I am a baby boomer, a post-war baby, the child of parents whose lives were shaped by the Great Depression and WWII. They instilled in me values that I now understand to be both humanistic and Jewish, values that I live, values that I sought to pass on to my children. They are the values of Humanistic Judaism — human responsibility, dignity, equality, justice.

As Humanistic Jews, we have a role to play in society, a role that harkens back to the movements of the last century — Civil Rights, anti-war, women’s lib, workers’ rights, choice, gay rights — movements that were marked by battles waged by people who accepted responsibility, that embody struggles that continue to this day. It’s time for us to take responsibility, to stand up and be heard. It’s time for us to say “Enough!”

If we truly believe in a right to human dignity, to equality, to freedom, we cannot allow religious fundamentalists to impose their religious beliefs on our government. When presidential candidates issue a national call to prayer, when the United States celebrates a national day of prayer, when student-led prayer is allowed at public school events, the lines between church and state become blurred. As Humanistic Jews, “we affirm not only the freedom to practice religion as one chooses, but also the freedom not to practice any religion and not to be subjected to government action that supports any particular religion or that favors religion, in general, over nonreligion” (SHJ Statement Supporting the Separation of Church and State, 2006). It’s time to say “Enough!”

As Humanistic Jews, we believe that “all people have the fundamental right to freely determine the course of their own lives and to control the use of their own bodies” (SHJ Statement in Support of Reproductive Choice, 1996). As religious fundamentalists seek to chip away at the rights guaranteed by Roe v. Wade, we must make our voice heard. Defunding Planned Parenthood and other clinics threatens the health and well-being of women and families, especially the poor. Preventing health insurance from covering abortions and family planning would turn back the clock to a time of back alley abortions. It is time for us to say “Enough!”

As Humanistic Jews, we believe that dignity and equality demand that all people have the right to marry the person they love. We support “the legal recognition of marriage and divorce between adults of the same sex, and affirm the value of marriage between any two committed adults” (SHJ Statement in Support of Marriage Equality, 2004). While many countries, including Canada, allow same-sex marriage, religious fundamentalists in the U.S. continue to fight against any law recognizing same-sex marriage. It’s time to make our voice heard. It’s time to say “Enough!”

As Humanistic Jews, we believe that all workers have a right “to earn a fair wage and enjoy safe and reasonable working conditions as an expression of their human dignity” (SHJ Statement in Support of Workers’ Rights, 2011). Workers’ safety and security is being threatened by the ongoing attempts to end workers’ right to bargain collectively. It’s time to say “Enough!”

As Humanistic Jews, we are committed to ensuring that the rights won during the battles of the past century are not lost. We accept the responsibility to continue the battle when those rights are threatened. We have an obligation to speak out, to write letters, to join protest marches and rallies, to make our voice heard. It’s time to say “Enough!”
Do you think people should put their money where their mouth is? Many of us do, but many of us don’t. We believe in Humanistic Judaism. Many of us contribute generously to our local congregation, havurah or community and to the Society for Humanistic Judaism. If that’s you, thanks! If you’ve told an SHJ board member, when we call, that you can’t give right now… well… other things catch our attention or are worthy priorities.

What? No one has called you? That’s my fault (Cue Jewish guilt music).

As the new director for Finance and Development, I’ve inherited the job of organizing SHJ’s twice-a-year phone-a-thon. At the spring and fall meetings of the SHJ Board of Directors, our tradition is that each board member calls members of the SHJ to request a donation. Our goal is to call everyone… no, on second thought, our goal is to obtain a donation from everyone. But sometimes we don’t even call everyone. Much as I’d like to blame George W. Bush, or the East Coast earthquake, the Tea Party, or wrong-thinking Democrats, I've had this job for nearly a year. I, as an SHJ board member, have an obligation to you, to call and ask your opinions on what your organization is doing, and what you’d like us to do for you, your children, or humanity.

I’m writing to alert you to expect a call — yes, to your home — the last week in October. The person calling is someone who thinks and feels as you do about Humanistic Jewish values and traditions, preserving Jewish identity and Jewish culture while emphasizing rationality, personal autonomy and feminism. On the phone, we’ll explain further what SHJ does with donations and how useful they are to the cause of Humanistic Judaism. In this limited space, let me mention:

- SHJ nurtures developing communities. This year, communities in Columbus, Ohio; Baltimore, Maryland and southwest Florida have become affiliates of the SHJ.
- SHJ sponsors the annual HuJews Conclave, a wildly successful gathering of Humanistic Jewish young people, connecting members of the next generation from across North America. The 2011 Conclave in Chicago, IL, will be topped only by the 2012 Conclave in Washington, DC.
- SHJ rabbis and other leaders visit communities dozens of times a year, cross-fertilizing us with ideas, activities and energy from elsewhere.

If you ❤️ SHJ, please contribute when we call, and if we miss you, please respond to the letter you receive. Don’t put it off to another day.

Larry M. Lawrence
Finance and Development Chair

Humanorah is a publication of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, a non-profit organization that mobilizes people to celebrate Jewish identity and culture consistent with a humanistic philosophy of life.

