

Events of the Month

Shabbat services at de Toledo High School

Saturday, April 8 - 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat

Saturday, April 22 - 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

Torah and Shabbat Study

**Saturday, April 15, 10:30 am
at the Schroeder home**

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

**Around the Rabbi's Tisch
Thursday, April 20 and 27
7:30 pm at the Vorspans'**

Our 5777 season of Rabbi's weekly discussion continues its second half. Call Rabbi at (818) 888-9817 or see flyer.

**Rabbi Vorspan & Colleagues
*What are we Teaching our
Next Generation?***

**Sunday, April 30, 2:30 pm at
de Toledo High School**

Rabbi Vorspan will lead a panel discussion with three of his rabbinic teaching colleagues from de Toledo about Jewish education and students in today's world.

Light refreshments will be served. See article on page 6 and flyer. Call Gladys Sturman at (818) 222-4694.



Visit our website:
www.shirami.com

Rabbi's Column



I should have left sooner.

I was thinking this as I drove to the funeral as quickly as the traffic allowed. But I'm sure I was jinxed. I had met with the family of the deceased the day before, and one of the mourners asked me if I'd ever been late to officiate at a funeral before. I told him not in 40 years!

And here I was, hustling to get to Hillside Memorial Park for an 11 AM funeral on a weekday. I gave myself a full hour, but after hitting traffic on the 101 and seeing the traffic backing up on the 405 interchange, I knew I was doomed.

I got off at Sepulveda, figuring side streets was the only way I would have a chance. And it was considerably faster. As I powered my way from red light to red light, I began to feel confident. Perhaps I would get there a couple of minutes early!

But then I made a fatal mistake. I saw the cemetery at a distance, realized I was almost there, and then...got lost! For some reason, I thought Hillside was off Sepulveda! After all, I always took the freeway and knew what offramp led to the entrance to the cemetery, but not the street.

And now I was meandering around, poking into one street, then another, not seeing anything familiar. I got my phone out and said to Ms. Google "find me the shortest route to Hillside Memorial Park."

Which it did. And I arrived 5 minutes late.

Actually, not that bad in the scheme of things. But I still felt terrible. I hate making people wait for me, no matter how short the wait! This is why our services start so promptly.

But then something happened that made me feel that another source might be pushing a few buttons. I began the service a few minutes late. I read some appropriate prayers and gave the eulogy, and then introduced the daughter of the deceased for her reflections.

She read from her prepared remarks. When she got to the third paragraph she looked up and said, "I want to wait a minute until I read this, because it's about the three women who just arrived at the rear door and I want to give them a chance to come in and sit down."

There, on the other side of the glass doors leading into the chapel, were the three caregivers who were constantly at the side of the woman who had died for the previous year. They had also gotten stuck in traffic. We waited a moment for them to take their seats, and the daughter continued.

She praised them so beautifully! Caregivers of terminally ill people are truly the angels in our lives, and I was so pleased they had the opportunity to hear the thanks that was their due. Had I been on time and started the funeral on time, they would have missed the comments entirely.

Good thing I was late!

Bonnie joins me in wishing you all a good Pesach! **Rabbi David Vorspan**

President's Report

Shalom and Happy Passover,

First things first. With only 10 days until the first Seder, **we need Passover items for SOVA.** Our April 8 Shabbat service will be close to your last chance, so, as we always say at Congregation Shir Ami, don't stand idly by!

When it comes to my favorite Jewish Holidays, Pesach always ran a close second to Chanukkah, as I guess it does for most people. Sure, Chanukkah meant presents, but Pesach meant lot more. First, there was the gathering of family, including grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins who, if we were lucky, we saw four or five times a year, and



this was one of them. Then, there were the various foods: tzimmes, brisket, chicken, matzah ball soup and, of course, matzah, as well as charoset and macaroons. Each

family member had their own specialty. (My Uncle Harry was renowned for his potato kugel.) Gefilte fish was part of the food, but was also a familiar Shabbat dish, along with horseradish. However, for Pesach, no "store bought" horseradish for us. We had to grate our horseradish (outside, because my Nana would not allow it to be done inside the house) to, in my Papa's words, "*zeycher l'tziat mitzrayim.*" Then, for the first Seder, we would all gather at the tables, adults at the big table, children at the small table, and sometimes we needed more tables. The only exception was that my Papa led the Seder from the small table, surrounded by his nieces, nephews and grandchildren. This also meant that my mother and her sister felt that, being far enough away from their father, they could sneak a nosh now and then, while the Seder went on.



