

A member of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame

קהילת אור חדש
CONGREGATION OR CHADASH
CONGREGATION OF NEW LIGHT



The New Light

Isabel's Bat Mitzvah in Israel
By Robin Sampliner, OC Co-President

Have you ever tried traveling somewhere and all the forces in the world and beyond seemed to be working against you? That's how my trip to Israel this past December started out. Thanks to the 12/19 snow storm in Philly, the first day of vacation was spent at O'Hare. Already in one day our travel plans had changed three times. Then got cancelled. Mind you, my sister had been working on this family trip for a year. And we couldn't even get out of the city! So we all went back home and waited for the weather to clear. Finally on 12/21 we left from Milwaukee to Philly to travel on to Israel. But wait, not so fast. The flight was delayed, leaving Milwaukee just long enough for us to miss the connection. So, we spent the night in Philly, then the next day sightseeing in the City of Brotherly Love. Which was fine, because none of us had ever seen the Liberty Bell or Independence Hall. The weather was clearing. All is good. But NOOOOOO!

While in line to finally board the plane to the Promised Land, we were told we didn't have seats. What? Huh? We've been traveling for days. Months. Years. And now we can't get on the plane? That didn't sit well with the fam. Half an hour later, five seats magically appeared. And we were ON OUR WAY!

If you ever have the opportunity to travel to Israel and pay someone to meet you at the terminal when you arrive, and zip you through security and customs, DO IT! Something was finally working in our favor. And how nice it was to see the sea of smiling faces waiting for us when we got through the airport. Mom was there, the other grandparents, cousins. The fun was about to begin. And what was waiting for us in the parking lot? A HUGE bus with a sign tied to the front saying "Isabel Glass Bat Mitzvah Trip".

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community of

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

In Chicago

Our People,

Our Community,

Our Synagogue

**Come Add
Your Light
To Ours!**

We continued our journey at Montefiori's Windmill with a shehecheyanu and Kiddush. Ah, what a view of Old Jerusalem. Bing, bang, boom, we were on the move. The itinerary had to be adjusted, and we never did make it to Eilat or Petra, but that's ok. There were plenty of other things to do. We participated in a scavenger hunt in the old city. Sadly I was not on the winning team, but had fun anyways. We had the best tour guide in all of Israel, Lyana. She knew everything about modern and ancient Israel. Thank goodness we never had to take a quiz, because my brain was swimming with all the information it was attempting to absorb.

We went to the shuk on a Friday afternoon. That is an experience in and of itself. Packed with people buying food for Shabbat. And if you are ever at Machne Yehuda market, stop by Marzipan for the best chocolate ruggelah in the world. YUM. Just a little piece of our culinary tastings that day. We had a chef guided tour through the market and ended up at her kitchen/studio to taste wine and cheeses from around the world.

We sifted through archaeological remains from the Second Temple period. I mainly found mosaic tiles and pottery shards. But my nephew found a large piece of marble that was placed in a plastic bag and numbered. Very exciting.

We went on a tour of the Western Wall Tunnels that run along the wall where Herod's Temple once stood. Considering we live in a very new country and walk on

very new stones and streets, it is quite amazing to walk on cobblestones that were once the center of ancient Jewish culture and civilization. The tunnels run under the Old City's Muslim Quarter. Above us stood modern day homes and businesses. Below were the ruins of a 2000 year old and older city.

We traveled to Rehovot and picked oranges for Table to Table. Or Chadash has donated tzedakah to this organization. The land we worked on was fully donated to charity and all groups had to do was bring volunteers to pick the fruit. We worked alongside a group of army soldiers.

In the middle of our trip, we went to the Dead Sea and swam, or should I say floated. Quite an experience if you ever have the opportunity. Seeing as it's the lowest place on earth, and has so much salt in the water, you can't sink! You can actually stand in the water with your feet not touching the ground. Very cool. Then onto Masada and Isabel's bat mitzvah.

