



Summer 2015
Volume 14 Issue 1

Beth Chaverim

Humanistic Jewish Community



Upcoming Events

Adult Education

Siblings in the Bible
June 20, July 29, Aug. 26
2:00pm

Barnes & Noble, Deerfield

Book Club

June 2, June 30,
August 4, September 16

Soup Kitchen

St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Evanston
Sunday, June 28

Picnic & Concert

The Student Body
Devonshire Park, Skokie
Sunday, August 2
6:30pm

Shabbat Under The Stars

Friday, August 28
Maplewood Park, Deerfield

Religious School Begins

Sunday, September 13

High Holiday Services

Rosh Hashanah

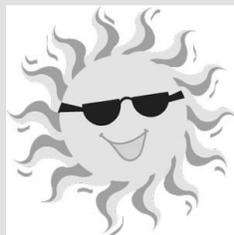
Monday, September 14

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 23
10:30 am

Shepard Middle School
Deerfield

(Seats available to non-members)



Shaping Our Jewish Future

So often when I conduct a life cycle event, I hear from someone in the audience that the ceremony or service was so meaningful, because it reflects what they truly believe. It happens frequently enough that I really can't figure out why Humanistic Judaism isn't the largest denomination in America. American Jews are overwhelmingly secular, placing an ethnic or cultural component to their Judaism at its center. Yet, the most recent and newly released study by the Pew Research Center on the 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape in America reveals that the Jewish community is losing one-quarter of its members. In other words, 25% of those who were raised Jewish are leaving Judaism behind. Studies such as this, and others, cause the institutional Jewish community to engage in much hand wringing over the future of Judaism. There is the usual scapegoat of intermarriage to blame, but that can be revealed to be a shibboleth. The real reason people leave Judaism is relevance. If we are only Jewish out of nostalgia and fail to take ownership of our Jewish identity, Judaism will fade out like the final scene in a movie. We cannot afford to be Jewish by proxy. We cannot be Jewish so as not to disappoint our grandparents. We cannot be Jewish in a way that fails to make sense to us. We cannot be Jewish in an apologetic or defensive way.

Instead let us champion being Humanistic Jews as we show what we do. Let us set the example of engaging in social justice and acts

of tikkun olam. Let us make our Judaism our own in a meaningful and relevant way. Let us proudly say that Humanistic Judaism is what we believe. We can each embrace our heritage and the resilience of the Jewish people without being shackled to practices or rituals that make little sense to our lives. We can create a community of people who are dedicated to making Judaism an important, though not exclusive, part of our lives. It is the community of Humanistic Jews, not the arcane rules of the past that binds us together. It was found in that same survey that 42% of Jews believe that having a good sense of humor is essential to being Jewish. Our history is not, as Salo Baron termed it, merely lachrymose. Instead it is joyful, filled with food and laughter, family and celebrations. We are Jewish because it helps frame our outlook on life. We are Humanistic Jews because within that framework, we believe in the power over our own lives.

Try to take some time this summer to pick up a book that takes you to a Jewish place you've never been. Make a promise to yourself to set aside time for yourself, a *Shabbat* no matter what day of the week it falls. Take a moment to intentionally notice the Jewish things in your life, embrace them, share them and recognize that they help make you who you are.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

B'shalom,

Rabbi Jodi

From The Steering Committee....

President's End of Year Annual Address 2015

Dear Members:

As always, I must begin by thanking Rabbi Jodi for her unwavering commitment to Beth Chaverim. I want to be sure she is aware how much we appreciate all she does to make our community a place of learning, sharing, giving and friendship.

Next, I would like to thank the steering committee members who work with Rabbi Jodi to plan our programming each year. Our members include Alan Solid, Sue Pinkus, Michelle Wartell, Jodi Hernandez, Carolyn and Dan Lewis, Laurie Matlin and my husband Steve Rusnak. I'd also like to thank Linda Horn who works behind the scene on our newsletter, marketing and all intra and intercommunity communications.

We are so grateful to our dedicated teachers for helping our children to learn about Judaism, humanism and community. Dick Strauss, Rabbi Jodi, her husband David Kornfeld and Kiley Hernandez have been instrumental in working with our children to help them build a Jewish identity.

