

Humanorah

the newsletter of the Society for Humanistic Judaism
affiliated with the International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews



Summer, 2008

Vol. 30, No. 3

PORTLAND PIONEER PRESENTED WITH 2008 SHERWIN T. WINE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

“I am so thrilled and honored to be given this award which bears the name of my good friend and rabbi,” said Jane Goldhamer upon receiving the 2008 Sherwin T. Wine Lifetime Achievement Award at the SHJ conference, April 5, in Los Angeles. “Meeting Sherwin Wine in 1978 was the beginning of a huge and greatly enriching new direction in my life.

“Meeting Sherwin came about in Dayton, Ohio when my husband Mike, chair of the brunch-lecture series at the Temple Israel Men’s Club, booked Wine as one of the speakers. We were atheists but belonged to a reform temple wherever we lived in order to be active members of the Jewish community. When I heard Sherwin’s witty and electrifying description of the movement he had founded, I knew that I had at last found a way to be Jewish that was right for me. I became a member-at-large of SHJ and began receiving the *Journal* and other mailings.

“In 1985 Mike and I moved to Portland, Oregon and joined the Reform Temple. Finding no “secular” contingent such as the brunch-lecture Judaic education series in Dayton, after a couple of years we dropped the membership and joined a small Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. Secular and lay-led by interesting, friendly people, it was a good match except for meeting Jewish needs or providing a connection to the Jewish community.

“Late in 1992 I received notice of a SHJ Western Region Conference to be held in February, 1993 at Asilomar State Park in California and registered for it. The activities and the experience of being among a terrific group of Humanistic Jews was tremendously exciting and inspiring—so when Rabbi Miriam Jerris and *madrikha* Barbara Brandt offered to help organize an affiliated community in Port-



photo by Gary Sampson

Rabbi Jerris presents award to Jane Goldhamer of Kol Shalom as Executive Director Bonnie Cousens watches.

land, the idea was appealing. They sent a printout of every person in Oregon who had contacted SHJ. I picked out the ones in the Portland area, added some other people I thought might be interested and sent a letter inviting all of them to an April meeting at my house, to talk about Humanistic Judaism. Thirty people showed up, and some others wanted to come but couldn’t make it. Meetings were held monthly at our house from then on, with an activity chosen by the group on a month-to-month basis. I began compiling records and sent a one-page monthly newsletter to the list, which changed as new people were added and some dropped out.

“In the fall of 1993 Barbara came from Bellingham, Washington to lead a *Rosh Hashana* ceremony, held at the Unitarian Fellowship. It was well attended. A small, informal observance of *Yom Kippur* was held at the Goldhamers.’ That year, Jeff Hellman, who had been Judaically home-schooled, had a *bar mitsva* and in the spring the group had a potluck *seder*, using a *haggada* I compiled.

“Working together to produce programs and celebrations served to build friendship, trust, and community among a group who had been wary of “organized religion,” and in the fall of 1993 there were finally 11 households ready to become a formally organized affiliate of SHJ. They adopted a name—“Humanistic Jews of Greater Portland” (changed to “Kol Shalom Community for Humanistic Judaism” in 2001, a name less “clunky” and more inclusive

(continued on page 14)

SHJ AFFILIATES

ALABAMA

OR HADASH, HJC of BIRMINGHAM

ARIZONA

OR ADAM, CHJ

CALIFORNIA

ADAT CHAVERIM, VALLEY CHJ
KOL HADASH, CHJ
ORANGE COUNTY SHJ
PACIFIC COMMUNITY of CJ
HJC, SAN DIEGO

COLORADO

BETH AMI, COLORADO CHJ

CONNECTICUT

CONGREGATION for HJ, FAIRFIELD
COUNTY

D.C.

MACHAR, CSHJ

FLORIDA

CONGREGATION BETH ADAM
CONGREGATION for HJ, SARASOTA

ILLINOIS

BETH CHAVERIM HJC
KOL HADASH HUMANISTIC CONGREGATION

MASSACHUSETTS

KAHAL B'RAIRA, BOSTON CHJ

MICHIGAN

THE BIRMINGHAM TEMPLE

MINNESOTA

OR EMET, CHJ of MINNESOTA

NEW JERSEY

CONGREGATION for HJ, MORRIS
COUNTY

NEW YORK

BETH HASKALAH, ROCHESTER SHJ
THE CITY CONGREGATION
KOL HAVERIM, FINGER LAKES CHJ
QUEENS COMMUNITY for
CULTURAL JUDAISM
BARUCH SPINOZA SHJ, RIVERDALE
WESTCHESTER CHJ

NORTH CAROLINA

TRIANGLE CHJ

OREGON

KOL SHALOM, CHJ

PENNSYLVANIA

SHIR SHALOM, CHJ

WASHINGTON

SECULAR JEWISH CIRCLE of PUGET SOUND

CANADA

ORAYNU, TORONTO, ON

WESTCHESTER GROUP MOURNS LOSS OF BERENICE KATZEN, A VERY SPECIAL MEMBER

Here is a picture of Berenice Katzen Cohen, a member who deserves to be recognized for her outstanding contributions of Tikun Olam. She was involved in hunger projects, she slept at a shelter one night a week with homeless women, and she galvanized us to help raise awareness as well as donate to help Darfur. She got us to buy only shade grown coffee from certain African farmers to help them get their fair share of the market. This woman did more in one day than most of us do in a month. Unfortunately, she was killed in a car accident, recently, and we at the Westchester Community for Humanistic Judaism



mourn her greatly. Here you see her at our Passover seder last year. You can get a glimpse of her energy at work.

Charlotte Klein, Westchester CHJ, NY

OR EMET PRESENTS A MAN OF TWO WORLDS



Or Emet president, Margo Fox, with Nathan Wolf

It isn't usual to find a Jewish high government official in the Mexican government. Mexican Consul Nathan Wolf's presentation, "A Man of Two Worlds," at Or Emet, recently, was well received. An engaging speaker, he told about his grandparents who traveled to Mexico from Europe as a result of World War II; his life growing up Jewish in Mexico City; and his very interesting career path, including serving as diplomatic advisor to former Mexican president, Vicente Fox.

Now, after three years in Minnesota establishing a consulate, he is returning home to a new position, General Director for International Economic Promotion in the Office of the Secretary of Foreign Relations in Mexico City. *Photo by David Fox, Or Emet, MN.*

Winter 2008

Humanorah

Vol. 30, No. 3

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 \$75 per year plus local dues where applicable. Membership is tax deductible as provided by law.

