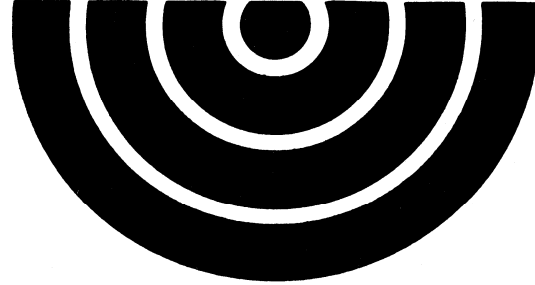


ק ה י ל ת א ו ר ח ד ש
CONGREGATION OR CHADASH
CONGREGATION OF NEW LIGHT



The New Light

A Season of Transition
By Marvin Levin, OC Co-President

It's hard to believe that my first year as Co-President of the congregation has ended. At our annual meeting and dinner on May 16th, a new slate of officers was elected:

Marvin Levin and **Robin Sampliner**, Co-Presidents; **Bill Wahler**, Vice-President; **Rick Greenthal**, Treasurer; **Maryl Rosen**, Secretary; **Howard Wax**, Past President; **Carol Goldbaum**, Director of Ritual; **Susan Jacobson**, Director of Membership; **Mike Simon**, Director of Development; **Ethel Meyer**, Director of Communication; **Mindy Stillman**, Director of Social Action; and **Sara Fischer**, Member-at-Large.

We also welcomed **Martha Fourt** who, while not a Board member, will chair the Education Committee. It's great to see the leadership ranks of Or Chadash grow. And at services that evening the chapel was full. I referred to it as a "wall-hugging" crowd because when we joined in a circle for Kiddush and Motzi after the service, we were able to fill the entire perimeter of the chapel.

On Friday evening, June 20th,

the new Board was officially installed. I cannot end this year without thanking Howard and Susan for their help and guidance, Rabbi Edwards for his support, Judith Golden for her musical inspiration and all the other Board members who made this a challenging and exciting year. To Matt, John and Rich, retiring Board members, thanks for your hard work and help this past year.

Now is a time of transitions. A new Board will be set into action, we've finished the Book of Leviticus and started to read from the Book of Numbers, our last-Friday-of-the-month potluck has a new format, spring has turned into summer and same-sex couples can get married in California.

In my first President's column last July, I said that a goal of mine was to know as many members of Or Chadash as possible. I've tried to achieve that goal and have had the pleasure of meeting many of you. I listed other goals: making Or Chadash a welcoming place, encouraging

Pres. Article...Cont'd Pg. 2

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

In Chicago

**Come Add
Your Light
To Ours!**

other members to become involved and to improve communication. I'd like to believe I've made strides in those goals. Many visitors or new members have specifically commented on how welcome they felt the first time they came to Or Chadash. Much of the credit for that goes to each of you, and I send a great big Thank You to you all. It does seem as if more people are participating. And we've made strides in keeping our website, www.OrChadash.org, up to date. We're also instituting a new policy of giving members the option of receiving their monthly newsletter via email. Under the leadership of Carol Goldbaum and Robin Sampliner we undertook to contact every member of the congregation to ask them what they want from us.

In the coming year, if there is something you want to say, I urge you to contact me. I cannot guarantee that every request can be fulfilled but I can guarantee we will listen to you.

I'm looking forward to working with the new Board, especially with Robin as my new Co-President and Bill Wahler as our new Vice President. May we, and all of you, go from strength to strength in the coming year.

Looking Back at 2007-2008

By Howard Wax

Thanks to our members and thanks to the Board for making our 2007-2008 year so successful!

We continue to do what we do, which is a tremendous amount for a small congregation. We hold services every Friday night

and the first Saturday of every month. There are two Torah services, one pot luck dinner and one dine-around per month. In addition to Shabbat services, we offer holiday services, parties and events throughout the year. We organize at least one social event per month. We provide an active Adult Education program. We serve the community through social action outreach. We're a contributing member of URJ, the Union for Reform Judaism. We had a presence at Halsted Market Days, the Greater Chicago Jewish Folk Arts Festival, and the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. We also had a very successful and very fun annual gala dinner this year.

