



Shir Notes

The Official Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami Volume 13, Number 5, June - July 2015
Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Events of the Month

Shabbat services at New Community Jewish High School

Saturday, June 6, 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, June 20, 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

Walk Around Lake Balboa Sunday, June 7, 9:00 am

Our Walk this year raises money for research for Crohn's disease and colitis. **Call Fran Kobulnick** at (818) 345-2405. See articles on pages 4 and 9 and flyer.

Torah and Shabbat Study Saturday, June 13, 10:30 am Northridge Mobile Home Park

Stan Schroeder leads a monthly study and discussion session on a Saturday we don't have a service.

Ice Cream Social Sunday, June 28, 3:00 pm at Northridge Mobile Home Park

This annual members appreciation event will feature ice cream sundaes and a surprise program. Call **Ken Bereny** at (818) 324-0688. See article on page 2 and flyer.



Visit our website:
www.shirami.com

Rabbi's Column



Whenever I conclude working on a document on my computer, I am asked if I want to save the information. I appreciate the reminders. It would be a shame to work so hard on something and then lose it so easily.

But there's always a part of me that questions the wisdom of saving a document. Does it really reflect my best efforts? Is information so necessary that it should be saved for the ages? Would it be better to just delete it? Are we saving so much that we are drowning in bytes?

And then I look into my garage.

Should I really be saving so much? There isn't even any room left for a car! Bonnie and I have pledged to sort through the memorabilia, distribute to the children and grandchildren what should rightfully be theirs, and throw out that which is no longer working, either emotionally, esthetically, or mechanically.

Rabbi David Vorspan

Thanks to **Judy Eisikowitz** for taking minutes at our Board meetings (temporarily) as our Secretary. We are still seeking someone permanent.

Give Congregation Shir Ami a "Helping Hand"

by Sherry Dollins and Ellen Frened, co-Chairs

Our major fundraiser for this year is well underway. We need your participation to fill our coffers and also buy a magnificent *yad* to be used for Torah reading on Shabbat and the High Holy Days. Be as generous as you can, please! See the attached flyer and note that this fundraiser ends on June 30th. We need time to order the *yad* to be presented at the first Shabbat service in September.



The *yad* that is currently used during religious services is one that belongs to the Vorspans that Bonnie brings with her whenever our Torahs are read. This project will allow us to purchase a *yad* for the synagogue that will permanently hang on one of the Torahs in the Ark. This will be another way that we can beautify our sanctuary with a meaningful and useful ritual item.

We try to have a fundraising program once a year to help ensure that our synagogue can continue to provide the programs that we all find so meaningful and rewarding. By donating to the purchase of our own *yad*, you will be helping to add funds to assist our congregation with its on-going religious, cultural, social action and community programs.

If you have any questions, please call us (see our numbers on the flyer).

President's Report

Shalom,

Summer is fast approaching and we will be taking a little time to slow down and relax so we can return tanned, rested, and ready in time for another year of doing what we do.



But, not so fast! We still have an activity-packed June ahead of us. In addition to two more Saturday Shabbat services, our Social Action Committee will be sponsoring our annual "**Walk Around Lake Balboa**" to benefit the fight **against Crohn's disease and colitis**. Our **SOVA bins** are waiting to be filled, and we will end June with our annual **Ice Cream Social**. Plus, our **fundraiser to buy a Yad** for our services will continue through June. Then, you can rest.

We will be taking July and August "off" and will not be having Shabbat services until September. Well, except for our **BBQ and Barchu** in August, but more on that later. We will also be participating in the community **Shabbat in the Park** at Warner Park in August, but more on that later, too.

And then, we look forward to holding our High Holy Day Services, in our new location at the New Community Jewish High School. So don't squander the summer. We had all better get a good rest because, we'll need it!

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

Thank you. **Jordan Pistol**, President

Ice Cream Social Sunday, June 28



Our annual Ice Cream Social will be Sunday, June 28 at 3:00 pm at the rec room of Northridge Mobile Home Park. This afternoon event is **free to our members** and a great opportunity to get together before our two month summer break.

The event chairperson is again **Ken Bereny**. Besides our usual delicious ice cream sundaes to delight your tummy, Ken is planning a surprise program to make this a really memorable afternoon.

Please see flyer for more details and how to register.

BBQ & Barchu Friday, August 28

by Harvey Cohen, Event Chairperson



On August 28th, we will be celebrating an event of long-standing tradition at Congregation Shir Ami.

The BBQ and Barchu will be held at Temple Ramat Zion and the services will be led by our own **Rabbi Vorspan**. As in years past, we ask that you wear white to help Rabbi Vorspan recall his teenage summer Shabbats at Camp Ramah.

The Shabbat meal will be a catered delicious meal with barbeque chicken and fixin's. The price is \$25 for adults. You can help to offset dinner expenses by becoming a sponsor at \$35 per person.

The dinner will be served at 6:45 pm and a service outside under the stars will follow at 8:00.

