Uncertainty is stressful!

As I write this, the CDC just reversed its masking guidance, urging all people — regardless of vaccination status — to wear masks in public indoor spaces where COVID transmission is high. What seemed certain before has shifted based on new evidence. While people vaccinated against COVID have a lower risk of infection and a much lower risk of serious disease, they can catch and spread the Delta variant. Vaccination offers amazing protection for individuals and communities — so please get vaccinated if you’re eligible and haven’t yet! — but it isn’t an impenetrable force field. This new information changes risk calculation and adds new uncertainties to planning for the fall. The uncertainty is unsettling.

If Or Emet were a theistic congregation instead of a humanistic one, I might remind you here of the things that are certain. Theism claims that God or gods are certain. For many monotheists, the idea that God rewards good people and punishes bad ones is also certain. While sometimes suffering may seem unjust, theists can reassure themselves that everything is a part of God’s plan. Religious dogma is about certainty. Things are this way by divine will, it asserts, and things will always be this way. We are sure.

Religious dogma’s insistence on certainty is understandable. Coming to terms with living in an often uncertain, unknowable universe without a “master planner” can be terrifying.

Humanistic Jewish philosophy is willing to embrace this uncertainty. Valuing science and reason, we see validity in arguing, as astrophysicist Ethan Siegel does, that “Science can never prove or disprove the existence of God.” We draw inspiration from Jewish history, which is a story of survival for millennia under very uncertain conditions. We celebrate diversity and reject the false certainty of binaries that would, for example, reduce gender identity from a rich spectrum to the rigid labels of “man or woman.” We recognize that science deals in probabilities, not certainties, and that the scientific method calls for formulating fresh hypotheses whenever new data challenge old conclusions.

Uncertainty can be scary — and I don’t want to downplay this. However, accepting uncertainty offers greater freedom than always “being sure.” In the current pandemic, if we’re honest about being uncertain, this allows us to pivot in response to a changing situation or new information. Dogmatists don’t have this flexibility. Whether they’re evangelical or secular anti-vaxxers, or elected leaders whose reopening plans are “too big to fail,” their unshakeable certainty locks them into choices that endanger health even as cases surge.

Our uncertainty can be a beacon, lighting up new paths that would be hidden if dogma kept us clouded. We’re only sure that we’re not sure — and maybe that’s a strength.
President’s Message
by Allan Malkis

Welcome to my first column for the Illuminator as president. What a year 2020-21 was for our congregation! We successfully transitioned to on-line virtual events and continued to provide our Jewish Cultural School, Shabbat and other programs, as well as adding a book club and various social events. The Social Action/Social Justice activities continued and even increased as we had several successful food drives and participated in a Jewish presence at George Floyd Square.

In this coming year we will be conducting hybrid virtual/live programming while maintaining COVID protocols. Our rabbinic candidate Eva Cohen will be finishing her studies and preparing for graduation. A committee will be developing plans for an adult b mitzvah program in which I look forward to participating (see page 8)!

I have identified three areas for attention in the next year:

First we need to look carefully at our finances. As Eva finishes her rabbinic preparation, Or Emet will be taking on the financial responsibility to pay her an appropriate salary. Other expenses will also be increasing. We need to broaden our base of support beyond member dues to include sources such as grants and donations.

Second is leadership development and succession planning. Or Emet has been run primarily by volunteer leaders. Many have been involved for years, taking on a variety of leadership roles. Some of our current crucial volunteer roles are filled by people who have served for many years and are ready for others to step up. It’s important to identify, support, and encourage people willing and able to take on some of these roles in the next few years. It’s also important that the wisdom and institutional knowledge held by current volunteer leaders are passed on.

Finally, I want us as a congregation to take a look at our assumptions about who is a Jew as our population becomes increasingly diverse. Fifteen percent of Jews under age thirty identify as Black, Hispanic, or in other categories of racial diversity (see Pew Study, page 10) and there is an increasing Sephardic community in the U.S. as Jewish immigrants from Central and South America arrive. This awareness goes hand in hand with a commitment to racial equity. We can study suggestions for actions that Jewish institutions could take to combat racism in American society. Jewish Community Action and other groups offer resources as we strive to be a welcoming home for Jews of ALL backgrounds. (More information can be found at: ejewishphilanthropy.com and notfreetodesist.org.)

