



Shir Notes

The Official Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami Volume 14, Number 8, October 2016
Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Events of the Month

Shabbat services at de Toledo High School

Saturday, October 8 - 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, October 29 - 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

High Holy Day services at de Toledo High School

Sunday, October 2 - 8 pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah
Monday, October 3 - 9 am
Rosh Hashanah 1st Day
Tuesday, October 4 - 10 am
Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day
Tuesday, October 11 - 6:45 pm
Kol Nidre
Wednesday, October 12 - 10 am
Yom Kippur

Sukkot Party at the Vorspans' Thursday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 pm 22320 Philiprimm Woodland Hills

Rabbi and Bonnie Vorspan issue this annual invitation to all our members to join them in their sukkah for dessert and meeting old friends and new. You can wave the lulav and etrog and learn about this joyous holiday. Call Rabbi Vorspan at (818) 888-9817 or see article on page 5 or flyer for more information

Torah and Shabbat Study Saturday, Oct. 15, 10:30 am Northidge Mobile Home Park

Stan Schroeder leads a study and discussion session on a Saturday we don't have a service. See article on page 9 or flyer.

Visit our website:
www.shirami.com



Rabbi's Column

Playing the role of "September" this month will be, none other than "October!"

Usually the High Holy Days and Sukkot season are divided between September and October. This year they bunch up in October. Does this create a problem? Scheduling issues? A wish to spread out the wealth?

And yet, this is only true for the Gregorian year. Every Jewish year finds these holidays congregated in one month—Tishrei!

But our lives are not in sync with the Jewish calendar. At least not outside of Israel. And so this year we anticipate the last day of Hanukkah coinciding with New Year's Day and Purim with the beginning of Daylight Saving's Time.

We live in two calendar worlds, but it actually could be even more complicated.

I discovered this on our trip last summer to South Africa. Their seasons are the reverse of our's. And I asked a rabbi there if there was a problem with seasonal holidays like Sukkot and Passover being in all the wrong seasons. He said yes and we left it at that.

So let's enjoy our Tishrei! Let's gather for the High Holy Days, and pray together during Sukkot. Let's find a sukkah to enter and a Torah to dance with!

Let's enjoy all of October, and consider how similar this must be to celebrating all of Tishrei!

Rabbi David Vorspan



President's Report

Shalom and Shanah Tovah,



After last month's **BBQ and Barchu**, you knew that the start of our third year at deToledo High School and our High Holy Day services couldn't be far behind. Now that we have one Saturday Shabbat Service under our collective belt, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are upon us. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our **High Holy Day services**. This year we will have the outside door near the auditorium open, so you will have direct entry instead of walking around from the front door. The dates and times of all the services are listed on your tickets as well as the *Shir Notes*.

Our twice a month **Shabbat services** have already started and we've already had our first monthly **Shabbat/Torah Study** session, so we have clearly hit the ground running. We will soon be starting our first "semester" of our adult study program, "**Around the Rabbi's Tisch** (and on the Rebbitzen's chairs)." So, after our summer hiatus, we are ready!

But that's only the beginning. We have **SOVA** bins to fill, Social Action projects for the groups and agencies we support and, believe it or not, **Mitzvah Day** is only a little more than a month away.

As we do every year, would look forward to a year that is sweet and we also look forward to making this a great year for Congregation Shir Ami.

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



Blessing of the children at end of Congregation Shir Ami Yom Kippur service

Ritual Committee

Congregation Shir Ami started its third year of Shabbat services at **de Toledo High School** September 24. **Rabbi Vorspan** is delighted that he brought together his weekend job (our rabbi) and his weekday job as Rabbi-in-residence at "New Jew" (as the high school is/was affectionately called by its students). Our room is conveniently located near the main entrance and our kiddush is set up in the foyer right outside the room, with spacious seating for after-service shmoozing and noshing.

Thanks to **Helga Unkeless**, **Sheilah Hart**, **Jacquie Gordon**, and **Claire Silverman** for arriving early and setting up for our kiddush. And thanks to **Phyllis Schroeder** and **Jerry Gort** for bringing coffee each Shabbat.

