

# Or Chadash FOCUS

*By Rabbi Alison B. Kobey*

As has been a reoccurring theme of Judaism for over 5784 years, we as a people are taking a good, hard look at ourselves. Who are we and who do we want to be? Within our Reform movement, we have had several official Reform platforms defining us with statements of core values, beginning in 1885, and including our most recent one of 1999 that still helps define us today. As Jews, we are a varied community, with a wide range of opinions and ideas, a diversity of beliefs, and an assortment of entry-points that help us find meaning and connection.

And, we within the Reform movement also reflect that diversity. Hence the age-old question: what is the glue that holds us together? How do we continue to honor the individual while finding commonality and celebrating our collective identity. I find it a growing challenge in America. As a society, we seem to be gaining more and more of a me-first attitude. And we have the added

challenges of “technological communities,”

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, chatrooms, listservs, and more. Yes, I utilize those social media as well, but, admittedly, I am a hold-out. I strongly prefer books with actual pages and definitely prefer the benefits of in-person communities.

Imagine, for a moment, the hora... a wonderful inclusive dance, people touching, faces lighting up with joy, the festive music, the hands coming together, additional circles getting added, people weaving in and out of each other. Now, imagine a virtual hora. Needless to say, pushing “click here to play” just isn’t the same.

I have wrestled with this primary issue for years. So, what holds us together? What keeps us together? How do I help you find doorways into Temple life and how do I help you want to return to greater activism?

*(continued on page 5)*



## SHABBAT/HOLIDAY SERVICES

**Friday, May 3** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings and Open House followed by Dairy/Vegetarian-Only Potluck Dinner

**Friday, May 10** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Or Chadash Singers and Yom HaShoah and Yom HaAtzmaut liturgy and Teacher/Madrikhim Appreciation

**Friday, May 17** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with High School Graduation and Anniversary Blessings

**Friday, May 24** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services

**Friday, May 31** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services

**Friday, June 7** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings

**Tuesday, June 11** – 6:30pm Confirmation and Erev Shavuot Services

**Friday, June 14** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with our teens presenting their L’Taken speeches

**Friday, June 21** – 6:15pm Outdoor (weather permitting) Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings

**Friday, June 28** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services

# 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

Sunday 8:00am-1:00pm  
Tuesday, 4:30pm-8:30pm  
Wednesday 8:00am-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

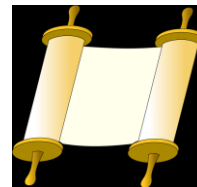
### To Receive Email Updates

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

## Contact Us

- Religious School Director ..... Rabbi Alison Kobey
- Temple Administrator ..... Brett Abelman
- Religious School Administrator .... Brett Abelman
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## Torah Study / Talmud Classes



Regular Torah Study / Talmud Classes are Zoom only. If text study is part of services, the opportunity is multi-access.

### Saturday, May 4 – 9:30am Torah Study

**Acharei Mot (Leviticus 16:1-18:30)** How has Yom Kippur evolved over the years? What has been carried over from the past? From the earliest time to the present, which is more majestic in holiness? How and why do we practice self-denial? What are different types of laws? How do they reflect our society?

### Saturday, May 4 – 11:00am(ish) Talmud Class

### Saturday, May 11 – 9:30am Torah Study

**Kedoshim (Leviticus 19:1-20:27)** What does holiness really mean? How can we have such variations within our Jewish practices, yet be part of the same people? Can we both be holy in God's eyes? What are the boundaries? What advice are we given? What obligations are thrust upon us and what if we do not want to participate?

### Saturday, May 18 – 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 18 – 11:00am(ish) Talmud Class

### Saturday, May 25 – 9:30am Torah Study

**Behar (Leviticus 25:1-26:2)** 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?

### Saturday, June 1 – 9:30am Torah Study

**Bechukotai (Leviticus 26:3-27:34)** What is our reward if we listen to God? Does threatening someone work? What does Rabbi Kobey dream about from this portion (as a joke)? What is a vow worth?

