CHJ HIGH HOLIDAYS 2017 RESERVATION FORM (See page 3)

Rosh Hashanah: Thursday, September 21, at 10:30 a.m.
Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre: Friday, September 29, at 7:30 p.m.
Yom Kippur Memorial, Closing Services, and Break-the-Fast:
Saturday, September 30, at 3:00 p.m.
Reservation deadline: September 14

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

"Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur open our Jewish year with the most important message of Jewish history. Human dignity is not the gift of destiny. It is a human achievement, requiring courage and human self-reliance."

Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, Founder of Humanistic Judaism, in Judaism Beyond God

Saturday, October 7, at 10:30 a.m.
Sukkot Service and Speaker Rev. Roger Fritts on The Gold Columbus Missed

After our Sukkot Service on October 7, at 10:30 a.m. - the weekend before Columbus Day - we will have the pleasure of listening to Rev. Roger Fritts, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, who will reflect on Columbus and Native American religious cultures. The title of his presentation is The Gold Columbus Missed.

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.

After 18 years in Bethesda, in 2011, he accepted a call to serve as minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota.
Of late, I have been toiling with the question of our role in today's political environment. I continually ask the existential questions: Who am I? Who are we as a congregation? And what may we do to address the negativity and vitriol in the country, the community, and our lives?

As I searched to find answers or at least some direction, I turned to reading many of Sherwin Wine's writings and beliefs. In reading some of his writings I came to recognize his writings on Humanism:

"The dignity of being in charge of one's own life and living by one's own values cannot be replaced by material success or public acclaim. Human knowledge through reason is the most reliable method to discover the truth. Human effort, individual and group, is the most reliable means to change the world. And courageous optimism can carry the day in the absence of cosmic guarantees of success."

CHJ’s Social Action committee will offer many opportunities to share our beliefs as a group, and we, as individuals, will continue to do our parts to guarantee the success for all people.

Please feel free to contact the Social Action Chair, Annette Wolfe, with any thoughts and ideas for additional action. Please remember, we are all involved and need to contribute in any way we feel able.

When you complete our Membership Renewal Form, be sure to look carefully at the attached Activities Form. CHJ is exactly as it says: "We’re an all-volunteer organization," so, please choose from the list one or more activities which interest you. You will be glad you did.

Cordially,

Rick

July Board Action
- Approved keeping membership dues at $330 per individual and $625 per couple

August Board Action
- Approved the following in order to shorten Services:
  Kiddush will take place at the start of the Oneg.
  The musical interlude will be excluded from services

Of all the preposterous assumptions of humanity over humanity, nothing exceeds most of the criticisms made on the habits of the poor by the well-housed, well-warmed, and well-fed. -Herman Melville.
CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM  
HIGH HOLIDAYS 2017 RESERVATION  

Rosh Hashanah: 10:30 a.m., Thursday, September 21, 2017  
Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre: 7:30 p.m., Friday, September 29, 2017  
Yom Kippur Memorial, Closing Services, and Break-the-Fast:  
3:00 p.m., Saturday, September 30, 2017  

All Services will be at Unity, on the north side of Proctor Rd. between US-41 and Beneva Rd  

No tickets will be sent. A reservation list will be kept at the door.  

RESERVATION COUPON  
Members attend free. Members without guests can e-mail their reservation but must indicate names, services they will be attending & if they plan to bring Kugel on September 30  
E-mail: chjsarasota@hotmail.com  

A $25 charge for each adult family member guest covers all services. Children under 18, College Students and Members of the Armed Services are free.  
Non-Members and Members with guests must send in this coupon!!  
Please send coupon and check payable to CHJ  
no later than September 14, 2017, and mail (no e-mail) to:  
CHJ, 3023 Proctor Rd., Sarasota, FL 34231.  

