

## Events of the Month

### Shabbat services at de Toledo High School, via Zoom and Livestream

Saturday, October 5 10:30 am  
Birthday Shabbat  
Saturday, October 26 10:30 am  
Anniversary Shabbat

### Sukkot Party at the Vorspans' Monday, October 21 at 3:00 pm 22320 Philiprimm Woodland Hills

**Rabbi and Bonnie Vorspan** issue this annual invitation to all our members to shake the lulav and enjoy Bonnie's desserts and the Vorspans' hospitality. See flyer.

### Shabbat Torah Study Saturday, Oct. 19, 10:30 am at the Schroeders'

See flyer for details.

### High Holy Day at de Toledo and Livestream

Wednesday, October 2 - 7:30 pm  
Erev Rosh Hashanah  
Thursday, October 3 - 9:30 am  
1st Day Rosh Hashanah  
Friday, October 4 - 10:00 am  
2nd Day Rosh Hashanah  
Friday, October 11 - 6:45 pm  
Kol Nidre  
Saturday, October 12  
Yom Kippur morning - 10:00 am  
Yizkor - approximately 12:00 pm  
Contemporary Mincha/discussion  
5:00 pm  
Blessing of Children - approx. 7 pm



Columbus Day  
Monday, October 14  
See article on page 6



## Rabbi's Column

October is bursting with Jewish Holidays: not only Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, but Sukkot, Hoshana Rabba, Shimini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

The following month, November, has none. Except, of course, for Shabbatot.

But one could wonder about who did the scheduling, here. Why overload one month and neglect the next? But is there a wisdom to how the Jewish calendar was set up? (And I understand the blasphemous nature of the question.)

When we think of American holidays, I don't think there was a master plan by our founders as our holiday calendar was set. Most of our holidays relate to events that occurred that are subsequently memorialized or celebrated—4th of July, Memorial Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, etc. They were incorporated into our calendar over many years.

But the Biblical holidays (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot) were all set in advance. So, it is fair to ask the question—is there a rhyme or reason for the location of the holidays?

As we formulate an answer, we first must realize that the holidays aren't really scattered so haphazardly. Three of the holidays are related to the cycles of nature and the harvest seasons.

And Rosh Hashanah (actually one of at least 4 New Years mentioned in the Talmud) itself begins the year for counting years (and not months—it is, in fact, the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the calendar) and occurs at the emotional beginning of the year (when summer ends and fall begins). And Yom Kippur, ten days after Rosh Hashanah, is related to the date when Moses descended from Mt. Sinai with the second set of 10 Commandments.

And, it should be pointed out, while there is one Hebrew month without a holiday, the other 11 do have significant holidays, including those established since the creation of the State of Israel.

Our task, then, isn't to bemoan the compact nature of the High Holy Day/Sukkot Season holidays, but to celebrate the opportunity to bring so much joy and variation into our lives! We need to remember the significance of each holiday and invest out time and energy into embracing the sacred moments each provide us.

Happy Fall Season! **Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan**



Sukkot starts  
Thursday, October 17  
See poem on page 8



Shemini Atzeret  
Thursday, October 24  
See article on page 2



Simchat Torah  
Friday, October 25  
See poem on page 9

## President's Report

Shana tovah,

As I alluded to last month, October is the month for the New Year. By now, you should all be checking your mailboxes for your tickets for the High Holy Days. You don't want to miss a moment of our services led by **Rabbi Vorspan** and our Cantorial Soloist **Ayana Haviv**. As is our continuing tradition, the second day of Rosh Hashanah will be open to the community, so let your friend know about us.



And now, I will be asking for a special favor from all of you. Last month, we celebrated the baby naming of **Paula and Paul Frankel's** granddaughter, **Emma**. This got me to thinking of our traditional "Blessing of the Children" after our Neilah Service on Yom Kippur. For the past few years, we haven't had a lot of children to bless. So, I am asking all members and guests to bring their grandchildren and great-grandchildren to our Neilah Service. Oh, and bring your children, too. This has been too beautiful an experience to let it fade away.

And just to show that we are not only High Holy Day services, we will have two Shabbat services this month, including Shabbat Shuva.