I look forward to seeing all of you again this fall, either in person or virtually, as we celebrate the High Holidays and begin our new program year.
I write this on the cusp of the 2021-2022 school year, the new Jewish year 5782. After a challenging 5781, avoiding in-person gatherings and using Zoom for socializing, ritual activity, and learning, we look forward to enjoying the light — the “Or” in Or Emet — of one another’s presence.

Jewish Cultural School classes will meet in person, with masks required for all students and teachers. Snack time will be outdoors. We will consider changing conditions, concerns of parents, teachers and other Or Emet community members, and evaluate our course as the year progresses.

Over the summer our JCS team pursued other interests. Here’s how they spent their summers:

**Josh Kaplan, Littles Group teacher,**

gave private drum lessons in his home and performed with his wife Hannah at outdoor improv venues, including Hook & Ladder and Palmers in Minneapolis, Duluth and Cass Lake. Their family has taken several camping trips, with a special trip coming up to Glacier National Park.

**Colline Roland, Middles Group teacher,**

went to France with her mother who is a dual citizen and owns a home to live there half the year. From France, Colline joined her husband in Israel for an extended visit with his family. They enjoyed a week of sightseeing in Italy before returning home. In the states, Colline attended two Dave Matthews concerts and will visit Indiana and Washington state before settling in for the new year as an elementary school teacher at Hmong College Prep Academy.

**Renee Dorman, Juniors Group teacher,**

took part in a week-long workshop in June on countering racism in the schools. She enjoyed a trip to El Salvador with several friends, one of whom is a native of that country. They divided their time between beautiful beaches, stunning mountains, ancient ruins, and other places not heavily visited by tourists. Upon her return Renee took up hunting — not for deer or bears, but house hunting — and landed a big prize! She purchased and moved into her first home in St. Paul. Getting things in shape there will keep her happily busy until she returns to teaching English Language Learners at Johnson Senior High School.

**Eva Cohen, B Mitzvah Prep Group teacher,**

continued work on her rabbinic preparation (see page 5). As Or Emet’s ritual leader, Eva has been working on preparations for the high holidays and early in the summer she officiated at the b mitzvah of Eliana Jurgemeyer.

Eva, Jack, and daughter Freyja have enjoyed outdoor visits with Freyja’s grandparents and friends. Freyja, 18 months, is accomplished at “cruising” about their home.

**Sarah Berman Young, Music teacher,**

shared a summer highlight with her son Julian and daughter Leda, a week at YMCA Northern Lights Camp, a family camp near Ely. Sarah also enjoyed a child-free camping trip at Whitewater State Park and an excursion to Two Harbors with her mother and sister. The North St. Paul Maplewood-Oakdale School District, where she is a school psychologist, gave her an added role that took up much of her summer, district coordinator of Q-Comp, a state program encouraging teacher participation in professional development and school improvement goals. Also, as Or Emet’s wedding officiant, Sarah is preparing to conduct a marriage ceremony in September.

We can all look forward to greeting our dedicated teachers when we return to Jewish Cultural School on September 26.
Social Justice/Social Action Committee Update
Howard Schneider and Gwyn Leder
Social Justice/Social Action Co-Chairs

Collection Drive: Food and Personal Care Items
In June we held a drive to collect nonperishable food and personal care items. Donations were dropped off at several Or Emet households that served as collection sites. Items were then delivered to NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center in North Minneapolis. NorthPoint is a multi-specialty medical, dental, and mental health center and human service agency administered through a partnership between Hennepin County and a Community Board of Directors.

Community Volunteer Activities
Volunteer programs at the following agencies have been on hold, but some are resuming and/or changing format.

