



CONGREGATION
SHIR AMI

4529 Malabar Ave.
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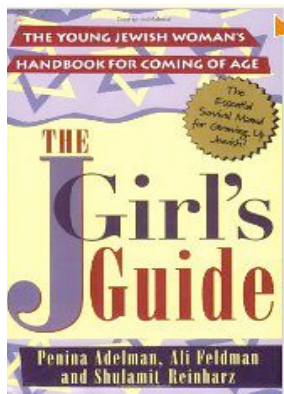
Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley is an intimate, intergenerational
Reform Jewish Community that welcomes interfaith families.
Affiliated with the [Union for Reform Judaism](http://www.unionforreformjudaism.org)

NOVEMBER 2012 Bulletin (Cheshvan~Kislev 5773)

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The J Girl's Guide: The Young Jewish Women's Handbook for Coming of Age
See page 11 for a review of this book.

Did you take tablecloths home to wash them? Thank you. Please return any tablecloths that you may still have.

BOOKS FROM THE SHIR AMI LIBRARY

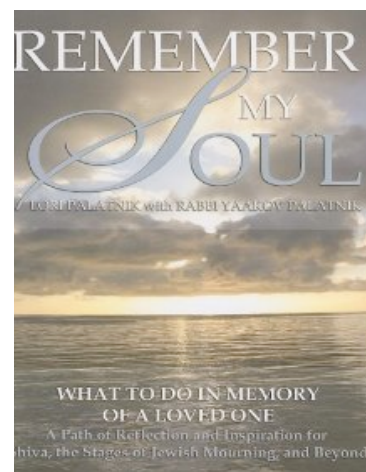
This is the third month of a new feature in the Shir Ami Bulletin: reviews of books on the Shir Ami library shelves.

Again, we are spotlighting two books: a book for teen girls, *The J Girl's Guide: The Young Jewish Women's Handbook for Coming of Age* (see page 11) and a book for adults, below.

Shir Ami and our members have been shaken emotionally several times this past year due to the deaths of family members and esteemed friends. At the moment, we all feel overwhelmed, almost powerless to deal with the emotions that come to the surface. Judaism can provide us with a set of rituals which help us to cope with loss, transition and life after loss. One of the books on our shelves, *Remember My Soul: What to do in Memory of a Loved One* by Lori Palatnik does three things:

- 1) Explores the ideas of the soul, death and the afterlife;
- 2) guides the mourner through the traditions and rituals of the Shiva period;
- 3) offers a thirty-day guided exercise that both comforts the mourner and--according to Jewish mystical tradition--provides spiritual elevation for the soul of the departed.

These two books will reside on the window in the kitchen and are available to be borrowed. Shir Ami's library circulates books on an honor system, so feel free to borrow these or any other books from the library.



Event Calendar



4529 Malabar Ave.

Castro Valley, CA 94546



NOVEMBER

- Wed. Nov. 7 7:30 pm** **Membership Committee Planning Meeting** at Shir Ami. All welcome to come & give input.
- Fri. Nov. 9 6:00 pm** **Kid's Shabbat** led by Aaron Sataloff
- Fri. Nov. 9 6:45 pm** **Potluck Dinner** led by Aaron Sataloff
- Fri. Nov. 9 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service** led by Aaron Sataloff
- Fri. Nov. 10 5:00 pm** **Dinner, Havdallah and a Movie at the Jewish Film Festival in Palo Alto** with Rabbi Aaron. For full details, contact Sharon Golembo, oneg@congshirami.org
- Wed. Nov. 14 7:30 pm** **Rosh Chodesh Kislev Sisterhood event** at the home of Jan Dombrower
- Sun. Nov 18 12 noon** **Volunteer at the Alameda County Food Bank, 12 noon- 2:30 pm** Pre-Thanksgiving food sorting/boxing at the food bank. This event is open to anybody over ten years of age. We will meet to carpool at Shir Ami at 11:15. Please contact Tom Spitzer, [415 572 4156](tel:4155724156) or email socialaction@congshirami.org if you plan to attend.
- Tue. Nov. 20 7:00 pm** **Board of Directors' Meeting** at Shir Ami. All are welcome.
- Fri. Nov.30 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service Honoring New Members** led by Allie Fischman, assisted by 3rd Grade to B'nai Mitzvah students

