



The Shofar

Website: oraynu.org

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**Happy
5780**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Shalom everyone —

Hope you have all spent a good summer wherever you were. Our activities slowed down over July and August, but we are now set into full gear for a very busy fall.

2019 marks our 50th year and we have events planned both for the School and Congregation to mark this huge milestone in the life of Oraynu.

First up is our "YidLive!" event on Sept. 10 at the Miles Nadal JCC featuring the YidLife *Crisis* guys, Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion. It promises to be an evening of hilarious entertainment. The show is meant to honour the Yiddishkeit roots of our Congregation. Don't miss it!

On Oct. 27th, we will hold a Rockin' Fitness Fundraiser, in aid of Indigenous Children, as a tzedakah event in advance of the 50th. It will be led by Oraynunik Louise Sherman. Proceeds will go toward the purchase of school supplies and backpacks for the Indigenous community.

On November 2nd, we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary event at Havergal College. There will be lots of memorabilia, fascinating displays that several members are preparing, delicious finger food, good music and great camaraderie. It's the "social event of the season," so do plan to attend.

The School will be having its own party the next morning in lieu of classes with a special tzedakah project, a singalong, fun activities, treats, and even a bouncy castle!

Back to September now! On Sept. 17 we will offer one of our semi-annual intro sessions: "Secular Humanistic Judaism — What, Why, How?" It's on at the Borochov. Please let others whom you think may be interested in learning more about Oraynu and how we "do Jewish."

High Holidays are late this this year, starting on Sept. 30th, held at our usual location, the Avenue. See the Board notice on HH security on p. 6. We have refreshed our Erev Yom Kippur program and, as most of you will know from an email sent earlier, there is a revamped memorial section. We will no longer be reading names aloud in the Nizkor section, but will commemorate our loved ones now in a new moving and meaningful way.

On Friday, Oct. 25th, we will mark Shabbat and Sukkot with a potluck dinner. This will be followed by a program on sex ... well actually, sexual ethics! Intrigued? Join us!

Besides all the reports, there are a few articles of interest: a tribute by Rabbi Adam Chalom to the late Yaakov Malkin, a write-up by Evie Goldstein on the Torah Stitch by Stitch Project, and an article by teen Georgia Gardner on her amazing summer job.

We look forward to seeing you at the holidays, our 50th celebration, and other upcoming events. Lastly, may I wish you ... *Shana tova tikosayvu*—a sweet New Year!

Sandi

Sandi Horwitz, Editor

Members are welcome to submit articles, letters and photographs. Please email to: horwitz@rogers.com

Generally submissions should be no more than 750 words and reflect a secular humanistic perspective. Please note that Oraynu reserves the right to decline or edit submissions in order to maintain the mutual respect our members enjoy and our reputation for fairness.

Letters and articles printed in this newsletter reflect the opinions of their writers and are not necessarily those of Oraynu Congregation.

RABBI'S MESSAGE

**Rabbi
Denise
Handlarski**



Have you really *lived* the last ten years or have you lived the same year over and over again ten times?

Do you feel that? It's the excitement of a new year approaching. The end of August is a truly beautiful time. The weather cools a little but we still get warm summer nights which feature the best sunsets. The mayhem of summer dies down a little and so do the bugs. We begin settling in to the feeling that fall is coming and, for many of us, the awe-inspiring and powerful time of the Jewish High Holidays.

The High Holidays are our chance to take stock of who, what, and where we are. They're a time to let go of the year past. They're a time to mourn the loved ones we've lost. They're a time to rejoice in the gift that is this life.

I heard someone say recently that a good question to ask is whether you have really *lived* the last ten years or whether you've lived the same year over and over again ten times. That's a question I ask myself as I approach these holidays. How can I ensure that the year coming up is special? Momentous? Fulfilling? How can I set myself up to have a great year where I not only get to really feel I'm living my life but I also get to empower others to live better too?

If these questions resonate with you then I hope you'll be at our High Holiday Services where we ask and answer these questions together, in the comfort and joy of community. You know that our staff works tirelessly for months to bring you services we feel are truly inspiring and meaningful, drawing on Jewish tradition and values and enacting the vision of Humanistic Judaism. We want your life to be better. We want the world to be better. We want to work together to make both happen at the same time for, truly, the more we work on ourselves the better we are as forces for goodness in the world. The more we cogitate, contemplate, celebrate on the gifts we possess as humans and the gift of being in the world one more year, the better we'll be.

Jews don't tend to set New Year's resolutions at Rosh Hashanah the way people do at the January new year. We don't focus on things like money management, or fitness, or travel. These things are all worth thinking about, but the Days of Awe are about the goals and dreams of our highest and deepest selves. We tend to think about relationships we want to repair, Tzedakah (charity/justice) work we want to do, how we can become a little kinder and more understanding. With any goal, it's useful to not only set the intention but also set up for success by creating routines, environments, accountability for our goals. So here's my challenge for you:

Write out three goals you have for the Jewish year of 5780. Then write down for each one something you can do to help make it happen. Examples:

Goal - "I want to give back more." Action - "I will call up Out of the Cold and see about volunteering."

Goal - "I want to have a better relationship with my sibling." Action - "I will call them and ask for a coffee date so we can hash things out."

Goal - "I want to become more involved with Judaism." Action - "Each time I get the Shofar I'll put the events in my calendar and plan other activities around them."

