



# THE ILLUMINATOR

Or Emet – The Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism

Fall 2025 Issue  
Published August 31, 2025

## *A Humanistic Take on Maimonides' Principles of Faith*

by Rabbi Eva R. Cohen



What beliefs supported you through this wet, hot, smoky, authoritarian summer?

While some argue that Judaism emphasizes deed over creed, there's a Jewish history of defining (and [disagreeing about](#)) "What Jews Believe." I was thinking about medieval Sephardic philosopher [Maimonides'](#) Thirteen Principles of

Faith, which have become Orthodox Judaism's boundary marker. What would a contemporary *Humanistic Jewish* version look like? Here's my draft (alongside quotes from the original thirteen):

- 1) ["I still believe in people / as I still believe in you."](#) ("believe in ... the Creator")
- 2) [The struggle to end the war in Gaza and bring home the hostages is one.](#) Palestinian and Israeli safety are intertwined. ("God is one")
- 3) We are corporeal, and everyone's body deserves [food](#) and [rest](#). ("He is incorporeal")
- 4) "[G]overnment of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." [No kings](#)—of the universe or otherwise! ("the One is absolutely eternal")
- 5) Prioritize humanity; don't worship and obey AI, which [plagiarizes our creativity](#), [hallucinates wrong answers](#), and [tells us what we want to hear](#). ("Only He ... is rightfully worshiped, magnified, and obeyed.")
- 6) [Climate prophets](#) > corporate profits ("certain people ... can receive pure intellectual form. ... These men are the prophets")
- 7) [Sherwin our Teacher](#) was Humanistic Judaism's [prophetic](#) framer, [but our story continues](#). ("Moses our Teacher ... was ... superior in attaining knowledge of God to any other person who ever lived or ever will live.")
- 8) Taking dictation from a [dictator](#) is [dangerous](#). ("the Torah came from God ... through Moses who acted like a secretary taking dictation")
- 9) [The expansive Jewish library](#) is [ever-growing](#). ("The Ninth ... Principle is the authenticity of the Torah ... nothing must be added nor anything taken from it")
- 10) Surveillance technology knows all that humans do and never turns its eyes away from us. [What happens at the Coldplay concert doesn't stay at the Coldplay concert!](#) ("God knows all that men do and never turns His eyes away from them")
- 11) When the righteous suffer and the wicked prosper, we must right the scales. ("God rewards those who perform the commandments ... and punishes those who transgress")
- 12) We are to believe as fact that [I-94 construction will end](#) and not consider it late. ("We are to believe as fact that the Messiah will come and not consider him late.")
- 13) We are witnessing the resurrection of dead ideas—think "raw milk is healthy" ([it can cause serious illness](#)) and "tariffs help the economy" ([they reduce GDP and wages, harming workers](#)). We need [evidence-based strategies](#) to extinguish this zombie misinformation. ("The Thirteenth ... Principle is the Resurrection of the Dead")

Creed into deed ... onward!



**OR EMET**  
MINNESOTA CONGREGATION  
FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

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Or Emet's member newsletter  
is published in  
August • December • May  
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Judaism (IISHJ)



## **President's Message**

by Jeff Pipes

As summer draws to a close, I'm struck by how quickly the past few months have passed. By the time we gather for our first Shabbat of the 2025-26 program year, the leaves may already be turning. With much happening in the wider world, often heavy and challenging, it's been grounding to focus on simple joys like tending the garden. Speaking of joys, I enjoyed our summer Havdalah and picnic on August 16 — especially Dan's famous pies and all of your delicious potluck dishes.

Rabbi Eva has now completed her first full year as our official rabbi, and what a year it has been! Her schedule has been filled to the brim officiating at B Mitzvahs, weddings, baby namings, and sadly, funerals; leading Shabbat and holiday services; organizing programs; and representing Or Emet in the broader community. Everything she's done has exceeded our expectations. At our annual meeting, we learned that her workload has far surpassed her initial time allocation. In response, the Executive Committee and the congregation approved increasing her hours from 16 to 20 hours per week. Thanks to a generous one-time donation, we will be able to increase her to 24 hours this year. We are so lucky to have her leadership.

