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The quarterly 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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קהילת אור חדש  
**CONGREGATION OR CHADASH**  
**CONGREGATION OF NEW LIGHT**



# The New Light

**The New Newsletter**  
*Michael Helfgott, Co-President*

If you are a sharp reader, then you will see that this month marks the beginning of our new newsletter format. It marks many changes. For many years, the newsletter was mailed out to everyone, members and non-members. To save costs, the Board decided a while back to email the newsletter and have copies available at services. With that change however, readership declined. People missed having something in their hands. In addition, if fewer people were reading it, why have one? So now, **the newsletter will be mailed to all members.**

Email does have its uses. We can communicate with our members quickly, and update them on new developments. For about a month now, you have been receiving Or Chadash e-blasts on Thursdays. **The Thursday e-blast contains: upcoming service leaders, oneg sponsors, birthdays, anniversaries, yartzeits, and synagogue events.**

We also like to support our own members. **If you have an event you think the congregation would be interested in knowing about, then post a link to our facebook page, [facebook.com/orchadashchicago](http://facebook.com/orchadashchicago).** The page is monitored, and any political endorsements/disparagements, and inappropriate materials, posts or comments will be taken down. Remember, it is a community space so please share the space.

As you can see on the left, the newsletter will go to a quarterly system, coming out in March, June, September, and December, to coincide with our bigger events, the Gala, Pride, Days of Awe, and Chanukkah. There will be more space and photos dedicated to our events, as life cycle dates are instead in the Thursday e-blast.

The newsletter change is a work in progress, so tell me what you think. [president@orchadash.org](mailto:president@orchadash.org).

## 2012 Congregation Or Chadash Gala!

By Jay Gelles

A good time was had by all at the 2012 Or Chadash Gala. Held at Embassy Suites, this year's event honored former President and board member Robin Sampliner, former board member and long time member Howie Aranson, and Northern Trust's national glbt practice head John McGowan. There was also dancing and a silent auction.

The evening started with cocktails and Hors d'oeuvre. A great opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new friends, mingle with and great the honorees.

Dinner followed along with the honoree introduction by Lili, Michael, and Elise. Outside honoree John McGowan became teary accepting the award and recounting his coming out experience with his family. John's mother joined PFLAG where she met many Jewish parents. Robin was all smiles as she accepted her award while joking with the guests seated at the table.

Silent auction items included theatre tickets, restaurant gift certificates, gym memberships, and books. The challah baking lessons made their traditional showing along with a free maid service. One of the theatre tickets offered at the silent auction was to the Lookingglass Theatre's production of Cascabel, collaboration with Chef Rick Bayless of Frontera Grill and Topolabampo.

The dance floor was also well used as the evening progressed. What would an Or Chadash gala be without dancing the hora? Memorable moments included Beth Snyder leading a group of guests dancing to "I'm Every Woman".

This year, 75 people attended. The money raised by the gala will go a long way towards maintaining and sustaining the congregation for a successful future.

## Deb Shore Gives D'Var

In celebration of Tu Bi Shevat, Debra Shora, current Commissioner on the Cook County Water Reclamation District, and a Jewish lesbian, gave the D'var on Friday, February 10. Prior to the service, she came to dinner with a few of our members at Nookies. She is pictured at left with Michael and Rabbi Larry in front of our Tree of Life.



## 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.

## Jay Michaelson gives talk at Rabbi Larry's house

About ten of our members gathered at the Rabbi's house on Saturday, February 18 to hear from Jay Michaelson, an out and Jewish academic. Many of those same people heard him speak about his new book, *God vs. Gay?*, at the Center on Halsted the Thursday before. Or Chadash was one of the sponsors for the Center's event.



### **The Current Depressing Discourse, and Hope – Always!**

**Rabbi Larry Edwards**

We are in a season of increasingly disturbing and discouraging political discourse. One major political party is caught up in a downward race to the lowest common denominator of an extreme faction of fearful ideologues. Ultra-Orthodox Jews spit at school girls and try to force women to the back of the bus. The Taliban will not rest until no girls are allowed to read or write. The culture wars are back, and they are predominantly being fought on the bodies of women, the gender non-conforming, and immigrants.

At times like these, it is especially important for us – Congregation Or Chadash, our sibling congregations, and allies – to stay focused and true to the issues that called us together originally: the affirmation that every human being is a reflection of the divine image, and that Jewish tradition has something important to contribute toward realizing a global future in which the dream of full equality is finally achieved. We must also remind the world (and ourselves) that religion should not be a force for reaction and oppression, but a steady and faithful voice for responsive and responsible living with and for one another.

Those who had a chance to hear Jay Michaelson recently, at Center on Halsted, or at our Shabbat lunch, or at LIMMUD, know that you were in the presence of one of those minds that is constantly churning up new ideas, or at least new perspectives on old ideas. Jay writes in the *Forward* and in many other places about all kinds of subjects. We are fortunate to have him on our team.

One of the things that Jay insisted upon, especially in his talk at COH, is that we must continue to try hard to see those on the other side as human beings, understand that many of their positions are dictated by conscious and unconscious fears, and continue to confront them bravely. Look them in the eye, be clear about who we are, and speak to them in ways that insert small question marks into their assumptions and stereotypes. Change is slow and unsteady; there is always pushback. But people can and do change.