We also had about 45 in attendance Friday night, September 9 at Temple Ramat Zion for our annual **BBQ and Barchu** and Service under the Stars. Ventura Kosher provided our barbecued chicken dinner. Many of us wore white to remind **Rabbi Vorspan** of his days at Jewish summer camp. Thanks to **Harvey Cohen** for organizing the event.

We will hold our **High Holy Day services** in the de Toledo auditorium starting Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, October 2 at 8 pm. (See the flyer for the complete schedule.) The chairs will be placed in a slightly curved arrangement, giving us more of a feeling of togetherness. And we will have the 200 seat cushions we purchased just before Rosh Hashanah last year to add to our comfort.

Of course our services will be led by **Rabbi David Vorspan** with his usual informal style of thought provoking sermons, laced with Vorspan humor. **Cantor Roger Goodman** will provide his passionate rendition of the liturgy as he has in past years.

I look forward to 5777, a year of inspiration, learning, mitzvah projects, and our always-close community for Shir Ami.

Stan Schroeder, Ritual Vice President





DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

- Fran Black for Ralph Black and Andrea Black
- Ben Bloom for Nathan Stoll
- Rose Chaplan for Carl Chaplan
- Harvey and Betty Cohen for Sally Cohen
- Owen and Bette Delman for Ivan Delman
- Joan and Michael Easley for Ara Elise Easley
- Fran Friedman
- Jacqueline Gordon for Louis Katz
- Fran and Sam Kobulnick for Louis Suckman
- David and Susan Lipman for Alan Dean and Audrey and Lawrence Elm
- Andrea and Leon Nachenberg for Martha Stover
- Cheryl and Bill Niesen for Moishe Niesen and Morry R. Cohen
- Ann and Seymour Potell
- Stan and Clara Rosenbluth for Isidore Rosenbluth
- Lonny and Nancy Scharf for Rosalyn Scharf and Herman Scharf
- Edward and Fay Schneier for Jess Schneier
- Shirley and Marvin Shapiro
- Lewis and Claire Silverman for Bernard Silverman and Cecyl Silverman
- Steve and Marcie Spetner for Harry Lurie, Ellen Spetner Friedman, Buddy Spetner, and Lil Spetner
- Irving Strassner for Alan Jay Strassner and Sybil Strassner
- Fiona Taylor for Gladys Miles, Mel Taylor, and Mike Konrad
- Rae and Armand Wazana for Bella Ruth Kroops
- Gloria Weinstein for Larry Weinstein and Julius Goren

Birthdays

Phyllis Robinson

Anniverseries

- Linda and Harvey Tapper
- Claire and Lew Silverman
- Laurie and Ed Orens
- Phyllis and Stan Schroeder

Corrections to our roster:

Seymour and Ann Potell
New email: aspotell8767@att.net

Leon and Andrea Nachenberg
New email: nachenb@gmail.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Bill Niesen (omitted last issue)	8/15
Bernice Lipschultz.....	10/7
Paula Loomis.....	10/11
Clara Rosenbluth.....	10/15
Ozzie Strassner.....	10/18
Robin Burman.....	10/20
Gerry Hochberg.....	10/20
Peg Kovar.....	10/21
Paul Soifer.....	10/22
Gloria Weinstein.....	10/22
Fran Kobulnick.....	10/26
Ann Potell.....	10/30

Anniversaries

Phyllis and Stan Schroeder.....	10/18	29th
Nancy and Ken Bereny.....	10/23	28th
Robin and Alan Burman.....	10/26	36th

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

Shirley Esko broken femur
Al Simon
Fran Kobulnick
Gerry and Sam Hochberg

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

The High Holy Days are upon us, and this means it is time for everyone to start putting their shopping bags of non-perishable food together for the **SOVA High Holy Day** appeal. The SOVA barrels are always in the main lobby for all services at de Toledo High School. This year SOVA has also asked for toothbrushes, toothpaste, toiletry items, and children's books along with the much needed food items. The need is great, and it is truly a mitzvah to bring in as many shopping bags as possible to help those in need. There is always a huge demand for tuna fish, peanut butter, canned soup, canned vegetables and canned fruit in addition to pasta. If you have any questions, please contact me at (818) 345-2405. See flyer with this *Shir Notes*.



