



THE ILLUMINATOR

Or Emet – The Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Spring 2019 issue
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Blossoming

by Harold Londer, Madrikh Emeritus

Reprinted from February 2010 Illuminator Archives

Editor's Note: Harold's article is fitting for the current times as well. In 2010 we were growing and faced a decision point. Do we continue to grow or become more insular? More recently, moving forward with a decision on leadership has been an important step into the future, presenting new challenges to fund that growth even as it presents new opportunities.

Or Emet has grown from about ten households to nearly fifty. With this growth comes tremendous potential, but growth can also bring concerns.

Last year (2009) we had 140 attendees at our Passover Seder. We are uncertain about our capacity to handle further guests. We have traditionally invited the public, but our obligation is to members. Do we stop inviting the public? Do we limit reservations? Do we continue to try to serve as many as want to attend, recognizing that this puts tremendous strain on our volunteers? In many ways it is a great problem to have!

A recent Sunday program was wonderful. People felt they had learned something valuable and precious. The room was packed! The kids later came in for our Tu B'Shevat Seder. It was a wonderfully uplifting morning, but one could see we were beginning to outgrow our space. An Or Emet member said, "and we expect our school to grow next year?" She was spot on about the space issue. Again, what a wonderful problem to confront!

Last fall our ritual committee rewrote the service. I was amazed at the strong feelings this process engendered, including — the service was too long and interfered with the speaker — we should eliminate the service completely, or have two starting times (one for the service, a second for the speaker) — some wanted more ritual and music — or, eliminate the member commentary (we did this). It was much easier when we had a few people to please, not nearly 100! How exciting so many people care so much about Or Emet.

Does Or Emet want to grow? Need to grow? Is growth always positive? Some humanistic congregations become discordant and split into two congregations, typically over an issue that seems trivial to an outsider.

Can we maintain our sense of community, our sense of family, our warmth, as we expand membership? We could make our website private, stop publicizing meetings, stop inviting the public to High Holidays, Seder, school, etc. We could function as a *chavurah* vs a congregation, a few close friends meeting socially for intellectual and spiritual enrichment.

There are no easy answers, but for me the answer is clear. I believe we have so much to *offer* the community that we **MUST** continue to grow. Without Or Emet, many kids in our school would have **NO** exposure to Judaism. We are a unique resource to unaffiliated Jews in the community. We are open to **ALL** who are seeking a spiritual, humanistic, Jewish experience. We are a voice for the humanistic message that needs to be championed. We know how the religious right, the ultra-orthodox, and the political conservatives dominate public opinion. There is no more distrusted and disliked minority in our country than a humanist, let alone a Jewish humanist. And yet, we represent a worldwide movement, long-standing in Jewish and human history.

There is no doubt that we will experience growing pains. There is no doubt that we will be unable to satisfy every member's wishes at all times. There is no doubt that we will be stressed and, at times, frustrated.

We truly exist for our members, and I hope that each of you will continue to be supportive of Or Emet. We welcome and encourage participation at all levels. Please join us in our quest for dignity, justice, self actualization and peace.

There comes a time when the risk to remain tight in the bud becomes more painful than the risk it took to blossom. Anais



The Illuminator

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International Institute
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Judaism (IISHJ)

President's Message

Or Emet's History Guides the Future

by Scott Chazdon



With our 30th anniversary this year, Or Emet is starting to explore documenting our history. We are the first and only Humanistic Jewish congregation in the state. With trends towards secularism and intermarriage in our larger society (Pew Research Center 2013, 2017), Or Emet is poised to grow as an alternative for non-observant Jews with an interest in cultural identity and for non-Jews who enjoy Jewish culture or are partnered with Jews. The stronger Or Emet's ability to tell its story, the more likely those who are interested will find out about Humanistic Judaism and this alternative way to connect with Jewish culture and heritage.

As noted by Harold Londer in his piece re-printed in this newsletter, Or Emet has much to offer the broader community. Our growth can be healthy, especially if informed by a thorough understanding of our past.

To this end, Natalie Rosinsky, Susan Weinberg and I had an informative meeting with Kate Dietrick, archivist at the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota, and Robin Doroshov, Executive Director of the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest. Together, we began planning activities to document our history.

