



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* All events are held at Shir Ami, unless otherwise indicated.

Find up-to-the-minute event details at Shir Ami's website, [www.congshirami.org/monthly-calendar](http://www.congshirami.org/monthly-calendar)

Thur.	May	4	7:00	pm	Shir Ami Board Meeting, held at Shir Ami. Open to all members
Fri.	May	5	7:00	pm	Erev Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Bryan Zive with Gabrielle Lewis
Sat.	May	6	10:00	am	Shabbat Service & Bat Mitzvah of Gabrielle Lewis (at Beth Sholom), with Rabbi Bryan Zive
Sun.	May	7	9, 10:30	am	SCHOOL: Hebrew School, 9 am; Religious School, 10:30 am
Sun.	May	7	12:00	pm	Goodbye Party for Rabbinic Intern Bryan Zive
Sat.	May	13	8:30	am	March with Interfaith Council at Rowell Ranch Rodeo Parade
Sun.	May	14			NO SCHOOL
Fri.	May	19	7:00	pm	Erev Shabbat Service led by Rabbi Liora Alban with Sean Lange
Sat.	May	20	10:00	am	Shabbat Service & Bar Mitzvah of Sean Lange (at Beth Sholom), with Rabbi Liora Alban
Sun.	May	21	9, 10:30	am	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL: Hebrew School, 9 am; Religious School, 10:30 am
Sun.	May	21	11:30	am	Tot Talk, a free, monthly program for children under 5 & their families. Interfaith welcome
Sun.	May	21	12:00	pm	Goodbye Party for Rabbinic Intern Liora Alban
Thur.	May	25	7:00	pm	Rosh Chodesh/Sisterhood, check email for details or contact Jan, <a href="mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org">sisterhood@congshirami.org</a>
Sat.	May	27	6:30	pm	Potluck Dinner and Movie Night at Shir Ami. Showing <i>The Tenth Man</i>
Tue.	May	30	9:00	pm	Shavuot Study Session, 9 pm to 12 am with Barbara-Ann Lewis and Diana Zankowsky
Thur.	Jun.	1	7:00	pm	Shir Ami Board Meeting, held at Shir Ami. Open to all members
Fri.	Jun.	2	7:30	pm	Shavuot Shabbat Service, led by Diana Zankowsky. First Presbyterian Church of Hayward invited
Sun.	Jun.	4	12:00	pm	End-of-Year Potluck and Annual Membership Meeting

# MESSAGE FROM THE CORE COMMITTEE

Shalom!

The Jewish calendar highlights multiple new years (Rosh Hashanah, Tu BiSh'vat, Pesach...)

So it is with Shir Ami. We not only celebrate all the Jewish New Year holidays and our secular New Year, but we also follow a fiscal year. As we near the end of our fiscal year (June 30) and plan for the next, it's time to reflect on our financial status.

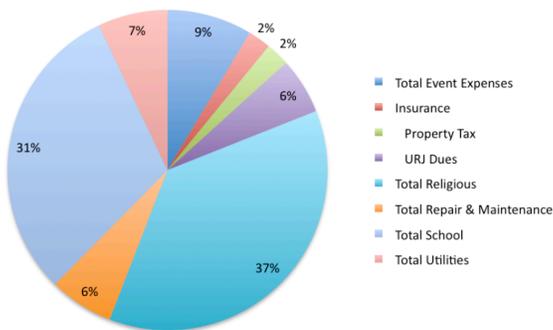
As you can see from the data below, there are costs to keeping our Congregation served and supported. Through your generous contributions during the year (dues, donations, in-kind support, recognitions) and tight fiscal management by the Board, we've managed for several years to keep Shir Ami's vibrant operations, which serve about 130 people each year, within our budget. Additionally, this past year, we've begun to address some of the safety issues in our 100+ year-old facility. To do that, we've accessed some of our reserves.

As our membership has grown, so has our programming. In the past, we would usually have offered only one or two activities on a Rabbinic Weekend. Now, not only do we have a variety of activities on a Rabbinic Weekend, but we also provide education, movies, brunches, community exploration and volunteering, and social events during the time between Rabbinic visits.

