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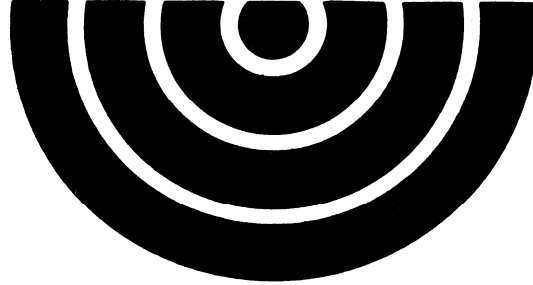
The monthly publication for  
the community of

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

In Chicago ....

**Come Add  
Your Light  
To Ours!**

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



# The New Light

***Don't Ever Forget***

***By Howard Wax, OC Co-President***

I spent my junior year of high school (1982-1983) in Fukuoka, Japan as an exchange student under the auspices of the American Field Service. I lived with the Goto family and attended Seinan Gakuin Kotogakko, an all-boys high school. We wore black uniforms to school. I was the subject of a lot of attention on my way to and from school each day, as there were very few Westerners in Fukuoka, and none who would have been wearing a Japanese school uniform.

One day we were all brought into the school auditorium for a film about the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Nagasaki, not far from Fukuoka, is a place that I had visited). Sitting there, just one among the many, I feared

for my safety. I was an American, and I didn't know if I would get beaten up after school for my country's actions during World War II.

But as I looked around, I noticed that most of my schoolmates were sleeping (Japanese people have the ability to sleep anywhere, even while standing up on the subway train). After school, no one beat me up, no one approached me, no one asked me anything, no one looked at me funny. So I asked some of them what they thought about the film. They said that they had seen similar films throughout their youth and were bored with the subject matter.

As a Jew in America, I had been raised with the

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importance of remembering the Holocaust. I wondered why Japanese youth were seemingly trying to forget the atrocities of the nuclear bombings.

Japanese youth seemed to idolize America. American films, musicians, athletes, etc.—so-called “American culture”—were very popular.

And while I am all for forgiving and moving on, I also think that it is important to remember. To forgive is not to forget. So I don't hold Germans of my generation (or the next generations) accountable for the Holocaust. I will, however, remember the Holocaust, and will teach my children the importance of remembering the Holocaust.

This year, Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) is on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please don't forget.

## OC Goes to the CSO

We are trying to get a group together to see “THOMASHEFSKYS – Music & Memories of the Yiddish Theater” at Symphony Center on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 3 PM.

San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas will re-create the lives and times of his grandparents Boris and Bessie Thomashefsky, two giants of

American Yiddish theater. This engaging tribute presentation tells the story of this fascinating couple through songs, excerpts from their autobiographies and plays, recordings, images from the family photo album, and Thomas' own personal anecdotes.

If we get a group of 10 or more together to attend the show, we can get a group discount. Main floor tickets about 2/3 of the way back from the stage, normally \$45, would be \$35. A meal at a nearby restaurant for either before or after the show will also be arranged. If you are interested, please send an email to [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org) with “CSO Outing” in the subject line.

## Uptown Café— Volunteers Needed!

Once again we will be working a shift at the Uptown Café. On Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-7:30 we will be serving dinner. Four volunteers are needed. This is a wonderful opportunity to perform a mitzvah. Are you intimidated by the thought of serving food to others, afraid you might spill something? Don't be! Hey, if I can do it, anyone can! And the clients are very appreciative of our help. Contact Robin

Sampliner at [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org) or call the OC office if you are interested in volunteering.

## Hospitality Volunteers Needed

A team of volunteers are needed to help set up before services on the last Friday of the month (Shabbat Tisch service) and the first Saturday of the month (Saturday morning service).

What this opportunity entails is arriving 30-45 minutes early, getting the supplies from the Or Chadash closet behind the chapel and setting up the supplies in the Dannenberg Room and cleaning up afterwards. You would be given instructions on where everything is and how it is to be set up.

It would be a great opportunity to help out the synagogue. **You can sign up as a team with a buddy.** You would be called upon to volunteer once or twice a year.

Please email Robin Sampliner at [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org) or call the Or Chadash office if you are interested in volunteering.

## Cycles of Our Lives

### Happy Birthday:

May 2	Reuben Lewy
May 6	Rabbi Edwards
May 8	Beth Snyder
May 10	Susan Lee Mazer
May 13	Susan Boone
May 17	Tamar Carmel
May 23	Sara Fischer
May 24	Michael Helfgott
May 29	Roger Pines
May 30	Joel Berger

### Happy Anniversary

May 4	Martha Fourt and Patricia J. Benjamin
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### Thanks for the Oneg....