### Saturday, June 8 – 9:30am Torah Study

**Bemidbar (Numbers 1:1- 4:20)** What happens in ancient Israel if you cannot bear arms? Would you rather be from the tribe of Levi or another tribe and why? What would you do to support or protect the Temple? Do you think census taking is good?

### Saturday, June 8 – 11:00am(ish) Talmud Class

### Saturday, June 15 – 9:30am Torah Study

**Naso (Numbers 4:21-7:89)** How can the Israelite neighborhood get defiled? How do you make restitution for something? Why does this Torah portion cause Rabbi Kobey to think of Massachusetts? Is there an exact way that the Priestly Benediction should be recited?

### Saturday, June 22 – 9:30am Torah Study

**Beha'alotecha (Numbers 8:1-12:16)** When is an honor not an honor? Why are rituals so important in our lives? Why are we a people of complainers? Can leaving Sinai be a good thing? If we can criticize God and it is okay, why is sometimes harder to criticize Moses?

### Saturday, June 22 – 11:00am(ish) Talmud Class

### Saturday, June 29 – 9:30am Torah Study

**Shelach L'cha (Numbers 13:1- 15:41)** How do we know when to follow majority opinion and when not to do so? Who is an optimist and who is a pessimist and how does it impact our lives? What happens when we lose faith? Why are we viewed as grasshoppers? What is in this Torah portion that is specifically viewed as a “women's commandment”?

## President's Column

May 14 is Primary Day in Maryland. I know that, in many respects, that may not be a big deal to many of you. By the time our state participates in the Presidential Primary, things are usually either already decided or nearly decided. And most years, I agree that voting in the primary feels slightly anti-climactic. But this year, that is not the case.

You see, my 19-year-old son (and oldest child) will be voting for the FIRST TIME in this Primary. Where we live, there was no election last November so he had no opportunity to cast his vote until now. As parents (with politically opposing views), my husband and I have been emphasizing the importance of fulfilling civic duties as we are called upon to serve. There are several ways in which we are asked to do this, but to me the most important is by voting in any and all elections in which we are eligible to voice our opinions. And now, for the first time, he is able to do so as well.

My son and I were talking about this a couple of months ago, and he asked whether it is still important to vote in an already determined primary. If he votes for any other candidate, he won't "win" because the selection has already been made, and he feels that it may be seen as sour grapes, even to himself. And if he votes for the front-runner and that isn't his actual choice, he's violating his conscience.

I reminded him that it's always important to have our say. I acknowledged that it may seem that each individual vote is insignificant, but it's always important to say what is on our minds to those who have the power to make a change. Too many people believe that their individual vote is insignificant, so they don't

go to the polls. As these numbers grow, those individual voters are actually making a very large (and often unintended) statement. It shows that these votes DO matter. Even though it may not seem like it in the moment.

The truth is that no matter who we choose to vote for come election time (or in the Primary), we aren't going to agree with any candidate 100%. We choose the candidates who best represent our own unique set of priorities and beliefs. We vote for the candidates that we feel will do the best job promoting our views and making those ideas reality. And this information is always important.

Regardless of your personal political beliefs (and believe me, I know they are varied), I urge every one of you who are eligible to have your say on May 14 (or May 2-9 for early voting if you prefer). And then do so again in November. I urge you to not be blinded by Party. Vote for the Candidate. No matter which party you may be registered to vote with, you are under no obligation to follow the party line. Vote what you believe is best for us as a municipality, state, nation, and planet. We need to stop the "My Party Good, Your Party Bad" mentality that our nation seems to be stuck in these last decades. We need to learn to work TOGETHER to find solutions to the problems that affect us all.

And if we can EACH do that, we will see the truth: that an individual can make a big difference.

*Yours in Fellowship,  
Ilene Krom*

*Alison B. Kobey (continued)*

We will be adding more programs beginning in September (summer is a bit tricky to add in new programming), focusing more on social justice and social action along with more social and communal programs that reach across COC subgroups and across different generations. I hope you will attend.