Our professional staff consists of Rabbi Larry Edwards, our cantorial soloist Judith Golden and our administrative assistant Lynn Young.

Our congregation congregates at Emanuel where we have space to pray, to study, to meet and, of course, to eat.

In early 2007, we did a survey/inventory of our members. This year we analyzed the results and implemented some of the ideas which our members suggested.

The congregation is celebrating its 33rd anniversary this year. Thanks for helping to make it a great year. We are looking forward to another successful year 2008-2009.

Vice Presidential 2007-2008 review

By Robin Sampliner

Thank you to all who volunteered to be ushers at the various High Holiday services. OC congregants really stepped up to help make the services run smoothly.

The 2008 Gala honoring Stephen Weiser and Andrew Deppe was a HUGE success. Thank you to all that attended the gala, helped put it together, donated items to the silent auction, and listened to me go on and on about the event. There were 88 attendees at the gala. We ate Israeli food, drank Israeli wine, tried out Israeli dancing, honored two wonderful Or Chadash congregants, spent money on silent auction items, saw old friends, celebrated anniversaries, danced the night away and had a good ole time. Thank you to the congregation for completing the challenge of matching Norman Sandfield's grant. And thank you to Howard Wax and Rob Pooley for challenging us again with another grant.

With the help of the attendees, donations made and sales at the silent auction, over \$13,000 was made for Or Chadash that night. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I look forward to the 2009 gala and celebrating Or Chadash again!

Social Action Committee 2007-2008 review

By Robin Sampliner

The past year has been a good one for the Social Action committee. We were involved in different projects throughout the year.

We worked to clean up the grounds at the Jewish Graceland Cemetery (August and September); took part in the Maot Chitim food

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Matt Simonette, Yakov Neiditch, Jay Gelles, Robin Sampliner, Mindy Stillman, Bill Wahler, Bob Rosenstein, Rabbi Edwards, Jerry Bloomershine, Marvin Levin, Beth Snyder. (not pictured: Rich Bender, Sara Fischer, Rick Greenthal, Frank Nussbaum)

O.C. at the Chicago 2008 Gay Pride Parade

By Marvin Levin

Sunday, June 29th, was the Pride Parade and Or Chadash's entry drew a lot of attention from the crowd. Driving a Smart Car instead of a pickup truck made quite a difference. Many thanks to **Tom O'Brien** for the use of his car.

We gathered at the synagogue to assemble the menorah which would be the main part of the entry. Many thanks to **Jerry Bloomershine, Sara Fischer, Laurie Grauer, Marvin Levin, Ethel Meyer, Robin**

Sampliner, Mindy Stillman and **Bill Wahler** for their early morning help. Then everything got loaded into the car and driven to the line-up point. As people arrived, we put the menorah atop the car and decorated it with flags and signs.

The parade was scheduled to kick off at noon and we waited for our turn to pull out. Finally at 1:30 we pulled into the street and started out - about 4 blocks away from Belmont and the official starting point. And then we all stopped. The parade

marshalls relayed information that someone had been run over. Monday's news reported a dancer had fallen off a float and broken a leg.

Whatever the reason, everything stood still for about an hour - except for the weather. The beautiful day suddenly turned windy and it began to rain. But rain never stopped a Pride Parade.

Eventually the fifteen members of Or Chadash [see photo] took off. One non-member, **Julie Valloni**, also marched with us. Later, as the groups they were marching with finished,

Continued on Page 4

Parade, from Pg. 3

Reuben Lewy and **David Morck** came back to join us.

By 4:30 when we reached the end of the route, we were all soggy [except for Marvin who kept dry in the driver's seat of the car] and tired group - but we all had a very special experience.

Social Action, from Pg. 2

deliveries (September and April); Walked and ran in the AIDS Walk/Run (September); viewed the film "Freeheld" at Center on Halsted (April); and participated in the Walk for Israel on the lakefront (May).

We also volunteered at the Uptown Café throughout the year on 5 different occasions. Some of us are becoming pros!

