

October 2009

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Tishri/ Cheshvan

5770

The monthly publication for the
community of

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

In Chicago

Our People,

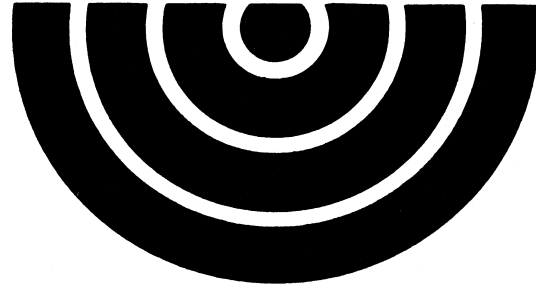
Our Community,

Our Synagogue

**Come Add
Your Light
To Ours!**

A member of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame

קהילת אור חדש
CONGREGATION OR CHADASH
CONGREGATION OF NEW LIGHT



The New Light

Newsletter in Transition

As many of you know, we have a new Administrator at Or Chadash, "**Ned**" **Wagener**. You may have met her when you signed in as you arrived for High Holiday Services.

Because we were caught up in the logistics of the High Holiday services, we never quite got around to making the transition of procedures for the newsletter. So this month's newsletter is coming out a few days late and not in our usual format. I personally have been part of the bottleneck and I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Watch for the November edition which should be back in its familiar format. Thank you.

-- Marvin Levin, Past President

What will 5770 look like for you?

By Robin Sampliner, OC Co-President

Ah, another year has gone by. And another is just beginning. I am writing this in the time between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I figure everyone will have had heard plenty of sermons, and descriptions of this time of year and what it means to us as a Jewish people. So only a quick review from me. What did everyone think of having the High Holiday services at JRC? The Or Chadash board would like to hear your comments. As a board, we will review the holidays, services and logistics

at our board meeting on 10/5.

Having our High Holiday services in a new space was exciting. I think everything went very well with the travel logistics. Hopefully nobody missed out on a service because they couldn't get to JRC. How about the sanctuary? The light in that room is wonderful. The ark is beautiful. I felt a warm and comforting spirituality in the room. Thank you very much to JRC for making their space available to us this year.

And on to the new year!

No time to waste. We have a busy October planned at Or Chadash! We are starting out with a **brown bag supper in the sukkah on October 2nd**. Bring a jacket, it might get cool. And **Simchas Torah will be celebrated on 10/9** as a part of our regularly scheduled Friday service. Come enjoy the tradition of rolling out the torah so we can start the year anew. And on **Saturday night, October 10th, OC will be attending the theatre at Roosevelt University**. On **Sunday 10/11** we will need your help taking down the sukkah. That begins at 11:00am.

Please don't forget to register for the **fall series of classes that begin on 10/18**. In the past we have had successful "before services" workshops. Rabbi Edwards will be leading a discussion on **10/23 at 7:00pm**. The HOT topic is Jewish ethics and health care reform.

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Congregation Or Chadash

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Cantorial Soloist: Judith Golden

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Robin Sampliner and Bill Wahler
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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

And Thank You

General donations from Susan Boone and Ethel Meyer.

A donation from Frank Nussbaum for Carol Goldbaum's speedy recovery.

A donation from Carol Goldbaum as a "thank you" to all the well wishers during her recent surgery.

Donations in memory of Jerry Boomershine's father from Bill Wahler and Rick Greenthal.

Donations in memory of Philip Kornblum from Ruth Kornblum and Lilli Kornblum.

October Dine-around

We began the new year at a green synagogue, now continue at a green restaurant. **Uncommon Ground** is country's first certified organic roof top farm by the Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA) October 2008. Please join us on **October 16** at

Uncommon Ground 1401 W. Devon Ave

at 6:15 p.m. No reservations are needed, but try to arrive by 6 p.m. to ensure adequate seating. Oh, and they have a parking lot.

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!

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.

Cycles of Our Lives

Happy Birthday

October 4 Edward Mogul
October 15 Matthew Simonette

Anniversaries

October 17 Yehuda Jacobi and
Michael L. Simon
October 29 Susan Lee Mazer and
Janet Ann Norton

Thanks for the Oneg....