And, now it is your turn. Whether you consider yourself very involved in Or Chadash, in the middle, or only peripherally connected, I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. Truly. The more specific the better, but however you answer, please make sure you do. Here are some questions:

1. How do I help you really find a sense of priority (or enhance it) in being a part of Or Chadash and all it has to offer?
2. Since Jewish education is about lifelong

learning and not just B'nai Mitzvah, how and when do we provide you with learning opportunities?

3. What are your passions, and how do we create programs that support your visions?
4. What populations are underserved within Or Chadash and how can we help support them?

So, now what? I would love your answers. Sit with me in person at Temple or over coffee and share your answers, or call me, or email me, but share your thoughts with me. What is the glue that holds us together? What keeps us in sacred community? You! Let's come together in joy and in community.

*L'Shalom*  
*Rabbi Alison B. Kobey*

## *Religious School Committee*

As another school year comes to an end, the Religious School Committee thanks all of our teachers, madrikhim, staff, and students for a great year! We also want to thank the parents, grandparents, siblings, and whomever brings our students to Temple for Religious School on Sundays and Tuesdays, reminds them to do their homework and study their prayers, and serves as a role model simply by being involved in the students' religious education. Tuesday Hebrew School will finish on May 14, and Sunday Religious School will finish on May 19.

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 on page 1 of this FOCUS or on our website ([cong-orchadashmd.org](http://cong-orchadashmd.org)) for details.

You should have received the 2024-25 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 April 15 email from [Orchadashadmin@gmail.com](mailto: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 **May 15**. Join the Religious School Committee at our next meeting on **June 9** at 7:30pm on Zoom.

*L'Shalom,*  
*The Religious School Committee*

### **Religious School**

In Session:

May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19

# Keeping Up with Or Chadash

## Youth Groups - CORY

**Sunday, May 19** SkyZone 2:00pm RSVP to Rabbi by **Sunday, May 5**.

**Friday, June 7** 6:00pm - **Saturday, June 8** 10:00am Shul-in

**Friday, June 14** 6:15pm L'Taken Speech Shabbat

## Religious School Summer Shabbat Incentives

Religious School students who attend at least 4 Shabbat services over the course of the summer from **Friday, June 7** through **Friday, August 30** will be invited to participate in a special silly string and special treat party at the start of the school year. If you want to silly string the Rabbi, make sure you attend at least four services this summer!

### Or Chadash Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, May 15** at 7:30pm. The meeting is open to all members and will be multi-access. Join us in person or over Zoom.

## Annual Meeting

We hope you will join us in person or over Zoom on **Wednesday, May 15** at 7:30pm for our annual meeting. Regardless of attendance, please make sure to submit your paperwork, including the slate/budget form, financial commitment form, and religious school papers (if applicable)

## 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 22** 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 calendaring planning.

## Summer Jewish Fun

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, here is a list of

Things You Can Jewishly Do 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, our COC Choir?!
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. Join us at Torah study!
8. Light Shabbat candles at home. Make Shabbat feel different than 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!

## Adult Learning Pirkei Avot Series

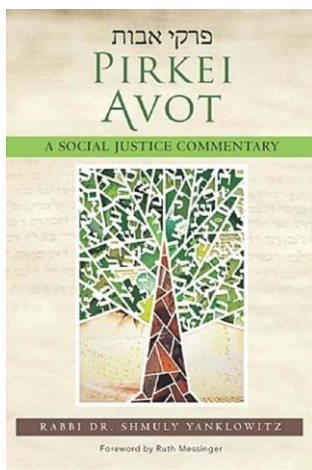
Rabbi Kobey has been leading a fascinating multi-session discussion of passages from the Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) on Fridays from 12 noon to 1:15pm. The discussion continues with sessions on

**Fridays, May 3, 17, June 7, 21, and 28.**  
Online only, see link in “Happenings.”

Pirkei Avot is the most renowned tractate of the Talmud. It contains some of the most famous inspirational statements and ethical guidelines by Rabbi Hillel and other sages, including “If I am not for myself, who will be for me?”

