

THE ILLUMINATOR

Spring 2007

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

Rabbi Reut Hammer at Or Emet

Seven Israeli rabbis were ordained December 22 by the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, "Tmura Israel." The ordination was the centerpiece of the Institute's conference, "Celebrating Israeli Judaism," and took place at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The ordained rabbis are Ysipi Levin-Byron, Reut Hammer, Kobby Winer, Guy Oren, Nardy Grun, Avi Pascal and Oren Yeshishalom. Keynote speaker was A.B.



Yehoshua, the award-winning Israeli writer. The conference also featured Dr. Adolfo Roitman, director and curator of the Shrine of the Book; Dr. Yigal Zallmona, chief curator-at-large of the Israel Museum; Yossi Beilin, author and Knesset member; Yehuda Bauer, noted Holocaust scholar; Shulamit Aloni, lawyer, author, human rights activist and former Knesset member; Professor Yaakov Malkin; and Humanist rabbis Adam Chalom, Sivan Maas and Sherwin Wine.

Rabbi Reut Hammer was with Or Emet at the Purim celebration on March 4, and spoke on the challenges of being a Humanistic rabbi in Israel. Rabbi Hammer was in the Twin Cities with her husband, Yair, who as an Air Force pilot in the IDF participated in Operation Solomon, the covert airlift of thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Yair Hammer was honored as a "Hero of Israel" by the Israel Program Center of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation on March 8.

Rabbi Tom Heyn to Visit Or Emet

Rabbi Tom Heyn will be with us the weekend of April 27-29 when Or Emet is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. Events will include a Shabbat service on Friday evening, a musical program from 11 am. to 2:30 pm. on Saturday, a Havdalah Service, pot luck and Anniversary celebration on Saturday evening, and a musical celebration on Sunday morning. Please see the schedule on page 3 for times and locations of events.

Rabbi Tom will start off the Saturday morning musical event with a discussion, "Music and the Formation of Jewish Identity." After a break for pizza, there will be a musical free-for all. Adults and kids: Please bring musical instruments, including (but not limited to) clarinets, saxophones, violins, cellos, guitars, voices, drums, harmonicas, oboes, and kazoos.



Born and raised in Baltimore, Rabbi Tom Heyn received musical training at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin and his graduate degree and rabbinic ordination from the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

Rabbi Heyn spends much of his time as a community rabbi and chaplain in Cincinnati, and as the music director of Congregation Beth Adam. Many still know him through his involvement with Cedar Village, where he served as rabbi from 2000 to 2006. He was recognized by the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati for his community service as a Jewish professional and was co-founder of the Jewish Spirituality Network of Southwestern Ohio. As a professional musician, Rabbi Heyn performs solo and with his band MAMASH. He also sings cantorial music as one of Cincinnati's Three Jewish Tenors.

Rabbi Heyn has met and been influenced by teachers as diverse and renowned as the Dalai Lama and the Lubavitcher Rebbe. He spent a decade studying and practicing meditation in a San Francisco spiritual community. He spent another decade studying and practicing Kabbalah under the guidance of respected rabbis and scholars. His outlook has been profoundly shaped by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel as well as by controversial thinkers such as Rabbi Sherwin Wine and Ken Wilber. He lives in Cincinnati with his three sons.

Rabbi Heyn is a member of the GCBOR (Greater Cincinnati Board of Rabbis), the CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis), and the AHR (Association of Humanistic Rabbis).

**JEWISH ? UNAFFILIATED ? WONDERING ?
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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR
A HUMANISTIC PASSOVER
CELEBRATION FOR FAMILIES**

Celebrating freedom with contemporary relevance
and regard for a past of Jewish human courage 

OR EMET
Minnesota Congregation for Humanistic Judaism
A Home for Wondering Jews
Intercultural families welcome
For information about Or Emet please visit www.OrEmet.org

April 6, 2007 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Department of Indian Works
1671 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN

Non-members: \$10 for adults; \$5 for children
RSVP to Evey at mizevey@aol.com or 952-377-3736 by April 10

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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| Dues: | Individuals | \$250 |
| | Families | \$350 |
| | - w/school | \$400 |
| | - add. child | \$40 |

www.oremnet.org

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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

(Or Emet – Let's Get Set!

-- a presidential poem by Margo Fox)

Ready or not, here it comes! Get the Roloids!
Get the Tums!