The Jewish Historical Society and the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives are very interested in working with us. As part of her job, Kate will take all our assembled historical materials to organize and archive. These materials include copies of Sabbath and holiday service booklets and music, life cycle ceremonies, adult education and cultural school materials, B'Mitzvah ceremonies, event photographs, newsletters, official correspondence, published material about Or Emet, and presentations by invited expert guest speakers.

Partnering with the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest and the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives

We talked about what to do after materials are archived and agreed that an oral history project would allow us to fill gaps in Or Emet's history. We hope to conduct the project later in 2019 depending on funding, interviewing founding and long-time members of our congregation. We are targeting between five to ten key individuals who will help us expand knowledge of our history as reflected by the current trove of historical materials. We will also gather their personal photographs and memorabilia of our history. This project will require an oral history protocol, hiring an experienced interviewer, purchasing equipment, conducting and transcribing interviews, and editing videos.

After archiving these oral histories at the Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, we hope they will be source materials for projects such as a film, multi-media presentation, or public exhibition about Or Emet's history. We also look forward to documenting Or Emet's history in a MNopedia article. To achieve these goals, we will work with Robin Doroshov and possibly draw upon the Master of Public History program at the University of Minnesota.

We have submitted a grant proposal and should know this year if funding is available. If you are interested in being part of this project in any way, please send me an email at president@oremet.org.

Jewish Cultural School Update

by Arty Dorman

Director of the Or Emet Jewish Cultural School



Seven years ago, my daughter, Renee Dorman, became a teacher for the Jewish Cultural School, working with the Middles Group, which at the time were first, second, and third grade students. Among them were three (dare I say “adorable”) first graders who are now nearing their B'Mitzvahs this summer – Kai Dickson, Leo Finestack, and Emily Springer. A fourth student approaching his B'Mitzvah date, Noah Oken, joined the Jewish Cultural school a couple of years later.

As a former educator, I was happy to volunteer to assist Renee with class activities and fill in when she or other JCS teachers were absent. This gave me an opportunity to observe those children and see their varied talents, interests, and personal qualities blossom over the passing years. I know as a parent how much our heart strings pull as we see our little babies become toddlers, then school kids, and then take steps toward adulthood.

The B'Mitzvah is an early but very significant step in the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Under the tutelage of Eva Cohen, our B'Mitzvah Group teacher, it is an especially meaningful experience. For me, the privilege of knowing these children over the course of seven years as they embark upon their personalized B'Mitzvah projects is extremely gratifying. It is also a statement about the strength of Or Emet's Jewish Cultural School, families and community — all working together to support the children from their earliest experiences with Teacher Josh in the “Littles Group,” through the path of learning about Jewish history and heritage, cultivating pride in their Jewish culture and identity, and becoming ethical and inquisitive adults who value truth, reason, fairness, and kindness.

Thanks to members of the Or Emet community for supporting our children. You support our future by volunteering, by applauding performances at our annual Hanukkah Party, participating in Purim Carnival games, and providing financial support. Your contributions allow us to offer the Jewish Cultural School at rates that are affordable to families.

JCS students and teachers on the way to classes on April 14



Middles Class



Littles Class



B'Mitzvah Prep Class

For more information about what happens in Or Emet's Jewish Cultural School classrooms, visit the Cultural School Blog on the Or Emet website www.oremnet.org.

To arrange a visit and/or for JCS-related questions, concerns, feedback, suggestions, contact Arty Dorman at school-1@oremnet.org

Social Justice/Social Action Committee

From the Ground Up

by Arty Dorman, Social Justice/Social Action Co-Chair



Since the last issue of The Illuminator, our Social Justice/Social Action Committee has kept busy. We served a festive Christmas lunch to guests at St. Stephen's Shelter, as well as three other Saturday night suppers. We volunteered at Second Harvest Heartland and prepared produce for distribution to area food shelves, shelters, and group homes.



Volunteers at a St. Stephen's Shelter dinner

Through our involvement in the Jewish Inclusion Collaborative, we arranged a Sunday morning program on March 17 "Living with Different—not Dis—Abilities." Presenters were our own Gwyn Leder who lives with the impact of a brain injury, along with Lori Leder-Fogel, an advocate for children and adults with autism.

