



Shir Notes

The Official Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami Volume 15, Number 9, November 2017
Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Events of the Month

Shabbat services at de Toledo High School

Saturday, November 4 - 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat

Saturday, November 18 - 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

Mitzvah Day - Sunday, Nov. 5 9:00 am at Temple Judea

Our annual Social Action event for School on Wheels, Jewish World Watch, and Operation Gratitude. See article on page 4 and flyer.

Torah and Shabbat Study Saturday, Nov. 11, 10:30 am Northridge Mobile Home Park

Stan Schroeder leads a study and discussion session on a Saturday we don't have a service. See flyer or call Stan at (818) 718-7466 for more details.

Around the Rabbi's Tisch Thursdays, Nov. 2, 9, 16 & 30; 7:30 pm at the Vorspans'

We continue our 5778 season of Rabbi's popular weekly discussion around his dining room table. Call Rabbi at (818) 888-9817 or see flyer for more information.

The Story of the Jews Sunday, November 19 2:00 pm at the Vorspans'

This is the second afternoon of a five part series originally shown on PBS created by **Professor Simon Schama**. This segment covers the struggle of medieval Jews under the rule of Christianity and Islam. Rabbi Vorspan will lead a discussion following the video. See the article on page 8 and see the flyer to register.



Rabbi's Column

In last month's Jewish Journal, I was captivated by an article written by **Kay Wilson**, an Israeli tour guide and educator who survived a Palestinian terrorist attack.

She wrote that in the moments before she thought she was going to die at the hands of a machete-wielding terrorist, she didn't think about the house she didn't buy, or the money she didn't make, or that she had no husband or children.

Her last thoughts were of the people she loved and the lost opportunities she had to embrace them or to correct or add to anything she said in the past. In her words: "I had not made the most of every moment....Gone forever were the opportunities to correct the moments when I did not extend kindness, sacrifice my time and think of those I loved before myself..."

This month includes Thanksgiving. I'll be thinking of her words as we join together with family and friends, because they come from an expert. And we take experts' words more seriously.

Here was a woman who was almost murdered, and lived to tell the tale. And I was fascinated to learn what thoughts someone actually has at a moment like that.

Gathering around our Thanksgiving tables will be experts: those who lived through experiences that led to wise thoughts. Shouldn't that wisdom be shared? Isn't reality the great educator?

And from Kay Wilson we learn that there will be a day—perhaps our last day—that will be filled with regrets; when we will look back and think of the moments we didn't share, the words of kindness we didn't speak, the deeds of kindness we didn't do and the sacrifices of time we didn't make.

And those we neglected, those we will be thinking of in those final moments of regret, will, most likely, be sitting around our Thanksgiving table.

And it won't be too late.

Rabbi David Vorspan



Visit our website:
www.shirami.com



President's Report

Shalom,



There are four holidays in November. Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, my birthday and . . . wait for it . . . **MITZVAH DAY!** Clearly the high point of the Social Action Year. Not only will you get a chance to perform actual mitzvahs, but this is your chance to be part of Shir Ami's semi-annual class photo. An opportunity not to be missed.

November is also when we go "full tisch" with an entire month of our education program, *Around the Rabbi's Tisch* (and on the Rebbitzen's chairs). Well, except for Thanksgiving when the Rabbi's Tisch is used for turkey dinner. Add in our Shabbat Services, our Shabbat/Torah Study session and our other activities and we have a full schedule.

It becomes very easy to look at our monthly calendar and get used to it as being simply the way things are. But if we step back and take a close look at it, we can see how remarkable it is. At our Shabbat Services, we continually have 30-40+ in attendance. At our recent tribute luncheon for our Rebbitzen, **Bonnie Vorspan**, we had over a hundred in attendance. We had 63 members at our Barbecue and Barchu in September. And **Rabbi Vorspan** and **Cantor Goodman** can really pack them in for our High Holy Day Services.

This doesn't happen by accident. First, we have a dedicated core of members who give their time and energy to plan events and our services so that everything goes so smoothly that it is difficult to see the effort that went into it. Second, we have another group of members who always respond when the call goes out. Finally, we have an entire membership that are willing to and want to take part in our activities. And they do it on such a regular basis that it is easy to take it for granted. But in reality, it is our own little miracle.

