



# THE ILLUMINATOR

Or Emet – The Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Spring/Summer 2024 issue  
Published in May 2024

## *Becoming a Rabbi*

by Rabbi Eva R. Cohen

I am pinching myself as I type this, but I'm Rabbi Eva now!

I was ordained by the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism on May 3, 2024, in a meaningful ceremony. Many of my inspiring professors and movement colleagues signed my ordination certificate and welcomed me warmly as a fellow rabbi. My classmate, Rabbi Claire Bergen, gave a speech on diasporism and their journey that was so moving I had to master tears before I spoke. My wonderful family — including Or Emet family — was there to help celebrate the moment.

My official journey to this moment began with my first Humanistic rabbinical class in November 2016, but my unofficial journey started earlier. Growing up, my Jewish identity gave me deep feelings of meaning and belonging. This identity — developed at home and through my family's involvement with Or Emet — inspired me to stand up for justice and embrace Jewish culture's progressive themes. I wanted to help make the world better. Professionally, this drew me post-college to youth work, and this work gave me an epiphany.

Young people — and people of all ages — deserve educational and community spaces that are culturally relevant and culturally affirming. Instead of being another “well-intentioned white woman” struggling to provide that relevance and affirmation to immigrant youth of color, who deserved teachers and mentors with deep knowledge of their cultures and experiences, I could serve my own cultural community that needed me.



What community needs did I see? Most contemporary Jewish Americans are [privileged by many metrics](#). However, we also experience antisemitism and majority cultural incomprehension of everything from our holiday calendar, humor, and history to our hair textures. Secular Jewish Americans face a further burden of incomprehension: for being godless in still deeply God-fearing America, and for being Jews without God in Jewish and general contexts that define Jewishness religiously. Without development and affirmation, our secular Jewish identities engender feelings of contentless “otherness.”

I could help people experience their secular Jewishness not as an inchoate burden, but as a source of positive identity, community, and inspiration, I could make a real contribution. I also knew that Or Emet's Madrikh Harold Londer needed a successor when he retired. I realized my purpose.

The last rabbi in my family was my great-great-grandfather, who died in Poland in 1883. To paraphrase my dad, our ancestor probably never imagined that women would become rabbis — much less that his great-great-granddaughter would, or that a secular Humanistic Jew could be anything other than an *apikoros* — a heretic — and an outcast. I'm proud to carry forward the chain of tradition, *transformed*, to serve this Humanistic Jewish congregation. May our beautiful, unconventional, and ever-evolving Judaism carry us from strength to strength.



OR EMET  
MINNESOTA CONGREGATION  
FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

**The Illuminator**

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newsletter-1@oremnet.org

**Editor and Publisher**

Joan Barnett

**Co-Editor**

Susan Weinberg

**Copy Editor**

Carol Logan

**Madrikkh Emeritus**

Harold Londer  
1947-2020 Z.L.

**Rabbi Eva Cohen**

ceremonies@oremnet.org

**Jewish Cultural School**

Molly Phipps, Director  
school-1@oremnet.org

**Executive Committee**

**President**

Allan Malkis  
president@oremnet.org

**Vice President**

Jeff Pipes

**Treasurer**

Seth Binder  
treasurer@oremnet.org

**At-Large Members**

Sarah Berman-Young  
Megan Brakob Narvey

**Or Emet Contacts**

Phone 612.787.7812  
info@oremnet.org

**Website**

www.oremnet.org

**Or Emet Affiliations**



International Institute for  
Secular Humanistic  
Judaism (IISHJ)

**President's Message**

by Allan Malkis



2023-24 was an exciting year for Or Emet. The biggest event of this year was the recent ordination of our new rabbi, Eva Rose Cohen. Several Or Emet members along with Eva's immediate and extended family were in Michigan for the ceremony, along with over 30 who watched online. We are all so proud of Eva and grateful that she chose to take this step and become our rabbi — the first Humanistic Jewish rabbi in Minnesota.

We also spent a lot of time planning our transition to a new home for the Jewish Cultural Sunday School and Adult Programs. Our current space at Talmud Torah of St. Paul will no longer be available after this program year. We surveyed members about their preferences for locations and dates and determined that it would be best to continue on Sundays and in the East Metro. We are negotiating with a charter school in Saint Paul for use of their space and hope to have an announcement by the annual meeting date.