Sadly, I was unable to climb the mountain; instead I took the tram with the grandparents. But that's OK. Talk about a casual setting. Everyone was in jeans and sweats. Sitting in an open air shelter. But very amazing. Here we were where once stood King Herod's hilltop fortress. Yes, it's where a group of zealots took refuge from Roman destruction of the Second Temple. Where they held off a Roman army siege. And they committed suicide. But it is also a place where the Jewish zealots

went to continue their religious practice and would do anything for their religious freedom. They died free Jews rather than slaves stripped of their faith.

Isabel did a wonderful job, I never doubted that she would. We sang. Threw candy. And had made it to the mountaintop to celebrate. Then dodged the raindrops back to the tram.

There isn't enough room for me to go on and on about my trip. And some of you might have stopped reading already. Some other points of interest that we visited: Yad Vashem, Mount Hertzal, Beit She'an (Egyptian ruins), ATV riding in Ein Zivan on the Lebanon border, thermal baths at Hammat Gader, shopping in Safed, reconstructed underground munitions factory at Ayalon Institute, Independence Hall in Tel Aviv where David Ben Gurion declared the State of Israel in 1948, shopping at Nahalat Binyamin, the Palmach Museum and of course the Western Wall on a Friday evening. And I haven't even mentioned all of the wonderful food we ate. YUM. Falafel. And hummus. We made it home in one piece without all the drama of the trip there. It was nice to be home. With my cat and my stuff. But Isabel's Bat Mitzvah Trip is something I will never forget. And in two weeks, she's gonna do it all again, here. What a trooper!

Shalom!

Cycles of Our Lives

Happy Birthday

February 4 Bob Dorfman
February 9 Maria Parks
February 19 Lilli Kornblum
February 20 Marvin Levin
February 22 Barry Weinstein
February 27 Jeffrey Port
February 28 Mike Simon

Happy Anniversary

February 25 Alan Amberg and
Michael Helfgott

Thanks for the Oneg....

*Late addition: Friday, January 29:
Oneg was sponsored by Kat Ramsey
in celebration of her mikvah*

Friday, February 5: Oneg
sponsored by Ed Mogul in memory
of his partner, William Hamilton

Saturday, February 6: Lunch still
available for sponsorship

Friday, February 12: Oneg
sponsored by Alan Amberg and
Michael Helfgott in honor of their
anniversary and lovers everywhere

Friday, February 19: Oneg
sponsored by Marvin Levin in honor
of his birthday

Friday, February 26: Oneg still
available for sponsorship

February Service Schedule

Friday, February 5: Reuben Lewy,
Ed Mogul, and Judith Golden
at 8 pm

Saturday, February 6: Saturday
morning Shabbat service, 10 am

Friday, February 12: Rabbi Larry
Edwards and Mindy Stillman
at 8 pm

**Friday, February 19: Shabbat
Dinner 6 pm** Lilli Kornblum and
Judith Golden with Bonnie Wade,
guest speaker, at 8 pm

Friday, February 26: Rabbi Larry
Edwards at 8 pm

Shabbat Dinner – February 19, 2010

It is still not too late to sign up for our catered Shabbat dinner on **February 19**. Join us for a buffet dinner which includes brisket just like mom and grandma made and a vegetarian Tuscan stew.

Dinner will begin at **6:00 pm** and then join us for our regular Shabbat services in the "Stonewall" Chapel

The cost is \$20 and advance reservations are required and must be made by February 14.

Challenge Ourselves

By Carol Goldbaum, Development Chair

For the past five years we have had challenge grants: The first was sponsored by Steve Weiser and Carol Goldbaum; this was followed for three years by Norman Sandfield; and this past year Rob Pooley and Howard Wax sponsored our challenge grant. These challenge grants have raised \$80,000 over five years. This year we do not have a sponsor to lead us. So we will "Challenge Ourselves".

You may have been contacted by members of the congregation asking you to Challenge Yourself to keep Congregation Or Chadash in the black. Please give generously. These calls will begin near the end of the tax year and an opportunity to share your money with us instead of Uncle Sam. We are asking each person to give as close to the maximum of what they have given before or, at least an average of their donations to the challenge grants over the years.

