



Shir Notes

The Official Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami Volume 22, Number 10, November 2023. Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Please see flyer about our **Cindy Paley** Israeli music program at de Toledo Sunday, December 3 at 2 pm!

Events of the Month

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

Saturday, November 4 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, November 18 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

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

Thursdays Nov. 2, 9, 16, and 30
Start of 5784 Fall season
See flyer for more information.

Shabbat Torah Study Saturday, Nov. 11, 10:30 am at the Schroeders'

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



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



A woman had spent considerable time helping me with something (the details aren't important), and when she was done I said, "Thank you!" She replied, "No problem."

And this got me thinking: while I believe that "No problem" minimizes the efforts one makes to help out, how many ways are there that we respond to kindness?

Consider other responses we give to Thank You: Of course; Glad to help; No worries; Don't mention it; Happy to help; Anytime; Sure; Sure thing; You got it; No thanks needed; Not at all; It was nothing; It's an honor.

On a trip to the South last summer, we had a server who responded to our expressions of Thanks with a very Southern lilt, "Pleasure."

And then, there's the simple, "You're welcome."

But this all assumes that someone will say "Thank You" in the first place. How many times do we not properly acknowledge another's efforts on our behalf? Or have that happen to us? Ever hold the door open for someone and be completely ignored?

But there are also nice things that happen to us, and there is no one to thank. If we have our health, or the weather is nice, or we enjoyed reading a book, or someone did a Kodesh Moment for us but it's too late to reciprocate or show appreciation, what can we do?

I think that's what Thanksgiving Day can be all about. It's being thankful when there's no specific person to direct our thanks. It's a way to channel our feelings of appreciation when we are bursting with thanks for the goodness of our lives.

Obviously, our thankfulness should be expressed often—with every meal and every act of kindness we enjoy. But on this Thanksgiving Day, let's make sure we take the opportunity to give thanks.

And maybe we will, in some form or way, get a big, "Your Welcome!"

Rabbi David Vorspan



American Jewish Recipients of the Medal of Honor

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

Indian Wars: Simon Suhler

Haiti: Samuel Margulies

World War I:

William Shemin, Sydney Gumpetz, Benjamin Kaufman, William Sawelson

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

Korean War: Leonard M. Kravitz, Tibor Rubin

Vietnam War: Jack Jacobs, John Lee Levitow

President's Report

Shalom,

As you have all likely heard, the Congregation Shir Ami family mourns the passing of our founding president, **Harvey Cohen**. Harvey was a vital force in our congregation with a habit of recruiting board members by telling them, "You won't have to do anything." He not only dedicated his past 26 years to Congregation Shir Ami, but he also instilled that sense of service in his family through his daughter **Sherry Doillins** and his granddaughter-in-law, **Jenn**. We will all miss his humor and wise counsel, while we cherish his memory.



I was reviewing my past email announcements of Board Meetings and when I first started doing them, the list of addressees included seven presidents/past-presidents. Now, that number has dwindled to three names. I bring this up as we will have our annual members meeting and election of officers on December 6, 2023. If you will recall, during my High Holy Days Appeal, I was not only seeking your money contributions, but also your time. We need volunteer board members to bring new ideas for the future of Congregation Shir Ami. I can promise you that you will not only find it fun and rewarding, but I can further promise that "You won't have to do anything."

I would like to thank all of you who participated in our Mitzvah Day activities. This was our first Mitzvah Day since the passing of our Social Action Vice-President **Fran Kobulnick** and we could all feel her presence there as we stuffed backpacks for the children in the shelters. This was also a time to thank **Becky Finlay** who is now doing double-duty as our new Social Action Vice-President as well as our Recording Secretary.

As you can tell, Congregation Shir Ami still continues and thrives, inspired by those who helped make us what we are today. We have our Shabbat Services this month, our Shabbat Torah Study Sessions and Around the Rabbi's Tisch. It's all there for you. If you have any inputs or questions, feel free to contact me at jdipistol@aol.com.