President: Lou Altman

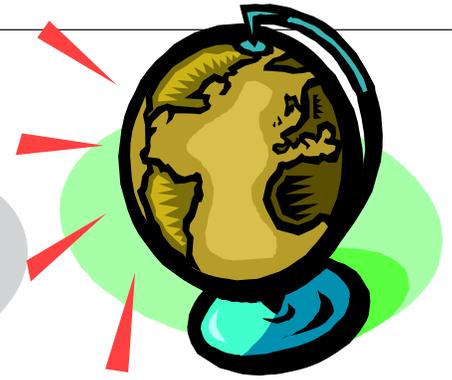
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Editor: Harriet Maza

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Notes From Around the Globe



L.A. CONGREGATION MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION!

Adat Chaverim is making a key move in the right direction! The Board has just finalized a long term relationship with the American Jewish University (formerly the University of Judaism) in which the university campus will officially become the congregation's primary location. Having such a well-located and prestigious Jewish home will help Adat Chaverim better fulfill its mission to serve Humanistic Jews throughout the Greater Los Angeles Area. The new site enables the congregation to draw members from a broader geographic area and increase visibility throughout the Jewish Community.

Beginning with the High Holidays in 2008, Adat Chaverim will celebrate all of its *Shabbat* and holiday festivities at the AJU. Large scale events like *Rosh Hashana* and *Yom Kippur* services will be held in the beautiful and traditional Mathew Berman Chapel with its wooden benches and woven wall hangings. More intimate gatherings will take place in the private dining room featuring a wall of windows overlooking the lights of the San Fernando Valley. The AJU is eager to welcome Adat onto its campus.

The move to this new site marks a turning point for Adat Chaverim. Throughout its history Adat has bounced around the San Fernando Valley looking for an appropriate home, which it has now found at the AJU. The site provides a Jewish setting that is academic rather than religious. Potential members interested in learning about Humanistic Judaism are likely to feel more comfortable visiting a congregation at the respected AJU than at another miscellaneous location. The facilities are modern, spacious and attractive. There is ample parking for any size event, and the kosher caterer prepares delicious food for *onegs* and holiday celebrations. In fact, preceding several of our monthly *Shabbat* celebrations, Adat will now offer an option of a community *Shabbat* dinner at

which the congregation can enjoy each other's company in a relaxed setting before services.

The most important benefit offered by the upcoming move to AJU promises to be its phenomenal location right off the 405 Freeway in the Sepulveda Pass. Cultural Jews throughout the Greater Los Angeles Area will experience an easy commute whether they are coming from the San Fernando Valley or the west side, making it more realistic for a much larger portion of the population to attend Adat's rich cultural offerings on a regular basis.

In recent years, the congregation has made increasing attempts to cater to the growing interest in the Humanistic Jewish movement "over the hill." None of the proposals previously considered — including forming a west-side *havura*, organizing a satellite congregation, and alternating service locations between the city and the valley—would fulfill our objectives nearly as well as will the move to AJU. This relocation represents an ideal opportunity to build the congregation by bringing Humanistic and cultural Jews throughout Los Angeles together under one roof. The future of Adat Chaverim looks brighter than ever. As a congregation affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism and serving one of the largest populations of cultural Jews, Adat Chaverim's growth potential is now limitless.

Marci Goldberg, president elect, Adat Chaverim, L.A.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS,
ADAT CHAVERIM, FOR HOSTING A
WONDERFUL SHJ NATIONAL
CONFERENCE, APRIL 4-6, 2008**

KOL SHALOM CONGREGATION BEGINS 2008 WITH NEW PERSONNEL AND AN UPCOMING NEW WEBSITE

Kol Shalom began 2008 with a new Board of Directors and a newly hired part-time administrator, Jazz Duberman, who is doing a superb job keeping us all organized.

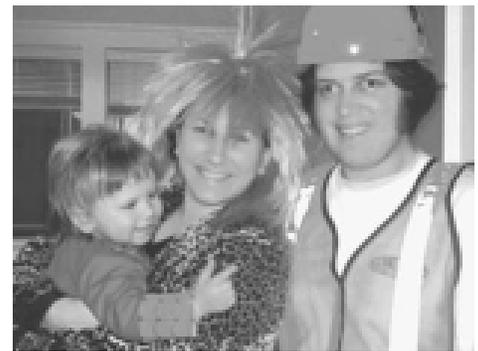
Our PR committee put together a marketing plan that carefully targets specific segments of the non-affiliated Jewish community in the Portland metro area. An essential part of the plan is to redesign our website to give it a fresh new look. We have received a \$1,000 grant from SHJ and hope to launch our new site this summer!

Recent Sunday forums included Professor Larry Bowlden speaking on "The Evangelical Atheists." His talk elicited a lively discussion on religion, in general; evangelical and political religion, in particular; atheism and related beliefs; and the Mormon religion in which Dr. Bowlden was raised and later rejected. We plan to invite him to speak again.

Another Sunday Forum featured oral

historian, Sandy Polishuk who presented a fascinating portrait of a life-long activist told through her own oral history in "Julia Ruuttila: the Making of an Extraordinary Life." We were pleased to host this Oregon Chautauqua from the Oregon Council for the Humanities (OCH).

Kol Shalom has a *Beit Midrash* (House of Learning) Did that title get your attention? Has Kol Shalom become a *yeshiva*? Well, no, not really.....but we have an adult study group to learn as much as we can about Jewish culture and its importance for Humanistic Judaism. This method of study has a basis in traditional Judaism in which rabbis and scholars get together in small groups in a *beit midrash*, separate from the synagogue. The study group is informal and participant-led. We benefit from each other's contributions and the three-part syllabus designed by Rabbi Adam Chalom, dean of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, North America. We are currently working on Part II.



Newest members, William, Davida and Tony Jordan dress for Purim.

For *Tu Bi-Shevat* in January, our ritual director, Jon Dickman, organized a showing of *An Inconvenient Truth* at the Kol Shalom Center. A few days later for *Shabbat* we had a "Wise Person Ceremony" with a provocative talk by member Martin Heisler. In February Jon organized a *Shabbat* featuring Jewish and Humanistic readings, with Nancy Lezak, our music director, leading the Kol Shalom Music Makers in a spirited rendition of songs "humanistically" adapted from some works of Debbie Friedman. *Purim* was celebrated with crafts, costumes, games, and a humorous, participatory telling of the *Megilla*. It is satisfying to see activities bringing together several generations: for *Purim*, the oldest member was in her eighties and the youngest, a toddler (pictured above).

Ellen Carlin, PR, Portland

ORANGE COUNTY SHJ LIKES LEARNING IN A LIGHT-HEARTED WAY

Orange County SHJ has welcomed a number of new members and also *snow birds*, some of whom are SHJ members and others who just find their way to us, attracted by our good programming. To those unfamiliar with SHJ, I offer information on their local home group, if one exists.

