

Or Chadash FOCUS



By Rabbi Alison B. Kobey

Summer often gives us a different sense of time and rhythm. Shabbat attendance sometimes shifts. People are away. There is no Religious School, etc. But, please know that Or Chadash remains an important home for many. Even if you are less active than in the past, please know that your support helps others engage in community. (And we invite you to be active / more active too!) So, recognizing that the summer changes pace for many people, for this bulletin column, I offer you a list of:

Things You Can Do Jewishly This Summer (in no particular order):

- 1) Read a Jewish book. Bonus: Join our COC Book Club.
- 2) Keep snacks and water in your car. When you see a person who is homeless or struggling, offer them some water and food.
Alternatively, or additionally, please continue to donate non-perishable food to Or Chadash

which goes to Manna.

- 3) Listen to Jewish music. Maybe join Or Chadash Singers?!
- 4) We are taught that we are supposed to say 100 blessings a day. What if you make a list of 100 blessings you experience?
- 5) Come to Shabbat Services and bring a friend! Bonus if they are unaffiliated!
- 6) Give tzedakah to Jewish causes.
- 7) Read the weekly Torah portion and join us at Torah study!
- 8) Light Shabbat candles at home. Make Shabbat feel different from the rest of your week. Relax and rejuvenate.
- 9) Watch a Jewish movie.
- 10) Invite other Or Chadash-ites to your house for a meal or have coffee with me. I would love to hear an update of how you are doing!

L'Shalom

Rabbi Alison B. Kobey

SHABBAT/HOLIDAY SERVICES

Friday, May 5 – 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings and Teacher/Madrachim Appreciation

Friday, May 12 – 7:30pm Shabbat Services

Friday, May 19 – 7:30pm Shabbat Services led by CORY and with Anniversary Blessings

Thursday, May 25 – Zoom Shavuot. Stay tuned for more details

Friday, May 26 – 7:30pm Shabbat Services with second night Shavuot and L'Taken teen speeches

Saturday, May 27 – 10:00am Shabbat Services with Bar Mitzvah of Zack Chidakel

Friday, June 2 – 7:30pm Shabbat Services

Friday, June 9 – 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Or Chadash Singers and Broadway Shabbat theme

Friday, June 16 – 7:30pm Shabbat Services

Friday, June 23 – 7:30pm Shabbat Services

Friday, June 30 – 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Sundae Shabbat

Contacting Us



Rabbi

Rabbi Alison Kobey 301-482-1025
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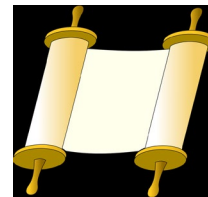
To Receive Email Updates

Send your email address to
orchadashadmin@cong-orchadashmd.org

Contact Us

Religious School Director.....	Rabbi Alison Kobey
Temple Administrator.....	OPEN
Religious School Administrator....	OPEN
Or Chadash Board	
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Religious School Committee.....	Howard Benowitz
Building Committee	Rob Eisenberg
Oneg Coordinator	Mo Reiter
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Torah Study / Talmud / Prophets



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 of it. ☺

Saturday, May 6 – 9:30am Torah Study

Emor (Leviticus 21:1-24:23) What are additional laws about holiness? What do we do with sacred food or blemished animals? What are our sacred times as Jews? When can we retaliate? What happens to blasphemers?

Saturday, May 13 – 9:30am Torah Study

Behar-Bechukotai (Leviticus 25:1-27:34) Why is resting the land important? What happens if we do not listen to God? How do we even “the playing field” in today’s society? What is our final reminder in this portion and how does it impact our connection to Or Chadash? What is our reward if we listen to God? Does threatening someone work?

Saturday, May 20 – 9:30am Torah Study

Bemidbar (Numbers 1:1-4:20) Who and why do we count in the tribes? Where do the different tribes live? How are the priests organized and how does that impact our lives today? What are the prices of redemption?

Saturday, May 20 – 11:00am Talmud

Saturday, May 27 – 10:00am. There is no Torah Study, but please join us at Shabbat Services and the Bar Mitzvah of Zack Chidakel

Saturday, June 3 – 9:30am Torah Study

Naso (Numbers 4:21-7:89) Is there an age at which people should be mandated to retire? If you are more aware of God, does that make you more holy? Are there different levels of holiness? Why is a fast linked to spiritual progress or it turns into a “sin”? How do we justify the importance of the priestly benediction in today’s Judaism?