We continued to have successful events for major holidays, including the High Holidays, Hanukkah and Passover. We were thrilled to have photos of our Yom Kippur service and Break-the-Fast published in the StarTribune. We had a fully unmasked Passover Seder in April with over 100 attendees and a catered dinner.

A new member directory was finally published and distributed online. For those who need printed copies, a limited number are available. We are also investing in updating and improving our website. Thanks go to Dave Musicant who created and maintained the site for us as a volunteer for years. The new site should be up and running by fall.

We had a variety of outreach events including the annual New Member Brunch, an Introduction to Humanistic Judaism class, and a Separation of Church and State program. Many thanks to Marcia Avner and Jeff Pipes for that presentation. We also co-sponsored the annual Day of Reason event at the state capitol which drew a large audience this year.

We will have three youth B Mitzvahs this summer and four adult ceremonies are planned for the upcoming program year — more info on page 6.

The Executive Committee will have continuity next year, with four of five members returning. Also, the new terms for officers, approved last year, will take effect.

*Welcome*

*New members and their families*

Marcia Avner

Becca Andreassen and family

Samantha Flax

Matthew Udodovsky and Amanda Aanerud

## Or Emet Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting, the Nominations Committee will present the recommended slate noted below (in addition to a yet-to-be-named vice presidential nominee) for election to Or Emet's 2024-2025 Executive Committee. Members will have the opportunity to nominate other candidates from the floor.

### Slate of candidates

President (2-year term): Jeff Pipes

Vice President (2-year term):

Treasurer (3-year term): Seth Binder

At-Large (2-year term): Sarah Berman-Young

At-Large (2nd year of 2-year term): Megan Narvey



Fortunately, most 2023-2024 board members are willing to continue serving in their current positions.

This year, we need a candidate for the vice presidential position. The task is to find a nominee with the necessary skills who is willing to serve the congregation in a leadership position. We seek Or Emet members to serve our community by attending to matters that support Or Emet's spiritual and intellectual life.

Contact Allan Malkis at [president@oremnet.org](mailto:president@oremnet.org) if you are interested or can suggest a potential board candidate.

### OR EMET ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 9, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. – noon

**ANNUAL MEETING AND JEWISH CULTURAL SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
At Talmud Torah of St. Paul | 768 Hamline Ave. S. | St. Paul 55116

~ Final Jewish Cultural Sunday School session will occur concurrently with annual meeting ~

~ Annual Meeting will be offered virtually and in person ~

Agenda includes:

- Jewish Cultural Sunday School teacher recognition
- Approval of 2023 annual meeting minutes
- Recognition and celebration of Rabbi Eva Cohen
- President's report
- Budget presentation
- Volunteer recognition and recruitment — Megan Brakob Narvey
- Election of 2023-2024 officers and at-large executive committee members

### FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING, JOIN US TO CONTINUE CELEBRATING

Potluck picnic at Talmud Torah at 12:30 p.m.  
Provide your own plates, dinnerware, and cups/glasses

➤➤➤ ***At the day's events, the Social Justice/Social Action committee will collect items for donation:***

To NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center community food shelf

- Nonperishable food, personal care and hygiene products, cleaning supplies, pet and baby food, diapers.

To Listening House for clients experiencing homelessness and/or isolation

- Empty pill bottles and personal care items



## Social Justice/Social Action Committee Update

Howard Schneider and Gwyn Leder  
Social Justice/Social Action Co-Chairs



### REFUGEES AND IMMIGRATION



On February 24, our annual Refugee Shabbat program featured Dana Mach from the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT). CVT works closely with Casa Alitas Welcome Center, a Tucson AZ agency that provides temporary shelter for people who are making their way to resettlement locations.



Welcome the Stranger  
Protect the Refugee

This was the 6<sup>th</sup> year that HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) has coordinated Refugee Shabbat programs that promote solidarity with the global Jewish movement for refugee protection and welcome. The number of forcibly displaced people has grown to over 110 million and the growing impact of climate change worsens the effects of violence, conflict, and economic instability on vulnerable populations.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> HIAS posted “Hunger and Devastation: A Moral Call to Action.” This powerful statement about the Israel-Gaza situation, though four months old at the time, summarizes the need for humanitarian and Jewish traditional values. It states, “The people of Israel are still reeling from the attacks of October 7... and today in Gaza the tragedy compounds itself. In Gaza, hostages taken from Israel are passing 100 days in captivity, and more than 2 million people are approaching 100 days of violence, displacement, and suffering... famine is around the corner.”

