



Beth Chaverim

Humanistic Jewish Community



Our 5th & 6th grade classes made Israel travel brochures!



We baked challah!



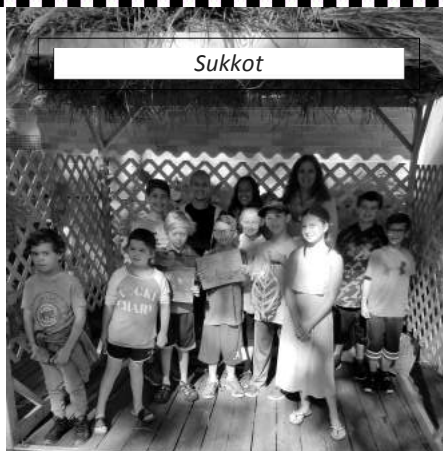
Yom Kippur Food Pantry Donations!

What's Happening at Beth Chaverim

Mah Nishmah

Upcoming Events

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	<i>November 19, 7:00pm Lakeside Congregation</i>
Chanukah Dinner	<i>December 8, 6:30pm Buffalo Grove Community Arts Center</i>
Chanukah	<i>December 12-20</i>
No Sunday School	<i>December 17 December 24 December 31</i>



Sukkot



Simchat Torah



High Holidays



Maot Chitim



Beth Chaverim Steering Committee Members

President: Deb Rusnak

Secretary: Steve Rusnak

Past President: Robin Chessick

Treasurer: David Kantor

Members At Large: Loren & Vivian Kramer, Dan & Carolyn Lewis, Sue Pinkus, Alan Solid

The Essence of Who We Are

With the approach of Chanukah, the various messages inherent in the holiday come to the forefront. Bringing light wherever we can into the darkness evident in the world takes on renewed urgency. Religious freedom and tolerance for perspectives that differ from our own is also much needed in our fractured world. Yet as we emphasize religious freedom, we cannot forget that the fight that led to Chanukah was not merely the Maccabees against the Assyrian Greeks, but the fervently religious Maccabees against the Hellenistic Jews who were happy to embrace Greek ways into their Jewish identity. In effect, it was a battle between the religious and the less religious. It would be going too far to characterize Hellenistic Jews as secular though they were thoroughly acculturated and assimilated. The Maccabees are held out to be Jewish heroes, and in standing for their beliefs against a powerful enemy, refusing to compromise their religious identity, they were. But we cannot forget the Hellenistic Jews who are more appropriately our philosophical ancestors. Chanukah is a good time to pause and reflect on the essence of who we are as Jews in the twenty-first century.

There is much to be celebrated in the diversity that is the Jewish community today. We no longer live in an era where we are segregated from our neighbors. We no longer are cast out for loving and marrying outside the Jewish religion. Instead we have created a beautiful family tapestry woven of the ethnic, cultural and even religious traditions of those we have welcomed into our own families. We are often hyphenated people with several adjectives describing our heritage. As a community, Beth Chaverim is made up of people who can claim their background as Cuban, Mexican, and Russian as well as being the children of immigrants going back several generations from Poland, Germany and Romania. We speak the languages of the world; we have children and grandchildren who have multiple faith traditions yet have chosen to identify with Humanistic Judaism and thereby make Judaism their own. They are not fractional people, with a part here and a part there; instead they are whole people with a multi-faceted heritage.

There are those who lament the rate of intermarriage among Jews, who fear for the Jewish future. I am not among them. I see an exquisite patchwork that joins families together. I see a chuppah or Jewish wedding canopy made of a tallit and a grandmother's tablecloth; I see a family with a Christmas tree that is topped with a Star of David; I see children who take to heart the commandment to honor your father and your mother, without an asterisk or a footnote that qualifies it only to a Jewish parent. I see parents and grandparents participating in b'nai mitzvah services, beaming with pride even if this ceremony was not part of their upbringing. Indeed I see a rich and diverse Jewish community, made stronger by inclusion.

