



THE ILLUMINATOR

Or Emet – The Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

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Missing the Target

by Harold Londer, Madrikh Emeritus

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Editor's Note: Harold's articles often seem quite prescient when read through the lens of time. Eight years later little has changed for the better. Partisanship has increased, the world political situation remains unstable. and the preservation of our earth has only worsened. We can only continue to push against the current in our efforts to improve the world.

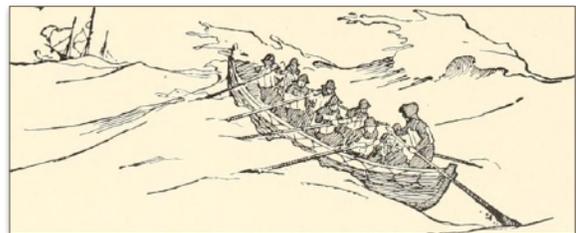
You don't have to be a New York Times editorialist, or a Fox News anchor, to know that the world is not having its best year. We can start at home, personally and nationally, where the economic crisis, like Damocles' sword, is hanging over all of us. You can be a retiree, a student, a parent, an immigrant, a union member, a Tea Party activist, a soldier, a teacher, an Or Emet member (or wear several of these hats), and the effect of stock market gyrations, recession, unemployment, national debt and the European fiscal crisis are influencing our life in myriad ways.

The political situation in the world is frightful! Whether in Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen, Israel or Gaza, violence and uncertainty overwhelm any dreams of peace and stability. Images of starving children from Somalia are almost too painful to consider. You cannot pick up a daily paper without a new story of a dreadful murder, child molestation, assault or other unbelievably brutal action by one human being upon another.

We continue to see evidence of global climate change, with record temperatures, flooding, polar melting, tidal waves, earthquakes and droughts. This scientifically well-recognized crisis remains, at least in our country, a political issue. This is a roadblock to any attempts to seriously attack the problem.

We continue to see increasing polarity in our country, which essentially means that solutions are deferred, rather than confronted. The richest country in the world still has increasing poverty and decreasing access to health care. The word "compromise" has become synonymous with failure.

We all, to quote F. Scott Fitzgerald, in the last line of *The Great Gatsby*, "beat on, boats against the current."



The Jewish High Holidays, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year (5772), and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, are in late September. For traditional Jews, the story is well known; during these 10 days, God "writes" and "seals" us into either the Book of Life or the Book of Death, for the upcoming year. For Humanistic Jews who doubt the veracity of this narrative, it is a time for contemplation, a time to assess the past year, and to think of ways to improve ourselves and the world. The emphasis is on personal responsibility, not divine intervention.

Maybe world leaders can use the new school year as motivation to finally move forward. It would be like skipping a few grade levels this year; from acting like 1st graders (selfish, naive, self-centered, impulsive) to acting like adults, and begin to recognize the destructiveness of our current situation.

Or Emet is committed to doing everything we can, to make ourselves and our children beacons for peace, mutual respect and progress. We insist on being part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Editor's note: This article has been lightly edited.



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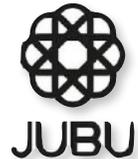
International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ)

Hu Jews and JuBus
President's Message
by Scott Chazdon



I recently attended a half-day mindfulness retreat sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Healing at the University of Minnesota. I had heard that the Center's programs were worthwhile, and this was a four-hour sampler of many different approaches to mindfulness-based stress reduction. In retrospect, the whole experience provides a great topic leading into the High Holidays.

My takeaways from the session were profound. I loved Qi Gong, and I also gained a deeper appreciation for meditation and Buddhist practice. I've always known there are many Jewish Buddhists (sometimes called JuBus), but was surprised to see how much information there is about JuBus. Here's a bit of humor drawn from Ellen Frankel's HuffPost article on ["Five Reasons Jews Gravitate Towards Buddhism"](#)



A Jewish woman schleps to the Himalayas to request a meeting with the guru. Upon her arrival, the lama explains that this is impossible because the guru is in silent retreat, meditating in a cave high on a mountaintop. She insists that she absolutely must see this guru. Finally the lama acquiesces while insisting on the following rules: The meeting must be brief, she must bow when addressing the guru, and she can say no more than eight words to him. The woman agrees and sets off for the grueling trek. With hardly an ounce of energy left, her spiritual search brings her to the opening of the cave high on the mountain. Keeping within the eight word limit, she bows and says, "Sheldon, it's your mother. Enough already, come home!"