Humanorah is sent to members of the Society for Humanistic Judaism as a benefit of membership. Membership in the Society for Humanistic Judaism is $95 per year. Members of SHJ affiliated communities receive all benefits of SHJ membership. Membership is tax deductible as provided by law.

President: Lou Altman
Executive Director: Bonnie Cousens
Rabbi: Miriam Jerris
Editor/Designer: Harriet Maza

Address all inquiries about Humanorah to the Society for Humanistic Judaism, 28611 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI, 48334, 248/478-7610, Fax: 248/478-3159, E-mail: harrietmaza@shj.org or info@shj.org for general questions, Web page: www.shj.org.
Attracting new members and getting enough income are two of the major challenges facing almost every congregation. Kol Shalom Community for Humanistic Judaism in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area employs approaches to each of these that have been helpful and easy to do.

For membership recruitment, we borrowed a tip from Beth Adam in Florida. Three or four times a year we hold an informational meeting in a public library, open to the public and announced in newspaper calendars and posted flyers. We’ve used the free meeting rooms in libraries in various sections of the city and suburbs, and have been pleasantly surprised when about ten people wander in—people we’d never heard of before. We have a display table with SHJ books, sample Haggadahs and High Holidays service booklets, and lots of information for people to take…plus, of course, a sign-up sheet with a place to check if they’d like to get three complimentary monthly newsletters.

Our usual tactic is to place chairs in a circle and ask people to introduce themselves with some background information. There’s a table for cookies and juice. We show the DVD of one of the interviews of Rabbi Wine by Walter Hellman, made in 1996. This is followed by questions, reactions, and general discussion. For many years we’ve also held “get-acquainted socials” in a member’s home, very similar to the library format but for potential members we’ve already met. At the library meetings, many people learn about us for the first time, and several have joined.

Our ongoing fund-raising effort is the “Scrip” program, thanks to the dedication of Larry and Ann Kruss, who do all the work. The local Scrip Center serves the public schools and other non-profits wanting to participate. The Center signs up commercial establishments who offer gift cards and paper “scrip” to be used as cash. Our monthly newsletters contain an order form listing all the participating groceries, restaurants, department stores, specialty stores—a large range. We call in our orders to the Krusses, who place a group order with the Scrip Center for a $10 fee, pick up the scrip and gift cards two days later, and distribute them to the buyers. Buyers pay face value for the cards and scrip, and the Scrip Center returns to Kol Shalom a certain percentage, ranging from 4% at many stores and businesses and up to 15% at a few.

If I expect to spend $300 at grocery stores in a month, $50 for miscellaneous items of many kinds, $30 at bookstores, $50 at restaurants, and $25 for a gift card for someone (dinner, books, or whatever), that adds up to $455 for a month that I would spend anyhow. If I use Scrip to buy these things, and the average return is 5%, Kol Shalom gets $23.75 at no extra cost to anyone and not a lot of effort. Now suppose that half of our membership does this. Kol Shalom gets $1,796.25. And if we keep it up for a year, it adds up to $9,599! So far, we haven’t reached the level of participation needed to bring in that much; but it’s not outside the realm of possibility, and every dollar helps!

by Jane Goldhamer, founder Kol Shalom, Portland
Notes from Around the Globe continued

SOCIAL ACTION STANCE BRINGS MEMBERS TO OR EMET

Or Emet, Minnesota’s Congregation for Humanistic Judaism completed its 2010-11 year in great form, adding a couple of new families to our roster and bringing our membership to 57 households, the most we have ever had.

We know members come to us for a variety of reasons: for our excellent Jewish Cultural School, our warm and welcoming community, our outstanding programs and speakers, and our Humanistic services and holiday celebrations, including the High Holidays, a joyous Hanukkah party (proving we are indeed the Land of 10,000 Latkes), and our deeply meaningful community seder.

People also join our ranks because of our engagement in social justice issues and actions that promote universal well-being and stewardship of the earth.

The Or Emet Social Justice/Action Committee worked throughout the year. At each service and adult program we collected hotel-size shampoos and soaps, toothbrushes and toothpaste, socks, hats, gloves, and personal care items of all types, which were distributed to clients of Listening House, a drop-in day center in downtown St. Paul for homeless individuals and others needing shelter and a place to talk to a friendly, non-judging human being.

We also worked with our Jewish Cultural School students, who raised money for Olive Trees for Peace, a project to replace olive trees that were destroyed by the forces of conflict in the West Bank.

The Social Justice/Action Committee worked with our Program Committee to arrange for a speaker from Minnesota J Street, who spoke about bringing about lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

We considered positions on issues proposed by the SHJ Ethical Concerns Committee and made recommendations which were then forwarded to SHJ.

The committee also makes members aware of events in the greater community that fall within the scope of concerns we share as Humanistic Jews.

With no end in sight to the needs that must be met and issues which must be addressed in pursuit of a just society and sustainable world, we expect our Social Justice/Action Committee will continue to be a major reason that a growing number of Humanistic Jews are joining the Or Emet community.

by Arty Dorman, Minnesota

SCHOOL YEAR ENDS WITH A MARSHMALLOWS-BUT-NOT-ANTS PICNIC FOR BETH ADAM

When you mix bocce ball, horse shoes, toasted marshmallows, hamburgers and Arny Pickholtz’s music you have a wonderful picnic. The sun was shining and the charcoal grill was the focus as congregation members cooked their way to tasty meals. It was one of those very happy occasions that will be memorable for the children and all the members of Congregation Beth Adam.

