

# Or Chadash FOCUS



*By Rabbi Alison B. Kobey*

While the temperature outside is in the high 80s/low 90s right now and I am seeing a lot of people's Facebook feeds or hearing stories about beach travels, this is definitely not beach week for me, unfortunately. As most of you know, this time of year is enormously busy with the planning and preparing for five special holidays and the start of Religious School. I say it not to complain, but to recognize this annual cycle of craziness, and also to empathize when you talk about this being a busy time of year for you too. As many of you know, I argue with God every year about the calendar. I still have not won the argument, but I can feel it. I'm getting closer to wearing God down on this one. (God is shaking Her head right now and saying Oy!)

Recently, someone was interviewing me and asking about some of my favorite things and also my biggest worry. While I have lots of favorites, I do also have an ongoing worry: I know societally we are so busy and we are so willing to assimilate, but my worry is that Judaism will get

lost and forgotten or die out. I say that not to guilt anyone, but to share my fear. Yes, many of you are busy. Yes, many of you happily assimilate. I actually think that assimilation in and of itself is neutral, but that is a topic for another time. Please do not let go of your identity.

I wish I could convince you that Judaism is amazing and important on so many levels. I wish I could convince you that it is okay if you say you do not believe in God or you do not think you can celebrate every holiday the way it "should" be celebrated. What does that really mean anyway?! I wish I could convince you that each holiday is actually really special and powerful and you can make it your own and that it does not have to be an all or nothing. I wish I could convince you that so much of who you are is implicitly (or maybe explicitly) part of your Jewish identity or Jewish-adjacent identity.  
(continued on page 6)

## SHABBAT/HOLIDAY SERVICES

**Friday, September 1** – 7:30pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings

**Friday, September 8** – 7:30pm Shabbat Services with welcoming new members and prospective members

**Saturday, September 9** – 5:30pm Potluck Dinner and Selichot/Havdallah Services followed by s'mores (see pg. 17 for details and times)

**Friday, September 15** – 7:30pm Erev Rosh Hashanah / Shabbat Services

**Saturday, September 16** – 10:00am Rosh Hashanah Services (see pg. 17 for details and times)

**Friday, September 22** – 6:15pm (NOTE NEW TIME!) Shabbat Shuvah Services with

Anniversary Blessings

**Sunday, September 24** – 7:30pm Erev Yom Kippur Services

**Monday, September 25** – 10:00am Yom Kippur Services (see pg. 17 for details and times)

**Friday, September 29** – 6:15pm Sukkot/Shabbat Services

**Friday, October 6** – 6:15pm Simchat Torah / Shabbat Services with Consecration

**Friday, October 13** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings

**Friday, October 20** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services

**Friday, October 27** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services Caribbean Theme with Anniversary Blessings

# Contacting Us



### Rabbi

Rabbi Alison Kobey 301-482-1025  
[rabbi@cong-orchadashmd.org](mailto:rabbi@cong-orchadashmd.org)

### Cantorial Soloist

Deborah Sternberg  
[soloist@cong-orchadashmd.org](mailto:soloist@cong-orchadashmd.org)

### Location

24800 Kings Valley Road  
 Damascus, MD 20872

### Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday  
 9:30am to 2:00pm

### Email Address:

[orchadashadmin@cong-orchadashmd.org](mailto:orchadashadmin@cong-orchadashmd.org)

### Mailing Address

24800 Kings Valley Rd  
 Damascus, MD 20872

### Web Address

[www.cong-orchadashmd.org](http://www.cong-orchadashmd.org)

### Telephone and FAX

(T) 301-482-1025

(F) 301-482-1027

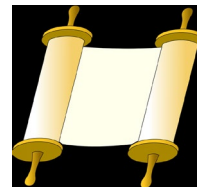
### To Receive Email Updates

Send your email address to  
[orchadashadmin@cong-orchadashmd.org](mailto:orchadashadmin@cong-orchadashmd.org)

## Contact Us

Religious School Director.....	Rabbi Alison Kobey
Temple Administrator.....	Mark Bilsky
Religious School Administrator....	Mark Bilsky
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Adult Learning Committee .....	Ralph Locke
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.....	Melissa Lebedinsky
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Religious School Committee.....	Howard Benowitz
Building Committee .....	Rob Eisenberg
Oneg Coordinator .....	Open
FOCUS Editor .....	Debbie Eisenberg
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Dues or Tuition Relief.....	Andrew Colby

## Torah Study / Text Study / Talmud Classes



These Saturday morning classes are Zoom only. Everyone is welcome. If you would like the material in advance for Talmud, please feel free to reach out to Rabbi Kobey.

**Saturday, September 2 – 9:30am Torah Study**  
***Ki Tavo (Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8)*** Why do we stand on two mountains and shout blessings and curses? How does that relate to modern day? What are your blessings and curses? Do they ever get mixed up? How do you enter a new setting?

**Saturday, September 2– 11:00am(ish) Talmud Class**

**Saturday, September 9 – 9:30am Torah Study**  
***Nitzavim-Vayeilech (Deuteronomy 29:9- 31:30)***  
 What can Moses do to convince us to observe the Torah? Is it easy or hard to follow Torah? How do we show God our intentions? How are our behaviors reflected in the public and in private? What does repentance really mean? What is our ultimate choice? Why is God still rebuking us?