Friday, October 2: Oneg still
available for sponsorship

Saturday, October 3: Lunch still
available for sponsorship

Friday, October 9: Oneg still
available for sponsorship

Friday, October 16: Oneg still
available for sponsorship

Friday, October 23: Oneg
sponsored by Frank Nussbaum in
memory of his mother, Hannah
Nussbaum

Friday, October 30: Oneg
sponsored by Barry Weinstein in
memory of his partner, David
VanDyke, on the occasion of his
tenth Yahrzeit

October Service Schedule

Friday, October 2: Sukkot Shabbat
Service with Rabbi Edwards and
Judith Golden 8 p.m. "Brown Bag"
dinner at 6:30 before services in the
Sukkah

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

Friday, October 9: Shabbat Service
Simchas Torah with Rabbi Edwards
and Judith Golden 7:15 p.m. (Note
early start time)

Friday, October 16: Shabbat
Service with Lilli Kornblum 8 p.m.

Friday, October 23: Shabbat
Service with Rabbi Edwards 8 p.m.

Friday, October 30: Shabbat
Service with Mindy Stillman and
Laurie Grauer 8 p.m.

Save the Date for Or Chadash Shabbaton in December

On **December 4 and 5, 2009** Congregation Or Chadash will hold a Shabbaton with author-in-residence Lev Raphael. Because some of you may not be familiar with our speaker, the following was taken from www.levraphael.com:

The son of Holocaust survivors, Lev Raphael is a pioneer in writing fiction about America's Second Generation, publishing his first short story about children of survivors in 1978. Many of his early stories on this theme were collected in his award-winning book, *Dancing on Tisha B'Av*. Raphael is the author of 17 other books including two novels about survivors, *Winter Eyes* and *The German Money*, and two memoirs, *Journeys & Arrivals* and *Writing a Jewish Life*.

Along with hundreds of reviews in papers from *The Washington Post* to *The Detroit Free Press*, Raphael has published dozens of essays, articles, and stories in a wide range of Jewish publications: *Midstream*, *Hadassah*, *Psychology and Judaism*, *The Forward*, *Reform Judaism*, *Reconstructionist*, *Agada*, *Commentary*, *The Baltimore Jewish Times*, *The Detroit Jewish News*, *Inside*, *The Jewish Exponent*, *Jewish Currents*, *Tikkun*, *Jerusalem Report*, and *Shmate*.

Born and raised in New York City, he received his MFA in Creative Writing and English at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he won the Harvey Swados Fiction Prize, awarded by renowned editor Martha Foley for a Holocaust-themed story later published in *Redbook*. Winner of the Reed Smith Fiction Prize and International Quarterly's Prize for Innovative Prose (judged by D. M. Thomas), Raphael holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Michigan State University. Raphael taught at the university level in New York, Massachusetts and Michigan for 13 years and the first course he designed was a multi-disciplinary study of the Holocaust. He left teaching in 1988 to write and review full-time.

The Shabbaton will begin with a Shabbos dinner on Friday followed by Shabbat services where Lev will deliver a d'var torah.

Saturday's program will include Shabbat services, a Shabbat luncheon and an afternoon session with Lev. He will also be speaking during the morning service and the luncheon.

The theme for the weekend is **CLIMBING THE LADDER: GAY JEWISH JOURNEYS**.

There will be a charge for the meals, should you wish to avail yourself of those options. More information on them will be found on the Or Chadash website shortly.

Mark the dates on your calendar, invite your family and friends, and plan to join us for what will be a remarkable combination of religious, educational and social experiences.

Scary & Comforting Stories Road Maps Through the Wilderness

Or Chadash fall classes begin in October

By Linda Preston, OC Education Chair

After the High Holidays, there will be opportunities to learn together in two Sunday morning classes and one pre-Shabbat teaching/learning experience. We will be sharing learning as formal study, but also as a process of learning together, connecting with a community of learning that is thousands of years old and always new, getting acquainted with books and texts and thinking about how we live our lives.