Then we started the Seder and the Kiddush (at that time the only wine I knew of was Manischewitz), going around the table and checking ahead in the Haggadah to see who would get the longest parts. When it came time for *Urchatz*, my Papa would go to the sink to wash his hands with my older cousin, my brother and me in tow. (This was before we became enlightened and invited my other cousins and my sisters to join us.) When it came time for the four questions, it was first done by my older cousins, then it was my turn to learn them and so on down to my youngest sister over the years. The ritual nature of the Seder was almost magical, and when we started to get to point where we ate the matzah, the moror and charosets and we knew



the meal was not too far away. After the meal, we searched for the *Afikomen* and even more magical than the ritual of Pesach was the magic that existed in those days when a quarter was enough to make all your dreams come true. Then we finished the service, did some kitchen duty, and then sang the songs from the Haggadah before it was time to call it a night. Then we would do it all over again the next night, although the Matzah didn't seem to taste as good as it did the first night. There were also times when the Seder was just our immediate family, with my father leading the Seder. The good thing about the smaller Seders was that we got to read more parts!



Even the days after the Seders were still special and made me feel really Jewish as I would bring matzah and hard-boiled eggs to school for lunch instead of the usual sandwiches. It made me feel different from some of the other kids, but in a good way.

Today, our Seders are smaller. My cousins who joined us in days past now all live on the East Coast and those of us here on the West Coast are a smaller group. And, alas, when it come to the four questions and searching for the *Afikomen*, we seem to be running out of children. However, the foods and ritual are still the same. I am fortunate enough to lead the Seder, following my Papa's example, from the small table along with my now teenaged niece and nephew. But it has added a new dimension to our Seder in that we can have more intellectual discussions of the meaning of Pesach (to a point). Even so, we can recall the Seders of years past and share memories, while we make new ones. Unfortunately, though, it appears that it now takes more than a quarter to make all your dreams come true.

I wish you all a Happy Passover and I hope your Seders bring back memories of past Seders with loved ones who are no longer with us, and that you make new memories to be carried forward.

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

Addition to our Roster: our newest member

Sally Shane

31785 West Oak Ranch Court
Westlake Village, CA 91361
Phone: (818) 889-8830
Email: sallyashane@yahoo.com





DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

Art and Carol Altshiller for S. Martin Altshiller
 Rose Chaplan for Ronye Chaplan
 Jay and Gale Cohen
 Carol Cramer for Philip Cramer
 Fran Friedman for Frances Kanter, Frank Miller, Saul Joachim, and Mickey Levine
 Ethel Granik for Calman Golberg, Sarah Godberg, and Tena Granik
 Fran and Sam Kobulnick for Reva Suckman
 Jack Kutcher for Louis Kutcher
 David and Susan Lipman
 Ed Orens for Julius Orens
 Seymour and Ann Potell for Joseph Potell
 Elizabeth and David Raider
 Clara and Stan Rosenbluth for Helen Wolf
 Edward and Fay Schneier
 Shirley Shapiro
 Lewis and Claire Silverman for Milton Silverman
 Irving Strassner for Max Perelmutter and Peggy Seletsky

Birthdays

Seymour Potell (91)

Anniversaries

Fran and Sam Kobulnick

Other

Ethel Granik in memory of Betty Cohen
 Ethel Granik in memory of Laurie Orens
 Sylvia Hockmeyer in memory of Betty Cohen

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

- Lynn Cherney
- Fran Kobuknick
- Al Simon
- Paullette Pistol
- Sam Hochberg
- Gerry Hochberg
- Sally Shane



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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Sylvia Hockmeyer.....	4/5
Joan Easley.....	4/5
Frank Locascio.....	4/5
Ken Bereny.....	4/10
Lee Dollins.....	4/16
Carol Altshiller.....	4/17
Marian Perlmutter.....	4/17
Jerry Zatz.....	4/20
Pat Michaelson.....	4/22
Ed Orens.....	4/23
Marcie Spetner.....	4/25
Ellie Zatz.....	4/28

Anniversaries

None

Our Condolences



We regret to inform the congregational family of the passings of: longtime member **Betty Cohen** and **Blanche Kaplan**, mother of **Nancy Bereny**.

