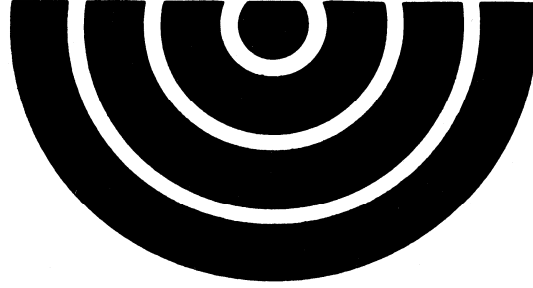


A member of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame

**CONGREGATION OR CHADASH
CONGREGATION OF NEW LIGHT**



The New Light

Leadership and Resolution
By Marvin Levin, OC Co-President

“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.” - Abraham Lincoln

I'm writing this column on Sunday night, December 14th. And I've been listening all day to the rumors, claims and counterclaims about whether Governor Blagojevich will resign tomorrow. By the time you read this you will surely know more than I do this evening. But the entire issue here in Illinois got me thinking about leadership. What do we know about it? What is good leadership? And I remembered vaguely that there's something in Torah about Jethro, priest of Midian and Moses' father-in-law, giving advice to Moses about leadership. But when I located that passage in Exodus Chapter 18, it's more about delegation of authority than leadership models. Indeed, Exodus 18 ends, “Moses heeded his father-in-law and did just what he had said.

Moses chose capable men out of all Israel, and appointed them heads over the people – chiefs of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens; and they judged the people at all times: the difficult matters they would bring to Moses, and all the minor matters they would decide themselves.”

Okay, that's Biblical – and interesting – but it really didn't answer my question. So I decided to find out what other sources there might be.

Turning to the internet, I found some interesting quotes. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “None shall rule but the humble.” An anonymous nineteenth century Japanese philosopher is quoted, “... the great bulk of the people go with the moral tide of the moment. The leader must help create that tide.” From Theodore Roosevelt: “People ask the difference between a leader and

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the community of

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

In Chicago

Our People,

Our Community,

Our Synagogue

**Come Add
Your Light
To Ours!**

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

Pres. Article...Cont'd

a boss. . . The leader works in the open, and the boss in covert. The leader leads, and the boss drives.” Albert Einstein: “Whoever is careless with the truth in small matters cannot be trusted with the important matters.” Peter Drucker offers the wry comment, “Most of what we call management consists of making it difficult for people to get their jobs done.” Some wisdom from Andrew Carnegie: “No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself, or to get all the credit for doing it.” Ray Kroc, founder of McDonald's said, “The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.” Finally, I looked through Proverbs and found something that's not about leadership *per se*, but probably serves as a good wrap-up of the current political situation. “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches.” – Proverbs 22:1.

One upsetting side effect of the Governor's action is that the legislature has been so caught up in dealing with the political crises that it won't be able to get to many pending bills, including the vote on passage of the Illinois Civil Unions bill.

Now that the New Year is here, many of us have probably made New Year's resolutions. We are eternally optimistic that a new year will somehow give us the motivation to change our ways. Last year my son asked me if I had made any resolutions. I told him I had resolved to stop smoking. He replied, “But Dad, you don't smoke!” “I know,” I told him, “but you have to have **some** ‘gimmies’ in all of this.” This year I am trying to be more organized.

I remember one day at work when I had nothing scheduled to do. My desk was a jumble of piles of papers – and

I decided it would be a great opportunity to file things away where they belonged. I took all the papers and put them into one big stack and started going through the stack. This seemed like it was working. Then the phone rang! And I had to stop what I was doing and attend to a problem someone was having. That took up the rest of the day. For the remainder of the week, I was kept busy, but now I no longer knew just where on my desk to find things; all my papers were in that one tall stack at the back of my desk. I managed to struggle through – and then had to come in over the weekend when there would be no interruptions so I could finish clearing away that big stack. So much for good intentions!

Have you made any resolutions? Are they new things you resolve to do? Or are they old habits you resolve to stop? Whichever, good luck in accomplishing your goals. Happy 2009.

Or Chadash Has a Blazing Good Chanukah Party

With candles, latkes, and good friends Or Chadash celebrated the sixth night of Chanukah.



(left) Rabbi Edwards, Don Olson and Linda Preston light the Chanukah candles. (right) Mindy Stillman, Laurie Grauer, and Bill Gates pose for photo op

For more photos, please visit our website, www.OrChadash.org.

It Is Time for January Classes – “Saying Kaddish: How We Mourn”

By *Martha Fourt*,
Education Chair

It is time for January classes to begin. We will be holding four classes beginning January 6 and continuing on each Tuesday in January. The class will be led by Rabbi Larry Edwards.

The dates are **January 6, 13, 20, and 27, 7-8:30 pm in the Emanuel Library**

These four sessions will explore Jewish traditions around death and mourning: the meaning of the Kaddish, the work of the Hevra Kadisha (Burial Society), sitting shiva, observing yahrzeit. The textbook is Anita Diamant, *Saying Kaddish*. Readings for each session will follow the four sections of the book. (Please obtain a copy and begin reading!) There is no charge for this class.

