



Shir Notes

The Official Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami Volume 13, Number 7, August - September 2015
Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Events of the Month

Shabbat in the Park Friday, August 14, 5:00 pm at Warner Center Park

The **Jewish Federation** and **Shalom Institute** sponsor this annual Valley Shabbat in the Park with several Valley congregations, including Shir Ami. See flyer.

August-September Shabbat services

Friday, August 28, 8:00 pm
Birthday Shabbat at Ramat Zion
preceded by BBQ & Barchu 6:45
Saturday, September 26, 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat at
de Toledo (previously NCJHS)

BBQ and Barchu Friday, August 28, 6:45 pm at Temple Ramat Zion

Our annual BBQ dinner will be catered by TRZ Men's Club, followed by White Shabbat Service Under the Stars. See article on page 2 and flyer.

High Holy Day services at de Toledo (previously NCJHS)

Sunday, September 13 - 8 pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah
Monday, September 14 - 9 am
Rosh Hashanah 1st Day
Tuesday, September 15 - 10 am
Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day
Tuesday, September 22 - 6:45 pm
Kol Nidre
Wednesday, September 23 - 10 am
Yom Kippur

Torah and Shabbat Study Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:30 am Northridge Mobile Home Park

Stan Schroeder leads monthly study session.
See article on page 4 and flyer.

Rabbi David Vorspan



Rabbi's Column

I'm writing about the end of my vacation at the beginning of my vacation.

To meet publishing deadlines, I needed to submit this article during the first week of July. But it won't be read until the middle of the summer, and it will cover the period through the High Holy Days.

I have a lot planned for this summer: a visit to New York for family reunions, a river cruise on the Columbia and Snake rivers (starting off in Oregon), projects around the house. And when this edition of the Shir Notes gets to you, its faithful readers, it will all have happened as planned.



Or will it?

We wake up in the morning with things to do, and by evening we realize that life has different plans for us. We hope and pray everything will be O.K., but—the old Yiddish expression: man plans and God laughs.

I got a call from a family member this morning: a car rushing to cross the intersection on a yellow light misjudged the timing (the driver claims being on the phone had no affect!) and plowed into her car. The car was totaled, but the passengers were unscathed. All the planning just for that one day had to be scuttled.

We never know at the beginning of the day what the end of the day has in store for us.

And during the High Holy Days we wonder at the beginning of the year what the end of the year has in store for us. And we look around the sanctuary and consider the year gone by, especially as we repeat, over and over, the words "...who shall live and who shall die..."

So, am I in for a surprise as I read these words in August describing July? Were there any hiccups in the planning?

What is clear is that life will not be lived to its fullest if we plan with dread at the worst that could happen. Faith is hoping for the best.

And what will be will be.

I look forward to joining you in our new de Toledo (until recently known as New Community Jewish High School) sanctuary to usher in a new year!

Im yirtzeh ha shem (not!).

Visit our website:
www.shirami.com

President's Report

Shalom,

Summer is in full swing and some of us are getting used to sleeping late on Saturday mornings. While we still have one more month of our "vacation," we still have some events in August and, of course, we are getting ready for the High Holy Days in September.



We have two events in August. The first is the 4th Annual Community **Shabbat in the Park at Warner Park** in Woodland Hills on Friday, August 14, 2015. Shir Ami was well-represented last year and we look forward to continuing that tradition. Speaking of traditions, we will have our **BBQ and Barchu** at Temple Ramat Zion on Friday, August 28. See your Shir Notes for details and make your reservation as soon as possible.

By the time you are reading this, we should have all received our membership renewal packages and High Holy Days information. The sooner you return the form with this year's dues, well, that's one less thing to worry about! As you know, this year we will be having our High Holy Day Services at the New Community Jewish High School under its new name "de Toledo High School" (although it still remains affectionately known as New Jew.)

We will also be looking forward to the first use of our new *yad*. Thanks to all of those who made this fundraiser a smashing success.

I think you will all agree that the first half of 2015 was a half-year to remember. We laughed, we cried, we walked and then, we walked again. We bid farewell to some long-time members, and introduced our new treasurer to the intricacies of Congregation financing. We still have a lot of 2015 to look forward to as we get into the "Spirit of '76" (that's 5776!), and many more events, including our **Mitzvah Day** (never too early to think about Mitzvah Day), a lunch and learn and many more.

So, at least for the next month, you'll be able to get some extra sleep on Saturday mornings, but that just means that we expect you all to be tanned, rested and ready to take your positions as the engine of the "***Little Shul that Does!***"

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

Annual BBQ & Barchu

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 summers at Camp Ramah.

We will have a delicious BBQ chicken dinner with all the fixins' prepared by the TRZ Men's Club. The price of the dinner this year 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.

