Saturday, January 3 at 10:30 A.M.
Service & Speakers Paul Rosen & Alan Bandler on “Belief in God under the Law in the United States”

After our Shabbat Service at 10:30 A.M., attorneys Paul Rosen & Alan Bandler will speak on “Belief in God under the Law in the United States.”

Paul Rosen received his legal training at Wayne State University, Mich. Rosen has taught in several law schools including the University of South Florida. Currently he is a member of the Michigan Judicial Selection Task Force, the American Constitutional Society and the United Supreme Court Historical Society. In 2013 he was voted best lawyer in the Detroit region.

Alan Bandler is a Harvard Law graduate. He clerked for a federal judge and had an extensive law practice principally concentrated on commercial real property in New York City. He leads a course on the Supreme Court at the Lifelong Learning Academy at the University of South Florida. He has been active in the Democratic Party.

The Program and Oneg are Sponsored by Toni & John Gartner in Celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Friday, January 16 at 7:30 P.M.
Service & Speaker Professor Mark W. Rosenblum on “What Now in the Peace Process?”

Following our 7:30 P.M. Shabbat Service, when we will listen to the voices of he Humanaires, Professor Mark W. Rosenblum will be speaking on “What Now in the Peace Process?”

Rosenblum is Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding (CERRU), as well as Director of the Michael Harrington Center for Democratic Values. He has been named “Scholar in Residence,” and serves as Director of the CUNY Ibrahim Queens College Student Scholar Middle East Leadership and Dialogue Program, which includes Saudi Arabia and Israel as bookends to an immersion in Middle East culture and society.

His project, “The Middle East and America: Clash of Civilizations or Meeting of Minds,” seeks modes of reconciliation for all interested in the Middle East, and recently won a major Ford Foundation grant. He was also one of two winners of an award in the field of Religion, Conflict, and Reconciliation given by the Clinton Global Initiative, and in 2003 he received the Queens College President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

He has appeared as a Middle East analyst on CNN, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, and NPR. He has met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, King Abdullah II, and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The Program is Sponsored by Alice & Dave Berman and Susan Robinson

NOTE NEW TIMES & SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, Jan. 18 at 3:30 P.M. at Unity: Panel Discussion: Portrait of Jewish Americans, PEW Report, (see page 3).
from our Co-President Alice D’Souza

Chanukah is always a time of delight and warmth. It may be my favorite holiday - but then, I say that with every holiday. The Shammes candle, which stands taller and lights the rest, reminds us all that one small candle illuminates the faces of all around us. In the darkness of the evening, it reminds us of other Chanukahs with the children so full from latkes, still playing with the dreidel, smiling and waiting for the lighting of the candles and their gifts and gelt. Then one, then two, and on to eight - each night they watch the candles disappear. And we’ll do it again next year. It is so wonderful to have my grandchildren near.

On December 6 we had an outstanding program with guest speaker Rabbi Denise Handlarski from the Toronto Oraynu Congregation. She gave a very understandable presentation on “The Pew Report Concerning the Condition of American Jewry Today.” This will be followed up on January 18, at 3:30 P.M. at Unity by a panel discussion led by Sy Golden on “The Pew Report: A Portrait of Jewish Americans.” Not to be missed! (Please note amended time, and see page 3 for details and reservation information.)

Lois has asked several people in the Congregation if they could chair the Program Committee. Thus far, no one has stepped up. We must have a Chairperson. Anyone interested please call either Lois (923-4347) or me (735-1937). There will be a lot of help and support for the job.

Wishing everyone all the happiness and joy of this bright season and wonderful weather,

Shalom, Shanti,

Alice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No December Board Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm Clothing Drive Continued for Friday Night Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Friday Night Services - bring any used warm clothing. It will be delivered to Resurrection House for those in need.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Don’t Forget to Bring Food to our Saturday Morning Services |
| Bring your non-perishable food contributions for All Faiths Food Bank with you to our Saturday morning Shabbat Services. There are more hungry Sarasotans in need than ever before. When you go to the supermarket, put a few extra cans into your cart, and bring them to our Saturday service. |

