



Humanistic Judaism embraces a human-centered connection to Jewish culture, values and heritage. Our goal is to create a context for our diverse Jewish and intercultural members. Kol Shalom is about sharing and celebrating life's passages, challenges and joys as friends, as family, and as a community.

UPDATE FROM THE DARFUR ACTION GROUP
 The Darfur Action Group was delighted that Beth Israel and Neveh Shalom wanted to follow in the footsteps of Kol Shalom's Postcard Brigade and formed their Darfur committees in order to do this.

And now the Kol Shalom Darfur Action Group is taking leadership in calling the first meeting of what we hope will be a long-term, fruitful coalition. We also look forward to working together with other Portland Jewish congregations in the future. The meeting is **Thursday, May 28, 7:00 p.m., at the Kol Shalom office.** Please feel free to join us.
Diane, Ruth, Muriel, Eva

**Portland, ORE
 An Affiliate of the
 Society for Humanistic Judaism**

**KOL SHALOM CHJ
 ANNUAL MEETING
 SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 9:45-12:30, KOL SHALOM CENTER
 1509 S.W. Sunset Blvd., Suite 2H, Portland**

It's that time again---when we look at highlights of the past year, approve by-laws, look at our financial condition, and find out about opportunities for you to
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President's Message
 The Kol Shalom Annual Meeting is a highlight of the June calendar. Part business meeting, and larger part social event, the gathering is a time to reflect on the year past, regroup for the year to come, and just connect (over food) with the kindred souls of Kol
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SCRIP ORDER DAYS
 Our scrip is sponsored by the Tigard School District and our order dates are in line with the school calendar. Therefore we can
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RITUAL BRIEFS

Thank you Ann and Larry Kruss for opening your home (and yard) for our May 22nd Shabbat potluck, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Call **503-768-5982** to get directions. **RSVP to address4jon@hotmail.com.** Kol Shalom Children's Education teacher Karen Peterson says, "They have a beautiful backyard with a swing set for the kids. Should be a really nice evening." Though she happens to be the Krusses' daughter, she can still be impartial.

Speaking of relatives... our June 26th Shabbat features Bob Wilson, Health Education Instructor for Kaiser Permanente, lifestyle coach, and partner to Jon Dickman. Bob will help us explore ways to nurture ourselves and increase our inner friskiness. The Shabbat celebration begins at 7ish p.m. and takes place at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center at 6651 SW Capitol Highway. People whose last names begin R-Z are encouraged to bring oneg refreshments. Bob is a real hoot and a dynamic presenter, so I hope many of you are able to make it.
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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

17-May	Sun	9:45a Children's Education -- MJCC 10:30 am Children's Education Open House -- MJCC 10:00a -1:00p Men's Brunch -- Kol Shalom Ctr	Visit class in session for 5-9-year-olds: observe, ask questions, meet the staff Members Only
20-May	Wed	7:00p Social Action Committee mtg -- Kol Shalom Ctr	
21-May	Thu	1:30p Book Discussion: "AWAY" by Amy Bloom 7:00p Membership Committee mtg -- Kol Shalom Ctr	A beautifully written novel with unusual Jewish characters and emigration themes. Questions? Location? ph. 503-245-9223.
22-May	Fri	6:30p Family Shabbat potluck-- the Kruss home	
23-May	Sat	1:30p Jewish Culture Study Group -- Kol Shalom Center	
26-May	Tue	7:00p Ritual Committee mtg -- Kol Shalom Ctr	
27-May	Wed	11:00a -12:30p Sounding Board Discussion Group -- Kol Shalom Ctr	
28-May	Thu	7:00p Darfur Action Group mtg -- Kol Shalom Ctr	Meet with groups from Beth Israel & Neveh Shalom to discuss the possibility of a coalition.
29-May	Fri	Shavuot	
30-May	Sat	Shavuot 9:00a -12:00p Food Bank volunteering 11:00a -12:00p Tuv Ha'Aretz: An exciting new project... (K S Ctr) 7:00p Get-Acquainted Social -- Goldhamer home (Beaverton)	For more info, contact Karen LaMorticella: (503) 239-8902, cell: (503) 453-4731 Tuv Ha'Aretz will connect Jewish values and traditions to local farms, healthy agriculture, and healthy food
2-Jun	Tue	7:00 p.m. Program Committee meeting - KS Center	
3-Jun	Wed	7:00p Executive Board mtg -- Kol Shalom Ctr	
7-Jun	Sun	9:45a Children's Education -- MJCC 10:00a -12:15p Song of Miriam Award Brunch -- MJCC	Come help honor Muriel Adler, Kol Shalom's Outstanding Volunteer for 2009 Find a registration form attached to this, or call the office: 503-459-4210
10-Jun	Wed	11:00a -12:30p Sounding Board Discussion Group -- Kol Shalom Ctr	
11-Jun	Thu	7:00p K S Board mtg -- Kol Shalom Ctr	
13-Jun	Sat	1:30p Jewish Culture Study Group -- Kol Shalom Center	
14-Jun	Sun	9:45a Children's Education -- MJCC 9:45a Sunday Forum: Annual Meeting -- KS Center	
24-Jun	Wed	11:00a -12:30p Sounding Board Discussion Group -- Kol Shalom Ctr	
26-Jun	Fri	7:00p Shabbat Celebration -- MJCC	
27-Jun	Sat	9:00a -12:00p Food Bank volunteering 4:00 p.m. Yiddish Group - KS Center	For more info, contact Karen LaMorticella: (503) 239-8902, cell: (503) 453-4731
28-Jun	Sun	2:00a Introduction to Humanistic Judaism -- Mult. County Central Library	