In order to ensure that we order enough food for everyone who wants to attend, please send in your reservation and check by Monday, August 24th. See the flyer enclosed in this issue of the *Shir Notes*.

I look forward to seeing you and your families after a long summer break as we prepare to celebrate the High Holy Days.

Mailbox



Dear Shir Ami Congregation,

Thank you all for your kindness, sympathy, and generosity in the recent passing of my sister, **Myrna Gold**. She treasured your friendship during her long association with the Temple.

Thank you, **Rabbi Vorspan**, for a meaningful, heartfelt funeral service. It helped my family and myself get through a difficult time.

Fran Feinman and Family



DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

- Carol and Art Altshiller for her father Albert S. Heiser
- Frances Black for Ralph and Andrew Black
- Harvey and Betty Cohen for Sally Cohen and Elisha Gottesman
- Owen and Bette Delman for Ivan Delman
- Michael and Joan Easley for the first yahrzeit of their daughter Ara Elise Easley
- Jacquie Gordon for Louis Katz
- Amir Gnessin and Orit Stieglitz for Shaula Stieglitz and Shoshana Gnessin
- Barbara Grubman for Don Grubman and Miriam Bass
- Sylvia Hockmeyer for Joseph Hockmeyer
- Jerry and Peg Kovar for Harold Kovar
- Dov and Stephanie Silk Landau for Nathan Silk
- Lorraine and Edwin Orens for Estelle Riak
- Esther Perez for Moreno Perez
- Seymour and Ann Potell for Herman Blankstein, Al Potell, and Sonak Potell
- Edward and Fay Schneier for brother Jess Schneier
- Shirley Shapiro for her mother Hortense Schiff
- Lewis and Claire Silverman for Bernard Silverman and Cecil Silverman
- Steve and Marcie Spetner for Lil Spetner
- Fiona Taylor for her mother Gladys Miles and her father-in-law Mike Konrad
- Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan for Rabbi Max Vorspan

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Gale Cohen | Irwin Koransky |
| Jay Cohen | Jerry Kovar |
| Judy Eisikowitz | Stan Rosenbluth |
| Phyllis Feldman-Schroeder | Shaina Vorspan Brenner |
| Ethel Granik | |

Anniversaries

- Owen and Bette Delman
- Paul and Paula Frankel
- Clara and Stan Rosenbluth
- Rabbi David and Bonnie Vorspan
- Shaina and Aaron Brenner
- Alisha and Rabbi Ahud Sela
- Ben and Elana Vorspan

Other

- Fran Feinman for her sister Myrna Gold
- Ethel Granik in honor of the Schroeders
- Ethel Granik for Phyllis Schroeder's brother
- Ethel Granik with get well wishes for Esther Perez

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Sam Hochberg..... | 8/5 |
| Phyllis Robinson..... | 8/5 |
| Edward Schneier..... | 8/5 |
| Paula Frankel..... | 8/6 |
| Art Altshiller..... | 8/12 |
| Stan Schroeder..... | 8/24 |
| Lee Stark..... | 8/24 |
| Paul Frankel..... | 8/27 |
| Fay Schneier..... | 9/4 |
| Paulette Pistol..... | 9/5 |
| Robert Licht..... | 9/8 |
| Ed Halem..... | 9/9 |
| Esther Karalnick..... | 9/16 |
| Maralyn Soifer..... | 9/26 |

Anniversaries

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|------|
| Nancy and Lonny Scharf..... | 8/2 | 28th |
| Claire and Lew Silverman..... | 8/7 | 60th |
| Heather and Mark Hyman..... | 8/10 | 12th |
| Carol and Art Altshiller..... | 8/19 | 35th |
| Linda and Harvey Tapper..... | 8/19 | 43rd |
| Andrea and Leon Nachenberg..... | 9/2 | 46th |
| Carol and Irwin Koransky..... | 9/9 | 48th |
| Lorraine and Edwin Orens..... | 9/27 | 56th |

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

- Frank Locascio**
- Phyllis Robinson**
- Esther Perez**
- Esther Karalnick**



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

Our Condolences

We regret to inform the congregational family of the passing of: longtime member **Myrna Gold**, sister of member **Fran Feinman**, and **Albert Kaufman**, brother of member **Phyllis Feldman-Schroeder**.



May God comfort the Gold/Feinman and Schroeder families at this time of their bereavement.

