



Shir Notes

The Official Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami Volume 14, Number 7,
August-September 2016. Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Events of the Month

Shabbat in the Park
Friday, August 26, 5:00 pm
at Warner Center Park

The **Jewish Federation** and **Shalom Institute** sponsor this annual Valley Shabbat in the Park with several Valley congregations, including Shir Ami. See flyer.

BBQ and Barchu
Friday, September 9, 6:00 pm
at Temple Ramat Zion

Our annual BBQ dinner will be prepared by Ventura Kosher, followed by White Shabbat Service Under the Stars. See article on this page and flyer.

**Shabbat services at
de Toledo High School**

Saturday, September 24 - 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

Torah and Shabbat Study
Saturday, Sept. 17, 10:30 am
Northridge Mobile Home Park

Stan Schroeder leads our monthly study and discussion session. Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 or see flyer



Observed Sunday, August 14
See article on page 8

Visit our website:
www.shirami.com

Rabbi's Column



Editor's note: Rabbi Vorspan is on vacation and wasn't able to submit his monthly column. Below is his column from August 2011, as relevant as ever.

I was on my way to Dodger Stadium for "Jew Day" a couple of weeks ago when I passed a few of those guys standing on the corner with signs that said, "Need to buy tickets." We all know this to be wording designed to keep them within the law, yet notifying passing Dodger fans (if they're in on the deception) of scalped ticket availability.

And I got to thinking of how many other times we use words that we know really mean the opposite. We can call the 13th floor of a building the 14th floor, but it's still the 13th floor. But superstitious people are appeased.

An expression starting to get overworn is "Shut up," which, in current parlance, means we really want them to keep talking. When we nullify a marriage, we are essentially saying the marriage never happened. Try telling that to the guests who witnessed something going on a few years ago which looked suspiciously like a wedding!

And yet, we nullify the *hametz* prior to Passover--in essence proclaiming that any *hametz* still present in the home (after dutifully ridding the home of as much *hametz* as could be found) doesn't really exist! Even when it does!

In Hebrew, we call a cemetery a "*Bet Hechayim*," and yet we all know that "*chayim*" means life. When we used to sell plaques for our *yahrzeit* board, people wanted to purchase additional slots so that when they passed on, their plaque would be near other's in the family. It felt funny putting up a sign saying, "reserved," so I wrote "*panui*" instead, which means "not reserved."

When a baby gets sick, some ward off the angel of death by giving this child an additional name: "*Alter*," meaning "old."

Words have meaning. Yet, sometimes it's the opposite of what we really mean. Which can get really confusing! Do you have other examples? Share them with me (davidvorspan@att.net), and I'll mention them at our BBQ and Barchu September 9.

Rabbi David Vorspan

BBQ & Barchu September 9 is FREE to Shir Ami Members
by **Harvey Cohen**, Event Chairperson

Our Board of Directors voted to make this popular event that ends our summer recess **FREE** to our membership. It will be held at Temple Ramat Zion and the service will be led by our own **Rabbi Vorspan**. We will also be celebrating August and September birthdays at the service. (continued on page 2)



President's Report

I hope you are all enjoying your "vacation," sleeping late on Saturdays and will be "tanned, rested and ready" for the second half of the year.



In August, we have the 5th Annual Community **Shabbat in the Park** at Warner Park in Woodland Hills on Friday, August 26 starting at 5 pm. Shir Ami has been well-represented in the past few years and we expect that this year will be no different. We will have our **BBQ and Barchu** at Temple Ramat Zion on Friday night, September 9. This year, in an effort to increase participation, the BBQ and Barchu will be free for our members. (Please don't tell our treasurer about this!) See your *Shir Notes* for details and make your reservation as soon as possible.

Membership renewal packages and High Holy Days information will soon start to appear in your mailboxes. I know you will all want to return the forms with you dues payments as soon as possible so you will be ready to start our Saturday Shabbat services in September.

We had a very successful and activity-laden first half of 2016 and we will continue that way into the rest of the year. We are already starting to do our prep work for **Mitzvah Day**, as well as planning for the **High Holy Days**. Plus, I got my first Mitzvah Day letter in the mail this week! We are in the process of planning various activities for the rest of the year and we are sure you will all want to be a part of them.

So, enjoy your extra sleep on Saturday mornings in August. You will need the extra energy as we, once again, take our positions as the engine of the "Little Shul that Does!"