While this kind of goal and action planning may not seem like a Jewish activity it really is! This is especially true for Humanistic Jews because we are committed to saying what we believe and believing what we say. Putting plans in place to realize our goals is part of that commitment to integrity. Planning for the year to come is also connected to another strong belief we have: there is no other time/world when we can be and do what we hope. We only have the here and now. We only have ourselves and each other to create change in our own lives and in the world. So, welcome fall. We're ready for the joy and the work. Let's get going!



- **Make sure to reserve to your High Holiday tickets ASAP**
- **Membership renewals and school registrations are now due**
- **Donations sent with renewals will be acknowledged in our NEXT issue**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 10
7:30 pm

Al Green Theatre
Miles Nadal JCC
750 Spadina Ave
(corner Bloor)

In celebration of our 50th anniversary and Yiddishkeit roots we proudly present, in partnership with the Miles Nadal JCC,

YidLive!

An Evening of Comedy, Music, Video and Shtick
with Jamie Elman and Eli Batalion, creators of “YidLife Crisis”

General seating: \$25

Reserve now —

Being your family and friends!

www.oraynu.org/events

Note: This show is for everyone regardless of background in Yiddish; subtitles are provided on large screen with videos.



“YidLive!” is generously sponsored by Oraynu members Sue and Rod McLeod

Tuesday, Sept. 17
7:30 pm

Borochov Centre
272 Codsell Ave.
(Wilson Hts/Sheppard)

SECULAR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM: WHAT, WHY, HOW?



Our semi-annual info session on Oraynu and our branch of Judaism
Learn about how we “do Jewish” in a secular/cultural way and find out if this approach resonates with you. This is also a chance to meet our staff, find out about our programs, and eat yummy cookies. Members are our best PR tools, so spread the word and bring a friend or relative, too!

Led by Rabbi Denise Handlarski & Music Leader Sandi Horwitz

Everyone welcome | No charge to attend | RSVP requested

Sunday, Sept. 22
9:45 am (sharp!)

Applewood Farm
Winery, 12416
McCowan Road,
Stouffville (just n. of
Stouffville Rd)

FAMILY APPLE-PICKING TZEDAKAH OUTING

Kids, parents, grandparents, non-school families & friends welcome!

Our School will be picking apples as a tzedakah project to benefit both the Pride of Israel Food Bank and the Chai Tikvah group home. The apples will be donated prior to Rosh Hashanah, to be used for the traditional dipping with honey.

- Teachers will collect \$5.00 from each student for the apple donations.
- Pick your own apples for munching or for those yummy fall recipes
- Play area, field maze, wagon ride, animal barn, Straw Mountain, winery, etc.



ADMISSION: \$10.00 per person; children under 3 and seniors are FREE
Apples that you pick for your own use are \$20/20 lb. bag (40-50 apples)

MEETING PLACE: Hay bales (at north end of the playground)

**** THIS EVENT GOES ON RAIN OR SHINE (EXCEPT IF EXTREME WEATHER). NO RSVP. ****

Unless otherwise indicated, kindly RSVP for ALL EVENTS:
416-385-3910 | robby@oraynu.org | via Oraynu website Event link

All 3 events at:
The Avenue
Banquet Hall
1600 Steeles W.
(just w of Dufferin)

High Holidays 5780

Be inspired by meaningful readings, evocative poetry and wonderful music



This year our over-arching theme during the Days of Awe will be **Wins and Losses; Love and Darkness**. Rabbi Denise will offer commentaries at our observances.

ROSH HASHANAH: Monday, Sept. 30 at 10:30 am

Our uplifting ceremony features our choir, musicians and virtuoso Shofar blower.
Adult Service. Children's program, babysitting has limited capacity—kindly reserve.
Refreshments offered following the observance

EREV YOM KIPPUR: Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 8 pm

Experience the Kol Nidrei sung by Lenka Lichtenberg coupled with our meaningful liturgy, Nizkor (memorial) service, choir and musical ensemble.
Adult service only; no children's program or babysitting offered.

YOM KIPPUR: Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 10:30 am

Our Stories of Transformation will focus on Israeli author Amos Oz and American author/feminist Betty Friedan
Adult Service. Children's program, limited babysitting—kindly reserve.

TICKETS REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS; GUESTS WELCOME

Non-Member Tickets: Adults \$90 (RH & EYK)/\$70 (YK); Students: \$45/\$35
Children's Program \$30; Babysitting \$20
Combo Ticket (three events) available: \$200 adults, \$100 students

Tickets are not automatically set aside even for members, i.e. you must reserve.
Use the link sent by email or go online to our website and find the HH link or call Roby.

ALL TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR.

For further info, contact Roby.

Friday, Oct. 25
6:30 pm

Borochov Centre
272 Codsell Ave.

SHABBAT, SUKKOT AND ... SEX!

Together we'll celebrate Shabbat, have a potluck dinner in honour of the harvest, and learn about the Sexual Ethics Statement by the Association of Humanistic Rabbis.

Rabbi Denise will talk about how we're the only clergy in the world who have no rules about who has sex with whom and when (We don't care if you're married! We celebrate you if you're queer!), but want people to have ethical sexual relationships.

POTLUCK DINNER: Bring whatever you wish, enough for 8 servings; mains, sides, salads, desserts, fruit. No need to tell Roby what you are contributing. It's always fun to see what we end up with for our yummy dinner!



