CHJ HIGH HOLIDAYS 2016

*Rosh Hashanah & Lunch:* Monday, October 3, at 10:30 a.m.

*Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre:* Tuesday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m.

*Yom Kippur Memorial, Closing Services and Break-the-Fast:* Wednesday, October 12, at 3:00 p.m.

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**Friday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Sukkot Service & Speakers Donald Gould and Jacqueline Bevan on From the Street to a Recording Deal**

Following our 7:30 p.m. **Sukkot Service,** Donald Gould and Jacqueline Bevan will speak on *From the Street to a Recording Deal.*

Gould was living on the streets of Sarasota, playing a street piano to make enough money to survive. In 2015, a passerby filmed him playing a piano version of STYX’s *Come Sail Away,* and placed it on YouTube. It became a viral sensation. He was swept up by local media, and within days was given a complete make-over by *Inside Edition,* which put him on national television.

He had studied music theory at Spring Arbor University in Michigan, and as a former marine had played clarinet worldwide with the U.S. Marine Corps Band. However, after struggling with addiction, losing his wife to cancer, and losing custody of his son, his life spiraled downward and he was left struggling on the streets.

**Jacqueline Bevan** is a Christian Life Coach who is involved in street ministry for the homeless. She had met Donald in 2014. Over the past year, Jacqueline has started a GoFundMe account for Donald, raising over $40,000, entered him into drug rehabilitation, and become his music/PR manager as well as friend. Donald now has made contact with his son, has his own home, and is working on his recovery. Triple Pop has given him a record contract, and his full album, on which Jacqueline is singing, will be released this fall.

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**New Education Series Movie: Violins of Hope**

*Coming to CHJ on December 18*

Read all about it on page 9 and complete the Reservation Form.
Greetings.

Fall is in the air in spite of the heat. We get a quick fresh breeze and know the cooler weather will soon be here. October is our month to really enjoy paradise before the snowbirds swarm in from all over the world. Won’t they be surprised to see all the new roadwork, that parking meters are back and cranes are everywhere around town! I have convinced my grandchildren that the steel cranes are indeed the State Birds of Florida.

Our wonderful volunteers have been busy all summer preparing for our upcoming season. The Welcome Back Pot Luck was a huge success. About 75 people participated, there was lots of really good food and many comments that we should do this more often.

Planning continues for High Holidays, Programs, Education, Social Action, CHJ’s Twentieth Year Celebration, and much more. We continue to encourage everyone to get involved. Just a warm “hello” to another member is a way to be involved.

If you have any ideas for new activities let the office know and you will be contacted. Maybe a monthly/weekly game night in Fellowship Hall, or a book club, conversation around current events, and anything that could be fun and interesting.

A few new interest groups are forming, Alla Rabinovich is working to form Every Life is a Book - a personal history group. Jeff Lipkes is forming an Opera Buffs before-or-after-opera dinner group, the Wine Tasting group has openings for four people, and last but not least, Sandy Fishman is forming Piano Friends, a group for those who love to play the piano. Call the office for further information on any of these interest groups. Please read The Connection from cover to cover so as not to miss any of the goings on.

Along with your dues we have been receiving your interest forms. We’re in the process of contacting all those members who have taken the time to fill out the form.

If you have not sent your dues in, please do so.

Terry Langlois has resigned from the Board for personal reasons, but he will still be active in other ways. Margo Restrepo has been elected as an Interim Board Member. We thank her and know she will do a wonderful job.

Shalom and Shanti,

Alice

No September Board Action

Sayings Proven Wrong

“We don’t like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out.” Decca Music on declining to sign the Beatles, 1962.

“The telephone has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us.” Western Union, internal memo, 1876.

“Xrays will prove to be a hoax.” Lord Kelvin, President of the Royal Society, 1883.

“Everyone acquainted with the subject will recognize it as a conspicuous failure.” Henry Morton, President of the Stevens Institute of Technology, on Edison’s light bulb, 1880.

“If excessive smoking actually plays a role in the production of lung cancer, it seems a minor one.” W.C. Heuper, National Cancer Institute, 1954.

