

# Humanorah

the newsletter of the Society for Humanistic Judaism



Spring/Summer 2012

Vol. 34 No. 2

## WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG, BAD WORLD? NOT YOUR GRANDCHILDREN, NOT MINE!

A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON COLLOQUIUM 2012 BY HARRIET MAZA, HUMANORAH EDITOR

For the ostriches among us, Colloquium 2012 was a stunning wake-up call. Although the beginning of the topic concern, “Half Jewish?” may have begged the question for me, “The Heirs of Intermarriage” in attendance, April 20-22, definitely showed us a very positive thing or two, as did those presenting. Thank you, Rabbi Adam Chalom, dean of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, North America; thank you IISHJ board members and members of Kol Hadash, Illinois, who worked hard to bring about this provocative weekend.

First of all, in positive terms, we’re out; they’re in! And they *do* know better. They truly do. It was no longer our elders talking to us at a colloquium. *We*, in the audience, were the elders. It was the young, 30-something half-Jews and Jewish communal professionals explaining to us and presenting the “Why’s” and “Therefore’s” of their research in order to help us enhance *our* purposes of outreach, propagation and planning.

It is no longer the world of their fathers and grandfathers, they explained, a time when we had been closed out, or out of protection, closed ourselves away. Nowadays, our young adults feel no threat of persecution, no need to take refuge in the synagogue or their home. They are mobile, have been away to college and are used to living on their own. They can be and *are* out there in public, comfortably—intermarrying and yes, even doing their Jewishness in the public place.

Yes, those of us in attendance were forced to face reality: to pick up our heads and open our eyes to a bright and sunny new day, albeit outside the temple and different. But for Humanistic Jews, different should be easy.

So if the temple is no longer important and they don’t come to us, we need to go out to them. Provide a hip *Shabbat*

wherever there’s a gathering of 200 people, and watch them all have fun. And invest in young interns as a liaison from you to their peers. Passover time? Meet them in the *matsa* aisle of a popular grocery store. The boss will love the business.



As for the offspring of intermarriage or the partners in an intermarriage, it became evident that we are all so much more than just half or whole Jewish; that it is not about not caring about one’s Jewishness; it’s rather about caring about being almost everything else in this world too. In his final summary on Sunday morning, Rabbi Chalom spoke of the “vigor” of our very first presenter on the evening of *our Shabbat*. And I must give credit where credit’s due: the invitation to create one’s own identity blossomed to its fullest when Maya Escobar took to the stage. Escobar, in her inimitably outrageous style (see [www.mayaescobar.com](http://www.mayaescobar.com)), made us face the ridiculousness of confining or attempting to pin anyone down. Escobar is a 20-something-ish Jewish-Guatemalan performance artist who has made a multimedia art career out of her feminist, Latina, Jewish lifestyle. She vigorously rejects the notion of being half Jewish or half anything, claiming and exclaiming with the strength of her convictions that she is 100% Jewish, 100% Guatemalan and 100% Frida Kahlo too.

Rabbi Chalom summarized the weekend. “We’ve been pioneers—why not in the world of multi-cultural identity [as well].” Intermarriage coincides with our ethics of tolerance and acceptance. Did you know, he asked, that non-Jewish people sign up for JDate because they want to marry a Jewish person? And if a person chooses to keep a Jewish identity along with everything else, “The engagement with Jewish life is the essential issue.”

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CANADA  
ORAYNU, TORONTO, ON



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT ANDREA FRIEDLANDER

I am honored to serve as the next president of the Society. I begin my term with a tremendous amount of respect and gratitude for the dedication of my predecessor, Lou Altman, who so graciously and skillfully guided the Society for a remarkable six years.

My goal as president is to show members they are receiving substantial value from their membership in SHJ. I hope to accomplish this goal by (a) better utilization of new technology to support our communities and promote awareness of Humanistic Judaism, and (b) better internal communications with our members to increase awareness of all the exciting things we are doing! I hope everyone knows that the Society provides the following benefits:

- ◆ Easy access to 40 years of collected materials and resources, including holiday services, programming ideas, adult education and youth education. These materials are available only to our affiliated communities, much of which has been uploaded to an online data base ([www.Grovesite.com](http://www.Grovesite.com)). New resources are added constantly, and improving navigation on the site is currently a top-priority project.

- ◆ Free participation in the Society's Google Ad Words campaigns. For the

past two years, SHJ has run a national ad campaign for the several weeks preceding High Holidays, *Hanukka* and *Passover*. The statistical reports show that these ads have successfully driven more traffic to our affiliates' websites.

- ◆ Increased visibility from the SHJ website. This year the Society will unveil a completely redesigned, dynamic website to attract more visitors to the site. This improved website, with prominent links to each of our affiliates' websites, is another way SHJ helps our members market their communities.

- ◆ A national voice for Humanistic Judaism. The Society is constantly issuing press releases, signing onto Supreme Court amicus curiae briefs, attending national conferences, and joining national coalitions. Membership in the Society is not just a fee for services, but it gives voice to the fundamental values of Humanistic Judaism on issues of national concern.

- ◆ An investment in the future of Humanistic Judaism. One of the primary goals of SHJ is to help organize and support the development of new Humanistic Jewish communities in North America. In just the past three years, we have helped establish four new affiliated communities, bringing our total to 29!

I look forward to working with our professional staff and all of the Board members to continue to enhance and showcase the value of being a member of the Society.

View SHJ  
Videos  
on  
YouTube

Spring/Summer 2012

*Humanorah*

Vol. 34, No. 2

*Humanorah* is a publication of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a non-profit organization that mobilizes people to celebrate Jewish identity and culture consistent with a humanistic philosophy of life.

*Humanorah* is sent to members of the Society for Humanistic Judaism as a benefit of membership. Members of SHJ affiliated communities receive all benefits of SHJ membership. Individual memberships are available. Membership is tax deductible as provided by law.

**President:** Andrea Friedlander  
**Executive Director:** Bonnie Cousens  
**Rabbi:** Miriam Jerris  
**Editor/Designer:** Harriet Maza

Address all inquiries about *Humanorah* to the Society for Humanistic Judaism, 28611 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48334, 248/478-7610, Fax: 248/478-3159, E-mail: [info@shj.org](mailto:info@shj.org) for general questions, Web page: [www.shj.org](http://www.shj.org).

# Notes From Around the Globe



## KOL HADASH, ILLINOIS TO HONOR RABBI EMERITUS DANIEL FRIEDMAN ON THE 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

Fresh off a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Kol Hadash's 11<sup>th</sup> year has already been marked by a busy social calendar.