I want to be sure to mention our appreciation to our helping hands committee headed by Laurie Matlin. They are active in providing food and support for the members of our community experiencing temporary setbacks. They have provided both meals and transportation for members in need.

This community would not be successful without the efforts of so many members who have found both time and funding to help with the multiple projects we have undertaken during the year. From those who have shopped for and cooked PADS breakfasts to members setting up Tu B'shevat and Chocolate Seders to hosting book club and baking for the High Holidays. You are the ones who make Beth Chaverim a wonderful community.

Please know that your time, effort and donations are appreciated.

Next year we are planning to continue with our PADS breakfasts to help the homeless. We will once again be making and serving a summer barbecue meal at the food kitchen at St. Paul's Church in Evanston on June 28th. Volunteers and food donations for both projects are much appreciated. Although the Week of Hope project may not be active in fall of 2015, we are planning to create our own charity day at Sunday school and suggestions for projects are welcome.

This summer we will once again get together for an evening concert at Devonshire Park in Skokie and we will end our summer with our Annual Shabbat Under the Stars Evening. All are welcome and please feel free to invite guests (especially potential members).

We are continuing our music program with Brooke next fall and were able to obtain a grant from the Society for Humanistic Judaism to help with funding. Our school will continue to celebrate Simchat Torah, Sukkot, Chanukah, Tu B'shevat, Purim and Passover during Sunday School in addition to our Annual Friday evening Chanukah Party in December and our Community Seder in the spring.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be held on September 14th and September 23rd respectively. We will celebrate Sukkot during Sunday school hours on September 27th at my home in Skokie where we will have our Sukkah ready for decorating by the students. All are invited even if you don't have children in our Sunday school program. Our Annual Chanukah Party this year will be on December 4th and our Community Passover Seder will take place on April 23rd.

(Continued on Page 3)

Beth Chaverim Mission Statement

Beth Chaverim is a place for individuals and families to explore their Jewish heritage and traditions, to learn to think critically and independently about religious and theological issues, and to develop meaningful and relevant Jewish identities through education.

(President's Year End Address Continued)

Tentative plans are being made to again cosponsor a program in October with the Interfaith Council. The previous Saturday evening performances have been wonderful and this year's show is rumored to be a comedy exploring interfaith issues. Be sure to look for more information around the High Holidays.

Our schedule has many things to offer for everyone. Other events that are added during our fiscal year will be sent to you as e-mails as well as being posted in our newsletter. Be sure we have an updated e-mail address.

Please don't forget that you're welcome to join us for book club, or siblings in the Bible. No experience is necessary. Also feel free to consider inviting friends and potential future members to join us at any of our upcoming events. Word of mouth and trying us out are by far the best way to attract new membership to our community.

Finally, thank you all for being the Beth Chaverim Humanistic Community and know that I feel privileged to be a part of this House of Friends. This is a wonderful group of adults and children who go out of their way to embrace the Jewish Culture while working to make this world a better place.

Thank you.

Deb Rusnak, President



Mazel tov to Dick Strauss, our seventh/eighth grade teacher who completed his 30th year of teaching. His influence on his students extends beyond a single school year. Dick's passion for teaching and his love for



his students is remarkable. Through the award-winning curriculum on the Holocaust that he developed, our students can proudly say that they will commit to being "upstanders", people who will not tolerate bigotry, hatred or prejudice. Through his teaching of American Jewish history, the counter-narratives to social studies rounds out our students' education. Kol hakavod! A job well done! But not yet over as Dick returns in the fall to start year 31.

Did You Know?



Rabbi Jodi Kornfeld is available to conduct **life cycle ceremonies** including **weddings, civil unions, baby namings** and **funerals** for members and non-members.

Contact Rabbi Jodi for further information,

847-945-6512

RABBIJODI@GMAIL.COM

What's Happening *Mah Nishmah*

Todah Rabah

means thank you very much

The following families for donating the food for our February PADS breakfast:

The Buckland family, the Dischuck family, the Grant family, the Kantor family, the Koehler family, the Lewis family, the Shore family, the Solid family, and Ruth Hecht for delivering it.

