5776



4529 Malabar Avenue Castro Valley CA 94546

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

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

Affiliated with the <u>Union for Reform Judaism</u>

	Eve	ent (Calen	dar	Find up-to-the-minute event details at Shir Ami's website, www.congshirami.org ***All events are held at Shir Ami unless otherwise noted.***	
Sun.	Jan.	3			NO SCHOOL	
Tue.	Jan.	5	7:00	pm	Shir Ami 50th Anniversary Celebration Planning Meeting, events@congshirami.org, page 7	
Wed.	Jan.	6	7:00	pm	Mishkan T'filah class with Diana Zankowsky, religion@congshirami.org	
Thur.	Jan	7	7:00	pm	Shir Ami Board Meeting, at Shir Ami. Open to all.	
Fri.	Jan.	8	6:00	pm	Kid's Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Julie Bressler	
Fri.	Jan.	8	6:45	pm	Pot Luck Dinner, bring a dish to share and enjoy dinner with the congregation	
Fri.	Jan.	8	7:30	pm	Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Julie Bressler. Come for dinner, stay for Shabbat service!	
Sat.	Jan.	9	10:00	am	Religious Committee Meeting. Members welcome, rsvp if attending, religion@congshirami.org	
Sat.	Jan.	9	3:30	pm	Book Club with Rabbi Julie Bressler, discussing The Periodic Table written by Primo Levi	
Sat.	Jan.	9	5:15	pm	Israeli TV Night with Rabbi Julie Bressler (after the book discussion), refreshments provided	
Sun.	Jan.	10	9:30	am	School Field Trip to Jewish Contemporary Museum, S.F., adults encouraged to attend w/ child	
Tue.	Jan.	12	7:30	pm	Rosh Chodesh, look for details by email or contact sisterhood@congshirami.org	
Wed.	Jan.	13	7:00	pm	Mishkan T'filah class with Diana Zankowsky, religion@congshirami.org	
Sun.	Jan.	17			NO SCHOOL	
Wed.	Jan.	20	7:00	pm	Mishkan T'filah class with Diana Zankowsky, religion@congshirami.org	
Fri.	Jan.	22	7:00	pm	Shabbat Shira with Rabbi Bryan Zive	
Sat.	Jan.	23	10:00	am	Coffee & Commentaries, with Rabbi Bryan. This session held at Starbucks in CV Village	
Sat.	Jan.	23	3:00	pm	Tu BiSh'vat Seder w/ Rabbi Bryan Zive & Diana Zankowsky, rsvp by Evite. Invitations, Free eCards	
Sun.	Jan.	24	9; 10:30	am	9 am, Hebrew; 10:30, Tu BiSh'vat Seder for all school students, Tot Talk, and their families	
Sun.	Jan.	24	10:30	am	Tot Talk, for preschoolers and their families. This month we will celebrate "New Year of the Trees"	
Wed.	Jan.	27	7:30	pm	Meditation group, no experience needed. Contact Julie Greenfield meditation@congshirami.org	
Sun.	Jan.	31	9; 10:30	am	Hebrew and Religious School	

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month's President's Message is written by guest contributor Melanie Einbund. Melanie is Co-Chair of Shir Ami's 50th Anniversary Event Planning Committee

A synagogue for 50 years in Castro Valley – who would have thought?

I wouldn't have -- a big city girl from a large Jewish community, where there was someone like me all around me all the time. But finding this Jewish community in a small town in California – what a difference it has made in my life!

Shir Ami has given a Jewish foothold to many, religious experience to some, celebrations shared and a variety of programs too many to mention. All of this supports and instills a Jewish life and identity where finding such a thing is not a given. But found it I have, and it has transformed me from observer, to member, to active participant. I wanted to contribute to the celebration of the longevity of this small, warm and constant congregation.

Our 50th Anniversary Brunch committee has made excellent progress:

forming committees, recruiting volunteers (there are many of you out there – Thank You), finding a venue, agreeing on music, making sure the food will be delicious and includes must-have dishes like latkes and blintzes, putting together a video of our

and photos to commemorate and spark memories. We are still in the middle of the website coordination and ad solicitation. Invitations are ready to go, volunteers are ready for action, publicity is being written.

