

# THE ILLUMINATOR

Fall 2008

*Where is my light? My light is in me. Where is my hope? My hope is in me. Where is my strength? My strength is in me. And in you. - Rabbi Sherwin Wine (1928-2007)*

## High Holidays 2008/5769

This year we will once again be meeting at the Sabes Minneapolis Jewish Community Center for Rosh Hashanah (Monday, September 29th at 7:30 pm.) and Yom Kippur (Wednesday, October 8 at 7:30 pm. and Thursday, October 9 at 4:00 pm., followed by our traditional "Break the Fast"). Our Rosh Hashanah daytime *Tashlich* service will be at the home of Alan and Sharon Miller beginning at 10:30 am. on September 30 (see separate article for details).

According to Rabbi Sherwin Wine, the founder of Humanistic Judaism, these "days of fear," next to the Sabbath, 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 goes on to point out that for Humanistic Jews the High Holidays 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.

- - David Fox, *High Holidays Chair*

### High Holidays Schedule

Sept. 29	Rosh Hashanah Evening Service	7:30 pm.
Sept. 30	Rosh Hashanah <i>Tashlich</i> Service	4:00 pm.
Oct. 8	Yom Kippur Evening Service	7:30 pm.
Oct. 9	Yom Kippur Day Service	4:00 pm.

Rosh Hashanah *Tashlich* Service at home of Sharon and Alan Miller.

All other services at Minneapolis Sabes JCC.

All services are free and open to the Public.

## Rosh Hashanah/*Tashlich* Services with the Millers

On Tuesday morning, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am., Sharon and Alan Miller invite you to the annual Rosh Hashanah *Tashlich* service at their home, 4316 Aries Court, Eagan. There will be a *Tashlich* walk at a nearby lake, followed by a potluck lunch for those who wish to participate. Please call Sharon at 651-905-1979 (late afternoons or evenings) if you plan to attend, and to discuss what food you will be bringing. Sharon can also be emailed at [sharonmillermn@comcast.net](mailto:sharonmillermn@comcast.net)

Directions: Aries Court is located north of Wilderness Run, between Lexington Ave. and Pilot Knob Road, closer to Lexington. Take Capricorn Court north, for an immediate left turn at Aquarias Lane, and a right turn at Kaufmanis Way. The second street on the right is Aries Court, and 4316 is at the top of the cul de sac. There should be no problem parking around the cul de sac.

It might be a good idea to bring folding chairs if you have them.

## Remembering Edith Davis (1921-2008)

Kind, caring, intelligent, creative, talented, persistent, thoughtful, curious, fun loving, with a great sense of humor and a joie de vivre - what more could you ask for in a friend? Edith Davis was all this and much more. A loving wife, sister, and mother of four, an accomplished writer and editor, founder of Minnesota's first school of acupuncture and tireless campaigner for the recognition of acupuncturists in Minnesota, a dedicated practitioner, a lifelong advocate for peace and justice, and a dear friend to so many.

We played music together on Thursday evenings in her husband Lionel's recorder group. I always sat next to Edith as we played, compensating for each other's weaknesses and laughing at our mistakes. Thursdays will never be quite the same.

Lionel and Edith found a like-minded community in *Or Emet* where she will always remain in loving memory. Oh yes, I should add that Edith was handicapped by polio at the age of six months, but that fact never defined who she was. Edith Davis was a remarkable woman who will be remembered with a smile and sorely missed.

- - Donna Sherlock

The *Illuminator* welcomes:

Letters to the editor; essays; poems; humor; announcements of *Bar/Bat Mitzvahs*, weddings, graduations, and anniversaries; articles; photographs (black and white), if relevant to an article; and appropriate paid advertisements.

Published quarterly.

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<b>Dues:</b>	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>\$260</b>
	<b>Families</b>	<b>\$385</b>
	- w/school	<b>\$485</b>
	- 2 <sup>nd</sup> child	<b>\$60</b>
	- add. child	<b>no charge</b>

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[www.oremet.org](http://www.oremet.org)

**Madrikh**  
**Harold Londer**

### Executive Committee

- President:** Margo Fox  
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Nancy Schwartz

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*Or Emet* is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) and the International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews.

## President's Message

**It will be wonderful to see everyone again!** The first weekend in September will find us gathering on Friday evening (September 5) for Shabbat and a program presented by Donna Sherlock. On Sunday (September 7) we will be together for an adult program about Humanistic Judaism and "us" (*always interesting!*). Sunday will also be the exciting first session of the year for our Jewish Cultural School (JCS) students.