As always, if you have any questions or want to provide your input, please feel free to email me at JDPistol@aol.com.

Thank you.

Jordan Pistol, President



Labor Day
Monday, September 5

Annual BBQ & Barchu September 9 at TRZ

(continued) by Harvey Cohen,
Event Chairperson



We will have a delicious BBQ chicken dinner with all the fixins' prepared by Ventura Kosher. The dinner will be served at 6:00 pm and a service outside under the stars will follow at 7:30.

In order to ensure that we order enough food for everyone who wants to attend, please send in your reservation (and check for \$20 per person for guests) by Thursday, September 1st. See the flyer enclosed in this issue of the *Shir Notes*.

As in years past, we ask that you wear white to help Rabbi Vorspan recall his teenage summers at Camp Ramah. I look forward to seeing you and your families after a long summer break as we prepare to celebrate the High Holy Days.

Ritual Committee

In the last issue I wrote about my planned trip to Israel to study at the **Shalom Hartman Institute**. Unfortunately I developed an intestinal problem from the immunotherapy infusions I have been receiving and had to cancel the trip. I expect to take the seminar next year.

Our first opportunity to pray and schmooze with fellow Shir Ami-ites will be the annual **Shabbat in the Park** Friday, August 26, 5:00 pm at Warner Ranch Park. We (and Rabbi Vorspan) will participate with other Valley congregations, rabbis, and cantors, starting with family events and bring-our-own Shabbat picnic. The event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation and the Shalom Institute. See the flyer in this issue.

Our first Shabbat service as a congregation will be our annual BBQ & Barchu at TRZ Friday, September 9. The article describing the event starts on page 1. I look forward to seeing many of you there as we also celebrate August/September Birthday Shabbat.

Our monthly Shabbat Torah Study at Northridge Mobile Home Park will resume Saturday, September 17 at 10:30 am. This will be our third year studying the weekly portion (*Ki Tetze*), prayers from our Contemporary service, and relevant holidays and topics. It is a great opportunity to learn with me (Stan) and participate in a small group setting. See flyer for details.

You will be receiving information shortly about our High Holy Day services at de Toledo High School in October.

Stan Schroeder, Ritual Vice President



DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

- Rose Chaplan for Rachel March and Morris Chaplan
- Lynn Cherney for Dora Cherney
- Fran Friedman for Jean Friedman
- Jacquie Gordon for Marshall Gordon
- Lonny and Nancy Gail Scharf for Claire Halprin
- Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan for Rabbi Max Vorspan

Birthdays

- Shaina Vorspan Brenner
- Ethel Granik (88)
- Irwin Koransky
- Stan Rosenbluth (88)
- Stan Schroeder (86)

Anniversaries

- Rabbi Ahud and Alisha Sela
- Ben and Elana Vorspan
- Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan (45)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Sam Hochberg.....	8/5
Phyllis Robinson.....	8/5
Edward Schneier.....	8/5
Paula Frankel.....	8/6
Art Altshiller.....	8/12
Stan Schroeder.....	8/24
Paul Frankel.....	8/27
Fay Schneier.....	9/4
Paulette Pistol.....	9/5
Robert Licht.....	9/8
Ed Halem.....	9/9
Esther Karalnick.....	9/16
Maralyn Soifer.....	9/26

Anniversaries

Nancy and Lonny Scharf.....	8/2	29th
Claire and Lew Silverman.....	8/7	61st
Heather and Mark Hyman.....	8/10	13th
Carol and Art Altshiller.....	8/19	36th
Linda and Harvey Tapper.....	8/19	44th
Andrea and Leon Nachenberg.....	9/7	47th
Carol and Irwin Koransky.....	9/9	49th
Lorraine and Edwin Orens.....	9/27	57th



Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

- Al Simon**
- Fran Kobulnick**
- Shirley Esko** broken arm
- Sherry Dollins** fractured foot (again)



May they be blessed with a complete recovery in body and spirit.

Congregation Shir Ami Tribute Cards

Thanks to **Phyllis Schroeder** for sending your cards celebrating *simchas* and conveying your get-well and condolence messages.



She is creative with individualized, artistic cards that include a message and color graphics. Call her at (818) 718-7466. Minimum donation of \$5 per card is appreciated.

Social Action Committee

This summer has been difficult for so many of us. There have been so many acts of violence around the whole world. Our committee and Congregation Shir Ami have worked even harder to do mitzvot this summer.

