



THE ILLUMINATOR

Or Emet – a Minnesota Congregation of Humanistic Judaism

August 2011

Missing the Target

By Madrikh, Harold Londer

You don't have to be a New York Times editorialist, or a Fox News anchor, to know that the world is not having its best year. We can start at home, personally and nationally, where the economic crisis, like Damocles' sword, is hanging over all of us. You can be a retiree, a student, a parent, an immigrant, a union member, a Tea party activist, a soldier, a teacher, an Or Emet member (or wear several of these hats...though I am not sure we have too many Tea Party loyalists at Or Emet), and the effect of stock market gyrations, recession, unemployment, national debt, the European fiscal crisis, etc., are influencing our life in myriad ways.

The political situation in the world is frightful! Whether in Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen, Israel, Gaza, violence and uncertainty overwhelm any dreams of peace and stability. Images of starving children from Somalia are almost too painful to consider. Suicide bombers don't make the headlines unless their mayhem is major. You, literally, cannot pick up a daily paper without a new story of a dreadful murder, child molestation, assault or other unbelievably brutal action by one human being upon another.

We continue to see evidence of global climate change, with record temperatures, flooding, polar melting, tidal waves, earthquakes, droughts, etc. This scientifically well recognized crisis remains, at least in our country, a political issue. This, essentially, is a roadblock to any attempts to seriously attack this problem.

We continue to see increasing polarity in our country, which essentially means that solutions are deferred, rather than confronted. The richest country in the world still has increasing poverty and decreasing access to health care. The word "compromise" has become synonymous with failure. We all, to quote F. Scott Fitzgerald, in the last line of *The Great Gatsby*, "beat on, boats against the current".

The Jewish High Holidays, Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year (5772), and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, are in late September. I hope all of our members will attend our services, and invite friends and/or family to join us. For traditional Jews, the story is well known; during these 10 days, God "writes" and "seals" us into either the book of life or the book of death, for the upcoming year. For Humanistic Jews, who doubt the veracity of this narrative, it is a time for contemplation, a time to assess the past year, and to, personally, think of ways to improve ourselves and the world in which we live. The

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Starting Up a New Year!

The high holidays and the start of the Or Emet season are just around the corner. Many committees – like High Holidays, Shabbat & Adult Programs, Jewish Cultural School, and Social Justice - have been working throughout the summer to prepare for the coming year.

If you would like to help, here are some great ways to contribute:

- Sponsor or contribute food for an Oneg Shabbat or Sunday morning refreshments, and make your contribution in honor of ..., to celebrate a joyous event or special occasion, in memory of a loved one...
- Donate flowers for Shabbat services or the upcoming High Holidays
- Donate challah for Shabbat
- Make in-kind contributions to the Jewish Cultural School (school-1@oremnet.org) or to the Program Committee (events-1@oremnet.org)
- Make a general financial contribution

Monetary Donations can be mailed to Sharon Miller, c/o Or Emet, at 4316 Aries Court, Eagan, MN 55123

Contributions are tax-deductible and will help support many important programs at Or Emet. Thank you!

The Illuminator

We welcome letters to the editor, announcements, articles, commentaries and photographs. We cannot guarantee whether material will be suitable for publication.

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Or Emet is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) and the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism (IISHJ).

President's Message

I am a fortunate man. Both Carol and I are fortunate. We have found a home in Or Emet -- both a warm supportive community of *good* people (and friends) and an intellectually stimulating group of *smart* people. Frankly, Or Emet comes closer to my ideal of an academic community than the ones I actually worked in. I look forward to working with all of you.

Or Emet too is fortunate. We have had remarkable leadership in the persons of past president Margo Fox and Madrikh Harold Londer, capably assisted by Joan Barnett and supported by our Executive Committee and Leadership Team. We are also fortunate that there are so many willing and able volunteers who have chaired our committees and taken on so many other leadership responsibilities. I want to thank all of you who have pitched in, and I urge everyone to say a special thank you to our many stalwarts. (Since you are all stalwarts, feel free to thank yourselves too.