KOL SHALOM NEWS AND VIEWS
Walkathon to Support SWCHC



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order scrip every Tuesday, September 1st through June 16th. Summer orders may be placed Tuesdays July 7th and August 4th.

Remaining in the current school year are 2 weeks in May and 3 weeks in June. So get your orders in to us no later than the preceding Monday so we can order your scrip by Tuesday noon.

There is a \$10 service charge each time we order so we can't order every week unless we can order close to \$1,000 of scrip. So far this year we have maintained a 4.5% profit or \$998.

You can get your latest order form on the back page of the Kol Shalom newsletter or the attachment to this email.

Call in or email your order to Larry or Ann Kruss at 503-768-5982 or larryann@comcast.net

A GOOD TIME TO JOIN KOL SHALOM

This newsletter is the last one before the beginning of Kol Shalom's 2009/10 fiscal year on July 1. Tell us you want to be a member and get a head start on your full year's membership!

Reasons for joining:

1. You need Kol Shalom. Whether your interests are only in having someplace to celebrate the Jewish holidays; or Jewish education and experiences for your children; or camaraderie with like-minded freethinkers, we are the only non-theistic Jewish congregation in town. (And we're also the most welcoming of non-Jewish partners and spouses.)

2. Kol Shalom needs you. We can only continue to be that unique, non-theistic Jewish presence if we have members whose volunteer efforts and financial support make our operation possible. Kol Shalom is lay-led and volunteer-run—our only paid staff is for children's education and a part-time office administrator, and the members who do those things also put in many volunteer hours. Help is always needed with office details, committee participation, events planning and arrangements. Dues income pays for rent at the KS office, MJCC, and other places where we have events. They pay for the above salaries, telephone, insurance, website and other publicity, office supplies, printing and postage, and all the other incidental expenses.

If paying dues and volunteering sounds like a heavy obligation, remember the old adage that what you put into anything is what you get out of it. We offer opportunities for new friendships and for a sense of contributing to something worthwhile...if you want to take advantage of those opportunities by participating.

Please join us. We're waiting to welcome you with open arms.

Jane Goldhamer / Membership Chair

A GET-ACQUAINTED SOCIAL

The next "get-acquainted" social will be held on Saturday, May 30, at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the Goldhamer house, 10930 SW Walker Road, Beaverton...the house on the southeast corner of the Walker Road exit from Highway 217. (If road construction is underway on the northbound off-ramp of 217, the house can be reached on Walker from Cedar Hills Blvd. and Canyon Road.)