This miracle goes both ways. When we have members who show up at events and services, it inspires our committees to make those events and services even better and more innovative to ensure that everyone can benefit from and enjoy them. Plus, the generosity of our members when it comes to fund raising, appeals and filling SOVA bins is second to none.

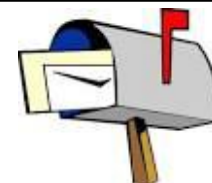
I am proud to be a member of Shir Ami, if for no other reason that it makes being president a breeze!

Thank you all for making me look so good.

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

Jordan Pistol, President

Mailbox



Dear Congregation Shir Ami,

I am so very grateful for the outpouring of love you showered me with at the Tribute Luncheon in my honor! A very special thank you to the committee -- Ellen Fremed, Sherry Dollins, Harvey Cohen, Sheilah Hart, Gladys Sturman, Sima Schuster, Owen Delman, and Helga Unkeless!

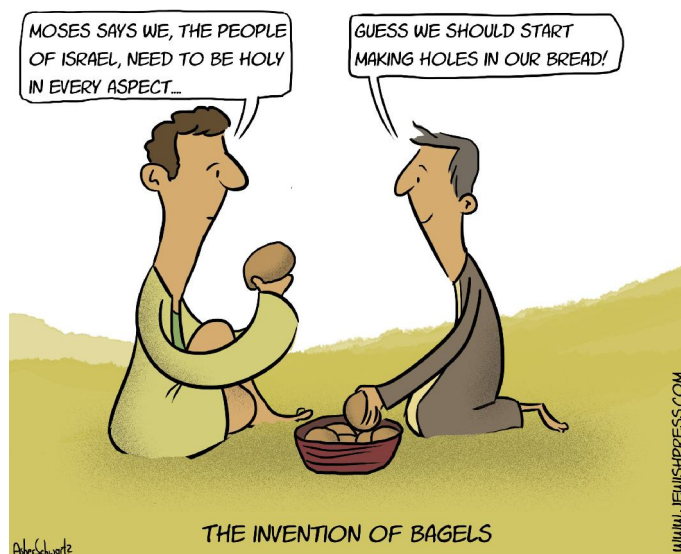
Your eye for detail included so many aspects--the flowers, the pictures in the flowers, the table cloths, the posters, the lovely tribute journal, the great food, the terrific entertainment and MC -- Cantor Doug Cotler, straight from my home town, the kind words from Sherry, Stan, Ellen, Eric, and Olivia and the very meaningful and beautiful Eishet Chayil bracelet.

Thank you to my dear husband, David, for his loving words!!!! And I absolutely love, love, loved the tribute video by our dear children and grandchildren and Mabel (the dog)!!

Your expressions of love in the Tribute Journal brings smiles and sighs, as I have read them over and over! Thank you so much for being our extended family for so many years!

With love and appreciation,

Bonnie





DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

- Nancy Bentov
- Ben Bloom for Hyman Bloom
- Harvey Cohen for Jack Charles Gottesman
- Jerry Gort for Joan Gort
- Sylvia Hockmeyer for Murray Leiner
- Lauren and Phil Levi for Marc Fremed
- Paula and Lou Loomis and Izzy Goldfarb for Ann Goldfarb and Hilda Goldfarb
- Ed and Fay Schneier for Roslyn Abrams and Mildred Kritzer
- Lewis and Claire Silverman for Ben Besbeck
- Steve and Marcie Spetner for Norman Spetner
- Richard and Sue Schweitzer

Birthdays

- Fran Kobulnick
- Sam Kobulnick
- Ann Potell (93)
- Clara Rosenbluth (85)

Anniversaries

- Alan and Robin Burman

Other

Karen Benson in appreciation of High Holiday honors

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- Sheilah Hart..... 11/1
- Alan Burman..... 11/4
- Jordan Pistol..... 11/8
- Susan Lipman..... 11/9
- Sam Schultz..... 11/11
- Dan Simansky..... 11/17
- Sam Kobulnick..... 11/18
- Lev Silverman..... 11/22
- Armand Wazana..... 11/22
- Isadore Perlmutter..... 11/25
- Lou Loomis..... 11/29

