



Shir Notes

The Official Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami Volume 13, Number 9, November 2015
Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Events of the Month

Shabbat services at de Toledo High School

Saturday, November 14 - 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, November 21 - 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

Mitzvah Day - Sunday, Nov. 1 9:00 am at Temple Judea

Our annual Social Action event for School on Wheels and Operation Gratitude and Project MOT. See article on page 4 and flyer.

Torah and Shabbat Study Saturday, Nov. 7, 10:30 am Northidge Mobile Home Park

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

Around the Rabbi's Tisch Thursdays, Nov. 5 and 12; 7:30 pm at the Vorspans'

We continue our 5776 season of Rabbi's popular weekly discussion around his dining room table. Join us for an opportunity to learn Jewish wisdom and discuss current topics of Jewish interest. Call Rabbi at (818) 888-9817 or see flyer for more information.



Rabbi's Column



Bonnie's computer occupied a lot of my time over the last several weeks. But I'm not complaining!

We upgraded her operating system from Windows 7 to Windows 10. That's when the problems started. For some reason, we kept getting a dreaded black screen.

The mouse cursor was still visible, and we could click on various parts of the screen and find flashes of life. I spent a great deal of time trying to figure this out, and finally determined that her 5 year old computer couldn't bear the newness of the program.

I went out and bought her a new computer.

But it was an interesting challenge. Can one fix a computer without paying someone to do it? Yes—by just Googling the problem! I found out I wasn't alone! Lots of people out there were also getting the dreaded black screen. Others were getting a dreaded blue screen. And to our rescue rode problem solvers who gave us lots of useful information in hopes we could correct the problem ourselves—for free.

It seems there are many web sites opening up designed to guide people through the task of fixing items themselves rather than paying others. Fridge on the fritz? Go to Fixya.com.

Can this work in Judaism? Of course! Google (and other search engines) are the answer! I may not always be available to answer your questions, but Rabbi Google is!

In fact, I've been asked many questions that are easily researched by you. (Don't spread this around, but when you ask me, say, how many Jews live in Athens, I Google it.)

So...take advantage of the Jewish-fixing (also called Jewish Education) sites on line. There is a world of information out there. Take advantage of it.

And...it's free!

Rabbi David Vorspan

Visit our website:
www.shirami.com

Thanksgiving and the Jews:

Philadelphia 1868 by Stan Schroeder

(I obtained this information by googling "first Jewish Thanksgiving".)

George Washington declared November 26, 1789 a day of thanksgiving and prayer. In 1863 **Abraham Lincoln** fixed the last Thursday of November as a "day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." In 1868 Governor **John W. Geary** of Pennsylvania, after issuing a State proclamation, spoke of thanking Him with "Christian humility." A week later all seven Philadelphia rabbis published an official protest. Geary did not retract his statement.

President's Report

Shalom,

If you read this before November 1, I look forward to seeing you on Mitzvah Day. If you read this after November 1, then I thank you for your participation in Mitzvah Day because I'm sure you were there!



November can tend to be a religiously "slow" month. Of course, we will continue to have our twice-monthly Shabbat services, our Shabbat/Torah Study Session and Around the Rabbi's Tisch (and on the Rebbitzin's Chairs). But, once the calendar turns over to November, we start looking forward to Thanksgiving, as well as wondering why KOST-FM is starting the holiday season music so early (and don't they have any Chanukkah songs in their playlist?).

Fortunately, November is also a good time for thinking. It gets dark earlier, so we can sit in our homes and think about where the year went. However, if you don't have anything to think about, let me give you a suggestion. **On December 2, we will be having our annual members meeting and election of officers.** As you know, it is not too much a slip of the tongue to say "re-election of officers" since we don't usually have much of a turnover. In fact it's all we can do just to swap positions among the officers. Now, no one is complaining about being on the board or being an officer, but a little change is always good.

So, I would like you to think about joining the Board of Directors. The Board and I understand that we all have things to do and that coming to Board Meetings and Committee Meetings is a lot to ask, but all I am asking at this time is for you to think about it. You will get to see a side of Shir Ami that you never knew existed. You will get to experience the thrill of people having spirited discussions on how we can make Shir Ami better.

