



Events of the Month

Shabbat services at de Toledo High School

Saturday, May 7 - 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, May 21 - 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

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

Our 5776 season of Rabbi's weekly discussion concludes. Call Rabbi at (818) 888-9817 or see flyer.

Social Action Mother's and Father's Day Celebration Friday, May 6, 1:00 pm at West Valley Healthcare

Our Committee invites everyone to join them in their annual celebration with the residents. See article on page 4.

Torah and Shabbat Study Saturday, May 14, 10:30 am Northridge Mobile Home Park

Stan Schroeder leads our monthly study and discussion session. Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 or see flyer

Early Bird Movie & Dinner Sunday, May 15, 2:30 pm at de Toledo High School

Crossing Delancey starring **Amy Irving**, a delightful romantic comedy, followed by a pizza and salad dinner. Our new venue will provide better lighting and sound. See article on page 9 + flyer Call Helga Unkeless at (818) 340-5751.

Visit our website:
www.shirami.com

Rabbi's Column



We began counting the Omer on the second night of Pesach, which we will continue to do daily for 49 days. The fiftieth day will be Shavuot, the holiday commemorating the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people.

What is this counting all about? What is the connection between Pesach and Shavuot? Why are we counting down with such anticipation to *Z'man Matan Torataynu* – the season of the giving of the Torah?

Consider: The Jews are freed from Egyptian bondage, but don't feel completely free until they bind themselves to the mitzvot of the Torah. Freedom without the discipline of law is mere anarchy. And so our celebration of Pesach is incomplete. We need the Torah. We need to feel not only a connectedness, but a sense of ownership of the mitzvot.

How important is this for we who dwell in the USA? Vital, because the freedom of America is killing the Jewish people. We have so embraced the notion of freedom that Jews feel this is license to be free from religious obligations.

We forget that America is a country bound by law, with our freedoms detailed in our founding documents, but relying on constraints to protect citizens' property and our pursuit of happiness.

This country's laws are a series of "Thou shalt nots," with rarely a "Thou shalt." Judaism has its share of negative law (Thou shalt not murder, steal, gossip, etc.); in fact 365 of the 613 mitzvot in the Torah are framed in the negative. But among the Torah's positive laws are Thou shalt love your neighbor as yourself, not stand idly by the blood of thy neighbor, and observe the Shabbat.

We will never find such laws among this country's statutes. We do better telling people what they can't do than telling them what they should do. Acts of *tzedaka*, whether through the giving of charity or assisting the elderly, the poor or the sick, will always remain off the legislative books.

But while we might feel "commanded" to pay our taxes, we don't feel "commanded" to observe Jewish ritual. We might keep them if they make sense to us, work within the constraints of our life style, or require minimal inconvenience. But few within the Jewish community feel that these are Divinely ordained commandments (the definition of mitzvah).

And so we count the Omer, from Pesach to Shavuot. But with how much eager anticipation to we truly approach Shavuot? Is there something else we should be doing other than marking off each day on our calendar (if we are even doing that)?

I suggest we also count down to Shavuot as a personal challenge: will I, after study and preparation, bind myself to another mitzvah to show that I am truly free? Will I make discipline a part of my daily life by reading a

(continued on page 2)

President's Report

There are only four Shabbat Services left until we take our summer break. After all, if you don't come to Shabbat Services, how can you enjoy the summer break?



Thanks to all of you (and there were a lot of you) who came to honor **Stan and Phyllis Schroeder** last month. As they say, a good time was had by all. We are fortunate to have Stan and Phyllis as members of our congregation and we are indeed fortunate to have a congregation that knows how to party in the afternoon!

This month we have our **Early Bird Dinner and a Movie**. Our movie will be "**Crossing Delancy**," starring **Amy Irving** and **Peter Reigert** who attempt to answer the question, "Can an independent woman who works in a famous private book shop find true love with a pickle-maker with the help of (or in spite of) her Bubbe and a matchmaker?" The movie will be followed by "Post-Pesach Pizza" and salad.

May your Pesach brisket be tender, your chicken moist and flavorful; may your herbs not be *too* bitter and may the children at your Seder not negotiate for the Afikomen like they are members of the Teamsters Union!

With only four Shabbat Services left to go, that means you have only four more chances to take advantage the convenience of bring food for SOVA to services. And our "Tisch" season is winding down, so now is the time.