Anniversaries

- Fay and Ed Schneier..... 11/4 61st
- Sondra and Robert Licht..... 11/10 54th
- Peg and Jerry Kovar..... 11/14 35th
- Gerry and Sam Hochberg..... 11/24 60th

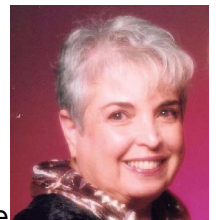
Corrections to our roster:

Karen Benson
 17813 Community St.
 Northridge, CA 81325
 Phone: (818) 515-7881



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.

Our Condolences

We regret to inform the congregational family of the passing of: former members **Michael Turitz, Ron Katz, Marilyn Feltman, and Rose Chaplain.**



May God comfort their families, including **Paula and Paul Frankel** (Ron Katz was their uncle) at this time of their bereavement.

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:



- Fran Kobulnick**
- Al Simon**
- Paullette Pistol**
- Neal Tober** (knee surgery)
- Ann Potell**

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

*Editor's note: Previous inclusion of **Gerry and Sam Hochberg** were incorrect. Gerry tells me they are well.*

Social Action Committee

The High Holidays have passed, and we have been inspired and are blessed with the ability to continue to do so many mitzvot together in the New Year.

Let's begin with reaching out to thank our mitzvah supporters, their family and friends too. Together, we donated 512 lbs of food to SOVA for our annual High Holy Day Food Drive, held at Congregation Shir Ami High Holy Day Services. You should all be proud of yourselves for reaching out to help all the needy families in our community who turn to SOVA for their monthly food supply. Reminder: our SOVA BARRELS are available at all our Shabbat services and events at de Toledo High School in the main lobby. Please continue filling up the SOVA barrels all year long. Also remember new full size toiletries are always appreciated. If you have questions, please contact me at (818) 345-2405. Thank you.



Mitzvah Day is almost here. Sunday, November 5, we will again hold our annual Mitzvah Day at Temple Judea Social Hall at 9:00 am. Temple Judea is on Lindley Ave, north of Ventura Blvd in Tarzana. There is plenty of free parking available. Please bring picture I.D. to show at the Security checkpoint to enter the main building. The Social Hall is on the main level and is handicap accessible. **Leon Nachenberg**, Mitzvah Day Chair Person, has lined up a full program for Mitzvah Day. There will be guest speakers and we will again be filling 168 school backpacks with all the needed school supplies for the **School on Wheels** project. We will be doing a project for **Jewish World Watch** led by **Rae Wazana** and a project for **Operation Gratitude** led by **Charlene Kazel**.

Special thanks to Sam Kobulnick, who again has coordinated with Mr. Shin at Tarzana Walgreens to come and administer **free flu shots for all seniors with medicare cards**. Please call Fran Kobulnick asap to sign up for the Senior Flu Shots. We need a headcount before Friday, November 3 so there will be enough flu shots available. **We are NOT able to give the free flu shots to those who have Kaiser insurance**. Medicare seniors are guaranteed their free flu shots on Mitzvah Day. We also will be collecting non perishable and non breakable food for SOVA on Mitzvah Day.

This is the time of year that we really need YOUR HELP in doing our special Mitzvah project of giving

\$10 Target gift cards to the women and children who come into the **domestic violence shelters**, usually with only the clothes on their backs. We ask that you be as generous as possible so that we can give each resident one for the Holidays. They usually use their gift card to buy themselves usually a personal item that they need. You may send the cards to me or give them to a member of our Committee.



Looking ahead, our annual holiday visit to the **West Valley Healthcare Center for our Hanukkah Shabbat celebration** will be Friday, December 15 at 1:00 pm. And **Linen Shabbat for the Jewish Family Service domestic violence shelters** will be Saturday, January 20 at our regular Shabbat service at de Toledo High School.

Special get well wishes to **Neal Tober** on his recent knee surgery. I am looking forward to an amazing Mitzvah filled year, where together we truly will make a difference in so many lives.