**Saturday, September 16 – No Torah Study**  
 Join us in Rosh Hashanah services and activities

**Saturday, September 23 – 9:30am Torah Study**  
***Ha'Azinu (Deuteronomy 32:1-52)*** What happens when our relationships go out of kilter? Why is this poem so critical to the fate of the Jews? How is God just, even when we misbehave? How does God evolve? What is Moses's final charge to us? Would you want to know your precise date of your death?

**Saturday, September 30 – 9:30am Text Study**  
***Ecclesiastes*** Come study the traditional text read on Sukkot.

**Saturday, October 7 – 9:30am Torah Study**  
***V'zot HaBrachah (Deuteronomy 33:1-34:12)***  
 What is our final blessing? How is God portrayed here? Is Moses finally at peace?

**Saturday, October 14 – 9:30am Torah Study**  
***Bereisheet (Genesis 1:1-6:8)*** What if you do not like your sibling? Does God watch you? If we are in the image of God, what are we supposed to do? How is the Garden of Eden? Would you want to live there today?

**Saturday, October 14 – 11:00am(ish) Talmud Class**

**Saturday, October 21 – 9:30am Torah Study**  
***Noach (Genesis 6:9-11:32)*** Is Noah more righteous than we previously thought? Does silence lead to righteousness? Why do we talk more about the 2x2 animals than 2x7? How do you tell people they are wrong? Would we be more understanding if we had a universal language?

**Saturday, October 28 – 9:30am Torah Study**  
***Lech L'cha (Genesis 12:1-17:27)*** Is it okay to lie? What does God promise and has it come true? What does it mean to be a blessing? How do family feuds impact our destiny? Why does a sister have a more protected status than a wife? How many people make a community? How do we show trust in God today? How do our names impact our identity?

**Saturday, October 28 – 11:00am(ish) Talmud Class**

## President's Column

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What we consider the start of the year is (relatively) arbitrary. For some, it is January 1. For others, it's Rosh Hashanah. Or maybe it's the start of the school year. Or maybe you use your birthday as the start of the year. But the specific first day of the year is (relatively) arbitrary. For me, it's the start of the school year.

This is when daily routines change in my house. And this school year, things are changing significantly as my oldest offspring just left to begin his freshman year in college. This is my family's time to look at everything with a fresh perspective. With a new year, everything has an opportunity for a fresh start. While there are always remnants of what came before, this is our chance to tackle things with vigor, allowing us to let go of the old and embrace the new.

This is my time to organize my time and redefine my priorities, trying to decide what obligations are at the top of my priority list and which I am allowed to permit to slip down a notch or two. This is also my time to self-reflect and make goals for myself. And, like many, my new year goals can be lofty and unrealistic at times.

In my (relatively) new role as Board President, I have goals for myself. My priority is to improve the feeling of engagement of all members of the congregation. This is something that has been a concern, not only at Congregation Or Chadash, but across all aspects of our lives since the start of the COVID pandemic.

My biggest problem is that I need the help of the congregation to make these dreams come to fruition. I see that we are still struggling with finding the balance between in-person and virtual programming. Often, in-person participation encourages us all to be more engaged in whatever activity we are involved in. Virtual options are sometimes necessary for those of us who aren't physically able to participate in activities in-person. While being grateful that much of our programming is available using Zoom or similar platforms, those opportunities are keeping us isolated from one another.

For those of you who are accessing programming through Zoom: What would encourage you to return to the physical building? Are you missing particular activities that are keeping you away? Is there something that I, or the board, can do to encourage you to start doing things in person rather than on a virtual platform?

I encourage any and all of you to reach out directly to me at [kromfamily726@gmail.com](mailto:kromfamily726@gmail.com) to discuss anything I can do to help you feel more engaged with your temple family. I cannot promise any results, but if I am not aware of your concerns or issues, there is no way that I can help resolve any issues or concerns you may have.

*L'Shalom  
Ilene Krom*

## Religious School Committee

Sunday Religious School will begin on **Sunday, October 15**, and Tuesday Religious School will begin on **Tuesday, October 17**. Attending High Holiday services on **September 15-16** (Rosh Hashanah) and **24-25** (Yom Kippur) with your children will not only be an opportunity for reflection and renewal but will also be an excellent warm-up to Religious School. Our Sukkot service on **Friday, September 29**, is always festive and another opportunity for our students to read Hebrew and see their friends—and for you to see your Or Chadash family! We will also have our special Simchat Torah and Consecration service on **Friday, October 6**, when we welcome new members to our Religious School and celebrate the Torah.

**If you have not done so already, please complete the 2023-24 Religious School registration form and submit it to the Temple office as soon as possible.** Please fully complete your registration form, even if the only information on the form that changed from last year is your child's age and grade. If you have any questions or need copies of the form, you can contact our Religious School Administrator, Mark Bilsky, at 301-482-1025.

Thanks to all of the families that have already submitted your school forms. If you have submitted your registration forms, then you should receive your Religious School email with calendars, electives form, and other information soon.

We will have a special Family Education and *Selichot* celebration on **Saturday, September 9** at 5:30pm. We will begin with a potluck dinner, followed by the *Selichot* programming with honey tasting, and finish with s'mores! Look for more information about this and other temple events in this edition of the FOCUS.

Are you interested in learning more about the Religious School, or do you have ideas for the Religious School? Please join us at the next Religious School Committee meetings on **Tuesday, September 5** at 7:30pm on Zoom and **Tuesday, October 3** at 7:45pm on Zoom. Contact Howard Benowitz or check the weekly Or Chadash Happenings emails for the Zoom links.