Check out our own CHJ website: www.chj-sarasota.org you will find The Connection in large print and vibrant color.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Directors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-President: Lois Altman 923-4347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-President: Alice D’Souza 735-1937</td>
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<td>Vice President: Leonard Rosen 355-1786</td>
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<td>Secretary: Susan Boston 927-4433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer: Barney Sack 378-0355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directors:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lou Altman 847-530-2104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandi Cooper 383-3049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Friedman 752-4857</td>
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<td>Stanley Katz 343-0095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harriet Lane 371-1008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terry Langlois 524-3985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheila Rosenthal 377-2147</td>
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<td>Phil Silverstein 377-2147</td>
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</table>

The Board meets at 3:30 P.M. on the second Monday of every month at the Roskamp Center for Arts and Humanities, 1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. All CHJ members are welcome.

Board Appointed Designee to SHJ: Lou Altman 847-530-2104
Madnikha: Betty Pelletz 383-1149
PANEL DISCUSSION: THE PEW SURVEY REPORT ON
"PORTRAIT OF JEWISH AMERICANS"
Sunday, January 18, 3:30 P.M. at
Unity, 3023 Proctor Road, Sarasota

"Portrait of Jewish Americans," a PEW Survey Report, has elicited a widespread reaction to its findings
in the Jewish community. To continue the discussion within our local community, a panel presentation/
discussion has been scheduled by our Education Committee to expand and explore in depth some of the re-
port’s issues presented earlier by Rabbi Denise Handlarski.

The panel members will be Joe Boston, M.A., past Executive Director of Jewish Community Organizations;
Stan Katz, Ph.D., Lecturer, George Washington University; and Felice Perlmutter, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus,
Temple University. Moderator, Sy Golden.

After the formal presentations, and based upon them, the audience will be encouraged to ask questions, and
especially to provide suggestions as to how our members can use the information with their families and
friends. And specifically, how our congregation can use the information to attract some of the “wandering”
Jews to keep them within our family and cultural heritage.

Registration for attendance is required.
Contact Harriet Lane at eliandharriet@comcast.net or 371-1008. The panel presentation will take place
on Sunday, January 18, at 3:30 P.M. at Unity, 3023 Proctor Road, Sarasota.

All are welcome. This program is free and open to the public.

THE RITCHIE BOYS: CHJ member Barry Wolfe, Ph.D, will facilitate this excellent docu-
mentary. Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 2:30 P.M. at Unity, 3023 Proctor Road, Sara-
sota. Movie - 93 minutes, followed by Questions & Answers.

During World War II, Camp Ritchie, Md. served as the Military Intelligence Training Center of
the US Army. Alumni of Camp Ritchie were nicknamed Ritchie Boys. Some 60 years later,
the German film company TANGRAM made the documentary The Ritchie Boys in honor of the
WWII contributions of the many German and Austrian refugee Ritchie Boys. This documentary was a semi-
finalist for an Oscar as best documentary.

*The Ritchie Boys* is an artfully edited collection of war stories – many droll and moving – told by a group of 10
veterans, now octogenarian American Army veterans, nine of whom were German and Austrian Jewish refu-
gees. “The tenth was Dr. Morris B. Parloff, my mentor, who was born in Cleveland, Ohio. Morris was se-
lected because he spoke fluent Yiddish and German. This is one of the most moving documentaries I have
ever seen and I wanted to share it with the CHJ community.” Barry E. Wolfe, Ph.D.

CHJ members free, nonmembers $5.00

REGISTER by February 11 for this program by completing this registration form. Registration is required for
both members and nonmembers. Mail to: CHJ, 3023 Proctor Road, Sarasota, FL 34231; or CHJ members may
leave Name(s), Home Phone and Address on CHJ phone at 929-7771 or e-mail chjsarasota@hotmail.com.

# of people_____ Name________________________Address________________________

Amount enclosed ________________ CHJ member ( ) ( )

Yes No

"Don't be so humble - you are not that great." Golda Meir (1898-1978) to a visiting diplomat.
WE WILL REMEMBER HIM

Howard Martin Kaplan

Howard “Howie” Martin Kaplan, born January 31, 1935, in Brooklyn, N.Y., made his transition to the great theater on December 3, 2014. Howie taught special education in New York City for 25 years and loved his students “where they were at.” Howie loved life, and his quick wit and sunny disposition endeared him to all who met him.

