

Events of the Month

Mitzvah Day at Jewish Home
Sunday, Nov. 2 11:00 am
See article on page 2 and flyer

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

Saturday, November 9 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, November 23 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

Around the Rabbi's Tisch via Zoom 7:30 pm

Thursdays Nov. 7, 14, and 21
Start of 5785 Fall season
See flyer for more information.

Shabbat Torah Study
Saturday, Nov. 16, 10:30 am
at the Schroeders'

Stan Schroeder leads our monthly study and discussion session. See flyer for more information



See article about Jews and Thanksgiving on page 7. Also see **A Prayer for the Thanksgiving Feast** by Rabbi Naomi Levy on page 9.



The High Holy Days, at least for the past two years, have been days of recovery for me.

Two years ago, I woke up the morning of Erev Rosh Hashanah with a terrible tooth ache. I tried to soldier through it, convinced that I would be able to make it through the two days (and three services) and then seek dental attention.

Part of my problem that made delay an option was that my regular dentist was away and it would have meant trying to locate a new one that was approved by my Medicare plan, all by sunset and the onset of services. I also didn't know the source of the pain and I was sure it was something temporary and maybe a better job of flossing that area would solve the problem.

Alas, that was not to be. The pain became more excruciating, and I set about trying to find a dentist that would accept my insurance and was local. Miracle of miracles, I discovered a dentist in Thousand Oaks who was able to see me immediately (it was now around 1 PM)! I rushed over. He x-rayed my mouth, and told me that I had broken a molar. And then he told me that he didn't do extractions.

But...he knew of a dentist that did who was only a couple of miles away, and after a quick call, told me he could see me right now if I got there immediately. Which I did. He extracted my tooth and accepted my insurance. And I was able, pain free, to conduct services that weekend.

It has taken a year but I am now the proud owner of a new tooth, sitting proudly and firmly on the dental post that took a year to install!

This year I had another medical emergency: my dermatologist told me that I had a basal cell carcinoma in my ear, nothing to worry about, but it should eventually be dealt with. And, he said, I could wait until after all the holidays.

But when I received a call from the surgeon that an opening just appeared and she could see me Thursday (with Rosh Hashanah the following Wednesday night) I decided just to get it over. I was able to get through the holidays with proper pain management (lots of Ibuprofen).

I share these stories with you because this month we celebrate Thanksgiving.

(continued on page 2)



See article on page 8.

American Jewish Recipients of the Medal of Honor

Civil War: Benjamin Levy, David Urbansky, Leopold Karpeles, Abraham Cohn

Indian Wars: Simon Suhler

Haiti: Samuel Margulies

World War I:

William Shemin, Sydney Gumpetz, Benjamin Kaufman, William Sawelson

World War II: Ben L. Salomon, Isadore Jachman, Raymond Zussman

Korean War: Leonard M. Kravitz, Tibor Rubin

Vietnam War: Jack Jacobs, John Lee Levitow

Rabbi's Column (continued)

My medical issues will certainly be at the top of my list of what I am thankful for. That I was able to recover, in both instances, in time to mount the pulpit and conduct High Holy Day services, is a testament to the availability we have to health care professionals who are able to take the steps to restore us to good health in a timely fashion.

This isn't true for all of us. Some have intractable illnesses that don't have such easy solutions. Others remain undiagnosed as doctors struggle to determine the best course of action, leaving patients frustrated as time does not seem to heal all wounds. As we age, our bodies begin to wear out and easy solutions become a distant memory of times when we had the blessings of youth to enable us to recover quickly.

And so this Thanksgiving, my gratitude will be, in part, for the medical professionals who care and mend us; for health care in our country that is right around the corner and stocked with caregivers ready to tend to our needs; for the advances in medicine that can diagnose and treat in ways unimaginable just a few decades ago; for the means to pay for the medical care; and for the family and friends who provide the support and caring necessary for us to recover with not only a sound body but with a sound mind.