*L'Shalom,*  
The Religious School Committee

### Religious School Schedule

#### Family Education

September 9

5:30pm Potluck Dinner

6:15pm Family Education program

7:00pm Selichot/Havdallah services followed by s'mores

#### Communal Religious School Welcome

October 15

11:30am Families, please join us

#### In Session:

October 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31

Alison B. Kobey (continued)

And, yet, as I look historically at our numbers of attendees at the various holidays, I worry and I acknowledge that I have not successfully convinced you. This year, we are trying new ways to engage you in the holidays... from honey tasting and s'mores to popcorn making and/or taste-off, to a chocolate fountain oneg (ooh, lots of food themes), to a new time for Shabbat Services (as a reminder beginning **Friday, September 22** we will be at 6:15pm), to new themes and programming. Our goal is to reach you and welcome you. What else will help? What else do you want? How can I convince you?

While I would never compare myself to Moses on the bigger scale, there are some overlaps. Moses uses most of the book of Deuteronomy to try to convince the Israelites to stay connected and engaged with Torah. I feel his sense of urgency. I feel his sense of continuing to try different tactics to reach the people. So, help me, help you. What else can I do to convince you to join us? I would love to see you at all the holidays, but if that does not work for you, I would love to see you often and hear from you! May these last days of summer be beach-filled and may this season be Jewishly meaningful as together we ready ourselves to enter the year 5784!

*L'Shalom*

*Rabbi Alison B. Kobey*



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# Keeping Up with Or Chadash

## Committee Meetings

Religious School Committee (RSC)

**Tuesday, September 5** – 7:30pm (Zoom Only)

**Tuesday, October 3** – 7:45pm (Zoom Only)

Ritual Committee

**Sunday, October 1** – 7:00pm (Zoom Only)

## Faculty Meeting

**Sunday, October 29** at 8:00am, we will have a Religious School faculty meeting.

## Religious School

Because of how the Tishrei cycle falls (Tishrei is the Hebrew month that has Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah), Religious School will begin on **Sunday, October 15**. We do hope that our Religious School families will join us at the family education program on **Saturday, September 9**, along with joining us at all of the Fall holidays. Stay tuned for a full Religious School calendar soon.

## Prospective Members

We need your help! We know that word of mouth is the best way for people to find us and get to know us. If you know of a possible member, please send us the name and any contact information you might have. Then, we will reach out and include the person(s) in a small group opportunity. We hope to hear from you!

## First Aid at Temple

We hope you never need first-aid, but as an FYI, there are band-aids and cream in the kitchen, near the sink, and there is an A.E.D. (defibrillator) machine mounted near the glass doors leading into the sanctuary from the foyer.

## CORY

CORY is our youth group for our 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. We encourage every teen's household to pay the annual CORY fee. This year it will be \$115 and will include all of the local CORY events (i.e., non-weekend trips). Alternatively, families can pay per event. Please mark your calendars now for the year (although times may need to be tweaked based on event venue). **RSVP to Rabbi Kobey ASAP for the shul-in, Top Golf, and Sandy Spring Adventure Park.** These events need advance registrations.

Here is the list of events:

**Saturday-Sunday, September 2-3** 7:00pm  
Shul-in

**Wednesday, October 4** 6:00pm  
Pizza in the Hut

**Sunday, October 22** 1:30pm  
Top Golf

**Friday, November 3** 6:15pm (need teens earlier)  
Shabbat Services with CORY participation

**Sunday, November 12** 4:00pm  
Sandy Spring Adventure Park

**Tuesday, December 12** 6:00pm  
Chanukah Celebration

**Sunday, January 7** 2:00pm  
Germantown Indoor Water Park

**Sunday, February 4** 3:00pm  
Ice Skating

**Sunday, February 25** 3:00pm  
Monster Mini Golf

**Saturday, March 16** 4:00pm  
Purim Carnival Set-up

**Sunday, March 17** 12:00pm (need teens earlier)  
Purim Carnival

**Sunday, April 21** 2:30pm  
Hiking at Great Falls

**Sunday, May 19** 1:30pm  
SkyZone

**Friday-Saturday, May 31-June 1** or  
**Friday-Saturday, June 7-8**  
Shul-In

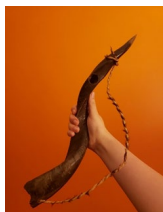
## Adult Learning Opportunities

Please RSVP to Rabbi Kobey for all three of the following classes. Minimum numbers needed.

**Friday, September 1** – 12:00pm Forgiveness in Judaism (Zoom only)

**Wednesday, September 6** – 7:00pm Learn to blow the shofar (in-person only). Bring your shofar to Yom Kippur neilah (concluding services) for a multi-shofar final blast. Please

contact Dave for more information or if you have questions: [dave@davebenderhomes.com](mailto:dave@davebenderhomes.com).



**Friday, October 20** – 12:00pm How to respond to... (Zoom only)

**Torah and Talmud Study:** There are text-study classes every Saturday in September and October except for September 16 (Rosh Hashanah). Learn more about our sacred traditions, and connect it all to modern life. All these classes are currently meeting Zoom-only. Feel free to just drop in, or let the Rabbi know you're interested. See the separate "Torah Study and Talmud" section (page 3 of this FOCUS) for details about each week's material. No need to read in advance.