Paid reservations are required by Monday, August 24th. See the flyer in this *Shir Notes*. I look forward to seeing you and your families after our long summer break.

Notes from the new Treasurer

by Michael Easley



I never wanted to be Congregation Shir Ami's Treasurer, but with **Clara and Stan Rosenbluth** leaving for points north, someone had to step up. While doing so, I want to salute

Clara's service as Treasurer, after serving us as President, in watching over our then precarious finances and keeping us afloat. Her leadership and influence helped bring about the strategies that now have us financially healthy. Thank you, Clara.

I know many of your faces from services and other events. I'm getting to know members' names I didn't already know. What I've always been a little slow at is matching up the names and the faces. Let's get acquainted.

Please help me do my job in identifying the intent of your contributions. If you do not submit the tear-off section of a flyer or letter, please put the purpose of the contribution in the memo line of your check. Please include (legibly) the full name of yahrzeits and other honorees.

You may email me at easley@hotmail.com.



DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

- Fran Friedman for Dinah Rubin, Jean Friedman, and Allen Friedman
- Jacque Gordon for Marshall Gordon
- Anonymous family member for Joe Hockmeyer
- Andrea and Leon Nachenberg for her father Milton Stover and his mother Sheila Nachenberg
- Richard Shapiro
- Dan and Lorraine Simansky for Florence Sitzer
- Irving Strassner for mother-in-law Ann Beth
- Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan for Sandy Vorspan
- Armand and Rae Wazana for his brother Isaac Wazana
- Sylvia Hockmeyer for Joseph Hockmeyer
- Amir Gnessin and Orit Stieglitz for Shaula Stieglitz and Shoshana Gnessin
- Nancy and Lonny Scharf for Blima Frollech

Birthdays

- Ed Orens
- Laurie Orens
- Yael and Gavi Sela
- Ben Vorspan

Other

- Ellen Fremed in honor of Stan and Clara Rosenbluth
- Clara and Stan Rosenbluth "as a token of our gratitude for all this congregation has given us over many years"

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Al Simon.....	6/2
Wayne Geffen.....	6/3
Sondra Licht.....	6/6
Gary Finlay.....	6/10
Stan Rosenbluth.....	6/14
Nancy Bereny.....	6/15
Irwin Koransky.....	6/15
Jay Cohen.....	6/26
Helga Unkeless.....	6/26
David Lipman.....	6/29
Gale Cohen.....	7/1
Heather Hyman.....	7/1
Ethel Granik.....	7/7
Paula Mishkin.....	7/9
Fran Feinman.....	7/12
Ed Schackman.....	7/15
Mariana Stark.....	7/19
Barbara Hattem.....	7/22
Alan Siebler.....	7/22
Phyllis Schroeder.....	7/27
Stan Goodman.....	7/27
Charlene Kazel.....	7/29
Judy Eisikowitz.....	7/30

Anniversaries

Bette and Owen Delman.....	6/7	51st
Marcie and Steve Spetner.....	6/10	36th
Becky and Gary Finlay.....	6/13	16th
Paula and Paul Frankel.....	6/16	25th
Bonnie and Rabbi David Vorspan	6/20	45th
Karen and Fenton Harvey.....	6/24	31st
Sherry and Lee Dollins.....	6/25	48th
Maralyn and Paul Soifer.....	6/28	46th
Clara and Stan Rosenbluth.....	7/6	63rd
Lorraine and Dan Simansky.....	7/10	50th
Susan and David Lipman.....	7/12	45th
Sima and Stephen Schuster.....	7/15	48th
Laura and Al Simon.....	7/30	54th

Mailbox

Congregation Shir Ami,



We wish to thank our Shir Ami Family for all their kind thoughts and presence as we observe the passing of Lew's beloved sister, **Aarion Verity**.

Lew and Claire Silverman

Our Condolences

We regret to inform the congregational family of the passing of: **Aarion Verity**, sister of member **Lew Silverman**.



May God comfort the Verity and Silverman families at this time of their bereavement.

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:



- Gerry and Sam Hochberg**
- Fran and Sam Kobulnick**
- Phyllis Robinson**
- Ed Halem**

Stan Schroeder forearm melanoma surgery

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

Social Action Committee

A special thank you to those who donated the 49 Target \$10 gift cards for the women and children in the Domestic Violence Shelters we help sponsor for Mother's Day. The cards were delivered on Friday, May 8th to the shelter, so that the women and children would be able to have them on Mother's Day. I was told that everyone was overwhelmed and very appreciative. Your kindness and thoughtfulness allowed these families to feel remembered and important during this difficult time in their lives.



Our Committee went to West Valley Healthcare on Friday, May 8 to bring in the Sabbath and have a Mother's and Father's Day celebration with the residents. Thanks to **Laura Simon** for arranging to have the beautiful plants for the residents. Laura did not think we would be able to get plants this year, but at the very last moment, yet again, we had a miracle extended to us. Also thanks to **Claire Silverstein** for picking up the challah and dessert for our visit. The room was full of residents and they were excited to see our Social Action team. We always start off with bringing in the Sabbath, and we all say the blessings over the candles, challah and wine. Claire leads everyone in a sing-along throughout our visits.