Jordan Pistol, President

Jenn Dollins is our Office Manager. Her email is shirami6353@gmail.com. Phone: (818) 818-6094.



Ritual Committee

Rabbi and Bonnie invited us to their Sukkot party at their Sukkah Tuesday, October 3 at 2:00 pm. Many of us have attended this annual get-together, shaken the lulav and etrog, and enjoyed Bonnie's delicious refreshments over the years. This year was joyous, as usual, with some new attendees. See pictures below.

Our Thursday night Zoom *Around the Rabbi's Tisch* is now in its 5784 Fall season. The October 26 Zoom session had an especially large attendance, as we discussed the October 7 Hamas barbaric attack into southern Israel and its current aftermath. The Vorspans' grandson Gavi Sela attended from Syracuse University and related the situation on his campus.

Stan Schroeder, Ritual Vice-President





DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

Ed Schneier for Ben Schneier, Mildred Kritzer, and Roslyn Abrams
Claire and Lew Silverman for Ben Besbeck

Birthdays

Paula Loomis

Anniversaries

Phyllis and Stan Schroeder (36)
Robin and Alan Burman (43)

Other

Robin and Alan Burman in memory of Harvey Cohen
Mike and Joan Easley in memory of Harvey Cohen
Judy Eisikowitz in honor of the Schroeders' anniversary
Ethel Granik in memory of Fran Kobulnick
Bequest from estate of Barbara Grubman
Donna Levine
Paula and Lou Loomis in memory of Harvey Cohen
Judy Eisikowitz in memory of Harvey Cohen

Congregation Shir Ami Tribute Cards

Our **Tribute Card Coordinator** will send your cards celebrating *simchas* and conveying your get-well and condolence messages.

Call **Helga Unkeless** at (818) 340-5751 or (preferably). email Helgaunkeless@yahoo.com

Minimum donation of \$5 per card is appreciated.

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah*



Sheilah Hart
Jerry Gort
Phyllis Schroeder
Steve Schuster

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

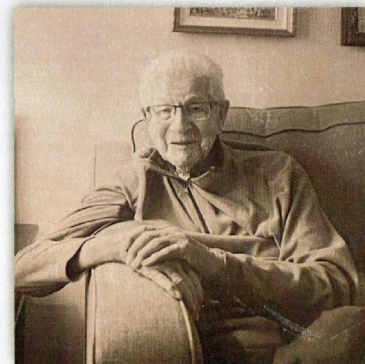
Peg and Jerry Kovar.....	11/14	41st
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Our Condolences



We regret to inform the congregational family of the passing of: our Founding President **Harvey Cohen**. May God comfort **son-in-law Lee Dollins**, **son Steve Cohen** and family, **grandson Eric Dollins** and his wife **Jenn** and their daughter **Olivia** and son **Jack**, and **grandson Jeffrey Dollins** during this time of their bereavement.

In Loving Memory of
Harvey Harrison Cohen



May 12, 1922-October 15, 2023



See my poem on page 6.
Stan Schroeder

Mitzvah Day 2023

Editor's Note:



Our Mitzvah Day was again held at Temple Judea Sunday, October 22. We filled 200 school backpacks for **Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission**. (See picture on page 10) They have six shelters in the Valley for families who need emergency assistance. The students there are taught by **School on Wheels**, the recipient of the backpacks at our previous Mitzvah Days. We also wrote cards for **Operation Gratitude** to be sent by them to our soldiers, along with care packages.

Leon Nachenberg sent me this about Hope.

They actually send people out in the area of their shelters and if they find homeless people they ask if they would like some help. The prospective client has to sign a contract saying they will work with Hope to get job training, mental health care, as needed, and help getting permanent housing. We visited the facility when it first opened. They have a nice dining room, several areas where their clients can gather to talk or read, rooms for counseling and a room for medical checkups. Hope also runs several "Tiny Home" villages with similar opportunities. They recently bought the motel and Denny's restaurant across the street from Taft High School.

