

Events of the Month

**Shabbat services at
de Toledo High School**
Saturday, June 10 - 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat

Saturday, June 24 - 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

Walk Around Lake Balboa
Sunday, June 4, 9:00 am

Our Walk this year raises money for this simcha.
needy Holocaust survivors through
the Blus Card Fund. Call **Sheilah
Hart** at (818) 884-2342. See article
on page 4 and flyer.

The Story of the Jews
Sunday, June 11
2:00 pm at the Vorspans'

This is the first afternoon of a five
part series originally shown on PBS
created by **Professor Simon
Schama**. This segment covers the
biblical period starting 3000 years
ago. Rabbi Vorspan will lead a
discussion following the video. See
the article on page 7 and see the
flyer to register.



Sunday, June 18

Visit our website:
www.shirami.com

Rabbi's Column



The moment that moved me the most was when I looked
down and saw my tie.

Gavi and Yael were leading us on the Torah service. They
were composed, flawless in their mastery of the liturgy,
looking confident and demonstrating their total command of
the moment. They were becoming B'nai Mitzvah and bringing the large
congregation assembled along with them on this journey to Jewish
responsibility.

That's when I looked down and remembered that I had chosen the tie for a
reason. It had belonged to my father (z"l). I picked it out specifically because
it was soon to be his birthday and I wanted him, in some way, to be a part of

And that's when I began to think about how proud my father would have
been of his great grandchildren.

It's not many that can say that their great grandfather was a rabbi, their
grandfather was a rabbi, and their father was a rabbi, as can my twin
grandchildren. But it was working as planned: the transmission of Judaism
from generation to generation!

And in this case there was not only no dilution of Jewish tradition through the
ages, there was an increase! When I married **Bonnie** I added to the ritual I
received in my youth, and this was expanded upon by **Alisha** and **Ahud** and
their family.

And as I watched Yael and
Gavi lead the congregation
so knowledgeably, I thought
about my parents and the
role they played in this
morning's festivities.

And my mind wandered to a
few decades from now when
their children would become
B'nai Mitzvah.

Would there also be a tie
that binds?

Rabbi David Vorspan

*Editor's note: See article
about this special B'nai
Mitzvah on page 2.*



Yael and Gavi Sela (foreground), Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan,
Alisha, Eitan, and Rabbi Ahud Sela, Rita and Nadav Sela (background)

President's Report

Shalom,

Summer is on the way and that means we take our annual two-month hiatus in July and August, so we can all return "tanned, rested and ready" in September.

But before we can all take that well-earned vacation, June has a lot in store for us. (One might even say "June is bustin' out all over," or one might not!) We have two more Saturday morning Shabbat services and Rabbi Vorspan will begin hosting a series of video presentations this month.

But that doesn't mean we'll be staying indoors all month. We will be having our annual "**Walk Around Lake Balboa**." This year, we walk to benefit the Blue Card Fund which provides financial assistance to holocaust survivors. There will be a speaker who is a holocaust survivor. Then we will have our annual "Class Photo" and then we put ourselves into orbit around Lake Balboa.

We've had a good year and we deserve a vacation. So, in the words of The Tempos, "See you in September."

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



B'nai Mitzvah of All Time: Gavi and Yael Sela May 20, 2017 (24 Iyar 5777) at Temple Ramat Zion by Stan Schroeder

I was one of over 400 people who attended the B'nai Mitzvah of **Gavi and Yael Sela**, son and daughter of **Rabbi Ahud and Alisha Sela**, grandson and granddaughter of **Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan** and **Nadav and Rita Sela**. The highlight of the service was the Torah service, itself. Rabbi Vorspan, in his column on page 1 described how "They were composed, flawless in their mastery of the liturgy, looking confident and demonstrating their total command of the moment."