No congregation, no matter its size, can survive on dues alone. Usually, dues cover half or less of the expenses of running a synagogue. Last year our expenses exceeded our income by \$12,000. Thank goodness, we have a reserve fund, but it will not last long at that rate.

Congregation Or Chadash is a very special congregation. It is a family, a community, a place to explore your identity, and a place where you can return, as well as a wonderful mixture of ways to pray and play.

We "Challenge Ourselves" to raise \$15,000 through this year's challenge. Please give with your heart for your community.

It's Almost Passover

By Susan Jacobson

It seems as if we just celebrated Chanukah, but it is already time to begin preparing for Passover and the Annual Or Chadash Community Seder.

The date of this year's Seder is **Tuesday, March 30th**, the second night of Passover. Rabbi Larry Edwards will lead the Seder, along with cantorial soloist Judith Golden.

We will again hold the Seder at the East Bank Club located at 500 N. Kingsbury. The cost for members and their guests will be \$55; for non-members the cost will be \$65. Parking at the East Bank Club is \$5.75.

The deadline for receipt of reservations is **Wednesday March 24th**. Please use the reservation form enclosed in this newsletter, or download the form from the Or Chadash website. <http://www.orchadash.org>. You can also send an email to office@orchadash.org.

A limited number of scholarships will be available for members to attend the Seder. If you would like to be considered for a scholarship, please let us know. Leave a message for Susan Jacobson at office@orchadash.org and we will get back to you.

A Library is Born

Looking for a reading for a Shabbat service you are leading? Trying to understand a parshah? Looking for a book on being Jewish and gay? You may just be able to find what you need in the Or Chadash library.

Materials in the two bookcases in the Or Chadash office have been sorted and grouped by subject, and the shelves are labeled to show what topic is where. Many of these books were part of the collection owned by Arlene Sher and given to the congregation after her death; some were sent to the congregation by the author or publisher; and others have been acquired over the years through a variety of donations.

We do not have funds to purchase new books, nor do we have the space to house them. However if you are aware of a title that is core to the collection (and that would be any work about being Jewish and gay) a donation would be greatly appreciated. We will add a bookplate to the volume to acknowledge the contribution.

If you would like to borrow a work from the library, most of the books have a pocket with a card in it at the back of the volume. Please note your name and the date on the card and leave it in the box marked "Library." If there is not a card in the book, there is a box of blank cards on top of the bookcase.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please leave a message at the Or Chadash office. office@orchadash.org

Estate Planning Workshop Sunday, February 21

We all saw the great article in the *Chicago Tribune* on January 18 about our own Howard and Rob regarding legal issues pertaining to our community. These issues are critical ones, and *we all need to be prepared to address them*.

With that in mind, Congregation Chadash will present a workshop on Estate Planning and other legal issues on Sunday, **February 21, at 1 pm at Emanuel**. Nosh will be served. Our speaker will be Joseph Schuman, JD, who specializes in working with the GLBT community to develop appropriate legal instruments to protect our rights and those of our loved ones — and the causes we want to support.

At this workshop, we will also introduce our Planned Giving Program and brochure. Please RSVP to Carol Goldbaum at office@orchadash.org by February 18 so that we know how many to expect and so that we have sufficient materials (and food!!).

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.

And Thank you

Challenge Ourselves donations from Maurice Schwartz, Susan Boone & Rabbi Larry Edwards, Mike Simon & Yehuda Jacobi, Ethel Meyer, Geverson Rolim, John & Rochelle Lodder, Steve Rosenberg, and Kat Ramsey (in honor of Larry Posen).

A general donation from Roslyn Griesbach,

A yahrzeit donation from Howard Aronson in memory of Abe Aronson,

A donation from Lee Griesbach and David Miller in honor of Lee's birthday,

A donation from Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper in honor of Rob Pooley and Howard Wax,

A yahrzeit donation from David and Theodora Green.

A donation from Sue Mazer and Jan Norton in memory of their friend Hank Goldstein, who died three years ago on February 13,

A grant from the Max and Carol Sandfield Philanthropic Fund of the Dallas Jewish Community Foundation.