For details please visit www.OrChadash.org/education.html.

Or Chadash Makes the Slate

A recent issue of the online magazine (e-zine) **Slate** included an article entitled "Mitzvah Mobiles: Celebrating Hanukkah with menorah parades". But the article wasn't limited to Hanukkah. See the article at www.slate.com/id/2206777/ and view the slide show. When you get to the last slide, you'll recognize the Or Chadash entry in last June's Pride Parade. The author, Michael Lukas, contacted us after he found our newsletter online while searching the web for cars and menorahs.

We're Going Bowling!

By *Mindy Stillman*,
Social Action Chair

Come and join your OC friends as we knock down some pins.

**Sunday, January 11th
2:00 pm**

**Waveland Bowl
3700 N Western**

Cost per lane is dependent on how many bowlers we have, so please **RSVP** office@OrChadash.org no later than **Sunday, January 4** if you plan on joining us. If we know you're coming, we may be able to reserve lanes ahead of time!

Hope to see you there!

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!

Or Chadash Mussar Study Group

Or Chadash has started a Mussar study group that meets once a month on a Sunday, usually in the early afternoon.

Mussar is a Jewish practice founded by a 19th century rabbi, Israel Salanter. It emphasizes ethical conduct, living a more conscientious life, and an increased awareness of one's responsibilities toward oneself and others. In the Mussar practice, one focuses on soul traits (such as equanimity and patience) through meditation, journaling, and other means to help modify one's behavior and reactions. These exercises help one become more self-aware, content, and able to better contribute to one's immediate environment and community. The OC group is working with Alan Morinis's book, *Everyday Holiness*.

This group is still open. Please contact **Stephanie Friedman** at office@OrChadash.org if you are interested in joining.

Save the date for ...



A MAGICAL EVENING!

Saturday evening,
March 14, 2009

Congregation Or Chadash

Gala 2009

Honoring Susan Jacobson
East Bank Club, Chicago

We hope you will 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.

Gala 2009 – A Magical Evening March 14, 2009

By Bill Wahler, Or Chadash VP and Gala Chair

March 14 is quickly approaching and that means Gala 2009 – A Magical Evening. Besides the stars of Or Chadash, which are all of you, our loyal supporters, we will have lots of magic. The magic of Danny Orleans and Janice Rose will be our entertainment for the evening. Card tricks, sleight of hand and mind reading are just a few of the many magical and mystical things we can expect that night. For a sneak preview go to their website, www.CorporateMagicLtd.com

Of course we will have food, lots of it and dancing to the music of the Dick Elliott Orchestra. The highlight of the evening will be a presentation to our special honoree, past president, Susan Jacobson.

Invitations will be in the mail shortly but make sure you have “Saved The Date” on your calendar.

Volunteers to help solicit for the silent auction and to help set up the night of the gala are still needed. Please contact **Bill Wahler** at office@OrChadash.org to find out how you can be a part of this special night.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle AND Help Those in Need

*By Robin Sampliner,
OC Co-President*

As part of the social action project for the Great Lakes Council Biennial we are asking our members to collect gently worn hearing aids and eyeglasses that will be used to fulfill the increased demand from clinics in our region. The fragile economy and the health care crisis have contributed to a shortfall of these so called “elective” items. Now we have a way to help reduce the gap. Please bring your gently used eyeglasses and hearing aids to the collection box and we will forward them on to BR Group Foundation where they will be sold to service centers to be recycled as spare parts. All the money received will be used to purchase new hearing aids and make financial contributions to organizations in our region whose mission is to distribute hearing aids and eyeglasses to those in need.

We Are Still Collecting Personal Hygiene Items

If you have personal hygiene items and non perishable food we are collecting them for Care For Real, Edgewater's food pantry.

It's a great time to bring in all of those hotel soaps and shampoos that are taking up space in your homes! Drop them off in the box on our table before services.

Thanks for the donations!

◆ A general donation from John and Rochelle Lodder.

◆ A donation from Howard Aronson on the yahrzeit of Abe Aronson.

◆ A donation from Burl Covan in memory of his mother, Goldie Covan.

◆ Donations to the Wax/Pooley Challenge Grant from Burl Covan, Tom Conroy and Len Pal, Howard Aronson, Sara Fischer and Carol Goldbaum.

Cycles of Our Lives

Happy Birthday

January 15	Howard A. Wax
January 22	Jeff Rolim
January 24	Leonard Pal
January 26	Robin Sampliner
January 29	Jakov Neiditch
January 31	Tom Conroy

Happy Anniversary

No anniversaries this month

Thanks for the Oneg....

Friday, January 2: Oneg still available for sponsorship

Saturday, January 3: Lunch still available for sponsorship

Friday, January 9: Oneg still available for sponsorship

Friday, January 16: Oneg sponsored by Susan Boone and Larry Edwards in honor of the inauguration of President Barack Obama, and in memory of Susan's mother, Mary Boone

Friday, January 23: Oneg sponsored by Ed Mogul in memory of his father, Sidney Mogul, and his brother, Barry Mogul

Friday, January 30: Oneg sponsored by Ed Mogul in memory of his lover, William Hamilton

January Service Schedule

January 2: Shabbat Service with Rabbi Edwards, 8 p.m.

