



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



Boca Raton, FL 561-443-1769 www.bethadam.com

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February 2026

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, bjsaul@comcast.com

CBA Invites you to www.bethadam.com
Friend us on Facebook

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President's Message

by

Allen Gorrelick

Each fiscal year SHJ designates the Humanistic Role Model for the year. In earlier newsletters I've discussed the role models for 2025-26 and 2024-25.



Listed below are the earlier role models. You will recognize most of the names. However, several are less known by the general public. I believe you will benefit by reading about these individuals in your free time.

<https://shj.org/meaning-learning/humanistic-jewish-role-models/>

2023-24 Johnny Clegg	2013-14 Maurice Sendak
2022-23 Harvey Milk Feynman	2012 -13 Richard
2021-22 Yaakov Malkin	2011-12 Ernestine Rose
2020-21 Helen Suzman Salk	2010-11 Jonas
2019-20 Amos Oz Spinoza	2009-10 Baruch
2018-19 Grace Paley	2008-09 no designee
2017-18 Gene Wilder	2007-08 Sherwin Wine
2016-17 Rosalind Franklin	2006-07 Betty Friedan
2015-16 Carl Sagan	2005-06 Sigmund Freud
2014-15 Nora Ephron	2004-05 Albert Einstein

Feb 6	Members In-Home Shabbat Discussion Topic: Evolution- book- Sapiens by Yuval Harari Darwin Day February 12 (not necessary to have read the book) RSVP: bethadam.com, info@bethadam.com , 561-443-1769 Bring: food for the Oneg	7:00 PM	Member's Home Boynton Beach
Feb. 8	Social Activity Members Event: Eat & Schmooze RSVP: bethadam.com, info@bethadam.com , 561-443-1769	11:30 AM	Kingdom Buffet 240 N. Congress Ave. Boynton Beach
Feb. 20	Community Shabbat Celebration: Guest speaker: Renata Bozzetto: Florida Immigration Coalition Topic: "Immigration and Hope - Protecting our Neighbors during Turbulent Times" Bring: food for the Oneg and donations for the needy RSVP: if you would like a Zoom link: www.bethadam.com , 561-443-1769	7:00 PM	Dr. André Fladell Civic Center 16700 Jog Rd Delray Beach
March 6	Members In-Home Shabbat Discussion Topic: TBA RSVP: bethadam.com, info@bethadam.com , 561-443-1769 Bring: food for the Oneg	7:00 PM	Member's Home
March 8	Social Activity Members Event: Eat & Schmooze Location: TBD Time: 11:30 AM RSVP: bethadam.com, info@bethadam.com , 561-443-1769	11:30 AM	TBD
March 20	Community Shabbat Celebration: Guest Speaker Bob Slatkin Topic: "Global Warming's Newest Whistleblower (The North Pole)" RSVP: if you would like a Zoom link: www.bethadam.com , 561-443-1769 Bring: food for the Oneg and donations for the needy	7:00 PM	Dr. André Fladell Civic Center 16700 Jog Rd Delray Beach

Community Shabbat: February 20th Guest Speaker: Renata Bozzetto



February 20th come and experience a Humanistic secular Shabbat celebration with guest speaker Renata Bazzeto, Deputy Director of the Florida Immigrant Coalition (FLIC), a statewide organization that grows the connection, capacity, and consciousness of communities to strengthen pro-immigrant power in Florida.

A Brazilian immigrant who has been making Florida a home since 2004, Renata first joined FLIC as a volunteer in 2010. Prior to joining FLIC's team, Renata worked for 9 years as a teaching assistant/instructor at South Florida public universities. She received her MA in Women & Gender Studies from Florida Atlantic University and her Ph.D. in Sociology from Florida International University. Today, Renata is proud to be part of the movement that is making Florida a true home for immigrants and all.

Bring a friend!

When: February 20th

Location: Dr. Andre Fladell Civic Center

Topic: Immigration and Hope - Protecting our Neighbors during Turbulent Times.

