



Shir Notes

The Official Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami Volume 15, Number 8, October 2017
Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Events of the Month

Shabbat services at de Toledo High School

Saturday, October 14 - 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, October 28 - 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

Torah and Shabbat Study Saturday, Oct. 7, 10:30 am de Toledo High School

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

Sukkot Party at the Vorspan's Monday, Oct. 9 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 9 or flyer for more information

Rebbetzin Bonnie Vorspan Tribute Luncheon Sunday October 15, 1:00 pm Temple Ramat Zion

We will honor this very special lady with a Tribute Luncheon to thank her for all of the wonderful things she has contributed to our congregation and the beautiful person that she is. See Article on this page.

Visit our website:
www.shirami.com

Rabbi's Column



October is a month of wonderful holidays—Sukkot, Shmini Atzeret, Simchat Torah!

We get to dwell in the sukkah and shake the *Arba'ah Minim*—the Four Species.

Let me share a brief story I recently wrote to help explain the purpose of this vegetation:

The "Four Species" of Sukkot began to fight amongst themselves. Who was the most beautiful?

The *Aravah*/willow said: "I'm like a smile. I remind people that they have to be friendly, to speak up when necessary, and shut up when necessary."

The *Hadas*/myrtle said: "I look like eyes. I remind people that have to see the world, appreciate it."

The *Lulav*/palm branch said: "I'm upright, strong and straight. I remind people they should be proud, and not spineless."

The *Etrog*/citron said: "I'm the heart, the center and most valuable part of the species. And I smell the best!"

At that moment, a man picked them up and studied them. He said: "Look how beautiful!"

"Who is beautiful?" they all yelled. "Which of us?"

And they heard the man continue, "Separately, they're just twigs and leaves. But together, they form a beautiful set. They remind me that beauty is sometimes the product of unity."



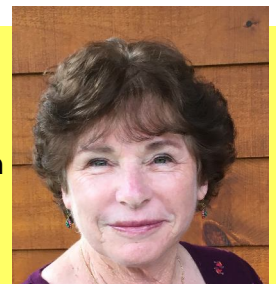
And the four species fell silent, no longer bragging or bickering. Each realizing his uniqueness, but that with others, they are even more beautiful!

Rabbi David Vorspan

Our Woman of Valor

by Sherry Dollins, Program Chair

It's almost here – the **Tribute Luncheon** for our very own rebbetzin **Bonnie Vorspan**. On **Sunday, October 15 at 1:00 pm at Temple Ramat Zion**, we will honor this very special lady with a **Tribute Luncheon** to thank her for all of the wonderful things she has contributed to our congregation and the beautiful person that she is. If you have not already sent in your RSVP, please do so by **Wednesday, October 4th**, so that you can be sure to share in this exciting event. We will enjoy a lovely catered lunch and (continued on page 2)



Editor's note: See my Sukkot poem about the four species on page 7.

Stan Schroeder

President's Report

Shalom,

First, let's give a *Yasher Koach* to **Rabbi Vorspan** and **Cantor Goodman** for, in the traditional words of Shir Ami, "their beautiful renditions of the liturgy." Thanks also to **Stan Schroeder**, our Ritual Vice-President for making sure everything ran smoothly. One thing, though, Stan, next year you've got to find a way to make the fast run faster!



As we begin our new year, we rediscover the nature of what Shir Ami is. We don't have a magnificent edifice with plaques naming those who donated stained-glass windows, the Ner Tamid, the lighted Yartzheit Boards, rows of seats and everything else that makes a building a temple. Our "edifice" is in our people. Pound for pound, our Shabbat Service attendance is off the scale. Whenever the call goes out, we have people who answer that call. We have people who put out that extra effort to make sure we have an active and vibrant program schedule. As **Charleton Heston** might have said, "Shir Ami is people!"

And boy are we dealing with people this month. We will be having a testimonial luncheon honoring one of our favorite people, our beloved Rebbetzin, **Bonnie Vorspan**. If you haven't sent in your RSVP, get it in because you don't want to miss this.

If for some reason, you aren't able to be at the luncheon, don't despair. Just show up at our twice-monthly Shabbat services and you will hear Bonnie's "beautiful rendition of the Torah portion." All included in your Shir Ami membership (and you don't even have to be a member to come to Shabbat services).