Board of Directors

President: Alice D’Souza
Vice President: Annette Wolfe
Secretary: Susan Boston
Treasurer: Barney Sack

Directors: Sandi Cooper, Susan Friedman, Harriet Lane, Janet Leon, Margo Restrepo

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: Ellie Altman
Advisor to SHJ: Lou Altman
**Amendment to Who's Who 2016-2017**

Please amend your Who's Who under **Committee Contacts:**

**Funerals:** Rick Stein has replaced Alice D'Souza.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Sponsor: Oneg (O) Service (S) Speaker/Program (P)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Oct 3</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Rosh Hashanah Service and lunch</td>
<td>CHJ Board (O) Chavurah: Preparation &amp; Serving</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Service</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Yom Kippur Memorial Service &amp; Break-the-Fast</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Sukkot &amp; Tikun Olam Service</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Kristallnacht Service. Paul Molnar: Kristallnacht. The Beginning of the Holocaust</td>
<td>Edie Kaplan &amp; Sandy Fishman (O)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Service</td>
<td>Sheila Rosenthal &amp; Phil Silverstein (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Human Rights Service</td>
<td>Fredy Jacobson (P) &amp; (O)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Chanukah Service. Molly Swift of ALSO (Out) Youth: Sarasota's Safe Place for GLBT Teens</td>
<td>Alice D'Souza (O)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>3:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>Education Series. Movie: Violins of Hope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Movie: Menachem and Fred</td>
<td>Lois Friedman &amp; Harriet Lane (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>3:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>Education Series. David Houle, futurist: This Spaceship Earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>MLK and Our Search for Heroes Service</td>
<td>Addie &amp; Len Rosen (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Jan 21</td>
<td>4:00-7:00 pm</td>
<td>Movie: Hester Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Tu B'Shevat &amp; Darwin Day Service</td>
<td>Edith &amp; Barney Sack and Susan &amp; Marty Friedman (P) &amp; (O)</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
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<td>Black History Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>4:00-7:00 pm</td>
<td>Movie: Bonjour Monsieur Shlomi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Purim Service. Paul Golin, SHJ Exec.Director</td>
<td>Lois Altman (P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Service. Harriet Hendel, A Life Behind Bars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>4:00-7:00 pm</td>
<td>Movie: Goodbye Columbus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>4:00-5:30 pm</td>
<td>Fund Raizer. Time and Tide by Margo Restrepo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Poetry Service. TBA</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>Apr 11</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>2nd Night Seder, Michael’s On East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>7:30 pm</td>
<td>Yom Hashoah Service</td>
<td>Marilyn Golden (S)</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Israel Independence Day Service</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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* = Not at Unity  
H = Humanaires sing.  
(O) = Oneg  
(P) = Speaker/Program  
(S) = Service
Welcome Back Pot Luck is a Resounding Success! By Edie Kaplan

Our Potluck supper took place on Friday evening, September 16, in Fellowship Hall. Members and their guests enjoyed a wonderful variety of foods and the camaraderie of our first get-together after the summer hiatus. A good time was had by all.

I wish to extend a special thanks to Annette Wolfe and Sandy Fishman for helping to coordinate this event, and a huge “thank you” to Alice D’Souza who gave of her time, wisdom and guidance to this endeavor. Also a sincere “thank you” too, to all who attended, your wonderful dishes, both home-made and store bought, and the goodwill you provided that made this event successful.

Collage by Jules Altenberg

Barbara Chertok and Sandy Fishman

Look for more Pot Luck photos by Edie on page 6
**Coming Events**

**Saturday, November 5 at 10:30 a.m.**
Kristallnacht Service and the Humanaires, and Paul Molnar speaking on
**Kristallnacht: the Beginning of the Holocaust**

After our 10:30 a.m. Kristallnacht Service, CHJ member Paul Molnar will talk to us on **Kristallnacht: the Beginning of the Holocaust**.

In September 1939, when the German army entered Poland and started the Second World War, Molnar was a 10-year-old boy living with his parents and seven–year-old brother in Budapest, Hungary. Hungarian Jews were totally assimilated and never thought of themselves as Jews but as Hungarians.

On March 14, 1944, German forces invaded Hungary and changed the lives of the Jewish population. From then onwards, Jews were forced to wear the yellow Star of David, curfews were put into place, radios were forbidden, as was the ownership of any form of transportation. Then, within the space of 13 weeks, he, his family and another 15,000 Budapest Jews were marched to the railroad station. He survived living in four different labor camps.