After retiring from teaching, Howie and his wife Edie relocated to Florida for the sunshine and laid-back lifestyle. Howie had been very involved in community theater in New Jersey. His singing came to the fore in Florida and he sang bass or baritone for several years with the Gulf Coast Men’s Chorus (now Diversity), Backstage, and most recently the Gulf Coast Community Choir and The Humanaires. The crowning moment of Howie’s singing “career” took place on November 23, 2014, at THE Sarasota Opera House. Edie and Howie’s toy poodle, Lady, who shared his birthday, went peacefully to puppy-heaven on November 28th after a brief bout with cancer. Howie took it very hard. Howie will be missed deeply by all who knew and loved him.

He was a devoted father to his four children, Steven (Debbie), Helene (Lynn), Herbert (Fatima), and Rochelle (Alan), cared deeply for his two step-daughters, Deborah (David) and Stacey (Howard), and loved his grandchildren, Brian, Daniel, Nirel and Christopher, as well as his step-grandchildren, Leor, Lola, Gram, Levi, Max and Adam who will all miss talking to him on the phone.

Memorial donations may be made to All Faiths Food Bank, Sarasota Gluten-Free Support Group, or the charity of your choice. A Celebration of Life will take place on January 4, 2014 at 2:30 – 5:30 P.M., at Unity. Edie would like the refreshments to be in the form of a Pot Luck Chocolate Party – so feel free to bring your favorite chocolate dessert (Howie’s favorite). All are welcome.

Shabbat Service & Rabbi Denise Handlarski, Toronto Oraynu
Coming Events

Saturday, February 7 at 10:30 A.M.
Service & Christa Whitney on “Yiddish Book Center’s Wexler Oral History Project – A Growing Archive”

Following our 10:30 A.M. Shabbat Service, when we will enjoy the voices of the Humanaires, Christa Whitney, Director of the Yiddish Book Center’s Wexler Oral History Project, will talk to us on the “Yiddish Book Center’s Wexler Oral History Project – A Growing Archive.”

The Wexler Oral History Project is a growing collection of in-depth video interviews with people of all ages, exploring Yiddish cultural topics and issues of modern Jewish identity. Whitney went to Poland and traversed more than 1,000 miles during which time she recorded oral history interviews with scholars, actors, musicians and Yiddish activists. Together these stories and reflections provide a glimpse into the ways in which cultural heritage is transmitted, adapted, and reinterpreted by each generation, and illustrate the ways in which the Yiddish language and culture inform Jewish identity.

Whitney discovered Yiddish while studying comparative literature at Smith College, the Yiddish Book Institute, and at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute. Her story with the Yiddish Book Center started in 2007 when, as an intern, “they were schlepping books every afternoon in a ninety-something degree warehouse.” She returned in 2009 as the first fellow in the, then, brand-new Fellowship Program. In her spare time she likes to dance, read, cook and do genealogy research.

The Program is Sponsored by Marilyn & Sy Golden

Friday, February 20 at 7:30 P.M.
Shabbat Service & Gerald J. Robinson Speaking on “The Supreme Court on Issues of Church and State...an interactive discussion”

After our 7:30 P.M. Shabbat Service, Gerald J. (“Jack”) Robinson - attorney and American history buff – will speak about “The Supreme Court on Issues of Church and State...an interactive discussion.”

Robinson is the leader of the perennially popular “Burning Issues in the Supreme Court” course at the Longboat Key Education Center, and he will discuss religion and the Constitution and some of the many controversial cases that refuse to recognize the separation of church and state. Discussion and dissent from his views will be welcome.

He graduated from Cornell University, obtained an LL.B from Maryland Law School and an LL.M. in Taxation from New York University. After serving in the Regional Counsel’s Office of the Internal Revenue Service trying cases in the Tax Court, he continued his career as a tax attorney in New York City. Robinson has semi-retired to Sarasota where he now updates his tax treatise, and serves as pro bono legal counsel for Gulfcoast Legal Services fighting home foreclosures and consumer fraud cases for clients who cannot afford private lawyers.