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!

A New York State of Mind

With 2010 here, the Or Chadash trip to New York City gets closer. Our dates are **May 14-16, 2010** and now is the time to let us know if you are interested in going.

We have negotiated an excellent rate at the Hilton Hotel and Towers on 6th Avenue for \$199 per night plus tax. Within the next month we will have to commit to a specific number of rooms in order to keep that rate. If you think you would want to take a room at the Hilton please let Bill Wahler know by February 10. He can be reached at office@orchadash.org.

If you just want to be part of the group but will make your own hotel arrangements that is fine, but we would like to know if you are planning on going. Please contact Bill using above information and say "I am going to NYC with Or Chadash."

Bill is working on setting up a number of tours, including some new ones since last year, and needs to know how big a group we will have.

Ask any of the people who went last year and you will know what kind of wonderful experiences we will have this spring.

Save the dates:
Aug. 13 - 15, 2010
Los Angeles 2010
20th World Conference of
GLBT Jews

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

Help Us Feed the Homeless on February 25!

By Laurie Grauer, Social Action Chair

On **Thursday, February 25th**, Or Chadash will be serving over 200 sack meals along with members of The Night Ministry. Since 1976, The Night Ministry, a non-denominational, non-profit organization, has served Chicago's most vulnerable populations, providing them with everything from resources, to shelter, and meals.

This is a tremendous mitzvah project and the good news is there is more than one way to help.

1) Tzedaka Cans- please bring in your cans and/donations by **February 5th**. These funds will be used to purchase supplies for meal distribution.

2) Donating items- As of now we need the following items in quantities that will accommodate 200 individuals: brown paper bags, sliced wheat bread, turkey lunch meat, sliced cheese, packets of mayo and mustard, napkins, juice box and/or bottles of water, chips/pretzels, granola bars/Rice Krispy treats, tangerines/clementines, small toiletries (soap, shampoo, etc.)

3) Assembling Sack Meals- We will be assembling meals at **Temple Emanuel** on **Wednesday, February 24th** from **6:30pm-8:30pm**.

4) Meal Distribution- We will meet at the **corner of Division & California** at the bus. We will be there from **7pm-9:00pm**.

If you would like to donate either time or resources to this project, please contact Laurie Grauer at office@orchadash.org.

Building New Relationships Around Faith, Hope and Community

By Laurie Grauer

On January 9th, I participated in Affinity's annual Burning Bowl Ceremony. For 14 years, Affinity, a non-profit organization, has served the black lesbian community through a combination of educational, social and community collaborations. One of the central elements of Affinity's mission has been the

creation of opportunities for visibility, empowerment, and leadership for black lesbians locally, while serving as a national organizing model. Their annual Burning Bowl Celebration offers community members an opportunity to reflect on personal growth during the past year and focus on goals for the one that has just begun. I was proud to read a portion of Unetaneh Tokef from our Machzor, *Kol Haneshamah: Prayerbook for the Days of Awe* (The Reconstructionist Press, 1999), on behalf of our congregation. The prayer was well received and will be archived in Affinity's library.

It was wonderful to hear a mixture of sermons, Buddhist chants, Hebrew a cappella, African drum beats, and let's not forget witnessing good old fashioned trash-can pyrotechnics! More than that, it was inspiring to see how Affinity has become a vital network for the Black LGBTQ community; offering resources, support groups, parenting classes, bible study, scholarships and so much more. Yes, Affinity may serve a different population than Or Chadash, but what binds the two entities is that both were formed when society closed its doors to gay, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender individuals of all races, religions and creeds. For that reason, I am in ongoing conversations with Kim Hunt, Executive Director of Affinity, to see how else our two communities can support each other.



Affinity Burning Bowl drumming Photo courtesy of Liz Thompson

Find Out How You Can End Teen Homelessness in Chicago!

By Laurie Grauer, Social Action Chair

According to a study conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago, nearly 2,000 youths wander the streets of Chicago without a safe place to sleep. Though the reasons vary, a study conducted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in 2006 found that nearly a quarter of these youths identified themselves as LGBT. The study also showed that many of these youths were forced to leave their homes because they were either ridiculed, threatened with violence or, in some cases, even assaulted.