**St. Stephen’s Human Services** merged with House of Charity and left the Clinton Avenue location. The program for preparing and serving meals is still on hold, but they need volunteers to help with food deliveries.

**2nd Harvest Heartland food bank** is again recruiting individuals and teams (though not children) to sort and package food items into boxes for distribution, to deliver packages, and to help with drive-through pick-ups.

**Listening House.** We will collect personal care items, especially empty prescription bottles and travel-size toiletry items, at our in-person events. These items can also be donated at food drives, if separated and labeled.

Refugees / Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
Several Or Emet members attended a HIAS webinar in July which offered helpful reminders: search for resettlement opportunities and assess organizational capacity.

This spring, due to Trump administration policies and COVID 19, there were no volunteer opportunities as resettlement essentially halted in the Twin Cities. But the times they are a-changing. Both the Minnesota Council of Churches and Lutheran Social Services are gearing up for new refugee and family arrivals this fall. Potential partnership activities include: long-term commitment to “adopt” a family, donations of household items for families moving into apartments, and one-to-one support. We’ve had brief discussions with their staff and will share and facilitate volunteer opportunities as these become finalized. You will be hearing from us to assess our congregational capacity, including financial resources and volunteer time.

Refer to Michal Moskow’s article, “Saving a Person, Saving the World: A HIAS Update” on page 9 for highlights of HIAS’ recent activities.

Rising Anti-Semitism, Authoritarianism, White Supremacy
We know the story… these themes are interrelated and we are not safe until these forces are vanquished or thoroughly marginalized. While there’s been much good writing lately, Or Emet members will find these links, different stylistically, particularly relevant.

— Carin Mrotz, Jewish Community Action Executive Director, weaves a story around the issue of safety: "A New Story of Safety."

— The Anti-Defamation League “compares and contrasts” groups involved in the 2017 Charlottesville protest and the January 6th insurrection and notes both similarities and distinctions: "Unite the Right: Four Years Later Major Players Still Grappling With Fallout."

Ongoing SJ/SA Committee Action
Important issues remain on our radar (including developing a plan to reestablish Or Emet’s involvement with the above-mentioned three community agencies). We will discuss all of this at the next Social Action/Social Justice Committee meeting Thursday, August 26, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be in person OR virtual — details TBD.

Or Emet members are welcome to join the Social Justice/Social Action Committee and/or offer input on activities and issues. If you wish to be involved contact Howard Schneider hamptonmeadow@msn.com 651.278.2286
As the Or Emet calendar slows down for the summer, my rabbinic program picks up steam! The last few months have brought exciting learning opportunities through the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism program (IISHJ). They have also brought some meaningful chances to connect with the Or Emet community.

Since my last Illuminator update, I finished a two-semester-long online course sequence, Second Temple History I-II, and a paper that analyzes a poem by João Pinto Delgado, a seventeenth century Portuguese “New Christian” poet of Sephardic Jewish heritage. Written while Pinto Delgado was living publicly as a Catholic, on its surface the poem is a faithful retelling of the Catholic Old Testament version of Esther. I argued that the poem expresses a Crypto-Jewish sensibility through subtle allusions that Inquisitorial censors did not catch. The paper fulfilled my final requirements for the Cultural Traditions of the Jewish People — Sephardic course. More papers are in the works; stay tuned!

In July and early August, I took two online summer intensive courses. The first, Rabbinic/Medieval Jewish History and Literature I-II, began with an introduction to the Talmud. Then I participated in a small-group Zoom seminar focused on rabbinic medieval Jewish text study, taught by Dov Weiss of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It was an exciting challenge to analyze texts ranging from Palestinian midrash to Maimonides’s writings to the Zohar with Professor Weiss and my classmates. To finish the sequence, I need to take a class that focuses on Jewish, Christian, and Muslim coexistence in medieval Spain. My second summer intensive course, Humanist Homiletics, taught by Linda Horwitz of Lake Forest College (Illinois), was a fun and stimulating introduction to rhetoric with many chances to practice speech-writing and delivery.