He also knows some terrific lawyer jokes.

The Program is Sponsored by Sheila Rosenthal & Phil Silverstein and Shirley Gotthelf
The Oneg is Sponsored by Susan & Joe Boston

Humanistic Judaism embraces a human-centered philosophy that combines rational thinking with a celebration of Jewish culture and identity. It affirms that human beings possess the power and responsibility to shape their own lives, and that ethics and morality are not divine in origin but are human responsibilities. Our mission is to meet the needs of humanist, secular Jews as well as their non-Jewish family members/partners and friends in the greater Sarasota and Manatee area.
January Yahrzeit

Rabbi Bruce Abrams, nephew of
Lorynne Cahn
Lester Dinoff, husband of Kay Levy
Minnie Farber, mother of Bernard Farber
Diane Orenberg Fernandes, cousin of
Carole & Walt Ulin
Betty Holland, mother of Sandra Siegel
Judy Jackups, daughter of Gilda & Fred Nobel
Irving Kast, father of Harriet Lane
Roma Marshall, wife of Don Marshall
George Raab, brother-in-law of
Lois & Marshall Friedman
Morris Rosen, father of Len Rosen
Ray Rosen, mother of Len Rosen
Donald Shapiro, brother of Gerry Shapiro
Sam Siegel, father-in-law of Sandra Siegel
Charles Ulin, father of Walt Ulin
Louis Vendeland, father of Jack Vendeland
Harold Winer, father of Sandi Cooper
Fabian Yelin, brother-in-law of Sora Yelin
Sol Zolendek, husband of Edie Zolendek

Correction to December 2014 Issue
Betty and Stan Pelletz celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

DIRECTORY CHANGES
Adrienne & Larry Bailin
have a new phone number: 706-6361
Correct name spelling is: Bailin
Ron Fox’s e-mail address is: firon32@gmail.com
Rachel Ferrell & Wade Sears
have a new address:
1301 N. Tamiami Trail, Apt. 408
Sarasota, FL 34236
New phone: 388-7777
Sim Lesser has a new e-mail address:
Simalesser@gmail.com
Norine & John Zimmer have a new Sarasota address:
7547 Renato Ct.
Sarasota, FL 34238
John’s phone is 246 635-4966
John’s e-mail is curlylj555@yahoo.com

January Birthdays

Solo Schiffman January 4
Frederika Jacobson January 5
Norman Freeman January 6
Annette Krakowsky January 9
Joe Newman January 13
William Lakin January 14
Erwin Lesser January 14
Barry Wolfe January 16
James Gardner January 17
Carol Michelman January 17
Carol Harris January 18
Jerry Moore January 19
Ruth Weinberg January 19
Pamela Gordon January 24
Stanford Weiss January 28
Doris Epstein January 31
Jill Factor January 31

January Anniversaries
Toni & John Gartner Jan. 3 50th
Laura & Mark Shulman Jan. 9 20th
Pauline & Martin Kacenell Jan. 17 34th
Carole & Walt Ulin Jan. 29 56th

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Lola Laubheim
3240 Lake Pointe Blvd., #A-308
Sarasota, FL 34231
Phone: 926-2996
E-mail: harpo7979@comcast.net

Arnold & Marcia Freedman
700 John Ringling Blvd., Apt. #T-1012
Sarasota, FL 34236
Phone: 361-7322
E-mail: marcarn@aol.com

HAIKU FOR JEWS
Concert of car horns
as we debate the question
of whether to change lanes.

I'd like to write...Thank you to my Jewish community friends
for your love, prayers and good thoughts
on the passing of my husband, Howie Kaplan.
Thanks again, Edie Kaplan
URGENT! - WE NEED VOLUNTEERS...

- to serve as Chairperson of the Program Committee
- to serve as members of the Program Committee
- to work on the various other projects of our Congregation

Below are some quotes from a letter by Dave Berman, Chairperson of the Program Committee, to a concerned member:

"...CHJ is run by a small group of selfless volunteers who give of their time and energy to a cause that is really important to our Jewish community... I know that our little congregation is central to the quality of my life here in Sarasota and I believe that is true for many others. It is the only place where I can be a proud committed Humanistic Jew in a community of other like-minded people...

