

April 2010

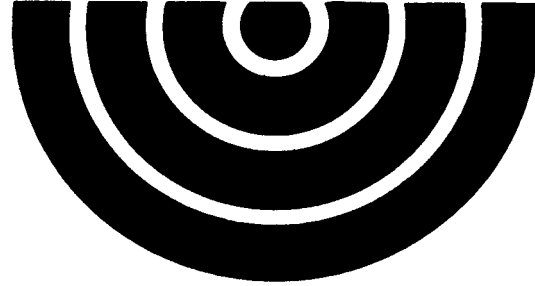
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A member of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame

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CONGREGATION OR CHADASH
CONGREGATION OF NEW LIGHT



The New Light

What do you do for Passover?

By Robin Sampliner, OC Co-President

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!**

Even though there are basic “rules” for celebrating Passover, there are probably as many “interpretations” of those rules as there are Jews in the world.

It all starts with preparations for the holiday. Do you clean out your cupboards of all wheat products? Fill a box with pasta, Cheerios, crackers and cookies? Do you store those items off your property, and buy it back for a buck after the holiday is over? Do you lug the seder plates, pots and pans up from the basement? You certainly must go to the grocery store to stock up on matzo, matzo meal, chicken for dinner and soup, vegis, macaroons and those jelly candies. And of course you will need plenty of Manischewitz wine.

There are some among us who look forward to these tasks. It’s a time to clean out the cabinets, start fresh after the holiday, and separate out this time of year from the rest of the year. Others look at it as a hassle and chore. What is

on the list of foods to eat and not eat? Where are we going to store the chametz? Take out and then pack up the special dishes, pots and pans?

I have to admit that I tried cleaning out our kitchen cabinets one Pesach when I was a teenager and active in BBG. But I’ll tell you it lasted only one year. No one else in the house got behind me and the ritual was short lived.

My fun comes with preparation for the seder. Granted I am not the one who cooks for days and is in the kitchen cleaning up afterwards. I always happen to be a guest at someone else’s house or my mother did the work. But I loved setting the table for the seder. I got out the special plates, my mother’s best china, the kind that is kept in special covers with doilies in between each dish. I polished the hammered silver water pitcher that I loved. The seder plate came out, fancy crystal (the kids didn’t get the fancy

Cycles of Our Lives

Happy Birthday

April 8 Daniel Amati
April 16 Laurie Grauer
April 16 Frank Nussbaum
April 19 Dave Fried

Thanks for the Oneg....

Friday, April 2: Oneg still available for sponsorship

Saturday, April 3: Lunch still available for sponsorship

Friday, April 9: Oneg sponsored by Norman Sandfield in memory of his father, Max Sandfield

Friday, April 16: Oneg sponsored by Frank Nussbaum in honor of his birthday

Friday, April 23: Oneg still available for sponsorship

Friday, April 30: Oneg still available for sponsorship.

April Service Schedule

Friday, April 2: Carol Goldbaum, Beth Snyder, and Judith Golden at 8 PM

Saturday, April 3: Saturday morning Shabbat service, 10 AM

Friday, April 9: Rabbi Larry Edwards at 8 PM

Friday, April 16: Lilli Kornblum and Judith Golden at 8 PM

Friday, April 23: Rabbi Larry Edwards at 8 PM

Friday, April 30: Shabbat Dinner at 6 PM. Bill Wahler, Dave Fried, and Judith Golden at 8 PM

stuff), silver serving dishes, butter dishes ... it seemed like everything came out of the dining room cabinets for Pesach. We weren't a particularly observant family, but Passover is always a special holiday with lots of preparation.

Like I said, I have never been the one to cook the whole seder meal, but I sure like eating all the food! Actually, I used to make the charoset, yum. So it's time for the seder. But it's not time to eat yet. What haggadah did your family use? We used the Maxwell House haggadah, or was it Betty Crocker? Whoever wrote it isn't important, but it included all the important parts; the story of Passover, the songs, the plagues, and of course the four questions. And eventually came some food. But don't fill up on too much parsley dipped in salt water! How hot was the horseradish? Did you go for the freshly made white stuff, or the tamer red kind? When I moved to Chicago, I started going to a second night seder with my sister's family at the home of friends of hers. I always sat across from one of their sons and made him laugh (or he thought I was crazy), with the face I made as I tortured myself with really HOT horseradish on matzo. But man, it was good. And don't forget the big bowl of hard boiled eggs. You'd think the farmers would tell their hens to step up production of eggs due to the fact that Easter and Passover are so close together, so the grocery store wouldn't run out!

