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.

Friday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Service with the Humanaires, and Speaker Herb Silverman on
Candidate Without a Prayer: An Autobiography of a Jewish Atheist in the Bible Belt

Following our 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Service, **Herb Silverman** will speak to us on *Candidate Without a Prayer: An Autobiography of a Jewish Atheist in the Bible Belt*.

Silverman, a Distinguished Mathematics Professor Emeritus at the College of Charleston, is founder of the Secular Coalition for America and of the Secular Humanists of the Lowcountry in Charleston, South Carolina. He was founder and faculty advisor to the College of Charleston student Atheist/Humanist Alliance. His book, *Candidate Without a Prayer: An Autobiography of a Jewish Atheist in the Bible Belt*, describes his challenge to the South Carolina Constitution and his Supreme Court victory, nullifying the anti-atheist clause in the South Carolina Constitution.

He has appeared in debates on topics such as: *Can we be moral without God? Does God exist? Is America a Christian nation?* He has also debated at the Oxford Union in Oxford, England, on the topic: Does American Religion Undermine American Values? His most recent book, *An Atheist Stranger in a Strange Religious Land*, contains selected excerpts from his writings for *The Washington Post, Huffington Post, The Humanist, Free Inquiry*, and other magazines and blogs. He received a lifetime achievement award from the American Humanist Association at its recent national conference in June.
The following words of our founder, Sherwin Wine, express my deepest feelings as we approach a new year.

"I am a believer. But I am not a believer in a conventional sense. I believe that we live in a crazy world, that there is no guarantee that the good will be rewarded and the wicked will be punished.

I believe that the strength to cope with a crazy world comes from within ourselves, from the undiscovered power we have to look reality in the face and go on living.

I believe that the best faith is the faith in oneself, and that the sign of this faith is that we allow our reasoning mind to discipline our actions.

I believe that the love of life means the love of reason and the love of beauty.

I believe that staying sane in a crazy world is not easy, but that in the long run, it is the foundation of our survival and self esteem.

I believe that human dignity comes from the courage to live with reality and to enjoy its challenge."

My very best wishes for a saner and safer new year for everyone.

Cordially, Rick 

September Board Action

- Approved the creation of a new Special Interest Group: This I Believe

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 CHJ Directory.

Board of Directors

President: Rick Stein
Vice President: Annette Wolfe
Secretary: Kay Levy
Directors: Alice D’Souza, Sandy Fishman, Susan Friedman, Fredy Jacobson, Janet Leon, Stephanie Louis, Joe Newman, Margo Restrepo, Phil Silverstein

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

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.
Best wishes for a very happy, healthy, safe, peaceful New Year.

As we embark on a new year and new beginnings, we are faced with many challenges desperate for assistance here in Sarasota/Manatee, as well as in Houston, other parts of Florida, Washington, DC and many, many places on our planet. The inhabitants of our earth - people, mammals, birds, all living creatures – need a helping hand.

We, who have been fortunate to survive Irma’s wrath, are reaching out to the less fortunate. There is no way we can be available for all those who hurt. What we can do is unite to help our members and their loved ones and others who are victims of Hurricanes Irma and Harvey by providing basic needs, both physical and emotional, and we can donate individually to help evacuees and victims.

We can continue donating to the worthwhile BackPack for Kids program and ShelterBox. CHJ members have big ideas and even bigger hearts.

Let's meet together after Yom Kippur on Wednesday, October 4, at 1:30 p.m., at my house in the Isles of Palmer Ranch, 6128 Abaco Drive, Sarasota. I will have a reminder sent out firming this date, time, and place. Together we can help those in need. Annette Wolfe, Social Action Chair

KIDDISH

GOOD NEWS: In order to better serve our Congregation, the Board of CHJ has decided to enlarge the Kiddish portion of our services so that all who may wish to take part, can do so.

Beginning in three weeks, with Sukkot, we will hold the Kiddush in Fellowship Hall immediately after the main service and we will serve not only wine, but diet fruit juice, to accommodate anyone with a dietary concern. We hope to include all our newcomers, and all our service participants and choir, as well as everyone with birthdays, anniversaries or other happy events to share, and all who would just enjoy the opportunity to share in our Kiddish.

Margo (Restrepo) Moore, Ritual Chair
ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE

Collage by Jules Altenberg
October Yahrzeit

Jacob Bernstein, loved one of Adrienne & 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

Ellyn 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 Oct. 11 25th
Lorynne & Robert Cahn Oct. 15 68th
Marcy & James Moore Oct. 19 20th
Sheldon (Shelly) & Linda Zelizer Oct. 21 1st
Fagie & Dan Perlmutter Oct. 23 63rd
Elie & Lou Altman Oct. 30 51st

THE MUSIC AND RITUAL COMMITTEES NEED YOUR COMPUTER SKILLS!