Thanks to **Ellie Zatz, Laura, Claire, Rae Wazana, Sheilah and Lisa Hart, and Mike Easley** for working hard to do one-on-one visits in residents' rooms while distributing the beautiful plants, and keeping the celebration going on for those who came to be with us. The smiles on all the residents' faces and their singing along create the best feeling we could possibly experience. I hope that more of you will come to perform this mitzvah with us on future visits.

We are having our annual **Walk Around Lake Balboa**, Sunday, June 7 to benefit Crohn's disease and colitis research. There is no cure for these diseases yet, so your donations will be used toward finding a long awaited cure. Sign-in and registration begins at 8:30 am at the Pavilion where we proudly hang our Shir Ami sign. Hopefully, you have all sent in your flyers with your donations and registration. We need a head count for our walkers and for our brunch. See the flyer with this issue to register. We also ask that you bring a veggie platter, fruit platter, side dish (*pareve*), dessert, or something else delicious to share at our brunch. **Ellie and Jerry Zatz** will supply water bottles for the Walk and the brunch.

We will have tables set up for those who cannot walk where they can write cards for **Operation Gratitude** and **Project MOT** to be forwarded to our deployed military. We will have great weather (as ordered), a guest speaker, and special brunch thanks to all of you. Please remember to wear your white Mitzvah Patrol tee shirts too. Look for our signs on the road entering the park from Balboa Blvd, between Victory and Burbank Blvd, then follow the signs towards the Pavilion, and look for Congregation Shir Ami banner and members.

Our **Mitzvah Day** will be Sunday, November 1 at Temple Judea. However our planning for the event will begin June 14. If you have any project ideas, call our event Chair, **Leon Nachenberg** at (818) 885-6736. We welcome new members to our Committee.

See the article on page 8 and flyer for information about this year's **SOVA High Holy Day food drive**.

Fran Kobulnick, Social Action VP

Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel



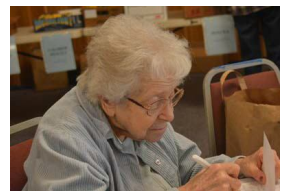
There's no June gloom when you've been a groom and then a proud, happy, and wonderful Dad.

To those dads and others who are away on distant shores, we send gifts to let them know that everyone at home cares about them.

Thank you, one and all, for your efforts and generosity in making our gift giving program such a huge success. Happy Father's Day.

PS: Please collect and save books over the summer and I will be collecting them at our first meeting in the fall. Thank you.

Our Sunshine Lady: Fran Friedman



Congregation Shir Ami now has its very own Sunshine Lady who brings a spark of cheer and joy to those who need a caring person to call when they are under the weather or down in the dumps. **Fran Friedman** has taken it upon herself to be that person.

As **Harvey Cohen** shared during a recent Shabbat service, Fran's cheery welcome call when **Betty** was ill brought sunshine to their day. Call Fran at **(818) 514-6994** if you know someone in need of this service.

Morrie and the Corned Beef

by Owen Delman

"Here's where you'll work most of the time. The counter guys call out the bread order and you bag it. Don't mix up the egg and water bagels, the sesame and the poppy, and -- well, you get the idea. Right?"

"Yessir"

I was fourteen and my first day working at the deli. I was going to be a "bagel bagger." Morrie, the owner, who looked like he needed a shave and had an intimidating gruff voice, was giving me "the tour."



I didn't know there were that many kinds of bagels. In my house there were only two: sesame and onion. Morrie introduced me to a whole universe: egg, water, garlic, rye, pumpernickel, sesame and onion. Then there were the bagel cousins: bialys, onion rolls ("Don't confuse the two, kid,") and kaiser rolls.

"Sometimes, you'll be helping the waitresses at the drink station or getting something from the refrigerator for Louie at the counter." Morrie then walked me into the refrigerator which was really a room bigger than my bedroom. Heavy gallon cartons of milk, boxes of eggs, trays of lox, huge tubs of cream cheese and whipped butter, a million kinds of cheese and all the other necessities of a deli were stored on wire shelves lining the walls.

The refrigerator was a room as big as my bedroom. Its slippery concrete floor was an obstacle course of very large open wooden barrels filled with pale green old and bright green new pickles and one smaller barrel of pickled green tomatoes. There were three or four barrels filled with slabs of corned beef and pastrami the size of National Geographic ice floes.

Morrie quickly pointed out where items were stored. Then "the tour" was over. As I followed him out into the warmth of the restaurant, he said over his shoulder, "We're kosher style but we still try and keep the milk stuff away from the meats." With that, he walked me back to the bagel bins and disappeared to do something else.