We will be restarting our adult education program, *Around the Rabbi's Tisch* (and on the Rebbetzin's chairs) this month. You can begin to see how much Bonnie is a part of everything we do!

To cap things off, we will also have our monthly Shabbat/Torah Study Session led by Stan Schroeder.

So I hope you all rested well during the summer because we've got a lot to do.

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

Our Woman of Valor (continued from page 1)

by Sherry Dollins

musical program that includes expressions of gratitude from our members and the family.



Bonnie has been an integral part of our congregation since its inception. She is always there, at every event, greeting everyone with a friendly smile and a warm hug. Her lovely needlework creations can be seen throughout our sanctuary from her beautiful parochet hanging in the ark, to the delicate wimple that binds our Torah and the lovely cover on the bimah to the Rabbi's gorgeous tallit that he wears every Shabbat. Her meticulous handiwork enhances our Shabbat and holiday experiences.

Bonnie has opened her home to us at Sukkot, *Around the Rabbi's Tisch* sessions, and for Program events. On these occasions, we have been privileged to view many of her personal needlecraft works of art. She and Rabbi have been very active in Shir Ami's Social Action activities including the Walk Around Lake Balboa, Mitzvah Day and caring for the needy in our community.

Bonnie is fondly remembered by many "old time" members for teaching us Israeli dances and by our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren for her many years as a nursery school and Mommy & Me teacher. Generations of our Shir Ami family know her as Teacher Bonnie, who helped them learn about Jewish holidays, how to dance Jewish dances and how to be good little citizens.

For all of this and much more over the years, we will thank Bonnie and present her with a Tribute Book expressing our personal thoughts and reflections. We hope you will join us at this opportunity to show our own Woman of Valor how much she is valued and appreciated.



For those attending the Bonnie Vorspan Tribute Luncheon, please note the following information:

1. To get to the Ramat Zion parking lot, go north on White Oak from Devonshire. Turn into the second gate on the right which is automated and has a sign that says Temple Ramat Zion Parking.
2. A Security Guard will be at the main gate in the main parking lot beginning at 12:30. **Please do not plan to arrive before 12:30.** There will be ample seating for everyone in the Social Hall.

(continued on page 4)



DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

Ben Bloom for Ethel Bloom
William and Cheryl Niesen
Neal Tober for Barbara Tober

Birthdays

Arthur Altshiller (75)
Shushona Blaz (91)
Phyllis Robinson (92)

Anniverseries

Carol and Arthur Altshiller (37)
Lonny and Nancy Scharf (30)
Claire and Lewis Silverman (62)
Linda and Harvey Tapper (45)
Phyllis and Stan Schroeder (30)

Other

Becky and Gary Finlay
in memory of Joan Collins Glasford
Fran Friedman in memory of Joan Collins Glasford
Marsha Haina in honor of Rabbi Vorspan and
Lonny Scharf for conducting minyanim for Joey Segal

Our Condolences

We regret to inform the congregational family of the passings of **Edith Niesen**, mother of **Cheryl Niesen**, **Barbara Burman**, mother of **Alan Burman**, and **Louis "Ruggy" Miller**, brother of **Fran Friedman**,

May God comfort **Cheryl** and **William Niesen**, **Alan** and **Robin Burman**, and **Fran Friedman** and their families at this time of their bereavement.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Thelma Goldstein (omitted last issue)	8/18
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

Carol and Art Altshiller..... (wrong date last issue)	8/16	37th
Phyllis and Stan Schroeder.....	10/18	30th
Nancy and Ken Bereny.....	10/23	29th
Robin and Alan Burman.....	10/26	37th

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

- Al Simon**
- Fran Kobulnick**
- Gerry and Sam Hochberg**
- Paulette Pistol**
- Ethel Granik**



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 Social Action Committee and our families would like to wish you and your families a very HEALTHY, SWEET, PEACEFUL and MITZVAH FILLED NEW YEAR!

We start the New Year with thankfulness for all our many blessings beginning with our devoted Rabbi and Bonnie, the Board of Directors, Congregation Shir Ami family, friends, and our dedicated and hardworking Social Action Committee. They all work together to do many mitzvot to make our community, our country, and our world a much better place! Thank you for making a difference in so many lives. May we continue to do so with your emotional and financial support.