Fran Kobuknick, Social Action Vice President

Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel

I love Fall. It is the most beautiful and colorful time of the year. Remember when our forefathers came here from the Old Country because the streets were paved with gold. Well, they were very disappointed. Some even returned to the old country, but eventually came back.

Now, if you live in the Valley and have trees like liquid amber or Modesto oak, when they lose their leaves our streets really are paved with gold. How beautiful is that!

All members of our military are golden leaves on our family tree. Our hearts all beat as one and it is our job to bring some joy into their lives while they are away, and we're doing a great job.

In next month's article you will see how generous everyone has been as I will have a complete accounting for the year. You will be surprised just how much we've done.

Thank you for being such a caring and thoughtful congregation. We may be small, but we are mighty in our efforts to make our world better and the lives of others happier.

Happy Thanksgiving!



M.O.T.

Bonnie Vorspan Tribute Huge Success

by Sherry Dollins, Ways & Means Vice President

What fun we had at **Rebbetzin Bonnie Vorspan's** Tribute Luncheon on Sunday, October 15! The entire **Vorspan family** was in attendance including her three children and their spouses, five grandchildren, her brother and sister-in-law from Portland, OR and **Alana's** parents, **Pearl and Sol Taylor**. Of course, **Rabbi David** was right in the middle of it all. In all over one hundred people gathered to celebrate Bonnie.

The Social Hall at Temple Ramat Zion was decorated with posters showing examples of Bonnie's needlework that she has created for our congregation and for her personal collection. The floral centerpieces brightened the room in Bonnie's favorite colors of pink and lavender and represented Bonnie's many accomplishments throughout the years. A special thank you to **Karen Benson** for donating the flowers. As a great surprise gift to the congregation, Bonnie presented an Ark Cover that she handmade that represents the *shema* and honors **Shaina** and **Aaron's** wedding.

Our president, **Jordan Pistol**, in his own inimitable and humorous way, explained how Bonnie exemplifies being a rebbetzin, and the Vorspan kids and grandkids made a video for Bonnie that made her cry with pride and joy.

Cantor Doug Cotler and his musicians performed beautiful and meaningful musical renditions of a variety of Jewish music styles. They had the audience clapping and tapping throughout the program. **Stan Schroeder** offered Bonnie a special poem that he created for the occasion. **Ellen Fremed** presented Bonnie with a gift of a sterling silver bracelet from the congregation that had the *eshet chayil* (Woman of Valor) inscribed around the circumference. We hope it will serve as a reminder to Bonnie of how much she means to us all.

Bonnie's grandchildren and son-in-law, **Rabbi Ahud**, performed the ritual blessings before and after the delicious meal. At the end of the program, **Eric Dollins** told how Bonnie has been involved in almost all of the important events in his life in a stroll down memory lane. The afternoon concluded with Bonnie leading us in Israeli dancing. And let me tell you folks, she's still got it.

Editor's note:

See my tribute poem to Bonnie on page 6. Stan Schroeder

View of TRZ Social Hall for Bonnie Vorspan Tribute Luncheon

A beautiful Tribute Book containing well wishes and meaningful sentiments from family, friends and congregants topped off this lovely occasion. This fun and exciting event would not have been possible without the hard work of my committee. Thank you to **Ellen Fremed, Sheilah Hart, Harvey Cohen, Owen Delman, Sima Schuster, and Gladys Sturman**. Your dedication to Bonnie and our congregation really showed in your commitment to making this program a success.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed financially to make this day possible.



Rabbi David lauds Bonnie

Bonnie expresses thanks



Ellen Fremed gives Bonnie gift



A Woman of Wonder

We all know about the popular Wonder Woman,
Some from our comic book days.
More recently from Israeli Gal Gadot
Portraying her Amazon warrior ways.

More often we wonder about the real world;
One synonym of wonder is admiration.
And in the real world of real people
We have Bonnie Vorspan for inspiration.

Others have named her as Woman of Valor
From our Book of Proverbs, Chapter 31.
Others have listed her artistic works of fabric;
They are a reflection of what she has done.