Leon Nachenberg and members of our committee again helped Temple Judea Social Action to fill their backpacks in July for their back-to-school projects in the community.



We and our helpers have been shopping since the end of June for the lowest price possible to purchase the many needed school supplies for our backpacks we will be donating to **School on Wheels**. By now, everyone should have received our Mitzvah Day letter/flyer too. We truly need everyone to be as generous as possible to help us support our annual **Mitzvah Day on Sunday, November 6**. It seems like school items have jumped in price this year and it is harder to find great bargains. We will continue with our School on Wheels project to provide the children who are homeless, live in domestic violence shelters or foster care or are in hospitals with backpacks filled with the school supplies they will need for the school year. School on Wheels also provides tutors for these children to make sure that they are never forgotten, and given the opportunity to receive the education they are entitled to.

We are also collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste for the backpack project on mitzvah day. Please ask all your dentists to donate as many as possible. Thanks in advance for all your thoughtfulness and kindness.

This is such a special project and we are hoping that everyone will get involved by filling in their flyers and mailing them back with a check made out to Congregation Shir Ami. Let us know that you will participate in mitzvah day with us on Sunday, November 6 to be held in the Social Hall of Temple Judea In Tarzana. There will be plenty of free parking, great projects, speakers, and refreshments. We look forward to your support and to seeing you all there.

Mr. Shin of Walgreens in Tarzana has again offered us and our family and friends free flu shots this year. He asked us to please do our free flu shot program in September and October so that everyone can take advantage of this program. It is open to all adults and children over 12 years old when

accompanied by a parent, and seniors (please bring medicare card). The first session for the free flu shots will be Sunday, September 11, 8:30 -11:00 am at Temple Judea Social Hall. Everyone is advised to preregister with **Fran/Sam Kobulnick** before September 5th, to confirm their reservation. We will have a second opportunity and will notify you of the date, location and time shortly. Free flu shots are also available at the Tarzana Walgreens; call the store to learn the schedule.



The annual SOVA High Holy Day flyer is included in this newsletter. We will have four barrels in the lobby during our services. Please bring your non-perishable and non-breakable food items along with the other suggested items on their shopping list. SOVA also collects tooth brushes and toothpaste. Also remember that we collect these items all year at all our services and events. Please call me if you have questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank those of you who have reached out to me during a rough time. I truly appreciate your calls, cards, and words of encouragement, and want you to know how very grateful I am for your support and kindness. I am looking forward to seeing you all very soon.

Our committee and our families wish you and your families a healthy, happy, and mitzvah-filled new year.

L'shanah tova.

Fran Kobulnick, Social Action Vice President

Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel

As the long hot summer slowly fades away, we have a lot for which to look forward. But first let's review the past. We've had a super year of gift giving; here is our quarterly report:

	Operation Gratitude	Project MOT
Books	392	35
Cards and Letters	893	186
Gifts	161	28

Our future lies in the fall, a time of new beginnings when we start all over again.



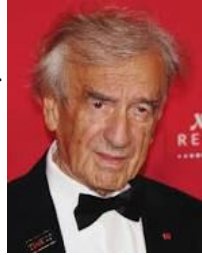
Thank you for your generosity and may all our prayers be answered and may we live in a world at peace.



Biography of the Month: Elie Wiesel

by Stan Schroeder

This bio is from the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity website. When Elie died July 2, 2016, we lost the most revered conscience of the Holocaust and humanity.



Elie Wiesel was born in Sighet, Transylvania, which is now part of Romania. He was fifteen years old when he and his family were deported by the Nazis to Auschwitz. His mother and younger sister perished, his two older sisters survived. Elie and his father were later transported to Buchenwald, where his father died shortly before the camp was liberated in April 1945.

After the war, Elie Wiesel studied in Paris and later became a journalist. During an interview with the distinguished French writer, **Francois Mauriac**, he was persuaded to write about his experiences in the death camps. The result was his internationally acclaimed memoir, *Night* (La Nuit), which has since been translated into more than thirty languages.

In 1978, President **Jimmy Carter** appointed Elie Wiesel as Chairman of the President's Commission on the Holocaust. In 1980, he became the Founding Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. He is President of The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, an organization he and his wife created to fight indifference, intolerance and injustice. Elie Wiesel has received more than 100 honorary degrees from institutions of higher learning.