Join us on **February 19th at 7:00pm** as we welcome **Bonnie Wade**, the founding associate director of the LGBTQ Host Home Program at UCAN, an innovative housing model that is an alternative to the shelter system. Ms. Wade has over 15 years of social service experience, 11 of which were dedicated to working specifically with LGBTQ youth. Ms. Wade, along with two youths currently enrolled in her LGBTQ Host Home Program, will be speaking on teen homelessness and what can be done to address it following our catered Shabbat Seuda. **Ms. Wade and her youth will also be attending our Shabbat Meal thanks to the generosity of our congregation.**

The Chesed Brigade

By Rabbi Larry Edwards & Sara Fischer

Acts of *Chesed* (“loving-kindness”) include visiting the sick, helping those who are limited in their ability to get out and around, and responding to other needs such as helping members at the time of death of a loved one. In fact, by being a member of Or Chadash, you are part of a community that strives to care for one another. The Chesed Network is simply a way of developing a list of “first responders” for those activities that make us a community. By signing up for the Chesed Brigade you indicate your willingness to be called upon occasionally to help fellow Or Chadash members.

Those interested in participating should contact Sara Fischer, who will be its coordinator, at

office@orchadash.org or leave a message on the Or Chadash phone. You will also be asked to complete a one-page questionnaire about your interests and availability.

We hope you will include this in your mitzvahs in the coming year.

For Those Who Want To Help Haiti:

The Union for Reform Judaism has been engaged in disaster relief efforts for years and has developed considerable expertise in this arena. The Union has significant contacts in place both in the community-at-large and within the Jewish community, and works with other organizations to identify appropriate partners and ensure resources are used wisely. The Union takes no administrative costs from disaster relief donations, with the exception of direct expenses such as credit card fees. Ongoing updates regarding the disaster relief efforts and the allocations from this fund will be posted at www.urj.org/relief.

Donations to the Union for Reform Judaism Haiti Relief Fund can be made online or by check (note: Haiti Relief in the memo section) to:

Union for Reform Judaism
Attention: Development
633 Third Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10017

PS&H

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Michael Simon, CPA

406 West Central Road
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Fax (847) 255-3296

Ad paid for by Mike Simon. Advertising available upon request, contact the Or Chadash office

Now Go and Learn!

Limmud is a movement that began in England and has spread to Jewish communities around the world.

The first Limmud Chicago will be held all day **Sunday, February 14**, at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines (Pace Bus #208). You can register online for \$75. Teachers and facilitators come from across the spectrum, and include such notable personalities as Judith Golden (Mussar) and Larry Edwards (Torah Queries).

More information, including the complete schedule, can be found at <http://limmudchicago.org/>. Judith and Larry really, really hope to see you there.

Congregation Or Chadash

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Rabbi: Laurence Edwards
Cantorial Soloist: Judith Golden

Co-Presidents:
Robin Sampliner and Bill Wahler
Executive VP: Maryl Rosen
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

Our Upcoming Gala -- March 20, 2010

By Maryl Rosen

We're very excited about Or Chadash's upcoming Gala benefit, which will be **March 20, 2010**, at Spertus on Michigan Avenue. We will be honoring our members Howard Wax and Rob Pooley and civil rights attorney Joey Mogul. The evening's entertainment and hosting will be provided by lesbian comedienne Jessica Halem.

We hope you can join us. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer, as well. You can help us on the silent auction or helping us secure sponsors.

Watch for invitations in the mail and, for an exciting development, visit OC's website to buy Gala tickets and donate online! If you prefer to pay online, we're establishing a link through Events.org to allow online purchases and donations.

We regret mis-identifying our honoree Joey Mogul as Joey (Josephine) Mogul in the save-the-date cards that just went out. Joey has always been Joey's name -- not Josephine. We apologize for our mistake.