### Gun Violence Prevention



On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the Minnesota Senate approved stronger penalties for gun straw buyers and a ban on binary triggers. A straw purchase occurs when an individual buys a firearm for someone ineligible to purchase or possess one. The bill increases the penalty for straw purchasing from a gross misdemeanor to a felony. It is already illegal to buy a firearm and give it to someone who is not allowed to possess it due to a previous felony. The binary trigger allows users to fire a higher round count by firing bullets while they pull and release the trigger instead of repeatedly pulling the trigger. A similar measure has passed the House — Gov. Tim Walz will sign a final version soon.

### REVERSE TASHLICH: *Repair the Sea* | *Tikkun HaYam*



Last year, Or Emet members removed "sins" (human-made debris) from Marydale Park in St. Paul as an expression of our Jewish values. We have tentatively scheduled Or Emet's 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Reverse Tashlich event for September 29. Details are TBD, including an educational program and/or materials for adults and children. This has been a meaningful community event, and we seek to increase the number of participants.

### COLLECTIONS OF FOOD /PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

At our Annual Meeting on June 9 we will collect food and personal care items for the food shelf at NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center, a health care and human services agency in North Minneapolis. Grocery items needed include canned tuna, peanut butter, jelly, and non-food items, like personal hygiene products. There will also be collection envelopes for financial contributions — a \$10 donation provides 24 meals.

*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 at [hamptonmeadow@msn.com](mailto:hamptonmeadow@msn.com) or 651-278-2286.*

## Jewish Cultural Sunday School (JCSS) Update

by Molly Phipps, JCSS Director



We had a holiday-filled spring at JCSS celebrating and learning about Tu B'Shevat, Purim, and Passover.

**In February** we celebrated Tu B'Shevat with songs, learning about trees and nature, and our annual **Tu B'Shevat Seder**. At the seder we celebrated different kinds of fruits and nuts that grow in the land of Israel/Palestine. The classes made good use of the unseasonably warm weather and were able to study nature around the school building and make nature and tree-centered crafts.



**In March** we held our **Purim carnival** complete with Or Emet classics like fishing for prizes, making hamantaschen, throwing axes at Haman, decorating *shalach manos* (Purim gift baskets), and dressing in costumes.



**In April** students prepared for **Passover**. Sarah Berman-Young reviewed the *Four Questions* with all of the classes. The Littles and the Middles made Passover-themed art and looked for the afikomen.

### The JCSS and Sunday programming are **moving to a new location** —

We finally learned that there is no possibility of staying in the Talmud Torah building, so a move is inevitable. We polled the membership, paying particular attention to JCSS families, and found that most people would prefer keeping JCSS/Adult Sunday Programming on Sunday and in St. Paul. It was felt that moving days or sides of the metro area would stop some current students from attending. We have approached all of the charter schools in St. Paul that have elementary schools, looking for a new location. Nothing is official as of the time of writing, but we have at least one school putting together a draft of a rental agreement. We will keep you posted as the situation unfolds.

For more information about Or Emet's Jewish Cultural Sunday School, visit the [School Blog](#) on the Or Emet website, [oremnet.org](http://oremnet.org). Visitors are welcome to join JCSS classes. To arrange a visit, learn more about JCSS, the Youth Program, and/or for school-related questions and issues, email [school-1@oremnet.org](mailto:school-1@oremnet.org).

## *Life Cycle Events – Baby Naming*

Or Emet offers a range of events to meet ceremonial needs — B Mitzvahs, weddings, funerals, memorials, and this time it was a baby naming.

On April 28, Richard Logan, Sarah Berman-Young, and Arty Dorman conducted a naming ceremony for Elizabeth (Zibby) Mintz-Doyle, daughter of Andrew Mintz and Colleen Doyle. Or Emet has helped this family celebrate other life cycle events. In 2014 the late Dr. Harold Londer officiated at Andrew and Colleen’s wedding and in 2018 Richard, Sarah, and Arty also conducted a baby-naming for Zibby’s brother, Jack. This event was a joyful reunion between the Or Emet team and the Mintz-Doyle family.