## High Holy Day Honors

As is our custom, we use the High Holidays as one of our opportunities to say thank you. Everyone who receives an honor during the High Holidays is nominated by one, if not more, member of the Leadership Group (Committee Chairs, Board, etc.) for their efforts to Or Chadash over the past year. We thank them for their dedication, and hope that in the coming year, you too will be an active volunteer and be on the bimah during Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur. **To all our current volunteers: THANK YOU!** Our sacred family is great because of you!

## Kosher Policy

As we move back into various food events at Or Chadash, please be mindful of our kosher policy. This includes any/all Temple events on Temple property plus religious school and youth group field trips.

Did you know that we have a kosher policy at Congregation Or Chadash? If you are not familiar with our policy, or to make sure that everyone remembers, here it is:

*Kashrut is the term applied to foods that meet Jewish religious requirements. It is used in the sense of food that is ritually clean and edible. Kasher or Kosher means fit to eat. Congregation Or Chadash asks that all people using the building or on Temple grounds, including our members, show respect for our sacred tradition, so that all food served is acceptable to all of our members. Or Chadash follows Biblical Kosher rules meaning:*

- *There should be no treif at all in the building (i.e., no pig and no shellfish)*
- *There should be no mixing of milk and meat (includes chicken) throughout the entire event. This includes "large" or "small" ingredients. Examples include:*
  - *Cheeseburgers*
  - *Chicken dinner with rolls and butter*
  - *Chicken dinner with ice cream for dessert*
  - *A cake made with butter at a meal with meat.*
- *There may not be dairy foods at one table and meat foods at a different table.*
- *Pareve means something neutral, such as fish or eggs and can be served with either dairy or meat. It means the items cannot even have minor meat or milk ingredients.*

If students are at a Congregation Or Chadash Religious School program outside of the Temple as part of their Religious School class, we expect them to follow the Congregation Or Chadash Kosher Policy.

## Children's High Holiday Babysitting

We have babysitting available on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings for our Or Chadash families and prospective families. Geared toward children third grade and younger, the children will enjoy age-appropriate activities, stories, and snacks. On Rosh Hashanah, the children will also be brought into the sanctuary during the shofar service. There is no cost to attend, but you **MUST RSVP**.

Please contact Mark Bilsky at orchadashadmin@gmail.com and provide:

**Parent** name(s), address, e-mail, phone, cell phone or number for emergency (and if you receive texts)

**Child**(rens) Name(s), age(s) and grade(s) in school (if applicable), allergy information / medication information, if they are COVID vaccinated, and any other pertinent information you wish to share.

In order for us to hold a space for your child you must RSVP with the above information to Mark, Temple Administrator, as soon as possible.

## Lulav and Etrog

Order a LULAV/ETROG!  
Build a sukkah (or visit others) and have some fun during Rabbi Kobey's favorite holiday! Invite family and friends over to your sukkah. Eat some meals in the Temple sukkah. Have you ever owned your own lulav/etrog for Sukkot? The holiday may come during a busy season, but take some time and enjoy Sukkot! Sukkot reminds us of the frailty of life... certainly these last few years have been a constant reminder, but let's turn these times into sacred Jewish acknowledgments of the season.



To purchase your own lulav/etrog through Temple, please call or e-mail Mark with the following: name, e-mail, phone. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED AND PAID BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## Rise Against Hunger

Back by popular demand! This Yom Kippur we are doing our seventh annual feed-the-hungry program! After morning services, we will be providing an opportunity to directly feed the hungry. While we still will be doing our local food drive for Manna (and hope you will give), this Yom Kippur we will also do a project that will have an international focus. This year we will be packing over 11,000 meals to ship to people in need in food impoverished parts of the world. In the last few years, our food went to Haiti, Madagascar, New Orleans, as a few examples.

The program has strict requirements and one is a large indoor space. Thus, the program will occur immediately after morning services and will go (give or take on the timing) until afternoon services. I ask, in advance, for your patience as there might be a bit of "organized chaos," both at the conclusion of morning services and again before the start of afternoon services.

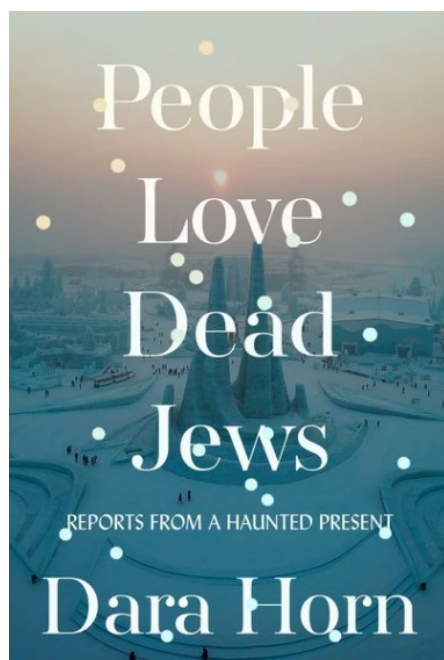
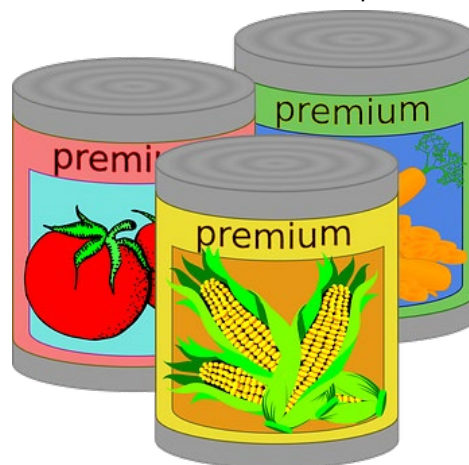
The event is open to anyone ages 4 and above who wishes to help. People need to wear closed-toed shoes and we will be standing as we pack the boxes of food. People will need to wear gloves and hair nets, both of which they provide. As found in the Torah, God commands us to feed the hungry. Will you help? If you are interested, please sign up on the link below. If you have trouble, let me know and I would be happy to sign you up. We are looking for approximately 40 volunteers at any one time. If there is high demand, we will slightly alter the shift time slots to ensure that anyone who wishes to engage in this mitzvah may do so. If you are signing up multiple people within your household, please list everyone individually so we know who to expect.