This year we are again asking you to please ask your dentists for sample size toothpaste and toothbrushes to be used for both the SOVA and our **Mitzvah Day School-on-Wheels** backpack project. Please give the toothpaste and toothbrushes for School-on-Wheels to **Leon Nachenberg**.

Mitzvah Day is Sunday, November 6 and will be held at Temple Judea social hall again. Besides filling backpacks, we will have card writing tables set up by **Charlene Kazel** for **Operation Gratitude** and **Project MOT**, and a **Jewish World Watch** mitzvah project led by **Rae Wazana**. **Mr. Shin** of Walgreen's and his pharmacy staff will give free flu shots. We encourage you to mail your flyer (in this *Shir Notes*) and check for Mitzvah Day to join us and sponsor our congregation. We will have speakers from our beneficiary organizations and plenty of free parking is available.

We are again asking for your help in donating **\$10 Target gift cards** for the moms and children in the domestic shelters we help sponsor. Please mail them to **Fran Kobulnick** at 5139 White Oak Ave. #13, Encino, CA 91316 or give them to **Rae Wazana** or **Fiona Taylor** at services or events. These cards are always much appreciated by the women and their children as they are used to purchase much needed personal items.

Looking ahead, we will be having our annual **Chanukah party** at the West Valley Healthcare Center around the holiday and our annual **Linen Shabbat** in January. Dates and details will be announced next month.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish our congregation, family, and friends a special healthy, peaceful, and mitzvah-filled new year on behalf of our Committee and our families.

L'shana tova

Fran Kobulnick, Social Action Vice President

Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel

It's a New Year and a time for new beginnings. If you're tired of being retired, find a new occupation - volunteer. **Operation Gratitude** needs your help. Their address is 21100 Lassen St. in Chatsworth, phone: (818) 469-0448. Their upcoming assembly days (9 am - 12 pm) are: October 15, October 26, and November 19. You can register online at www.operationgratitude.com.

Their mission is "**To say Thank You and express America's support to the U.S. Military**".

Easy ways to help include:

1. Each Operation Gratitude package costs \$15 to send. We appreciate donations of any amount.
2. Write letters. Please include your address or email in each letter so recipients can write back.
3. Hand-make Scarves and Paracord Bracelets for our troops - no better way to send love.
4. Donate Beanie Babies and Webkinz or other 6 inch Stuffed Animals for troops and kids in war zones.

For additional information please call (800) 651-8031 or email: info@operationgratitude.com.



Soldiers receiving Operation gratitude packages

Sukkot Begins Night of October 16

by Stan Schroeder

Five days after Yom Kippur, starting the night of the fourth day, we begin the festive holiday of Sukkot. This holiday celebrates the fall harvest. In Leviticus 23:40-43 God tells Moses "On the first day you shall take the product of the *hadar* (beautiful) trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook. ... and "You shall live in booths seven days; all citizens of Israel shall live in booths, in order that future generations may know I made the Israelite people live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt." From this we learn the fragility of worldly goods and the permanence of God's creation.

We construct a *sukkah*, a temporary structure with three walls and a roof of raw vegetative matter, often palm branches, partially open to the sky. We are also instructed to obtain a *lulav* made of myrtle, willow, and palm, and an *etrog* (yellow fruit of the citron tree). We wave the *lulav* and *etrog* in the *sukkah* in six directions, symbolizing God is found everywhere.



Rabbi Vorspan constructs a *sukkah* in his patio and obtains the *lulav* and *etrog*. Rabbi and Bonnie invite the congregation to partake in this mitzvah with a neighborhood party at their home each year. The party will be **Thursday evening, October 20, at 7:30. Bonnie** serves traditional and homemade foods for the occasion. See the flyer for details.