As always, 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

Rabbi's Column (continued)

the Torah, or study a Jewish text, or recite an evening prayer? Will Shavuot conclude the holiday of Pesach, or will we cut short our redemption, to wander aimlessly in the desert of American freedom?

Shavuot begins Saturday evening, June 11th. We have until then to make up our minds.

Rabbi David Vorspan

Stan and Phyllis Tribute Luncheon

On Sunday, April 10, Congregation Shir Ami honored **Stan Schroeder** and **Phyllis Feldman-Schroeder** at a luncheon at de Toledo High School. Stan and Phyllis were recognized for all of their efforts and donations to the congregation. Almost 100 guests, including family, friends and synagogue members, attended this special event which included speeches from **Owen Delman**, **Jordan Pistol**, synagogue president, and **Rabbi David Vorspan**. Los Angeles City proclamations from Councilman **Mitchell Englander** were presented to Stan and Phyllis and a donation was made by the Congregation in their honor to the **Los Angeles Jewish Home**, one of the many charities that they support. A Tribute Book, comprised of congratulatory sentiments from family, friends, and members, was given to the attendees. The program concluded with a musical presentation by **Hisato Masuyama**.



Stan and Phyllis thanked all of those in attendance with beautiful and meaningful thoughts that expressed their appreciation for the special honor that they received. Of course, Stan presented a poem that was a tribute to Congregation Shir Ami.

This program was a fitting accolade to Stan and Phyllis for their many years of support of the congregation.

Sherry Dollins and Ellen Fremed
Tribute co-chairs

Editor's Note: Please see Stan's response and his poem on page 8 and more pictures from the event on page 7.





DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

Art and Carol Altshiller
Fran Friedman for Frank Miller, Saul Joachim, and Mickey Levine
Seymour Gordon for Lee Gordon
Ethel Granik for her father
Irwin and Carol Koransky for Blanche Koransky
Esther Perez for Josephine Paparo
Lonny and Nancy Scharf for David Haas
Edward and Fay Schneier

Birthdays

Ben Vorspan

Sale of Hametz

Irwin and Carol Koransky
Lonny and Nancy Scharf

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

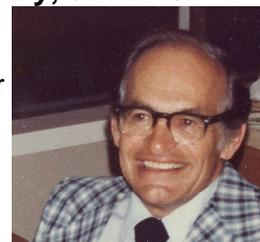
Laurie Orens..... 5/5
Harvey Cohen..... 5/12
Debra Geffen..... 5/12
Linda Tapper..... 5/19
Jerry Kovar..... 5/21
Cheryl Niesen..... 5/21
Ellen Fremed..... 5/23
Gladys Sturman..... 5/30

Anniversaries

Pat and Jerry Michaelson..... 5/15 28th
Karen and Ian Kroop..... 5/24 7th

Yahrzeit Tribute to Rabbi Max Vorspan After Shabbat Service Saturday, June 18

by Stan Schroeder



Congregation Shir Ami will honor the memory of **Rabbi Max Vorspan** with a program and Kiddush lunch following our Shabbat service at our final Shabbat service before our summer recess.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Max earned a BA from the University of Minnesota and a doctorate from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York where he studied under **Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan**. He was ordained at the seminary. After serving as a chaplain in Saipan during World War II, he moved to Los Angeles at Kaplan's request to become rabbi at Temple B'nai Israel in Pasadena. There he persuaded the Pasadena Jewish community to reconstitute itself as the Jewish Community of Pasadena containing B'nai Israel, B'nai Brith Men and Women, Hadassah, and ORT. He organized Kaplan's vision of Reconstructionist Judaism.

An instructor in American Jewish history at the University of Judaism since 1953, he helped develop the school from a small teachers college and adult school into a nationally recognized undergraduate and graduate institution. Besides teaching, he served in several administrative posts, including registrar, executive dean and provost, and held the title senior vice president. He also helped found Camp Ramah.

Please join us at this special program where **Rabbi David Vorspan** will share his memories of his father's life and legacy.

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.