Sunday morning classes will meet in the library at Emmanuel, for five Sunday mornings in a row:

- 10 am – 11:15 am: **Rabbi Edwards** will teach “**Stories from the Talmud**”. We will study several different narratives from the Talmud, to try to understand the Rabbis as storytellers, as well as to discern the values implied by the stories. We will not need to buy a text for this course, as Rabbi Edwards will provide copies for each session of the texts to be studied that day.
- 11:15 – 11:45 am **Rabbi Edwards** will continue his popular “**Biblical Hebrew Verse of the Day**,” pulling apart the grammar and meaning of a selected Biblical verse to help us improve our Hebrew and our understanding of the biblical text. **This is a free class.**
- 11:45 – 1:00 pm: *The Golem*, taught by **Howard Aronson**. In the late 16th century, when the Jews of Prague were threatened by a pogrom, the chief rabbi of Prague, R. Yehuda Leib (the Maharal) is supposed to have created a human-like figure out of clay, and animated it, thus creating a *golem*. This story served as inspiration for many works of art, both literary and cinematic. In this class we will read a translation of the play in verse, by H. Leivick, perhaps the greatest modernist poet that Yiddish literature produced. We will also view the classic 1920 German expressionist silent film *The Golem*, directed by Paul Wegener.

The textbook for the course will be Joachim Neugroschel’s *The Golem: a new translation of the classic play and selected short stories* (2006: W.W. Norton).

Class dates: **Oct. 18, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 8, Nov. 15**

Cost for each class:

\$50 for OC members

\$100 for non-members

Contact office@OrChadash.org or use the enclosed form to sign up.

Pre-Shabbat teaching/learning experience:

Friday evening, October 23, 7:00 pm, before services.

Jewish ethics in everyday life: Jewish values, health care and us

Rabbi Larry Edwards will talk with us about Jewish values regarding human life, preservation of life, healthcare, who has it, who doesn’t, how it is provided across America, and possible ethical responses to the health care system in the United States.

Adult B’nai Mitzvah Study Roadmaps through the wilderness

If people are interested, we may organize individual adult bar or bat mitzvah study, or perhaps a small group of several people who are interested in studying together for adult b’nai mitzvah study as a group.

Study for an adult bar or bat mitzvah would involve:
*6-18 months preparation, depending on previous background.

*Depending on previous background, an Intro to Judaism class, or a few books and articles selected in consultation with the Rabbi.

*Prepare a minimum of 10 verses to read (chant, if possible) from the Torah

*Prepare Torah blessings.

*Prepare haftarah blessings and at least part of the haftarah.

*Prepare a d'var Torah.

*The bar/bat mitzvah could be done either at a first Saturday service or a second Friday service (when we read the Torah).

*Invite friends and family to attend, and to make donations to Or Chadash in honor of the occasion.

*Sponsor the Oneg for that service, perhaps expanded.

If there is a group of people going through this process at once, we might schedule a series of perhaps three sessions, in which we discuss various issues related to the desire of the people in the group to do this, what it means, how bar mitzvah developed, what seems most important in the service itself, etc.

If you are interested, please contact Rabbi Edwards to discuss this further.

October Theatre Outing *Pericles*

By Mindy Stillman

Or Chadash will be going to see Shakespeare's *Pericles*, directed by Joel Fink (Rick Greenthal's partner) on Saturday evening, **October 10th at 7:30pm.**

The performance will take place in Roosevelt University's O'Malley Theatre, 431 S. Wabash, 7th floor. Although the tickets are no charge (they are a donation from Roosevelt's Theatre Conservatory), they must be **reserved in advance no later than Monday, October 5th.** To reserve tickets, please leave a message on the hotline (773-271-2148) or email Mindy Stillman at office@OrChadash.org.

Prior to the performance, we will be meeting for dinner at Amarit Thai Restaurant, 600 S. Dearborn, at 5:45pm. Please let us know if you will be coming to dinner, so that we can reserve a large enough table.