Saturday, June 10 – 9:30am Torah Study

Beha'alotecha (Numbers 8:1-12:16) Does God need people? Why do we get a second chance with Passover? If a non-Jew participates in Passover, why must he/she then follow the same rules? Why is the order of troops so important?

Saturday, June 17 – 9:30am Torah Study

Shelach L'chah (Numbers 13:1-15:41) Are mirrors important? How do we know when to accept majority opinion and when to accept minority opinion? What is your favorite food from Israel? Why does God worry when people do not believe in God? What makes a tallit such an important symbol?

Saturday, June 24 – 10:00am There is no Torah Study, but please join us at Shabbat Services and the Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Hershfield

Religious School Committee

Tuesday Hebrew School will finish on **Tuesday, May 9**, and Sunday Religious School will finish on **Sunday, May 14**.

Thank you to students, parents, teachers, and madrichim for a great year! Once again, we faced new challenges and met them with the creativity and dedication that our staff shows every week and every year. We also saw the return of pizza bar on Tuesday nights. Is everyone excited for Maccabiah Games?!

Just like secular schools recommend that our kids read during the summer, our children should be reading Hebrew over the summer, too. A great way to read Hebrew and see Or Chadash friends is to come to Shabbat services on a Friday night or Saturday morning at the Temple. Check the calendar in the Focus or on our website (cong-orchadashmd.org) for details. Also, look on page 5 of this FOCUS for information about summer Shabbat service attendance incentives.

You should have received the 2023-24 Religious School registration form with the Temple's annual meeting mailing in April. You can also find a fillable PDF version of the form in the **Monday, April 17** email from Orchadashadmin@gmail.com. Please fully complete your registration form, even if the only information on the form that changes from this past year is your child's age and grade, and submit it to the Temple office (electronically or paper copy) as soon as possible. There is a financial incentive to submit it by **Tuesday, May 16**.

Join the Religious School Committee at our upcoming meeting on **Sunday, May 7** at 7:00pm on Zoom.

*L'Shalom,
The Religious School Committee*

Religious School

In Session:

May 2, 7, 9, 14



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Committee Meetings

Religious School Committee (RSC)

Sunday, May 7 – 7:00pm (Zoom Only)

Ritual Committee

Sunday, June 4 – 10:00am (In Person Only)

Library Committee

Sunday, June 4 – 1:00pm (In Person Only)

Faculty/Madrachim Appreciation

We hope you will join us at Shabbat services on **Friday, May 5** for a chance to thank our teachers and student volunteers for all their hard work over the year. Our teachers and madrichim give time, energy, knowledge, and a lot of love to our students. Join us in expressing our gratitude for their dedication to ensuring a strong Jewish future.

Calendar Meeting

NEW MEMBER / NOT-SO-NEW MEMBER, COMMITTEE CHAIR / NEVER BEEN ON A COMMITTEE... COME ONE, COME ALL as we plan our calendar for the upcoming year on **Wednesday, May 24** at 7:00pm. If you have events you wish to be added to the calendar, but cannot attend the meeting, please give Rabbi Kobey your ideas and preferred dates/times for the events, to ensure it can be part of the master calendar planning.

Religious School Summer Shabbat Incentives

Religious School students who attend at least 4 Shabbat services over the course of the summer from **Friday, June 2** through **Friday, September 1** will be invited to participate in a special party at the start of the school year. For every Shabbat service that a student attends in person, they will receive candy or an alternative fun prize.

Youth Groups

CORY will be leading Shabbat services on **Friday, May 19**.



Special Adult Learning Opportunity

Join us on **Sunday, May 21** at 7:00pm for a guest speaker: Student Rabbi Shoshana Nambi who will discuss the Ugandan Abayudaya Jewish community. While the program will be multi-access, we hope for a strong in-person gathering for this special event.

BBQ – Save the Date

Sunday, May 7 at 12:00pm

Or Chadash Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 17 at 7:30pm. The meeting is open to all members and will be multi-access. Join us in person or over Zoom.

Join the Or Chadash Singers

Do you enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument? The Or Chadash Singers would love for you to join us! No audition required - all are welcome.

We'll be singing at Music Theater Shabbat on Friday June 9, and we'll also be starting rehearsals for high holidays in early July.

Please contact me at 718-490-7042 or rachel.stroudgoodrich@gmail.com for more info about rehearsals, music or any other questions you may have!

Rachel Stroud-Goodrich

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!). The Zoom link will be in the Happenings email blast.