I am the son and grandson of Methodist ministers, but I am fortunate that my parents were liberal and ecumenical, and more interested in ethics and in encouraging me to make up my own mind than in theology and doctrine. Thanks also to my liberal parents I was exposed to Judaism and Jewish culture from an early age. My father regularly read the Carolina Israelite. We visited synagogues. My father arranged for an Orthodox rabbi to come to our church camp. I learned nothing but respect for the fact that Judaism was both foundational to Christianity and a cornerstone of Western Civilization. In college I lived for three years with four radical Jewish roommates. That life experience was close to half of my college education. They were completely secular, entirely non-observant -- even anti-Zionist -- and yet fully self-identified as Jews. That taught me something about the importance of Jewish identity right there. After Carol and I married -- I always was attracted to the strong personalities and strong intellects of Jewish women -- we had annual family Seders with her relatives. These were completely secular, but they taught me that ritual does matter. Carol and I also took classes in Judaism with the rabbi of the local Conservative synagogue, who became a good friend. He shared with me that, truth be told, Judaism has always been more of a debating society than a doctrinaire religion -- still another lesson.

Or Emet has been called "A Home for Wondering Jews". That catchy phrase does capture something of who we are: We do believe in inquiry, seeking, conversation, debate. But we are far from rootless. We are solidly in the Western Enlightenment tradition of inquiry that relies on science and reason in seeking the truth; but we are just as solidly in a Jewish intellectual tradition, as Jews have *always* cited evidence and relied on reason, long before the Enlightenment; just look at the Talmud. As the Rabbi said above, Jews have long been an intellectual, debating people, even in the days of Faith and Belief. But this has become even more true since the Enlightenment and the rise of the secular West.

We in Or Emet are united not just by our humanism but by our respect for the remarkable story of the Jewish people and by our reliance on an intellec -

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New Member Spotlight

Christopher (Chris) MacDonald-Dennis recently moved to St. Paul to begin his appointment as Dean of Multicultural Life at Macalester College. He and his partner Frederic moved from Philadelphia, where Chris served as Assistant Dean/Director of Intercultural Affairs at Bryn Mawr College. Originally from Boston, Chris is excited about becoming an active member of the Or Emet community, getting to know the Twin Cities and finally learning how to play a winter sport.



Missing the Target—continued

emphasis is personal responsibility, not divine intervention.

September, however, is, also the time of another “New Year”... the beginning of the school year. From age 4 through my twenties, it was more than just a figurative event. You turned the page. You went from being a 3rd grader to being a 4th grader (for example)! You had a new teacher, sometimes a new school, new classmates, new challenges, new threats. Later, as a parent, I experienced this same sense of change, each year, as my children grew. The new school year, as a marker of change, I still sense as summer fades. The emotions I feel about this new year are, in some ways, as strong as those engendered by the Jewish New Year.

The only ritual I connect to this more secular annual season, was the shopping adventure, to prepare for the new school year. When my children were school age, it was always Target that attracted our business. I suppose I show my age when I cite pencils, erasers, note books, etc. as items on my shopping list (and this was for my kids!). New clothes, shoes, etc. were also mandatory to celebrate this New Year. I confess, that my mother picked them out for me until I was about 17, when I, quite belatedly, realized how un-cool this was.

Maybe world leaders can use the new school year month of September as motivation to finally move forward. It would be like skipping a few grade levels this year; from acting like 1st graders (selfish, naive, self centered, impulsive) to acting like adults, and begin to recognize the destructiveness of our current situation. Or Emet is committed to doing everything we can, to make ourselves, and our children, beacons for peace, mutual respect and progress. We insist on being part of the solution, not part of the problem. I wish it was as easy as going to Target and picking up a protractor (oops, make that a MacBook) to celebrate another year’s arrival.