DECEMBER

- Sat. Dec. 1 2:00 pm** **Trope Study** with Allie Fischman
- Sat. Dec. 1 3:30 pm** **Adult Education, 100 Blessings**, with Allie Fischman 3:30-5:00pm
- Sun. Dec. 2 11:00 am** **Chanukah Faire & Boutique 11am - 3 pm** at Shir Ami. Fundraiser for Shir Ami: craft and gift items and Chanukah food for sale; silent auction; and children's activities. Children's activities-- \$5 fee to access all children's activities. There is no charge for children enrolled in Shir Ami's Sunday School who will attend the Chanukah Faire in place of regularly scheduled activities
- Wed. Dec. 12 6:30 pm** **Rosh Chodesh Tevet: Sisterhood event: Women's Chanukah Party**
- Fri. Dec. 14 6:30 pm** **Potluck Chanukah Party and Shabbat Service** led by Aaron Sataloff



JANUARY

- Fri. Jan. 4 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service** led by Aaron Sataloff
- Tue. Jan. 15 pm** **Rosh Chodesh S'vat Sisterhood event:**
- Fri. Jan. 18 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service.** Led by Allie Fischman
- Fri. Jan. 25 7:30 pm** **Shabbat Service.** Led by Aaron Sataloff

President's Message

Shalom Shir Ami,

Last month, I started to give you a preview of coming Shir Ami events and activities, leaving off at the end of the secular year. In January, we start 2013 strong with 3 Shabbat services: January 4th, January 18th and January 25th. The service scheduled for January 18th is our annual Welcoming Shabbat, when we invite friends and neighbors from all faith traditions into our community to learn what we're all about. The committee to plan this event is still in-discussion whether to have the traditional Friday evening, beginner-level service, or to use the weekend to conduct a more expansive interfaith discussion, or both. Whatever its final form, be assured that the experience will be enjoyable and educational. If you'd like to have input on this event, please contact me!

Another tradition that will definitely continue this year is our Tu B'Shvat Seder on Saturday, January 26th. This event celebrates the wondrous assortment of fruits and nuts that the Earth provides, and is part meal, part service, part discussion, and all fun. Like November, February will provide more opportunities for engagement with the children of Shir Ami. Friday, February 1st will feature a regular Shabbat service with select prayers led by Olivia Brackin, who will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah that weekend. February 15th will feature a Kids' Shabbat service, potluck, and adult service later that evening. On February 22nd we'll have our special yearly Purim service and spiel, as we retell and relive the story of Esther, Mordecai, Ahasuerus, and Haman.

In March, we welcome the spring with reflections and celebrations. The weekend of March 8th – 10th is the Sisterhood retreat in Alamo and March 22nd is a potluck dinner and Shabbat service at Shir Ami. On Saturday March 30th, we'll once again host our Community Passover Seder, led by Ricki Weintraub, Shir Ami's Educational Director. Passover is one of my most favorite holidays, and I always look forward to sharing my love of this occasion with those learning its origins and customs in this open event at Eden UCC. I'll finish this list next month, I promise.

As November holds the American holiday of Thanksgiving, I wanted to take a moment to say how thankful I am for this Congregation. I find all the Shir Ami religious, administrative, educational and entertaining events I take part in deeply satisfying. I appreciate that no two of us have the same opinion on how to do things, as that diversity makes for a richer experience that provides surprise and delight when I'm least expecting them. I hope you find your experience at Shir Ami to be similar, and I encourage you to reflect on what you're thankful for.

Todah Rabah and Happy Thanksgiving,

Jon Zimmerman,

president@congsHIRAMI.org



ONEG HOSTS NEEDED

Have you signed up to host an oneg? Contact Sharon Golembo, oneg@congsHIRAMI.org

Take a turn at providing refreshments for a Friday night service. If this is the first time you have done this, or are uncertain about what to do, there are written instructions and we'll help you out!

As of October 24, the following oneg dates are still open! Please check your calendars and sign up for one, if you do not as yet have a date for the coming calendar year: **12/14, (hanukkah)**, **2/15** (kids shabbat), **2/22** (Purim) and **5/17** (confirmation and Shavout.)