Tzedakah was collected for the following recipients: Israeli Religious Action Center, Lambda Legal and Seeds of Peace.

We came to the call of our congregants when they were ill, needed our help around the house, or help moving to a new apartment.

All in all, I'd say it was a pretty good year!

If you love to sing, come sing with us!

If you are an Or Chadash member and you are interested in being an Or Chadash Choir member, please contact Judith Golden at jaugolden@aol.com. You are welcome to talk to her, even if you aren't sure whether or not you want to join the choir. There will be six rehearsals, probably on Sunday afternoons, between Aug. 24 and Oct. 5. Schedule will be finalized based on choir member availability.



Education Review

By Martha Fourt

Education programming for 5769 will build on several successes from last year, and add a new "Shabbaton" weekend of services, classes and speakers. Watch for more programs on Jewish and GLBT life planning (including end-of-life planning), in its legal, financial, ceremonial and emotional aspects. We'll enjoy movie nights, more guest speakers at services, and of course classes, including a "Part 2" of last year's well-received "History of Zionism".

We've studied Talmud before, but only its argumentative sections; this year we'll turn our focus to its wealth of narrative stories. For Hebrew scholars, we'll continue Biblical Hebrew classes; and those more advanced in Hebrew will learn Torah reading for services. Is Hebrew totally new for you? Then watch for our "crash course" on the Hebrew Aleph-Bet, the foundation for nearly all alphabets in use today.

Treasurer's Report

By Rick Greenthal

I am very happy to report that Or Chadash will be finishing its fourth fiscal year in a row in the black, and our Reserves have been replenished to a comfortable level. This, of course, is largely

the result of the Sandfield Challenge Grant, which, for the past three years, has generated \$52,000 in revenues. This past year we also enjoyed the most financially successful Gala ever, generating more than \$14,000 from the annual dinner and silent auction.

In the upcoming year we have a new challenge grant from Howard Wax and Rob Pooley. We need people to respond to this new challenge, in order to keep us in the black, since membership dues by themselves aren't enough to keep us out of the red.

Torah Reading Workshop

Or Chadash is offering a Torah Reading Workshop for people who know Hebrew and -- with some coaching -- would be able to learn to read Torah. The workshop will focus on reading, not chanting. The goal is to widen the pool of members who can serve as Torah readers during services.

If you are interested in participating please send a message to office@OrChadash.org, and we will get back to you. Plans are to schedule two-three sessions sometime during late July-early August.

Thanks to everyone who helped out at Or Chadash's booth at the Greater Chicago Jewish Festival June 15—Marvin Levin, Sara Fischer, Reuben Lewy, Mike Simon, Yehudah Jacobi, Laurie Grauer, Mindy Stillman and Robin Sampliner (and especially Marvin and Robin, who helped with set up and take down).

Susan Jacobson
Activity Coordinator

Cycles of Our Lives

Happy Birthday:

July 2	Allen R. Brown
July 3	Mindy Stillman
July 9	Patricia Benjamin
July 11	David Morck
July 12	Robert Rosenstein
July 21	Irwin Drobny
July 22	Carla Cenker
July 22	Ramona Hernandez-Perez
July 23	John Griffith
July 25	Gary Liss
July 27	Joseph P. Shure

Thanks for the Oneg....

July 4: Still available for sponsorship

July 5: Lunch sponsored by Linda Preston in memory of her husband, Tim Preston

July 11: Sponsored by Frank Nussbaum in memory of his father, Dettmar Nussbaum

July 18: Still available for sponsorship; Carla Cenker is making a donation in memory of her father, Hershel Cenker

July 25: Still available for sponsorship

July Service Schedule

July 4: Shabbat service with Rabbi Edwards and Sara Fischer, 8 p.m.

(Saturday): Saturday morning service, 10 a.m. A light lunch follows.

July 11: Torah service with Sara Fischer, Yehuda Jacobi and Judith Golden, 8 p.m.

July 18: Shabbat service with Rabbi Edwards and Judith Golden, 8 p.m.

