# Or Chadash FOCUS

# By Rabbi Alison B. Kobey

As I write this column, we are surrounded by some of the intensity that comes with the month of December: the pervasiveness of Christmas stuff and songs everywhere, and the attempt for people, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to figure out how Chanukah fits in. Coupled with these two very different holidays is the rise of anti-Semitism. As you read this column, the December holidays are now over and the strong emotional responses that stress many people during the December season can drop down again. But I hope you take some of Chanukah's messages to heart.

Chanukah, at its core, is about pride in identity. I invite you to really think about what it means for **you** to be Jewish or Jewishadjacent. How do you show pride in Judaism? What do you do to show yourself and show others that Judaism is a meaningful part of your world?

I ask the above questions because I know some people are



getting more concerned about outwardly showing their Jewishness in light of the rise of anti-Semitism. I invite you not to be in fear, but to be proud of your identity. Anti-Semitism, and hate toward any group, has no place in our society; it is our duty to ensure that no one feels persecuted for being who they are, including we Jews ourselves. If we hide our Jewish identity, we are both distancing ourselves from our Judaism and giving victory to the haters. If you are uncomfortable wearing Jewish clothing or jewelry, come to Shabbat services and be with people among whom it would be easier to wear Jewish items. (Or just to come to Shabbat services because it is Shabbat!)

(continued on page 4)

# SHABBAT/HOLIDAY SERVICES

Friday, January 6 – 7:30pm (multi-access) Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings Friday, January 13 – 7:30pm (multi-access) Social Justice Shabbat Services

Friday, January 20 – 7:30pm (multi-access) Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings Saturday, January 21 – 10:00am (multi-access) Shabbat Services with 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Participation

Friday, January 27 – 7:30pm (multi-access) Shabbat Services **February 3** – 7:30pm (multi-access) Meditation Shabbat Services

**Sunday, February 5** – 6:00pm Tu B'Shevat Congregational Seder

**Friday, February 10** – 6:00pm 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Shabbat Dinner

Friday, February 10 – 7:30pm (multi-access) Shabbat Services with 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Participation

Friday, February 17 – 7:30pm (multi-access) Reproductive Rights Shabbat Services with

Birthday Blessings

**Friday, February 24** – 7:30pm (multi-access) Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings

# Contacting Us



#### Rabbi

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# **To Receive Email Updates**

Send your email address to

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# **Contact Us**

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# Torah Study/Talmud/Prophets

Our current model is Zoom only. Everyone is welcome to read the material in advance or just come without any pre-reading. Either way, all are welcome. Come as your schedule allows. But, the more you come, the more you'll make it part of your regular routine and the more you'll get out it. ©



Saturday, January 7 – 9:30am Torah Study *Vayechi (Genesis 47:28-50:26)* How does Joseph show kindness to his brothers? What is a measure of longevity? What are some of the core values that this portion teaches? What are the effects of Joseph's investment in his offspring? Why is it important to share our end of life wishes?

# Saturday, January 7 – 11:00am Talmud

Saturday, January 14 – 9:30am Torah Study Shemot (Exodus 1:1-6:1) How do we see God fulfilling two covenants here? What do those covenants remind us of? What makes a child stand out? Who raised Moses and what values were imparted to him? When should we speak up and when should we keep silent? Do we ever walk by a burning bush?

# Saturday, January 21 – 11:15am(ish) Torah Study

Vaera (Exodus 6:2-9:35) When does God listen? Does frustration triumph over hope or vice versa? What is a "hardened heart" and when do we have such a heart? How old was Moses when he met up with Pharoah? How does the Occupy Movement get reflected in this portion? What are our modern plagues?

Saturday, January 28 – 9:30am Torah Study *Bo (Exodus 10:1-13:16)* What is your last straw in a fight? What is the first month of the year? From what kind of slavery does the deliverance from Egypt free us? How do we show we are part of the community? What are the direct commandments pertaining to Passover in this Torah portion?

