Saturday, May 6, at 10:30 a.m.
Israel Independence Day Service with The Humanaires, and
Speaker Rabbi Geoff Huntting on *Keeping Hope Alive in the Netanyahu Era*

After our 10:30 a.m. Israel Independence Day Service with The Humanaires, Rabbi Geoff Huntting will speak to us on *Keeping Hope Alive in the Netanyahu Era: As the Israeli government abandons the two-state solution, how can Israel remain a Jewish and democratic state?*

Rabbi Huntting received a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Johns Hopkins University. After serving in Vietnam, he received a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School, and worked as deputy attorney general for the state of California. In 1991, after five years of study, he was ordained by the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. Following rabbinical school, Rabbi Huntting served Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills, California, before joining Temple Sinai in Sarasota in December 1993.

The title of Rabbi Emeritus was bestowed upon him at the occasion of his retirement in June 2016, after 23 years of service to Temple Sinai. A month before his retirement, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. This honorary degree is given to rabbis who have served the Jewish community for 25 years, a milestone not always reached by second career rabbis like Rabbi Huntting.

He speaks and writes about Israel as a strong supporter of JStreet, the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans who want Israel to be secure, democratic, and the national home of the Jewish people, and who advocate policies that advance shared US and Israeli interests as well as Jewish and democratic values, leading to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

*The Oneg is sponsored by Carol & Erwin Segal*

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**ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, May 13, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

**For All Members of the Congregation**

Our 2017 Annual Meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 13, in Fellowship Hall at Unity. All members are urged to attend.

The meeting will include the Budget for 2017-2018 and electing new members to the CHJ Board. The Agenda and all background material will be sent by e-mail to all members with e-mail capacity. US Post Office mail will be used for those who do not have e-mail.

*Plan on attending this very important meeting of Your Congregation.*
Our year is passing very, very fast. The heat of the last spring days along with the heat that surrounds our lives during these unsettling times, has a way of seeping into daily life causing much discomfort.

Nevertheless, I love spring that brings with it a sense of hope. If you live, or have lived, in the north you remember well the bursting forth of life after a long dark winter. I used to want to get in my car and simply drive and drive. Life beckoned.

It’s hard for me to believe that my term on the Board is almost over: four years on the Board, three years as Co-president and President. I’ve enjoyed these years, gotten to know so many wonderful people, and feel my time and efforts have been well spent. I have found the hardest part of the job is being able to pronounce names, and the writing. Both are an issue for me. Someone asked me recently what I would do with all the time I’ll have now. My standard answer - it’s a secret.

As much as I’ve been rewarded in a personal way for my service, my hope is that you all feel rewarded for the time you have spent coming to services, enjoying the music and The Humanaires, the speaker programs, Education Series, the onegs and the movies. As humans, nothing is ever perfect but it’s always almost perfect. No one does anything alone: there have been so many people who who have helped me along the way with so many things. When you give a little of yourself you receive back much more. I’ve gotten a lot back and I thank everyone. I continue to say, if your being a part of our Congregation lets you go home with a smile or a question, and if you feel your time is well spent - tell everyone. If not, tell no one - just get involved to help fix the issue.

We have a new Board which will be working hard to ensure that things continue to run smoothly. Welcome them, they have volunteered because they care for and feel a strong connection to our Congregation.

As we all move forward to enjoy the warmth of our special corner of the world and less traffic, ease of getting into the restaurants and going to the beach, I wish all our members a safe happy summer - a time to catch up with our lives with family, friends and our health.

A reminder: CHJ is run completely by volunteers. We need your involvement. Without you we cannot exist. We need an Editor for The Connection. Many other volunteer jobs remain open. Details are in my article on page 3. We need you! CHJ needs you. Please choose one or more of the many choices available — you’ll be pleased you did.

Shalom and Shanti, Alice

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**May Board Action**

Approved the working hours of the current office staff be increased to 840 hours per calendar year and the salary be increased to $20.00 per hour commencing the first day of the new contract year.

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**WELCOME RETURNING MEMBERS**

Mark Frankel and Joann Gottheil

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote. *George Jean Nathan. Author, 1882-1958*

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**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

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Board Appointed Designee to SHJ: Ellie Altman
Advisor to SHJ: Lou Altman
Help!—Ezer!—Ayuda!—Hilfe!—Aidez-moi!—Aiuto!—Segitseg!—Help!