**Unless otherwise indicated, kindly RSVP for ALL EVENTS:
416-385-3910 | roby@oraynu.org | via Oraynu website Event link**

Oraynu invites you to attend
**Our 50th Anniversary
Celebration & Reunion**

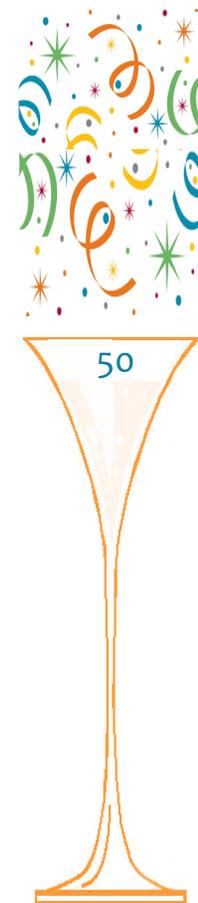
Saturday November 2 at 7:30 pm
Havergal College, 1451 Avenue Rd. (at Lawrence)

- **Marvelous Munchies** (hors d'oeuvres, desserts, hot/cold drinks)
- **Memories & Memorabilia Galore**
- **Music by Mickey Lewin and the Ultimate Sound Trio**
- **Tribute to Jenny Isaacs**

Jenny Isaacs, Director of Heart to Heart, will be our guest of honour as we pay tribute to an outstanding community builder and social justice advocate. Daughter of long-time Oraynuniks Esther Wagner and Paul Isaacs, Jenny is a graduate of our Children's School and most recently taught our Gr. 6 class.

Tickets: \$25 p.p. (Cash Bar) Reserve now!

Join us for this terrific evening!



Sunday, Oct. 27
11:15am-12:15pm
(Check-in starts at 11)

St. Andrew's JHS
Rm. 112
131 Fenn Ave.
(Children's School)

ORAYNU'S ROCKIN' FITNESS FUNDRAISER

In honour of Oraynu's 50th Anniversary, participate in a fun fitness class and raise funds for backpacks and school supplies for Indigenous children through Native Child and Family Services!

Class to be taught by Oraynu Past President Louise Sherman

Members, school parents and friends of Oraynu who would like to participate can register by **raising a minimum of \$50 or paying \$50 at the door**. This is an adult/teen activity; minimum age for participants is 13 years.

Each participant in the 1-hour fundraiser is asked to set a fundraising goal of \$100.

There are 2 ways to reach your \$100 fundraising target:

- via peer-to-peer fundraising. Find your own sponsors. Create your own P2P web page.
- through a personal donation

SIGN UP online at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/oraynu-congregation-for-humanistic-judaism/p2p/fitnessfundraiser/> Canada Helps issues its own tax receipts at time of donation. Raise funds by asking your friends and family to sponsor you.

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto serves strives to provide a life of quality, well-being, caring and healing for children and families in the Toronto Native Community, including First Nations, Metis, Inuit and all those with Aboriginal heritage.



Any questions?
Want info on how to become a participant?
Contact Steve Shabes:
steve@oraynu.org



Important
Information

NOTICE RE: HIGH HOLIDAY SECURITY

The Oraynu Board of Directors has decided to have professional security in attendance during High Holiday services. Oraynu has not been the target of threats or uninvited persons, but is engaging security for our continued peace of mind at a time of large attendance at a publicly known date of gathering.



Yaakov Malkin — A Tribute

By RABBI ADAM CHALOM

Prof. Yaakov Malkin, one of the giants of the Secular Humanistic Jewish Movement, died in July just shy of his 93rd birthday. He was Provost of the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism and Founding Dean of Tmura-IISHJ in Jerusalem. Rabbi Adam Chalom, Dean of the IISHJ, wrote the following tribute for Malkin's memorial celebration:

Many parents have only a few children. **A great teacher has many children**, because the teacher's students become teachers themselves, sharing wisdom even wider.

We humans have only one life to live and love, to remember and forget, to embrace and understand. **Words and ideas can live forever.** There is still a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance because while the historical *Kohelet* has been lost, its words continue to inspire and to comfort.

Yaakov Malkin was not a small stone in a pond, leaving small ripples that fade. **Yaakov was a tidal wave of ideas and words**, of creativity and insight, to his very last year. His children-students have celebrated and will celebrate the Jewish and human experience with thousands, and his books and lectures and plays have connected and will connect with thousands more. No, Yaakov himself will not live forever, and yet he will live on. Almost 30 years ago, Yaakov's daughter Sivan was a Jewish Agency *shlikha* in Metropolitan Detroit, where she met a radical rabbi named Sherwin Wine_who celebrated something called Humanistic Judaism. She connected Sherwin and Yaakov, and, in the words of *Casablanca*, it was "the beginning of a beautiful friendship." Together, Sherwin and Yaakov gave life to the "International" in International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism through Colloquium conferences and Federation meetings in Europe, North America and Israel. Many of their stimulating debates live on in YouTube videos, published works, and the memories of those who were there.

It was Sherwin and Yaakov, as co-Deans of the IISHJ, who educated and ordained Rabbi Sivan Malkin Maas, the first Israeli Secular Humanistic Rabbi, and together with Sivan initiated Tmura – the training program for Secular Humanistic Rabbis in Israel. Sherwin and I were both present at the first Tmura ordination in 2006, and while Sherwin was happy, I believe it was Yaakov, the *rosh yeshiva* with a Ph.D., who was the proudest.