And the best part of being on the Shir Ami Board is that there is room for advancement! After one year on the Board, you can be a Vice-President of a committee. And after one year of being a Vice-President, you can be President! And it doesn't stop there. After being President once, you can be President over and over again. Ask any of our past Presidents. About the only position you can't have is Rabbi. That position is already filled indefinitely.

On a serious note, now that we have solved our financial issues, we are having people issues. Some people who have been on the Board for years and have been Officers are finding that, sadly, they can't do the job anymore. It's certainly not for lack of will, but sometimes, the body says, "take a rest." In a congregation with "experienced" members, this is not an unusual situation. But I am asking that if you feel you can give it a try, we would be more than happy to have you on the Board. So if you want to make even more of a difference than you already have in Congregation Shir Ami, let me know if you would like to be on the Board and I will make it happen.

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

Jordan Pistol, President

Annual Chanukah Dinner at TRZ December 9 by Sherry Dollins

Be sure to save the date of Wednesday, December 9th and plan to join us at the annual Shir Ami **Chanukah Dinner** as we celebrate



together at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall of Temple Ramat Zion in Northridge. We will once again enjoy a delicious catered holiday dinner of brisket, latkes, applesauce, roasted vegetables, fruit, beverage and dessert. Bring your Chanukah and candles for the community holiday candle lighting and join us as we sing and celebrate this joyous holiday together. A highlight of the evening will be Rabbi's presentation of a special Chanukah story.

Please see the enclosed flyer for details and to R.S.V.P. **We must receive your reservation, with payment enclosed, by Monday, November 30th.** (Please note: reservations must be received by the R.S.V.P. date.) Let's make this our most memorable Chanukah Dinner yet.





DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

Fran Black for Dora Eisdorfer
Betty and Harvey Cohen for Jack Charles Gottesman
Shirley Esko for Tillie Balles and Pearl Spinner
Ellen Fremed for Richard Fremed, Marc Fremed, and James Shlakman
Jerry Gort for Joan Gort
Lauren and Phil Levi for Marc Fremed
Lonny and Nancy Scharf for Edward Halprin, Herman Scharf, and Sandford Scharf

Birthdays

Gerry Hochberg
Fran Kobulnick
Sam Kobulnick
Ann Potell
Clara Rosenbluth
Alisha Sela
Evan Vorspan
Judah Vorspan

Anniverseries

Laurie and Ed Orens
Nancy and Lonny Scharf
Phyllis and Stan Schroeder

Other

Fran Friedman in honor of Becky and Gary Finlay's aliyah on Rosh Hashanah
Carmela Cohen for High Holy Day services

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Sheilah Hart..... 11/1
Shirley Esko..... 11/9
Susan Lipman..... 11/9
Dan Simansky..... 11/17
Sam Kobulnick..... 11/18
Lew Silverman..... 11/22
Armand Wazana..... 11/22
Isadore Perlmutter..... 11/25
Lou Loomis..... 11/29

Anniversaries

Fay and Ed Schneier..... 11/4 59th
Sondra and Robert Licht..... 11/10 52nd
Peg and Jerry Kovar..... 11/14 33rd
Gerry and Sam Hochberg..... 11/24 58th
Betty and Harvey Cohen..... 11/25 70th

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

Lee Dollins
Bette Delman
Fran Kobulnick



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

Our Two Frans Support Project MOT

by Judy Eisikowitz

Last summer, during **Esther Perez's**



recuperation, I received a call from **Joan Glanz Rimmon**, of **Project MOT**, asking whether we could write some Jewish New Year cards to be sent to our soldiers. I enlisted only two individuals, **Fran Friedman** and **Fran Kobulnick**, and they came through with flying colors!

Between the two of them, they more than met our goal of 30 cards--with 7 Chanukah cards added to the mix! Thanks to both of you for brightening the lives of our Jewish soldiers with your beautiful, handwritten notes. --Judy

Editor's Note: I apologize for not including this article in the last issue. Stan Schroeder

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.

Social Action Committee

WOW. Time is flying by so very quickly, and **Mitzvah Day** is finally here on Sunday, November 1. Thanks to the special kindness extended to us by our Social Action friends at Temple Judea, we will again be using our own separate Social Hall for our many Mitzvah Day Projects beginning at 9:00 am Sharp. There is plenty of free parking available.