We will have dessert (both healthy and decadent), and view one of the videos in which our member Walter Hellman interviewed Rabbi Sherwin Wine (the founder of Humanistic Judaism) about the movement and its philosophy. Anyone and everyone who's interested in finding out more about Humanistic Judaism and Kol Shalom is invited to attend. We promise that there will be no proselytizing or pressure about membership. If you want to join, we'll be delighted, but this is truly just a getting-acquainted way to spread the word about our unique form of Judaism—which, despite all our efforts, continues to be a well-kept secret. If you'd like to come, please call me to RSVP (or you can show up without calling in advance). L'hitraot,

Jane Goldhamer, Membership Chair 503-297-4288

THANKS FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATOR FOR KOL SHALOM'S 2009 PASSOVER SEDER

Kol Shalom's Passover Seder this year was a big success; "the best ever," according to at least one attendee. The enjoyment and warm feelings would not have been possible without the contributions of so many members of the Kol Shalom community.

As the person with perhaps the broadest overview of what it takes to put on an event like this, I would personally like to thank the following for their contributions:

- Jon Dickman and the committee which originally put together our wonderful, meaningful Haggadah
- Judy Mellow for her initial work finding the new venue
- Nancy Lezak and all the Music Makers for the beautiful music, and especially Walt Hellman for providing (and *shlepping*) the sound system
- Stan Sandberg, our treasurer, who keeps track of our finances year-round, but puts in extra effort for the three events per year for which we sell tickets
- Ellen Carlin and Jim Prelack for creating and arranging for publicity, and creating and printing name tags and meal tickets
- Myra Himmelfarb for taking care of charitable contributions
- Jane Goldhamer for making the seating arrangements
- Our Seder Readers: Carl Fink, Stan Sandberg, Sherry Archer, Julia Ritchie, and Leah Parker
- All our wonderful Table Hosts and *Charoseth* makers
- Everyone who helped with Registration

- Everyone who contributed to the Elijah Fund
- The *Mish-poche* Committee and members who provided transportation for those who couldn't get there on their own
- AND... a HUGE THANK YOU to Karen Rash-Gitner, our Seder Coordinator this year. The lion's share of the credit for the smoothness and organization of the proceedings goes to Karen.



Thanks to all the members and guests who pre-registered, helping us work with Dalton's Catering.

If there is anyone I've left out, I humbly apologize. Please know that your contribution was sincerely appreciated.

A blanket is woven of many threads. Though we may not notice each individual strand, they all contribute to the warmth, and we appreciate each and every one.

(Please note: if you believe you left anything behind, please contact me. I may have it.)

Jazz Duberman / Administrator

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volunteer for activities or committees. We'll do all of that as well as our traditional (yes, we do have some traditions) introduction of new members by older members of Kol Shalom.

So all of you who have joined within the past year, put this date on your calendar; soon you'll be hearing from other members who will interview you beforehand and introduce you to our community. Then we'll also observe another Kol Shalom tradition: schmooze and nosh, time for a light lunch and socializing.

Please note the slightly extended time for the meeting, 12:30 instead of 12:00 so that parents will have time to bring in our Sunday School students.

Muriel

By-Laws Vote at Annual Meeting

During each year the Board is allowed to adopt interim changes to the by-laws but these changes must be approved by membership at the next annual meeting (now upon us!). This year we have one such change to be voted upon. The change has currently been adopted on the interim basis but will expire if not approved at the meeting. The change is as follows:

Article 7, Sect. B changes FROM: "Up to 6 Board Members-at-Large may be elected by the membership at the annual meeting" TO "up to 3 Board Members-at-Large may be elected by the membership at the annual meeting." The rationale for the change was generally that the board does not operate well with too many members and also that a large board soaks up time that active members might better use elsewhere in the organization. Discussion and a vote will be held at the meeting.

ALPHABET SOUP: SHJ AND KSCHJ

Kol Shalom Community for Humanistic Judaism is an affiliate of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, the parent organization with thirty affiliates in the U.S. and Canada. SHJ is supported primarily by assessments paid by the affiliates, based on their size, and by contributions by individuals. In turn, SHJ supports its affiliates in many ways:

- It makes available a variety of resources helpful to the operations of a community, including publications for board members, educators, and administrators, the GroveSite for exchange of useful information, examples of rituals, and much more.
- It makes grants to affiliates for new initiatives to encourage growth. For instance, Kol Shalom got a grant this year for a redesign of our web site.
- It provides visits from rabbis and others, each affiliate being eligible for such a field visit every other year at no cost. These are opportunities for good publicity and exposure through public appearances, for consulting with an expert about local problems, and for fund-raising ventures.
- It sponsors seminars and colloquia of high academic quality and publishes papers from them in the Journal (which goes to every member). It also sponsors conferences in which members of affiliates can get together and learn from each other as well as having a very good time.
- It gives individual communities more credibility and visibility, establishing that we are a part of an international movement and a legitimate part of the range of Jewish denominations. SHJ is affiliated with the umbrella organization, United Jewish Communities, and is involved in that organization's conferences, along with Reform, Reconstructionist, Conser-

vative and Orthodox Judaism. It's also a constituent member of Secular Coalition of America and associated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, Workmen's Circle, and the American Humanist Association. One of the Humanistic rabbis is the Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University.