The following families for donating the food for our March PADS breakfast: **The Buckland family, the Ellis Family, the Kantor family, the Lewis family, the Shore family and the Koehler family** for delivering it.

The following family for donating the food for our April PADS breakfast: **the Kornfeld/Wild family; and Dick Strauss** for delivering it.

Jillana Enteen for substitute teaching our primary class.

The following for helping with our Purim celebration:

Jennifer and Neil Enciso, Jillana Enteen, Nancy Freedkin, and Dan Lewis

The following for helping with our chocolate seder:

Tami Baba, Bettina Itovici, Carolyn Lewis and Dana Kantor

Deb & Steve Rusnak for hosting our Potluck Purim.

Meryle Imber Mitchel for Jewish cooking with the fifth/sixth grade class

Donations

Vivian and Loren Kramer

The Seidman Family

Dick & Donna Strauss,
In Memory of Anne Himmelstein

Mazel Tov

Courtney Wolf graduating from Palatine High School and will attend University of Alabama.

Alexis Brill graduating from Glenbrook South and will attend University of Wis. - Madison.

Aaron Freedkin graduating from Lake Zurich High School.

Matthew Magill graduating University of Ill.

Annica Mandeltort graduating Lawrence College.

Becky Herman graduating with a Masters in Social Work.

Tony Kohlenberg and Becky Hermann on their wedding.

Chloe Samuels and Dan Serotta on their wedding.

The Tamul family on Marla's bat mitzvah.

The Baba family on Lauren's bat mitzvah.

Judith Matz on the publication of her children's book, Amanda's Big Dream.



Preparing Pads Breakfast

Beth Chaverim Steering Committee Members

President : Deb Rusnak

Treasurer: David Kantor

Secretary: Steve Rusnak

Past President:

Robin Chessick

Members At Large:

Jodi Hernandez Carolyn Lewis Dan Lewis

Laurie Matlin Sue Pinkus

Alan Solid Michele Wartell

At Beth Chaverim

Marla Tamul

Bat Mitzvah

May 30, 2015



Marla lives in Glenview. She enjoys being on the Glenview Blades Synchronized Skating team and has enjoyed competing at different rinks and competitions throughout the years. Some of her favorite hobbies are hanging out with friends and creating home lip-synch videos!

Marla has been fortunate enough to volunteer at The Midwest Palliative and Hospice Center for her mitzvah project. Over the past year and a half, she has made floral arrangements for patients and their families. Not only has it been a fun experience, she has gotten great feedback. People have said that the arrangements brighten their days. She also has participated in the Summer Reading Program at the Glenview Public Library. She helped children strengthen their reading skills with fun books and games.

Lauren Baba

Bat Mitzvah

May 30, 2015



Lauren is in the 7th grade in Buffalo Grove. She loves Ice Skating and is a member of the Starlights Synchronized Skating Team. She also participates in solo/individual skating as well as track and volleyball.

Lauren enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She is very active and loves all sports. In addition to her extra curricular activities, she is a high achiever in academics as well. Lauren gives anything she does her all, whether it be school, activities or relationships. She is an extremely caring human being who always sticks up for anyone in need.

For Lauren's Mitzvah Project, she is collecting used sporting equipment to be donated to those in need. She has also been volunteering her time for the past year teaching young children to ice skate in a "Learn to Skate" program at her rink. In addition, she enjoys helping to pack food for the hungry whenever she has the opportunity.