The SOVA HIGH HOLIDAY DRIVE

starts erev Rosh Hashanah and continues, to help feed all the 10,000 people monthly who come to SOVA for their basic food needs. SOVA is non-sectarian, and there are many Jewish families who depend on SOVA for their kosher food as well. Please read the SOVA flyer in this newsletter for the list of all the items needed by SOVA. There are four SOVA barrels in the lobby of deToledo High School for our High Holiday Services, and there are always two at our services and temple events. Please remember that we cannot accept perishable or breakable items. SOVA also accepts personal checks and drop offs at their location on Vanowen east of Hayvenhurst. Please call me if you need more information. We ask you be as generous as you can and help us fill the barrels each time you come to services, On behalf of all the needy families in our community, thank you very much!



MITZVAH DAY is SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, and we are again blessed to be able to use the Social Hall at Temple Judea. **Leon Nachenberg** is the Mitzvah Day chairperson, and we will again be doing a large scale Mitzvah Day program beginning promptly at 9:00 am. There is plenty of parking at Temple Judea, but we suggest you come early so that you get the closest parking. Please bring ID.



to present when going through the security entrance to the temple. We will again be doing **School-on-Wheels backpacks** for the children in domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters, foster care, underprivileged children, and children who are tutored while in the hospital.

We also will be doing a **Jewish World Watch** project led by **Rae Wazana**, card writing for **Operation**

Gratitude and **Project MOT** led by **Charlene Kazel**. We expect to have guest speakers and are hoping to have another surprise! Please call Leon if you have any questions and remember to mail your Mitzvah Day flyers along with your check made out to Congregation Shir Ami with MITZVAH DAY in the memo section as soon as possible. We promise this will a special Mitzvah Day and you will feel very special too!



We are also collecting **TARGET \$10 GIFT CARDS** for the women and children in the domestic violence shelters we sponsor for the holidays. The cards will be given to the women and children before Hanukkah. The cards are used by the women and children so that they can purchase a much needed or wanted item. They are always grateful to Shir Ami for our kindness and thoughtfulness. You may mail the cards to Fran Kobulnick at 5139 White Oak Ave. #13, Encino, CA 91316 or give them to a Committee member at services or events.

Looking ahead, our Committee will be going to **West Valley [Providence] Health Care Center** to bring in the Shabbat and have a Hanukkah celebration on Friday, December 15, and our annual **Linen Shabbat** Saturday, January 20, will benefit the Domestic Violence Shelters we help sponsor.

Thank you all again for all your thoughtfulness, generosity, kindness and willingness to do so many mitzvot together! We are a very small Congregation, but our dedication and hard working volunteers and members make us a congregation respected and admired all!

On a personal note, thank you for all your prayers and support! You have made a very difficult time easier to cope with. I'm looking forward to seeing you very soon!

From all our family to you and yours, L'Shanah Tovah!

Fran Kobulnick, Social Action Vice President

Our Woman of Valor (continued from page 2) by Sherry Dollins

3. The Main Gate is located by the Handicap parking spots in the main parking lot next to the pre-school play yard.
4. Handicap parking will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have any further questions regarding parking, please call me at (818) 886-7590.

Program Committee

We thank our Congregation for the wonderful turnout for the **BBQ & Barchu / White Shabbat** Friday, September 8. We had 60 people drive to Calabasas and enjoy dinner in Gladys' lovely backyard. Everyone enjoyed the balmy weather, the bucolic setting, and Gladys' ever gracious hospitality. It was truly a magical evening!

Our next program will be a music and illustrated lecture with world renown musicologist, **Neal Brostoff** of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. This exciting foray into Jewish music is entitled **From Klezmer to Classics** and will be held on Sunday, December 10 at 2 pm at de Toledo High School in our "usual" room.

This is a truly special way to usher in Chanukah and end 2017 on a high note. Admission is \$10 per person and light refreshments will be served.

L'shana tova to all, wishing you a year of peace, good health, and joy.

