



Shir Notes

The Official Newsletter of Congregation Shir Ami Volume 24, Number 3, March 2026. Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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Events of the Month

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

Saturday, March 7 10:30 am
Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, March 21 10:30 am
Anniversary Shabbat

Around the Rabbi's Tisch via Zoom

Thursday March 5, 12, 19, & 26
7:30 pm See flyer for more information

Shabbat Torah Study Saturday, March 28, 10:30 am at Schroeders'

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



Rabbi's Column

In celebration of Purim this month, I share this short story I wrote: **A Purim Mystery**

Orli had a lot of questions about the Purim story. She knew more about the story of Esther than almost any of her friends. She remembered hearing it for the first time when she was about 5 and every year since.

The noise-making with the grogger--this she didn't care for. Orli didn't like the racket, and to make a point of booing, hissing, and groggering during the telling of such a terrific story was so distracting. Nobody seemed to really hear the story of Esther. All they did was listen for Haman's name so they could discharge their excess energies at the expense of Haman, and the poor rabbi patiently endured the pandemonium at fifteen-second spurts, never really able to restore order despite his waving a red stop sign.

Orli's little brother, Meir, seemed to approach the *megillah* reading quite differently. Meir made various groggers at school and home and shlepped every single one of them to the service in a big plastic shopping bag. Alternating instruments throughout the evening, he thought Purim eve was one of the peak experiences of his year.

Orli tolerated the bedlam, sinking deeper into her chair, hands over her ears, trying to concentrate on the words in the book before her and the melodic sing-song of the *megillah* reader's chant.



Esther and Mordecai
Art de Gelder 1685

As familiar passages were read, the questions reemerged: What happened to Vashti? Was she killed or merely banished? If Esther was such a good Jew, how could she marry out of the faith? Did all of Haman's sons follow in their wicked father's footsteps, and were equally deserving of capital punishment? Why did Queen Esther need two banquets to say what had to be said? Why did Esther and all of the other Jews have to fast for three complete days? What good would that do? What kind of leader was King Ahashvayrosh that he would not know what he signed, or how his decrees would affect his citizens? And why is God's name never mentioned?

(continued on page 4)



Don't forget to set your clock forward one hour for Daylight Saving Time Sunday, March 9.

See Stan's Purim poem on page 8.

Fast of Esther and Megillah Reading March 2
Purim March 3
Shushan Purim March 4



Visit our website:
www.shirami.com

President's Report

Shalom,

Now that February has zoomed past us, we March.

And March means that we have only eight more Shabbat Services. We want to see you at them. While you can attend all services via Zoom, there is no substitute for being here in person, catching up on each other and doing some serious schmoozing.

If you come to services, attend the Rabbi's Tisch via Zoom and attend Stan Schroeder's Shabbat/Torah study sessions either in person or on Zoom, you will have achieved the Congregation Shir Ami Trifecta! How can you top that?

On March 8, at 2:00 a.m. we will be switching from Standard Time to Daylight Savings Time by setting our clocks (and other devices) to 3:00 a.m. As a service, included in your membership, we will be calling you at 2:00 a.m. to remind you to set your clocks head. If you want to opt out of the extraordinary advantage of Shir Ami membership, please let us know.

In preparation for Pesach which begins on April 1, I will be conducting my traditional "Search for the Haggadot." All I can remember is that they are in an Albertson's shopping bag.

As the weather warms up, start getting your walking muscles in shape for our walk through "Mr. Nachenberg's Neighborhood in June.

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**



Jewish Proverbs

Among those who stand, do not sit; among those who sit, do not stand. Among those who laugh, do not weep; among those who weep, do not laugh.

As he thinks in his heart, so he is.

Anyone who teases you loves you.

As you do, so will be done to you.

As you teach, you learn.

Ask about the neighbors, then buy the house.

"Rejoice not at thine enemy's fall"- but don't rush to pick him up, either.

A bird that you set free may be caught again, but a word that escapes your lips will not return.