And then comes the meal. Yum (again). Gefilte fish, matzo ball soup, and my mother's brisket (hers is the best). And Jello. And a really dense nut cake that always fell when we took it out of the spring form pan. But that's OK because we would just fill in the void with more frosting and whipped cream. Can you tell I liked my mother's cooking?!

But alas, don't forget the afikomen. Who would find it this year? Was it well hidden? I swear I never caught on that my father was hiding the matzo when he left the table during dinner. What would the prize be? A silver coin or a bill? No matter who found the matzo, all the kids would go away with something in their pocket.

Not to be a buzz kill, but the clean up came next. And that seemed to last for days too. There were always things that couldn't go in the dishwasher and had to be washed and dried by hand. And the china had to be packed up with the doilies and special cover again. Take out the leaves from the dining room table. And swear that you're going to hire someone next year to help with the dishes (my mother caught onto that one and it sure made things easier for her).

We didn't necessarily follow all of the rituals of Passover preparation, and our seder seemed to get shorter and shorter every year, but we had our own rituals. And that's what makes the holiday special when you celebrate it with family and friends.

Shades of Grey in the Rainbow Community

By Linda Preston, Education Chair

A two-part series co-sponsored by Congregation Or Chadash & Center On Halsted. Two Sundays, **May 23 and June 6, 12:30 – 2:30**, at Center on Halsted

Session 1: Successful aging guidelines and resources

Session 2: Preparing for successful aging for the GLBT community

Sometimes things happen, and you wonder: What will you do when you or your partner can no longer be independent? What do you need to think about and what do you need to prepare? How do you find or create options that honor Jewish identity and observance? Are there LGBT resources, or do we need to create them?

Come brainstorm with us!

Please put this on your calendar!

Maot Chitim Food Delivery

By Robin Sampliner, OC Co-President

Thank you to everyone who came out to deliver Passover food boxes the morning after the Gala. These brave souls got their butts out of bed and did a mitzvah! THANK YOU to Robin, Lilli, Mary, Martha, Jerry and Elise and Amanda. With all of these helpers, we were able to deliver the packages in record time and make it to Nookies across the street before the brunch crowd. Way to go, OC!

Besides getting up early, loading up the provided grocery carts, squishing into the elevators and delivering the food boxes with a smile, we helped to make the Passover holiday more enjoyable and fulfilling for the families that might otherwise not have had such a nice seder.

Thank you again to everyone who participated!

Affinity Panel Discussion

By Elise Miller

On March 6, 2010 Rabbi Edwards was a panelist at Affinity's "Religion & the LGBTQ Panel Discussion." Other panelists in attendance were Phyllis Goodson, National GLBT Women's Leader for SGI-USA; Fr. Juan Reed, retired, St. Martin Episcopal Church; Max Smith, activist and author; as well as moderator Dr. Rachel Havrelock, a Biblical scholar at UIC. This panel discussion focused on how Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities evolve in their view of the LGBTQ community. Following the panel's introduction was a lively discussion between the panel and those in attendance about their own experiences as LGBTQ people of faith. Affinity is a non-profit organization serving Chicago's black lesbian and bisexual women's community primarily in Hyde Park.



Rabbi Edwards at the Affinity discussion



Elise listens to the discussion

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

A donation from Sue Mazer in memory of her mother, Dorothy Mazer.

Friends of Or Chadash donations from David Jacobson, Barry Goodman, and Rabbi Andrea Cosnowsky.

Parking at Or Chadash

Many of you may have noticed that the Emanuel parking lot is VERY crowded on the second Friday of the month. Emanuel has been getting a HUGE turnout for their Share Shabbat dinners. Which means there is very little parking left over for Or Chadash congregants that want to attend our Torah service.