Needed by the Music and Ritual Committees -

If you aren’t a singer but have been wanting to participate in our services, here’s a job for you:

We need someone with computer skills who can create PowerPoint presentations for song lyrics projected on the screen during our services.

If you are comfortable with using the computer but don’t know how to use PowerPoint, we will teach you. Please call the CHJ office at 941-929-7771 and leave your name and phone number and someone will return your call.

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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:

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.
HUMANAIRES  The Humanaires (in spite if our reduced numbers so early in the sea-son) were pleased to provide the music for our CHJ High Holidays services. Tara’s lovely voice (she has sung with us since she was very young and is now a wonderful soprano) and the beautiful tenor voice of our conductor Robert Lischetti, as well as Zara Baroyan at the piano, made those services complete. We are looking for more of you to join the chorus. If blending your voice with others brings you joy, whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass (and even if you have no idea what part you would sing) we will welcome you warmly. 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.**

DIGITAL IMAGING GROUP (DIG)  **We resume on 10/24/17.** 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  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. **We will discuss pp. 3-22 of Sachar: “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.**

THIS I BELIEVE  CHJ has a large number of bright and very well-educated congre-gants. You have traveled, studied and given serious thought to both age old and current is-sues. If we ask, you can share with us your beliefs and creative ideas, gleaned from knowledge and personal experience. WE ARE ASKING! Each of us has made the personal journey to hu-manistic Judaism. Each of us has lifelong or new passions we would love to share. Each of us has strong and informed opinions on ethics and justice. Please come forward, even if you don't yet know what you want to focus on. We will formulate themes, write 1000 word essays, and use our group to put together programs, panels, and other formats of interest for CHJ. New members will be attracted to such a unique venue. This is our opportunity! **Please call or e-mail me Margo (Restrepo) Moore, with your name, phone and e-mail address. First meeting: Sunday, November 5, at my house.**

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.

*Groups continued on page 7*
**BIKERS**  We usually bike about 12 miles on protected roads with interesting scenery and have lunch at the end in a nearby restaurant. We will wait till the snowbirds come back and the weather cools before we plan our first bike ride. Hopefully we will have further info in October. **Call Sandy Siegel if you are interested in joining our group.**

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

**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 most months at 2:00 p.m. Our meetings will resume in December. Please contact Alla Rabinovich for further information.**

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**Special & Social Groups**

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**Notes from our Members**

**United States Holocaust Memorial Museum** *by Ernie Kent*

In August I had an appointment at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where I met with the Historian, the Curator and the Librarian. The occasion was the donating of my parents’ and my documents to the Museum. These included my parents’ German passports, my Kinderpassport, many old family photographs, my experiences during Kristallnacht, and various reparation papers. They explained to me how all these will be incorporated in their archives and website. The Museum’s archives now cover several buildings. They showed me a display of the fate of Austrian Jews from March 1938 to May 1945. It was gratifying to meet such dedicated people who keep the memory of the Holocaust alive.

**The People’s Supper** *by Sonia Fuentes*

Recently, the first People’s Supper took place in the Sarasota-Manatee area. The People's Supper is a nationwide organization that promotes suppers of 10-12 people or more to promote understanding among people in these polarized times.

I had heard about it on a CBS news program and thought it would be a fun thing to arrange in this area. With the help of the national organization, the supper took place at the house of a friend, who generously offered her beautiful home and served as hostess. There were nine of us present from Sarasota and Manatee Counties and it was a great success. Our hostess prepared the main course and the rest of us pot-lucked. We enjoyed dinner and sharing the stories of our lives for about four hours.

The point of it was not to talk politics or other divisive things and not to try to convince someone else of your point of view, but talk about yourself and your life experience and relate to the others as persons--to find common ground.

Present were married couples, single women, and a single man. The single man was Hispanic who is active in the local UnidosNow, a Hispanic advocacy group. I’m guessing that all or most were Democrats. There was one Republican couple but who at least at this time do not support Trump. I do not know the political persuasion of one single woman.

Over 200 such suppers have taken place across the country since the beginning of January 2017. To learn more, visit [https://thepeoplessupper.org/](https://thepeoplessupper.org/)

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**ALBERT EINSTEIN’S JEWISH MOTHER:**
"Your senior photograph, and you couldn't have done something with your hair?"

**BILL GATES’S JEWISH MOTHER:**
"It would have killed you to become a doctor?"

**CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS’S JEWISH MOTHER:**
"I don't care what you've discovered, you didn't call, you didn't write."
The Congregation for Humanistic Judaism
3023 Proctor Road, Sarasota, FL 34231

Deadline is October 15 for the November issue

Editor: Jo Arora
Co-editor: Terry Langlois
Editorial: Sandy Cadman, Carol Rickard & Edith Sack
Photography: Jules Altenberg & 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