Haman returns

By Matt Simonette

Like a bad penny, Haman always seems to be turning up at this time of year. Rumor has it that lately he's ensnared a lot of folks in some so-called, "sure thing" moneymaking idea people are referring to as "the Fonzie scheme."

You can find out more when Or Chadash presents its annual Purim Shpiel on **Saturday, February 27**. We'll first gather in Stonewall Chapel to read the Magillah, then hang around for the Shpiel and see what Haman has been up to this past year. We'll cap the evening with hamantaschen and schmoozing after.

Volunteers are still needed to appear in the Purim Shpiel. Please contact Matt Simonette at office@orchadash.org or phone the Or Chadash office if you are interested.

No February Dine-around

We are not having a Dine-around this month so everyone can join us instead for a real Shabbat dinner on **February 19**. See article in this newsletter

Bete' Avon

Yasher koach!

By Rabbi Larry Edwards

I have spent much of this morning watching videos and reading news reports about the Israeli rescue teams operating in Haiti. The Jewish people support many fine organizations that do important work all over the world. In a crisis like the one in Haiti, though, the Jewish organization best-equipped to respond with immediate, meaningful assistance is the State of Israel.

You know that I have many disagreements with Israel over matters of politics and policy. It is not yet the state that I hope it will become. (Neither is Massachusetts, for that matter.) But when it comes to saving lives in desperate emergency situations, Israel brings tears of joy and admiration to my eyes.

The field hospital that Israel set up in Port-au-Prince is state-of-the-art, and was up and running well before anything comparable from the United States. CBS News called it “the Rolls Royce” of field hospitals.

Sadly, Israel has had too much experience in emergency medicine, disaster relief, and field hospitals. She has put this experience to good use, however, around the world. Israel was a first responder to the Turkey earthquake in 1999 and the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya in 2006.

I have also noted a few critical voices in the Israeli press and Jewish blogosphere claiming that much of this effort is directed toward public relations, and is carried out at the expense of needed efforts closer to home. Even if true, it takes nothing away from the men and women who have placed themselves in difficult circumstances to help save lives. And if the Israeli field hospital is a superior model, than let others learn from Israeli experience.

Yasher koach, Israel!



Photo from the *Washington Post* online, www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyncontent/gallery/2010/01/19/GA2010011903092.html



Reservation Form
Congregation Or Chadash Shabbat Dinner
Friday, February 19, 2010

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Friday, February 19 Shabbat Dinner at 6:00 pm
Cost for meals is \$20 per person
Please reserve by February 12, 2010

Please include payment with this form, either by check/money order or by filling in the credit card payment information above. All payments should be made payable to Congregation Or Chadash and mailed to:

Congregation Or Chadash
5959 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60660.

I have enclosed a check/money order for \$_____ for ___ person/people

or

Please charge my credit card \$_____ for ___ person/people

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

Name as it Appears on Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

_____ Zip Code _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Security Code: _____

Signature: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Congregation Or Chadash
5959 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660
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The More Things Change the More They Stay the Same
a.k.a. The More Things Stay the Same, the More They Change
Or Chadash spring classes begin in March!

Being Jewish is like being in a long, long relationship: you change, your partner changes, the world changes around you, and still you love each other. This spring, we will get together and study texts that haven't changed and texts that have, how new happenings in the worlds around us have changed our ideas.

We will think and we will laugh, we will learn and share ideas.

Sunday classes will meet in the library at Emmanuel for five Sunday mornings.

Come study with us!

10 am – 11:15 am: Rabbi Edwards will teach a course entitled “*What is Different About Modern Judaism*”.

“I have been thinking about some of the ways that Judaism has changed in the modern world, and I want to try them out on you:”

*The Torah was written by human beings, not by God.

*The overwhelming majority of Jews view the modern return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel as political; Christians and Muslims mainly see it as theological.

*Judaism was primarily seen as exclusive; increasingly, we look for ways to make it inclusive.

*Jewish suffering used to be seen as divine punishment; now such a view would typically be seen as anti-Semitic, or some version of internalized self-hatred.

*The phrase ‘tikkun olam’ has taken on a very broad meaning of something like ‘peace and social justice’. That is not what it originally meant.