The celebration of Chanukah itself is a lesson in acculturation and diversity. The dreidel or spinning top is not innately Jewish. Instead it was a German toy with letters that told the rules on the sides that Jews sought to include in their celebration. The German Jews Judaized it by putting the Hebrew letters nun, gimmel, heh, shin on the top and created an acronym of the letters to stand for "neis gadol hayah sham," "a great miracle happened there". The resilience and creativity of the Jewish people is repeatedly on display through the ages. Judaism is important and something to be kept and celebrated. But we need not be Maccabees to recognize this; we are instead the legacy of the Hellenistic Jews of that time. We are also the embodiment of the Jewish Enlightenment centuries later; and the secular Zionists after that; and the Jews for whom their Jewish identity is expressed in tikkun olam, acts of repairing the world. Indeed we are proud to be Jewish and to welcome all those who wish to journey with us.

Wishing you a very happy Chanukah, and secular new year,

B'shalom,

Rabbi Jodi

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.

A Message from the President

I've chosen to share a recent experience of mine as a member of the greater Jewish community. I don't believe my sentiments are specific because I am a Humanistic Jew; however, I know that as a cultural Jew, I am acutely aware of the importance of our Jewish traditions being appreciated and understood by other communities.

This fall I had the honor of attending the Bat Mitzvah of one of my Girl Scouts. She's been part of the troop I've led for about 5 years so I've watched her grow from a little kid to a sweet and intelligent young lady and I wanted to share in this milestone in her life. Four of the other girls in the troop who are close friends of the Bat Mitzvah were in attendance with me. None were Jewish nor had they ever attended a Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. The area we live in is very culturally and religiously diverse; however, this was a new experience for each of my scouts.

I grew up in a Conservative Jewish Synagogue outside of Philadelphia. My experience may have been similar to some of yours. My neighborhood was 90% Christian and the small group of kids I attended Hebrew and Religious School with were a minority in our community. Services on Saturday mornings ran 2 ½ hours with or without a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. I sang in the Cantor's choir and weekly services were part of my routine. The service was a mixture of prayers chanted in traditional Hebrew by the congregation and melodies sung or led by our choir. Many of the most significant prayers were also read by either the Rabbi or the congregation in English.

Especially on Bar/Bat Mitzvah mornings, the Rabbi took the time to explain more about our prayers and traditions to guests who were likely not familiar with our service, Hebrew, or even our religion. I believe the Rabbi felt that it was part of his duty to welcome our non-members on these special mornings and give them a chance to understand a little about the Jewish religion and the special meaning of becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah.

The Saturday morning Bat Mitzvah I attended recently was also part of a Conservative synagogue; however, the service had a very different focus. It was designed very specifically for the members who were familiar with the order of the service, Hebrew, the individual prayers and the specific traditions. All prayers were in Hebrew and only the Prayer for Israel towards the end was recited in English. For its members, it was a warm and nurturing environment. For my scouts, it was three hours of having no idea what was happening.

I found myself very uncomfortable throughout the morning not for myself, but for the non-Jewish friends of the Bat Mitzvah girl. I felt that the lack of any accommodations to try to help them understand the service sent a message to them that although they were invited, they weren't included and that this milestone in their friend's life was not something they were meant to share. I am sure this did not occur to the Rabbi, the parents or the other congregants who enjoyed sharing in their member family's occasion.

When a moment or two allowed and after the service at the Kiddush Luncheon, I tried to explain as much as possible about parts of the service to my girls. I also emphasized that other Bar/Bat Mitzvah services were more inclusive and encouraged the young women to not conclude "this was the last Bar/Bat Mitzvah service they would ever attend."

So, where am I going with my words? I thought a lot about this experience when I returned home. It is my belief that every religious group has a duty to its congregation to pray in a way that they are comfortable and to focus on the needs of its congregation. The tough part is when others are invited in to a service as guests and come hoping to participate and learn about another religion. Do they have a duty to their guests to change their service to accommodate outsiders? Would we at Beth Chaverim feel compelled to change our services to accommodate more religious or traditional Jews? I think not, and I am so glad that there is a home for Humanistic, secular or cultural Jews.