Through the efforts of Rosalie Gottfried, *madrrikha*, who transferred into our group and seems to like us, we have

revived our weekly Sunday morning study group. We have had several short exciting series and are now entrenched in "Jewish History, Fact or Fable." Our members thirst for knowledge, but it has to have a light-hearted approach. Rosalie has come up with the perfect mix, and the attendees are really enjoying the sessions.

With *Purim* and *Passover* behind us we looked forward to May. Our May community service project involved collecting canned goods for a local group and having a *write-in* session on matters of importance to our members.

We enjoyed our California winter months, and no one wants to move from here.

Sheila Bass, president, OCSHJ, CA

NEW BABY? BAR OR BAT MITZVA? GRADUATION? WEDDING? JUST BECAUSE?

Consider giving a Life Membership in SHJ
Build an attachment to Humanistic Judaism.
And think about one for yourself.

LIFE'S A BIG MEGILLA AT KOL HADASH, ILLINOIS

Extra! Extra! Read all about Kol Hadash of Illinois! It was in the news in January with a photo of Rabbi Adam Chalom on the front of the Metro section of the Sunday Chicago Tribune and an article featuring the rabbi and the congregation. In February Rabbi Chalom was featured on the NPR radio program "Tell Me More," and our local CBS affiliate included us in a story about the new face of atheism.

February brought some artistic activities for Sunday School.

Despite subzero temperature, more than 100 students, parents, and adult congregants visited the Art Institute of Chicago where students studied and sketched Jewish artists, religious symbols, and explored masterpieces from many cultures. Rabbi Chalom led an adult education session.

Our Sunday School recently completed the second year of its

Megilla Project. Each class studied a section of the Book of Esther and then illustrated their section on a poster-sized sheet with Hebrew and English text. These sections have been laminated and joined into a scroll. The project will be complete next year, when we'll have the whole *Megilla*!

Rabbi Miriam Jerris, SHJ community development director, visited Kol Hadash the first weekend in March. She worked with our steering committee, led a Friday night

service on "Diversity in Humanistic Judaism," ran an intermarriage workshop on Saturday and conducted an interesting adult education session on Sunday. Only then was she permitted to spend a few days relaxing with her grandchildren.

Youth Education Committee Chair Danette Sills and Youth Education Director Dawn Friedman are participating in an initiative of the Community Foundation for Jewish Edu-

cation, an agency of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

Sif Leaders Partnering for Excellence in Jewish Schools aims to promote institutional growth through a series of intensive sessions led by university-level experts in fields of education, organizational theory, psychology, and volunteerism. Danette and Dawn also participated in a two-day field visit to the University

of Michigan to study with professors and dialogue with other principals and school board chairs.

Spring brought our annual blood drive, our first adult *b'nai mitsva* service, and confirmation.

by *David Hirsch, past president.*

Photo by Dawn Friedman shows from left: Zoe Talman, Molly Kaz, Molly Talman, Todd Horwitch, Colin Klein, Eli Coretti, Liam Sills & Eva Friedman with the big megilla.



OR ADAM CONTINUES REACHING OUT FOR NEW CONNECTIONS

Making connections is the theme at Or Adam. We've increased our visibility in the Jewish community by working on an Anne Frank exhibit, a celebration of Israel's 60th birthday, and the Susan B. Komen Walk for the Cure.

Madrikh and rabbinic candidate Jack Silver and our musicians recently participated in a shared *Shabbat* program at Arizona State University, and the congregation co-hosted (with the Humanist Society of Greater Phoenix) a seminar

on myth-busting trends in biblical archaeology. Our adult education program is also reaching in new directions with member presentations and other events. Tom Selling led a program on poverty and David Wayne led a workshop on the "seasons" of personality. Elaine Langsner coordinated a program of art and dance for the holidays. Our book club has taken off, and we're looking forward to Jack Silver's starting an ongoing class for members.

Laura Kamienny, SHJ board designee, Phoenix

SARASOTA COMMUNITY FINDS FUNDRAISING EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

What an exciting series of events CHJ Sarasota has had since last we reported. We started out 2008 with Rabbi Adam Chalom as our guest *Scholar-in-Residence*. He was amazing, and we all agreed that the future of our movement is in outstanding hands.

Our Social Action Committee involved us in "Humanity to End Genocide." They set up a "Shelter Box" outside the sanctuary at the Social Action *Shabbat* in January for all to see. We had hoped to collect \$1,000 to purchase one box as living facilities for 8 to 16 people, but we actually were able to raise enough to send three of these boxes to needy areas throughout the world.

Speakers at services have been well received, including Rabbi Dan Friedman who informed us why we are "The Luckiest Jews." The joy we find at services is greatly enhanced by our wonderful chorus, "The Humanaires," led by Dave Berman.

The events that encourage small group gatherings continue to be successful and are operating at full throttle. Our *Shabbat* dinners in congregants' homes have offered such a wonderful and fulfilling time.

Our *madrikh*, Marty Kotch, is conducting an ongoing education series concerning our brand of humanism, and also atheism and fundamentalism in the world and in America. The response has been wonderful; we have had 53 congregants sign up.

We end this banner year with a CHJ family *seder* followed in May by a *Havdalla* service combined with our second *bat mitzva*, the daughter of a family who emigrated from France and Belgium.

Sim and Irv Lesser, past presidents, FL

KAHAL B'RAIRA REALIZES IMPORTANCE OF A BUILDING'S PHYSICAL AESTHETICS

Kahal B'raira is settling nicely into our new space in the Fresh Pond area of Cambridge. We have had some wonderful programming and celebrations this year, including a baby naming, an adult education class studying the work of Rabbi Wine, Israeli folk dancing, and many guest lectures by authors. We are also worked on a May Blood Drive, aligning with the proposed SHJ-wide Blood Drive.

Life is good. After a few years of wavering attendance, we are showing growth in membership and Sunday School. There were alarming complaints, however, about where we were holding our adult Sunday morning meetings. The only space large enough was a gymnasium: uninviting padded walls, basketball hoops, and a horrible acoustic problem. Visitors were reportedly unimpressed by the ambience. The question arose, "Can we expect to retain existing membership and attract new members in this environment?" So a small committee dedicated itself to finding solutions. Through careful logistical planning, draperies, and better mics, they improved the quality of our space. We now consider what we require aesthetically to create a spiritual experience in our communal environment."

On a recent Sunday we had a discussion about the lyrics of the song "Hava Nashira." Should a humanistic congregation use the word *hallelujah*? A visitor, that day, commented on how civil the conversation was. In our bright open space, we were able to talk amongst ourselves, discuss, debate, much the same as Jews have been doing for generations, exploring ideas to shape our world.