So what's the draw of Buddhism for Jews?

The draw of Buddhism is quite similar to the draw of Humanistic Judaism. Buddhism is non-theistic, it offers a spiritual connection using practices such as meditation and mindfulness, it does not conflict with Judaism in any way, it is open for all who are interested, and it shares with Judaism a deep understanding of suffering and the pathway to healing.

I also learned that the mindfulness movement was largely created by American Jews who mixed Buddhism with psychoanalytic thinking, creating a set of practices to address self-hatred, a concept that doesn't exist in traditional Buddhism. While Buddhism fundamentally holds that there is no self, modern mindfulness, by contrast, holds that meditation returns you to your true self.

To me, Humanistic Judaism, like modern mindfulness, is an adaptation of traditional practice that is uniquely suited to our context. During the High Holidays and the coming year, I hope you and your family are able to use or create adaptations of Judaism (and maybe of Buddhism) that suit you, and I hope our community will be able to continue adapting our unique approach to Judaism to engage anyone looking for a non-theistic, mindful community. L'Shanah Tovah!

For more information on JuBus:

Michelle Goldberg, "[The Jewish Roots of Mindfulness](#)," *Tablet*, October 8, 2015

Lion's Roar Staff, "[The Best of Sharon Salzberg](#): Life, Teachings, Quotes, and Books," *Lion's Roar*, April 29, 2019

Jewish Cultural School Update

by Arty Dorman

Director of the Or Emet Jewish Cultural School



I hope all of you reading this have had a wonderful summer, and can eke out a few more weeks of warmth and sunshine before the seasons shift. One thing to look forward to with the waning of summer is the chance to reconnect with Or Emet friends who we may not have seen since our year-end picnic in early June.

Fortunately, there have been opportunities for families to connect over the summer, for those able to take part. It was great to see some of you at our summer Havdalah and picnic on August 3. Crosby Farm Park provided a lovely setting for fifty-five of our members and friends, ranging in age from toddler to octogenarian. Thanks especially to Carrie Dickson for planning a get-well card-making activity, Tom Wegner for staffing the hot dog grill, and of course Eva Cohen for leading a beautiful and meaningful Havdalah service.

As part of Eva's update to the service, she incorporated several points for personal reflection and sharing. The first of these was to have us think about why we are glad to be a part of this Humanistic Jewish community. Responses included Or Emet being a community where we can each be ourselves, engaging intellectual discussions, progressive values, and a welcoming atmosphere. When it came time for 6-year-old Rosie King to respond, I was prepared for her to defer to her grandmother, Michal Moscow, sitting beside her. Instead, Rosie piped up, clear as a bell, "I am grateful for all the friendship!"

This summer, we have also had two wonderful B'Mitzvahs, celebrating the coming of age achievements of Kai Dickson and Noah Oken, along with their families. We have two more summer B'Mitzvah celebrations, for Emily Springer and Leo Finestack (a preview is on pg 11 and an article about these B'Mitzvahs will appear in the Winter 2019 Illuminator). Our entire congregation is invited to these services, a generous gesture from their families that allows us all to connect as a community and to bask with pride in the achievements of our youth beginning the transition from childhood to adulthood.

These B'Mitzvahs allow our younger children to see what lies ahead, how Jewish identity can connect to their personal interests, and to find purpose in the instruction they will receive as they return to their Jewish Cultural School classes in September.

There are two outcomes I hope to reach for each of the students in our Jewish Cultural School:

- Friendship, especially the opportunity to be friends with other Jewish children
- A sense of purpose that incorporates a positive feeling about their Jewish identity

Please let me know of any ways in which you would like the JCS team to enhance our work toward achieving these aims, or if you have additional goals for your children. Please help to pass the word among family members, neighbors, co-workers and others for whom our Jewish Cultural School may be a good fit.





Social Justice/Social Action Committee
From the Ground Up



Claire Press and Gwyn Leder, Social Justice/Social Action Co-Chairs

Change in Leadership

Arty Dorman has stepped down from chairing the Social Justice/Social Action (SJ/SA) Committee. Gwyn Leder and Claire Press are now serving as co-chairs. Arty will continue to be a member of the committee, participate in activities, and help us with his expertise as we transition.

What is the Social Justice/Social Action committee doing?

Ongoing Activities

We are continuing with our past mission of *tikkun olam* in addition to exploring new opportunities.