Change to Roster



Seymour and Ann Potell

New email address: aspotell8767@att.net

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:



Barbara Grubman
Al Simon
Fiona Taylor
Fran Kobulnick

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

Social Action Committee

First, I want to personally thank the very generous person who made a huge Passover donation to SOVA in honor of our Social Action Committee. I also want to personally



thank **Fiona Taylor** for picking up and delivering all the 5 lb packages of Passover matzo to SOVA. Special thanks to all of you who gave so generously during our Passover

drive. We are proud of our congregation's commitment to our community mitzvah projects. Remember bins are always available in the lobby and now SOVA welcomes new children's books.

We are still collecting and need **Target \$10 gift cards for the women and children in the domestic violence**



shelters we help sponsor for Mother's Day. Our goal is to give each mom and child a \$10 card so they can buy something they need personally. Please mail your gift cards to Fran Kobulnick or give them to a Committee member at services or temple events. The cards taken to the shelters in time for Mother's Day. If you have any questions, call Fran. Thank you for helping us with this very special mitzvah.

Our committee will again celebrate **Shabbat and Mother's/Father's Day at the West Valley Healthcare Center** on Friday, May 6 at 1:00 pm. **Claire Silverman** will lead the residents and attendees in a festive sing-along that is always enjoyed by everyone. After we say the blessing over our challah, wine, and Shabbat candles, we will have one-on-one visits, giving each resident a beautiful plant (hopefully). This is one of the most rewarding community mitzvah projects and brings instant happiness. We invite everyone to participate.

Come join us for our annual **Walk Around Lake Balboa** on Sunday, June 5. This year we will be walking to raise money for **Parkinson's disease research**. Our co-chairs of the walk are **Sheilah Hart** and **Charlene Kazel** will be happy to answer any questions. Please send in your completed flyers with your checks to reserve your spot for our Walk and brunch. We will have a guest speaker as well. Ask your family and friends to join us and/or sponsor us, but everyone must pre-register so that we have an accurate headcount to provide adequate seating for the brunch. Honor those you know with Parkinson's disease by being generous with your donation to fund further research and find a cure.

Get well wishes to **Fiona Taylor** who broke her wrist and **Al Simon** who was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's. On a more personal note, **Sam's** accident which led to his hospitalization and rehab set back our schedule for preparing for the Walk.

I hope you enjoyed beautiful seders with your family and friends while remembering many of our members had a difficult holiday because of the losses they suffered this past year. Please reach out to those who need your support.

To all the amazing mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers in our congregation, we wish you a special Mother's Day surrounded by those you love.

Shalom,
Fran Kobulnick, Social Action Vice President

Walk Around Lake Balboa Parkinson's Research by Charlene Kazel

When **Abraham Joshua Heschel** walked beside his friend, **Martin Luther King**, Heschel was asked why he was doing it. His reply was that he was praying with his feet. And that is exactly what we will be doing on our **Walk Around Lake Balboa** at 9 am on Sunday, June 5. We will be praying that we can make a difference in **finding the cause and cure for Parkinson's disease**.

Prayers are only half the cure; the other half is your generous donations toward research in finding that cure. We will be walking with **Team Parkinson's** and the **Parkinson's Alliance**. 100% of your donation will stay in our community and be split between research being conducted at UCLA and USC. We can and will be part of the cure and be able to erase Parkinson's from our midst.



Thank you.



Biography of the Month: Janet Yellen

by Stan Schroeder

Meet one of the most influential people in the world whom *Time Magazine* had in their list of finalists for 2015 Person of the Year (German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** won) and the *Jerusalem Post* proclaimed the second most influential Jewish person of 2015, after only Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**. She is Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve **Janet Yellen**.



Janet Louise Yellen was born August 14, 1946 to a Jewish family in Brooklyn, New York, the daughter of **Anna (née Blumenthal)**, a teacher, and **Julius Yellen**, a physician. Her father's family originally came from the Polish town of Suwałki. She graduated from Fort Hamilton High School in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn. During her senior year she was both the valedictorian of her class and the editor of the school newspaper, *The Pilot*. It was traditional for the editor of *The Pilot* to interview the valedictorian for an article. She wrote the article in which she, the editor, interviewed herself, the valedictorian. She wrote of her interest in geology (she had an extensive rock collection), her participation in the Science Honors Program at Columbia University, and her world travels with her parents.

Janet graduated *summa cum laude* from Pembroke College (Brown University) with a degree in economics in 1967. At Brown, she had switched her planned major from philosophy to economics. She received her Ph.D. in economics from Yale University in 1971.