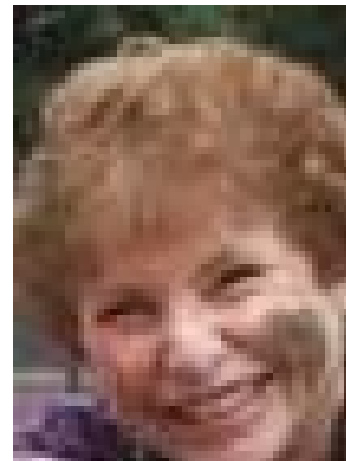
I'll briefly explain what Bonnie means to us,
To me and Congregation Shir Ami.
She portrays the beauty and Jewish soul
Of our congregational family.

Whether at our services or in her home
Or events organized by our Committees,
Her enthusiasm shines as a light,
And her grace puts people at ease.

I've written poems for many occasions,
But none have given me more pleasure
Than honoring Rebbetzin Bonnie Vorspan,
The woman whom we all treasure.

Whether Woman of Wonder or *Eshet Hayil*,
I wish Bonnie a continued productive life
As Rebbetzin of Congregation Shir Ami
And Rabbi David's loving wife.

Stan Schroeder
October 15, 2017

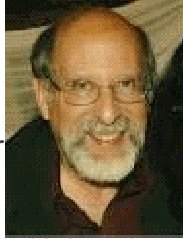


Classics to Klezmer Sunday, December 10, 2 pm

by Sima Schuster and Gladys Sturman

Succot is over and we say farewell to the fall holiday season. But the celebration continues with Chanukah. Our Shir Ami Program Committee has created a wonderful musical presentation called **Classics to Klezmer**.

Neal Brostoff will take us on a delightful journey through legendary Jewish Music. Neal was the Music Programs Coordinator for the Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music at UCLA. He has taught Jewish music courses at Loyola Marymount University, American Jewish University, and UCLA. He has independently produced Jewish music concerts and festivals and has served as Cultural Affairs Director for the Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles and as Music Specialist at the Skirball Cultural Center.



The program will be held Sunday, December 10 at de Toledo High School from 2-4 pm. The cost is \$10 per person and includes coffee and cookies. See the flyer in this Shir Notes to register. Call Gladys at (818) 222-4694 for more information,

Join us for a joyous introduction to Chanukah.

Book Review: Sacred Intentions

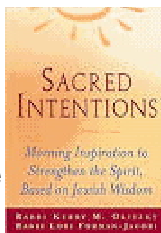
by Charlene Kazel

Remember when **Rabbi Vorspan** brought boxes of free books to services for us to take home and read, Well recently a small book fell into my hands and the title **Sacred Intentions** (by **Kerry Olitzky** and **Rabbi Lori Forman-Jacobi**) grabbed my attention, I started reading it in August. You may wonder, why August? Well, each page you read is dated and August 18 was my starting date.

We all lead very busy active lives and having and finding the time to read is a gift. What I like about this book is that you only have to be impressed and inspired by reading a page or a page-and-a-half a day. Each date may only be a paragraph or two and you're done! How fast and easy is that to start your day,

Now I wonder if Rabbi has access to some free copies of this book because I would like to give them as gifts to every member of my family for Channukah - one book per household and one for each of my 11 grandchildren. This would keep them in the loop of who they are, where we come from, and what to believe,

I hope you enjoy this very easy to read book.

**Ritual Committee**

Our High Holy Day services in the de Toledo auditorium were very well attended and acclaimed by those in attendance. My thanks go out to **Rabbi David Vorspan, Cantor Roger Goodman**, our receptionists **Ellen Fremed** and **Sherry Dollins**; our ushers **Mike Easley, Barbara Hattem, Sue Lipman, Fiona Taylor, Helga Unkeless**, and **Jerry Zatz**; our *dvar Torah* speakers **Lou Loomis** and **Lonny Scharf**, and all those who served as Torah bearer, gabbai, hagbah, galilah, Torah and/or haftorah reader, Aliyah honoree, Ark opener/closer, parochet opener/closer, and High Holy Day appeal speaker. And I can't omit the job well done by **David Marcus**, the de Toledo Campus Business Manager, and the de Toledo helpful staff.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind everyone that the popular Thursday evening **Around the Rabbi's Tisch** at the Vorspan home is in its 5778 season with record attendance. Our next **Shabbat Torah study** will be at the Northridge Mobile Home Park Saturday, November 11. See the flyer for details of these ongoing educational programs. Also the second in the **Simon Schama** series **Story of the Jews** will be Sunday afternoon, November 19 at the Vorspan home. See article on page 8 and flyer.