Name/s: _____________________________________________________________________________  
Phone: ______________________________________________________________________________  
Address: ____________________________________________________________________________  

Please indicate which services you will attend and the number of people attending.  
(We need to know which services you will attend so we can adequately prepare for seating and meals.)  
Rosh Hashanah Service and Lunch:    #_______  
Yom Kippur Kol Nidre:                           #_______  
Memorial Service and Break-the-Fast: #_______         I will make & bring Kugel _____ type______  

NON-MEMBERS INFORMATION  
Number Attending  Cost  
$100 per person flat fee to attend any or all services  _______  $______  

Please indicate in coupon above which services you will attend.  
Total Enclosed $______  

Non-members with questions, please call CHJ Office at 929-7771  
**Non-members who join within 60 days will receive a reduction in dues for 2017-18 fiscal year equal to the cost of their reservations.**  
Make checks payable to CHJ and mail with coupon no later than September 14, 2017, to:  
CHJ, 3023 Proctor Road, Sarasota, FL 34231  

YOM KIPPUR MEMORIAL BOOKLET  
CHJ Members: Please indicate below names of loved ones - not already in our Yahrzeit data base - whom you would like to have listed. Print clearly! See article at bottom of page 4 for all details.  
Return no later than September 14, 2017, to: CHJ, 3023 Proctor Road, Sarasota, FL 34231.  
Names will be listed whether or not you are present at the service. There is no charge.
Henry Reiffen Levy

Henry Reiffen Levy of Bradenton, Florida, formerly of Paramus and Somerset, New Jersey, passed away on June 24, 2017, at the age of 86.

Henry grew up in the University Heights section of The Bronx. He attended Taft High School and Long Island University. He was very active in the Boy Scouts where he developed his enthusiasm for camping that he continued for many years with his family. Henry received a Master of Social Work from Rutgers University School of Social Work and worked for 32 years for the NYC Department of Social Services starting as a case worker, then as a supervisor, trainer and evaluator of drug and alcohol programs.

Henry retired after the death of his first wife Shelly Sherman and met his present wife Kay, at an Elderhostel in 1993. For five years they acted as volunteer coordinators for the Bergen County Surrogate’s Court Guardian Program.

Henry and Kay have belonged to CHJ for six years. During that time they volunteered for two years to give out member name tags before services. They also belonged to a Wine Group, where they met some of their best CHJ friends.

After Henry passed, Kay received over 50 sympathy cards and, uniformly, friends agreed that he was a generous, kind, thoughtful and happy man who always had a smile.

He is survived by his sons, stepsons and their wives and children - Howard Levy (Liz Knisley); Mark Levy (Debbie); Paul and Cathy Dwyer; Gordon Fine (Lisa); Robert Dinoff (Mei); Peter Dinoff (Trish); and ten grandchildren.

Alvin Herbert Rosenfeld

Alvin Herbert Rosenfeld, 74, of Sarasota passed away Saturday, June 24, 2017. He and his wife Janet were CHJ members for seven years until 2012. We extend our sincere condolences to Janet, their family, and friends.

CARING

Do you know any members who would appreciate a card from CHJ? Do you know anyone who has suffered a recent or lingering illness, or to whom we can offer our condolences? Alice D’souza

Please contact the office, Alice D’Souza or Sandy Fishman. All phone numbers and e-mails are in the directory.

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION: YOM KIPPUR MEMORIAL BOOKLET
Read This If You Want Your Loved Ones’ Names To Be Remembered at the September 30 Service

On Saturday, September 30, at our 3:00 p.m. Memorial Service, a booklet will be available that includes all of the names of our loved ones whose Yahrzeit we observe throughout the year. The only names that will be read aloud will be of those CHJ members who have died since the last High Holidays.

Only those names in our data base will be included in the booklet, which will be printed at no cost to our members. If there are names you wish included that are not already in our database, you must get that information to the office by completing the coupon at the bottom of the High Holidays reservation form on page 3. (You do not have to be present at the service for the names to be listed in the booklet.)
I hardly know where to begin. This summer has been an emotional mix of anger, fear, disbelief, and embarrassment. I believe it is imperative that each of us individually and together do all we can to promote the values we cherish as Humanistic Jews.