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.



Dry Bones HAR HAR HAR



David and Bonnie Vorspan 2023



David and Max Vorspan around 1980



DONATIONS

Congregation Shir Ami wishes to acknowledge the following donations:

Yahrzeits

- Stan and Phyllis Schroeder for Sally Schroeder
- Carol and Arthur Altshiller for S. Martin Altshiller
- Corinne Geller for Hildegard Geller
- Rhoda Granik for Sarah Golberg and Tena Granik
- Barbara and Neil Hatterm for Albert Horn
- Sam Kobulnick for Rose Suckman and Reva Suckman
- Irwin and Carol Koransky
- Paula and Lou Loomis for Izzy Goldfarb
- Edward Schneir for Fay Schneir
- Claire Silverman for Lewis Silverman and Milton Silverman
- Linda Tapper for Ruth, Nathan, and Gertrude
- Fiona Taylor for John Miles
- Bonnie and Rabbi David Vorspan for Leonard Meshul and Anne Meshul
- Bonnie and Rabbi David Vorspan for Bonnie's family members murdered at Auschwitz and Buchenwald: Bobel Kamieniechi, Kopel Kamieniechi, Mershe Kamieniechi, Shlermie Kamieniechi, Yodel Kamieniechi, and Roseh Kamieniechi
- Rae and Armand Wazana for Fifyne Henderson and Paul A. Kroop

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

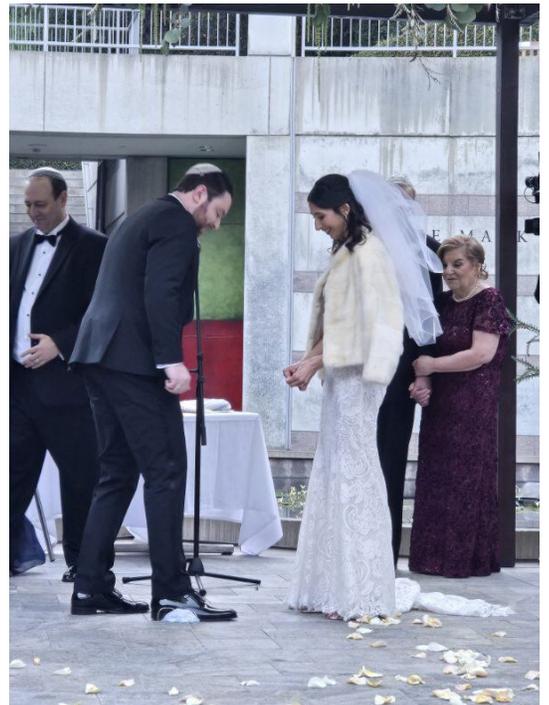
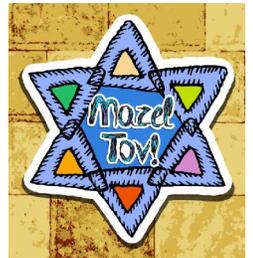
- Neil Hatterm..... 3/9
- Jerry Michaelson..... 3/19

Anniversaries

- Paula and Lou Loomis..... 3/3 53rd
- Rae and Armand Wazana..... 3/11 59th

Mazel Tov to Alan and Robin Burman

Mazel tov on the marriage of their son **Evan Burman** to **Sarah Gitman**



Rabbi Elliot Goldberg, Evan and Sarah, Alan (hidden) and Robin.

Congregational News

Get well wishes *rafuah schleimah* to:

- Sima Schuster** **Paula Loomis**
- Phyllis Schroeder** **Joan Easley**



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

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.

Rabbi's Column (continued)

Orli enjoyed thinking about these questions. She knew that if she talked with the rabbi about them, she would hear him give the responses of the rabbis of old. But she figured if these were merely guesses by the ancient rabbis, why couldn't she attempt to make up answers as well? Orli felt that just thinking about the questions and pondering possible responses was helping strengthen her mind and sense of creativity. To go to the rabbinic sources would deprive her of the delicious challenge the text posed.

