



# Adat Chaverim



*Congregation for Humanistic Judaism*

Vol.8, No.12 [www.HumanisticJudaismLA.org](http://www.HumanisticJudaismLA.org) ph: 818-623-7363 email: [info@HumanisticJudaismLA.org](mailto:info@HumanisticJudaismLA.org) December, 2008

## *ADAT MEMBERS AND FRIENDS SHARE FIRST COMMUNITY SHABBAT DINNER AT THE AJU*

On Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, over thirty members and guests joined together to celebrate Shabbat with a delicious dinner prepared by the catering service at our new home, the American Jewish University. The dinner was followed by an inspiring service created and led by **President Gayle Insel**.

In anticipation of the following week's celebration of Thanksgiving, Gayle spoke of the rationale behind giving thanks at this time of year from a Humanistic point of view. She addressed the importance of recognizing our dependence on other human beings, known and unknown to us, as well as our dependence on the forces of nature that make our lives possible. Gayle concluded that participating in *Tikun Olam*, or "paying forward" one's sense of gratitude, was the ultimate Humanistic expression of thanks.

The musical interludes in the service were handled skillfully (as always) by **Earl Shiffman** and **Trudi Behar**. The audience was treated to readings both by "seasoned veterans" **Marc Weishaus** and **Joan Waller**, and by new *Adat Chaverim* members **Karlo Silbiger** and **Barbara Honig**. Many attendees remarked on the beautiful images Gayle included in her slide show (one of the many advantages of presenting services through this medium). If you would like a copy of the text of the program, or missed the service, please e-mail Gayle at [insels@sbcglobal.net](mailto:insels@sbcglobal.net) for a digital copy.

Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed this *hamish* evening, and many inquired as to when another community dinner would take place. The next occasion will be in conjunction with the *Rabbi-in-Residence Weekend Seminar in January*. **Rabbi Adam Chalom**, the Dean of the International Institute of Secular Humanistic Judaism, will launch the weekend's activities by performing a Shabbat service in the **AJU Berman Chapel at 8 PM on January 16, 2009**. The service itself is free and open to all (Adat members, guests, and seminar participants).

Current plans are to have dinner at 6:30 PM in the lobby outside of the chapel. (Please be sure to



reserve your space via the form on p. ) **Rabbi Chalom** will be presiding over the seminar itself, the topic of which is ***The Evolution of Judaism***. There will be morning and afternoon sessions on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, and a final morning session on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>; go to [www.IISHJ.org](http://www.IISHJ.org) to register for all or portions of the seminar.

## *CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES!*

Our second lecture, taking place Wed., December 13<sup>th</sup>, will feature **Jon Entine**. Jon is a rare individual in touch with business, political, and scientific trends and adept at translating the ideas of the future into the transformative practices of today.

He will speak about his book, *Abraham's Children: Race, Identity, and the DNA of the Chosen People*, which is an historical, anthropological, and genetic look at the Jewish people and their success. It will take place Sat., **December 13, 2008**, 2 p.m. at the *American Jewish University*, 15600 Mulholland Drive, L.A., CA 90077. Please park in parking lot 5, near the Colen Conference Center, Rm. 108, where the event will take place. Light Refreshments will be served.

### **What's Inside:**

<i>Family Learning Brunch</i> .....	page 2
<i>Congregation Chanukah Party Info</i> .....	page 2 & 4
<i>Holiday Tikun Olam Project</i> .....	page 3
<i>Special January Shabbat Dinner &amp; Service</i> .....	page 5

**Children's Cultural School November News:**

**FAMILY LEARNING BRUNCH**



Thanks to all the families who joined us for our Family Learning Brunch Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Goldberg's home. The kids had a wonderful time making Jewish food, designing Tzedakah Boxes, and playing together while the adults had a chance to talk and enjoy each other's company. We'll

have another one in the spring and school director, Karlo Silbiger and the teachers hope **That You'll All Join Us!**



**Save the Date:**

**CHANUKAH PARTY, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>**

At 11a.m. on December 21<sup>st</sup>, *Adat Chaverim* will hold its annual Chanukah Party in the Auerbach Student Union at the American Jewish University. All members and friends of the congregation are invited to participate in this event, which will include songs and games led by cantorial soloist Terry Lieberstein, as well as a presentation by our Sunday school students. There will also be a holiday-themed, environmentally-conscious craft for all to create and take home.