The Torah readings were a Sela/Vorspan family affair:

First Aliyah reader: **Bonnie Vorspan**
 Second Aliyah reader: **Elana Vorspan** (wife of Ben)
 Third Aliyah reader: **Nadav Sela**
 Fourth Aliyah reader: **Shaina Brenner** (daughter of Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan)
 Fifth Aliyah reader: **Rabbi David Vorspan**
 Sixth Aliyah reader: **Eitan Sela (8 years old!)**
 Seventh Aliyah readers: **Yael and Gavi Sela**

Yael and Gavi's Tikkun Project was a bake sale to raise money for a friend of the family named **Koby Gruenwald** who is battling brain cancer. They raised over \$1,000 for Koby and the **Morgan Adams Foundation** which funds pediatric cancer research.

The B'nai Mitzvah had another special meaning to the family. **Sime Kamieniecki**, Bonnie's mother was the oldest of five siblings in Sheroshevo, a shtetl in Poland. The youngest two, **Yudel**, her brother, and **Roseh**, her sister were unable to celebrate their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs because of the Nazi occupation. The family was sent to Auschwitz in January, 1943. Only Sime survived. The Sela and Vorspan families remember Yudel and Roseh at the B'nai Mitzvah of Gavi and Yael.

Shir Ami Shabbat service attendees remember Yael, Gavi, and Eitan from when we held our services in a classroom at TRZ and they were in and out, sitting with Bubbie Bonnie. When we left TRZ three years ago it was hard to imagine them as they are today. The biggest surprise was eight-year-old Eitan reading Torah to the delight and applause of the congregation.

Many of our members were there, and some remembered the Bar and Bat Mitzvahs of Alisha, Ben, and Shaina Vorspan at Temple Beth Ami. May the Vorspan/Sela family be blessed to celebrate such beautiful B'nai Mitzvahs for generations to come.

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

Fran Kobuknick
Al Simon
Paulette Pistol
Sam Hochberg
Gerry Hochberg



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

Change to our roster

Ellen Fremed
 New email:
ellenfremed@gmail.com





DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

- Ellen Fremed for Yetta Shlakman and Milton Soffern
- Jacque Gordon for Marshall Gordon
- Sylvia Hockmeyer for Joe Hockmeyer
- Stephanie and Dov Landau for Nathan Silk
- Elizabeth and David Raider for Philip Raider
- Clara and Stan Rosenbluth for grandson Brandon Gribin
- Lonny and Nancy Scharf for Blima Frollech, David Haas, Claire Halprin, and Rose Scharf
- Rae and Armand Wazana for Isaac Wazana
- Phyllis and Stan Schroeder for Albert Kaufman

Birthdays

- Yael and Gavi Sela (13)
- Phyllis Schroeder

Anniversaries

- Rae and Armand Wazana (50th)
(inadvertently omitted last month)
- Shaina and Aaron Brenner (3rd)

Other

- Elaine and Harold Adelman in memory of Betty Cohen
- Valerie Edwards and Walter Brauer in memory of Bernice Lipschultz

No Shabbat/Torah Study This Month

I have cancelled the June Shabbat/Torah study due to my upcoming trip (see page 9) and limited time available. I may schedule a "makeup" session during the summer if there is enough interest. Stan Schroeder

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Al Simon.....	6/2
Wayne Geffen.....	6/3
Sondra Licht.....	6/6
Gary Finlay.....	6/10
Stan Rosenbluth.....	6/14
Nancy Bereny.....	6/15
Irwin Koransky.....	6/15
Jay Cohen.....	6/26
Helga Unkeless.....	6/26
David Lipman.....	6/29
Gale Cohen.....	7/1
Heather Hyman.....	7/1
Ethel Granik.....	7/7
Fran Feinman.....	7/12
Ed Schackman.....	7/15
Barbara Hattem.....	7/22
Al Siebler.....	7/22
Phyllis Feldman-Schroeder.....	7/27
Stan Goodman.....	7/27
Charlene Kazel.....	7/29
Judy Eisikowitz.....	7/30

Anniversaries

Bette and Owen Delman.....	6/7	53rd
Marcie and Steve Spetner.....	6/10	38th
Becky and Gary Finlay.....	6/13	18th
Paula and Paul Frankel.....	6/16	27th
Karen and Fenton Harvey.....	6/24	33rd
Sherry and Lee Dollins.....	6/25	50th
Cheryl and William Niesen.....	6/28	48th
Maralyn and Paul Soifer.....	6/28	48th
Clara and Stan Rosenbluth.....	7/6	65th
Lorraine and Dan Simansky.....	7/10	52nd
Susan and David Lipman.....	7/12	47th
Sima and Steve Schuster.....	7/15	50th
Laura and Al Simon.....	7/30	56th

Mailbox



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the women and child victims of domestic violence served at the Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles/Family Violence Project, I wish to thank you all for your incredibly generous donation of Target gift cards in honor of Mother's Day. These will provide such joy to our special Moms residing in our domestic violence shelters, and will enable them to select a very special gift for themselves. This is a true "Mitzvah" in the purest sense, and we're deeply grateful and appreciative to you all.