Because of thou, because of thee,
Potluck "heaven" there will be.

March 24th, a Havdalah;
April 6th, a Seder;
April 27th thru 29th,
A weekend we'll all cater.

The rooms will fill with happy sound,
While gastronomic treats abound!
We'll have interesting guests & Lots of music to digest.

There's so much to look forward to
When you're a Humanistic Jew!

Great adventures!
Let's get set!
All aboard with Or Emet

The Problem of Passover

I have passed through all of the evolutionary stages of the Humanistic Passover story. First, I was atheistically gratified and got to commune with nature besides when I found out that both of the western monotheistic spring festivals (Passover and Easter) were grafted onto pagan harvest holidays (Matsot and Pesakh). Then my materialistic instincts got all warm and fuzzy when it became clear the Exodus story was written and elevated to serve the purely political purpose of justifying the hegemony of the Levite priesthood. Subsequently, my sense of my own bourgeois self got sustained by co-opting the exodus metaphor for the mass migration of eastern European Jewry to the United States, thereby putting myself squarely in the Passover story if only by transference.

Every step of the way, I of course deplored the undoubted violence, vengeance, and racial smugness of the story. How is a dilettante intellectual like myself supposed to enjoy a holiday that stands for hypocrisy, myth-making, power politics, and militarism?

My solution, paraphrasing Dr. Stranglove ("How I learned to stop worrying and love the Bomb"), is to put aside all scruples and go back to loving the story. Sling those plagues! Part that sea! Kill that kid my father bought for two zuzim! And above all, wander in the desert for 40 years before dispossessing those Canaanites! Now that's what I call a holiday.

-- Mike Persellin

Humanistic Judaism is a voice for Jews who value their identity and who seek an alternative to conventional Judaism.

Humanistic Judaism rejects supernatural authority and affirms the rights of individuals to control and be responsible for their own lives.

The Society for Humanistic Judaism mobilizes individuals to celebrate Jewish identity and culture in a manner consistent with humanistic philosophy.

Congregation News

If you do not know where you are going, any road will get you there.” - - Thomas Carlyle

About Our People

The Congregation expresses its deepest condolences to Jan Withers for the passing of her father, Royce Withers.

Congratulations to Jean and Rich Sonenblum on their wedding!

Send notices to Joan Barnett or Joyce Abel.
dandjbarnett@comcast.net 763/525-1058
abel9342@earthlink.net 952/932-0832

Early History of Or Emet , Part II

In the Winter 2006 issue of this newsletter, I began a summary of the history of our group. This article will continue that saga. I feel obliged to comment, again, that this “History” is really more of a series of personal reminiscences. I took no notes, and, therefore, make no claim that significant events or individuals in our history may have been inadvertently left out of this story.

I left my tale, last issue, with my attending a meeting in South Minneapolis of a small Twin Cities Humanistic Jewish group - I had seen an ad for this meeting in the American Jewish World. I believe this was around 1985. There were four of us there. The other three were subscribers to the national humanistic Judaism organization, and had been meeting over tea intermittently for several years. It was a quiet, relaxing evening. One of the women mentioned that she had been in contact with the national organization and had been told that if we organized a community event, they would supply a speaker. I volunteered to help. After a few phone calls we had arranged for Miriam Jerris (now a full fledged Humanistic rabbi, who has visited our congregation many times over the years) to come to Minneapolis for an “event.” We obtained a room at the St. Paul Jewish Community Center and put an ad in the American Jewish World advertising the program.

There were about ten people who showed up for the event. We sat in a circle, and after a brief introduction to Humanistic Judaism by Miriam, we went around the room, each of us telling our “story.” I was amazed at

the attachment I felt to these stories, and the people who told them. As the evening progressed, we all sensed an energy and commitment to have the group grow. The last two speakers were a couple, Norma and Larry Garfin who I learned lived right down the block from me. It took an event in St. Paul for me to meet them! Larry was a pediatric dentist and Norma a professional actress (catch her, if you don’t blink, in the movie “Dirty Old Men”) and we immediately bonded. Larry’s organizational skills and multiple talents and Norma’s enthusiasm for life were key drivers of the early days of the group. Edna Bernstein, one of the original women at that South Minneapolis meeting was also at that meeting. The other two dropped out, not interested in a bigger group.