A devoted supporter of Israel, Elie Wiesel has also defended the cause of Soviet Jews, Nicaragua's Miskito Indians, Argentina's Desaparecidos, Cambodian refugees, the Kurds, victims of famine and genocide in Africa, of apartheid in South Africa, and victims of war in the former Yugoslavia. For more than fifteen years, Elie and his wife **Marion** have been especially devoted to the cause of Ethiopian-born Israeli youth through the Foundation's Beit Tzipora Centers for Study and Enrichment.

Teaching has always been central to Elie Wiesel's work. Since 1976, he has been the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University, where he also holds the title of University Professor. He is a member of the Faculty in the Department of Religion as well as the Department of Philosophy. Previously, he served as Distinguished Professor of Judaic Studies at the City University of New York (1972-76) and the first Henry Luce Visiting Scholar in Humanities and Social Thought at Yale University (1982-83).

Elie Wiesel is the author of more than sixty books of fiction and non-fiction, including *A Beggar in Jerusalem* (Prix Médicis winner), *The Testament* (Prix Livre Inter winner), *The Fifth Son* (winner of the Grand Prize in Literature from the City of Paris), two volumes of his memoirs, *All Rivers Run to the Sea* and *And the Sea is Never Full*, and most recently *The Sonderberg Case* (2010).

For his literary and human rights activities, he has received numerous awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal, the National Humanities Medal, the Medal of Liberty, and the rank of Grand-Croix in the French Legion of Honor. In 1986, Elie Wiesel won the Nobel Prize for Peace, and soon after, Marion and Elie Wiesel established The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity.

Elie Wiesel died on July 2, 2016 in Manhattan.

This is from my annual Yom Hashoah poem (2015).

I annually conclude these poems with a theme;
Elie Weisel is a symbol of those years of despair.
A survivor of Auschwitz held in high esteem
Who is dedicated to keeping the world aware.

Born in Sighet, Romania in 1928;
It became Hungary just 12 years hence.
1944 saw the ghetto become Jews' fate
And from there to camps surrounded by fence.

His father instilled humanism in his son;
Torah and faith came from his mother.
He learned to survive, getting things done
And adapting one way or another.

His parents and one sister didn't survive;
They were three of the six million Jews.
Elie knew he was blessed, just being alive,
Becoming a writer, expressing his views.

For ten years he wouldn't write of his War;
A correspondent in Paris and worldwide.
We can thank Mauriac and the Rebbe for
Elie exposing horrors he no longer would hide.

From Yiddish to French to English he wrote
His memoirs entitled *Night*, in no way sublime.
From this book we get the famous quote:
To forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time.

It is now up to us, it is our task.
We must be the ones to remember their cry.
To continue the telling isn't too much to ask.
The Jewish people live – Am Yisrael chail!

Successful Walk Around Lake Balboa June 5

by Charlene Kazel

Our Social Action Committee is always hard at work. One of their most rewarding efforts is our annual Walk Around Lake Balboa to raise money for a worthy cause. This year they chose to raise funds for Parkinson's Disease research and the race to find a cure. **And we raised almost \$2800!**



We partnered with **Team Parkinson** and the **Parkinson Alliance**. Many of their members and supporters participated in our Walk. Our guest speakers were my friend **Debbie Jew** from Team Parkinson and **John Ball** from Parkinson Alliance. They were terrific and we learned a great deal about the disease and drugs and therapy available for its control. John stressed the importance of exercise. He is a long distance runner who was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 1983 and has completed 25 marathons. Debbie, who also has Parkinson's, trains with non-contact boxing and recently finished a 37 mile bike ride in Colorado.

The money we raised was given to John to be sent to Parkinson Alliance and then to UCLA for their Parkinson's research project.

The most well known person diagnosed with Parkinson's was **Muhammad Ali** (born Cassius Clay, Jr.) died just two days before our Walk. Debbie closed our program by reading a poem his daughter **Maryum** (May May) wrote for him and later read at his memorial service. Please see the poem on page 9.

Jewish Proverbs

"Rejoice not at thine enemy's fall" - but don't rush to pick him up, either.

A bird that you set free may be caught again, but a word that escapes your lips will not return.

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

A friend you have to buy; enemies you get for nothing.

A good son-in-law is like the acquisition of a new son; a bad one is like the loss of your daughter.

A half-truth is a whole lie.

A mother understands what a child does not say.