We started at the beginning of Pirkei Avot. and we discuss a small number of verses each time, sharing our own personal reactions, as well as any insights that we find in whatever translation or edition each of us is using. Feel free to contact the Rabbi for some texts, or to just show up. There is an online version at [https://www.sefaria.org/Pirkei\\_Avot.1.1?lang=bi](https://www.sefaria.org/Pirkei_Avot.1.1?lang=bi).

Three good editions/translations are available in the COC library (first bookshelf on the left, as you enter). If you wish to purchase an inexpensive and reliable paperback version, put the search words Pirke (spelled without an i) and Olitzky into the Search at any bookseller site. Some class members have found the new Reform version valuable (shown above and available at [https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping\\_product\\_detail.asp?pid=50434](https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=50434).)



## Special Adult Learning Opportunity during the Omer with various Rabbis, including Rabbi Kobey

**Wednesdays, April 24 to June 5, 8:00pm-8:30pm**  
(Zoom only)

Join us for one week or all seven sessions. It is not too late even if you missed the April date. Register for free at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZMuf-mqqj4iGNCHvvcDIXivxYwo5vzi1ZRe#/registration>

The seven-week Omer period (period between Passover and Shavuot) begins on the second night of Passover and continues until the eve of Shavuot. There is a tradition of associating one of the seven lower sefirot (divine emanations) with each week of the Counting of the Omer. These are:

- chesed (lovingkindness)
- gevurah (strength)
- tiferet (beauty/balance)
- netzach (endurance)
- hod (splendor/humility)
- yesod (foundation), and
- malchut (sovereignty/presence).

During class, a rabbi (or a pair of rabbis) will present Jewish texts, spiritual practices, and ethical exercises that help participants learn about the meaning of the sefirot and how we integrate these teachings into our lives.

**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](mailto: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. For dates and times see page 3. The Happenings email blast will have the Zoom link.

## Upcoming Potluck Dinners

We hope you will join us and make or bring your favorite dairy/vegetarian dish. There are some sample ideas in the SignUpGenius (see below). Please know that we want everyone to be welcome and included. While we hope people will sign up in advance and bring a dish to share, if you spontaneously come to Shabbat services or cannot bring food that evening, we hope you will still be comfortable staying and joining us at the potluck dinners. The next couple are **Friday, May 3** and **Friday, June 7**. Please sign up to bring a dish if you are able.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A4AB2B0-45173693-potluck>

## Oneg

After attending Shabbat services, many congregants look forward to a sip of wine and a bit of challah (and another morsel or two) as well as a time to socialize. But since Covid, we have not had an organized schedule of families to bring in these treats. Starting on **Friday, June 14**, that will be changing.

We now have a sign-up schedule of all Shabbat services (Friday evenings and Saturday mornings), below. Every family is expected to sign up to provide the Oneg for at least one of these services during the next fiscal year (**June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025**).

You will have until **Wednesday, May 15, 2024** to sign up for a service of your choice. After **May 15**, those who have not yet signed up for a date will be assigned a Friday night or Saturday morning. Instructions of what is needed will be provided closer to your assigned date.

I urge all of you to look at the schedule and find a service that works for you.

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

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Shabbat in our next year!

## Congregation Or Chadash Kosher Policy

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 Temple grounds, including our members, show respect to 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 pork and no shellfish and no gelatin)

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 or salad and can be served with either dairy or meat. It means the items cannot even have minor meat or milk ingredients.





### Rise Against Hunger

For the last several years during Yom Kippur, we have been working with an organization called *Rise Against Hunger* to provide thousands of meals for starving people around the world. But this program is not free. We have to pay for the food that we package and it costs Congregation Or Chadash several thousand dollars every year.