St. Stephen's Shelter Dinners

Or Emet members and friends work together to provide supper for approximately 50 guests at St. Stephens Human Services Men's Shelter in Minneapolis. St. Stephens is a non-denominational social services organization dedicated to ending homelessness.



Volunteers at a St. Stephen's Shelter dinner

Upcoming dates for providing dinner at St. Stephen's Shelter are August 24 and November 2. The President's email message contains a link to a volunteer signup form.

You can participate in the St. Stephen's experience by helping with set up, preparing meals, serving meals, and providing other assistance such as helping to transport volunteers or others who need a ride. This is a tremendously worthwhile experience and the guests are very appreciative. It is also an opportunity to interact with members of Or Emet in a different context and see them in blue hair nets.

Additional Tikkun Olam Activities

We will continue to collect empty plastic prescription bottles and personal care items such as socks, gloves, etc. for clients at Listening House in St Paul. Donations are gratefully accepted at all Friday, Saturday, and Sunday programs. We will also continue to volunteer at Second Harvest.

New Opportunities

Or Emet member Richard Logan recognized the value of collaboration and made connections with other Humanist and like-minded communities. He met with members of the First Unitarian Society, Minnesota Humanists and Minnesota Atheists to discuss how we can work together and support each other on common issues.

We are presently working on setting up a "Postcard Initiative" so we can send mailings to state and national representatives on issues of concern to us.

Looking Forward

We do important things but there is much more that we can get involved in. To make things happen we need your ideas, assistance and expertise. Right now, **we especially need someone who is computer-savvy to print postcards and labels.**

All Or Emet members are welcome to join the SJ/SA Committee or to offer input on activities and issues that we address. On September 15, the committee will meet immediately following the Sunday program at St. Paul Talmud Torah. Contact Claire Press clairehpress@aol.com or Gwyn Leder gwynleder@comcast.net to get involved.

Or Emet Annual Meeting Recap by Scott Chazdon, President

Or Emet held its annual meeting at a new location, Pearl Park, in south Minneapolis. On a gorgeous day in early June we reviewed our accomplishments and budget, heard from Eva Cohen about her progress in rabbinic training, recognized and recruited volunteers, and elected new officers. We plan to return to Pearl Park next year.

Some highlights from 2018-19:

- Hosted Paul Golin, SHJ Executive Director, honored Or Emet's leaders, and celebrated the congregation's thirty-year affiliation with the Society for Humanistic Judaism during an October weekend.
 - Dr. Harold Londer, Or Emet's co-founder and Madrikh, received special recognition which included a collection of his writings and photos from throughout his leadership. The tribute book's cover has a portrait of Harold painted by Susan Weinberg. He was also presented with the original painting.
 - Lionel Davis was honored for his ongoing musical leadership.
 - Paul Golin was the featured speaker about Humanistic Judaism at several community and Or Emet events.
- Participated in SHJ leadership. Three members have served on the SHJ Board — congrats to Richard Logan, Board President, and Lisa Gardner-Springer, at-large board member. As Or Emet's president, I am also a designated SHJ board member.
- Sent six members to the SHJ@50 celebration weekend in Michigan; Eva Cohen was a panelist.
- Created a Wall of Wonder to mark Or Emet's 30th anniversary, which spurred interest in other historical documentation efforts and a current grant proposal to the Minnesota Historical Society.
- Hired a new public relations assistant — Madeleine Asher.
- Held a fun Sukkot celebration at the St. Paul JCC with an information table at the event.
- Packed food for Second Harvest Heartland over two sessions and served five meals at St. Stephen's Shelter (added a Christmas meal to the four we've done for many years).
- Received new signs for our programs and a big banner for use at marches and other gatherings thanks to the generosity of John and Dina Bergren.
- Initiated monthly social meet-ups at brew pubs — a group informally known as "KOEDS," for *Kehillah Or Emet Debating Society*.
- Hosted a June gathering with a special Havdalah ceremony in honor of Evelyn Lessin.

Eva Cohen discussed her academic progress — she will complete a master's degree in Classical and Near Eastern Studies, with a focus on Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East/Ancient Judaism this December! She explained how she will be extending and deepening her ritual leadership responsibilities at Or Emet, while continuing International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism rabbinic training. Eva's IISHJ ordination will be in three or four years (given how courses are scheduled).

We ended the year in good shape financially, thanks to donations. Susan Weinberg explained how required minimum distributions have been and may continue to be a source of income for Or Emet as members over age 70 use this tax-reducing option. Member questions focused on ways of donating to Or Emet, with the suggestion that a member meeting this coming year be about the topic of donations.