We will again be filling backpacks with the school supplies that every child will want and need for **School on Wheels Project**. This is our 15th year of commitment to this worthwhile project. Please see flyer in this newsletter for more information and to sign up to support Mitzvah Day. Thanks to all our generous and caring congregation, family, and friends, who have contributed to the best filled backpacks for the needy children in homeless shelters, foster care, hospitals, even those living in cars, and wherever School on Wheels operates. Thanks to **Leon Nachenberg's dentist**, we will again include toothbrushes and toothpaste with the other school supplies in 170 backpacks this year. We will also be doing a new fun Jewish World Watch Project led by **Rae Wazana** and **Fiona Taylor**, write cards for **Operation Gratitude** and **Project MOT** led by **Sheilah and Lisa Hart**, and be collecting non-perishable and non-breakable food for SOVA.



There will be a surprise guest speaker. And thanks to our connection with **Mr. Shin of Tarzana Walgreen's**, we will be doing our first **free flu shot program for seniors**. You need to let **Fran Kobulnick** know before Mitzvah Day that you want to sign up for the free flu shot so that Mr. Shin and his pharmacy staff will have sufficient supply. Please wear your Mitzvah Patrol Tee Shirts for this occasion



According to the last update I had from SOVA, we had filled the four **SOVA barrels for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for the High**

Holidays Food Drive. Remember, SOVA always needs your food donations. The SOVA barrels are located in the main lobby at all services. New and gently used children's books may also be placed in the barrels. Thanks everyone.

We are now collecting **Target \$10 gift cards** for the women and children in the domestic violence shelters we help sponsor for the holidays. Please send the cards to Fran



Kobulnick or bring them to Mitzvah Day or to services and give them to a member of our Committee. The mothers and children always appreciate when we give them the cards, as it enables them to purchase personal items. Cards must be for \$10 only. We will be donating them during Hanukkah. Call Fran if you have any questions.

Our annual **Shabbat/Hanukkah latka visit to West Valley Healthcare Center** in West Hills will be Friday, December 11 at 1:00 pm. We will light Shabbat candles, say the blessings over the wine and challah with the residents and light the Hanukkah candles. **Claire Silverman** will lead a sing-along for the residents and we will have a latka party and spin dreidels. Each resident will receive a beautiful plant for the holidays. Everyone is welcome to join us in this special mitzvah project. Contact Fran Kobulnick for more information.

Save Saturday, January 23 for our **annual Linen Shabbat** to benefit the Domestic Violence Shelters we help sponsor. More information will be forthcoming.

We wish you all a festive and special Thanksgiving that will create beautiful memories for generations to come.

Shalom, **Fran Kobulnick**, Social Action Vice President

Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel



Since its founding by **Carolyn Blashek** in 2003, Operation Gratitude has conducted their local operations at the California Army National Guard Armory in Van Nuys. Their volunteers assembled and shipped 1,291,143 care packages to deployed troops, veterans, new recruits, first responders, wounded warriors and military families. They had their final assembly day there October 17, attended by special guests and dignitaries.

At that time they announced that they had outgrown the Armory facility and would be moving to a larger area at the nearby Van Nuys Airport. They thanked the National Guard for their generous support over the last 12 years.

We at Congregation Shir Ami look forward to continuing to support their effort by collecting books and other items and writing cards to deployed service personnel. We have been involved since the beginning and add our thanks to the organization and its volunteers for such an important job well done.

World War II Museum in New Orleans

by Fiona Taylor

Over the Labor Day weekend **Stan [Goodman]** and I went on a trip to New Orleans, together with a group of family members and friends. Apart from the usual sights, sounds and pleasures that New Orleans has to offer and after the mandatory tours to the plantations (history-laden and extremely interesting) and the swamps (sad to say that hunters are preying on the alligators much to the disgust of the tour guides and conservationists), we realized that the National World War II Museum was just down the road from our hotel. Actually, it was originally established in 2000, under the name of the D-Day Museum but, after much expansion, it has been renamed and is still adding more space, exhibits, etc. In fact, coincidentally right after my return, I received a donation request from **Tom Brokaw** on behalf of the Museum: the idea is that all those who served in the war - from the home front to the front lines - should be honored.