There will be a meeting of the Social Action Committee after the Holidays. Information as to date, time and place to follow with an e-blast. In the meantime, we must do whatever we can to show our opposition to current and future horrific attacks on our democratic values. The Society of Humanistic Judaism is very active, and we will get information out to our members. If you have any thoughts and/or ideas, please e-mail me.

The Social Action Committee will not forget local needs and will work toward helping with donations and time. When you renew your membership, please use the Activities Form to volunteer for the SAC, or contact me. I look forward to working with you and having an active Committee.

Annette Wolfe, Vice President and Social Action Chair

Jack Vendeland + At-Risk Students = SUCCESS

This article about our CHJ member appeared in the Jewish News, July issue. By Sandy Chase

Learning math can challenge the best of us. But Jack Vendeland knows the correct equation.

Helping to bolster math skills of at-risk students at Booker Middle School—and arm them with lifelong skills—this 2010 Children’s Services Award recipient is an exemplary role model for both his learners and JFCS volunteers.

According to Allison Cohen, a sixth-grade math teacher, who’s worked with Jack for 14 of her 20 years at Booker: “We desperately need more tutors—just like Jack—who’s always ready with a sincere smile and a welcoming demeanor.”

Add respect and collaboration to the equation, and the sum equals student progress + confidence.

Ms. Cohen says, “Jack has helped improve student achievement, especially for those who speak little English or struggle with learning disabilities. He strives to address the whole child—not just the academics. Children relate to him.”

Jack’s introduction to JFCS began in 1997, when he and his wife, Linda, participated in the Resettlement Program, hosting Russian refugee families over several years.

At Booker he also mentored at-risk students through the Alternative to Out of School Suspension Program for two years: “I wanted to interact with these kids, even help with homework, but they wanted to socialize with friends. I just couldn’t break through. Allison approached me in 2003; the rest is history.”

Although Jack downplays his critical tutoring role, he stresses the challenges he faced learning “new math,” adding that his students have taught him well. “I had to relearn some of the basics and master the proper order of solving problems, for example. Even today, my students sometimes know more than I do. But we collaborate.”

When asked about his award, Jack explains, “Being recognized is flattering. But the real reward is interacting with these great kids who mostly live in challenging circumstances but are generally friendly and willing to learn. Working one-on-one is paramount. And the special joy is that rare time when a student says, “Now I understand.”

By instilling self-esteem while teaching the basics, Jack has more than balanced the equation. Ms. Cohen and others attest that because of Jack’s dedication, many of these students have mastered requisite skills, enabling these preteens to pursue more productive lives as they prepare for the future.

Whether it’s “old math” or “new math,” Jack has rewritten the equation for success.
SEPTEMBER LIFE CYCLES

September Yahrzeit

David Abrams, brother Carol Heckert
Gordon Arora, husband of Jo Arora
Jacob Black, father of Donald Black
Paulette Block, mother of André Block
Leah Chemerow, loved one of
   Ellie & Ben Chemerow
Benson T. Chertok, husband of Barbara Chertok
Sidney Factor, father of Arnold Factor
Sam Farber, father of Bernard Farber
Bernice Gadon, sister of Sandra Siegel
Ruth Gordon, loved one of
   Pamela Gordon & Marvin Waldman
Judith Grossman, sister-in-law of Kay Levy
Lee Hecht, mother of Sora Yelin
Albert Himfar, loved one of Betty Weiner
Lance Jacobson, son of Frederika Jacobson
Steven Koral, son of Alfred and brother of
   Peter Koral
Esther Levy, mother of Carol Levy
Jake Levy, father of Carol Levy
Sydney Louis, husband of Stephanie Louis
Nahum Rabinovich, father of Alla Rabinovich
Rimma Rabinovich, loved one of
   Alla Rabinovich & Damien Jaques
Clayton Shore, husband of Sheila Namiot Shore
Herman Spiegeland, father of Barbara Relles
Edith Vendeland, mother of Jack Vendeland
Edith Weiner, loved one of Betty Weiner