A waitress, Angel, came over. "Honey, Morrie sounds tough but he's really a pussy cat. Don't worry. Just don't screw up too much and you'll be fine." So, of course, I began to worry -- "what's too much?"



However, after a few days, I did get the routine of the bread bins. "A dozen water sesame, six onion and six egg poppy!" A dozen of anything meant thirteen and always have enough plastic bags for the whole order.

As Morrie had said, one of my jobs was helping the waitresses and a day or two later Angel asked me to bring three gallons of milk to the drink station which had its own small refrigerator. "And hurry, it's about lunch time and we're out of milk."

In the refrigerator, the milk cartons were on a top shelf above the eggs, lox trays and cheeses. I needed the room's ladder to reach them and, after balancing a tray on the rim of a barrel, began to take down the bulky cartons one at a time. Then it happened! When I positioned the third carton, the entire tray tipped over into the barrel. On its slow motion descent, one carton hit the barrel's edge and split open. In horror, still standing on the ladder, I looked down at the now milky white corned beef slabs. "Kosher style" was how Morrie had described the deli. I wondered what style of kosher this would be. Then I thought of Angel's words -- "Don't screw up too much!" I was pretty sure this qualified as "too much!"

I was still staring from atop the ladder when she stuck her head in. "So where's my milk, boychik," quickly followed by, "Oy, watcha do?"

"The tray dropped into the corned beef."

"I see that, but, you know what? I still need that milk. I'll take a gallon and you go tell Morrie and see what he wants to do."

She took her milk and left me with a barrel of creamed corned beef and no idea what to do. The place never seemed so lonely and cold. I had to face the music. Leaving the disaster room, I found Morrie behind the counter talking to Louie and another counterman. "What is it, kid?"

As quietly and quickly as I could I answered, "I-screwed-up!"

"What?"

"I dropped a tray of milk into the corned beef barrel. It's all over the meat. I'm sorry, Morrie." My ears burned red as I saw the countermen smiling at the situation.

After a lengthy pause, he asked, "Did you clean it up?"

"What?"

(continued on page 8)

Biography of the Month: Ze'ev Jabotinsky

by Stan Schroeder



On April 19 **Rick Richman** spoke at our Brunch and Learn on *Israel at the Crossroads*. He gave us his insights on the recent election in Israel and talked about three important Jewish leaders from British mandate Palestine who visited the U.S. in 1940 to raise awareness of the plight of the Jews in Europe. They were **Chaim Weizmann**, **Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky**, and **David Ben-Gurion**. Weizmann and Ben-Gurion are well known and I have written about them before. Jabotinsky is less well known, often misunderstood, and I haven't written his bio in this column.

Jabotinsky was born **Vladimir Yevgenyevich Zhabotinsky** October 18, 1880 in Odessa (modern Ukraine) into an assimilated Jewish family. His father, **Yevno** who hailed from Nikopol, was a member of the Russian Society of Sailing and Trade that was primarily involved in wheat trading. His mother **Chava** opened a store in Odessa selling stationery, and enrolled young Vladimir in the city's gymnasium. Raised in a Jewish middle-class home, Jabotinsky was educated in Russian schools. Although he studied Hebrew as a child, he wrote in his autobiography that his upbringing was divorced from Jewish faith and tradition.

In 1896 he began writing articles for a major local Russian newspaper, the *Odessa Leaflet*, and was sent to Italy and Switzerland as a correspondent. He also worked with another newspaper, the *Odessa News*. Jabotinsky wrote under the pseudonym "Altalena" ("swing" in Italian). He graduated from the Sapienza University of Rome law school, and qualified as a lawyer when he returned to Russia. He married Yohana in late 1907. They had one child, **Eri**, who became a member of the Irgun-inspired Bergson Group and briefly served in the Knesset.

Prior to the Kishinev pogrom of 1903, he joined the Zionist movement and soon became known as a powerful speaker and an influential leader. With more pogroms looming on the horizon, he established the Jewish Self-Defense Organization, a militant group to safeguard Jewish communities throughout Russia. He became the source of great controversy in the Russian Jewish community as a result of these actions.

Around this time, he began learning modern Hebrew, and took a Hebrew name: *Vladimir* became *Ze'ev* ("wolf"). During the pogroms, he organized self-defense units in Jewish communities across Russia

and fought for the civil rights of the Jewish population as a whole. His slogan was, "*Better to have a gun and not need it than to need it and not have it!*" Another slogan was, "*Jewish youth, learn to shoot!*"

In 1903, he was elected as a Russian delegate to the Sixth Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland. After **Theodore Herzl's** death in 1904, he became the leader of the right-wing Zionists. That year he moved to St. Petersburg and became one of the co-editors for the magazine *Yevreiskaya Zhyzn* (Jewish Life), which after 1907, became the official publishing body of the Zionist movement in Russia.