So, what's next? What's next is our participation. Each and every one of us who can to plan to be there for Congregation Shir Ami's 50^{th} Anniversary Brunch on Sunday, March 20 at 11 am – Crow Canyon Country Club, Danville. For without you, without all of us, there is no event.

Please keep our celebration in your thoughts and plans.
Maybe even make it a New Year's Resolution to reserve your places early (by January 20). Nate and I will be doing just that. Watch for your invitation coming soon by email.



Wishing all of you a Wonderful, Happy and Peaceful New Year. Shalom, Melanie Anniversary Co-Chair

MISHKAN T'FILAH SERVICES

Diana Zankowsky will facilitate a three-part class on the services in our prayer book, Mishkan T'filah, on January 6th, January 13th and January 20.

These classes will run for 1.5 hours, starting at 7 pm and they will be held at Congregation Shir Ami.

- •1/6, 7:00 pm During the first class, we will study the Friday night service.
- •1/13, 7:00 pm The second class will be about the Saturday morning service.
- •1/20, 7:00 pm In the third class, we will look at the Torah service.

During these classes, we will have the opportunity to understand the order of the service, the meanings of the major prayers and the interaction between the service leader and the congregation. If you want an introduction to Reform worship services or you would



like to deepen your knowledge of the services, please plan to attend any one of the classes or all three. And if your child is studying Hebrew or beginning to prepare for a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, this is your opportunity to learn what your child will be leading.

RABBINIC INTERNS' CLERGY COLUMN

Each month, our Rabbinic Interns take turns and share their thoughts with us. This month's column is submitted by Student Rabbi Bryan Zive

Shir Ami Bulletin Article, January 2016

Disclaimer: Do not rush through this article! A man dressed in old, ripped clothing that sat in a subway station in Washington D.C. and played his violin. He played six Bach pieces lasting about 45 minutes. It was during rush hour, and it was calculated that 1100 people walked through the station on their way to work. Three minutes in, a man realized there was a musician playing, and slowed his pace, stopping for five seconds to listen, and hurried off to meet his schedule. A few minutes later, a man leaned against the wall to listen, but rushed off to work seconds later after realizing he was late.

Throughout the 45-minute time period, only six people stopped for more than a few seconds to listen to the music. Twenty people gave him money, but continued to walk at their normal pace. He collected a total of \$32, and when he concluded each piece, nobody applauded or recognized him and his accomplishment.

Little did anyone know that the man was Joshua Bell, one of the most famous violinists in the world! He had just played a popular piece on an instrument worth over \$3 million! Two days prior to playing in the subway lobby, Bell had sold out two theaters in the Boston area, where tickets averaged \$100 per seat.

Bell's appearance in the subway tunnel was arranged by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and the priorities of people. If we do not have the time to recognize, sit and listen to one of the most famous musicians in the world, what other moments are we missing?

In the Torah, we just read the story of the Israelites' journey from slavery to freedom, in what is perhaps the most magical and majestic of biblical moments. Friday night, January 22, our congregation will celebrate the inspirational observance of Shabbat Shirah, the Shabbat of Song. We will read Shirat HaYam from the Torah, the "song of the sea" with the famous words of Mi Chamocha. The evening will be full of beautiful music, one in which I hope we'll come together and re-experience the jubilee felt as Miriam danced with her timbrels as Moses led the Israelites across the parted sea.

As we enter 2016, throughout the month of January, I challenge you to notice the world around you. We are all guilty of missing something. We have all responded to that email while driving because it simply could not wait. Nobody lives in the moment anymore...we are all too busy on our iPhones to stop and smell the roses. Let us all witness the miracles that occur daily. In fact, I'd love to hear about the ones that you've seen. Feel free to email me your stories:

<u>rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org</u>. I can't wait to hear all about them!