In order to relieve some of the parking lot crowding on the second Friday of the month, Emanuel has contacted the city, and we can now use the "Thorndale Thumb" for that night of the month only. The Thorndale Thumb is the small paved section to the east of Sheridan at the end of Thorndale. Please do not park there for any other services unless an announcement has been made in advance. You will get a ticket from the city.

If you still have problems with parking on the second Friday of the month, please contact the Or Chadash office and we'll see what else we can do.

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

Membership Special for Special Members

*By Mindy Stillman,
Membership Chair*

Did you know that Or Chadash offers a special membership rate for new members who join midyear? Our membership year runs July – June. You can join now for the special rate of *half off* the regular membership fees! Just think, you can sign up for Or Chadash classes and other events at the member rate! So, if membership is on your mind, please contact Mindy Stillman at office@OrChadash.org.

Congregation Or Chadash

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(773) 271-2148

Email: Office@OrChadash.org

Website: www.OrChadash.org

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

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!

LGBTI Refugee Asylum – Hear Neil Grungras on April 12

You may remember that Rabbi Edwards wrote in the newsletter about the work of Neil Grungras. His organization, ORAM (Organization for Refuge, Asylum & Migration) works on legal issues of asylum for LGBTI refugees. ORAM collaborates closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in an effort to improve the treatment and status of LGBT refugees and asylum seekers worldwide. ORAM is likewise involved in several mainstream coalitions to promote policies within the U.S. that will advance the protection of LGBTI refugees.

Prior to forming ORAM, Mr. Grungras held the position of Director for Europe and the Middle East at HIAS, the oldest migration organization in the U.S. While there, he focused on international refugee law and procedures as well as socio-political, legal and economic developments affecting refugees and migrants.

In Israel, he co-founded the first refugee rights clinic and within it a program assisting LGBT Palestinians escaping “honor killing” and various other forms of persecution.

Mr. Grungras previously directed the Department of State’s Overseas Processing Entity (“OPE”) for U.S.-bound refugees in Vienna, Austria. Under his management, the OPE assisted thousands of Iranian refugees from initial case inception to arrival in the U.S.

Mr. Grungras has served as a refugee law adviser to several NGOs and has lectured and taught extensively on refugees in general and on LGBTI refugees in particular. He has developed and directed several student externships on refugee law and procedure, most recently for U.S. law students in Austria, Ukraine and Israel. His supervision extended to externs in various NGO settings as well as inside UNHCR.

Neil Grungras will be speaking **at the Center on Halsted, Monday evening, April 12 at 7 pm**, co-sponsored by Or Chadash.

Lobby Day for Civil Unions in Springfield

Join Equality Illinois on **Thursday, April 22, 2010** at the Illinois State Capitol Building to lobby for recognition of Civil Unions. This FREE event is sponsored by Equality Illinois but you must RSVP. E-mail: rsvp@eqil.org or phone: **773-477-7173**. RSVP by April 20, 2010 at 5:00 pm (Central Time)

For those who need transportation, Equality Illinois will have buses departing from several locations:

CHICAGO:

Equality Illinois Office - 3318 N. Halsted Street at 7am

OAK PARK:

Euclid Avenue Methodist United Church, 405 S. Euclid Avenue - 7am. This bus will stop from 7:30-8am for additional attendees at Denny’s Restaurant, 126 East North Frontage Road, Bolingbrook -- Exit 267 off of I-55 South (Stevenson)

Buses arrive at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 South 6th Street, Springfield by 11am. Attendees arriving via alternate transportation should meet Equality Illinois there.

During lunch (11am-12:30pm), Rick Garcia, Equality Illinois’ Director of Public Policy, will lead a discussion on effective lobbying.

From 1-3:30pm, attendees will lobby legislators at the Illinois State House.

A debriefing, reception and dinner will be held from 3:30-5:30pm.

Buses depart Springfield at 5:30pm.

For details visit the Equality Illinois website:

http://eqfed.org/equality_illinois/events/lobby_day_april_22_2010_attendees/details.tcl.

April Dine-around is a Shabbat Dinner at Or Chadash

April 30 will be our next catered Shabbat dinner at **6 PM at Or Chadash**. Once again it will be only \$20 for a gourmet and festive meal prior to our regular Shabbat services. If you joined us for the Shabbaton and the February Shabbat dinner you know this is a great deal; good food, good company, and a good price. If you have not yet tried this please check it out.