The rest of this article was written by **Jeff Kobulnick** at my request. Stan Schroeder

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Dear Shir Ami Friends,

On behalf of our family, I am writing to thank all of you for your condolences and kind words since the passing of our beloved mom **Fran Kobulnick**, and to thank the entire Social Action Committee, Board, and many volunteers who dedicated this year's Mitzvah Day on October 22, 2023 in her honor. Those who have been part of Shir Ami for a while will remember that my mom took over as Social Action Chair after **Barbara Tober** (they were close friends), and was the fearless Chair for many years after that, even after moving to an assisted living earlier this year. I had the privilege of being my mom's Co-Chair for some of those years as well.

Those who were able to be at this year's Mitzvah Day saw a poster and several albums with many photos of my mom and many other Shir Ami members from past Mitzvah Days and other mitzvah projects, including walks around Lake Balboa and the Light The Night Walk to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, as well as a book of thank you letters that my mom and I received from many

organizations who we helped over the years.

Going through all those photos recently in preparation for Mitzvah Day made me remember many projects, and the large volumes of food, backpacks of school supplies, and other items collected and distributed to those in need.

My mom handwrote notes on the back of some of those photos, for example she wrote that on Mitzvah Day in 2004 we collected 3,665 pounds of food in our large-scale food drive, and that we donated 158 gift bags to the Tarzana hospital pediatric unit for their patients. I also recalled many pillows, blankets and other linens that were brought to Shabbat services over the years for **Jewish Family Service Hope domestic violence victim shelters**, but of course we could not take photos of those on Shabbat, and the countless number of Target gift cards donated to JFS each year as well. It is truly amazing to think of all the mitzvot that Shir Ami has done over the years thanks to my mom, the entire Social Action Committee and an entire congregation's generous support and participation. My mom used to tell me that my favorite book as a child was *The Little Engine That Could*, and we have lovingly referred to Shir Ami as "The Little Temple That Could" over the years. My mom was so proud of all these community mitzvah projects, and I know she would be proud that we carried on the tradition so well again this year, filling more than 200 backpacks and writing many cards to soldiers for **Operation Gratitude**, in her honor just a few days before her birthday.

Doing mitzvot was part of my mom's DNA, which has absolutely been passed down to her children and grandchildren as well. While the congregation may be smaller today than it was years ago, the spirit of doing mitzvot felt just as strong this year at Mitzvah Day. It was touching to see many people wearing their Mitzvah Patrol t-shirts which my mom and I first designed together so many years ago. We also gave out keepsake keychains with my mom's photo. I have a few extras if you didn't get one, so please let us know if you would like one and I'll send it to you.

In closing, as my mom would say, a HUGE thank you to everyone for a job well done, and special thanks to **Rae Wazana, Becky Finlay, Leon Nachenberg, Fiona Taylor, Sheilah Hart, Ellie Zatz, Rabbi and Bonnie Vorspan**, and again to everyone who supported and/or participated to make Mitzvah Day 2023 such a success. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Becky Finlay for taking the lead as the new Social Action Chair, which is something that my mom would have been pleased about as well.

Sincerely,
Jeff Kobulnick



Am Yisrael Chai!

by Lou Loomis

Am Yisrael Chai is Hebrew for “The People of Israel Live.”



The Torah tells how the **Egyptians** tried to annihilate the Jews, and failed. **Rome** thought they had annihilated the Jews. On the victory arch they erected in Rome is a dedication to Emperor Titus’ victory over Judea, they inscribed the words “*Judea delenda est*,” or Judea is eliminated. But we’re still here.

Through centuries of pogroms and holocausts, Jews still survive. Am Yisrael Chai.

I am writing this article two weeks before it goes into the Shir Notes, so, you, dear reader, already know that what follows is not new, but indulge me so I may make an important point about our media.