Social Action Committee

First, I would like to thank everyone again for all their generous donations and participation in our Annual Walk Around Lake Balboa on Sunday, June 7th. We had 77 participants that day and we collected over \$2400 for the Chrohn's Foundation. Special thanks again to **Rabbi and Bonnie** for leading our walk, to **Sheilah and Josh Hart** for all their hard work and their inspiration, to our amazing Social Action Committee, Congregation, and guests for truly making this the most successful walk we have had yet. And of course, thanks to **Jordan Pistol** for our group pictures.

It is the middle of July when we write this column, and there is so much to tell you. The Social Action Committee and their helpers have been busy shopping for the best buys on all the school supplies we will need to fill the backpacks on **Mitzvah Day**, Sunday, November 1. We are fortunate to have been given the opportunity to use the Temple Judea Social Hall again for our Mitzvah Day, which will include the **School on Wheels** backpack project, **Operation Gratitude** and **Project MOT**, **Jewish World Watch**, collecting **non-perishable food for SOVA**. And we are planning a special surprise project, as well. We will give you more information soon! Please see the flyer in this newsletter and remember to sign up for Mitzvah Day. Also remember to start asking your dentists for donations of tooth paste and tooth brushes for our backpacks.



We will again be setting up our **SOVA High Holiday barrels** in the lobby for the High Holy Days. Please fill up as many bags of non-perishable food as possible and bring them with you to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. There is a flyer in this newsletter giving you more information about SOVA. They accept food all year for the 13,000 families they help monthly, as well as checks, new and gently used children's books, and new toiletries. We also collect food for SOVA all year at our regular services and events, and encourage everyone to drop off your bulk donations at SOVA in Van Nuys. Please remember to say that you are donating on behalf of Congregation Shir Ami. If you have any questions, call **Fran Kobulnick** or **Leon Nachenberg**. Thanks to those who visit SOVA regularly with your food donations.



The Social Action Committee is also busy planning our community mitzvah events now for the coming year. We always have room for more volunteers to join our team. On behalf of the entire our Committee and our families, I wish you all a very happy, healthy, sweet, peaceful and mitzvah-filled New Year!

Shalom and L'Shana Tovah,

Fran Kobulnick, Social Action Vice President

Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel



I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. So far this year we have turned in 320 books and 106 magazines to **Operation Gratitude** and there are more to come.

August is the month to seize the opportunity and get ready for the New Year. May you be blessed with a very healthy, happy, and peaceful new year of 5776. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in shul September 13 for our Erev Rosh Hashanah service. Please remember to bring your gift of food for SOVA.

Shabbat Torah Study Resumes September 12

by Stan Schroeder



I lead a Shabbat study session one Saturday morning a month at 10:30 at the Northridge Mobile Home Park Rec Room, 19120 Nordhoff St. 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 September 12. This is the day before erev Rosh Hashanah, ushering in the 5776 High Holy Day season. We will discuss the parasha of the week *Nitzavim* (Deuteronomy 29:9 - 30:20) in which we learn of the unity of the people of Israel and the practicality of Torah. We will also talk about the upcoming High Holy Days and prepare to make the most of that experience.

We are commanded "*la asok b'divrei torah*" (to engage in the study of Torah). Join us and fulfill the mitzvah.

Call me at (818) 718-7466 for more information.

Notes from our Cantor

by Cantor Roger Goodman



As an active member of United Synagogue Youth during my high school years, I was delighted to attend the annual international convention in Washington, DC during a winter break. The cheapest travel at the time was by train, and so our Far West Region delegation left Union Station one evening for the 2 1/2 day trip.



USYers took over the entire hotel, and the five days of activities were awesome. Friday evening, someone mentioned that the 2000 teens filling the ballroom constituted perhaps the largest *Kabbalat Shabbat*

service in the whole world.

I was thrilled to participate, and so began my lifelong fascination with Jewish unity. Decades ago on the High Holy Days, I told the rabbi how meaningful it was that we stand as a group, in solidarity with Jews around the planet, all at the same time. He reminded me that I shouldn't overlook the opportunity for an intense session of personal examination and improvement. You live both as an individual Jew and as a member of the entire Jewish people.

I recently read that the world's Jewish population is back up to pre-holocaust 16.5 million, which means that our "tribe" has never before been so large as today. Could you imagine what it would be like if we all put aside what divides us, and concentrated on what unites us?

There is significance in the size of the Jewish people when we received the *Torah* at Mt. Sinai, i.e., 600,000 men aged 20 to 60, plus women, children, and all the other males. I don't think that such a large assemblage has occurred ever since, but if it ever does, and you are there to witness it, there is a special blessing to say: *Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam, chacham ha-razim* (Blessed are You, Lord, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who knows the **secrets**). In other words, we thank God for giving us a Torah which every single one of us can understand, according to our own, private, unique personality, which He knows.