L'shalom,

Student Rabbi Bryan Zive

Rabbinic Interns

Julie Bressler <u>rabbi.julie@congshirami.org</u>

Bryan Zive rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org





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RABBINIC INTERNS' SCHEDULE

Jan. 8-10, with Rabbi Julie Bressler

- **Fri., Jan 8, 6:00 pm, Children's Shabbat Service**. For the young and young at heart! Join Rabbi Julie for an interactive and musical service. We will dance, sing and have a great time.
- **Fri., Jan 8, 6:45 pm,** Congregational **Potluck Dinner**. Bring a dish to share and join in a festive meal with your Shir Ami community.
- Fri., Jan 8, 7:30 pm, Regular Shabbat Service. Come for dinner, stay for services! Let's join together to welcome in 2016 and think of all the ways we can enhance our community and support one another in the new (secular) year. It might only be January, but our Torah portion is already talking about the Ten Plagues how can we minimize the plagues in our life and the lives of others and create more positivity in the world?
- Sat., Jan. 9, 3:30 pm: Book Discussion of Primo Levi's *The Periodic Table*. We will discuss and reflect upon Levi's fascinating work about his experiences before, during and after WWII. Come with your books, questions, comments and concerns!
- Sat., Dec. 9, 5:15 pm:(After the book discussion) Israeli TV Night! Last year, we watched the first two episodes of *Srugim* a *Friends*-esque Israeli TV show. Join Rabbi Julie to watch the next two episodes (don't worry she'll provide a recap of episodes one and two first, and the plot line is not hard to follow) and discuss how this show highlights the uniqueness of Israeli society. Israeli snacks will be provided!

Jan. 22-24, with Rabbi Bryan Zive

- Fri., Jan. 22, 7:00 pm: Shabbat Shirah Service:
 Enjoy a Shabbat filled with even more song than usual! We will honor the Torah portion in which the Israelites crossed the parted sea into freedom by chanting Shirat HaYam, the Song of the Sea, from the Torah! It will be an musical extravaganza you will not want to miss!
- Sat., Jan. 23, 10:00 am: Coffee and Commentaries:
 Enjoy your Shabbat morning with Student Rabbi
 Bryan Zive. Sip on your latte or a spot of tea while
 we study the weekly Torah portion. (Nothing
 formal, just fun!) Location for this month is at
 Starbucks in the Village- Castro Valley.
 (Prerequisite: Come ready for an engaging
 conversation!) This week's edition: Crossing the Sea
- Sat., Jan. 23, 3:00 pm: Sat., Jan. 23, 3:00 pm: Tu BiSh'vat Seder. Congregational seder for Tu BiSh'vat. Come welcome the New Year of the Trees with song, nuts and fruits, and wine or juice. Co-led by Rabbi Bryan Zive and Diana Zankowsky.

Cost: \$5 per person over age 13; children 12 and under are free

RSVP by Evite by January 16, or contact Jon Zimmerman (510-220-3345)



BOOK CLUB SELECTION FOR JANUARY 9 BOOK CLUB W/ RABBI JULIE

January 9, 3:30 pm, BOOK DISCUSSION

The Periodic Table by Primo Levi

"Every chapter is full of surprises, insights, high humor, and language that often rises to poetry.

-The New Yorker

The Periodic Table is a complex and beautifully rendered memoir by the author of Survival in Auschwitz. Primo Levi (1919-1987), a chemist by profession, uses the elements as a frame for stories of his childhood in the Jewish community of Turin, his work with the Partisans, and some extraordinary experiences after the War. Levi writes in an

approachable and welcoming style as he paints a picture of his extraordinary life.

This memoir is the 2015-2016 book club selection for **One Bay One Book**, a project of the Jewish Community Library that aims to connect Jewish book groups and communities across the Bay Area through literature. Throughout the year, there will be many events and discussions related to the book and the topics it discusses. Check out more information and see other upcoming events at their website - http://www.jewishlearningworks.org/one-bay-one-book/.