Because the High Holy Days are relatively late this year, notwithstanding Rabbi's insistence that they always fall on the same date . . . on the Jewish Calendar, we have to be mindful of what is going on just next month, so you have time to prepare. This year our Mitzvah Day will be on November 3 at the Jewish Home for the Aging. Please see the Shir Notes for the details and let our Social Action Committee Vice-President, **Becky Finlay**, know that you are coming.

With a New Year comes new experiences, new opportunities, and new surprises. You may see one of them during our Yom Kippur service, so you must come prepared for the newness of it all.

As soon as the High Holy Days have past, we then get down to a new year of *Tisches*, Shabbat Torah Study Session and everything that makes us the congregational family we want to be.

I look forward to seeing you all at services.

If you have any questions or want to provide your input, please feel free to email me at [JDPistol@aol.com](mailto:JDPistol@aol.com).

Shana tovah,  
**Jordan Pistol**, President

## Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah

[Excerpted from *MyJewishLearning.com*]

The holiday of Sukkot concludes with an additional festival. The Torah declares that at the end of the seven days holiday of Sukkot there should be an eighth "day of assembly" (Shemini Atzeret, see Numbers 29:35). Why should there be another, additional holiday immediately following the seven days of Sukkot which have just been celebrated? According to a rabbinic folktale, **Shemini Atzeret** is a final and additional day of spiritual celebration of the close relationship between God and the people of Israel.

Unlike on Sukkot, the lulav and etrog are no longer picked up and waved on Shemini Atzeret, and some people no longer eat meals in the sukkah. In addition, no *hoshanot* poems are recited, there are no more *hakafot* (processions around the synagogue), and the day itself is called a different holiday in prayer services. However, like Sukkot, a special prayer for rain is recited, and a short petition for rain is added to the daily prayers and recited daily until the festival of Passover in the spring, when the rainy season in the land of Israel concludes.

While Shemini Atzeret's significance is somewhat unclear, **Simchat Torah** conveys a clear message about the centrality of Torah in Jewish life. It is both a source of Jewish identity and a precious gift from God. Simchat Torah is the day on which the whole community gathers to come into direct contact with the Torah and to express our joy in having received it.



Although Shemini Atzeret is a one-day holiday in the Torah, among traditional Diaspora Jews, Shemini Atzeret is a two-day festival. However, during early medieval times, the second day of Shemini Atzeret began to develop a unique character and pattern of celebration. In a tradition that dates back to Babylonian times, the entire Torah is read in a yearly cycle of readings. In early medieval times, the second day of Shemini Atzeret became the day on which the final Torah portion of the year would be read and the very first Torah portion begun, all over again. Therefore, this day became an occasion for rejoicing and an opportunity for demonstrating the Jewish community's love of the Torah. The day itself took on an additional name, Simchat Torah, the day of "rejoicing in the Torah." In Israel and among Diaspora communities that only celebrate one day of holidays, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are celebrated as a combined festival.

*Editor's Note: See my Simchat Torah poem on page 9.*  
*Stan Schroeder*



# DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

## Yahrzeits

- Sam Kobulnick for Louis Suckman
- Carol and Irwin Koransky for Milton Koransky and Mary Altzman
- Andrea and Leon Nachenberg for Martha Stover
- Stan Rosenbluth for Isidore Rosenbluth and Clara Rosenbluth
- Steve and Marcie Spetner for Ellen Spetner Friedman and Harry Lurio
- Rae and Armand Wazana for Bella Ruth Kroop
- Gloria Weinstein for Larry Weinstein, Julius Goren, Pearl Fram, and Stephen Schuster

## Birthdays

Janet and Richard Kirshbaum in honor of Bonnie Vorspan (75)

## Anniversaries

- Claire and Lew Silverman (69)
- Phyllis and Stan Schroeder (37)

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

- Robin Burman.....9/11  
(omitted last month)
- Paula Loomis.....10/20
- Peg Kovar.....10/21
- Paul Soifer.....10/22
- Gloria Weinstein.....10/22

## Anniversaries

- Phyllis and Stan Schroeder.....10/18 37th
- Robin and Alan Burman.....10/26 44th

## Congregation Shir Ami Tribute Cards

Our **Tribute Card Coordinator** will send your cards celebrating *simchas* and conveying your get-well and condolence messages.