- SHJ helps to establish new communities. Kol Shalom would not have existed without the knowledge that there is such a movement, and the Society's assistance in our organizing.
- SHJ provides a network of communities for members who move. We can recommend an affiliate to those who are moving to another city with an SHJ affiliate, and several Kol Shalom members have come to us from other affiliates elsewhere.
- SHJ's "yeshiva," the International Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, trains and ordains Humanistic rabbis and trains and certifies lay leaders (madrikhim/madrikhot), educators, spokespersons, and musicians as available resources for communities.

Kol Shalom has also done its part for SHJ: we produced two video-taped interviews with SHJ founder Rabbi Sherwin Wine, and a CD of songs by our Music Makers, both of which are distributed to other affiliates by SHJ.

Periodically you get a donation request from the Fund for Humanistic Judaism, and I hope you will consider doing what you can. Your tax-deductible contribution will be very helpful and much appreciated.

Jane Goldhamer

Kol Shalom's delegate to the national SHJ Board of Directors

(Continued from page 1) President's Message

Shalom.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article describing the meeting in more detail, but there has been one addition to the agenda. We would like to use the meeting to have a conversation about Kol Shalom office space, opening up the limited communication that has taken place on the KS Chat List. This will be an opportunity to share opinions and listen to each other.

I encourage all of you to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday June 14th, from 10 am-12 pm, at the Kol Shalom office. I look forward to seeing you there.

Roberta

SUMMER BACKYARD POTLUCK PICNICS

Summertime, and the livin' is easy...and so are Kol Shalom's backyard potluck picnics (BPPs). We'll begin the season the week after the KS annual meeting, with a BPP at the SE Portland home of Elly Adelman, Chaim Sil, and Ethan Adel-Sil. Call them to say you'll be coming (503-232-9506).

Others who've asked to be BPP hosts so far are Muriel & Irv Adler, Liberty & David Corman, Jane Goldhamer, Roberta & Walter Hellman, Ann & Larry Kruss, Lynn & Jack Wagner—their dates aren't pinned down as yet. You'll get your July newsletter in time to find out if one is scheduled for the June 27 weekend. Most will be very kid-friendly.

Eight good dates are June (27 or 28), July (11 or 12, 18 or 19, 25 or 26), August (2, 8 or 9, 15 or 16,

29 or 30). Call me to schedule any of these dates; stand by for notice of when and where picnics will be held.

The annual picnic will be at my house on August 23. Be sure to put in on your calendar!

Jane Goldhamer
503-297-4288



Happy Trails are Here Again..Save the Date

Greetings - We're back in the saddle again and look forward to our annual summer hike on Sunday, July 26. We haven't selected a trail yet, and really welcome any suggestions you care to make. Our two most successful hikes have been on trails that



give options for an easy or moderate walk: Tom, Dick, Harry Mountain; and the Lower and Central portions of the Salmon River Trail. Please share any thoughts and suggestions you have for this year's outing...and in the mean time, enjoy the spring!
Myra Glasser 503-245-3112



MYSTERY ??? MAVEN

Who am I? I am a present day musical virtuoso. I was born in The British Mandate of Palestine. I studied at Julliard with the great pedagogue, Ivan Galamian. I am primarily a solo artist. I made my debut at Carnegie Hall in 1963. Although I am known for the instrument that I play, what you might not know, is that I am also basso. I sang the role of "Un carceriere" ("a jailer") in Puccini's Tosca for a 1980 Pension Fund Benefit Concert, telecast as part of the Live from Lincoln Center series with the great Luciano Pavarotti, as Cavaradossi; and for a 1981 EMI recording of the same opera. One of my sons' is a member of an alternative Rock band, "Something for Rockets".