There may be those who can't relate to what I have written because your experiences have not been so favorable. In that case, I hope that you will still find plenty in your life for which to be thankful!

Rabbi David Vorspan

Social Action Committee

Mitzvah Day will be **Sunday 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. See flyer in this issue.

Reservations are required. You can text or call me (747) 998-3804 or email 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.

Becky Finlay, Social Action Vice President



President's Report

First, I want to thank you all for the wonderful attendance at our High Holy Days Services. I especially want to thank those who actually brought children for our Blessing of the Children at the conclusion of Yom Kippur. The Blessing of the Children is always better when there are children to bless.



For some, November means Thanksgiving, Veteran's Day and, of course, Election Day. But for our Shir Ami family it also means a return of the *Around the Rabbi's Tisch* (and on the Rebbitzen's Chairs) beginning on November 7. This year the *Tisch* will consist of two 10-Tisch semesters plus 3 bonus *Tisches* coinciding with holidays. All for the same low price proving how it pays to be a member of Congregation Shir Ami.

November is also the month of Mitzvah Day, which will be November 3 at the Jewish Home for the Aging. We will be serving pizza, playing bingo, and making Hanukkah cards with the residents. Reservations are required. Contact our Social Action Vice-President **Becky Finlay** for details.

November is also the month when Shir Ami prepares for its own elections when we field nominations and volunteers for our Board of Directors. If you ever wanted to see organized religion at its finest, come join our Board of Directors. Contact **Alan Burman** to put your hat in the ring. This year, our annual members meeting and election of officers is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 8. That's right, it will be during the day so no excuses that "I don't drive at night." Shir Ami needs you and your ideas. How can you possibly say no?

As we begin the new year, we are committed to ensure that Congregation Shir Ami still continues and thrives, so that we can support our community, and our community can be a part of us. Shabbat Services, *Tisch* and Shabbat Torah Study sessions. Be a part of it.

If you have any inputs or questions, feel free to contact me at jdipistol@aol.com.

Jordan Pistol, President



DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Anniversaries

Phyllis and Stan Schroeder (37)
Robin and Alan Burman (44)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Richard Kirshbaum.....	11/1
Sheilah Hart.....	11/1
Alan Burman.....	11/4
Jordan Pistol.....	11/8
Susan Lipman.....	11/9
Dan Simansky.....	11/17
Sam Kobulnick.....	11/18
Lew Silverman.....	11/22
Armand Wazana.....	11/22
Lou Loomis.....	11/29

Anniversaries

Peg and Jerry Kovar..... 11/14 42nd

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism was founded as United Synagogue of America by founding President **Rabbi Solomon Schecter** in February 1913 to develop and perpetuate Conservative Judaism. Schecter was born in Moldovia in 1847, moved to England in 1882, appointed to the faculty in Cambridge in 1890, and then to the U.S. in 1902 where he became President of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

Congregation Shir Ami is a member of United Synagogue. The organization established biennial awards in various categories and named them Solomon Schecter awards known as Sollies.



Stan Schroeder receives Gold "Sollie" award for *Shir Notes* December 2011 from United Synagogue on San Diego, shown with Alice Greenfield and Joel Baker.

Our Condolences

We regret to inform the congregational family of the passing of **Maralyn Soifer**. May God comfort her husband **Paul Soifer** and family during this time of their bereavement.



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 (preferably) email Helgaunkeless@yahoo.com

Minimum donation of \$5 per card is appreciated.