Suddenly the lights went out in the sanctuary.

All became quiet very quickly. It wasn't totally dark in the room because the eternal light cast 100 watts, illuminating much of the room. It was not enough to continue the *megillah* reading, but just enough to keep everyone calm.

There were some 450 people crowded into the sanctuary, and, without at least this little bit of light, panic could have led to some serious injuries. Power outages were not rare. During the past few months, the city had experienced three black- and gray-outs. The mayor blamed it on aging electrical equipment and promised that state-of-the-art generators would be installed to prevent it from happening again.

But it happened again. Thank God for the eternal light, thought Orli. And she even thanked the black-out a little, because it stifled the groggers as the rabbi's stop sign could not.

Orli decided to use this time to think about the Purim story and had settled back into the chair, knees up into her encircling arms, when she suddenly bolted out of her seat with a yelp.

The rabbi was telling everyone to remain seated and not to panic and was considering which Purim song to launch into as a distraction, when he noticed Orli standing there, trembling.

"What is it, Orli? Why suddenly do you stand there looking so startled? Surely, you're used to this?"

Orli could say nothing. She could only point. Everyone followed her finger, wondering why she would point to the ark.

But then they all looked again, and understood. And they, too, fell into a hushed, bewildered silence.

The rabbi finally said, "Orli, you're absolutely right. If there's a total blackout, why is the eternal light still on?"

If it had been quiet when the black-out began, it was absolutely still now. People looked toward the light. A child began to burble in the back. A few men walked toward the eternal light to explore why it had stayed on.

Then, just as suddenly, all the lights came back on. People blinked and wondered. The *megillah* reader looked toward the rabbi for direction. Some sat quietly, thinking about what had just happened. Others began to animatedly talk with their family and friends. Miracles, Orli thought, have a way of drawing some people together, others into themselves.

Orli knew that the wise rabbi would stop the proceedings and encourage discussion.

The story of Esther surely paled in comparison to what had just happened. This was no time to start up with the groggers.

But, no. The rabbi walked over to the *megillah* and pointed to the sentence he wanted the reader to chant.

I can't believe this, thought Orli. The story of Esther is wonderful, but why go back to it now? What light could it possibly throw on the miracle that just occurred?

The megillah reader looked to where the rabbi pointed, smiled and chanted, "*Layehudim hyta orah v'simcha v'sasone veekar.*"

Those who knew Hebrew understood right away. Those who did not, looked for the place in the books before them. Orli saved them the search.

She translated, "And to the Jews there was *light* and gladness, joy and honor."

And the next day, Orli went to the rabbi with some of her questions.

Rabbi David Vorspan

Are There Just Two Ways to Fight Antisemitism?

by Lou Loomis

Since the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7 of 2023, there has been an alarming rise in antisemitic events throughout the world. It is as if we are reliving the days before World War II when Europe's Jews found they were suddenly targets of annihilation by the Nazis. And then, suddenly, as we know, it was too late to act.



Here we are, safe and protected in the United States, and *surprise* there are demonstrations in our streets, in our businesses, in our synagogues and schools, threatening our lives.

The rise of antisemitism has always been a nagging worry to the American Jewish community. Since 1980, an annual event entitled **The State of World Jewry** has been conducted at New York City's 92nd Street Y featuring prominent Jewish speakers and scholars who analyze the challenges and opportunities facing global Jewish communities. In 1980, the first World Jewry Address was given by Israeli diplomat **Abba Eban**. Since then, notables such as **Elie Wiesel**, **Amos Oz**, **Bernard-Henri Levy**, and **Bari Weiss**, have spoken. Last year the address was given by **Dan Senor**, the host of the podcast **Call Me Back**, who spoke of the October 7 attack as a warning of the huge rise in world-wide antisemitism. Since last year, the number of reported incidents has surged by over 200% (Per ADL).