## Saturday, January 28 – 11:00am Talmud

Saturday, February 4 – 9:30am Torah Study *Beshalach (Exodus 13:17-17:16)* What are some of the messages from one of the oldest sections of Torah? How are the Israelites comforted? How are we comforted today? How do you find that Godly "tap on the shoulder"? How does God connect with us?

# Saturday, February 4 – 11:00am Talmud

Saturday, February 11 – 9:30am Torah Study *Yitro (Exodus 18:1- 20:23)* What do names mean? What is Jethro's advice? How does the United States court system reflect this Torah portion? How do we prepare for holy moments? How do you connect with the Ten Statements? What are the two different tablets?

# Saturday, February 11 – 11:00am Prophets Theme TBD

Saturday, February 18 – 9:30am Torah Study *Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1- 24:18)* What are some of your favorite commandments in this portion? Least favorites? What are some of Rabbi Kobey's favorites? What are some of the bigger values? What are the differences between chukot (laws) and mishpatim (laws)?

Saturday, February 25 – 9:30am Torah *Study Terumah (Exodus 25:1- 27:19)* What is one of the most common phrases found in this Torah portion? What kind of offering did the Israelites make? What should we do today? Why are the details so important? Does our sanctuary reflect similar values?

Saturday, February 25 – 11:00am Talmud

## Tevet, Shevat, Adar 5783

# Alison B. Kobey (continued)

In early 2023, we will be offering a couple of different times to discuss the rise of anti-Semitism, what we can do about it, and also, if applicable, how to help your children understand it. Please stay tuned for additional information. In the meantime, here are a few suggestions:

- become knowledgeable about Israel so you can distinguish between legitimate criticisms of Israel and anti-Israel rhetoric co-mingled with anti-Semitism
- engage in discussions with Jewish friends and neighbors and non-Jewish friends and neighbors about supporting diversity
- avoid Jewish stereotypes, even in jest

- speak out against anti-Semitic slurs and jokes (or jokes that disparage any group of people)
- encourage book clubs to read books that positively identify Jewish characters

As always, if you need anything at all or want to talk about any experiences, I am happy to help in any way I can. In the meantime, both today and in the future, be proud of who you are. As we say when we finish a book of Torah, chazak, chazak, v'neitchazeik, be strong, be strong, and we shall be strengthened.

L'Shalom Rabbi Alison B. Kobey

# Religious School Committee

Several of our classes held their field trips in the Fall. The 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades enjoyed the great outdoors in Black Hill Regional Park in Boyds. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades experienced the Holocaust Museum. In late January, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades will go to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. These trips support the lessons being taught on Sundays.

The Religious School is offering exciting electives this semester. Back by popular demand are Jewish Superheroes, Jewish Holiday Cooking, Karate, and the annual Purim Shpiel (this year's theme is Minions / Despicable Me). Our new electives are Books and Art (based on books from the Or Chadash Library) and a look at the history and culture of the movie "Fiddler on the Roof." The students are really enjoying these classes.

Winter is here, so please note that the Religious School does not follow Montgomery County or other counties regarding cancelling school due to the weather. On Sundays, we will make a decision by 8:00am regarding school cancellation. On Tuesdays, we try to make a decision regarding school cancellation by 4:00pm.

If school is canceled, an email will be sent to each family to notify them directly, and a message will be sent via the Remind app. Cancellation information will also be posted on the Or Chadash Facebook page and/or website: www.cong-orchadashmd.org. Please do not call the Temple or school staff at home to inquire about cancellations.

Please join the Religious School Committee at our next meeting on **Sunday**, **February 5** at 12:15pm in the synagogue.