From 1971 to 1976, she was an assistant professor at Harvard University. From 1977 to 1978, she worked for the Board of Governors as an economist, before joining the faculty of the London School of Economics and Political Science (1978–80). She is professor emeritus at the University of California at Berkeley, where she has been a faculty member since 1980. She took leave from Berkeley for five years starting in August 1994.

At that time she was appointed as a member of the Federal Reserve System's Board of Governors and served as Chair of President **Bill Clinton's** Council of Economic Advisors from February 1997 until August 1999. She also chaired the Economic Policy Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development from 1997 to 1999. Yellen served as president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

(2004–10) as well as vice chair of the Board of Governors (2010 -14) before her appointment as Chair effective February 1, 2014 by **President Obama**.

She became the first woman to lead the bank since its creation nearly a century ago, but not the first Jew. She follows her immediate predecessor **Ben Bernanke** who was Jewish, and Bernanke's immediate predecessor, **Alan Greenspan**, who was Jewish, too. There have been two other Jewish fed chairs in the past century. In fact, the other frontrunner for the position, **Lawrence Summers**, was Jewish too.

In 1978 Yellen married economist **George Akerlof**, who is also Jewish. Akerlof won the Nobel prize for economics in 2001 with two other Americans. While living in Berkley, Yellen and Akerlof were members of the Reform Congregation Beth El, where their only son **Robert** attended pre-school. Robert now teaches economics at the University of Warwick in England.

Jewish activists involved in the Bay Area community, as well as those from the Jewish community in Washington, where Yellen has been living off and on, could not recall any further involvement by her in Jewish life or in Jewish organizations. An economist friend of Yellen told the *Forward* that he knows she is Jewish, "but that's about it."

Yellen's term as Chair is four years, ending February 2018, but can be extended by the President. Her term on the Board of Governors ends in 2024. Like her predecessor, Yellen has been a strong dove, although many of her peers maintain that this has simply been due to current economic conditions, and that she could become a hawk under appropriate circumstances. She will also be the first Democrat to chair the Fed in nearly 30 years, although she has backed Bernanke's bond-buyback program and is expected to continue to enact and perhaps even expand an economic stimulus policy to boost the economy. She has sought to emulate the philosophy of **James Tobin**, an economist who believed that an economy can be rescued from recession through governmental intervention.

She and her husband, George Akerlof, are both Keynesian economists who believe that economic markets are fundamentally flawed and need governmental regulation to function correctly. They both created economic models showing how firms seeking to maximize profits would pay higher than minimum wages. This model was a rebuttal to conservatives such as **Robert Lucas**, who mandated that flexible wages and prices would allow the economy to revert to form more easily after market upheavals. These models helped to form the foundation of the New Keynesian philosophy.

Shir Ami Event Membership Survey

A couple of months ago the Board of Directors of Congregation Shir Ami sent out a Membership Survey to the entire membership requesting feedback about the synagogue's programs, events, and services over the past two years. I am pleased to announce that we had a 40% response rate to the survey which is considered to be outstanding in statistical terms. Those that responded gave insightful and honest answers that the Board will use to determine the direction of future programs and events.

Thank you to those who took the time to respond. The Board appreciates your willingness to share your thoughts and give us your suggestions. We will make every effort to give you programs that you will find enjoyable, educational, and thought-provoking.

Sherry Dollins
Program Co-Vice President

Skirball Museum: Baseball Exhibit

By Owen Delman

The Shir Ami visit to the exhibit **Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American** has been set for **Sunday, May 22 at 10:00 am**. Our group will have a private docent tour of this exciting exhibit. The cost for the tour is \$9.00/person and covers the admission to the museum.

Featuring over 130 artifacts, original films, and interactive experiences, "Chasing Dreams" is the first large-scale exhibition to use the story of Jews and baseball to highlight ways in which our national pastime is part of the history, and ongoing story of how immigrants and other minority communities -- including Italians, Asians, Latinos, African Americans, and many others -- become American.

Please **contact Owen Delman by May 9** at **owened39@gmail.com** or (818) 347-8377 if you wish to join the group for this most interesting and unique show.