There is a Hop-On Hop-Off bus that tours New Orleans: one of the stops is right outside the museum so it is very convenient even if your hotel isn't around the corner.

The museum is open from 9 am to 5 pm every day except for major holidays - and, of course, Mardi Gras - but you probably wouldn't want to be going to museums at that time anyway! The admission is about \$25 per person (less for seniors), plus an additional \$5 fee if you elect to see one of the two movies that are offered. The campus includes a number of buildings: the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, the Solomon Victory Theater Complex, Campaigns of Courage (the newest pavilion), the US Freedom Pavilion - The Boeing Center, and the John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion. In addition, there is a restaurant and an old-fashioned soda shop decorated accordingly. Unfortunately, we didn't plan far enough ahead so we only were able to visit the first three areas. Had we had more time, we would have returned for a second day to complete our visit - there is a \$6 fee to extend for a second day.

When you arrive in the area, the first thing you notice is that the sidewalks are paved with bricks donated in honor of veterans, their friends and families - there are names, military affiliations, tributes and so on. You enter the first building and, after waiting in

line and purchasing tickets, you will be given a clip-on button to put on your shirt (this allows entry to each separate building and the color varies each day so you can't sneak back in the next day) and a dog tag with a unique number (see photo of dog tags and buttons). The first stop in the museum is on an old railcar for orientation. The significance of the dog tag is explained: you can scan it on a screen in front of your seat on the train, log in with your name and address and find out whose identity and life story you are able to access - there are dog tag stations all around the museum where you can find out more about your particular veteran and his or her life. Upon exiting the train, you can visit the rest of the Louisiana Memorial Pavilion to see many of the exhibits including several planes that are suspended from the roof (see photo of the RAF Spitfire), a vintage Harley-Davidson motorcycle as used during the war (see photo) and many other artifacts. There is one room devoted entirely to the story of the Tuskegee Airmen.

We had reservations for the 1 pm showing of "*Beyond All Boundaries*", so we made our way across the street to the Theater complex. At show time, your group is taken into the entry hallway where a short presentation is given (narrated by **Tom Hanks**) explaining about how the world was
(continued on page 8)



Biography of the Month: Jack Benny

by Stan Schroeder

For those of us who grew up with radio as our primary home entertainment the **Jack Benny Show** was the highlight of the week. Especially as Jews, we were fans of **Jack, Fannie Brice, George Burns, Graucho Marx**, and many others. When I first started this series over ten years ago I selected people born in the month of the issue. During the first year Jack was my November bio. I repeat it here because I ran out of time with my new bio. Enjoy.



Jack Benny was born **Benjamin Kubelsky** (nicknamed Benny) in Chicago February 14, 1894 into a religious Jewish family. His father **Meyer** was an immigrant from Lithuania in 1889. Meyer met **Emma Sachs** with the help of a matchmaker from Chicago; her family also emigrated from Lithuania, and she was considered to be a beauty. The family settled in Waukegan, Illinois. Jack was very attached to his hometown, referring to it often in his shows. Jack started playing the violin at the age of six, studying at the Chicago School of Music. He became so good the civic leaders of Waukegan decided to provide the funding for Benny to attend a fine European conservatory in order to perfect his craft. Jack, however, refused to go.

Jack was expelled from high school and failed Waukegan Business College. At 16 he got a job as an orchestra violinist at the local vaudeville theater. When the theater closed the next year he and the orchestra pianist formed a vaudeville act which they debuted in Gary, Indiana. Three weeks later he was forced to change his stage name because his name was too similar to that of an established violinist. The next year **Lyman Woods** became his pianist and they performed as a team for about five years. However they bombed their big chance at the *Palace Theater*. After Jack's mother died in 1917 he joined the U.S. Navy during World War I. He did shows with fellow servicemen. During one show, when his music was jeered, one of his pals went on the stage and whispered something in his ear. Jack ad-libbed a joke and the audience roared with laughter. He became the star of a comedy show some of the guys put together.