In any language it means the same.
We need people to head-up and get involved in the life of CHJ for it to continue.

The following jobs are open to all members for 2017-2018 year.
“All members” means we who remain in Sarasota as well as our snowbirds.

EDITOR: We need a replacement for Jo Arora who has been doing The Connection for far too long and will be retiring in June. If no one steps up CHJ will no longer have a newsletter. Two people can share this job.

HOSPITALITY CHAIR AND COMMITTEE for ONEGS: One (1) chair or Co-chairs and a committee of three (3) to five (5).

NAME TAGS: Two (2) to four (4) people for Services. A great way to get to know fellow members.

PROGRAM CHAIR AND COMMITTEE: One (1) Chair or Co-chairs and a committee of three (3) to five (5).

RITUAL SETUP AND TAKE DOWN: Peter Koral currently helps when he can but we need two (2) or three (3) more so the work can be shared and no one person has to do it every time.

VISITOR DESK: Lois Altman and Bill Lakin will continue this job but need the help of a few more people to cover until they return from the north.

Alice D’Souza
CHJ Annual Fundraiser: *Time and Tide* by Margo Restrepo

Collage by Jules Altenberg
The Humanaires gathered on April 3 at Salute! Ristorante in downtown Sarasota to celebrate the choir’s successful year. We expressed our gratitude to Robert Lischetti for his outstanding direction and to Zara Baroyen for her exquisite piano accompaniment. And of course we indulged in delicious food and enjoyed our group’s camaraderie.

Singing and participating in CHJ’s services brings us all great joy and satisfaction. We hope others will consider joining us next year!  Carol Levy

**Correspondence between Richard Logan, President of SHJ and Lou Altman, CHJ Board Member At-Large on the SHJ Board**

*From Richard Logan to Lou Altman*

It is my pleasure to ask you to deliver the Reflection on our Mission Statement for this April's Board meeting.

- **Current Mission Statement:**
  The Society for Humanistic Judaism mobilizes people to celebrate Jewish identity and culture consistent with a humanistic philosophy of life independent of a supernatural authority. As the central body for the Humanistic Jewish Movement in North America, the Society assists in organizing and supporting congregations and in providing a worldwide voice for its members.

*From Lou Altman to Richard Logan*

Let me tell you how this Society has fulfilled its mission for at least one person: me.

I can sum it up by telling you that almost everything I know and love about being Jewish, I learned from the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

My wife Ellie says, "It's fun being Jewish." But I almost missed all the fun.

I grew up in a 100% secular, barely Jewish home.

I was "mobilized to celebrate my Jewish identity and culture" by joining SHJ.

But I wanted to be a particular type of Jew.

So SHJ allowed and helped me to enjoy a "culture consistent with a humanistic philosophy of life independent of supernatural authority."

And this process was enabled by several SHJ congregations: specifically congregations in Michigan, Connecticut, Illinois, and Florida, that were "organized" or "supported" by SHJ.

What about the "world-wide voice"?

SHJ allowed me to sit on the Secular Coalition for America, where I was able to share my humanist views with the nation, and indeed the world.

So I would say:

SHJ, mission accomplished!
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.

WANTED EDITOR

Part-time Position for CHJ newsletter The Connection

Make your own flexible schedule - work at home - work with a co-editor, if desired

Open to locals and snowbirds. Familiarity with MS Publisher helpful

Apply now: contact Jo Arora or leave a message with the CHJ Office 929-7771 or chjsarasota@hotmail.com
Dear Friends all,

Passover or Easter whatever the name
We are all human, all the same
Before dropping anymore missiles or bombs
Separating us thru’ discrimination and pogroms
Let us dedicate ourselves to bring peace about
And if they can’t hear us, we will have to shout
For the sake of our children, to see a new day
It is important that our deaf leaders
hear what we say.
If not now! When?
Peace and Love,

Al Koral

Congratulations Steve!

Stephen Cooper’s short play *Always* was chosen to be one of eight plays to be presented in the May 2017 Theatre Odyssey Short Play Festival at the Cook Theatre. To learn more about this play, you may contact Stephen Cooper who will be pleased to speak to you, or http://www.theatredoyssey.org/purchase-tickets/.