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

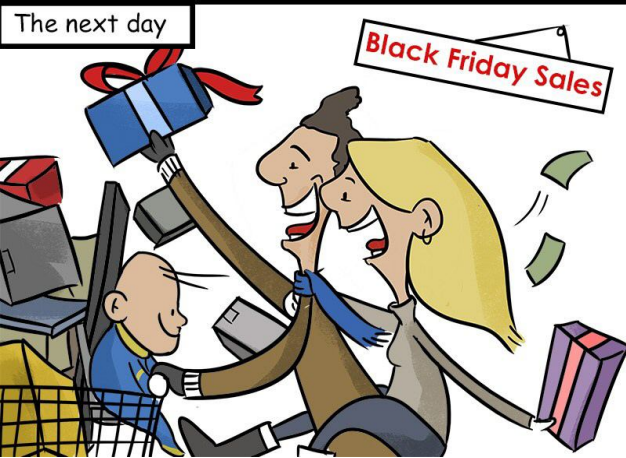
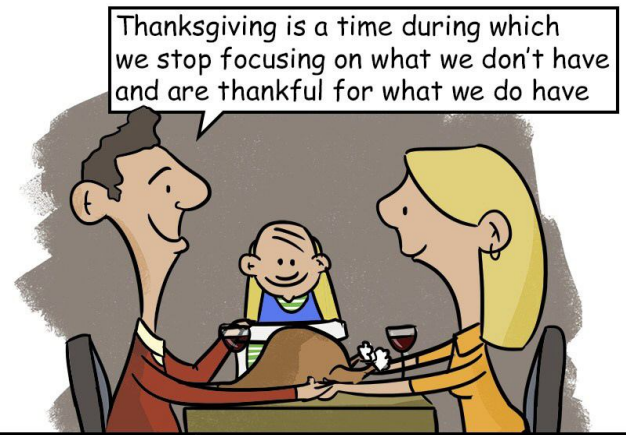
Sheilah Hart
Jerry Gort
Phyllis Schroeder



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

Shir Ami Vorspan Sukkah Celebration

Bonnie and Rabbi David Vorspan opened their sukkah to the Shir Ami community Monday afternoon October 21. We admired their decorations, enjoyed Bonnie's homemade refreshments, and obeyed the mitzvah of waving the lulav and smelling the etrog. Rabbi Vorspan explained the significance of the lulav branches and the Sukkot holiday traditions.



MOSES SAYS WE, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, NEED TO BE HOLY IN EVERY ASPECT...



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Are We Broken?

by Lou Loomis

The Jewish people have faced some pretty tough times over its three-plus millennia history. However, here in the United States Jews have had a fairly easy time. We've managed to escape the ups and downs of European and Muslim anti-semitism. We've thrived in America.

But since the terror attacks of October of last year, something new has happened: we American Jews have become targeted by Jew-haters in our own America. It's bewildering. It's painful. It's crazy. And it's actually driving many of our fellow Jews into despair and self-hatred, which could also be a type of self-examination to determine what we did wrong to deserve such abuse. Or, how did we teach our children that it may be okay to turn their backs on our own Jewish people.

However, the truth is that Jews have always been targets of causeless hatred. In Israel, especially, Jews have had to learn to cope while living in the hostile neighborhood like the middle east.

We are resilient.

The problems that beset our people, only 0.2% of the world's population, would have broken most normal ethnic groups. The problems and hatred directed toward us could easily have destroyed us. But, as you know, we are not like other people, and particularly in one remarkable way: we may break, but we manage to rise again and again. That's our history and legacy. Jews are resilient, and, have written the "book" on resilience.

Israel's former Ambassador to the UN, **Meirav Shahar**, recently gave a talk before that body's General Assembly regarding the Jewish People and their struggles. Here are her words:



***"For all our ill-wishers in this room and beyond:
To those who place clocks counting down to our
destruction in our cities; to those who pray for our
disappearance; to those who plan for our extinction;
and most of all, to those who rejoice in our pain; I
would like to tell you about the Japanese art of
Kinstugi. In this art form, damaged pottery is either
recovered or new pottery is intentionally broken so it
can be mended and improved. It becomes stronger
and more beautiful than before.***



In Kintsugi, one does not conceal the breaking. One honors what has been broken. And more importantly, what has survived by highlighting it with seams of gold. Few things amplify the Jewish people like the art of kintsugi. We have a long and painful history. We do not hide the damage; we highlight the repair. Like a vase that has been broken and repaired countless times, we live to tell the story. Our story. We rebuild ourselves stronger than ever. More determined. Our will to live, love and flourish and to overcome is unbreakable. You wish to see us disappear into oblivion, by all means, I invite you... to hold your breath."