Each season is special in its own way. Albert Camus wrote, "*Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.*" I love that!

But before we move on to what promises to be a colorful and wonderful year at *Or Emet*, let us talk about this past summer. More was buzzing than the bees. Many *Or Emet* members were busy at work for all of us. Special thanks the Executive Committee, to Rich Sonenblum and the Program Committee, to Barbara Weisman and the JCS Committee, to David Fox and the High Holidays Committee for their thoughtful planning, and to Mike Persellin and Alan Miller for their work on *The Illuminator*. Kudos also to Rob Rossi, our new webmaster, who has been ironing out several wrinkles as we transition to local control of our website ([www.OrEmet.org](http://www.OrEmet.org)). For the past several years, Jodi Goldfinger in Toronto has been our web designer and webmaster. Thank you, Jodi!

This summer we also joined together to celebrate happy times (like the high school graduations of Emily Caspari and Bess Stubenhaus) and to remember and celebrate the life of Edith Davis, who was a role model for many of us. We also had two babies! Congratulations to Alex Schwartz and Rob Rossi on the birth of son Kai Abraham, and to Dave and Liz Musicant on birth of daughter Rachel Natalie.

Finally, in response to several inquiries about *Or Emet* over the summer, Jane and Jack Katz hosted a lovely "prospective member" brunch at their home.

It will soon be autumn. According to Valentin, "the best is autumn. It is mature, reasonable and serious, it glows moderately and not frivolously . . . It cools down, clears up, makes you reasonable . . ."

We will see about that.

- - Margo Fox

### Highlights from 2007-2008

Harold Londer is ordained as a *Madrikh* by International Institute for Humanistic Judaism.

*Or Emet* attains 501(c)3 status.

Faith Oremland is elected to SHJ Executive Committee.

Rob Rossi becomes *Or Emet's* Webmaster.

Jewish Cultural School *Tsedakah* Fund contributed to three charities.

# Or Emet Fall 2008 Schedule

	Time	Location	Program
<b>September</b>			
Friday 5	7:30 pm.	Minneapolis Sabes JCC	"Travels in Israel: Grass Roots Israelis Speak." Donna Sherlock
Sunday 7	10 am.	Friends School	Cultural School and Adult Program: "Journeys to Humanistic Judaism: Member's Stories."
Monday 29	7:30 pm.	Mpls. JCC	Rosh Hashanah Evening Service
Tuesday 30	10:30 am.	Home of Sharon and Alan Miller	Rosh Hashanah <i>Tashlich</i> Service
<b>October</b>			
Wednesday 8	7:30 pm.	Mpls. JCC	Yom Kippur Evening Service
Thursday 9	4 pm.	Mpls. JCC	Yom Kippur Day Service
Sunday 12	10 am.	Friends School	Cultural School and Adult Program: "Reducing Our Carbon Footprint." Rob Rossi
Friday 24	7:30 pm.	Minneapolis Sabes JCC	"People of the Book, by Geraldine Brooks: Five Centuries of a Rare Illuminated 14th Century <i>Haggadah</i> , From Spain to Sarajevo." Jim Rubenstein
<b>November</b>			
Sunday 9	10 am.	Friends School	Cultural School and Adult Program: "Postville: Immigration Reform and Workers Rights." Lauren Bastien, Jewish Community Action
Friday 21	7:30 pm.	Minneapolis Sabes JCC	"Yiddish Music and Its Americanized Descendants." Jazz Musician Les Block
<b>December</b>			
Friday 7	10 am.	Friends School	Cultural School + Adult Program "King David." by David Fox
Friday 19	6 pm.	to be announced	Chanukah Party

Minneapolis JCC is located at 4330 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park.

Minnesota Friends School is located at 1365 Englewood Avenue, St. Paul.

All *Or Emet* Programs are free and open to the Public. A Humanistic Jewish Shabbat Service precedes Friday evening programs and an *Oneg* follows.

# CONGREGATION NEWS

## Highlights of the 2008 Annual Meeting

*Madrikh* report.

President's Report (slide show of year's activities).

2008-2009 budget.

Program, JCS, Social Action, Social Justice, Passover, and Strategic Planning Committee reports; SHJ report Two By-Law amendments.

Recognition and appreciation expressed for all committee members and volunteers, with special recognition for JCS teachers Eva Cohen & Scott Oremland, Hebrew teacher Muriel Sterne, and JCS Committee Chair Barbara Weisman.