Hanukkah refreshments, including latkes, salad, and *sufganyot*, will be served. **Volunteers are**

## On-going Events

– Information and Locations –

**Monthly Shabbat Services** — Humanistic Services are held the **third** weekend of the month. **\*Please see Calendar, p 2, for specific times and date.** These are very *hamish* and meaningful, and are held at The *American Jewish University* (AJU) 15600 Mulholland Dr., Bel-Air. California 90077. There is plenty of *free* parking. Call 818-623-7363 for info.

**The Children's Cultural Sunday school** —Regular sessions are at The *American Jewish University* (AJU), 15600 Mulholland Dr., Bel-Air. California 90077 and meet **weekly\*** on Sundays, 10:00am-12:00pm. For info or to enroll your child, please call 818-623-7363. There is plenty of *free* parking.

**Adult Discussion** — meets the **second\*** Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., to discuss topical issues of concern to Humanistic Jews. **Please see the Calendar p.2 for Adult Discussion topics.** Meets at the home of Esther and Mort Levy, 5419 Murrieta Ave, Sherman Oaks. ph: 818 989-2867

**Board Meeting** — meets the first week of the month, exact date TBD— at the Goldberg's home. **Board meetings are open to all members.** **Contact Gayle at 818-705-3452.**

(\* except when otherwise noted in the Calendar, p. 3)

**still needed** to assist with preparation and provision of these goodies. Please contact Brenda at 818/505-9045 if you are available to help out. Admission is free, but donations will be gladly accepted.

To reach the Auerbach Student Union, take Casiano Road south from Mulholland, past the AJU main building and the security kiosk, and enter Parking Lot 5 on your right. Continue toward the right (heading west) as far as possible, and then make a left. There will be buildings on both sides of this roadway; the Auerbach Student Union is on the right side, and student dormitories are on the left. Park in Parking Lot 5.

### ADULT DISCUSSION

On Nov. 12, our group met at the Levy's home for a discussion led by Brenda Jeffreys on the recent national election and where we should go from here— a big undertaking for one and one half hours!

We discussed the proposed bail-out of General Motors and the auto industry in general. If GM declares bankruptcy, millions would be out of work and many former employees receiving pensions would thus be without income, resulting in further economic depression.

A possible solution of carefully-crafted financial aid from the government was discussed. But we could reach no firm consensus as a group. Instead, we preferred Obama's ideas of sending stimulus checks to tax-payers

and putting people to work on rebuilding the infrastructure of the country.

We had a vigorous and probing discussion about Proposition 8, the state initiative that repealed the provision of the California constitution allowing equal marriage rights for same-sex unions. Some thought civil union would be sufficient and others felt that everyone is entitled to the same marital rights. It was a stimulating and thought-provoking evening.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at the home of the Levys, 5419 Murietta Ave, Sherman Oaks. The topic will be “*Palestinians, Israelis and Canadian teenagers promote peace through dialogue, filming, and multimedia.*”

Suggested reading for this topic is “Jews and the Muslim World” from the latest issue of *HUMANISTIC JUDAISM, Summer 2008*.

### OUR TIKUN OLAM PROJECT FOR THE WINTER HOLIDAYS

*Tikun Olam* (“heal the world”) is a vital part of being Jewish. It is also an important tenet of humanistic philosophy. As Humanistic Jews, we feel this double charge, especially now, in these times of fiscal disaster and great human need.

With this in mind and with the help of President Gayle, the congregation has found a wonderful endeavor to support for the Holidays: **MEND (Meeting Each Need with Dignity)**. MEND is a non-sectarian organization in the North San Fernando Valley that helps people to get back up on their feet and develop independence.

As their mission statement puts it: “Our Mission, as a volunteer-driven organization, is to provide services that meet the basic human needs of individuals who reside in the northeast San Fernando Valley. These services are provided in a manner that safeguards the dignity of all recipients while promoting self-reliance.”