Join *Rabbi Julie Bressler on January 9, at 3:30 pm.*

SCHOOL NOTES

On November 22nd, some of the older students and teens joined other members of Shir Ami to volunteer at the food bank. The younger students stayed at Shir Ami and learned about Deborah.

For the cooking chug Helene used the recipe book compiled by Gabi and Olivia for their confirmation project. Helene and the children made chocolate cake in a mug. It was such a success. Two more cookbooks were sold. I'd like to encourage everyone to buy copies, which are available at Shir Ami. There are terrific recipes and it would support the endeavor from the girls.

On December 6th, Tot Talk children joined religious school students in celebrating Chanukah. During the second half of school they moved between three stations. Harriet came in to help run the card making center. They were also able to play with dreidels at one station. The third center had the making of edible menorahs and dreidels. Everyone had a good time.

SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

Sunday, January 10, 9:30 am School field trip to the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children.

TOT TALK

Our next Tot Talk is on **Sunday**, **January 24th at 10:30am**.

Tot Talk is a free, monthly program for preschoolers and their families to connect with the Jewish community.

MEDITATION GROUP

The meditation Group will meet Wednesday, December 27, 7:30 pm. No experience needed. Contact Julie Greenfield, meditation@congshirami.org

SISTERHOOD/ ROSH CHODESH, JANUARY

Next Rosh Chodesh will be held on **Tuesday**, **January 12**. We will bring in the month of Shevat. Stay tuned for more details by email. <u>sisterhood@congshirami.org</u>,

ANNUAL SISTERHOOD HANUKKAH PARTY.

The sisterhood met for a wonderful Hanukkah party at Bettina Skehan's home in Union



City! We were welcomed to her beautifully decorated home with the joyful sound of Hanukkah music playing in the background. and the smell of latkes and soup. Salads and dessert completed the dinner menu.

Lighting the many menorahs with blessings and candles for the 5th night enhanced the warm, loving atmosphere.

We had several guests, including Joan Edelstein who became a member of Shir Ami and sisterhood that night. Welcome, Joan!

We then turned our attention to Jessica Colette who recently lost her dear brother, Neil. We had a shiva circle with prayers, sharing, readings, and Kaddish. It was a meaningful experience for us all.

Afterwards, we indulged in our annual gift-stealing game. It was probably the best year ever for gifts. There was a lot of stealing, lively snatching and laughter.

For information on Sisterhood events and to be added to our email list, contact Jan Dombrower Chimpky: sisterhood@congshirami.org

SAVE THE DATE, 2016 Women's Retreat

February 26-28, 2016 San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville (See flier in this Bulletin.)

Connect with your Jewish sisters and have a great getaway! Join us for this annual weekend of

women's friendship, worship, creativity, music, and play. Rabbinic Intern Julie Bressler joins us to share her spiritual leadership. Newcomers are very welcome.

Contact Ruth Hartman, events@congshirami.org, if you have questions.

TU BISH'VAT SEDER

Saturday, January 23, 3:00 pm. Come welcome the New Year of the Trees with song, nuts and fruits, and wine or juice. Co-led by Rabbi Bryan Zive and Diana Zankowsky. Cost: \$5 for over age 13, children under 13 free. RSVP by Jauary 16 to Evite. Click the following link Invitations, Free eCards and Party Planning Ideas from Evite

KOL TRUAH CHOIR

Kol Truah, Jewish Choir of the East Bay, performs January 30 and 31. Shir Ami member, Jessica Collett, and her husband, Robert, are singing with the Kol Truah choir. They hope you will come enjoy their upcoming concert. See flier on page 12 of this Bulletin for details.