President’s Message—continued

tual tradition that stems from that story -- and which most Jews share. Further, because of the long-standing tradition of debate and inquiry in Jewish culture, the Enlightenment of the 18th century is not just something that influenced Jews; it is something that Jews like Baruch Spinoza helped to invent.

Humanistic Judaism has three cornerstones: It is Humanistic, it is Jewish, and it is also secular. We are humanistic in two senses: First, we support humane treatment of all peoples, and we vigorously support the secular democratic institutions that safeguard human rights and which regulate the continuing debate that we call democracy. Second, we also value the individual as a competent knower of the world, capable of observing, reasoning and discovering. We see the individual as competent enough to be the author of his or her own destiny, and -- when working in democratic concert with others -- to participate in shaping our collective destinies for the better. In these respects -- which reflect the thinking of Spinoza, Jefferson, and many others -- Humanistic Judaism is solidly grounded in both Jewish thought and in the world-transforming Enlightenment that represents real hope in a world that features so much conflict among rigid ideologies. What is needed is the sober debate that we stand for. Even though we are small in number, we have an important mission.

I will have more to say about each of the three cornerstones of Humanistic Judaism and Or Emet in the future.

Shalom,
Richard Logan

Jewish Cultural School

Submitted by Lisa Gardner—Springer

Hello Or Emet community! The 2011-2012 Jewish Cultural School session is just around the corner. Our first session is Sunday, September 11 at 10 am at the Friends School, 1365 Englewood Ave., St Paul MN.

First, I would like to offer my congratulations to Matthew Schwartz, who was Bar Mitzvahed in May. He did a wonderful job and I, for one, learned a lot about how Jews have contributed to professional hockey.

Second, I have the distinct pleasure of introducing you to our terrific teachers for this session: Josh Kaplan, Sarah Berman-Young, Eva Cohen, and Leigh Kelner. Josh and Leigh are both new teachers and we are very excited to have them on board, as well as our more “seasoned” teachers, Sarah and Eva.

Josh Kaplan will be teaching our Littles (PreK-K) class. Josh is an improv/sketch comedy actor, drummer, and educator who was born and raised in the western suburbs of Minneapolis. He holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota, as well as a M.Ed. in K-8 education from the University of Minnesota. Josh's Jewish roots come from being a congregant of Temple Israel throughout his formative years, as well as a member of Hillel House during his college years. He is very excited to take up this position at Or Emet.

This is from Sarah: I am excited to be returning to teach the Middles class (Grades 1-3) again this year! I have enjoyed becoming involved in the Or Emet community as a member of the music committee and a teacher at the Jewish Cultural School. My husband Adrian and I officially joined Or Emet before the birth of our son, Julian, a little over two years ago. Outside of Or Emet, I work as a school psychologist, am the loving parent of a precocious two-year-old, and am working on finishing my doctoral thesis. I also love to sing, and believe that music is an important element of Jewish tradition, a tradition that I hope to share with the students as well as the members of the congregation.



Eva Cohen teaches the Juniors' class (Grades 4-b'nai mitzvah) at the Or Emet Jewish Cultural School. After graduating from Brown University in 2009 with a double concentration in visual art and anthropology, she spent a year in the Twin Cities working as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer developing culturally-relevant literacy curriculum and other programming for Camp Fire USA Minnesota Council. She currently works as a Minneapolis-based freelance artist, literacy tutor, and “jill-of-all-trades.” Eva loves teaching and learning about Jewish history, culture, values, literature, art, and foodways. She strives to ensure that students in her classes are highly engaged in having fun and thinking critically about Jewish life past, present, and future and their identities as Humanistic Jews. This will be her fourth school year teaching with Or Emet.

