



CONGREGATION  
**SHIR AMI**

4529 Malabar Avenue  
Castro Valley CA 94546

Web: [www.CongShirAmi.org](http://www.CongShirAmi.org)  
Email: [Info@CongShirAmi.org](mailto:Info@CongShirAmi.org)

Congregation Shir Ami in Castro Valley is an intimate, intergenerational Reform Jewish Community that welcomes interfaith families.  
Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

*Event Calendar* Find up-to-the-minute event details at Shir Ami's website, [www.congshirami.org](http://www.congshirami.org)  
*All events are held at Shir Ami unless otherwise noted.*

Sun.	May	1	9; 10:30 am	9 am, Hebrew School; 10:30 am, Religious School
Thur.	May	5	7:00 pm	Shir Ami Board Meeting, held at Shir Ami. Open to all members
Fri.	May	6	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Julie Bressler. Shabbat Service including torah reading
Sat.	May	7	10:00 am	Coffee & Commentaries, with Rabbi Julie Bressler. Held at Shir Ami, coffee provided
Sat.	May	7	4:30 pm	Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story, w/ Rabbi Julie Bressler
Sat.	May	7	6:00 pm	Farewell Potluck Dinner for Rabbi Julie with Havdalah Service
Sun.	May	8		NO SCHOOL
Tue.	May	10	7:30 pm	Rosh Chodesh. Check your email for details or contact <a href="#">Jan Dombrower Chimpky</a>
Sat.	May	14	8:30 am	Interfaith March at Rowell Ranch Rodeo Parade. Meet at 8:30, march at 9:00. Details follow.
Sun.	May	15	9; 10:30 am	9 am, Hebrew School; 10:30 am, Religious School
Wed.	May	18	10:00 am	Special DAYTIME Meditation group, no experience needed. Contact <a href="#">Julie Greenfield</a>
Fri.	May	20	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service, led by Rabbi Bryan Zive
Sat.	May	21	10:00 am	South Hayward Parish Annual Meeting, see information on page 5
Sat.	May	21	10:00 am	Coffee & Commentaries, with Rabbi Bryan Zive. Held at Shir Ami
Sat.	May	21	12:00 pm	Men's Group, "Tailgate" and Watch the A's Game, with Rabbi Bryan Zive. Held at Shir Ami
Sat.	May	21	3:30 pm	Reform Responsa, Adult Education with Rabbi Bryan Zive. Held at Shir Ami
Sun.	May	22	9; 10:30 am	9 am, Hebrew School; 10:30 am, Religious School. Last day of school before summer break
Sun.	May	22	11:30 am	Tot Talk for preschoolers will join Shir Ami's last-day-of-school activities
Sun.	May	22	12:30 pm	Community Potluck Lunch, an end-of-the-year celebration at Shir Ami
Sun.	May	22	1:00 pm	Annual Members Meeting, immediately following lunch
Fri.	June	10	7:30 pm	Shabbat and Shavuot Service led by Diana Zankowsky
Sat.	June	11	9:00 pm	Erev Shavuot Study w/ cheesecake & desserts. Led by Barbara-Ann Lewis & Diana Zankowsky
Fri.	June	24	7:30 pm	Shabbat Service led by Barbara-Ann Lewis

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Shir Ami Community,

I want to thank Sara Lamnin for writing last month's Presidents message. In this month's message I will start where Sara left off:

***"It is not incumbent upon you to complete the work, but neither are you at liberty to desist from it"*** (Rabbi Tarfon, Pirkei Avot 2:16)

As Sara pointed out, one of Shir Ami's strengths is our member involvement. Being Jewish doesn't happen to us – we live it, we are involved with it and we have grown with it. We want to continue to grow leaders in our community who will move Shir Ami into the next 50 years.

The new leadership model that we are introducing (on a trial basis) began with the Board's decision to redefine/reshape the role of the president. As we worked on it, our list of goals expended to the following:

- Redefine the role of President to be more strategic and direction-setting and less day-to-day management
- Expand our community's leadership capacity
- Create roles that fit members' time and interests
- Transfer knowledge to newer members
- Place more focus on Teen and Youth Engagement

This month I will be sending out to all members the leadership model document that details the functions

and committees that keep Shir Ami the warm, inviting and growing community that we are. Most of these committees already exist but need more membership, while others will be new. Throughout, the role of committees will expand. Leadership of the committees can rotate according to the will of the group. Each committee will have a vote on the Board. We will still have a designated President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurers, but they too will be guided by the appropriate committees.

