

Or Chadash FOCUS

By Rabbi Alison B. Kobey

What are your experiences when it comes to prayer? Do you enjoy it? Is it routine? Is it foreign? Do you connect with the words or do you feel separate from them? There are two types of prayer: fixed prayer and spontaneous prayer from the heart, known in Hebrew as keva and kavannah. According to Judaism, both are critical to us as a people.

Kavannah allows us to pray by ourselves near an ocean or in the woods or in our homes, wherever and whenever we see fit. These are personal prayers, yet made with great intent. We need these private opportunities with God or with

ourselves.

We equally need the keva, the fixed prayer, to allow us a sense of comfort, a sense of the routine, perhaps even to give us a perceived sense of control. Keva allows us to go to any synagogue around the world and join in prayer. Even if we do not know the language of a particular country, the Hebrew binds us together and allows us to engage in community.
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SHABBAT/HOLIDAY SERVICES

Friday, September 6 – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings and welcome for our new members and prospectives followed by Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

Saturday, September 7 – 10:00am Shabbat Services with Bat Mitzvah of Josie Gatti

Friday, September 13 - 6:15pm Shabbat Services

Saturday, September 14 – 10:00am Shabbat Services with Bat Mitzvah of Regan Santa

Friday, September 20 – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, September 21 – 10:00am Shabbat Services with Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Bellman

Friday, September 27 – 6:15pm Shabbat Services

Saturday, September 28 – 7:00pm Havdallah with Selichot Services

Sunday, September 29 – 3:00pm Reverse Tashlich

Wednesday, October 2 – 7:30pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Services

Thursday, October 3 – **Rosh Hashanah**

9:00am Young Family Services

10:00am Morning Services

12:30(ish) Luncheon (RSVPs required)

2:30pm Tashlich

Friday, October 4 – 6:15pm Shabbat Shuvah Services

Friday, October 11 – 7:30pm Kol Nidrei/Erev Yom Kippur Services

Saturday, October 12 – **Yom Kippur**
9:00am Young Family Services

10:00am Morning Services

12:00pm(ish) Rise Against Hunger

3:15pm Afternoon Services

4:45pm Yizkor Services

6:00pm Neilah (Concluding) Services followed by Break-the-fast

Wednesday, October 16 – 6:30pm Erev Sukkot Services

Friday, October 18 – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings

Wednesday, October 23 – 6:30pm Erev Simchat Torah / Consecration Services

Friday, October 25 – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings

Friday, November 1 – 6:15pm Shabbat Services followed by Potluck Dinner

Saturday, November 2 – 10:00am Shabbat Services with 5th Grade Participation

Contacting Us



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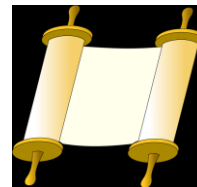
To Receive Email Updates

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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- CORY Advisor Rabbi Alison Kobey
- Jr. CORY Advisor Rabbi Alison Kobey
- Kiddish Kids Rabbi Alison Kobey
- WCOC/Sisterhood President..... Ilene Krom
- Brotherhood Contact..... Jack Goldman
- Adult Social Group Open
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- Adult Learning Committee..... Ralph Locke
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- Lisa Cooperstein
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- Building Committee Rob Eisenberg
- FOCUS Editor Debbie Eisenberg
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Torah/Text Study



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

Saturday, September 7 – 10:00am NO Torah Study but please join us at Shabbat Services and Bat Mitzvah of Josie Gatti

Saturday, September 14 – 10:00am NO Torah Study but please join us at Shabbat Services and Bat Mitzvah of Regan Santa

Saturday, September 21 – 10:00am NO Torah Study but please join us at Shabbat Services and Bar Mitzvah of Jordan Bellman

Saturday, September 28 – 9:30am Torah Study
Nitzavim-Vayelech (Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30)
 How many degrees of separation do we have?
 How do we enter into covenant with God?
 Have you been “tagged”? Do you stand passively or with a defiant attitude? What causes you to stand with attention and listen? At what age would we consider a person old? How do we feel about our own ages? How do we make the Torah come alive? How do we help create a plan of succession in our worlds?