Thank You E-Auction Donors

Nancy and Stuart Babendir
Ruth Hecht
Ben Kornfeld and Bridget Wild
Alan Solid
Bob Strauss
AMC Theatres
Barnaby's
Best Salon
Bob Chinn's
The Bootery
Chicago Bagel & Bialy II
Claim Company
Cora Lee Candies
Courtyard by Marriott Deerfield
Crossroads Car Wash
Culver's Buffalo Grove

Del Rio's
Dover Straits
The Dogout
Egg Harbor Café
Flattop Grill
Francesco's Hole in the Wall
Johnny's Kitchen and Tap
Jordan's Food of Distinction
Lifeline Theatre
Lou Malnati's
Mariano's Vernon Hills
Max & Benny's
Medieval Times
Metropolis Performing Arts Centre
Morton's The Steakhouse
Next Door Bistro

North Shore Chamber Music Festival
Northbrook Hilton
Northlight Theatre
Olsky's Jewelers
P.F. Chang's
Philly G's
Red Door Spa Deerfield
Right Bank Salon
Ron of Japan
Rosati's
Rosebud
SabraBooks.com
Teddie Kossof Salon
UB Nails
Writers Theater



The Humanist Café - Food for the Mind & the Appetite



A brief primer in humanist history and the influence on Judaism provides interesting study. Modern secular humanistic Judaism generally points to the nineteenth century Enlightenment, and the *haskalah* in particular, for its foundational and formative philosophical underpinnings. Yet its genealogy can be traced back further, to Hellenistic Judaism, and one can daresay to some limited examples of human authority from the biblical era. One interesting but often overlooked branch of this family tree is the Italian Renaissance period wherein humanism as an express body of thought developed in the Christian world, and as a corollary a form of Jewish humanism can be identified. Although it did not ultimately take hold as a lasting movement, and it was not a fully secular or exclusively humanistic expression of Judaism, it nonetheless marked an important intersection of Judaism and humanism. Although one must be careful though not to overstate the case, the Renaissance did not proceed to create a void in Jewish history, and Jewish history certainly did not ignore the Renaissance. Specifically Jewish humanists who could be identified as such emerged in Italy. At the time, Jewish history was assessed in non-theological terms, and Jews viewed themselves as active players who could shape their

destiny. Moreover, Jewish thinkers looked to and utilized non-Jewish sources in not only shaping their worldview but in understanding or assessing Jewish sources. In all these ways, the period of the Renaissance is an important and influential era in Jewish history. It can be seen as a bridge between Hellenism and *haskalah*.

In honor of the holiday of Shavuot which takes place this year at the end of May, it is a tradition to eat dairy food. This likely reflects the agricultural roots of the holiday and the time of the year when the goat cheese had fermented and was ready to be eaten. From food.com, here is a recipe for cheese blintzes.

Crepes:

1 ½ all purpose flour ½ teaspoon vanilla
2 cups milk ½ teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons butter,
melted
2 tablespoons sugar
2 eggs

Filling:

1 cup cottage cheese
1 cup farmer cheese, soft, or 1 cup softened cream cheese
¼ cup powdered sugar
¼ teaspoon vanilla
Garnishes: sour cream, strawberry jam or preserves,
powdered sugar.

- Use an electric mixer to blend together all the crêpe ingredients (except the butter for the pan) in a large bowl. Blend just until smooth. The batter will be very thin.
- Combine the filling ingredients in a medium bowl and mix by hand. Keep the filling nearby.
- Preheat a 10-inch frying pan over medium heat. (This size pan tapers to about 8 inches at the bottom.) When the pan is hot, add about ½ teaspoon butter.
- When the butter has melted, pour 1/3 cup batter into the pan. Swirl the batter so that it entirely coats the bottom of the pan. Cook for 1½ to 2 minutes or until golden brown on one side.
- Use a spatula to lift an edge of the crêpe. Grab it with your finger, slip the spatula underneath, and quickly flip it over. Cook for another 1½ minutes or until a bit lighter shade of brown than the first side, and then slide it out of the pan. Repeat with the rest of the batter and stack the finished crepes on top of each other to keep them warm.
- Heat the cheese filling in the microwave for 1 to 2 minutes or until hot. When ready to fill the crêpes, place each crepe, dark side down, on a plate. Pour 2 to 3 Tablespoons of cheese filling across the center of the crêpe. Fold the sides in and turn the entire blintz over (to hide the seam) onto a serving plate.
- Serve 2 to 3 blintzes on each plate with one dollop of sour cream and two of strawberry preserves. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Beth Chaverim has made a commitment to work to alleviate hunger.

To that end, and through the generosity of our community, we have provided breakfast, lunch or dinner to feed over 500 people in 2014-2015.