We have no professional staff, we are older and mostly retired, but it is up to us to build the kind of community that best serves our needs. The work is (mostly) rewarding and it is a wonderful way to stay mentally alert and creative.... We need fresher and younger voices in leadership positions. (Now is the time) ...to step up to the plate and volunteer to serve. I can assure you that you will have all the help that you want or need from the current or past members of the committee. Speak to your friends and let us all pitch in to make CHJ the kind of a congregation that we all want it to be."

CHJ Social Action Committee

At our last meeting, we discussed the status of existing programs and the opportunity to find additional ways to serve those in need.

The Back Pack food program for kids continues to be a great success. However, our participation at Community Haven needs more workers. We need members to assist the population, work in the resale shop and help in special programs. We shall be visiting Community Haven for a second time in order to familiarize new visitors with this wonderful venue that assists people of all ages who have disabilities. In addition, we are looking at a project with a homeless group.

Our next meeting will take place at Unity on January 19 at 2:00 P.M. We need your participation. Please contact Mike and Judy Beltzman at (248) 909-2107

66th
Wedding Anniversary
of
Janet
&
Ron
Sheff

Barnet Such 2014
LIFE IN ITALY (...continuing Ernie Kent's story)

We went to Milan, my father had business acquaintances there and some money that he had smuggled out. At first we checked into a hotel, however it was necessary to find less expensive living quarters. Like most other refugees, we needed to find a furnished room in an apartment; except for the clothes, which we brought with us, we had no other belongings. I went with my mother to look at rooms, some were pretty dismal. My mother who had always lived comfortably, and tended to the dramatic, exclaimed "I would rather kill myself than live like this."

We finally found a nice clean room in an apartment. The husband of the elderly couple, whose apartment it was, was a henpecked Italian, and the wife was a cleanliness obsessed German. We shared their bathroom and kitchen. My mother disliked the "signora," who tended to criticize. Although my mother cooked our meals, we always ate together. I remember being appalled at some of their meals. One of their delicacies was little sparrows put on a toothpick with a piece of bacon at either end and then broiled, I couldn't look at it.

Just a few weeks after we arrived in Italy, Germany invaded Poland and WWII broke out. Italy remained neutral. Although the Italians had anti-Jewish laws, they were not anywhere as severe as the German laws. The Italian people were very kind and there was very little overt anti-Semitism. The only requirement was for the refugees to report to the local police station every two weeks; but otherwise, we were left undisturbed, except that no one was permitted to work. Which meant that we had to be very frugal.

In September I started school. The schools were segregated, and all the refugee children in Milan went to the same school for Jewish children. However, since we did not speak Italian, we were all placed into the first grade. So there we were kids from 8 to about 13 learning how to read and write. Our teacher was very patient with us, and at the end of the school year we took tests.

We knew that our stay in Italy was only temporary. Because of my father's Polish quota status, we had very little hope of getting a U.S. visa any time soon, and most of Europe was at war, with no country willing to absorb refugees. My father's older brother, Samuel, and his son Max, had left Vienna for Palestine and were settled there. The British, who still controlled Palestine, made it very difficult to bring refugees in. Max came to visit us in Milan. It was decided that my uncle would adopt me, and then it might be easier to bring my parents in later. It took several weeks to get my passport and make all the travel arrangements. But I was scheduled to leave by boat from Genoa on June 14, 1940. And then - Italy declared war on England and France on June 10, 1940, and all passenger ships going through the Mediterranean were stopped from leaving.

After Italy entered the war, life changed quickly. The night of June 13, my mother awakened me in the middle of the night; there was an air raid. French planes were bombing Milan. The Italians had made very little preparation, and we all just went down into the cellar. There we were all huddled together in the dark with just a gloomy candle. The French continued bombing every night, until France surrendered in July. Soon afterwards the British started bombing raids. Our position was a peculiar one; although we were in danger, we silently cheered the Allies who were inflicting damage on the Axis. Some Italians understood this. I remember one neighbor who was sitting shaking in the cellar, but pointing to my parents and saying "Povare voi" (poor you).