We're particularly overwhelmed by your continuous ongoing support of our program. Over the many years, you've succeeded in providing our program with linens and other items along with your gift cards for the holidays and special occasions. You cannot imagine how grateful the shelter residents are by the "kindness of strangers".

Many thanks to you all and my heartfelt warm wishes for a safe, happy and most joyous summer!

Warmly,

Kitty Glass, Community Outreach Coordinator

Social Action Committee

This year has gone by very quickly for our Committee! Special thanks to the Committee, **Rabbi Vorspan** and our membership, for your emotional, financial and physical support. There aren't enough thank you's for your continued support of all of our many community mitzvah projects. Without all of you we would not be as successful, and would not be so well known in the community as the **Little Temple that Does!** You may want to visit our website www.shirami.com and enjoy the photos of our many years of community service.

First, I would like to congratulate **Rae Wazana** for receiving her well-deserved award from Jewish World Watch at the recent **JWW Annual Walk to End Genocide**. Rae has been involved as Congregation Shir Ami's Liaison for many years, and has co-led with **Fiona Taylor** all our Walking Teams. She has also kept us updated and involved in all the JWW activities. See the article and pictures on page 6. Rae is now leading our congregation in a new project aiding the refugees from Sudan and Pakistan who are in California.



We continue to collect \$10 Target gift cards for the women and children in the domestic violence shelters operated by Jewish Family Services. These women often arrive without basic essentials and appreciate these gift cards to provide for their personal needs. You may send the cards to me at 6139 White Oak Ave. #13, Encino, CA 91316 or give them to Committee members at our services and events.

Our committee celebrated at **Mother's/Father's Day Shabbat at West Valley Healthcare** May 12. See the accompanying pictures. Many of the residents do not get visitors, and are thrilled to see Congregation Shir Ami. It's hard to believe that we first started this mitzvah project 15 years ago when **Barbara Tober's** and **Linda Tapper's** fathers were residents. Some of the residents were also former members of Beth Ami and/or Shir Ami. At one time we visited there to bring in the Jewish New Year by blowing the shofar and saying traditional blessings. Maybe we could do it this year if we can get some more volunteers to help.

We are now approaching our annual **Walk Around Lake Balboa** on Sunday, June 4 to benefit the **Blue Card Fund** that supports **2100 needy Holocaust survivors** in the US. **Fiona Taylor** has arranged for a well known Holocaust survivor to be our speaker. It seems that many of you have not yet responded to

let us know that you will support our Walk. Please mail your filled-in Walk flyers and checks! See the flyer for more information and whom to contact. It is hard to believe how long ago we did our first Walk Around Lake Balboa, probably 15 years ago. I am proud to be part of such a special Congregation that is dedicated to making our community and the world a better place through our efforts.



We will soon be collecting non perishable food for **SOVA** for the High Holy Days. In the meantime, we will still be collecting non-perishable and non-breakable food through June services and events. Donations may also be brought to SOVA in Van Nuys Sunday 9 am to noon and Monday – Thursday 10 am to 1:30 pm. The address is 16439 Vanowen St., a half block east of Hayvenhurst behind the dairy.

On a more personal note, I thank all those who have stood with me and our Committee for many years. I guarantee you that supporting our projects provides one of the best feelings you will experience. Please join our committee; we would love to see you!

And I wish all the fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers and uncles a very Happy Father's Day. Happy Graduation to all our Graduates, too.