Jon Levine, board designee, Boston

(Editor's Note: Birmingham Temple member Ann Kutnick rewrote the words to this song to make them consistent with Humanistic Judaism. Contact the SHJ office for the words and music.)

BETH ADAM BUILDS PROGRAMS AS THEIR MEMBERSHIP GROWS

New members mean new programs. We initiated a monthly book club and will begin a Friday night *Shabbat* discussion forum, both meeting in members' homes. We are considering creating Men's and Women's clubs. The existing William Marcuse Contemporary Lecture Series has been most successful with standing room only crowds at many of the lectures.

The Children's Education Program has also grown. The students enjoy celebrating holidays and learning their curriculum. We have celebrated the *bar mitzvas* of Cameron White, Max Jarvis, Jason Dobkin, Adam Heller, and Schuyler Jarvis along with the *bat mitzva* of Ashley Heller.

BJ Saul, president, Boca Raton

ENERGETIC FOLKS AT SECULAR JEWISH CIRCLE REFUSE TO SIT BACK ON THEIR HEELS



A guest gets to light the candles.



A seder first; tree planting to follow.

photos by Lauren Bricker

Sure, there are organizations that would take it easy during the long, dreary, somnolent winter. But not SJC! We've had plenty going on—education, social action, socializing—sometimes even at the same event!

At a January *Shabbat*, Joe Butwin, professor of English at the University of Washington, helped us explore the Jewish experience, the immigrant experience, and the human experience, as interpreted by Sholem Aleichem. Joe's parents, Julius and Frances Butwin, translated 27 of Aleichem's stories and compiled them into a 1947 best-selling book called *The Old Country*. Joe read to us from the book, and we discussed, among other things, young people's attempts to cope with dissociating themselves from the "old ways" while forging their own identities.

Also in January, we held our annual *Tu Bi-Shevat* celebration in Seattle's Magnuson Park, which included a *seder* complete with fruits, nuts, and various hues of grape juice. After the *seder* we put into the ground 41 different plants and trees. Our *b'nai mitsva* students stayed an extra two hours for community service.

In February, four of our members joined with hundreds of others to participate in *Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day* in our state's capital, Olympia. They were briefed on relevant laws currently being debated in the state legislature, marched to the Capitol, and met with several legislators.

Also in February, SHJ's Community Development Director, Rabbi Miriam Jerris, visited us to lead a *Shabbat* service, talk to us about "Diversity within Humanistic Judaism," attend a new member social gathering, facilitate a discussion about secular spirituality, and meet with our education and steering committees.

In March, we held a "new underwear and sock" drive to support agencies affiliated with the *Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless*. We also attended a *Purim* carnival at the Mercer Island Jewish Community Center. Our March *Shabbat* focused on American Jews and Israel—how we feel about Israel, how that governs our behaviors, and whether we think that SJC should take an official position toward Israel. And in March and April we celebrated two of our members' *bat mitzvas*—Blixa Furstenberg on March 22 and Greta Treistman on April 4.

SJC continues longstanding activities throughout the year, including our *Shalom* Sunday classes and the events related to our committees—Jewish Studies, Social Action, Community Service, *Mitsva*, Membership, Education, and Steering. And our plans don't taper off anytime soon: We're going to be hiring and training a spiritual leader and eventually establishing a permanent location for our community. That's going to take work and commitment, but it's something that, for many of us, comes naturally.

Neal Starkman, Secular Jewish Circle, WA

Got Facebook?

Join the Humanistic Judaism Group and keep up with SHJ happenings. Not on Facebook? Join today & stay in touch.

Use Goodsearch.com

as your search engine. Type in "Society for Humanistic Judaism" as your charity. Then search the Web for your needs. And know that you will earn money for SHJ while you search!

AVOIDING ANNUAL DONATIONS TO THE FUND FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM BY BERT STEINBERG

Mother said I would learn something new each day. As I approach my 88th birthday she again proves herself correct. At a fundraising committee discussion at the recent L.A. conference, a new idea germinated that seemed good enough to report to the full Board meeting. We were kicking around procedures for contacting members to make their usual annual contribution to the Fund For Humanistic Judaism: how many reminders to send, calls to make— items callers are reluctant to do and those called are never happy to receive.

Suddenly, it struck me: some years ago my financial situation needed a little extra deduction because of a windfall that had taken place. It was the time of year when taxes become more on the table than usual in our thinking—and about the same time, that the letter from the Society for the annual contribution arrives. Brainstorm!

Why do I have to bother every year with sending a check to the Society? Why couldn't I make some sort of arrangement so that instead of my receiving income and then having to draw a check to the Fund, the gift amount could go right to the Society without passing through my hands? I could even save postage (at the time it wasn't even the 42 cents it is now).

And then Mom's prophecy was achieved. It didn't take much

SOCIETY SOON TO OFFER MEMBERS SHJ VISA CREDIT CARD

Partnering with CardPartner, the Society will soon send its members e-mail information about a Society for Humanistic Judaism Visa Platinum credit card program. For every accepted application, the SHJ receives \$30 from CardPartner and an ongoing percentage of purchases made with the card. The offer is for U.S. residents only.

CardPartner is a subsidiary of the privately held technology provider Serverside Group. UMB (NASDAQ: UMBF), a multi-bank, multi-billion dollar holding company, provides the banking services for this program.

There are no annual membership fees, and cards with the Society's logo come with all the benefits and protection associated with a Visa Platinum card from UMB, including 24-hour cardholder service and no balance transfer fees for six months. The only difference is the card promotes SHJ awareness and increases our revenue.

For communities that provide a credit card to rabbis, lead-

more thinking on my part to realize that if I deposited the principal that provided the income for the contribution directly to the then recently established SHJ Pooled Income Fund, the approximate 5% income could be paid directly to the Society each year (actually, each quarter), and I would have a tremendous charitable deduction of the entire principal in the year that I set up the system. Wow! So I did it and Mom was again proven right.

I know you want to know how the numbers work — it's very simple. Let us assume for argument's sake, you are making a \$250 annual contribution. Well, make it \$500, for the sake of example; the numbers are easier to follow. The PIF earns about 5% annually, which would be \$500 on a deposit of \$10,000 to the Fund. But the \$10,000 deposit would be a deduction (about \$8,000 qualifying under IRS rules, depending on age), saving at least 30-33% in federal and state income taxes, or roughly \$2,500.