We look forward to Yom Kippur and this special Rise Against Hunger program. Sign up here!  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A4AB2B0-cocrise5>

## Oneg (and Shabbat Greeter and Tech Support)

We would love for you to sign up on the SignUpGenius (or reach out to Rabbi if you are having trouble) to be the door greeter person or the oneg sponsor. If you are tech trained, you can also use this sign-up to sign up for the technology. Thank you in advance for volunteering!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A4AB2B0-shabbat2>



## Congregation Or Chadash Book Club

The next meeting of the Congregation Or Chadash Book Club is **Friday, September 8** at noon. This will be a Zoom-only meeting. The Zoom link will be in the Or Chadash Happenings email.

The book for September is *People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present* by Dana Horn. This book is available at the Montgomery County Public Libraries.

This is a coed book club. All are welcome to attend! Please RSVP by **Tuesday, September 5** to Jane Harris at [clamityjgh@aol.com](mailto:clamityjgh@aol.com).

## Food Drive

We have a food drive that happens throughout the year, but as we enter our Jewish season of Thanksgiving (aka Sukkot), we ask that you especially remember to fill our food barrels so that we may help local shelters. You will get an empty bag at Rosh Hashanah services and we ask that you fill it and drop off food on or before Yom Kippur.

## Guys Night Out

The September Guys Night Out will be **Thursday, September 21** at 6:30pm at Coastal Flats Crowne in Gaithersburg. This will be an outdoor event but we cannot RSVP and we will be at their high tops outside.

The October Guys Night Out will be **Thursday, October 19** at 6:30pm at Picca Pollo A La Brasa in Germantown. This is planned as an indoor event, but if the weather is nice then we can try to eat outside.

The November Guys Night Out will be on **Thursday, November 16** at 6:30pm at Mama Lucia, Falls Grove Village Center in Rockville, MD.

Contact Joe Baum at [jesaz99@aol.com](mailto:jesaz99@aol.com) for details and to RSVP.

## Adult Social Group

Fall Night Out, **Saturday, October 14** at 5:00pm, at a restaurant in Germantown (TBD), followed by dessert and coffee at the Baum House at about 7-7:30pm.

Save the Date. The Annual Chanukah party will be on **Sunday, December 10**, at 5:00pm at the Isaacsson's home.

## Social Action Committee

### Supporting Refugees

In concert with New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), we have recently welcomed three new refugee families into our community and shared in the joy of new life for two families who welcomed new babies! We helped breadwinners in two families find jobs so that they can advance on the road to independence. We continued to be engaged with around 26 families and individuals who occasionally look to us for help.

One of our newest families is a Ukrainian family. Mom, Dad, and the two girls (middle & elementary school) have recently moved to a rental in Damascus. Dad has a good job, and Mom would love some assistance in finding an entry-level job for herself. She is great with communicating using Google Translate, but she would love to have a tutor with whom she could practice using conversational English. While the dad has a Commercial Driver's License (CDL), the mom has a Ukrainian driver's license, but could use help getting a Maryland driver's license. Also, the mom and the eldest daughter need a driver to help them get to Children's Hospital in Rockville about once a month. NNIA is hoping that some Or Chadash folks will volunteer to help this family, as ours is the closest organization to this family. We already have a local lead who can help coordinate, and answer your questions about how to help.

Contact us at [NNIAMaryland@gmail.com](mailto:NNIAMaryland@gmail.com), or contact congregant Debbie Eisenberg at [rjeisenberg@comcast.net](mailto:rjeisenberg@comcast.net) for more information, or to volunteer.

All of this work would not be possible without the incredibly generous financial support that we have received from our compassionate donors! Donations can be made to Congregation Or Chadash's NNIA Refugee Fund by credit card here:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=UL49GH8DSQ7JU](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=UL49GH8DSQ7JU)

Or scan this QR code to donate. (For iPhones, just use your camera. For Android, drag down from the top of your phone, and select QR scanner.)



Checks can be mailed to the COC office with a note of NNIA Refugee Fund.

### Interfaith Works

Interfaith Works is a nonprofit that provides emergency shelter, supportive housing, essential needs, and employment programs to over 35,000 residents of Montgomery County, MD every year. Their mission is providing vital services and a pathway to greater stability. Their goal is to partner with faith communities such as Congregation Or Chadash. They operate several shelters across the county as well as a food and clothing distribution center. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up here:

<https://www.iworksmc.org>



### Care Bags for Individuals Who Are Homeless

“What should I do if a person is clearly in need, and asks me for money?” COC’s Social Action Committee—following recommendations made by many social and religious organizations nationwide—is launching a project of assembling bags of helpful items that individual congregants can give to people who are homeless / currently unhoused, instead of giving them money. Sign up here for items to donate:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4FABAE1-care>.