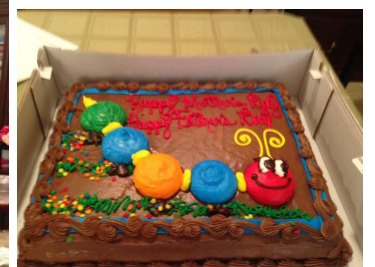
Shalom,
Fran Kobulnick, Social Action Vice President



Claire Silverman, Neal Tober, Rae Wazana, Becky Finlay, and Ellie Zatz



Becky, Claire, and Neal



Happy Mother's Day
Happy Father's Day cake



New Member Spotlight: Neal Tober

by Barbara Joan Grubman

Before I even met, or talked to Neal, I had the sense that there was something interesting about him. Even his email address began with "mbiker." Then, when I met him for the first time, as he opened the door to his home, his smile and his little dog running behind us made me feel at home. To call Neal a "Renaissance Man" would be appropriate. He is in good company with men such as **Ben Franklin** and **Winston Churchill** and even **Danny De Vito**. As he unfolded his life for me, I sensed his many interests, accomplishments and life experiences. (Full disclosure...I love the term "Renaissance Man" when applied to someone. He immediately peaked my interest.)

Neal was born in Springfield, Mass. His maternal grandparents were orthodox Jews and lived on the lower East Side of New York at 282 Broome St. His grandmother was a baker and his grandfather a tailor. He speaks of them kindly and as having had an influence on his life.

Neal attended the synagogue in his home town of Springfield and had his Bar Mitzvah there. In High School he served as the president of the Hebrew Club and continued his Jewish learning at the well known Yeshiva University on 185th St. and Amsterdam Ave. in NYC.

His drive was always to be in Israel and he fulfilled that dream by living there for many years and in many places. Spending time at an *ulpan* for two months, then sent all over the country for various jobs, he continued learning. Neal also lived in Lebanon in quite a dangerous time. During the 70's he did Service to People at *Sherut La'am*, an organization that facilitates youths in finding volunteer and educational opportunities in Israel in their field of interest. When an English teacher had to leave her school job in 1970, Neal happily took it over and became her replacement, teaching kindergarten through 6th grade. I told you he is a renaissance man!

All the while, "falling more and more in love with the country of Israel", Neal spent time near the Sea of Galilee. One of his most interesting roommates was a "Baptist guy", and the two quickly became close friends. Then, while living on a banana plantation Neal met his future wife, **Barbara**. They returned to the U.S. and were married in Los Angeles, as the life in Israel and on a kibbutz became more difficult. Yet, even after being married, Neal and Barbara returned to live on a kibbutz once more for six months.

Back again in the U.S., Neal worked as an engineer at Hughes for eight years and then at TRW in the 80's.

Barbara had been instrumental in forming Shir Ami's Social Action Committee. Sadly, though, Barbara died on the first day of Rosh Hashanah last year. Now, Neal is looking forward to some family members hopefully coming to live with him in a short while, and staying for a long visit.

Neal refers to himself as a California Zionist, and has now rejoined Shir Ami, after a time away. We are happy to welcome him back and hope that we shall see him on many occasions. Being kind and offering me a ride home, we had more time to talk, and my curiosity sated, as I learned that the 'm' in mbiker meant "mountain biker". If one picture is worth a thousand words, take a look at Neal on his bike, while he happily patrols the hills and dales of the Santa Monica Mountains as a volunteer ranger. In that role, he assists those in need, because they may be lost, injured or just looking to talk with a friendly, knowledgeable person about the surrounding areas.

He also enjoys taking classes at the Encore program for seniors at Pierce College. He told me, "They are short of male voices in their choir." It comes as no surprise that Neal, after a bit more practice will soon be adding his dulcet tones to the group. If one of the definitions of a Renaissance man (also called a polymath) is "a clever interesting person good at many things", wouldn't you agree that our member Neal Tober fits the bill?