Save the dates: Aug. 13 - 15, 2010

Los Angeles 2010
20th World Conference of GLBT Jews

<http://qlbtjews.org/la2010/>

Funds Raised by Autumn's Tzedakah Collection Drive will go to LGBT Youth Programs in Israel

In light of last month's brutal attack on a Gay Youth Center in Tel Aviv, contributions from Or Chadash's Autumn Tzedakah Collection drive will go to aid Israeli organizations serving LGBT youth. Donations will be funneled through Jewish Mosaic, The National Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity. They will divide the donations among the Israeli Gay Youth Organization, Hoshen, Jerusalem Open House, and Aguda. Neal Levy, former executive director of the SF-based Israel Center, is also in Tel Aviv, helping set-up a world-wide emergency fundraising campaign for the LGBT youth center. This fund will be used for counseling wounded youth (many of whom may remain physically maimed for life), as well as the parents who learned about their child's sexual orientation only after the shooting, and for teens in Israel who were encouraged to come out after the tragic shooting.

Sukkot at Or Chadash

By Carla Cenker, Ritual Chair

Sukkot at Or Chadash is a very special time. This year, we will begin assembling our Sukkah at 11 am September 27th, that's right, the day of Kol Nidre. We will celebrate together the following **Erev Shabbat**, beginning with a brown **bag dinner at 6:30 pm, followed by services at 8:00 October 2.** Then our disassembly will be on **October 11 at 11:00 am.** Join us for all the fun and the mitzvot of dwelling in the Sukkah, welcoming ancestors and shaking your lulav!

Join us for Simchat Torah

Simchat Torah – Hakafot – Dancing with the Torahs – Finishing and beginning again; the joy, the excitement. Come and share the mitzvah and the celebration on **Friday, October 9th.** We will begin a bit earlier than usual together with Temple Emanuel at **7:15 pm** and finish in our chapel. Bring the kids too.

The Fragile Sukkah of Peace

Rabbi Larry Edwards

On Yom Kippur I mentioned my increasing sense of physical fragility. But even more worrisome is the fragility of our social contract. When Congress cannot get its act sufficiently together to fix an obviously broken healthcare system, I am worried about us. When strange people carrying guns and signs with threatening slogans show up at Presidential events, I am worried about us. When a once major political party follows the lead of the crazies in its midst, I am worried about us. When our Israeli brothers and sisters are held hostage by the settlers of the nationalist right-wing, while at the same time facing lethal enemies from without, I am worried about the future of Israel.

There is a lot to worry about.

Sukkot is the time when we acknowledge the fragility of everything we hold dear. The summer of our life does not last. The shelters that we build for ourselves can be swept away in an instant.

And Sukkot is *the* Festival, the one on which the Torah commands us: Rejoice!

We note the shortened daylight as we arrive at the end of the Torah reading cycle. As darkness casts its lengthening shadows, we begin again: Let there be light!

That is what we Jews do. The prime commandment – not stated explicitly in the Torah, but implied in every chapter – is, “You must not despair.” That is prohibition number one.

We insist – especially in the darkness and the worry – that our lives have meaning, that God’s creation is holy.

We begin again, and again, as many times as it takes...

[President’s Column - continued from page 2]

If you didn’t have time to add to the school supplies collection box in September, don’t worry. You can still participate in October. The students at Chicago Public Schools need our help! And, you can still bring in your tzedakah at the beginning of October. The funds collected will benefit LGBT teen programs in Tel Aviv. After this summer’s events, they can use our help.

Check everything out in this newsletter and at our website, www.orchadash.org. Life is never boring at Or Chadash. We want to keep everyone interested and engaged. Enjoy!
Shalom!

October Yahrzeits

10/03 (15 Tishrei)	Michael Farrelly, father-in-law of Elise Miller
10/05 (17 Tishri)	Frances Frida Stroz, mother of Morris Stroz
10/08 (20 Tishri)	Nathan P. Shure, father of Joseph Shure
10/10	Jean Beller, mother of Sheila Beller
10/11	Bernard Beller, father of Sheila Beller
10/13 (25 Tishri)	Clayton Logan, lover of Barry Weinstein
10/16 (28 Tishri)	Helen Parks, grandmother of Maria Parks
10/16 (28 Tishri)	Nettie Katchen, great-grandmother of Bill Wahler
10/19 (1 Cheshvan)	Albert Weiser, father of Stephen Weiser
10/19 (1 Cheshvan)	Carl Prolizo, uncle of Stephanie Friedman
10/23 (5 Cheshvan)	Barbara Shinas Derer, aunt of Carla Center
10/23 (5 Cheshvan)	David Snyder, father of Beth Snyder
10/28 (10 Cheshvan)	Paul Friedman, grandfather of Stephanie Friedman
10/29 (11 Cheshvan)	Hannah Nussbaum, mother of Frank Nussbaum
10/29 (11 Cheshvan)	James Lodder, father of John Lodder
10/29 (11 Cheshvan)	David Snyder, father of Beth Snyder
10/31 (13 Cheshvan)	Herman B. Schlienger, father of David Schlienger