Reservations are required. (Reservation form is in the newsletter and on the website) and the deadline is April 25.

Don't miss out. Sign up now. Any questions contact Bill Wahler at the OC office, office@OrChadash.org.

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JOIN OR CHADASH FOR THE 2010 Israel Solidarity Day Walk with Israel Sunday May 2, 2010

City Walk:
Meet at Anshe Emet Synagogue
9:15 am Registration
10:15 am Kickoff, 3 mile walk

More info: www.juf.org/walk

Or Chadash 2010 Gala

By Robin Sampliner, OC Co-President

Thank you to all Or Chadash members and guests who attended the 2010 Annual Gala. It was a smashing success! Thank you to the generous attendees that helped us to raise over \$10,000 for the synagogue. Your generosity will help the synagogue in many ways over the next year. We will continue to run classes, have services, parties and programs for various Jewish holidays, work within our surrounding community, work to get the word out about the synagogue and bring new members in.

A special thanks to our honorees Howard Wax, Rob Pooley and Joey Mogul for allowing us to honor them at the event. And for bringing their family and friends to help us all celebrate their achievements.

And a very special thanks to Maryl Rosen for taking the risk and making the event at a new venue a huge success. I heard wonderful comments about Spertus, and Jessica Halem made us all laugh.

For those that couldn't attend this year, keep your eyes and ears open in a year for the 2011 Gala!

Editors Note: A photographer from *Windy City Times*, Anthony Meade, took some great photos of the event. You can see these at these three sites:

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/images/publications/wct/2010-03-24/current.pdf>

<http://windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=25983>

<http://www.chicagopride.com/photos/album.cfm?ID=2229>

Or Chadash Joins the Fight for Equal Rights

By Laurie Grauer, Social Action Chair

This past month, Congregation Or Chadash co-sponsored and participated in the first annual Unite the Fight: Equality Across America Midwest Conference. From March 7 until March 9, activists and grassroots organizations from all over the Midwest gathered at Columbia College for the purpose of obtaining equal rights for the LGBTQ community. Keynote speakers included spoken word artist Staceyann Chin and Lt. Dan Choi, who was removed from his position after he came out publicly on CNN this past year. The conference featured workshops, strategy caucuses, and live entertainment. I am happy to report that the social action committee attended this conference and we are currently working with the organizers to form a more formalized campaign in the coming months. For more information, please contact Laurie Grauer at the OC office: office@OrChadash.org.

Telling the Story Again

Rabbi Larry Edwards

Those of us who gather for the congregational Seder on the second night are treated not only to camaraderie, but also to some lovely readings from the “Haggadah Supplement.” This is a document that has evolved over the years, in keeping with the Haggadah’s own comment: “All who expand on the telling are praiseworthy.” Our supplement has grown to include poetry by our own Judith Golden, former member Carl Josehart, and various readings that ritual committee members have found meaningful over the years. The latest version, lovingly edited by Carol Goldbaum, contains some beautiful lines.

“...Do not take time to explain to the neighbors. / Tell only a few trusted friends and family members / Then begin quickly, before you have time to sink back into the old slavery ... / You will get where you are going by remembering who you are ...”

This is from a beautiful poem by Alla Bozarth-Campbell, an Episcopal priest, from her book, *Woman-Priest*. You see that we are eclectic in our sources.

Judith Golden finds symbolic meaning even in matzo balls, and the making thereof:

“Is this what You felt like on the verge of creation –
Rolling us lovingly in your hands
Until perfectly imperfect ...”

Carl Josehart wrote in 1998:

“With a mighty hand ... We are discovering our voices and our political strength. ...
With great awe ... We are reclaiming our religion and finding our spiritual home.”

And so we add our own layers to the telling of the ancient tale.

If there was a reading at your own seder that you found particularly meaningful this year, please share it with me. Next year, either here or in Jerusalem, we shall (God willing) tell the story again.





Reservation Form
Congregation Or Chadash Shabbat Dinner
Friday, April 30, 2010

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Friday, April 30 Shabbat Dinner at 6:00 pm
Cost for meals is \$20 per person
Please reserve by April 25, 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: _____

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