Molnar came to the United States in 1947 and lived in suburban Detroit, Michigan. He bought property in Sarasota in 1979, but did not begin spending winters here until 1994 when he became a permanent resident. He is one of the original members of the Birmingham Temple and of CHJ. Paul says, “I have dedicated myself to let the world know about the Shoah, so it will never happen again. I speak at schools, libraries and churches.”

The Oneg is Sponsored by Edie Kaplan and Sandy Fishman

**Friday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m.**
Thanksgiving Service and the Humanaires, & Speaker Baila Miller on
**Verdi’s Opera “Nabucco”, Italian Liberation, and the Jewish World**

Following our 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Service, Baila Miller will speak to us on Verdi’s opera “**Nabucco**, Italian Liberation, and the Jewish World.”

*Nabucco* is an Italian-language opera composed in 1841 by Giuseppe Verdi. It tells the story of the Israelites as they are assaulted, conquered, and subsequently exiled from their homeland to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar II. The Humanaires will be singing the best-known number from the opera—the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate. (“Fly, thought, on golden wings.”). Verdi said, “This is the opera with which my artistic career really began. It was born under a lucky star.”

Miller completed a Bachelor’s, a Master’s degree, and post-graduate work in the area of Instruction and Curriculum Development at The University of Memphis. Through her company, Miller Music and Fine Arts Programs, she has been presenting college level courses that explore the role of literature, painting, architecture, sculpture, cinema, photography, as well as orchestral and operatic influences in the development of European, Jewish, and modern American culture.

She has taught at The University of Memphis, and is currently teaching at the Brandeis National Committee, the Ringling Library @ FSU, Road Scholar, the Sarasota Library System, Longboat Key Education Center, Art Center Sarasota, Pierian Spring Academy, and the Ringling College of Art & Design.

This Program is Sponsored by Sheila Rosenthal and Phil Silverstein

**Saturday, December 3 at 10:30 a.m.**
Human Rights Service & Rev. Roger Fritts Speaking on
**The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person**

See complete article on page 8.
October Yahrzeit
Leslie Bennett, husband of Millie Bennett
Jacob Bernstein, loved one of
Adrienne and Howard Feltman
Shirley Black, mother of Donald Black
Dr Samuel Davidow, father of Lorynne Cahn
Rose Frankel, mother of Mark Frankel
Avery Gordon, loved one of
Pamela Gordon & Marvin Waldman
Erwin Hecht, father of Sora Yelin
Jean Himelfarb, loved one of Betty Weiner
Samuel Horowitz, father of Irv Horowitz
Robert Kabcenell, brother of Martin Kabcenell
Shirley Kriedman, sister of Marty Hollander
Kate Levinson, mother of Jerry Levinson
Gertrude Pitchford, mother of Linda Vendeland
Helen Rosenthal, mother of
Sheila Rosenthal & Lois Altman
Laz Rubin, father of Stephanie Louis
Chic Schwartz, husband of Alice Schwartz
Samuel Shapiro, father of Judith Black
Jacob M Weinberg, husband of Ruth Weinberg
Herb Weiner, husband of Betty Weiner
Ethel Weiss Borkon, mother of Rona Gahr

October Birthdays
Ellen Batko October 6
Sandy Fishman October 6
Terrence Langlois October 7
Edith Sack October 18
Harvey Gochberg October 20
Joanne Gottheil October 20
Marty Hollander October 20
Mark Rickman October 25
Erwin Segal October 26

October Anniversaries
Pamela Gordon &
Marvin Waldman October 11 24th
Lorynne & Robert Cahn October 15 67th
Marcy & James Moore October 19 19th
Fagie & Dan Perlmutter October 23 62nd
Ellie & Lou Altman October 30 50th

More Pot Luck Photos!

Edie Kaplan

Alice D'Souza and Sandi Cooper
Norm Freeman
Lou and Ellie Altman
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.

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Looking For Sponsors for the 2016-17 CHJ Programs, Services and Onegs

Program sponsors contribute significantly to defraying the cost to CHJ of our many varied programs. After you've had a chance to take a look at our calendar for 2016-2017 (see page 3) please think about which program, service or oneg you would like to sponsor. A contribution of $150 will make you the sponsor for a speaker or topic that you particularly like, and you may do it on your own or with a fellow member. You will be identified as the sponsor(s) of that program on our Calendar, and in articles about that program in The Connection. You will also have the honor of lighting the candles during the service preceding the program.