We find the same word for **secrets** in the middle of the *Yom Kippur* prayers for forgiveness: *Ata yode-ah razei olam v'ta-a-lumot sitrei chol chai* (You know the secrets of the universe and the concealed traits of everyone alive).

We confess both in the plural, because we are all responsible for society's behavior, and in the singular, because each person must individually repent, return, and change for the better.

I hope that you will join me for all of the congregational singing next month. Keep alive our Jewish tradition of Prayer in Song. Lift up your voice! Join millions of Jews around the world. If you don't read Hebrew, please refer to the transliterations booklet and the accompanying cross reference of *machzor* pages.

I am looking forward to the High Holy Days at Shir Ami, and I hope to greet each and every one of you. **Melody, Joshua & Julia, Jeffrey, Kenny, Daniel,** and my parents **Milton & Frances** join me in wishing all of you a year of peace, good health, joy, and harmony.

L'Shanah Tovah uM'tukah, a joyous and sweet New Year,
Cantor Roger Goodman

Editors Note: This is a link to the article Cantor Goodman read about world Jewish population:

<http://www.aol.com/article/2015/07/02/worlds-jewish-population-is-getting-back-to-where-was-pre-holoc/21204334>

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.

Mailbox



Dear Shir Ami family,

Thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy during my time of bereavement. My heart fills with the love you showed by coming and sitting with me during shiva. I truly feel cared for by the community. You have helped me through the painful loss of my brother, **Albert Kaufman**, in more ways than I could have hoped.

Phyllis Feldman-Schroeder

Boychik on a Bicycle

by Owen Delman

“So, Boychik, you Jewish?”

That was my introduction to Nussbaum, a good friend of my new boss, Mr. Keppleman, for whom I had been working just a week at that requirement of teenage years, the part-time job.

Mr. Keppleman (everyone called him Keppie but I never did to his face) wanted me to meet Nussbaum who was not only an old friend, but was a “very, very good customer” of Keppleman’s Drug Store and Pharmacy. I was one of two bicycle delivery boys.



Myron, the other delivery boy, and I split the hours: Friday afternoon and all day Saturday, alternating weeks to keep the hours even. More on Myron ... and his contest ... later, but first back to Nuss-

baum and his second question.

“So, Boychik, you know what I’m talking about when I say half-done and regular?”

“Yessir, the half-dones are green like cucumbers and the regulars are sour and uh...not so green.”

“You got it kid. What kind do you like?”

“I guess I like the half-dones.”

Nussbaum smiled and shook my hand. “Pleasure meeting you, kid.” He turned back to Keppie, picked up his bag of two decks of Pinochle cards and left me wondering if I had passed some kind of test.

As promised, back to Myron.

“Here’s how I think it should go,” he said at school, a week after I started. “Whoever makes the most in tips in a month for the same hours worked wins. The loser has to treat him to a Louie’s hot dog, big fries and a drink.”

Louie’s Hot Dog Stand was just down the street and served up Hebrew National Hot Dogs, called ‘Snap Dogs’ because their tough skin snapped when you bit through it. Louie served them Chicago style with tomatoes, neon green relish, dill pickle, mustard, chopped onion, peppers and celery salt on soft poppy seed buns. But, I digress. Here’s more about the contest.

August - September 2015

We each got paid \$.50/hour. That came out to \$16/month plus tips. When we weren’t delivering, Keppie had us cleaning shelves and adjusting the stocks of soaps, cosmetics, first aid stuff and so on.

When there was not much to do I sat in a quiet corner and read. As long as it wasn’t a comic book, Keppie was okay with that. (He sounded just like my mother!)

One rainy Saturday, a couple of weeks after meeting Nussbaum, Keppie came to my reading corner and tapped me on the shoulder, jarring me out of the world of Tarzan and his perils. “You got a delivery -- a special delivery. It’s for Nussbaum. I wrote it all down.’

Nussbaum, 6832 California Ave, 3C

2 decks Pinochle cards

5 Corona Corona cigars

Pick up corned beef sw from deli

Make sure it comes with two whole half-dones

Keppie handed me the note and a bag with the cards and the cigars which he kept in a special glass case in the back.

Because it was Spring, the Chicago weather was what we called Goldilocks -- not too hot and not too cold, just right. But it was raining -- a hard Chicago rain, coming down in huge drops that pounded the ground! Outfitted in a yellow raincoat, galoshes and a floppy rain hat, the bag of cards and cigars protected in a plastic covered box in my basket, I set off on my adventure.

The deli was about four blocks away from the drugstore and halfway to Nussbaum’s apartment. The sidewalk was old with separated and tilted slabs of concrete -- some angled up and some angled down, making hills and valleys. It was a fun ride most of the time, but in the rain the valleys turned into muddy pools. If I went too fast the splash came up to my waist. If I went too slow, I would have trouble going up the steep side. In my mind, I was a soldier on an important mission bravely dashing across no-man’s land in a camouflaged jeep.