To date, Rabbi Kobey has been supplementing any donations from her discretionary fund to make sure we can keep this program running. But we really need congregants to donate to this worthwhile program in order to continue doing this year after year.

If every family that plans to participate can consider making a directed donation to the program, it would make a large difference. Just mail a check to Congregation Or Chadash with a note that it is for Rise Against Hunger.

Thank you for your help!

### Library Committee


We have two new books about food and cooking to highlight this month.

*The 100 Most Jewish Foods; A Highly Debatable List* by Alana Newhouse and Tablet magazine. A description:

"Tablet's list of the 100 most Jewish foods is not about the most popular Jewish foods, or the tastiest, or even the most enduring. It's a list of the most significant foods culturally and historically to the Jewish people, explored deeply with essays, recipes, stories, and context." Find this in the Cooking section.

*Koshersoul, The Faith and Food Journey of an African-American Jew*, by Michael W Twitty.


One description of this book: "The James Beard award winning author of the acclaimed *The Cooking Gene* explores the cultural crossroads of Jewish and African diaspora cuisine and issues of memory, identity, and food." You will find this book in the Biography section, but it does have many recipes as well.



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### Adult Social Group

This year's pool party & BBQ will be on **Sunday, July 14** from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Clark Ruskin House.

This will be a meat & pareve meal which includes hot dogs and burgers (beef, turkey, veggie), chips, sides, salads, desserts and drinks.

As always, we ask each attendee or couple to provide their signature pareve side dish or salad.

The cost will be \$15 per person or \$30 per couple payable on the day of the event.

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

### Guys Night Out

The May Guys Night Out will be **Thursday, May 16** at 6:30pm at Ay! Jalisco Mexican Restaurant, 8401 Snouffer School Road, Gaithersburg. This will be our first outdoor event, weather permitting.

The June Guy's Night Out will be **Thursday, June 20** at 6:30pm at Dogfish Head Alehouse, 800 West Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg. This will be an outdoor event based upon weather and availability

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



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14321 Comus Rd. Clarksburg, MD 20871  
[www.gardenofremembrance.org](http://www.gardenofremembrance.org)

## Sisterhood

There are two events planned for May, and I hope to see you there.

**Thursday, May 9** at 7:30pm

Restaurant Night at Guapos in Rio Washingtonian Center. RSVP to Ilene at [kromfamily726@gmail.com](mailto:kromfamily726@gmail.com).

**Saturday, May 11** at 7:30pm

Board Game Night (Bring your favorite games!) at Congregation Or Chadash Sanctuary

Additionally, we are starting a monthly Mah Jongg session. It is not required for you to attend every session. We will meet on the third Sunday of the month from 2-4:00pm (including **Sunday, May 19 and Sunday, June 16**). All levels are encouraged and beginners are welcome. Everyone is learning and we will provide instruction and refreshers as needed. If you have and are able, please bring a Mah Jongg set and/or square card table.

American Mah Jongg is played according to the rules and standard hands of the National Mah Jongg League. The Official Standard Hands and Rules Cards can be ordered at National Mah Jongg League (<https://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org/index.aspx>). It is \$14 for a regular card and \$15 for a large-print card. Please join us even if you do not (yet) have a card - we have some extras and can share.

## More Knitters and Crocheters Needed!

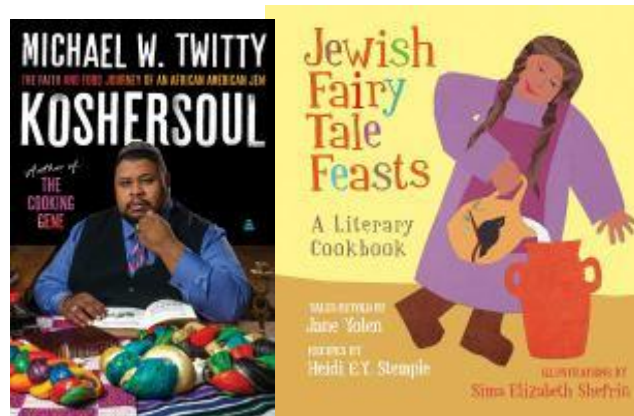


For two years now, COC has had a group of knitters and crocheters who have made baby blankets and some other items (e.g., hats) for refugee families in our area.