CHJ Onegs

Dear Fellow Congregants:

My heartiest thanks to my Oneg Committee members for your support, enthusiasm and donations of time and edibles this past season. My thanks also to all members of the Congregation for your comments of appreciation on our Oneg refreshments.

My chairpersonship of the Oneg Committee has been a fun, educational and meaningful experience for me. Now it is time for someone else to step up to this undertaking, as I plan to do some more traveling in the near future. Sincerely... yours in food, *Edie Kaplan*
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Visible Men's Academy still needs people to read to the boys. Please let me know if you are interested.

The Social Action Committee is winding down for the summer. However, if there are any events you would like to participate in, please let me know. We will gather and let our thoughts be known. Also, if you wish to take part in any humanistic endeavors here in Sarasota, we can try to arrange it. There are many who need help, including hungry children, the homeless and veterans. I will send an e-blast when they could use our help. Please also continue to save hotel-size toiletries, toilet paper, tissues, men's white socks, books for children in K through 8th grades.

Thank you all for your participation in helping our community and getting the faces of CHJ members out into the Sarasota-Bradenton area. With best wishes for a wonderful summer. Annette Wolfe

CHJ BackPack Program for Kids

As you prepare to enjoy your summer, please think of the 40,000 children in Sarasota County who are hungry every day.

Any amount you are able to contribute will make a very important difference to our local school children. Please make checks payable to All Faiths Food Bank (put CHJ BackPack for Kids on bottom left line of check) and mail to All Faiths Food Bank, 8171 Blaikie Court, Sarasota, Fl 34240. You will be doing a real mitzvah. Renee Crames

...Guide Dog Chased at The Little Foxes

from Al Koral (Submitted to The Sarasota Herald Tribune)

Ms. Lynne Koral arrived at her seat in the last row, center section of the orchestra just after the lights went out. This area is generally reserved for the handicapped and she has been blind since birth. She was accompanied by her guide dog Noelle, who was trained to serve in that capacity from the time she was born. When mature, she and her new owner were trained together. Noelle has the right, by law, to accompany her mistress wherever she goes. (This law does not apply to "comfort" dogs which provide other services for their owners.)

Shortly after she and her brother were seated they were approached by the house manager who told her that her dog was annoying other patrons and directed her to place the dog behind her seat, not under her seat as she and her dog were trained to do. When Ms. Koral tried to explain, he ordered her to get up, and told the ushers in the side section to get up and they exchanged places. When he was questioned later he explained that a man two rows in front of where she was sitting said the dog was barking and thumping her tail. The people in the row just ahead of her said they did not hear any noise other than them trying to find their seats in a darkened theater.

In further conversation he mentioned that the man who complained didn't like, or was afraid of, dogs. Ms. Koral, who has experienced this kind of discrimination many times, tried to tell him that "The Americans with Disabilities Act, Title 3, allows her dog to accompany her at all times." The house manager told her it didn't apply to a "private theater." Furthermore, the manager who claimed expertise on handling guide dogs said, "and how do I know he is a guide dog, she has no sign." No, but the dog was wearing her harness and anyone in his capacity should have recognized it.

There are all kinds of discrimination in this world, if you are Muslim, black or Jewish, a woman or are unemployed, but prominent among this group are the handicapped. There are some people who seem to be afraid that it "might be catching". It isn't! More understanding and tolerance would be greatly appreciated, especially by those in an official capacity whose duties require them to know the law applicable to those duties.

P.S. It was a wonderful show at the Asolo and the actors were first rate. We have been patrons for many years and hope to continue to be so.
HUMANAIRES  Under the direction of Robert Lischetti, we will conclude the season on May 6 when we sing for the Israel Independence Day service. We will then be on vacation until returning to begin rehearsals on August 30 for the High Holiday services. This summer is a good time to think about joining our choir. If you sing soprano, alto, tenor or bass, we will be happy to have you blend your voice with ours. There are no auditions. We meet 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 at 941-929-7771 or chjsarasota@hotmail.com and someone will get back to you. If you know a member of the chorus and would like to learn more, he or she will be pleased to tell you all about us.

LIFE STORIES  We meet to learn about the fascinating lives of the members in our group. We all have stories to tell. We meet on the 4th Monday of each month at my home at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting is May 22. For information, please contact Alla Rabinovich.

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.