May God comfort Betty's husband **Harvey** and their daughter **Sherry Dollins** and their families and the **Bereny family** at this time of their bereavement.

Mailbox



Dear Shir Ami friends,

Thank you for all the wonderful wishes and gestures given to us on the passing of my wife and my mother, **Betty Cohen**. Your generous thoughts and actions were very much appreciated and made us realize even more how special she was. A special thank you to the **Life Line Committee** for setting up the repast after the funeral service, to **Sima and Steve Schuster** for the Shabbat dinner, and to the **Social Action Committee** members for the wonderful dinner on Saturday evening. Being a part of such a loving and caring community enriches our lives.

Harvey Cohen and Sherry Dollins

Social Action Committee

It is so hard to believe that Passover is just around the corner! The months seem to be flying by rather quickly this year! We are collecting **Passover-kosher matzos for SOVA** again this year. We need everyone's help in donating five pound packages before April 7,. Members of our committee who will gladly accept your matzo donations include **Claire Silverman, Rae Wazana, Fiona Taylor, Leon Nachenberg, Neal Tober, Sheilah Hart, Ellie Zatz.** You can bring them to all



services, Rabbi's tisch, and Torah study group. There will always be someone who can get them to SOVA before Passover. SOVA will also accept your personal checks mailed to them. Or you can drop off your matzo donations directly to SOVA located at Havenhurst and Vanowen, directly behind the Alpha Dairy. Please be as generous as you can as there are many Jewish families who come to Sova for their needs. Please mention that you are from Congregation Shir Ami. See the SOVA Passover flyer in this newsletter. Remember that our SOVA barrels are in the lobby of de Toledo High School for your non-perishable and non-breakable donations.

Our committee and family and friends will again be celebrating a **Mothers/Fathers Day/ Shabbat at West Valley Healthcare** on Friday, May 12, at 1:00 pm. We would love for you to join us for this very special mitzvah. **Claire Silverman** will lead everyone on her guitar doing the blessings over the challah, wine and Shabbat candles. The residents always participate and enjoy our visits. They each get a one-on-one visit and receive a Mothers/Fathers Day gift, and also enjoy refreshments with us. If you have any questions, call me at (818) 345-2405.

We are still collecting **Target \$10 gift cards** for the families who are in the domestic violence shelters we help sponsor for Mother's Day. Mail them to Fran Kobulnick at 5139 White Oak Ave. #13, Encino, CA 91306. The women and children are not allowed to have visitors once they come into the shelters. Receiving your Target cards reminds them that we care and that they are not forgotten as they fight for survival from domestic violence.



Our **Annual Walk Around Lake Balboa** is Sunday, June 4 at 8:30 am. This year we will be walking to raise money for the **Blue Card Fund** supporting **needy Holocaust survivors**. We are pleased to have three co-chairs for this special Walk; contact **Fiona Taylor, Sheilah Hart, or Claire Silverman** or see flyer for more information.

Fiona has arranged for a local Holocaust survivor to speak at the Walk. Please mail your flyer for the Walk along with your donation as indicated.

I would like to extend our deepest condolences to **Sherry Dollins** and **Harvey Cohen** and their families on the recent passing of **Betty Cohen**. Many years ago, Betty sat down with our social action committee when we met at Kol Tikvah. She let me know how proud she was of our congregation for our commitment to making a difference in our community. May her name be for a blessing.

On behalf of our committee and our families, I would like to wish you all a very happy Pesach, and hopefully you will have special seders that will create memories that will last for generations to come. Please reach out to those who do not have seders to attend. What a special mitzvah for all.

Shalom,
Fran Kobulnick, Social Action Vice President

Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel

April showers bring May flowers and we need the rain, but now is the time for wedding showers, baby showers, and tears of joy.

Every month we celebrate something special and this month it is Pesach. We are escaping slavery and oppression and celebrating our freedom and a new life. The sea has parted and we have crossed over to begin our journey.

There will be many tests and trials; rules and regulations will be set, but we will reach the Promised Land.

The members of the military are our heroes. Isn't that what they are trying to do? They are trying to save others, help make peace, and bring men, women, and children out of war zones into Promised Lands. May our troops and those they are helping and protecting all cross the seas or go by air and be able to come home safely and soundly to their Promised Lands and families.