Also see my Sukkot poem *Sukkot: The Four Species* on page 6



Sukkot at the Western Wall (Kotel) in Jerusalem

Birkat Hakohanim – the Priestly Blessing

[excerpted from the official Jerusalem Travel site]

In Israel, the priestly blessing takes place daily in every synagogue across the country. But twice a year, once during Passover and once during Sukkot, a mass priestly blessing is held at the Western Wall.

This gathering of tens of thousands became tradition following its initiation by **Rabbi Menachem Mendel Gafner** during the War of Attrition. He thought of the impact and power the priestly blessing holds, even following the destruction of the temples, and decided to offer both kohanim and others to partake in this meaningful experience en masse during a period that was very difficult in the State of Israel.

Birkat Kohanim at the Kotel is something very worth attending at least once. Provided you aren't bothered by very large crowds, join the tens of thousands of people who attend this event annually and receive the historic blessing from hundreds of Jews of priestly lineage as they face the congregation, hands stretched forward, chanting in one voice.

It's best to arrive early to make sure you get into the Western Wall plaza. Bring sun protection, modest clothing, a bottle of water, some snacks and a camera. Do not try to get anywhere close by car. You can take the light rail to the Kikar Safra stop and from there walk through Jaffa Gate and down to the Western Wall.

The service takes place Wednesday, October 19. The *shacharit* prayer starts at 8:45 am
Birkat kohanim of *shacharit* at 9:30 am
 The *mussaf* prayer starts at 10:15 am
Birkat kohanim of *mussaf* at 10:30 am



Priestly blessing at the Western Wall



Sukkot: The Four Species

by Stan Schroeder

In the *sukkah*, we are told to dwell,
Meaning to eat and sleep, as well.
A festive meal that starts with wine,
Tasty dishes upon which to dine.

We bless the bread before our meal
And express the joy together we feel.
We note how fragile are worldly things,
From the Almighty eternal hope springs.

The roof of the *sukkah* opens to the sky,
A full moon shines that money can't buy.
Four species of plants to make us aware
Of our closeness to nature everywhere.

The etrog is a yellow citrus fruit;
The date palm has widely spread roots.
Myrtle has lovely summer flowers,
Willow to wile away springtime hours.



We should be reminded on this holiday
To use our body in a divine way.
To be mindful of the biblical laws
And minimize our human flaws.

Four species also for four kinds of Jews
Each with differing religious views.
Some know Torah, they study our sages.
Gaining wisdom from the pages.

Others perform *mitzvot* – to do a good deed
Is the object of the life that they lead.
The third kind does both of the above;
They live Judaism with much love.

The fourth does neither, but still they are Jews.
Regardless of the life style they choose.
We must recognize the good in all four,
For all are our people, forever more.

It is our task to treat each other with love –
To show respect for the hawk and the dove.
On this Sukkot I make such a vow
And pray for the guidance to show me how.



In one analogy each represents a body part:
The etrog fruit being the human heart.
The long straight palm is the spine;
We can sense a grand design.

The myrtle leaf, small and oval, is the eye –
Used to see and sometimes cry.
The mouth is the long oval willow leaf –
Too often used causing others grief.



Legend (the species are specified in Leviticus 23:40)

etrog - the fruit of a citron tree

lulav - a ripe, green, closed frond from a date palm tree

hadass - boughs with leaves from the myrtle tree

aravah - branches with leaves from a willow tree

The *lulav* we wave is a bound set of a *lulav*, a *hadass*,
and an *aravah*.

Biography of the Month: Gene Wilder

Our congregation usually has an annual event in the spring called Early Bird Movie and Dinner. In 2014 we featured the 1979 film *The Frisco Kid* starring **Gene Wilder** as Avram Belinski, a



Polish rabbi travelling from Philadelphia to San Francisco to become a rabbi there in days of the Wild West. It is a humorous and touching story brought to life by Wilder's acting and comedic genius. He is helped along the way by Tommy Lillard, a bankrobber with a soft heart, played by **Harrison Ford**. Gene Wilder died this last August 29 after a long acting and writing career.