Their next project is to build up a stockpile of baby blankets between now and October. Congregant Vivian Stahl will give them to a friend in Florida who is a labor-and-delivery nurse in a low-income community.

The group, who wittily call themselves the B'nai Knitzvahs, need another two or three congregants to join in this effort in order to create enough blankets for the hospital to distribute. You can do the work at home or gather with one or two others to add some socializing fun.

Please contact Nancy Thorner at [nethorner@yahoo.com](mailto:nethorner@yahoo.com).



## Congregation Or Chadash Book Club

The next meeting of the Congregation Or Chadash Book Club is **Friday, May 10** at noon. This is a Zoom-only meeting. The Zoom link will be in the Or Chadash Happenings email.

The books for May are *Koshersoul: The Faith and Food Journey of an African American Jew* by Michael Twitty, and *Jewish Fairy Tale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook* with tales retold by Jane Yolan and recipes by Heidi E.Y. Stemple. These books are available at the Montgomery County Public Libraries.

This is a coed book club. All are welcome to attend! Please RSVP by **Tuesday, May 7** to Jane Harris at [clamityjgh@aol.com](mailto:clamityjgh@aol.com).

## Social Action Committee



### Success of Good Deeds Week Projects

The Social Action Committee organized two projects in conjunction with the Rockville JCC's (and indeed worldwide) Good Deeds Week, which was **April 7-14**.

During the week (and indeed the week before), congregants donated canned and boxed food items to be brought to Manna to help individuals and families dealing with food scarcity. The items exceeded what the bucket could hold and, by the end, weighed in at 196 pounds! Jesse Gellert and Susie Gellert brought it all to Manna. A big thank you to them, and also to the many COC households who donated the food items!

On **Sunday April 7**, our Religious School pupils made Happy Passover cards to be sent to the 50 Jewish residents (including around a dozen Holocaust survivors) who live at Riderwood Senior Living Community (Silver Spring). The volunteers at Riderwood Jewish Community then made sure that each card would be received by an appropriate Riderwood resident.

### Supporting Refugees

In the last few months, with New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA) we have:

- Provided food and diaper deliveries to more than 20 families
- Driven family members to dozens of appointments
- Provided financial support for rent and other critical needs
- Engaged many active ESL tutors and enrolled adults in ESL classes
- Assisted with job searches. 6 members found new jobs.
- Conducted monthly Women's Circles

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. We are always looking for folks to help drive families to appointments, pick up food from food banks and deliver to their apartments, help them improve their English, and help with job searches. Teens can earn **SSL hours** by helping us with furniture moves. Also, check out the in-kind donations that are needed here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45A4AA2DA5F9C52-inkind1>.

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, if not already enabled in your camera, 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.

## 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 birthday treat to mark the occasion. We have Birthday Blessings every month. For the month of May, come on **Friday, May 3** at 6:15pm and for the month of June, join us on **Friday, June 7** at 6:15pm.

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 17** at 6:15pm and **Friday, June 21**, at 6:15pm.

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

### Teacher / Madrikhim Appreciation

We hope you will join us at Shabbat services on **Friday, May 10** for a chance to thank our teachers and student volunteers for all their hard work over the year. Our teachers and madrikhim 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.

### 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 also have four Confirmation students and would love for you to help celebrate them. Please join us on **Tuesday, June 11** at 6:30pm to celebrate Shavuot and our Confirmands: Rhy Bergman, Ryan Chidakel, Micah Felman, and Natalie Gussow. There will also be a special ice cream oneg that evening.