One of the highlights of our 2012-2013 year will be the honoring of our Rabbi Emeritus Daniel Friedman by celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination with a special *Shabbat* service. This will take place on July 20, 2012, and all Chicagoland émigrés still connected to Humanistic Judaism because of Rabbi Dan are encouraged to join us at that time.

Last summer, Kol Hadash members continued a tradition of hearing great music at the world-famous Ravinia Festival (Chicago Symphony summer home).

In August, a new social group was hatched by members Sue and Ilya Talman: a wine-lovers group appropriately called The Winers! The group meets every other month at a different member's home for appetizers and to sample a wide variety of wines. It started small, but more than 40 members are now participating regularly.

Also new this year is the Kol Hadash Theatre Club. Taking advantage of Chicago's rich and varied theatre scene, a group of Kol Hadashians have seen Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and David Mamet's *Race* at the Goodman Theatre. These new social groups join the long standing Kol Hadash Book Club, which has been meeting every other month for more than 5 years.



**Rabbi Dan Friedman**

Kol Hadash has also been active this year on the virtual social network, expanding its offering of Rabbi Adam Chalom's podcasts via iTunes and on our website ([www.KolHadash.com](http://www.KolHadash.com)), and by establishing our own Twitter feed (@KolHadash). If you can't join us in person, feel free to follow us online!

by **Mark Friedman, IL**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
RABBIS BEN BIBER,  
ADAM CHALOM,  
MIRIAM JERRIS,  
ON THE TENTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
YOUR ORDINATION**



**Ben Biber, Machar**



**Miriam Jerris, SHJ**



**Adam Chalom,  
Kol Hadash, IL**

## MACHAR CELEBRATES 10 YEARS WITH RABBI BINYAMIN BIBER

On December 4, 2011, Machar, the Washington Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism, celebrated our ten-year relationship with Rabbi Binyamin Biber (photo on page 3). We honored Rabbi Biber with student performances, including a funny “Top Ten” riff on the David Letterman show; appreciation speeches from a high school student member and a college student member; remembrances by *Madrikh* and long-time member Michael Prival; and music and a “Thank You, Ben” scroll for all to sign.

As Prival stated, Ben’s arrival at Machar just before September 11, 2001 was extremely helpful. “Ben’s sensitivity to the emotional needs of our members during that difficult time, combined with his ability to provide us with serious understanding of a subject (Islam) that had suddenly become important to many of us, really epitomizes Ben’s contributions to Machar.” Rabbi Biber continues to bring so much to our community.

Festivities over, Machar went back to business, among other items, continuing their ongoing relationship with the Humanist Jews at Maryland’s Riderwood Retirement Village. The individuals who make up SHJ Riderwood have established themselves as a distinct group within the

larger Jewish organization at this 2,800-person senior community outside Washington DC. On January 19, at the monthly meeting of the SHJ Jews of Riderwood, 36 enthusiastic people gathered to listen to Machar member Marlene Cohen speak.

Cohen spoke on the philosophy of Rabbi Sherwin Wine and shared an excerpt of a 2007 lecture. A lively discussion followed. This was Machar’s fourth presentation at Riderwood. Members Prival, Barry Dancis and Cohen have led discussions over the past two years. In return, SHJ Riderwood has given donations to Machar in appreciation for the programming. **by Kelly Hand, administrator. Photo: Machar’s Marlene Cohen stands second from left, among some of Riderwood’s SHJ members.**



## RABBI’S LECTURE ON JEWS OF ITALY BRINGS JEWS, GENTILES TO WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY

The Jewish diaspora was alive and well January 14. Rabbi Frank Tamburello’s lecture on Italian Jews brought out a good-sized crowd. Among those who joined us were more than a few people of Italian background, both Jewish and gentile, some curious about their own families and some about the neighbors they had grown up with in Italy.

Rabbi Tamburello spoke first of his own roots in a practicing Catholic family with Jewish grandmothers from both Trapani in Sicily and Florence. It was a tale some of us had heard before, first in Spain, then in Latin America, and finally even in New Mexico: that customs and rituals which were family traditions—and had been regarded as mere superstition—were, according to the rabbi, vestiges of Jewish ceremonial practices.

Sicily was regarded by the ancient Greeks as “Southampton on the Sea,” he said, a good place to kick back after a long winter of philosophizing and mathematics and all that heavy work creating democracy. The Jews arrived some centuries after the Greeks, many as slaves of the Romans, and later on with Arab conquerors. They remained in Sicily until the Spanish Inquisition (Sicily was at that time ruled by Spain) at which time some left, but the majority converted and were regarded as *neofiti* or New Christians. A lively discussion followed the lecture. In the audience were Jews from Rome and gentiles from Sicily who remembered the towns and the surnames in their own communities, which they now realized were originally Jewish.

A short *Shabbat* service preceded the program and a *havdalla* service followed with coffee and cookies provided by our hospitality committee. **by Gloria Weil, Westchester, NY**



## TORONTO'S ORAYNU CONGREGATION SHOWS ITS HEART

What a weekend! On February 11-12, Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism put on one of its biggest special events to date, with about 180 people taking part in a stimulating combination of volunteering, learning and socializing. Oraynu's "Show Your Heart" weekend featured more than 24 hours of continuous activity, including community service opportunities, a fundraising dinner, a teen "wake-a-thon" and a backpack-stuffing Sunday school program.

"Show Your Heart" was conceived and organized by Oraynu's *Tikkun Olam* Committee (TOO) and Fundraising Committee (FRO). The idea was to combine efforts (TOO and FRO!) on an event that would benefit our own congregation as well as our charitable campaign for this year: helping homeless people in Toronto. Proceeds from fundraising were split evenly between Oraynu's Educational Fund and Out of the Cold, a local program that provides shelter and warm meals to those in need during the winter. We received about \$7,500 in donations, some of which was generated through online sponsorship.

Rabbi Karen Levy played a major role in planning the weekend and afterwards remarked that "Oraynuniks and friends of all ages showed their hearts by participating in *gemilut hasadim*, many acts of loving kindness."