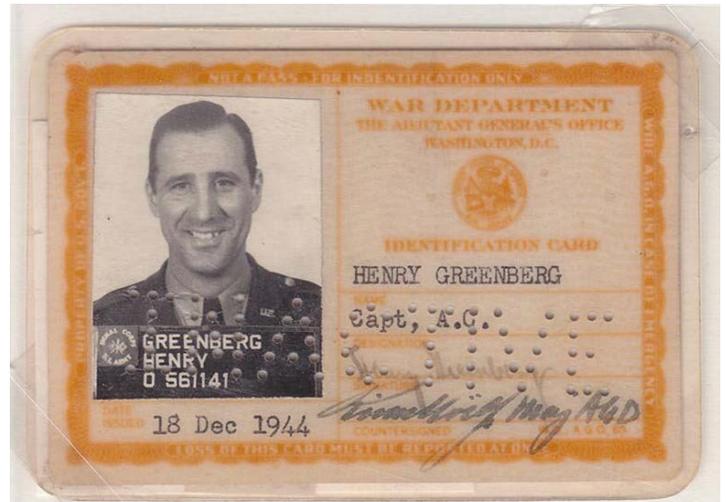
Operation Gratitude and Project MOT

by Charlene Kazel

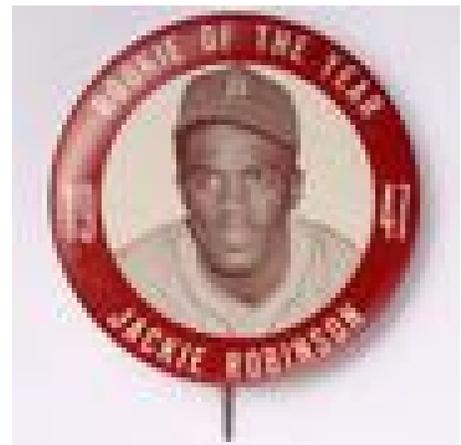
May is a Merry and Memorable month, a time when we pay tribute to our mothers and grandmothers who loved us and taught us. We grew up knowing about *tzedakah* and about doing for others. And so we follow in their footsteps as we show support for **Operation Gratitude and Project MOT**. We bring cheer to those serving in the military who are far away from home and loved ones. To every mother's child who is serving in the military, these are the gifts we've sent so far this year:

	Operation Gratitude	Project MOT
Books	277	23
Cards and letters	192	35
Magazines	12	
Gifts	145	

Thank you, one and all, for your generosity, and to all our Mothers, a very loving and Happy Mother's Day.



Hank Greenberg's World War II Identification card



Jackie Robinson 1947 Rookie of the Year pin



Stan Schroeder's Response to Tribute

First I thank Congregation Shir Ami, **Sherry Dollins** and **Ellen Fremed** and their committee who put this event together, and all you here and others who weren't able to attend who supported the effort. I appreciate the recognition and the honor. Next I want to tell you why you never should have done it.

I lead a comfortable life doing the things I do for Shir Ami because I want to. Shir Ami has given me a way to spend my retirement in a meaningful way for people and values I believe in. The Congregation promotes Community, Conservative (with a capital C, but liberal interpretation) Judaism, observance at a personal level, Social Action for the greater community, education and, Jewish holiday and Shabbat celebration. Within this framework I can function as:

.Ritual Vice President, coordinating Shabbat and High Holy Day services (though I wouldn't consider myself as focusing on ritual)

.Editor and Publisher and Writer for our monthly newsletter *Shir Notes* and contributor to our website

.Program coordinator arranging speakers for Lunch and Learn and other performances

.Leader for monthly Shabbat Torah study

.Coordinator for information and programs about Israel

I enjoy doing all these things, but I am not comfortable with personal attention for it. Most of you know that I am not particularly shy. I like feeling a part of Shir Ami and contributing to its success.

That being said, I have a few more thoughts on this special occasion.

Our oral tradition in Perkei Avot (the Ethics of our Fathers) states:

Shimon HaTzaddik (the Righteous Man) *was from the remnants of the Great Assembly.*

He used to say:

On three things the world stands.

On Torah, On service [of God],

And on acts of human kindness.

We think of Torah as either the first five books of the bible that we read during services in the Jewish yearly cycle, or entire *Tanach* (the Jewish bible including the Prophets and the Writings). In a broader sense it is the wisdom of our Tradition. The more we learn, the greater our ability to apply its commandments and narrative to our lives in our time. My involvement with

Shir Ami has opened the door to educational opportunities in the larger Jewish synagogue community.