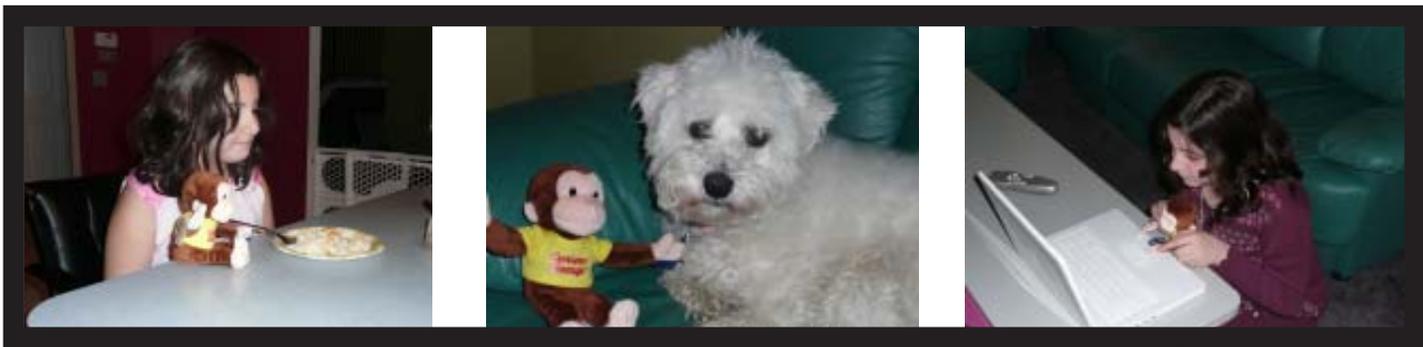
With a savings of \$2,500, it means you have only laid out \$7,500, on which you will earn \$500 — that's now become 6.66% — not bad. And remember, you also save the cost of the postage stamp.

Well, the Committee in L.A. thought more people should know about this. So just call me at 415 543 4595 or e-mail me: berts239@comcast.net and we'll work out your precise numbers and get you started.

ers, educators, and/or board members, the SHJ Visa Platinum is an ideal way to promote the connection to the national organization. In addition, here are some benefits:

- Auto rental collision damage waiver*
- Emergency cash disbursement & card replacement*
- Lost/stolen card reporting*
- Zero liability*
- Lost luggage replacement*
- Purchase security*
- Roadside dispatch*
- Travel & Emergency Assistance Services*
- Warranty Manager Service*

The Society will be utilizing CardPartner's online marketing kit to introduce Society members to this new offer. It is important that we have your **current e-mail address** in order for you to receive this information. There will be a limited number of snail-mail applications in our office for those people without e-mail.



BETH CHAVERIM RECEIVES 2 GRANTS FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

Beth Chaverim Humanistic Jewish Community of Deerfield enjoys a good relationship as an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Jewish Education. Beth Chaverim was the recipient of two grants this year from CFJE in Chicago. These grants enabled Beth Chaverim to develop some innovative programs.

With an adult education grant, Beth Chaverim hosted a four part series on Food and Jewish Culture at the local Whole Foods Market. It focused on *Rosh Hashana*, *Hanukka*, *Tu Bi Shevat* and *Purim* successively. An introduction to the program talked about Judaism as rich in symbolism. The use of special foods at Jewish holidays play their part in representing each holiday's values.

We made apple *matza kugel*, *latkes*, Italian rice balls, date and nut bread, *hamantashen* and “*orecchi di haman*.”

With a Congregational Enrichment Initiative Program grant from the CFJE the students in the religious school spent a recent morning learning about Curious George and his Jewish roots. Each school family received a copy of the book by Louise Borden, *The Journey that Saved Curious George*. Here is part of what they learned:

Curious George is an American icon. But his roots lie with his German-Jewish authors, H.A. and Margret Rey. Their story of escape and survival during World War II is captured in the book by Louise Borden, *The Journey that Saved Curious George*. Their story raises important issues of the Jewish contribution to our culture at large as well as causing us to pause and consider what else was lost to us during the war. Had not the Reys taken their manuscript with them on their harrowing journey, Curious George would have been lost to the world and generations of children.

Jodi Kornfeld, rabbinic candidate, Deerfield, IL

PURIM STORY, FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

The sound of *groggers* and shouts of “Boo! Hiss!” were heard throughout Queens, March 22, when members of the Queens Community for Cultural Judaism got together for their annual *Purim* celebration. There was poetry, music, a “politically incorrect *megilla*,” a lively discussion of current events (Elliot Spitzer as Haman?), *hamantaschen* and wine. Pictured at right, from right to left (as in Hebrew) are Yala Korwin as Vashti, Ed Klein as Ahasveros, and Terri Sadin as Cio-Cio San. What does Cio-Cio San have to do with Purim? We’re not sure, but we think Terri was inspired by the “Live from Lincoln Center” broadcast of *Madame Butterfly*, March 20.

Nina Gordon, VP, NY



Alexa Oremland of Or Emet, MN, makes a dessert fit for a queen.

MACHAR MARKS 30TH ANNIVERSARY WITH SPECIAL WEEKEND EVENTS; STUDENTS AND BAND JOIN IN

Machar marked its 30th anniversary with a celebratory weekend, chaired by Marlene Cohen. A wonderful program book with mementos, photos, and greetings was created by member Donna Bassin. Friend of Machar, Herenia Doerr, created hand-illustrated cards honoring Rabbi Sherwin Wine and the anniversary.

We held a special *Shabbat* celebration, led by *madrikha* Deb Godden, honoring the Machar founders. Friend of Machar, Hilda Rubin, who co-founded Yiddish of Greater Washington with one of our founders, the late Harold Black, presented several short plays of Harold's in Yiddish, read/acted by members of the Yiddish group.

Founders Milly and Joe Goodman provided reflections and Henrietta Wexler read reflections that she and founder Mary Perica wrote. Jules Abrams provided stories about Rabbi Wine's help in founding Machar. Michael Prival provided reflections as well. Our Women in Transition

(WITS) group sponsored the *oneg*.

The festivities continued on Sunday morning, with a program that included our Jewish Cultural School students and the Machar Band. A PowerPoint



presentation with photos, recorded memories, and music was created by Machar member David Godden and received a standing ovation! At the end of the morning we schmoozed and enjoyed a catered brunch.

Marlene Cohen, Deb Godden, Roz Seidenstein, Washington, D.C.

Machar's Teen Group

We had a fantastic time at Build-A-Bear with Shalom BBYO, the area's teen program for special needs youth! After having dinner and getting to know our BBYO friends we went over to Build-A-Bear and made TWENTY bears to be donated to children in need through Martha's Table, a D.C. community to help at-risk children, youth, and families. Everyone had a great time stuffing, dressing, and fluffing our bears and were a tad bit sad to send them off.