We soon began to have regular meetings, spreading word of our existence frustratingly slowly. We met at homes and occasionally at the First Unitarian Society on Mount Curve Avenue. We poured through Rabbi Wine’s “Judaism Beyond God.” Though we remained small, we gradually assembled an amazingly talented and enthusiastic group of core members. Gail Farber, Larry and Seija Farber, Phil Griffin. Muriel Sterne, Jim Naiden (whom I met at a Unitarian Society new members function), Jack and Jane Katz, Allan Malkis and Diane Wanner, Dave Zarkin, Syrielle and Bud Ellison, Mark and Lynn Hochhauser and others I am sure I have missed were key early, early members. Larry Garfin and I took on the role of “co-chairs.”

I think the most significant early event in our evolution was our decision to have a “High Holidays Service.” We rented a room at the St. Louis Park City Hall Building (right down the hall from the Police Department). One of my fondest memories is sitting around my dining room table putting that original service together. Larry and I were there, along with Gail Farber. We had texts scattered all over the table and floor: Bibles, prayer books, Jewish commentary, poetry collections, Humanistic Judaism literature, sample services, etc., etc. This was pre-word processing. We cut and pasted and then cut and pasted some more. I will never forget the moment when I had to cut a reading out of a traditional Jewish text. I had been taught in my early days that these books were sacred, literally to be kissed if dropped on the floor. Here I was snipping out a fragment!! It was painfully difficult. We realized we were almost the same as the rabbis and scholars of old, who had put together their collections of readings into “services.” This idea made me feel much better. We finally xeroxed the finished product and had our service! We played a tape of Neil Diamond singing Kol Nidre. None of us had much musical talent and there was no piano at the police station.

We continued to meet on a regular basis. We had annual seders at my house until we hit 50 or so and

outgrew that space - at least my wife Jan convinced me we had, but I loved the packed feeling. We picked up additional key members over the years: Ralph and Evelyn Lessen, Len and Rollie Langer, Zev and Karen Aelony, Lionel and Edith Davis, Barry Cohen and Molly Wilbur Cohen, Dave and Joan Barnett, Eleanor Kragseth, Dave Zarkin and others were early members. We officially affiliated as a congregation with the Society for Humanistic Judaism out of Detroit. We began to charge dues (lost a few over that decision). We moved our meetings to the Jewish Community Center. On a personal level, I began to take course work to qualify as a Madrikh. I attended many weekend seminars in Detroit, Philadelphia, Boston, Los Angeles, Chicago, etc., learning much about Humanistic Judaism and trying to bring this knowledge back to the congregation. My wife and I went to Israel with a group led by Rabbi Wine.

One night we went as a group to the Chanassen theater. We saw a Neil Simon play - not sure I remember what it was. When we went to the ticket office, the reservation was under "Twin Cities Congregation for Humanistic Judaism." We decided that night we needed a name! Another night around my dining room table, with lots of laughs tossing around names around ensued!! Muriel Sterne kept us on task. She suggested Or Emet (Hebrew for "light of truth"). We all thought it sounded good. I am sure many of us did not know what it meant. To this day, I think "Light of Truth" sounds like an afternoon soap opera. It may sound a bit condescending: but remember that Harvard's motto is: Veritas ("truth" in Latin). Seeking truth does not mean we are sure we have found it.

Both of my children had Humanistic bar/bat mitzot with the congregation (in 1990 and 1993) along with traditional services. My daughter Jolie reviewed a book entitled "The Other 1492" describing the Spanish Inquisition. My son, Noah, put together a talk on how sports were used to "Americanize" the European Jews arriving in mass to New York City in the early days of this century. Both of my kids still joke about my techniques to cajole them to get these papers done, but both still remember the topics and the evenings. I invited all my relatives to the Humanistic services on Friday night at the JCC - the traditional Bar/Bat Mitzvot were the next day at the synagogue. This was my personal "coming out" as a Humanistic Jew. Only one guest stomped out upset!