Rabbinic Interns' Page

The Jewish month of *Cheshvan* has no Hebrew holidays, warranting it the nickname *Mar Cheshvan* (bitter *Cheshvan*). Luckily, as American Jews, we gather together with friends and family for Thanksgiving. While darkness arrives earlier each night, Thanksgiving offers us an opportunity to see the light in our lives during bitter *Cheshvan*. We take time to visit family or friends, partake in traditions, cook our favorite dishes or just take a moment to relax and breathe. Though Thanksgiving is not a Jewish holiday, giving thanks appears as a major theme of our holidays and prayers. We are also reminded that though we are able to sit down to a festive meal, thousands of Americans are living in poverty and hunger. Thanksgiving is an opportunity to both rejoice in our fortune and commit to continue working towards a world where no one goes to bed hungry.

This short excerpt from the American Jewish Committee's Thanksgiving Haggadah offers various freedoms we can be thankful for:

We are thankful for the freedom from hunger.

We are thankful for the freedom to worship.

We are thankful for the freedom to challenge our minds.

We are thankful for the freedom to change our minds.

We are thankful for the freedom to chart our lives.

We are thankful for the freedom to work for a better world.

We are thankful for the freedom to celebrate this day.

Rejoice in your freedom and enjoy your time with friends and family. I look forward to seeing you soon!

- Rabbi Allie



Rabbinic Interns

Allie Fischman

Rabbi.Allie@CongShirAmi.org

Aaron Sataloff

Rabbi.Aaron@CongShirAmi.org

Saturday, December 1 - Trope Class, 2-3pm

Join us for (mostly) Torah trope class. Learn the cantillation (musical markings) that enable us to chant from the Torah.

Saturday, December 1, 3:30-5:00pm

Adult Education - 100 Blessings,

Jews are supposed to say 100 blessings each and every day. Come learn about Jewish blessings and discuss ways to add blessings of gratitude to your daily routine. We'll end the evening with havdallah.

TZEDAKAH

Doing tzedakah is a mitzvah, a commandment, for all Jews. Traditionally, observant Jews drop a few coins in a *pushke*, a collection box, just prior to the start of Shabbat as a regular means of doing tzedakah. At Shir Ami, we've not had an easy means of doing tzedakah in honor of Shabbat. We are now introducing a new custom at Shir Ami. We have hung a tzedakah box on the wall as you enter the sanctuary from the kitchen-- easily available for any of us to drop a few coins into it. The box was made last year in our religious school. We will talk about this new custom at the next few services and other gatherings. Please join in contributing what you can each week, just prior to Shabbat, fulfilling the mitzvah of tzedakah, providing funds for the needy.

November Religious School Events

Sunday, Nov. 4th Religious School 9:15 am (10:30
start for preschool – 2nd grade)

6 pm Friday, Nov. 9th Kid's Shabbat Services (followed
by Community Potluck)

Sunday, Nov. 11th Religious School 9:15 am (10:30
start for preschool – 2nd grade)

**Sunday, Nov. 18th NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving
Holiday**

**Sunday, Nov. 25th NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving
Holiday**

7:30 pm Friday, Nov. 30 Shabbat Services 3rd grade
through B'nai Mitzvah students participating (more information to
follow regarding student's roles in the service)

**Sunday, Dec. 2 Chanukah Faire in lieu of
Religious School starting at 11 am**

Shir Ami thanks the following individuals for their generous donations

- Marcie and Mike Loss, in memory of Ruth Bergel and Ralph Loss.
- Noah and Helen Markus, in memory of Jeanette Brody.
- Richard & Sharon Sacks, in memory of Rose Levine
- Marion Kramer, for "Break the Fast."
- Bruce and Susan Carter, in memory of Rose Levine.
- Barbara-Ann Lewis, for the pre-holiday building clean-up. (She wasn't able to attend and kindly sent a donation to help pay for the cleaning lady.

Volunteer Opportunity at Alameda County Food Bank

Shir Ami volunteers will be participating in pre-Thanksgiving food sorting/boxing at the Alameda County food bank on November 18 from noon to 2:30. This event is open to anybody over ten years of age, and is a great way for all of us (those of us over ten, anyway) to get into the holiday spirit of giving and Tikkun Olam, as well as a great way to get into the Shir Amit community spirit and get better acquainted with other members of the congregation.