My scouts are resilient young ladies. When we spoke at the luncheon they asked intelligent questions and likely did learn a lot from this experience. I was glad I could be there to provide some explanation. I know it meant a lot to both the Bat Mitzvah girl and her family to have her closest non-Jewish friends honor her with their presence at her service and to witness all the hard work she had put in towards reaching that day. For some questions in life, there just isn't a correct or easy answer especially when religious practices are involved. But there should be a midpoint between welcoming and compromise. Somewhere in all of this, we have to accept the practices of others whether we understand them or not, whether we practice them or not. I guess if the girls want to know more about their experience, they will ask me or their friend more questions or in today's world, just "google it."

Deb Rusnak

Chanukah Dinner



Celebrate Chanukah

With

Beth Chaverim

Friday, December 8th

6:30 PM

Buffalo Grove Community Arts Center

225 McHenry Road, Buffalo Grove

Deli Dinner & Latkes

Chanukah Service

Chanukah Games, Music & Great Company



Members &
Non-Members
Welcome

Adults \$18

Children 3 - 13 \$12.00

Children under 3 free

Please bring your menorah, candles and a dessert to share!

Deadline December 1st

Send Payment to: Beth Chaverim Humanistic Jewish Community
1457 Wilmot Road, Deerfield, IL 60015

We Can't Wait to Attend

Name: _____

_____ # Adults @ \$18.00/ person _____

_____ # Children (3-13) @ \$12.00/ person _____

_____ # Children under 3

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Questions e-mail us at info@bethchaverim.net

What's Happening at Beth Chaverim

Mah Nishmah

Todah Rabah *means "thank you very much"*

Lauren Crane, Jen & Neil Encisco, Linda & Rich Horn, David & Dana Kantor, Carolyn Lewis, Ines Taormina, Rachel & James Young for helping with the Rosh Hashanah food delivery with Maot Chitim

David Barhydt & Judith Matz for chairing our lox box fundraiser

Lox box donors:

Upper Crust Bagels Deerfield

Sunset Foods Lake Forest

Trader Joe's Northbrook

Chicago Jewish News

Irwin Goldman Funerals

Robin Chessick-Jameson Sotheby's

Alan Solid

and to Judith Matz, Steve Rusnak and Alan Solid for packing and delivering them

Bob Matlin for staffing the Gleanings table in September and the Kantor family for staffing it in October

High Holiday oneg bakers

Phyllis Cheskin for the flowers for the High Holidays

Vivian Kramer for making the name tags for the High Holidays

Jillana Enteen for substitute teaching our fifth/sixth grade class

Howard & Phyllis Cheskin for hosting our Sukkot celebration

PADS donors for October: the Grant family, the Hecker family, the Kantor family, the Lewis family, Bobbi & Jim Taormina, Rabbi Jodi, and Gabi Latulippe for delivering the food

Rich & Linda Horn for helping with Simchat Torah

Nancy Freedkin for preparing the dough and baking challah with our pre-K and primary students



Mazel Tov

Mindy Shore on her graduation from Second City

Michelle Schwarz and Jonathan Renshon on their marriage

Bauer/Latulippe Family on the bar mitzvah of Keegan

Brooke Perlman for singing the National Anthem on the field at the Chicago Fire game on October 15

Brooke Perlman on her engagement to Matthew Schrager

Donations

Deb & Steve Rusnak

Shalom Memorial Park in acknowledgment of our students' participation in the Art Calendar Contest

Dr. Evan Goodman in memory of Michael Levy

Dick & Donna Strauss in honor of Rabbi Jodi

Dan & Carolyn Lewis

Rich & Linda Horn to the Torah Fund for repair of the Torah in memory of Irene Horn

Dick & Donna Strauss in honor of Brooke Perlman's engagement

Dick & Donna Strauss in honor of Rich and Linda Horn for helping at Simchat Torah

Dick & Donna Strauss in honor of Phyllis and Howard Cheskin hosting Sukkot

Yom Kippur Donations: Alan & Rhonda Solid, Phyllis Hecker, Bobbi & Jim Taormina, Dick & Donna Strauss, Sue & Hugh Pinkus, Mike & Penny Weinberg, Carolyn Rusnak, Joy Perlman, and Cheryl Berman

We Remember

Norman Rosenthal, brother-in-law of Phyllis Cheskin

Ross Bahcall, uncle of Dan Lewis



Welcome New Members

Barry and Suzanne Katz

Standing On One Foot

(Judaism in 140 Characters or Less)

It's said that at all times there are 36 righteous though anonymous people in the world; were it not for all of them, if even one of them was missing, the world would end. It could be you.