The decision to start our children's program was another key development. We could never have done it without several early key parents: Laura Melnick and Mark Dahlager, Amy Stubenhaus and Prentiss Cox, Sally Silk and Tom Wolfe. Their enthusiasm and acceptance of our group and its philosophy were remarkable. I personally loved

interacting with both parents and the kids. We initially met in homes. I learned how much fun it could be to teach a class, but how so much more difficult it was to write a curriculum! Thank goodness we made the decision to get more professional teachers involved. Nancy Holden's guidance when we moved from homes to Hillel was critical. I truly believe our school is a unique asset to the Twin Cities area. Secular Jewish schools are common on the East and West Coasts. Our kids who might never have any exposure to Judaism without our community. I have had the opportunity to work with many of them as they had bar/bat mitzvot. I cannot say how much I enjoyed working with and was impressed by the talent and intelligence of these kids! I have always enjoyed teaching medical students and medical residents, but not with nearly the "wow" factor!

Or Emet is now a thriving congregation. We have a professional paid staff person, bylaws, dues, a balanced budget, a school, officers, and approximately 40 paid family or individual members. We celebrate major Jewish holidays together. We get over 100 people for our seder and High Holidays services. We celebrate life cycle events together - two of our founding members - Larry Garfin and Ralph Lessin - have passed away and I still miss both of them dearly. We learn and study and enjoy literature and the arts as a group. We celebrate diversity. We are dedicated to social action and social justice. We are more and more being recognized as a contributing member of the larger Jewish community of the Twin Cities. We are active members of the national Society for Humanistic Judaism, and our past Presidents Mike Persellin, Phillip Griffin, myself and our current president, Margo Fox, have all served on the national board.

It is a tough time in this country for religious and political liberals. Fundamentalism and intolerance are rampant. Social justice has been trampled by individual self interest. When I look around the room at Or Emet functions, I see Barry Cohen, Zev Aelony, Jane Katz, Laura Melnick, Mike Persellin to name just a few - individuals who not only talk the talk but live the life of helping others who are less fortunate. We have a very special group. We have come a long way from four strangers sipping tea, brought together by a newspaper ad. -- Harold Londer

Science, Religion and Iraq

We have heard a lot from the "people of faith" concerning public policies. My own contact with them has been on the issue of creationism vs. evolution in public schools. There is plenty of work yet to be done, but the tide seems to be flowing in the support of science. Other moral issues as well seem on better ground since the latest elections.

Little attention has been paid to the serious, and perhaps tragic, role of certain "people of faith" in the foreign policy decisions of the current administration. These people are just one of a number of advocates of extreme positions that place the United States at odds with most of the world. The "faith" component is the old "end of the world" teaching, which holds that civilization will inevitably get worse until the miraculous return of Jesus to reign over the whole world. The Biblical predictions are more and more ridiculous as things go on. But the "people of faith" are able to claim every event and reversal to be more evidence of our (the United States') involvement as the leader of the right side of divine reward/punishment.

Fortunately, "faith" is not the only way to look at the present situation. But it is the worst way, because it is a big factor in the misguided imperialism that would keep us from being a positive influence and active participant in the many-sided challenges that we face. With secular approaches to American public life, our scientists are trying to make sense out of the tangled web of colonialism, consumerism and environmental degradation. Among those whose understanding is needed as a guide to national policy are our secular scholars: historians, political scientists and others. They knew already on 9/11 something about the reasons behind the attack. They rejected the stories of evil conspiracies, but described complexities of the Muslim nations, sects and their problems. Some of these scholars tried to tell us what we would likely set off if we were to inject our military power into the Muslim world. But the "people of faith" who swayed the Bush administration wanted their Armageddon, and the invasion of Iraq was a step toward that. Our social scientists who know the languages and cultural differences within Islam were not consulted. "Shock and awe" was our intention in the Middle East. The result is that we are now the recipients of another version of shock and awe, with our high tech weaponry virtually useless.

Is it not it time to ask who really wanted an American war in the Middle East, and how they put the present occupant into the White House, and what excuse there can be for that?
- - Phillip Griffin

Music Program on March 16

For thousands of years music has played an important role in the expressing and the survival of Jewish culture. In the passage of time an amazing variety of musical style has evolved, ranging from the liturgical to the vaudeville. Jewish Music Month will be celebrated at Or Emet on Friday, March 16, with a varied musical program, selected to reflect some of that wide range.

The program will begin with Ernest Bloch's Prelude #1 for organ, played on the piano by Lionel Davis.

Cherna Coblentz will sing two Yiddish songs, "Der Kanarik," text by M. Rosenberg and music by Michl Gelbart, and the theater song "Abi Gezunt," words by Molly Picon and music by Abraham Ellstein.