On May 22, at 12:30 pm, after our last day of Hebrew and Religious school, I invite all of you to our end of year potluck lunch and Annual Members Meeting. At that time we will ask everyone to participate in the new leadership model by joining a committee and taking on one or more leadership roles. If you have limited time but want to contribute you now have a way to do just that! Many of us have found that taking on even a small task to support Shir Ami deepens our connection to the community and makes our membership more satisfying and rewarding.

Please look over the leadership model when you receive it. Think about what committees and roles might interest you. And please come to the Annual Membership Meeting prepared to sign up for at least one function.

Harriet Skelly

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## SOME NICE NEWS FOR SHIR AMI

The following is a letter from Daphne Macy, Communications Associate at the URJ

Dear Harriet,

I hope that all has been well with you since you wrote for us the wonderful piece about your congregation's participation in the *Engaging Families with Young Children CoP* back in May 2015!

I wanted to share some wonderful news with you- the URJ just published [Moving to the Leading Edge: A URJ Resource and Discussion Guide to Move Your Congregation Forward](#). This digital resource includes outstanding blog pieces from our institutional blog, that we thought congregational leaders could continuously learn from. The resource focuses on

different topics of interest to congregational leaders and includes pieces by experts in these fields, congregational leaders and URJ staff members.

Your blog piece was selected as one of the congregational pieces that we included in this resource! We felt that your congregational journey and success story were something that leaders from across the Reform Movement could very much benefit from reading now and in the future!

We will be sharing this resource broadly, and encourage you to share this great news (and the rest of the resource) with your congregation.

Thank you for your collaboration and for writing this wonderful piece!

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## RABBINIC INTERNS' CLERGY COLUMN

This month's Rabbinic Interns' column is submitted by Student Rabbi Bryan Zive.

Two summers ago, in the midst of the latest Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I experienced something you only see in the movies: an air raid siren. Listening to a wonderful live music concert among many other people, people ran as the siren sounded over Jerusalem, quite the rare sound. I was truly stunned, and yet, people seemed to know exactly what to do. Despite being a deer in the headlights, I followed everyone else around me to safe shelter. Minutes later, we heard the explosions in the air...BOOM...BOOM. One from the Iron Dome defense missile, and the other shooting the incoming Hamas missile out of the air. Seconds after that, everyone went back to their lives, as if nothing had happened. The show went on. The show must go on.

I heard the next siren in April. This time, it was expected, and occurred on multiple days throughout the coming weeks. Unlike the attack sirens, these

sirens sent off a different vibe. Instead of rising and falling tones, these were one constant long tone. Cars stop, people stand quietly and cities cease the hustle. In these moments, Israelis commemorate Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day) and only 24 hours later, Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence Day). It's quite a moment, to hear the sirens and experience a wide array of emotion. This is working "Civil Religion", something we don't always see here in the United States.

If you ever find yourself with the unique opportunity to visit Israel during this time frame, referred to by many as the "Civil High Holidays", please do. Become a part of what Israelis feel daily and beyond. If you're anything like me, you won't regret it. That siren is worth hearing.

Student Rabbi Bryan Zive

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## A NOTE FROM RABBI JULIE BRESSLER

What an amazing two years. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work, learn, grow and laugh with all of you. Thank you for welcoming me with open hearts and open minds, sharing your joys and struggles, listening to my stories and teaching me so much about what it means to be part of a caring community.

I hope to see you during my final visit weekend May 6-8. If I do not get to give you an individual goodbye in person, please know that I am thankful to each and every one of you and will hold Shir Ami in my heart forever. I could not think of a better place to begin my journey to the rabbinate and hope that our paths will continue to cross in the future.

All the best,

Rabbinic Intern Julie Bressler

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## SUMMER SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Our Rabbinic Interns serve Shir Ami during the school year, September through May. Below is our summer schedule for Shabbat services. Come join us!

<b>June 10</b>	<b>Diana Zankowsky</b>
<b>June 24</b>	<b>Barbara-Ann Lewis</b>
<b>July 15</b>	<b>Saul Kaye</b>
<b>July 29</b>	<b>Harriet Skelly &amp; Jan Dombrower</b>
<b>August 19</b>	<b>Bryan Zive (James Keil Bar Mitzvah weekend)</b>
<b>August 26</b>	<b>Diana Zankowsky</b>

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## RABBINIC INTERNS' SCHEDULE FOR MAY

### MAY 6-8, with Rabbi Julie Bressler

**Fri., May 6, 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service:** Join together to celebrate Shabbat with joyous tunes and memories from Rabbi Julie's past two years with Shir Ami. We will read from the Torah and honor members of the congregation with Aliyot.