Jewish World Watch Walk to End Genocide

by Rae Wazana

Congregation Shir Ami did it again! Yes, the Temple that CAN and DOES raised almost \$1300 to help fund projects of advocacy, education, and activism which Jewish World Watch implements. These projects help victims of genocides and mass atrocities in such places as Sudan, South Sudan, refugee camps in Chad, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On the day of the Walk in the Conejo Valley on Sunday, May 7th, we were fortunate that the rain held off until after the Walk concluded. However, we were prepared with umbrellas and rain ponchos just in case! We had an invigorating 2 ½ mile Walk through some lovely areas of Thousand Oaks starting and finishing at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. We were energized by the introduction of Clergy (including our own Rabbi Vorspan), the blowing of the Shofar, and by the signs carried by our Shir Ami Walk Team, as well as by several other synagogues and organizations that participated. We were also encouraged by the honking of cars acknowledging the messages on the signs we carried.

Thank you to **Fiona Taylor**, my amazing Walk Team co-captain; and to our dedicated Walk Team of 22 members led by **Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan**, and to the many Shir Ami donors and friends who have supported JWW over the years!

Our 2017 Walk Team also included **Fiona Taylor, Stan Goodman, Ellie and Jerry Zatz, Jordan Pistol, Stan Schroeder, Laura Simon, Mike and Joan Easley, Linda Hallman** (Joan's sister), **Judy Eisikowitz, Paula Loomis, Pat and Jerry Michaelson, Charlene Kazel, Neal Tober, Becky Finlay, Claire and Lew Silverman**, and myself.

Thank you, Congregation Shir Ami for **NOT STANDING IDLY BY**, and for your activism and advocacy to help JWW support victims and survivors of genocides and mass atrocities! Thank you for being Upstanders!

Editor's note: Rae Wazana received a special award from Jewish World Watch for her outstanding service to the organization. See her receiving the award and other pictures from the Walk in the right hand column.

**JEWISH
WORLD
WATCH**



2017 Shir Ami Jewish World Watch Walk team



Mike Easley at Walk Help Desk

Rae Wazana holding award: **The Upstander Award for Excellence in Activism**



Rabbi Vorspan (upper left) and Rabbi Sela (lower right)

The Story of the Jews Begins Sunday, June 11

by Stan Schroeder

Rabbi Vorspan will offer the first of a five part video series at his home Sunday, June 11 at 2:00 pm. We will watch the video and then he will lead a discussion of our unique heritage. The series is free to members, **but you must register in advance as seating is limited.** See the flyer to register.

The following is from the documentary website.

Prize winning author of fifteen books and Emmy-Award winner **Simon Schama** brings to life Jewish history and experience in a new five-part documentary series **The Story of the Jews with Simon Schama**. The five-hour series follows Schama – who has written and presented 50 documentaries on art, literature and history and is a Contributing Editor of the *Financial Times*, as he travels from Russia and the Ukraine to Egypt, Israel and Spain, exploring the imprint that Jewish culture has made on the world and the drama of suffering, resilience and rebirth that has gone with it.

The series is at the same time, a personal journey for Schama who has been immersed in Jewish history since his postwar childhood; a meditation on its dramatic trajectory, and a macro- history of a people whose mark on the world has been out of all proportion to its modest numbers. “If you were to remove from our collective history” said Schama, “the contribution Jews have made to human culture, our world would be almost unrecognizable. There would be no monotheism, no written Bible, and our sense of modernity would be completely different. So the history of the Jews is everyone’s history too and what I hope people will take away from the series is that sense of connection: a weave of cultural strands over the millennia, some brilliant, some dark, but resolving into a fabric of thrilling, sometimes tragic, often exalted creativity.”

The Story of the Jews draws on primary sources which include the Elephantine papyri, a collection of 5th century BC manuscripts illuminating the life of a town of Jewish soldiers and their families in ancient Egypt; the astonishing trove of documents – the Cairo Geniza – recording the world of the medieval Jews of the Mediterranean and Near East; the records of disputations between Christians and Jews in Spain, correspondence between the leader of the Arab revolt during the First World War, **Emir Feisal** and the leader of the Zionist movement **Chaim Weizmann**.