The Food Bank is at 7900 Edgewater Drive in Oakland; we will be carpooling from Shir Ami, and will assemble at Shir Ami at 11:15.

Please keep in mind the following: Volunteers will be sorting, screening, shelving and/or boxing food in the Food Bank warehouse. The work can be messy (but usually we're working with boxed or canned goods, so it does not often get extremely messy). Also, the warehouse can be quite warm or quite chilly depending on the weather (in November it tends to be cool). Please wear sensible clothing and foot wear appropriate for the job and working conditions. Shorts are acceptable but sandals and flip-flops are not. PLEASE WEAR CLOSED-TOED SHOES.

Please do not bring headphones, MP3 player or other personal stereo. Also, back packs, shoulder bags, purses, etc., are not to be brought into the warehouse, and should be left at home or locked in the trunks of your vehicles.

If you can make it, please let Tom Spitzer (socialaction@congshirami.org 415 572 4156) know so we can let the food bank know how many of us to expect.

SAVE THE DATE! Annual Shir Ami Women's Retreat

Friday, March 8 – Sunday, March 10, 2013

At Westminster Retreat Center in Alamo, CA

Watch your email and the December Bulletin for details

What is Limmud?

Limmud is a learning conference organized by volunteers and presented by distinguished as well as amateur educators... Registration opens on November 1, 2012 at <http://www.limmudbayarea.org>

Shop For The Holidays

Third Annual
Community SHUK

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

**Showcasing 40+ Artists
from East Bay Synagogues**

Jewelry • Paintings • Sculpture • Fabric Arts • Clothing
Photography • Accessories • Judaica • Gifts
Stationary/Paper Goods • Toys • Chanukah Items

Sunday, November 4, 2012
10am ~ 4pm

At Temple Sinai
28th & Webster Streets, Oakland
plentiful parking

Kosher and Kosher Style Foods for Sale

Fresh Coffee

Grand Bakery - Baked goods, sweet & savory and cold beverages

Old World Food Truck - Familiar Jewish Flavors



Kids' Shir Ami Shabbat



6:00 PM

POTLUCK 6:46 PM

Services conducted by Aaron Sasaloff 6:30 PM Friday, November 9th

Please participate in Shir Ami's rotating food assignment

A through N.....Salad or side dish

O through Z.....Main dish

, help with cleanup

Bring a friend

Honoring a New Member



Shir Ami Services (3rd grade to B'nai Mitzvah)
will be led by Rabbinic Intern Allie Fischman
on Friday, November 30th at 7:30 PM

A special welcome to
Lisa Steindel-Byrne
Shir Ami's newest member

Chanukah Faire & Boutique

Sunday, December 2nd

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

4529 Malabar Ave, Castro Valley

Fundraiser for...

Congregation Shir Ami

- Craft Items & Holiday Gifts by Local Artists for Sale
- Kids' Activities (\$5/child for access to all activities including face painting & crafts)
- Chanukah Food
- Chanukah Items for sale
- Silent Auction... And More!

Questions? Contact:
info@congshirami.org
510-220-3345

Everyone Welcome!



Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood

ROSH CHODESH RECAP

Harriet Skelly hosted the evening with an introduction to the month of Cheshvan.. We then watched the movie, *Rosenstrasse*, and enjoyed popcorn and movie candy.

This compelling film was set in Berlin in 1943. Gentile German women who were married to Jewish men stood in protest on a street named Rosenstrasse outside the factory where their husbands were imprisoned. They stood in the name of devotion and love until their families were reunited. It was a meaningful experience that we all appreciated.

Thank you to Rose Firestone who provided the film and Harriet Skelly & Marlene Lamnin for hosting.

UPCOMING ROSH CHODESH..

Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 pm

at the home of Jan Dombrower. We will bring in the month of Kislev. Continuing with the months of darkness, we will have a program and discussion about how we have come into light. We will have Rosh Chodesh rituals, blessings, and refreshments. Email will follow with more details.