On October 6, Israel was attacked by Hamas, the Iran-funded terror organization that controls Gaza. When Israel turned Gaza over to the Palestinian Authority in September of 2005, the belief was that now Gaza would pave the way to peace and prosperity with the Palestinian Authority. And although it was a real possibility, the fear that Hamas would take over Gaza as soon as it had its first election, no one acted on that idea. As soon as the first election was held in Gaza, Hamas did take over. There has been no election held in Gaza since then.

On Tuesday, October 17 the Associated Press reported that a hospital in Gaza had been blown up by the Israel Defense Forces with over 500 casualties. The International news agencies, AP, and Reuters had quoted a Hamas spokesperson to verify the report. Meanwhile, an IDF spokesperson denied the missile was fired by Israel.

Later that day, CNN and most of American media quoted the AP news report about the incident. The entire Arab world blew up, triggering outrage and riots by antisemites around the world and most notably in American Universities. The King of Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and President of Egypt also canceled their scheduled appearances with President Biden in Israel. All the international media were blaming the IDF for targeting innocent civilians in the Gaza hospital. Support for Israel was quickly disappearing; the and Abraham Accords, offering peace in the middle east, looked doomed.

Later that same day, Al Jazeera (Arab News) reported that they have seen evidence that the Gaza hospital had been hit by an **errant missile**

fired from Gaza by an Iranian-sponsored terror group but not Hamas.

By early Wednesday, all available evidence proved that the hospital had been hit by a missile fired from within Gaza, and mostly likely from a missile fired by Islamic Jihad, another terror group funded by Iran. Evidence showed that the Gaza hospital was not as damaged as originally thought and the casualty estimates were greatly reduced. All the media reports then reflected, in a most tepid manner, that Israel was not to blame. Yet, the news stories only reported the pain to Gaza civilians. **The damage to Israel’s reputation had been done.**

Antisemites will hold Israel to blame for any pain to civilians in Gaza no matter how illogical that may be. Most disturbing is how easily our own people, Jews, fall for these false and slanderous reports.

By late Wednesday, only one day after the false news about the Gaza hospital was reported, it looks like there will be no peace between Israel and any of its Arab neighbors. The Abraham Accords, peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors, was done. In other words: Hamas had achieved its sought-after victory.

We Jews are a very self-conscious people. In times like this, we become fearful and suspicious of others. We tuck in our star of David jewelry, we change our names (too Jewish?), and repeat the lies and slanders of the antisemites just to show that we are “the good Jews.”

This is not pre-World War II, in 1930s Europe, but this is 2023 America. It’s unbelievable that Jews so famously have gone from loved, respected, and safe in America, to a people starting to look dangerously like those European Jews of the 30s.

Now we need security at our Synagogues and Jewish organizations. Now we are starting to feel fear as Jews. We are being told to hide our Jewish-themed adornments. The threat is real.

Jews in America famously do not agree with one another. For the approximately 5 million or so Jews living in America, there are 5 million ways we express our Judaism, including in a secular, non-practicing way. Yet, we remain Jewish, and identify as such. It’s during times like this when we feel the fears of our predecessors. We come together, despite any differences, and know that all Jews are family. We are protective of each other, despite the fear the current events have induced. But how to deal with the fear?

(continued on page 8)

LIFE AFTER LIFE

We're all companions on this path called life;
Each encountering difficulties, misery, strife.
Along the way we must suffer a loved one's death,
For at some point we all draw that one last breath.



We all seek the same simple answers -
Is life only a succession of cancers?
Are events probabilistically random?
Or do certain phenomena occur in tandem?

Do all human beings have immortal souls?
Should eternity in heaven be one of our goals?
Is our universe a part of some divine plan
Created for the pleasure of a species called man?

Is it ashes to ashes and dust to dust?
Are there holy writings we really can trust?
We can study in depth what's known as history
Without a clue to solving the real mystery.