Saturday, October 5 – 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' final charge to us? Would you want to know your precise date of your death?

Saturday, October 12 – NO Torah Study but join us on Yom Kippur for a day of prayer, reflection, and social action

Saturday, October 19 – 9:30am Ecclesiastes Text Study

Saturday, October 19 – 11:00am Talmud Class

Saturday, October 26 – 9:30am Torah Study
Bereisheet (Genesis 1:1-6:8)

Has God ever asked you a question? When have you angered God? What are your responsibilities to others? What does it look/feel like to be in God's image? What does creation really mean?

President's Column

For this newsletter, I decided to share my personal story of how I came to join Congregation Or Chadash. As a congregation, we are currently at just over 100 families with full membership, and I realize each of us has our own story of how we came here. For some, it was looking for a synagogue to be affiliated with. Others may have been looking for a religious school, and there are approximately 98 other reasons why we found our way here.

But this is MY story. And it has two sides.

First the “easy” issue. I am the mother in an interfaith household. This is not something that I had anticipated when I was growing up (there was no question in my mind that I would marry a “nice Jewish boy”) but life doesn’t always work out the way you envision it at such a young age. In addition to marrying a Christian, I married someone whose family is quite devout in their worship and faith. So, when my husband and I started talking about having children and in what faith we would raise them, I always feared how he and his family would respond, because I always planned on having a “Jewish Home” (even with my interfaith marriage). I was lucky ... my husband agreed with me that religion follows the mother. So, regardless of his faith, my children, and hence his, would be Jewish. But having that knowledge was only the first step.

I still had to address my concerns about his family. How would they react to their grandchildren / nieces and nephews / cousins being Jewish rather than Christian? This worry was all in my head ... they have accepted everyone and embraced our faith. But it handicapped me from finding a place to join until I really had no choice and my oldest was about to fall behind if we didn’t start preparing for B’nai Mitzvah. So, even though I was kind of on the fringes, the time had come for me to jump in and do something about it.

That is where Congregation Or Chadash really comes into my story. Here, many of us live in interfaith households. So, I know that I am not alone and that made my joining feel much easier. My husband also feels welcome, even though he has not walked away from his faith. We are accepted here, and that means the world to me.

But the other side of my story is really where Or Chadash is special for me. Two of my children fall under the “Special Needs” umbrella. They have faced challenges fitting in in pretty much every way their entire lives. And I have spent so much time over the years explaining them to others, or apologizing for them because they don’t measure up to other people’s expectations. But at Or Chadash, I have learned over the years, that the people here accept them for who they are. No excuses. No apologies needed. No explanations. Just them being the incredible individuals that they are, who proverbially “march to their own drummer.” No one questions. No one worries. No one stares. They just accept them. Period. There aren’t many places where that is the case. But at Or Chadash, it is. I don’t know how much my children see this or if this is just for my eyes, but I do notice it almost every time I bring them into the building. And that matters to me.

So, through Congregation Or Chadash, I found my spiritual home. My reasons may not resonate with you, or perhaps they do. And now, sitting on the board, I see our efforts in trying to make everyone feel comfortable, without sacrificing our principles or values. This is not true at every religious institution I have seen and it is something that I truly cherish in my spiritual home.

May you feel as comfortable here as I do.

Ilene Krom
President

Religious School Committee

Sunday Religious School will begin on **Sunday, September 8** and Tuesday Religious School will begin on **Tuesday, September 10**. **If you have not done so already, please complete the 2024-25 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 changes from this past year is your child's age and grade. If you have any questions or need copies of the form, you can contact the Temple office at 301-482-1025. You can also find a fillable PDF version of the form in the April 15 email from orchadashadmin@gmail.com. Thanks to all of the families that have already submitted their school forms.

We have changed our curriculum this year to give our students more choices. Sunday Religious School students will now be able to select their Hebrew focus, their elective, and their Judaic focus. For Hebrew, the choices will be Modern Hebrew, Prayers, Torah text, and Music/Shabbat service preparation. For Judaic, the choices will be Israel, Holidays, American Jewish History, and Life Cycle. The topics within each subject will change every six weeks, offering students the opportunity to select topics that interest them the most.