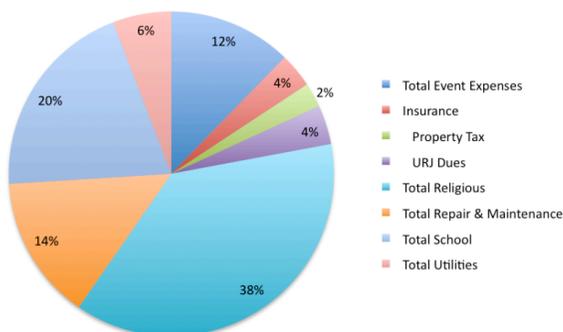
At our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, we will talk about our successes, vote for the Board of Directors, and review our increasing costs. We will also review our dues, which have remained fixed over the past five years.

We will envision possible changes to our lovely home. Our growth over the past few years has been welcome and wonderful. We are glad to have members of all ages, including singles and couples, as well as our families. At the same time, we now find that our potlucks and services have gotten rather cramped. Our expanding school and Tot Talk programs serve more than 2 dozen children. We regularly have more than 40 people at a service and 50-60 at other events. How can we make our home work better for us? The Annual Meeting is a chance to connect, relax, review, discuss, and dream. See you there!

**FY12 Expenses**



**FY17 Expenses (Projected)**



	A	B	C	D
1	Congregation Shir Ami			
2	Budget Multi-Year Comparison			
3		FY12 Actuals	FY17 Projections	FY18 Budget
4	Income			DRAFT
11	Total Donations	\$ 7,368.00	\$ 4,910.00	\$ 3,300.00
17	Total Dues and Fees	\$ 43,905.00	\$ 56,231.50	\$ 60,315.00
29	Total Event Income	\$ 10,691.00	\$ 16,877.00	\$ 16,777.00
34	Total Income	\$ 63,061.30	\$ 80,860.50	\$ 81,252.00
35				
36	Expenses			
41	Event Expenses			
50	Total High Holidays	\$ 2,984.88	\$ 6,649.35	\$ 5,350.00
54	Total Event Expenses	\$ 4,789.46	\$ 9,140.79	\$ 7,700.00
55	Insurance	1,278.89	2,570.00	2,670.00
60	Operations			
64	Property Tax	1,344.38	1,811.74	1,900.00
68	URJ Dues	3,149.17	2,907.00	3,000.00
69	Total Operations	\$ 5,930.93	\$ 6,099.86	\$ 6,700.00
80	Total Religious	\$ 20,530.88	\$ 27,993.99	\$ 29,871.28
81	Repair & Maintenance			
88	Total Gardening	\$ 685.00	\$ 4,383.03	\$ 3,050.00
93	Total Repair & Maintenance	\$ 3,612.12	\$ 10,703.03	\$ 10,750.00
106	Total School	\$ 17,006.70	\$ 15,017.97	\$ 17,036.50
115	Total Utilities	\$ 3,915.25	\$ 4,336.57	\$ 4,672.00
117	Total Expenses	\$ 58,388.80	\$ 79,743.79	\$ 85,324.78
118	Net Operating Income	\$ 4,672.50	\$ 1,116.71	\$ (4,072.77)
119				
120	Other Income			
121	In Kind Contributions - Income		1,000.00	1,000.00
122	Total Other Income		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
123	Other Expenses			
124	In Kind Contributions A - Expense		1,000.00	1,000.00
125	Total Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
126	Net Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Please note that the data listed above are summary categories intended to illustrate changes over time. As such, the numbers are not inclusive of all income and costs. Therefore, the total categories should be taken at their value rather than a sum of the items above.

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## RABBINIC INTERNS' CLERGY COLUMN

During my May visit to Shir Ami, we will be reading from Parshat Behar-Bechukotai. It is actually a double Torah portion. There are too many Torah portions to fit into a single year so sometimes we end up reading two in one week. This is what is happening during my May visit.