A person worries about the past, distresses about the present, and fears the future.

A pessimist, confronted with two bad choices, chooses both.

A slave shows his true character, not while he is enslaved but when he becomes a master.

Against stupidity; God Himself is helpless.

All things grow with time -- except grief.



Congregation Shir Ami 2016 Walk Around Lake Balboa

Max Vorspan Tribute on 14th Yahrzeit June 18

by Stan Schroeder

Rabbi David Vorspan shared memories and lessons learned from his father **Rabbi Max Vorspan** at our Shabbat service Saturday, June 18. There was a Kiddush lunch sponsored by Rabbi and Bonnie following the service.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Max earned a BA from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York where he studied under **Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan**. He was ordained at the seminary. After serving as a chaplain in Saipan during World War II, he moved to Los Angeles at Kaplan's request to become rabbi at Temple B'nai Israel in Pasadena. There he persuaded the Pasadena Jewish community to reconstitute itself as the Jewish Community of Pasadena containing B'nai Israel, B'nai Brith Men and Women, Hadassah, and ORT. He organized Kaplan's vision of Reconstructionist Judaism.

An instructor in American Jewish history at the University of Judaism since 1953, he helped develop the school from a small teachers college and adult school into a nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate institution. Besides teaching, he served in several administrative posts, including registrar, executive dean and provost, and held the title senior vice president. He also helped found Camp Ramah.

Miriam Alperin, who was a contemporary of Max at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and followed him to Los Angeles at his request, also spoke lovingly of her memories through the years.

I contacted three rabbis who studied or worked with Max and relayed their tributes, below:

Rabbi Stewart Vogel, Temple Aliyah:

I have fond memories of Dr. Vorspan...as I called him, during my years at Los Angeles Hebrew High and University of Judaism. I can still hear his distinctive voice. Never did I hear him raise his voice or lose his composure, even when he was tested by the testosterone of pubescent boys at Los Angeles Hebrew High. Later, when he was my professor at the U.J. I came to appreciate the wealth of knowledge he possessed and his ability to translate it into the contemporary context. He was considered one of the "*gedolim*"- great ones, in the development of the Los Angeles Jewish community and therefore as a native born son, I always felt a special connection with him. I am grateful for this opportunity to reflect on Dr.



Rabbis David and Max Vorspan at a meeting of the Rabbinical Assembly in the 1980s

Vorspan because it helped bring back so many wonderful memories with him. I don't know what was so distinctive about his voice that I can still hear it clearly in my head. Perhaps it was his deep sincerity or his great compassion. Whatever it was, I am blessed to have his voice still speaking to me. May his memory always be a blessing.

Rabbi Ed Feinstein, Valley Beth Shalom:

I heard Max Vorspan speak for the first time when I was in high school. I was thoroughly intimidated. He talked faster than I could think, and he taught so much more than I could absorb. This was a serious mind.

When I returned to Los Angeles in 1990, and joined the faculty of the University of Judaism, I discovered his warmth, his kindness and most especially, his vision. The UJ was going through the greatest transition in its history, preparing for David Lieber's retirement and planning for its future. As the director of Camp Ramah, I was invited to join the process.

Max championed a vision of the University, and beyond that, a vision of the Jewish community, that I cherish to this day. He understood how an institution of learning and spirituality forms the core of living community, and builds around itself a network of fellowship and mutual support. He envisioned a community of learning and culture that celebrated the great treasures of Jewish tradition.

Max's vision of what Jewish community should and could be has shaped my professional career. I am grateful to be among his many, many students.

(continued on page 8)

Max Vorspan Tribute on 14th Yahrzeit June 18 (continued)

Dr. Robert Wexler, President American Jewish University:

Max Vorspan was one of the most creative Jewish minds of the previous century. Although he served as Senior Vice President of the University of Judaism, in actuality, he and **Dr. David Lieber** essentially served as co-presidents. Dr. Lieber was focused primarily on the academic programs, while Dr. Vorspan's vision ran more to educational and cultural outreach. Several of the programs he either initiated or brought to the then UJ are still functioning successfully to this day including Marriage for Life, the Wagner Program in Human Services and Elderhostel (now called Road Scholar).