After Italy had joined the war, the Germans demanded that all Jewish refugees be either interned or deported to Germany. Every day we heard of people who had been picked up by the Italian police. No one knew when it would occur; we always had a small suitcase packed, just in case. Everyone tried to find a way to get out of Italy, and we were on the move again. Ernie Kent
SPECIAL & SOCIAL GROUPS

JEWISH HISTORY SEMINAR
Amaze your grandchildren with how much you know about Jewish History! Join the CHJ History Seminar on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00-2.30 P.M. in Classroom B, behind Fellowship Hall. Suggested reading for January 14, 2015: pp.86-91 (Atlas of the Jewish People) and for January 28: pp.92-97 (Atlas). For more information call Stan Katz 342-0095.

HUMANAIRES
The Humanaires are continuing to contribute their talents to our congregation’s musical programs. To enhance that effort, they are looking for more singers to join and become part of an honored interest group of music lovers. You know you enjoy the singing as part of the audience, and you can be part of creating that enjoyment. Just come to Unity at the usual rehearsal time on Wednesdays at 2:30 P.M., and a chair will be ready for you to join in to the fun. Be sure to contact Sandy Cadman at s.g.cadman@hotmail.com or 379-9894. Sy Golden, Humanaires Associate

CHAVURAH
We have two Chavurah groups already embarking on new friendships and experiences. Become involved in starting the next Chavurah and enjoy the fellowship, intellectual contact and pleasure of sharing with fellow CHJ members. To join and for information contact Renee Crames at Reneecrames@yahoo.com

BIKE RIDERS
The Bike Riders plan to ride on Saturday, January 10. We will ride about 1-1/2 hours around Venice, Casperson Beach and the Venetian Waterway. Afterwards we will lunch in downtown Venice. The scenery is beautiful, the exercise is good for you, and the comradery makes it worthwhile. Please e-mail Sandy Siegel if interested and for further information at sndrsgl@aol.com or 927-4545.

SUNSETTERS
Ours is always an open group that can accommodate an infinite number of people. We meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month on Lido Beach - in front of the pavilion. It is very informal and casual. We arrive about 1-1/2 hours before sunset. Bring your chairs, of course. At this time of the year (no daylight savings time) we go out to dinner afterwards to a casual restaurant. If you would like to join us contact Barbara Shapiro at ms.shappy@verizon.net or 941-365-3756.

DIGITAL IMAGING GROUP (DIG)
Please Note New Location
We meet at 1:30 P.M. on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at The Fountains Cinema. An assignment is made and members e-mail their required pictures, along with the best picture taken during the past 30 days. Photos are projected onto a large screen and editing software is applied to demonstrate possible enhancements. In addition, tutorials are presented with some guidance for the next month’s assignment. Camera functions and general photography tips are addressed. New members are welcome. For further information contact Jules Altenberg at jules@altenberg.com.

2015 IS NOW UPON US !!!
It's time for you to have a new adventure. Get involved in one of our existing special or social groups or suggest a new one that will better suit your interests. And as always, give some of your time to a community agency and make sure that you let them know that you are a CHJ member.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Jan 3</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Service, Paul Rosen &amp; Alan Bandler, Lifelong Learning Academy: &quot;Belief in God under the Law in the United States&quot;</td>
<td>Toni &amp; John Gartner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Service. Prof. Mark Rosenblum, Director, Center for Jewish Studies, Queens College: &quot;What Now in the Peace Process?&quot;</td>
<td>Alice &amp; Dave Berman</td>
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<td>and Susan Robinson (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Mark Rosenblum: The Israeli Elections and the Saudi Peace Proposal&quot; (at Temple Sinai)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>&quot;The Pew Report: A Portrait of Jewish Americans&quot; Panel Discussion, moderated by Sy Golden</td>
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<td>Reservations requested.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Education Series. Movie &quot;The Ritchie Boys&quot;</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Service. Gerald J. Robinson, Attorney: &quot;The Supreme Court on Issues of Church and State...an interactive discussion&quot;</td>
<td>Sheila Rosenthal &amp; Phil Silverstein (P)</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Purim Service. Cliff Roles: &quot;A Photographer’s Views of Europe, Israel, Australia &amp; New Zealand with a Focus on Jewish Sites&quot;</td>
<td>Fredy Jacobson &amp; Irwin Stupack (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>The Humanaires Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Service. Robert Gary: &quot;Iran and Israel&quot;</td>
<td>Lois Altman (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Apr 4</td>
<td>6:00 PM*</td>
<td>2” Night Seder, Michael’s on East</td>
<td>*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Apr 11</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Yom Hashoah Service. Suzanne Vromen, Professor Emeritus, Bard College: &quot;Debunking the Myth of Jewish Passivity During the Holocaust&quot;</td>
<td>Alice D’Souza (P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Apr 24</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Israel Independence Day Service. Elinor Borenstine: &quot;My Father Eddie Jacobson, Harry Truman, and the Creation of the State of Israel&quot;</td>
<td>Carole &amp; Erwin Segal (O)</td>
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**SHJ OPPOSES DENIAL OF EQUAL CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE TO WOMEN SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