This is from Leigh, who will be facilitating our teen crew: Hello! I am extremely excited to begin working this fall with Or Emet's teen program! I recently finished a Masters of Education from the University of Minnesota and am ecstatic to begin teaching 8th grade Language Arts this fall at Robbinsdale Middle School. I am an avid reader and writer, and am very excited to share this passion with my future students. When I am not teaching, I enjoy running, cooking, playing with my two Standard Poodles, and exploring all that my Uptown neighborhood has to offer. I look forward to getting to know the teens at Or Emet and working with them throughout the coming year!



The Project of Major Proportions that a number of people at Or Emet have been working on this summer is formalizing a curriculum for our school. This process has taken into account our size, our monthly sessions, the classroom groupings, and most importantly, the overarching values and culture of Or Emet itself and what we want our children to learn. The curriculum itself is pending board approval but the general gist is for all grades to focus on humanistic Jewish values and for the Grades 1-b'nai mitzvah (Middles and Juniors) to use a historic “backbone” for the lessons. Each year would focus on particular significant periods in Jewish history and would be tailored to be appropriate to the grades of the Middles and Juniors classes, respectively. More to come once the curriculum is approved. Many thanks to Arty Dorman for chairing the curriculum committee, and to Eva Cohen, Sarah Berman-Young, Harold Londer, Richard Logan, Liz Greenbaum, Barb Weisman, and Margo Fox for participating on the committee, and contributing their wisdom and insights.

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From the Ground Up: Social Action & Justice Committee Prepares for Making a Difference in the World

Submitted by Arty Dorman

Or Emet's Social Justice & Action Committee met on Saturday, July 30, to look ahead at the 2011-12 program year. Several key decisions were made:

Our efforts will cluster around four main activities:

- Actions – hosting or participating in an event, raising funds for a specific cause, etc.
- Investigations - study of issues to learn more and make informed decisions
- Positions - take a stand on behalf of an issue in accordance with principles of Humanistic Judaism
- Inform - disseminate information about issues and activities related to social justice among members of our community.

At all Friday night services and Sunday morning programs, we will continue to collect donated personal care items - hotel size soap and shampoo, toothbrushes, combs, etc. - for distribution to The Listening House, an organization in downtown St. Paul providing services to individuals who are homeless.

We will continue to share information about organizations such as J Street and Jewish Voices for Peace, that are working for peaceful resolution of the discord between Israel and Palestine. We will encourage members to take part in organizations that best match their own point of view.

We will seek guidance from the executive committee as to parameters around our efforts to filter and disseminate information about other activities and issues related to social justice in the Twin Cities, greater Minnesota, the nation and the world.

We hope to work in partnership--- WITH--- the Jewish Cultural School, and especially with the new youth leader and our Teen Crew youth group.

As pertinent issues and appropriate opportunities for action arise, we will consider whether Or Emet should engage as a community (as opposed to individuals taking action on their own), and if so, what form that engagement may take.

Finally, we will continue meeting immediately following each Sunday morning program, at the Friends School of Minnesota. Our next meeting will be Sunday, September 11.

Anyone interested in working as part of the Or Emet community to promote social justice, equity, peace and earth stewardship, is welcome to attend. If you have suggestions or questions, contact committee co chairs Claire Press or Arty Dorman.

Jewish Cultural School—continued

With the new school year approaching, if you know any families that might be interested in a Humanist approach to Judaism, please have them email school-1@oremnet.org. Families often want to give Jewish schools a try in the fall, and the fact that our first class is free may be appealing to many who are on the fence. **We have a terrific school: many students who tried us out last year are now planning to become members and to participate in the school once again!** And word of mouth is often the best way that people find and stay with our school.

The Or Emet school website (<http://oremnet.wordpress.com>) has details about the school, calendar, signup for refreshments, and membership as does www.oremnet.org. Check your emails!

And lastly, Margo Fox, our President Emeritus, will be hosting Or Emet's Sukkot party on Sunday, October 16th following the October JCS session and Sunday program. Details forthcoming.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone very soon!