In addition, we have provided food to the Deerfield Township Food Pantry
Our efforts continue with our next BBQ dinner for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Evanston.

Join Beth Chaverim Humanistic Jewish Community and help at a Community Soup Kitchen



Sunday, June 28
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Evanston
1:30 - 4:30 pm



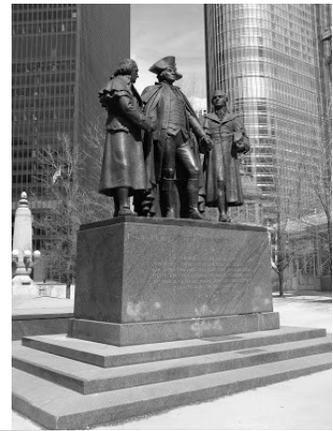
This event is open to people of all ages, the entire family is welcome.

If you can't be there, but would like to donate food, contact us.

Please RSVP (info@bethchaverim.net) so we have an idea of who can volunteer.

I Didn't Know That Was Jewish!

At the corner of Wabash and Wacker in downtown Chicago there is a monument depicting George Washington, Robert Morris and Haym Solomon. The photo was taken by Samuel Gruber. Haym Solomon has been characterized as the "financier of the Revolutionary War." His efforts at raising the funds needed for that war, and later the Congress were essential. He was born in Poland in 1740 and died as an American patriot in 1785. This statue was built in 1941. It represented an important affirmation of Jewish Americans, and their contribution to American history, particularly as America was entering World War II. Next time you walk past this statue, know that it depicts an important Jewish hero.



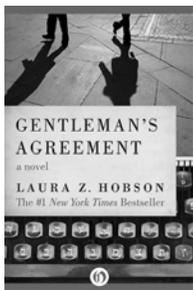
3rd/4th Grade Wedding

The culmination of our Lifecyle curriculum.



Beth Chaverim Book Club

On June 2nd join us as we discuss “**Ishmael’s Oranges**” by **Clare Hajaj**. This is a story of the relationship between a Jewish woman and a Palestinian man that faces the challenges of family, nation and tradition. According to amazon.com, “*Ishmael’s Oranges* tells the story of two cultures clashing as the relentless tides of history wash over the many crossroads of the Middle East. Spanning three generations, it follows the journeys of those cast adrift by war — as well as by their own impulses — until at last they find themselves thrown headlong into it. Through Salim, Jude, and their twins, we explore the longest conflict of our era in universally human terms: the families we build, the loyalties we owe, and the stories we pass on to our children.”

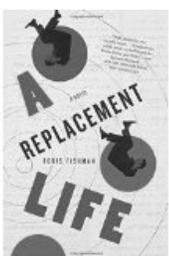


On June 30th we will discuss “**Gentleman’s Agreement**” by **Laura Hobson**. According to Barnesandnoble.com, “A landmark novel that ranked #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list for five months straight, *Gentleman’s Agreement* speaks to the pervasive nature of prejudice after World War II—an issue just as relevant today as when the book was first published. [It tells the story of] journalist Philip Green [who] has just moved to New York City from California when the Third Reich falls. To mark this moment in history, his editor at *Smith’s Weekly Magazine* assigns Phil a series of articles on anti-Semitism in America. In order to experience anti-Semitism firsthand, Phil, a Christian, decides to pose as a Jew. What he discovers about the rampant bigotry in America will change him forever.”

On August 4th we will meet to discuss “**Boston Girl**” by **Anita Diamant** who wrote “The Red Tent.” Goodreads.com

describes the book as follows: “Addie Baum is The Boston Girl, born in 1900 to immigrant parents who were unprepared for and suspicious of America and its effect on their three daughters. Growing up in the North End, then a teeming multicultural neighborhood, Addie's intelligence and curiosity take her to a world her parents can't imagine - a world of short skirts, movies, celebrity culture and new opportunities for women. Addie wants to finish high school and dreams of going to college. She wants a career and to find true love.