L'Shalom, The Religious School Committee

## **Religious School**

In Session:

January 3 (for teachers), 8, 10, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 February 5, 7, 12, 14, 21, 26, 28

Not in session:

January 1, 3 (for students), 15 February 19

# Keeping Up with Or Chadash

# **Committee Meetings**

Religious School Committee (RSC)

**Sunday, February 5** – 12:15pm (In Person) Ritual Committee

**Sunday, February 12** – 7:00pm (Zoom Only)

# **Faculty and Madrichim Meetings**

**Tuesday, January 3** at 6:30pm (Faculty Only) **Sunday, January 22** at 12:15pm (Faculty and Madrichim)

# **Teen Classes**

(Sundays at 10:30am):

8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Grades:

January 22 February 5

10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grades:

January 8

January 29

February 12

February 26

# 2025 B'nai Mitzvah Date Selection

It is hard to believe that we must start thinking about the year 2025. But, it's true! Do you have a child who will be eligible to become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the year 2025? Please join us at Or Chadash for 2025 Date Selection on **Sunday**, **January 8** at 9:45am. We ask that at least one parent/guardian be present for date selection.

# Kiddish Kids / Jr CORY

Join Kiddish Kids (youth group for grades Pre-K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades) and Jr. CORY (youth group for 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grades) to go ice skating **Saturday**, **February 11** in the afternoon (exact time to be

**February 11** in the afternoon (exact time to be determined).

# Oneg

Volunteering strengthens our community. So please volunteer to host Oneg. We need you more than ever, so please sign up. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Moritz Reiter at moritzreiter@icloud.com or by phone at 240-316-1024.

# Signup at:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0545a4ab 2b0-shabbat2#/

# **Adult Learning**

Torah Study: Everyone is welcome. If you would like to be added to our Torah Study class list, please let the Rabbi know (rabbikobey@gmail.com), and you will receive any updates in advance. Please check the Torah Study schedule on page 3 of this newsletter for details about the week's portion and questions to think about. (Or bring your own questions!) Saturdays at 9:30am. See Happenings for Zoom link.



**Talmud Study:** On select Saturday mornings at 11:00am. See the schedule on page 3 of this newsletter. All are welcome! If you let Rabbi know you're thinking of attending, she'll send you some text to print out and have with you. (No obligation to read it in advance!) See Happenings for Zoom link.

**Prophets Texts:** What's in the *other* books of the Bible, besides the five in the Torah scroll? Rabbi Kobey will trace a theme (to be determined) through various passages on **Saturday, February 11**, at 11:00am. Zoomonly. See Happenings for the link.

# **Adult Learning**



# **Engaging Israel: Jewish Values in the Israel- Palestinian Conflict**

Israel is in the news, and there's lots to discuss! On selected Fridays Rabbi Kobey has been leading a thought-provoking course about Israel and Jewish values. The course uses video talks and interviews from the Hartman Institute.

Among the topics will be:

- living with difference
- the Israel we imagine
- narratives of peace
- attitudes toward the land from inside Israel and external to the land of Israel
- justice, self-preservation, and compromise.

Israel is of course many things—including orange groves and historical sites but also street musicians (see photo), science labs, soccer teams, and, of course debates within the country and outside about the country's relationship to the Palestinians.

We will discuss social and political trends and tensions in Israel today, and the ways in which Jews in the United States discuss with each other—or sometimes hesitate to discuss with each other—what they (we) hear and read.

The link will always be given in Happenings. Each class session is independent of the others. If you know in advance, please email Rabbi Kobey to be included on the list and to get the materials. Or just show up.

The final three classes are on **Fridays** 12:00pm-1:30pm, **January 6 and 20; February 3.** (Zoom Only.)

More Adult Learning: Fridays, February 10 and 24 at 12:00pm. Watch Happenings for additional information.

# **Food Insufficiency**

The Germantown HELP pantry is running low. Germantown HELP is looking for small groups to collect food (and/or



funds) for the pantry. Collections in front of the Giant have historically worked well. Contact: Cindy Majane, Director, Germantown HELP, at cindymajane@gmail.com (cell: 301-502-2400).



# **Our Successful Social Action Project**

During November and December, the Social Action Committee ran a successful project on behalf of the Family Justice Center (a partner organization with the county police). Numerous congregant families purchased children's books to be given to families who have experienced domestic violence.

People clearly put real thought into what they purchased. Some of us peeked in the bin and could hardly resist picking up some of the books and reading them right then and there!