September Birthdays

Alice Berman  September 1
Pauline Kabcenell  September 2
Peter Koral  September 3
Sylvia Stock  September 3
Terry Dolgov  September 15
Helen Faden  September 17
Sora Yelin  September 21
Joseph Boston  September 22
Sandra Rickman  September 22

September Anniversaries

Carol & Ken Heckert  September 8  26th
Eileen & Ira Miller  September 16  55th

Only Me, And All of You - Can Make it Come True

By Al Koral

The image I see in the mirror is familiar to me
And even when we are alone, a smile I see.
And when I go out and see other people’s faces,
I think they are all my family though they come from different places.

No matter what spiritually I may be, I like what many religions preach.
   Respect, equality and that we are all interrelated.
A decent life for everyone should be in our reach,
As we build a new “Garden of Eden”, the result of what we have all created.

There is always a new derogatory name for the immigrants newly arrived.
And new discriminatory laws to keep more from coming in.
Would our current administration care if they lived or died?
   Where would you be now, if they had rejected your kin?

Think of the faces you see as your sisters and brothers
No, it is not a fantasy! It can really be! It is just up to you and me!
And think what a wonderful world this would be, if we all loved each other!
   We all just have to dream it, to make it a reality.
Shimon Peres, one of the last surviving pillars of Israel’s founding generation, who did more than anyone to build up his country’s formidable military might, then worked as hard to establish a lasting peace with Israel’s Arab neighbors, died on September 28, 2016. He was 93.

As prime minister (twice); as minister of defense, foreign affairs, finance and transportation; and, until 2014, as president, Mr. Peres never left the public stage during Israel’s seven decades.

He led the creation of Israel’s defense industry, negotiated key arms deals with France and Germany, and was the prime mover behind the development of Israel’s nuclear weapons. But he was consistent in his search for an accommodation with the Arab world, a search that in recent years left him orphaned as Israeli society lost interest.

In his efforts to help Israel find acceptance in a hostile region, Mr. Peres’s biggest breakthrough came in 1993 when he worked out a plan with the Palestine Liberation Organization for self government in Gaza and in part of the West Bank, both of which were occupied by Israel.

After months of secret negotiation with representatives of the P.L.O., conducted with the help of Norwegian diplomats and intellectuals, Mr. Peres persuaded his old political rival Yitzhak Rabin, then the prime minister, to accept the plan, which became known as the Oslo Accords.

Mr. Peres, who was serving as foreign minister, signed the accords on Sept. 13, 1993, in a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House as Mr. Rabin and their old enemy Yasir Arafat, the chairman of the P.L.O., looked on and, with some prodding by President Bill Clinton, shook hands.

It was a gesture both unprecedented and historic. Up to that time, Israel had refused to negotiate directly with the P.L.O. Mr. Peres broke the taboo, and the impasse.

“What we are doing today is more than signing an agreement; it is a revolution,” he said at the ceremony: “Yesterday a dream, today a commitment.”

Contact information for the members on this page can be found in your CHJ Member Directory, or you can leave a message with the CHJ office: chjsarasota@hotmail.com or 941-929-7771.

HUMANAIRES We’re ba-a-a-ck! The Humanaires, under the direction of Robert Lischetti, are preparing for the High Holidays that will take place later this month, and it’s a great time for you to join with us. If blending your voice with others brings you joy, and whether or not you know which part you sing, we will welcome you warmly. We’re always open to new singers, and though our greatest need is to have more tenor and bass voices, sopranos and altos are also very welcome. There are no auditions. We meet every Wednesday in the sanctuary at Unity from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. When you plan on coming to 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.