Perhaps we can capture this moment in time;
Gaze through the curtain for insight sublime.
See our loved one's life as a perfect reflection,
Giving Light to our path's current direction.

Perhaps we can truly recapture the spark;
Make a difference to others more in the dark.
Use the life left to us, the most precious gift,
To give those less fortunate a personal lift.

Harvey Cohen inspired us at Shir Ami,
His passionate support of our community.
From founding Shir Ami in a creative way,
To celebrating his 101st birthday.

As a loving father, grandfather, and graat grand -
Betty's husband in his beloved land..
We at Shir Ami were family, too
Now, it's up to us to follow through.

Stan Schroeder
October 18, 2023



Harvey and Betty



Harvey's 100th at Wings Over Wendy's

How Jews Helped to Create the Quintessential American Holiday

(excerpted from www.aish.com)
by Dr. Yvette Alt Miller

Modeling the first Thanksgiving on Sukkot

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



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

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

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

Ensuring Jews Can Celebrate Thanksgiving

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

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

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

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

(continued on page 8)

How Jews Helped to Create the Quintessential American Holiday

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

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

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

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



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

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

Stan Schroeder, Editor



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

Am Yisrael Chai! (continued)

I want to propose several solutions. These are not new or innovative ideas, but we may someday again have our collective backs against a wall and need a reminder:

1. Overcome fear by listening to our Jewish leaders. Read their words whenever possible. Our Rabbis, and especially our own **Rabbi Vorspan**, give important encouragement which we should take to heart. Our fears will defeat us faster than any antisemite can.
2. Read about the history of antisemitism. There is a pattern to this unique hate. It has been called "the oldest hatred" for a reason.
3. Donate to an Israel medical relief organization, such as Magan David Adom (Israeli organization affiliated with the International Red Cross), or our own Los Angeles Jewish Federation. There are many other good organizations that help Israel in a time of crisis. Your donations will help you not only get involved, but contribute to your peace of mind, still the single best way to fight to antisemitism.
4. If you need help finding a good place to donate for Israel relief, you can e-mail me and I will be happy to help. My e-mail is in the Shir Ami membership directory.
5. Be aware that as Jews, no matter how divided we may appear to the outside world, we unite when times are bad. It's been one of the most important keys to our survival over millennia.

I am optimistic that Israel will soon emerge from this war intact and able to heal and rebuild itself. And I also believe that this rebuilding will give us the strength and courage we need to meet the next inevitable crisis.



TREE OF LIFE

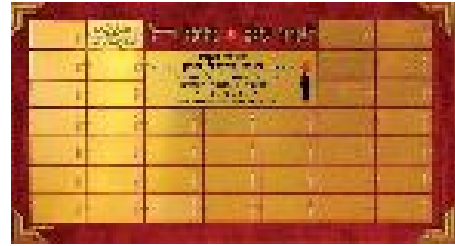


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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

For more information or to place an order, call Helga Unkeless at (818) 340-5751.

Congregation Shir Ami Memorial Board



If you would like to honor the memory of your loved ones by dedicating plaques on our new Memorial Board, please call Helga Unkeless at (818) 340-5751 so she may mail you an order form. The cost of each plaque is \$36.

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

A Prayer for the Thanksgiving Feast

By Rabbi Naomi Levy

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

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

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





Mitzvah Day October 22 (showing 200 backpacks for Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission)

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

Congregation Shir Ami proudly presents



Cindy Paley

Israeli music to lift your spirits

Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 pm

at de Toledo High School
22622 Vanowen St., West Hills



One of our leading Jewish music educators and performers, Cindy, will sing popular Israeli songs to relive the history of the State of Israel, the miracle of our lifetime. Cindy will be accompanied by **David Kamenir** on keyboard. The program will include **Naomi Shemer's** *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav* (Jerusalem of Gold), *Al Kol Eleh* (For all these things ... The bitter and the sweet), and *Lu Y'hi* (Let it be), *Hatikvah*, and other favorites.

