

SECULAR HUMANIST JEWISH CIRCLE

E-NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the late summer edition of the Secular Humanist Jewish Circle E-Newsletter. This Newsletter will keep you updated on the activities of the Steering Committee as well as the dates of future programs. This is also a place for you to provide input and suggestions, to know who is on the various committees and to learn more about Secular Humanist Judaism.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF OUR ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE END OF 2011

Saturday October 1	High Holiday Celebration
Saturday November 19	Education/Oneg
Saturday December 24	Chanukah Party



Join us for SHJC High Holiday Observance on Saturday October 1st.

Location: Unitarian Church, 4831 E. 22nd St.

Timing and Program: Sign-in and socializing begin at 9:30 a.m. The program begins at 10 a.m. Rabbi Jack Silver, newly ordained secular humanist rabbi, will lead the service which will include congregational participation, music, and a brief presentation by Rabbi Silver. We hope to have a live vocal rendition of Kol Nidre. The service has been revised this year and is not identical to the one you may have participated in a year ago.

Following a light lunch, Rabbi Silver will lead a discussion based on the themes he introduced during his morning talk.

Advance reservations are needed. Contact Cathleen Becskehazy, 293-3919; Martin Schulman, 296-3762, schulman30@gmail.com; or Hafez Ward, 797-5622.

Cost

\$20.00 for members, \$35.00 for non-members, and half for children 6-12. Individuals and families of all ages are welcome. Join SHJC now (\$25) for the remainder of the year and attend at the reduced member rate.

In keeping with our humanistic beliefs and values, we ask all who are attending to bring a non-perishable food donation for the Community Food Bank.

RSVP by Wednesday, September 14, 2011. We hope you can join us.



MEMBERS ONLY SOCIAL A BIG SUCCESS

On Sunday afternoon, Aug. 28th, more than 40 members of the Secular Humanist Jewish Circle gathered for a lively social afternoon graciously hosted by Susan and Marshall Rubin at their home.

While a typical Tucson summer afternoon outside, indoors all enjoyed the opportunity to socialize with casual or longstanding friends and begin new relationships. An abundance of good food and drinks rounded out the afternoon as everyone mingled, new members circulating with “old-timers”.

Toward the end of the afternoon, Marshall gathered everyone together for some announcements. He introduced the Board Members and Committee Chairpersons, each briefly describing their committee and encouraging involvement.

Some highlights:

- SHJC is about to apply for its non-profit status.
- The Steering Committee is now a Board.
- The bylaws authorize a larger Board.
- SHJC members will elect new Board members in the Fall.
- Events are being planned and help is needed.
- SHJC Membership is a mitzvah!



A good time was had
by all, and we look
forward to more SHJC
social gatherings!

The Society for Humanistic Judaism has a very informative website. <http://www.shj.org>. The following information about the High Holidays is a verbatim quote from their website.

What is Rosh Hashana?

Humanistic Jews see Rosh Hashana as a time for renewal, reflection, and new beginnings. Our focus is on the affirmation of human power and human dignity. Rosh Hashana is a time to consider the possibilities for change, improvement, and happiness that we can create for ourselves as human beings. Acknowledging human courage and independence, we can achieve human dignity.



Humanistic Jewish communities have adapted many of the ceremonies that are part of the rabbinic celebration of Rosh Hashana. As the first day of the Jewish year, Rosh Hashana marks a turning point, a separation between what was and what will be. It offers a time for Humanistic Jews to pause in their daily lives and reflect on their behavior and renew their commitment to their highest values.

What is Yom Kippur?

For Humanistic Jews Yom Kippur is a time of continued reflection, a time to examine human behavior. History has taught human beings to rely on themselves for creating change in our society. . . .

. . . .Yom Kippur is a time to reflect on the moral quality of our values and behavior.

Introspection and goal setting are traditional behaviors on the High Holidays. There are three key elements to the Humanistic and rabbinic liturgies for Yom Kippur: teshuva, tefilla, and tsedaka.

Teshuva is a Hebrew word, usually translated as "repentance," but which actually means return. For Humanistic Jews teshuva is the action of returning to our values and ideals, renewing our commitment to the highest standards of our ethics.

Tefilla is traditionally translated as "prayer," but comes from a word that means self-reflection. For Humanistic Jews tefilla directs us toward self-evaluation.

Tsedaka usually means "charity," but the deeper meaning tells about what kind of human beings we wish to be. . . .

Teshuva, tefilla, and tsedaka – return to our ideals, self-reflection, and putting our ethics into action are the cornerstone of the Humanistic celebration of Yom Kippur.