During World War I, he had the idea of establishing a Jewish Legion to fight alongside the British against the Ottomans who then controlled Palestine. In 1915, together with **Joseph Trumpeldor**, a one-armed veteran of the Russo-Japanese War, he created the Zion Mule Corps, which consisted of several hundred Jewish men, mostly exiled from Palestine. After the Corps was disbanded Jabotinsky went to London. In 1917, the British government agreed to establish three Jewish battalions, initiating the Jewish Legion. As an honorary lieutenant in the 38th Royal Fusiliers, he saw action in Palestine in 1918. His battalion was one of the first to enter Transjordan.

In 1920, Jabotinsky was elected to the first Assembly of Representatives in Palestine. The following year he was elected to the executive council of the Zionist Organization. He left the mainstream Zionist movement in 1923, however, due to differences of opinion between him and its chairman, Chaim Weizmann, and established a new revisionist party called Alliance of Revisionists-Zionists and its youth movement, Betar. During the 1920s he openly trained Jews in warfare and he and his fighters were imprisoned after the 1920 Arab riots involving attacks on Jewish settlements.

During the 1930s, Jabotinsky was deeply concerned with the situation of the Jewish community in Eastern Europe, particularly Poland. In 1936, he prepared the so-called "evacuation plan", which called for the evacuation of the entire Jewish population of Poland, Hungary, and Romania to Palestine. It was vetoed by both the British government and the Zionists.

He was trying to drum up support for a Jewish Army when he died of a heart attack in New York, on August 4, 1940, while visiting a Jewish self-defense camp run by Betar. 12,000 people stood outside the chapel in New York City at which 200 cantors sang the ancient ritual chant. In 1964 he and his wife were reburied in Mount Herzl Cemetery in Jerusalem.

May 2 Rosenbluth Farewell Addresses: Clara

In 1960, over the Memorial Day weekend, we moved into our new home in Woodland Hills. Stan and I were 31 and 27 years old and our kids were 7, 5 and 2 ½. One of the first things I did after we settled in was to join Temple Beth Ami. A Sisterhood member happened to be in the Temple office when I walked in to register. She introduced herself and we had a brief conversation. She asked the usual questions and I told her we had just moved to Woodland Hills from Panorama City. We had been members of Temple Torat Emet where I had been Sisterhood Ways and Means VP. A few days later I received a phone call from **Yetta Furst**, Sisterhood President, inviting me to serve on the sisterhood board. That is how it all started.



About three or four years later I was elected Sisterhood President. The part of the job that scared me the most was that it meant I would have a seat on the Temple board of directors. I was totally intimidated by this all male body that ran the temple. In those days the only position held by a woman was Recording Secretary.

Another duty as Sisterhood President was presenting a gift to girls becoming bat mitzvah. The ceremony was held during Friday evening services. I was petrified of speaking in front of a crowd so I made the presentation in as few words as possible. "It gives me great pleasure to present you this pair of candle sticks on behalf of Sisterhood. I hope that each Friday evening when you use them they will remind you of this very special occasion. *Mazal tov!*" And that was it. Over time, as I gained some self confidence, I found my voice and I haven't stopped talking since then, always ready to express my opinion.

I considered attending services to be an integral part of Temple membership. I felt that as Sisterhood President I had an obligation to set an example, so Stan and I began attending Friday evening services on a regular basis. Our son, David, would amuse himself playing with my gloves. Yes, in those days we wore hats and gloves to services. David often fell asleep with his head on my lap, but during the *oneg* he was wide awake. He would stand next to the table right by the bowl of nuts and raisins. After eating some, he would stuff his pockets. Attending Friday evening services started out of a sense of obligation and soon became a habit which evolved into an important part of our weekly routine.

This congregation, and in particular our rabbi, have helped shape the person I am today. I used to have

trouble accepting a God that determines everything that happens. It made me feel like a puppet. How could I be an authentic Jew if I did not believe in a God as described in our prayers? Then I learned from Rabbi that Judaism actually encourages questioning. There are other concepts of God that are acceptable within Judaism. This gave me the freedom to seek an understanding of God that I could live with.

I also learned from Rabbi that observance of Jewish law does not have to be an all or nothing proposition. We can take it one step at a time and increase our observance gradually. I have accepted the notion that I am a Conservative Jew in the making. I don't need to feel like a hypocrite if while I don't go to the market or the mall or the beauty shop on Shabbat, I do ride in a car. Sometimes I work in the garden and often solve crossword puzzles over breakfast on Saturday morning. I don't have to feel like a hypocrite if while I don't mix milk and meat or eat pork, I don't have two sets of dishes and I do eat in a non-kosher restaurant. It is not as important exactly where I am on the ladder of Jewish observance as it is making sure that I am moving in the right direction.

To me the bible stories I heard as a child seemed like Aesop's fables, a collection of stories intended to teach valuable lessons. I had trouble believing that what is described in the Torah happened as told. I learned from rabbi that the torah is not a history book that chronicles events as they occurred. It is more of a guide book that instructs us how to behave toward those around us - honoring our parents, respecting our fellow man, helping the needy, taking responsibility for the welfare of the community, fighting for justice, caring for the animals, protecting our environment, preserving our planet. The Torah is a book of truths that serves as a road map and lights our path as we travel down the road of life.