Time: 7 PM

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

Upcoming Board Meetings 2025-26 at 10 AM on Zoom**All Members Welcome**

MONTH	DATE	MONTH	DATE
Feb	14	April (Members Annual Meeting)	11
March	14	May	9

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.


CBA Leadership & Board of Directors**Executive Board**

President	Allen Gorrelick
Vice President	Susan Carroll
Treasurer	Yale Bogen
Secretary	BJ Saul
Board of Director Members	
Judi Lemoine	Marcia Howard
Bruce Tannenbaum	Robert Fishman
April Klimley	

Committee Chairs

Ceremonial Leader	BJ Saul
Financial	Yale Bogen
Fundraising	BJ Saul
Membership	Bob Fishman
Social Action	BJ Saul, Alice Wujciak
Social Activities	Allen Gorrelick Elaine Steinberg Judi Lemoine
Website	BJ Saul
Newsletter	Vacancy
Communication	Vacancy

February Simchas

February			<u>Contribute to CBA</u>
	Carole Tilkin	2	<p>CBA appreciates the generous donations by Bob and Susie Citrin and Phyllis Leviton.</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>
	Diana Parson	3	
	Richard Parson	4	
	Rosette Rubins	27	



Nizkor

CBA remembers BJ Saul's father Victor Finegold, Richard Parson's grandfather Abraham Parson, Shirley Shapiro's husband, Harris Shapiro.

CBA would like to remember your loved ones. Contact BJ, 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. Join the February 6th discussion as we discuss evolution in honor of Darwin's birthday February 12th. Part of the discussion will include the book *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari. It discusses human history from ancient origins to the modern era, focusing on how Homo sapiens came to dominate the planet through key revolutions: the Cognitive (language, myths, large-scale cooperation), Agricultural (settlements, "luxury trap"), and Scientific (technology, empire, capitalism, globalization).



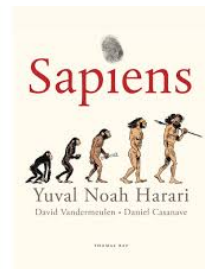
It is not necessary to have read the book. Come and enjoy friendships.

When: Join the February 6th Shabbat discussion at 7 PM

Where: member's home

Topic: "Evolution and book-Sapien by Yuval Noah Harari"

RSVP: www.bethadam.com, info@bethadam.com, 561-443-0618



Social Activity: Eat and Schmooze

Everyone had a great time at the January Eat and Schmooze at Burt and Max.

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 February 8

TIME: 11:30 AM

WHERE: Kingdom Buffet

240 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach

RSVP www.bethadam.com, info@bethadam.com, 561-443-1769



Nominations for 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. Call for Nominations CBA Board of Directors. CBA is looking for your participation and involvement. We are asking for nominations for our Board of Directors for the coming year July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027. You may nominate yourself or any other member of CBA. Please let the nominating committee know if you are interested in serving on the board. The board meets the 3rd Saturday of each month on Zoom to discuss important programming and events.

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.

PLEASE SUBMIT BY MARCH 10TH.

I would like to nominate: _____ to be placed on the CBA ballot. Nominated by: _____ . Please return to: CBA, PO Box 2579, Boca Raton, FL 33434

All members are encouraged to attend.

When: April 18

Time: 10:00 PM

Where: On Zoom (Zoom link will be sent to all members)

Celebrating Community Shabbat with Guest Speaker Helene Yentis

At the January Shabbat, CBA members and guests gathered to enjoy an informative and interactive program with guest speaker Helene Yentis as she discussed Jewish women Artists for Social Justice. Everyone was attentive and participating in the interactive program.



BJ with speaker Helene



Attendees were engaged



Moses and the burning bush



Good News to Share

Judi Lemoine shared that she had a great time with her family at Universal Studios and Disney World.

Celebrating with Mickey



Save the Date: Passover April 1

Join CBA for a Humanistic Passover Seder when we read from the Humanistic Haggadah, sing songs, drink wine, and have a delicious meal. Also discover why there are an orange and a potato on our Seder plate.