**Sat., May 7, 10:00 am, *Coffee and Commentaries:*** This week, we read from Parshat Kedoshim, which includes a listing of many of Judaism's central ethical and moral laws. We will talk about holiness, justice, caring for one another and more. What are the central tenets of a just society? Did our holy text get it right? What may be missing? Come to Torah Study and decide for yourself!

**Sat., May 7, 4:30 pm: *Jews and Baseball- An American Love Story.*** While Jewish Heritage Night may seem like a way to attract more fans to the often-empty Oakland Coliseum (home of the A's), it also represents a historic relationship. Jews have been deeply connected to America's Pastime for over a century. From Hank Greenberg to Sandy Koufax to Bud Selig, Jews have been part of many classic moments in baseball history. Come to learn more about this historic involvement, share your personal connection to the sport, and view clips from an excellent documentary showcasing many of our Jewish baseball heroes.

*Havdalah will take place during the Saturday night potluck.*

### Rabbinic Interns

Julie Bressler [rabbi.julie@congshirami.org](mailto:rabbi.julie@congshirami.org)

Bryan Zive [rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org](mailto:rabbi.bryan@congshirami.org)



### Saturday, May 7, 6:00 pm Potluck Farewell to Rabbi Julie Bressler

Come, bring a dish to share and celebrate Rabbi Julie's two years at Shir Ami.

We will miss you, Julie.

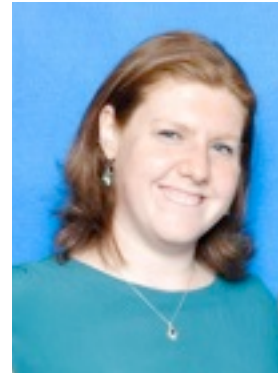


Photo taken at Shir Ami's 50th Anniversary Celebration. To see the 300+ photos already posted of the event, go to <https://shirami.shutterfly.com/>

### MAY 20-22, with Rabbi Bryan Zive

**Fri., May 20, 7:30 pm: Shabbat Service.** Join Rabbi Bryan Zive for an evening of prayer and song.

**Sat., May 21, 10:00 am: *Coffee and Commentaries*** with Rabbi Bryan at Shir Ami.

**Sat., May 21, 12:00 noon: *Shir Ami Men's Event. "Tailgate" and Watch the A's Game with Rabbi Bryan.*** Location: Shir Ami.

**Sat., May 21, 3:30 pm (NOTE TIME CHANGE): *Adult Education, Reform Responsa*** at Shir Ami with Rabbi Bryan.



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### Save the Date: Saturday, June 11, at 9:00 pm

Save the Date! Saturday, June 11. Shavuot study with two 1-hour sessions, interspersed with lots of dairy desserts! Co-led by Barbara-Ann Lewis and Diana Zankowsky. The evening will begin with Havdalah at 9 pm (it will be light until just about that time), followed by the two sessions along with the sweets.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Students participated in the Friday Purim services. Diana's class read and acted out the story, while Rabbi Bryan interjected their lines with spin off songs from Fiddler on the Roof. It was very amusing. Jan, Helene, Olivia and Leah organized the younger ones (with help from the older students) to read a poem that was dedicated to Caelan. On Sunday, in addition to their regular class, they had fun at the Purim carnival.

On April 10th, fellow congregant and vet, Sara Andre, brought a large dog to help demonstrate how to examine a pet. She had everyone spellbound with interest. The dog demonstrated many commands and enjoyed meeting every child. The kids enjoyed listening to his heartbeat and trying to get him to follow a direction. A big thank you to Sara.

On April 17th Rabbi Bryan led our second Jewish parenting class. Parents spoke about traditions and which holidays they enjoyed. They talked about ways to make the holidays special and ways to create their own traditions. An email will be coming to all families to give more information and ways they might want to incorporate Jewish traditions in their homes.

## TOT TALK

**Sunday, May 22, at 11:30 am.**  
The last Tot Talk before summer break. Preschoolers will be joining our school-age children. Families are invited to stay for **Potluck Lunch at 12:30 pm.**

## INTERFAITH MARCH

**Saturday, May 14, 8:30 am.**  
Shir Ami will be participating in the Eden Area Interfaith Coalition march at the **Rowell Ranch Rodeo Parade.** Assemble at 8:30, parade starts at 9:00. Details forthcoming.

## SISTERHOOD/ ROSH CHODESH

We brought in the new month of Nisan with prayers, readings, and candle lighting. We all made Matzah-covered vases, which were contributed to the Shir Ami Community Passover seder. Filled with flowers, each vase adorned a table at the seder. We played a quick and fun game of "The Two Minute Seder," competing to see which group would tell the story the fastest. We each brought appetizers to put on Matzah to give each other ideas for our seders. There were a lot of delicious samples.