This congregation has been our second family, sharing the major events in our life and you have comforted us when we suffered a loss: the passing of our parents and most recently our grandson, Brandon. His *yahrzeit* will be in a few days.

Each one of you has helped shape who I am today. You are all a part of me and will always continue to be a part of me no matter where we happen to be living. Thank you very much for all you have given me, 55 years of learning and growth, 55 years of friendship and love.

Todah raba [Thank you.]
(continued on page 8)

May 2 Rosenbluth Farewell Addresses: Stan

There is a line in a song that says, "time goes by so slowly....", but in reality time goes by as quickly as a wink. I remember the first time I saw **Rabbi Vorspan** I asked myself, "is that kid going to be my rabbi?" I also remember the birth of Bonnie's and Rabbi's children and their weddings. How many of you remember the time Ben got stuck in his seat during services. While Bonnie struggled to free him, Rabbi continued right on conducting services without missing a beat.

I remember our *havurah* and all the good times we had. For years they helped us put up our *sukkah*. We shared many laughs and shed tears together at the passing of members of our extended family. I will always remember all of you who have come today to share with us this very emotional day. I will also remember the dear friends who are no longer with us. I hope you will remember us.

Mailbox

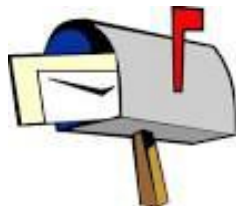
Dear Shir Ami family,

Thank you very much for the lovely Kiddush luncheon on May 2nd. We were very touched by all the kind words and the outpouring of love. Each time we enter our new home or leave, the beautiful mezuzah on our doorframe will remind us of you.

Please accept this donation as a token of our gratitude for all this congregation has given us over many years. You have enriched our lives. We will miss you very much.

Clara and Stan

Our new address is
950 Huasna Road #23
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420



Morrie and the Corned Beef

by Owen Delman (continued)

"The barrel, did you clean up the corned beef?"

"Clean up? Uh, no. I wanted to tell you and not stay away from my bread station too long."

"Okay, kid. Get one of the bus boys to wash off the corned beef, rinse out the barrel and put the meat back in. And, be more careful next time."

"That's it? Do we have to do anything else?"

"Like what? Let's just get it cleaned up and get back to work."

"Yes sir. Thank you."

"For what?" Then, with a smile and a slap on my back, he said "Kosher style, kid. Kosher style! We all do the best we can, right? Go bag some bread, kid."

As I hurried back to the bagels I passed Angel who had heard the whole conversation. She smiled at me and said, "See, like I said, 'Meow,'"

SOVA High Holy Day Food Drive 2015

The **JFS{SOVA Community Food and Resource Program** responds to hunger and poverty in our community by providing individuals and families with the resources they need to regain self sufficiency and independence including free groceries, case management, counseling, legal and job assistance, and other supportive services.

Because of caring community members like our congregation, SOVA was able to distribute more than 3.2 million pounds of food last year. The three SOVA pantries now serve an average of 12,000 people each month, almost three times as many as before the economic crisis began.

JFS{SOVA is a community program in all respects. We serve the diverse Los Angeles community; we depend on community volunteers; and we rely on community supporters who donate food and money. We are grateful to you for being part of the SOVA community.

Shir Ami has been a consistent supporter of their annual High Holy Day food drive. Last year we donated **573 pounds of food**. See the flyer with this issue for their requirements for this year and plan ahead with non-perishable food this summer.

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.

Walk Around Lake Balboa Sunday, June 7

by Sheilah Hart

We encourage everyone to support **Crohn's and Colitis Disease research** at our upcoming Walk.



If you are unable to participate in the Walk, we hope you will contribute to our effort to eradicate this auto-immune disease by sending in a donation.

Crohn's and Colitis are diseases of the entire bowel tract and the money we raises goes to fund research to combat these debilitating diseases. So many children are now being identified with these illnesses. The only thing we can do to help them is to RAISE FUNDS to discover new medicines and to find the CURE! .

All are welcome, please bring friends and children. Please help us fight these diseases by contributing to this cause..

Around the Rabbi's Tisch Concludes Season

by Stan Schroeder

Our weekly educational series at the Vorspan home has concluded its 5775 season. **Rabbi Vorspan** starts the series the Thursday after Yom Kippur and ends before Shavuot. The format includes the study of Jewish text and a discussion of current events as they relate to the Jewish people and Jewish values. We sit around the dining room table *tisch* (as our President **Jordan Pistol** is fond of saying "*on the Rebbetzin's chairs*") and, in the Jewish tradition, express our varying views on the subjects in an informal environment. Those of us who regularly attend enrich our lives and enjoy sharing opinions.