JEWISH HISTORY SEMINAR HISTORICAL SEMINAR TO RESUME IN OCTOBER!! After the sound and fury of the political scene during the past summer, it is time to get back to something really important: the History of the Jewish People. All CHJ members are invited to celebrate the resumption of CHJ’s Jewish History Seminar on Wednesday, October 25, 1:00 — 2:30 p.m., at Unity, Classroom B. No coffee, no cookies; just intelligent conversation. For returning and new Seminar participants, we will be using Abram Sachar’s A History of the Jews, 5th Edition, (Knopf, publisher), as our basic text. It is old, but very good. Inexpensive used copies are available through Amazon. The Seminar on October 25 will discuss pp. 3 – 22 of Sacher: “The Cast of Characters and the Origins of the Hebrews.” We hope you can join us. For more information or, help in ordering Sachar text, please contact Stan Katz.

BIKERS Our Bikers group has no plans to ride at this time. We would like to hear if any new members are interested in joining us. We usually bike about 12 miles on protected roads with interesting scenery and have lunch at the end in nearby restaurant. Contact Sandy Siegel for further information.

WINE GROUPS Our meetings will resume in October. For information, please contact Joan Fox.

DIGITAL IMAGING GROUP (DIG) Our class has been closed for the summer. We will resume on the 4th Tuesday of October—10/24/17. New members are welcome. For further information contact Jules Altenberg.

FILM FORUM The Forum is still active, but we have been off for the summer. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 17. Please contact Jules Altenberg for information.

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 every month at 2:00 p.m. Our meetings will resume in December. Please contact Alla Rabinovich for further information.
TRIBUTES

Berman Music Fund

"In honor of Diane and Richard Daffner's wedding anniversary," from Ruth Weinberg

"In memory of Ceci Katz," from Judy and Donald Black

In memory of Natalie Forman - "I mourn the loss of our dear CHJ friend, Natalie Forman. She was a capable and highly respected leader of the Yiddish Reading Circle,” from Marilyn Golden

General Fund

"In memory of Ron Goldstein, beloved son of Anita Sampson and brother of Joan Goldstein,”
from Muriel Shindler

"In memory of Henry Levy,” from Stan Katz

Education Fund

"In memory of Natalie Forman,” from Amy Eliezer

For Stan Katz - "In loving memory of Ceci ... and to celebrate their 62-year marriage of love and devotion, not achieved by many. It makes her loss all the more painful. Stan, we all care," from Fagie and Dan Perlmutter

"For Kay Levy - in memory of Henry Levy,” from Jo Arora

General Fund

"In memory of Susan's son, Hal Schultz," from Susan and Joe Boston

Program Fund

"In memory of Henry Levy,” from Wine Group 3 - Ron and Joan Fox, Harvey and Alice Gochberg, Jack and Ernie Kent, and Len and Addie Rosen

"In memory of Ceci Katz,” from Ruth Weinberg

"In memory of our dear friend, Henry Levy - condolences to Kay and family," from Marion and Marvin Howard

For Anita Sampson and Joan Goldstein - "In loving memory of Anita's son and Joan's brother," from Pauline and Marty Kabcnell

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.
Tenth Yahrzeit of Rabbi Sherwin Wine

July 21 marked the tenth anniversary of the untimely death of Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine, who founded the Secular Humanistic Judaism movement in 1963. Our movement still draws upon his words and vision, and his positive influence remains with the many thousands of people whom he met and inspired. You can learn more about his life and work at www.SherwinWine.com, and read his seminal book, Judaism Beyond God, now reedited and newly released as an eBook.

David Steiner on Preparing for the High Holidays: How Do You Elul?
(Adapted from SHJ News, Summer 2017)

An activist and filmmaker, David Steiner was also studying to become a rabbi at the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism when his life was tragically cut short this past December.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are two of the most well-known days of the Jewish year. Much less famous is the month that precedes them, Elul, which is also considered a time of asking for forgiveness -- though unlike the traditional High Holiday liturgy of repentance to God, Elul is when we ask forgiveness directly from the people in our lives whom we've wronged.