Our finances remain strong. Seth has passed the treasury keys to Sergei. Thank you both for your work in this huge role! While this year brings higher expenses like website redesign, audio/visual upgrades, increased rent, and Rabbi Eva's expanded hours, the Executive Committee believes these are wise investments. We may draw modestly from our savings, but we will remain in solid financial shape and optimistic about growing our membership. Dues will rise only slightly, and we encourage members to consider the "at cost" level when possible. That said, we understand everyone's circumstances are different. We understand and celebrate that our congregation is built on shared commitment, not financial uniformity. Look for the dues renewal update in September.

Program committees have welcomed new members. Shabbat programming kicks off with Professor David Schultz speaking on *American Democracy in the Age of Trump*.

In recent months, Or Emet has shown up together for important causes, Rabbi Eva led a vigil at the ICE detention facility, we joined the "Stand-Up" protest, attended the "No Kings" rally at the capitol despite that morning's political violence, and marched proudly at Pride. We even made time for fun at a Saints game.

Before the High Holidays, we expect to launch our new website. Due to a conflict at the JCC, our High Holiday services are at the First Unitarian Society. It's a beautiful venue, and I'm eager to hear your thoughts on the new setting.

Vice President Sarah did a stellar job organizing our volunteer sign-up at the annual meeting. In addition to program committees, many of you stepped up for other key roles. Again, thank you all for making our little congregation work with the polish of a larger shul.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the High Holidays and throughout the new program year.

## *2025 Or Emet Annual Meeting Report by Jeff Pipes and Arty Dorman*

We held the annual meeting with 45 members present and recognized our wonderful teaching staff and Jewish Cultural Sunday School (JCSS) director. They, along with their students, are the heart and future of Or Emet.

Our largest event of the year was the Installation of Rabbi Eva Cohen, joined by Rabbi Adam Chalom, Rabbi Eva's mentor and dean of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism. A special thank you to Barry Cohen who chaired the committee and Allan Miller who engaged a public relations consultant with a generous gift to Or Emet.

Our congregation grew with 21 new memberships over two years, and a 93% renewal rate. We celebrated two youth B Mitzvahs, four adult B Mitzvahs, and five youth B Mitzvahs will occur in 2026.

Social Justice/Social Action Committee held a Reverse Tashlich; delivered Hanukkah gift bags to Jewish elders at care facilities through Jewish Family Services; began quarterly meal preparation for Loaves & Fishes, joined in "Hands Off" March, and "No Kings" rally and planned participation in the Pride Parade.

Food was collected during the High Holidays and delivered to the food shelf at Hallie Q Brown Community Services and at the Passover Seder to Neighborhood House. The Mitten Menorah collected warm winter clothing at the Hanukkah Party that was donated to Neighborhood House. The committee continues collecting empty prescription containers and personal care items for Listening House Outreach.

In addition to our many special events, activities included the annual new and prospective Member Brunch, a series of three classes titled "Introduction to Judaism Through a Humanistic Lens" conducted by Rabbi Eva at Rondo Community library, and co-sponsorship of the National Day of Religious Freedom at the state capital.

The Executive Committee managed our finances effectively and a transitional model for membership fees offered members the opportunity to join at tiered rates that provide an opportunity to contribute more if ability allows, enabling us to welcome those whose circumstances require them to pay less. The "President's Challenge" fund-raising program raised \$39,000. Seth expressed thanks to everyone who worked with him during his tenure as Or Emet's Treasurer and reported that our cash reserves as of May 30, 2025 were \$118,403.

The year was saddened by the loss of long-time members David Fox, Gwyn Leder, and Louise Jones. May their memories be a blessing.

Rabbi Eva Cohen provided a detailed accounting of her working hours during the past year, which were higher than projected, as we set up a structure for a rabbi working with the congregation, including joining groups such as the Minnesota Rabbinical Association, the installation event, and marketing her presence in the community. The budget for 2025-2026 needs to be larger, primarily due to a need to increase Rabbi Eva's position from .4 FTE to .5 FTE, and increased rental cost for the High Holidays.

### **Election Results 2025-2026 Or Emet Officers**

President: Jeff Pipes

Vice President: Sarah Berman-Young

Treasurer: Sergei Rakhmanov - elected to 3-year term

At-Large 1: Judy Tiferes

At-Large 2: Megan Narvey - re-elected to a 2-year term

Jeff Pipes, Sarah Berman-Young and Judy Tiferes are starting the 2nd year of 2 year terms.