Alison B. Kobey (continued)

Worship is meant to be joyful, filled with our voices in song. Even before the start of the core service (i.e. beginning with the Barchu) we offer our voices in preparatory prayer, singing not only "an opening song," but also different psalms that allow us to praise God, and Shalom Aleichem or L'cha Dodi, welcoming the Sabbath angels or Sabbath bride if it were Shabbat, etc. We are meant to actually have multiple songs at the beginning of a service. Just as when we go to the gym, we warm up our bodies before engaging in the core of our workouts.

We will have our special Simchat Torah and Consecration service on **Wednesday, October 23**, when we welcome new members to our Religious School and celebrate the Torah.

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 3** at 7:30pm on Zoom and **Sunday, September 29** at 12:15pm at the Temple.

*L'Shalom,
The Religious School Committee*

Religious School Schedule

In Session:

**September 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29
October 6, 8, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29**

Not In Session:

October 1, 13

In the Reform movement, even our fixed prayers sometimes provide a challenge. There are so many melodies for the different prayers that sometimes knowing the words is not enough. A new melody might throw us off, but like any keva experience, the more services we attend, the more those new melodies become not so new. I am delighted that Shabbat attendance has been up this summer. I hope it continues and you find new and familiar melodies that enter your fixed prayers!

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Alison B. Kobey (continued)

The Tishrei cycle (the month that has Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah) provides even more challenges when it comes to prayer: there are extra services, different melodies, and there are more prayers in the service.

Depending on who you are, the Tishrei cycle likely allows you to feel further reflection or further connection, or further boredom (not by me, but yes, I know some of you feel that way!). Some of your reaction to prayer is how you walk in to the service. What is your attitude? What do you hope to get from the experience? Your attitude actually will impact your result. My

hope is that that you will draw closer connections to the High Holiday themes of teshuvah (repentance) and chesbon hanefesh (introspection). My hope is that whether the melodies are familiar or foreign, whether the words directly resonate or not, that you explore the prayerbooks with an open heart and find something that echoes deep within yourselves. Join us in prayer. Come not only on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, but on Sukkot and Simchat Torah, and Shabbat. Use this season to renew yourself and strengthen your keva and kavannah. See you at Temple!

L'Shalom

Rabbi Alison B. Kobey

Keeping Up with Or Chadash

Committee Meetings

Sunday, September 1 – 9:30am Grounds Cleanup sponsored by Building Committee. Talk to Rob Eisenberg for additional details.

Sunday, September 3 – 7:30pm Religious School Committee (zoom only)

Sunday, September 29 – 12:15pm Religious School Committee

Festivals with Or Chadash

Stop by the Or Chadash tables and spread the word to your Jewish friends! We would love the support! If you are interested in volunteering at either table, please reach out to the Rabbi.

Either way, we do hope to see you and hope you will tell your friends!

Sunday, September 8 - JSSA Wellness Fair at 1:00pm

Sunday, October 13 – Gaithersburg (Kentlands) Octoberfest at 12:00pm

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.

Religious School

Religious School Opening Day is **Sunday, September 8**. We will have a special morning program and adults are welcome to join in the activities. If you were unable to attend the family meeting in August, you are further encouraged to attend on **Sunday, September 8**.

On **Sunday, October 6**, there will be a field trip for students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade and a special program for 6th & 7th grade students.

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 on behalf of 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!

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! While prospectives are always welcome, some specific opportunities for them could include an invitation to our New Members and Prospective Shabbat service on **Friday, September 6**, to visit us at the JSSA Wellness Fair on **Sunday, September 8** or the Gaithersburg Octoberfest on **Sunday, October 13**, or to attend holidays (please talk to Rabbi Kobey in advance).

Youth Groups – CORY

We are very excited for the upcoming CORY year and we have lots of great events planned. Anyone that has already become a Bar/Bat/B’nai Mitzvah in 7th grade and anyone in 8th-12th grades are welcome and encouraged to join. Our first event is an overnight sleep-over (called shul-in) which includes the classic slip ‘n slide CORY baseball game (weather permitting) on **Saturday, September 28-Sunday, September 29**. Please submit your money and RSVPs to the Rabbi. We hope to see everyone there!