The picnic atmosphere was everywhere. Jewish children learning the old and hallowed Italian sport of bocce ball was impressive and they really took to it. Others played horseshoes and various ball games. The older congregation members had a day of food, music and good conversation.

We thank all the folks who came to honor our school kids, sing along with them and enjoy the wonderful weather.

The day started with the Israeli National Anthem followed by the Sunday School children reading essays about their learning experiences and then presenting a humorous skit. They were awarded with certificates of completion, character and academic awards and words of praise from their teachers. Parents also spoke with appreciation: for the school environment and the teaching of Jewish history and culture to their very receptive children.

Everybody loves a picnic so we will do it more often, and we will never forget the marshmallows.

by Irwin Cohn, president, Boca Raton, FL
Kol Hadash, Northern California, sponsors several public programs, notably free monthly celebrations of Shabbat and monthly Sunday morning bagel brunches. At the latter, we nosh, schmooze, and enjoy programs of general interest.

Sensing that our members had an appetite for more substantive programs, Dr. Marilyn Boxer, Professor Emerita, History, San Francisco State University, and Dr. Bernard Rosen, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy, Ohio State University, proposed that the November, 2010 program be a videotaped lecture from Jewish Intellectual History. Each of the 24 segments, produced by The Teaching Company, is a half-hour lecture by Dr. David Ruderman, professor of Modern Jewish History, University of Pennsylvania.

The Bagel Brunch lecture, “The Challenge of Baruch Spinoza,” drew a large audience, including many nonmembers. Marilyn and Bernie led a stimulating discussion of the topic. They thought that if at least six people showed interest in the full series, they’d set up weekly meetings at members’ homes. Twenty-nine signatures provided the answer.

Clearly, members’ homes wouldn’t be appropriate. A generous, anonymous donor provided for the rental of a small room at the Albany Community Center and the first lecture was scheduled for January 16. Drawn by widespread publicity arranged by Dave Harris, 50 people came to hear “Cultural Transformations in the Italian Ghetto” and “17th Century Marranism and Messianism.” We scrambled for more chairs, listened attentively, and for some, the discussion continued over dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Encouraged by the lively discussion, Marilyn and Bernie decided that each future program would feature only one half-hour lecture, thus allowing more time for audience participation. The series has remained popular with members and nonmembers. Our improved audio/visual equipment (again, thanks to Dave Harris) has made the series even more enjoyable; lectures are scheduled through June, 2012.

The most lively discussion was triggered by asking why, given that there are numerous Humanist groups in the SF Bay area, are you here. Listening to the variety of answers, we can say that one common theme is that Jews like to talk about what it is to be a Jew. Bernie has promised to give a (non-definitive) answer at the last session. (Given that we are Jewish Humanists, few will be satisfied.)

The Ruderman series will end with two lectures on Zionism. The final one will be by our late founder, Rabbi Sherwin Wine, who is missing from the Ruderman lectures, but whose work is clearly an important part of our intellectual history. And, as Marilyn said, “We are clearly a group with questing minds!”

by Gladys Perez-Mendez, secretary, Kol Hadash

On May 19-21, SHJ Executive Director Bonnie Cousens, secretary Deb Godden, and members Marlene Cohen, John Levin, Diane Keefe, and others represented SHJ at the Secular Coalition for America’s first Biennial Summit. A day of lobbying Congress on issues of discrimination against non-theists in the military and patient’s rights was surrounded by panels on litigating for non-theists rights’ and increasing the voice of non-theists, presentations by Susan Jacobi and Jennifer Michael Hecht, and comedian Paul Provenza, and work on SCA’s Secular Decade Plan. For more info, see www.secular.org.
This summer Kol Hadash celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Earlier this spring, Kol Hadash hosted an All-Years Reunion of Humanistic Judaism confirmations, including more than 400 graduates of Humanistic Jewish education from the Chicago area.

The year 2011 also marks the beginning of our Kol Hadash Cornerstone Campaign, aiming to raise $250,000 over three years to set the congregation on firm financial footing. More than 70% of the goal has already been pledged.

To honor these achievements, Kol Hadash hosted a special Shabbat service on Friday, June 24. Rabbi Adam Chalom and the congregation reflected on the most powerful and moving memories of the first decade of Kol Hadash. The Kol Hadash choir, led by noted choir director Sarah Beatty, performed selections from its repertoire.

Two days later, we gathered for a festive dinner party and silent auction at Bella Via Restaurant in Highland Park. Our pianist Lois Wolens and singers Sarah Beatty and Ellen Apley performed. Steering Committee member Mark Friedman showed a slide montage of photos from the last ten years.