### Election of 2008-2009 Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee was chaired by Rich Sonenblum (who was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his stellar service as Vice President for the past two years). Members of the committee were Laura Melnick, Muriel Sterne and Alex Schwartz. The slate they presented was elected unanimously.

### Introducing the *Or Emet* 2008-2009 Executive Committee

**Margo Fox, President** Margo's life has been centered around family and community. She has been recognized nationally as a leader in the area of life long learning and public education. After chairing the St. Paul Board of Education, she became Associate Director of People for the American Way's *Citizen Participation Project*. Now retired, Margo and her husband David discovered *Or Emet* and have never looked back. They have three married children and three grandchildren (including Leah whose *Bat Mitzvah* was at *Or Emet*).

### Barry B. Cohen (PhD), Vice President

Barry is the Executive Director of Rainbow Research, a Minneapolis based not-for-profit research firm. He has been a member of *Or Emet* for 12 years and helped found the Children's School where he introduced the children to Yiddish. He is the father of daughters Eva and Julia, both of whom attended our school. In 2007-08 Eva, now a college senior, was one of our teachers.

### Sharon Miller, Secretary/Treasurer

Sharon has worked for Thomson/West for 24 years and is looking forward to retiring next year. She and Alan have been married for 12 years and have lived in Minnesota for 11 of them. They have 6 children, 7 grandchildren, and a dog named Toby (whom Sharon says is their best child). Spare time pleasures include bowling, theater, and travel.

### Erica Fishman, At-Large

Erica joined *Or Emet* in 2003 and originally just went to Sunday programs because her daughter was in the teen program. Then, she became a member of the Program Committee and now attends as many Friday and Sunday programs as she can. She has Masters Degrees in Social Work and Public Health and is passionate about public health, because of its grounding in social justice, and the science of epidemiology. Erica lives in south Minneapolis and has two young adult children

### Nancy Schwartz, At-Large

Nancy joined *Or Emet* at the beginning of 2008. She says, "I was looking for a spiritual home and am happy to have found it! I was flattered to be asked to serve on the Executive Committee as a member-at-large." Nancy is a member of the Education Committee. Her two children, Matt (10) and Becka (8), are going into 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and attend *Or Emet's* JCS. The family lives in Mahtomedi with their two cats, Element and Oreo. By day, Nancy works at GradStaff in Minneapolis as a Senior Account Manager. In her free time she loves to read, cook and eat out!

### Dr. Harold Londer, Ritual Leader (non-voting member)

Harold co-founded *Or Emet* in 1987 and is now our certified *Madrikh*. He is married to Dr. Jan Withers and lives in Golden Valley. Harold has two children: Noah who lives in Manhattan and Jolie Stukel (husband, Eric and Harold's 16 month old granddaughter, Evie). Harold is a Medical Oncologist and Medical Director of Hubert Humphrey Cancer Centers in suburban Minneapolis. He is former Chief of Staff at North Memorial Hospital, a past president of the Minnesota State Society of Medical Oncology, and very active in a variety of cancer-related organizations. Harold loves reading, plays golf (poorly), poker (well), listens to music, travels a bit, cooks (has done several auction dinners for various causes) and loves going to the park with Evie.

### ***Or Emet* Donation Form**

Complete this form mail with your donation:

Please accept our donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to *Or Emet* Congregation.

This donation is being made In Honor/Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Donation From: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Donation acknowledgement to:

\_\_\_\_\_

**mail to:**  
Sharon Miller  
4316 Aires Court  
Eagan, MN 55123  
[sharonmiller@comcast.net](mailto:sharonmiller@comcast.net)

# CONGREGATION

## The Hairy Task We Face

Sometimes I read an item that shocks me to my core. The following account of an interview aired on Egyptian Television - a seemingly innocent series of interviews with members of The Egyptian Unique Moustache Association – did just that. Although it sounds like the sort of group we would see on Oprah or Rachel Ray, here is part of the interview:

Interviewer: “Do you respect all types of moustaches – regardless of their size, length or width?”

Allam Muhammad Abdel al-Halim: “Of course.”

Interviewer: “Even Hitler’s moustache?”

Captain Sayyed Shahada: “By the way, I respect the moustache of this Hitler because he humiliated the most despicable sect in the world. He subdued the people who subdued the world.”