Thank you for supporting Operation Gratitude and all those in need of help, here and abroad. As the human race we may all have our differences and that's OK., the way it should be. But our hearts all beat as one!

Quarterly Report of Donations:
Operation Gratitude:
93 books and 114 cards and letters

Project MOT: 15 Large Print books

Both organizations (combined):
45 gifts such as playing cards, comics, and calendars





New Member Spotlight: Joan Magit

by Barbara Joan Grubman

Joan came to my home to be interviewed, and freely shared her thoughts and her feelings. I soon learned about a woman, whose life is and was filled with learning, adventure, hard work and who enjoys art, music, Israeli dancing and being involved in politics.



Of course, like many of us, she has faced many challenges, and it was clear to me that Joan is a strong and persevering woman who is true to herself and her beliefs.

Joan was born in Worcester, Mass., and raised and educated in the bedroom community of Auburn. Her parents held different religious beliefs; her father called himself a "home Baptist" as he did not believe in organized religions, and her mother was a devout Catholic. Joan was raised Catholic, however frequently argued with the priests and nuns. She did not like being told how to think, and to never question, just believe.

She graduated from the Springfield Hospital School of Nursing, a 3-year diploma program that no longer exists in the US, having been replaced by the 2-year community college nursing programs. She believes that the education she received was invaluable, as it covered 2-3 months of many different aspects of medical specialties. Student nurses and professors lived in a nursing home attached to the hospital where she and her classmates interacted with interns and residents who met for breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day.

After graduating, she and her best friend **Helen** decided to drive across country in Joan's Blue Beetle Dodge, each with \$25 in their pockets, to work at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles. During their drive they met a couple of nice guys who were returning to the University of Chicago, and invited them to stay at their Fraternity House, provided they cook. They said sure. Hah! Neither of them had ever cooked. So the men at the fraternity cooked them breakfast, and Joan and Helen set out for Route 66 and California. Helen returned to the east coast and Joan remained, and went on to work in Psychiatry at the Brentwood VA Hospital, then as a surgical nurse at the Beverly Hills Doctors Hospital. There she met her future husband, **George Magit**, who was the hospital administrator.



Joan and George had to work on their parents re their marriage, so Joan returned to Massachusetts where she studied Judaism with **Rabbi Alexander Schindler**, a nationally known WWII veteran who was on ski patrol in Russia during the war. George flew to Massachusetts and asked for Joan's hand in marriage. Her parents grew to love George as a son. And her father said many years later that had he been younger, he would have joined a Temple.

When Joan returned to Los Angeles she was met with very reticent and cool potential in-laws who demanded that she be re-converted to Judaism by **Rabbi Philip Schroit** of B'nai David Synagogue. Finally, they were married at the lovely home of George's sister in Pacific Palisades. Everyone attended, joyously!

They had two sons: **Mark**, a Superior Court Justice in Mammoth Lakes, and **Douglas** a mortgage and loan advisor also in Mammoth Lakes, but living in Las Vegas. Both sons are married to lovely women and have no children.

At George's insistence, Joan continued her nursing education and graduated from CSUN, Mt. St Mary's College, and UCLA, and received her doctorate in Nursing at UCSF. She worked in several hospitals in LA and was Director of Health Services at a clinic in Santa Monica. She also volunteered at MEND (Meet each need with dignity).

Following George's death, **Helga Unkeless** and Joan became wonderful friends. Joan moved to Las Vegas for five years and traveled to LA, where she stayed with Helga to visit and see her doctors. And, Helga introduced her to Shir Ami. During her time in Vegas, Joan was very active in organizations that worked to end sex trafficking and also an environmental organization.

Joan returned to the San Fernando Valley Sept 1st 2016, and officially joined our Shir Ami. Her interests continue to be anti-sex trafficking, women's health, and politics. She would also like to see a monthly event calendar developed that would announce all Jewish activities taking place in the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles.

Joan is now embarking on yet another phase of her life, as she settles down in the San Fernando Valley. We are fortunate that Joan chose us, as she once again makes a life change. If you haven't already, please meet and greet Joan Magit, as she adds her name and her voice to Shir Ami.