Oraynu Children's School principal, Steve Shabes, and the school committee organized the Sunday program and backpack campaign, gathering clothes and toiletries to be packed and taken to Out of the Cold locations, which complemented the fundraising efforts.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEKEND

- Community service: 24 volunteers served at two downtown shelters (The Scott Mission and Good Shepherd Ministries) and on an outreach van run by humanitarian organization *Ve'ahavta*.
- Guest speakers: During Saturday dinner and at Sunday school, four speakers from Voices from the Street Collective educated us with personal stories of facing homelessness and poverty.
- Fun and Fundraising Dinner: Oraynu members and friends gathered to enjoy a catered dinner with an entertaining vocal band, guest speakers, art auction, raffle, and later, an introduction to the sport of curling! Before dinner, we made *havdallah* and heard from Oraynu's President Louise Sherman, music leader Sandi Horwitz, and board/committee members Pam Paris, Sarah Paul, and Desre Kramer.
- Teen Wake-a-thon: A group of Oraynu teenagers were sponsored to stay up all night at a YMCA club with teacher and youth leader Garry Smolyansky. They exercised in the gym, swam, danced, played the arcade, and filmed a *Purim Schpiel* movie, screened at our family Purim festival.
- Sunday school program: Students, parents, teachers and friends enjoyed lunch at our school location featuring guest speakers, singing, art auction, and volunteer activities.
- Backpack Mania: Children and adults packed clothes and toiletries into 192 backpacks for donation to the Out of the Cold program. Participants used checklists to collect the appropriate items, and they wrote cards to include in the backpacks. **Article and photos by Larry Kline, Toronto**

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## BETH AMI, COLORADO TURNS GREEN AT TU B'SHEVAT TIME DURING THE WHITE OF WINTER

Two days after the last major snowfall our Jewish Cultural School (JCS) and adult education communities came together to celebrate *Tu B'Shevat*, which has become the Jewish Earth Day. Our celebration focused on the growing Jewish food movement encouraged by *Hazon*, which is creating healthier and more sustainable communities in the Jewish world and beyond.

Preschoolers through eighth graders participated in a hands-on planting project using organic snow peas supplied by a local organic gardener. *Madrikha* and avid gardener Sheila Malcolm wrote the directions entitled "Let's Plant a Salad" for our families. In addition to planting a salad, we also chopped up winter root vegetables grown at a local organic farm and enjoyed eating our delicious soup for lunch. Later, we shared the leftovers with two homebound members who couldn't come.

Our *preseder* project consisted of stuffing trail mix in small snack bags for needy people we see standing on many street corners. Rabbi Will Berkovitz, vice-president of Partnerships for Repair the World, shared this idea at an education seminar in October.

During our *seder*, we used traditional fruits by sticking pretzel sticks into the appropriate jams: black cherry, strawberry, and orange marmalade. Sheila asked for a take-away message for *Tu B'Shevat*. One member said she would remember the importance of healthy, local food as she attended a Super Bowl party later in the day.

by Lenore Kingston, Sunday School principal

### JOIN THE HERITAGE SOCIETY Ensure Your Legacy — Remember SHJ in Your Estate Plan

You can help ensure the future of Humanistic Judaism by remembering SHJ in your will or estate plan. Planned gifts can be made through wills, trusts, life insurance, retirement plan beneficiary options, and the SHJ's annuity, the Pooled Income Fund. No gift is too small and every gift helps. To ensure your legacy, contact Bonnie Cousens at 248-478-7610 or [bonniecousens@shj.org](mailto:bonniecousens@shj.org).

### ALL SENIOR COMMUNITY, AVERAGE AGE 85, ACTIVELY COMMITTED TO RECRUITMENT

Our community is in an aging retirement community, which makes the challenge of an organization such as Orange County SHJ unique: maintaining membership when members' average age is 85. When we lose members from natural attrition, it is not easy to stimulate new members in their 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> decade to join, especially when we compete with many other clubs for their attention. The burden is great for our program committee.

Lenore Rosenblum and Nancy Hirshman, our two chairs of programming, maintain the daunting job of finding speakers and entertainment to stimulate membership and guests week after week. One presentation was on "Secularism as a College Major." It came after one California university developed a department of Secular Studies in 2011.

An *Oneg Shabbat*, the first Friday of each month, uses a pianist and the skills of our choral leader, Vice President Steve Diamond, to accompany the music of each *Oneg*. Using programs gleaned from Birmingham Temple Friday evenings, we add to the flavor with *niggun*s and sing-alongs as we cover topics such as hope, community, and Jewish history. We begin the evening with words of wisdom from one of our SHJ humanistic rabbis, continue with candle lighting and end with goodies that may reflect a holiday spirit if one is about to start. People dance, sing, hum, and celebrate being alive.

"The responsibility to increase guest attendance at the weekly gatherings," says Diamond, "requires phone calls, follow-ups and reminders. During the following week, I call our guests, thank them for coming, remind them about next week's events and reiterate why I feel our chapter is special."

"To grow membership, says, Diamond, "you've got to put your heart into Humanistic Judaism. Our philosophy gives me the opportunity to continue my lifelong discovery of who I am, how I relate to others, and what my Jewish culture means to me."

by *Madrikha* Rosalie Gottfried and Orange County SHJ Vice President Steve Diamond, CA

## CHJ SARASOTA RESPONDS TO COMMUNITY NEEDS

The needs within our local Sarasota community continue. To that end we have concentrated efforts on helping in areas where we can make the greatest impact. Social Action Chair, Arlene Pearlman, has been most pleased with the response from CHJ members for Baby Basics, a non-profit, all-volunteer agency that provides diapers to families that have at least one working parent but are ineligible for food stamps or welfare. They fall into the *working poor* designation. The families are referred by Jewish Family and Children's Services; Women, Infants, Children; and Healthy Families Sarasota. The money saved by not having to buy diapers helps families buy food and medical care. Featured on Morning Edition of *NPR*, and in the *Boston Globe*, Baby Basics is now going national.

Renee Cramas is coordinating the efforts of CHJ for the Backpack Kids Program. The profound problem of childhood hunger persists. Far too many children go hungry over weekends and school holidays. CHJ President Rick Stein urged all members to make contributions of money and time to help alleviate the problem. To date, the goal of \$4,000 has been met and exceeded.

An on-going food collection for All Faiths Food Bank takes place at our monthly Saturday morning service, and diapers are collected at our monthly Friday night service. Bed linens and blankets were donated and delivered to the Salvation Army which, this year, has been providing more services for homeless families than ever before. And several CHJ members assisted at the Benderson Skilled Nursing facility to bring *Hanukka* cheer to the residents.  
by Rick Stein, past president



Arlene Pearlman is pleased with the congregation's response. Photo by Barney Sack.

## KAHAL B'RAIRA CONGREGATION FOCUSES ON CONNECTIONS

KB welcomed Rabbi Miriam Jerris, last winter, to spend the weekend as our biennial SHJ visitor. Rabbi Jerris created and led services for Friday night *Shabbat*, Saturday *Havdalla* and a Sunday Morning service, all of which provided fresh and innovative liturgy for future use. She also facilitated a forum focusing on continuing the development of community leadership. Her shared experience helped us examine current community practices and several models for cultivating new leaders in use around the country.

An All-Congregation Extravaganza was on our winter agenda also. We have been holding these events for four years and have included Israeli Folk Dancing, food, discussion groups, food, community art projects, fund raising auctions and did I mention food?



