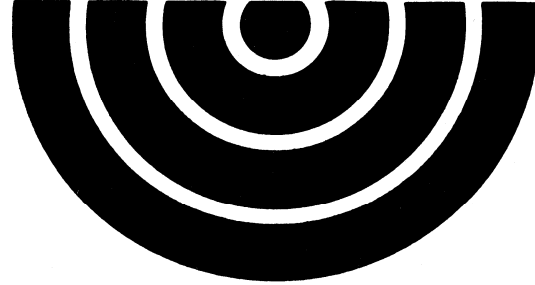


ק ה י ל ת א ו ר ח ד ש
CONGREGATION OR CHADASH
CONGREGATION OF NEW LIGHT



The New Light

By Howard Wax, OC Co-President

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The monthly publication for
the community of

**Or Chadash,
The Congregation of
New Light**

In Chicago

**Come Add
Your Light
To Ours!**

As many of you are no doubt aware, Or Chadash's Annual Gala Dinner is right around the corner.

This year, we will be honoring Stephen Weiser and Andrew Deppe. Among his many Or Chadash activities, Stephen served on the Board from 1999 to 2006 and was co-president from 2003-2005. Stephen could not have taken on these activities without Andrew's enthusiastic support of their Jewish home and life together. In addition, Andrew has participated in many of Or Chadash's social action activities and has helped with grant writing and development efforts.

The Gala Dinner will be held on Saturday

evening, March 15th, 2008, and there will be an Israeli theme to the evening. This year's Gala Chairperson is Robin Sampliner.

The festivities will begin at 6:30 PM to allow plenty of time for shopping at the silent auction, for dancing (Israeli and other dancing) and for tasting Israeli wines. So please don't forget to put on your dancing shoes, and please don't forget to bring your wallets! And there will also be plenty of time to "schmooze".

The evening is black-tie optional. I always enjoy dressing up (although, as I have said before and especially mean this year, I honestly don't know if I will be able to fit into my tux this year). I

Cycles of Our Lives

Happy Birthday:

March 1 Ethel Meyer
March 2 Anne Parsons
March 5 Howard I. Aronson
March 13 Jehuda Jacobi
March 15 Sylvia Porter
March 18 Leah Neaderthal
March 22 Frances Nathanson
March 23 Russell Swirin
March 24 Sarah and Marcus
Wax-Pooley
March 29 Susan Jacobson

Thanks for the Oneg....

March 1: Lunch sponsored by Ethel Meyer in honor of her birthday

March 7: Oneg still available for sponsorship

March 14: Oneg sponsored by Howard Wax and Rob Pooley in honor of Sarah's and Marcus' birthday

March 21: Oneg still available for sponsorship

March 28: Oneg still available for sponsorship

March Service Schedule

March 1: Saturday morning service, 10 a.m. A light lunch follows.

March 7: Shabbat service with Rabbi Larry Edwards and Judith Golden, 8 p.m.

March 14: Torah service with Stephen Weiser and Andrew Deppe, 8 p.m.

March 20: Purim service, 8 p.m.

March 21: Shabbat service with Rabbi Larry Edwards, 8 p.m.

March 28: Shabbos Tisch Service (potluck), 8 p.m. Please bring a kosher style side dish (no pork or shellfish, no mixing of meat and milk) or dessert to share.

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also enjoy seeing other people dressed to the nines. But again, it is black-tie optional, with emphasis on "optional", so please feel free to wear whatever you would like.

I hope that you will all attend the Gala. Not only is it a super-fun event, it is also a fundraiser for the Congregation.

If you have not RSVPed yet but would like to attend the Gala, please let Robin Sampliner know. [Click here](#) to send a message to Robin or call 773-271-2148. Thanks very much!

Queer Exclusions

Please join us on Thursday, March 27th, as members of Or Chadash attend the Chicago History Museum's presentation "Queer Exclusions: Sexuality and U.S. Citizenship". This program is part of their Out at CHM series. "Today's increasingly divisive debates about immigration tend to ignore the role of sexuality. Cultural historian **Siobhan Somerville** explores how lesbians and gay men have navigated U.S. immigration and citizenship laws as well as how these policies have actively "queered" some migrants, regardless of their actual sexual orientation." -- from the ChicagoHistory.org website
The museum is at 1601 N. Clark St., just north of North Avenue. Cocktail hour is at 5:30, and the

program is at 6:30, with a reception/party following the program.

CHM has been running this series for several years and the presentations are always interesting. The May 8th program will be about Transgender Activism. Tickets are \$12 (\$10 for members and students). Reserve your ticket by calling the Museum (312) 642-4600 or ordering online. Many programs are sold out, so get your tickets early.

For more information, contact Marvin Levin at marvin@SPMail.biz or (773) 274-7627.

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Webmaster: Marvin Levin

Rabbi Edwards is available by appointment and can be reached via email:

*rabbiedwards@orchadash.org
or phone (773) 326-1490*

Thanks for the Donation!

Thank you to Sara Fischer for her Sandfield Challenge Grant donation.

UPTOWN CAFÉ

Thank you to the volunteers who donated time at the café in January and February. Guess what, we have another shift coming up on **Monday, April 7th, 5:30-7:30** for dinner. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Robin Sampliner. [Click here](#) to send a message to Robin. Four volunteers are needed.

GALA UPDATE

WOW! The gala is almost here. By the time you read this, last minute preparations will be happening. Silent auction donations will have been made, the programs will be printed, speeches will be written, seating charts arranged, and I might have a few more hairs left in my head to pull out! This has been an amazing experience. And a learning experience.