Jewish World Watch Walk to End Genocide

by Rae Wazana

The **JWW Conejo Valley Walk to End Genocide** is coming up very soon, **Sunday, May 7th**. The 2.5 mile Walk will take place starting and finishing at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza at 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd. Parking is free. On-site registration begins at 11:30 am and the Walk activities begin at 12 noon. In addition to the Walk, there will be a Global Village and exhibitions and hands-on activities to educate people about genocides and mass atrocities which have taken place in such countries as Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Syria.



Congregation Shir Ami has a Walk Team participating in this event. Please consider joining us as a Walker or as a donor to help support JWW in its many projects of education, advocacy, and action. Our Shir Ami Team is trying to reach a goal of \$1,000 or more to help support the work of JWW. You can register to join the Shir Ami Team or donate on-line at the JWW website for the Conejo Valley Walk: cv.walktoendgenocide.org. Or you can call the JWW office at (818) 501-1836 and tell them you want to support Congregation Shir Ami's Walk Team.

Many of you may be curious about some of the projects on the ground which JWW supports and funds. Here are just a few:

"Little Ripples" (a pre-school program in Darfuri Refugee camps in Eastern Chad)

Generation Hope to treat medical and rape crisis victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Re-integration of Congolese child-soldiers and other vulnerable youth so that they can be educated and learn job skills to become productive contributors to society

Clean Water projects and many other programs

For more information on some of these projects, you can visit their website: JWW.org. Please help us to NOT STAND IDLY BY. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact **Fiona Taylor** or myself, co-captains of our Walk Team.

Thank you for your support!

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.

Rabbi Vorspan & Colleagues

What are we Teaching our Next Generation?

by Sima Schuster

Purim has come and gone; Pesach is almost upon us. Once we have cleaned finished our seders and have returned to our normally chametz-filled kitchens, it is time for a little fun!



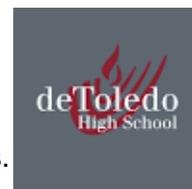
On April 30, **Rabbi Vorspan** will moderate a panel of three rabbis from the de Toledo High School:

Rabbi Tsafi Lev

Rabbi Devin Villarreal

Rabbi J.B. Sacks

They will discuss topics of great interest to our life as contemporary Jews.

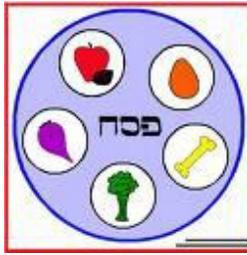


Join us at de Toledo High School on **Sunday April 30th from 2:30 to 4:00 pm** for a lively talk and afternoon filled with Q and A. Light refreshment (Coffee and cookies) will be served. The cost is \$5 per person. See the included flyer to register. For more information call **Gladys Sturman** at (818) 222-4564. See you then!

Passover 5777

by Stan Schroeder

At the Passover *seder* we ask *Ma Nishtanah* ... why is this night different from all others? Our *hagaddah* answers:



“This night is different from all other nights: because we were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. Because we were brought forth from there by God with a mighty hand and outstretched arm. Because we are thankful and because it is our duty to keep the commitment to freedom ever present in our memories and in our lives. So that we will always remember and never forget.”



We then go on to explain the *matzah*, the bitter herbs, and the other laws and customs of this holiday celebrated by Jews around the world. We tell the story of the exodus from Egypt

(*mitzrayim*, the narrow place) as if we were there, because we are told that we were all liberated, we all experienced the wilderness and the journey to the Promised Land.



This year let us also ask why this year is different from all others. This year is different because we will soon celebrate the 69th birthday of the State of Israel. The State of Israel is the Promised Land of our day. Seventy four years ago, April 19, 1943, the Warsaw ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants. **Mordecai Anielewicz** and his small band of barely armed Jews fought over 2000 well armed Nazi troops until May 16. Anielewicz and most of his remaining fighters died in the final days. A kibbutz near the border with Gaza was renamed *Yad Mordecai* (hand of Mordecai) in his honor.

On May 14, 1948 **David Ben Gurion** proclaimed the State in accordance with the United Nations partition plan adopted November 1947. The date on the Hebrew calendar was the 5th of Iyar, and *Yom Ha'atzma'ut* (Independence Day) is celebrated that date unless it falls on a Friday (advanced to the 3rd), Saturday (advanced to the 4th), or Monday (delayed to the 6th). This year it falls on Tuesday, May 2.

