

A member of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame  
Founded in 1975

**February 2012**

**Volume 37, Number 2**

**5772**

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!**



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קהילות אור חדש  
**CONGREGATION OR CHADASH**  
**CONGREGATION OF NEW LIGHT**



# The New Light

**For the Leader: A Song, a Shout (out)!**  
**Rabbi Larry Edwards**

*Lam'natze'ach shir mizmor: Hari'u L'Elohim kol ha'aretz!*  
"For the leader. A song. A psalm. Raise a shout for God, all the earth..."

This is the opening of Psalm 66, and summarizes my feeling about our upcoming Shabbat Shira. The Sabbath of Song, which coincides with the Torah portion that narrates the crossing of the Reed Sea and the song of triumph that follows our escape from the pursuing army of Pharaoh, has become a fixture on the calendars of many congregations. For us, it is an opportunity once more to wonder at the ability of our choir to master new repertoire while keeping old favorites alive.

We are a sing-along congregation. We don't need to be "performed for," but it is nice once in a while to hear new music carefully and lovingly prepared.

And how are they so prepared, with such care and love? JUDITH! Judith Golden has now been Or Chadash's Cantorial Soloist for more than ten years. (Last fall we marked her tenth Days of Awe with us.) Judith was already a fixture when I arrived on the scene. It is therefore impossible for me to imagine Or Chadash without her enthusiastic presence; she is so much a part of us.

I am frankly in awe of her dedication and devotion to our *mishpachah*. And (speaking of awe) she consults with each of the Days of Awe prayer leaders each summer, to make sure things go as smoothly as possible. And then she sings her heart out on those exalted and exhausting days. And she organizes rehearsals for the choir, our devoted band of sisters and brothers who give their time and effort for the sake of lifting our spirits toward God. I know that one of the reasons that our sweet singers are willing to participate is because of their appreciation of Judith's talent and

## 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 & Michael Helfgott

### February Service Schedule

**Friday, February 3, 8:00 pm, SHABBAT SHIRA!**, with Judith and the Choir

**Saturday, February 4, 10:00 am**, Rabbi Edwards

**Friday, February 10, 8:00 pm**, D'Var Torah by Debra Shore

**Friday, February 17, 8:00 pm**

**Friday, February 24, 8:00 pm**

### Thanks for the Oneg and/or Kiddush Sponsorship!

**Friday, February 3:** Linda and Elisha Preston in memory of their brother-in-law and uncle, John Preston

**Saturday, February 4:** Kiddush sponsored by Yehuda Jacobi in memory of Arthur Jungmann

**Friday, February 10:** Sue Mazer and Jan Norton in memory of Dr. Henry (Hank) A. Goldstein, and in memory of Sue's beloved brother-in-law, Harmond Amernick

**Friday, February 17:** Oneg available for sponsorship

**Friday, February 24:** Robin Sampliner in celebration of the Gala honorees

commitment.

And it's not only on Friday nights and the Days of Awe that she gives her all. Judith shows up for shiva minyans, and Pesach seders, and contributes time and love and attention to so much of the life of Or Chadash.

THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Rabbi of Or Chadash, I summon you to services for Shabbat Shira on Friday, February 3. Prepare to sing – by listening to the MP3 of Debbie Friedman's Shalom Aleichem. Prepare to hear some new melodies along with the old. Offer your gratitude and support to our choir. And come to celebrate Judith Golden's decade+ of leading us in song, as we express our love and admiration for all she does and for the joy she radiates as she does it!

*Todah rabah and yasher koach, Judith!*

### Save the Date for the annual Congregation Or Chadash Gala!

The Congregation Or Chadash Gala will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Embassy Suites (511 N. Columbus Dr.).

This year we will be honoring Past-President Robin Sampliner and long-time member Howie Aronson. We will also be honoring John McGowan for his work as the national practice leader of Northern Trust's LGBT and Non-Traditional Family Practice. You can register and buy tickets online at <http://www.orchadash.org/Gala%202012.html>.

A large part of the success of the annual Gala centers on the success of the Silent Auction. We are asking for your help to make this year's Silent Auction the best ever! If you have any items of value or services that you would like to donate to the Silent Auction they would be much appreciated, please contact Elise Miller at [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org) with information about your donations.

Thank you in advance for all of your help and we look forward to seeing you at the upcoming Congregation Or Chadash Gala!

### Kiddush Sponsorships

At the November Board meeting, the Board voted to change the sponsorship options for Saturday morning. Instead of an Oneg and its sponsorship, we will be offering people a Kiddush sponsorship of \$36. Everyone is always welcome to sponsor an Oneg on Saturday morning if it is a special occasion.