Many of us struggle to find a concept of God that can fit our rational and more emotional selves. On a rational level we conclude that we cannot know, that we must have faith, whatever that is. On an emotional level we are the result of generations of a People who continue to exist and succeed despite being small in numbers and big in persecution. I have found our Shir Ami environment accepting of all varieties of this struggle.

We can certainly agree that "acts of human kindness" are indeed integral to our "little shul that does." We support each other and the community through our Sunshine Lady **Fran Friedman** and our Social Action Committee led by **Fran Kobulnick**. In a more general sense, it is our interaction with our fellow human beings that reflect both our application of Torah and our level of Godliness or holiness in our lives.

Many of you know that one of my hobbies is writing poetry. It started almost 40 years ago with a poem I wrote for my sister Cissy after she put together a special tribute 70th birthday dinner for our mother. Then I began writing for family occasions and more recently, around 13 years ago and coincident with our involvement with Shir Ami, poetry with a Judaic theme. I conclude with a poem for this occasion.

A Tribute to Shir Ami

Today our Congregation honors us.
Many of you are making quite a fuss.
Phyllis and I want, instead, to honor you
For it's Shir Ami that embodies what we do.

Shir Ami is Community for us all,
A valued family upon whom we call.
Jewish values we are blessed to share,
Rabbi David and Bonnie, Members who care.

Shabbat services at de Toledo School,
Singing and celebrating are the rule.
Rabbi explaining Torah, eternally true;
We each have a different point of view.

Monthly events, both for learning and fun;
Being together brings joy to everyone.
Inevitably sickness and loss are part of living,
We support each other with acts of giving.

As our tribute to our Congregation,
Accept our heartfelt congratulation
For enriching our lives and our souls
And helping us accomplish our goals.

TREE OF LIFE

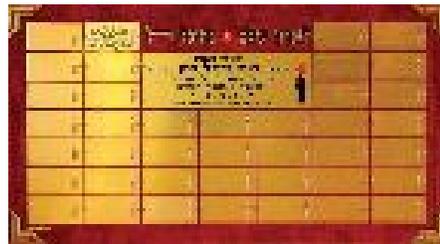


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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.

Early Bird Movie and Dinner Sunday May 15 *Crossing Delancey* starring Amy Irving

Our annual **Early Bird Dinner and Movie** will be Sunday, May 15 at 2:30 pm in a new and improved venue: our de Toledo library/Shir Ami Shabbat sanctuary with an audio-visual system used by the de Toledo classes. This promises to be a more comfortable and enjoyable viewing experience.



Our movie will be the 1988 romantic comedy starring **Amy Irving** as **Isabelle (Izzy) Grossman**, 33 years old never-married Jewish woman who works in a fashionable bookstore and has a grandmother who lives a life steeped in old world Jewish culture on the Lower East Side of New York.

The story depicts Izzy's dilemma as she is courted by two suitors: Very Famous Author of the married variety, a jaded, world-weary celebrity who

woos her with Confucius's words about ripe plums and a single, responsible pickle merchant named **Sam Posner** who loves old ladies, particularly Isabelle's grandmother, and he's generous almost to a fault.



But what makes *Crossing Delancey* so appealing is the warm and leisurely way it arrives at its inevitable conclusion. All the different aspects of Izzy's busy, contradiction-filled life are carefully drawn, giving the film a realistic, well-populated feeling and a nicely wry view of the modern world. Yet somehow the director, **Joan Micklin Silver**, and the writer, **Susan Sandler** (adapting her own play), manage to combine a down-to-earth, contemporary outlook with the dreaminess of a fairy tale.

The movie starts at 3 pm with a pizza and salad dinner to follow. Admission is \$15 or \$20 for a sponsor. Please join us for an entertaining afternoon. See flyer or call **Helga** at (818) 340-5751.

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.

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

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

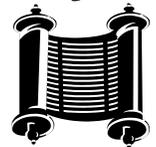


This popular Shir Ami educational series concludes the second half of its 5776 season. Come join us for our weekly discussion of Rabbi Vorspan’s selected topics of Jewish interest. We discuss Jewish texts and current events as they relate to Jewish values and our lives as Jews. This is a unique opportunity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

May 5 we will commemorate Yom HaShoah and May 12 celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut.

