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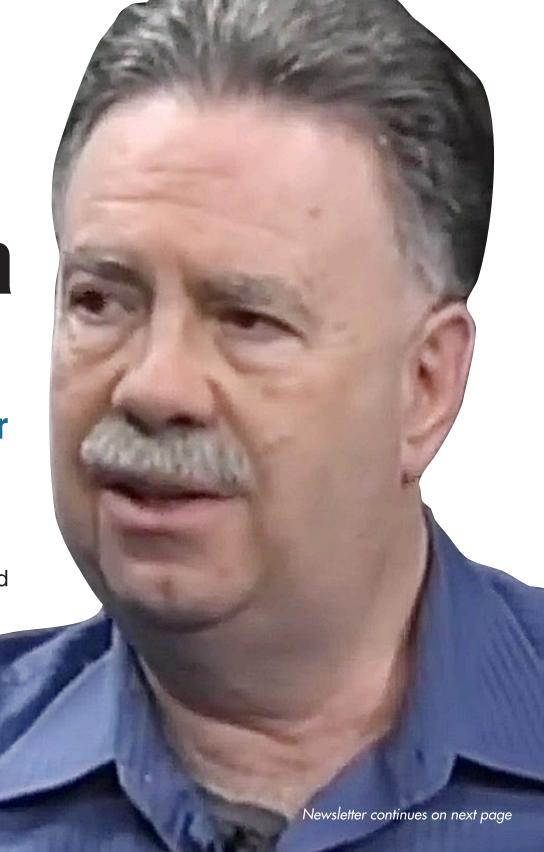




Humanistic Judaism in Minnesota

What is Humanistic Judaism? Why is there a congregation in Minnesota? How can you be a humanist and a Jew? Tune in on Sunday September 5th at 10am via Zoom and learn the answers!

Ilan Malkis is the current President of Or Emet. the MN Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. A retired researcher, Allan is originally from New York state but moved to Minnesota nearly 50 years ago to attend U of M graduate school, receiving an MA in Sociology. He has worked for a variety of non-profit organizations, for the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs and most recently for Ramsey County. Allan has been a member of Or Emet for over 30 years. He lives in Saint Paul with his spouse Diane Wanner and Sam & Ted, two pampered felines.









By Emma Goldberg • The New York Times

r. Epstein, 44, author of the book "Good Without God," is a seemingly unusual choice for the role. He will coordinate the activities of more than 40 university chaplains, who lead the Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and other religious communities on campus. Yet many Harvard students — some raised in families of faith, others never quite certain how to label their religious identities — attest to the influence that Mr. Epstein has had on their spiritual lives.

"There is a rising group of people who no longer identify with any religious tradition but still experience a real need for conversation and support around what it means to be a good human and live an ethical life," said Mr. Epstein, who was raised in a Jewish household and has been Harvard's humanist chaplain since 2005, teaching students about the progressive movement that centers people's relationships with one another instead of with God. To Mr. Epstein's fellow campus chaplains, at least, the notion of being led by an atheist is not as counterintuitive as it might sound; his election was unanimous.

The dozens of students whom Mr. Epstein mentors have found a source of meaning in the school's organization of humanists, atheists and agnostics, reflecting a broader trend of young people across the United States who increasingly identify as spiritual but religiously nonaffiliated. That trend might be especially salient at Harvard; a Harvard Crimson survey of the class of 2019 found that those students were two times more likely to identify as atheist or agnostic than 18-year-olds in the general population.

"We don't look to a god for answers," Mr. Epstein said. "We are each other's answers."