## 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

Irwin & Terri Binder in memory of Helen Felrice and Myrna Rosenthal  
 Andrew & Suzanne Colby in memory of Helen Felrice, mother of Andrew Felrice  
 Susan Gellert in memory of Jesse Gellert  
 Jack Goldman & Susan Drubin in memory of Douglas and Rose Apirian  
 Arlene Greenspan & Mike Crutcher donation as 1st year members  
 Heather Held in honor of the engagement of Bradley Cohen & Jessica Holden and the Yahrzeit of Amy Sommer  
 Milton & Rona Kandel in memory of Harry Kandel

Gerald Ray Mollie Lipshy Charitable Trust & Judy Gable  
 Nancy & Scott Wolfson

### NNIA Refugee Fund

Susan Gellert  
 Stephen McSpadden

### Rise Against Hunger

Michael Abrahams & Susan White

### Rabbi's Discretionary

Michael Abrahams & Susan White  
 Kerri & Chris Hennelly in honor of Makayla becoming a Bat Mitzvah

# Welcome

Welcome to our new members: Arlene Greenspan and Mike Crutcher joined as of April 9.

# Mazel Tov

Congratulations to Howard Kaufman, proud grandfather to Lily Marie Kaufman (proud parents Melissa and Drew), born March 29.

# Condolences

We extend our deep condolences to Lou Rosenthal and his family on the death of his mother, Myrna Rosenthal, who died on February 24.

We extend our deep condolences on the passing of our fellow congregant, Janyce Dissin, who died on February 29.

# 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 3

Sol Jackel	Grandfather of Jonathan Jackel
William Eisenberg	Father of Robert Eisenberg
Dorothy Grenadier	Great-aunt of Ellyn Baum

## Friday, May 10

Charles Ogg	Brother of Karl Gussow
Richard Spector	Friend of Michael Abrahams & Susan White
Bruce Gould	Uncle of Diane Levitus
Anna Zavin	Mother of Jack Zavin

## Friday, May 17

Ella Garfunkel	Grandmother of Diane Levitus
Dorothy Petok	Mother of Fred Petok
Pauline Greenspan	Mother of Arlene Greenspan

## Friday, May 24

Norman Lobsenz	Father of Michael Abrahams
Sybil Slong	Great-aunt of Barbara Marx

## Friday, May 31

Donna Page	Sister of Debbie Lessans
Arnold Paley	Father-in-law of Ken Tharp
Sophie Blagman	Grandmother of Karl Gussow
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
David Thorne	Relative of Bruce Thorne
Helen Raucher	Mother of Melissa Benowitz

## Friday, June 7

David Glaser	Father of Nancy Goldspiel
Sylvia Wasserman	Great-aunt of David Bender
Lillian Young	Mother of Gary Young

## Friday, June 14

Samuel Stein	Relative of Kevin and Ilene Krom
Anne Steinberg	Grandmother of Lisa Cahn
Phyllis Rosenthal	Sister of Cindy Bender
Reva Cooperstein	Mother of Daniel Cooperstein
Samuel Light	Father of Susan Lichtman
**Helen Lebedinsky	Relative of Alex Lebedinsky
Roslyn Goldberg	Mother of Julie Swain

## Friday, June 21

Jack Greenspan	Father of Arlene Greenspan
Morris Slonk	Grandfather of Barbara Marx
Patty Lansat Pollack	Sister of Howard Lansat
Roslyn Elson	Mother of Terri Binder
Benjamin Zavin	Father of Jack Zavin

## Friday, June 28

John Benenati	Father of Luciano Benenati
Robert Elson	Father of Terri Binder

## Friday, July 5

Florence Clark	Mother of Jon Clark
Samuel Felrice	Son of Andrew and Alison Felrice
Elinor Page	Mother of Debbie Lessans
Samuel Taylor Jr	Father of Sam Taylor
Lawrence Solowey	Father of Rona Kandel
Leonard Wolfson	Grandfather of Ronald Isaacson
Doris Locke	Mother of Ralph Locke

\*\*Yahrzeit plaque



# 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 - Up to four 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.**