In MEMORIAM

We are sorry to inform you that Barbara DeLosier, wife of our former Steering Committee member Phil Abromowitz, passed away in mid August. A memorial service was held on Sunday, August 14th. Barbara and Phil split their time between Tucson and the Puget Sound area in Washington. Phil was an early supporter of SHJC and they were involved with the Secular Humanist Jewish Community in Washington. Our condolences to Phil and other family members for their loss.

Stewart Bossel, age 67, brother of member Lori Hirshberg and brother-in-law to Bert, member of the Board of Directors, died in Cleveland on July 30, 2011. A memorial service was held in Cleveland, Ohio on August 22nd. Our condolences to the family.

EXCITING NEWS FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

SHJC is now incorporated in the State of Arizona. The 501 c-3 (non-profit) application is almost complete and will be sent in shortly. The By-Laws are being completed.

As part of becoming a non-profit organization the Steering Committee becomes a Board of Directors and the organization is required to select officers.

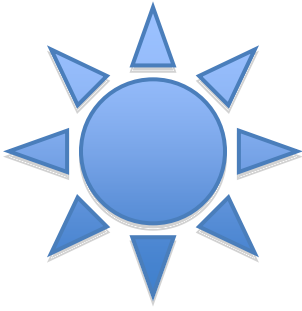
According to the new By-Laws the Board can expand to 11 members and we aim to add several people this fall. The full membership elects Board members. Information about the nominating process, eligibility and timing will be sent to the members shortly. If you are interested, contact a current Board member.

Current Officers: The current officers are temporary. Later in the year, after the elections to the Board, new officers will be selected.




2011 Board of Directors and Officers

Hal Safron Jacqui Saltz	Treasurer Secretary	722 5652	halsaf@cox.net jacsaltz@cox.net
Marshall Rubin Susan Rubin	President	577 7718	mrubinaz@comcast.net srubinaz@comcast.net
Judy Teitler	Vice President	529 0595	judy31143@yahoo.com
Bert Hirshberg		777 5430	berthirshberg@gmail.com
Becky Schulman Martin Schulman		296 3762	schulmb@aol.com



COMMITTEES	CHAIRPERSON
High Holiday(ad hoc)	Susan and Becky
Celebration/Holiday/ Educational Events	Susan
Publicity/Communications	Judy
Organizational Structure	Marshall, Bert, Hal
Membership	Bert

**WE WELCOME OUR NEW
MEMBERS SINCE EARLY SUMMER**



Lorene Jayson
 Nancy Barrabee
 Stu Schwartz
 Stan Teitler
 Irma Ben Ami Sowers

Brenda Burton
 Susan Hirsch
 Sy Rotter

Needs of the organization

This is your organization – become involved

- ✚ All the committees need additional help. Just a small amount of time is all that is needed. Please decide which area is the best fit for you and contact the committee chair.
 - Membership – help our organization to grow
 - Publicity/Communications –write brief items. Work on the newsletter. Computer literacy helpful
 - Holidays/Celebrations/Education. This committee also handles social events.

- ✚ CPA or other type of tax advisor.

YOUR THOUGHTS

What would you like to see in this type of e-newsletter?

We welcome ideas for programs and members who volunteer to work on committees or contribute particular talents or expertise to four activities.



We welcome comments and feedback about the organization and its activities.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Become a part of a caring, compassionate community reflecting the values of secular humanist Judaism

Help build a new organization that meets your needs and interests.

Minimal financial costs. Members pay reduced fees for those events that have an admission cost.

Opportunity to join a committee



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

For 2011 dues are \$50 per person per calendar year. If you join after July 1st, your dues will be prorated to \$25 for the remainder of the year. Those people who join after November 1st, your \$50 dues will also cover the following full calendar year. After beginning the affiliation process with The Society for Humanistic Judaism, dues will be increased to cover the member payment to the national organization,

Members are welcome to attend steering committee meetings as non-voting attendees. Call one of members for the date and location and to receive any committee reports which will be discussed.

Members are encouraged to join a committee.

Membership application is the last page. Please complete and mail back

**SECULAR HUMANIST JEWISH CIRCLE
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name or Names _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Types of Programs which interest you _____

Talents or skills you would be willing to use on behalf of SHJC (e.g. lead a discussion, art or graphic design, music/singing, desktop publishing, etc.)

Comments or suggestions _____

Make your check payable to Secular Humanist Jewish Circle and mail to :

SHJC
c/o 930 S Goldenweed Way
Tucson, AZ 85748

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Date _____

E-Newsletter prepared by the Publicity Committee

Judy Teitler, Chair

Lynn Citron

Gil Kanat

Stu Schwartz

Pictures by Gil

September, 2011