Our annual Succot neighborhood party in the Vorspan succah was Monday evening, October 9 to the delight of many of us who partook of Bonnie's homemade goodies and enjoyed the Vorspan hospitality and each other's company. We fulfilled the mitzvah of waving the lulav as illustrated below.

Stan Schroeder, Ritual Vice President



***The Story of the Jews* Sunday, November 19**

by Stan Schroeder

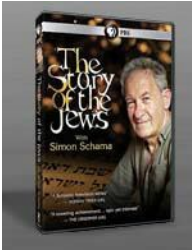
Rabbi Vorspan will offer the second of a five part video series at his home Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 pm. We will watch the video and then he will lead a discussion of our unique heritage. The series is free to members, **but you must register in advance as seating is limited.** See the flyer to register.

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

A Thanksgiving Prayer by Stan Schroeder

Thanksgiving, as the name implies,
Is a day when thanks we give.
For all the blessings which we prize
And the beautiful life we live.

More than thanks and words of praise,
We must turn to giving deeds.
On this most noble of America's days
We must look for our neighbor's needs.

We must find the ones who need the most,
For we could be in their place.
Behind our prosperity lingers the ghost
Of a lesser life if not for God's grace.

Let our thanks be felt from the morn
When we vow at the rising sun
To express our thanks for being born
Until our days work is done.

Let the strength with which we're blessed
And the wealth which we have earned
Be used toward the Eternal quest,
A world based on Truths we have learned.

A Thanksgiving Poem

T is for the Trust the Pilgrims had so many years ago.
H is for the Harvest the settlers learned to grow.
A is for America, the land in which we live.
N is for Nature and beauty which she gives.
K is for Kindness, gentle words, thoughtful deeds.
S is for Smiles, the sunshine everyone needs.
G is for Gratitude...our blessings great and small.
I is for Ideas, letting wisdom grow tall.
V is for Voices, singing, laughing, always caring.
I is for Indians, who taught them about sharing.
N is for Neighbors, across the street, over the sea.
G is for Giving of myself to make a better me.

Judith A. Lindberg



TREE OF LIFE

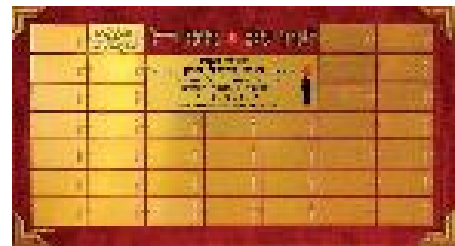


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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

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

Congregation Shir Ami Memorial Board



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

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

Shop at Ralphs - Earn Money for Shir Ami

by Maralyn Soifer

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursdays November 2, 9, 16, and 30, 7:30 - 8:30 pm “Around the Rabbi’s Tisch” at the Vorspans’

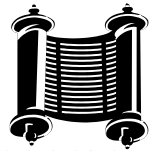


This popular Shir Ami educational series continues its 5778 season. Come join us for our weekly discussion of Rabbi Vorspan’s selected topics of Jewish interest. We discuss Jewish texts and current events as they relate to Jewish values and our lives as Jews. This is a unique opportunity to learn and share in an informal format around the Vorspans’ dining room table.

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

Saturday November 11, 10:30 am: Torah/Shabbat Study at Northridge Mobile Home Park rec room

Stan Schroeder has started his fourth season of Shabbat study sessions one Saturday morning a month. We discuss the weekly Torah portion, the Shabbat prayers that are included in our Contemporary service, and various subjects relevant to Conservative Judaism.

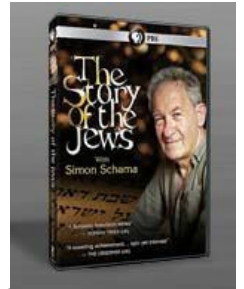


Our next session will be November 11. Our Torah portion is *Chayah Sarah* (Genesis 23:1 - 25:18). It begins with the death of Sarah and continues with the marriage of Isaac to Rebecca and the deaths of Abraham and Ishmael. Since this session occurs on Veterans’ Day we will learn about some Jewish American military heroes.