Behar-Bechukotai gives us directions for proper rest, both for people and for land. God tells Moses that a sabbath of rest for the land should occur every seven years. Additionally, a jubilee year should occur every fifty years. This is when all shall be released from indebtedness and bondage. In Leviticus 25 God tells Moses, "Speak to the Israelite people and say to them: When you enter the land that I assign to you, the land shall observe a sabbath of God. Six years you may sow your field and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather in the yield but in the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath of complete rest, a sabbath of God...That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you: you shall not sow, neither shall you reap the aftergrowth or harvest the untrimmed vines, for it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you."

To me, this is an important Torah portion to be reading as the end of the 2016-2017 academic year closes. After a jam-packed year, I bet we all need some rest! We are moving away from a stream of weekly Religious and Hebrew school, holidays, services and study sessions and moving towards a summer during which we can hopefully take things slower than usual. Often towards the middle of the summer I start to feel guilty. While taking things slower, I begin to fear that I am not doing enough to better myself or the world around me. I start to feel empty when my time is not filled with assignments, programs, or pulpit preparation. Perhaps some of you have felt the same during your own rare moments of

rest. Behar-Bechukotai is important because, in my mind, it validates the need for rest that we all have. It tells us that while work is necessary most of the time, rest is also crucial and perhaps even holy. We all need moments of rest in order to perform at our peak.

My hope for all of you is that you remember the value of rest in the upcoming summer. In the time that you would normally spend rushing to Hebrew school or sprinting to be on time to services but that you now have free, please do whatever replenishes you. Fill that time with family, with your passions, or with anything that lets your mind relax. If you start to feel guilty, just remember that the Torah tell us that this is sometimes okay!

Because May 19-21 will be my last visit to Shir Ami, I also want to use this bulletin article to thank each and every one of you for welcoming me into the Shir Ami community this year. When I first arrived in August, I have to admit that I was nervous. Even though I had heard about the warmth of Shir Ami and past student rabbis assured me that I would come to love it, I was anxious about being able to serve your community in the way that you needed. Since August, I have learned that everyone was right! Thank you for being warm and nurturing to me. I have appreciated your feedback and will be a stronger rabbi one day because of it. I have grown because of the opportunities you presented for me to "step outside the box." Thank you for letting me into your lives and allowing me to be there for you when you needed it. Even though I will not be a student rabbi at Shir Ami next year, I will always feel invested in your community. Please feel free to reach out to me if you ever need. Thank you for everything!

Rabbi Liora

We'll miss you Rabbi Liora and Rabbi Bryan. Thank you both for this wonderful year.

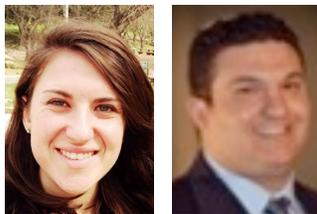
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## RABBINIC INTERNS' SCHEDULE

### RABBINIC INTERNS 2016-2017

Rabbi Liora Alban  
[rabbi.liora@congshirami.org](mailto:rabbi.liora@congshirami.org)

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



### May 5-7 with Rabbi Bryan Zive

#### **Fri., May 5, 7:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat Service.**

Join with our community for a lovely Erev Shabbat service with Rabbi Bryan Zive. Gabrielle Lewis will be leading parts of the service in honor of her bat mitzvah. We hope to see you all there! .

#### **Sat., May 6, 10:00 am, Shabbat Service & Gabrielle Lewis Bat Mitzvah. At Temple Beth Sholom**

Please join us as Gabrielle Lewis is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah. She will be reading from the Torah as well as sharing her thoughts with us. The service will be facilitated by Rabbi Bryan Zive.

#### **Sun., May 7, 12:00 pm, Goodbye Party for Rabbi Bryan.**

Join the Goodbye Party for Rabbi Bryan. This is a chance to say goodbye to Bryan and enjoy the company of other congregants as we celebrate Bryan's farewell.

### May 19-21 with Rabbi Liora Alban

#### **Fri., May 19, 7:00 pm, Kabbalat Shabbat Service.**

Rabbi Liora looks forward to welcoming Shabbat with the Shir Ami community. The service will include plenty of music and a reflection on the week's Torah portion, Behar-Bechukotai. Sean Lange will be leading parts of the service in honor of his bar mitzvah. We hope to see you all there! .