Over the next few days following the proclamation of the State over 20,000 troops from Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt invaded the newly formed Jewish State. The War of Independence was fought in three phases, separated by periods of truce. The third phase

ended July 20, 1949. During 1949 Israel signed separate armistice agreements with Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria (the four countries bordering Israel).

From the ashes of the ghettos and concentration and death camps of World War II, and the courage of the pioneers of the State, arose the modern thriving State of Israel today. The promises of the Biblical God of Israel and the British following the World War I League of Nations Mandate were kept in our time. While it is true Israel still has enemies bent upon her destruction, we pray this Passover for a resolution of the conflicts, *L'shana ha'ba-ah b'Yerushalayim*, next year in Jerusalem with *Shalom l'kol*, peace for all!

This Year we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem at the conclusion of the Six Day War June 10, 1967, the 28th of Iyar on the Hebrew calendar. That day the Old City of Jerusalem, ruled by the Jordanians since the War of Independence, was captured by the Israel Defense Force. The day is called *Yom Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem Day) and this year falls on Wednesday, May 24. Let us also pray that as we were liberated from slavery some 3500 years ago, that we enter an era of peace and prosperity for Israel and its neighbors.

See my poem *Exodus: My Journey from "Egypt"* on page 9.



Warsaw Ghetto May, 1943



Israel Declaration of Independence May, 1948



IDF paratroopers at Western Wall June, 1967

Editor's note: **Barbara Grubman** recently gave me two Temple Beth Ami Anniversary Yearbooks: 25th (1974) and 40th (1989) that were given to her by **Jack Kutcher**. **Sherry Dollins** and **Ellen Fremed** were Co-chairs and 40th Anniversary Yearbook Editors. **Ellen Fremed** was in her fifth year as Temple President. **Rabbi David Vorspan** and **Cantor Tibor Moses** were clergy and **Frank Locascio** was Executive Director. I scanned several pages from this yearbook to bring back fond memories of Temple members in those days.

Stan Schroeder

**With All Our Heart,
to the Temple with a Heart.**

**CONGRATS!
The Koranskys**

Sherry Dollins & Ellen Fremed Co-Chairs - Yearbook Editors

Shirley Barsky
Herb Frankel
Sheila Frankel
Ethelyn Robins

Bernard Robinson
Phyllis Robinson
Sima Schuster
Robert Sherwin

Gladys Sturman

Assisted by Judy Eisikowitz (among others)

*Congratulations to
Temple Beth Ami
on its 40th Anniversary*

and to

**Ellen Fremed
on her fifth year as
President of the Temple**

Among the B'nai Mitzvot who honored
Rabbi and Cantor:

1982: Betty Cohen, Sherry Dollins,
Ellen Fremed, Marc Steven Fremed,
Mark Koransky, Sarah Schuster

1983: Jeff Dollins

1984: Jay Laurance Fremed

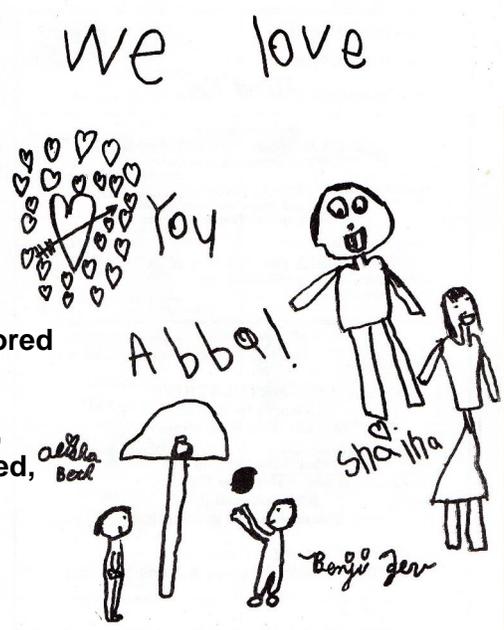
1985: Maralyn Soifer

1986: Eric Dollins, Arianna Koransky,
Harris Soifer

1987: Maita Schuster

1988: Michelle Loomis

1989: Felicia Soifer



THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

Congratulations T.B.A.