After learning about foster care system discrimination which limits opportunities for foster parents based on religion, our group appealed to the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) to take a position on the issue. The following statement was formed by the SHJ Ethics in Action Committee, was approved by the SHJ Executive Committee, and has since been endorsed by the Or Emet Executive Committee as our position. More information can be found in the April 2019 issue of "Church & State," published by Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Society for Humanistic Judaism Denounces Discrimination in Foster Care System

The Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) believes that entities receiving federally-funded assistance should not be allowed to discriminate based on religion. SHJ condemns any waivers provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that allow child welfare organizations *receiving federal funds* to discriminate against foster parents based on religion.

SHJ believes every child deserves a loving and supportive home. Discrimination based on religion arbitrarily denies vulnerable children a better life. Such discrimination is especially egregious when taxpayer money is directly being used to facilitate it, hurting minority religions and defenseless children. Accordingly, SHJ calls for the DHHS to cease granting such waivers, which undermine a fundamental tenet of our democracy: separation of church and state.

— Dated February 28, 2019, in response to the recent waiver granted by DHHS to Miracle Hill Ministries of South Carolina, allowing them to discriminate against potential LGBTQ, Jewish, or Catholic potential adoptive parents, or anyone else who doesn't share their specific brand of Protestant Christian beliefs.

We also look forward to the **Day of Reason** event at the MN State Capitol on May 2nd. The *Day of Reason* raises awareness that social justice and social action need not be conflated with religion, but can stem from an ethical and reasoned awareness of our role as individuals and our responsibilities as a community.



All Or Emet members are welcome to join the Social Justice/Social Action Committee, or to offer input on activities and issues that we address. Contact Arty Dorman arty@oremet.org or Claire Press clairehpress@aol.com to become involved.

Reminder

We collect personal care items for clients at Listening House, a St. Paul day facility for homeless people.

Donations are gratefully accepted at all Friday, Saturday, and Sunday programs.

THE NEWEST B'NAI MITZVAH TREND IS OLDER THAN YOU THINK

By Paul Golin, Executive Director of the Society for Humanistic Judaism

This excerpt is an edited version of the [full page](#) published in *Contact* Summer 2018 steinhardt.foundation.org

Imagine a Bar/Bat Mitzvah program that is learner-centered, develops skills that will remain useful beyond the ceremony, and aligns with the values and beliefs of most Jews today.

Must be a new initiative, right? Try fifty-five years and counting.

When Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine founded Secular Humanistic Judaism in 1963, many focused on what he discarded: a God-centered liturgy. Few beyond the movement considered what was gained when youth stopped memorizing a lengthy Hebrew liturgy and were no longer assigned Torah portions based on the randomness of a calendar date.

What's gained is the opportunity for students to follow their own interests, to genuinely explore and discover rather than simply memorize, and to connect to Jewish subjects in a deeply personal way.

One of the most surprising — yet least-discussed — findings from the seminal 2013 Pew Survey is that only half of American Jews have had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. The Pew report did not break down the demographics further as to who forgoes B'nai Mitzvah; certainly, in older generations few girls were granted the opportunity.

Continuing a ritual — any ritual — for continuity's sake is no longer motivation enough. Today's family must understand the meaning and benefit of doing it. Two major and related trends accelerate this shift: intermarriage and declining American religiosity. The B'nai Mitzvah experience in Secular Humanistic Judaism has always addressed those trends directly.

Cultural B Mitzvah, an umbrella gender-neutral name for the Society for Humanistic Judaism's programs (B'Mitzvah at Or Emet), allows for equal participation and celebration of all sides of the student's family. While the Cultural B Mitzvah educational program is about Jewish history, culture, and achievements, and the ceremony is about young people affirming their Jewish identities, we, as Humanistic Jews, acknowledge and appreciate that everyone has multiple aspects to their identities. When the approach to Judaism is cultural, not religious, we can offer a message of genuine inclusion to intermarried families.

