



Congregation Beth Adam's  
**CHAI TIMES**  
 -South Florida's Center for Humanistic Judaism-



Boca Raton, FL 561-443-1769 [www.bethadam.com](http://www.bethadam.com)

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**Who We Are**

Secular Humanistic Judaism embraces a human-centered philosophy that combines rational thinking with a celebration of Jewish culture and identity. We affirm the power and responsibility of human beings to shape their own lives independent of supernatural authority, and that ethics and morals are human centered. Beth Adam is affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism and the International Federation of Secular Humanistic Jews.

**Membership**

Join the Beth Adam family! Membership for a family is \$650 per year; individual membership is \$325 per year. We also have snowbird rates. For more information call BJ Saul, 561-347-0618, [bjfsaul@comcast.com](mailto:bjfsaul@comcast.com)

CBA Invites you to [www.bethadam.com](http://www.bethadam.com)  
 Friend us on Facebook

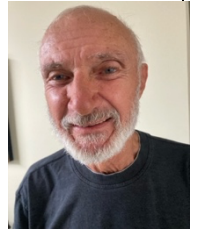
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**President's Message**

by

Allen Gorrelick



This month we celebrate the holiday of Passover.

Passover began as a nature holiday, celebrating the new life that happens in spring. In rabbinic times, it became a commemoration of the theoretical exodus from Egypt and the escape from slavery. This tale is retold each year at the seder or Passover celebration.

How about the humanistic Passover celebration? Many Jews feel that the Passover story could not have happened as described in the torah book of Exodus. There is no archaeological evidence that the Hebrews were in Egypt in the numbers described.

Humanistic Jews continue the tradition of telling the Exodus story, not because we necessarily believe it is factual history but because of the traditions that have passed down through the generations. It represents the forging of a people who have endured to this day against seemingly insurmountable odds. It connects us with our ancestors who have told the story for centuries.

A secular Passover celebration emphasizes the themes of human freedom and dignity, the power of human beings to change their destiny by escaping persecution in the lands of their birth to seek freedom and equality. Seder literally means order. Most seders reflect the traditional celebration of the holiday but also may include new meanings for today. Humanistic Jews add modern stories of human struggles and connect these with current issues and concerns. To the symbols on the traditional seder plate we might add other symbols – an orange, representing the marginalization of individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ and or a potato peel recognizing the suffering of those who barely existed in the concentration camps during the Holocaust and or a cup of water for Miriam next to Elijah's cup to symbolize the role of women.

April 1	<b>Passover Seder</b> <b>Reservations required</b>	5:30 PM	Dr. André Fladell Civic Center 16700 Jog Rd Delray Beach
April 12	<b>Social Activity: Members Event: Eat &amp; Schmooze</b> <b>Location:</b> Mamma Mia's Italian Restaurant <b>Time:</b> 5:00 PM <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bethadam.com">bethadam.com</a> , <a href="mailto:info@bethadam.com">info@bethadam.com</a> , 561-443-1769	5:30 PM	Mamma Mia's Italian 3841 Woolbright Rd, Boynton Beach
April 18	<b>CBA's Annual Member's Meeting</b>	10:00 AM	Zoom
April 27	<b>Social Action:</b> Holocaust Documentation and Education Center: Visas for Life: The Righteous and Honorable Diplomats <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://www.bethadam.com">www.bethadam.com</a> , <a href="mailto:info@bethadam.com">info@bethadam.com</a> 561-443-1769	1 PM	Holocaust Documentation and Education Center: 303 N Federal Hwy, Dania Beach
May 1	<b>Members In-Home Shabbat Discussion</b> <b>Topic:</b> "Kehillah remembering our Jewish community while growing up. What were your memories?"  <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bethadam.com">bethadam.com</a> , <a href="mailto:info@bethadam.com">info@bethadam.com</a> , 561-443-1769  <b>Bring:</b> food for the Oneg	7:00 PM	Member's Home
May 17	<b>Social Activity Members Event: Eat &amp; Schmooze</b> <b>Location:</b> TBD <b>Time:</b> TBD <b>RSVP:</b> <a href="http://bethadam.com">bethadam.com</a> , <a href="mailto:info@bethadam.com">info@bethadam.com</a> , 561-443-1769	11:30 AM	TBD
May 15	<b>Community Shabbat Celebration</b> <b>Topic:</b> "Shavuot <b>RSVP:</b> if you would like a Zoom link: <a href="http://www.bethadam.com">www.bethadam.com</a> , 561-443-1769 <b>Bring:</b> food for the Oneg and donations for the needy	7:00 PM	Dr. André Fladell Civic Center 16700 Jog Rd Delray Beach

### **Community Shabbat: May 15**

May 15th come and experience a Humanistic secular Shabbat Shavuot celebration. Celebrate the story of Ruth and the wheat harvest.