Sima Schuster and **Gladys Sturman**
Program Vice Presidents

Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts

by Karen Benson

At our September 6 Board meeting a motion was passed to make a contribution on behalf of Congregation Shir Ami to **Congregation Beth Yeshurun** in Houston Texas. The Board feels strongly we have an obligation to help in the effort to replace the over 1,000 Shabbat prayer books and *Etz Hayim humashim* lost in the flooding.



From the Beth Yeshurun website "the damage we incurred was simply overwhelming". They are the largest Conservative congregation in the United States with 2,000 member families, many of whom lost their homes in the devastation of **Hurricane Harvey**. They hope to make their synagogue building habitable by the High Holy Days

The Shir Ami family has many connections to Beth Yeshurun and **Rabbi Vorspan** and others have made personal donations to them. Their website is www.bethyeshurun.org and the mailing address is 5425 Beechnut Street, Houston, TX 77096. We can only hope that our donation helps them as they prepare for High Holiday services and provides comfort to those in need.

Ritual Committee

Shabbat in the Park sponsored by JRF, Shalom Center, Shir Ami, and several Valley congregations had its fifth annual program/service Friday evening August 25 at Warner Center Park. It was a lively community event. **Rabbi Vorspan** was one of the participating clergy and **Carol Koransky** spoke as a JRF representative.



Congregation Shir Ami started its fourth year of Shabbat services at **de Toledo High School** September 16.

At that Shabbat service **Paula Frankel** unveiled a Torah stand that her family bought for Shir Ami to be dedicated to her mother, **Audrey Halem**. The plaque will be inscribed:

Dedicated by her family:

Ed, Howard, Paula, Paul, William, Heather, Lucas, Elliott, Jodi, Joshua, Tabitha, and Aleksander

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 **Sheilah Hart/Jerry Gort** for bringing coffee each Shabbat.

By time of publication, our High Holy Day services will have been led by **Rabbi David Vorspan** with his usual informal style of thought provoking sermons, laced with Vorspan humor. And **Cantor Roger Goodman** will have provided his passionate rendition of the liturgy as he has in past years.

I look forward to 5778, a year of inspiration, learning, mitzvah projects, and our always-close community for Shir Ami.

Stan Schroeder, Ritual Vice President

Jewish World Watch

by Rae Wazana, Strategic Advisory Council representative for Congregation Shir Ami

Jewish World Watch is 13 years old this year! It is having its "B'nai Mitzvah". It was founded in 2004 by **Rabbi Harold Schulweis** (of blessed memory) from Valley Beth Shalom as an activist, advocacy, and educational organization to speak out against the genocides and mass atrocities taking place in Darfur, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and other countries.



When Rabbi Schulweis and co-founder, **Janice Kamenir-Reznick**, challenged synagogues and congregations to "NOT STAND IDLY BY", more than 40+ synagogues answered the call by becoming members of Jewish World Watch (JWW). Our Congregation, under the leadership of **Rabbi Vorspan**, was among the earliest to join JWW!

JWW works to end genocide and mass atrocities by educating and mobilizing individuals, advocating for policy changes, and funding projects to support and build resilience in conflict-affected communities.

JWW partners with other humanitarian and activist organizations to fund projects on the ground in such places as Chad refugee camps for Darfuri survivors through "**THE LITTLE RIPPLES**" program to help young children through educational services. In the Congo, JWW helps empower women who have been sexually victimized to learn skills such as weaving, sewing, and soap-making so that they can become economically independent and help provide for their children. Another program is "**Sons of Congo**" to help men stand up and break the cycle of domestic violence against their wives. There are many other projects taking place in areas such as South Sudan. JWW is an activist organization which raises awareness and speaks out on behalf of victims of genocides and mass atrocities.

Please join us on Mitzvah Day to help with some hands-on activities for Jewish World Watch. Also, please help support our Congregation Shir Ami Walk Team when we participate in the annual Conejo Valley JWW Walk to End Genocide May 6, 2018 in Thousand Oaks.

Thank you, Rabbi and Bonnie and Shir Ami members and friends for your continued support of Jewish World Watch. Together, we are **NOT STANDING IDLY BY!**

L'Shanah Tovah!

Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel



October is the tenth month of the year, still usually hot in our Valley! But, we're hot too in our efforts to support **Operation Gratitude**,

We've all had family members in the military and we know how hard it is on both sides for loved ones to be so far away from home. During World War II my mother baked brownies and chocolate chip cookies to send to my uncles who were fighting on both fronts.