You can drop the items off in a bin in the temple lobby. The temple building is now open 9:30am-2:00pm Tuesday-Friday (but please call first: 301-482-1025), or you can bring the items before Friday-evening Shabbat services (someone can open the door starting at 6:30pm). If it’s more convenient for you, order the items online and have them sent to the temple. The staff will quickly know that a box of dental floss, say, belongs in the Care Bags bin!

Once we have assembled enough supplies, the Social Action Committee will announce a time when members of the congregation can come join us in assembling the bags. Congregants can carry one or two in their car to give to homeless individuals. We are also partnering with the Montgomery County mental-health organization *Every Mind*, which has offered to accept as many of these bags as we can provide. They will distribute the bags to individuals that they help, including homeless veterans.



### Do You Like to Knit (or Crochet)?

Congregant Nancy Thorner has started a COC Knitting and Crocheting Club, called the “B’nai Knitzvahs,” and it’s going full blast....

The club has, in a short time, produced three hand-knit baby blankets. Two of them have already been delivered to newborn baby boys, supported through our refugee-assistance program with New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA). The third is awaiting a little girl, who is expected in early September.

The committee members have now begun knitting scarves and some hats for a Ukrainian refugee family in Damascus.

Please contact Nancy at [nethorner@yahoo.com](mailto:nethorner@yahoo.com) if you’d like to participate in the current B’nai Knitzvahs project or some future one. You can also let her know if you have some thoughts on when and where to get together, or if you have other good projects to suggest.

## Special Services

### Summary of the Tishrei Cycle (starting with Selichot and talking about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah)

**Saturday, September 9** starts the fall holiday season in earnest with Selichot, a holiday that sets the mood for Rosh Hashanah by offering a few of the prayers and melodies and moments of reflection. Events begin at 5:30pm that evening with a potluck dinner, an education program for people of all ages (including a honey tasting), and the service at 7:00pm, followed by s'mores.

**Sunday, September 10** at 10:00am will be Reverse Tashlich. Tashlich is a communal ritual to help cast off our "sins," free ourselves of the past, and an opportunity to come together as a COC community to engage in social action and mindfulness. We will be cleaning up Waring Station Local Park in Germantown. Please RSVP to Mark Bilsky at [orchadashadmin@gmail.com](mailto:orchadashadmin@gmail.com) to ensure sufficient numbers. Also on **Sunday, September 10**, you are invited to join in communal apple picking at Rock Hill Orchard at 1:00pm. Again, please RSVP to Mark.

**Friday, September 15** marks Erev Rosh Hashanah with services at 7:30pm and **Saturday, September 16** includes our children's service at 9:00am, main services at 10:00am, a new program for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students, also at 10:00am, a Rosh Hashanah luncheon (RSVP to Mark), and Tashlich (see above for Tashlich meaning) at 2:30pm. Babysitting during the main service is also an option for our youngest members and guests (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and younger). RSVP ASAP to Mark Bilsky for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur babysitting.

Erev Yom Kippur is **Sunday, September 24** with services at 7:30pm and Yom Kippur day is on **Monday, September 25**. Again, children services will be at 9:00am and main services will be at 10:00am, with babysitting again being an option at our main morning service. We will again have our Rise Against Hunger program, packing over 11,000 meals to help feed the hungry. Yom Kippur services will continue in the afternoon at 3:15pm, including time for meditation, yizkor (remembering our loved ones who have died) at approximately 4:45pm, with the concluding service at approximately 6:00pm. We will end our day with a congregational (and guests) break-the-fast. Please RSVP to Mark Bilsky at [orchadashadmin@gmail.com](mailto:orchadashadmin@gmail.com) or (301) 482-1025.

**Friday, September 29** is the start of Sukkot and we will have services at 6:15pm followed by a popcorn taste-off. What crazy flavors of popcorn or popcorn recipes can you make or do you want to taste?! What flavor will win?!

**Friday, October 6** is Simchat Torah and we will mark the holiday again with services at 6:15pm. Services will include Consecration (officially welcoming our newest students into the Religious School) followed by a chocolate fountain at oneg. We hope that we will get enough adult hands to help us so we can unroll the entire Torah scroll that evening!

I know the Fall is a busy season, both in secular lives and in the Jewish calendar. (Really, I know!) Please mark your calendars and join us at all the events and holidays. While I may not love the months leading up to the holidays (it's a lot to do!), the holidays themselves are all really special. The more people that share in them together, the more fun will be had by all!

## Celebrating Simchas (Joyous Moments)

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 September, come on **Friday, September 1** at 7:30pm and for the month of October, join us on **Friday, October 13** at 6:15pm.

We also celebrate anniversaries within our Or Chadash family. Again, be invited onto the bimah for a special blessing and different treat. This is also monthly with Anniversary Blessings on **Friday, September 22** and **Friday, October 27**, both at 6:15pm.