Escape... Refuge... Home?

Escape.....Refuge.....Home?

By Phyllis Cheskin

My husband and I just returned from a two week trip to China. In Shanghai, we visited **The Jewish Refugees Museum**; a landmark to the remarkable relationship between the Chinese and Jewish people. Our docents were knowledgeable, sensitive, young Chinese who led us through the story of the Jews who escaped the Holocaust by immigrating to China.

"Tomorrow we would be starting a new life in a strange city, in an unfamiliar country, with an unfamiliar language, climate and people--- where we would be safe and free."

1933-34. Mostly Ashkenazi Jews - 18,000 - came through the port of Shanghai;

1938-40 Austrian Jews were saved by the Chinese consul-general in Vienna. He issued visas (needed only to book boat tickets), against the orders of the Chinese ambassador in Berlin. Lithuanian Jews (about 2000), were similarly saved by the Japanese consul. Both have been designated: "Righteous Among the Nations."

1941-45 Treaty of Nanking: Japanese occupied Shanghai and established a ghetto- the **Restricted Sector for Stateless Refugees**.



Relocated to communities around the former Ohel Moshe Synagogue (built by Russian Jews who escaped the Bolsheviks in 1900-1930s).

The area was about one square mile in the Hongkou district; one of the poorest and most crowded areas of the city. 10 /room, near-starvation, disastrous sanitation and scant employment. They were aided by rich Sephardic Jews who had arrived in the 1920s from Baghdad, and international and American aid groups

The ghetto was not walled but was patrolled, and a curfew enforced. Food was rationed and passes were needed to enter or leave. About 100,000 Chinese residents did not leave. The bombings by the US 7th Air Force continued daily until the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima

1945 The ghetto was liberated from the Japanese by Chiang Kai Shek's army.

1949 The People's Republic of China was established by the Communists.. *Almost all* of the Shanghai ghetto Jews left.

2014 About 2500 Jews remain in Kaifeng, Shanghai, Beijing, Harbin and Tianjin..Most have intermarried.

13,732 names of Jewish refugees in the Shanghai ghetto (1930s-45) were recorded by a Chinese resident for a census, during the Japanese occupation.

Sept. 2014 the names were inscribed on this memorial wall, visited by B. Netanyahu and foreign dignitaries



Jews have never encountered anti-semitism in China. **Why?** Modern Han Chinese respect Jews for their contributions to humanity, ability to survive, and shared values of family, frugality, hard work and education. Both cultures are the products of ancient civilizations.



Escape... Refuge... Home?

Jews and Chinese lived together.



Youtai (similar to "Yehudai", the Aramaic word for Jew) Over time, the community developed a rich, cultural life with schools, newspapers, theaters, a sports team and cafes! **Famous Shanghai refugees** include: W. Michael Blumenthal, US Treasury Secy; Morris Cohen, bodyguard to Sun Yat Sen; Eric Halpern, editor of Far Eastern Economic Review, and Peter Max- American pop artist.

Today

Narrow alleys still characterize the neighborhood



Back of Synagogue building



2007 The Synagogue was renovated by Viennese Jews. Today, the Chinese government's is providing funds and workers for the ongoing reconstruction of the property and buildings on Changyang Rd, Hongkou Qu, Shanghai. Israeli cos. and private donors have added funds to rehab the community.



More than 140 photos are exhibited, some thru a glass floor. A multi-screen display is a first in Shanghai. A short film summarizes the living experiences, and highlights those Jews who joined the Chinese resistance to fight the Japanese occupation.

Anne Frank: A History for Today is a current remarkable and moving exhibit in the Museum.



Mazel Tov!

Keegan Latulippe
Bar Mitzvah



Keegan Latulippe is a 7th grader at Woodlawn Middle School in Long Grove. He enjoys spending time with his family, friends, and loves sports. He plays football, basketball, and baseball! Keegan spends his summers at Greenwoods Camp for Boys in Michigan where he has been going since he was just 2 1/2 years old (since his mom worked there!) He loves overnight camp and spends his summers doing things like waterskiing, canoeing, playing sports and enjoying the outdoors. He has a passion for animals, especially dogs, and plans to help animals with his Mitzvah project. Keegan is looking forward to becoming a Bar Mitzvah in February!