Call **Helga Unkeless** at (818) 340-5751 or **Helgaunkeless@yahoo.com**

Minimum donation of \$5 per card is appreciated.

**Saturday, October 26 we start the Torah reading cycle again with the stories of creation.**

### Genesis 1: *Bereshit*

1. In the beginning of God's creation of the heavens and the earth.
2. Now the earth was astonishingly empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep, and the spirit of God was hovering over the face of the water.
3. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
4. And God saw the light that it was good, and God separated between the light and between the darkness.
5. And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night, and it was evening and it was morning, one day.

## Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

- Owen Delman
- Sheilah Hart
- Phyllis Schroeder
- Jerry Gort



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

## Social Action Committee

Back in June, we had a very successful **Walk Around Lake Balboa**. Now, the Committee and I hope to have an equally successful **Mitzvah Day**. It will be **November 3rd at the Jewish Home for the Aging (now LA Jewish Health)** 18855 Victory Blvd. in Reseda at 11 am. We will be serving pizza, playing bingo, and making Hanukkah cards with the residents.

Reservations are required. You can text or call me (747) 998-3804 or email [FinlayRebecca9@gmail.com](mailto:FinlayRebecca9@gmail.com) if you have any questions. \$10 will be taken at the door. Mitzvah Day will strengthen our involvement in the Jewish community.

The next Committee meeting will be October 25th at 11 am at Weiler's Deli, 21161 Victory Blvd. in Canoga Park. Everyone is welcome to attend and share their ideas. On behalf of the Committee and myself, we wish you a joyous and prosperous new year. I look forward to seeing all of you at our Services.

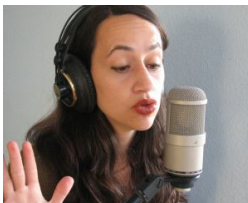
L'shanah tovah.

**Becky Finlay, Social Action Vice President**

## Our Cantorial Soloist Ayana Haviv

by Stan Schroeder

**Ayana Haviv** has been our High Holy Days Cantorial Soloist since 2019. We have enjoyed and been inspired by her operatic voice and personal vitality. This is some more information about her from her website.



Ayana is a member and has been a soloist in Los Angeles Opera Chorus and Los Angeles Master Chorale, where she has sung everything from atonal 21st-century music to Anglican chant. Originally from Israel, she grew up singing Jewish music of all kinds, from klezmer to Middle Eastern. Ayana's voice can be heard on the film/TV/game soundtracks STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI and THE RISE OF SKYWALKER, STAR TREK: DISCOVERY and PICARD, FROZEN II, AVATAR II: THE WAY OF WATER, , TRANSPARENT, CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS III and IV, MINIONS, MULAN, SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME, THE LION KING, LOST IN SPACE, and many more.

Ayana has recorded as both a soloist and ensemble singer on over 100 film, television, and video game soundtracks, as well as numerous video games and sound recordings. She has been a member of choruses specializing in vocal jazz, South African folk music, a cappella, Baroque and Renaissance music, new/experimental classical music, and Bulgarian women's folk singing.



## Ritual Committee

The holiday of Sukkot begins Wednesday night, October 16. And **Rabbi and Bonnie** have invited us to their Sukkot party at the Vorspans' Sukkah Monday, October 21 at 3:00 pm. Many of us have attended this annual get-together, shaken the lulav and etrog, and enjoyed Bonnie's delicious refreshments. They changed it from an evening to an afternoon event. Many of us have become less comfortable driving at night.



*Around the Rabbi's Tisch*, at the Vorspan home until COVID, is now "Share the Rabbi's computer screen from the comfort of your home" via Zoom. We now not only don't have to drive at night, we don't have to dress for in-person company. Although we miss the personal interaction, we benefit from accommodating people who don't live in our area. And we still have in-person togetherness at Shabbat services at de Toledo.



We had our annual **Barbecue and Barchu** at the home of member **Gladys Sturman** Friday, September 6. She turned her back yard into a comfortable dining area and seating for our evening service. About 40 of us enjoyed Ventura Kosher chicken and sides, followed by joyous singing and **Rabbi Vorspan's** words of wisdom. See pictures on page 7.