In March we served Easter Dinner at Martha's Table. We set tables, served 3-course meals to

the guests, set up and served "to-go" food packages and then worked very hard as the clean-up crew. And we distributed the bears! This program was made possible through a community-service incentive grant that we received from the Jewish Youth Philanthropy Institute. *Sonya Weisburd*

SPRING BRINGS A MULTITUDE OF ACTIVITIES TO TRIANGLE

Triangle Congregation, May 9, heard Durham residents Tema Okun and Tom Stern speak on their trip to the Middle East in a presentation entitled "Build Houses, Build Peace--Two Jews Take You to the West Bank." As activists with Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, USA, a national Middle East peace organization pledged to rebuilding all Palestinian homes destroyed by the Israeli government this year, they gave the story behind the demolition of homes

and the ways in which the Constructing Peace Campaign offers both humanitarian relief and active resistance to occupation.

April was a busy month: member Don Rosenbaum presented "Klezmer Music and Jewish Jazz"; the bi-monthly book group met to discuss *Secular Spirituality: Passionate Journey to a Rational Judaism*, edited by SHJ Executive Director Bonnie Cousins; *madrikha* Lois Alpern led the congre-

gational *seder*; co-president Cathy Moore spoke on the values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and TCHJ members participated in a statewide, intergenerational reading initiative called One Book, One People. Each met with a Jewish college student to discuss this year's selection, *The Septembers of Shiraz*, by Dalia Sofer. Triangle also held several Sunday events to help a new Raleigh, North Carolina group.

Lynne Kane, publicity chair, NC

From the SHJ President, Lou Altman, After the SHJ Conference in L.A.



SHJ BOARD MEMBERS CONFRONT MAJOR ISSUE: SHALL WE CONTINUE BIENNIAL CONFERENCES?

I just got back from the 2008 Conference in Los Angeles. It was preceded by a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society, which in turn was preceded by a meeting of the Society's Executive Committee. A major issue was "**Shall we continue to have biennial conferences?**" Why would we consider this? For several reasons:

1. Conferences are not money-makers. At best they break even.
2. Conferences involve a large expenditure of Society resources. They take up a lot of staff time, and SHJ never has enough staff in Farmington Hills (for obvious financial reasons). Conferences require a lot of detailed planning, from the big details such as creating the program and negotiating with the hotel for rooms and meals, all the way to the small details such as helping people to connect for shared rides from the airport.
3. The impact on the staff extends for months prior to the conference date. We have talked about hiring a person whose main job is to plan conferences and other meetings, but the cost has deterred us. So the question arises: should we continue to divert the staff's efforts from other business (i.e., servicing the communities in other ways) by giving priority to conference planning for some months every two years?
4. The impact on the communities is significant. The host community devotes hours and hours to conference planning. Regardless of where the host city is located, it takes time and money for everybody from the other cities to travel there. The conference takes people away from their regular activities: running a congregation, earning a living, being with family and friends.

So the Executive Committee asked the Board to decide if conferences are worth all this. It would be up to your SHJ board members to consider and vote on this issue.

Those of you who have seen me run a board meeting know that I like to keep business moving along on schedule (at least, I try). But some issues require fuller consideration, and that in turn requires taking time to hear a broad range of views. I deliberately devoted a larger amount of time to this issue than I have ever done for a single issue before. The Board heard a lot of thoughts and opinions. And then we voted.

What did the Board decide?

The Board voted by a substantial margin to continue holding biennial conferences, at least for the immediate future. They evidently felt that enabling members to meet each other in person is one of the things that makes us a real community, instead of merely a federation of congregations and individuals.

A conference is people really getting to know each other, instead of merely exchanging emails and phone calls.

A conference is educators exchanging ideas and viewpoints, instead of just printed curricula.

A conference is the presidents of different congregations (and me too) having breakfast together, and getting to be friends instead of just people who happen to have the same job.

A conference is renewing acquaintance with old friends every two years.

A conference is *Humanism* with its human face, not just its organizational facade.

I had a ball at the conference. See you in Toronto in 2010.

Building Community

by Rabbi Miriam Jerris

REMEMBERING WHY CONFERENCES ARE WORTHWHILE

The Society for Humanistic Judaism held its biennial conference in Los Angeles at the beginning of April. The members of Adat Chaverim were our hosts. I want to thank everyone who did anything no matter how large or small to make the conference the wonderful success that it was.

The Board of Directors of the Society spent more than one hour discussing the merits of holding conferences, prior to the conference weekend. Conferences are very expensive, and it is a tremendous amount of work for the volunteers in the host community. Only a small percentage of the membership attends. Yet the overwhelming opinion of the Board was that conferences are worth it. And on Sunday evening, I remembered why.

This conference was particularly significant. It was the first conference since Rabbi Wine's death. We needed to prove that the passion to continue Humanistic Judaism endures. And we did!

There are four reasons why I believe conferences are important:

1. Leadership – There are very few occasions when the leadership of the Society for Humanistic Judaism gathers. It is important for our members to become acquainted with our leaders, rabbis, *madrikhim* and scholars. The plenary sessions

and the workshops provide that opportunity. After this weekend, I am confident that Humanistic Judaism is in good hands. We have strong, articulate and exciting leaders.

2. Learning – We can learn more together than we can by ourselves. The richness of the exchange informed by people coming together from all over North America creates a learning experience that does not exist in our individual communities. There is so much richness and diversity. And the concentration of our leaders presenting and dialoguing creates an exciting and intellectually charged exchange.

3. Involvement – Coming to conference rekindles the fire. It reinforces for those who may be having difficulties in their local communities why they became involved in Humanistic Judaism in the first place. It reminds us why it is important. Those who attend conferences take that energy back to their local communities. We all benefit.

4. Connection – The most important reason for holding conferences is the connections made and renewed. We are a small movement. There is not a Humanistic community on every corner. We are isolated.

Coming together at conferences enables us to meet others who share our perspective. We exchange ideas. We support one another. And we make and reinforce friendships.

Thank you, dear friends, for making Humanistic Judaism a priority by attending the conference. We hope to see many more of you in Toronto April 23-25, 2010. Please add this date to your personal and community calendars NOW and do not schedule any events on that weekend. We want you to enjoy the conference. There is nothing else like it. We are already grateful to the Oraynu community for hosting. We are seeking suggestions for enhancing and improving the conference and look forward to your suggestions. So let us hear from you.

Courtney Fleisher (Kol Hadash, IL) and Miriam share a laugh.



photo by Jodi Goldfinger

From the Executive Director, Bonnie Cousens **Building Community — Finding Family**

Shabbat in a living room, Sunday school at the Jewish book fair, supper in a *sukka*, a SaveDarfur rally, a conference in LA, a HuJews conclave in Chicago, a colloquium in Detroit, travel to Israel — that's what SHJ is about — building community, creating opportunities for members and congregations to come together, finding family.