In the early 1970’s, **MEND** opened its doors in an effort to transform the lives of the neediest residents of the San Fernando Valley - poor children and their struggling families. Starting as a small group of volunteers working from a garage, MEND has grown primarily by word-of-mouth into one of the leanest operating non-profit



**Humanorah Jewelry!**  
Pendants and  
Tie-Tacks

**Makes a Wonderful Chanukah gift!**  
Contact Paul at 818-346-5152 or  
jpwaller2@earthlink.net for prices & delivery.

## Congregation Adat Chaverim 2008 Calendar

### December

- 3** Wed. 6:30 p.m.  
**Board Meeting**  
Goldberg home  
818-883-5565
- 10** Wed., 7:30 p.m.  
**Adult Discussion**  
Levy's home  
818-989-2867
- 13** Sat., 2:00 p.m.  
**Lecture Series:**  
**Jon Entine**  
At the AJU-see article p.1  
Info: 818-623-7363
- 21** Sun., 11:00 a.m.  
**Family Chanukah Party**  
AJU (Auerbach Student  
Lounge) see article p.2  
818-505-9045

### January, 2009

- 8** Tues. 6:30 p.m.  
**Board Meeting**  
Goldberg home  
818-883-5565
- 14** Wed., 7:30 p.m.  
**Adult Discussion**  
Levy's home  
818-989-2867
- 16** Fri.,  
6:30 pm. **Shabbat Dinner**  
8:00 pm. **Shabbat Service**  
**With Rabbi Chalom**  
(see p. 4 for details)
- 17-18** Sat. and Sun  
**IISHJ Seminar**  
(see p. 5 for details)

Please check our *Calendar of Events* for updates & specific Cultural School schedule at [HumanisticJudaismLA.org](http://HumanisticJudaismLA.org)

organizations in existence. **More than 95%** of the support and donations received by MEND, now the largest poverty agency in the Valley, provides emergency food, clothing, medical, vision and dental care, job skills training and job placement assistance, and English as a Second Language classes.

Our support will be in the way of the following needed **clean items in good condition:**

- \***Teen Clothing**
- \***Toothbrushes and toothpaste**
- \* **Arts & crafts supplies for after school children**
- \* **Baby clothes in good condition**
- \* **Job interview clothes for men & women**
- \* **Office supplies: pens, pencils, markers, and tape**
- \* **Non-perishable food items especially canned vegetables, cereals, diabetic foods**
- \***School uniforms (new or used) in good condition**

Bring any of the above items to any congregation December event (the Chanukah party, Jon Entine Lecture) or contact **Gayle Insel at 818-705-3452** (the Valley) or **David Borden at 310-396-7248** (west L.A.) for pick-up. *SOVA food collection will continue to be supported by our congregation, as well.*



**Save the Date!**  
**On December 21, 2008**  
**Adat Chaverim**



**Will Celebrate Chanukah**  
***with Cantorial Soloist Terry Lieberstein !***

**Join us for SONGS, GAMES, CHANUKAH  
TREATS, and**

**an Eco-Friendly Holiday Craft**

**Place: Auerbach Student Union, American Jewish University  
15600 Mulholland Drive, Bel Air**

**Time: 11A.M. to 2 P.M.**

**RSVP: To Brenda Jeffreys  
818/505-9045 or [brendajeffreys@earthlink.net](mailto:brendajeffreys@earthlink.net)**

**Please bring clothing, toys, and household goods, in new or “good condition”; items will be donated to M.E.N.D. (Meet Each Need with Dignity), and will benefit victims of the Sylmar Fire and other local families in need.**

**Directions**



**From Mulholland Drive, take Casiano Road past the main AJU building and the security kiosk. Enter Parking Lot 5 on the right; continue toward the right to end, and then make a left. The Auerbach Student Union is on the right side of this roadway. Plenty of free parking available in Lot 5.**





## Adat Chaverim Congregation Hosts January Shabbat Dinner and Service



and  
The International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism  
Seminar on

### ***The Evolution of Judaism: Tribe and Tradition to Community and Culture***

January 16-18, 2009

Held at American Jewish University – 15600 Mulholland Dr., Bel-Air, CA

Lead Faculty: Rabbi Adam Chalom,  
Dean – North America  
International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism

#### **Friday, January 16th – Shabbat Celebration with Rabbi Adam Chalom**

6:30 p.m. Shabbat Dinner in the large lobby area *outside* the Berman Chapel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

8:00 p.m. Shabbat Service – “Judaism: Creation or Evolution?” – in the Berman Chapel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

#### **Saturday, January 17th – Seminars with Rabbi Adam Chalom**

Session A: 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. “From Tribal Religion to Cultural Diversity”

Session B: 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. “Challenges and Choices of Emancipation and Enlightenment”

#### **Sunday, January 18th - Guest Faculty**

Session C: 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. “Traumas and Triumphs of the Twentieth Century”

#### **Tuition:**

Entire Weekend (open to the public as well as rabbinical students):