Dr. Vorspan was a true disciple of **Mordecai Kaplan**. He championed Kaplan's notion of Judaism as a Civilization and made it the dominant vision for the University of Judaism as we sought to address the changing needs of the Jewish world. This combined Kaplan/Vorspan vision has guided my own thinking as president of AJU as I continue to be inspired by Dr. Vorspan's creativity. It is also worth mentioning that he had a remarkable ability to attract and inspire lay supporters including the **Ziegler** and **Whizin** families, two of AJU's most prominent supporters.

Dr. Vorspan was a gifted teacher and lecturer and could always be counted upon to provide his own unique perspective on the future of Jewish life in this country. He was a tremendous asset to the University of Judaism and the entire Jewish community.

More Jewish Proverbs

Among those who stand, do not sit; among those who sit, do not stand. Among those who laugh, do not weep; among those who weep, do not laugh.

As he thinks in his heart, so he is.

Anyone who teases you loves you.

As you do, so will be done to you.

As you teach, you learn.

Ask about your neighbors, then buy the house.

Be sure to send a lazy man for the angel of death.

Be the day weary or be the day long, at last it rings to evensong.



Tisha B'Av (Ninth of Av) Observed on August 14 (excerpted mostly from Jewish Virtual Library)

Tisha B'Av, the Fast of the Ninth of Av, is a day of mourning to commemorate the many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people, many of which coincidentally have occurred on the ninth of Av. Because 9 Av falls on Shabbat it will be observed Sunday, August 14 (10 Av).

Tisha B'Av primarily commemorates the destruction of the first and second Temples, both of which were destroyed on the ninth of Av (the first by the Babylonians in 586 BCE; the second by the Romans in 70 CE). Although this holiday is primarily meant to commemorate the destruction of the Temples, it is appropriate to consider on this day the many other tragedies of the Jewish people, many of which occurred on this day, most notably the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492.



The restrictions on Tisha B'Av are similar to those on Yom Kippur: to refrain from eating and drinking (even water); washing, bathing, shaving or wearing cosmetics; wearing leather shoes; and engaging in sexual relations. Work in the ordinary sense of the word is also restricted. People who are ill need not fast on this day. Many of the traditional mourning practices are observed: people refrain from smiles, laughter, and idle conversation, and sit on low stools.

In synagogue, the book of Lamentations is read and mourning prayers are recited. The ark (cabinet where the Torah is kept) is draped in black.

In Jerusalem masses gather in the Kotel (Western Wall) Plaza seated on the floor and low stools to mourn the destruction of the Temples. Many sleep the night on the stone floor on the Kotel Plaza as an expression of mourning for the destroyed Temples.

Beware of the person who gives you advice according to his own interests.

Charity is the spice of riches.

Commit a sin twice and it will not seem a crime.

Do not ask questions of fairy tales.

Do not be wise in words - be wise in deeds.

Do not make yourself so big, you are not so small.

Don't approach a goat from the front, a horse from the back, or a fool from any side.

TREE OF LIFE

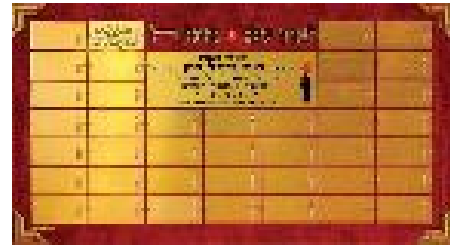


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

The Tree is on a rosewood background and consists of gold-colored leaves and rocks. It is displayed at all Congregation Shir Ami services and events.

For more information or to place an order, call Sherry Dollins at (818) 886-7590.

Congregation Shir Ami Memorial Board



If you would like to honor the memory of your loved ones by dedicating plaques on our new Memorial Board, please call Sherry Dollins at (818) 886-7590 so she may mail you an order form. The cost of each plaque is \$36.

Each plaque may contain up to three lines of engraving: English name, Hebrew name, and the years of birth and death. Both of our Memorial Boards are displayed at all our services.

“Pearl” by Maryum “May May” Ali

What a hero he is to me but more so heroic in the face of adversity.

Lightning speed within a square ring turned into slow imbalances while praying for nights like yesteryear spotlights on
The Ali Shuffle.

The rope-a-dope fight is now a rope-a-dopamine battle.

Parkinson's - akin to traversing upstream in a canoe with a leaking hole without a paddle.

Yes, it is a struggle, but what I admire about my father is his determination to not let symptoms defeat his soul and refusing Parkinson's to retreat him into darkness taking its toll.