To sponsor a program, service or oneg, please contact the CHJ office at 941-929-7771 or chjsarasota@hotmail.com.

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It is never my custom to use words lightly. If twenty-seven years in prison have done anything to us, it was to use the silence of solitude to make us understand how precious words are and how real speech is in its impact on the way people live and die.

_Nelson Mandela, activist, South African president, Nobel laureate (1918-2013)_

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TRIBUTES

**Berman Music Fund**

For **Ron Sheff** - "Condolences on your loss. Janet's warmth and smiling face always made you feel good!" From Fagie and Dan Perlmutter

To **Ron Sheff** - "In loving memory of your wife, Janet, the beautiful soprano," from Sheila Rosenthal and Phil Silverstein

**General Fund**

"In memory of **Ben Wendroff**, brother-in-law of Henry Levy,"

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A tribute is a wonderful way to recognize any occasion and benefit CHJ. Complete this form and send your check for $10 or more made out to CHJ. Please circle the fund in which your donation should be placed:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BERMAN MUSIC</th>
<th>CONGREGANT EMERGENCY</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>GENERAL</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
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<td>Person/s to be recognized ____________________________</td>
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<td>Occasion ____________________________________________</td>
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A lovely card will be sent to the honoree and a notice will be placed in the next newsletter. Checks should be made out to CHJ noting the specific funds to which they are donated. Send all tributes to the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, 3023 Proctor Road, Sarasota, FL 34231.
CHJ BACKPACKS FOR KIDS PROGRAM

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of our annual BackPack for Kids campaign through the All Faiths Food Bank. This will be our fourth year of supporting children in Sarasota by providing them with needed nourishing food for their weekends. I will be telling you more about our particular efforts at our first High Holiday Service on Monday, October 3.

Please come to our Rosh Hashanah service with your checkbooks so we can continue providing backpacks for the 50 children we have been helping this year. Renee Crames

Coming Events, continued from page 5

Saturday, December 3 at 10:30 a.m.
Human Rights Service & Rev. Roger Fritts Speaking on
The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person

After our 10:30 a.m. Human Rights Service, we will have the pleasure once again of listening to Rev. Roger Fritts, minister for the Sarasota Unitarian Universalist Church, who will speak to us on The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person.

Rev. Fritts wrote, "Over the years I have had a number of conversations with men and women concerning this particular statement of affirmation. "Do you really believe," they frequently ask, "in the worth of every human being?" "How," I am often asked, "can you affirm the supreme worth of a Hitler? Do you affirm the supreme worth of every person?" My talk will attempt to answer this question.

Rev. Fritts studied Political Science at Arizona State University, after which he entered the Unitarian Universalist seminary in California. After serving in a number of churches across the country, he was called to serve as the Senior Minister of Cedar Lane Unitarian Church in Bethesda, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, D.C. With nearly 900 adult members, it is one of the 10 largest congregations in the Unitarian Universalist Association. While in Bethesda, Fritts ministered to congregants working in the White House, on Capitol Hill, federal government agencies, and in state and county government.

After 18 years in Bethesda, in April of 2011, Roger accepted a call to serve as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota.

The Program and Oneg are Sponsored by Fredy Jacobson and "dedicated to the wonderful Board of CHJ and in memory of my husband, Irwin Stupack”.

Sign up – don’t forget!
RESERVATIONS AND WHY YOU NEED TO MAKE THEM

Folks, it is imperative that when a RSVP is asked for that you respond before or by the deadline. Not after it. In order to accommodate all who wish to come, we need to set up chairs, tables and whatever else is needed. It is not fair for folks simply to arrive and send us scurrying for more seats/tables.

We love to see you but, we need to know in advance if you will be with us. PLEASE! RSVP WHEN ASKED.
EDUCATION PROGRAM: Violins of Hope

Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 – 5:30 p.m
Violins of Hope to be held in Fellowship Hall

VIOLINS OF HOPE is a one-hour documentary featuring Israeli violin maker Amnon Weinstein, who has devoted the past 20 years to restoring violins recovered from the Holocaust. Some were played by Jewish prisoners in concentration camps, others belonged to the Klezmer musical culture, which was all but destroyed by the Nazis. Behind each of the violins is a unique and inspiring story.