Professor Horwitz and my classmates gave great, constructive feedback that guided my development of a major final speech, and on the last day of class I presented my speech and classmates shared theirs. My speech fulfilled all final requirements for the course, and I’m excited to share it with Or Emet at our Rosh Hashanah service (so no spoilers here!).

This summer I also made my first forays back into leading in-person ritual since the pandemic began. The evening before our annual meeting, I kicked things off with Or Emet’s Havdalah event at Keller Lake Regional Park. It was so nice to reflect and connect at the Havdalah with Or Emet community members I had only seen online for over a year — and to meet some people for the first time in real life. The next weekend I officiated at Eliana Jurgemeyer’s outdoor b mitzvah. Eliana rocked their humanistic Torah commentary on Korach and their presentation on the history of anti-Semitic tropes! It was wonderful to help honor their entry into Humanistic Jewish young adulthood along with their family and friends (see page 8).

As we approach the 2021-2022 program year with plans for a range of hybrid events (designed for in-person and remote participation to promote safe access for everyone), I look forward to seeing you all both IRL and online. Thank you for encouraging my educational progress and for giving me the opportunity to serve as the ritual leader of this great congregation.

Editor’s note: In addition to being Or Emet’s ritual leader, Eva teaches the b mitzvah prep class, coaches candidates, and officiates at the b mitzvah services.
The budget report showed that we had a surplus in the past year, due to not needing to pay for meeting space because of COVID. The 2021-2022 budget projects that most of this surplus will be lost as those meeting expenses will return. There was also discussion of creating an endowment fund.

Volunteers were recruited for many committees. Thanks to everyone who volunteered. Departing Executive Committee members Scott Chazdon, Sharon Miller, and Carrie Dickson were recognized, along with many other volunteer leaders.

— Noted with great appreciation and admiration were:
  Sharon Miller’s twelve years of amazing service as Or Emet treasurer
  Scott Chazdon’s three years of service as president

The Nominations Committee recommended the following slate of candidates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President:</td>
<td>Allan Malkis</td>
<td>1-year term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President:</td>
<td>Jeff Pipes</td>
<td>1-year term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer:</td>
<td>Seth Binder</td>
<td>1-year term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large 1:</td>
<td>Risa Cohen</td>
<td>2nd year of Seth Binder’s term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Large 2:</td>
<td>Tammy Bloom</td>
<td>2-year term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Alan Miller and Margo Fox moved and seconded the nominations. The slate of candidates was approved.
Dr. Harold Londer was committed to guiding the congregation from its founding in 1983 until his July 29 death in 2020. On the occasion of Harold’s first yahrzeit, we celebrate his memory.

In Eva’s remarks at Harold’s memorial service she noted that Harold’s Hebrew name was Chanoch, which means “dedicated.” Eva reflected upon the fact that Harold truly embodied this name in the way that he dedicated himself to building the Or Emet community and bringing Humanistic Jewish meaning into the lives of so many people. Our community would not exist as it does were it not for his efforts and his dedication.

The Harold Londer Memorial Fund was created in keeping with Harold’s dedication to Or Emet and Humanistic Judaism. This memorial fund is intended to support Or Emet’s continuing growth and to carry forward Harold’s instrumental role in both creating and sustaining the community.

On this first anniversary of Harold’s death, we invite you to honor his memory by reflecting on the quality of dedication, in both Harold’s life and in your own. How do you live your values? How do you contribute to the various communities in which you participate? How are you contributing in large and/or small ways to Or Emet’s health and longevity? How can we each learn from Harold’s example to create lives rich in meaning and dedication?

Donations

In memory of . . .

Jimmy Gardner - father of Lisa Gardner-Springer and
Genevieve Wanner - mother-in-law of Allan Malkis
  Paul Petzschke and Janet Mayer

To support Eva Cohen’s rabbinic journey
  Richard and Carol Logan

For use wherever needed
  Sonny Taylor

In honor of . . .