After returning from the navy, Jack resumed his career in vaudeville, this time as a comedian, using his violin as a prop. In 1922, while performing in Vancouver, British Columbia, he was a guest at a Passover dinner at the home of **David Marks**, a prominent businessman. Four years later he was back in Vancouver and began

seeing David's daughter Sadie who was then 16, and working in a department store. Sadie and her sister went out to dinner with Jack and some of his friends after one of his shows. He finally got the nerve to ask her out to a dinner date, and the next year they were married in Waukegan.

Jack became well known in theater and had started making movies. In 1932 he did an interview with **Ed Sullivan** on the radio. The first time a radio audience heard the voice of Jack Benny, it said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, this is Jack Benny talking. There will be a slight pause while you say, Who cares?" Benny's spot on *The Ed Sullivan Show* received great audience reaction and got the attention of some advertising agencies. On May 2, 1932, Jack's own radio show debuted. It was called the *Canada Dry Ginger Ale Program*. After a few months Jack created a part for Sadie with the character called **Mary Livingstone**. The character became so popular Sadie legally changed her name to Mary Livingstone Benny. Mary became his most trusted advisor and his style coordinator as well as his devoted wife of 47 years. By 1934 the show became the most popular radio program in America and aired for 21 years Sunday at 7 PM. I looked forward to Jack, Mary, **Dennis Day, Rochester, Phil Harris, Don Wilson, Mel Blanc**, and Jack's guests every Sunday on NBC.

As a comedian, Benny was neither a joke-teller nor given to slapstick. He based his humor on the careful cultivation of his stage image as a vain, stingy man and would-be violinist, who was the butt of insults and other people's jokes. He adopted a set of mannerisms that included a martyr-like stare with chin resting on hand, three fingers on the cheek, accompanied by facial expressions of disbelief and frustration, all made funnier by perfectly timed utterances of "Well!," "Hmmm," and "Now cut that out!"

Benny made his first motion picture in 1927, completing 18 more between 1930 and 1945. Most of his movies had minimal success, but in his most memorable film *Charley's Aunt* in 1941, Jack demonstrated another side of his acting in the starring female-impersonation role. He successfully transferred his radio show to TV with basically the same format from 1950 through 1965 on CBS. Jack Benny died of cancer in December 1974. He had been preparing to star with **Walter Matthau** in *The Sunshine Boys*, the role going instead to his friend **George Burns**.

Jewish World Watch Walk Early Registration

by Rae Wazana

The **Jewish World Watch Walk to End Genocide** will take place in the Conejo Valley next year on Sunday, March 13. Shir Ami will have a Walk Team again at this annual event. The website for the 2016 Walk will go live on **Mitzvah Day (November 1st)**. There is a Mitzvah Day Bonus! If you register online and pay by November 30th, you will get last year's registration price of \$20(adults 23+) for the 2016 Walk. Otherwise, the 2016 registration fee will be \$25 for adults 23+. There are separate fees for students (12-22) and for children (5-11).



Our Congregation members will be able to participate in a JWW art activity at our Mitzvah Day November 1st. This activity is connected to a very dire situation going on with Darfuri survivors living in refugee camps in Eastern Chad. Their food supply rations have been cut from 2100 calories a day to 500-800 calories per day. Jewish World Watch is taking an activist stance in calling for the restoration of the 2100 calories per day by the World Food Program and the United Nations.

Please continue to help support the work and activities of JWW by participating in next year's Walk on March 13th or by sponsoring our Walk Team.

Thank you!

About My "Twinny"

by Helga Unkeless

My 'twinny' **Herb Leverant** reads all the Shir Ami emails and *Shir Notes*. He made a large donation towards the yad, and now made a very sizable donation for **Leon Nachenberg's** MEND family. Leon sent him an email of gratitude and explained what the family's needs were, etc.



Thanks to Herb for his support and we are looking forward to his next visit.

Sukkot Dinner in the de Toledo High Sukkah

by Stan Schroeder

de Toledo High School erected a beautiful large sukkah in the grassy quad area behind the main building and made it available to the public during hours when school was not in session. **Sheilah Hart** and **Jerry Gort** and **Phyllis** and I took advantage of this opportunity and had an early picnic dinner the Tuesday evening of Sukkot.