It was a wonderful weekend for memories and appreciation, for reuniting with old friends and making new friends. It took a lot of effort from our congregation, especially from Ellen Apley, Sarah Beatty, Sean Blitzstein, Laura Burk, AJ Chalom, Rabbi Chalom, Andrea Friedlander, Mark Friedman, Leora Hatchwell, David Hirsch, Lori Gerberding, Betty Gordon, Emma Kowalenkko, Hope Malis, Danette Sills, Michelle Shoolin, Sue Talman as well as all our donors to our silent auction. by Ken Burk, chair, Illinois. Photo of those attending the service by Peter Sills.

This summer Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism’s cookbook committee, led by Rhoda Kleiman and Rabbi Frank Tamburello, produced a great fundraiser for the congregation. More than 150 recipes, including standard Jewish favorites, were collected from members and friends. These books easily pay for themselves since many people are eager to see their contributions in print. Typically, there is a 50 percent profit margin for those books sold.

The cover’s original artwork was done by president Dmitry Turovsky. Supplemental pages include the history and vision of Humanistic Judaism, blessings, and a calendar, making the book a great outreach tool. See wchj.org.

by Rabbi Frank Tamburello, SHJ Board designee.
Notes from Around the Globe continued

Macharniks have been kvelling over our wonderful b’nei mitzvah students. We held two group ceremonies this year, both at D.C.’s Sixth and I Historic Synagogue. The students spoke on diverse topics, all connected by a link to Secular Humanistic Judaism.

Alexander Al-Hujazi and Elan Naideck shared the first ceremony. Alexander Al-Hujazi’s talk, “Odysseus, Judaism, and Humanism: A Hero, a Religion, and a Philosophy,” arose out of his interest in Greek mythology. He drew parallels between The Odyssey and stories from the Hebrew Bible and cited examples of humanistic values that cross cultures and time. His family has been a member of Machar since 2001 and his grandparents, Dr. Irving and Marcia Miller, are long-standing members of The Birmingham Temple. Rabbi Sherwin Wine officiated at the bat mitzvah of his mother, Laurie Miller, and at her wedding to Ahmed Al-Hujazi.

Elan Naideck researched and presented his topic: “Science and Religion: Overcoming Dogmatic Beliefs.” Elan attends a public magnet middle school for robotics and aerospace technology and wishes to become a scientist. He has strong connections to secular Israel; his mother is a native Israeli and he visits Israel yearly. Many of Elan’s Israeli relatives were in attendance at the ceremony.

Heather DeMocker, Benjamin Topa, and Evan Williamson shared the second ceremony. Heather DeMocker’s talk, “Jews Questioning Authority: Its Importance for Democracy and Civic Engagement,” was inspired by the weekly Torah portion, which features the character Korach. Korach accuses Moses of writing the Ten Commandments, not God, and demands that the people should have a say in the rules that govern them.

From Korach, Heather cited other Jews throughout the ages who have stood up for humanistic, democratic values, paving the way for many of the rights we have today. Heather, herself, has been involved in the Young Activist Club in her community, working to replace harmful styrofoam with reusable food service products. Among the celebrating relatives was her bubbe, Marlene Platt, also a long-time Macharnik.

Benjamin Koppell Topa compared how Judaism, Christianity and Islam treat atonement in order to better understand the similarities and differences among the religions. Benjamin, a dual national of the United States and Italy, attends Alice Deal Middle School in Washington, D.C. Many of Benjamin’s Italian relatives were in attendance at the ceremony.

Evan Williamson’s topic was “Simon and Garfunkel: Two Jewish Musicians with a Humanistic Message.” Evan discussed values, including improving the world or Tikkun Olam, which is the most important Humanistic value to him and a common thread throughout Simon and Garfunkel’s songs. He learned that although Simon and Garfunkel’s music isn’t heavily influenced by their Jewish heritage, their lyrics and actions very much express the Jewish values that many other Jews embrace and strive to live by.

Evan performed Simon and Garfunkel’s “The Sound of Silence” on guitar. His interpretation was that people don’t speak up for themselves but rather follow leaders without thinking and that their silence is devouring them. The speeches can be found on www.machar.org.

by Roz Seidenstein, executive director; parent Laurie Miller, with input from mitzvah families, D.C.
The Congregation for Humanistic Judaism University, proposed by President Rick Stein, met and exceeded expectations. People who had heard of CHJ but never attended services, nor heard our speakers, signed up and came. Some have already become members; we anticipate more will join.

We offered two free programs of music and art during the months of March and April (when Sarasota “snow-birds” are here as well as tourists). Each program consisted of four classes with lots of time for questions.

The “Evolution of Big Bands and the Swing Era,” taught by Henry Ettman, PhD., brought in 61 students. Ettman is a sociologist, musicologist, and former student of Max Roach, Dizzy Gillespie and Oscar Peterson.

“The Development of Modern Architecture,” led by Baila Miller, topped 80 students. It kicked off with Art Nouveau and Frank Lloyd Wright and went through Art Deco/Cubist styling of Louis Kahn and Frank Gehry. Both presenters teach college level classes, locally, and this afforded an opportunity for others to see them in action, free, as well as meet the many CHJ members who also attended the classes.

Based on its first year’s success, CHJ will offer classes again during the 2011-12 year. On the agenda, as of now, will be “Women in Art” and “The History of Photography and Photo-Journalism.”