*Dr. Harold Londer Or Emet Co-Founder - 5th Yahrzeit*  
*Dr. Larry Garfin Or Emet Co-Founder - 32nd Yahrzeit*



by Joan Barnett

**Dr. Harold Londer** was committed to leading Or Emet from its founding until his death on July 29, 2020. On the occasion of Harold's 5th Yahrzeit, we celebrate his memory and reflect on his pivotal role in the life of Or Emet. He dedicated himself to building the Or Emet community and bringing Humanistic Jewish observances into the lives of so many people. Our congregation would not exist as it does were it not for Harold's vision, energy, and dedication.

That Or Emet's 2025 High Holiday services will be at The First Unitarian Society directly connects to our history since the First Unitarian Society played a key role in the creation of Or Emet.



In 1983 or 1984 Dr. Londer first learned about Humanistic Judaism at First Unitarian Society when he attended a presentation by Rabbi Sherwin Wine, founder of Humanistic Judaism. As Harold learned about Rabbi Wine's teachings, he was "excited to discover a Judaism" he hadn't realized "could exist." As Harold's interest grew, he became convinced he had found a "religious home." Dr. Larry Garfin was similarly taken with this "new" Jewish observance.



Rabbi Eva and Harold  
in 2017

**Drs. Larry Garfin and Londer** soon began co-chairing an interest group that met in homes, had services in other venues, and eventually evolved into the current format. Drs. Londer and Garfin jointly led the congregation until Larry's untimely death on June 14, 1993 at the age of 58. After Larry's death, Harold continued leading Or Emet until his own death in 2020.

Over the years, Harold inspired and mentored Eva Cohen. Now, Rabbi Eva Cohen is carrying on Harold's legacy and a memorial fund supports her Or Emet work. On the occasion of Harold and Larry's Yahrzeits, we invite you to honor their memories by supporting Or Emet with your volunteerism and contributions to the Rabbi Fund. Help our community continue to grow, endure, and build on our founders' vision!

The Or Emet Rabbi Fund (*in memory of Dr. Harold Londer*) was created in keeping with Harold's commitment to Or Emet and Humanistic Judaism.

We don't know when or if The Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, Or Emet, would have been created if Dr. Londer hadn't met — and been inspired by Rabbi Wine — at the First Unitarian Society 40+ years ago.

#### Contacting Rabbi Eva Cohen: Tips

*The Executive and Rabbi Liaison Committees have been working to lighten Rabbi Eva's pastoral workload for 2025-26. As you know from the annual meeting report, our rabbi far exceeded her allotted hours in 2024-25. In light of that, we want to remind everyone that her role is part-time and offer the following guidance for contacting her:*

Every now and then something comes up and you want to ask the rabbi a question. It may not be possible to ask that question when it pops up—given that Rabbi Eva is at work for us 24 hours a week, not 24 hours a day — but you do have these good options.

When it is NOT an emergency . . .

Rabbi Eva may be contacted directly by email at [rabbi@oremnet.org](mailto:rabbi@oremnet.org). She will definitely respond as quickly as she is able, but know that these non-urgent emails will be answered in order of priority during her weekly work hours. You may also call the Or Emet phone: 612 787 7812. Leave a voice message with your question or tell your question to the person who answers. Either way, your concern will be sent on quickly to Rabbi Eva for her response. If your concern is private or confidential, just indicate that you would like Rabbi Eva to contact you about a private matter.

When it IS an emergency . . .

Rabbi Eva will make every effort to take your call or respond via phone or e-mail as soon as she can. Rabbi Eva's personal cell phone is **only** for an emergency or if you and she have pre-scheduled a call.





## Social Justice/Social Action Committee Update

Howard Schneider, Committee Chair



### Traditional Tashlich Observance — September 23

Or Emet has long observed Rosh Hashanah Tashlich with a lakeside gathering. This is an opportunity to symbolically cast away negative thoughts, feelings, and behaviors so we can identify positive changes and move forward into the new year.

### Or Emet's 2025 Reverse Tashlich Event — Cancelled

#### REVERSE TASHLICH: *Repair the Sea, Lake, River* | *Tikkun HaYam*

This would have been our 4th Reverse Tashlich. However, several committee members were unable to do organizational work and/or participate on the day. We'll be back to discuss 2026... whether to re-start Reverse Tashlich or to undertake other environmental activities.



**Loaves & Fishes serves free,  
healthy meals to Minnesotans  
where the need is greatest.**

Loaves and Fishes is a new program! Or Emet has committed to volunteer four times a year on the 3rd Wednesdays of February, May, August, and November — at Holy Rosary Church in Minneapolis.