Sheilah and Phyllis prepared a lovely meal that was preceded by the four of us making the traditional Sukkot and wine blessings.



Phyllis Schroeder, Sheilah Hart, Jerry Gort, and Stan Schroeder in the de Toledo sukkah



Clara and Stan Rosenbluth in the sukkah at Temple Ner Shalom in San Luis Obispo. They moved to Arroyo Grande the end of May. Clara served as our President and Treasurer

World War II Museum in New Orleans

(continued)

led into WW II and all the world events that contributed to the rise of Hitler and the Nazis, as well as the nationalist fervor in Japan where Emperor Hirohito was revered as a god. After this presentation, everyone passes through into the theatre (comfortable seats) where the 48-minute movie is shown. It is an extremely moving cinematic experience, in 4D, so you really feel close to all the action shown on screen. I personally felt that the narrative is something that should be shown to all high-school and/or college students so that they get a good perspective of what can happen when the world turns its back on evil, buries its head in the sand, or favors appeasement over confrontation. It makes the words "Never again" very much alive.

After the movie, we toured the Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters pavilion. The dog tags come into play here too as there are scanning stations dotted along the way throughout the building. By following the time line of "your" veteran, you get a very personal look at what our service men and women lived through. There is a very impressive amount of memorabilia on display and great care has been taken to document everything digitally as well. A person could spend hours going through this building alone. The Holocaust is, of course, well documented and with much respect.

Since returning home, I have received numerous e-mails with updates on current presentations being given at the Museum. Many of their presentations can be accessed through their website. As I write this, I see that, on October 8, they have a lecture by **Kati Marton** on her book "*The Great Escape: Nine Jews Who Fleed Hitler and Changed the World*", published in 2007. These nine men were scientists, film makers, writers, and photographers, all of whom fled Hungary and brought their talents to the West. The lecture was also available via live-streaming, so I presume that is how they make all their lectures available to the general public.

All in all, I believe the Museum is well worth visiting and I cannot recommend it highly enough.

A Thanksgiving Poem

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

Judith A. Lindberg



A Thanksgiving Prayer

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

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

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

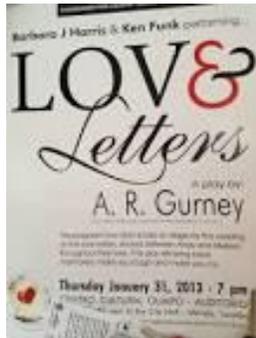
Let our thanks be felt from the morn
 When we vow at the rising sun
 To express our thanks for being born
 Until our days work is done.

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

Stan Schroeder Thanksgiving 2001

Free Performance of Love Letters Dec. 20

Our own **Barbara Grubman** and former member **Jack Kutcher** will present their rendition of the Broadway play *Love Letters* at Barbara's home Sunday afternoon, December 20.



A unique and imaginative theatre piece which, in the words of the author **A. R. Gurney**, "needs no theatre, no lengthy rehearsal, no special set, no memorization of lines, and no commitment from its two actors beyond the night of performance." The piece is comprised of letters exchanged over a lifetime between two people who grew up together, went their separate ways, but continued to share confidences. As the actors read the letters aloud, what is created is an

evocative, touching, frequently funny but always telling pair of character studies in which what is implied is as revealing and meaningful as what is actually written down.

Andrew Makepeace Ladd III and Melissa Gardner, both born to wealth and position, are childhood friends whose lifelong correspondence begins with birthday party thank-you notes and summer camp postcards. Romantically attached, they continue to exchange letters through the boarding school and college years—where Andy goes on to excel at Yale and law school, while Melissa flunks out of a series of "good schools."

You won't want to miss the surprising ending.

See the flyer with this *Shir Notes* for more details and to make reservations.