Betty Pelletz, madrikha, presented a deeper look at what Humanistic Judaism is by using tapes of Rabbi Sherwin Wine. Our newer members who did not have the privilege of knowing Rabbi Wine now understand the reasons the Movement came into existence and what it is we stand for. The seven sessions were each attended by 36 people. This class, too, will be repeated this year. Speaking of learning, we all look forward to our Scholar-in-Residence weekend in January and the return of Rabbi Adam Chalom.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State can be depended on to draw a crowd. Close to 300 people came out in March to hear him speak. His topic was “Extreme Makeover: America’s Church State History.” At the behest of last year’s program chair, Arlene Pearlman, the local AU group and the Unitarian Church agreed to co-sponsor Mr. Lynn. In addition to being a terrific speaker on a crucial subject, he is most approachable and makes himself available to speak to groups across the U.S. His appearances have brought many folks to CHJ who normally would not know about Humanistic Judaism. It would behoove other Humanistic Jewish congregations to invite him.

Reaching out to the community with both interesting classes and speakers has resulted in new members and in more Sarasotans knowing that CHJ is a thriving congregation espousing Jewish culture and ethics.

by Arlene J. Pearlman, past president and social action chair. Photo of Baila Miller by Jules Altenberg

ORANGE COUNTY SHJ BUSY AND WELL CONNECTED IN THEIR PART OF THE “WOODS”

Greetings from California! Orange County SHJ meets every Friday evening. We are fortunate to be able to draw on speakers from local colleges and a wealth of others right here in our Laguna Woods Village.

There are approximately 20 Jewish organizations here in the Village, which comprise our own branch of the Orange County Jewish Federation and are very active. Our own immediate past president, Judy Mandel, has become Federation president, so our ties are now even stronger.

Orange County SHJ’s installation took place in June when we installed a presidium, headed by Rosalie Gottfried, our madrikha. Rosalie leads our popular “Sunday Study Group” as well as several other special interest groups.

For several years we have mounted a 3-part Summer Film Festival. This year we added a winter series. Both have been highly successful and help raise much needed funds. These evenings attract many nonmembers, some of whom may decide to join; we are forever hopeful.

by Sheila Bass, SHJ Board Designee
Shana Tova! My very best wishes to you all for a good and healthy year for you and your families. Humanistic Judaism is a unique approach to Jewish identity. Although many share our human-centered philosophy of life, fewer feel compelled to join something that has as its foundation “saying what we believe and believing what we say.” Therefore, it is even more important for SHJ members to connect with each other.

This is and will be a significant year for the Society for Humanistic Judaism. With the approval of the Strategic Plan at the April Board meeting, the Society has launched a number of initiatives all focused on outreach and communication with members through technology. Technology helps us share what we are doing in our communities and in the Society in a time-sensitive way. And the time between communication between the SHJ and each of its members can be decreased. We can share less information each time, making the exchange quick, and enabling more people to take very few minutes to learn about something new.

“On the Move,” the E-newsletter of the Society, premiered in July with the goal of bringing current, topical information about the Society’s activities and programs into your home monthly. The e-letter will be short and contain two timely stories. Look for it around the fifth of each month. If you have not received the e-newsletter and would like to, send the SHJ office (info@shj.org) your email address.

Responding to the advent of social networking, the SHJ created a Facebook page (http://yep.it/SHJFB) in 2008. By October of that year, 94 people were associated with the page. As of this writing in August, 2011, 884 people “like” the SHJ page. We have been able to make ourselves known, world-wide, posting articles about Humanistic Judaism or of interest to Humanistic Jews and uploading videos and sharing information about the Movement. Recently, we have been featuring an affiliate’s Facebook page on the SHJ page, weekly, promoting our affiliates and driving traffic to their Facebook pages. Share the links to the Facebook pages of other SHJ affiliates on your own community Facebook page. Linking to one another and following the links allows us to learn what other communities are doing and spread the word. We feel the connection to others who share our perspective, even those living very far away.

If you would like assistance creating or improving your HJ Facebook page, contact me (rabbimiriamjerris@shj.org).

The Society for Humanistic Judaism has a YouTube site (http://tinyurl.com/3lljgly). You can upload the videos found on this site to your own website or Facebook page. We are asking our rabbis and rabbinic candidates, leaders and members to share their views on various aspects of Humanistic Judaism, Judaism and their own lives. The variety of personalities and points of view all add interest and depth to our organizations. We are not just one community; we are a network of communities. There is not only one leader; there are many different voices leading Humanistic Judaism into the future. Sharing material posted on the web is easy and by your sharing we all benefit from each other’s work.

Last fall, through the generosity of a donor, we were able to pilot a program of internet web advertising. We discovered that through the use of Google Adwords (sponsored links), we increased traffic to the SHJ website and to each of our participating affiliates. The Society has invested $10,000 in web outreach, advertising both through Google Adwords and Microsoft. The ad campaign will focus on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, our community schools, reaching out to college age students to recruit for the HJ Jews conference, Hanukka and Pesakh. A couple of years ago, some of our affiliates asked the SHJ to undertake a national marketing plan. Most of our affiliates tell us that upwards of 60% of prospective members find us on the internet. Advertising on the internet allows us to regionally focus our advertising, reaching out in areas where affiliates already exist.