Thank you Rabbi Vorspan and
Cantor Moses



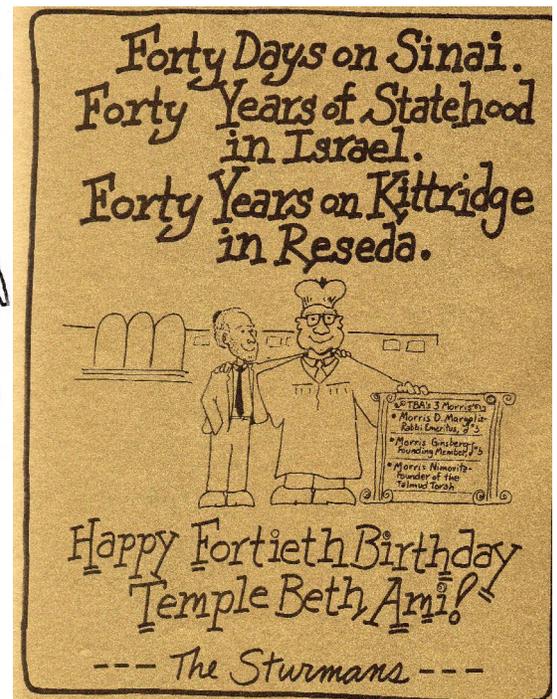
THE DOLLINS FAMILY

Mazel Tov



HATTEM FAMILY

Neil, Barbara,
Marla, Aaron, Jennifer,
Bruno & Roxanne



TREE OF LIFE

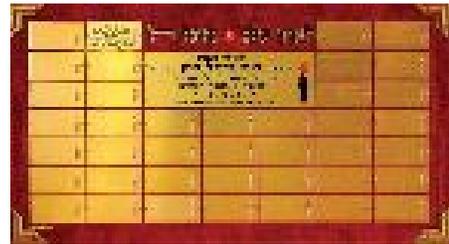


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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.

Exodus: My Journey from "Egypt"

by Stan Schroeder

In Egypt the Pharaohs reigned supreme
Where earlier Joseph interpreted a Pharaoh's
dream.

A famine was avoided by storing grain
So food was available in years without rain.

But Joseph was forgotten, as is often the case,
In the years after a significant event takes place.
Israelites in Egypt were forced to be slaves,
Oppressed with hard labor until laid in their
graves.

Pharaoh then orders his kingdom's midwives,
"Newborn Israelite boys, take their lives!"
Moses is saved and raised as though royal,
And to his ancestral people he is loyal.

In the wilderness he is tending his flock.
And sees this bush burning next to a rock.
The bush isn't consumed and that seems odd;
But you never know what to expect from God.

God tells Moses He expects him to lead,
Relate to the Pharaoh God's people must be
freed.

Pharaoh consented on plague number ten;
The Israelites left in haste, 600,000 men.

Pharaoh sent soldiers soon to give chase;
It looked as if the Israelites would lose the race.
But God parted the waters of the Sea of Reeds,
Then drowned the Egyptians upon their steeds.

Forty years of wandering to accept God's Laws;
The Israelites overcame their many flaws.
It took the birth of a new generation,
To enter the Promised Land and become a nation.

That journey to freedom included me too,
And each of you who is proud being a Jew.
We must shape this journey in our day and age,
And learn what God wrote on our unique page.

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 presents
Rabbi Vorspan and Colleagues
What are we Teaching our Next Generation?

Sunday April 30th 2:30 pm at
de Toledo High School
22622 Vanowen St., West Hills
Our "theater" is to the right of main lobby.



Rabbi Vorspan will lead a panel discussion with three of his rabbinic teaching colleagues from de Toledo High School about Jewish education and students in today's world.



Rabbi Tsafi Lev Rabbi J.B. Sacks Rabbi Devin Villarreal

You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to see Rabbi Vorspan blend his weekday and weekend jobs and get a glimpse of what our future holds in store.

Light refreshment (Coffee and cookies) will be served. Please allow extra time to park as other events are being held that day at de Toledo.

\$ 5 per person

For more information call Gladys Sturman at (818) 222-4694.

Clip this form and send with payment by **April 21st (Rabbi Vorspan and Colleagues)**

Your name: _____ Phone No.: _____

of attendees: _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

Mail this form and payment to:

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

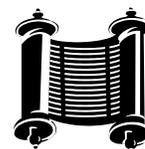
Thursdays April 20 and 27, 7:30 - 8:30 pm “Around the Rabbi’s Tisch” at the Vorspans’



This popular Shir Ami educational series continues the second half of its 5777 season. 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 Philipprimm St. in Woodland Hills. Call Rabbi Vorspan at (818) 888-9817 for more information.