Schama talks about the turning points of the drama with living witnesses like **Aviva Rahamim** who as a 14 year old walked across the Sudanese desert to try and reach Israel; **Yakub Odeh**, the Palestinian whose village was destroyed in the war of 1948, and **Levana Shamir** whose family members were imprisoned in Egypt at the same time. He debates the meaning of new archaeological discoveries of the Biblical period with **Yosef Garfinkel** of the Hebrew University, the Dead Sea Scrolls with their chief curator **Pnina Shor**; the character of the Talmud with **Leon Wieseltier**, literary editor of the *New Republic*, the photographic record of Israel’s history with **Micha Bar Am**; German cultural treasures from Enlightenment Germany, and the music of **Felix Mendelssohn** with the critic **Norman Lebrecht**.

The series, first broadcast in the United Kingdom on BBC fall 2013 was acclaimed in the British press as “an astonishing achievement, a TV landmark, idiosyncratic, accessible but always authoritative.” It includes new archaeological research which is transforming our understanding of the earliest world of the Jews, and highlights evidence from the visual arts – synagogue mosaics, spectacularly illustrated Bibles; the brilliantly colorful decoration of synagogues (contrary to impressions of a monochrome religion) as well as the glorious music which carried Jewish traditions through the centuries.

Whether he is amidst the stones of 11th century Judea, the exuberantly decorated cemeteries of Ukrainian hasidic rabbis, the parlors of **Moses Mendelssohn’s** Berlin or the streets of immigrant New York, Schama brings together memory and actuality, past and present, sorrows and celebrations, vindications and challenges and makes felt the beating pulse of an epic of endurance that has been like no other; a story which belongs to everyone.
[end of documentary website]

See the flyer for information about our presentation of this epic series. You may also call me at (818) 718-7466 if you have any questions.



Cordoba, Spain



Simon Schama in Satanov, Ukraine

Little-Known Jewish Communities: Iquitos Synagogue in the Rain Forest

Editor's note: This article about five little-known Jewish communities was sent to me by a friend in Israel who studies at Aish Hatorah. This is the first of the five.

After 2,000 years of exile, today a majority of the world's Jews live in the Land of Israel. But millions of Jews remain scattered across the globe.

The city of Iquitos, in northern Peru, is tucked deep in the rainforest. It is the largest city in the world inaccessible by road; people and supplies have to be flown in, or else chart the treacherous waters of the Amazon by boat. Iquitos is also distinct for being home to one of the world's least-known Jewish communities.

The first Jew to arrive in this remote area was **Alfredo Coblentz**, who moved from Germany to the nearby town of Yurimaguas in 1880 to work in the Amazon's booming rubber industry. Five years later, three brothers – **Moises, Abraham and Jaime Pinto** – moved to Iquitos to work in the rubber field. Though they stayed only a few years, Iquitos soon became known in Jewish circles as a place where there was a Jewish community. Jews from Morocco soon tried their luck in Iquitos. Boats ferried would-be rubber traders from the Moroccan cities of Rabat, Tetuan, Tangier and Casablanca to the Brazilian coastal town of Belen do Para. From there, the Jewish traders trekked through the dense rain forest to reach Iquitos and neighboring Amazonian towns.

Iquitos flourished. Many traders built beautiful homes. One Iquita house, *Casa Fierro*, was designed by **Gustave Eiffel**, of Eiffel Tower fame. The Jewish community established a formal board, the *Sociedad Beneficiencia Israelita de Iquitos* in 1909, and flourished. Several Jews served as mayor of Iquitos, and Jewish families established businesses in town. In the early 1900s, when anti-Semitism drove many Ashkenazi Jews out of Europe, some settled in the booming city of Iquitos.

By the 1920s, cheaper rubber from the Far East had undercut Peru's industry and Iquitos fell into depression. After the State of Israel was established in 1948, the vast majority of Iquitos' Jews emigrated to the Jewish state. Many of those who remained moved to Lima, Peru's capital, where there is an established Jewish community. Some descendants of the Jewish community remained in Iquitos, however. Even though many of these grandchildren and great-grandchildren became Catholic, they still remembered their Jewish origins.