Northridge Mobile Home Park is located at 19120 Nordhoff St. Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 for more information.



Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 pm
Second 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 second episode covers the medieval 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.

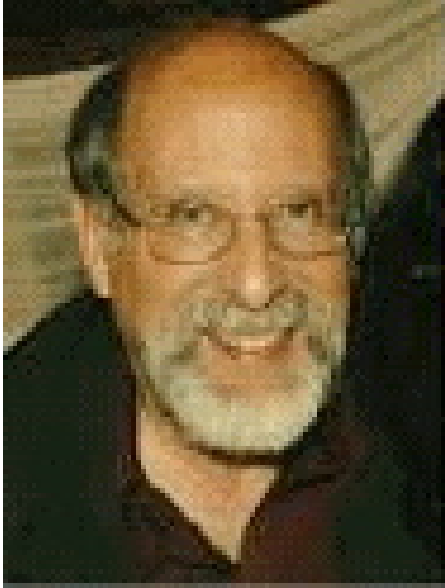
Simon Michael Schama, CBE is an English historian specializing in art history, Dutch history, and French history. He is a University Professor of History and Art History at Columbia University, New York. He has won several awards for his varied historical books and productions.

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 2nd Episode: *The Story of the Jews*
Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 pm.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 pm
Neal Brostoff *Classics to Klezmer*
at de Toledo High School
22622 Vanowen St., West Hills



Neal Brostoff will take us on a delightful journey through legendary Jewish Music. Neal was the Music Programs Coordinator for the Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music at UCLA. He has taught Jewish music courses at Loyola Marymount University, American Jewish University, and UCLA. He has independently produced Jewish music concerts and festivals and has served as Cultural Affairs Director for the Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles and as Music Specialist at the Skirball Cultural Center.

The cost is \$10 per person and includes coffee and cookies. Call **Gladys Sturman** at (818) 222-4604 for more information.

Mail the tearoff below to Congregation Shir Ami, PO Box 6353, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

Please reserve _____ places for *Classics to Klezmer*
Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 pm.

Include check payable to Congregation Shir Ami.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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 2016**
 Phone No. _____

Number of backpacks @ \$18 each: _____

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

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

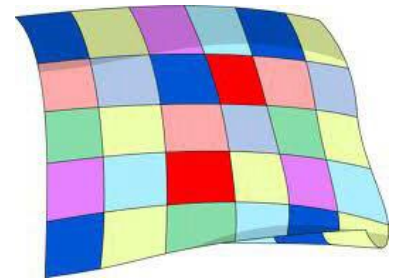
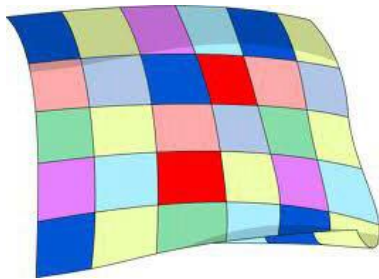
Checks must be payable to Congregation Shir Ami (put Mitzvah Day in the memo) and mailed to P.O. Box 6353
 Woodland Hills, CA 91365 Community Service School credit for students

Please join Congregation Shir Ami
on Saturday, January 20 at 10:00 am
(Service starts at 10:30 am)



at de Toledo High School
for a special Linen Shabbat.

Please bring **NEW** twin, full, or queen size blankets or quilts, **NEW** full or twin size sheet sets, **NEW** full or twin size waterproof mattress pads, **NEW** pillow cases, and **NEW** bath towels and washcloths to Shabbat services on **Saturday, January 20th**. They will be given to moms and their children in domestic violence shelters.



We look forward to seeing you and your family at this special community *mitzvah* project Shabbat. Please bring your non-perishable food donation to the service.



For more information, please call
Fran Kobulnick at (818) 345-2405
or **Laura Simon** at (818) 883-1765
or **Fiona Taylor** at (818) 903-6381.