I remember many of Yaakov's profound insights, and I share them with my own Secular Humanistic rabbinic students in North America: the "poetic truths" of Genesis; the claim that truth is stranger than fiction because fiction has to make sense; and inspiring examples for our day from Jewish literature and history. I conclude with Yaakov's own words from Colloquium '99:

"I know that we are very small, I know that you can count the people who are engaged in our movement full time on one hand or maybe two hands. But, remember, there was a Jew who had only twelve disciples when he died, and look what happened!"

After Sherwin Wine died on July 21, 2007, I told my colleagues that if anyone asks who will replace him, I would say, "None of us, and all of us." After Yaakov Malkin's death on July 21, 2019, the answer for Tmura in Israel and for Secular Humanistic Judaism around the world is the same – **None of us, and all of us.** Yaakov, your children-students have learned, and we will teach.

Thank you so very much, my teacher and my rabbi and my spiritual father, and goodbye.

Artwork by Felice Pazner Malkin, Yaakov's wife.

ORAYNU CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

Principal's Report

Steve Shabes

Happy 50th birthday Oraynu!

Fifty years ago, a group of secular parents started a school to provide their children with a cultural Jewish education. They called themselves the Secular Jewish Association which, eventually, grew into the multi-faceted community and congregation we are proud to call our Humanistic Jewish home, Oraynu. This milestone anniversary of what is now one of the most robust and thriving Humanistic Jewish communities in North America calls for celebration!

50th anniversary celebrations: On the evening of November 2nd, there will be a community celebration at Havergal College. The very next morning at the school, November 3rd, the celebration will continue with fun, family activities, more music, and a *tzedakah project* promoting one of our core values—*Tikkun Olam* (literally, *repairing the world*). For the continuity of this humanistic Jewish tradition and what has become a part of Oraynu school culture, we will first turn to helping those who are in need. Our 50th anniversary school morning party will begin with a *tzedakah* (social justice) project—packing backpacks with school supplies for indigenous children associated with Native Child and Family Services of Toronto. It will also include an Oraynu-style *sing-along*, *map and stamp* fun activities for kids, a *bake sale*, and (yes!) a bouncy castle!

Fitness peer-to-peer fundraiser for backpacks for indigenous kids: On Sunday, October 27th join us for a fun fitness class to help us raise the funds we need to buy backpacks and school supplies for the indigenous children we are supporting through Native Child and Family Services. Louise Sherman will lead us in a fun and easy fitness class for adults and teens in the theatre arts room (Rm 112) at the school. This will be Oraynu's **first ever peer-to-peer fundraiser**. (We thank school parent, Rayna Morris, for inspiring/introducing us to this concept.) Here's how it works: we supply you with your own fundraising web page; you find your own sponsors. **Each participant is kindly asked to raise a minimum donation of \$50—through your "outreach" to your friends or through a personal donation—to qualify for participation in the class. We are recommending that participants set a personal minimum fundraising goal of \$100.** Native Child and Family Services strives to provide a life of quality, well-being, caring and healing for children and families in the Toronto area. Let us now strive to help them enhance the lives of the children they serve.

Welcome Back Brunch, September 8th: The first day back will feature our Welcome Back Brunch! This fun opportunity for you to meet your child's teachers (see overleaf for news about our 2019-2020 teaching staff), make new friends and reconnect with your old ones will be preceded by a *Family Sing-Along* at 11:45 am. Brunch will follow at 12 noon. The staff and I look forward to re-familiarizing ourselves with old friends and welcoming the newest families with the spirit and energy of our creative Humanistic Jewish community.

As we turn 50, I am particularly proud of our consistent participation in acts that emphasize and inculcate personal responsibility for ourselves, our families, community and promote the overall betterment of life on our planet.

Here's to many more years of inclusive, caring, positive identity and community affirming experiences at Oraynu!!!

Steve

UPCOMING EVENTS: We hope you will join us for the school & congregational events listed here:

- Sunday, Sept 8: *Welcome Brunch & Sing-along*; 11:45 am–12:30 pm. Staff Room at the School
- Sunday, Sept 15: *Parent-Teacher Meetings*. Time TBA. Oraynu Children's School, Staff Room.
- Sunday, Sept 22: *Apple Picking for Rosh Hashanah!* 9:30 am. Applewood Farm
- Monday, Sept 30: *Rosh Hashanah Children's Program*. 10:30 am. The Avenue Banquet Hall.
- Wednesday, Oct 9: *Yom Kippur Children's Program*. 10:30 am. The Avenue Banquet Hall.
- Sunday, Oct 20: *Sukkot for Kids*. Children's only. 10:00 am–12:30 pm. School Foyer.
- Sunday, Oct 27: *Rabbi Day*. Interactive lessons w/Rabbi Denise for students only in Grades 3-5
- Sunday, Oct 27: *Fitness Fundraiser for Indigenous Children*. 11:15 am–12:15 pm Theatre Arts Rm.
- Sunday Nov 3: *Oraynu's 50th Anniversary Celebration*. 10 am–12:30 pm. School Auditorium



TEACHING STAFF UPDATE: Introductions, Farewells and Gratitude

By Principal Steve Shabes

Fifty years of school life involves developmental stages, learning and change. This year, there are some new, vigorous partners and contributors joining our teaching staff. We are delighted—and very fortunate—to welcome a few new and "new-ish" teachers to our team.