Our work involves packaging meals for distribution and cleaning up after meal service.

Shift #1 2:30 - 5:00 pm — involves getting the entrée ready and starting to prepare the “take-out” boxes.

Shift #2 4:30 - 7:00 pm — involves completing the “take-out” boxes which are piled on large carts.

Then we clean up stoves, pots, and pans, utensils, work surfaces, tables, and the floor.

It's enjoyable to work together and, most important, it puts in practice our highest values.

— If interested in volunteering, email Howard Schneider [hamptonmeadow@msn.com](mailto:hamptonmeadow@msn.com)

## COLLECTIONS OF FOOD / PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

### Hallie Q. Brown Community Center — High Holiday Donations

At High Holiday events we will collect food and personal care items for Hallie Q. Brown Community Center. Established in 1929 with a focus on the Rondo community and the broader Twin Cities Metro area, Hallie Q. Brown operates a variety of programs, which address the needs of community residents.

— We'll accept donations at Rosh Hashanah (September 23), Kol Nidre (October 1), Yom Kippur (October 2).

Grocery items needed include canned tuna/chicken/sardines, beans, Spam, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, coffee/tea, flour/sugar and non-food items, such as pet food and personal hygiene products.

— Would you prefer to donate financially? That's also a good option.

### Listening House — Shabbat and Sunday program donations

Or Emet members have collected personal care products at Shabbat and Sunday programs for Listening House clients for many years. Listening House is a *St. Paul daytime shelter for people experiencing poverty, homelessness, and loneliness*. Needed personal care products include small and/or travel-size items, and empty pill bottles. Additionally, dental care packets are especially helpful. The December 7th Shabbat program will be presented by a Listening House staff member (more information on page 13).

*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

Molly Phipps, JCSS Director



### THE 2025-2026 JCSS YEAR IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

Classes meet at Twin Cities German Immersion School  
1031 Como Ave., St. Paul.

*We're excited to welcome students to  
Or Emet's Jewish Cultural Sunday School!*



The first class meets on September 14 @10 am - 12 noon. There is also an adult program at the same time.

#### Classes:

- Littles - led by Ian Zukor with a teacher's assistant
- Middles. - led by Colline Roland with a teacher's assistant
- Juniors - will be led by a new teacher and teaching assistant
- B Mitzvah prep - led by Rabbi Cohen

*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@oremnet.org](mailto:school@oremnet.org).*

## 2025 B Mitzvah Celebrations

*At each B Mitzvah, the candidate reports about their special project.  
The highlights of each celebrant's project are featured here.*

*by Jeff Pipes*

This spring and summer, four members of our congregation, Allan Malkis, Jeff Pipes, Megan Brakob Narvey, and Richard Logan marked the completion of their adult B Mitzvah journeys. They began studies with Rabbi Eva in January 2023, becoming the first cohort in our congregation's new adult B Mitzvah program. A second group is now nearing the end of their studies as well.

Over the past two and a half years, the cohort met twice a month with Rabbi Eva. In her gentle Socratic style, she led them through a rich and thought-provoking curriculum: from the history and philosophy of Judaism and Humanistic Judaism, to the role of foundational Jewish texts, how to read those texts with a critical and curious mind, to candid conversations about Israel and the Palestinian conflict. She also guided the group through a Torah commentary class and then met with each of us individually to plan our ceremonies and help guide us in the creation of our personal projects that connected Jewish learning to each of our unique passions.

For all of us in the program, the experience was transformative. Whether we were born into Judaism or joined it later in life, this life cycle milestone offered something rare: the chance to step back from the demands of daily life, from the practical tasks of volunteering with the congregation, and from the familiar rhythms of our Jewish lives, to immerse ourselves deeply in study and reflection. Our projects became bridges, linking our personal passions with our Jewish identities in ways that deepened both and grounded our lives in new meaning.

Mazel Tov to our graduates — and may their journeys inspire others in our community to consider taking this path of learning, questioning, and celebration.

## 2025 B Mitzvah Celebrations . . . continued

### Megan Brakob Narvey — Bat Mitzvah on April 19



Megan and  
her father

#### Project: Sew Jewish: the History of Jewish Women's Embroidery Practices

Is there a "Jewish" style of fiber art? Through a study of literature and material culture, I found that embroidered ritual objects are found across history throughout the Jewish diaspora. Jewish embroidery was practiced by both men and women professionally and privately, for both the home and temple. There are Jewish artists who continue to practice this tradition.