Our High Holy Days service will be in the de Toledo High School auditorium giving us our annual opportunity to connect with our High Holy Days community. It is always special to celebrate with those we seldom see. Cantorial Soloist **Ayana Haviv** will give her very beautiful rendition of the Holy Day liturgy for our prayerful experience.

Shana Tova 5785. May it be a year of health and love.

**Stan Schroeder**, Ritual Vice President

## When Israel Fights Back

by Lou Loomis



This past year was one for the history books. Israel was attacked on October 7, one day, anti-Israel demonstrations broke out all over the world. Many of the demonstrations included shocking anti-semitic rhetoric. That was only one year ago, and very little has changed to help us make some sense out of this issue. A terror organization, Hamas, invaded and on that day killed 1,200 of innocents Israelis; the death toll from the ensuing war is still rising. Today we know more about Hamas than we ever thought possible. It is affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and funded by Iran and Qatar. The Muslim Brotherhood aims to remove and kill all Jews from Israel, and to overthrow liberal western civilization by replacing it with a radical Islamic culture. A few years earlier, an attack in the middle east by another Muslim Brotherhood affiliate, ISIS, also occurred, but was stopped by an alliance of western powers. So far, no such alliance has come to Israel's aid.

Since October 7, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and the Houthis of Yemen, three Muslim Brotherhood organizations based in Yemen, Lebanon, and funded by Qatar and Iran, have also attacked Israel in its north. Hezbollah's attacks have been more serious, leading to the displacement of 60,000 Israelis from their homes.

All of the Brotherhood organizations have been designated as foreign terrorists by the US State Department. More than 60 other countries and organizations, including the EU, the Arab League, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, have also designated the Muslim Brotherhood—either in part or in its entirety—as terrorist groups. Sadly, the designation has not been followed up by any significant military action other than words and a shocking tolerance for antisemitism. In fact, many of the 'friends' of Israel have threatened to halt sending Israel any military support. These friends are worried that support for Israel may encourage more antisemitism and violence in their own countries.

Israel is determined to not let history repeat itself. It is more defiant than ever; it ferociously fights back. Nearly all the demonstrations around the world have called for the elimination of Jewish Israel. Jews are told to either leave Israel, become slaves to Muslims, or die. The various so-called peace movement and humanitarian groups have ironically blamed Jews for these attacks. Jews are stubborn. Israel has not given in, and attacked Gaza with a fury, a righteous fury, to be sure, in an effort to defend itself and free the hostages.

Lacking friends is nothing new to Israel. Israel has often had to go it mostly alone, with the rare exception of an America. Now America threatens Israel that they will also withhold weapon sales if Israel continues to pursue victory. American loyalty seems to blow hot and cold, depending on internal politics.

As I write this, toward the end of September, Israeli Military scientists have developed a new high-tech weapon, straight out of a James Bond novel: the Motorola Pager. You've probably read about how pagers are used by Hezbollah soldiers, since they are supposedly not trackable as are the hi-tech and forbidden (Haram) iPhones. But scientists of the Israel Defense Forces have developed the ability to track the pagers, which can be armed with a small explosive charge and remotely detonated. The pagers can also pinpoint the holder's whereabouts, giving the IDF even more ways to neutralize the Hezbollah terrorists. This is epic and I believe will in the future be studied by students of military history.

Needless to say, Israel's critics are outraged that the IDF have injured and even killed hundreds of terrorists and their leaders, putting Hezbollah forces in disarray. Personally, I'm surprised that here, in Los Angeles, so much of our own media are also Israel critics.

Civilian Lebanese are beginning to demonstrate in favor of Israel and ask for help in the removal of the occupying Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad armies. Most Lebanese consider Israel an ally and hope they will be a liberating force.

The outrage from the anti-Israel-haters (let's call them "The Axis of Evil") is palpable. They demand Israel cease the remote detonations ("Israel doesn't fight fair!" or "War Crimes!"). They are busy inventing new crimes committed by the Israelis, which are a bit twisted and even humorous.

The Islamic terror networks are starting to admit they have been outwitted by the IDF. Their communication networks are now compromised.