Denise Lawee, OraynuTots: Denise is being redeployed from Grade 1-2 to lead our once monthly *parent and toddler learning together* group, *OraynuTots*. Denise has long hoped to work with the youngest Oraynu-niks and, I dare say, with her dual social work (Denise is an MSW) and teaching background, she is perfectly suited to create a warm, experiential learning environment for parents and young children!

Rabbi Bill Tepper, Grade 1-2: Bill Tepper comes to us with many unique talents and a remarkable background as both a high school Dramatic Arts and English Teacher and an ordained Rabbi (Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion). He will bring his creativity, deep understanding of Judaism, as well as humanistic values and a sense of fun to the children in his classroom. In Bill's own eloquent words: "Loving Judaism means imbuing with passion all opportunities to teach and learn: inspiring Jewish texts, cherished traditions and remarkable stories... At Oraynu, I will share my love for Judaism, encouraging creativity while engaging the entire school community."

Risa Morris, Grade 5-6: Risa has been involved in Oraynu as a school mom, B'nai Mitzvah parent, festival storyteller, congregational High Holiday reader, school Board liaison and, of course, Sunday morning driver (read that as "schlepper") for her daughter, Jennie, since 2014. She brings a bright spark of clever creativity to all her roles: Havergal College Dramatic Arts Teacher, freelance actor, director, producer, Oraynu 50th anniversary planner (thank you Risa!). In her new role, we know her wonderful personality and talents will be much appreciated by her students!

Carl Berger, Music: Carl is an acclaimed musical performer and teacher—another wonderfully talented individual with an impressive background. He is the founder of the vocal band *Cadence* and is currently recording an album featuring music that will appeal to both children and adults. Professionally, Carl has collaborated with notable artists such as Bobby McFerrin, Gordon Lightfoot, David Clayton-Thomas, and has performed for Quincy Jones and Sarah McLachlan. About teaching younger children, Carl says: "... emphasis is placed on student-teacher rapport..." Carl will keep our students engaged with his fine singing to his ukulele and his naturally imaginative and artistic style.

Dani Israel McCoy, Conclave Chaperone: School and B'nai Mitzvah graduate, classroom volunteer *par excellence* with 300 hours of experience, five-time conclave attendee, and former Society for Humanistic Judaism Youth Representative are only part of the experience and love for Oraynu and our humanistic ideals that Dani brings to us! In addition to leading the teens to Conclave in Detroit from March 27-29, Dani will be fulfilling various roles with our youth and students around the school.

Thank you and update on last year's teachers: A tremendous thank you and our best wishes to our fine staff members who are unable to be with us this coming year. Mazal tov to Miriam (Grade 5) and Isaac who welcomed their first baby, Ezra, in July! Jenny's (Grade 6) role as Director of *Heart to Heart* has been ever-increasing as the organization grows. We wish her continued success in future summers with each cohort of Israeli Palestinian and Jewish teens who come together annually at Camp Shomria to work towards building a shared society. (There will be an opportunity to see Jenny at Oraynu's 50th anniversary evening on November 2nd as she is our honoree!) Dinah and Mendy (Music) will be spending the winter in California, but not until after Mendy sings for us at our September 8th *Welcome Brunch*. At this time, we also send our ongoing good wishes to Lina (former Kindergarten teacher) and Garry (long-time Grade 3-4 teacher) who are enjoying their first summer with baby Abby.

All of our teachers—past and present—are exceptional educators, deeply devoted to their students and community. May our paths cross many more times at Oraynu!

Steve

THE BOOK CORNER

Book Corner is a place to suggest books Oraynuniks may enjoy. Send your suggestions to Rabbi Denise for inclusion in the next Shofar: rabbidenise@oraynu.org/



This month, in lieu of a member submission, Rabbi Denise suggests:

“Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women’s Anger,” by Rebecca Traister.

This book was chosen by the Association of Humanistic Rabbis for their summer learning sessions. Focused on American politics and, more broadly, how anger can be used as a tool for social change, this is an eye-opening and, ultimately inspiring book for anyone of any gender.

Putting Teachings into Action

By **GEORGIA GARDNER**

Georgia, an Oraynu Children’s School alumna and daughter of Board Member and School Chair Erin Winocur and Stephen Gardner, spent the summer as a Social Justice Intern with the progressive Jewish organization, JSpaceCanada. Here is her report on the experience:

Ever since I was four years old, I have been a part of the Oraynu community. During my time with Oraynu, I have enjoyed all of its programs, which have helped shape me into the person that I am today. At Sunday school, I went from learning the history of Judaism in my primary years, to making a project for my Bat Mitzvah about what Judaism means to me. During the high holidays, I went from enjoying the fun and educational activities at Oraynu Children’s School, to appreciating the sermons in the adult service, in part due to the knowledge that had been embedded in me from my childhood. At Oraynu, I was taught to participate in *tikkun olam*, to help bring about a better world for all people, to fight for the rights and freedoms of others, just as we do for Jews. This summer, I had the opportunity to promote that same belief that I learned in an Oraynu classroom years ago.