## *Youth B Mitzvahs*

B Mitzvah Candidate	Date	Project Topic / Location
Ilsa Finestack	June 29	“German-Jewish family history — focusing on Oberasphe, Hesse, Germany, where Ilsa’s great-grandmother grew up.” Ilsa is creating paintings inspired by her study. Location: Temple St. Paul
Eli Oken	July 13	Documentary about “NYC Jewish family history including great-grandfather’s life experiences and traditions.” Location: TBD
Maximilian (Max) Goldfine	August 3	“Argentinian Jewish History” Location: Buenos Aires, Argentina (Attendance available via Zoom)

## *Old World Sweets Meet New World Treats*

On March 17, Ilsa, Eli, and Max participated in a cooking class led by Chef Julia Revilla (via Zoom). They learned about, made, and ate quintessentially New York Jewish deli food — egg creams, cheese blintzes, and black/white cookies. Eva Cohen was mastermind, with Kenzie Kester and Joan Barnett doing setup and cleanup.



## *Adult B Mitzvahs*

Or Emet’s first Adult B Mitzvah cohort is underway. Rabbi Eva Cohen developed the program and provides the leadership which includes group sessions and meetings with candidates about their individual projects. Over the summer, candidates are working on their projects.

At this time, adult B Mitzvah service dates have not been scheduled — are targeted for after the High Holidays.

## Celebrating and Honoring Eva Cohen

### Presenting Rabbi Eva Cohen . . .

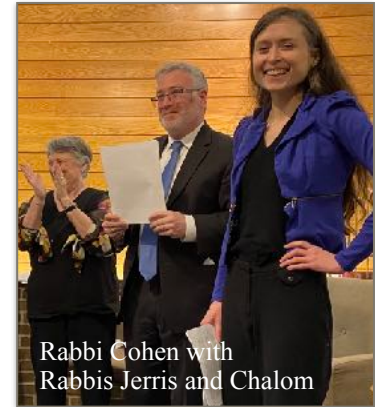
by Joan Barnett

On May 3, 2024, Rabbi Eva Cohen was ordained by the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ) at the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Metro Detroit. A large contingent of Or Emet members, friends, and family were there kvelling as Eva achieved her goal after much dedication, skill, and hard work. During the seven and a half years leading up to this milestone event, Rabbi Eva earned a master's degree at the University of Minnesota in Classical and Near Eastern Studies and served as

#### Ordination of Rabbis

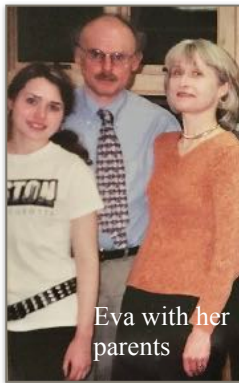
Claire Bergen  
Eva Cohen

International Institute for  
Secular Humanistic Judaism



Rabbi Cohen with  
Rabbis Jerris and Chalom

Or Emet's ritual leader, all while she was a student in the IISHJ rabbinic program. Her primary ritual leadership responsibilities have included mentoring B Mitzvah candidates and officiating at their ceremonies, leading High Holiday services, Passover Seder, and Shabbat services.



Eva with her  
parents

Eva's involvement with Or Emet began in the early 1990s (when she was a child). At that time a few parents had the foresight to develop a Jewish Cultural Sunday School (JCSS) and Eva was a student in the first class. During those early years, the fledgling school met in homes, with parents, Dr. Harold Londer, and others sharing teaching responsibilities. As the school evolved, classes moved to Hillel, and professional leadership came on board. Eva began teaching in the JCSS while a college student. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Brown University in 2009 with a B.A. in Visual Art and Anthropology, Eva continued teaching in the Sunday school while engaging in a variety of other work. She became school director in 2012. B Mitzvah candidates were initially mentored by Dr. Londer, but Eva, as school director, developed a formal B Mitzvah program. Only when rabbinic studies and Or Emet ritual leader responsibilities ramped up significantly, did she relinquish the JCSS director position. Throughout, Eva has continued her B Mitzvah program leadership.