Program Committee

Sunday, September 11, 2011, 10:00 am – Noon, Friends School of MN

Adult Program: “Welcome to Or Emet”

Presenters: Harold Londer, Or Emet Co-Founder and Madrikh/Ritual Leader; Margo Fox, Outgoing President; Richard Logan, Incoming President

Friday, September 23, 2011, 7:30 pm, Minneapolis Sabes Jewish Community Center

Program: “David Mamet’s Search for a Jewish Identity”

Presenter: Jack Stuart, Emeritus Professor of History and Legal Studies at California State University, Long Beach

Sunday, October 16, 2011, 10:00 am – Noon, Friends School of MN

Adult Program: Israeli Dancing

Presenter: Shira Schwartz, Music and Dance Teacher, Choreographer and Director

** Annual Sukkot Party to follow at 1:00 at the home of David & Margo Fox; more details forthcoming **

Friday, October 28, 2011, 7:30 pm, Minneapolis Sabes Jewish Community Center

Program: Jewish Voice for Peace

Presenter: Jordan Ash, Minnesota Chapter Representative, Jewish Voice for Peace

Sunday, November 13, 2011, 10:00 am – Noon, Friends School of MN

Adult Program: Sustainability

Presenter: Terry Gips, President of Sustainability Associates

Friday, November 18, 2011, 7:30 pm, Minneapolis Sabes Jewish Community Center

Program: The Atomic Bomb

Presenter: Hans Courant, Retired UMN Physics Professor, Veteran of the Manhattan Project

Sunday, December 4, 2011, 10:00 am – Noon, Friends School of MN

Program: www.minnpost.com

Presenter: Joel Kramer, Editor and CEO of MinnPost

Sunday, Dec 18, 2011, Hanukah Party at Newell Park from 5-8 pm; more details will follow in the next Illuminator

Friday, December 23, 2011, 7:30 pm, Minneapolis Sabes Jewish Community Center

Program: Jews and Judaism in Cuba

Presenters: Michael Appleman, Ph.D., and Dalia Katz, of the Congregation Beth El Cuba Mission

Donations & Tributes

The following people have made contributions:

In memory of Roger Jones

* Carolyn Borow Moore, Marge Goldberg, Myra Chazin,
* Lyle and Elizabeth Lofgren, Blanche Schwartz, Rose and
* Jules Lewin, Rollie Langer, and Harold Londer

In memory of the father of Janet Mayer

Madeline Miller

In celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of Matt Schwartz

* Muriel Sterne, Evelyn Lessin, Paul Petzschke and Janet
* Mayer, and as our Madrikh Harold Londer

In celebration of the wedding of

Eva Cohen and Jack Spencer

Evelyn Lessin, and
as our Madrikh Harold Loner

Donations have also been given by

Harry Lerner

John Harris

In appreciation of Margo
for all she has done for Or Emet

Rollie Langer

Highlights: Annual Meeting, Picnic, and Celebration of Outgoing President

Or Emet's **Annual Meeting** on June 5th at St Paul's Newell Park, was attended by an engaged contingent of members and visitors. Outgoing President Margo Fox deftly guided accomplishing the business agenda. Good times are consistent ingredients in our events, and this Annual Meeting included a wonderful blend of work and light-hearted times. Following presentation of the budget, committee reports, and election of the 2011-2012 Executive Committee, Margo passed around a package of "warm fuzzies" to cleverly set the mood for transitioning into the meeting's celebratory phase. Margo and Joan Barnett presented recognition certificates to those people contributing "over and above" to the Or Emet community. It is no surprise Or Emet is a thriving congregation with dedication and expertise generously given by so many!



Janet Mayer, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the 2011-2012 Executive Committee report. The following were elected by a unanimous vote:

- President: Richard Logan
- Vice President: Arty Dorman
- Treasurer/Secretary: Sharon Miller
- At-Large: Melissa Kenig-Davis and Dave Zukor

The action quickly shifted to Newell Park's outdoor area for the start of a fun-filled family **Picnic**. Organized by Allan Malkis, the picnic was attended by enthusiastic members and friends dining on an array of tasty potluck foods while socializing with friends and playing with the children.