The Pew Research Center has been tracking the decline in American religiosity for years, and Jews have been in the vanguard of that trend. Today, *most* Jews do not believe in the God of the Bible. This inevitably makes B'nai Mitzvah — as a religious ritual — a harder sell. Offering a cultural B Mitzvah can provide these households with a meaningful way of expressing their Jewish identity that also feels truthful to them.

Our liturgy is uniquely inclusive to theists and non-theists alike. We know how powerful our approach is because people tell us: family members from other denominations who first encounter our movement through the B'nai Mitzvah of their relatives or grandkids regularly say, "I wish this was available when I was a kid/when I had kids."

The Cultural B Mitzvah curriculum is intended to be [a] strong Jewish identity-builder while also developing critical-thinking skills. How do I determine what is true? What is my connection to the larger world?

Various Cultural B Mitzvah curricula and ceremonies have emerged. Many candidates work with a mentor to explore a Jewish historical role model, examining their life, ideas, and deeds, and describing why the person was chosen. Other communities encourage the students to explore a Jewish topic of interest to them. The projects are diverse and the presentations are creative and include multimedia, art, and musical expressions.

Editor's note: We are publishing this article because it describes those components of Or Emet's B'Mitzvah celebrations that create more poignant, personal, and relevant ceremonies. Congratulations on upcoming B'Mitzvahs for all involved.

Upcoming 2019 B'Mitzvahs

B'Mitzvah candidate	B'Mitzvah date	Project topic
Kai Dickson	June 22	The biblical High Priest's breastplate and the <i>choshen</i> stones
Noah Oken	July 6	Creating a graphic novel based on Noah's family history
Emily Springer	August 17	Ashkenazi vs Sephardi vs Mizrahi celebration of the Jewish holidays
Leo Finestack	August 31	The experiences of Leo's great-grandfather as a German citizen at the start of the Holocaust; how his family members were able to survive and become American Jews.

My Journey to Becoming a Rabbi – Eva Cohen



Eva Cohen

The last several months have offered opportunity for both academic and professional growth. I am now in the fourth semester of my master's program at the University of Minnesota where I am taking three classes. *Metaphor and Gender* uses metaphor theory and gender studies analysis as lenses for studying Hebrew Bible texts. *Ancient Israel: From Conquest to Exile* focuses on the history of ancient Israel and Judah from the Bronze Age through the Roman conquest and occupation of Judah. *Intermediate Biblical Hebrew II* promotes development of Biblical Hebrew literacy through translation work with narrative, prophetic, and poetic texts. I am planning to spend this summer studying for the master's Hebrew language exam and revising master's papers. I expect to complete the program in the fall 2019 semester.

My Humanistic rabbinic coursework with the IISHJ includes a class with Rabbi Adam Chalom focusing on Jewish holidays, liturgy, and celebration. This summer I will be spending a week out of town doing full-day rabbinic classes in person with my cohort. Stay tuned for updates in the fall 2019 Illuminator on this "in real life" experience as opposed to that of the web-conference experience of IISHJ classes.

In addition to academic work, this winter has given me two especially meaningful opportunities to provide programming for the local Or Emet community and the national Humanistic Jewish community. In addition to regular teaching, I've led the B'Mitzvah program and the March Shabbat service. I was also honored to give a talk at the Or Emet February Shabbat program. It focused on the beautiful, representational third century CE murals unearthed in the Dura Europos synagogue in modern-day Syria. It was a pleasure to share these murals with the group and to have a great conversation about the diversity of Jewish art, iconography, and culture in antiquity.

The first weekend in March, I travelled to Boston to act as the "rabbinic presence" at the Society for Humanistic Judaism's HuJews youth conclave, a weekend gathering for teenagers and young adults affiliated with the Humanistic Jewish movement. It was fun and inspiring to lead Shabbat and Havdalah services for this group, and to engage them in art and discussion-based activities during my portion of evening programming. I am grateful for these experiences in the Twin Cities and Boston, which allowed me to build my skills as a presenter, ritual leader, and program facilitator.

Humanistic Jewish people are smart, caring, and deeply committed to making the world a better place. I am excited about future opportunities to learn, celebrate, and work together with Humanistic Jewish community members of all ages in Minnesota, as well as wherever special events take me!

Editor's note: Eva teaches the B'Mitzvah prep class, coaches the candidates, and officiates at the B'Mitzvah services.