I acknowledged volunteers and presented thank-you notes to those people in attendance and Margo Fox led a successful volunteer recruitment activity. The business meeting was followed by elections, with Richard Logan presiding. A potluck picnic lunch wrapped up the event.

Officers for 2019-2020

President: Scott Chazdon
Vice President: Anne Handley
Treasurer: Sharon Miller
At Large 1: Janet Mayer
At Large 2: Carrie Dickson



L-R: Carrie Dickson, Janet Mayer, Scott Chazdon, Sharon Miller, Anne Handley

My Journey to Becoming a Rabbi – Eva Cohen



Eva Cohen

I am beginning the last semester of my master’s program at the University of Minnesota in Classical and Near Eastern Studies, with a focus on Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East/Ancient Judaism. I was lucky to receive funding from my department to study for the master’s Hebrew language exam required to graduate. As part of that study, I have been reading and translating biblical Hebrew, working my way through a reading list from the Hebrew Bible. In my final semester, I will be taking two graduate courses and working as a teaching assistant for an undergraduate course, completing the written biblical Hebrew exam, submitting two portfolio papers, and undergoing an oral exam on these papers as well as broader content. I am excited and nervous about completing this final stretch!

This summer I have continued rabbinic coursework with the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ). In addition to doing web-based seminars and other work online, I traveled to Farmington Hills, Michigan, to meet with instructors and classmates for two courses over a week in July. During that week I studied biblical archaeology with Professor Brian Schmidt of the University of Michigan and philosophic guidance and counseling with the Society for Humanistic Judaism’s (SHJ’s) own Rabbi Miriam Jerris. I really valued the opportunity to learn from these smart, caring teachers and alongside my motivated and inspiring classmates over an immersive week. The largely online format of the IISHJ’s rabbinic program is something that I appreciate for its accessibility, yet I also appreciate having some of the classes in person.

In my role as Or Emet’s ritual leader, highlights since the spring include leading the Or Emet Passover Seder, attending the SHJ@50 anniversary event at the Birmingham Temple and speaking on a panel there, helping four Or Emet JCS students and their families prepare for B’Mitzvahs and leading these B’Mitzvah services, and leading a memorial Havdalah in honor of Evelyn Lessin, as well as a family Havdalah service. The SHJ@50 event was an awesome opportunity to learn from and connect with leaders from across the Humanistic Jewish movement. As a millennial panelist, I was honored to share experiences about growing up in the movement with an eye toward helping SHJ identify its strengths as well as ways to improve engaging the next generation of youth. Preparing and leading Or Emet ritual events has continued to be a great opportunity for growth and connection with the broader Or Emet community, and I am excited to continue to serve in this way!

2019 Bar and Bat Mitzvah (B’Mitzvah) Celebrations

Kai Dickson

Research Project

Kai explored the biblical High Priest’s breastplate and the *chosen* stones.

Parsha

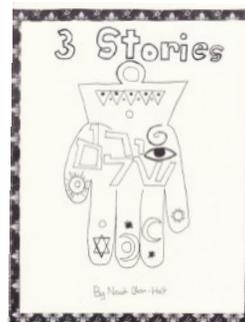
Kai’s parsha portion was from the book *Bameedbar*. An edited version is on the next page.



Noah Oken-Holt

Research Project

Noah wrote and illustrated a graphic novel based on his family’s history.



B'Mitzvah Commentary

At each B'Mitzvah, the candidate delivers their commentary and reflections on the weekly Torah portion (parsha). Kai's commentary is representative of others in depth and originality.

Beha'alotcha Torah Portion

by Kai Dickson

This portion comes from the book *Bameedbar*, which means “in the desert.” The Israelites have fled slavery in Egypt, received the Ten Commandments, and are now wandering in the desert. God tells Aaron to separate the Levites from the rest of the Israelites so they can serve in the *Mishkan*. The Mishkan is what some people describe as the “Mobile Temple,” also known as the Tabernacle.

It then explains how the Israelites are to make the Passover sacrifice, and describes a cloud that leads the Mishkan to help show the Israelites the way through the desert. It also talks about a strange fire-like appearance that washes over the Mishkan every night. Finally it lists the order of travel through the desert; tribe by tribe, then the Mishkan, and then the Ten Commandments.

Until this point, the Israelites had eaten *manna* in the desert, a bread-like food. Now they cried out for meat saying, “for we had it better in Egypt.” God gave them meat in the form of quail, but decided to smite all who had cried out and eaten the meat.