As a fan of spy movies, I appreciate the hi-tech weapons the IDF is inventing and wager that soon Israel's many of Israel's former allies will once again start singing the Jewish state's praise.

(continued on page 9)

## Columbus and the Jews (extracted from aish.com)

On January 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus, an Italian merchant, navigator, and explorer, met with King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain to seek funding for a proposed voyage westwards across the Atlantic for the purpose of discovering a new sea route to India. Luxury goods and spices from the east were in high demand in 15<sup>th</sup> century Europe, but ongoing warfare with the Ottoman Empire and Muslim warships in the Mediterranean blocked off European trade routes to India via the Middle East. Although it was understood that the world was round by this time, transatlantic voyages were considered unfeasible due to the Gulf Stream, which would mean travelling against strong eastward winds over unknown periods of time and contending with severe storms and hurricanes at sea.

Due to the dangers and likelihood of financial loss, Queen Isabella was not convinced and turned down his request. This was not the first time Columbus failed in fundraising. He made an earlier attempt to convince the Spanish monarchy to support his mission back in 1486 and also tried to get funding from Portugal before that in 1484. Nobody seemed to think that Columbus could pull it off.

Leaving the meeting feeling dejected, Columbus gave up on the Iberian Peninsula and thought to perhaps seek support from other European powers further to the north, like France or England. Further rejections by other countries may have convinced Columbus to give up on his dream and thus the New World would not have been discovered until sometime later in history by someone else.

Columbus was already on his way to France when a converso of Jewish origin by the name of Luis de Santangel intervened to change the course of history. As the royal treasurer, Santangel had a considerable degree of influence and built a personal relationship with both the king and queen. He advised Queen Isabella that Spain would lose out on a major opportunity for fame and glory if Columbus were to be successful in his mission through the backing of another country. He even offered to contribute towards the project through his own personal financing.

Among the 90 crewmen of Spaniards and Moors were also a few people of Jewish origin. They included two experienced sailors, Roderigo de Triana and Alfonso de la Calle, a physician, Maestre Bernal, a surgeon by the name of Marco, and Queen Isabella's personal inspector, Roderigo Sanchez de Segovia. Probably the most high-profile Jew on board who had recently converted to Christianity by force was Luis de Torres, an interpreter for the governor of Murcia. As a result of his knowledge of Hebrew, Arabic, Aramaic, and other

ancient languages, Columbus thought his linguistic skills would be useful in communicating with locals.



According to some accounts, Columbus was originally supposed to set sail from Spain on July 31, but because of the large number of Jews struggling to exit the country on the last day before the decree went into the effect, the harbor at Palos de la Frontera was overcrowded and the famous sea voyage was delayed for a few days. Some Jews were paying Muslim sailors to take them to the shores of North Africa, others were getting picked up by Ottoman ships to facilitate their immigration to Turkey, and yet some had a different direction in mind...the West. Finally, on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1492, Columbus led his crew on a convoy consisting of the Santa Maria, the Nina, and the Pinta to pursue their historic mission.

After more than two months on the open sea with no land in sight, the crew started getting rowdy. On October 11, Columbus begged his crew members to remain vigilant for any sight of land both day and night and even offered higher wages as an incentive. That night at around 2:00 AM while the rest of the crew were either sleeping or drinking, Roderigo de Triana, one of the Jewish sailors, spotted a faint light in the distance, a fire. That could only mean one thing: "*Tierra, tierra!* Land, land!" Thus, it was a Jewish sailor who became the world's first European explorer to see the Americas. Landing in the Bahamas, Columbus was sure that he had reached India. He therefore called the native population Indians.

Columbus and his crew would continue exploring this new world arriving in Cuba by the end of the month in what Columbus thought might be China. From the shores of northern Cuba, Columbus deployed his Jewish interpreter Luis de Torres to move inland and make contact with what he thought was the Emperor of China. He ended up reaching a village of 1000 inhabitants who never encountered a European before and treated him as a Divine being. (This wouldn't be the first time a Jew was worshipped as a god.) It was in this village that Torres was introduced to the concept of smoking tobacco, which he later shared with his Spanish compatriots upon their return to Europe. The next island to be discovered became known as Hispaniola (modern day Haiti and Dominican Republic). 39 crewmen including Luis de Torres settled there and thus the first colony in the New World known as La Navidad included at least one Jew.

