

36 Years: To Life!
Congregation Or Chadash
Gala 2012



*Honoring past President Robin Sampliner,
long time member Howard Aronson,
and Senior Vice-President at
Northern Trust John McGowan*

*Please join us as we celebrate our thirty-six years' commitment as the first synagogue to provide a vibrant,
diverse and supportive community for Chicago-area Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews.*

Congregation Or Chadash
cordially invites you to our annual benefit celebrating our 36 years

Saturday, February 25, 2012

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:30 p.m. Dinner

Ballroom at the Embassy Suites
511 N. Columbus Dr., Chicago, IL 60611

Please reply by February 20, 2012.

Black Tie Optional ☆ Dinner ☆ Dancing ☆ Cash Bar ☆ Silent Auction

Our Honorees, briefly

We honor **Robin Sampliner**, past-president of Congregation Or Chadash and congregational member for 7 years. She came to OC after seeing the congregation in the annual Pride Parade. (Participation in the community does pay off!) Robin began her illustrious career at OC as the Social Action Chair, planning congregational and community events that helped her direct a commitment to and passion for philanthropy and charitable causes. From 2008-2010, Robin served as Co-President of the congregation. When she was elected Co-President in May 2008, she was traveling in Israel on a social action mission with the Union for Reform Judaism. At that time, she was serving as the Social Action Chair for the Great Lakes Council Region of the URJ. Robin has enjoyed participating in a number of activities at OC, from Friday night service leading to Night Ministry sandwich making to managing the silent auction spreadsheet to meeting new members to finding out how other members would like to be involved. Her enthusiasm is often infectious! She planned the annual gala in 2008, served on the gala committee in subsequent years, and helped contribute to the success of several silent auction committees. Robin has also been involved with the Education and Ritual Committees. Robin works in Mt. Prospect for The Monroe Group Inc. When not at work or the synagogue, she enjoys hanging out at the Chicago Botanic Garden, walking, going to the gym, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Another member of our congregation who has contributed significantly to our growth is **Howard Aronson**. Howie was born in Chicago and is a retired professor from the University of Chicago, where he taught in the Departments of Slavic Languages and Literatures and of Linguistics, and served at different times as chair of both departments. He was also a member of the University of Chicago's Committee on Jewish Studies. He was an early member of Congregation Or Chadash (1976) and rejoined in 1997. In 1976 Howie was the editor of the first Congregation Or Chadash newsletter. After his return he served at various times as chair of the Education and Ritual Committees, and has taught numerous courses, including Yiddish, Jewish sects, Kafka's parables, the Dybbuk, and the Golem, among others. He played a role in organizing the monthly Shabbat morning service, where, despite his total inability to carry a tune, he often leads the Musaf service. He has been partnered with Ed Dickson since 1975.

John McGowan is a Senior Vice President and the National Practice Leader of the LGBT and Non-Traditional Families Practice at Northern Trust, a unique program in the banking industry designed to meet the distinct financial needs of this special community. Mr. McGowan, who is openly gay and a 25-year veteran of the financial services industry, is proud to serve in this capacity and also proud of Northern Trust's broader support of the LGBT community, which includes commitments to Howard Brown, Lambda Legal, and the Center on Halsted, and a 14-year history of providing benefits to same sex partners. Mr. McGowan is also an active Board Member of the Lookingglass Theater and has been instrumental in establishing a relationship between that organization and Congregation Or Chadash.