The last part talks about how both of Moses' siblings (Miriam and Aaron) spoke badly about Moses for marrying a *Cushite* woman so God afflicted Miriam with a skin disease.

Commentary

There was one part in my portion that I found particularly interesting. It talks about how the Israelites, who had only had manna, craved meat. After crying out to God for meat, it says, “A wind went forth from the Lord and swept quail from the sea and spread them over the camp about one day's journey this way and one day's journey that way, around the camp, about two cubits above the ground.” Then God killed those who ate the meat.

The Torah was written by hundreds of different people with different opinions so we don't know the origin of this story. What we do know is that quail migrate with the wind patterns, and that they have a specific nesting ground near where the Israelites were in the story. Also eating quail has been found to risk an illness called coturnism, believed to occur when the quail eat hemlock, which is poisonous to humans, and then humans eat the quail. Maybe the writer of this specific part wrote about something that was based in reality, possibly one year they saw the large quail migration or were poisoned by the quail, and incorporated that into their story. It is much like how J.K Rowling in the Harry Potter series uses mandrakes, a real-life hallucinogen and painkiller, as something magical to cure a fictional illness.

In every story, you are going to find something you don't agree with. Here is one that I don't particularly enjoy.

Throughout the portion it says: “you shall” give me the Levites, or “you shall” make the Passover sacrifice. I don't like this because it's bad enough being told what to do by my parents, who know me, and know what's best for me. But being commanded by the Torah, a collection of stories from thousands of years ago seems insufficient. I mean, times change, when we wander, we don't need a cloud to be our compass. We can use our critical thinking, and our moral compass to make good decisions, and do the right thing.

One part in my portion that I like reads: “Moses said to the Lord, ‘Why have You treated Your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in Your eyes that You place the burden of this entire people upon me?’ Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Assemble for Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the people's elders and officers, and you shall take them to the Tent of Meeting, and they shall stand there with You.’”

I like this part, because it shows how even Moses, a great leader, is human, and needs a community of people to help him. He was the one and only “link” to God. Not all of us can keep that much weight on our shoulders.

I hope this gives you some insight into this week's portion. Throughout this process I have gained a greater respect for the people who studied and interpreted the Torah, because this was hard.

Editor's note: This article was edited for length.

Member Contributions

The Old Man — Thoughts on Aging by Alan Miller

There's an old man in my mirror,
He shows up every day,
He never smiles 'less I do
In a very quirky way.

This old man looks familiar
And yet I cannot place,
He's about my size and stature,
With a pale and bearded face.

I find it quite annoying,
And if I had a choice,
I'd like to hear him answer
And not ignore my voice.

He only shaves when I shave,
Which I think is really weird,
I wonder what he'd look like
If he didn't have that beard.

Where's the guy who used to be there
He was younger and had his hair,
Yet all you do is stare back,
Now really, is that fair?

My wife just laughs and warns me,
That this old guy I should thank,
'Cause you don't want to look in that mirror
And some day see it's blank.



Alan Miller



Access to Democracy Celebrates 20 years of Public Affairs Programming

Don Shelby, a three-time Peabody and Emmy winner, will host the 20th anniversary special of **Sharon and Alan Miller's** TV interview show "Access to Democracy" on September 12.

As the longest running cable access interview program in Minnesota, the program will celebrate over 2000 interviews with people from all professions and walks of life. "Access," which is produced by the Millers and generally hosted by Alan, is now available in 29 Minnesota cities, with Duluth being the latest to join their network.

Among the events featured as part of the special will be a Proclamation from the Governor, another from the Dakota County Commission, and recognition from the city of Eagan, where the program is produced in the City of Eagan/Thomson Reuters studios.

The Millers are long-time members of Or Emet, and Sharon serves both as treasurer and member of the Executive Committee. **Society for Humanistic Judaism President Richard Logan** is among several guest hosts who have conducted interviews in recent years.

Yaakov Malkin (1926-2019) *A Giant in Humanistic Judaism*

Yaakov Malkin: Giving Shape and Voice

by Susan Weinberg

Yaakov Malkin, an important voice in Humanistic Judaism, passed away recently at the age of 93. He defined himself as a Secular Humanistic Jew, but it was more than a definition, rather a commitment to give it shape and voice.

“Secular Jewry knows what it wants,” Malkin said, “but it has no clear vision of how to get there. Replacing that confusion with clearly defined principles, objectives and methods is a major task.”