Five years ago and not long before he died, singer, songwriter, and poet **Leonard Cohen** gave a concert in London and sang his famous song - *Anthem*. I invite everyone to find it and listen to the words.

*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in*



May we all have a joyful and healthy New Year.
Happy 5785.



Biography of the Month: Stuart Kaminsky

by Stan Schroeder

One of my pastimes is reading detective and espionage novels. One of my current favorite authors is **Daniel Silva**, a Jewish author whose series about Gabriel Allon, an Israeli art restorer/spy has been on the bestseller lists. The personal information available about him is too sketchy for me to write even a short bio. So I looked up other Jewish authors of detective or espionage novels, and came across **Stuart Kaminsky**. Now I found this bio from July 2011.



Kaminsky was born in Chicago on September 29, 1934 to **Leo and Dorothy Kaminsky**. He inherited his love of detective fiction from his father, who devoured pulp mystery magazines. At the age of 12 he started reading his father's mysteries. Soon afterward he started writing stories.

He was drafted after high school during the Korean War, and served as a medic in France. After his army service he attended the University of Illinois on a soccer scholarship where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1957, followed by a master's in English literature in 1959.

Kaminsky received his PhD in Film Studies from Northwestern University in 1972, writing his thesis on a biographical study of director Don Siegel and an analysis of his films. He joined the faculty at Northwestern and prepared to publish *Don Siegel, Director* in 1974, based on his thesis. He followed this with other non-fiction books on film making and other film personalities including **Clint Eastwood**, **John Huston**, and **Gary Cooper**.

He made his mystery debut in 1977 with *Bullet for a Star*. The novel introduced Toby Peters, a down-at-the-heels private eye in the 1930s and 40s. The setting is Hollywood, and Peters's client is **Errol Flynn**, who, not surprisingly, is being blackmailed. This became the first in a series of 24 mysteries featuring Toby Peters and such Hollywood stars as **Judy Garland**, **Cary Grant**, **Joan Crawford**, and other notables of the era such as **Howard Hughes** and Joe Louis. The last book was *Now You See It* in 2004.

In 1981 *Death of a Dissident* was the first mystery of a new series featuring Inspector Porfiry Rostnikov, a philosophical Moscow police detective and a lone wolf who covertly adores the crime novels of Ed McBain. This series of 16 goes from the Soviet era to

the present. The last, *A Whisper to the Living*, was published in 2010, the year after his death. Kaminsky felt he needed to take time between novels of the same character in order to keep the character fresh.

Kaminsky taught at Northwestern until 1989 when he became the first director of the Graduate Film Conservatory at Florida State University in Sarasota. In 1990 he created a third series, this time drawing from his home base of Chicago and his life in the Jewish community there. The main character is Abe Lieberman, a 60-ish, intensely moral Chicago cop beset by family *tsuris*. Abe and his Irish Catholic partner, Bill Hanrahan, provided a vehicle for Kaminsky to combine mystery with Jewish themes. *Lieberman's Folly* in 1991 was followed by nine more, the last being *The Dead Don't Lie* in 2007.

When asked in an interview if he thought there's something quite appropriate about the pairing of Judaism and crime fiction, Kaminsky (a member of a Conservative congregation) answered,

For me there is a definite match. Abe is a Hebrew bible character. He does not turn the other cheek. He is willing to go beyond the limits of the law to mete out justice. He has a strong moral sense and believes that there are evil people and they must be dealt with. Like a biblical character, Abe is also not surprised by anything God does. He accepts the infathomability of God and is not in anguish over the tragedy of human existence. His name is Abraham for a reason. I read the Scriptures before I go to bed about three nights a week, not because I'm a zealot but because I think the lessons of the book are hard and reflect the reality of our existence, as I hope my Lieberman novels do. Essentially, God or whatever you wish to call the force that runs the universe (chance, evolution, etc.) can do anything at any time. Our task is not to struggle to understand. It is beyond understanding. Our task is to accept that anything can happen and we must live with it and create a moral set of imperatives that give our lives meaning.