If this proves at all popular, this option would then be added for Friday nights. For now, it's only for Saturday mornings.

## Challenge 5772

by Andrew Deppe and Beth Snyder, Development Committee Co-Chairs

(reprinted from December 2011, January 2012)

On behalf of the Development Committee of Or Chadash, we write to let you know about *Challenge 5772*. This year, Frank Nussbaum, the Sandfield Family Foundation, Mike Simon, Beth Snyder, Howard Aronson, and Stephen Weiser have pledged matching funds of \$6,000 to cover part of an expected deficit of up to \$20,000 this fiscal year. *We have a fighting chance to raise operating revenue by matching their donations: We are asking all members, former members, and good friends of OC to contribute whatever amount is possible for them — and for their households — to make up the balance.* As with most congregations, membership dues at Or Chadash cover roughly half of the annual operating budget.

Over the years, we have been fortunate to benefit from various challenge grants. One year, two members pooled money for the challenge; Norman Sandfield covered the challenge single-handedly for three years; and Howard Wax and Rob Pooley stepped forward in 5769. Another year, we successfully “challenged ourselves” without a specific donor — and raised 12,000. For 2010–11, Carol Goldbaum, Lilli Kornblum, Frank Nussbaum, Beth Snyder, Bill Wahler, and an anonymous contributor sponsored the Challenge. We met our goal and raised more than \$14,000. Overall, OC members have contributed more than \$100, 000 to the Challenge over the past several years. For a small congregation, that’s remarkable.

The Challenge funding will enable us to stay solvent without sacrificing the programming we provide. Solicitation letters for *Challenge 5772* will be mailed in early December, with telephone follow-up later that month and through February. Please think about how you might be able to participate this year. **We welcome contributions of any amount. You may donate over time through credit card deductions, or perhaps you could benefit from a one-time contribution as a year-end tax deduction.**

For further information on *Challenge 5772*, or to make a contribution now, contact Or Chadash at **773-271-2148**, or email us at **office@OrChadash.org**, or send a check to Congregation Or Chadash at 5959 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660.

*All contributions matter. Thank you so much for your consideration.*

### Our Mission

Congregation Or Chadash is a Jewish religious organization whose purpose is to provide a warm, affirming, Jewish community where all people 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.

## Support LGBT Jewish Leaders by attending these programs:

Congregation Or Chadash is pleased to announce that

**Debra Shore**, Commissioner on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago,



will be giving the **D'var Torah** on **Friday, February 10**

in celebration of **Tu Bi Sh'vat**, the New Year of Trees.

### Congregation Or Chadash

5959 N. Sheridan  
Chicago IL 60660

Voicemail: (773) 271-2148

Email: [office@OrChadash.org](mailto:office@OrChadash.org)

Website: [www.OrChadash.org](http://www.OrChadash.org)

Rabbi: Laurence Edwards  
Cantorial Soloist: Judith Golden

Co-Presidents:

Lilli Kornblum and Michael Helfgott

Executive VP: Elise Miller

Treasurer: Carol Goldbaum

Secretary: Susan Jacobson

*Rabbi Edwards is available by appointment and can be reached via email:*

*[rabbiedwards@orchadash.org](mailto:rabbiedwards@orchadash.org) or by phone at (773) 326-1490*

Congregation Or Chadash is pleased to announce that

**Jay Michaelson** will be visiting Chicago, February 16-19



Public appearances at:

Center on Halsted Thursday, Feb. 16,  
University of Chicago Hillel Feb. 17,  
LIMMUD Feb. 19

**Special Invitation: Members of Or Chadash will have the opportunity to meet with Jay in an informal setting at a Shabbat lunch in Hyde Park, Saturday, February 18, 1-3 pm. PLEASE RSVP directly to Rabbi Edwards, [LLE49@comcast.net](mailto:LLE49@comcast.net), and he will send you directions.**

**Jay Michaelson** is a writer, scholar, and activist whose work addresses the intersections of religion, sexuality, spirituality, and law. His newest book is [God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality](#)\* (Beacon Press, October 2011). This will be the text for our Spring class beginning Sunday, March 11.

Jay is the author of three other books and over 200 articles, essays, and works of fiction. He is the Associate Editor of Religion Dispatches, a Contributing Editor to the Forward newspaper, and Founding Editor of Zeek magazine. His work on behalf of sexual minorities in religious communities has been featured in the New York Times, CNN, and NPR, as well as several [anthologies](#).