Throughout diseased phases, he maintained divine praises to his Creator,

and I witnessed in the early stages his ability to still raise his once powerful fist despite recurrent shaking.

That shaking.

Reminds me of the famous Cassius Clay quote after Sonny Liston choked, “I shook up the world!” Yes, Dad, you are a pearl imbedded in the oyster of life, protected by your faith and elevated through social strife.

Standing up for the right to be the man you manifested.

Politically unrested, you tested all waters until the tides waved your way to whisper in your ear, “You know God's humanity.”

Now you stand with a walker. No vanity. Now a softer talker if you talk at all.

But what remains the same is your spiritual stance, a presence remaining tall.

I am so inspired by your choice to live your life to the fullest it can be with over 30 years of PD riding heavily on your back.

From your earliest days to your latest, you haven't wavered your love of self.

Your eyes still sparkling like the day you proclaimed,

“I Am The Greatest!”

Shop at Ralphs - Earn Money for Shir Ami

by Maralyn Soifer

Here is an easy way to earn money for our Temple. We

are now officially a **Ralphs' community agency**. All you have to do is follow these simple instructions to help earn money for Congregation Shir Ami.



1. If you don't have a Ralphs' rewards card already, go to the store or go to website **www.ralphs.com** and select **Order a Ralphs reward card**.
2. Once you have your card, go to the website: **www.ralphs.com** and select **Create an account**
3. If you have an account, your email address is your account ID. If you forgot your password, select **Forgot your password?** and you will receive an email with instructions to reset it. Follow the instructions to enter your email address and create a new password.
4. If you already have a Ralphs' reward card and an account, you will see Account Summary when you login. You can change to our Temple by clicking on **Edit** within **Community Rewards**.

You can do a search for Congregation Shir Ami by putting in the number **92785**. Our congregation will pop up and click on the button next to the name. Click on the button that saves the changes.

5. You should also check the bottom of your receipt when you shop. It should say "**At your request, Ralph's is donating to CONGREGATION SHIR AMI**".
6. If all else fails, call me in the evening at (818) 704-0306. I'll be happy to walk you through it.
7. Start Shopping!

Make sure that the clerk swipes your card each time you shop. Verify that your receipt shows a contribution to Congregation Shir Ami at the bottom.

Important Note: All participants must confirm their selection annually starting in September. On or after September 1, sign into your account and reconfirm Community Rewards selection.

Woodland Hills, CA 91365
P.O. Box 6353
Congregation Shir Ami



Congregation Shir Ami invites you to attend its annual

**BBQ AND BARCHU
FREE to MEMBERS! (Reservations required)
&
WHITE SHABBAT**

Friday, September 9

**DINNER AT 6:00 pm
FOLLOWED BY KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES at 7:30**

(Held at Temple Ramat Zion, Northridge)

Please join us for this special evening. We will share a delicious catered barbecued chicken dinner with all the fixin's by Ventura Kosher and then participate in outdoor Shabbat services led by Rabbi Vorspan. We encourage you to dress in white clothing to help Rabbi Vorspan remember his summer camp Shabbat experiences. This program has been a favorite of the congregation for over 15 years!

Dinner: \$20 person for guests

The ABSOLUTE deadline for dinner reservations is Thursday, September 1st

-----Tear Off-----

Please return this reservation form with your check by September 1 to
Congregation Shir Ami – BBQ and Barchu
P.O. Box 6353
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Name _____ Phone No. _____

No. of members (No charge) _____ No. guests @ \$20 _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

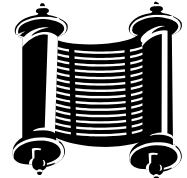
“Around the Rabbi’s Tisch” at the Vorspans’



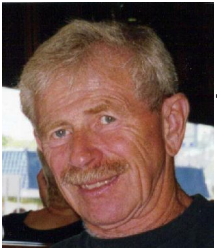
This popular Shir Ami educational series has concluded its 5776 season. Come join us starting in October for our weekly Thursday night discussions of Rabbi Vorspan’s selected topics of Jewish interest. We discuss Jewish texts and current events as they relate to Jewish values

and our lives as Jews. This is a unique opportunity to learn and share in an informal format around the Vorspans’ dining room table.

Saturday Sept. 17, 10:30 am: Torah/Shabbat Study at Northridge Mobile Home Park rec room



Stan Schroeder leads a Shabbat study session one Saturday morning a month. Northridge Mobile Home Park is located at 19120 Nordhoff St. We discuss the weekly Torah portion, the Shabbat prayers that are included in our Contemporary service, and various subjects relevant to Conservative Judaism.