After moving to Sarasota, Kaminsky started a fourth series with Lew Fonesca, a depressive process server working in Sarasota, as the main character.

Kaminsky moved to St. Louis in 2009 to await a liver transplant because of the hepatitis C he contracted while a medic in France. Unfortunately he had a stroke and died there October 9.

I plan to start reading his Lieberman books.

How Jews Helped to Create the Quintessential American Holiday (excerpted from www.aish.com)
by Dr. Yvette Alt Miller

Modeling the first Thanksgiving on Sukkot

America's first Thanksgiving holiday took place in 1621, just a few months after the first Pilgrim settlers first landed on the shores of Cape Cod in Massachusetts. They arrived in the New World just as winter was approaching, and spent their first few months in Massachusetts huddled on the *Mayflower* boat that had brought them from England, subsisting on the ship's stores of food. Fully half of the Pilgrims perished over the winter.



When the weather began to improve, they ventured onto land. March 21 was the day the Pilgrims officially left the *Mayflower* and began to farm and build homesteads. The Pilgrims were aided by members of the local Abenaki, Pawtuxet, and Wampanoag tribes, particularly by a Pawtuxet man named **Squanto** who had an amazing history. He had been kidnapped some years previously by an English ship captain, had learned English, and eventually returned to his tribe in Massachusetts. With Squanto's aid, the Pilgrims succeeded in cultivating native crops.

At harvest time, the Pilgrims declared a three-day long feast of Thanksgiving to thank God for their harvest. Deeply religious Christians, the Pilgrims were well acquainted with the Hebrew Bible and Jewish holidays, including the autumn festival of Sukkot, when Jewish pilgrims brought offerings from their harvests to the Temple in Jerusalem. Some see the first American Thanksgiving was an attempt to thank God for His beneficence in a new place, and to a new set of Pilgrims, a conscious imitation of Sukkot.

Pilgrim leader **William Bradford** had another Jewish custom in mind when he declared a service of thanksgiving soon after the Pilgrims made landfall in 1620. He opened his Bible and led the Pilgrims in reciting Psalm 107. Incredibly, the annotations in Bradford's Bible, written by the English clergyman **Henry Ainsworth**, quoted the Medieval Jewish sage **Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon (Rambam)**, whose legal work the *Mishnah Torah* directs Jews to recite a prayer based on Psalm 107 after making a dangerous journey and overcoming other obstacles. It seems that the very first American act of Thanksgiving had Jewish roots as William Bradford incorporated Jewish traditions into his first thanksgiving prayers in the New World.

Ensuring Jews Can Celebrate Thanksgiving

During Colonial times, it was common for colonies to declare special days of thanksgiving at times of prosperity and good fortune. Shearith Israel, the oldest synagogue in America, eagerly took part. Established in 1654 by Sephardi Jews seeking refuge from the Portuguese Inquisition in Brazil, Shearith Israel (also known as the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue) took part in various thanksgiving celebrations that were declared by New York's colonial governor. Shearith Israel wrote new prayers and included prayers of thanksgiving during these colonial thanksgiving days.

There were times, however, when New York's Colonial Governor insisted that special days of thanksgiving have a specifically Christian character. (This was true of other colonies as well, which sometimes insisted that days of thanksgiving be celebrated with Christian prayers.) At these times, Shearith Israel had no choice but to refrain from taking part. The synagogue's predicament became known to **George Washington**, thanks to the synagogue's leader, **Gershom Mendes Seixas**, the congregation's cantor who was devoted to the cause of American Independence, and his family.