This past June, I began working as the Social Justice Intern at JSpaceCanada (www.jspacecanada.ca), a non-profit, pro-Israel, pro-peace progressive Jewish organization that serves as a voice for social justice both in Israel and Canada. JSpace provides an open space for progressive Jews to discuss topics related to social justice, human and civil rights and peace, through educational events such as film screenings, panel discussions, briefings by commentators and government officials, as well as conferences. At JSpace, I spent the majority of my summer working with a skilled program committee to help prepare for their Fourth Biennial Conference titled, “From Indifference to Making a Difference,” that will be held in Toronto this November. The conference is aimed at uniting progressive Jews and empowering them to counter the challenges they face for a peaceful tomorrow.

As a student who is passionate about social justice, having the opportunity to work for an organization with such a dedicated team of volunteers, advocating for discussions on peace was an amazing experience. What was even more of a privilege, was working under Dr. Karen Mock, a seasoned social justice warrior, human rights expert, master facilitator, and phenomenal mentor. Interning with Dr. Mock turned the internship from two dimensional to three - as I got to shadow her very busy life, meeting a diverse group of people and learning more about real on-the-ground-work that you can’t learn anywhere else. From a symposium at Stratford on Jewish perspectives for peace, to receptions, to what Dr. Mock calls her “home office,” (her kitchen table) my time with JSpace this summer has been anything but uneventful.

As I begin to embark on my first year at Queen’s University, and say goodbye to my summer internship, I will remember to keep the lessons that I have learned along the way: to be kind, inclusive, and hold dear the progressive Jewish values that I have learned from Oraynu, and reinforced this summer with JSpaceCanada.



Georgia and Dr. Karen Mock

WHERE THERE'S A WILL — THERE'S ORAYNU!

For several years we have included a note annually in our newsletter asking members to consider including a bequest to Oraynu when making or updating their wills, to ensure that our congregation is there for their children and their children's children.

We have recently been the beneficiary of two significant gifts, and gratefully acknowledge the donors and families for their generosity.



FOR MARLEY

By Jerald Bain

Founding members Jerry and Sheila Bain recently celebrated the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Marley Super, as noted in last issue. For the ceremony Jerry, who has been a contributing poet and philosopher at Oraynu for years, wrote the following poem for her. He thought perhaps we might share it in the Shofar. Enjoy his latest composition:

In my dreams I am dancing
A dance that no one has ever danced before.
I invent each step as it pleases,
I dance without end, more and more.
Sometimes I slip and sometimes I fall,
Sometimes I leap and sometimes I crawl
But in my dreams I smile through it all.

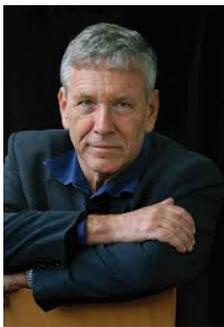
I dream that I am no longer dreaming
I'm truly dancing and sing a real song,
Can this be so? – I stand there beaming
My voice is robust my legs are strong.
Each day new dances appear
New songs spring from my pen;
My heart is constantly smiling
As I create new dances and songs once again.

In my dreams I am singing,
Songs emerge from my throat with words never heard
Now isn't that absurd
For me to be singing songs never heard?
Here I am dancing dances never danced before
And singing songs never sung before,
Listen to the notes that I can hit,
I can learn them all, bit by bit.

Marley with Zaydie Jerry and Bubbie Sheila



AMOS OZ — SHJ's HUMANISTIC JEWISH HERO FOR 2019-2020



Oz, who passed away in December 2018, is an ideal choice to be the Society's Humanistic Jewish Role Model for the upcoming year. He was not religious and considered himself a secular Jew. He did not attend synagogue nor did he have any use for worship. However, he understood Judaism profoundly. In describing Judaism Oz once said, "Judaism is not a package deal. It is a heritage. And a heritage is something that you can play with. You can decide which part of the heritage you allocate to your living room, and which part goes to the attic or the basement. This is the legitimate right of every heir."

Amos Oz' deep connection to Judaism, albeit a secular one, his commitment to living his humanistic values, and his connection to the Secular Humanistic Jewish movement in Israel make him easily worthy of this honour.

Amos Oz is the subject of one of our Stories of Transformation for Yom Kippur Day. Come learn all about him.

Tapestry of Spirit: The Torah Stitch by Stitch Project By EVIE GOLDSTEIN

On July 16, I, along with Rita Small, Sandi Horwitz, Joy Stoffman, Zelda Gorlick and two friends, saw an amazing exhibit at the Textile Museum of Canada. The exhibit, which is 85 meters in length, presents the cross-stitched representation of texts from Genesis, Exodus, and Deuteronomy, along with a few selections in Greek from Christian Scriptures and in Arabic from the Qu'ran. When the project is complete, there will be a total of 1464 text panels.

The project is under the artistic leadership of Temma Gentles of Toronto, who conceived the project and who, with a team, devised how to coordinate it. Almost 1500 volunteers from 28 countries and of many faiths have stitched these ancient narratives. We viewed panels stitched by women, and a few men, from countries as disparate as Canada, Vietnam, South Africa, Scotland, France, the United States, Israel and Peru. The workmanship is incredible and it is hard to believe that, despite having panels done by over a thousand people, the stitching is so consistent. Each contributor has done a 14x14 panel with 4 verses from the Torah, which takes 40-60 hours to produce. There are also numerous small panels with graphics interspersed with the Hebrew text.