Talmud Study: The ancient and medieval rabbis often asked some of the same questions that we do, and had a variety of intriguing answers. (Never just one answer!) Join us to discuss passages that the Rabbi has carefully selected for us. 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.) For dates and times: see page 3. The Happenings email blast will have the Zoom link.



Congregation Or Chadash Book Club

The next meeting of the Congregation Or Chadash Book Club is **Friday, May 12** at noon. This will be a Zoom only meeting. The Zoom link will be in the Or Chadash Happenings email.

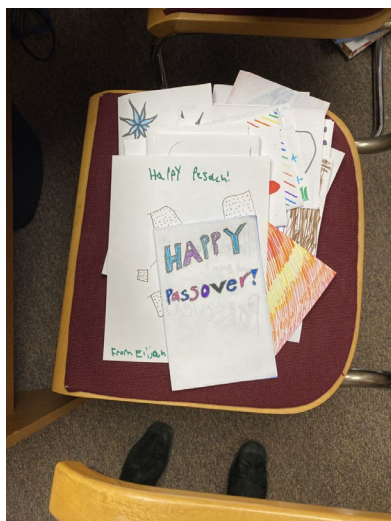
The books for May are *Can We Talk About Israel?* by Daniel Sokatch and *The Jewish Cookbook* by Leah Koenig. These books are available at the Montgomery County Public Libraries.

This is a coed book club. All are welcome to attend! Please RSVP by **Wednesday, May 3** to Jane Harris, clamityjgh@aol.com.

The June book club meeting is on **Friday, June 9** at noon. The June meeting is for planning the book club schedule for 2023-2024.

Successful Good Deeds Week

In March, the Social Action Committee organized two projects in conjunction with the Rockville JCC's (and indeed worldwide) Good Deeds Week. The Religious School students designed and completed 50 Happy Passover cards to be sent to Jewish residents (including 13 Holocaust survivors) who live at Riderwood Senior Living Community (Silver Spring). The volunteers at Riderwood Jewish Community made sure that each card would reach an appropriate resident. Here's just one small pile of the colorful and imaginative cards!



We also did a food drive, netting 175 pounds of canned and boxed foodstuffs, which heroic congregants brought over to Manna to be distributed to individuals and families who are experiencing food insufficiency.

A hearty thank you from the Social Action Committee to the congregant families who participated in one or both of these worthy projects!

Guys Night Out

Thursday, May 11 at 6:30pm at Dogfish Head Alehouse, 800 W Diamond Ave, Gaithersburg.

Thursday, June 15 at 6:30pm at Señor Tequila's, 20021 Century Blvd., Germantown.

Contact Joe Baum at jesaz99@aol.com for details and to RSVP.

Social Action Committee - Supporting Refugees

In concert with New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), we have helped over 30 families, including 20 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.

NNIA has many available volunteer opportunities to appeal to individuals with different interests and skill sets and that require varying amounts of time to accomplish. Some positions require regular and frequent time commitments, whereas others require sporadic tasks done on an as needed basis. All of these opportunities provide great personal satisfaction in knowing that you are having a positive impact on the lives of others in need. Please review the volunteer needs at this Volunteer Signup link to see ideas of how you can help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45a4aa2da5f9c52-volunteer>.

Or contact us at NNIAMaryland@gmail.com.

Special Services

Celebrating Simchas (Happy Occasions)

Celebrate your birthday with your Or Chadash family. Be called to the bimah and receive a special blessing and a birthday treat to mark the occasion. We have Birthday Blessings every month. For the month of May come on **Friday, May 5** at 7:30pm and for the month of June join us on **Friday, June 2** at 7:30pm.

We also celebrate anniversaries within our Or Chadash family. Again, be invited onto the bimah for a special blessing and treat. This is also monthly with Anniversary Blessings on **Friday, May 19** at 7:30pm and **Friday, June 16** at 7:30pm.

Do you have other simchas to share? Let Rabbi Kobey know, so we can rejoice together.

Shavuot

Shavuot is often a holiday that gets lost or forgotten in liberal Judaism as it usually happens after the conclusion of the Religious School year. It is the summer harvest holiday, but also the holiday in which we received the Torah. Moreover, the reality of Shavuot is that according to our tradition, it is actually of the same importance as Sukkot and Passover. This year we will offer a Zoom-only experience for the first night, **Thursday, May 26**, and will offer multi-access opportunities for the second night and day, **Friday, May 27** and **Saturday, May 28** respectively. Stay tuned for more information about the first night.