January 3: Saturday morning Shabbat service, 10 a.m. A light lunch follows.

January 9: Torah Service, with Rabbi Edwards, 8 p.m.

January 16: Shabbat Service with Marvin Levin and Reuben Lewy, 8 p.m.

January 23: Shabbat service with Bill Wahler, Rabbi Pam Wax, and Judith Golden, 8 p.m.

January 30: Shabbat service with Yakov Neiditch 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.

Gala 2009 – Your Help is Needed

The gala committee needs your help. At a silent auction committee meeting, we came up with a ton of ideas of places to go. But a few people can't solicit all those businesses. That's where you come in. Please look at the list below and let us know if you would be willing to contact any of these businesses for donations or ads. Also, if you have a business of your own and would like to donate your time or skills at the auction, please let us know.

Lakefront cruises
Lyric Opera
Bristol Renaissance Fair
Whole Foods
Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Diseases
Chicago History Museum (Out in Chicago series)
Freedom Museum
IGO Car / Zipcar
Tom Boys
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs
Rosenblums
Danzigers
Hamakor
Kohl's Children's Museum
Frank Lloyd Wright Studio
Architectural Foundation
Shedd Aquarium
Field Museum
Art Institute
Theaters
Northshore Center for the Performing Arts
Restaurants
Spa services

If you would like to contact any of the above businesses, or have additional ideas, please contact Marvin Levin at office@OrChadash.org. Marvin will be able to let you know if someone else has already contacted the business

(we don't want to overwhelm companies with multiple requests).

Thank you very much for all of your help in making the silent auction a huge success!

January Dine-around

Start the year off with some classical American cuisine and wine at **Broadway Cellars**. The food reflects the kind of neighborhood Mom and Pop restaurants Geri and Tom, the owners, like to frequent when they visit Napa and Sonoma. Check them out:

www.BroadwayCellars.net

Or better yet, join us at:

Broadway Cellars
5900 N. Broadway
January 9, 6:15 pm

No reservations are needed, but try to arrive by 6 p.m. to ensure adequate seating.
Bete' Avon

Congregation Or Chadash

5959 N. Sheridan
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: 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

Open Letter to Barack Obama

December 21, 2008

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

I'm proud to live in your neighborhood, and glad to have lent a hand to the campaign. I, like so many others, am *so* looking forward to your Presidency. I believe in inclusiveness, and admire the ways in which you have reached out to build bridges. I understand that, politically, it is necessary to move toward the center – though I continue to hope that the center can be moved in the direction of greater justice, a little closer to economic and political equality.

In my enthusiasm, I am eager to extend the benefit of the doubt when there are issues where we disagree.

Now I find that I must write to express my profound disappointment in the selection of Rev. Rick Warren to deliver the invocation at your inauguration. I understand the argument for choosing him. But the Proposition 8 vote in California is very recent, a very fresh wound. On Election Day, a day that was one of great celebration – especially here in Chicago – our joy was lessened by the ugliness of that vote. By a slim majority, it took away rights that had been found in the California State Constitution by the Supreme Court of that state. It was a slap in the face to my friends and family members who had been celebrating weddings in the few weeks following the Supreme Court ruling.

Rick Warren was an outspoken and influential supporter of that proposition. Does the invocation at our Inauguration have to be delivered by a minister from California, who has compared my sister's marriage (among many others) to incest and pedophilia? There are thousands of ministers in the United States. This choice hurts!

As a Rabbi, I have myself officiated at a number of same-sex weddings. They represent commitment to family and community. They are holy relationships that cannot be undone by a 51 percent vote.

At this point, I hardly expect that you will be able to rescind the invitation. Though you yourself have not (yet) come out openly in favor of same-sex marriage, you have taken important stands on other issues of great importance to our community. In defending your choice of Mr. Warren you called yourself "a fierce advocate for equality for gay and lesbian Americans." Yet you honor this man who disparages the GLBT community?

Now that concern for equality has been placed front and center, I hope – and that's what this is about, anyway, hope – that you will take steps to demonstrate your ferocity in the interest and to the benefit of gays and lesbians. An early repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act would be a good first move.

With every good wish,

Rabbi Laurence Edwards

Tevet Rosh Chodesh Reflection

By Judith Golden

Deep winter
Deep cold
Crisp clear air and blankets of
glistening snow

Chanukah lights blaze and then fade
Remaining as shadows in the
deep darkness
Memories of a miracle

We struggle to keep moving
Against the extra weight of heavy coats
And boots and snowdrifts

Reminding us to slow down
Appreciate stillness
Proceed consciously
Allow more time for our journeys

Learning to embrace patience
As we long for growing light
As days slowly lengthen

Judith Golden



January 2009

Congregation Or Chadash

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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