See the calendar below for more details.

*Micah Felman,
CORY President*

CORY CALENDAR 2024-2025

CORY fee for all events for the year and preferred payment system: \$125.00
(excluding L'Taken or other NFTY events)

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
Sept. 28- Sept. 29	6:30pm -8:15am	Shul-in with slip n' slide baseball
Oct. 18	5:45pm	Services/Pizza in the hut with games
Nov. 15-Nov. 17		NFTY-MAR Fall Kallah (at Cong. Beth El, Alexandria, VA)
Nov. 17	3:00pm	Shadowland Lasertag
Dec. 8	3:00pm	<u>ZavaZone</u>
Jan. 5	2:00pm	Ice Skating at Cabin John
Jan. 10-Jan. 13		<u>L'Taken Weekend for COC 10th-12th grades</u>
Jan. 17-Jan. 20		NFTY-MAR Winter Kallah (at Wakefield, VA)
Feb. 9	2:00pm	Top Golf
Feb. 21	5:45pm	CORY-led Shabbat service
Mar. 8	4:30pm	Purim carnival set-up
Mar. 9	11:15am	Purim carnival
Apr. 27	3:00pm	Great Falls Hike
May 18	5:00pm	Sandy Springs Adventure Park
June 6- June 7	5:45pm -9:15am	Shul-in

Adult Education

Adult B'nai Mitzvah

We are starting a new group for people interested in becoming B'nai Mitzvah. Class begins **Wednesday, September 4** at 5:00pm and runs approximately twice a month. If you are interested in the class, but 5:00pm is a challenging time, please reach out to Rabbi Kobey. Class is open to starting later on Wednesdays to allow for more participants. Class meetings for September are **Wednesday, September 4** and **Wednesday, September 18**. Due to the Tishrei cycle, class will resume **Wednesday, November 6**.

Adult Learning

Friday, September 6 12:00pm Topic: the nuts and bolts (and lesser-known details) about the Jewish calendar (Zoom only)

Friday, September 20 12:00pm Topic: the purpose and structure of the prayer service, both Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur (Zoom only)

Scholar-in-Residence

Save the date! We are excited to welcome Rabbi Marla Feldman for the weekend of **December 6-8** (programs will be Friday night at services, Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning). Rabbi Feldman is the author of the book "Biblical Women Speak: Hearing Their Voices through New and Ancient Midrash." Her program will be on midrash (interpretive techniques) to discover various women's stories from a female point of view and provide insights beyond how ancient male scholars viewed them. We will enter into Biblical narratives, challenge conventional wisdom, and recalibrate the stories and lessons through the lens of our own lives and experiences. Rabbi Feldman will share how our ancient tradition can provide meaning to our modern lives through the literary art of midrash

and the inspiring tales of biblical women. Participants also will have the opportunity to delve into the midrashic process themselves by writing their own creative midrash. We will come away from the weekend empowered to engage even more deeply with biblical texts and read sacred scripture with "midrashic" eyes! Open to all genders, of course. More details to come!

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 email the Rabbi with the following: name, email, phone. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED AND PAID BY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

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 tech person. If you are not yet trained in either (or both), we are happy to train you! This link is also the link for the oneg list. Thank you in advance for volunteering!

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

Kosher Policy

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)*
- *Gelatin is made from pigs and is not okay. It is found in marshmallows and in many candies.*
- *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.

Social Action Committee

Supporting Refugees

New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA) is continuing to set records for the number of new refugee families endorsed by our Steering Committee for sponsorship this year! Thus far, we have accepted 15 new families in 2024. We provide various types of assistance to 46 families, including 16 families who are receiving some level of financial support.

Overall, we are impacting the lives of more than 240 individuals through the services and financial aid that we have been able to provide, thanks to our invaluable network of generous and kind-hearted volunteers and donors!

There are always many volunteer needs. We would like to highlight two priority needs. The first is to work with family breadwinners to find jobs. This includes helping develop resumes, identifying job opportunities online or via posted Help Wanted signs, and taking the candidate to potential places of employment.

The second priority need is for tutors to help our new neighbors learn English. Almost every family needs at least one tutor, and no experience is required. NNIA will help you select the resources you can use to tutor.