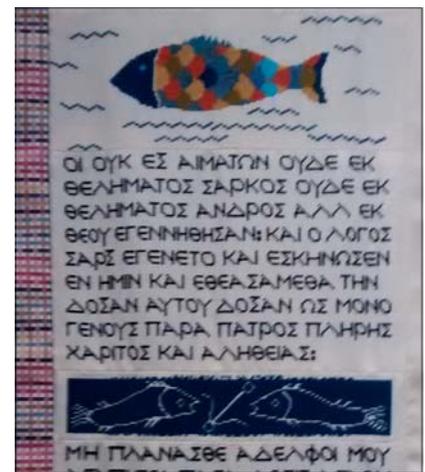
The exhibit is on until November 17, 2019. I encourage all of you to view this extraordinary work of art.



Joseph's coat of many colours



Twelve tribes of Israel



Christian panel in Greek

DO YOU 'BAGEL'?

In an online article posted by Jessica Levine Kupferberg (on aish.com) many years ago, she postulated the 'Bagel Theory'—the principle that “we Jews, regardless of how observant or affiliated we are, have a powerful need to connect with one another. To that end, we find ways to 'bagel' each other, to basically, 'out' ourselves to fellow Jews. There are two ways to bagel. The brave or simply unimaginative will tell you straight out that they are Jewish. But the more creative will concoct subtler and even sublime ways to let you know that they, too, are in the know.” ... such as, in a foreign city, saying aloud “I wonder where the synagogue is,” or in an airline terminal lineup stating, “I hope there’s a Jewish museum in (blank),” or at a supermarket checkout, when someone sees a Jewish delicacy in your cart and asks about it.

Robert and I definitely bagel too (especially when on a cruise), often wondering if someone is an “MOT”—a member of the tribe—and then somehow figuring out a cute way to discern if they are. And we have been bageled many times, too.

The article has since appeared on many websites and in synagogue newsletters, too, where readers have been encouraged to submit their own bagel stories. So, why do Jews feel this need to “bagel?” It simply illustrates the desire to connect with others who may share a commonality with us—shared beliefs (or not!), history, foods, Jewish travel experiences, etc. As Kupferberg succinctly states: “The bagel may have a hole, but we bagel in a quest to feel whole.”

Member Raynu Morris' new business card:



ORAYNU CHILDREN'S SCHOOL — PARKING LOT SAFETY

Parking is available at the rear of the St. Andrews school building. Enter the school via the doors nearest the parking lot.

Please honour the Handicapped Parking restrictions. Our community members depend on the access they provide to the school.

Our children's safety is paramount. As parking lots can be dangerous places for young children, please:

- **Circulate in the counter-clockwise direction** through the parking lot, as indicated by the arrows on the pavement.
- **Park your vehicle in a designated, marked area.** Do not park or idle vehicles near the doors as this causes a visual obstruction at the point where children (and adults) enter the parking lot from the school. Drivers may not see them.
- **Do not park beside the grassy area at the north side of the lot.** This zone is marked as a lane for cars circulating to pick up and drop off children. Parking is available in the centre area of the lot only.
- **Inform your children that the lane at the north side of the lot is reserved for vehicular traffic only and not for pedestrians.** Encourage all children to walk on the grass instead of across the parking lot or in the pick up lane.
- **Walk with your children any time they are in the parking lot.** Adults are easier to see than little ones, especially behind SUV's and vans. Hold the hands of younger children.
- **Be especially vigilant while backing out of your parking spot.** As noted above, young children may not always be seen, especially from large vehicles. Don't rely on your mirrors to give an adequate view of what is behind.
- **Walk and drive with care at all times.**
- **Apply these principles, as appropriate, at other venues as well and while transporting children on field trips.**



Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

The School Committee



ORAYNU BOOKSTORE

Just a reminder, especially for our newer members, about items that are available through Oraynu:

Judaism in a Secular Age, An Anthology of Secular Humanistic Jewish Thought, edited by Renee Kogel and Zev Katz, paperback **\$25**

Life of Courage: Sherwin Wine & Humanistic Judaism compiled by Dan Cohn-Sherbok, Harry Cook & Marilyn Rowens, **\$40** paperback

Epicurus and Apikorsim by Yaakov Malkin: **\$25**, hard-cover

Let Justice Well Up Like Water by Bennett Muraskin, **\$30**; paperback

Celebrating Jewish Holidays: An Intro for Secular Jewish Families, published by CSJO **\$30**

Basic Ideas of Secular Humanistic Judaism, compiled by Eva Goldfinger **\$27**

The Early Modern Roots of Secular Humanistic Judaism, compiled by Karen Levy **\$27**

Holiday Booklets, published by Society for Humanistic Judaism: Sukkot, Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Shavuot **\$10 each**

Roots and Branches: A Humanist Haggadah for Passover by Sandi Horwitz, Barry N. Olshen and Lisa Wright **\$10** Published by Oraynu.

Oraynu Family Haggadah (\$20/1st copy, \$5/add'l)

ORAYNU SINGS CD with 18 selections sung by the Oraynu Congregation Choir and Sandi Horwitz. The CD makes a wonderful gift for your holiday or Shabbat dinner host. **\$20**



You may find these publications and others on display during our Holiday celebrations, or by calling Roby at the office at 416-385-3910.