HuJews Conclave 2018 – Legacy: Your Place In Jewish History



When: March 23-25, 2018

Where: Philadelphia, PA

Registration Now Open at: <http://www.shj.org/youth-programs/youth-conference/>

The **HuJews Conclave** is an annual North American teen and college conference sponsored by the Society for Humanistic Judaism. Conclave brings together teens in grades 8-12 and college students from across the United States and Canada for a weekend of fun, service, insight, and discovery. Conclave empowers young Humanistic Jews to connect with their peers and engage in thought-provoking discussions, fun-filled workshops, rewarding community service activity, and much more.

Join us as we discover America's beginning, the role Jews played in this pivotal time, and learn how to make our mark on the future. We will explore Independence Hall, historic Philadelphia, service learning, and enjoy delicious doughnuts! We will be staying at Hostel International – Chamounix Mansion in beautiful Fairmont Park. Transportation and meals provided.

Rabbi Sherwin T. Wine

"So what is happiness? Happiness is an enthusiasm for life, an eagerness to solve problems, a confidence in our strength to deal with reality, even when that reality is less than we want it to be" – The Jewish Humanist, March 1987

Adult Education



Adult education continues as we explore **Wisdom Literature** in the Bible. We will meet at Barnes & Noble in Deerfield at 2 pm on Wednesday, November 15 to consider the Book of Ecclesiastes. Watch your email or check our website for the specific dates in January and February.

More Ways to Support our Congregation

You can support Beth Chaverim through your everyday shopping on Amazon!

Not only can you use Amazon Smile for your everyday shopping, but you can also support our congregation while shopping for everyone on your gift list this holiday season!

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/32-0054139>

We are always looking for fast and easy ways to support our community and this is one of them. Make sure to share this link with family and friends and be sure to bookmark it for easier access!



**Support us when you shop
this holiday season**

Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at
smile.amazon.com. You shop. Amazon donates.

amazonsmile



Donate to Beth Chaverim



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:

Beth Chaverim Book Club

Please join us as we discuss the following books.

On Wednesday, **November 29** at 7:15 we will discuss Heretics by Cuban mystery writer Leonardo Padura. It “spans and defies literary categories. All of which would only be of ho-hum technical interest if *Heretics* weren't also an arresting novel about fanaticism, anti-Semitism and the long fall-out of a decades-old moment of political cowardice.” “*Heretics* opens on that notorious moment, which took place in Cuba in 1939. A young boy named Daniel Kaminsky has been living with his uncle in Havana ever since his parents got him out of Poland. On the morning of May 27, Daniel's parents and his younger sister are due to arrive in Havana, along with 934 other refugees from Europe. They're sailing on the S.S. Saint Louis, a boat, as Padura says, that was "loaded [down] with Jews and trust." . . . “The intricate plot revolves around that missing Rembrandt painting — detective Conde is hired some seven decades later to find out what happened to it. It's to Padura's credit that he writes with such gusto, most readers will forget that his novel is built on the old "missing painting" cliché. Indeed, it's that powerful word "heretic" that's the most crucial link among the many stories here. We hear murmurs of that word in the central tale, set in Rembrandt's studio in Amsterdam where a Jewish apprentice blasphemously poses for that portrait of Christ. Much later, we also hear the word "heretic" coming out of Conde's mouth as he walks down a street in Cuba in 2008 and surveys teenagers, dressed as Goths, punks, and "emos." Conde, who's in his 60s, thinks resignedly of these young Cubans as the "most remarkable tip of the iceberg of a generation of certified heretics," left with no slogans or politics to believe in.” (from npr.org)

The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish will be discussed on Monday, **January 8**. From goodreads.com, “Set in London of the 1660s and of the early twenty-first century, *The Weight of Ink* is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history. . . . Electrifying and ambitious, sweeping in scope and intimate in tone, *The Weight of Ink* is a sophisticated work of historical fiction about women separated by centuries, and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order reconcile the life of the heart and mind.”