Rosh Chodesh 5773 (2012-13)

Wed. Nov 14 Kislev
Wed. Dec 12 Tevet- **Chanukah Party**
Tues. Jan 15 S'vat
Tues. Feb 12 Adar
Fri.-Sun. Mar. 8-10 **Women's Retreat**
Tue. Mar 12 Nissan
Wed. April 10 Iyar
Wed. May 8 Sivan
Wed. June 5 Tammuz

Harriet Skelly &
Jan Dombrower

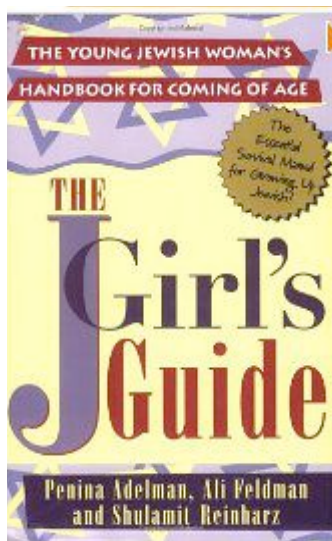
For more
information
about Rosh
Chodesh
(sisterhood)
events, contact
Jan at Sisterhood@CongShirAmi.org



Shir Ami Library

Books from the [Shir Ami Library](#) - Available for You!

The J Girl's Guide: The Young Jewish Women's Handbook for Coming of Age, written by Penina Adelman, Ali Feldman and Shulamit Reinharz provides a framework to help teenage girls think about their lives and their futures.



The JGirl's Guide is a first-of-its-kind book of practical, real-world advice using Judaism as a compass for the journey through adolescence. A fun survival guide for coming of age, it explores the wisdom and experiences of rabbis, athletes, writers, scholars,

musicians, and great Jewish thinkers, as well as stories from lots of girls—girls who share their worries and concerns, and joys. Here's a place to turn to for honest, helpful discussion about the things that really matter to a Jewish teen: • Friendship • Eating • Health • Sexuality • Getting involved • Dealing with authority • Coping with stress • Self-esteem • Communication • Jewish Identity

The JGirl's Guide provides Jewish writings, traditions, and advice that can help a young lady to explore these questions.

Thanks to Bill Firestone for donating several copies of this book to Shir Ami.

This book will reside on the window in the kitchen and is available to be borrowed. Shir Ami's library circulates books on an honor system, so feel free to borrow these or any other books from the library.

Yahrzeit List

November 2012 Yahrzeit List *(as of 10/26/12)*

November 9, 2012

Freda Hansen,	aunt of Toni Schulberg
Ralph Loss,	father of Mike Loss
Martin Michelson,	brother-in-law of David Schulberg

November 30, 2012

Dora Alperovich,	aunt of Irina Druker
Henry Ball,	very active former member of Shir Ami
Larry Dean,	father of Tyler Dean
Lazarus Lewis,	father of Peter Lewis
Ada & Jack Rubenstein,	mother and father of Ron Rubenstein

Kaddish List **(to be read at all services)**

Katherine Schuelke,	mother of Susan Spitzer
Rose Levine,	wife of Hillie Leviine, and long-time founding member of Shir Ami
Fran Johnson,	long-time member of Shir Ami
Robert Krantz,	father of Sam Krantz
Sylvia Weingarten	aunt of Stan Heimowitz
George Lange,	brother of Mickey Lange

Do you have a name you would like to have read for Kaddish at Friday services?

Is there someone for whom you'd like a Yahrzeit reminder letter? The process is very simple.

Please email Toni Schulberg (yahrzeit@congsHIRAMI.org) the following information: your name, the name of the person who died, their relationship to you, the date they died (month, day, year in the English calendar), and whether or not you want to use the English or the Hebrew calendar for your reminder. If you want the Hebrew calendar dates, Toni will get them for you, and send the reminders on the corresponding dates.

Adult Learning

See Rabbinic Interns' Page, page 4, for details on Adult Learning provided by our Rabbinic Interns.

Adult Learning: Learning Hebrew through Prayer (classes ongoing, various levels)

Have you always wanted to learn Hebrew?

Contact Judy Ganz AdultHebrew@CongShirAmi.org

Contacts

Congregation Shir Ami

4529 Malabar Street
Castro Valley, CA 94546



***Please submit invoice and reimbursement requests to:

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