Indeed, in one of the touching moments of our recent Gala, John McGowan (our charming and generous honoree from Northern Trust) testified to how his parents changed – and especially his mother, with the help of a group of wonderful Jewish mothers! It was a great story, one that has been and will be repeated with countless variations until the day comes when our political discourse lives up to those mothers who never gave up on their LGBTQ children – gave up neither their love nor their high expectations!

So, while you are continuing your active engagement on behalf of Planned Parenthood, Equality Illinois, defense of the environment (thank you, Debra Shore!), immigration reform – whatever you are working on, stand firm. And join us on four Sunday mornings to study Jay Michaelson's newest book, *God vs. Gay?: The Religious Case for Equality*, and a class on Jewish Women's Poetry. (See details elsewhere in this newsletter.) It will give you strength, and may we strengthen one another!

## **New Member Appreciation Service on March 23rd, 2012**

Please join us on March 23rd for a New Member Appreciation Shabbat as we welcome those who have joined Or Chadash over the past 12 months. The Kabbalat Shabbat begins at 8:00pm, however New Members are encouraged to meet for dinner at Nookies, located at 1100 W Bryn Mawr, 60660 at 6:15pm. Here you can mingle with board members, the Rabbi, and share your thoughts about being part of the Or Chadash Community. Free parking in the back. For more information, contact Membership Director Laurie Grauer at [lauriegrauer@hotmail.com](mailto:lauriegrauer@hotmail.com).

### **Nookies Dine Around**

We will be having a general membership dine around at the brand new Nookies at 1100 W. Bryn Mawr on Friday, April 27. There is free parking in the back. Come for dinner at 6:15pm, and then go to the Rabbi's Introduction to Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:30.

### **Join us as we celebrate Purim with Megilla, Shpiels, and the return of the "Lots of Food Cooking Contest!"**

Golden Esther Awards are given for best "Entrées", "Side Dishes", "Desserts", and the coveted Golden Bubbie will be given to the most popular dish. To enter, e-mail [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org) with: Your name, recipe, category and any special set-up requirements or kitchen reservations by 03/06/12.

#### Contest Guidelines:

Each dish should try to accommodate at least 20 sample portions. Dishes cannot contain pork, shellfish or meat and dairy mixed in the same dish. Dishes must be ready to serve by 6:00pm. \$5 suggested donation includes five voting tickets. Additional votes can be purchased for \$1 each. Participants are encouraged to vote Chicago style! Proceeds go to Or Chadash Charity initiatives.

Contest: 6:00pm-7:15pm

Megilla Reading: 7:15pm-8:00pm

Purim Shpiel and Open Performances: 8:15pm-9:15pm

Awards and After Party: 9:15pm-10:00pm

Event Questions? Call: 773-24-JEWS-2 or E-mail: [office@orchadash.org](mailto:office@orchadash.org).

### **Leather Archives and Museum Tour**

On **Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>**, Congregation or Chadash will be visiting the Leather Archives and Museum to learn about its unique collection of documents and artifacts pertaining to leather, fetishism, sadomasochism, and alternative sexual practices.

LA&M's collection includes all sexual orientations and genders and is worldwide in scope. The museum collection contains original erotic art and artifacts from alternative sex organizations and individuals. The library collection contains publications, films and electronic resources related to the subject matter. The archival collection contains unpublished papers and records from notable activists and organizations. One of LA&M's newer initiatives is the Women's Leather History Project. This project focuses on collecting artifacts, stories, and other items that represent the experience of women -- straight, gay, bisexual, transsexual, and transgender. Of additional interest is the fact that the building that houses the Museum is housed in a former synagogue.

The Museum is located at 6418 North Greenview Ave. We will meet at the Museum at **2 PM**. Or Chadash member Norman Sandfield will introduce us to the collection and then we will visit the exhibit spaces. Admission to the Museum is \$10 (\$5 for seniors) or you can sign up in advance for a money-saving coupon at <http://www.leatherarchives.org/coupon/couponform.html>.

For more information check LA&M's website at [www.leatherarchives.org](http://www.leatherarchives.org). Or read what others have said about the museum at <http://www.yelp.com/biz/the-leather-archives-and-museum-chicago>

## Short Introductions to our Friday Evening & Kabbalat Shabbat Prayers

Thanks to your great responses in our Membership Survey, the Ritual Committee is organizing four “mini classes” to explain the different elements and prayers that make up our Friday night services. They will be on the Fourth Friday starting at 7:30pm in the Chapel. THERE IS NO CHARGE. Rabbi Larry will instruct us, and here are the following dates, and the topics they will cover:

March 30 – An Overview of our Friday Night Service

April 27 – Kabbalat Shabbat, from Safed to Edgewater

May 25 – The Shema and its Blessings

June 29 – The Amidah

### It's Almost Passover ...

We have not yet celebrated Purim, but it is already time to begin sweeping out the Chametz and preparing for Passover.