Wilder was born **Jerome Silberman** on June 11, 1933, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the son of **Jeanne (Baer)** and **William J. Silberman**, a manufacturer and salesman of novelty items. His father was a Russian Jewish immigrant, as were his maternal grandparents. Wilder first became interested in acting at age 8, when his mother was diagnosed with rheumatic fever and the doctor told him to "try and make her laugh."

At the age of 11, he saw his sister, who was studying acting, performing onstage, and he was enthralled by the experience. He asked her teacher if he could become his student, and the teacher said that if he were still interested at age 13, he would take Wilder on as a student. The day after Wilder turned 13, he called the teacher, who accepted him; Wilder studied with him for two years.

In an interview for the 2005 book *Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk About Being Jewish*, Wilder says his Jewish background consisted of attending an Orthodox temple where his grandfather was president. His sister and mother had to sit separately—"not being equal to men," he jokes sardonically. Neither of his parents were that observant, but he had a bar mitzvah.

"I don't know to please whom," he says. "I practiced singing the *maftir* a year before my bar mitzvah, and I was so distraught—because I had a high soprano voice and no one could hear me in the temple when I started to sing. So I said, 'I'm not going to be bar mitzvah if you don't have microphones next year!' And they put the microphones in. And then, of course, my voice changed."

His father switched the family to a Conservative synagogue when they moved to a new neighborhood in Milwaukee, but Wilder jettisoned the temple visits altogether when he was offended by the rabbi.

"I went back to visit Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and heard the ignorant rabbi giving his views on the Vietnam War, and I wanted to get up and start hollering at him. But I thought, 'My mother and father will be embarrassed and their friends will say, Why did he do that?' So I didn't. But that's the last time I went to a temple."

When asked whether he was conscious of being in a minority growing up, Wilder tells a doleful story. "My mother was very ill and she had heard from distant relatives that there was a military academy in Los Angeles [the Black-Foxe Military Institute]. And she talked my father into sending me to the military academy to stay there for a year. And I got so excited—I thought we'd be playing war games. I got there and I was the only Jew—I was 13—and they beat me up or insulted me every day that I was there."

When he came home for Christmas vacation his parents saw the bruises on his body and they took him out of the school. His mother had asked him to play the piano, and he played *Nobody Knows the Troubles I've Seen* very badly.

That wasn't the last of his childhood hazing. He was mocked in junior high school, and he reproduces the jeering so quickly, that the interviewer realizes it's at the tip of his memory. "Hey, Jew Boy! Why don't you ask the Jew Boy?"

When asked about his experience in the film *The Frisco Kid*, Wilder recalls he hired a Conservative rabbi, a Reform rabbi, and a cantor to coach him for the part. The cantor recording prayers for him was the most helpful. "The idea of singing in Hebrew on-screen was something I would have instinctively rejected—"How am I going to do that?" But when I heard it on the tape recorder and I could repeat it and I knew what the words meant and the phrasing, and I could make it my own, then I could do it."

He wrote much of the dialogue for the film, but it was **Mel Brooks** that came up with the Yiddish jibberish. When asked whether the role made him think of his Judaism, he said he was just thinking of what would be funny for a rabbi to do.

Wilder was raised Jewish, but he held only the Golden Rule as his philosophy. In a book published in 2005, he stated, "I have no other religion. I feel very Jewish and I feel very grateful to be Jewish. But I don't believe in God or anything to do with the Jewish religion".

Notes from our Cantor

by Cantor Roger Goodman



Before we pray Adon Olam on Rosh Hashanah, I often interject to say that we'll sing it with the beautiful High Holy Day melody. There isn't time during the service to tell why, so here is the rest of the story.

My sister **Irene** and I grew up at Temple Beth Am in Los Angeles, where my parents **Milton** and **Frances** both sang in the choir every Friday evening. Its leader was the very talented pianist and composer **Joseph Leonard**. Although blind, he conducted the choir while playing the organ, using a free hand or a nod of his head for cues.

They didn't use an organ for the High Holy Days, so Mom was the perfect substitute to conduct the choir, now a capella. After all, she was a public school music teacher for many decades. Besides her concentration on piano, she could teach every instrument to beginners and, naturally, conduct choirs. She held this volunteer position for several decades, with three successive cantors. Of course, Dad continued as a singer. All summer, the choir rehearsed, sometimes alone for purely choral passages, but mostly with the cantor. Irene and I got to know many of the choir members, sometimes even hanging out at rehearsals.