This year's speaker was *New York Times* columnist **Brett Stephens** speaking on post-October 7th, 2023 realities. Stephens emphasized combating intense antisemitism through increased Jewish confidence, educational investment, and cultural resilience rather than relying solely on external alliance. He believes that responding to antisemitism is futile, calling it an illness akin to neurosis. It is not based on logic, but something deeper and hidden in the psyche.

That's one way, but there is another.

It should come as no surprise to readers of Shir Notes, that Brett Stephens' comments gave rise to much criticism, including one from his prime target and good friend, **Jonathan Greenblatt**, CEO of the Anti-defamation League (ADL). What Brett Stephens proposed, Greenblatt noted, was adopting a new plan for world-wide Jewry to practically ignore the anti-Jewish tide by focusing within, in order to make Jews impervious to attacks. The ADL called Stephen's ideas as being almost suicidal. To not meet antisemitism, face to face, eyeball to eyeball, is anathema to the ADL's Greenblatt.

Another loud and similar criticism came from 'across the Pond,' from England. **Melanie Phillips** is a British Jewish journalist who has a weekly column in the *Times* of London. Last month she wrote, in agreement with the ADL, a column criticizing Brett Stephens' approach to fighting antisemitism. "Brett Stephens is wrong," she writes. "Jews can't just turn inward and ignore antisemitism." She further writes "We have a moral obligation to fight for our survival. We should be saying that Zionism is an inseparable part of Judaism, and so antizionism is an attempt to destroy not just Israel but Judaism itself."

I want to say that these two points of view are not new. **Stephens is correct** (I believe) that Jew-hatred is illogical and a sickness. It takes many forms depending on the times and place. It is the blood libel or the lie that Jews control the banks and media. It is the falsehood that Jews are genocidal occupiers...and so forth. It is also a convenient scapegoat for one's frustrations.

And Ms. Phillips is also correct.

Antisemitism won't disappear on its own. But it is also stubborn, which makes fighting back with words or demonstrating our good intentions seem a "fool's errand."

A third way?

There is a third, more primitive way, that some in the American Jewish community are starting to revive: fighting violence with violence. This too is not new. In the 1930s and early 40's in America, Jewish gangs began to pop up in defense of Jewish communities and institutions. One well-known name leading Jewish defense gangs was **Meyer Lansky**. In New York City, Lansky's violent fights with Nazi groups made headlines. Other Jewish gang leaders of note were **Louis Lepke** and **Bugsy Siegel**. Their violent gangs were soundly condemned by Jewish leaders for their mafia-like corruption as well as their penchant for killing. A 1998 book by **Rich Cohen** titled *Tough Jews* chronicles the rise and fall of these gangs. (See picture on page 9)

Don't forget the JDL, the Jewish Defense League, founded in 1968 by **Meir Kahane** in New York, whose famous tag line was "Every Jew a .22." The JDL regarded Jewish defense important "By whatever means necessary." The JDL was always considered a dangerous fringe group by all the Jewish leadership, not to mention the FBI.

(continued on page 9)

Leopoldstadt on Broadway – support for The Blue Card by Fiona Taylor

*Editor's note: I published this article by Fiona in our 2023 and 2024 March Shir Notes. I am writing this issue February 25, 2026 and looked up **Jacob Eisenbach**. I found a December 1, 2025 Chabad Facebook post that he died at the age of 102. May his memory be a blessing,*

*His book, by **Karen McCartney**, **Where you Go, I Go, The Astonishing Life of Jacob Eisenbach**, is a fascinating and terrifying page turner, and his story is unforgettable. Stan Schroeder*

As some of you may remember, a few years ago, we chose to support **The Blue Card** for our (then) annual Walk Around Lake Balboa. This organization helps to support aging and, in many cases, indigent Holocaust survivors who have little or no means for survival. There are still elderly Jews around the world and specifically, around the U.S., who need help for their daily needs.