Contact us at NNIAMaryland@gmail.com, or contact congregant Debbie Eisenberg at 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! While checks can still be mailed to the COC NNIA Refugee Fund, NNIA itself has become a 501(c)(3) this year, and is now accepting online donations at <https://ssl.charityweb.net/nnia-maryland>.

Also, check out the in-kind donations that are needed here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F45A4AA2DA5F9C52-inkind1>.



Rise Against Hunger

Back by popular demand! This Yom Kippur we are doing our eighth 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. Last year it went to Honduras.

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.

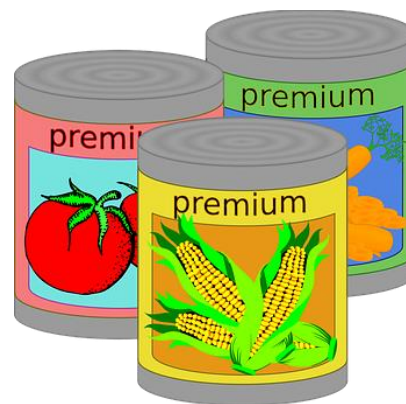
We look forward to Yom Kippur and this special Rise Against Hunger program. Sign up here!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A4AB2B0-50687774-cocrise>

Note that 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. Thank you for your help!



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.

Sisterhood Events

There are a few things coming up for the Sisterhood these next couple of months:

Saturday, October 26 at 7:30pm in Or Chadash sanctuary: Craft Night. Come and bring your favorite crafts, whether they be yarn-based, sewing, scrapbooking, quilting, coloring, anything else that falls under the general heading of “Crafts.” We will meet in the sanctuary and enjoy each other’s company while working on our favorite projects. Feel free to bring a cup of coffee to sip while we work!

Additionally, we have two “Nights Out” planned for the fall (all times are 7:30pm):

Thursday, September 12 at Fontina Grill, 801 Pleasant Drive; Rockville

Thursday, November 14 at California Pizza Kitchen, Rio Washingtonian Center

While RSVPs are not required, notice of your planned arrival is greatly appreciated. Please notify Ilene Krom at kromfamily726@gmail.com. This way I can confirm we have a table of the appropriate size for the “Nights Out,” or organize the space for our craft night.

Brotherhood

After many years, Joe Baum is stepping down as the organizer of Guys' Night Out and the Brotherhood. Joe has done an incredible job over the years in keeping the group together and active, and deserves our sincere thanks.

The troika of Ralph Locke, Bruce Thorner, and Jack Goldman have agreed to step in and continue Brotherhood activities, primarily Guys' Night Out. They recently sent out a survey to members on the email list asking for feedback

on cuisine, price, and location. While responses were requested by **Saturday, August 17**, it is not too late to help Ralph, Bruce, and Jack know what you'd like, so please submit a completed survey as soon as possible.

In addition, if you have any general questions or comments, please feel free to contact one of them at robinhood@earthlink.net (Bruce), rlocke@esm.rochester.edu (Ralph), or jackgoldman24@gmail.com (Jack).

The next two Guys' Nights Out will take place on **Thursday, September 19** and **Thursday, October 17**, both at 6:30 pm, places to be determined based on your input.

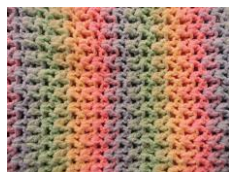
Mah Jongg

We have started 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 2:00pm-4:00pm. The next one is scheduled for **Sunday, September 15**. All levels are encouraged and beginners are welcome. Everyone is learning and we will provide instruction and refreshers as needed. And there is no obligation to come every month ... just come whenever you are able. 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 current 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.

There's Still Time to Join the Choir for High Holidays


Do you like singing? Join Or Chadash Singers for high holidays! Rehearsals are ongoing and take place Monday nights from 7-9 pm, running through High Holy Days. No experience and no audition needed. All Or Chadash members are welcome to come and learn some new songs and familiar favorites. Please contact Rachel at rachel.stroudgoodrich@gmail.com or 718-490-7042 for more information, or stop by on Monday night.