Those were the days when you crushed and shelled the walnuts to get the nuts out. My father and I ate as many nuts as we saved for baking, while my mother was always teasing us to "stop it", and then the three of us would laugh,

Well, we're not asking you to bake cookies, but if you have the time, volunteer. You can even come in and write cards. Even though we won't know who gets them, it still shows that we love and appreciate them and wish them well,

The Operation Gratitude facility is located at 21100 Lassen St. in Chatsworth. Volunteer hours are Monday - Friday, 9 am to 4 pm, except holidays. The next assembly days are scheduled for Sunday, October 22 and Saturday, November 18, 9 am - 12. Visit their website at www.operationgratitude.com for more information.



Service personnel receiving Operation Gratitude packages



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: Jerry Lewis

Jerry Lewis was born **Joseph Levitch** on March 16, 1926, in Newark, New Jersey to Russian Jewish parents. His father **Daniel** was a vaudeville entertainer under the professional name **Danny Lewis**.



His mother **Rachel "Rae" (nee Brodsky)** was a piano player for a radio station. Jerry started performing at age 5 and would often perform alongside his parents in the Catskills.



Jerry initially gained attention as part of a double act with singer **Dean Martin**, who served as straight man to Lewis' zany antics in the Martin and Lewis comedy team. The performers were different from most other comedy acts of the time because they relied on their interaction instead of planned skits. After forming in 1946, they quickly rose to national prominence, first with their popular nightclub act, next as stars of their own program *The Martin and Lewis Show* on the NBC Network. The two men made many appearances on early live television, their first on the June 20, 1948, debut broadcast of *Toast of the Town* on CBS (later officially renamed *The Ed Sullivan Show*).

They became the first of a series of hosts of *The Colgate Comedy Hour* in 1950 at which time Jerry hired **Norman Lear** and **Ed Simmons** to become regular writers for the Martin and Lewis bits. They began their Paramount film careers as ensemble players in *My Friend Irma* (1949). Starting the next year they starred in 14 films produced by **Hal B. Wallis**. As Martin's roles became less important over time, the partnership strained and ended in July 1956.

Heeding an urgent request to sub in a show for **Judy Garland** who had a strep throat in a Las Vegas, Jerry decided to sing. He hadn't sung professionally since he was 5. He sang *Rock-A-Bye Baby* and *Come Rain or Come Shine*, as well as delivering jokes and clowning with the audience to an enthusiastic crowd. Judy was back-stage at the time. This was the start of his successful "solo" career. He also directed, wrote, and taught a film directing class at USC.

Throughout his entire adult life and career, Jerry was a world-renowned humanitarian who supported fundraising for research into **muscular dystrophy**. Until 2011, he served as national chairman of and spokesman for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Lewis hosted telethons to benefit the organization from 1952 to 1959. Then every Labor Day weekend from 1966 to 2010 he hosted the annual live *Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon*. Over nearly half a century, he raised over \$2.6 billion in donations for the cause.

Jerry Lewis died at his home in Las Vegas August 20, 2017 at the age of 91. He had suffered from numerous diseases including cardiovascular disease going back to his first heart attack at age 34. He also had diabetes and prostate cancer.

Following his death, **Jerry Dauber**, a professor of Jewish literature at Columbia University, wrote an article in the *New York Times* describing Jerry Lewis as the quintessential American Jew.

He's rarely featured in discussions of the pantheon of mid-20th century Jewish comedy. Possibly this was because of his overwhelming popularity, tending to remove the necessity for any qualifying adjective. Looking at pictures of the crowds flocking to catch a glimpse of him and his partner, Dean Martin, at their hotels, you'd think you were witnessing Beatlemania. Only Martin and Lewis were 10 years earlier.

...But Mr. Lewis's most successful work was, in its own way, a fundamental part of the great story of Jewish comedy in America — a story that also functions as a microcosm of American Jewish life writ large. It was a metaphor for the successes, and the anxieties, of a generation of postwar American Jews of the 1950s: busily engaged, often extraordinarily successful, and trying to prove they were no different than everyone else.