Many of our members know very little about other SHJ affiliates. Utilizing technology allows us to share this information easily. It feels good to know that there are others all over North America who not only share our point of view but have committed themselves to active involvement in one of our communities. Knowing that we are not alone adds value to what we are doing.
For the third summer running, Beth Chaverim members and Rabbi Jodi Kornfeld volunteered at a local Illinois soup kitchen, bringing a barbecue to feed more than 100 people. It is part of Beth Chaverim’s identity to be an important part of the larger community and to give back.

BETH CHAVERIM GIVES BACK

For the third summer running, Beth Chaverim members and Rabbi Jodi Kornfeld volunteered at a local Illinois soup kitchen, bringing a barbecue to feed more than 100 people. It is part of Beth Chaverim’s identity to be an important part of the larger community and to give back.

JOIN THE HERITAGE SOCIETY
Ensure Your Legacy — Remember SHJ
In Your Estate Plan

You can help ensure the future of Humanistic Judaism by remembering SHJ in your will or estate plan. Planned gifts can be made through wills, trusts, life insurance, retirement plan beneficiary options, and the SHJ’s annuity, the Pooled Income Fund. No gift is too small and every gift helps. To ensure your legacy, contact Bonnie Cousens at 248-478-7610 or bonniecousens@shj.org.

Do you shop online?
You can support the SHJ when you shop at more than 1,500 online stores.

Remember our new online marketplace — www.fundraising-solutions.org — when you shop online. It is your doorway to more than 1,500 online stores. Shop with any of these merchants and they will donate a portion of every sale to us in your name or anonymously. All you have to do is click on the little shopping bag on the SHJ website, and start shopping! You can also put a shopping bag directly on your desktop. There is no additional cost to you. Among the stores available to you are Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Dell, GAP, Babies R Us, Toys R Us, Macy’s, Staples, Travelocity, and 1-800-Flowers. When you shop online at any of the 1,500+ retailer partners, a portion of your purchasing dollars (anywhere from 2-25%, varying from merchant to merchant) will come back to the Society. Here’s how you can help the Society just by shopping:

2. Click on the link on the left side of our homepage that alternately flashes, “Help us raise funds by shopping through our marketplace” and the shopping bag icon that says, “click here for more info.”
3. The link takes you to the Fundraising Solutions Welcome page, where you can download a desktop shortcut the next time you shop: Download Desktop Shortcut
4. Whether or not you download the shortcut, you’re now ready to begin shopping. You can search by merchant or by category and proceed to shop as you normally would online.

By taking the extra step of making your purchases through Fundraising Solutions, you are helping us raise precious dollars that will support SHJ programs and services. Please tell your communities, friends, and families about this unique way to help us raise funds.
From the SHJ President, Lou Altman  
A Long-Standing Dream Fulfilled

People of my generation can remember a World War II poster showing a very serious Uncle Sam in patriotic garb, pointing right at the observer, and saying:

I want you for the U.S. Army

Imagine that’s me talking, the president of the Society for Humanistic Judaism (well, at least I do have a beard), and I do want you. But I’m not recruiting for the army. I just want you to read your email. Email from the Society for Humanistic Judaism. The new E-NEWSLETTER!

A few months ago SHJ fulfilled a long-standing dream: we created an email newsletter which will be regularly arriving direct from the Society for Humanistic Judaism to all of you, independent of the U.S. snail mail or any other intermediary. It’s called “On the Move with the Society for Humanistic Judaism.”

As a result, SHJ is now directly tied in, electronically, to every member, everybody in every affiliated congregation (remember, all members of affiliated congregations are automatically members of SHJ), and also to every individual member at large who doesn’t have a congregation to belong to, and even to a significant number of friends who may be on our wavelength but for whatever reason are not members. If you know of such people, feel free to forward a copy of the e-newsletter to anyone who might be interested. There’s even a button for that. And if you haven’t received the email newsletter yet, be sure to send your e-mail address to info@shj.org so you receive the next issue.

The e-newsletter will be brief but informative. It will tell you what SHJ is doing with your money. It will encourage and enable you to contact us right back: directly, electronically, candidly. There’s a button for that too. Tell us what’s on your mind. We promise to read it, think about it, and get back to you.

There’s only one reason for me to have the job that I do, and that reason is to serve the members of SHJ.

This e-newsletter will make us, all of the members, more of a team, a unified and coordinated entity. I have long cherished that goal.

“Toward what end?” you might ask. Well, SHJ is the umbrella organization for organized Humanistic Judaism in North America, and it exists primarily to make its members and congregations more effective by unifying and coordinating their activities for their mutual benefit. And today we need to stick together as much as ever before.

That recruiting picture of Uncle Sam is not just a gimmick to get your attention. There’s no great Nazi threat today, but there are politicians who want to govern from a platform of religious dogmatism. We need to unite to keep secular government alive. Were you invited to Governor Rick Perry’s fundamentalist Christian love-in on August 6? The SHJ e-newsletter is one more tool that will help us cooperate with each other in a more immediate way to preserve religious freedom for Jews, for Humanists, for people.
Support the Fund for Humanistic Judaism

Building Communities  Training Leaders  Developing Resources

Community Development
The Sherwin T. Wine Group Development Fund helps nurture and develop Humanistic Jewish communities and leadership, by providing visits to communities by Humanistic rabbis and other leaders to help energize, strengthen, and guide them; and by increasing the outreach capabilities of the Movement. The Miriam Jerris Community Development Fund supports communities in promoting weekend events.