For this reason, David Steiner suggested that Elul, which begins on August 21 this year, is "The Month of Jewish Secular Humanism." He wrote:

While I appreciate that the Jewish calendar has a ten-day period set aside for personal accounting, I prefer the 29 days set aside for peace between hu/man and her fellow hu/man. This is the month...when we assign ourselves the task of making peace with the people in our lives. One might even say that since Elul precedes Tishrei [the month beginning with Rosh Hashanah], and 29 days are greater than 10, that Judaism puts greater significance on peace among people.... In other words, these are the days that Judaism has set aside for secular humanism, and our efforts -- whether we believe in an immanent god or not -- should be focused on humanity.

We take some solace knowing that David’s ideas live on through his films and writing. And we hope that all of us remembering lost loved ones during the High Holidays can draw strength from being part of something larger than ourselves: a community of people that care for one another.

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.

For a long time we have gone along with some well-tested principles of conduct: that it was better to tell the truth than falsehoods; that a half-truth was no truth at all; that duties were older than and as fundamental as rights; that, as Justice Holmes put it, the mode by which the inevitable came to pass was effort; that to perpetuate a harm was always wrong, no matter how many joined in it, but to perpetuate it on a weaker person was particularly detestable ... Our institutions are founded on the assumption that most people will follow these principles most of the time because they want to, and the institutions work pretty well when this assumption is true.

Dean Acheson (1893-1971)
2017-2018 CHJ OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES

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SHJ Advisor: Lou Altman
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Coordinator: Norman Freeman

Biking: Sandy Siegel

Board Games: need volunteer

Book Group: need volunteer

Bridge: need volunteer

Pauline Kabcenell

Digital Photography: Jules Altenberg

Life Stories: Alla Rabinovich

Film Forum: 3rd Tuesday

4 p.m.: Jules Altenberg

Foreign Film Group 4th Tuesday

4:30 p.m.: Joan Fox

Humanaires: Sandy Cadman

Jewish History Seminar: Stan Katz

Reel Lovers (foreign films):
Narine and John Zimmer

Sunsetters: 3rd Sunday at Lido

Wine Tasting Groups: Joan Fox

Committee Contacts:

BackPack Kids: Renee Crames

Caring Committee, Cards & Tributes:

Sandy Fishman, Alice D’Souza

Chavurah Groups: Renee Crames

Data Base Manager: Barb Shapiro

Funerals: Rick Stein

Hospitality:

Carol Harris, Fredy Jacobson

Member Name Tags:

Stephanie Louis, Ann Orkin

Movies in Fellowship Hall:

Alice D’Souza

New & Prospective Members:

Susan Friedman

New Member Brunch/Coffee:

Susan Friedman, Arlene Pearlman

Noteworthy Activities: Edith Sack

Reservations: CHJ Office

Visitor Desk:

Lois Altman, Bill Lakin

By-Laws: Lou Altman

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Humanaires Governance

Sandy Cadman

Program

Arlene Pearlman

Ritual

Sandi Cooper

Social Action

Annette Wolfe

CHJ office: 929-7771 or chjisarasota@hotmail.com

Call or email to update personal information such as addresses, birthdays, anniversaries and yahrzeits.

Office Staff: Judy Weaver

All telephone numbers and emails are in your CHJ Members list. If you find a mistake in your listing, call or email the office with changes. All corrected, updated and new member information will be sent in an eblast to members.
CORRECTION TO THE CALENDAR  
SHOWN ON P.12 IN THE JULY-AUGUST NEWSLETTER  
The date, day and time for the Sukkot Service were incorrect.  
Please note the Sukkot Service will be held on Saturday, October 7, at 10:30 a.m. 
as shown above in the corrected Calendar.