JANUARY 2016 YAHRZEIT

January 8, 2016

Sheila Arthur, long time former member of Shir Ami

Zac Cohen, long time member of Shir Ami Darlene Golembo, sister of Sharon Golembo

Bridget Laky, past president and long time former member of Shir Ami

Tom Manley, former member of Shir Ami Isaac Rosenberg, grandfather of Alex Druker Peter Rosenberg, uncle of Alex Druker

Helen Rosner, long time active member of Shir Ami

Earl T. Stebben, husband of Sharalyn Stebben

January 22, 2016

Tyler Brooke, father of Toni Schulberg

Celia Kramer, grandmother of Marion Kramer

George Lange, brother of Mickey Lange

Rolf Weinberg, husband of Ingrid Weinberg; charter member & mainstay of Shir Ami for many, many

years

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

Neil Joseph Kellman, brother of Jessica Collett

Sonja Romero, birth mother of Lori Knopf Santora

Karl Felperin, member of Shir Ami

Florrie Finkle, long time member of Shir Ami Sara Belenki mother of Arkady Massen Irwin Martin Mitchell, father of Helen Markus

Hillie Levine, charter member and mainstay of Shir Ami for many years

Beatrice Dombrower, mother of Jan Dombrower

DONATIONS

Lina Tefari yahrzeit of Elina Segal

Bruce & Harriet Skelly in honor of Pat Palmer's 90th birthday

Irina Druker yahrzeit

Sharon Golembo yahrzeit of Sharon's sister, Darlene Golembo

Cary Nasatir yiskor contribution

Shir Ami Sisterhood in memory of Neil Joseph Kellman, brother of Jessica Collett

INTERFAITH RALLY IN CASTRO VALLEY

On December 26, Shir Ami joined with several local faith-based groups at a rally and march led by the Eden Area Interfaith Council. The rally was in response to a recent anti-Muslim incident at Lake Chabot. The speakers at the rally, including our president, Harriet Skelly, rejected bigotry against our Muslim neighbors and demonstrated how people of all faiths can love, learn and live together, reaffirming the values of peace, acceptance and freedom of religion.

The peaceful rally of 250 individuals (about 30 were from Shir Ami!) represented churches, mosques, and temples in the Hayward/Castro Valley/San Leandro

area. We thank Julie Greenfield for her leadership in organizing this event.

For pictures and information, see Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/edeninterfaith/





SHIR AMI 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT PLANNING

How do you celebrate 50 years?

Have a party - that's how!

Ours is March 20 (11 AM) at the Crow Canyon Country Club in Dublin!

It will be a day full of reuniting with friends, former members, rabbinic interns and community. Great music, fabulous food, history video, and photos are just a few of the happenings.

It's been a journey and we are only 3 months away! The web site is up; which means you can order your tickets electronically. You can also send a check to Shir Ami!

A link to the site is: http:// shirami50.mydagsite.com/home

Ads are being solicited for the Event Program. It is a great way to commemorate the occasion. Won't you think of getting one like "The Einbund Family congratulates Shir Ami on its 50th Anniversary'.

Volunteers are still needed to make this event a WOW experience. Time commitments can be big or very small.

As we think about our past, and look toward to our future, please come and be a part of our special Shir Ami History.

B'Shalom Melanie and Barbara

SHIR AMI ANNIVERSARY EVENT SPONSORSHIP

2016 SHIR AMI 50th Anniversary Event



Congregation Shir Ami will be celebrating our 50th anniversary as a synagogue in Castro Valley on March 20th, 2016 at the Crow Canyon Country Club. There are several sponsorship opportunities. Your sponsorship will increase your visibility among the attendees and Shir Ami Community and invited guests. You will have special recognition in the event program and a mention on the Shir Ami website.

******	*********
Yes! I would like to commit to being a sponso at the following level:	or at the 2016 50th Anniversary Event for Congregation Shir Ami
☐ 1/8 page Ad - \$25 ☐ 1/2 page a	nd - \$90
☐ 1/4 page Ad - \$50 ☐ Full page a	ad - \$150
Contact Person	
How would you like your sponsorship ad to re	ead as?
Address:	·
Email:	
Any artwork will need to be camera ready.	
Enclosed is my check (payable to Congregation	n Shir Ami) in the amount of \$
Deadline for ordering an ad is February 15,20	16. Contact events@congshirami.org with questions.
Return via mail to Congregation Shir Ami —	PO Box 2099, Castro Valley, CA 94546



Congregation Shir Ami Cookbook

Created by the 2015 Confirmation Class, this cookbook contains a collection of recipes from current members as well as featured favorites from the Congregation's 1969 edition cookbook.