ORAYNU CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM

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OFFICE MANAGER/CONTACT US

ROBY SADLER roby@oraynu.org

416-385-3910

MAILING ADDRESS

156 Duncan Mill Rd., Suite 14

Toronto ON M3B 3N2

WEBSITE

www.oraynu.org

WHAT WE BELIEVE ...

- ◆ A Jew is someone who identifies with the history, culture, and fate of the Jewish people.
- ◆ Judaism encompasses the civilization created by the Jewish people. It includes art and music, folk culture, and the treasured masterpieces of our great writers and thinkers, from the Bible to the present.
- ◆ We have the power and responsibility to shape our own lives independent of supernatural authority.
- ◆ Our ethics and morality serve human needs. We participate in *tikkun olam* (building a better world) for all people.
- ◆ We strive to express our Jewishness in a manner consistent with our beliefs.
- ◆ We stand in solidarity with the State of Israel and with Jewish communities in Toronto and around the world.
- ◆ The freedom and dignity of the Jewish people must go hand in hand with the freedom and dignity of all people.
- ◆ We warmly welcome into our community all those who share our values and who are connected to the Jewish people, whether by birth, adopted identity or by family relationship.

ORAYNU TRIBUTE DONATIONS/CARDS

Members and friends can choose to honour a person or an event (memorial, birth, birthday, bar/bat mitzvah, marriage, anniversary, achievement, etc.) by making a tax-receiptable donation of \$18 or more to Oraynu. An **Oraynu Tribute Card** will be sent to the person or family of the honouree and the donation will be also recognized in *The Shofar*.

To arrange this, please contact Roby at:

416-385-3910 | roby@oraynu.org

PASTORAL AND EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE

Jewish Guidance is a service that many of our members expect from their congregational leaders. Oraynu provides part-time services of:

- Steve Shabes for guidance about Jewish education for children and youth
- Rabbi Eva Goldfinger, for guidance regarding life cycle transitions and conversion
- Rabbi Eva Goldfinger and Rabbi Denise Handlarski for pastoral guidance regarding intermarriage, Jewish practices, adult education and ethics

Guidance is offered, but not counseling or tutoring, which can be provided on a fee-for-service basis. **For referral to the appropriate person, contact Roby at: 416-385-3910 or roby@oraynu.org/**

GET INVOLVED!

- Chesed Circle (Sunshine Committee) - Roby Sadler: roby@oraynu.org
- Fund Raising Oraynu (FRO) - Contact either Mark Brender or Steve Shabes: mbrender11@gmail.com/stevenshabes@yahoo.ca
- Tikkun Olam Oraynu - Rabbi Denise: rabbidenise@oraynu.org
- New Member Welcome – Rabbi Denise: as above
- School Committee - Chair, Erin Winocur: ewinocur@rogers.com

THE SHOFAR is a bi-monthly publication of
Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism.
EDITOR: SANDI HORWITZ

Oraynu Congregation is part of a worldwide movement, affiliated with Society for Humanistic Judaism and the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism.

Oraynu Children's School gratefully acknowledges funding support from:



Check website
for updates:
oraynu.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 pm YIDLIVE! with "YidLife Crisis" (More info, see p. 3)
Location: Al Green Theatre, Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave.

Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 pm HUMANISTIC JUDAISM-WHAT, WHY, HOW? (p. 3)
Location: Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. (Wilson Hts/Sheppard)

Sunday, Sept. 22 at 9:45 am APPLE-PICKING TZEDAKAH OUTING (p. 4)
Location: Applewood Farm Winery, 12416 McCowan Rd, Stouffville (just n. of Stouffville Rd)

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5780 (p. 4)

ROSH HASHANAH: Monday, Sept. 30 at 10:30 am

EREV YOM KIPPUR (Kol Nidrei/Nizkor): Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 8:00 pm

YOM KIPPUR: Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 10:30 am

Location: The Avenue Banquet Hall, 1600 Steeles Ave. W.

Friday, Oct. 25 at 6:30 pm SHABBAT, SUKKOT AND SEX (p. 4)

Location: Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. (Wilson Hts/Sheppard)

Sunday, Oct. 27 at 11:15 am (check in at 11) ORAYNU FITNESS FUNDRAISER (p. 5)

Location: Oraynu Children's School @ St. Andrew's JHS, 131 Fenn Avenue (Bayview/York Mills)

Saturday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 pm ORAYNU'S 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (p. 5)

Location: Havergal College, 1451 Avenue Rd. (at Lawrence)

For all events,
unless indicated
otherwise, please
use the online links
or RSVP to Roby:
416-385-3910 or
robby@oraynu.org

LAST WORD: Topics for Dinner Table or Car Talks

Want to inject a little more Judaism into the life of your family? These are suggestions from Rabbi Denise for a topic of conversation you can have at your next dinner party, around your family table, or in the car.



Here is this issue's topic:

Isaiah 58: 6-7 "Is such the fast I desire. A day for men to starve their bodies? Is it bowing the head like a bulrush?... No, this is the fast I desire: To unlock the fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke To let the oppressed go free... It is to share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to ignore your own kin."

We read this at Yom Kippur. How can you honour it in your home and your life?

CHILDREN'S SCHOOL REMINDER



CLASSES RESUME on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 10:00 am

followed by

FAMILY SINGALONG & BAGEL BRUNCH at 11:45 am

Oraynu Children's School, 131 Fenn Ave (Bayview/York Mills)

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Note: Registration remains open well past the first class. Contact Roby for info.