Our first session of the coming season will be September 17. The Torah reading will be parsha *Ki Tetze* (Deuteronomy 21.10 - 25.19). We will also discuss the preparations for the upcoming High Holy Days. We are commanded “*la asok b’divre torah*” (to engage in the study of Torah). Join us to fulfill the mitzvah.

Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 for more information.

SHABBAT IN THE PARK

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 26, 2016**

Bring your family,
a picnic dinner
and join the community!

4:30PM – Arts & Crafts, Drum Circle,
Social Action Project, Torah Talks

6:00PM – Shabbat Service led by Community Clergy

7:00PM – Live Music by the Capa'im Band

Warner Center Park
5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Woodland Hills

Limited free street parking is available or
\$5 in lot across from the main stage. Follow signage.

For more information:

Marsha Rothpan – marsha@shalominstitute.com

Tiffany Kosloy – tkosloy@koltikvah.org

RSVP at shabbatinthepark.org

**ADAT ARI EL • CONGREGATION OR AMI • CONGREGATION SHIR AMI • ISRAELI AMERICAN COUNCIL
THE JEWISH FEDERATION VALLEY ALLIANCE • KOL TIKVAH • MATI-ISRAELI COMMUNITY CENTER
OR ECHAD • SHALOM INSTITUTE • SHOMREI TORAH SYNAGOGUE • TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM • TEMPLE ALIVAN
TEMPLE JUDEA • TEMPLE RAMAT ZION • VALLEY BETH SHALOM • WEST VALLEY RABBINIC TASK FORCE**

Congregation Shir Ami Mitzvah Day

Sunday, November 6 at 9:00 AM sharp

Temple Judea Social Hall

5429 Lindley Ave., Tarzana



Our Social Action Committee will once again organize our congregation to fill school backpacks for the School on Wheels program.

Every week, hundreds of School on Wheels' volunteer tutors give hope, educational assistance and support to the thousands of homeless children living in Southern California.

School on Wheels provides one-on-one tutoring for homeless kids who live in shelters, motels, group foster homes and on the streets. In addition to weekly tutoring and mentoring, every student receives a backpack, school supplies, and uniforms; students get assistance enrolling in school and with locating and filing school records; and each student receives a toll-free phone number for around-the-clock School on Wheels' support.

They do all this with no government funding. They survive through the donations of people like you who believe as we do that every child has potential and every volunteer makes a difference.

Other Mitzvah projects will be available to those who must sit down. Please bring non-breakable/non-perishable food for the SOVA food drive. For further information call Leon Nachenberg at (818) 885-6736 or Fran Kobulnick at (818) 345-2405.

Name: _____ **Mail this tear-off to sign up for Mitzvah Day 2016**

Phone No. _____

Number of backpacks @ \$18 each: _____

Other donation: \$18 \$36 \$54 \$72 \$108 \$216

I will attend: YES NO Number of people attending: _____

Checks must be payable to Congregation Shir Ami (put Mitzvah Day in the memo) and mailed to P.O. Box 6353
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Community Service School
credit for students



High Holiday Food Drive

October 2nd – 12th, 2016

29 Elul 5776 – 10 Tishrei 5777



Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles { SOVA depends on your donations to meet the ongoing hunger crisis in our community. Donations directly benefit the nearly 9,000 people who visit our pantries each month – people of all ages, races and religions. Please be as generous as you can be – the need has never been greater. Listed below are our greatest needs.

Peanut Butter
Rice

Canned Tuna/Fish
Canned Meats

Canned or Dry Soup
Whole Grain Cereal

(beef stew, chili w/meat, chicken etc.)

We also welcome other *non-perishable* foods, personal hygiene items and children's books including:

Dry Beans
Dry Pasta
Dry Milk
100% Juice
Oatmeal

Tomato Sauce
Canned Beans
Canned Vegetables
Canned Fruit
Canned Pasta

Cooking Oil
Kosher Foods
Diapers/Wipes
Soap
Shampoo/Conditioner

Razors
Deodorant
Lotion
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes

Please avoid glass jars and expired, opened or perishable foods.

For more information, please visit www.jfsla.org/SOVA

Or call Kathi Dawidowicz at (818) 988-7682 ext. 120.