And that is what we are up against. It is as simple and straightforward as that. A filler, a seemingly typical television “human interest story.” Why does it bother me so much? Maybe it is the fact that it IS so simple and straightforward a tale. I am sure the members of The Egyptian Unique Moustache Association are not ogres. They probably do not beat their wives or kick their dogs. Yet, to this man I am a member of “the most despicable sect in the world,” and somehow I have subdued the whole world. Should I laugh? Cry? Be Angry? Rationalize it away as one man’s tragic world view? Sadly, I know that this man’s vision of history is all too commonly held throughout the world.

We live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!! One would like to believe that humanity has progressed somewhat over these thousands of years. Yet last month the Olympics opened in China on the same day that war broke out in the Caucasus. We celebrate a victory by the USA volleyball team on the day after the father-in-law of the head coach (a Minnesotan at that) is stabbed to death while visiting a religious shrine. Iran is apparently building a nuclear weapon. Famine in Africa is widespread. Economies are shaky all over the world. We hold hundreds in a prison camp in Cuba, uncharged and unrepresented. We torture to extract meaningless confessions, and shout to the world our moral superiority. Throughout the world, hatred as expressed by Captain Sayyed Shahada runs rampant.

I was recently asked, by a new, potential *Or Emet* member, “Why and how do Humanistic Jews celebrate the High Holidays?” We do not believe literally that somewhere in Heaven, God, typically portrayed as an elderly chap with a long white beard, is sitting in his office, deciding whether we will live or die in the next year. We also find no major value in spending hours chanting words we do not understand nor agree with. We

just see no purpose in tearing our clothes, shaking before an unseen force, asking for forgiveness. We instead think of the state of humanity, shake our heads and say, “There MUST be a better way.” There must be a way to get beyond thinking of those who look or believe differently from ourselves as “despicable.” We know it will take human effort and human willpower if we will ever begin to solve the problems we so desperately need to focus upon.

None of us are perfect. The High Holidays offer a time to think in a perhaps unrealistic, idealistic manner of what we as individuals and we as a society CAN achieve. We sit among friends, Jewish and non-Jewish, celebrating our freedom to be here. We listen to the melodies, traditional and non-traditional. We accept that the road to what we are seeking is filled with potholes. We allow ourselves to reflect on our pasts and our futures. It is a time for contemplation, a time for memory, a time for self-analysis, and introspection. But the dominant motif is not sadness; it is resolve! We look at our children, think of our parents, bask in the love of our families and friends, and resolve ourselves to try to do a better job next year. We understand how formidable, yet critical, the task will be. It is almost enough to make me decide to grow an “unusual moustache” - if my wife would let me in the house with it!

Happy Holidays! *L’Shanah Tovah!*

- - *Harold Londer, Madrikh*

## Donations

Harold Londer – donations from *Madrikh* services

Rollie Langer – celebration of Joan Barnett’s successful knee surgery, celebration of the marriage of Janet Mayer & Paul Petzschke

Allan Malkis/Diane Wanner – memory of Edith Davis

Evelyn Lessin – memory of Edith Davis, memory of Jean Goodman’s sister Sheila, memory of Len Langer, celebration of the marriage of Janet Mayer and Paul Metzschke

Margo/David Fox – memory of Edith Davis

Janet Mayer/Paul Metzschke – memory of Edith Davis

Jane/Jack Katz – memory of Edith Davis

Erica Fishman – memory of Edith Davis

Barbara Wesiman/Tom Wegner – memory of Edith Davis

Faith/Steve Oremland – memory of Edith Davis, celebration of marriage of Janet Mayer and Paul Metzschke

Miriam Willinger - memory of Edith Davis

Judith Lippold - memory of her parents

Rich Sonenblum/Jean Goodman – celebration of the marriage of Janet Mayer and Paul Metzschke

Joan/David Barnett - in memory of Len Langer

## Seventy Years Ago

In the five years following Hitler's rise to power, German Jews had been nervous, frightened, and by 1938 many had abandoned their homeland for other, "safer" countries. But the vast majority remained.

During the half-decade following 1933, German Jewish citizens had experienced the loss of many of their "rights," and much of what we take for granted in a civilized society. Segregated from the rest of German society, they were no longer able to practice their professions or continue their schooling, were limited in the amount of money they could possess, had to register their real estate, were harassed and degraded, could not hold civil service jobs, forced to wear the yellow Star of David on their outer garments, prohibited from the kosher preparation of meats, were forbidden to farm, saw the passage of more than 1400 anti-Jewish laws, plus the passage of an edict forbidding them to display the German flag, saw their citizenship disqualified, had high taxes imposed on their assets, witnessed the establishment of the first of the concentration camps, endured a proliferation of isolated although organized attacks and killings, and yet they stayed.