Jerry was never observant, but was still very Jewish. His grandmother sent him for Hebrew lessons so he could be *bar mitzvahed*, but he didn't have a strong religious life. Philanthropy was part of the Jewish showbiz world, where he came of age. He once called himself "the luckiest Jew in the world."

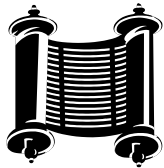
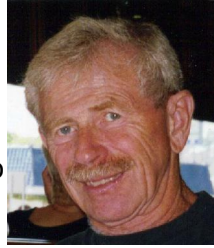
He was also a known supporter of Israel. After stepping off the plane in Israel in 1981, his first visit to the Holy Land where he arrived for a telethon to raise money for handicapped children, he exclaimed, "I've been trying to get here [Israel] since I was born 55 years ago. As a matter of fact, I was booked on a flight out of London the night before the Six Day War."

In 2003, Lewis traveled to Tel Aviv for a weeklong film festival in his honor, produced in association with the **Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archives**.

Fourth 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 usually at the Northridge Mobile Home Park Rec Room. 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 7, the intermediate Shabbat during Sukkot, and will be held in the sukkah at de Toledo High School. See the flyer or call me at (818) 718-7466 for more information.



Sukkot Party at the Vorspans' October 9

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 **Monday evening, October 9, at 7:30**. **Bonnie** serves traditional and homemade desserts for the occasion. The Vorspans' home is located at 22320 Philipprimm St. in Woodland Hills.

Call Rabbi Vorspan at (818) 888-9817 for more information. See the flyer for details.

TREE OF LIFE

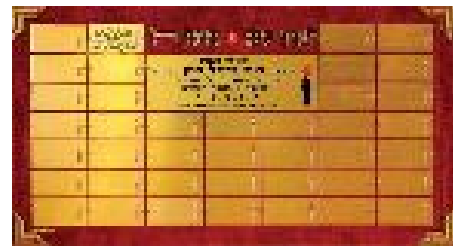


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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.

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

Monday October 9, 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 October 19 and 26, 7:30 - 8:30 pm **"Around the Rabbi's Tisch" at the Vorspans'**



This popular Shir Ami educational series starts its 5778 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 Philiprimm St. in Woodland Hills. Call Rabbi Vorspan at (818) 888-9817 for more information.

Saturday October 7, 10:30 am: Torah/Shabbat **Study at de Toledo High School**



Stan Schroeder is starting his fourth season of Shabbat study sessions one Saturday morning a month at 10:30. 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 7, the intermediate Shabbat during Sukkot. The Torah portion is Exodus 33:12 - 34:26.

This session will be held in the de Toledo High School (22622 Vanowen St. in West Hills) sukkah, located in their plaza. We will also discuss the Sukkot holiday and its symbolism. You may bring a dairy lunch as we'll eat in the sukkah after the study. Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 for more information.

Congregation Shir Ami Schedule of Shabbat Services 2017-18
Conducted by Rabbi David Vorspan at
de Toledo High School, 22622 Vanowen St., West Hills
Services held in library near the front entrance

Saturday 10:30 am (unless otherwise noted)



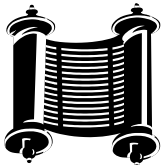
October 2017

Saturday, October 14 - Birthday
Saturday, October 28 - Anniversary



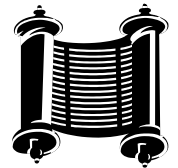
November 2017

Saturday, November 4 - Birthday
Saturday, November 18 - Anniversary



December 2017

Saturday, December 2 - Birthday
Saturday, December 16 - Anniversary



January 2018

Saturday, January 6 - Birthday, Consecration of officers
Saturday, January 20 - Anniversary, Linen Shabbat



David Vorspan
Rabbi

February 2018

Saturday, February 10 - Birthday
Saturday, February 24 - Anniversary

March 2018

Saturday, March 10 - Birthday
Saturday, March 24 - Anniversary



Jordan Pistol
President

April 2018

Saturday, April 14 - Birthday
Saturday, April 28 - Anniversary

May 2018

Saturday, May 12 - Birthday
Saturday, May 26 - Anniversary

June 2018

Saturday, June 9 - Birthday
Saturday, June 23 - Anniversary

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

Congregation Shir Ami Mitzvah Day Sunday, November 5 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 2017**
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