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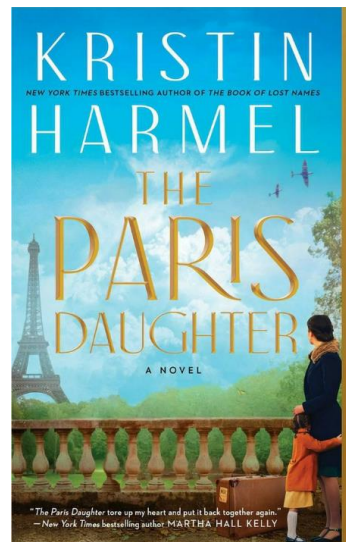
Congregation Or Chadash Book Club

The next meeting of the Congregation Or Chadash Book Club is **Friday, September 20** at noon. This is a Zoom-only meeting. The Zoom link will be in the Or Chadash Happenings email.

The book for September is *The Paris Daughter* by Kristin Harmel. This book is available at the Montgomery County Public Libraries.

Looking to November, the November meeting is **Friday, November 8** at noon. The book for November is *The Escape Artist* by Jonathan Freedland. This is a coed book club. All are welcome to attend!

Please RSVP by **Tuesday, September 17** to Jane Harris, clamityjgh@aol.com.



Garden of Remembrance

GAN ZIKARON MEMORIAL PARK

Peaceful and serene 152 acre nonprofit memorial park with beautiful Community Gardens, Family Gardens, and Green Burial Garden.



The Garden of Remembrance is a Certified Level I Arboretum surrounded by a Forest Conservation Preserve in Upper Montgomery County.

— *Serving the Jewish Community ~ One Family at a Time* —

For information or to schedule a visit please call (301) 428-3000
14321 Comus Rd. Clarksburg, MD 20871
www.gardenofremembrance.org

Torah Study and Talmud

There are text-study classes on most Saturdays in September and October. 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/Text Study* section on page 3 of this FOCUS for a summary of each week's material, and schedule. No need to read in advance.

Help Encourage Others in Swing States to Register to Vote

Want to write postcards to urge people in Pennsylvania and other crucial states to vote in the upcoming presidential election? The Reform movement is participating in "Every Voice, Every Vote"—a "non-partisan" project aimed at populations that tend to be underrepresented at the polls. Just sign up at <https://urj.tfaforms.net/1410>.

There are different deadlines, depending on the state. The current Georgia postcards, for example, need to be held and then mailed between **Tuesday, October 1 and Tuesday, October 15.**

Oneg Schedule

Oneg assignments have been made for the year. Assignments for September-October-November are listed below. We are appreciative of everyone's willingness to provide welcome to our community at our sacred home. If you have any issues with your assignment, please email orchadashadmin@gmail.com. You will be sent a reminder two weeks beforehand.

Friday, September 6 Saturday, September 7	Gatti	B'nai Mitzvah
Friday, September 13 Saturday, September 14	Santa	B'nai Mitzvah
Friday, September 20 Saturday, September 21	Bellman	B'nai Mitzvah
Friday, September 27	Farhi/Locke	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Krom	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, October 4	Scott Chidakel	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Ruskin/Clark	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, October 18	Cooperstein	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	DeMesquita	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, October 25	Mossman	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Trahan	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, November 8	Eisenberg	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Breuer	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, November 15	Lebedinsky	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Benowitz	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Saturday, November 16	Eisemann	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Epstein	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, November 22 Saturday, November 23	Sardilli	B'nai Mitzvah
Friday, November 29	Stresler	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Feierstein	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)

Special Services

Summary of the Tishrei Cycle

(Starting with Selichot and talking about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah)

Saturday, September 28 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. The service begins at 7:00pm, followed by s'mores.

Sunday, September 29 at 3:00pm will be Reverse Tashlich. Tashlich is a communal ritual to help cast off our "sins" and 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 Rabbi Kobey to ensure sufficient numbers.

Wednesday, October 2 marks Erev Rosh Hashanah with services at 7:30pm and **Thursday, October 3** marks our children's service at 9:00am, main services at 10:00am, a Rosh Hashanah luncheon (please RSVP) and Tashlich at 2:30pm.