Dr. Harold Londer’s first yahrzeit, donations to the Harold Londer Memorial Fund
  Paul Petzschke and Janet Mayer
  Richard and Carol Logan
  David and Joan Barnett
  Susan Weinberg

Greta Jones, second yahrzeit - daughter of Louise Jones
  Paul Petzschke and Janet Mayer
  Richard and Carol Logan

In appreciation for . . .

Scott Chazdon’s 3 years of service as Or Emet’s president
  David and Joan Barnett

Sharon Miller’s 12 years of service as Or Emet’s treasurer and for always pitching in to help
  David and Joan Barnett
  Paul Petzschke and Janet Mayer
  Richard and Carol Logan

* Donations may be made through Or Emet’s website oremet.org
  or by sending a check to Seth Binder, 3820 Lyndale Ave, S., Mpls 55409
**B Mitzvahs Are for Adults Too!**

**ABCs of Judaism**
by Janet Mayer

It’s official! Or Emet is developing an adult b mitzvah program. So far, we know of seven people who want to experience an adult b mitzvah. The launch of the first class is expected to be in March 2023.

We have formed an Adult B Mitzvah Committee (ABC) to develop the program.

Contact oremetmayer@gmail.com if you, too, would like to join the ABC, either to help in development and/or to be a b mitzvah candidate.

At the first ABC meeting in September the group will discuss their interest in identifying core materials to study. If enthusiasm is high, we will proceed along an agreed-upon timeline. We will also decide if we want to extend the study to be an all-Or Emet adult ed series.

The energy to develop an adult b mitzvah program is high and Ritual Leader Eva Cohen is excited that the group will begin meeting this year. While Eva has a heavy academic schedule to complete the IISHJ (International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism) rabbinic program by Winter 2022, she will be touching base with the ABC and will look forward to participating as soon as she can.

*It’s never too late for an adult b mitzvah!*

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**Youth B Mitzvah Update**

Eliana Jurgemeyer’s b mitzvah was celebrated on June 12, 2021.

— their project was titled “Anti-Semitism: Yesterday and Today.”

*I talked about common tropes seen in the media such as big-nosed Jews who are selfish and good with money. Well-known examples of these tropes are Mr. Burns from The Simpsons, Ebenezer Scrooge from A Christmas Carol, and advertisements of big-nosed people holding onto money. I talked about the historical roots of these tropes and the harm they perpetuate.*

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**Or Emet Book Club Update**

by Scott Chazdon

Or Emet’s quarterly Book Club had a successful launch this year.

We began in January with a discussion of *The Lost Shtetl*, by Max Gross, then in April for a discussion of Michael Chabon’s *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, and most recently in July for a discussion of Marge Piercy’s *He, She and It*. Piercy’s book was a great read — a prescient science fiction novel written in 1991 about an environmentally-degraded world that looks a little bit too much like our world of 2021. It was wonderful to be able to meet in person at our home right before the indoor mask mandate went back into effect. We have some literary experts in our midst who have shared excellent insights during all of our sessions to date.

On October 2 at 6:30 we’ll discuss *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann. If interested in participating, contact Scott Chazdon schazdon@umn.edu. An in-person meeting is planned but subject to change depending on CDC/state COVID guidelines.
Saving a Person, Saving the World: A HIAS Update
by Michal Moskow

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, better known as HIAS, supports asylum seekers and refugees throughout the world. Sharing their efforts to “welcome the stranger,” Or Emet participates as a congregational member in the HIAS Welcome Campaign.

Israel is home to 30,000 asylum seekers, most fleeing genocide in Sudan and forced military conscription in Eritrea. After a harrowing journey and without legal status, they are unable to access basic social services and health care or find work. HIAS Israel provides asylum seekers with support and assistance.

MPP repealed. President Biden has repealed the Trump administration’s “Remain in Mexico” policy (known as MPP), but fully rebuilding our country’s refugee system will take years. HIAS lawyers assist people on the border fleeing life-threatening conditions with legal representation, cash assistance and counseling.