HuJews: Teen & Young Adult Programs
The Society for Humanistic Judaism HuJews Teen and Young Adult Conclaves help establish bonds among our youth and reinforce both their Jewish identity and their connection with Humanistic Judaism. Young adult programs at Society conferences and humanistic havurot on university campuses provide a forum for discussion and the sharing of ideas among college students at a time when they are self-identifying, inquiring, and most receptive to new ideas and information. Our HuJews website enables college students to create an online connection with Humanistic Judaism and find the resources they need to celebrate Humanistic Judaism on campus.

Publications & Resources
Society publications provide a ready reference and resource for individuals, families, and communities to create meaningful holiday and life-cycle observances as well as educational programs for adults and young people. The Guide to Humanistic Judaism, for example, offers an overview to our philosophy. The topical journal, Humanistic Judaism, features issue-oriented articles and regular departments such as book reviews, travel, and regional events. Society Holiday Kits bring Humanistic Jewish holiday celebrations into homes, dorm rooms, and beyond. Videos and DVDs provide programs on Humanistic Judaism in your home and community.

Curricula and Training
The Society sponsors training programs and provides resources for youth and adult education. Membership orientation, three-year adult study groups, adult bar/bat mitzvahs and confirmations, and manuals on history, culture, music, holidays, and life cycles allow members to learn about Humanistic Judaism and connect to our heritage. Visits to communities and regional seminars provide opportunities for adult education and organizational and teacher training.

Rabbinic and Leadership Training
The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism is the academic arm of the Movement. The Rabbinic Program prepares men and women to become the spiritual leaders and mentors of Secular Humanistic communities. Similarly, the leadership, educators’, and music programs train individuals to serve the ceremonial, philosophic, and educational needs of our communities. The masters degree program provides an advanced course of Jewish study relevant to the movement. Gifts to the Society’s Scholarship Fund allow future Jewish leaders to focus on their seminary studies without the distractions imposed by financial need.

Your Generosity Makes a Difference.

Your gift to the SHJ can ensure the future of Humanistic Judaism.

☐ Contact me about the Pooled Income Fund or a planned gift.
☐ I am enclosing a tax deductible donation to the SHJ:
  ☐ $136  ☐ $236  ☐ $360  ☐ $1,036  ☐ $1,360
  ☐ $150  ☐ $250  ☐ $536  ☐ $1,836  ☐ Other $_____

Name: ___________________ Phone (H): __________ (W): __________
Address: __________________________
City: ___________ ST.: _______ ZIP: ___________ Country: _________
The retreat was at the YMCA of the Rockies. We were very close to Rocky Mountain National Park and the city of Estes Park, Colorado. It’s green with lots of mountains. The point of the retreat was to bond together with our community and to celebrate Mother’s Day weekend. It’s an easy day for mothers, and we also have fun. The retreat began with a Shabbat campfire. Cooking marshmallows is fun.

We stayed in a very large eight-bedroom retreat lodge with a large kitchen, dining room and living room. The bedrooms were really nice. On the second floor, there was an open room where all the kids could play. We threw paper airplanes from the second floor to the bottom. Some got stuck in the chandelier.

There was a room with three bunk beds. Several boys slept together. Unfortunately, the parents wouldn’t let us talk. Next year we hope they let us sleep alone. Eitan got up at 5:00 a.m. and thought it was 8:00 a.m. Evan slept the longest. Should we stay up all night next year? Evan said no. It will ruin the next day. Eitan grew up in Argentina where it is common to stay up all night.

On Saturday we went on a hike. We saw elk right on the trail. We had to wait for them to move. We also saw mule deer drinking at a stream. Be careful you might see horse scat. The elk scat looks like milk duds.

Jeff Kagan performed for us in front of a rapid stream. He sings and plays the guitar using songs that he wrote. He was very, very silly. Our favorite was Saturday pizza night. We did Israeli dancing and played in the manner of the adverb. It was a lot of fun. It was a really cool way to get to know each other. It felt like family! Later we made fudge with Katya, Alexi, Julia, and Ren because this was Mothers Day weekend. We hope you come next year. It’s fun!!

by Eitan Moin (age 11) and Evan Wilson (age 9), Colorado. Photo by Ron Kingston [This article was written with the help of Lenore Kingston, Jewish Cultural School director. Next year’s retreat will be open to all SHJ members. Information to follow.]