Thanks to **Rabbi and Bonnie** for their hospitality to our congregation

Generous Donation from Helga's Twinny

A special gift arrived for our *yad* from **Helga Unkeless' twinny, Herb**. He sent a generous donation because he feels so welcomed whenever he comes to visit. Thanks, Herb. We look forward to your visits!

Note: Herb lives in Montreal, visits Helga here, and they go on frequent worldwide vacation trips.

Mailbox

March 30, 2015

Fran Kobulnick, Congregation Shir Ami



We just learned that our November 2014 thank you letter to your congregation for your Mitzvah Day project somehow never reached your organization. It is important to us that your members know how much their generosity and hard work does for so many kids trying to get a good education under trying circumstances.

Our resolve to help reduce the gaps in the education of homeless children is stronger than ever in 2015. You reinforce that determination with your generosity of giving and kindness. Thank you for your wonderful gift of **120 backpacks** filled with school supplies on 11/2/14. Because of you, we achieved our 2014 goal of tutoring more than 3,100 homeless students, recruiting and training more than 1,800 volunteers, and reaching our financial targets.

We encourage you to visit our Skid Row Learning Center or one of the shelters where we tutor; both are rewarding ways to see the significant impact your donation is making for the students we serve.

On behalf of these children, thank you from the bottom of my ever-hopeful heart.

With gratitude,

Catherine Meek, Executive Director
School on Wheels, Inc.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the women victims of domestic violence served at our Family Violence Project, I would like to thank you very much for the **Target gift cards** you donated to our program in honor of Mother's Day. The women will indeed appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to buy something special for themselves. You have helped countless numbers of women every year with your generosity

As you know we feel passionate that all women and children deserve to live in violence-free homes and we thank you for joining us in that mission once again. The staff joins me in thanking you with wishes for a healthy and joyous summer.

Warmly,

Kitty Glass, Community Outreach Coordinator



Flag Day Sunday, June 14

by Stan Schroeder

June 14 we celebrate Flag Day as a national holiday. It is the day in 1777 that the Second Continental Congress adopted the design as the official flag of the United States of America. It is also the date in 1775 that Congress adopted the "American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14. The U.S. Army celebrates this date as the Army birthday. In 1916, **President Woodrow Wilson** issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; in August 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

The original flag was made in June 1776, when a small committee—including **George Washington**, **Robert Morris** and relative **George Ross**—visited **Betsy Ross** and discussed the need for a new American flag. Betsy accepted the job to manufacture the flag, altering the committee's design by replacing the six-pointed (Star of David?) stars with five-pointed stars.

Actually, the first flag representing the Continental Army had thirteen alternating red and white stripes and a British Union Jack (one horizontal, one vertical, and two diagonal red stripes with white borders in a blue background) in the upper left hand corner. January 1, 1776, the Continental Army was reorganized in accordance with a Congressional resolution which placed American forces under **George Washington's** control. On that New Year's Day the Continental Army was laying siege to Boston which had been taken over by the British Army. Washington ordered the Grand Union flag hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill.

The U.S. flag is a strong symbol of American identity and national pride. Stars are a symbol of the heavens and the goals to which humankind aspires; stripes are symbolic of rays of light from the sun. Thirteen stripes represent the original thirteen colonies that declared independence from England; fifty stars symbolize the current 50 United States.

The most popular American flag song is **George M. Cohan's** *You're a Grand Old Flag* written for his Broadway musical *George Washington, Jr.* in 1906. The song was first sung at the play's opening performance February 6 at the Herald Square Theater in New York City. The song was first titled *You're a Grand Old Rag* and the chorus began "You're a grand old rag / You're a high-flying flag", but Cohan changed the title due to public pressure.



Grand Union flag 1776



our American flag

Let us celebrate Flag Day June 14 and remember those who worked to make our country the greatest nation for freedom in the world.

You're a Grand Old Flag
 You're a High Flying Flag
 And forever, in peace, may you wave!
 You're the emblem of the land I love,
 The home of the free and the brave!

George M. Cohan 1906



Rabbi Vorspan with **Emily Moos**, a student at Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched Studies, and recipient of a 2015 Scholarship from the **Association of Jewish Educators**, sponsored by Congregation Shir Ami, with donations received last year from our **Walk Around Lake Balboa**.

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TREE OF LIFE

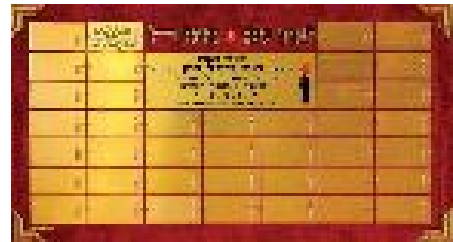


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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 Mike Easley at (818) 625-4281 so he 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 Ralph's 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 Ralph's 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

Congregation Shir Ami
Invites you to a

"FREE" MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION EVENT

Sunday, June 28 - 3:00 PM

*Northridge Mobile Home Park Rec Room
19120 Nordhoff St. (East of Tampa) Northridge*



Please join us, at this members' only program, for a FREE afternoon of fun and Ice Cream. We want all of our members to come and have a good time for FREE. (Yes, it's FREE.)