Cindy Paley has delighted Jewish communities with her timeless albums and dynamic performances. As the music educator at Valley Beth Shalom for 36 years, she brought Jewish music to countless children. For the past 25 years she has been the cantorial soloist for Lev Eisha and Valley Beth Shalom's N'shama Minyan, two women's services in Los Angeles. For the past six years, Cindy has taught Yiddish music workshops/courses for the Krakow Jewish Culture Festival, the Skirball Cultural Center and KlezCaifornia and serves as the songleader for the Worker's Circle Yiddishland camp in New York.

Tickets are priced at \$10 each. Refreshments will be served following the performance. Please send completed tearoff below with check by November 29. For more information call **Stan Schroeder** at (818) 718-7466 or email him at stanpacbell@gmail.com.

The program will also Livestream from our website **www.shirami.com**.

Cindy Paley Israel Program

Send by November 29 to

Name: _____

Congregation Shir Ami

Phone no. _____

P.O. Box 6353

No. of tickets @ \$10 _____

Woodland Hills, CA 91365

Thursdays November 2, 9, 16 and 30, 7:30 - 8:30 pm “Around the Rabbi’s Tisch” on Zoom

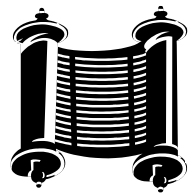


This popular Shir Ami educational series continues its 5784 season. Come join us for our weekly discussion of Rabbi Vorspan’s selected topics of Jewish interest. We discuss Jewish texts and current events as they relate to Jewish values and our lives as Jews. This is a unique opportunity to learn and share in an informal format.

This semester we will again hold our sessions on Zoom. The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86440082040?pwd=bG4venRKTW9lVzhwVWVSRGgraEFJdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 4008 2040 Password: 677588

Saturday November 11, 10:30 am Torah/Shabbat Study at Schroeder home



Stan Schroeder has started his ninth season of Shabbat study sessions one Saturday morning a month at 10:30. We discuss the weekly Torah portion, the Shabbat prayers that are included in our Contemporary service, and various subjects relevant to Conservative Judaism.



Our next session will be November 11. The Torah portion is *Chaye Sarah*, Genesis 13:1 - 25:14. It includes the death of Sarah, finding a wife for Isaac, and the death of Abraham.

This session will be held at the Schroeder home, 8450 Winnetka Ave. #14. Call Stan at (818) 718-7466 or email stanpacbell@gmail.com for more information.

Congregation Shir Ami Schedule of Shabbat Services 2023-24 at de Toledo High School, Zoom, and Livestream www.shirami.com

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

Saturday 10:30 am unless otherwise noted

September 2023

Saturday, September 9 - Birthday and Anniversary



October 2023

Saturday, October 14 - Birthday

Saturday, October 28 - Anniversary



November 2023

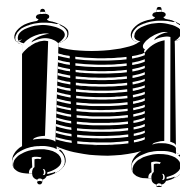
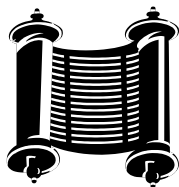
Saturday, November 4 - Birthday

Saturday, November 18 - Anniversary

December 2023

Saturday, December 2 - Birthday

Saturday, December 16 - Anniversary



January 2024

Saturday, January 6 - Birthday

Saturday, January 20 - Anniversary

February 2024

Saturday, February 3 - Birthday

Saturday, February 17 - Anniversary



David Vorspan
Rabbi

March 2024

Saturday, March 2 - Birthday

Saturday, March 16 - Anniversary

April 2024

Saturday, April 6 - Birthday

Saturday, April 20 - Anniversary



Jordan Pistol
President

May 2024

Saturday, May 25 - Birthday and Anniversary

June 2024

Saturday, June 8 - Birthday

Saturday, June 22 - Anniversary

Saturday, June 29

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