At the deli, dripping and dribbling, I waited at the counter, “I’m here for Mr. Nussbaum’s order.”

“Got it right here -- corned beef on rye.”

“Does it have two”

“Pickles?” the counterman smiled. “Yep, it does. Two half-dones. Just like he always gets. It’s all paid for. Here,” handing me the bag, “watch out for puddles.” The bag joined the cards and cigars in the box and I set off again, an imaginary warrior on a dangerous mission.

(continued on page 8)

Biography of the Month: Michael Oren

by Stan Schroeder

Michael Oren was born **Michael Scott Bornstein** May 20, 1955 in upstate New York, the son of **Marilyn** (née **Goldstein**), a marriage and family therapist, and **Lester Milton Bornstein**, a hospital director. His father was an officer in the U.S. Army who took part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge in 1944 and participated in the Korean War. Oren grew up in West Orange, New Jersey, in a Conservative Jewish household. He had his bar mitzvah at B'nai Shalom and attended West Orange High School where he was in the drama club and played varsity tennis, graduating in 1973.



In his youth, he was an activist in Zionist and Jewish youth groups such as United Synagogue Youth. At age 15, he made his first trip to Israel with youth movement *Habonim Dror*, working on *Kibbutz Gan Shmuel*. That same year he met **Yitzhak Rabin**, then Israeli Ambassador to the United States, on a trip to Washington, DC. He decided that some day he would hold that post, and in 2009 he became just that.

In 1977 Oren completed his undergraduate degree from Columbia College. That summer he won two gold medals at the Maccabiah Games in rowing, a sport in which he is still active. He continued his studies at Columbia, receiving a Masters in International Affairs in 1978 from the School of International and Public Affairs. He spent the next year as an adviser to the Israeli delegation to the UN, and in 1979 emigrated to Israel.

He began his military service in the IDF. He served as a paratrooper in the 1982 Lebanon War. His unit was caught in a Syrian ambush on the second day of the war. His commander was killed and nearly everyone was wounded. He then joined a unit stationed in Sidon. During the war he married **Sally Edelstein** who had immigrated from San Francisco the previous year.

Following his regular military service, Oren volunteered to work with the Zionist underground in the Soviet Union. Sent to make contact with Zionist groups in Ukraine, he was repeatedly arrested by the KGB.

Oren returned to the US to continue his education, studying at Princeton University. In 1986, he earned an MA and a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies.

During the Persian Gulf War he was Israeli liaison

officer to the U.S. Sixth Fleet. In 2005 he was called up for reserve duty for the 2005 Gaza disengagement, and participated in the evacuation of settlements in Gaza. He served as an officer in the IDF Spokesman's Office during the 2006 Lebanon War and the 2008–2009 Gaza War.

In between his military service and his public service Oren was an historian and a writer. His most well known book [until recently] is *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, published in 2002. It is an historical account of the events of the Six-Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The book was widely praised by critics and won the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for History and the National Jewish Book Award. It spent seven weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. In April, 2005 Phyllis and I attended a weekend for adults at Camp Ramah at which Michael Oren was the scholar-in-residence. He discussed his book and the current situation in Israel. The withdrawal from Gaza occurred that summer.

His next bestseller was *Power, Faith, and Fantasy: the United States in the Middle East, 1776 to 2006*, published in 2007. His articles appeared frequently in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New Republic*, and others. He was also a guest on many worldwide TV news and feature shows.

On May 3, 2009, Oren was appointed by Israeli **Prime Minister Netanyahu** as ambassador of Israel to the United States, attaining his teenage ambition. He was ambassador until the fall of 2013 when he was replaced by **Ron Dermer**, Netanyahu's senior advisor. His tenure encompassed numerous crisis situations including the 2010 Gaza flotilla raid on the *Mavi Marmara*, the Gaza war that summer and the ensuing UN Goldstone Report, and "peace process" negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. And all this amid the tense relationship between **President Obama** and Netanyahu.

Last December Oren announced he was joining **Moshe Kahlon's** new centrist Kulanu (meaning all of us) party and was given the fourth spot on the party list for the March 2015 election. The party won ten seats and Oren was sworn in as a Member of Israel's 20th Knesset, serving on its Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Oren has been an outspoken critic of the recently signed "sole executive agreement" negotiated between Iran and the "p5+1" countries.