The picnic kicked into high gear as Donna Sherlock, accompanied by Lionel Davis, led singing of "**Margo's Song**." Everyone enthusiastically joined in celebrating Margo's highly successful five-year tenure as Or Emet's president. Donna's original song provided a welcome opportunity to sing in heartfelt appreciation for Margo's high-level dedication, exceptional personal and professional gifts, and leading Or Emet along a highly successful course. David Fox, "First Dude," was also the deserving recipient of gifts for his endless support of Margo's presidency and for giving his skills directly to Or Emet's programs and services. Margo was especially touched to receive a scrapbook created by Lili Weisman, with photos, art, songs, poetry, and messages by Or Emet members.



Events of June 5th successfully accomplished goals of conducting annual meeting business, electing new leaders, recognizing member's special contributions, picnicking, and honoring Margo Fox for giving her all to Or Emet's organization while fostering the best in everyone.



Meet Some Members of Your Executive Committee

Melissa Kenig-Davis

Like most members of Or Emet, my journey to secular humanism resulted from a personal evolution. Having loved my Jewish roots, I gained exposure to traditions of Judaism as I grew up and as I raised my family. Throughout that time, I found my anchor and Jewish identity was primarily related to people. When we moved to Minnesota, we wanted a sense of community and we found that in Or Emet along with its most wonderful members. I plan to serve on Or Emet's board to continue its tradition of celebrating the human side of Judaism, and to help the congregation flourish and grow by continuing the community among its members and the connection to the community at large.

My husband Todd and I have three children, Alicia 27, Matthew 26, and Katja 10 (in JCS). Our furry family member is Sookie, a mini Goldendoodle. Please do not hesitate to contact me with suggestions, questions, or to chat. I can be reached at mhkd614@gmail.com or 612-564-2084.

Sharon Miller

When we moved to Eagan a decade and a half ago, we looked for a congregation that emphasized tradition, history and tzedakah. The Katzs' pointed us to Or Emet and we found a home. I reside in Eagan with husband, Alan, and sadly, we recently lost our family dog, Toby. We have 6 children and 7 grandchildren (all living in the East), I am retired from Thomson Reuters (formerly West Publishing), and have served as Treasurer, now in my 5th term. I have been thrilled with our growth and financial stability, proud of our reputation in the community as "A home for wondering Jews" (and all others of humanitarian ideals).



Essay Contest

Moment Magazine recently announced their newest contest, "The Elephant in the Room," which is meant to focus on topics people think about but don't discuss.

The 2011 question is: What does it mean to be Jewish without God?

The contest is open to everyone. The deadline is October 7. The best essays will be posted on their website beginning in September. Further info can be found on the magazine's website at <http://www.momentmag.com/elephant.html>.

We have many answers to this question and this is a wonderful opportunity for Humanistic Jews to make our voice heard. Let's take advantage of this opportunity and share our belief in a positive Jewish identity without God.

DIVINITY OF DOUBT: The God Question

by Vincent Bugliosi

Book Reviewed by Alan Miller

Vincent Bugliosi, in addition to being one of the premier attorneys and prosecutors in the nation (he won 105 out of 106 felony prosecutions) is also a prolific author. His classic "Helter Skelter," about the Charles Manson murder case, not only became a best seller, but a popular motion picture. He is acknowledged not only for his legal skills, but for the depth of his reasoning. In his new nonfiction book, "Divinity of Doubt" Bugliosi attacks the God concept with a prosecutor's zeal. The flyleaf of the book challenges "Do you believe in God? If your answer is yes or no, Vincent Bugliosi will prove you wrong."