Deprivations did not come all at once, but piece by piece. But with each piece, each additional elimination of their freedom, their dignity, their rights, they stayed. They could not believe that in a nation where they had lived peacefully for years, where they had been integral contributors to Germany's advances in science, technology, medicine and law, had served in the government and in the armed forces, that things would not "get better." And then, it was too late.

On November 7, 1938, a young German Jew whose family had been deported, first to Poland, and then to a refugee camp, entered the German Embassy in Paris, intent on assassinating the German Ambassador. He actually shot and killed a minor functionary in the legation, but created the catalyst which Hitler and his propaganda minister, Joseph Goebbels, had been waiting for. A "spontaneous" eruption of anger, well orchestrated and sponsored by the Nazi regime, broke out throughout Germany. Hundreds of synagogues were set afire and destroyed. As the fire crews stood by under orders not to interfere, over 7,000 Jewish businesses were looted and left in shambles, Jewish cemeteries were desecrated, tombstones toppled and broken, almost 100 Jews were killed by marauding mobs, and 30,000 Jewish men were arrested and sent to newly constructed or enlarged concentration camps in several areas. To add further insult to the atrocity, the Jews were blamed and assessed damages in the hundreds of millions. The die had been cast, and from that day to this, Jewish life in Germany would never be the same.

Jewish families were shortly forced from their homes, given only minutes to gather a few possessions, and forced to abandon their valuables as the march to extermination camps began. Of Germany's quarter-million Jews, more than half were exterminated or died of starvation, typhus, and other diseases under the most inhumane of conditions. Thousands suffered physical abuses, torture, and the horrors of diabolical medical experimentation.

At the same time, anti-semitism was thriving throughout Europe and even here in the United States. Friends and neighbors of European Jews suddenly showed the festering bigotry and hatred of centuries, and only a few were brave enough to stand up for their friends and neighbors. Most of those people paid with their lives. In America, the German-American Bund was thriving, particularly strong here in the Midwest where many Germans had migrated during the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Father Charles Coughlin, a Catholic priest who had tremendous popularity, incited his listeners to a weekly radio program with contentions that it was the Jews who were responsible for all Germany's problems and for the rise of Russian communism. In December of 1938, thousands of his followers paraded through the streets of New York chanting anti-Jewish slogans and calling for the deportation of all Jews.

As Jews, most of us have experienced some form of discrimination or bigotry during our lifetimes, but it is important to remember that this is an evil which smolders beneath the surface of civilization, and a look around this troubled world gives sad proof that it is not only anti-semitism, but many other irrational hatreds that have turned our planet into a chaotic war zone. Our freedom is precious, our Constitution and Bill of Rights are beacons for all the world, and we must never shirk from our responsibility to protect them. Seventy years ago falls within many of our lifetimes. Thus, the phrase "Never Again" was born, although sadly it often falls on deaf ears.

*Alan Miller has been a member of Or Emet for some time. He teaches a course in Holocaust and Genocide film at Inver Hills Community College, and has hosted a cable TV show, "Access to Democracy," for almost a decade.*

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**Muriel Sterne**, rigorous taskmaster and punctuator, has given up her duties as co-editor of this newsletter. Together, we found that the computer age was not always what it was cracked up to be and that good old fashioned red ink sometimes got the job done. Thank you, Muriel, for all of the hard work at all of those ambiguous deadlines!  
- - Mike Persellin

# SHJ

"There are two visions of America. One precedes our founding fathers and finds its roots in the harshness of our puritan past. It is very suspicious of freedom, uncomfortable with diversity, hostile to science, unfriendly to reason, contemptuous of personal autonomy. It sees America as a religious nation. It views patriotism as allegiance to God. It secretly adores coercion and conformity. Despite our constitution, despite the legacy of the Enlightenment, it appeals to millions of Americans and threatens our freedom. The other vision finds its roots in the spirit of our founding revolution and in the leaders of this nation who embraced the age of reason. It loves freedom, encourages diversity, embraces science and affirms the dignity and rights of every individual. It sees America as a moral nation, neither completely religious nor completely secular. It defines patriotism as love of country and of the people who make it strong. It defends all citizens against unjust coercion and irrational conformity. This second vision is our vision. It is the vision of a free society. We must be bold enough to proclaim it and strong enough to defend it against all its enemies."