It became a task that he took on, writing books about it, editing a periodical *Yahadut Hofshit* (Free Judaism) and serving as the academic director of the Tmura Institute, the training program for Secular-Humanistic rabbis in Israel. In fact, Tmura was initiated by Sherwin Wine and Yaakov Malkin, together with Malkin’s daughter, Rabbi Sivan Malkin Maas. Malkin also served as provost at the International Institute for Humanistic Secular Judaism based in Jerusalem (Tmura) and Michigan.

Malkin was respected across the spectrum of Jewish leaders. The *Jerusalem Post* reports the words of his close friend, Orthodox Rabbi Naftali Rothenberg, who said, “What is the unique voice of Malkin that I want to preserve and strengthen? It is the voice of a Jew who takes responsibility for his culture, his creation, his identity, his heritage, his future and the future of the coming generations.”



Left-right: Yaakov Malkin, Harold Londer, Margo Fox
Photo at Harold Londer’s 2007 Madrikh ordination.
Yaakov Malkin was a mentor to Dr. Harold Londer.



One of the topics that Malkin wrote about was the way in which Judaism borrowed from other cultures and in turn influenced western culture. As a result Judaism encourages an understanding of interrelationships with cultures around the world.

In an article in *Judaismo Humanista* titled “What Do Secular Jews Believe?” Malkin writes:

Judaism is the pluralist culture and civilization of the whole of Jewry, secular and religious. Over the three millennia of its existence it has evolved and changed, absorbing borrowings from so many neighbors, conquerors and hosts, from Sumerians, Canaanites, Egyptians, Greeks, Arabs, Europeans, Americans, and more. Around the beginning of the first millennium of the Common Era the borrowings began traveling in the opposite direction and the influence of Judaism — mediated via Islam and Christianity — is now manifest on all western peoples. For the last thousand years the pattern of interaction and borrowings between Jewish and non-Jewish civilizations has been complex and multidirectional.

For this reason, secular Jews are convinced that education in Judaism must embrace Judaism’s interrelationships with other civilizations and form part of a broader education in the world’s national cultures. Only thus will Jews achieve their full potential humanity and universality.

Donations

In memory of — Lorane Abramson, mother of Margo Fox

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

In memory of — Greta Wagle, daughter of Louise Jones

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

In memory of — Mary Schneider, wife of Howard Schneider

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

In memory of — Dr. Martin Oken, father of Dara Oken

David and Margo Fox
Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke

*Thank
You!*

For Or Emet's Rabbi fund

Susan Weinberg
Richard and Carol Logan

Where most needed

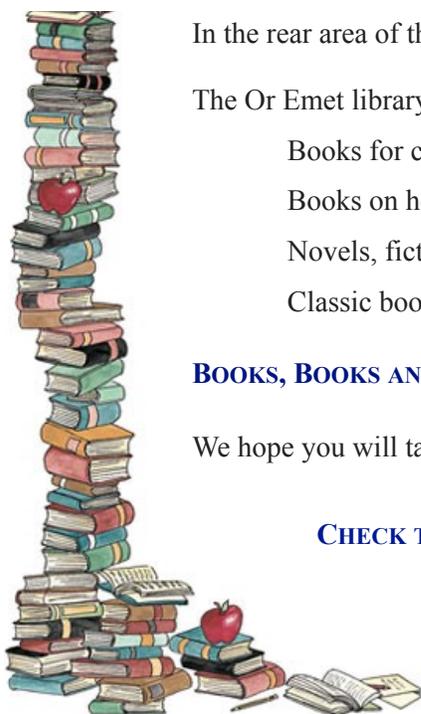
Natalie Rosinsky and Don Larsson
Sonny Taylor
Carrie Dickson

Healing thoughts for Drs. Harold Londer and Jan Withers

David and Joan Barnett
Richard and Carol Logan

Or Emet Has a Library!

by Claire Press



In the rear area of the Talmud Torah library there is a separate Or Emet library!

The Or Emet library includes a selection of Jewish/humanistic-themed books:

Books for children, young adults, and adults

Books on holiday celebrations, and activities

Novels, fiction, non-fiction, cookbooks, and historical era books

Classic books, best sellers, and former best sellers

BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS!

We hope you will take time to browse and familiarize yourself with our books.

CHECK THEM OUT

AND

CHECK SOME OUT!