September 6 BBQ and Barchu at Gladys Sturman's





## 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.



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.



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.

### 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*.





## When Israel Fights Back (continued)

Someday, I hope (and pray it's soon!), we will hold discussions as to why so many friends turned away from Israel and the Jews. We need to know who to trust. But for now, Israel has to go it mostly alone, without allies, and fight for its existence. On the other hand, these terrorist attacks on us, including American Jews, have demonstrated the need for all Jews to disregard each other's differences and unite. It's quite an important lesson. We may not agree with each other, but Jews have to learn to get along with each other. That's how we fight back and win.



## THE LIGHT OF TORAH - SIMCHAT TORAH by Stan Schroeder

As we start a new cycle of reading,  
I reflect on the year preceding.  
Did I learn from the wisdom of our sages  
As we rolled the scroll or turned the pages?

Did the stories refresh my soul  
Or did familiarity take its toll?  
Did I look beneath the outer layers  
To understand these mythic players?

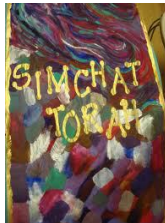
Bereshit starts "in the beginning",  
And we start in the beginning.  
We are told two stories of God's creation  
So we know there are two sides to every equation.

Two ways to look at every story,  
One as narrative, one allegory.  
The first we filter through ancient seasons;  
The second requires experience and reasons.

Shemot: These are the names (of sons).  
As their descendants we are the ones.  
We left *Mitzrayim* in search of the Promised Land.  
The Promise is here at the place where we stand.

The story of Moses, a basket of reeds;  
For Judaism Moses sowed the seeds.  
In his time the Torah was given to light our way,  
And we are its guardians to the present day.

VaYikra: God called to Moses from the Tent.  
To pass on My Laws you have been sent.  
There are many laws to use to guide your behavior.  
You are judged by your deeds, there is no Savior



There are many ways for you to repent;  
It's your actions that count, not your intent.  
It is very important to follow My Laws.  
To spread the Light of Torah is a worthy cause.

BeMidbar: God spoke to Moses in the Sinai;  
Take a census by age, he didn't ask why.  
This became the first list to be used for a draft.  
From men over twenty the army was staffed.

Take also the names of Levites for Me.  
They will serve that you become holy.  
We learn that, if needed, we must be ready to fight,  
Fulfilling our mission to spread Torah's Light.

*Devarim*: These are the words, Moses did cry,  
God increased Israel's numbers as stars in the sky.  
Then Moses recalled how he had sent out spies.  
The Canaanites appeared as giants in their eyes.

We didn't understand the power of the Divine  
Inherent in us so that Torah can shine.  
*Devarim*, the words we use in deed and in prayer,  
The key to spreading the Light everywhere.

We've completely rolled the Torah scroll,  
But our Promised Land is still not whole.  
*Tikkun Olam* remains as our unfinished task;  
The Torah contains the questions we must ask.

This coming year as we read the stories anew,  
Let us learn from Torah, eternally true.  
Rather than confusing wisdom with fact,  
May Light of Torah guide the way that we act.

## 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

# Monday October 21, 3:00 - 5:00 pm Sukkah Neighborhood Party at the Vorspans' 22320 Philiprimm, Woodland Hills

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 November 7, 14, and 21, 7:30 - 8:30 pm “Around the Rabbi’s Tisch” on Zoom



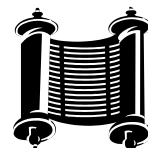
This popular Shir Ami educational series starts its 5785 season. Come join us for our weekly discussion of Rabbi Vorspan’s selected topics of Jewish interest. We discuss Jewish texts and current events as they relate to Jewish values and our lives as Jews. This is a unique opportunity to learn and share in an informal format.