**May 2:** Martha Fourt and Pat Benjamin in honor of their anniversary

**May 3:** Rabbi Larry Edwards and Susan Boone in honor of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday

**May 9:** Or Chadash Board in honor of Rabbi Larry Edwards' 60th birthday and Susan Boone's birthday

**May 16:** Joanna Cohan in honor of Steve Weiser and Andrew Deppe

**May 23:** Leonard Pal in memory of his mother, on her 10th Yahrzeit

**May 30:** Daniel Amati in honor of his conversion

### May Service Schedule

**May 2:** Shabbat service with Barry Weinstein and Reuben Lewy, 8 p.m.

**May 3:** Saturday morning service, 10 a.m. A light lunch follows.

**May 9:** Torah service with Rabbi Edwards and Judith Golden, 8 p.m.

**May 16:** Shabbat service with Carol Goldbaum and Judith Golden, 8 p.m.

**May 23:** Shabbat service with Rabbi Edwards, 8 p.m.

**May 30:** Shabbos Tisch Service (potluck) with Stephanie Friedman, 8 p.m. Please bring a kosher style side dish (no pork or shellfish, no mixing of meat and milk) or dessert to share.

## May Dine-around

The May dine-around will be at Flourish Bakery Café, 1138 W. Bryn Mawr, on May 9 at 6:15 p.m. No reservations are needed, but try to arrive by 6 p.m. to ensure adequate seating.

## TZEDAKAH COLLECTION

We will still collect your tzedakah boxes at the beginning of May. **The beneficiary is Seeds of Peace.** Founded in 1993, Seeds of Peace is dedicated to empowering young leaders from regions of conflict with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation and coexistence.

Growing from 46 Israeli, Palestinian and Egyptian teenagers in 1993, the organization still focuses on the Middle East but has expanded its programming to include young leaders from South Asia, Cyprus and the Balkans. Its leadership network now encompasses over 3,500 young people from several conflict regions.

The Seeds of Peace internationally recognized program model begins at the International Camp in Maine and continues through follow-up programming with international youth conferences, regional workshops, educational and professional opportunities, and an adult educator program. This comprehensive system allows participants to develop empathy, respect, and confidence as well as leadership, communication and negotiation skills — all critical components that will facilitate peaceful coexistence for the next generation.

## Congregation Or Chadash

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Executive VP: Robin Sampliner  
Treasurer: Rick Greenthal  
Webmaster: Steven Joachim

*Rabbi Edwards is available by appointment and can be reached via email: [rabbiedwards@orchadash.org](mailto:rabbiedwards@orchadash.org) or phone (773) 326-1490*

## Workshop for New Service Leaders

Now is your chance to learn about our services. We will have our annual Service Leaders Training on three Sundays from 10-12 at Emanuel as follows:

May 18: Friday night service, understanding the liturgy  
June 1: Songs and chants of the Friday night service  
June 15: Preparing and giving a D'var Torah

It is best to attend all three, though not a requirement. For more information email Carol at [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org) or Larry at [rabbiedwards@orchadash.org](mailto:rabbiedwards@orchadash.org) to let us know of your interest. You do not have to lead services to attend the workshops. The Saturday morning minyan is studying sections of the service after lunch at each service. Please join us for service, lunch and/or study.

## **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](mailto:office@orchadash.org) to make arrangements and pick a date. Thank you!

### **Thanks for the donation!**

Thank you for the donations from the following individuals: A donation from Susan Mazer and Jan Norton in memory of Dorothy Mazer's yahrzeit. A donation from Yehuda Jacobi and Mike Simon in memory of Yehuda's mother, Rose Pelletier.

## **A Trip to Springfield**

On April 9th, I had the privilege of joining four other members of Or Chadash for Lobby Day in Springfield: **Carol Goldbaum, Laurel Grauer, Elana Jacobs** and **Matt Simonette**. We boarded buses at 7 a.m. at the Center on Halsted, enjoyed box breakfasts from The Hearty Boys, and rode down to Springfield. There we had an early lunch and an explanation of the lobbying process. We then proceeded to the Capitol building to meet our local legislators.

For me, the task was simply to thank my Senator and Congressman for their support on the Civil Unions Act now up for consideration. For others, the task was to convince them to support the bill. In all, there were 180 participants -- three busloads -- for this Lobby Day, and we've been told we made quite an impression by

the number of people who turned out for this event.