Eighty-five-year-old Addie tells the story of her life to her twenty-two-year-old granddaughter, who has asked her "How did you get to be the woman you are today." She begins in 1915, the year she found her voice and made friends who would help shape the course of her life. From the one-room tenement apartment she shared with her parents and two sisters, to the library group for girls she joins at a neighborhood settlement house, to her first, disastrous love affair, Addie recalls her adventures with compassion for the naïve girl she was and a wicked sense of humor.”



We will follow those up with “**A Replacement Life**” by **Boris Fishman** on September 16. This debut novel depicts the experience of Russian Jewish immigrants to America. The protagonist Slava is enlisted to write letters for wartime reparations for his grandfather and his generation. According to amazon.com, “Slava’s turn as the Forger of South Brooklyn teaches him that not every fact is the truth, and not every lie a falsehood. It takes more than law-abiding to become an American; it takes the same self-reinvention in which his people excel. Intoxicated and unmoored by his inventions, Slava risks exposure. Cornered, he commits an irrevocable act

that finally grants him a sense of home in America, but not before collecting a price from his family.

A Replacement Life is a dark, moving, and beautifully written novel about family, honor, and justice.”



Over the past few years, we have had several families within our community that have had a temporary setback, ie: a surgery, loss of a job, family crises, etc.

"Helping Hands" is available to help with the needs of these families, either through delivering a meal, or driving to a doctor's appointment or any other minor needs a family could use. Over the past several months, assistance has been provided to several members.

If you would like to be added to the list of members who will assist when needed, please email us and Laurie Matlin will contact you when the need arises. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered already; it is greatly appreciated. Any family needing assistance can seek it by contacting Rabbi Jodi.



???? Membership Questions ????

Do you have questions about membership? Then contact our membership liaison Deb Rusnak at dfishman63@comcast.net

Can You Help?

We are always looking for some assistance large and small for our events. Please let us know if you are interested to help with any of the following events this year or next.

- Helping Hands Committee
- E-Auction

Humanistic Judaism 101

- Defines Judaism as the collective historic experience of the Jewish people and promotes a community of shared Jewish values.
- Promotes the development of a strong Jewish identity, especially for those Jews who cannot intellectually or emotionally embrace a supernatural being, or who are unsure about the existence of such a being and want to express their Judaism in an honest and meaningful way.
- Emphasizes the capacity in all human beings to improve themselves and the world through learning and the performance of good deeds.
- Teaches that ethical behavior is conduct which enhances the dignity of every individual.
- Understands that ritual without meaning is simply empty ritual and that liberal Judaism is authentic Judaism, without apologies to the present or nostalgic bows to the past.

Beth Chaverim is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism.

In Our School

As part of their study of immigration, our fifth/sixth grade class learned some Yiddish. Below are two of the stories written by our students using Yiddish words. See if you can figure out what they mean. Enjoy!

The Vacation by Lora Lewis

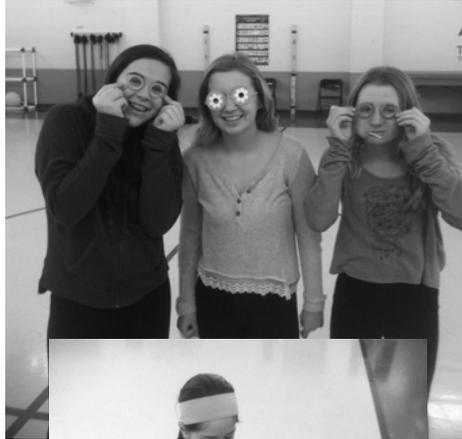
“We are going on a vacation and you will miss some *kheder*,” *Bubbe* said. The *boychik* smiled with *naches*. Although he couldn’t bring any *drekk* he was still very excited. Then he got very *ferklemp*. “Oy what’s that matter?” *Bubbe* asked. The boy cried, “I won’t see my friends.” But they were going to a very important place. “We are going to Israel to do a mitzvah; and we will also see some *klezmer*,” said *bubbe*. When they got to Israel they needed to *nosh* on some lox. They *noshed* until they were almost out of *shekel*. *Bubbe* and the *boychik* were walking around and saw a *mishpacha*. The *Zayde* stopped us and asked, “Where is your *tata*?” He is here and we are meeting him.