This year, Phil Katz took on the oversight of the morning which included a poetry service of original and imported content (created by Ellen Richstone), a scavenger hunt (Amy Schneider), schmoozing and workshops for "Creating Memories" (working with collage by Ruth Segaloff); "How to Become A Story Teller" (with Bambi Good); "Haroset From Around the World" (Russ Ruthen); and "Learning ASL" (Isadora Howard-Karp). Oh, and did I mention food? We had a great potluck brunch organized by Steve Greer.

It was another chance for us to connect within our community and to appreciate what a talented group we are. Story by Gladys Maged, KB administrator and Jon Levine, SHJ Board designee, Boston. Photo of Nili Pearlmutter with children Aviva and Asher Pearlmutter-Bearson at collage workshop by Phil Katz.



## MUSINGS FROM PAST PRESIDENT LOU ALTMAN

The SHJ has recently been accused of turning in an atheistic direction that would have disappointed our founder, Rabbi Sherwin Wine. **That accusation is wrong.**

First let's define terms. Dictionary.com defines "atheist" as "a person who denies or disbelieves the existence of a supreme being or beings." Stop right there; definition 1 (denying) and definition 2 (disbelieving) are two very different things.

Anger is frequently directed at those who deny the existence of any supernatural beings (definition 1). There are reasons for such anger. First, many people have invested their lives in god beliefs. Second, many people believe there can be no other basis for an ethical society but a god belief. Third, many people have a psychological need for such a belief, and those people have a right to their beliefs, though they do not have a right to impose those beliefs on others. Finally, some atheists are disrespectful, even scornful, of others' beliefs.

Have you seen Bill Maher's movie "Religulous"? In it he interviews unsophisticated, unsuspecting believers for the purpose of ridiculing them. He goes well beyond merely disagreeing with their beliefs. Some other atheists are also noted for their occasional ad hominem tone. **Humanists don't do that.**

Disbelievers (definition 2) are different from deniers because they have more of an open mind. Herb Silverman, president of the Secular Coalition for America, was asked what he would do if a god suddenly appeared. The perfectly sensible answer: he would change his mind about the issue of existence.

An agnostic, by one definition, is "a person who holds neither of two opposing positions." This is somewhat similar to definition 2 of "atheist," but "agnostic" implies that the two opposing positions are both somewhat probable, whereas "disbelief" implies that if a god should suddenly appear the disbeliever would be surprised.

The term "apatheist" is a recent coinage to describe someone who thinks it makes no difference to his or her life whether there are any supernatural forces, because that person would continue to lead an ethical and rational life either way. As Silverman has written in his recently published autobiography, many people, although nominally theists, atheists or agnostics, are functionally apatheists in a certain sense. Suppose the existence of a god were suddenly confirmed or disconfirmed beyond question. In the event of such confirmation, I seriously doubt that any significant number of agnostics and atheists (by any definition) would suddenly have to give up a life of crime.

Similarly, in the event of a sudden *disconfirmation*, I seriously doubt that any significant number of theists would suddenly begin raping and pillaging (although president Silverman, with his usual sense of humor, has said that he sincerely hopes believers who think that a god is the only possible basis for ethics will continue to believe in a god, because otherwise they might do a lot of harm).

**Where does SHJ stand in all this?** Well, our members, as individuals, fall into various camps: some are deniers, some are disbelievers, some are agnostics who can't or won't decide, some are apatheists who think the issue is irrelevant, and some may even be receptive to the notion of supernatural intervention (but they are still welcome to join us).

SHJ and its congregations, *as organizations*, do not deny anyone else's beliefs. These humanistic organizations strive to find an ethical, rational way of life whether there is a god or not.

SHJ Rabbi Miriam Jerris identifies as a Humanist, a person who focuses on human experience and responsibility. When she is interviewed by the press, they sometimes try to pin her down to a definite yes or no on the issue of a god's existence, because a denial makes for sensational headlines, and thus helps to sell newspapers. She always declines to take that bait, saying only that the issue is not whether gods exist; rather the issue for Humanistic Judaism is how to live an ethical and rational life, and to celebrate and enjoy our Jewish heritage.

We do not need to express disrespect or scorn for the beliefs of traditional Jews or other religions. In fact, we have earned a place in the Jewish world that is equivalent to that of the older denominations, and we did that through solidarity with the wider Jewish community on issues of common concern. Our congregations often sit on the local synagogue council. **We are allies, not enemies, of our fellow Jews.**

Of course we also have made common cause with atheists and other nonbelievers when necessary to protect the separation of church and state, or to protest the imposition of majoritarian religious values on non-believers. We belong to the Secular Coalition, which lobbies Congress on issues like religious restrictions on private behavior or equality for homosexuals. We recently attended and co-sponsored the Reason Rally in Washington, D.C. to let the fundamentalists know that we humanists also vote in elections. But never did we join in any expressions of disrespect for traditional religions. Disagree-ment yes, disrespect no. One of the principles of humanism is respect for all human beings, even those who disagree with us on fundamental issues. **We remain true to our principles.**

## KOL HADASH, CALIFORNIA, OPENS A HOMELESS CHILDREN'S ACCOUNT

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year now, we in *Congregation Kol Hadash* of Northern California have been observing a Children's Sabbath *Tikkun Olam* during our High Holiday services. When the recession hit, we contacted our Berkeley School District's Coordinator for Services to Homeless Children. Her caseload had gone up by 70% in the two years from pre-crash '07 to '09. We asked to help these newly homeless school kids, and she replied, "These folks need to feel that they have some control over their lives; they need a bit of money to use as they see fit, whether for school supplies or spaghetti."

Religious institutions are permitted to act as fiduciary agents for raising funds for charity, but school personnel are forbidden by law from handling other people's money. To stay within the law, we decided to use \$25 gift cards to stores like Safeway and Target. Our coordinator could then hand out individual gifts to kids and families. They could choose what they needed, and then use the card at the cash register like any other shopper.

The program is relatively painless to manage. Our Homeless Children's Account remains open all year long, and in the fall, the treasurer tells us how much money we have. The local Safeway then supplies as many \$25 cards as we can buy. Each one gets put in a sealed envelope with a little note of encouragement. Our coordinator then hands them out to her students, never touching any money. This



**President Joyce Lewbin holds a package of materials from the Children's Defense Fund.**

year we had \$500 going out in mid-November to 20 families.

As a project, it has proved to be very satisfying to our small congregation as it can be accomplished with relatively little effort and does a lot of good.

by **Helene Lecar**

## BETH CHAVERIM DEVELOPS 3-PART THEME OF "LITERATURE, LAUGHTER AND LEGACY"

With a grant from the Community Foundation for Jewish Education and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Beth Chaverim developed a three part series entitled "Literature, Laughter and Legacy."