Or Emet Annual Meeting

A CALL FOR ACTION!

The Nominations Committee needs to present a recommended slate for election to Or Emet's 2019 - 2020 Executive Committee. The election is on June 2 at our Annual Meeting.



The offices of president, vice-president, and treasurer are elected annually. The two at-large members of the Executive Committee serve two-year terms and are elected in alternate years. The Executive Committee meets monthly at a time agreed on by its members.

This year, we need candidates for vice-president and at-large positions. The task is to find nominees who have the necessary skills and are willing to serve the congregation in leadership positions. We are asking Or Emet members to find the time to serve our community, to attend to matters that support Or Emet's spiritual and intellectual life.

 Please contact anyone listed on the nominating committee below if you are interested or someone you know is willing and able to be a board candidate

We look forward to hearing from you!

Current slate of candidates

President: Scott Chazdon
Vice President: **open**
Treasurer: Sharon Miller
At Large: **open**
At Large: Janet Mayer

Nominations Committee Members

Natalie Rosinsky — rosinsky.natalie@gmail.com
Sergei Rakhmanov — srakhmanov@gmail.com
Rich Sonenblum — rich.res@gmail.com

OR EMET ANNUAL MEETING OFFICIAL NOTICE

Sunday, June 2, 2019 | 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

NEW LOCATION

Pearl Park Community Center
414 E Diamond Lake Road | Minneapolis, 55419

Agenda includes:

- President's remarks
- Financial report with 2019-2020 budget
- Committee reports
- Volunteer recognition and recruitment
- Election of 2019-2020 Officers and At-Large Executive Committee Members

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Following the annual meeting, join us to continue celebrating the day  
Potluck picnic kicks off at 12:00 noon

## Member Article

### Never Again, Ever Again\*

by Alan Miller

- ▷ How do you recognize a Jew?
- ▷ What characteristics do you look for?
- ▷ What traits are giveaways?

No, these are not frightening inquiries from 1939; they are not echos of the Nazi Third Reich. They are headlines from the front page of a right-wing Polish newspaper published only weeks ago, in March, 2019. They are today's prejudice, today's bigotry, today's words of hatred and intolerance from the front page of "Tylka Polska" (*Only Poland*), which shockingly brought me back to the Holocaust, and the cruel realization that antisemitism is alive and "unwell" in all corners of the globe.



Alan Miller

The article, replete with supposed characteristics and typical activities of Jews, was intended to assist its readers in how to recognize Jews in their midst, and single them out — not unlike many of the tactics employed by the Nazis. It was written in response, apparently, to a conference in Paris a month earlier which had been critical of the Polish populace and their treatment of Poland's Jewish citizens — their neighbors — during World War II. Decrying collaboration with their German conquerors, the article resurrected long discredited shibboleths. In World War II, two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population was exterminated. However, in Poland it was worse — of three million Polish Jews in 1939, less than ten percent survived the annihilation, perhaps as few as 45,000, although more accurate figures are hard to ascertain.

When I was teaching a course in Holocaust and Genocide studies, I utilized a film by Agnieszka Holland, an award-winning Polish writer-director — *Europa, Europa* — the true story of Solomon Perel,\*\* a young Jewish male who survived the war by becoming part of the German Youth movement because he looked so "Aryan." He was even used by one instructor to demonstrate "non-Jewish characteristics." The vicious canard of that recent Polish headline brought that true tale to mind.

In a world filled with discredited Holocaust deniers, with vicious acts of violence against unarmed civilians, as recent as in New Zealand or Pittsburgh, with white nationalists marching from Charlottesville to the White House, we must maintain a constant vigil to rebut these bigots with truth and tolerance. Clearly, education is wasted on warped minds, but facts and reality are the tools to counter blind ignorance. Never again is more than a phrase; it is a call to participate in our society and dispel bigotry, showing up the purveyors of hatred for what and who they are.

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\*From the author —

*Why the title "Never Again, Ever Again?" Because we see in the cruelty which exists, in the senseless tragedies and mindless prejudices of man, that unless we can rid hatred and bigotry from our lives, it's not a matter of finality, but only a matter of time. Alan Miller*

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\*\* Solomon Perel is 93 years old, resides in Israel, and is an author and motivational speaker.