JEWISH HISTORY SEMINAR  Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 10, in Classroom B at Unity from 1:00—2:30 p.m. This session of the seminar will discuss the Jews of Hungary, Rumania, and Latin America. The relevant pages in the Barnavi Atlas are: Hungarian Jews, pp 248-49; Latin American Communities, pp 250-51; and, The Jews of Rumania, pp 252-53. Terry Langlois will lead the discussion. Please come if you can. For further information, contact Bill Lakin.

This will be the last meeting of the Jewish History Seminar until the fall. The group will not meet in June, July, and August. We will resume regular monthly meetings again in September.

CHAVURAH  Being part of a Chavurah is warm, engaging, stimulating, and fun! You have a chance to really get to know and understand fellow CHJ members as you meet monthly and shape your group. Think of contacting some of your friends to start a new Chavurah. Then contact me, Renee Crames, and I will be pleased to help you organize your beginning. You will be so happy you did.

BIKERS  Due to an injury, no rides will be scheduled until early June. For information, please contact Sandy Siegel.

WINE GROUPS  There is an opening for new members in one of the Wine Tasting groups. Any interested winos should contact Joan Fox.
TRIBUTES

Berman Music Fund

For Margo Restrepo and Jerry Moore on their wedding - "Best wishes for much happiness and many adventures together," from Sandy Siegel and Marty Hollander

"For Margo Restrepo and Jerry Moore on the celebration of their marriage," from Joan and Ron Fox

For Margo Restrepo and Jerry Moore - "On the happy occasion of the marriage of Mavin and Besheert," from Sandy Fishman

Program Fund

"In honor of the 55th Anniversary of Sam and Rona Gahr," from Rona Gahr

A generous donation for the Berman Music Fund was received from Joe and Susan Boston. This donation is to pay for the sheet music that Robert Lischetti is purchasing for The Humanaires.

Poetry Service & Anita Sampson’s Birthday

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:

BERMAN MUSIC CONGREGANT EMERGENCY EDUCATION GENERAL PROGRAM

Person/s to be recognized_________________________________________________________

Occasion______________________________________________________________________

Donor__________________________________________________________________________

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.
ROSALIND FRANKLIN CHOSEN AS SHJ’S 2017 HUMANISTIC JEWISH ROLE MODEL

Rosalind Elsie Franklin (25 July 1920 – 16 April 1958) was born to a prominent British Jewish family. She earned her Ph.D. in 1945 and went to Paris in 1947 as a post-doctoral researcher at the Laboratoire Central des Services Chimiques de l'Etat, where she became an accomplished X-ray crystallographer. Franklin became a research associate at King's College London in 1951 and worked on X-ray diffraction studies, which would eventually facilitate the double helix theory of the DNA. Her contributions to the discovery of the structure of DNA were largely recognized posthumously.

Further information can be found at: http://www.famosusscientists.org/rosalind-franklin/

Thank You from Anita Sampson

Anita Sampson says “thank you” to the Oneg Committee and the Congregation for a great birthday celebration. Let's hope for another one next year. Anita

CHJ Calendar May—September 2017

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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Israel Independence Day Service.</strong> Rabbi Geoff Huntting: <em>Keeping Hope Alive in the Netanyahu Era</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Summer Education Program.</strong> Bail Miller presents <em>The Americans – Gertrude &amp; Leo Stein</em></td>
<td>This Program is dedicated to Arlene Pearlman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Summer Education Program.</strong> Bail Miller Presents <em>Mark Chagall: Painter of Dreams</em></td>
<td>This Program is dedicated to Ellie Altman</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Sept 21</td>
<td>10:30 pm</td>
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<td>Sept 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Yom Kippur Memorial Service &amp; Break-the Fast</td>
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*=Not at Unity   H=Humanaires sing.   (O)=Oneg   (P)=Speaker/Program   (S)=Service

The Congregation for Humanistic Judaism
3023 Proctor Road, Sarasota, FL 34231

Deadline is June 15 for the July-August issue

Editor: Jo Arora
Co-editor: Carol Rickard
Editorial: Sandy Cadman, and Edith Sack
Photography: Jules Altenberg and Barney Sack

Send Groups information, articles and other information to Jo Arora, Editor

Website: www.chj-Sarasota.org   E-mail: chjsarasota@hotmail.com   Office: 941-929-7771