We hosted three speakers to address the theme. Author Ellen Frankel of Marblehead, Massachusetts spoke about her very funny novel, *Syd Arthur*. In it, the Jewish heroine searches for meaning in life and looks to such practices as Zen meditation

and yoga, much to the chagrin of her family and friends.

The second speaker, Pam Sherman, a Jewish woman from Rochester, New York related her experience of staying during Passover time with an Arab family in the Middle East. Finally, Ellen Blum Barish concluded our series with a presentation on preserving our legacy and passing down our stories. The series was well attended and well received.

**Rabbi Jodi Kornfeld, Illinois**



**Pam Sherman photo by President Robin Chessick, Beth Chaverim**

**MUSINGS** *continued from page 8* Epilogue: By the time you read this, my six years as president will be over. Our new president, Andrea Friedlander, is extremely capable. But the presidency is a hard job, so she will benefit from any assistance you can give her. Workers and funds are always in short supply in volunteer organizations, so step up and offer your time and your dollars to make Humanistic Judasim stronger.

## JEWISH ACTIVISTS REMEMBER CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE

Baltimore's first Martin Luther King Day program generated an audience of 45 people, the largest we've ever had for a nonJewish holiday event. The main attraction was a strong program, "Jewish Activists Remember the Civil Rights Struggle."

Del (Greenblatt) Sweeney had been a 21-year-old grad student at Cornell when she participated in the Freedom Rides in 1961. Freedom Rider Helene (Wilson) Ageloff was a 26-year-old housewife and member of CORE in Washington, D.C. at the time. Del and Helene met in prison in Mississippi but re-connected last year, the 50th anniversary reunion of the Freedom Rides. In 1963, working with Americans for Democratic Action, Carol Frank helped integrate a restaurant and an amusement park in Baltimore, the latter resulting in arrest. Both Helene and Carol's experiences had been written about in the Jewish Museum of Maryland's magazine in 2010.

We generated more publicity, including articles in the weekly *Baltimore Jewish Times* and *Sunday Baltimore Sun*. Our format was simple, each woman speaking about her background and her experiences, followed by a Q&A session, then light refreshments.

Audience composition reflected some of our continuing difficulties, as the vast majority were middle-aged and older. Outreach to several high schools did not result in any student attendance, though a couple of faculty members came. Over one-third of those attending came from the Conservative synagogue that one of our members also belongs to, another testament to the importance of personal contacts.

**Bob Jacobson, Baltimore Jewish Cultural Chavurah**

## OR ADAM WELCOMES NEW AZ COMMUNITY

The Secular Humanist Jewish Circle of Tucson, Arizona, held its first annual meeting on February 5. Pauline Staples and Miki Safadi of Or Adam CHJ, Phoenix, were in attendance to welcome their new sister community into the SHJ family.

The new community has 35 members in 24 households, and it seemed as though almost all their members were present for the meeting—an auspicious beginning.

The group has lots of great plans for the future, including starting a *bar/bat mitzvah* program as a beginning to a children's Jewish humanist education program. Pauline and Miki answered many questions and brought brochures and other materials to help.



**Standing left to right, Miki, Pauline, and the Secular Humanist Jewish Circle Board: Cathy Becskehazy, social action; Jacqui Saltz; Kent Barabee; Becky Schulman, holidays; Martin Schulman; Marshall Rubin, president; Hal Safron, treasurer; (kneeling) Judy Teitler, vice president/publicity; and Susan Rubin, oneg/education. by Miki Safadi, Or Adam administrator**

## IISHJ GRADUATES LEADERS, CONFERS MASTERS DEGREE

The Colloquium weekend of April 20-22 provided the perfect setting for a graduation as our activities all occurred on the Evanston, Illinois campus of Northwestern University. Congratulations to the new leaders (starting on the left): Natan Fuchs, Michelle Davis, Sheila Malcolm, BJ Saul, and to Ed Klein on attaining a masters degree.



## SOCIETY FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM JOINS UNITEWOMEN.ORG

The SHJ has endorsed Unite Women, an organization created to help defend women's rights and pursuit of equality. There have been numerous attempts recently to curtail the rights of women to make their own choices about their health, their bodies and their day-to-day lives. These attempts have usually reflected some peoples', often men's, interpretations of specific religious be-

liefs. To combat these attacks, the SHJ has joined with faith-based and secular organizations in asserting the right of women to equal treatment in all areas of society, including health care, employment, family, and other areas in which women's basic humanity and equality are denied. To learn more about these efforts, visit [www.unitewomen.org](http://www.unitewomen.org).

# Building Community

## Don't Keep Humanistic Judaism A Secret

by Rabbi Miriam Jerris



It doesn't usually take very long for those engaged in Humanistic Judaism to turn our conversation to "spreading the word." Humanistic Judaism has touched so many of our lives in powerful and meaningful ways. Letting our members and the public know that your community is part of a larger organization and movement enhances the credibility of the local community and the Movement and makes others want to share in our positive experience of Jewish identity and good fortune. Marketing people talk about establishing a clear and consistent brand identity. Here are 12 suggestions for strengthening brand identity that each of us can do to increase the visibility of Humanistic Judaism.

◆ Refer to the **Society for Humanistic Judaism** by name. Each time we write about or refer to the umbrella organization, we ought to say the Society for Humanistic Judaism, whether in speech or on our websites or in our newsletters. When we say *national* we are losing an opportunity to fully promote our identity clearly and consistently.

◆ Report the community's **affiliation** with the Society for Humanistic Judaism and display it prominently on the home page of your website, in your newsletter, in brochures, and on your stationery. See [machar.org](http://machar.org), [baltimoresecularjews.org](http://baltimoresecularjews.org), [bethami.com](http://bethami.com) or [chj-sarasota.org](http://chj-sarasota.org) as examples of putting affiliation with the Society right up front.

◆ Please note that **local affiliates are NOT affiliated with the International Federation of Secular and Humanistic Judaism** (note the accurate name). The Society for Humanistic Judaism is the affiliate of that organization.

◆ **The Society for Humanistic Judaism is a member of the Secular Coalition for America and the Coalition for Liberty and Justice.** Feel free to note this information on your website or in your newsletter.

◆ Use **Society for Humanistic Judaism Board Designee** as the correct title and description wherever you list Board positions.

◆ When promoting the field visits provided by the Society for Humanistic Judaism, please include the Society as you promote the events of the weekend. Field visits are sponsored by the Society for Humanistic Judaism. When the visitor is someone other than Rabbi Miriam Jerris, you can

promote the weekend as a scholar-in-residence program with *Rabbi Moshe Cohen* and say **"This visit is made possible as a benefit of our affiliation with the Society for Humanistic Judaism"** in all publicity.