And we're cooking up some more projects for the Spring, including for Good Deeds Week, **March 26–April 3**. More details to come

# **Congregation Or Chadash Book Club**

The next meeting of the Congregation Or Chadash Book Club is **Friday**, **January 13** at noon. This will be a Zoom only meeting. The Zoom link will be in the Or Chadash Happenings email.

The book for **January** is *My Father's*Paradise: A Son's Search for His Jewish Past in

Kurdish Iraq by Ariel Sabar. This book is

available at the Montgomery County Public

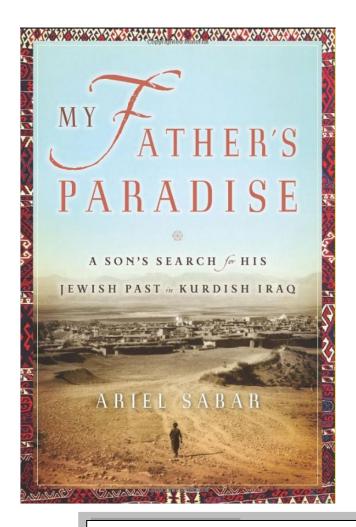
Libraries.

There is a reading group guide on the Jewish Book Council website:

https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/my-fathers-paradise-a-sons-search-for-his-jewish-past-in-kurdish-iraq

This is a coed book club. All are welcome to attend!

Please RSVP by **Tuesday**, **January 10** to Jane Harris, <u>clamityjgh@aol.com</u>.



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# **Guys Night Out**

**Thursday, January 19** at 6:30pm at Outback Steakhouse in Germantown.

**Thursday, February 23** at 6:30pm at Ted's Montana Grill in Gaithersburg.

Contact Joe Baum at <u>jesaz99@aol.com</u> for details.

# **Girls Night Out**

Thursday, February 9. Contact Ilene Krom (kromfamily726@gmail.com) for details.

# **Social Action**

Below are two Jewish organizations that are raising funds to help victims of the war in Ukraine. https://wupj.org/give/ukraine/



https://act.hias.org/hias-responds-crisis-ukraine





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Tevet, Shevat, Adar 5783

January/February 2023

# **Social Action Committee - Supporting Refugees**

Some of you may remember that when we first started working with MCIRRN five years ago we were supporting the Hassan family from South Sudan. Now, five years later, the family is doing well, and Arbab Hassan has passed the citizenship test, taken the oath, and become a United States Citizen. Congratulations to Arbab!



In concert with New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), we have helped over 30 families, including 17 Afghan refugee families and one Ukrainian family. We are locating as many in Montgomery County as possible, with families in Gaithersburg, Germantown, Rockville, and Silver Spring.

Our primary expenses over the past few months have included rent assistance, medical bills, food, and transportation. We have recently paid for a number of adults to have eye exams and obtain eyeglasses as well as physicals required for Green Cards. Note that we are very careful in allocating funding to the families by helping them prepare their budgets and ensuring that we are using the NNIA funding in the most meaningful way.

Our volunteers continue to deliver food, provide transportation to medical appointments, help with the job searches, teach English, help with paperwork, and so much more. As we approach the end of the year, we are praying for the continued generosity of our donors to help us replenish the funds used in 2022. Financial assistance reduces so much of the stress and worry of moving into a new country and helps the new family become independent faster. Please consider donating so we can help the current families and support new families in need, especially with rent assistance. We have quite a number of new refugee families who are reaching out to us for assistance and have no other support. We promise that the donations you provide are used for life changing and critical expenses.

Contact us at <a href="mailto:NNIAMaryland@gmail.com">NNIAMaryland@gmail.com</a>
if you are able to volunteer, and we will help you identify an appropriate task. Our biggest need right now is in helping family members find jobs. If you know of anyone looking to fill a position, know that these families all have work authorization papers. Some speak English quite well, and some not so well. They will take any position available just to be able to take care of their families.