As usual, our sessions will be a combination of text study and lively debate!

11:15 am – 11:45 a.m. 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 am – 1:00 p.m. Howard Aronson will teach “*5 Texts of Judaism*”. We will read and discuss 5 major texts of Judaism from their contemporary points of view. These texts will be: the Ten Commandments, the 13 Attributes of God, the Shema, Rambam’s 13 Articles of Faith, and the Reform movement Pittsburgh Platforms (1885 and 1999). All texts are available for download from the net.

Cost for each class is:

\$50 for Or Chadash members

\$100 for non-members

Contact office@OrChadash.org to sign up, or use the registration form in this newsletter and on our website.

Class dates will be:

March 7 and 14

April 11, 18, 25

Maimonides Study Group

Time to be arranged

Contact Ed Mogul at office@orchadash.org.

This semester, the group might delve into Joel Kraemer’s scholarly biography of Rambam. Sound intriguing? Please contact Ed to become part of this study group!

Course Registration Form
Congregation Or Chadash Courses 5770
Spring – 2010 (Mar. 18 – Apr. 25)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

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

10:00-11:15 **What is Different About Modern Judaism**

_____ \$50 (Member) _____ \$100 (Non-Member)

11:15-11:45 **Biblical Hebrew Verse of the Day** - Free

11:45- 1:00 **5 Texts of Judaism** _____ \$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.

Congregation Or Chadash, 5959 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660

773-271-2148

office@OrChadash.org

www.OrChadash.org

February 2010

Congregation Or Chadash

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	<p><i>1</i> 17 Shevat</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:30 pm Board Meeting</div>	<p><i>2</i> 18 Shevat</p>	<p><i>3</i> 19 Shevat</p>	<p><i>4</i> 20 Shevat</p>	<p><i>5</i> 21 Shevat</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8 pm Shabbat Service</div>	<p><i>6</i> 22 Shevat</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10 am Morning Service followed by light lunch</div>																																																																																											
<p><i>7</i> 23 Shevat</p>	<p><i>8</i> 24 Shevat</p>	<p><i>9</i> 25 Shevat</p>	<p><i>10</i> 26 Shevat</p>	<p><i>11</i> 27 Shevat</p>	<p><i>12</i> 28 Shevat</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8 pm Torah Service</div>	<p><i>13</i> 29 Shevat</p>																																																																																											
<p><i>14</i> 30 Shevat</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Inaugural Limmud Chicago conference</div>	<p><i>15</i> 1 Adar</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh</p>	<p><i>16</i> 2 Adar</p>	<p><i>17</i> 3 Adar</p>	<p><i>18</i> 4 Adar</p>	<p><i>19</i> 5 Adar</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6 pm Shabbat Dinner (reservation required)</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:15 pm Bonnie Wade guest speaker</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8 pm Shabbat Service</div>	<p><i>20</i> 6 Adar</p>																																																																																											
<p><i>21</i> 7 Adar</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1 pm Estate Planning Workshop</div>	<p><i>22</i> 8 Adar</p>	<p><i>23</i> 9 Adar</p>	<p><i>24</i> 10 Adar</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:30 pm Assemble sack meals at Emanuel</div>	<p><i>25</i> 11 Adar</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7 pm Distribute meals from Night Ministry Outreach Bus</div>	<p><i>26</i> 12 Adar</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8 pm Shabbat Service</div>	<p><i>27</i> 13 Adar</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7 pm Havdalah and Megillah Reading; 8 pm Purim Spiel</div>																																																																																											
<p><i>28</i> 14 Adar</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>Jan 2010</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>Mar 2010</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>					S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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March 2010

Congregation Or Chadash

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<p><i>14</i></p> <p>28 Adar</p> <p>Classes continue</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time begins</p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p>29 Adar</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>1 Nisan</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh</p>	<p><i>17</i></p> <p>2 Nisan</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>3 Nisan</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>4 Nisan</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8 pm Shabbat Service</div>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>5 Nisan</p> <p>GALA!!!</p> <p>Spring begins</p>																																																																																					
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