During the mornings, there were pre-B'nai Mitzvah, high school, and college services, but for some reason never on Erev Rosh Hashanah. So Irene and I would go to the adult congregation. But first we relished being in the choir room with our parents, the cantor, and the choir, listening to their warming up and final run-throughs, feeling the electricity in the room, and then walking behind them as they filed into the choir loft. The congregation was still buzzing with excitement, as members exchanged hugs and greetings. And then without any announcements, the choir would begin:

*Into the tomb of ages past
Another year has now been cast;
Shall time unheeded take its flight,
Nor leave one ray of higher light,
That on man's pilgrimage may shine
And lead his soul to spheres divine?*

As they sang, Irene and I made our way around to find some seats in the back of the sanctuary. I always

found both the words and melody of this hymn to be very moving. All the preparations for the High Holy Days, reviewing the Torah readings, picking up my junior cantor white robe, making resolutions for improved comportment in the year to come – all of these came to a climax, as “another year has now been cast” aside forever. We would take our seats just as the choir concluded:

*Peace to the house of Israel!
May joy within it ever dwell!
May sorrow on the opening year,
Forgetting its accustomed tear,
With smiles again fond kindred meet,
With hopes revived, the New Year greet!*

One day I finally learned that the poem was by **Penina Moise** and the music was a traditional tune for Adon Olam for the High Holy Days. Thus I decided on the spot that whenever I lead Rosh Hashanah services, I will always use this beautiful melody. It brings back wonderful memories of childhood, of the awe I felt right at the actual start of the year, and of being so proud to see my mother in her prominent position at the head of the choir.

In case you haven't heard, my beloved Mom passed away last May. Although she's no longer here physically, her love, her instinctive musicality, and her constant striving for excellence continue to be both inspirational and motivational. She was my first music teacher, and I owe to her my involvement in Jewish music.

I hope that you will join me for all of the congregational singing. Keep alive our Jewish tradition of Prayer in Song. Lift up your voice! Join millions of Jews around the world. If you don't read Hebrew, please refer to the transliterations booklet and the accompanying cross reference of *machzor* pages. And as we sing Adon Olam, I'll be sentimentally remembering my mother and those formative years long ago.

I am looking forward to the High Holy Days at Shir Ami, and I hope to greet each and every one of you. Melody, Joshua and Julia, Jeffrey, Kenny, Daniel, and my Dad Milton join me in wishing all of you a year of peace, good health, joy, and harmony. “With smiles again fond kindred meet, with hopes revived, the New Year greet!”

*L'Shanah Tovah uM'tukah,
A joyous and sweet New Year*



Third Season of Torah and Shabbat Study with Stan Schroeder

by Stan Schroeder

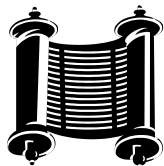
Congregation Shir Ami downsized to two Shabbat services a month for ten months as of the 2014-15 fiscal year. There are no services in July or August. To make up for part of the missing Shabbat services,



I started a Shabbat study session one Saturday morning a month at 10:30 at the Northridge Mobile Home Park Rec Room, 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 next session will be October 15, the Shabbat before Sukkot. Our Torah portion is *Ha'azinu* (Deuteronomy 32:1 - 32:52), Moses' song to the people of Israel on the last day of his life on earth. We will also discuss the upcoming holiday of Sukkot

See the flyer or call me at (818) 718-7466 for more information.



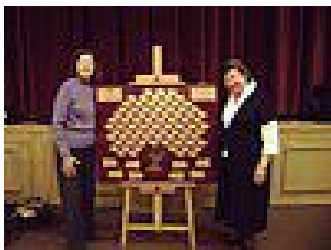
Greetings from the Rosenbluths

Our Membership Vice President **Helga Unkeless** recently visited **Clara and Stan Rosenbluth** at their home in Arroyo Grande. They send regards to all our congregants for this High Holy Day season.