**On the following dates in February, we remember:**

1<sup>st</sup>: Goldina Schwartz, grandmother of Susan Jacobson

2<sup>nd</sup>: William B. Hamilton, lover of Edward Mogul

2<sup>nd</sup>: Babette Posen, mother of Larry Posen

2<sup>nd</sup>: John Preston, brother-in-law and uncle of Linda & Elisha Preston

4<sup>th</sup>: David Green, husband of Lia Green

8<sup>th</sup>: Bradley Waters, friend of Reuben Lewy

13<sup>th</sup>: Dorothea Schlienger, stepmother of David Schlienger

17<sup>th</sup>: Geraldine Ida Schlienger, mother of David Schlienger

18<sup>th</sup>: Henry (Hank) A. Goldstein, friend of Janet Norton & Susan Mazer & OC Member

19<sup>th</sup>: Norman Cutler, partner of Marshall Keltz

20<sup>th</sup>: Robrta Lipton, mother of Steven Lipton

21<sup>st</sup>: Annette Simon, mother of Michael Simon

23<sup>rd</sup>: Martha Griesbach, grandmother of Lee Griesbach

24<sup>th</sup>: Julee Lodder, mother & mother-in-law of John & Rochelle Lodder

26<sup>th</sup>: Cynthia Hartman, mother of Joel Berger

26<sup>th</sup>: Gertrude Shure, mother of Joseph Shure

27<sup>th</sup>: Harry M. Rosenberg, grandfather of Steven Rosenberg

28<sup>th</sup>: Tressa Schwartz Jacobson, mother of Susan Jacobson

28<sup>th</sup>: Carol Wiener Sandfield, mother of Norman Sandfield

29<sup>th</sup>: Herbert F. Parks, grandfather of Miriam Friedman-Parks

**Thank you for the following donations:**

*Challenge Ourselves 5772:*

**Susan Boone**

**Rick Greenthal**

**Yehuda Jacobi**, in memory of Arthur Jungmann

**Jason Krause**

**Melanie McAllen**

**David Miller**

**Steve Weiser**

**Rabbi Michael Zedek**

*Tree of Life:*

**Jan Norton & Susan Lee Mazer**, in memory of Dr. Henry (Hank) A. Goldstein

*In Memory Of:*

**Howie Aronson**, in memory of Abe Aronson

**Shirley Gendel**, in memory of Esther Gendel, her mother-in-law on 14th of Tevet

**Jan Norton & Susan Lee Mazer**, in memory of Dr. Henry (Hank) A. Goldstein

**Melanie McAllen**, in memory of Marion Davis Johnstone

**Steve Rosenberg**, in memory of his grandmothers, Blanche Rosenberg and Gertude Cohen

**Bill Wahler**, in memory of Helene Hemmendinger

*Kol Nidre Appeal:*

**Steven Weiser**

**Other Honorable "Menschen"s**

**Lilli Kornblum**, for hosting the annual Gala invitation stuffing extravaganza, and providing food along with **Beth Snyder** and **Jay Gelles**, and **Susan Jacobson**, **Michael Helfgott**, **Elise Miller**, and **Carla Jones** for helping!

**Cheri Rodman** for talking to Starbucks about donating coffee to the synagogue.

**Dave Morck & Matt Simonette** for hosting choir rehearsals for Shabbat Shira, as they did last year and for this past year's Days of Awe.

**Judith Golden** for her leadership and patience with our singers.

**Alan Amberg**, **Susan Boone**, **Irwin Drobny**, **Jay Gelles**, **Laurie Grauer**, **Susan Jacobson**, **Lilli Kornblum**, **David Miller**, **Elise Miller**, **Ed Mogul**, **Beth Snyder** for soliciting items for the Silent Auction at our Annual Gala!

The **Hon. Kelly Cassidy** for donating \$50 to support our Night Ministry efforts.

If there is someone whose efforts inside or outside the congregation, you want to recognize publicly, please email [president@orchadash.org](mailto:president@orchadash.org).

## United We Stand, by Lilli Kornblum (Co-President)

Recently, I have had the pleasure of receiving compliments from several different people on how well Or Chadash lives up to its commitment to inclusivity. They were referring to our ability to embrace cultural and life style differences of all types, and talked of how our difference contributed to our strength and appeal.

There is though, another side to our culture of inclusion that is often overlooked or taken for granted that we sometimes lose sight of how remarkably well we embrace the full spectrum of Jewish knowledge and observance. For me, this concept defines modern Judaism and to some extent defines our congregation.