July 25: Shabbat service with Sara Fischer and Mindy Stillman, 8 p.m. A potluck dinner precedes the service at 7 p.m. Please bring a kosher style side dish (no pork or shellfish, no mixing of meat and milk) or dessert to share.

July Dine-around

The July dine-around will be at That Little Mexican Café, 1055 W. Bryn Mawr, on July 11 at 6:15 p.m. No reservations are needed, but try to arrive by 6 p.m. to ensure adequate seating.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

By Robin Sampliner

Halsted Street Market Days is fast approaching. This year the event takes place on **August 9th and 10th** and we will need volunteers to man/woman the booth!

Volunteers are needed at the booth from 10 a.m. (set up) until 6 p.m. (take down) each day. We will always have at least two congregants in the booth at a time, so don't worry that you have to do this alone.

Please consider signing up for an hour or two on Saturday and/or Sunday. I will have a sign up sheet at Friday night services until the event, or until all the shifts are full. If you won't be at services, email me at office@OrChadash.org and let me know when you would like to volunteer.

UPTOWN CAFÉ SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD

We've got another shift at the Uptown Café. This time it's on a Sunday! We need 4 volunteers from 10:30am-12:30pm for the brunch shift.

Please email Robin Sampliner if you would like to volunteer:
office@OrChadash.org.

Congregation Or Chadash

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Chicago IL 60660
(773) 271-2148

Email: Office@OrChadash.org
Website: www.OrChadash.org

Rabbi: Laurence Edwards
Cantorial Soloist: Judith Golden

Co-Presidents:
Marvin Levin and Robin Sampliner
Executive VP: William Wahler
Treasurer: Rick Greenthal
Webmaster: Marvin Levin

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

July 18 Book Discussion and Dinner

We enjoyed hearing author Evan Fallenberg discuss his new gay novel, *Light Fell*, at services on May 23rd. Many of us have been inspired to read the book, about a gay Jewish man's family reunion in Tel Aviv with his former wife and adult sons. (For a longer synopsis, see the May Or Chadash newsletter.) For those who haven't yet read it, Rabbi Edwards still has several copies. It is also available at the Chicago Public Library and local bookstores, or can be ordered online from Women & Children First, Amazon and other sources.

We'll meet to eat and discuss the book before services on Friday, July 18th, at 6:15 at the Flourish Bakery Café, 1137 W. Bryn Mawr. The café is right by the Bryn Mawr stop on the Red Line, and parking is available after 6pm on Broadway. Please join us!

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.

Looking Ahead

By Rabbi Laurence Edwards

A new board has been installed, and the leadership of Or Chadash is still in very good hands. My thanks and congratulations to board members, old and new.

As I am sure you know—though it often goes on behind the scenes—board members work very hard on behalf of all of us for the well-being of our congregation. But it is not only the officers and the board who work hard; each member contributes something to the light of Or Chadash. The Education Committee has already met to work on plans for the coming year. And an unusual meeting took place recently to focus on the Days of Awe.

It may seem early to be writing about the fall holidays, but I want you to know about this gathering. Judith Golden proposed, and Carol Goldbaum organized, a meeting to begin preparations for the Days of Awe. Just a day after Shavuot, ten folks showed up – members of the Ritual Committee and individuals who have previously worked on Days of Awe services – to reflect on a more inward preparation.

We spent only a little time on the details of scheduling. Instead, we took a couple of hours to

explore more deeply the rhythm of these days, thinking of them as a journey, comparing experiences, exploring their meanings, and reflecting on how this can be shared with our community.

We did some singing. We read some poetry. We discussed the meaning of *teshuvah*—the turning for which we hope to be prepared *before* the holidays arrive. We considered a passage from Arthur Waskow's *Seasons of our Joy* in which he suggests, among other things, that Yom Kippur is a kind of prayer shawl, a *tallis* "that God spreads over all the people Israel, if we will take the trouble to pick the *tallis* up. Under this *tallis* we can stand face to face with God."

This image and others played around the room as people recalled significant moments in their own experience of the season -- in the hope that the meaning of these days will be deepened for all of us.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer (during which I hope we see each other many times), and may we look toward the New Year with awe and expectation!