The violin has formed an important aspect of Jewish culture for centuries, but during the Holocaust, it assumed extraordinary roles within the Jewish tradition. For some musicians the instrument was a liberator; for others, a savior that spared their lives. For many, the violin provided comfort in mankind’s darkest hour. Above all, the violins of the Holocaust represented optimism for the future, and strength.

At the invitation of the Jewish community of Cleveland, Weinstein, with several of his violins visited the city, and several of the instruments were used by the Cleveland Orchestra in a performance conducted by Franz Welzer in a refurbished Synagogue in Cleveland. Mike Vendeland, son of CHJ members Jack and Linda, is the production manager at WVIZ/PBS in Cleveland, where the DVD was produced in 2016. It was inspired by the stories behind the violins, and Weinstein’s mission to collect and restore the instruments.

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee will be holding programs related to Violins of Hope from February 1 – 16, after which showings will only be held in large metropolitan communities. (For details see The Jewish News, September 2016 issue.)

REGISTER for this film by completing this registration form.
Registration is required for both members and nonmembers.
Mail to: CHJ, 3023 Proctor Road, Sarasota, FL 34231
CHJ members may e-mail name (s), home phone and address to chjsarasota@hotmail.com or phone CHJ office at 929-7771

REGISTER BY December 12, 2016
CHJ members free. Nonmembers $5.00 for each person

Number of people ______________ $______________
                                         Amount enclosed

Name ____________________________________ Home Phone __________ Address ____________________________

CHJ member ( ) ( ) Yes No

SAVE THE DATE
...coming to your CHJ neighborhood theater
in January 2017...

Sunday, January 5: Menachem and Fred
Saturday, January 21: Hester Street
**SECURITY NOTICE**

As a security precaution we will no longer list Group contacts’ telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. Please check your Membership Directory for that information.

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**JEWISH HISTORY SEMINAR**

*CHJ Jewish History Mavens - Please Note Change in Date due to the Yom Kippur Service on October 12.*

The History Seminar will meet on Wednesday, October 19, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m., at Unity, Classroom B.

The topics to be discussed are:

1. The Balkan Communities, 19th - 20th centuries (Barnavi, pp. 212-13)
2. Soviet Jewry Between the Wars, 1917-1939 (Barnavi pp. 214-15)
3. Jewish Agriculture in South America, 19th - 20th centuries (Barnavi, pp 216-17).

Attend, if you can …and bring a friend.

According to our Sages, “You can never be too thin or know too much Jewish history.”

Contact me, Stan Katz, or leave a message at the CHJ office 929-7771 or chjsarasota@hotmail.com.

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**OPERA BUFFS**

Any members interested in getting together for dinner after the Sunday matinee performances of the Sarasota Opera this coming season are invited to contact Jeff Lipkes.

The first performance is Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale* at 1:30 p.m. on October 30. Contact me, Jeff Lipkes, or leave a message at the CHJ office 941-929-7771 or chjsarasota@hotmail.com.

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**HUMANAIRES**

The Humanaires are pleased to have welcomed back our former chorus member Rick Stein, and are also happy to have Sandy Fishman and Susan and Dan Juda adding their voices to ours. Our members and conductor Robert Lischetti welcome new folks to the chorus, and this is a great time to join us as we start the year off with the High Holidays music. We are a warm and friendly group and we would love to have you sing with us. There are no auditions.

We meet from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. every Wednesday in the sanctuary at Unity. When you plan on joining us for one of our rehearsals, please let us know in advance so that we may have music ready for you to use. For more information please leave a message at the CHJ office chjsarasota@hotmail.com or 941-929-7771 and Sandy Cadman will get back to you. You may also speak with any member of the chorus.

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**WINE GROUPS**

There are openings in our Wine Tasting Groups which resume in October. If anyone wishes to become a Wino, please contact Joan Fox or leave a message at the CHJ office 929-7771 or chjsarasota@hotmail.com.