As centuries have passed and the Diaspora has grown wider and wider we have become more and more a people whose levels of observance and formal participation vary so widely that an outsider might find it impossible to understand that we are bound by one common belief system and history. This is often a topic of conversation with my non- Jewish friends who grew up in more dogmatic religious systems which impose more black and white rules of observance. They have difficulty grasping that while our varied circumstances have resulted in each of us having very different abilities and desires to participate in the rituals and observances of our people, we all still belong and are counted in the local and global Jewish community.

I have spoken before of my most vivid experience with this reality. Almost 13 years ago Or Chadash made its first appearance at the Jewish Folk Arts Festival. Our assigned information table was set up directly across a very narrow path from the information table assigned to the Lubovicher Chasidim. Separated by a few feet, it was impossible to not to notice each other and be aware of far ends of the spectrum we represented.

We were there hoping to increase awareness on the congregation and reach out to the families and friends of gay Jews. They were there hoping to increase awareness of Jewish ritual and were teaching men to put on tfillin and women to properly light Sabbath candles. The day passed and we both talked to people and both challenged comfort zones. We were sure we were pushing them way out of theirs, but after about seven hours of awkward coexistence two of our male members slowly crossed the narrow divide and hesitantly asked if it would be alright for them to put on tfillin. They were greeted with huge sincere smiles and the exclamation of “We’ve been waiting all day for you to ask.”

I know they didn’t approve of all that we are and represent, but for that moment they saw Jews – period. Not gay Jews. Not Reform Jews. They saw Jew, who regardless of our different circumstances, were participating in the community and identifying with our heritage. They would not turn us away and they would not criticize. They understood the bonds needed to keep the Jewish community strong and able to continue its miraculous survival.

That was a transformative moment for me and I am proud to belong to a Congregation that practices that same philosophy so well.

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### Congregation Or Chadash’s Tree of Life

Our Tree of Life now hangs across from our chapel and features the stripes of a rainbow which emanate from the Or Chadash logo. The tree has approximately 100 leaves. At the base of the tree are the foundation bricks and four bequest stones. **The Tree of Life itself is made of wood, using various toned veneers. Brass plaques will be added for each item purchased.**

The pricing for each level is as follows:

Rainbow stripe: \$3,600 per stripe (7 stripes available),

Brick: \$720 per brick (36 bricks available),

Leaf: \$360 per leaf (100 leaves available)

To make the plaque affordable for all of our congregants and their families and friends, payment plans are available — *including the option of paying over three years — on a monthly or quarterly basis.* The individual plaque will be mounted upon completion of payments.

Purchase Agreements are now available. Please contact Carol Goldbaum, Treasurer, or Beth Snyder, Director of Development, to make arrangements. The Purchase Agreement will also be available on the Or Chadash website.

# February 2012

## Congregation Or Chadash

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">19</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">8 am-9 pm Limmud Chicago 2012 at 750 S. Halsted St.</div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">26 Shevat</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">27 Shevat</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">28 Shevat</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">29 Shevat</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">23</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"><b>Rosh Chodesh</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">30 Shevat</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">24</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">8:00 PM Shabbat Service <b>Rosh Chodesh</b></div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">1 Adar</p>	<p style="color: red; font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">25</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;">6:30 PM OC Gala- Embassy Suites</div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">2 Adar</p>																																																																																				
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# March 2012

## Congregation Or Chadash

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Feb 2012</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Apr 2012</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: small;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </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				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						1  7 Adar	2  8:00 PM Shabbat Service  8 Adar	3  10:00 AM Morning Service  9 Adar
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4  10:15 AM -1:15 PM Classes Begin  10 Adar	5  7:00 PM Board Meeting  11 Adar	6  12 Adar	7  Erev Purim  Magillah Reading with EC  13 Adar	8  Purim  14 Adar	9  8:00 PM Shabbat Service  15 Adar	10  16 Adar																																																																																		
11  10:15 AM -1:15 PM Classes Continue  17 Adar	12  18 Adar	13  19 Adar	14  20 Adar	15  21 Adar	16  8:00 PM Shabbat Service  22 Adar	17  23 Adar																																																																																		
18  10:15 AM -1:15 PM Classes Continue  24 Adar	19  25 Adar	20  26 Adar	21  27 Adar	22  28 Adar	23  6:00 PM Nosh at Nookies 8:00 PM Shabbat Service  29 Adar	24  Rosh Codesh  1 Nissan																																																																																		
25  10:15 AM -1:15 PM Classes Continue  2 Nissan	26  3 Nissan	27  4 Nissan	28  5 Nissan	29  6 Nissan	30  8:00 PM Shabbat Service  7 Nissan	31  8 Nissan																																																																																		