Clara and Stan Rosenbluth and Helga

TREE OF LIFE

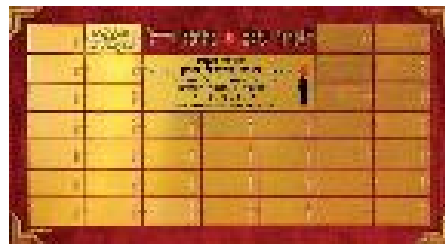


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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.

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.

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

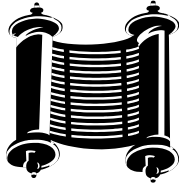
Congregation Shir Ami



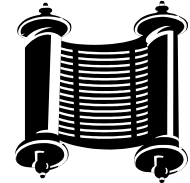
Schedule of High Holy Days Services
5777/2016



Rabbi David E. Vorspan
Hazzan Roger Goodman



All Services will be held at
de Toledo auditorium (formerly NCJHS)
22622 Vanowen St.
West Hills



David Vorspan
Rabbi

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, October 2nd
8:00 pm

Rosh Hashanah 1st Day
Monday, October 3rd
9:00 am



Roger Goodman
Hazzan

Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Contemporary Service
Tuesday, October 4th
10:00 am



Kol Nidre
Tuesday, October 11th
6:45 pm

Yom Kippur
Wednesday, October 12th
10:00 am



Jordan Pistol
President

Yizkor approximately 12:45 pm
Blessing of Children approximately 7:15 pm

www.shirami.com

Thursday October 20, 7:30 - 9:00 pm Sukkah Neighborhood Party at the Vorspans'

Fulfill the mitzvah to "dwell in the sukkah", shake the lulav and etrog, and enjoy Bonnie's refreshments. See how the Vorspans have decorated their sukkah this year, meet your old and make new Shir Ami friends.



Thursdays 7:30 - 8:30 pm "Around the Rabbi's Tisch" at the Vorspans'

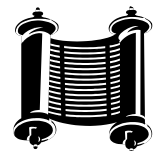


This popular Shir Ami educational series starts its 5777 season in November. Come join us for our weekly discussion of Rabbi Vorspan's selected topics of Jewish interest. We discuss Jewish texts and current events as they relate to Jewish values and our lives as Jews. This is a unique opportunity to learn and share in an informal format around the Vorspans' dining room table.

The Vorspans' home is located at 22320 Philiprimm St. in Woodland Hills. Call Rabbi Vorspan at (818) 888-9817 for more information.

Saturday October 15, 10:30 am: Torah/Shabbat Study at Northridge Mobile Home Park

Stan Schroeder has started his second season of Shabbat study sessions one Saturday morning a month at 10:30 at the Northridge Mobile Home Park Rec Room, 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 next session will be October 17, Our Torah portion is *Ha'azinu* (Deuteronomy 32:1 - 32.52). We will also discuss the upcoming holiday of Sukkot . Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 for more information.

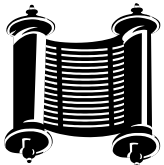
Congregation Shir Ami Schedule of Shabbat Services 2016
Conducted by Rabbi David Vorspan at
de Toledo (formerly New Community Jewish) High School,
22622 Vanowen St., West Hills
Services held in library near the front entrance

Saturday 10:30 am (unless otherwise noted)



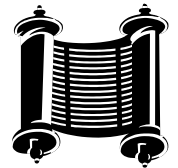
September 2016

Friday, September 9 - BBQ and Barchu at **Temple Ramat Zion**
Dinner at 6:00 pm, Service Under the Stars and Birthday
Shabbat 7:30 pm following dinner
Saturday, September 24 - Anniversary



October 2016

Saturday, October 8 - Birthday
Saturday, October 29 - Anniversary



November 2016

Saturday, November 12 - Birthday
Saturday, November 19 - Anniversary



David Vorspan
Rabbi

December 2016

Saturday, December 3 - Birthday
Saturday, December 17 - Anniversary



Jordan Pistol
President

If you would like more information about our congregation please visit our website at www.shirami.com

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.