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**PIANO FRIENDS**

Do you dust your piano once in a while? Do you ever play it? Did you play in past years, but stopped? Or, better yet, do you still play? Would you be interested in becoming a charter member of a new group forming at CHJ? We will call ourselves Piano Friends, and will meet monthly with others who enjoy sharing our love of piano music. Let’s make it happen!! If you would like to get together to learn more please leave a message at the CHJ office 929-7771 or chjsarsota@hotmail.com and Sandy Fishman will call you back.
SUNSETTERS  Ours is always an open group that can accommodate an infinite number of people. We meet on the 3rd Sunday every month on Lido Beach – in front of the pavilion. Our only agenda item is the sunset. It is very informal and casual. We arrive about 1-1/2 hours prior to sunset. Bring your own picnic dinner (something you can grasp, like a sandwich, because the seagulls are pretty hungry.) Bring chairs, of course. If you’d like to join us Contact the CHJ office at 941-929-7771 or chjsarasota@hotmail.com and Barb Shapiro will call you back.

DIGITAL IMAGING GROUP (DIG)  We meet at 3:30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of every month at The Fountains Cinema, Parking Lot #4. 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 or the CHJ office at chjsarasota@hotmail.com or 941-929-7771.

REEL LOVERS  The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 15, 2017 at 2.00 P.M., movie to be announced. See you soon, but until then, be well. Call Norine and John, or leave a message at the CHJ office 941-929-7771 or chjsarasota@hotmail.com.

EVERY LIFE IS A BOOK.  When my husband and I joined CHJ, we were extremely impressed with the interesting people who comprise the membership and the fascinating lives they have led. Fleeting conversations at onegs were insufficient and we wanted to learn more about backgrounds, families, careers and areas of expertise. We all have stories to tell, and I am proposing we organize a group to hear them.

At Alice D’Souza’s suggestion, we are calling the group Every Life is a Book. We will meet monthly to hear one person’s story. Participation is, of course, voluntary. If you are interested please leave a message for me, Alla Rabinovich at the CHJ office: chjsarasota@hotmail.com or 941-929-7771.

Man can be the most affectionate and altruistic of creatures, yet he’s potentially more vicious than any other. He is the only one who can be persuaded to hate millions of his own kind whom he has never seen and to kill as many as he can lay his hands on in the name of his tribe or his God.

Benjamin Spock, pediatrician and author (1903-1998)
The election for the Presidency of the United States occurs only once every four years. Most of us know the first words of the Constitution, “We the People of the United States…”, but persons born here may not have had the need to memorize the whole paragraph. It continues, “In Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

A tremendous document for that time. However, when it was written it excluded more than half the population, since it excluded slaves (blacks), women, and, ironically, Native Americans, and felons. Today, thanks to the ability built into the Constitution to make it a “living document”, the first three categories now have the right to vote. However, the states still control the voting process and, in an effort to prevent potential fraud, some have been sanctioned to require a driver’s license as identification even though the statistics for the number of people who have voted illegally is minimal and the courts have required some states to end the practice.

I am trying to show that what distinguishes our country from a monarchy or a dictatorship or a country where the highest religious prelate has absolute control is that we VOTE for our representatives and our highest office holder, the President.

The distinguishing characteristic of a democracy is that the people inhabiting and recognized as citizens of that country have the right to vote. Please note, there is NO law that says you must vote. Our founders felt strongly that we were a FREE people responsible for our actions and the dictates of our conscience. The Supreme Court has already ruled that burning the American flag is not a criminal offence. Nor is it a criminal offence to remain seated or to not put your hand over your heart when the national anthem is played.

Finally, this has been a very contentious year for choosing our next President. Mr. Trump has effectively eliminated all of the candidates who wanted to become the Republican candidate, and Ms. Clinton prevailed over Mr. Sanders. You just have to choose between two very different candidates who each have their advocates and detractors.

We are bombarded with political ads and news clips – which may or may not be true - of the candidates pointing out the flaws of their opponent. There are some who are swayed by these announcements to the point that all they are able to say is, “He’s this and she’s that, so I am not going to vote.” If this happens too many times, it may enable a minority to choose our next President.

Be a true patriot and witness democracy in action, up close, when you use your right to vote.

Residents, Citizens and Patriots
Submitted by Al Koral

The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him. *Niccolo Machiavelli, (1469-1527)*