DACA. On July 16, 2021, a federal judge in Texas ruled against the Deferred Action to Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), blocking approval of new applications. This decision means uncertainty and fear for “Dreamers” (undocumented people brought by their parents to the U.S. as children) hoping to build stable lives in the country they call home. Polls indicate that 85% of Americans support legal status for Dreamers. Congress must provide permanent solutions to assure that Dreamers and others with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) will not live in fear of arrest, jail, and deportation.

The Senate can use the budget reconciliation process to pass this critical legislation with a simple majority, but we must act quickly to ensure this happens. Let your members of Congress know of your support for a path to citizenship.

HIAS work with other organizations. More than 80 million people have now been forcibly displaced worldwide. Eighty-five percent of refugees are hosted by developing countries. HIAS has joined Islamic Relief Worldwide and the Lutheran World Federation in working closely with other grassroots faith-based organizations in areas affected by mass displacement.

Should asylum seekers seek status in the U.S.?
President Biden, Vice President Harris, and DHS Secretary Mayorkas have all stated that asylum seekers “should not come” to the U.S. HIAS remains troubled by this rhetoric as we are required by domestic and international law to uphold the right to seek asylum. Disregarding this human right to protection is out of step with the administration’s commitment to rebuild a fair and humane immigration system.

Afghan refugees. Afghans are the third-largest refugee population in the world and displacement is expected to increase. HIAS applauds the passage of the emergency security supplemental bill by the Senate and House. It includes funding for Afghan refugee assistance and increased support for Afghan nationals at risk because of the U.S. military withdrawal. The withdrawal creates the urgent need to strengthen the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program and to provide critical humanitarian assistance to thousands.

It is crucial to continue to lobby Congress and the administration to provide protection and to work with the international community to increase support for life-saving humanitarian assistance. We can also help with individual donations and talking with others. Read more at www.HIAS.org

As an immigration court observer, I have been deeply affected by many of the detainees who do not have the rights guaranteed Americans and face additional bureaucratic and language barriers resulting from discrimination.

At Or Emet, support of refugees and asylum seekers is consistent with our values of tikkun olam and the Talmudic teaching that to save one person is to save the world.
Findings from the Pew Study on Jewish Americans in 2020
by Susan Weinberg

The recent Pew study on Jewish Americans identifies trends, many of which are reflective of the profile of Humanistic Jews. The Jewish population currently stands at 2.4% of U.S. adults, approximately 7.5 million. Within that population, trends indicate growing racial diversity, an emphasis on cultural connection and a tendency to move towards less traditional branches or to no affiliation. The younger population in particular is more racially and ethnically diverse, more likely to be intermarried and to not identify with a particular branch. To view this data in a meaningful way for the future, it is useful to consider the changes across generations.

Jewish Identity
— Interestingly, Pew distinguishes between Jews by religion and Jews of no religion in order to recognize that unlike many other religions, Jewish identity can be religion-focused and/or focused on ancestry and culture. There is no comparable category for other religions. This means that their data sweeps in those who may define their relationship to Judaism in less traditional ways. This multi-layered experience is in fact reflected in the data. While 19% say being Jewish is about religion, culture and ancestry, 22% say only culture and 21% reply only ancestry. And while over half mention either culture or ancestry, only 36% mention religion, indicating that the emphasis is often on other aspects of the Jewish experience.

More on Jewish identity

More Racially and Ethnically Diverse
— The Jewish population is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse with young people in particular reflecting this trend. Fifteen percent of Jews between 18-29 are Hispanic, Black, Asian, other race or multi-racial. Seventeen percent of Jews surveyed — including 29% of Jewish adults under the age of 30 — live in households in which at least one child or adult is Black, Hispanic, Asian, some other non-White race or ethnicity, or multiracial.

More on race and ethnicity

Predominantly Liberal, Except for Orthodox Jews
— 71% are Democrats or Democratic-leaning independents. Three-quarters of Orthodox Jews are Republican or Republican-leaning, up from 57% in 2013.