#### First Seder

While we hope many of you will be joining us for the Or Chadash Community Seder (*See below*) we know there are many members who would like to attend a Seder on the first night of Passover, but do not have a place to go. We are offering to match people up with other members who have space at their home Seders. If you would like to attend a Seder please send a message to [Seder@OrChadash.org](mailto:Seder@OrChadash.org) by **Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>**. Let us know of any kashrut concerns, special dietary needs or allergies. We will do our best to match up every request. (Members only please.)

Please note: Or Chadash will not hold services on Friday evening, April 6<sup>th</sup>. However Emanuel congregation will be holding an abbreviated service at 5:30 pm and members of Or Chadash are welcome to join them.

#### Second Seder

We hope you will also join us for the Annual Or Chadash Community Seder, to be held this year on Saturday, April 7, 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 \$57.72; for non-members the cost will be \$67.72. Parking at the East Bank Club is \$5.75.

The deadline for receipt of reservations is **Friday March 30<sup>th</sup>**. Please use the reservation form with this newsletter, or download the form from the Or Chadash website. <http://www.orchadash.org>. You can also send an email to [Seder@OrChadash.org](mailto:Seder@OrChadash.org).

Or Chadash welcomes all to attend the Community Seder, but we realize that the cost may be prohibitive for some. While we ask everyone to pay something, scholarships are available to help members attend the Seder. Please contact us at [seder@orchadash.org](mailto:seder@orchadash.org) or leave a message at 773-271-2148 and we will get back to you.

*“All who are hungry, let them come and eat.*

*All who are in need, let them come celebrate Pesach.”*

## Thank you for the following donations and Honorable Menschens:

**State Rep. Kelly Cassidy** for donating for our Night

Ministry efforts.

**Rick Greenthal** for a Rainbow Stripe on our Tree of Life in memory of his parents, Greta and Felix Greenthal.

**Martin Neudel** for our general operating funds.

**Bob Rosenstein** for our Development Committee.

**Joel Berger** for our general operating funds.

**Pat Benjamin** and **Martha Fourt** for a leaf on our Tree of Life.

**Carol Goldbaum** in memory of Norman Sandfield's sister, Carol Lynn Birnbaum.

**Bonnie Salzman** in honor of Yehuda Jacobi's birthday.

**Joseph Shure** in memory of Gertrude Shure.

**Yehuda Jacobi** and **Mike Simon** for the Kol Nidre Appeal.

**Rick Greenthal** and **Joel Fink** in honor of Yehuda Jacobi's birthday.

**Rabbi Peter Kessler** in memory of Carol Lynn Sandfield Birbaum.

**Marshall Keltz** in memory of Norman Cutler.

**Alan Amberg** and the **Washington Post Foundation** as a Matching Grant for Social Action & Education.

**Susan Boone** and **Rabbi Larry** for opening their home to host us and Jay Michaelson.

**Sara Fischer** for opening up her home to host the Chesed Brigade.

**Mike Simon** and **Rick Greenthal** for being cashiers at our Gala.

The following business kindly donated of their goods and services for the Silent Auction at our Gala. Please patronize their establishments!

**Ann Sather (multiple locations)**

**Austin Oie Photography**  
2509 W Winnemac Ave  
Ste 2A (between Lincoln & Rockwell)

**Broadway Cellars**  
5900 N. Broadway

**Chicago Architecture Foundation**  
224 South Michigan Avenue

**Chicago History Museum**  
1601 N. Clark Street

**Cheetah Gym**  
5248 N. Clark Street  
and other locations

**The Coffee & Tea Exchange**  
3311 N. Broadway

**Court Theatre**  
5535 S. Ellis Avenue

**East Bank Club**  
500 North Kingsbury Street

**Gerber Hart**  
1127 West Granville Avenue

**HealthSource**  
4239 N. Lincoln Avenue

**Mary's Attic/Hamburger Mary's**

5400 N. Clark Street

**Jonathan Adler**  
676 N. Wabash Avenue

**Kopi – A Traveler's Café**  
5317 N. Clark Street

**Lookingglass Theatre**  
821 N Michigan Ave

**Leo Bachrach and Son**  
55 E. Washington Street

**m.henrietta restaurant**  
1133 W Granville Avenue

**Mighty Maids**  
2950 North Sheffield Avenue

**Nookies Edgewater**  
1100 West Bryn Mawr Avenue

**Nookies Lakeview**  
3334 N. Halsted Street  
and other locations

**Park52 restaurant**  
5201 S. Harper Avenue

**Raven Theatre**  
6157 N. Clark Street

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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*

**Redtwist Theatre**

1044 W. Bryn Mawr

**Remy Bumpo Theater**

3717 N. Ravenswood Ave.

**Roost**

5634 N. Clark St  
(between Olive & Hollywood)

**SCOUT**

5221 N. Clark Street

**The Spertus Shop**

610 S. Michigan Avenue

**Stella's Diner**

3042 N. Broadway

**toys et cetera**

Evanston and Chicago

**The T-Shirt Deli**

1482 W. Berwyn

**Tulip**

3459 N. Halsted Street  
and other locations

**Unabridged Books**

3251 N. Broadway

**Women & Children First**

5233 N. Clark Street