In the 2000s, Jewish leaders began visiting Iquitos, and teaching the few remaining Jews about their heritage. This sparked renewed interest about all things Jewish. Several Iquitos residents with Jewish heritage have converted to Judaism and moved to Israel. The Israeli town of Ramle has emerged as a hub of the Iquitos community in Israel. Today, the Jewish-descended community in Iquitos numbers about 70. In 2009, a Torah that was rescued from Nazi Germany was donated to Iquitos. As the descendants of Iquitos' Jewish community continue to learn more about their heritage, a new symbol has emerged, binding the community together: an Israeli flag.



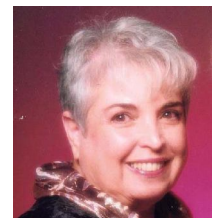
The Jewish community of Iquitos lights candles on Rosh Hashanah eve, 2016.



The Jewish community of Iquitos with Israeli flag

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.

TREE OF LIFE

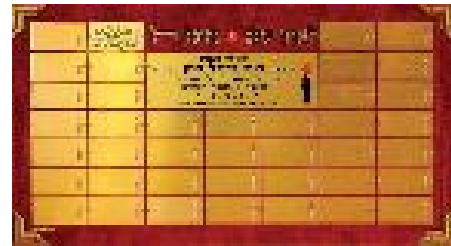


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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.

Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel



How many of you remember the song that says, "June is busting out all over"? Well, isn't that just how a father feels when his children are born? His heart and soul are bursting with love and joy.

Dads have a big responsibility in being strong, good, kind role models for their children. Our hats are off to the grandfathers, dads, and uncles who have so influenced our lives and defended our country.

Over the years there have been many times of strife: WW 1 and WW 2, Korea, Vietnam, and again our lives are in turmoil. We love and support those who serve in the military here and around the world.

May our prayers now and always be for a world at peace and may families be united as we celebrate our forefathers and dads on this special Father's Day. Happy Father's Day to one and all wherever you may be; with much love from the crew of **Operation Gratitude**.

My Upcoming Trip to Israel

by Stan Schroeder



As many of you know, Israel is one of my passions and I try to go every year. I have gone on tours/missions conducted by local synagogues or organizations I support 11 of the last 14 years. The end of this month I will be attending an eight day seminar at the **Shalom Hartman Institute** in Jerusalem. The seminar is entitled **1917, 1947, 1967: The Legacy of the Past and the Future of Modern Israel**. This annual Community Leadership Program has been in operation for more than 20 years.

The Institute is a Jewish research and education institute based in Jerusalem that offers pluralistic thought and education to scholars, rabbis, educators, and Jewish community leaders in Israel and North America. See **Hartman.org.il**.

I had signed up for this class last year, but had to cancel due to health issues. I look forward to this new experience for me and reporting back on what I learned.

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!

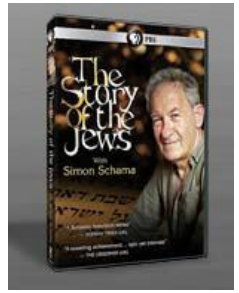
Make sure that the clerk swipes your card each time you shop. Verify that your receipt shows a contribution to Congregation Shir Ami at the bottom.

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



Sunday, June 11 at 2:00 pm
First Episode of *The Story of the Jews*



Five part PBS documentary created by **Simon Schama**

Congregation Shir Ami presents **Rabbi David Vorspan** hosting and discussing this award winning series in his home “theater” at 22320 Philipprimm St. in Woodland Hills. **It is free to our members on a “first come, first serve” basis.** This first episode covers the biblical period.

Simon Schama presents this epic series exploring the extraordinary story of the Jewish experience from ancient times to the present day. Both deeply historical and utterly contemporary, this is a compelling film about distinctiveness and difference, separation and isolation, tolerance and prejudice. It is also a celebration of the ways in which Jewish thought, imagination, and achievement have transformed the world for us all.

Simon Michael Schama, CBE is an English historian specializing in art history, Dutch history, and French history. He is a University Professor of History and Art History at Columbia University, New York. He has won several awards for his varied historical books and productions.

You can register by email to **stan101@pacbell.net** or phone Stan at **(818) 718-7466** or mail the tearoff below to Congregation Shir Ami, PO Box 6353, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

Please reserve _____ places for 1st Episode: *The Story of the Jews*
Sunday, June 11 at 2:00 pm.

Name: _____ Phone: _____



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 []