

August 2008

Volume 33, Number 8

Tammuz/Av 5768

The monthly publication for the
community of

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

In Chicago

Your People,

Your Community,

Your Synagogue

**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

Israel Seen in a New Light
By Robin Sampliner, OC Co-President

This past May I went to Israel for 10 days on a social action mission with the Union for Reform Judaism Religious Action Center (URJ/RAC). It was not your usual tourist trip to Israel. Sure, we visited the Wall, various points of interest in Jerusalem and drove past the Dead Sea. Then we got down to the nitty gritty of the trip. We went to many social service agencies throughout the country, volunteered in a soup kitchen, spoke with men that are helping with the Palestinian-Israeli peace process and learned how the Judaism we learn about and practice in our lives plays a part in all of these aspects of Israeli life.

The good feeling of the trip started before I even left Chicago. Thank you to Judith Golden for the wonderful prayer she sang to me in the Michigan room before I departed and the well wishes from the Rabbi and congregants. I knew I was in for an emotional trip and the kind words from OC members

really helped. And I even got a special Tarot Card reading from Beth before I went on my way.

It's a long way to Israel. The plane ride was uneventful. Since I was the last of the participants to arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, I had to find my way to Beit Shmuel at the Hebrew Union College (HUC) in Jerusalem. I took a Nessher Cab (shared mini bus) to a street corner "near" the hotel. But because President Bush was in town staying at the King David Hotel right next to HUC, the roads were closed and the cab couldn't get close. So I wheeled my HUGE suitcase down a big hill, then up another, then up some stairs and finally made it to the hotel.

This was not a trip for people who have never been to Israel before. We came to the conclusion during the 10 days that tourists want to see beautiful, historic, biblical

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places in Israel. We did see all of those places, and we also saw more. We went places, met people and participated in activities that the average traveler to Israel will never see.

You'll never believe who I ran into at a Friday night service at Kol Haneshama in Jerusalem? Rabbi Stuart Geller, the rabbi from my childhood synagogue in Cleveland! I hadn't thought about Rabbi Geller in 30 years, and there he was at the same synagogue service as me, thousands of miles away from the last place I saw him. I don't know if he really remembered me, but he sure did when I saw him the following Shabbat at HUC's Saturday service. Spending Shabbat in Jerusalem is very special. I even went on a Friday night walk thru the Old City to the Kotel and prayed at the Wall with almost nobody else there. That was a treat. I almost forgot to tell you about the star sighting in the shuk on Friday afternoon when the place was packed with shoppers buying for Shabbat. I saw Jon Voight. Talk about it being a small world!

The trip we made to Yad L'kashish was fun. Yad L'kashish is a daycare program for seniors. We started out by making sandwiches for their morning snack, then got a tour of the facilities. In every room of the complex, there were seniors making works or art! From dolls to challah covers, beads, jewelry, wall hangings, tallitot, hamsahs and pottery. Seniors who had never been artists their whole lives were now making beautiful

objects, and participating in a meaningful project to keep them busy and active during the day.

We went to the Hazon Yashaya soup kitchen and shelter to help prepare lunch for hungry immigrants in a predominantly Russian neighborhood. Peeling zucchinis and potatoes never felt so satisfying! This soup kitchen is open every day of the year and was started by a man who realized there were too many hungry, aging immigrants in the area.

We traveled to an unrecognized, Bedouin village in the Negev and met with village leaders. We sat on the floor of the community tent, sipped strong tea, and listened (through an interpreter) as the sheik's brother described the hard life they lead in their village with no running water and stolen electricity. They don't travel as much from season to season, but are just trying to live off the land that their ancestors have been on for many, many years.

From the desolation of the Bedouin village, we traveled to the green of Kibbutz Lotan in the Arava desert. We spent a night at the kibbutz, took a sunrise desert hike, learned about Eco-Humanistic Zionism at the kibbutz, how they are "greening" the desert, and ate meals in the communal mess hall. On the way back to Jerusalem, we stopped at the Ahava factory at the Dead Sea. More shopping! I left plenty of shekels in Israel.

Yad Vashem was awe inspiring as usual. The new museum is huge, with display after display of items from the Holocaust. It is a

humbling place to be. I tried to go to Mt. Herzl, which is next to Yad Vashem, but everything closes early on a Friday in Jerusalem. So I hopped on a bus (yes, you read that correctly) and headed back to the hotel. Taking a bus in Jerusalem is an experience. I was a little jittery because of the past terrorist acts that have hit busses, but I moved past that and hopped on. Oh my, it was packed with people attempting to get home before Shabbat. Other than that, the ride was uneventful.

If you've got the legs for it, walking is the way to see Jerusalem. It is a very hilly city, but you get so much of its flavor when you walk the streets. You hear the chattering, arguing, bartering, smell the food, and even get some exercise. And if you love falafel like I do, you can stop off at the many falafel stands throughout the city.

My love for Eretz Yisrael has grown even stronger since taking this trip. It is a wonderful, beautiful, amazing, historical, religious, biblical, and Jewish place to visit. Even if you don't see the country the way I did on this trip, I highly recommend traveling to Israel. You will see where our people come from. Where we traveled years through the desert to make it to. *Am Yisrael Chai!*

August is the Dog Days of Summer?