--Rabbi Sherwin Wine

## TWO WEBSITES OF INTEREST

### ***www.JudaismWiki.com***

This website was launched as a wiki, or participatory free-source version of *The Shengold Jewish Encyclopedia*. The objective of this new Jewish forum is to enhance the Jewish knowledge of every Jew, regardless of personal view or belief, and at the same time enrich the Jewish living experience of every Jewish community, no matter how small or remote. It is a unique combination of an interactive Jewish encyclopedia and Jewish community resource directory. We can all contribute to the collective enlightenment and wellbeing of our people by sharing our knowledge and communal experience through this free tool, which is completely open to all. Anyone can add new information to existing entries or add a new entry to the encyclopedia section by using the search window on the left side of the home-page, or you can click on the e-map to find your own community and use the community forum to add useful information. The site managers reserve the right to edit any

inappropriate material. The website is open to all Jews. *Or Emet* is listed in their directory.

### ***www.thehumanist.org***

Selected articles online each month from *The Humanist* magazine. With a distinguished cadre of feature writers covering everything from science and religion to politics and popular culture, the *Humanist* continues to challenge its readers with insightful ethical critique and commentary on the central issues of our time.

## **Dear SHJ High School Graduate, Mazel Tov!**

The Society for Humanistic Judaism congratulates you on the occasion of your recent high school graduation. No matter where you go next in life, please keep us in the know! Let us be able to alert nearby SHJ communities to YOUR whereabouts so that they may extend to you an SHJ home away from home!

ALL college-age students: send us your name, new address, when you know it, your email address and/or cell phone number, so that the SHJ North American office in Farmington Hills, Michigan can keep in touch too! We want to let you know about special events coming up, like Birthright trips and our College Conclave as well. Don't delay! Give us what you've got today and you can fill in the rest later. Email the information now to *info@SHJ.org*.

## **AHA To Lead In Establishing LGBT Organization For Humanists**

The American Humanist Association, our coalition partner from the Secular Coalition for America, is leading an effort to establish a national LGBT (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) organization for humanists and secularists. Philosophically humanism is a natural home for the LGBT community because we do not have to reinterpret our principles to accept gays and lesbians. It is inherent in our principles. Anyone interested in becoming an activist in this effort or desiring to learn more about these efforts to create a national LGBT humanist organization in the US is encouraged to write to *lgbt@americanhumanist.org*. The Society for Humanistic Judaism applauds and supports this important initiative.



## OR EMET

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### Remembering Len Langer

Long time Or Emet member Len Langer died March 7<sup>th</sup> after a decade of decline from dementia. Len and Rollie were married 55 years. They became *Or Emet* members shortly after their return to Minneapolis in the mid 1980s.

Len's early religious affiliation was limited to playing basketball with a church group. During his adult life, he enjoyed being a part of the *Or Emet* community and attending activities with Rollie. Len and Rollie had 4 daughters, two of whom, Kris and Sara, are members of *Or Emet*.

Len spent a lot of his time working as a pediatric radiologist with a special interest in diseases causing abnormal bone development. He authored many ground breaking publications in professional medical journals. Len was honored as the first life time member of the Little People of America, an organization for people of small stature.

Travel for work and pleasure took Len and Rollie to many parts of world where Len particularly enjoyed art museums and eating exotic foods. Even as his disease progressed, he appreciated opera, dance, theater and college courses offered to seniors.

For *The Illuminator* online and updates on all our activities, check our website.  
*Or Emet* Online  
[www.oremnet.org](http://www.oremnet.org)

### Donations Request

*Or Emet* has used the Jewish Community Center of Minneapolis as our main gathering location for many years. This year we have been "hit" with a major increase in the room rate we are charged. This rate includes, in addition to the use of their facility, staffing at the front desk, room set-up, etc. and a increase is totally understandable. The Executive Committee discussed the impact of this rate increase on our budget at our August meeting. The Committee unanimously felt we should continue to meet at the JCC, and that we should not change our policy of not formally charging for High Holiday Services nor of not denying membership in *Or Emet* to anyone on the basis of their ability to afford our dues.

We would, however, appreciate any additional donations from members to help defray these unexpected costs. These can either be direct donations to *Or Emet*, or donations that honor achievements, pay condolences, or commemorate life cycle events. An appropriate acknowledgment card is sent in your name. All donations to *Or Emet* are tax deductible.

Finally, though we do not formally charge non-members who attend our High Holiday services, we will be strongly encouraging donations to help defray our expenses. We encourage *Or Emet* members to invite friends or family to our services. A subtle suggestion that they donate would be greatly appreciated.

- - Harold Londer, for the Executive Committee