The cookbook can be purchased for \$15 each, making it a great holiday gift! Fill-in, tear-off and mail-in the slip below to order now...

Yes! I would like to order ____ cookbook(s) at a price of \$15.00 each. Total amount enclosed: \$____

Checks should be made payable to **Congregation Shir Ami**, and sent to: Congregation Shir Ami – Cookbook, P.O. Box 2099, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Questions? E-mail: treasurer@congshirami.org





Congregation Shir Ami has purchased new High Holy Day prayer books. This new machzor, called **Mishkan HaNefesh**, has modern and gender-equality content, updated translations, rich commentary, and a beautiful selection of poetry.

Mishkan HaNefesh provides an environment for those of all backgrounds to find meaning in the High Holy Days.

Each regular print 2-volume set can be sponsored for a donation of \$50; large print for \$75; and pulpit edition for \$100. Your donation is a great way to recognize important people and events in your life. To sponsor a set of Mishkan HaNefesh prayer books, please fill out and send in the form below. Questions? Contact mishkan@congshirami.org, or call Jon at 510-220-3345.

Make check payable to: Congregation Shir Ami . Send to: HHD Prayer Book, c/o Congregation Shir Ami, P.O. Box 2099, Castro Valley, CA 94546
Enclosed is a check for \$ for set(s) of Mishkan HaNefesh (please include as many types & inscriptions as appropriate)
Name:
Set Type (Regular/Large Print/Pulpit/Music):
Inscription #1:
Inscription #2:



You're Invited!

Congregation Shir Ami's 50th Anniversary

March 20, 2016 at 11:00 AM

Crow Canyon Country Club
711 Silver Lake Drive Danville, CA 94526

Why attend?

To reconnect with former and current members!

To enjoy live music and a fabulous brunch!

To celebrate the role our wonderful congregation has played in the lives of ourselves, our families, and our community! To have fun!

Adults - 14 and over: \$36

Kids - 6-13 years old: \$18

3-5 years old: \$9

under 3: no charge

Questions? E-mail: 50th@congshirami.org

Website: http://shirami50.mydagsite.com/home

Join us for our 20th Annual

Shir Ami Women's Retreat: Celebrating Our Resilience

Friday, February 26 – Sunday, February 28, 2016

At the beautiful San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville

Connect with your Shir Ami sisters and have a great getaway! Join us for this annual weekend of women's friendship, worship, creativity, music, and play. Rabbinic Intern Julie Bressler joins us to share her spiritual leadership. As always, newcomers are *very* welcome.

The cost for the weekend is \$260.

Please register online at http://goo.gl/forms/ySH5QfQ8f8 and mail your check, payable to Ruth Hartman, the same day. (Mailing address is at the online registration site.)

Register ASAP, no later than **February 1**.

Questions?
Contact Ruth Hartman: 510-543-6902 or <u>events@congshirami.org</u>



7:30 PM Saturday, January 30, 2016

Temple Israel

3183 Mecartney Rd. Alameda, CA 94502

7 PM Sunday, January 31, 2016
Congregation Netivot Shalom
1316 University Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702

Suggested donation: \$15, \$10 student and senior



Kol Truah Presents



art & design by Malka Helfman

www.koltruah.org



Music Director

April Shayna McNeely

Artistic Director Cantor Pamela Sawyer

> Pianist Eleanor Cohen

For more information email: cantorpam@koltruah.org

Kol Truah Presents: A journey through Jewish music

spanning hundreds
of years and three continents.

Join us as we make music from the earliest forms on record to our own times. We will encounter songs by ever-prolific Anonymous, mysterious Rossi, traditionalist Lewandowski, and cantor's son Kurt Weill, and we'll explore Sephardic, Yiddish, and Yemenite folk music and way beyond. You won't need your passport to experience the varied and beautiful music that makes up part of our heritage, but you will have explored part of the musical world that doesn't often get visited.