This semester we will again hold our sessions on Zoom. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86440082040?pwd=bG4venRKTW9lVzhwVWVSRGgraEFJdz09>

**Meeting ID: 864 4008 2040 Password: 677588**

## Saturday October 19, 10:30 am Torah/Shabbat Study at Schroeder home



Stan Schroeder has started his 11th 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 19. This session is during Sukkot. We will discuss this holiday and its symbols and traditions. Our sessions are usually held at the Schroeder home, 8450 Winnetka Ave. #14. This one may be held in the de Toledo sukkah if it is available. Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 or email [stanpacbell@gmail.com](mailto:stanpacbell@gmail.com) for more information.

# Congregation Shir Ami Schedule of Shabbat Services 2024-25 at de Toledo High School, Zoom, and Livestream [www.shirami.com](http://www.shirami.com)

If you want to be added to our email list, please send an email to [stanpacbell@gmail.com](mailto:stanpacbell@gmail.com) and you will receive ongoing information.

## Saturday 10:30 am unless otherwise noted

### September 2024

Friday, September 6 6:30 pm - BBQ & Barchu, Service under the stars  
home of Gladys Sturman, August and September Birthday and Anniversary  
Saturday, September 21 - Naming of Paula and Paul Frankel's granddaughter

### October 2024

Saturday, October 5 - Birthday  
Saturday, October 26 - Anniversary

### November 2024

Saturday, November 9 - Birthday  
Saturday, November 23 - Anniversary

### December 2024

Saturday, December 7 - Birthday  
Saturday, December 21 - Anniversary

### January 2025

Saturday, January 4 - Birthday  
Saturday, January 18 - Anniversary

### February 2025

Saturday, February 1 - Birthday  
Saturday, February 15 - Anniversary

### March 2025

Saturday, March 1 - Birthday  
Saturday, March 15 - Anniversary

### April 2025

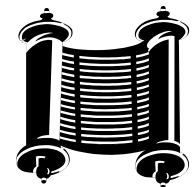
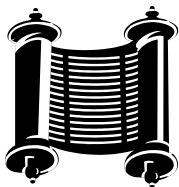
Saturday, April 5 - Birthday  
Saturday, April 26 - Anniversary

### May 2025

Saturday, May 10 - Birthday  
Saturday, May 24 - Anniversary

### June 2025

Saturday, June 7 - Birthday  
Saturday, June 21 - Anniversary



David Vorspan  
Rabbi



Jordan Pistol  
President

***If you would like more information about our congregation please visit our website at [www.shirami.com](http://www.shirami.com)***

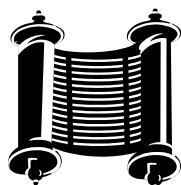
# Congregation Shir Ami



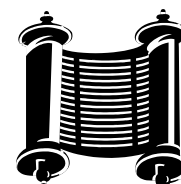
Schedule of High Holy Days Services  
5785/2024



**Rabbi David E. Vorspan**  
**Cantorial Soloist Ayana Haviv**



All Services will be at de Toledo High School  
for Congregation Shir Ami members  
and ticket buyers and via our  
website [www.shirami.com](http://www.shirami.com)  
Livestream for everyone



David Vorspan  
Rabbi

Erev Rosh Hashanah  
Wednesday, October 7th  
7:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah 1<sup>st</sup> Day  
Thursday, October 3rd  
9:30 am



Ayana Haviv  
Cantorial Soloist

Rosh Hashanah 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Contemporary Service  
Friday, October 4th  
10:00 am (open to the public)



Kol Nidre  
Friday, October 11th  
6:45 pm



Jordan Pistol  
President

Yom Kippur  
Saturday, October 12th  
Morning service 10:00 am  
Yizkor 12:00 pm\*  
Contemporary Mincha/discussion 5:00 pm  
Neilah 6:00 pm



Havdalah and Blessing of the Children 7:00 pm\*  
[www.shirami.com](http://www.shirami.com) ( times aproximate)

**Congregation Shir Ami Mitzvah Day**  
**Sunday, November 3 at 11:00 AM**  
**Jewish Home for the Aging**  
**(now LA Jewish Health)**  
18855 Victory Blvd. in Reseda at 11 am.



We will be serving pizza, playing bingo, and making Hanukkah cards with the residents.

Reservations are required. You can text or call Becky at (747) 998-3804 or email [FinlayRebecca9@gmail.com](mailto:FinlayRebecca9@gmail.com) if you have any questions. \$10 will be taken at the door.