We were lucky to have had a wonderful speaker at our event on June 4, 2017 – **Dr. Jacob Eisenbach** – a now-retired dentist who lives in Orange County. Originally from Lodz, Poland, he and his brother were concentration camp survivors who suffered greatly: he told us his incredible story and I remember one member of our congregation asked him “After all you went through, how could you still believe in God?” His response was “How could I not?”

Dr. Eisenbach continues to speak to audiences on a regular basis – even now, at almost 100 years of age – I see that, most recently, he spoke in Dana Point in January 2023.

It is very encouraging to know that the Broadway company of **Leopoldstadt** has given support to The Blue Card and that they featured a donation page in their program. For anyone who visits New York while the play is still on Broadway, I would suggest going to see it.



May we indeed “never forget” and remember those who suffered during the darkest time in the 20th century

Purim in Israel

Then...

The source of this holiday is in the Biblical **Book of Esther**, traditionally read twice on Purim – once on the eve of Purim and once on the day of Purim, which relates the saving of Persian Jewry from **Haman**, chief minister to Persian **King Ahashuerus**, who was plotting to kill all the kingdom's Jews (the time frame of this story is estimated as between the destruction of the First Temple and the building of the Second Temple, in the late 6th century BCE). His new queen, **Esther**, and her cousin and/or uncle **Mordechai**, collaborated to turn the fate of the Jewish people around, succeeding without one mention of God in the entire 10-chapter book.

The date on which Purim is observed, the 14th of the Jewish month of Adar (usually in March, this year March 14), in keeping with the date Haman had determined for all the Jews to be killed. In Jerusalem, being a “walled city”, Purim celebrations continue through the following day, which is called Shushan Purim.

And now...

They tried to kill us. God saved us. Let's eat.” That is the theme of many of the Jewish holidays, and Purim is no exception, except in this case we also drink alcohol, give charity to needy people and give gifts of food to friends.

On Purim, in order to celebrate the complete turnaround of the Jews' lot (in Hebrew *pur* – hence the name Purim) and of the hidden face of God in the story, we dress up in costumes and drink alcohol which both help us see the world from a different point of view.

One of the biggest Purim events in Israel is the **adloy-ada** (parade/carnival). In Jerusalem there are plenty of festivals and parties, some for families and children, some for those who want to go all out with their drinking, dressing up, and dancing until they can no longer tell the difference between Haman and Mordechai.



Purim Plays and Carnivals

by Rabbi Daniel Kohn

(extracted from MyJewishLearning.com)

Spiel is a Yiddish word meaning a “play” or “skit.” A Purim spiel is actually a dramatic presentation of the events outlined in the Book of Esther. Featuring the main characters, such as King Ahasuerus, Mordecai, Esther, and the wicked Haman, the Purim spiel was a folk-inspired custom providing an opportunity for crowds to cheer the heroes (Mordecai and Esther) and boo the villains (Haman). It is a staple of many modern synagogue Purim celebrations for children to attend the ritual chanting of the Book of Esther and Purim carnivals dressed in costumes depicting these main characters.

Often, a synagogue religious school will hold a costume contest and organize a parade of all the costumed children. While it is traditional to masquerade as characters from the story of Esther, many Jewish families celebrate Purim as an alternative to Halloween, with children dressing in non-traditional costumes and masks. There is no “right” or “wrong” costume for Purim.

In relatively modern times, the popularity of these Purim shpiel plays and the boisterous audience reaction they engendered, spilled over into the actual synagogue celebration of Purim when the scroll of Esther is chanted in Hebrew. There is an ancient tradition derived from the Torah that one is supposed to “blot out” the mention of Haman as a form of enduring spiritual punishment and ignominy for his actions. Therefore, synagogue attendees attempting to “blot out” Haman’s name will literally shout, catcall, boo and swing noisemakers, called groggers, to drown out the name of Haman as it is read.

Many synagogues hold special family or children’s services on Purim, or make a point of including families in the chanting of the Book of Esther so that the children will be able to not only attend in costume, but shake their noisemakers and contribute to the merriment through making lots of noise. In fact, a growing custom is to hold an arts-and-crafts session for the children in advance of the Purim festivities so that children can make their own groggers and masks to wear.