## *Lionel Davis / In Memoriam*



### ***Remembering Lionel Davis: A Recipe for a Good Life***

Editor's note: Or Emet mourns Lionel's loss on December 23. Lionel was a gifted musician and social justice advocate who generously gave his talents to Or Emet and the Twin Cities community. Just a few weeks before his death, Lionel played piano accompaniment for Or Emet's Shabbat service — as he had done for many years. Fortunately, he graciously posed for a photo from that impromptu appearance. Lionel and Edith (1923-2008) truly made a difference in Or Emet and the world throughout their long, impactful lives.

When you are 95 years old you might have thoughts about your life and a perspective that is worth sharing with your family and community. Luckily for Or Emet, Lionel Davis offered us the opportunity to ponder his wisdom. As his daughter, Peggy Davis, wrote, "Lionel was not much of a cook, but during his last day he spoke in a grand manner, very much as I imagined Jacob speaking to his sons on his deathbed. He addressed not just us, who were present, but all of you as well, with his recipe for a good life."

### ***Recipe for a Good Life***

Ingredients:

- Find work that meshes your skills with that which you love.
- Find friends who share your interests; even better when you have more than one thing in common.
- Have friends of different ages.
- Be friendly to others. Don't be shy about connecting with people. Ask questions and listen to them. Remember some details for the next time you meet.
- Have an agenda going forward—the next book to read, the next music to learn, the next protest to attend. This will help keep you optimistic.
- Pay attention to current events, learn history, have opinions.
- Know that through your life you will evolve.
- Maintain balance in your primary relationships, supporting each other and pursuing your personal interests and activities.
- Honor your family connections.
- If you don't have family, create one, and maintain these connections through your life.
- You can learn new things, even in your 80s and 90s.
- Visit the aged and sick. Bring your children along.
- Spend time with your hands in the earth; grow food or flowers. Bend your knees every day.
- For worriers, he said, "Stop worrying, and put that energy into being involved in changing the world!"

Peggy's eulogy closed with this advice: Lionel summarized his counsel to all of us by saying,

*"Go out and save the world!"*

*Thank You*

Lionel, for all you gave to Or Emet, and for leaving us with ingredients to ponder as we continue onward toward *tikkun olam*.

*Recipe for a Good Life published with permission from Peggy H. Davis.*

## *Passover Seder in Review*

On April 20 over 100 members and guests gathered at the First Unitarian Society to observe Passover in the Humanistic Jewish tradition at Or Emet's annual Seder celebration. Rabbinic candidate and ritual leader Eva Cohen outstandingly led the Seder service with readings from our Humanist Haggadah. Traditional ritual foods, a sumptuous potluck buffet, Jewish Cultural School children asking the Four Questions (in Hebrew and English!), Sarah Berman-Young's vocal talent, Johanna Lester's piano accompaniment, and Amy Stubenhaus' guitar all contributed to another highly successful event.



Or Emet's Seder celebration is truly a collective achievement. Dedicated volunteers coordinate this memorable holiday experience which involves a potluck meal, intricate planning, and many helpers. Originally, our Seders were simple, informal affairs with a small number of people contributing and sharing food. We have continued to operate on the food-sharing potluck model even though the large number of participants has greatly increased complexity. Finally, it is clear that our long-established approach is no longer feasible since it has overwhelmed volunteer resources and energies. Look for and expect changes (such as catering) in Or Emet's 2020 Passover Seder!



Scott Chazdon, MC

Eva Cohen, leads Seder service



## *Donations*

*Thank You!*

### **In memory of — Lionel Davis**

David and Joan Barnett  
Michael and Susan Bleher  
Ann Falk  
Margo and David Fox  
Stephanie Daily and James Hughes  
Carol and Richard Logan

Albert and Dorothy Marden  
Judith Nathenson  
Annalee Odessky  
Steve and Faith Oremland  
Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke  
Joseph Rine  
Steve and Donna Sherlock  
Susan Weinberg

### **In memory of — Geraldine Shuster Leder, Gwyn Leder's mother**

David and Margo Fox  
Carol and Richard Logan  
Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke

### **In memory of — Claire Mayer, Janet Mayer's step-mother**

David and Joan Barnett  
David and Margo Fox  
Carol and Richard Logan

### **For Eva Cohen's Rabbinic Services**

Muriel Sterne  
Carol and Richard Logan

### **In celebration of births —**

**Bo Cash Londer**, son of Noah and Pam Londer  
Joan and David Barnett  
Carol and Richard Logan

### **Where most needed —**

Dave Zukor and Sarah Waite

**Joaquin Takoda Gillette**, son of Von Gillette and Anna Burnstein Gillette

David and Joan Barnett  
Carol and Richard Logan  
Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke

## *Simchas and Tsuris (Joys and Concerns)*



**Anna Burnstein Gillette and Von Gillette** announce the birth of Joaquin Takoda Gillette on December 25. Joaquin is a happy, healthy four-month-old full of smiles.

**Harold Londer and Jan Withers** welcomed their grandson, Bo Cash Londer, on March 25. Noah and Pam Londer are Bo's parents and almost two-year-old Sadie is his big sister. Bo arrived early and will be in the intensive care nursery at Children's Hospital for an extended period of time.

### **Mazel Tov!**

Or Emet members **Seth Fine and Shelly (Schwane) Fine** were married on October 13, 2018, at Betty Danger's Country Club in NE Minneapolis. JCS students in the wedding party included Leo (B'Mitzvah), Neva (Juniors) and Ilsa (Littles).



**Natalie Rosinsky and Don Larsson** are happy to report that son Daniel is newly-employed by the state of California and living in Sacramento. Daniel Rosinsky-Larsson, recently completed a master's degree in public administration and now helps disabled veterans, among others, with small business opportunities and projects.

### **On the Mend**

**Alan Miller** is slowly regaining mobility after fracturing his femur on February 5. Falling on the ice not only resulted in a severe injury but happened the day before Alan and Sharon planned to leave for Mexico. After an extended period of non-weight-bearing, Alan is walking with a walker and progressing to a cane.

**Arty Dorman** continues to recover from the November revision procedure he had following a failed quadriceps tendon repair one year ago. He's especially pleased to be driving and mostly able to get around without a cane or brace.



**Louise Jones** returned to her home in March after three months in hospital and transitional care facilities. She is pleased to be feeling stronger and more fit than before her siege of medical problems.



Condolences to **Janet Mayer and her family** on the death of Janet's step-mother, Claire Mayer, February 21 in New Jersey.

Condolences to **Gwyn Leder** and her family on the death of Gwyn's mother, Geraldine Shuster Leder, January 14 in California.

Condolences to the family of **Lionel Davis**, on his death December 23. See article on pg 9.

Condolences to **Carol and Richard Logan** and their family on the death of Tom Kennedy, the father of daughter-in-law, Jennifer Kennedy-Logan, on April 11 in Madison, WI.

### **Caring Circle — Do You Have a Need?**

Caring Circle offers simple, practical short-term assistance and support (visits, errands, calls, cards) to members in times of illness, loss, and crisis. Information and referral to other resources may also be provided. Caring Circle also sends cards for get well, condolence and congratulatory events.

Do you have a need? Contact David Fox ([fox75@comcast.net](mailto:fox75@comcast.net)) or Faith Oremland ([faitho711@aol.com](mailto:faitho711@aol.com)).



## Member News



### Visit Susan Weinberg's studio!

#### *Art-a-Whirl — The largest open studio event in the country*

Friday, May 17, 5:00 - 10:00 pm

Saturday, May 18, 12:00 noon - 8:00 pm

Sunday, May 19, 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm

The California Building | Studio 407 | 2205 California St. NE | Minneapolis

Susan has been taking her show on the road and presenting about both her book *We Spoke Jewish: A Legacy in Stories* and immigration topics around the country. Recently, she was in Wisconsin, North Carolina, California, and will be speaking in Illinois. She has also been asked to present on immigration to the IAJGS conference, the international conference for Jewish genealogy.

### Saturday, June 29th

#### — Save the Date for a celebration in memory of Evelyn Lessin —

Evelyn's Or Emet friends will host a dinner and Havdalah with opportunity to share stories and memories about her.