Saturday April 15, 10:30 am: Torah/Shabbat Study at the Schroeder home



Stan Schroeder leads a Shabbat study session one Saturday morning a month at 10:30. The April Study will be at the Schroeder home at 8450 Winnetka Ave. #14 (note change). We discuss the weekly Torah portion, the Shabbat prayers that are included in our Contemporary service, and various subjects relevant to Conservative Judaism.



The Torah reading will be the Pesach Shabbat section (Exodus 33:12 - 34:26) that discusses Moses’ receiving the Second Tablets and God’s revelation to him of His thirteen attributes of mercy. We will also discuss the importance of this most celebrated holiday. We are commanded “*la asok b’divre torah*” (to engage in the study of Torah). Join us and fulfill the mitzvah.

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



Let's go for a walk around Lake Balboa!

Join Congregation Shir Ami's Social Action Committee on **Sunday, June 4th at 9:00 am.**
 Registration required starting at 8:30 am

All proceeds go to Blue Card Fund for Holocaust survivors

Minimum donation: \$10 per person, NO MAXIMUM! Following the walk, a brunch will be provided by our Social Action Committee near the lake. Please bring vegetarian salad, side dish, or dessert to share, and remember to wear your Mitzvah Patrol shirt.

The Blue Card organization started in 1934. It now provides services for the 2100 most needy Holocaust survivors in the U.S. 100 % of our donations will reach them, most of whom are over eighty.

Also please bring non-perishable and non-breakable food for SOVA.

Sit-down activities are available for those who don't walk. Call **Fiona Taylor** at (818) 903-6381 or **Sheilah Hart** at (818) 884-2342 or **Claire Silverman** at (747) 237-7130. Sign up by returning this tear-off with your check for \$10 (or more) per person to Congregation Shir Ami, P.O. Box 6353, Woodland Hills, CA 91365. Make check payable to **Congregation Shir Ami**.

Total Donation \$ _____

Walker Names: Brunch (y/n)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Donation Amount: \$10 [] \$18 [] \$36 []
 \$72 [] Other []

Phone no. _____

In honor/memory of _____

Number of participants _____

I will bring: Salad [] Dessert [] Side dish []

Congregation Shir Ami
Contract for the Sale of Hametz

Know ye that I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi David Vorspan to act in my place and stead, and in my behalf to sell all Hametz possessed by me (knowingly or unknowingly) as defined by The Torah and Rabbinic Law (e.g. Hametz, doubt of Hametz, and all kinds of Hametz mixtures). Also Hametz that tends to harden and to adhere to a surface of inside of pans, pots or cooking and usable utensils, and all kinds of animals that have been eating Hametz or mixtures thereof. And to lease all places wherein the Hametz owned by me may be found.

Rabbi David Vorspan has the full right to sell and to lease by transactions, as he deems fit and proper and for such time which he believes necessary in accordance with all detailed terms and detailed forms, as explained in the general authorization contract which have been given this year to Rabbi David Vorspan to sell the Hametz.

This general authorization is made a part of this agreement. Also do I hereby give the said Rabbi David Vorspan full power and authority to appoint a substitute in his stead with full power to sell and to lease as provided herein. The above given power is in conformity with all Torah, Rabbinical regulations and laws, and also in accordance with the laws of the State of California and of the United States. And to this I hereby affix my signature on this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Signature _____

Address _____ City _____

Please note additional locations (summer home, cottage, work place) where Hametz might be located:

You may deliver in person or mail to: Congregation Shir Ami
P O Box 6353
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

JFS { SOVA COMMUNITY FOOD & RESOURCE PROGRAM

Passover/*Chumetz* Food Drive



Help SOVA clients celebrate Passover
and “eat and be satisfied” all year long.



At this time of year as we are cleaning out our chumetz and purchasing Passover foods, think of SOVA and bring food donations to your Temple/Synagogue. Donation barrels are available.

Donate your *chumetz* and Passover food between March 20th to April 10th.

We accept any unopened canned or packaged foods as well as personal hygiene items and gently used children’s books.

No glass containers please.

For more information, call Kathi Dawidowicz at 818-988-7682, x120.



**JFS { SOVA Community Food & Resource Program, 16439 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406
Visit our website at www.jfsla.org/sova**