Purim spiels have evolved over time into the presentation of humorous skits not just about the story of Purim, but also about leaders and well-known people in the community. In synagogues, members may write and act in funny skits gently mocking the rabbis, cantor, president, and other people. In Jewish religious day schools, no teacher ever escapes the mocking attention of their students in such Purim spiels.

Purim spiels also include popular songs sung with new, creative funny lyrics lampooning community leaders.

Some congregations go to elaborate lengths in producing spiels, sometimes writing mini-musical plays, or with some people renting expensive outrageous



costumes. It is also traditional for religious leaders to deliver “Purim Torahs,” which are farcical, sometimes nonsensical, sermons about ridiculous topics. Often, the synagogue bulletin for Purim will be a special joke edition with many funny, ludicrous articles.

Dr. Jeffrey Rubenstein, a professor of religion at New York University writes that Purim is a holiday characterized by “liminality,” that is, a day in which traditional social boundaries and rules of etiquette are deliberately blurred. Purim is a day for a community to “blow off steam” by celebrating this ancient escape from destruction. Therefore, it is a day of topsy-turvy antics, especially in the Purim shpiel. In addition to drinking more alcohol than usual, well-respected leaders are lampooned, children dress up as adults and, especially in Israel, men often dress up as women and vice versa. It is a day in which society as we know it is turned upside down.

But the celebrations of Purim are ultimately for a religious purpose — to celebrate the unseen presence of God who saved the Jewish community in Persia thousands of years ago. While Purim spiels and graggers may seem to diminish the spiritual importance of the holiday, they are part of an ongoing celebration of good over evil, and a festival celebrating God’s presence in Jewish history.

The Month of Adar

Known as a month of celebration and happiness, the late-winter month of Adar contains the joyous holiday of Purim that takes place mid-month. Purim, however, isn’t the only thing that makes Adar special. The Talmud tells us that “when the month of Adar arrives, we



increase in joy” to welcome a season of miracles. Accordingly, the Talmud tells us that this month is fortuitous for the Jewish people.



Purim 5786 (March 3, 2026)

Don't think of the Purim story as history.
Who wrote it remains a mystery.
Tradition says it was our hero Mordechai;
For various reasons, that doesn't fly.

Think of the story as more of a fable
With wisdom for us here who are able.
Let's look at the characters in turn,
Then decipher the lessons we can learn.

Ahasuerus is King of the vast Persian empire,
With Queen Vashti dressed in royal attire.
She refuses to appear at his huge celebration
Replete with unlimited supply of libation.

We don't know why she refused to be seen at the bash;
Some say she might have had a rash.
What ever the reason, a new Queen was needed,
And Esther, Mordechai's niece/cousin succeeded.

Haman, a minister in the Court, and a Jew-hater,
Prepared a decree a few years later.
All Jews in the Empire would be killed that year;
Mordechai and his people had reason to fear.

He turned to Queen Esther to appeal to the King.
She replied that would not be an easy thing.
After three days of fasting she devised a plan
How she could expose that villain Haman.

In her chamber at a feast on the second night
To the King and Haman she declared the Jews' plight.
In a flurry of intrigues, Ahasuerus finally saw the light.
He hung Haman, promoted Mordechai, and did what was right!

The Jews were saved and the Purim holiday created.
And during the month of Adar our joy is elevated.
Queen Esther's actions in her time of duress
Set an example for us when we're under stress.

We never know when events occur in our life,
In these days when we encounter trouble or strife.
Each one may be called upon to choose,
Living the values we've learned as Jews.