Megan created a matzo cover and donated it to Or Emet.

Added extra! Grant and Megan welcomed baby Milo on May 31! More info on page 12.



Grant, Megan, Rabbi Eva

Photo: Grant, Megan, Rabbi Eva  
Megan is holding the matzo  
cover she created - shown in  
photo to the right.



### Jeff Pipes — Bar Mitzvah on May 24

#### Project: Wine in Judaism - L'Chaim

Jeff's project was researching and learning about wine's role and history in Judaism.



He described how wine has long been central to Jewish life — ritual and everyday — symbolizing joy, sanctity, and connection to tradition.

Jeff shared four Kosher wines in a directed wine-tasting.

He focused on:

- Jewish laws for producing Kosher wines
- where the grapes for these wine came from in Israel
- how the Kosher winemaking techniques for each were slightly different.



Attendees tasted and compared Kosher wines with several wines that Jeff and Florence produced in California. They educated about basic winemaking science and how the *terroir* (climate, aspect, soil, latitude and elevation, etc.) impact wine quality.

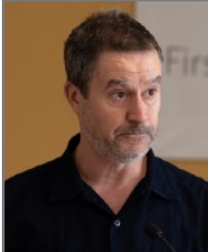


## 2025 B Mitzvah Celebrations . . . continued

### Richard Logan — Bar Mitzvah on August 2

#### *Project: Jewish Culture*

Richard told the story of the many Jews he happened to encounter in his life who personified the following themes:



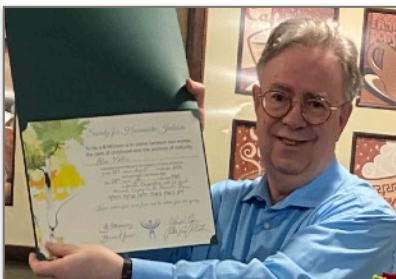
- Marginality
- Community
- Being learned
- Being perceptive
- Having a verbal identity
- Jewish argument/debate
- Historical memory
- Adaptability
- Empathy for other marginal people
- Moral reasoning

Richard chose to focus on how these qualities were demonstrated by important people in his life rather than “going full academic.”

An especially rewarding highlight for Richard was seeing so many good old friends attend his Bar Mitzvah.

### Allan Malkis — Bar Mitzvah on August 22

#### *Project: Two Jewish Critics of Zionism*



**Rabbi Aaron Samuel Tamares** was a Polish rabbi and a dedicated pacifist. He initially was supportive of Zionism but changed his mind when he realized that Herzl was dedicated to creating a state. Tamares considered states oppressive, divisive and the causes of war. He also wondered why Europeans wanted Palestinians to suffer so that Europeans could atone for antisemitism.



**Don Peretz** was an American-born son of Sephardi Zionists. Introduced to pacifism by a Quaker professor in college, he worked for the American Friends Service Committee. While studying at Hebrew University in 1946-8 he supported a bi-national state in Palestine, but became disenchanted by the racism and prejudice against Arabs during the 1948 war.

Peretz later provided services to Palestinian refugees both within Israel and in Beirut and wrote influential pamphlets and books disputing Israeli claims that they were “voluntary” refugees. He wrote that solving the refugee problem was key to achieving peace in the Middle East.



## *Life Cycle Events Update*

Already in 2025 Rabbi Cohen has officiated in a variety of life cycle ceremonies for Or Emet members — a wedding, a Humanistic Jewish adoption, memorials/funeral, celebration of life, B Mitzvah services and celebrations, and a baby naming. Mazel Tov to our newlyweds, our new Jew-by-choice, B Mitzvahs, and new parents. Sending comfort to those who are mourning.

During the balance of 2025 Rabbi Cohen will continue leading ceremonies. She will officiate in at least one Humanistic Jewish adoption (with associated rituals), a baby naming, and Muriel Sterne's memorial service — likely to be in November.

So far in 2026, we are looking forward to four youth B Mitzvah services and four adult B Mitzvah services (some adults may defer until 2027).

## *Caring Circle*



### **IF YOU DON'T SHOW UP WILL ANYONE NOTICE?**

This is not a question for angst-ridden adolescents but for everyone living alone because incapacitating accidents happen at home. If you live alone, have you arranged that someone, a nonprofit, or business will check on your welfare on a **daily** basis? Or Emet's Caring Circle (CC) offers periodic sympathetic support to members in times of illness, loss, and crisis after notification. However, individuals living alone must recognize that frequent contacts with fellow workers, friends, or Caring Circle may not occur for several days or more when there's an immediate need for a first responder.