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

Saturday May 14, 10:30 am: Torah/Shabbat Study at Northridge Mobile Home Park rec room



Stan Schroeder leads a Shabbat study session one Saturday morning a month. Northridge Mobile Home Park is located at 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 May 14. The Torah reading will be parsha *Kedoshim* (Leviticus:19.1 - 20.27). We will also discuss the Israel Memorial Day and Independence holidays that occurred earlier in the week. We are commanded “*la asok b’divre torah*” (to engage in the study of Torah). Join us to fulfill the mitzvah.

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

Congregation Shir Ami Early Bird Movie and Dinner
Crossing Delancey

Sunday May 15th 2:30 pm at
de Toledo High School

22622 Vanowen St., West Hills

Our "theater" is to the right of main lobby.

Movie starts at 3:00 followed by pizza and
salad dinner...and still drive home before dark!

Our movie will be the 1988 romantic comedy starring **Amy Irving**
as **Isabelle (Izzy) Grossman**, 33 years old never-married Jewish
woman who works in a fashionable bookstore and has a grand-
mother who lives a life steeped in old world Jewish culture on the Lower East Side of
New York.



The story depicts Izzy's dilemma as she is courted by two suitors: Very Famous Author
of the married variety, a jaded, world-weary celebrity who woos her with Confucius's
words about ripe plums and a single, responsible pickle merchant named **Sam Posner**
who loves old ladies, particularly Isabelle's grandmother, and he's generous almost to a
fault.

Each year our annual Early Bird Movie and dinner has been
lots of fun and an opportunity to schmooze with your Shir Ami
old and new friends. Come join us for an entertaining afternoon.



\$15 per person (\$20 for sponsor)

For more information call Helga Unkeless at (818) 340-5751.

Clip this form and send with payment by **May 9th** **(Early Bird Movie)**

Your name: _____ Phone No.: _____

of regular attendees: _____ # of sponsors: _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

Mail this form and payment to:

Congregation Shir Ami

P.O. Box 6353

Woodland Hills, CA 91365



Let's go for a walk around Lake Balboa!

Join Congregation Shir Ami's Social Action Committee on **Sunday, June 5th at 9:00 am.**
 Registration required starting at 8:30 am

All Proceeds go to the Team Parkinson to support research

Minimum donation: \$10 per person, NO MAXIMUM! Following the walk, a brunch will be provided by our Social Action Committee near the lake. Please bring vegetarian salad, side dish, or dessert to share, and remember to wear your Mitzvah Patrol shirt. Pets are welcome.

Under the guidance of The Parkinson Alliance, Team Parkinson (TP) proudly guarantees that 100% of all net proceeds go directly to Parkinson's research. Local funds are divided between USC and UCLA. We will have a speaker.

Also please bring non-perishable and non-breakable food for SOVA.

Sit-down activities are available for those who don't walk. Call **Charlene Kazel** at (818) 701-7679 or **Sheilah Hart** at (818) 884-2342. Sign up by returning this tear-off with your check for \$10 (or more) per person to Congregation Shir Ami, P.O. Box 6353, Woodland Hills, CA 91365. Make check payable to **Congregation Shir Ami.**

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 []

Congregation Shir Ami Schedule of Shabbat Services 2016
Conducted by Rabbi David Vorspan at
de Toledo High School, 22622 Vanowen St., West Hills
Services held in library near the front entrance

Saturday 10:30 am (unless otherwise noted)



January 2016

Saturday, January 9 - Birthday
Consecration of Officers
Saturday, January 23 - Anniversary
Social Action Linen Shabbat

February 2016

Saturday, February 6 - Birthday
Saturday, February 20 - Anniversary

March 2016

Saturday, March 5 - Birthday
Saturday, March 19 - Anniversary

April 2016

Saturday, April 2 - Birthday
Saturday, April 16 - Anniversary

May 2016

Saturday, May 7 - Birthday
Saturday, May 21 - Anniversary

June 2016

Saturday, June 4 - Birthday
Saturday, June 18 - Anniversary

Rabbi Max Vorspan Tribute program and Kiddush lunch will follow the service.



David Vorspan
Rabbi



Jordan Pistol
President

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