## ROSH CHODESH, MAY

**On Tuesday, May 10,** we will celebrate the month of Iyar. Stay tuned to email for more details.

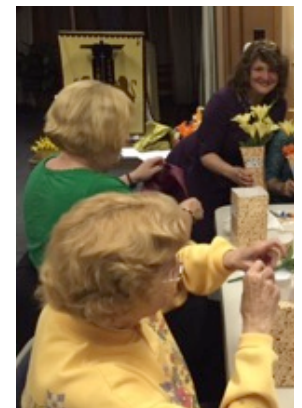
For information on Sisterhood events and to be added to our email list, contact Jan Dombrower Chimpky, [sisterhood@congshirami.org](mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org)



## S. HAYWARD PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

**May 21, 10:00 am**

South Hayward Parish will be conducting its Annual Meeting on Saturday May 21 at 10:00 a.m. The theme of the Annual Meeting is "It Takes Quarters", which is a celebration of SHP's new laundry room, and a commitment to help clients pay for bus transportation to various appointments. Executive Director Sue Merrill will present the Parish's annual report. David Garcia-Rivera will preview the upcoming exhibition of photos shot by CAN clients. We will show off our new Web site and updated social media presence. Last but not least, the members will elect a slate of officers for 2016-17. The Board's nominees include incumbents Daryl Berman as President, Terry Owen as Treasurer and Tom Spitzer as Secretary. The Board has nominated Leo Wilkerson to serve as vice-Chair. All members of the Congregations participating in SHP are Parish members, that means all Shir Ami members, so please do consider attending. And healthy snacks will be served :).



Photos from  
April Rosh  
Chodesh  
event.

## MEDITATION GROUP

The meditation group will meet **Wednesday, May 18, at 10:00 am** for a special daytime meeting. **This is the last meeting before a summer break,** so we hope to see you all there. No experience needed. Contact Julie Greenfield, [meditation@congshirami.org](mailto:meditation@congshirami.org)



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## MAY 2016 YAHRZEIT

### MAY 6, 2016

Verla Becker,	active early member of Shir Ami
Harriet Cohn,	grandmother of Ruth Hartman
Hillel Levine,	long-time, active and founding member of Shir Ami
Benjamin Halpern,	father of Harriet Skelly
Nikki Harris,	cousin of Nate Einbund
Bernard Nasatir,	father of Cary Nasatir
Harold Small,	uncle of Toni Schulberg and former member of Shir Ami

### May 20, 2016

Lisa Sheryl Barth,	niece of Melanie Einbund
Morris Berman,	father of Daryl Berman
Anne Firestone,	mother of Bill Firestone
Gordon Greenfield,	father of Julie Greenfield
Kevin Keil	husband of Danielle Keil, father of Sarah, Gabriella and James, and son-in-law of Vicky Sapper
Hyman Abraham Rebotsky,	grandfather of Jonathan Zimmerman



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

Travis Mahoney,	nephew of Wendy Crow
Loren Simpson,	husband of Sidney Simpson, prior member of Shir Ami, and cousin of Toni Schulberg
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

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## We thank the following for their **DONATIONS TO SHIR AMI**

Milt and Pat Palmer	In honor of Ruth Hartman
Sisterhood	In memory of Joseph Kellman, brother of Jessica Collette
Sheralyn Stebbin	In memory of Earle Stebben
Jan Dombrower Chimpky	In memory of Sid Kramer, Bea and Harold Dombrower
Lewis Family	In memory of Lazarus Lewis, father of Peter Lewis, and Joseph Forman, father of Lorraine Lewis
Zankowsky Family	In memory of Mathew Zankowsky
Milt and Pat Palmer	In honor of Valerie's 60th
Hartman/Wolfe,	In honor of the Templeton Family
Melanie and Nate Einbund	Yahrzeit of Sidney Black
Judy Ganz	Yahrzeit of Matt, May and Sam Ganz, and wishing Caelan Templeton a speedy recovery

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## **PICTURES, PICTURES AND MORE PICTURES!**

Did you check out the PHOTO WEBSITE for the pictures from the 50th anniversary event? When last month's Bulletin was published, there were just a few pictures posted. There are now over 300 pictures, both candid and posed. Many are excellent. Check out this website: <https://shirami.shutterfly.com/>

You will enjoy seeing all of the radiant smiles. If you wish, you can add *your* photos from the event, you can order prints, or you can download photos for free and print them from your own computer or elsewhere. Enjoy!