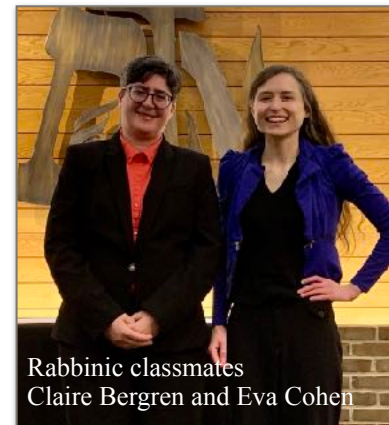
We are especially fortunate that Eva will be continuing her long and deep Or Emet relationship by serving as the congregation's first ever rabbi!



Just-ordained rabbis Cohen and Bergren with mentors and teachers, Rabbis Chalom and Jerris while showing their ordination certificates.

Rabbi Eva is collaborating with Or Emet to develop the details of her rabbinic position which will begin when the 2024-2025 program year kicks off in September.

Celebrations honoring Eva's ordination and Or Emet position are planned for the June 9 annual meeting and in the fall.



Rabbinic classmates  
Claire Bergren and Eva Cohen

## Highlights: On Emet's Passover Seder



On April 27, Or Emet celebrated Passover with a congregation-wide Seder. Over 100 members and friends, adults and children, gathered at the First Unitarian Society. The event was co-chaired by Sarah Berman-Young and Jeff Pipes. Eva Cohen led the Seder service. Attendees provided ritual food items, wine, juice, and dessert. A hearty meal was catered by Ansari's Mediterranean Grill. Until recently, Or Emet's Seders were complicated potluck affairs. Now, these events are even better since catering has streamlined and simplified everything food-related.



It's a matzo apron!

### ***Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) Board Report***

by Allan Malkis



In addition to Eva's ordination, I attended the annual in-person meeting of the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) board of directors in Farmington Hills, Michigan the weekend of May 3-4. Twenty-two staff and board members met during those two days to do business and talk about the future direction for SHJ.

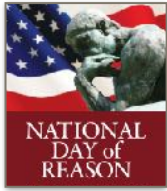
One issue on everyone's mind was its financial status, as SHJ has been running deficits for several years and is still spending down its investments. This is a worrisome trend that obviously needs to be reversed. Board members spent much of Saturday afternoon discussing ways that they as a board could assist staff in carrying out the activities of the organization, especially fundraising and outreach. I was concerned that only a few board members chose the fundraising break-out group.

The discussion of outreach which I attended came up with a list of possible ways that board members could help with tasks identified by staff. These included sharing the individual statements of connection to Humanistic Judaism that a board member shares at the start of each meeting, sharing copies of rabbinic commentaries/sermons across our affiliates, and compiling a list of national media contacts to help spread our message. In addition to fundraising and outreach, a third group proposed how board members could assist with current projects.

As of June, Or Emet's new president will become our group's representative on the board of SHJ. I have been asked to continue as an at-large board member and to serve on the Executive Committee. I look forward to continuing to improve communications between our congregation and the national movement.



## National / Minnesota Day of Reason



### National Day of Reason Minnesota Observance on May 1

*Every year, Or Emet joins Humanists of Minnesota and Jews for a Secular Democracy (JFASD) to co-sponsor the National Day of Reason event at the Minnesota State Capitol*



Jeff Pipes

This annual gathering is in response to the statutory observance of the National Day of Prayer. Also, the Day of Reason offers an opportunity to promote public policy guided by reason, evidence, and society. The largest crowd ever (>90) assembled for this 5th annual breakfast in observance of the Day of Reason. Or Emet together with HumanistsMN and 1st Unitarian Society sponsored the breakfast. Speakers from MN ACLU and Forethought Equality discussed the threat of Christian nationalism and erosion of the constitutional principle regarding separation of religion and government. More than 30 Minnesota legislators are members of the Secular Government Caucus.

## Caring Circle

*We're here when you need a little extra support*



Or Emet's Caring Circle (CC) offers simple, practical, short-term assistance and support to members in times of illness, loss, and crisis. This support supplements and coordinates with other resources (e.g., family, friends, community, professional).

Anyone can let the CC know if they, or a person they know, wants or needs Caring Circle attention — from a simple card to a personal phone call, an email, a one-time visit, or something more frequent.

Email [CaringCircle@oremet.org](mailto:CaringCircle@oremet.org) if you would like assistance.