If you know who I am, email your answer to debi@t-h-e-b-e-s-t.com. My identity will be revealed in next month's issue of Kol Shalom's News & Views.

Congratulations to Jon Dickman for correctly identifying our Mystery Mavens for May, "Who are Chaim Witz and Stanley Eisen"? They are the two founding (and only constant) members of the Rock band KISS, identified by its members' trademark face paint and stage outfits. Gene Simmons (Chaim) "The Demon", and Paul Stanley (Stanley) "Star Child".

If you have a Mystery Maven suggestion, please send it to debi@t-h-e-b-e-s-t.com. We welcome all mavens and menschen.

SOCIETY PAGES

Society for Humanistic Judaism Begins Strategic Planning Process

The Board of the Society for Humanistic Judaism (SHJ) has formed a Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) to develop a new long range plan. The current five year plan was adopted in April, 2004.

The SPC is excited to begin its challenge of looking for creative, innovative, "out of the box" ideas to support the Society and our members through these tough economic times, to strengthen our communities and help develop new ones.

The new SPC had its first meeting during the board meeting in Farmington Hills, MI, on Saturday, April 25, 2009. Committee members began their work by reviewing the current plan, setting the planning process, considering the components of the plan, and discussing timelines.

At the board meeting, the Board of Directors participated in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis to provide the SPC with their perceptions of the SHJ's current state. The information will be used to guide the SPC in its planning process and to help in the development of a Member Survey. Each individual member of the SHJ (including at-large members) will be given an opportunity to contribute to the strategic plan

through the Survey. The SPC needs the input of each individual to best determine how the SHJ can meet the needs of its members.

Communication on the results of the SWOT and activities of the SPC will be provided as it becomes available.

Members of the committee:

- Lou Altman, President, SHJ
- AJ Chalom, SHJ Board, Chair HuJews Committee
- Marlene Cohen, SHJ Board, Machar Congregation for Secular Humanistic Judaism
- Bonnie Cousens, Executive Director, SHJ
- Marl Ellyne, Vice President, SHJ
- Judi Gladstone, SHJ Board, Secular Jewish Circle of Puget Sound
- Phil Gould, Past President, SHJ
- Miriam Jerris, Rabbi, SHJ
- Faith Oremland, At-Large Member, SHJ Executive Committee, Chair SPC

[Miriam S. Jerris, Ph.D.](#)
[Rabbi, Society for Humanistic Judaism](#)
[President, Association of Humanistic Rabbis](#)
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What a delightful time we had at our April Shabbat! Nancy and Mike Lezak each shared a wonderful, original essay, Lorrie Cohen and I enacted a Mike Nichols and Elaine May routine, Louise Feldman gave a dramatic reading originally done by Gertrude Berg (aka Molly Goldberg), Elissa Burian read an amazingly entertaining and heartfelt poem she wrote in honor of Jane Goldhamer's birthday (the poem will appear in our next newsletter), and we saw a passionate video of dramatized poetry presented by Leah Parker, one of our Children's Education teachers (and daughter to Karen Peterson mentioned above).

Please be sure to read Jazz's article thanking many of the zillions of people who helped with our recent Passover seder, and do join us on June 14th at Kol Shalom's Annual Meeting, 9:45 a.m. **at the Kol Shalom Center**, 1509 SW Sunset Boulevard, Suite 2H, Portland.

Hasta la vista, (which is Spanish for "I hit'ra'ot"),

Jon Dickman, Kol Shalom Ritual Director

**KOL SHALOM
ORGANIZATIONAL
DIRECTORY**

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Vice President Mary Raskin

Secretary Maureen Sloane

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Buckmaster

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Book Group Myra Himmelfarb

CRC Board Rep.

Martin Heisler

Yiddish Group Selma Zack

Havdallah Potlucks

Norma Rowe

Telephone

Janet Guggenheim

Teachers Karen Peterson, Leah
Parker

Newsletter deadline: the 15th of the month.

Submissions from members are most welcome and encouraged!
Jim Prelack... Newsletter Editor E-mail address: ejprel@yahoo.com

We will mail three free issues of our monthly newsletter to non-members who may continue to receive the newsletter for an annual subscription of \$22.00.

For members, the newsletter is included in the membership dues.

If you would like information about membership, please call 503-459-4210 for a prospective member packet.

**Kol Shalom website: www.kolshalom.org
Office phone: 503-459-4210**