**When:** May 15

**Topic:** "Shavuot

**Time:** 7 PM

**Location:** Dr. Andre Fladell Civic Center

**Bring:** a friend, food for the Oneg and to be donated to feed the needy



<b>Upcoming Board Meetings 2025-26 at 10 AM on Zoom</b>			
<b>All Members Welcome</b>			
MONTH	DATE	MONTH	DATE
April (Members Annual Meeting on Zoom 10 AM)	18	June	20
May	16		

**Ha'achalat re'evim/ Feeding the Hungry**



**BOCA  
HELPING  
HANDS**

“You shall not harden your heart, nor shut your hand from your needy brother, but...lend him sufficient for his need.” ~  
Deuteronomy 15:7



Please bring food and trial size hygiene products to all of CBA’s events to be donated to Boca Helping Hands to help feed those in need.

Let’s continue our support to help others.

<b><u>CBA Leadership &amp; Board of Directors</u></b>	
<b>Executive Board</b>	
<b>President</b>	Allen Gorrelick
<b>Vice President</b>	Susan Carroll
<b>Treasurer</b>	Yale Bogen
<b>Secretary</b>	BJ Saul
<b>Board of Director Members</b>	
Judi Lemoine	Marcia Howard
Bruce Tannenbaum	Robert Fishman
April Klimley	

<b><u>Committee Chairs</u></b>	
<b>Ceremonial Leader</b>	BJ Saul
<b>Financial</b>	Yale Bogen
<b>Fundraising</b>	BJ Saul
<b>Membership</b>	Bob Fishman
<b>Social Action</b>	BJ Saul, Alice Wujciak
<b>Social Activities</b>	Allen Gorrelick Elaine Steinberg Judi Lemoine
<b>Website</b>	BJ Saul
<b>Newsletter</b>	Vacancy
<b>Communication</b>	Vacancy

### April Simchas

April	April Klimley	 13	<p style="text-align: right;"><b><u>Contribute to CBA</u></b></p>  <p>If you would like to contribute to Congregation Beth Adam for a special occasion (i.e., graduations, birth, memorial, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, etc.) please make a check payable to: Congregation Beth Adam, P.O. Box 2579, Boca Raton, FL 33427.</p> <p>Please let us know to whom and where to send acknowledgment of your contribution or call (561) 347-0618.</p>
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### Nizkor

CBA remembers Judi Lemoine’s sister-in-law Nancy Lemoine.

CBA would like to remember your loved ones. Contact BJ, [bjfsaul@comcast.net](mailto:bjfsaul@comcast.net), 561-347-0618 if you would like a family member to be included in CBA’s Nizkor.



### In-Home Shabbat Discussion

Join the Members In-Home Shabbat Discussion the 1st Friday of each month.  
At the March 6th we had a lively discussion about Humanistic Judaism’s origins.

Join the May 1st discussion

Come and enjoy friendships.

**When:** Join the May 1<sup>st</sup> Shabbat discussion at 7 PM

**Where:** member’s home (will be contacted with location following registration)

**Topic:** “Kehillah remembering our Jewish community while growing up. What were your memories?”

**RSVP:** [www.bethadam.com](http://www.bethadam.com), [info@bethadam.com](mailto:info@bethadam.com), 561-443-0618



### Social Activity: Eat and Schmooze

Everyone had a great time at the February Eat and Schmooze at Ben's Kosher Deli. The food and friendship was great. This members event is designed to bring us together and have a good time.



Guests are invited to attend once to meet CBA members.

Come have fun and meet new friends.

**WHEN:** Sunday April 12

**TIME:** 5:00 PM

**WHERE:** Mamma Mia's Italian

3841 Woolbright Rd, Boynton Beach

**RSVP** [www.bethadam.com](http://www.bethadam.com), [info@bethadam.com](mailto:info@bethadam.com), 561-443-1769



### CBA Board of Directors

#### CBA Annual Member's Meeting: April 18th at 10 AM on Zoom

Now is the time to become active in CBA. CBA Board of Directors invites you to join the CBA monthly Zoom Board meeting where important programming and events are discussed. CBA is looking for your participation.

Please return the ballot when you receive it. We need 2/3 of member ballots for it to be approved.

For further information, please use your CBA membership directory to contact the committee: Marcia Howard, or Judi Lemoine. If you are unable to locate it, please let BJ know by responding using "reply" and make a short request.

All members are encouraged to attend.