When: April 1st

Time: 5:30 PM

Where: South County Civic Center

Reservations Required: www.bethadam.com, info@bethadam.com 561-443-1769

More information coming soon. Everyone is welcome, CBA members and guests.



Death of a Troubadour

By Bruce Tannenbaum

It was a moment seared into my memory, branded in my brain; an event so catastrophic as anything I felt up to that point in my young life, which at that time was all of 22 years. It was pre-9-11, pre-pandemic, pre-Oct 7th, almost pre-everything. Follow??? Not quite, I guess. Let me back up a bit. I arrived at college bright-eyed and, as they say, bushy tailed. An 18-year-old ready to take on the world of education, social activities and above all, women. A boy thrust into the new world. All seemed good to me. I was situated in the basement of a cold dormitory, room number B8, last room at the end of the hall for which I was quite pleased. It was not ideal, but I was a freshman learning the ropes. One of my dorm mates was Bob Glass, a Jewish kid from Long Island, living in B2. He was far enough away from me, but still close enough for me to be agitated by the sounds of his stereo blasting folk music day and night. Can one truly blast folk music though? He was a sophomore and outranked me. I always knew when Bob was in his room. After a few months I began to recognize his artist of choice.

Phil Ochs was a singer-songwriter who majored in protest songs at a time of civil rights, segregation, and anti-Vietnam war, when the country's boiling point was at its zenith for peace and quality of life. His melodies were solid and his words were beautiful. He spoke with the poet's pride. His path on the road to anti-hero of the flower power generation began at the same time as Bob Dylan, the shaggy-haired nasal twang, skinny kid from Minnesota. In the clash between two heavyweight protest singers, I chose the skinny kid. So, out of B8 came the twangs of Dylan; every day, day and night. Our rooms became a barrage of who could play it louder. Give peace a chance? Not us.....I really disliked Bob Glass.

In 1975 Dylan's "Blood on the Tracks" was released. I played that sucker over and over. Bob played Ochs' "Tape From California." LOUD!!! Our competition sometimes turned nasty. "Ochs sucks" I would say in the men's bathrooms. "Dylan bites" was the retort. This banter went on all semester. Then we parted for summer break and a strange thing occurred. I started listening to Phil Ochs and felt an appreciation not felt at school. There was so much passion and stories in his writings, and before I knew it, I became a fan. Unbeknownst to me, over the summer, Bob was grooving to Dylan and became a fan. Unexplained to be sure, but we both realized that the messages through their music superseded the ignorance and foolishness we shared. When we returned for fall semester, Bob and I were best buds and spent many days talking about Phil and Bobby. We agreed to peaceably disagree, even as our love for the music endured.

Fast forward to one year later, April 9, 1976. Hanging out on an early spring Ulster County day in the dorm with friends, I was standing in the hallway of the building, when a guy named Gary came running down the hallway, huffing and puffing, almost out of breath. "Did you guys hear about Phil Ochs?" "No, we didn't", I replied. Gary went on to say that Phil Ochs committed suicide earlier in the day at his sister's home in Far Rockaway, New York. It made no sense. Why would this troubadour of the 60s stand on a chair with a rope around his neck and jump? Then as the days grew longer and spring turned to summer, it became clear—all too clear. Phil Ochs was a manic-depressive. He never escaped his fame, and when that ship sailed, he was landlocked. His was a voice with no message. When his voice deserted him in the early 70s, it was over. His purpose, his trials, his tribulations, his ship had sunk and eventually so did he. The last time I saw Phil Ochs he was the MC of a benefit concert in 1974. All the folkies were there, including Dylan, but they were all drunk and the drunkest of all was Ochs.

It was a sad ending to a brilliant mind. He was out of control for so long and everyone saw it coming. On that afternoon in Queens, the rope did not fail. Phil did. Mental illness did. But to forget Phil Ochs and his talent would be unfair to him. To ignore his patriotism and love of country would be cheating a man who gave every ounce of his being for as long as he could. For that we can ask no more, no less.

CONGREGATION BETH ADAM

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