Or Chadash Calendar – October-November 2009

Fri., Oct. 2	6:30 PM	Brown bag dinner in the Sukkah
	8:00 PM	Erev Sukkot/Shabbat Service
Sat., Oct. 3	9:15 AM	AIDS Walk Chicago
	10:00 AM	Sukkot/Morning Service followed by a light lunch
Fri., Oct. 9	7:15 PM	Simchat Torah/Shabbat Service (starts in Emanuel's sanctuary)
Sat., Oct 10	5:45 PM	Thai dinner, followed by
	7:30 PM	Theater Outing (Shakespeare's <i>Pericles</i>)
Sun., Oct.11	11:00 AM	Dismantle Sukkah
	4:30 PM	Mussar Goup in the Emanuel library
Mon., Oct. 12		(Columbus Day)
Fri., Oct. 16	6:15 PM	Dine-around at Uncommon Ground, 1401 W. Devon
	8:00 PM	Shabbat Service
Sun., Oct. 18	10:00 AM	Classes begin in Emanuel library
Mon., Oct. 19		(Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan)
Fri., Oct. 23	7:00 PM	Presentation by Rabbi Larry Edwards
	8:00 PM	Shabbat Service
Sun., Oct. 25	10:00 AM	Classes continue
Fri., Oct. 30	8:00 PM	Shabbat Service
Sun., Nov. 1	10:00 AM	Classes continue
Fri., Nov. 6	8:00 PM	Shabbat Service
Sat., Nov. 7	10:00 AM	Morning Service followed by a light lunch
		Bar Mitzvah of David Fried
Sun., Nov. 8	10:00 AM	Classes continue
	4:30 PM	Mussar Goup in the Emanuel library
Fri., Nov. 13	6:15 PM	Dine-around at Hamiltons, 6300 block of Broadway
	8:00 PM	Torah Service
Sat., Nov. 14	evening	Lakeside Pride Band Concert (details to be announced)
Sun., Nov. 15	10:00 AM	Classes continue
Wed., Nov. 17		(Rosh Chodesh Kislev)
Fri., Nov. 20	8:00 PM	Shabbat Service
Sun., Nov. 22		Bowling (details to be announced)
Thur., Nov. 26		(Thanksgiving Day)
Fri., Nov. 30	8:00 PM	Shabbat Service

Registration Form
Congregation Or Chadash Courses 5770
Fall – 2009 (Oct. 18 – Nov. 15)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please sign me up for the following course(s):

- 10:00-11:15 **Stories From the Talmud** ____ \$50 (Member) ____ \$100 (Non-Member)
 11:15-11:45 **Biblical Hebrew Verse of the Day** - Free
 11:45- 1:00 **The Golem** ____ \$50 (Member) ____ \$100 (Non-Member)

A check is enclosed made payable to Congregation Or Chadash.

Please charge the credit card indicated below.

Type of Credit Card: ____ Visa ____ MasterCard ____ Discover Card

Name as it Appears on Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____ Expiration Date: _____

• In order to be eligible for member rates, your membership must be renewed at the time of registration. If non-members join the Congregation after they register, they may apply the course cost difference to their membership fee. Members at levels above regular individual/family memberships may take courses free of charge, as explained on the membership application.

• Please include payment with this form, either by check/money order or by filling in the credit card payment information above. Do not pay your instructor. All payments must be mailed to
Congregation Or Chadash
5959 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60660.

• As always at Congregation Or Chadash, arrangements can be made for members unable to afford the full course charges. If you wish to arrange for scholarship assistance, please contact one of our Co-Presidents, Robin Sampliner or Bill Wahler, in person or via the Hotline (773-271-2148). We regret that we cannot give scholarship assistance to non-members.