(continued on page 8)

Boychik on a Bicycle

by Owen Delman (continued)

Even though I was garbed in mother-approved rain gear, by the time I got to the apartment, I was thoroughly soaked. Every flooded fox hole had also flooded my galoshes so my pedaling was accompanied by a rhythmic “squish-squish” beat as I went along. Then my rain hat got caught on my collar and the water was draining down my back under the rain coat. Since I had nothing dry to wipe my glasses, I had difficulty seeing curbs, cars at intersections and pedestrians under umbrellas who didn’t see me.

6832 California was a three story, red brick apartment building with no elevator. My bike locked in the lobby, I sloshed over to the call buttons. “Mr. Nussbaum? This is the delivery from the drug store.”

“Did you pick up the corned beef sandwich?”

“Yes, I”

“With the two green pickles?”

“Yessir”

That was the magic “Open Sesame” and the inner door buzzed to let me in.

My galoshes softly gurgled with each step up to the third floor. The door opened and a cloud came tumbling out into the hallway to reveal Mr. Nussbaum in his stocking feet wrapped in a mist of blue-gray cigar smoke.

“Come on in kid. Just wait here on this rug. Mrs. Nussbaum gets upset with wet floors.

I peered through the smoky mist and saw three men with puffing cigars sitting at a dining room table decorated with piles of cards, ash trays, drink glasses and small mounds of nickels, dimes and quarters. Nussbaum came back and handed me a towel. “Kinda *schmuzik* out there.” I dried my glasses and face, thanked him and turned to leave.”

“Hold it, kiddo. You forgot something.”

He went to the table, carefully counted out ten stacks of four quarters each and came back to me, still dripping on the now soaked entrance rug.

“Here, I’ve done good with the cards and you’ve done good with this delivery.”

Ten dollars! Way more than half a month’s salary!

“Thank you, Mr. Nussbaum. I really appreciate it.”

“You’re all right, Boychik. Wait, I got something else for you, too.” He padded back to the table and took a small package out of the deli bag I had just delivered. He held it out to me “Here. I thought you might like this.” Printed in large black letters on the white butcher paper “FOR THE BOYCHIK.”

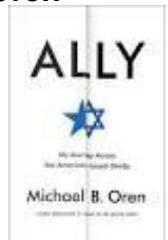
I looked at him confused. He smiled and shrugged his shoulders. “I figured if it didn’t work out I could always eat two pickles.”

I won the contest that month, beating Myron by \$11.00 and one pickle -- half-done, of course.

NOTE: Historically, I was a delivery boy, there was a Nussbaum, a rain storm, a Keppie, a deli, a Louie’s and a contest. The remaining details possibly might be creations of the passage of time and happy memories.

Biography of the Month: Michael Oren

by Stan Schroeder (continued)



Oren, after much reflection, decided to write a memoir of his time as ambassador to be published before the deadline to conclude the p5+1 negotiations in an attempt to document Israel’s case opposing the deal. The result was *Ally: My Journey Across the American-Israeli Divide*. It describes a period of transformative change for America and a time of violent upheaval throughout the Middle East—provides a frank, fascinating look inside the special relationship between America and its closest ally in the region. *Ally* is the story of that enduring alliance—and of its divides—written from the perspective of a man who treasures his American identity while proudly serving the Jewish State he has come to call home.

Ally is at once a record, chronicle, and confession. And it is a story about love—about someone fortunate enough to love two countries and to represent one to the other. But, above all, it is a testament to an alliance that was and will remain vital for Americans, Israelis, and the world.

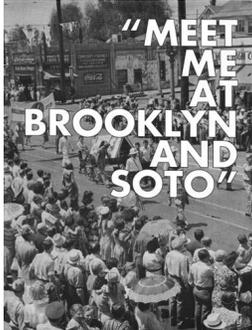
Michael Oren spoke at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles July 1 and engaged in a frank interview with **David Suissa**. The event was telecast and the complete program may be watched at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7iEI5LjmMc>

Lunch and Learn: Everyone Has a Story

by Sherry Dollins

Please join us for a **Lunch & Learn** with a brand new program on **Sunday, October 11th**. The day will begin with a delicious dairy lunch. After lunch, **Ellie Kahn**, MFT, a professional Oral Historian and award-winning producer of "*Meet Me at Brooklyn & Soto*" will conduct an in-depth oral history with one of our congregation's members.



The purpose of an oral history is to record an older person's precious stories and memories for their family. According to Ellie, "...far too often, these stories are lost, either because memories fade, or because we wait too long, and our family elders pass away. When the stories about one's life, values and experiences are lost, valuable guidance for future generations is also lost."

In addition to learning a lot more about one of our members, at this program you will watch this process live and then be able to determine if an oral history would be right for you and your family.