Use Goodsearch — Support Humanistic Judaism

If you search the web, if you shop online, you can support SHJ. With Goodsearch.com as your search engine and your gateway to shopping online, each time you search using Goodsearch a donation will be made to the Society for Humanistic Judaism; and each time you shop at a participating merchant — Amazon, hotels, airlines, and much more — each time you purchase clothing, electronics, office supplies, toys, anything and everything online — a donation will be made to the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

Just download the Goodsearch toolbar at www.goodsearch.com. Then choose the Society for Humanistic Judaism as your charity and our name will appear in the toolbar in the box saying “I support.” Then search the Web or shop for your needs. Each search you do makes a donation for SHJ — if each of us does only one search a day, the Society would receive a donation of more than $7,500 in a year. And if the toolbar is downloaded to your web browser and Society for Humanistic Judaism is selected as your charity, each time you shop, a pop-up will tell you that a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the Society. Your time spent online searching and shopping will help to support programs and resources and endeavors that strengthen Humanistic Judaism and increase our visibility.
The Society for Humanistic Judaism is pleased to thank the contributors to the 2010-2011 Fundraising Campaign.

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HANUKKA provides a bright ending to 2008
Support Humanistic Judaism, remember a loved one.

SHJ Tributes for every occasion provide the programs we need.

Sherwin Wine Group Development Fund
Miriam Jerris Development Fund
Bass Community Development Fund
Bess & Boaz Siegel Jewish Culture Fund
Pivnick Family Rabbinic Fund
SHJ College Havura Program
HuJews Youth Programs

Publications
Public Relations

Thank You for Thinking of SHJ

To Evelyn Kreger & Family
In loving memory of David
From SHJ
Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Marcia & Paul Himelhoch
Miriam Jerris & Steve Stawicki

To Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Congratulations on the engagement of your daughter Beth to Joel Aufrecht
From Shari & Richard Gelber
Lucia Brandon & Bert Steinberg

To Julius Harwood
Get well soon
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki

To Lynne Master
In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Grandson Max Couval
From Alma Spickler

To The Family of Eileen Herbach
In memory of your mother
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Ken & Stephanie Rowe
Congratulations on your marriage
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Irene Chase & Jeremy Gibson
Mazel Tov on the Bat Mitzvah Of Elana & Sophie
From Miriam Jerris

To Charles Nave
In honor of your birthday
From Barb & Sam Reider
Irene Stein & Fredaron
Laura & Stuart Rice
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki
Neil Watnick & Jodi Shapiro

To Rabbi Jeffrey Jalick
In appreciation of his visit to HJH Of Southwest Florida
From Cynthia Cook

To Ken Bernard & Marilyn Brockmeyer
Congratulations on the Bar Mitzvah of your son Benjamin
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens
SHJ

To Ellen Bates-Brackett
In memory of your husband, Thomas
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Leonard Cherlin
In memory of your wife, Violet
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Miriam Jerris & Stephen Stawicki
SHJ

To the family of Rosalind Uran
In memory of your mother
From Ben Goodman

Honor the Passages of Life
A tribute lets friends know you care.

YES! I would like to send:
an SHJ Tribute for a donation of ________ (minimum $5 US) or
an SHJ Certificate for a donation of ________ (minimum $25 US)

Please allocate tribute to: _________________________________ Fund.

To: ________________________________ in memory / honor (circle one)
Address: ____________________________ of: ____________________________

From: ________________________________

Return to: SHJ, 28611 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48334
SHJ UPCOMING EVENTS

September 9-11, 2011
RABBI JEFFERY FALICK VISIT TO ORAYNU CONGREGATION, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Contact: info@oraynu.org.

September 28-30, 2011
RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS ROY HASHANA VISIT TO ADAT CHAVERIM, Los Angeles, CA. Contact: info@HumanisticJudaismLA.org.

October 7-9, 2011
RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS YOM KIPPUR VISIT TO KOL HASKALAH, A HUMANISTIC JEWISH CONGREGATION, Triangle, NC. Contact: info@kolhaskalah.org, (919) 968-7888.

October 7-8, 2011
RABBI JEFFERY FALICK YOM KIPPUR VISIT TO HUMANISTIC JEWISH HAVURAH OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, Naples, FL. Contact: cynthiacook@humanisticjewishhurrahswfl.org.

November 3-6, 2011
RABBI BINYAMIN BIBER VISIT TO KOL HADASH HUMANISTIC CONGREGATION, Lincolnshire, IL. Contact: info@kolhadash.com, (847) 347-3003.

November 5, 2011
SHJ NORTH EAST REGIONAL MEETING, White Plains, NY. Contact: irkleiman@verizon.net.

November 18-20, 2011
RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS VISIT TO KAHAL B’RAIRA, BOSTON CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM, MA. Contact: info@kahalbraira.org, (617) 969-4596.

February 17-19, 2012
RABBI BINYAMIN BIBER VISIT TO KAHAL AM, San Diego, CA. Contact: Gary Zarnow, gzarnow@gmail.com.

March 2-4, 2012
HUJEWS TEEN & COLLEGE CONCLAVE 2012, Washington, DC. Contact: SHJ, (248) 478-7610, info@shj.org or info@hujews.org.

March 2-4, 2012

March 24, 2012

April 20-22, 2012
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SECULAR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM COLLOQUIUM ’12: “Half-Jewish? The Heirs of Intermarriage,” Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, in partnership with Northwestern University Hillel and University of Chicago Hillel. Contact: IISHJ, info@iishj.org.

Save the Date!

HUJEWS TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT CONCLAVE
March 24, 2012, in Washington, D.C.
contact: aj@hujews.org for information