◆ When receiving a grant from the SHJ, please ensure that a version of the following phrase is included in all publicity and mentions of the program **"This program is made possible (in part) by a grant from the Society for Humanistic Judaism."** It is a requirement of the grant.

◆ The Society for Humanistic Judaism sponsors an annual program for affiliates called the **Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) Humanistic Jewish Role Model of the Year.** When publicizing your role model program, mention that the person you are celebrating is the SHJ Humanistic Jewish Role Model. Again pairing the program with the Society helps promote the organization.

◆ Each year, the Society for Humanistic Judaism sets aside the month of Heshvan as **Community Service Month** (October 17-November 14, 2012). If your affiliate participates in this program, identifying what you are doing with a program taking place throughout North America enhances the public relations value of what you are doing.

◆ The youth organization of the Society for Humanistic Judaism is called **HuJews**. When the Youth Conclave is mentioned, it should be referred to as the **Youth Conclave of HuJews, the youth organization of the Society for Humanistic Judaism.**

◆ Take the material from the monthly SHJ E-Newsletter, **On the Move** and include it in your community newsletter or post it on your website.

◆ Mention SHJ Programs in newsletters (Humanistic Jewish Role Model, Community Service Month, HuJews Conclave, SHJ E-Newsletter) regularly. You may want to create a column called **"News from the Society for Humanistic Judaism."**

As we all adopt the same language and the correct names of our organizations and programs, we will increase our visibility and strengthen our brand identity. Thank you for all you do to tell the world about Humanistic Judaism and the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

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## LOU ALTMAN NAMED 2012 RECIPIENT OF SHERWIN T. WINE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Pictured from left, SHJ Rabbi Miriam Jerris, Lou Altman and SHJ Executive Director Bonnie Cousens.

On April 20, the Society honored SHJ past president Lou Altman with the Sherwin T. Wine Lifetime Achievement Award. Lou is the 9<sup>th</sup> recipient of the award, established by SHJ past president Bert Steinberg in honor of Rabbi Wine on his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Altman, in receiving the award said, “I am very pleased to be honored by my friends in the Society, but also a little embarrassed by all the attention. I only did what seemed called for in order to promote Humanistic Judaism, and I know that many others have done likewise and will continue to do so.”

Recipients of the award are individuals who have “over the years exemplified extraordinary dedication, devotion, adherence to and activity in the Secular Humanistic Judaism Movement and the philosophical doctrines enunciated by the Movement’s founder, Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine.”

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### SHJ JOINS COALITION DEFENDING FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOM

The SHJ has joined the newly formed **Coalition for Liberty and Justice**, an alliance of faith-based and secular organizations concerned with safeguarding the protections guaranteed by the First Amendment. Combining our voices and efforts is the most effective means to ensure that public policy protects this constitutional right and fosters fair options for all.

The coalition will protect individual religious freedom—the right to be respected as a moral decision-maker, free to follow one’s own conscience, religious beliefs, and values. Its mission is to further true religious freedom for individuals of all faiths and no faith. It stands in opposition to the false frame of religious freedom being imposed on the national conversation about reproductive health and sexuality by conservative policymakers and their allies. The coalition will protect the rights of all those affected by this narrow view of religious liberty. The coalition will create joint advocacy statements to rebut attacks in the name of a narrowly defined religious freedom; disseminate these messages to political and community leaders; engage in multi-media campaigns at every level; and attend meetings with decision makers and civil society leaders.

Today, we are witnessing an increased effort to blur the line separating religion and state by those seeking to ultimately control the way in which people of all faiths or no faith may or may not be allowed to exercise their individual rights—sexual and reproductive rights, freedom of and from religion, and freedom of conscience. By coming together in the Coalition for Liberty and Justice, the voice of Humanistic Judaism becomes more powerful in defending our shared values.

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### SHJ JOINS SECULAR HUMANISTS TO RAISE \$1 MILLION TO FIGHT CANCER

The SHJ is encouraging members to participate in a new community service project. SHJ has become an ally of the Foundation Beyond Belief (FBB) in supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Light the Night Walk (LTN). LTN is a leisurely evening 2-3 mile walk held in autumn (the exact date and time depend on the walk location). Walkers carry illuminated balloons – white for survivors, red for supporters, and gold in memory of loved ones. Local team’s efforts will provide lifesaving blood cancer research, free educational materials and patient support services, such as Family Support Groups. More than 1,000,000 people in the United States are currently living with, or are in remission from, leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin’s disease, or myeloma.

SHJ is encouraging our members to join this worthwhile cause by creating a local LTN team. Joining as a part of the FBB team will highlight nontheists giving and raise awareness for local secular groups. We will be demonstrating, in a very visible way, that non-theists “do good without God.” As an extra incentive, the top fundraising teams will have the opportunity to direct up to \$5,000 in grants to be split by a local qualifying freethought nonprofit and an FBB Ally such as SHJ.

We are very excited about the LLS-FBB partnership. We urge you to create a walk team under the FBB international team banner and ask SHJ members and friends to join us in the fight against cancer. We recognize that there are many organizations worthy of our support and many projects similar to the Light the Night Walk. We hope you will join LTN. Together, our movement can make a difference in the fight against cancer. To learn more, contact SHJ.

# FROM SHJ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BONNIE COUSENS TAKING ACTION, MAKING OUR VOICE COUNT

**Freedom of Religion** — We have been hearing these words a lot recently. Many who use them claim that our founding fathers were seeking to protect a shared religious belief. They use these words to justify their demands that their religious beliefs determine public policy. These words support their defining marriage as between one man and one woman. These words permit their opposition to women’s health care, especially reproductive care, and to government support of some health care providers, including Planned Parenthood. These words encourage their inserting “conscience clauses” into legislation and public policy.

But as Humanistic Jews we know words have meaning and these words do not mean what they claim. These words are the guarantee that protects our freedom and democracy. These words protect the religious liberty of individuals of all faiths and of no faith and foster fair and equal treatment of all beliefs. When they are misapplied to permit the imposition of specific religious beliefs on individuals who do not share those beliefs or to privilege specific religious beliefs, those who seek justification in these words for legislation or public policy violate the first amendment guarantee against the establishment of religion.

As a voice for our values, it is up to the Society and its members to speak out against efforts to frame freedom of religion as the right to employ a single faith or religious belief in defining policies that affect all individuals including many who do not share that belief.