Our Meal Train is available for Or Emet members who cannot obtain food any other way during recovery from an illness or when experiencing a challenge, making shopping or meal preparation problematic.

Or Emet wants to meet challenges and provide assistance to members when possible. Strict safety guidelines will be followed during meal preparation and delivery. Email [CaringCircle@oremet.org](mailto:CaringCircle@oremet.org) for more information.

Caring Circle Committee

Rabbi Eva Rose Cohen, Megan Narvey, Karen Cohen, Janet Mayer, Daniel Lupton,  
Faith Oremland, Sonny Taylor, Bruce Pomerantz

## Or Emet Book Club

**Next Meeting:** June 2, 2024 | 10:30 a.m. - noon | at Kenwood Retirement Community  
(for location info contact Jane Katz [jkatz6000@gmail.com](mailto:jkatz6000@gmail.com))

**Book:** *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

Book notes by Bruce Pomerantz:

*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* is a novel that concerns the 1972 discovery of a skeleton in a well, and then flashes back to explore its connection to a Pennsylvania town's 1920s and 1930s Black, Jewish, Italian, and European immigrant history through the events surrounding a Jewish-owned grocery store, The Heaven and Earth Grocery. James McBride's father was African-American and his mother was a Polish Jewish immigrant who converted to Christianity when she married. The novel won the 2024 Association of Jewish Libraries Fiction Award and the New York Times listed it in its 100 Notable Books of 2023. Concerning his Jewish connection, he said in 1997 at the University of California, Davis, "Technically I guess you could say I'm Jewish since my mother was Jewish — but she converted. So the question is for theologians to answer. It doesn't cause me one drop of blood, sweat, or tears. I just get up in the morning happy to be living."

## Member Articles

### ***Lost Perspective Feeds Old Prejudices***

by Alan Miller

It ain't easy being Jewish. It never has been. One watches with sadness the violent demonstrations on college campuses about the war in Gaza. Stepping back eons ago, I see myself demonstrating on campus; and after college as an adult against the Vietnam War. Those demonstrations were not violent; nor did we denigrate anyone other than government conduct which offended what one expects in a democracy. The sadness, however, is because these current protests have lost perspective. Let me explain.



On April 21 the St. Paul Pioneer Press published these words, which I wrote: "The Council on American-Islamic Relations (National) has called on the Biden administration to 'demand that the Israeli government de-escalate the crisis it started.' Apparently the CAIR calendar does not contain an October 7th." Today's college protests, where students throughout the country line up like lemmings, one campus after another, have gone far beyond protests against the war; they have become antisemitic protests against Jews and anything Jewish. These students were not alive during the 1930s, but they emulate the conduct which preceded World War II by focusing solely on Jews, and not the conduct of the right-wing Israeli government, which is opposed by the vast majority of its citizens.

I abhor the Gaza war, the way Israel is conducting it, and the Netanyahu government, which is being directed by right-wing crazies. The slaughter of innocents cannot be condoned. That said, what started this conflict? The October 7th massacre performed by Hamas, in Israel, which killed more Jews than at any time since the Holocaust — a ruthless, pre-planned bloodbath performed with the most barbaric conduct imaginable — rape, burning victims alive, killing and brutalizing families, acts conducted with inhumane, yet intentional, planning. Would there have been a Gaza War without October 7th? Yet that is not mentioned, nor is the fact that hostages have been held for more than six months by Hamas.

Hamas is a terrorist organization, and always has been. It is not a country, and its credo is no different than Hitler's — to wipe Jews from the face of the earth. Israel is, with all its flaws and inexcusable conduct, a democracy. To see American college students chanting "I am Hamas," calling for the destruction of Israel, "Death to Jews," or "from the river to the sea," represents a lack of perspective and frankly, historical ignorance. While certain of the Arab countries have grudgingly commenced relations with Israel, the organizations like Hamas, ISIS, Hezbollah, and the like, only know one principle — death and destruction. When the Netanyahu government is gone (soon, I hope) these organizations will still believe in terror, autocracy, and everything antagonistic to a peaceful, democratic society. That's where the students of today lose their perspective. They are well-intentioned to rail against the violence and senseless killing of innocents. But they feed into centuries-old prejudices and hatreds, as they vent their spleen against Jews. The difference between Jews and Jewish beliefs, and what the Israeli government has become, is a wide chasm. But it has been lost in their zeal, their lack of historical facts, and their perspective.