Raised here in Minnesota as a Catholic, the author has become an agnostic – he can't prove there is no God, he claims, but it's certainly not the one which a large portion of the world pray to, often in different names, often with different beliefs, often in the need to seek some higher being to explain life. Through the ages man has worshiped idols, symbols, concepts and even followed false prophets, and Bugliosi attacks them all after tremendous research and copious notes and references, often citing scripture.

He discusses religions, one by one, and skewers them with the same logic he used in cross-examinations, not failing to leave out atheists as well, and tries "to make sense of the religious and theological arguments and beliefs," concluding that "if there is a God, he has chosen to keep those he created in the dark about him," and asks no more of the reader than to use common sense in evaluation of his arguments. If these are questions you have ever asked of yourself, this is a must-read book.

High Holidays 2011/5772

Submitted by Janet Mayer, High Holidays Coordinator

This year we will once again be meeting at the Sabes Minneapolis Jewish Community Center for Rosh Hashanah (Wednesday, September 28th at 7:00 pm). The Rosh Hashanah Tashlich service and potluck will be at the home of Allan and Sharon Miller beginning at 10:30 am on Thursday, September 29th.

Yom Kippur services will be held at the Sabes Minneapolis Jewish Community Center Friday, October 7th at 7:00 pm and Saturday, October 8th at 4:00 pm. The Saturday Yom Kippur service will be followed by our traditional potluck "Break-the-Fast." Child care will be provided for services at the JCC. Information will be mailed to members to sign up for the potlucks.

According to Rabbi Sherwin Wine, the founder of Humanistic Judaism, these "days of fear," eventually became the most important holidays on the Hebrew calendar. Solemn suffering was thought to be appropriate behavior to appease a power that controlled nature. Temporary starvation, torn clothing, weeping, and obsequiousness were thought to be effective behaviors for arousing divine pity and reducing divine anger.

Rabbi Wine points out that for Humanistic Jews the High Holidays, on the other hand, are a time to reflect on the relationship of the universe to human need and desire. Only human will and intelligence can tame the environment, making it less terrifying and conducive to happiness. While some things may be beyond our control, others may be conquerable.

The High Holidays open the 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 self-reliance.

Service Schedule

September 28th

Rosh Hashanah Evening, 7:00 pm at Mpls JCC (doors open at 6:30 pm)

September 29th

Rosh Hashanah Tashlich, 10:30 am at Alan and Sharon Miller's home

October 7th

Yom Kippur Evening, 7:00 pm at Mpls JCC (doors open at 6:30 pm)

October 8th

Yom Kippur Service, 4:00 pm at Mpls JCC; Break the Fast to follow



Upcoming Events

Welcome to Or Emet

On Sunday, September 11, 2011 from 10 am to noon, please join us as our hosts Dr. Harold Londer (co-founder and *Madrikh*), Margo Fox (immediate past president), and Richard Logan (new president), discuss Humanistic Judaism, explain what Or Emet is, and talk about what it means to them and how each of them came to Or Emet.

The program is free and open to the public. It takes place at 1365 Englewood Ave., St. Paul (in the building of the Friends School of Minnesota). Please enter north entrance by parking lot. For directions: <http://test.fsmn.org/about/map-and-directions>.

For more information: Margo Fox at 651-699-6392, Allan Malkis at events-1@oremet.org, or www.oremet.org.

David Mamet's Search for a Jewish Identity

On Friday, September 23, 2011, at 7:30 pm, Or Emet, the Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, presents Jack Stuart, Emeritus Professor of History and Legal Studies at California State University, Long Beach, on David Mamet, one of the country's leading playwrights (Pulitzer Prize for *Glengarry Glen Ross*), screenwriters (*The Postman Always Rings Twice*) and directors (*Homicide*), at the Minneapolis Sabes Jewish Community Center, 4330 Cedar Lake Rd. S., St. Louis Park. (<http://sabesjcc.org/directions.htm>)

A short Humanistic Jewish Sabbath service will precede the program, which is free and open to the public. An Oneg Shabbat reception will follow.

We hope you will join us!

Or Emet
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