As Humanistic Jews, we understand that freedom of religion ensures that there will be no state religion, no single belief system imposed upon individuals, no preferential treatment of specific belief systems. We recognize that freedom of religion is the right of every individual to be respected as a moral decision-maker, free to follow their own conscience, religious beliefs, and values. As Humanistic Jews we oppose the attempts by a few to impose their religious beliefs on others. As Humanistic Jews, we come together in the Society for Humanistic Judaism to defend every individuals’ right to freedom of religion, not only our own.

We defend social equality for the LGBT community. “We support the legal recognition of marriage and divorce between adults of the same sex, and affirm the value of marriage between any two committed adults with the sense of obligations, responsibilities, and consequences thereof” (SHJ resolution, April 2004). We oppose the Defense of Marriage Act and support full access to civil marriage while guarding

the right of religious institutions to choose whether or not to recognize these marriages (amicus brief, October, 2011).

We speak out against so-called “conscience clauses” – clauses inserted into public policy that exempt a religious entity or individual from having to provide legal health care treatments if they disagree with the treatments on a religious basis (SHJ resolution, February 2012). Such clauses violate the rights of individuals to make their own religious and ethical choices by permitting institutions and medical personnel to impose their religious beliefs on the healthcare options available to individuals and employees who may not share those religions views.

“We affirm that a woman has the moral right and should have the continuing legal right to decide whether or not to terminate a pregnancy in accordance with her own ethical standards” (SHJ resolution, August 1996). We defend the Department of Health and Human Services’ affirmation of contraceptive services as essential preventive care for women under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and their guarantee of such access under the law to American women, regardless of religious affiliation. We support HHS’s decision that contraceptive services must be covered by most insurance policies without deductibles or co-pays (testimony before Congress, January 2012).

We oppose exempting religious employers from existing anti-discrimination statutes for their ministerial employees when there is no religious basis for the discrimination. Churches should not be able to discriminate against employees when the discrimination is not rooted in their religious beliefs (amicus brief, Hosanna-Tabor Church v. EEOC, 2012).

Together, our voice is strong. Together, as the Society for Humanistic Judaism, we can speak out against these efforts to violate the protections guaranteed by the First Amendment. Each of us has the responsibility to safeguard freedom of religion. Each of us has a responsibility to speak out against policies that violate our First Amendment protection against the establishment of religion. Each of us contributes to the strength of our voice. Join SHJ in making our voice heard. Speak out. Make our voice count.



# IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS BY BERT STEINBERG

**O**.K. I'll admit it ! I'm a numbers person. I love numbers. They have stood me in good stead all my life, especially in my professional career.

Twenty-two years ago, when I moved to California and attended a Jewish Federation Newcomers' Fair, I found Humanistic Judaism and Rabbi Sherwin Wine. I grew to love them both as well as numbers, and they, too, became part of my new life. It wasn't so surprising that I was able to merge two of my greatest loves—numbers and Humanistic Judaism— which are so much a part of my recent and current life.

Twelve years ago I helped organize the Society For Humanistic Judaism Planned Income Fund (PIF) in order to help support the future and continued development of the Humanistic Judaism Movement. For so many of us PIF provides the opportunity of assuring that the philosophy of our dear Rabbi Wine will be able to grow and expand in the future.

Here come the numbers: A gift to the Endowment Fund can provide improved income to the donor (that's you) and simultaneously provide for the future growth of SHJ.

First off, the gift is an immediate income tax deduction which saves you money *now*. The income continues to you or your partner for as long as you both shall live. After that, the gift helps SHJ maintain its many programs. It also permits you to designate up to 50% of the proceeds when payable, to your local community.

So where are the numbers? How much are you now receiving on your CD's or treasury bonds, or even stock dividends (you should excuse the expression)? If you are getting 2%-3% return you are doing well.



Our PIF, conservatively invested, has not suffered any losses, even in the debacle of 2007-8. At the reduced interest rates currently in the financial world, we are still distributing a little less than 4% annually. Distributions are made quarterly.

But here is where the numbers game pays off: for example, a \$10,000 donation only costs you about \$7,500 since you will keep the \$2,500 which normally would have gone to the IRS. It is the minimum tax savings, in hand now, as a result of the gift. So you haven't taken more than \$7,500 out of pocket. The 4% return on the \$10,000 gift is \$400. A return of \$400 on a layout of \$7,500 is 5.33%.

Where can you now get 5% on highly conservative investments these days? And so it has been for the 38 participants in our PIF these last 12 years. And, in addition, three communities have already shared in the proceeds that were payable on the donors' deaths.

How else can you better continue your love of Humanistic Judaism than by helping to spread the word to our future generations. I am available to discuss details , even in person. Call 415-543-4595 or e-mail: berts239@mac.com.

*Bert*

## Your Generosity Makes a Difference. Your gift to the SHJ can ensure the future of Humanistic Judaism.



- Contact me about the Pooled Income Fund or a planned gift.
- I am enclosing a tax deductible donation to the SHJ:

- |                                |                                |                                |                                  |   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$136 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$236 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$360 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,036 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,360        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$536 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,836 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ St.: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thank You for Thinking of SHJ

To Jack Rowens  
Thinking of you  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki

To Donald Sugarman  
Get well soon  
From Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki

To Eva Goldfinger & Joe Goldfinger  
Congratulations on engagement of daughter, Corrie  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Esti Rosenblum  
In memory of your husband, Marvin  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Shari & Richard Gelber  
Jane Goldhamer  
Rabbi Miriam Jerris  
Society for Humanistic Judaism  
Devera & Michael Witkin

To Judith Primak  
In memory of your husband, Gerald  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Deb Godden  
In honor of all her fine work for Machar & SHJ  
From Renee Weitzner

To Cheryl Meadow & Family  
In memory of Marion Klarfeld  
From Shari & Richard Gelber

To Betsy Pollock  
In memory of your husband, Donald  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Karen & Michael Egren  
In memory of your mother, Renee  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki  
Aviva & Bob Sandler  
Society for Humanistic Judaism

To Warren Wolf  
In celebration of your 70th birthday  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Joan Velick  
In memory of your husband, Harry  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Dea & Bob Farrah  
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki  
Society for Humanistic Judaism

To Sandy Altman  
In memory of your husband, Larry  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki

To Lois Alpern  
In memory of your daughter, Julie  
From Rabbi Miriam Jerris

To Marilyn & Jack Rowens  
Good luck in your new home  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Society for Humanistic Judaism

To Robert Goren  
In memory of your wife, Judith  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki  
Society for Humanistic Judaism

To Gayla Halbrecht  
In memory of your husband Herb  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Rabbi Miriam Jerris

To Arthur Liebhaber  
In memory of your mother, Rita  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Paula & Ron Creed

Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki  
Society for Humanistic Judaism  
To Evelyn Kreger  
In memory of your husband, David  
From Kal & Ada Bandalene  
Dea & Bob Farrah