There is still the dream of a two-state solution, of a Palestine living beside Israel, so that both of their peoples can prosper. I doubt that I will live to see it; I hope my children and grandchildren get that opportunity. Today's protests have lost all perspective, and are counter productive to that end.

## Pursuing the Total Eclipse by Arty Dorman

Many of us got caught up in the excitement over the rare total solar eclipse that passed over North America on April 8. Coleen and I decided to head south to the area astronomers mapped out as the “band of totality.” After all, we’re not kids, who knows when we might get another chance?

Our goal was to be right in the center of the band of totality for a peak experience. The variable was weather, so we mapped out several possible destinations, then checked the morning forecast. Cape Giraudoux, MO looked like the best bet for clear skies, so we set our sights on getting there by noon.

Now comes the amazing part. The breakfast room at the motel on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> was buzzing with people all on the same mission as us. Some had t-shirts with eclipse-related slogans on them. Everyone was asking such questions as “Where will you be viewing the eclipse,” and “Where have you come from?” — one person from California was meeting friends from Boston.

We aimed for one of about a dozen motels at the crossroads, out of scores of similar crossroads within the totality band. That makes tens of thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands, of strangers finding common ground in an event beyond our control, enthusiastically connecting over a shared human impulse to be part of something larger than ourselves. No one asked who we voted for, about our religion or gender identity, or level of education.

*Just being human was enough.*

The traffic to Cape Giraudoux was so heavy (as it was everywhere in the band of totality) that we pulled over about an hour shy, in St. Genevieve, MO, and found a comfortable viewing spot across the road from a 165-year-old general store. The sky was clear and we had a perfect view as the moon swallowed up, and then released, the sun. It was awesome.

What was most amazing about the day was not seeing a natural phenomenon occur in the distant universe, but the *feeling of universal connection among people of all stripes*. The possibility is there.



## Donations

### To Dr. Harold Londer Rabbi Fund in honor of Rabbi Eva Cohen

*We're so proud of Eva for this achievement and extend hearty congratulations!*

Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke

Joan Barnett

Richard and Carol Logan

### In honor of David and Margo Fox's 62nd anniversary

Richard and Carol Logan

### In honor of the baby naming ceremony for Zibby (details on page 6)

Andrew Mintz and Colleen Doyle

### In honor of high school and college graduations

Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke

*Thank  
You!*

### For use where most needed

Faith and Steven Oremland

Bert Binder

\* Donations may be made through Or Emet's website, [oremot.org](http://oremot.org), or by sending a check to Seth Binder, 3820 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls 55409

## in Memoriam

**Bob Baum**, an early Or Emet member, died on March 6. Bob, along with Zev Aelony (another early Or Emet member), was a MN Freedom Rider in 1961 during the Southern Civil Rights Movement.

*May his memory be a blessing.*

## Member News | Simchas and Tsuris

MAZEL  
TOV!



**Ian Zukor**, son of Dave Zukor and Sarah Waite, graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in History. Ian was featured in a StarTribune article about his unique honor of serving as the CLA college's Undergraduate Commencement student speaker on May 12. In the fall, Ian plans to pursue a master's degree in History Education at the University of Minnesota. Ian teaches Or Emet's JCSS Littles Class.

**Hannah Fox**, daughter of Adam and Claudia Fox and granddaughter of Margo and David Fox, graduated from Case Western Reserve University with a major in Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism and a minor in Spanish. Hannah will attend Texas A&M University to pursue a graduate degree in Clinical Nutrition.



**Rachel Springer**, daughter of Lisa Gardner-Springer and Colin Springer, received a B.A. in Sociology and Computer Science from Columbia University. Rachel is currently figuring out her next couple of years.



**Emily Springer**, daughter of Lisa Gardner-Springer and Colin Springer, graduated from Southwest High School. She plans to attend McGill University and major in biochemistry.

**Maia Roberts**, daughter of Liz Greenbaum and Josh Roberts, graduated from University of Toronto with a major in Environmental Studies and minors in Environmental Biology and Spanish. Maia is figuring out next steps.

**Kai Dickson**, son of Carrie and Lewis Dickson, graduated from Roseville Area High School. He plans to study engineering at Century College. Kai is a teaching assistant in Or Emet's JCSS Littles class.