#### **Sat., May 20, 10:00 am, Shabbat Service & Sean Lange Bar Mitzvah. At Temple Beth Sholom**

Please join us as Sean Lange is called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah. He will be reading from the Torah and from Prophets as well as sharing his thoughts on the week's Torah portion. The service will include plenty of music and explanation. The service will be facilitated by Rabbi Liora.

#### **Sun., May 21, 12:00 pm, Goodbye Party for Rabbi Liora.**

Rabbi Liora: "Being at Shir Ami has been a valuable learning experience for me. I have gained new skills during the past year and have enjoyed getting to know all of you! Thank for learning with me, opening up to me, and generally making the year enjoyable! Please come to this goodbye party so that I have a chance to say goodbye one last time before my time at Shir Ami comes to a close!"

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## May 2017 Yahrzeit List

### **May 5, 2017**

Verla Becker,  
Harriet Cohn,  
Gordon Greenfield,  
Kevin Keil

active early member of Shir Ami  
grandmother of Ruth Hartman  
father of Julie Greenfield  
husband of Danielle Keil, father of Sarah, Gabriella and James,  
and son-in-law of Vicky Sapper

Nikki Harris,  
Hyman Abraham Rebotsky,  
Harold Small,

cousin of Nate Einbund  
grandfather of Jonathan Zimmerman  
uncle of Toni Schulberg, and former member of Shir Ami

### **May 19, 2017**

Lisa Sheryl Barth,  
Morris Berman,  
Arthur Kramer,  
Anne Firestone,

niece of Melanie Einbund  
father of Daryl Berman  
father of Marion Kramer  
mother of Bill Firestone

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

Selma Edelstein,  
Les Golembo,  
Marvin Schuelke,  
Sam Blank,  
Debra Blum,

mother of Joan Edelstein  
brother of Sharon Golembo  
father of Susan Spitzer  
husband of Ann Blank and long time member of Shir Ami  
mother of Jeff Blum

## MARCH WITH INTERFAITH COUNCIL IN ROWELL RANCH PARADE, MAY 13

**Saturday, May 13, 8:30 am.**  
For the second year in a row, Shir Ami will participate with the other congregations in the Eden Area Interfaith Council, marching in the Rowell Ranch Rodeo Parade, Castro Valley's big community event. It's lots of fun and increases our community presence, as we march behind the Shir Ami banner.

**If you would like to join us, please rsvp to Julie Greenfield at [juliegreenfield@gmail.com](mailto:juliegreenfield@gmail.com).**  
We need to have a rough count of the number of marchers to give the parade organizers very soon. Will send details as they are known. Thanks a lot! We will assemble at 8:30 am.

Reverend Arlene of Eden United Church has a few spots (going fast) available in her truck for those who would like to participate but are unable to march.

## TOT TALK

**Sunday, May 21, 11:30 am.** Fun! Tot Talk is a free, monthly program for children under 5 and their families. Interfaith families are welcome.

## ROSH CHODESH

**On Thursday, May 25, we will bring in the new month of Sivan** at the home of Sara Lamnin (and Jon Zimmerman). Check your email for details.

## POTLUCK & MOVIE NIGHT

**Sat., May 27, 6:30 pm,**  
Join us for potluck dinner followed by a movie at Movie Night at Shir Ami. We will be showing *The Tenth Man*, which was shown at the Boston Jewish Film Festival in 2016.

Here's the description: An estranged son (Alan Sabbagh) takes a frustrating trip to Buenos Aires' historically Jewish district during Purim. He's on a mission to reconnect with his father (Usher), who has devoted his life to overseeing a Jewish social-welfare organization. But when his dad is (predictably) too busy to see him, he instead becomes enchanted with a serene Orthodox woman (Julieta Zylberberg) who carries out odd jobs for the charity. Directed by Daniel Burman.

## CELEBRATION OF SHAVUOT AT SHIR AMI

**Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 pm.**

It was the custom of the mystics living in Safed to gather on Shavuot to study together all night. At Shir Ami, we take traditions like this one and make them our own. We will be gathering this year to study (and eat!) together on Erev Shavuot, Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 pm. We will have several study sessions and will conclude with a short service a bit after 11. (No all-night study for us!) We will have plenty of dairy desserts, including cheesecake, to nosh on during the evening.