TREE OF LIFE

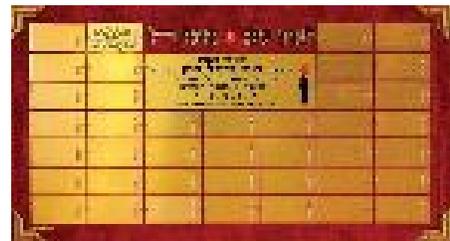


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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

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

Congregation Shir Ami Memorial Board



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

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

Shop at Ralphs - Earn Money for Shir Ami

by Maralyn Soifer

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Congregation Shir Ami
Annual Chanukah Dinner
Wednesday, December 9th at 6:30 pm
In the Social Hall at Temple Ramat Zion in Northridge



Enjoy delectable Brisket
Luscious LATKES and APPLE SAUCE
ROASTED VEGETABLES
FRUIT
BROWNIES and JELLY DOUGHNUTS



Come and share in a wonderful evening that will include great food (catered by the TRZ Men's Club), songs and a Chanukah story told by our own Rabbi Vorspan.

Bring your Chanukiah and candles for the community candle lighting



Chanukah Dinner

Must R.S.V.P., with your enclosed check, by Monday, November 30th to
(Please note; reservations must be received by the R.S.V.P. date)

Congregation Shir Ami

PO Box 6353, Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Adult(s) @ \$21.00 _____

Sponsor(s) @ \$25.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Don't you just Love Letters by Barbara Joan Grubman

Forget the tweets, forget the twitters, ignore Facebook, the texting and the snapchat.

Experience the old fashioned joy of holding a real piece of paper with handwritten words on it. Complete words..... not L.O.L, or I.D.K.

Hurry and mark your calendars...by hand, that is! On **Sunday, Dec. 20 at 2:00 pm (curtain at 2:30)**

Jack Kutcher and **Barbara Joan Grubman** will present a reading of the hit Broadway show, *LOVE LETTERS*, written by **A. R. Gurney**.



Jack and Barbara will be reading letters that were sent between Melissa and Andy, starting in the second grade at about 7 years old and continuing till they are both in their fifties. You'll laugh, you'll cry as you hear the words they wrote to one another, reminisce and catch up on news of their present lives. You will be touched by their sentiments and amused by their humor.

There will be a light repast after the show. And just for the fun of it, we are asking that you bring an object (any size is fine), that has something to do with love in your life. Looking forward to entertaining you on this grand journey we will be taking together.

Since the show will be presented in my Woodland Hills ranch home, and there will be limited and comfortable seating for 50 people, please make your reservations by December 1st.. Now for the details.

PLACE: Home of Barbara Joan Grubman
4960 Winnetka Ave.
Woodland Hills

To REPLY

CALL Barbara (818) 884-6236 or E-MAIL her at bgrubman@sbcglobal.net

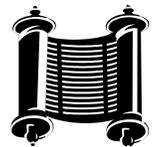
Thursdays November 5 and 12, 7:30 - 8:30 pm “Around the Rabbi’s Tisch” at the Vorspans’



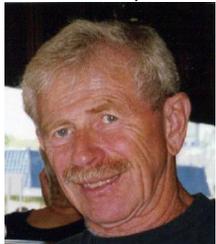
This popular Shir Ami educational series continues its 5776 season. Come join us for our weekly discussion of Rabbi Vorspan’s selected topics of Jewish interest. We discuss Jewish texts and current events as they relate to Jewish values and our lives as Jews. This is a unique opportunity to learn and share in an informal format around the Vorspans’ dining room table.

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

Saturday November 7, 10:30 am: Torah/Shabbat Study at Northridge Mobile Home Park



Stan Schroeder has started his second season of Shabbat study sessions 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 November 7. Our Torah portion is *Chayei Sarah* (Life of Sarah) (Genesis 23:1 - 25:18), that actually starts with her death. It is the story of Rebecca, chosen to be the wife of Isaac. Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 for more information.

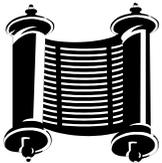
Congregation Shir Ami Schedule of Shabbat Services 2015
Conducted by Rabbi David Vorspan at
de Toledo (formerly New Community Jewish) High School,
22622 Vanowen St., West Hills
Services held in library near the front entrance

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

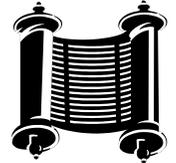


September 2015

Saturday, September 26 - Anniversary

October 2015

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



November 2015

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



David Vorspan
Rabbi

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

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: _____ **Mail this tear-off to sign up for Mitzvah Day 2015**
 Phone No. _____

Number of backpacks @ \$18 each: _____

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

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

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