Thank you to all who have made donations to the gala in the form of money, goods, services and your valuable time. And a very big thank you to Beth for listening to my gala stories these past couple of months.

I am looking forward to spending the evening of March 15th with you all, and celebrating Stephen and Andrew's many contributions to Or Chadash.

MAOT CHITIM

We will be volunteering again to make food basket deliveries with Maot Chitim on Sunday, April 13th. It's a great feeling to make someone else's holiday special. Join Or Chadash, perform a mitzvah, and put a smile on someone's face.

when we deliver Passover holiday baskets to people in the 6400 N. Sheridan building. Please arrive by 8:15. If you have a dolly, please bring it as that will help in getting boxes to the different floors.

[Click here](#) to send an e-mail to Robin Sampliner if you are interested in joining the group. For those that are interested, we will go out for brunch afterwards.

Visions of Kerouac

Or Chadash will be going to see *Visions of Kerouac*, a play by Martin Duberman (a groundbreaking scholar of GLBT, American history) directed by David Zak, artistic director of Bailiwick Theatre. The play brings Jack Kerouac's life to the stage through his relationships with the Beat Generation and many of the preeminent artists of his time.

The performance will take place on Sunday, April 13th at 2:00pm at Roosevelt University's O'Malley Theatre, 431 S. Wabash, 7th floor. Although tickets are at no charge (thanks to special arrangements with Roosevelt University's Theatre Conservatory), they must be reserved in advance no later than Sunday, April 6th. To reserve tickets, please leave a message on the hotline (773-271-2148) or [click here](#) to send e-mail to Rick Greenthal.

Prior to the performance, we will be meeting for lunch at the Exchequer Pub, 226 S. Wabash at 12:15pm. (Reservations aren't needed for lunch, although please let us know if you think you will be coming, so we can reserve a large enough table).

ONEG SPONSORSHIP

Celebrate a birthday, graduation or anniversary, or honor/memorialize a loved one with an oneg sponsorship. Please contact the Or Chadash office at office@orchadash.org to make arrangements and pick a date. Thank you!

Purim is almost here — March 20!

Or Chadash will be celebrating Purim on the evening of Thursday, March 20. We will begin with the Megillah reading at 8 p.m., then follow up with this year's Purim Shpiel, "The Girl from P.U.R.I.M."—a salute to Queen Esther, foxy secret agents, seventies sitcoms, heavy leather and, of course, really tortured logic. You can look forward to refreshments and hamantaschen after. Be sure to wear a costume! For more information, contact Matt Simonette. [Click here](#) to send Matt e-mail.

March Dine-around

The March dine-around will be at Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon Ave. on Friday, March 14, at 6:15 p.m. No reservations are needed, but try to arrive by 6 p.m. to ensure adequate seating.

Our Mission

To provide a warm and affirming community where all Jews can feel welcome. To accomplish this mission, Or Chadash will:

Remember that it was founded as an answer to the prejudice that gay and lesbian Jews experienced in other synagogues;

Strive to ensure that no Jew experiences prejudice within our community;

Maintain affiliations with the Union for Reform Judaism and the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations;

Build strong ties within the greater Jewish community of the metropolitan Chicago area;

Dedicate itself to the basic obligations of Jewish life, including:

- **Respecting** the contributions of people of all generations
- **Sharing** the life-cycle events of its members
- **Celebrating** Shabbat and the holidays
- **Fostering** prayer with sincerity
- **Visiting** the sick
- **Comforting** the bereaved
- **Encouraging** the study of Torah

Congregation Or Chadash is a not-for-profit organization that is largely supported by contributions from its members and friends. Please remember us generously.

“Look at My Works!”

By Rabbi Laurence Edwards

“Look at My works! See how beautiful they are – how excellent! For your sake I created them all. See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world, for if you do there will be no one after you to repair it.”

These words are attributed to God, while showing the human being around the Garden. This midrash is one of the classic rabbinic statements to which Jewish environmentalists are fond of pointing. From Genesis we derive the understanding that we are creatures. The Psalms tell us that the earth belongs to God. Leviticus prescribes rest for the land one year in seven. A verse in Deuteronomy is the source for the prohibition of wastefulness.

Was there, perhaps, an ecological consciousness already in biblical times?

A famous article by Lynn White, Jr. (1967) accused the “Judeo-Christian” tradition of responsibility for the West’s destructive attitude toward the natural world, and many people still have that impression. The main culprit is the verse that puts the human in charge of the other creatures: in Genesis 1:28, in contrast to our lead midrash, God says, “Be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it; and rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and all the living things that creep on the earth.”

A verse or two, or five, cannot be responsible for ecological ruin. Nor can a handful of verses prove that

biblical Israel was a nation of olive tree-hugging environmentalists.

We have all become conscious of ecological issues. As Jews, we seek to bring current concerns into conversation with the rich sources of our tradition. That is why several people requested a class on this subject.

There are still five more Sunday mornings (March 2, 9, 30, April 6, 13) to join in studying some of the Jewish sources that pertain to our obligation to protect the created world. Topics include biblical sources, *bal tashchit* (prohibition of wastefulness), sabbatical year and jubilee, *eco-kashrut*, and *tza’ar ba’alei chayyim* (prohibition of cruelty to animals).

The class offers the opportunity to consider some of the ways in which the sources and teachings of Judaism can inform our emerging global consciousness, and how our performance of mitzvot continues to point us in the direction of holiness that is rooted in relationship – with God, with one another, with our fellow beings who share this world with us, and with the planet itself.