Thank You to Our Donors

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

General Donations

Gerald Ray Mollie Lipshy Charitable Trust & Judy Gable

NNIA Refugee Fund

James Branegan
De Quattro Family Foundation
Deborah Ross
Barbara & Robert Roswell

Rise Against Hunger

Karl & Anne Gussow

Yahrtzeit Board

Seth Schwartz in memory of Leslie Schwartz

Condolences

We extend our deep condolences to Nancy Thorner and her family on the death of her mother, Estelle Eisler, who died on March 10.

We extend our deep condolences to Heather Held and her family on the death of Sibby Gosch, who died on March 24.

Mazel Tov

Congregation Or Chadash extends our congratulations on the Bar Mitzvah of Zack Chidakel on Saturday, May 27.

Congregation Or Chadash extends our congratulations on the Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Hershfield on Saturday, June 24.



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, May 5

Fred Lafer	Uncle of Ellyn Baum
Linda Wickwire	Mother of Alison Felrice
William Eisenberg	Father of Robert Eisenberg
Dorothy Grenadier	Great-aunt of Ellyn Baum
Richard Spector	Friend of Michael Abrahams & Susan White

Friday, May 12

Bruce Gould	Uncle of Diane Levitus
Francis Carmody	Stepfather of Leslie Dicken
Sophie Blagman	Grandmother of Karl Gussow

Friday, May 19

Ella Garfunkel	Grandmother of Diane Levitus
Dorothy Petok	Mother of Fred Petok
Sylvia Wasserman	Great-aunt of David Bender
Norman Lobsenz	Father of Michael Abrahams

Friday, May 26 & Saturday, May 27

Sybil Slong	Great-aunt of Barbara Marx
Anne Steinberg	Maternal Grandmother of Lisa Cahn
Betty Cohen	Mother of Doreen Kreger
Phyllis Rosenthal	Sister of Cindy Bender
Reva Cooperstein	Mother of Daniel Cooperstein
Samuel Light	Father of Susan Lichtman
Donna Page	Sister of Debbie Lessans
Arnold Paley	Father-in-law of Ken Tharp

Friday, June 2

Joseph Page	Father of Debbie Lessans
Anne Farhi	Mother of Lona Farhi
**Linda Tharp	Wife of Ken Tharp
Marvin Lansat	Father of Howard Lansat
Florence Tropp	Grandmother of Anne Gussow

Friday, June 9

Roslyn Elson	Mother of Terri Binder
Benjamin Zavin	Father of Jack Zavin
Shirley Dissin	Mother of Alan Dissin
David Glaser	Father of Nancy Goldspiel
Lillian Young	Mother of Gary Young
Samuel Stein	Kevin & Ilene Krom
Roslyn Goldberg	Mother of Julie Swain

Friday, June 16

Robert Elson	Father of Terri Binder
Morris Slonk	Grandfather of Barbara Marx

Friday, June 23 & Saturday, June 24

Patty Lansat Pollack	Sister of Howard Lansat
Nathan Blagman	Grandfather of Karl Gussow

Friday, June 30

Ludwig Cahn	Paternal Grandfather of Lisa Rolnick
John Benenati	Father of Luciano Benenati
Philip Zeidman	Grandfather of Phil Zeidman
Samuel Felrice	Son of Andrew & Alison Felrice



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 Yahrzeit Board, Please use the Yahrzeit Plaques Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____



Small Leaf ~ Suggested Donation \$180 ~ Three lines, 25 characters per line.



Large Leaf ~ Suggested Donation \$360 ~ Five lines, 30 characters per line.



Dove ~ Suggested Donation \$1000 ~ Call the office for more details

Congregation Or Chadash
24800 Kings Valley Rd., Damascus, MD 20872

301-482-1025 (o)
301-482-1027 (f)



Yahrtzeit Plaque Order Form

Person being remembered (check fields desired):

☒ English Name: _____

☐ Hebrew Name: _____ ben/bat _____
Parent 1 Parent 2

☒ Secular Calendar Date of Death: _____

Approximate time of death: _____ (pre or post sundown)

☐ Hebrew Calendar Date: _____

If you wish to use the Hebrew date to be included, but don't know it, check the box and we will look up the date for you based on the secular date.

Member Placing the order:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City-State-Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Payment Information

The cost is \$180 per plaque. If transferring a plaque from another congregation, the cost is \$90 per plaque. Each plaque can remember only one person. Payment must accompany the order form.

☐ Check or cash (enclosed)

If you wish to order multiple plaques, please include information for additional remembered people on another sheet of paper.

**Return forms to the Temple office at
24800 Kings Valley Rd., Damascus, MD 20872 or
email to orchadashadmin@gmail.com.**