Because the House was currently in session, we went to the lobby outside the entrance and gave our names to one of the people at the doorway. Messages were carried inside and each of our congressional legislators came out of the session to chat with us. Several other groups were doing the same and it was quite a show. For Senators, the process was easier as they were not in session and we could just go to their offices.

Special thanks to Carol for converting me and two friends from "lobby virgins" into experienced lobbyists.

— Marvin Levin

## **Game Night May 10**

We will be holding a game night on Saturday, May 10, beginning at 7 p.m., at the home of Gary Liss in Edgewater. For directions and/or information, see Gary or Matt Simonette, or email the Or Chadash office at [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org). We will be ordering pizza and ask that you contribute \$10 to cover the cost. Feel free to bring along any other snacks or drinks you like.



**Author Evan  
Fallenberg to visit  
OC Shabbat  
services May 23**



Evan, a Cleveland native, is the author of the “provocative” new novel, *Light Fell*, and translator of *Beaufort* (the best-selling Israeli novel on which the Oscar-nominated film was based), and of the widely-acclaimed novel *A Pigeon and a Boy* by Meir Shalev, and of one of Batya Gur’s terrific murder mysteries. He lives in Israel and is the father of two sons. Evan is a graduate of Georgetown University and of the MFA Writing program at Vermont College. That’s where Stephanie Friedman met him – and she recommends him highly!

Fallenberg recently translated Meir Shalev’s *A Pigeon and a Boy*, a book people “read as slowly as possible (because they don’t want it to end.”

“People just melt when they hear I’ve translated (Shalev),” he admits happily.

Shalev’s writing “threw me (some) curves,” Fallenberg recalls with relish. In one instance, he encountered an expression that meant “a paragon of virtue.” But in Hebrew the words also contained food imagery. Fallenberg translated the phrase as “a tarragon of virtue.”

“When those things happen, it feels great,” he beams. (*Cleveland Jewish News*)

Evan’s other Chicago appearance will be at Barbara’s Bookstore, 1100 Lake Street, Oak Park, on Thursday, May 22, 2008, 7:30pm.

***Light Fell—A  
Synopsis***

The sumptuous meal Joseph Licht prepares in his Tel Aviv beachfront penthouse is even better organized than his customary elegant dinner parties, but then his guests are more special than usual: in honor of his own fiftieth birthday, Joseph will host his five grown sons and his new daughter-in-law for the entire Sabbath. It is the first time the family will

be reunited in twenty years, since the day Joseph left behind his entire life – wife Rebecca, sons, father, the religious moshav where he grew up – in favor of a riveting affair with his soulmate, illui Yoel Rosenzweig, the genius rabbi of his generation. Their love affair has long since ended, but its echoes reverberate over twenty years and into the lives of Joseph, Rebecca, and their sons in ways none of them could have predicted. In this novel of desire and need, of choices and consequences, no one is unaffected.

**Save the Date:  
Shabbat on the  
Shore, June 13**

Please join us Friday, June 13 when we hold our Shabbat service on the beach just outside Emanuel, beginning at 8 p.m. Please bring something comfortable to sit on, such as a blanket or beach chair. A flashlight will also be helpful for reading. If the weather does not cooperate, we will hold services in Stonewall Chapel.

## 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.

## The Essence of Passover

By Rabbi Laurence Edwards

You might think that the climax of the story of Pesach is entering the Promised Land. However, as we have noted before, the Torah itself ends on the other side of the Jordan, before crossing over, and Moses (who is barely mentioned in the Haggadah) dies without realizing the fulfillment of his mission. The Book of Joshua is included in the Tanakh, of course, but how often do we read the Book of Joshua?

On Pesach, God reaches out to us and gives us that “Come hither” look. So we follow, into the wilderness. The “hither” to which we come is Sinai. The reward of following is the gift of Torah, which we receive on Shavuot. That is our love letter from God, our Ketubah. To celebrate Pesach while forgetting Shavuot is to miss the point.

The essence of Pesach arrives with the giving and receiving of the Torah. Liberation is fine, important, indispensable. Following God into the wilderness is an act of love and faith and hope. The linkage of Pesach and Shavuot tells us that freedom is not enough: love means obligation.

Counting the Omer, each night for seven weeks (beginning on the second night of Pesach) is how we ritualize the connection, and maintain our awareness of the goal of Passover.

My friend, Rabbi David Seidenberg, has posted a device to help you count the Omer. By the time you read this newsletter, we’ll already be partway through the counting, but take a look anyway. Prepare for next year!

<http://neohasid.org/resources/omer/>

And mark your calendar now for the Tikkun Leyl Shavuot for the Kehilla communities of the North Side. It will take place this year at Anshe Emet, on Sunday night, June 8.