Donations can be made to Congregation Or Chadash's NNIA Refugee Fund here: <a href="https://www.paypal.com/donate/">https://www.paypal.com/donate/</a>?
<a href="https://www.paypal.com/donate/">hosted\_button\_id=UL49GH8DSQ7JU</a>
Or scan this UR code to donate. (For iPhones, just use your camera. For Android, drag down from the top of your phone, and select QR scanner.)



For questions or comments please contact: <a href="mailto:NNIA.Maryland@gmail.com">NNIA.Maryland@gmail.com</a> or Debbie Eisenberg at <a href="mailto:rjeisenberg@comcast.net">rjeisenberg@comcast.net</a>.

# Special Services

# **Celebrating Simchas (Joyous Events)**

Celebrate your birthday with your Or Chadash family. Receive a special blessing and birthday treat to mark the occasion. If you are in-person, you will get the treat that evening. If you are sharing services with us through Zoom, the Rabbi delivery service will be happy to make sure you receive your treat (just send her an email). We have Birthday Blessings every month. For the month of January, join us on **January 6** and

for the month of February, Birthday Blessings will be on **February 17**, both **Fridays** at 7:30pm.

We also celebrate anniversaries within our Or Chadash family. Again, receive a special blessing and different treat. This is also monthly with Anniversary Blessings on **January 20** and **February 24**, both Fridays at 7:30pm.

Do you have other simchas (happy occasions) to share? Let Rabbi Kobey know so we can rejoice together.

# Thank You to Our Donors

Thank you to our generous donors. Note that this list includes donations that were deposited during late August, September, and early October. Please contact the office for more information.

# **High Holiday Appeal**

Rich & Michelle Bailen Bradford & Terry Lewis

# **NNIA Refugee Fund**

Elisa Delson in honor of Henry and Gracie Jacobs B'nai Mitzvah project.

### **General Donations**

Rob and Debbie Eisenberg in memory of Norman Colby, father of Andrew Colby Andrew and Julie Klingenstein Family Fund Fred &Barbara Marx

Gerald Ray Mollie Lipshy Charitable Trust & Judy Gable

Lois & David Sharon in memory of Helen Stahl, mother of Vivian Stahl

Margot & Steven Raphael in memory of Norman Colby, father of Andrew Colby

## Rise Against Hunger

Howard & Melissa Benowitz Karl & Anne Gussow

#### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Lisa & Steven Feierstein in honor of Hannah Feierstein's baby naming Kathleen & Karl Lorenz Donna Goldsteen & Carl Hay Margot & Steven Raphael

#### Yarhzeit Board

Roz & Ricke Zeidman
in honor of Adele Spiegel, aunt
in honor of Charles Privet, brother of Roz
in honor of Marshall Leslie Zeidman, brother
of Ricke Zeidman
in honor of Maurine Zeidman, mother of
Ricke
in honor of Philip David Zeidman, father of
Ricke

# Condolences

We extend our deep condolences to Andrew Colby and his family on the death of his father, Norman Colby, who died on November 9.

We extend our deep condolences to Lona Farhi and her family on the death of her brother, David Farhi, who died on November 16.

# **Yahrzeits**

If you have an upcoming yahrzeit that is not listed, please call the office at 301-482-1025, and we will add any names you wish to remember. Names will be read at Shabbat services during the week of a loved one's death. When two dates are shown, the names will be read during the Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services. Note that the second column lists the observing member.



#### Friday, January 6

Evelyn Gilstein Yetta Levitus William Stein

Aubrey Caplan

Mother of Margot Raphael Mother of Sydney Levitus Son of Florence Stein Brother of Barbara Marx Stephanie & Michael Ames

## Friday, January 13

Shirley Friedman
William Garfunkel
Richard Fink
Susan Kohn Lichtman
Abram Mossman
Isadore Schwartz
Robert Goldsteen

Mother of Carol Cooper Grandfather of Diane Levitus Father-In-Law of Howard Lansat Mother of Howard Lichtman Grandfather of Ziona Mossman Stepfather of Ralph Locke Father of Donna Goldsteen