(Sessions A, B and C): \$50 (Adat Chaverim members), \$60 (all others)

Session A, B or C: \$25 per session (Adat Chaverim members), \$30 (all others)

Matriculated Students in IISHJ Leadership Program (JH140): \$150

#### **Register by January 9th**

Seminar Questions? Contact us at 818-623-7363 [info@humanisticjudaismla.org](mailto:info@humanisticjudaismla.org)

Leadership Program or IISHJ Questions? Visit [www.iishj.org](http://www.iishj.org) email [info@iishj.org](mailto:info@iishj.org) or call Linda Glass at (248) 476-9532

cut here

I.I.S.H.J. Seminar Registration Form: The Evolution of Judaism

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Selected Option (circle): Entire Weekend Session(s) A B C

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Adat Chaverim

RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO: Adat Chaverim, P.O. Box 281204,  
Encino, CA 91428.

#### **Shabbat Dinner (please circle):** Vegetarian? \_\_\_\_\_

Adat Member: \$18 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member: \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

College Student: \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Child, 10 and under: \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Adat Chaverim**  
**Congregation for Humanistic Judaism**  
**P.O. Box 261204**  
**Encino, CA 91426-1204**

**Address Correction Requested**

President: Gayle Insel  
 Past President: Joan Waller  
 Pres-Elect: Marci Goldberg  
 Secretary: Harriet Zebro  
 Treasurer: Paul Waller  
 Publicity: Wendy Heimann-Nunez/  
 Marge Stein  
 Advertising: Dennis Schoenrock  
 Education Dir.: Karlo Silbiger  
 Programs: Lorene Milligan  
 Services: Brenda Jeffreys/Earl Shiffma  
 Archive: Ruth Osias  
 Newsletter Ed. David Borden

Timely Info, please read!

Phone: 818-623-7363  
 Email: [info@HumanisticJudaismLA.org](mailto:info@HumanisticJudaismLA.org)  
 Web: [HumanisticJudaismLA.org](http://HumanisticJudaismLA.org)



**DECEMBER YARTZEITS**



<b>Bea Kosloff</b>	<b>12/2</b>	<b>Adat Member</b>
<b>Ann Shiffman</b>	<b>12/2</b>	<b>Mother of E. Shiffman</b>
<b>Ida Waller</b>	<b>12/4</b>	<b>Mother of P. Waller</b>
<b>Bernard Jeffreys</b>	<b>12/5</b>	<b>Father of B. Jeffreys</b>
<b>Julius Holzberg</b>	<b>12/10</b>	<b>G'Father of S. Unholz</b>
<b>Betty Milligan</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>Mother of J. Milligan</b>
<b>Geraldine Milstein</b>	<b>12/15</b>	<b>Cousin of J. Krischer</b>
<b>Michael Milstein</b>	<b>12/17</b>	<b>Cousin of J. Krischer</b>
<b>Abe Levy</b>	<b>12/18</b>	<b>Father of M. Levy</b>
<b>Matthew Zebro</b>	<b>12/20</b>	<b>Father of S. Zebro</b>
<b>Jack Insel</b>	<b>12/21</b>	<b>Father of S. Insel</b>
<b>Rose Kanter</b>	<b>12/24</b>	<b>Mother of E. Levy</b>
<b>Rochelle Shiffman</b>	<b>12/30</b>	<b>Wife of E. Shiffman</b>



**Good & Welfare**



The Congregation wishes everyone  
 A Happy Chanukah  
 and  
 A Happy Holiday Season !

**December Birthdays**

<b>Sam Zollman</b>	<b>12/5</b>
<b>Rachel Sands (6 years old)</b>	<b>12/9</b>
<b>Emil Walcek</b>	<b>12/11</b>
<b>Gayle Insel</b>	<b>12/13</b>
<b>Ronnie Carlson</b>	<b>12/13</b>
<b>Josh Ornstein</b>	<b>12/18</b>
<b>Logan Goldberg (13 years old)</b>	<b>12/20</b>
<b>Jimmy Weishaus (11 years old)</b>	<b>12/24</b>
<b>Sadie Unholz (6 years old)</b>	<b>12/25</b>
<b>David Borden</b>	<b>12/25</b>

This Newsletter is provided to the members of Congregation *Adat Chaverim*. An annual subscription is available for non-members at a price of \$27/year. We will happily mail three free consecutive issues of our monthly newsletter to any non-member who requests it, and is interested in learning more about *Adat Chaverim* and our activities.