We have created a family of choice — the Society for Humanistic Judaism. I do not live in the city in which I grew up. My children do not live in the same state I do. My family members are scattered. I turn to SHJ for family.

Over the years, my SHJ family has shared in many events in my life and I, in theirs. I count on them in times of joy and in times of sorrow. We've celebrated birthdays and anniversaries. We've welcomed each other's children into our family. We've delighted in our children's *b'nai mitzva* and confirmations. We've cheered at school graduations. We've rejoiced at our children's marriages and in the births of grandchildren. And we've shared the excitement of new jobs, new homes, and becoming empty-nesters.

We've worried about our children and our parents. We've offered comfort and support when family members died. And we've mourned friends.

Together, we've dipped apples in honey on *Rosh Hashana*, broken the fast after *Yom Kippur*, lit candles on *Hanukka*, eaten turkey on Thanksgiving and *matsa* at our *seders*. We've taught our children about Judaism and values at our SHJ schools. We've traveled to new cities and new

countries, welcoming new members into our family. My life is entwined in the life of my SHJ family.

I am proud of my family. I am proud of what we have accomplished.

With Sherwin Wine as our founder and guide, we've created a new movement in Jewish life, a home where we were encouraged to celebrate our Jewish identity. Now we are on our own. It is up to us to build the community we want, a community that will continue to be family to us and to our children.

I know that I can count on my family. And my family can count on me when it needs me. And right now, it needs my support, and the support of every member of our SHJ family. As the SHJ continues to build communities, as the SHJ continues to create an active HuJews community for our children, as the SHJ continues to create Jewish holiday and life cycle celebrations, as the SHJ continues to publish resources and train leaders, the SHJ needs YOU. Don't wait to be asked. Get involved today. Attend a conference (even if you missed 2008, you can come to Toronto in 2010 and be part of our Humanistic family gathering). Join a committee. Volunteer to host a program. Bring in a new member. Write a letter to the editor. Write your check now. Show your commitment. Support your SHJ family.

Get involved today. Attend a conference (even if you missed 2008, you can come to Toronto in 2010 and be part of our Humanistic family gathering). Join a committee. Volunteer to host a program. Bring in a new member. Write a letter to the editor. Write your check now. Show your commitment. Support your SHJ family.



SHJ, HuJews Young Adult Youth Group Offer Free Birthright Trip to Israel

A fabulous opportunity is being planned by the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the HuJews youth group. For the first time, we will partner with Taglit-Birthright Israel to offer a free Birthright trip to Israel in Summer 2009. Birthright is a wonderful program, offering a 10-day free Israel experience to high school grads ages 18-26.

This will be the first trip designed for Humanistic, cultural and secular Jews. We will help plan the itinerary, *Shabbat* programming, discussions and more. The Birthright provider deals with all of the logistics, registration, and security.

The trip is open to individuals ages 18-26 who have never been on a peer trip to Israel; the trip is all expenses paid and allows for the participants to extend their trips in Israel or

Europe for a nominal fee; and the trip will run in the summer of 2009, most likely early July. We will mail out flyers and more information as they become available. The exact dates for the trip will be set in Fall 2008 and registration will open in February 2009 on the Birthright Israel website (we will provide instructions when registration opens on how to register).

Right now we are generating a list of students interested in the trip to promote the trip. There are only 40 seats on our bus and we know interest will run high. Eligible people can get on the Birthright interest list in 2 ways: 1) Email AJ Chalom at hujews@comcast.net with their name, date of birth, email, address and phone number; or 2) Join the Facebook Group: *HuJews Birthright Interest List Summer 2009*. If you have any questions, please contact AJ.

of non-Jewish members). The founding members comprised the first board of directors. I became the unpaid “administrator,” with the office in my house. The group got a telephone number and listings in the telephone directory and the Jewish Federation directory. They applied to the IRS and the state for tax-exempt status and got insurance. I sat on every Jewish community planning committee in order for HJGP to be visible, active and recognized.

“Talented and creative members were on board and made two outstanding contributions to Humanistic Judaism. Eileen Kerry Kovac, as publicity director, produced two videos during a visit from Rabbi Wine in which he was interviewed by member Walter Hellman, and these videos have been made available through SHJ for all affiliates to use in recruiting and/or educating members. Members Walter Hellman and Al Tauber created a listserve for anyone in the world who had an interest in Humanistic/Secular Judaism and it was quite active for several years, attracting some new members as well as serving as a means for members to communicate with each other and exchange ideas. Kol Shalom’s rituals evolved, getting better and better, and the major Jewish holiday observances attracted large numbers.

“For several years, activities other than *seders*, High Holidays and the *Hanukka* party were held at what began to be called “Temple Goldhamer.” Mike was dubbed the *rebbe* because of his extensive knowledge of Judaism, Hebrew and Yiddish. He produced service booklets using liturgy developed by the group. Board meetings, committee meetings, Yiddish classes, music practices, *Kabbalat Shabbats*, children’s classes and a concurrent adult discussion group all took place at that location, as well as periodic *Shabbat* potluck dinners which grew to the maximum of 45 for which we Goldhamers had china and silverware. The annual *Purim* party brought out an assortment of “dress-ups” from which adults and children could concoct hilarious costumes. The grapevines covering the terrace formed a ready-made *sukka*.

“In 1998 I notified Kol Shalom that it was time to start planning for a gradual transition to a public facility (and considering how to pay for it) with the recognition that too much dependence on one person is not practical or realistic. And so, in 2000, with the concurrence of members, Kol Shalom arranged to rent classrooms at the JCC for children’s education and the adult Sunday Forum and a room for monthly *Shabbat* celebrations. Three years later it was time to begin work on the second step toward independence. Again, meetings of the members were held to arrive at consensus about what was needed and wanted,

and in March, 2005, Kol Shalom moved from the Goldhamer house to a three-room suite in a well-located small office building. A part-time administrator was hired.

“I am endlessly grateful to Miriam, Bonnie, Sherwin, the SHJ staff and others in the movement for all the encouragement and support, which has been invaluable; additionally, I am very grateful to a dedicated and talented membership which has made Kol Shalom a successful community of 70 households and growing.”

(Editor’s note: During her tenure as head of the Kol Shalom office, Jane served as the first newsletter editor, as bookkeeper and sometimes treasurer, as assistant to the membership chair as well as assisting other committees as needed. Since retiring from the office position, she has served as membership chair—during which time the membership reached a peak of 75 households—and later as a member of that committee, as program chair, on the ritual committee, the fund-raising committee, and the public relations committee.