In February, we will consider As Close to Us as Breathing by Elizabeth Poliner. As described by npr.org, “*As Close to Us as Breathing*, which takes its title from a Jewish prayer, is the kind of novel you sink into blissfully. It casts a spell. Poliner vividly paints a less congested but more restricted mid-twentieth century world, and her characters seem so real, so multi-dimensional, so sympathetic even when they mess up that you have to shake yourself back to the present each time you put down the book. Poliner's novel is about family ties, about belonging, about identity and responsibility to one's family and religion. It captures a time when it was not generally accepted for American Jews — however hopeful after the Nazis' defeat and the new statehood of Israel — to marry outside their faith, belong to certain clubs, or even frequent restricted resorts, "a kind of segregated ethnic tribalism that for us was part necessity, part comfort," Molly reflects half a century later. She evokes the insulated, rigidly segregated, patriarchal culture of her childhood, in which men attended morning minyan services and women frantically prepared for Shabbos every Friday, rushing to clean the house, scrub the children, bake the challah loaves and roast the chicken before sundown.”

Jewish Book Month is November 12-December 12, 2017!

It takes place the month leading up to Chanukah. It is a good time to take stock of the reading list on our nightstands or the wish list of books we would like to read in the coming year. Perhaps you've always wanted to consider the Bible as literature and read the actual text. Perhaps you are a history aficionado and relish books about times gone by. If fiction is your preference, the bookshelf is overflowing with great titles. This month is also a good time to acknowledge the authors among us in our own Beth Chaverim community. Whether an academic text such as “Import: Export: English Language terms for Genders and Sexualities in Thailand” by **Jillana Enteen** or “Fighting for Status: Hierarchy and Conflict in World Politics” by **Jonathan Renshon**; or a book for a more general audience such as “Beyond a Shadow of a Diet” by **Judith Matz** or “Funnyman” by **Sophia Whittemore**; or a children's book such as “Amanda's Big Dream” also by **Judith Matz**, our communal book shelves are indeed full! So as winter approaches and the days get shorter, grab a good book, and spend a few hours with some characters that may transport you to a time and place you have never been.



Many if not most of the books we read in our book group are in the Beth Chaverim library.

If you would like to borrow one of the books, please contact Rabbi Jodi.

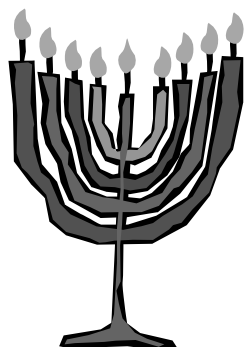
Chanukah Candle Lighting Blessings

Chanukah Candle Lighting

Baruch ha-or ba-olam

Baruch ha-or ba-adam

Baruch ha-or ba-Chanukah



Blessed is the light in the world

Blessed is the light in each person

Blessed is the light of Chanukah

ברוך האור בעולם
ברוך האור באדם
ברוך האור בחנכה

Optional Blessings For The First Night

Baruch ha-or ba-adam

sheh-asa nee-seem

l'avoteynoo ba-ya-meem

ha-em baz-man hazeh.

Radiant is the light in people

*That wrought great works for our
ancestors in those days at this
season.*

Baruch ha-or ba-adam

shehekheyanoo,

v'keemanoo, v'higgyanoo

lazman hazeh.

*Radiant is the light in humanity,
which has kept us in life, sustained
us, and enabled us to reach this
happy season.*



The Humanist Café – Food for the Mind & the Appetite

If you consider yourself a humanist, someone who believes in the power and authority of human beings over their own lives, and in the power of reason, evidence and scientific inquiry to understand our world, you are in very good company. According to the American Humanist Association, some very prominent people are humanists. Here are just a few, and some inspirational comments some of them have made. There are authors Isaac Asimov, Alice Walker, Salman Rushdie and Kurt Vonnegut. Vonnegut said: "I am a humanist, which means, in part, that I have tried to behave decently without rewards or punishment after I am dead." And Asimov said, "Humanists recognize that it is only when people feel free to think for themselves, using reason as their guide, that they are best capable of developing values that succeed in satisfying human needs and serving human interests." Feminists and activists Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan as well as former Congressman Barney Frank are humanists. Steinem said, "When we speak of equality, of women and men, of blacks and whites, of all the world's people, we are talking about humanism." In the entertainment field, there is Julia Sweeney, Norman Lear, Gene Roddenberry and Katherine Hepburn. Whether you consider humanist scientists such as Jonas Salk, Carl Sagan or Bill Nye; or philosophers Rebecca Newberger Goldstein or John Dewey; if you are judged at all by the company you keep, you are in very good company indeed!