Many of Shearith Israel's members joined the Continental Army and fought with George Washington; approximately 20 members of the synagogue died in America's revolutionary war. After the war, Seixas was selected to be one of the small number of clergy people present at George Washington's presidential inauguration. When the new President declared a national day of Thanksgiving for the new United States in 1789, he specifically made his day of thanks non-denominational, ensuring that his Jewish supporters could fully take part in America's first national thanksgiving festival.

Gershom Mendes Seixas' brother Moses was active in his own synagogue in Rhode Island, Kahal Kadosh Yeshuat Yisrael (later called the Touro Synagogue). In 1790, seven years after the conclusion of America's War of Independence, President George Washington visited that synagogue and **Moses Seixas** delivered him a warm letter of affection on behalf of his congregation. President Washington responded with a letter of his own, in which he famously reiterated his strong belief that America was not to be a Christian nation, but one to which all peoples could equally contribute and call home.

(continued on page 8)

How Jews Helped to Create the Quintessential American Holiday

(excerpted from www.aish.com) (continued)

"All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship," Washington wrote. "For happily the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it all on occasions their effectual support..." It was a strong reminder that America's national character must include all its citizens, no matter what their religious persuasion.

Editor's Note: This complete article written for Thanksgiving 2021 is at <https://aish.com/6-ways-jews-shaped-thanksgiving/>

Dr. Alt Miller lives with her family in Chicago, and has lectured internationally on Jewish topics. Her book "Angels at the table: a Practical Guide to Celebrating Shabbat" takes readers through the rituals of Shabbat and more, explaining the full beautiful spectrum of Jewish traditions with warmth and humor. It has been praised as "life-changing", a modern classic, and used in classes and discussion groups around the world.



***Shearith Israel** mentioned in this article as the oldest synagogue on the U.S. is now located in New York City and the rabbi there is **Rabbi Meir Soloveichik** whose lectures for Tikvah Fund I have recommended on numerous occasions.*

***Squanto**, mentioned in this article as helpful to the Pilgrims in 1621, has a more complex history than that presented in this article and the usual simplified version generally taught.*

Stan Schroeder, Editor



National Museum of American Jewish Military History (from their website)

1811 R St. NW, Washington, DC

As Nazi Germany emerged as a hostile power in Europe, American Jews with strong convictions about liberty and democracy served their country in unprecedented numbers. The Jewish Welfare Board estimated that 550,000 Jews served in the armed forces of the United States between 1941 and 1945. *Conviction* tells the story of those American Jews who fought and sacrificed in every branch of service and every theater during World War II. From **Rabbi Alexander Goode**, who was one of the four chaplains who perished when the U.S.S. *Dorchester* sank, to **Frances Slanger**, who was the only nurse to die as the result of enemy action in the European Theater, Jews played an important role in the Allied victory.

Conviction (exhibit at museum) features two multi-media elements. The first is a touchscreen interactive featuring images of World War II, from mobilization to homecoming. The second is an oral history listening station. Visitors can listen to firsthand accounts of Jewish service members who encountered the Holocaust and liberated survivors.

A large display case includes a propeller blade salvaged from **Reuben Fier's** B-17 bomber that was shot down over France on January 1, 1944, a diary kept by **Louis T. Wigdortz** while a prisoner of war at Stalag Luft III (1944-45), and an ark used by **Chaplain Morris Gordon** for services on the Burma Trail services during WWII (ca. 1943).



TREE OF LIFE

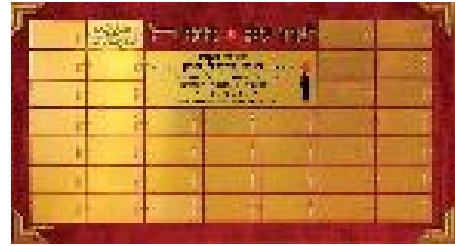


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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 Helga Unkeless at (818) 340-5751.

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 Helga Unkeless at (818) 340-5751 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.