Lionel Davis will play on the alto recorder a cantorial solo for the blessing of the new moon. Recorder music will also include "Zemer, Zemer Lach" (a Hora) and "Cuando el rey Nimrod," a Sephardic folk song, arranged by M. Kolinski, performed by the South Side Recorder Group.

The program will conclude with Judith Eisner and Molly Cohen playing "Two Hebrew Canons" for violin and cello by Charles Lichter.

The musical program will begin at 8 pm, following a secular Shabbat service at 7:30 pm. Doors open at the Sabes Jewish Community Center at 7:00. The event is free and open to the public.

Or Emet gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Faith and Steve Oremeland
Best wishes on their upcoming adventure
By Rollie and Leonard Langer

Joan Barnett
In appreciation of her support
By Rollie and Leonard Langer

Rich and Jean Sonenblum
Mozel Tov on your recent marriage
By Janet Mayer and Paul Petzschke
Faith and Steve Oremeland

Muriel Sterne and Phillip Griffin
In appreciation of your kindness
By Evelyn Lessin

Jan Withers
In memory of Royce Withers
By Phillip Griffin and Muriel Sterne

20th Anniversary Memory

About nine years ago, my mother suggested I try to find the Jewish Humanist group in Minneapolis. She lived in Fairfield Connecticut and had gone to a meeting of the group there. She said that group was made up of lots of people my age, but they were too young for her. I called the JCC and they gave me Harold's home number, but I never followed up. Then in the winter of 2003, I met Diane Wanner, Allan Malkis wife. We were in a group where we were describing our lives and beliefs. She asked me if I belonged to a Jewish group, because, she knew of one that she thought I might enjoy. She mentioned that my "story" had similarities to her husband's and he was really active in the group. She even said that she would meet me at the Sunday session so I wouldn't feel like a stranger, I could bring my daughter because there was a youth group, and her friend Amy's daughter was the same age as my daughter. AND, by the way, Amy went to high school in Fairfield (and although we didn't know each other, my mother knew her father!).

Emily and I showed up at the first meeting; she went off with the youth group and I joined Diane with the adults. The adults were talking about their childhood, and someone mentioned the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. I thought, wow, I hadn't heard that in a long time. My father had always told the story that his best friend had gone to fight, but he couldn't go because his mother was ill. I felt like I belonged! I could say what I believed and others believed the same thing! I could talk about social justice and people knew what I meant. The discussion felt like the ones I grew up with. But what about Emily, what would she think? How would someone with one Jewish Humanist parent and one Catholic parent fit in? I found out the next month, when she was up and dressed and ready to leave on time. She said she felt so welcome, the kids were accepting, the teachers were creative, and she could learn more about Jewish traditions and values.

The next year, she decided to have a Bat Mitzvah. She wanted to combine what she had seen at more traditional services with her love of music and her interest in Yiddish. Rollie volunteered to help her learn about her Jewish heritage, Barry with learning Yiddish, Lionel with the music and Harold with the Torah portion. In addition, they inspired her with their support and stories. While working with Harold, he described his work as an oncologist. Now, she thinks she might want to go to medical school and become a pediatric oncologist!

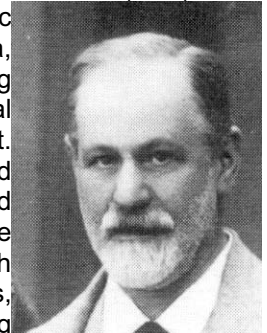
Or Emet has become our Jewish family in Minnesota. People are always interested in who we are AND how we are. I love how people share their thoughts and opinions and offer advice because they really care. Emily too, has found a home at Or Emet!

-- Erica Fishman


Humanistic Jews Celebrate Freud on his 150th Birthday

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), the controversial, provocative founder of psychoanalysis, revolutionized the way we think about everything from art and literature to childrearing. Many of the terms and concepts that seemed so revolutionary in his time – oedipal complex, narcissism, sibling rivalry, the role of the unconscious, defense mechanisms – have become so ingrained in our imaginations that they are taken as universal truths.

The Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ), the organization for Humanistic Judaism in North America, announces a year-long commemoration of this pivotal figure in Western thought. Humanistic congregations and communities throughout the United States and Canada are commemorating Freud with lectures and ceremonies, discussions and debate. According to Rabbi Sherwin Wine, founder of Humanistic Judaism, Freud is one of the great heroes of Humanistic Judaism. He boldly affirmed that human dignity required ... the assumption of human self-reliance and human responsibility. ... The struggle for human happiness is not easy. Secular Humanistic Jews, who affirm that a Jew is someone who identifies with the history, culture, and future of our people, hold Freud up as one of our most imposing modern figures. With Moses and Monotheism, Freud brought his theories directly to bear on Jewish experience: what it means to be a Jew and how to characterize the Jewish psyche.



OR EMET VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE
SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND



when: Thursday, May 10, 2007
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

where: 1140 Gervais Ave., Maplewood

what: We'll be putting together supplemental nutrition boxes for distribution to low-income seniors and mothers with children under 6. Work will be done in assembly-line fashion, with up to 25 volunteers. Kids are welcome!

directions: from the west
31 W north to Hwy. 36 E.
(toward Stillwater)
Go to English St. (1st stoplight)
Turn left (north) to Gervais Ave.
Turn left (west) on Gervais.
Bldg. is last bldg. on left.
1140 Gervais Ave. - enter SIDE
door after 4:30 p.m.

from the east
Hwy. 36 W. (toward Mpls.)
Get off on English St. (½ mile E. of
Hwy 61)
Turn right (north) to Gervais Ave.
Turn left (west) on Gervais.
Bldg. is last bldg. on left.
1140 Gervais Ave. - enter SIDE
door after 4:30 p.m.

wear: comfortable clothes, no open-toed shoes

question? call Erica Fishman, w. 651-721-2963, x.741; f. 651-646-7268



Humanistic Jews of Minnesota
 C/O Mike Persellin
 Box 22513
 Robbinsdale, MN 55422

OR EMET'S GALA PASSOVER SEDER

It is Exodus time again. Or Emet members, their families and friends will be going forth to attend our traditional pot luck seder on Friday, April 6 at the Department of Indian Works building (St Paul Council of Churches).

As is customary, a main course of roasted turkey will be provided. To assure that our seder menu is both traditionally and nutritionally correct, we ask that members and guests bring a contribution (to serve 8-10 people) from the following food groups: charoset, gefilte fish, potato dish, kugel, cooked vegetable, green salad, hard-boiled eggs, dessert, matzo, wine, juice, horseradish, celery, and parsley. In addition we request that everyone who possibly can volunteer to assist with setting up the seder (arriving 4:30-5 pm) or with cleaning up afterward.

We welcome family and friends of Or Emet to this seder. The fee for adult guests is \$10 per person and \$5 for children under 12. There is no fee for members.

The Department of Indian Works building is located at 1671 Summit Avenue, St Paul. The entrance to the lower level where the seder is held is in the rear of the building and is handicapped accessible.

Reservations for the seder can be made by signing up at upcoming Or Emet events or calling either Evelyn Lessin at 952-377-3736 or Kris Langer at 612-374-5153. Please give (1) your name, (2) phone number, (3) # of people attending, (4) food you wish to bring, (5) preference for helping with set-up or clean-up. Reservations will be accepted until April 1.

Havdalah Potluck on March 24th

Come one, come all! Enjoy a potluck Havdalah evening on March 24th at the home of Janet Mayer. We'll gather around 6:00 to enjoy a lovely meal, prepared by US. With a few words and songs to set the mood, we'll smell the sweet spices and light the braided candle to mark the closing of Shabbat (Sabbath).

There'll be plenty of time to socialize and schmooze, and we'll also have the opportunity to hear from a guest – Lori Lipman Brown is the Director of the Secular Coalition for America, of which SHJ is a member. She is a congressional lobbyist and will be in town to gather and share information about her role representing the interests of atheists, humanists, freethinkers, and other nontheistic Americans.

Please RSVP (by 3/20/07) and receive directions:
 email: jmayer@unique-software.com
 Phone: See Or Emet Directory

RSVP for Or Emet Havdalah potluck on 3/24/07, 6:00 p.m.

Name _____

phone/email _____

Number of people attending _____

*I would like to bring:

- _____ Appetizer
- _____ Salad/Vegetable
- _____ Entrée
- _____ Dessert

*A selection of alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages will be provided, but please feel free to also bring your preference.

For The Illuminator online
 and updates on all our
 activities,
 check our website.

Or Emet Online
www.oremnet.org