Weeknight Chicken Soup

Adapted from Allrecipes.com



Ingredients:

1 T Butter
 ½ Cup Chopped White Onion
 ½ Cup Chopped Celery
 Two 4 Cup Cartons of Chicken Broth
 Two 4 Cup Cartons of Vegetable Broth
 1 lb Cooked & Chopped Chicken Breast or Thighs
 1 ½ Cups Egg Noodles (Optional)
 1 Cup Sliced Carrots
 ½ tsp Dried Basil
 ½ tsp Dried Oregano
 ½ tsp Garlic Powder
 Salt & Pepper to Taste



Instructions:

In a large pot over medium heat, melt butter and cook onion and celery for ~5 minutes or until onions are translucent and fragrant. Add in broth, chicken, noodles (if using), carrots, and all spices. Bring mixture to a rolling boil and then reduce heat to low to simmer for at least 20 minutes, but up to 1 hour before serving. Enjoy!

Look What The Mail Brought

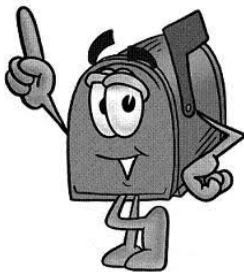
From Maot Chitim...

Rabbi,

We hope your deliveries went well and the families who participated were inspired. Wishing you and your whole congregation and community a healthy and sweet new year.

Rich

Richard Biller



August 16, 2017

Rabbi Jodi Kornfeld
Beth Chaverim Humanistic Jewish Community
1457 Wilmot Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

Dear Rabbi Kornfeld:

On behalf of Jewish Child & Family Services (JCFS), thank you for your generous in-kind donation. We received your gift of 5 backpacks and 2 boxes of school supplies. These donations were used for the annual Back-to-School Drive, we appreciate your ongoing support. This year we filled 472 backpacks with supplies and your donation will help these students start the school year prepared to learn.

As you may know, JCFS provides help, healing, and caring services infused with Jewish values to strengthen lives in our community. In-kind donations are important to the work we do and are deeply impactful on our ability to serve our clients. Whether it be a new coat for winter, a new toy for a child, or toiletries and household necessities, these gifts breath new life into our clients and contribute greatly to the social and emotional well being of the individuals we serve.

For more information about JCFS and to learn about other ways to get involved, please feel free to contact me anytime at (773) 467-3746 or SherylGreen@jcfs.org.

Once again, thank you for your support and for your confidence in our work.

Warm regards,

Sheryl Green

Sheryl Green
Development Associate for Volunteers and In-Kind Giving

In accordance with the federal tax law, this letter will serve as your Substantiation and Quid Pro Disclosure notice and should be retained in your files to substantiate this charitable deduction for income taxes. Jewish Child & Family Services hereby confirms that you have not received any quid pro quo benefit in connection with this contribution.

216 W Jackson Blvd
Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60606
T 773 357 4800
F 773 855 3750

jcfs.org

Accredited by the Council on Accreditation
A partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community





Membership Questions?

Do you have questions about membership? 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 in helping with any of the following events this year or next:

- Helping Hands Committee
- E-Auction



Over the past few years, we have had several families within our community that have had a temporary set back, 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.

Humanistic Judaism 101

- Defines Judaism as the collective historic experience of the Jewish people and promotes a community of shared Jewish values.
- Promotes the developments 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

Did You Know?

Rabbi Jodi Kornfeld is available to conduct **life cycle ceremonies including weddings, baby namings, and funerals** for members and non-members. Contact Rabbi Jodi for further information at:

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The e-auction is coming!

Save the date!

March 18-25, 2018



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