Caring Circle's concern in this message is for individuals living alone experiencing the most dire circumstance: an inability to summon help. A browser or verified AI search on "daily welfare check services" will provide numerous commercial and nonprofit options. Realize there are trade-offs on which option is selected, such as, but not limited to:

- Wearable alert systems will recognize falls but won't activate if you have a stroke in bed.
- Some welfare alert systems require a conscious person after a fall to push a button to summon help.
- A daily check-in does not monitor throughout the day.
- Watches with fall detection require recharging.

Caring Circle offers questions to consider, in addition to cost, when reviewing choices:

- Is there constant monitoring through a wearable or daily check-in?
- For a constant fall monitor, how soon will an automatic alert be sent to the first responder?
- If a customer is not responding to a daily check-in, how long is the wait before the service activates the follow up protocol?
- If daily, consider levels for assistance to be activated:
- Number of times scheduled for check-in? (Morning only; morning and evening?)
- Who initiates check-in: customer or business?
- If no response, next step:
  - Contact an identified friend: Text? Email? Phone call?
  - What is the extent of company/nonprofit responsibility?
- If, or when, they contact local first responder
- Amount of information given to first responders, e.g.: keypad entry number

*If you are unaware of Caring Circle and would like additional information as a recipient or a volunteer, contact Janet at [caringcircle@oremet.org](mailto:caringcircle@oremet.org)*

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

## Member Article

### **Looking Back** by Alan Miller

How fortunate I have been to make it to 91 in what used to be the greatest country and greatest democracy in the world.

I was eating strawberries earlier today, and I wondered if strawberries will still be available when the people who pick them have been thrown out of the country. We were told that the administration was deporting illegal immigrants because they were "criminals and rapists." The truth is, however, that people who have lived here for decades, peacefully with no criminal records, and who want nothing more than to enjoy the fruits of what this nation has to offer, are being deported to countries that they no longer have any connection with. And what about their families? What does this set as an example for their children?

In my lifetime, I have enjoyed the best of what this country offered, and have sometimes endured the worst, but as a "white" American I was always two rungs up on the ladder. What made this country what it is, is because it is a melting pot. We are unique because we have been able to tap some of the best of what the world has to offer. Segregating us back to a white America, where skin color becomes a measure of what you are, is a step back 200 years. I never thought I would live to see it; masked thugs marauding like the Gestapo, violently seizing people without warrants and then depriving them of due process under the law.

How can people go to sleep at night when watching children starving, not only in this country, but all over the world, while surplus food rots in storehouses? How can you be a part of cutting back on healthcare knowing that many will die? If you are a legislator, how can you ignore your oath of office and fealty to the Constitution, one of the greatest documents ever conceived? How can you be a party to deprive the populace of the right to vote, or make voting more difficult instead of looking upon that right as a vaunted privilege? How can you attack education rather than extol it and seek to improve it for the benefit of all?

How much money is enough? What are you going to do with it after you're gone? Too few billionaires seem to see the example set by the very few who share, who donate, who want to make this a better place. Wealth is not a contest where you win by having the most. That's for sports contests, not for a measure of life. Greed will never exceed conscience.

In many respects I look upon my vision of the American dream, as something that has turned into a nightmare for millions. I never believed it would come to this.

### **Or Emet's Crop Artist at the Minnesota State Fair**

Since 1998, **Laura Melnick** has created amazing crop art. Laura's goal with her work is to "say something heavy in a light way." Her creations consistently receive winning ribbons for compositions featuring timely topics with a humorous perspective.

**"Thurgood Marshall" received a blue ribbon**

**Thurgood Marshall is Laura's "hero."**



**"Wile E Coyote" received a red ribbon**

Laura's description: *"kitschy irreverence with a little levity to weather unbearable political storms."*



## Donations

Thank  
You!