Member News



Susan Weinberg will have two paintings in an exhibition on the theme of *Judaism, Art & Science Interwoven*. This project partners Minnesota artists with artists from Rehovot, Israel. Each develops artwork on the theme and then creates additional artwork that responds to their partner's work.

Six artists in photography and digital arts form the current year's cohort, each creating six works. Their work will be at the Sabes JCC in Minneapolis. Susan is participating as part of the alumni group from the prior year, whose work will be at the St. Paul JCC.

Both exhibitions will run from September 9th through October 27th.

Don Larsson performed as grandfather Walt in the play "Letters," staged by Applause Community Theater at Dreamland Arts in St. Paul March 28 through March 31, 2019. Don also performed several roles as a member of the Ensemble in the play "Origin Story," staged by the Dying Theater Company at the Crane Theater as part of the Minneapolis Fringe Festival August 2 through 11, 2019.

Don and Natalie Rosinsky visited Amsterdam in May, where they toured the old Jewish Quarter, including the 450-year old Portuguese Synagogue, Jewish Museum, Holocaust Memorial, and visited the Anne Frank House. Natalie wrote about Anne Frank in postings to her blog at natalierosinsky.com.2019/06. Don and Natalie also visited one of Don's family history sites. One of his two Mayflower ancestors found refuge in Leiden, home of the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum.

Lenny Garber is now the Jewish Volunteer Chaplain at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. An Abbott chaplaincy visit can be arranged with Pastoral Care through the patient's nurse. Lenny currently does nursing home visits for Adath Jeshurun Synagogue. He also did hospital visits for 30 years through B'nai Emet Synagogue.

Harold Londer and Jan Withers have sold their home and settled into an apartment at The Waters Senior Living in Minneapolis. They extend sincere appreciation for the Or Emet community's outpouring of care and concern as they both deal with difficult health-related issues.

Louis and Ellie Altman have relocated from Chicago and Sarasota, FL to Trillium Woods in Plymouth. Their son's home is in Plymouth — "he kidnapped us when he saw we were having health problems." Louis has a long history of serving Humanistic Judaism in many leadership positions, including as president of the Society for Humanistic Judaism and Director of the International Institute for Humanistic Judaism.



Emily Springer

Emily Springer and Leo Finestack's B'Mitzvahs will be highlighted in the Winter Illuminator.

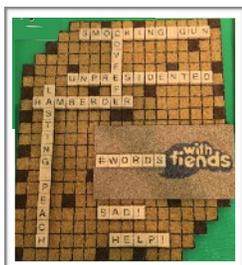
Emily's Bat Mitzvah was on August 17. She presented a Torah commentary and her personal research project on *Ashkenazi vs Sephardi vs Mizrahi celebrations of the Jewish holidays*.

Leo's Bar Mitzvah will be on August 30. He will also present a Torah commentary and research project. Leo's project will be about *the experiences of his great-grandfather, a German citizen, at the start of the Holocaust, and how his family members were able to survive and become American Jews*.



Leo Finestack

Simchas and Tsuris (Joys and Concerns)



Words with Friends
by Mark Dahlager

Laura Melnick and Mark Dahlager continue to create prize-winning crop art — 2019 is their 21st year. Their compositions feature timely political happenings with a humorous perspective.

Awards —

Mark - 3rd place white ribbon

Laura - 1st place Blue Ribbon, Senior Crop Art Reserve Champion

Click on the links below the images to enlarge.



Here or There
by Laura Melnick

Seth Fine has begun two new endeavors in pursuit of a "second half" of life focus on social transformation. On August 5, he started a new job with Be The Match, the National Marrow Donor Program, in Minneapolis. Be The Match seeks to democratize cell therapy in pursuit of equal outcomes for all of those needing hemapoeitic (blood) transplants. On September 5, Seth will begin a Master of Arts in Leadership degree program in Social Transformation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in St. Paul. United is an ecumenical school that embraces all denominations and faith traditions.

Harold Londer and Jan Withers grandson, Bo Londer, was discharged in June from an extended stay in Children's Hospital intensive care nursery. After a rocky start, Bo is thriving at home with parents Noah and Pam Londer and Sadie, his two-year-old sister.

Jane Katz, Or Emet member and watercolor artist, has just released her latest book for children, this one self-published. *Fish Makes a Wish*, written and illustrated by Jane, is about a lonely little fish who determines to leave his comfort zone and see the world. For his courage he is rewarded with magical powers, and is transformed.

Jane's paintings will be on display at the Golden Valley Library, October 1-November 20. Proceeds from the sale of her paintings will be donated to The Advocates for Human Rights.