Jane admits to being an SHJ “groupie,” having been Kol Shalom’s designated delegate to the national board since 1993. She served one term on the Executive Committee, was on the Communications Committee for a couple of years—during which time she suggested the titles of Leader Reader and Society Pages— and presently is on the Membership Committee, a vital interest to her since she’s passionate in wanting to “bring the freedom and fulfillment of Humanistic Judaism to unaffiliated and disaffiliated Jews and their families throughout the U.S. and Canada.”

She has attended every Colloquium since 1995, the IFSHJ conferences since 1994, and the IISHJ trips led by Rabbi Wine to Cuba and Spain. The only board meeting she missed was in the spring of 2007, when Mike had his fatal heart attack.)



Kol Shalom members Sherry Archer and Mary Raskin congratulate Jane. Photo by member Gary Sampson

Tributes

To Gerry Revzin
Wishing you a speedy recovery
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Elaine Kamienny
Wishing you a speedy recovery
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Miriam Jerris & Steve Stawicki

To Mary Lewis
In loving memory of Lewis Sirotkin
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Ann Black

To Rebecca & Gary Smith & family
In loving memory of William Smith
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Miriam Jerris & Steve Stawicki
Harriet Maza

To Renee Fields & Peter Mones & family
In loving memory of her sister Nancy Kane
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Miriam Jerris & Steve Stawicki

To Sandra Landau
In loving memory of Milt Landau
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Art & Cathy Bernstein
In celebration of their anniversary
From Lucia Brandon & Bert Steinberg

To Lee Spanier
In celebration of his birthday
From Lucia Brandon & Bert Steinberg

To Edna Klein
In memory of Phil Klein
From Lucia Brandon & Bert Steinberg

To Joyce Lewbin
Remembering Joe Lewbin
From Lucia Brandon & Bert Steinberg

SHJ tributes support every occasion.
Support Humanistic Judaism,
remember a loved one:
Community Development Fund
Sherwin Wine Group Development Fund
Miriam Jerris Development Fund
Bass Community Development Fund
Bess & Boaz Siegel Jewish Culture Fund
Publications
Public Relations
Youth Programs
Endowment Fund

To Laura Kamienny
Wishing you a speedy recovery
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Joan & Harry Velick
In Honor of your marriage
From Jay & Leon Siegel

To Lorraine Pivnick
Wishing you a speedy recovery
From Elaine Kamienny

To Lorraine & Ben Pivnick
In honor of your 60th wedding anniversary
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Roz Hill
Hope you are feeling better soon
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Saul Forman
Thinking of you
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Miriam Jerris & Steve Stawicki

To Lysa PostulaStein
Thinking of you
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Pera Kane
Thinking of you
From Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Shari & Richard Gelber
In honor of grandson, Samson Harold Gelber
From: Bonnie & Mark Cousens
Miriam Jerris & Steve Stawicki

To Jane & Bennett Edelman
In memory of Ruth Edelman
From Sylvia & Ira Rose

To Susan & Larry Goldman
In memory of Ruth Edelman
From Sylvia & Ira Rose

To Jane Goldhamer
In Honor of Receiving 2008 Sherwin T. Wine
Lifetime Achievement Award
From Harriet Maza

To Maxine & Stuart Frankel
In memory of Sam Frankel
From SHJ
Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Courtney Fleisher
With Thanks
From Dennis Geller

To Sheila Glass
In memory of mother Dora Glass
From Rabbi Miriam Jerris
Harriet Maza
Bonnie & Mark Cousens

To Barry Swan and Beth Haskalah for their
hospitality during my field visit
From Rabbi Miriam Jerris

To Marti Keller
In memory of your father
From Miriam Jerris & Steve Stawicki

To Donald Sugerman
In honor of your birthday
From Miriam Jerris & Steve Stawicki

To Richard McMains
In memory of Dora Glass
From Miriam Jerris and Steve Stawicki

To Lorraine & Ben Pivnick
In memory of Dora Glass
From Miriam Jerris & Steve Stawicki

SHJ is most grateful to Kol
Shalom for its generous
donation in honor of their
founder, Jane Goldhamer,
having won the Sherwin T.
Wine Lifetime Achieve-
ment Award 2008.

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FROM: _____

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 17-21, 2008	LEADERSHIP & RABBINIC SEMINAR: Jewish Education and Curriculum Planning, Farmington Hills, MI. Open to current and prospective Leadership, Educators and Rabbinic Program students, and Humanistic community school personnel. Contact: IISHJ, (248) 476-9532, lglass@iishj.org.
September 28-30, 2008	RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS VISIT TO WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM, NY. Contact: Howard Weinberg, howardwg@verizon.net.
October 8-9, 2008	RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS VISIT TO BETHAMI, COLORADO CONGREGATION FOR HJ, Yom Kippur, Contact: Sheila Malcolm, sheilamalcolm@comcast.net.
November 7-10, 2008	RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS VISIT TO THE CITY CONGREGATION, New York, NY. Contact: Amy Stein, Administrator, (212) 213-1002, info@citycongregation.org.
November 7-11, 2008	TRAVEL & LEARN WITH RABBI ADAM CHALOM: Tour Colonial Savannah & Historic Charleston. Contact: IISHJ, (248) 476-9532, lglass@iishj.org. Booking Deadline: July 1, 2008.
November 14-16, 2008	RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS VISIT TO CHJ, Morris County, NJ. Contact: Melissa Biren, birenagree@aol.com.
December 12-14, 2008	RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS VISIT TO HUMANISTIC JEWISH CONGREGATION, San Diego, CA. Contact: Steve Adler, (858) 549-3088, info@hjcsd.org.
January 16-18, 2009	RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS VISIT TO CHJ, Sarasota, FL. Contact: Sandy Cadman, (941) 379-9894, chjsarasota@hotmail.com.
March 27-29, 2009	RABBI MIRIAM JERRIS VISIT TO MACHAR, WASHINGTON DC CONGREGATION FOR SECULAR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM, Washington, D.C. Contact: Larry Lawrence, larrymlawrence@comcast.net, (202) 364-0702.
April 17-19, 2009	HUJEWS TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT CONCLAVE, MI. Contact: (248) 478-7610, hujews@comcast.net.
October 23-25, 2009	COLLOQUIUM '09, Farmington Hills, MI. Contact: IISHJ, (248) 476-9532, lglass@iishj.org.
April 23-26, 2010	SHJ CONFERENCE & HUJEWS CONCLAVE 2010, Toronto, ON. Contact: SHJ, (248) 478-7610, info@shj.org.

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