Evelyn died on November 12, 2018, and her family had a private memorial for her. Evelyn and her husband Ralph (1925-1997) were early Or Emet members. Everyone who knew Evelyn is invited to join this special evening. If you would like to attend and for further information please email [evelyn@oremet.org](mailto:evelyn@oremet.org) or phone 612.787.7812.



Evelyn Lessin

## Welcome to New Members

— Jonathan Katzung and Tammy Bloom  
— Seth Binder and Meleah Houseknecht  
— Rachel Wexelbaum and Ping Lew  
— Steven Nydick and Lian Hortensius

— Robyn Geldner and Brendan Moore  
— Travis O'Brien and Janna Gewirtz O'Brien  
— Risa Cohen

## Society for Humanistic Judaism News



Society for Humanistic Judaism 50th Anniversary Celebration  
at The Birmingham Temple – Farmington Hills, Michigan  
April 26-28, 2019

Rabbi Sherwin Wine founded the first congregation for Humanistic Judaism in 1963, and in 1969 he founded the Society for Humanistic Judaism. Or Emet has been affiliated with SHJ since 1988.

To mark 50 years of the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ), current, past, and future leaders from Humanistic Judaism communities throughout the U.S. and Canada gathered for a movement-wide celebration and summit.

Eva Cohen, Or Emet's ritual leader, has been selected as a *SHJ Luminary* — she presented a session in the *Learn with Luminaries of the Humanistic Judaism Universe!*



## OR EMET

### *Programs / May - September 2019*

#### **SHABBAT PROGRAMS**

Programs meet at the Sabes Jewish Community Center, 4330 South Cedar Lake Rd, St. Louis Park. The programs include a brief Humanistic Shabbat service and Oneg reception.

FRIDAY PROGRAMS ARE AT 7:30 PM.

SATURDAY PROGRAMS ARE AT 10:00 AM.

#### **Friday, May 3 at 7:30 pm**

**Program:** *Jewish Gangsters in America*

About organized Jewish gangsters operating in large and medium-sized cities during the 20th century

**Presenter:** Howard Schneider, Or Emet member and retired social science researcher

#### **SUNDAY PROGRAMS**

Sunday programs are at the St. Paul Talmud Torah, 768 Hamline Ave. South, St. Paul.

Adult programs meet from 10:00 am -12:30 pm (concurrently with Jewish Cultural School classes).

#### **May 19 at 10:00 am**

**Program:** Or Emet's 3rd Annual Art Show will include music along with visual artwork. Or Emet member contributions are welcome. If interested in participating, contact Dave Zukor (dzsw95@gmail.com) or Don Larsson (dflarsson@gmail.com).

### *Special Events / May - September 2019*

#### **Saturday, April 27 and Saturday, August 24 | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | St. Stephen's Shelter dinner(s)**

In the spirit of *tikkun olam*, Or Emet volunteers provide and serve dinner to shelter guests. Or Emet members and friends, including children over eight-years-old, are invited to participate. Watch your inbox for signup details.

#### **Sunday, June 2 | Or Emet's Annual Meeting and Picnic**

**NEW LOCATION:** Pearl Park Community Center | 414 E Diamond Lake Road | Minneapolis, 55419

- Annual Meeting with election of officers 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
- Potluck Picnic 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm (in May, look for reservation info in your inbox)

Additional information is on page 7.

#### **Saturday, June 29 | Save the date for a celebration in memory of Evelyn Lessin**

More information on page 12

**OR EMET 2019 | 5779**  
**HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES**

Or Emet High Holiday Services (except Tashlich) are at the Sabes Jewish Community Center,  
4330 South Cedar Lake Rd, St. Louis Park.

**Rosh Hashanah Service**

Sunday | September 29 | 7:00 pm  
Oneg following the service

**Rosh Hashanah Tashlich Service and Potluck**

Monday | September 30 | 10:30 am | location TBA

**Kol Nidre Service**

Tuesday | October 8 | 7:00 pm

**Yom Kippur Service**

Wednesday | October 9 | 4:00 pm

**Break-the-fast Potluck**

At conclusion of the Yom Kippur service