The Amber Room at the Guthrie

Sonny Taylor, Or Emet's intrepid photographer, won the Minneapolis Photographic Society's best color photo of the year.

Click on the link below the image to enlarge.



Howard Schneider's wife, Mary, died at home in Lakeville on May 27.

Margo Fox's mother, Lorane Gleckman Abramson, died in St. Paul on July 7.

Dara Oken's father, Dr. Martin Oken, died on July 23.

Louise Jones' daughter, Greta Wagle, died on July 31 at her home in New Jersey.

May Their Memory Be a Blessing

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.

SATURDAY PROGRAMS ARE AT 10:00 AM.

FRIDAY PROGRAMS ARE AT 7:30 PM.

Friday, September 6 at 7:30 pm

Program: *Never Again? Weaving Together Historical Themes and Genealogical Discoveries*

Presenter: Tina Scott Edstam, Ph.D., retired professor of Second Languages and Cultures, avid genealogist

Friday, October 18 at 7:30 pm

Program: *Weaving Theater into the Community*

Presenter: Sheila Thompson, managing director of ground-breaking *Ten Thousand Things* theater company

Friday, November 8 at 7:30 pm

Program: *Current Events in US Immigration Law and Policy*

Presenter: Marissa Hill-Dongre, immigration attorney with experience in non-profits and higher education, Or Emet member

Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 am

Program: *Family History Panel*

Part 1: An Iranian Jew's Survival Strategies

Presenter: Ali Xandrach, retired occupational therapist and artist

Part 2: From Minsk to Minneapolis: A Family Story of Soviet Era Immigration

Presenter: Or Emet member Dina Bergren and three generations of family members

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).

September 15

Program: *Think It's Easy to Get an Idea to Become a Law?* About what it takes to get a bill into law

Presenter: MN DFL Senator Jim Carlson represents District 51 (Eagan and part of Burnsville).

October 13

Program: *The History of Israel from Ancient to Modern Times*

Presenter: Steve Lear, JCRC Speakers Bureau, co-created *Tolerance in Motion* dedicated to prevention of discrimination, prejudice, and bigotry

November 17

Program: *Building Relationship: Finding Common Ground* — Exploring how blacks and Jews can better work together when our communities express views or take action that play into racism, antisemitism, or other oppressive systems

Presenters: Chris Crutchfield, Attorney, Ramsey County official and Adjunct Professor at St. Cloud State; Karen Charles, Director of Threads Dance Co.

December 15

Program: *Love's Way: Living Peacefully with Your Family as Your Parents Age*

Discussion will focus on the book which helps families address the legal hurdles and emotional difficulties that arise with aging parents

Presenter: Sig Cohen, co-author of *Love's Way* and professional mediator

*Special Events / September -December 2019***St. Stephen's Shelter dinners | Saturday, August 24 and Saturday, November 2 / 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

In the spirit of *tikkun olam*, 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.

High Holiday Services — schedule and information on back page

New and Prospective Member Brunch | Sunday, November 10 / 10:00 am - 12:00 noon | Location TBA

An opportunity to visit with Or Emet leaders, connect with other interested/new members, get questions answered, and learn more about the different kinds of programming and events Or Emet offers.

For further information contact president@oremet.org or phone 612.787.7812.

Hanukkah Party | Saturday, December 21 / 5:00 - 7:30 pm

Neighborhood House at the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center, St. Paul | Information will be available later.

Or Emet 2019/5779 High Holiday Services and Events

Erev Rosh Hashanah — Sunday | September 29, 7:00 pm

Tashlich — Monday | September 30, 10:30 am (location TBA)

Kol Nidre — Tuesday | October 8, 7:00 pm

Yom Kippur — Wednesday | October 9, 4:00 pm

Break-the-Fast — at conclusion of Yom Kippur service

— *Reservations appreciated, watch your inbox for the link to RSVP*

Services are at the Sabes Jewish Community Center, 4330 South Cedar Lake Rd, St. Louis Park

- Everyone is welcome. Services are free. No tickets.
- Childcare is available - *advance reservations required.*
- Donations are gratefully accepted!
- For further information, email highholidays@oremet.org.

In keeping with High Holiday tradition, Or Emet will collect non-perishable food and personal hygiene items at all High Holiday services. Donated items will be shared with Hallie Q. Brown Community Center's Food Shelf for distribution to those in need.

L'Shana Tova