If you should then decide to schedule an oral history interview with you or one of your family members, Ellie will conduct it on a sliding scale and donate 10% of the cost to Congregation Shir Ami.

The cost for the lunch will be \$10 per person for members and non-members. For those who wish to contribute a little more toward the sustenance of our congregation, sponsorships are \$18 per person. Sponsors will be recognized during the lunch.

A flyer with additional information and a return tear-off will be sent to you in the next few weeks. In the meantime, save the date on your calendar. This should prove to be an interesting and informative event.

For further information, please call me at (818) 886-7590 or e-mail cdollins@socal.rr.com.

Ritual Committee



June 20 we concluded our first year of Shabbat services at our ultimate home at New Community Jewish High School. The light and airy room, used during the week as a library and classroom, is transformed into a beautiful sanctuary perfect for around 35 - 40 attendees at our Shabbat service. That number represents the largest average we have had as Congregation Shir Ami. The beautiful *parochet* created by **Rebbetzin Bonnie** for our ark at Temple Ramat Zion is displayed adjacent to our new ark.

Our Kiddush is in the lobby right outside the sanctuary with ample space for several tables for noshing and shmoozing. With the **Rosenbluths** gone to Arroyo Grande, we still have **Claire Silverman**, **Helga Unkeless**, **Sheilah Hart**, and **Esther Perez** to thank for buying, preparing, and setting up our weekly Shabbat kiddush refreshments, and **Judy Eisikowitz** and **Laurie Orens** for cleaning up afterward. And to **Phyllis Schroeder** and **Jerry Gort** thanks for bringing hot coffee every week. Our Shabbat togetherness is enhanced by their hard work and dedication.

Also, thanks to **Leon Nachenberg** who helped me (actually it was more like I helped him) move our prayerbooks and ritual supplies from our storage space at Valley Vineyard to NCJHS in his van. **Owen Delman** and **Armand Wazana** also helped.

Looking ahead, the annual **Valley Shabbat in the Park Friday, August 14**, promises to be an enjoyable evening at Warner Center Park. Join your Shir Ami friends and other Valley congregations for this community event. See flyer in this *Shir Notes* for details.

Our Shabbat services at recently renamed **de Toledo High School** (same place, new name), start again **Saturday, September 26 at 10:30 am**. Join us for our first Shabbat where **Rabbi Vorspan** spends his weekdays as Rabbi-in-residence. See the flyer with our Shabbat service schedule.

The 5776 High Holy Day season, our first at **de Toledo in the auditorium**, begins **Sunday, September 13 at 8:00 pm** with our **Erev Rosh Hashanah** service. **Rabbi David Vorspan**, **Hazzan Roger Goodman**, **President Jordan Pistol**, and our **Shir Ami Board of Directors** invite you to join our Shir Ami family. See flyer for full service schedule.

Stan Schroeder, Ritual Vice President

Congregation Shir Ami Annual Walk Around Lake Balboa June 7



Dear Temple Family

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who so unselfishly contributed to the Social Action Committee's **Walk Around Lake Balboa** to support **Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America** on June 7.



Joshua and I will always remember how Temple Shir Ami through the Social Action Committee enfolded us into your prayers and good wishes through your support to us and CCFA.

For that we are so very grateful.

Sheilah and Joshua Hart

Our "little" shul raised **\$2,436** to help defeat Crohn's and Colitis diseases. I am so proud of us, I was equally as proud when I turned our donation into the foundation. They, too, were extremely appreciative.

So many of you shared your stories with Joshua and me of friends and family members who had been affected with either Crohn's or Colitis disease or some other form of Irritable Bowel Disease. Your response to **Joshua**, my son and the speaker, was wonderful and I hope all of your questions were answered, If any of you have additional questions, he or I would be glad to answer them or direct you to someone who would be able to help.

Note to Shir Notes recipients via US Post Office:

September 2015						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Your September calendar will be sent by a separate mailing before September 1.

TREE OF LIFE

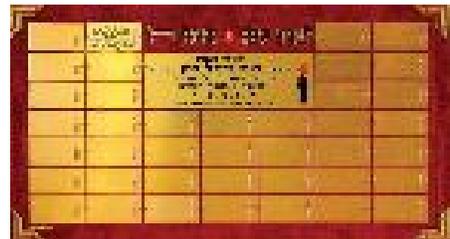


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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 Michael 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 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



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 by TRZ Men's Club 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 24 to
Congregation Shir Ami – BBQ and Barchu
P.O. Box 6353
Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Name _____ Phone No. _____

No. of adults @ \$27 _____ No. of adult sponsors @ \$35 _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Congregation Shir Ami



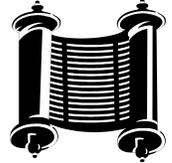
Schedule of High Holy Days Services
5776/2015