We are still developing the sessions but hope to have several discussions on our "favorite" or "most difficult" of the Ten Commandments as well as an in-depth look at the Esau-Jacob

relationship through the lens of the Zohar.

Co-facilitators will be Barbara-Ann Lewis and Diana Zankowsky. Please contact Diana, [religion@congshirami.org](mailto:religion@congshirami.org) with any questions or if you want to lead one of the discussions.

## ROSH CHODESH RECAP BY JESSICA COLLETT

Hello sisters-  
We had a lovely evening at Peggy Martin's last month. We talked about Israel, whether we'd been, or want to go, our experiences there, and more. Peggy showed us a scrapbook she'd made of her journey there. I talked about finding out I had relatives there, including Holocaust survivors of the camps, how I tracked them down, and went to visit them in Haifa with my niece Michelle- now 7 years ago. Afterwards, I pieced together some photos & iPhone videos and tried to tell the story (in about 10 minutes).  
If anyone would like to view it, the link is below.

I am also including a 12 minute (I think) video of the Jerusalem portion of our trip. The soundtrack is from recordings from a choir I sing with.

Finding Israeli Relatives <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Xkr125VE1A>  
Jerusalem visit <http://youtu.be/HUWU4GNwm7c>

## SISTERHOOD/ROSH CHODESH

Interested in Sisterhood events?  
**Contact** Jan Dombrower Chimpky at [sisterhood@congshirami.org](mailto:sisterhood@congshirami.org)



# ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 4, 12 NOON

Facility Possibilities! Dues! Accomplishments! Next Year's Board! And More!

***Come to the Annual Meeting and Potluck  
Share your insights and catch up with fellow members.***



**Sunday, June 4  
12pm-3pm**

***Childcare will be provided during the meeting for those children who do not wish to participate in the discussion.***

## **Please bring a potluck dish to share**

**Tentative agenda:**

**12-1pm Potluck and Schmooze**

**1pm-2:30pm Annual Meeting**

**Review of the 2016-2017 year**

***Accomplishments***

***Capital and Operating Expenditures***

**Board of Directors for 2017-18**

***Presentation of the Slate***

***Nominations from the Floor & Vote***

**Finances for 2017-18**

***Budget***

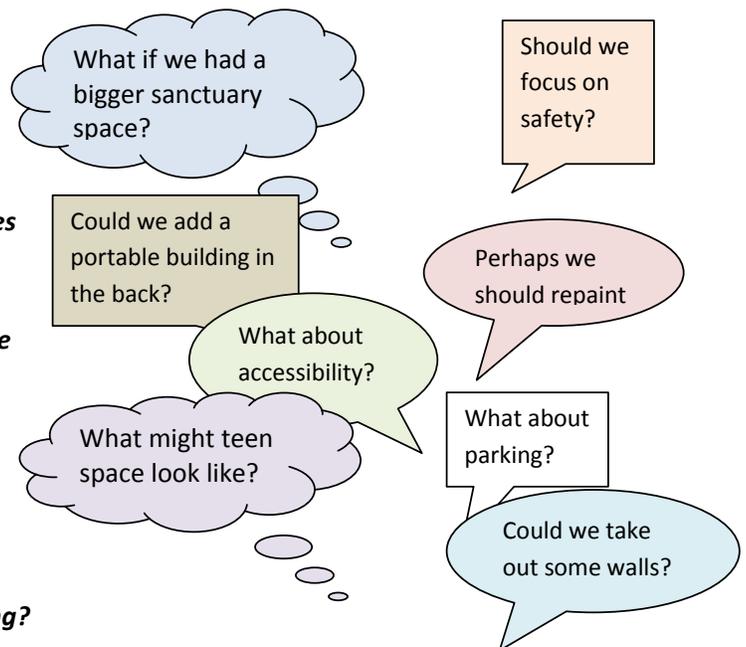
***Dues***

**Building Priorities and Strategy**

***What have we heard?***

***What do we know?***

***What is your dream for the building?***



**Help Envision Your Shir Ami**