A Story by Hailey Young

I was getting packed without *naches*. We get in the *mishpacha* car. I *shlep* my bag in the car. My *bubbe* drives the car while my *zayde* sleeps. My brother screams. He is a *boychik* with *chutzpah*. *Chazz-er* I think. I can’t say I am excited but it is good to get out of *kheder*. When we pull up in the *shtetl*, *oy vey* my brother *kvetches*. *Zayde* put on his glasses. He tells a *megillah* about this town. It used to be a happy town with *seychel*. Then it was attacked by a *chazzler* dragon. It blew the *shtetl* to flames looking for a treasure that blessed the town with health, happiness, and wealth. *Zayde* points to a holder. That is where it used to be he points. Can we look for it? I ask. Sure. You could see the look on my brother’s *punim*. We look all day and we find it! We place it on the holder and the town magically goes back together. All the people from there go back to it and we are now remembered as *mensch*es in the town. That was our *mishegas* of a vacation.



Chocolate Seder



Purim Celebration



Family Museum



Standing On One Foot

(Judaism in 140 characters or less)

“Let all who are hungry come and eat” is not just one line from the haggadah.
It is a call to action to eliminate hunger in our land of plenty.

HU-JEW CONCLAVE REPORT by Kiley Hernandez



Conclave was, once again, a phenomenal experience. This year the theme was your own identity. I learned that it's possible to have more than one identity and to belong to more than one group. For example, I am Jewish. I am a reader. I am an actress. I am a daughter. There are many parts to your own identity. I really enjoy this because it means that no two people are the same. Every person is different. There are ways people can be alike, but not completely the same. A very fun activity that helped show our identity was making a paper mache mask. Everyone individualized their mask in the way they made it. Some covered their entire face, others were just around the eyes, and some were a cast of their hand. After they had dried, we painted them. We were told to paint things that represent our identities. It was interesting to hear my friends explain their identity to others. Another exciting activity was going to the soup kitchen and cooking and serving people in need. Many of my friends were there and we had a lot of fun making up songs while preparing the food and serving it. It felt great to know that we were helping someone in need. Another great part about Conclave is being able to see my friends who live far away and making new friends. I enjoy going to c\Conclave and hope to return next year. It is a great experience for anyone who goes. Whether it be a young adult, a freshmen in high school, or an adult chaperone. No matter who goes, something will be learned and it will be remembered. That's the way of Conclave.

Conclave 2015 was held at the Butzel Conference Center, home of Camp Tamarack in suburban Detroit.

It is the annual gathering of teens and young adults affiliated with Humanistic Judaism from across America, and Canada.

SAVE THE DATE: CONCLAVE 2016 IS COMING TO CHICAGO!!!! MARCH 4-6, 2016



Attendees created an identity wall with descriptions of themselves filling in the rest of the sentence " I am."



"I have no difficulty living with uncertainty and change. And I would be humiliated to think I would accept an answer to a question simply because it made me feel good.

Confronting unpleasant facts is for me the ultimate test of reason."

From "Reflections."

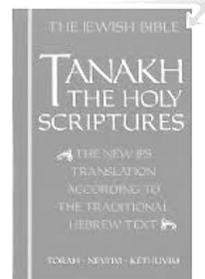
Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine

Adult Education Continues



Siblings in the Bible continues with the stories of
June 24, July 29, August 26
Barnes & Noble - Deerfield
2:00pm

A copy of the Tanach (the Hebrew Bible) by Jewish Publication Society
is all you will need.
There is no cost for the classes.
The book can be found on Amazon.com.



Beth Chaverim is pleased to announce that we now accept Paypal for payment of membership dues, and donations.
You can find it on the home page of our website, www.bethchaverim.net.

Beth Chaverim Donation Form

A wonderful way to recognize any occasion and benefit Beth Chaverim.
Fill out this form and clip and mail along with your donation.

Please accept our donation of \$ _____ to Beth Chaverim Humanistic Jewish Community.