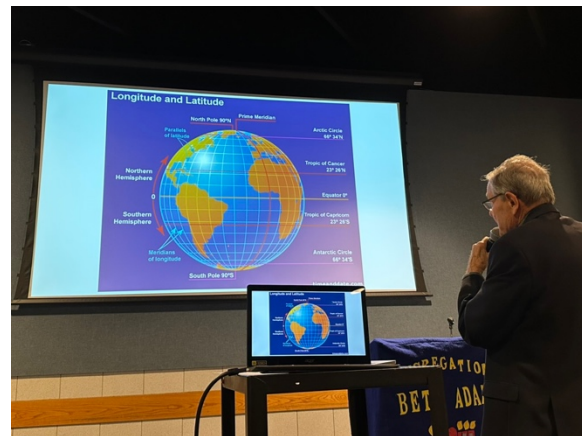
**When:** April 18

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Where:** On Zoom (A Zoom link will be sent to all members closer to the meeting)

## Celebrating Community Shabbat with Guest Speaker Bob Slatkin

At the March 20th Shabbat guest speaker, Bob Slatkin, delved into the profound impact of global warming on the North Pole. He presented compelling scientific data that illustrated the gradual melting of ice over time, highlighting its dire consequences for the unique life forms that inhabit this region, such as polar bears and beluga whales. The audience was captivated and thoroughly engaged throughout his presentation.



## CBA's Lending Library

CBA is glad to announce its lending library. Enjoy reading humanistic books by authors, TK Thorne, Rabbi Sherwin Wine, Howard Schwartz, Yaakov Malkin, Dale McGowan, JR Rosenbloom and more.

Contact BJ Saul for more information. [bjfsaul@comcast.net](mailto:bjfsaul@comcast.net)



## COME DINE WITH ME. By BRUCE TANNENBAUM

Eating out is an art. It takes practice and years to find the perfect restaurant to please one's palate and is an adventure for so many of us searching for the perfect meal; one that satisfies yet soothes; and fills us with a satisfaction known by so many yet is so personal. Do we want Italian, Chinese or Deli tonight, or how about a good old-fashioned cheeseburger (obviously I'm not Kosher). How about some tacos, humus or lamb shank? Does pizza do it for you? Ethnic food can be so daunting. it makes one crazy, but it wasn't always this way. Once upon a refrigerator the choices were minimal. Every neighborhood had its boundaries where families favorite restaurants were located; and families never strayed beyond the borders of their neighborhood. The food establishments knew their patrons. Week after week seeing the same face come in hungry and leave stuffed to the gills. Many times they would meet neighbors or schoolmates also there for a feast of plenty. There were tables for 4, 6 or 7 or sometimes even more.

Our parents weren't rich, yet Dad was always able to afford taking out his small family of four to Sunday dinner. He never let Mom cook on Sunday, for that was her day to be pampered and thanked for all her hard work of raising two boys. My brother and I loved Sundays. We had five favorite places. The eateries were as varied as our neighborhood of Italians, Jews and Irish living an idyllic life of harmony and peace. Smells of latkes, meatballs and shepherds' pies filled the air on my street every day it seemed, except Sunday. That's the day when the Italian kids would scurry home after church for Sunday Sauce; a staple in every Italian household.

My family rotation was this. First, it was Bernies Diner; a quick 10-minute drive from home. My brother, who was about 7 years old. would order that great American staple; egg salad on white, while I, four years older, had the chopped steak, aka, a glorified hamburger, with mashed potatoes and extra gravy.... yummy. Next came the House of Louis, a Chinese joint frequented by my congregation of "Orthodox" Jews. Dinner for 4 could feed an army for days. Afterward we topped off our meal with the famous pistachio ice cream.

The following week it was off to the Lincoln Deli, where my dad devoured something called sweetbreads. It wasn't until years later I discovered what dad was consuming....cows brains!!.. Really dad, I was a corned beef guy until years later when my Dr. said those corned beef days were done if I wanted to live to old age. Not to be undone, Russo's Italian was half speakeasy, half gangster heaven, but these underworld characters were my friend's fathers and always nice to me. Russo's even had a starring role in "Goodfellas"...think Joe Pesci asked if he was funny? Finally, there was Seniors Restaurant, where the waiters were ancient and old as dirt, but the onion rolls melted in your mouth and the cabbage salad so good mom always took some home.

And that was it; the family rotation. Every spot was magical to me. Years of memories of restaurants, joy and love from my brother and folks. It was the best time of my life and I never knew it. but as the years caught up and loved ones leave, my memories remained vivid and strong. The smells are still in my memories. They remain in my senses. Taste buds are as vibrant and ever eager to taste, just one more time the world that once was and is now gone, never to be again.

**CONGREGATION BETH ADAM**

South Florida Center for Humanistic Judaism

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