# Friday, January 20 & Saturday, January 21

Bessie Wolfson Bessie Dicken Pearl Dinin Gould Edith Plesset Fred Goldman Robert Siegfried Joyce Blumbera

Grandmother of Ron Isaacson Grandmother of Phil Dicken Stepmother of Diane Levitus Grandmother of Michelle Bellman Father of Jack Goldman Father of Laura Jackel Grandmother of Michelle Bellman

# Friday, January 27

Leslie Benenati Nathan Marx Philip Salkin Sandy B. Weber Larry Bellman Norman Lichtman Barbara Bernstein Wife of Luciano Benenati Grandfather of Fred Marx Risa Robinson Brother of Marsha Weber Grandfather of Jared Bellman Father of Howard Lichtman Mother of Ellyn Baum

#### Friday, February 3

Edward Rosenthal Harry Steinberg Charles Cohen Father of Lou Rosenthal Grandfather of Lisa Cahn Father of Doreen Kreger Burt Weisman Alice Bender William Cain Samuel Lansat

n Father of Cara Breuer
Mother of Larry Bender
Father of Kathleen Lorenz
at Grandfather of Howard Lansat

# Friday, February 10

Irene Levitus Sister-In-Law of Sydney Levitus
Ruth Goldman Mother of Jack Goldman
Bruno Stein Grandfather of Barbara Marx
Sylvia Weber Grandmother of Joe Baum

## Friday, February 17

Sylvia Jackel Gladys Kandel Alan Strelser Steve Kalman Oscar Lessans Egon Rosenblum Grandmother of Jonathan Jackel Mother of Milton Kandel Father of Marc Strelser Brother of Karen Conner Father of Raymond Lessans Grandfather of Ziona Mossman

#### Friday, February 24

Phyllis Berman Emanuel Gussow Maurine Zeidman

Lillian Epstein Hortense Stein Mother of Terry Lewis Grandfather of Karl Gussow Grandmother of Phil Zeidman Mother of Ricke Zeidman Mother of Alan Epstein Grandmother of Barbara Marx

#### Friday, March 3

Beatrice Bernstein Gene Friedman Helen Krantzler Merle Locke Alan Streusand Gustav Mandelbaum Ronald Santa Gerald Stahl Grandmother of Ellyn Baum Father of Carol Cooper Mother of Rebecca Stroud Father of Ralph Locke Father of Doug Streusand Risa Robinson Dara & Stephen Santa Father of Vivian Stahl

<sup>\*\*</sup>Yahrtzeit plaque



All 2022 – 2023 CORY events can be attended by pre-purchasing for the fast pass. The 2022 – 2023 fast pass is \$80. These events include all the events above and food at all CORY events! This does not include the NFTY events. Should any additional events be included, then they will be registration per event. If you want to attend a single event, the costs are listed with that event.

This can be paid online via the link: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\_button\_id=HGW4TJET8DZU2



# Congregation Or Chadash Tree of Life

Honor simchas (happy life events) with a leaf on Congregation Or Chadash's Tree of Life.

Two leaf sizes are available as well as a few special doves.

To order, please fill out the form below and return to the temple office.

To order remembrance plaques for the Yarhtzeit Board, Please use the Yarhtzeit Plaques Order Form

Name:	Phone:		
Email:			
Small Leaf - Suggested Don	nation \$180 - Three lines, 25 characters per line.		
Large Leaf - Suggested Don	nation \$360 ~ Five lines, 30 characters per line.		
Dove - Suggested Donation	\$ 1000 – Call the office for more details		
Congregation Or Chadash	301-482-1025 (o)		
24800 Kings Valley Rd., Damascus, MD	20872 301-482-1027 (f)		



# Unbutrait Planna Dudan Foun

☐ Hebrew Name:		ben/bat		Parent 2
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If you wish to			include informa er sheet of pape	tion for additional r.

oo Kings Valley Rd., Damascus, MD 208<sup>,</sup> email to orchadashadmin@gmail.com.