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

## Shabbat Service Important Update

We know that a 7:30pm start time for Shabbat services, especially in the colder months, can be difficult for some people, whether because of early bedtimes for children or a struggle to drive at night, or for other reasons. Starting **Friday, September 22** (Friday after Rosh Hashanah), we are going to do a multi-month trial (lasting through February) with a new Shabbat service start time of 6:15pm. We will remain multi-access, so if you get stuck at work or are long distance or something, you are still welcome to join via Zoom. However, we hope this earlier start time (again, beginning in mid-September) will encourage more people to join us in person and allow more of you to celebrate the wonders and peacefulness of Shabbat together. Moreover, we hope that the change in start time will allow people to have leisurely Shabbat dinners after services. For some Shabbatot (plural of Shabbat) during the trial, we will have oneg (oneg literally means joy but we, of course, associate it with food treats) following services, and for some weeks during the trial, we will have a pre-neg (a made-up word, but basically meaning food before

services). We hope you will enjoy this start time, tweak your work schedules if needed, put services on your calendar, and together, once the trial is well-underway, we will evaluate its level of success. We hope you will enjoy this new start time beginning **Friday, September 22**.

## Prospective and New Member Shabbat

Prospective members are always welcome at Or Chadash. We are especially inviting New Members and Prospective to a New Member and Prospective Member Shabbat Service (which we hope will include not-so-new members too!) on **Friday, September 8** at 7:30pm. We hope you will join us and further hope you will bring a Jewish friend with you!

## Taste of Honey

Join us on **Saturday, September 9** at a Selichot education program for people of ALL ages (in-person event only) at 6:00pm. As part of the event, we will be tasting several different types of honey. Which honey flavor is your favorite? RSVP to Mark Bilsky at [orchadashadmin@gmail.com](mailto:orchadashadmin@gmail.com).

## Consecration / Erev Simchat Torah with Chocolate Fountain

**Friday, October 6** at 6:15pm. Whether or not you have a Consecration student (all of our newest students in Or Chadash's Religious School), join in the fun of seeing the entire Torah unrolled, the joy of drawing near to Torah, and seeing our newest students' faces light up as they receive Torah scrolls of their own. Come and see the sections of Torah being read! We are counting on you to attend. We can only unroll the whole Torah scroll if enough adults physically attend services. If you are comfortable physically joining us, please attend Erev Simchat Services! After services, please join us for a fun chocolate fondue oneg.

## **Popcorn Make / Taste-Off**

What is your favorite flavor of popcorn?! Have you ever made a differently fun popcorn recipe? Make and/or taste some popcorn fun! We will

have a popcorn taste-off at oneg on **Friday, September 29** with Shabbat/Sukkot services beginning at 6:15pm. Honor our kosher policy (dairy) and create your favorite popcorn recipe! Prizes will be awarded for best popcorn.

## *Mazel Tov*

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Congratulations to Fran and Jack Zavin, proud Great Grandparents, and Becca Ward, proud Grandmother, who are excited to welcome into the world Amelia Ines Ward (parents Lesli and Justin Ward) born on Thursday, June 22, 2023

## *Condolences*

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We extend our deep condolences to Janyce Dissin and her family on the death of Janyce's husband, Alan Dissin, who died on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 (23 Tammuz 5783).

## *Thank You to Our Donors*

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

### **General Donations**

Janet Ballonoff:  
Howard & Melissa Benowitz  
Susan & Scott Chidakel  
Andrew & Suzanne Colby: In memory of Alan Dissin  
Andrew & Suzanne Colby: In memory of Robin Colby  
Heather Held: In memory of Craig Held  
Alex & Melissa Lebedinsky  
Fred & Barbara Marx: In honor of all 2023 Yahrzeits  
Margot & Steven Raphael: In memory of Jacob Gilstein and Anita Raphael  
Nancy & Scott Wolfson

### **NNIA Refugee Fund**

George Sushinsky

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Susan Gellert  
Donald & Melissa Ann Hurwitz  
Ralph Locke & Lona Farhi: In Memory of Doris T. Locke

### **Yahrtzeit Board**

Luciano Benenati: In memory of Leslie Trupp Benenati  
Bruce & Nancy Thorner: In memory of Estelle Eisler



## Your Marketing Partner for Revenue Growth.



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## 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, September 8

Margret "Peggi" Weber	Marsha Weber
Saul Keisler**	Father of Melissa Lebedinsky

### Friday, September 15

Edith Cahn	Grandmother of Lisa Cahn
Victor Farhi	Father of Lona Farhi

### Friday, September 22

Isaac Goldsteen Hay	Son of Donna and Carl Hay
Benjamin Heritage	Brother of Robin Farquhar
Anne Rosenthal	Mother of Cindy Bender
Samuel Weidler	Father of Nancy Isaacson
Gertrude Marx	Grandmother of Fred Marx
Dorothy Lewis	Mother of Brad Lewis

### Friday, October 6

Yetta Bell**	Mother of Heather Bergman
Bernice Perselay	Aunt of Jane Harris
Leon Segal	Grandfather of Jared Bellman
Lovice Price	Mother of Esther Streusand
Jerome Apirian	Father of Susan Drubin
Norman Dissin	Father-in-law of Janyce Dissin

### Friday, October 13

Maxine Bellman	Grandmother of Jared Bellman
Lorraine Aronson	Mother of Marci Nadler

### Friday, October 20

David Breuer	Brother of Michael Breuer
Howard Seal White	Father of Susan White
Arlene Baum	Mother of Joe Baum
George Goldenberg	Grandfather of Diane Levitus
Meyer Epstein	Father of Alan Epstein
Yta Gellert**	Mother-in-law of Susan Gellert
Franklin Rosenfeld	Father of Karen Rosenfeld-Dean