**Contributors to the Or Emet Rabbi Fund** (*in memory of Dr. Harold Londer*) *In support of Rabbi Eva Cohen*

Sergei Rakhmanov and Sarah Ruiz  
Lena Olson  
Michal Moskow  
Susan Weinberg

### **For Or Emet's General Fund**

Michal Moskow  
Stu Abraham  
Donald Leeper

### **In celebration of Richard Logan's Bar Mitzvah**

Joan Barnett  
Natalie Rosinsky and Don Larsson  
Anne Handley  
Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke  
Jane and Jack Katz  
Michealyn Kvasnik

### **In celebration of Jeff Pipes' Bar Mitzvah**

Joan Barnett  
Natalie Rosinsky and Don Larsson

### **In celebration of Allan Malkis' Bar Mitzvah**

Joan Barnett  
Natalie Rosinsky and Don Larsson  
Jeff Pipes  
Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke

### **In celebration of Megan Brakob Narvey's Bat Mitzvah**

Joan Barnett  
Natalie Rosinsky and Don Larsson  
Jeff Pipes

### **To celebrate Natalie Rosinsky and Don Larsson's 50th wedding anniversary**

Joan Barnett

### **To celebrate the birth of Milo Hans Brakob Narvey, son of Grant and Megan Brakob Narvey**

Joan Barnett

### **In memory of Muriel Sterne**

Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke  
Joan Barnett

### **In memory of David Fox**

Arty Dorman  
Joan Barnett  
Natalie Rosinsky and Don Larsson

### **In memory of Gwyn Leder**

Joan Barnett  
Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke

Or Emet's **Fundraising Drive** donations to the Or Emet Rabbi Fund — *in memory of Dr. Harold Londer* — support Rabbi Eva Cohen's position. These contributions will help ensure the congregation continues to benefit from her inspiring leadership.

Donations may be made via [GiveButter](#), through Or Emet's website [oremnet.org](http://oremnet.org), or by sending a check to Sergei Rakhmanov, Or Emet Treasurer, 1957 Bayard Ave. St. Paul 55116

## *in Memoriam*

Louise Jones - died January 15, 2025  
Jonathan Sterne (Muriel Sterne's son) - died March 20, 2025  
David Fox - died March 26, 2025  
Gwyneth (Gwyn) Leder - died June 16, 2025  
Muriel Sterne - died July 31, 2025

*May their memories be a blessing.*



## Member News | Simchas and Tsuris



**Steve Drucker**, a chemistry professor at UW-Eau Claire, supervised a research project that was reported in the article “Resonance-Enhanced Multiphoton Ionization Spectrum and Computational Study of 2-Cyclopenten-1-one in Its  $T_1(n, \pi^*)$  State.” The article was published in *The Journal of Physical Chemistry A* in June.

**Susan Weinberg** was elected President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). IAJGS is an association of over 85 Jewish genealogical societies around the world supporting individuals in exploring their Jewish heritage.



**Milo Hans Brakob Narvey arrived on May 31**

Megan and Grant Brakob Narvey are Milo’s adoring parents.

Rabbi Eva officiated at Milo’s baby naming ceremony on August 23

**Natalie Rosinsky and Don Larsson** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August.

**Sarah Berman-Young** renewed her *Certified Humanist Celebrant* professional credentials.

**Barry Cohen and Molly Wilbur-Cohen** each traveled to Philadelphia for their daughter Julia Revilla's baby shower on July 26. Julia and Hector’s baby is due in September. The shower was a wonderful gathering of families and in-laws. Molly and her partner, Gary Ash, made it there on a road trip and had fun along the way.

**Gwen Pipes**, a PhD candidate at UW Madison, just received a grant from the Joint Genome Institute and Department of Energy to support some unique studies of how viruses may impact the bio-geochemistry of carbon in soil systems. She calls this "career making/changing!!!"

**Margo Fox** shared the following: “Heartfelt appreciation for all you’ve done these past few years to bring cheer to David (and to me). Adding my voice to David’s song makes it: *We’ll be Loving You, Always.*”

## Special Events / September - December 2025

**Or Emet Book Club | September 7, 2025 | 10:30 a.m. - noon | Location TBA**

“*Stolen Beauty*” by Lauri-Lico Albanes will be discussed.

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

**Friday | November 21 | Yiddish Shabbos | time and place TBD**

An evening of learning Yiddish songs — and doing — Yiddish dances.

**Or Emet 2025 High Holiday Schedule of Events**

Complete information on back page

**Study Group via Zoom: Contemporary Humanistic Judaism | September 17 | 7 pm**

The group focuses on Rabbi Chalom’s book “Contemporary Humanistic Judaism — Beliefs, Values, Practices”

Contact Allan Malkis to attend and/or with questions: [amalkis51@gmail.com](mailto:amalkis51@gmail.com)



**Hanukkah Party | Sunday | December 14 | Time TBD**

**at First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis | 900 Mt. Curve Ave.**

Or Emet members and guests are welcome!