Stan Schroeder



TREE OF LIFE

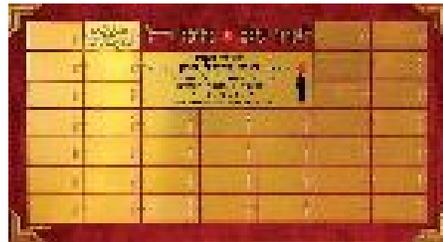


This beautiful Tree of Life, with leaves priced at \$100 and rocks at \$250 (one remaining), makes a perfect way to celebrate family occasions and support Congregation Shir Ami.

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.

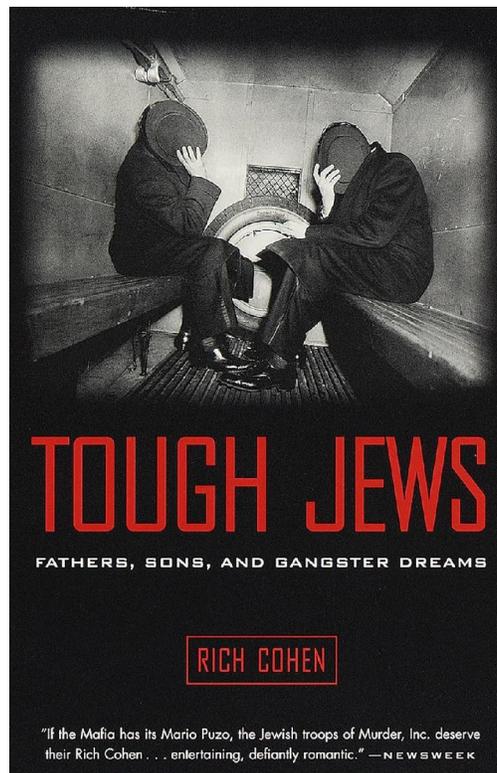
Each plaque may contain up to three lines of engraving: English name, Hebrew name, and the years of birth and death. Both of our Memorial Boards are displayed at all our services.

Are There Just Two Ways to Fight Antisemitism?

(continued)

Can we take a breath?

Which direction do we want to take in order to best insure our self-protection and preservation? Or is there yet a fourth idea that could produce an effective plan? Is it possible and practical to combine any of the above ideas into a hybrid road to success? What tools do we possess that could be practical solutions *besides our beautiful minds*? I think violence is just a last resort only if all else fails, but there is always that. We need to have that conversation and create a workable plan. **First, let's wake up to the fact that antisemitism will not go away by itself. It must be confronted and defeated. We can do this.**



Shop at Ralphs - Earn Money for Shir Ami

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. 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

“Around the Rabbi’s Tisch” on Zoom March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 7:30 pm

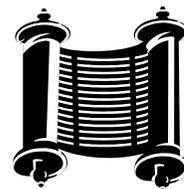


This popular Shir Ami educational continues its Spring semester. Come join us for our weekly discussion of Rabbi Vorspan’s selected topics of Jewish interest.

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 March 28, 10:30 am

Torah/Shabbat Study at Schroeder home and via Zoom

Stan Schroeder leads a discussion of the weekly Torah portion and various subjects relevant to Conservative Judaism.



Our next session will be March 28. The Torah portion is *Tsav*, Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36, outlining the priestly duties and Moses initiating Aaron and his sons into the priesthood. We will also discuss the upcoming Passover holiday. 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 2026
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

January 2026

Saturday, January 3 - Birthday and Consecration of Officers
Saturday, January 17 - Anniversary and Linen Shabbat

February 2026

Saturday, February 7 - Birthday
Saturday, February 21 - Anniversary

March 2026

Saturday, March 7 - Birthday
Saturday, March 21 - Anniversary

April 2026

Saturday, April 11 - Birthday
Saturday, April 25 - Anniversary

May 2026

Saturday, May 16 - Birthday
Saturday, May 30 - Anniversary

June 2026

Saturday, June 13 - Birthday
Saturday, June 27 - Anniversary



David Vorspan
Rabbi



Jordan Pistol
President

For Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86440082040?pwd=bG4venRKTW9lVzhwVWVSRGgraEFJdz09>

Meeting ID: 864 4008 2040 Password: 677588

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