Carol Goldbaum, Director of Ritual

The Fast of Tisha B'Av

Come experience the Highs and Lows of the emotions for August. **Saturday August 9** celebrate Halsted Market Days and party hearty, stop by the Or Chadash booth and raise our Gay Flag. Afterward, it will be time to sober up and read the Book of Lamentations to observe the **Fast of Tisha B'Av** which begins at sundown on Saturday.

We will observe Tisha B'Av at **8PM** at Emanuel with a service led by Yakov Neiditch. He will chant a chapter of Eicha (Lamentations) and then we will read the rest of it in English and have a discussion about the meaning for us of this commemoration of the destruction of the Temples and other calamities in our history. Is it good for the Jews to continue to bemoan our fate or is this part of our history to keep in front of us so that we can actively be concerned about persecution and calamities of all people?

August Social Outing

Take advantage of an opportunity offered by our own docent for the Chicago Architecture Foundation, Susan Jacobson, on **August 24**. She has volunteered to give us a one-hour tour of the architecture of the Chicago Loop. See our website for details.

Mortality is not a Taboo Subject: a Summer Series at Congregation Or Chadash

Congregation Or Chadash is offering a life-planning series on two summer evenings in August. They are devoted to study and discussion of Jewish approaches to death and mourning.

The first session will be held on **Tuesday, August 19 at 7 pm** where we will study the basic vocabulary and layout of Jewish mourning practices: *kri'ah, tahara, tachrichin, shiva, sheloshim, kaddish, yahrzeit*, etc. (If you don't know all those words, be sure to come!)

The following week, on **Tuesday, August 26, at 7 pm**, we will hold an open discussion on how to think about what you want at the end and how to plan in advance.

Both sessions will be held at Emanuel Congregation. The class will meet in the library and will be led by Rabbi Edwards and Carol Goldbaum. All are welcome! The course is free.

For more information
call: (773) 271-2148,
email: office@orchadash.org or
visit our website:
www.orchadash.org.

When Are High Holidays? I can never remember!!!

Carol Goldbaum, Director of Ritual

Mark your calendars NOW!!
This year 2008 – 5769

ROSH HASHANAH
Erev Rosh Hashanah
Mon 9/29 8:00 PM

Rosh Hashanah Morning Services
Tuesday 9/30 10:00 AM.

Tashlich at the beach 1:30 AM

Luncheon (reservations necessary)
2:00 PM

SHABBAT SHUVA
Shabbat Shuva Evening Services
Friday 10/3 8:00 PM
Shabbat Shuva Morning Services
Saturday 10/4 10 AM.

YOM KIPPUR
Kol Nidre
Wednesday 10/8 6:30 PM

Yom Kippur Morning Services
Thursday 10/9 10:00 AM.

Yiskor Services
12:45 PM

Closing
4:45 PM

Havdalah & Break the Fast
7:15 PM

Supper in the Sukkah
Friday 10/17

SIMCHAT TORAH
Monday 10/20

More to follow, stay tuned.

Join Our Team

Mindy Stillman, Director of Social Action

Join Team Or Chadash as we participate in the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago 2008 on **Saturday, September 20th!**

There are 6 easy steps to register online:

1. Go to:
www.aidsrunwalk.org
2. Click on **Register Now!**
3. Complete the Participant Information Web Form
4. Select **Join an Existing Team**
5. Type **Or Chadash for Vital Bridges** in the search bar
6. Click on **Join** for our team and complete your registration!

Advance registration is a mere \$25. All participants are encouraged to raise a minimum of \$50.

Last year we designated that our funds raised went directly to Vital Bridges, and we will again be partnering with them! You can set up online fundraising on the web site.

This is a 5K event (which is only 3.1 miles). All participants will receive an event t-shirt, and runners will get their time recording chip on race day.

If you have any questions or want more information, email me at office@orchadash.org.

World Congress of GLBT Jews

Bill Wahler, OC Vice President

The World Congress of GLBT Jews, of which Or Chadash is a long time member, will be holding a conference in Philadelphia, October 24-26. All members of Or Chadash are welcome to attend. The conference will be in downtown Philadelphia and includes services, workshops and social events. A visit to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College is included.

Visit the conference website, Conference2008.glbtejews.org, for more specific information. Registration for the whole weekend, including four meals, is only \$195. There are three conference hotels of varying price ranges, but all in center city Philadelphia, near each other.

For more information on the World Congress go to their website, www.glbtejews.org.

Love to Sing

Here is your opportunity to share your gift with others and make the Days of Awe special and memorable for everyone. If you are an Or Chadash member, and you are interested in being an Or Chadash Choir member, please contact Judith Golden at office@OrChadash.org.

You are welcome to talk to her, even if you are not sure about joining the choir. There will be six rehearsals, probably on Sunday afternoons between August and September, the dates are to be determined based on members' availability.

Make your participation in the High Holidays more meaningful to you and our congregation.