More on political views

Tendency to Move to Less Traditional Branches or No Affiliation
— There is a tendency to move to the less traditional with Reform Judaism acquiring 46% of its members from outside of the Reform movement. Jews with no denominational affiliation have the highest “accession rate,” with 66% being raised in other denominations. Some of this may be driven by the fact that 41% of young adults do not identify with any branch. An interesting anomaly is that 17% of youth identify with Orthodox versus 3% of older adults, perhaps attributable to the higher birth rate in that denomination.

More on movement between branches

Interruption is High
— Of married Jews, 42% have a non-Jewish spouse. Of those marrying since 2010 it stands at 61% versus 18% for those who married before 1980. The full impact of this trend is muted by the inclusion of Orthodox Jews who typically don’t intermarry. Take them out of the equation and look at marriages since 2010 and the percentage rises to 72%. Offspring of intermarriage intermarry at an even higher rate of 82%.

More on intermarriage

For more information on the survey overall
Simchas and Tsuris (Joys and Concerns)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Hannah Chazdon
Graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles with a B.A. degree in Psychology. Hannah is continuing to live and work in Los Angeles before deciding on a graduate program.

Gwen Pipes
Graduated from Cornell University with honors in 2020 but the ceremony was delayed until 2021 due to COVID. Her B.S. degree is in Environmental and Sustainability Sciences. Gwen is currently a candidate for an M.S. degree in Natural Resources, Soil Science — also at Cornell.

Sammi Bergren
Graduated from Wayzata High School. Sammi will be attending the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences and studying biology.

Anna Rakhmanov
Graduated from Upper Mississippi Academy in St. Paul. Anna will be attending Florida State University where she plans to major in math and visual arts.

Just Married
Ari Dahlager and Elizabeth Walsh were married in April and bought a house in St. Paul. Ari runs a childcare program through St. Paul Parks and Recreation. Liz works for a program that encourages businesses to recycle and compost.

in Memoriam
Jimmy Gardner, Lisa Gardner-Springer’s father, died on July 18.
Genevieve Wanner, Allan Malkis’ mother-in-law died on June 17.

May their memories be a blessing.
Susam Weinberg
— has paintings and videos in the virtual exhibition of the Jewish Artists’ Lab on the theme of Brokenness and Wholeness. The lab met throughout the year to explore this theme through a Jewish lens. The exhibit can be found here.
— was recently elected to the board of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). She currently serves as President of the Minnesota Jewish Genealogical Society which falls under the umbrella of the IAJGS. Susan is an active presenter and writer on genealogy topics and presented several talks at two virtual genealogy conferences in August.
— has an article in the current edition of *Hennepin History Magazine*, the first of a series on genealogy.

Arty and Coleen Dorman are in the midst of a memorable and hectic summer, owing to multiple concurrent family transitions.
— Arty and Coleen have been helping their children relocate, while engaging in their own downsizing. They will be moving from their long-time St. Paul home to Real Life Cooperative of West St. Paul. They decided to accept this opportunity after being on the co-op waitlist for an extended period.
— Jonathan and Crissy moved from Iowa to north suburban Chicago where they bought a house.
— Renee bought her first house in St. Paul.
— At the same time Arty and Coleen are finding time to celebrate Jonathan and Arty’s milestone birthdays.

Elana Dahlager and her husband Adam Bursi have relocated from the Netherlands to St. Paul.
— Elana is a staff attorney/assistant teaching professor at the Mitchell-Hamline law school Reentry Clinic.
— Adam is completing work on his three-year post-doctoral research fellowship.
Elana’s parents, Laura Melnick and Mark Dahlager, are thrilled Elana and Adam are back in Minnesota (for now).

Laura Melnick and Mark Dahlager’s Crop Artistry Continues

Laura’s 2021 entry
*The Little Golden Book of Sedition*

Laura and Mark both create prize-winning crop art. Their original compositions feature timely political and current event happenings with a humorous twist.
— Laura has entered crop art at the MN State Fair for over 20 years and won more than 30 ribbons, including eight Best In Show. During this time, crop art entries have doubled.
— Mark has also entered crop art for years and has won many ribbons.
Although the 2020 state fair was cancelled, the 2021 event will be held. They are hopeful the crop art room will stay open for the duration of the fair.