This donation is being made In Honor/Memory of: _____

Donation From: _____

_____ General Donation _____ Helping Hand Fund _____ Torah Fund

Mail Donation acknowledgement to the following person:

Memorial Plaque Order Form
Beth Chaverim Memorial Plaque
Order Form
(One Name per plaque)

Name of Loved One: _____

Date of Death: _____

Plaque Donor: _____

Name of Loved One: _____

Date of Death: _____

Plaque Donor: _____

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

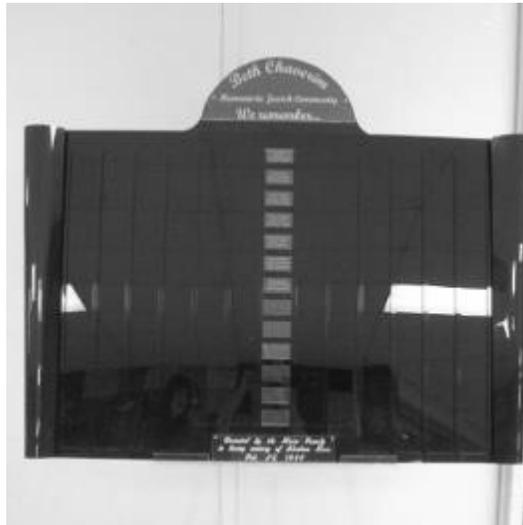
Plaque Donor: _____

\$136/plaque X _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Return this form to our office.

Checks payable to Beth Chaverim Humanistic Jewish Community
 1457 Wilmot Road
 Deerfield, IL 60015





Tikkun olam means to repair the world. It is a shorthand way in which many Jews express their Judaism through social action and community service projects. Our tradition holds many instructions to guide our actions. From the Haggadah: Let all who are hungry come and eat. From the Torah: Remember the stranger for you were once a stranger in a strange land. From the Talmud: If one saves one life, it is as if one saves the world. From the Sayings of the Fathers: one good deed will bring another good deed (“mitzvah goreret mitzvah”). One of the first things arriving immigrants established was the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society to render assistance to the new arrivals. It is fitting that we take

especial note our community’s efforts throughout this past year to repair our broken world.

- * We made 100 toiletry kits for A Safe Place to help women seeking safe haven from abusive homes.
- * One of our bar mitzvah students raised over \$1000 for the Lauri S. Bauer Foundation for sudden loss to help children deal with the death of a parent.
- * We donated over \$400 to the Nepal Earthquake Relief Effort.
- * Another bat mitzvah student raised over \$1000 for pediatric cancer research.
- * With the Deerfield Food Pantry facing shortages, we provided close to 20 bagsful of groceries.
- * Another bar mitzvah student worked with Feed My Starving Children to make enough meals for a year for over 50 children. (see photo below).
- * Our students made holiday cards for our service personnel serving abroad.
- * We made two dozen fleece scarves given to special needs children.
- * We made anti-smoking kits for the American Cancer Society.
- * Our classes rotated for each of six months to make breakfast for the PADS shelter housed at First Presbyterian Church in Deerfield.

Maimonides said that one of the highest form of tzedakah or charity is to give without knowing the recipient, and to do so anonymously with nothing expected in return. At Beth Chaverim, we do indeed practice what we believe, putting our words into action.

Feed My Starving Children (2/25/15).
Eitan Marshall-Pinko service project.





Beth Chaverim

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Beth Chaverim

Humanistic Jewish Community

1457 Wilmot Road

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847-945-6512

www.BethChaverim.net

Rabbi Jodi Kornfeld

Administrator Linda Horn

Affiliated With



School Registration Currently Underway *School begins Sunday, September 13*

Religious School registration for Beth Chaverim Religious School is now underway for the 2015-2016 school year. Religious School begins **Sunday, September 13, 2015** and will be held on Sunday mornings. Classes will be offered for grades **Kindergarten through 8th grade**. Of special note is a **one year learn to read Hebrew program** which is available for those students who will celebrate a Bar/Bat Mitzvah with Beth Chaverim.

Membership in Beth Chaverim includes the cost of religious school for a family's first child; additional children as well as Hebrew school involve a separate cost.



Visit our website to learn more about us - www.BethChaverim.net