Stop by Our Booth

Market Days are **August 9 and 10**. Stop by our booth and say hello. Or better yet, see if there is anything you can do to help out. There still may be some things that need to be done. Contact Robin Sampliner and let her know you can help: office@orchadash.org.

Cycles of Our Lives

Happy Birthday:

August 6 James Epstein-Reeves
August 18 Pamela R. Fetting
August 19 Martha Fourt
August 19 Katherine Ramsey
August 27 Robert Pooley

Happy Anniversary

August 1 Matthew Simonette and
David Morck
August 15 Howard Wax and Robert
Pooley

Thanks for the Oneg....

August 1: Sponsored by Larry Posen
in memory of his father, Willard
Posen and his brother, Steven Posen

August 2: Lunch still available for
sponsorship

August 8: Sponsored by Irwin
Drobny in memory of his parents,
Ruth and Ben Drobny

August 15: Sponsored by Leonard
Pal in memory of his father, Leonard
J. Pal

August 22: Sponsored by Ethel
Meyer in memory of her mother,
Hilda Meyer

August 29: Sponsored by Marvin
Levin in honor of the baby naming of
his granddaughter, Aubrey Rae
Levin

August Service Schedule

August 1: Shabbat service with
Rabbi Edwards and Robin
Sampliner, 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 2: Saturday
morning service, 10 a.m. A light
lunch follows.

August 8: Torah service with Bill
Wahler, Eve Posen, and Sara
Fischer, 8 p.m.

August 15: Shabbat service with
Susan Jacobson and Judith Golden, 8 p.m.

August 22: Shabbat service with
Rabbi Edwards, 8 p.m.

August 29: Shabbat service with
Sara Fischer and Judith Golden, 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.

August Dine-around

This month the 5,400 Jews in
India and the members of Or
Chadash will have Indian food
for their Shabbat dinner on
August 8. Yes, I looked that up
(about the Jewish population of
India, found a wide range of
numbers) and learned some
interesting facts on the history of
the Jewish people in India.
Check out:

www.epamedia.com

www.jewsofindia.org

www.beneisraelheritage.com

Anyway, on **August 8** join us at
**Little India Restaurant, 1109
W. Bryn Mawr** (Bryn Mawr
and Winthrop), just next to the
Bryn Mawr Red Line L stop.
Meet us at **6:15 p.m.** No
reservations are needed, but **try
to arrive by 6 p.m.** to ensure
adequate seating because it is,
after all, a little Indian restaurant.
Bete' Avon

Thanks for the donation!

Thank you to Donations to the
Wax/Pooley Challenge Grant
from Bill Wahler, Sue Mazer &
Jan Norton, and Irwin Drobny.

A donation from Frank
Nussbaum was received in honor
of Laurel Grauer.

Yahrzeit donations from Sue
Mazer in memory of Willie
Mazer, Burl Covan in memory
of Morris Covan, and Howard
Aronson in memory of Jean
Aronson.

General donation was received
from Ethel Meyer.

Congregation Or Chadash

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Rabbi: Laurence Edwards
Cantorial Soloist: Judith Golden

Co-Presidents:
Marvin Levin and Robin Sampliner
Executive VP: Bill 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

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!

Cocktails at 7, God at 8, August 22

On **August 22** come to
Shabbat Services and invite
your friends and family for
Cocktails at 7, God at 8.
Come for a cocktail at **7 pm**
and stay for Shabbat Services
at **8 pm**. This is a great
opportunity for you to
introduce new members to our
congregation. All are
welcome.

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.

Global Connections By Rabbi Laurence Edwards

Several years ago, Dr. Inon Schenker, an Israeli public health specialist, spoke at Or Chadash about his work in Israel on HIV/AIDS. His earlier efforts had brought him into close cooperation with the gay community in Israel. Success there led to plans for an international effort. Inon is charming and affable, at the same time that he is serious and energetic in his devotion to the use of science for the benefit of humanity.

In the summer of 2006, Susan and I had lunch in Jerusalem with Inon and his wife, and he talked some more about his hopes for organizing a larger Israeli response to the AIDS crisis in Africa. There were already some medical teams being sent there.

Sometime later, Inon sent me a draft of a funding proposal. I sent back a few editorial suggestions, and wished that I could send thousands of dollars. Several studies had shown that circumcision is effective in reducing the transmission of AIDS. And what country is more expert in circumcision than Israel?

The Chicago Tribune, on July 8, reported on the efforts, recommended by the World Health Organization and supported by Hadassah, which are focused so far on Swaziland. It is known as Operation Abraham. You can read more at

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/features/lifestyle/health/circumcise-08-jul08,0,2114726.story>

Israeli innovation has a lot to do with why Forbes.com recently ranked Israel #16 among all countries for business investment (#5 in the area of innovation).

http://www.forbes.com/lists/2008/6/biz_bizcountries08_Israel_CHI028.html

If you are interested in keeping up with Israeli innovations, I recommend:

<http://www.israel21c.net>

These are not the headlines that we usually see, but it is good to be reminded of how much is going on in that small country.