**Seth Fine** received an M.A. in Leadership and Social Transformation from United Theological Seminary. His master's project was "Pocket Parks for All Saint Paul: Urban land back on Dayton's Bluff." Seth will continue working in HR for NMDP (bone marrow donor program) while doing community work in both health equity and environmental justice.

**Sonny Taylor** recently relocated from a Minneapolis condo to Abitan Mill City, near downtown Minneapolis. Sonny is enjoying downtown living and is thoroughly engaged in both Abitan and Mill City Senior activities.

**Muriel Sterne** recently moved to The Orchards of Minnetonka Senior Living, Apartment 215 10955 Wayzata Blvd, Minnetonka 55305.

**David Fox** is receiving care at home after extended stays in hospital and rehab facilities following serious injuries several months ago. Margo and David are looking forward to celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary soon. They continue to enjoy being with each other and describe themselves as "lovebirds." Pretty wonderful!

**Bruce Pomerantz** has been participating with *Braver Angels* in a project designed to "bring men together in this polarized nation." Bruce's experience is described in an article in *InsideHook* magazine "One's a Conservative, One's a Liberal. Here's Their Secret to Friendship." For the past two years, Bruce and Bob who met at the group, have successfully bridged the Republican-Democrat divide. Braver Angels is a volunteer-led initiative designed to connect men away from rancorous partisanship.

2023-2024 SHABBAT, SUNDAY ADULT PROGRAMS, AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM WRAPPED UP IN JUNE.  
The 2024-2025 program year starts in September.

*Updated program information is posted on the [oremot.org](http://oremot.org) calendar and shared with Or Emet's listserv.*

## *Upcoming Events / June - September 2024*

### **Or Emet Book Club | Sunday | June 2 | 10:30 am | at Kenwood Retirement Community**

(for venue issues contact Jane Katz [jkatz6000@gmail.com](mailto:jkatz6000@gmail.com))

*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride will be discussed. More info on page 9.

If interested in participating, contact Bruce Pomerantz [bruce.f.pomerantz@comcast.net](mailto:bruce.f.pomerantz@comcast.net)

### **Or Emet's Annual Meeting, Picnic, and JCSS Class | Sunday | June 9 | Talmud Torah of St. Paul**

- Annual Meeting with election of officers, 10 a.m. - noon
- Potluck Picnic | setup noon - 12:30 p.m. | picnic gathering 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Donated items will be collected during the day's events.

Additional information is on page 3 and in the president's email to Or Emet's listserv.

### **Baseball with Or Emet friends | Fireworks after the game!**

**St. Paul Saints vs. Omaha Storm Chasers game | Friday | July 26 | 7 p.m. | CHS Field in St. Paul**

Purchase your tickets at at <http://saints-groups.com/> Login: Humanorah

Contact Carrie Dickson with questions at [cdickson@umich.edu](mailto:cdickson@umich.edu)

### **Havdalah and Picnic | Saturday | July 27**

Details including location and time are TBD.

### **Or Emet 2024 High Holiday Schedule of Events**

See next page for details

## *Celebrating Rabbi Eva Cohen*

Stay tuned for information about an important event honoring Rabbi Eva that will be scheduled after the High Holidays. The event will celebrate Eva and introduce her to the community.

## OR EMET 2024 HIGH HOLIDAY EVENTS



High Holiday Services (except Tashlich) will be at  
The Minnesota JCC Sabes Center  
4330 South Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park  
Services *will be led by Or Emet Rabbi Eva Cohen*  
*~ offered virtually and in person ~*

### **Rosh Hashanah Service**

Tuesday | October 2 | 7:00 p.m.  
Oneg following the service

### **Rosh Hashanah Tashlich Service and Potluck**

Wednesday | October 3 | 10:30 a.m. | location TBA

### **Reverse Tashlich**

Sunday | September 29 | (tentative)

### **Kol Nidre Service**

Friday | October 11 | 7:00 p.m.

### **Yom Kippur Service**

Saturday | October 12 | 4:00 p.m.

### **Break-the-Fast**

At conclusion of the Yom Kippur service

In keeping with tradition, Or Emet will collect nonperishable food and personal hygiene items at High Holiday events. Donations will be shared with NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center.