*On The Move, December 2014*

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**The Congregation for Humanistic Judaism**

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TRIBUTES

Berman Music Fund

This Tribute is in memory of my husband, William Torop, and for the graciousness of Betty Pelletz, who gave her understanding and time at a "celebration" of Bill's Life, and to all those who remembered Bill when he was a vibrant, active person. Thank you all. Lisa Kramer-Torop

"In memory of Howie Kaplan," from Amy Eliezer

General Fund

For Carole Ulin - "in memory of her beloved brother, Dr. Ronald Kaplan," from Anita Sampson and Joe Newman

"In memory of Howie Kaplan, husband of Edie Kaplan," from Alice D'Souza

For Edith Sack - "Looking forward to seeing you back," from Alice D'Souza

"In memory of Dr. Ronald Kaplan, beloved brother of Carole (Mrs. Walter) Ulin," from Muriel Shindler

For Arlene Pearlman - "Get Well and be yourself soon," from Alice D'Souza

Speaker Program Fund

"For Betty Pelletz on her 80th Birthday," from Joan and Ron Fox

"For Betty and Stanley Pelletz on their 60th Anniversary," from Joan and Ron Fox

Ritual Ramblings

WE CAN'T BE INCLUSIVE IF YOU DON'T INCLUDE YOURSELF

Here is part of a Humanist attempt by a Professor at Harvard who is trying to build Rational Rituals.

"I offer the principle of 'rational ritual' Essentially, the idea is that a given community (here I am concerned with Humanist communities) makes a commitment to experimenting with ritual in a reflective and critical way, remaining open to changing or ditching any ritual practice that doesn't prove beneficial to members. Crucially, such an approach is completely in-sync with Humanist values: all three Humanist Manifestos, and all great Humanist thinkers, subscribe to the notion that our values and practices could be mistaken, should be subjected to continual critique, and open to change at any time. The concept of 'rational ritual', then, is simply an extension of this commitment to fallibilism and skepticism to ritual practice.

Immediately this obviates certain of our critics' concerns: the very same approach used to guard against dogmatism and authoritarianism in our thinking will be harnessed to guard against those dangers in our communal ritual practice. Just as we submit every idea to the test of reason, so we shall submit every ritual. If the ritual is found wanting, it is changed, or it is done away with. If some practice does indeed turn out to be meaningless, then we don't do it anymore. By separating ritual itself from the hierarchies and dogmas that often accompany it in religious organizations, and by making an explicit commitment to questioning and changing our rituals, we have a potent guard against some of its worst elements.

Another component of this idea is that we must provide well-evidenced reasons in favor of a given ritual – we should never be doing something 'for no reason.' If a community member or group suggests a new ritual practice they can be expected to offer reasons as to why they think this is a good idea. The community can then decide, through agreed-upon mechanisms, whether to experiment with the practice. If a ritual, previously of value, seems to be losing potency, then someone can raise an objection, too, offering their reasons for the objection. All these rituals will of course be voluntary to begin with – no one from the Project has ever suggested forcing anyone into anything they don't want to do."

What do you think? E-mail Betty at besttwo@aol.com and let's get a conversation going!

Come on - where are your poems by Jewish writers? They can be on any subject. I know we are a well-educated group and there are those out there who have favorite poets or poems.