Please attend and delight in Ken's special surprise.

*To attend, please R.S.V.P. by June 22 to:
Ken Bereny at (818) 324-0688 or email bereny@roadrunner.com*

Congregation Shir Ami invites you to attend its annual



**BBQ AND BARCHU
&
WHITE SHABBAT**



Friday, August 28

**DINNER AT 6:45
FOLLOWED BY KABBALAT SHABBAT SERVICES at 8:00**

(Held at Temple Ramat Zion, Northridge)

Please join us for this special evening. We will share a delicious catered barbecued chicken dinner with all the fixin's and then participate in outdoor Shabbat services led by Rabbi Vorspan. We encourage you to dress in white clothing to help Rabbi Vorspan remember his summer camp Shabbat experiences. This program has been a favorite of the congregation for over 15 years!

Dinner: \$25 person Sponsor: \$35 per person

The deadline for dinner reservations is Monday, August 24th.

-----Tear Off-----

Please return this reservation form with your check by August 24th to
Congregation Shir Ami – BBQ and Barchu
P.O. Box 6353
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Name _____ Phone No. _____

No. of adults @ \$25 _____ No. of adult sponsors @ \$35 _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

CONGREGATION SHIR AMI

Asks.....



Would you like to give "a helping hand" to our synagogue?

WHY? To help sustain our congregation's financial future

WHAT? To purchase a yad (torah pointer) of our own to be used during our Shabbat and High Holy Days Services

HOW? By contributing to this fund-raising opportunity!

WHEN? Please send in your donation by June 30, 2015

WHERE: Please send your donation to Congregation Shir Ami, P. O. Box 6353, Woodland Hills, CA 91365 in the enclosed return envelope

WHO? For additional information please call Ellen Fremed (818) 886-8853 or Sherry Dollins (818) 886-7590

The donor opportunities are listed below:

\$18 Donor

\$54 Patron

\$36 Friend

\$118 Benefactor

~~~~~tear-off~~~~~

I/We would like to contribute to Project Yad!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

# Congregation Shir Ami's Social Action Committee invites you to join them



for a walk to benefit

## The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America

**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at Lake Balboa**

Registration required beginning at 8:30 am

### What is Crohn's disease and colitis?

Together they are known as Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) which affects 1.6 million adults and children in the U.S. primarily of Ashkenazi heritage. IBD is an auto-immune disease where the body attacks itself and causes chronic inflammation of the intestinal tract resulting in abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea, nausea and malnutrition. Other symptoms include arthritis, skin diseases, diabetes, vision problems and depression. 65% of patients will have multiple surgeries in their lifetimes related to IBD complications. Help us find a cure for IBD.

**Minimum Donation \$10 per person – NO MAXIMUM!** Please bring vegetarian salad, side dish or dessert to share following the walk. Remember to wear your Mitzvah Patrol shirt.

Sit down activities are available for those who can't walk. Sign up by returning the tear off with your check for \$10 (or more!) per person to Congregation Shir Ami, PO Box 6353, Woodland Hills, CA 91365. Make check payable to **Congregation Shir Ami**. For more info: Ellie Zatz (818) 883-9924, Fran Kobulnick (818) 345-2405 or Sheilah Hart (818) 884-2342.

Please bring non-perishable and non-breakable food for SOVA. Pets are welcome

Total Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Walker Names: Brunch (y/n)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$10 [ ] \$18 [ ] \$36 [ ]  
\$72 [ ] Other [ ]

Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring: Salad [ ] Dessert [ ] Side dish [ ]

Lake Balboa Walk





# High Holiday Food Drive

## September 13<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

29 Elul 5775 – 10 Tishrei 5776



Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles { SOVA depends on your donations to meet the ongoing hunger crisis in our community. Donations directly benefit the nearly 12,000 people who visit our three pantries each month – people of all ages, races and religions. Please be as generous as you can be – the need has never been greater. Listed below are our greatest needs.

**Peanut Butter**  
**Rice**

**Canned Tuna/Fish**  
**Canned Meats**

**Canned or Dry Soup**  
**Whole Grain Cereal**

*(beef stew, chili w/meat, chicken etc.)*

**We also welcome other *non-perishable* foods, personal hygiene items and children's books including:**

Dry Beans  
Dry Pasta  
Dry Milk  
100% Juice  
Oatmeal

Tomato Sauce  
Canned Beans  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Fruit  
Canned Pasta

Cooking Oil  
Kosher Foods  
Diapers/Wipes  
Soap  
Shampoo/Conditioner

Razors  
Deodorant  
Lotion  
Toothpaste  
Toothbrushes

Please avoid expired, opened or perishable foods.

**For more information, please visit [www.jfsla.org/SOVA](http://www.jfsla.org/SOVA)**

**Or call Kathi Dawidowicz at (818) 988-7682 ext. 120.**