To Joan Barnett  
In gratitude for her generous support during my illness  
From Faith Oremland

To Miriam Jerris  
In memory of Judith Sarver  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Kahal Braira  
Rabbi Jeffrey Falick & Arthur Liebhaber  
Society for Humanistic Judaism

To Barbara Mandell  
In memory of your husband, Steve  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Shari & Richard Gelber  
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki  
Society for Humanistic Judaism

To Diane Bernstein,  
In loving memory of your husband, Mel  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Rabbi Miriam Jerris  
Bob & Aviva Sandler  
Alma Spickler

To Frank Mandelbaum & Susan Chalom  
In memory of your mother, Naomi  
From Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki

In loving memory of Edith R. Davis  
From Lionel Davis

To Sheila & John Malcolm  
In memory of John's father  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki  
Society for Humanistic Judaism

To Michelle Davis & Ben Stafford  
Congratulations on the birth of David Gabriel  
From Miriam Jerris

In loving memory of my husband Herb  
From Gayla Halbrecht

To Barbara Behrmann  
In memory of your father, Arthur  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens  
To Lucia Brandon  
Thinking of you  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Marlene Cohen  
In honor of her 60th Birthday  
From Larry Lawrence & Amy Kotkin

To Sam & Marilyn Brownstein  
In celebration of your 50th anniversary  
From Leigh Gershin

To Dorothy Greenbaum  
In celebration of your 85th Birthday  
From The Society for Humanistic Judaism

To Jeff Falick & Arthur Liebhaber  
Congratulations on the marriage of your daughter  
From Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki

To Jeanette Katzman  
In memory of your husband, Barney  
From Gary Vandeputte

To Esther Biren, Melissa Biren & Rob Agree & Family  
In loving memory of husband & father Irving Biren  
From Carolyn Borthwick  
Rabbi Miriam Jerris  
Joyce Klein  
Eileen & Kenneth Morris  
Maxine & Rick Pascal  
Gussie Saffer and Herman Polenberg  
Beth & Alan Slutsky  
Ann Sorenson

To the Schwartz Family  
In memory of Meyer Schwartz  
From Esther Biren

To Roberta Feinstein  
Thinking of you  
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Jane Loebel  
In memory of your husband, Kurt  
From Lucia Brandon & Bert Steinberg

*Please Print* **Honor the Passages of Life**  
A tribute lets friends know you care.

**YES!** I would like to send:  
 • an SHJ Tribute for a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum \$5 US) or  
 • an SHJ Certificate for a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ (minimum \$25 US)  
 • Please allocate tribute to: \_\_\_\_\_ Fund.

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_ **in memory / honor (circle one)**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: SHJ, 28611 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334**

# SHJ UPCOMING EVENTS

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| September 22-23, 2012 | RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS HIGH HOLIDAY VISIT TO SECULAR HUMANIST JEWISH CIRCLE, Tucson, AZ. Contact: <a href="mailto:mrubinaz@comcast.net">mrubinaz@comcast.net</a> .  |
| September 25-26, 2012 | RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS YOM KIPPUR VISIT TO OR ADAM CONGREGATION, Phoenix, AZ. Contact: <a href="mailto:info@oradam.org">info@oradam.org</a> , (480) 663-7788.   |
| November 9-11, 2012   | RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS VISIT TO HUMANIST JEWISH CHAVURAH OF COLUMBUS, OH. Contact: <a href="mailto:cbushumjudaism@yahoo.com">cbushumjudaism@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:lindawolf2cats@gmail.com">lindawolf2cats@gmail.com</a> . |
| November 9-11, 2012   | IISHJ Seminar at the BIRMINGHAM TEMPLE, MI. Contact: <a href="mailto:info@iishj.org">info@iishj.org</a> .  |
| January 18-20, 2013   | IISHJ Seminar at CHJ, SARASOTA, FL. Contact: <a href="mailto:info@iishj.org">info@iishj.org</a> .  |
| February 8-10, 2013   | IISHJ Seminar at KAHAL B'RAIRA, BOSTON, MA. Contact: <a href="mailto:info@iishj.org">info@iishj.org</a> .  |
| March 10, 2013        | SHJ SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL CONFERENCE, NAPLES, FL. Contact: <a href="mailto:rabbimiriamjerris@shj.org">rabbimiriamjerris@shj.org</a> .   |
| April 12-14, 2013     | HUJEWS TEEN & YOUNG ADULT CONCLAVE 2013, Butzel Conference Center, Michigan. Contact: SHJ, <a href="mailto:info@shj.org">info@shj.org</a> or <a href="mailto:info@hujews.org">info@hujews.org</a> , (248) 478-7610.                |
| June 7-9, 2013        | IISHJ Seminar at ORAYNU, TORONTO, ON. Contact: <a href="mailto:info@iishj.org">info@iishj.org</a> .  |

Save the Date!

## HUJEWS TEEN AND COLLEGE CONCLAVE April 12-14, 2013

at Butzel Conference Center in Michigan

contact: [aj@hujews.org](mailto:aj@hujews.org) or [shj@hujews.org](mailto:shj@hujews.org) for information

### Do you shop online?

You can support the SHJ when you shop  
at more than 1,500 online stores.

Help us raise funds by  
shopping through our  
marketplace.

Use our online marketplace — [www.fundraising-solutions.org](http://www.fundraising-solutions.org) — when you shop online. It is your doorway to **1,500 online stores**. Shop with any of these merchants and they will donate a portion of every sale to us in your name or anonymously. Just click on the little shopping bag on the SHJ website, and start shopping! You can also put a shopping bag directly on your desktop. **There is no additional cost to you.** Among the stores available to you are Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Dell, GAP, Toys R Us, Macy's, Travelocity, and 1-800-Flowers. When you shop online at any of the 1,500+ retailer partners, a portion of your purchasing dollars (from 2-25%, varying from merchant to merchant) will come back to the Society. Here's how to help the Society *just by shopping*:

1. Visit the Society for Humanistic Judaism website, [www.shj.org](http://www.shj.org).
2. Click on the link on the left side of our homepage that alternately flashes, "Help us raise funds by shopping through our marketplace" and the shopping bag icon that says, "click here for more info."
3. The link takes you to the Fundraising Solutions Welcome page, where you can download a desktop shortcut the next time you shop: **Download Desktop Shortcut**. Whether or not you download the shortcut, you're now ready to begin shopping. You can search by merchant or by category and proceed to shop as you normally would online.

By making your purchases through Fundraising Solutions, you are helping us raise precious dollars that will support SHJ programs and services. Please tell your communities, friends, and families about this unique way to help us raise funds.