Mark’s 2021 entry
Cleveland Indians name change to Cleveland Guardians
### Shabbat Programs

**Friday, October 1 at 7:30 pm**  
**Program:** Jewish Protest Music in America and Abroad  
**Presenter:** Richard Logan, retired professor of Human Development, past president of Or Emet and SHJ

**Friday, November 5 at 7:30 pm**  
**Program:** Tibetan Medicine and You: A Path to Wellbeing, Better Health and Joy  
**Presenter:** Miriam Cameron, author, graduate faculty at Center for Spirituality and Healing, University of MN

**Saturday, December 11 at 10:00 am**  
**Program:** Jewish Literature: Our Legacy, part 1: The World and the Work of Sholem Aleichem and I.L. Peretz  
**Presenter:** Presenters TBD

### Sunday Programs

**Sunday, September 26 | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Program:** The Origins of Ashkenaz: research and facilitated discussion on origins of Ashkenazi Jews  
**Presenter:** Rachel Wexelbaum, educator, librarian, and human rights advocate, Or Emet member

**Sunday, October 24 | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Program:** The State of American Jews: Results from the Pew Survey  
**Presenter:** Barry Cohen and Howard Schneider, retired social science researchers, Or Emet members

**Sunday, November 21 | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Program:** The Green Olive Collective: facilitating understanding between Israelis and Palestinians/Jews and Muslims  
**Presenter:** Fred Schlomka, CEO of the Green Olive Collective, Inc.

**Sunday, December 19 | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm**  
**Program:** Birobidzhan: The Siberian Jewish "Homeland" — a community created by the Stalin-era Soviet government specifically for Jewish settlers  
**Presenter:** Don Larsson, emeritus professor of English at MN State University, Mankato, Or Emet member

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**Special Events / September - December 2021**

**High Holiday Food Drive | Sunday | September 12 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
A collection of nonperishable food and personal care items — donations may be dropped off at several sites or at High Holiday services. Full details TBA.

**Or Emet Book Club | October 21 | 6:30 - 8:00 pm**  
The book is *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann. More information is in the article about the book club on page 8. If interested in participating, contact Scott Chazdon schazdon@umn.edu.  
An in-person meeting is planned, but subject to change, depending on CDC/state COVID guidelines.

**New and Prospective Member Brunch | Sunday | November 7 | 10:00 am - 12:00 noon**  
New members and interested visitors are welcome to attend. Contact president@oremet.org for further information.

**Hanukkah Party | Saturday | December 4 | 5:00 - 7:30 pm**  
At this time, it is unknown if the party will be in-person or virtual — it depends on CDC and state guidelines. Details TBD.
High Holiday Services at Or Emet
2021 | 5782
In-Person and Online

High Holiday Services (except Tashlich) are at the Sabes Jewish Community Center.
Programs will be led by Or Emet rabbinic candidate Eva Cohen.
4330 South Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Erev Rosh Hashanah Service</strong></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>September 6</td>
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<td>Modified oneg following the service</td>
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<td><strong>Kol Nidre Service</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>September 15</td>
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<td><strong>Yom Kippur Service</strong></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>September 16</td>
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<td><strong>Break-the-Fast</strong> (Served outdoors)</td>
<td>At conclusion of the Yom Kippur service</td>
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<td>- registration required</td>
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**Rosh Hashanah Tashlich Service**
Tuesday | September 7 | 10:30 am | location TBA
- registration required

*Or Emet requires everyone attending services to mask and maintain social distancing in all indoor areas of the JCC for the protection of children and others who are vulnerable. Plans are subject to change based on CDC and state guidelines.*

In keeping with tradition, Or Emet will collect non-perishable food and personal hygiene items during the High Holidays. Donated items will be shared with Hallie Q. Brown Community Center for distribution to those in need. Complete details will be shared later.