Rabbi David E. Vorspan
Hazzan Roger Goodman



All Services will be held at
de Toledo auditorium (formerly NCJHS)
22622 Vanowen St.
West Hills



David Vorspan
Rabbi

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sunday, September 13th
8:00 pm

Rosh Hashanah 1st Day
Monday, September 14th
9:00 am



Roger Goodman
Hazzan

Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day Contemporary Service
Tuesday, September 15th
10:00 am



Kol Nidre
Tuesday, September 22nd
6:45 pm

Yom Kippur
Wednesday, September 23rd
10:00 am



Jordan Pistol
President

Yizkor approximately 12:45 pm
Blessing of Children approximately 7:15 pm

www.shirami.com

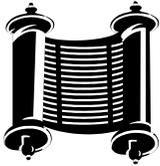
Congregation Shir Ami Schedule of Shabbat Services 2015
Conducted by Rabbi David Vorspan at
de Toledo High School, 22622 Vanowen St., West Hills
(formerly New Community Jewish High School)
Services held in library near the front entrance

Friday 8:00 pm, Saturday 10:30 am (unless otherwise noted)



August 2015

Friday, August 28 - BBQ and Barchu at **Temple Ramat Zion**
Dinner at 6:45 pm, Service Under the Stars and Birthday Shabbat
8:00 pm following dinner

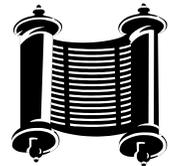


September 2015

Saturday, September 26 - Anniversary

October 2015

Saturday, October 17 - Birthday
Saturday, October 31 - Anniversary



David Vorspan
Rabbi

November 2015

Saturday, November 14 - Birthday
Saturday, November 21 - Anniversary

December 2014

Saturday, December 5 - Birthday
Saturday, December 19 - Anniversary



Jordan Pistol
President

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



SHABBAT IN THE PARK

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 14, 2015**

Bring your family,
a picnic dinner
and join the community!

5:00PM – Arts & Crafts, Drum Circle,
Social Action Project, Torah Talks

6:15PM – Shabbat Service led by Community Clergy

7:15PM – Concert

Iliana Rose and David Zasloff Band
featuring Jewish songs with a Cuban beat

Warner Center Park
5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Woodland Hills

Limited free street parking is available or
\$5 in lot across from the main stage. Follow signage.

For more information:

Marsha Rothpan – marsha@shalominstitute.com

Tiffany Kosloy – tkosloy@koltikvah.org

RSVP at shabbatinthepark.org

ADAT ARI EL • CONGREGATION OR AMI • CONGREGATION SHIR AMI • HILLEL 818 • ISRAELI AMERICAN COUNCIL
THE JEWISH FEDERATION VALLEY ALLIANCE • KOL TIKVAH • MATI-ISRAELI COMMUNITY CENTER • SHALOM INSTITUTE
SHOMREI TORAH SYNAGOGUE • TEMPLE ADAT ELOHIM • TEMPLE AHAVAT SHALOM • TEMPLE ALIYAH
TEMPLE BETH HILLEL • TEMPLE ETZ CHAIM • TEMPLE JUDEA • TEMPLE RAMAT ZION
VALLEY BETH SHALOM • VALLEY OUTREACH SYNAGOGUE • WEST VALLEY RABBINIC TASK FORCE



High Holiday Food Drive

September 13th – 23rd, 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

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

Congregation Shir Ami Mitzvah Day Sunday, November 1 at 9:00 AM sharp Temple Judea Social Hall 5429 Lindley Ave., Tarzana



Our Social Action Committee will once again organize our congregation to fill school backpacks for the School on Wheels program.

Every week, hundreds of School on Wheels' volunteer tutors give hope, educational assistance and support to the thousands of homeless children living in Southern California.

School on Wheels provides one-on-one tutoring for homeless kids who live in shelters, motels, group foster homes and on the streets. In addition to weekly tutoring and mentoring, every student receives a backpack, school supplies, and uniforms; students get assistance enrolling in school and with locating and filing school records; and each student receives a toll-free phone number for around-the-clock School on Wheels' support.

They do all this with no government funding. They survive through the donations of people like you who believe as we do that every child has potential and every volunteer makes a difference.

Other Mitzvah projects will be available to those who must sit down. Please bring non-breakable/non-perishable food for the SOVA food drive. For further information call Mike Easley at (818) 625-4281 or Leon Nachenberg at (818) 885-6736 .

Name: _____

Phone No. _____

Mail this tear-off to sign up for Mitzvah Day 2015

Number of backpacks @ \$18 each: _____

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

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

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

Community Service School
credit for students