygielman was formerly a Shir Ami member and Religious School teacher.



COMMUNITY PAGE, CONTINUED

Todah Rabah-Thank You:

For Providing Onegs following services:

- Oct 1- Angie and David Ross
- Oct 15th- Ruth Hartman
- Oct 29 Diana and Fred Zankowski

For Hosting our rabbinic interns:

- Barb Haber for hosting our rabbinic interns the weekends of Oct. 1-3 and Oct. 15-17.
- Sharon Golembo for hosting Rabbi Andrew the weekend of Oct. 29-31.

For making generous donations to Shir Ami:

- 1. Sharon Golembo in memory of her mother, Beatrice Harrison Golembo on her yahrzeit.
- 2. Maryann Leshin on the yahrzeit of Sydney Leshin.
- 3. Ann and Sam Blank in honor of the wedding of Rose and Hillie Levine's granddaughter, Rachel Levine to Aaron Golden.
- 4. Ann and Sam Blank in memory of Charles Keegan, an active former member of Shir Ami.
- 5. Rose and Hillie Levine for the yahrzeit of Rose's parents, Maurice and Anne Aronwitz.

- 6. Rose and Hillie Levine honoring Sam Blank on his 90th birthday.
- 7. Rose and Hillie Levine in memory of former Shir Ami member, Charles Keegan.
- 8. Rose and Hillie Levine in memory of Layah Laks, a former member of Shir Ami.

Zichronam Livracha-May their memory be a blessing:

Layah Laks was formerly a member of Shir Ami. As part of the Torah Committee, she played an active role in fundraising for the old Torah to be restored, and for acquiring our second Torah.

Charles Keegan, also a former member of Shir Ami. He and his wife Bea ran a travel agency in Hayward. Their children, daughter Yolanda and twin sons David and Roger, were a lively addition to the school.

Our condolences to the families.

YAHRZEIT LIST NOVEMBER 12, 2010

Henry Ball, very active former member of Shir Ami

Freda Hansen, aunt of Toni Schulberg Lazarus Lewis, father of Peter Lewis

Martin Michelson, brother-in-law of David Schulberg

Ada & Jack Rubenstein, mother and father of Ron Rubenstein

Kaddish List

Layah Laks, long time former member of Shir Ami

Clara Schneider, mother of Marilyn Schneider, and grandmother of

Irene, Sarah and Carolyn Gilchriese

Darlene Golembo, sister of Sharon Golembo

Sharon Lawrence, aunt of Kaitlin and Matt Beckman

(Barbara Haber's ex-sister-in-law)



TZEDAKAH BOX (SOCIAL ACTION)

Social Action News and Opportunities

VOTE November 2nd

WHY SHOULD I VOTE? What difference does it make?

Remember, it was not until 1920 that women were granted the right to vote. And not until the 1960's that regulations that prevented people of color from voting were overturned. People



were jailed for picketing the White House, carrying signs asking for their right to vote. Nov. 14, 1917, prison guards wielding clubs and their warden's blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women convicted of 'obstructing sidewalk traffic' at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia. So, consider, some people won't vote this year because 'we're very busy', because we think our vote doesn't matter anyway, or because it's raining. Have we forgotten what it took to ensure our right to vote? Do we not realize that there are lots of opportunities to be educated voters?

If we don't exercise, we loose ability. Be an educated voter. Exercise your right! It's not too late to be informed. http://www.smartvoter.org

Three Ways to Give Thanks this November

1 & 2. Every year, hundreds of volunteers provide over a thousand Thanksgiving dinners to families throughout Castro Valley, Hayward, and beyond. The Salvation Army of Hayward coordinates this effort and could use your help to make sure there are enough turkeys, potatoes, salads, and, of course, pies for everyone. All donations are used exclusively for the holiday meal program. \$60 provides a complete meal for 10 people. Please consider a donation to The Salvation Army 430 A Street, Hayward, CA, 94541. Please note 'Hayward Area Holiday Meal Program' in the memo line.

OR, come enjoy the meal or volunteer to help serve. Contact (510) 432-7703 for volunteer opportunities.

3. Socks. Knitted, Woolen, Cotton, or Polyester. Men's, Women's, Children's. There are never enough available at the local clothing banks. Please donate today! You can leave new socks at Shir Ami or call (510) 432-7703.

"It is Time to Stop the Hate and Ignorance"

All communities, all people, are invited to find ways to keep our youth safe. Lighthouse Community Center hosts an awareness evening focused on Community Building for Safety.

Friday November 19, 2010 7:00pm

1217 A Street, Hayward CA, 94541, 510-881-8167

Film showing – "Bullied," followed by discussion and a sharing of stories.

Light refreshments will be served.

Co-sponsored by: Chabot College GSA and HUSD Safe and Inclusive Schools Program

The Social Action Committee needs you!

Want to make a difference in your community? Want to help bring the ideals of Tzedakah (righteousness, fairness or justice) and Tikkun Olam (Care for the World) to Shir Ami? Like to write and coordinate? Sara Lamnin is stepping down as committee chair and writer of this column. Can you help? Contact editor@congshirami.org



CONTACTS

Congregation Shir Ami

4529 Malabar Ave. Castro Valley, CA 94546 (510) 537-1787

Email: info@CongShirAmi.org
Web: www.CongShirAmi.org



Rabbinic Intern

Lara Pullan Regev Andrew Terkel Rabbi.Lara@congshirami.org
Rabbi.Andrew@congshirami.org

President Membership School Liaison Harriet Skelly Barbara Heimowitz Jodi Blum president@congshirami.org membership@congshirami.org education@congshirami.com

Building Maintenance
Community Page
Denotions: Control & See

Donations:General & Special Fund, Dues

eScrip

Invoices/Payables Men's Club Newsletter

Newsletter Mailing

Oneg Shabbat (hospitality)

Religious Religious

Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

Social Action Social Action Social Action Yahrzheit Noah Markus
Rose Levine
Florrie Finkle
Barbara Haber
Danielle Keil
Maryann Leshin
Jon Zimmerman
Rose Firestone
Lilly Erikson
Sharon Golembo
David Schulberg
Diana Zankowsky
Jan Dombrower
Daryl Berman
Julie Greenfield

Sara Lamnin

Toni Schulberg

facilities@congshirami.org community@congshirami.org donations@congshirami.org dues@congshirami.org escrip@congshirami.org treasurer@congshirami.org mensclub@congshirami.org editor@congshirami.org editor@congshirami.org oneg@congshirami.org religion@congshirami.org religion@congshirami.org sisterhood@congshirami.org socialaction@congshirami.org socialaction@congshirami.org socialaction@congshirami.org vahrzheit@congshirami.org