### Friday, October 27

Nicholas Stroud	Father-in-law of Rebecca Stroud
Alvin Charens	Uncle of Michelle Bailen
Lawrence Fisher	Father of Sue Carr
Stanley Goldberg	Father of Julie Swain
Harriet Leef	Aunt of Diane Levitus
Carolyn Dean	Mother-in-law of Karen Rosenfeld-Dean
Arthur Aronson	Father of Marci Nadler
Anna Benenati	Mother of Luciano Benenati

### Friday, November 3

Joseph Binder	Father of Irwin Binder
Hans Breuer	Father of Michael Breuer
Else Rosenblum	Grandmother of Ziona Mossman
Marshall Zeidman**	Uncle of Phil Zeidman
	Brother of Ricke Zeidman

\*\*Yahrtzeit plaque

## **TISHREI CYCLE (Month with most holidays) at a GLANCE**

### **SELICHOT** Saturday, September 9, 2023

5:30pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

6:15pm Education program for people of all ages including honey tasting

7:00pm Selichot/Havdallah services followed by s'mores

### **EREV ROSH HASHANAH** Friday, September 15

7:30pm Erev Rosh Hashanah / Shabbat Services

### **ROSH HASHANAH DAY** Saturday, September 16

9:00am Children's Services

10:00am Rosh Hashanah Main Services

12:30pm(ish) Rosh Hashanah Luncheon (RSVPs required)

2:30pm Tashlich

### **SHABBAT SHUVAH** Friday, September 22

**6:15pm (NOTE NEW TIME!)** Shabbat Shuvah Services with Anniversary Blessings

### **EREV YOM KIPPUR** Sunday, September 24

7:30pm Kol Nidrei / Erev Yom Kippur Services

### **YOM KIPPUR DAY** Monday, September 25

9:00am Children's Services

10:00am Yom Kippur Services

12:30pm Rise Against Hunger

3:15pm Afternoon Services

4:45pm(ish) Yizkor Services

6:00pm(ish) Ne'ilah Services

7:00pm Break-the-fast

### **SUKKOT** Friday, September 29

6:15pm Sukkot/Shabbat Services with popcorn taste-off

### **SIMCHAT TORAH** Friday, October 6

6:15pm Simchat Torah / Shabbat Services with Consecration and chocolate fondue oneg

**Congregation Or Chadash**

24800 Kings Valley Road Damascus, Maryland 20872  
(301) 482-1025

### **Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Service Book of Remembrance and pictures**

Once again, we offer you the opportunity to remember your loved ones in our annual Yizkor Book. You are welcome to submit names of both Jewish and non-Jewish loved ones.

At this time of year, we are at a unique crossroads: we are reflecting upon the year past while looking forward to the New Year. By memorializing the names of loved ones who are in your heart in this year's Yizkor Memorial Service Book of Remembrance, you will not only honor their memories at this special time, but through this act of kindness, you will also fulfill our highest form of tzedakah (charity). **If a loved one has a yahrtzeit plaque in the sanctuary, the name is automatically included in yizkor book.**

**MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 (FIRM DEADLINE)**

Please list all names you wish to include in this year's **Book of Remembrance**. If you would like pictures to be shown as well, please send pictures of your loved ones that are listed here to the Rabbi (rabbikobey@gmail.com). If you submitted pictures last year, you can also just e-mail to say use the same pictures as last year.

In Loving Memory of:

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 14. _____ |

Remembered by: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number and e-mail, if needed to clarify information: \_\_\_\_\_

_____ <b>Member Families:</b>	\$18.00 donation for every 10 names
_____ <b>Non-Member Families:</b>	\$36.00 donation for every 10 names

***Any additional contributions will be kindly appreciated***

*For secure payments online, please click on this link*

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=4669QAV5EUPV8](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=4669QAV5EUPV8)

If you would like to use the ACH option and are already paying dues with a monthly bank debit, add a note in the "Note About Donation" box. If you want us to have that information, please contact Andrew Colby at (908-887-8898)

If you are sending a check, make it Payable to: Congregation Or Chadash  
24800 Kings Valley Road, Damascus, MD. 20872



## Congregation Or Chadash Rosh Hashanah Luncheon

**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Meal follows the morning Service at approximately 12:30 p.m.  
We will have lunch tables outside the front door (weather permitting)



### Mediterranean Meat/Vegetable Buffet Menu Provided by Moby Dick Germantown



Tossed Salad  
Pita Bread and Hummus  
Kabobs: Chicken, Sirloin, Ground Beef, or Vegetables  
Grilled Tomatoes, Basmati Rice & Falafels  
Assorted Drinks  
Honey Cake & Fruit



**RSVP & Money MUST be received by Wednesday, September 13th**

\$18 per Adult (13+) \* \$9 for Children (6-12) \* \$0 for Children 0-5

RSVP to [Orchadashadmin@gmail.com](mailto:Orchadashadmin@gmail.com)

Pay Online:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=9AFY7HWRLP9LQ](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=9AFY7HWRLP9LQ)  
or

Mail Check to C.O.C \* 24800 Kings valley Road \* Damascus, MD 20872



Scan to Pay

Complete form below and email to [Orchadashadmin@gmail.com](mailto:Orchadashadmin@gmail.com) to RSVP

Name			email	
# Adults (\$18)		#Children (6-12) \$9		#Children (0-5) \$0
# of Vegetarian Meals				
Total Remitted				





## 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.

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

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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](mailto:orchadashadmin@gmail.com).**