**SHABBAT PROGRAMS**

Shabbat programs meet at the **Minnesota JCC Sabes Center**, 4330 S. Cedar Lake Rd., St. Louis Park.

Programs include a brief Humanistic Shabbat service and are followed by social time.

**Friday | September 5 | 7:30 - 9 pm**

**Program:** *American Democracy in the Age of Trump*

**Presenter:** Professor David Schultz, distinguished professor in the departments of political science, environmental studies and legal studies at Hamline University; adjunct professor of law at the University of Minnesota and the University of St. Thomas; affiliate faculty member at the Lithuanian Military Academy in Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Friday | October 24 | 7:30 - 9 pm**

**Program:** *"The State of the State: 2SLGBTQIA+ Rights in Minnesota"* (2SLGBTQIA+ stands for "Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual")

**Presenter:** Matt Lewellyn-Otten, M.Div, MPA; Director of Organizing, OutFront Minnesota

**Friday | November 21**

Yiddish Shabbos — time and place TBD  
An evening of learning Yiddish songs and dances

**Saturday | December 20 | 10 - 11:30 am**

**Program:** An inside look at BRKFST's ground-breaking multicultural, BIPOC group  
**Presenter:** Lisa Berman, Co-founder and Co-artistic Director of BRKFST Dance Company

**SUNDAY PROGRAMS**

Sunday programs are at:

**Twin Cities German Immersion School**

1031 Como Ave, St. Paul.

Adult programs meet concurrently with Jewish Cultural Sunday School classes.

Programs conclude with social time for everyone.

**Sunday | September 14 | 10 am - noon**

**Program:** How a Minneapolis native transitions from actor to playwright with *American Golem*:

*The Kid Cann Story*

**Presenter:** Ryan London Levin, accomplished actor, now stepping into the role of playwright

**Sunday | October 12 | 10 am - noon**

**Program:** *The Secret Lives of "Or Emeters"*

**Presenters:** Arty Dorman and co-presenter(s) TBD

**Sunday | November 9 | 10 am - noon**

**Program: Thanksgiving: From Thankfulness to Taking Action** 1. How thankfulness can move us to take action on behalf of those who are less fortunate  
2. Kristallnacht anniversary: How thankfulness for survival may be a springboard to action.

**Presenters:** Michal Moscow and Arty Dorman, Or Emet members

**Sunday | December 7 | 10 am - noon**

**Program:** *Lessons From Listening House*

**Presenter:** Listening House leadership team member

***Reminder!***

We continue to collect empty pill bottles and personal care items for clients at Listening House, a St. Paul drop-in center. Donations are gratefully accepted at all Shabbat and Sunday programs.

**Kids Guernica project by Michal Moscow**

To commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee (SPNSCC) organization, **Rosalie and Leela King** are participating in the Kids-Guernica Project. The project is an opportunity for children from different countries to use art as a vehicle for peacemaking. The project gives these children the opportunity to work together, using art as a vehicle for peacemaking, and hope for the future.

The 10 by 17 foot mural was begun by children in Nagasaki and completed by American and Japanese students in St. Paul working together. The mural was displayed at the History Center in August.



The SPNSCC was the first sister city organization between American and Asian cities. <https://www.stpaulnagasaki.org/blog/kids-guernica> [www.kids-guernica.org](http://www.kids-guernica.org)

## OR EMET 2025 HIGH HOLIDAY EVENTS

High Holiday Services will be at  
**A NEW LOCATION**  
First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis  
900 Mt Curve Ave.

Services *will be led by Or Emet Rabbi Eva Cohen*  
*~ offered virtually and in person ~*



### **Rosh Hashanah Service**

Monday | September 22 | 7 pm  
Oneg following the service

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

Tuesday | September 23 | 10:30 am | location TBA

### **Reverse Tashlich**

2025 event **cancelled**  
(more information on page 5)

### **Kol Nidre Service**

Wednesday | October 1 | 7 pm

### **Yom Kippur Service**

Thursday | October 2 | 4 pm

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

At conclusion of the Yom Kippur service  
— reservations required

In keeping with Or Emet tradition, we collect nonperishable food and personal hygiene items at High Holiday events. Donations will be shared with Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.  
Additional information on page 5.