A Prayer for the Thanksgiving Feast

By Rabbi Naomi Levy

For the laughter of the children,
 For my own life breath,
 For the abundance of food on this table,
 For the ones who prepared this sumptuous feast,
 For the roof over our heads,
 The clothes on our backs,
 For our health,
 And our wealth of blessings,
 For this opportunity to celebrate with family and friends,
 For the freedom to pray these words
 Without fear,
 In any language,
 In any faith,
 In this great country,
 Whose landscape is as vast and beautiful as her inhabitants.

Thank You, God, for giving us all these. Amen.

Rabbi Naomi Levy is the founder and spiritual leader of *Nashuva*, a groundbreaking Jewish community, based in Los Angeles. She is also a best-selling author of four books on Judaism and her personal journey.



Genesis *Bereshit* Annual Torah Reading Cycle

by Stan Schroeder

Last Shabbat, October 26 we began reading our Torah again. Rabbi Vorspan explained that although the words we read don't change, we do and can gain new insight. This is a poem I wrote about the Book of Genesis.

GENESIS: IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning was there a void?
Were previous creations already destroyed?
Does Genesis tell us of God in His glory?
What can we learn from this timeless story?

Maybe the Big Bang started Intelligent Design
And human beings are the end of the line.
Maybe we're cousins to the orangutan;
From reptiles to mammals to primates to man.

Genesis separates the day from the night,
Starting with darkness, then a primordial Light.
On each day God creates by speaking;
On each day we can learn by seeking.

We read of the Garden with Adam and Eve.
And of the serpent who strove to deceive.
That Eve bore Abel after she bore Cain;
And by his brother Abel was slain.

We read of Noah, how righteous was he;
While all the others were as corrupt as can be.
God told Noah He would flood the earth;
So Noah built an ark for all he was worth.

Besides his family, Noah took animals by pair;
A male and female, offspring to bear.
After a year the waters did recede.
Never will I do this again, God decreed.

We read of Abraham of Ur who spoke with God;
Given a test to sacrifice Isaac, very odd.
Jacob wrestled with angels in the dead of the night.
Joseph interpreted dreams with clear insight.

One story after another with questions galore;
Each more troubling than the one before.
Characters with flaws, hardly enlightened;
Mostly uncertain, often they're frightened.

And from these pages there's wisdom we're told.
Ours for the reading if we can be bold.
The wisdom is there; a journey called living;
And answers emerge from a process called giving.

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

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

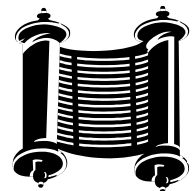


This popular Shir Ami educational series starts its 5785 season. Come join us for our weekly discussion of Rabbi Vorspan’s selected topics of Jewish interest. We discuss Jewish texts and current events as they relate to Jewish values and our lives as Jews. This is a unique opportunity to learn and share 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 November 16, 10:30 am Torah/Shabbat Study at Schroeder home



Stan Schroeder has started his tenth 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 November 16. The Torah portion is *Vayera*, Genesis 18:1 - 22:24. It includes the story of Sodom, the birth of Isaac, and God’s commanding Abraham to sacrifice him. This session will be held at the Schroeder home, 8450 Winnetka Ave. #14. Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 or email 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**

If you want to be added to our email list, please send an email to stanpacbell@gmail.com and you will receive ongoing information.

Saturday 10:30 am unless otherwise noted

October 2024

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



November 2024

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

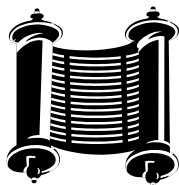


December 2024

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

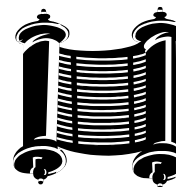
January 2025

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

Congregation Shir Ami Mitzvah Day
Sunday, November 3 at 11:00 AM
(don't forget to set your clock back one hour)
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 if you have any questions. \$10 will be taken at the door.