Erev Yom Kippur is **Friday, October 11** with services at 7:30pm. Yom Kippur day is on **Saturday, October 12**, with our children's service at 9:00am and main services at 10:00am. 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, and the concluding service at approximately 6:00pm. We will end our day with a congregational (and guests) break-the-fast. Please RSVP.

Wednesday, October 16 is the start of Sukkot and we will have services at 6:30pm followed by a popcorn taste-off. What crazy flavors of popcorn or popcorn recipes can you make or want to taste?! What flavor will win?!

Wednesday, October 23 is Simchat Torah and we will mark the holiday again at services at 6:30pm. Services will include Consecration (officially welcoming our newest students into the Religious School) followed by a make-your-own-sundae 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 our 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 birthday treat to mark the occasion. We have Birthday Blessings every month. For the month of September, come on **Friday, September 6** at 6:15pm and for the month of October, join us on **Friday, October 18** at 6:15pm.

We also celebrate anniversaries within our Or Chadash family. Again, be invited onto the bimah for a special blessing and treat (a different treat from the Birthday Blessings). This is also monthly with Anniversary Blessings on **September, July 20** at 6:15pm and **Friday, October 25**, at 6:15pm.

Do you have other simchas to share? Let

Rabbi Kobey know so we can rejoice together.

Consecration Erev Simchat Torah Services

Wednesday, October 23 at 6:30pm. 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, please attend Erev Simchat Torah Services! After services, please join us for a fun ice cream sundae oneg.

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 6** at 6:15pm. We hope you will join us and further hope you will bring a Jewish friend with you!

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 Erev Sukkot services on **Wednesday, October 16** with services beginning at 6:30pm. Honor our kosher policy (dairy) and create your favorite popcorn recipe! If you don't want to make popcorn, you can buy it or just come and eat other people's creations! All are welcome! Prizes will be awarded for best popcorn.

Make Your Own Sundaes

Join us at Erev Simchat Torah services on **Wednesday, October 23** at 6:30pm and stay for make-your-own-sundaes.

Rosh Hashanah Luncheon

See the flyer on page 20.

Yom Kippur Break-the-fast

Join us after Yom Kippur concluding services for break-the-fast. It's free, but we need RSVPs!

Reverse Tashlich

Tashlich is a communal ritual to help cast off our "sins," and free ourselves of the past. We meet on Rosh Hashanah for a shared ritual that also allows for private reflection. Some people use bread, others use pebbles to gently toss into a stream as part of casting off our wrong-doings.

Reverse Tashlich is an opportunity to clean up the earth and take away waste/trash. It allows us to come together as a COC community along with Jewish communities around the globe to engage in social action and mindfulness. We will be cleaning up Waring Station Local Park in Germantown. Please RSVP to Rabbi Kobey to ensure sufficient numbers.

Thank You to Our Donors

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

General Donations

Rich & Michelle Bailen
Howard and Melissa Benowitz
Susan & Scott Chidakel
Andrew & Suzanne Colby in honor of Melissa Lebedinsky's birthday
Andrew & Suzanne Colby in memory of Robin Colby
Susan Gellert
Howard Kaufman
David & Lynn Kobey
Diane & Sydney Levitus
Lona Farhi & Ralph Locke in memory of Nancy White, mother of Susan White and mother-in-law of Michael Abrahams
Gerald Ray Mollie Lipshy Charitable Trust & Judy Gable
Lou and Ting Rosenthal in memory of Evelyn Rosenthal
Nancy & Scott Wolfson
Jennifer & Justin Walsh

Tree of Life

Edward & Bette Korenge

Rise Against Hunger

Heather & Jason Bergman

NNIA Refugee Fund

Susan Gellert

Rabbi's Discretionary

Rachel Stroud-Goodrich & Christopher Goodrich in honor of Leilah's Bat Mitzvah
Roz & Ricke Zeidman
Beth Sokoloff with appreciation for Rabbi Kobey

Welcome

Welcome to our new members Josh and Rachel Sliffman!

Mazel Tov

Congratulations to Howard Kaufman who is the proud grandfather of Lily Marie Kaufman (proud parents Melissa and Drew), born March 29, 2024 - 19 Adar II 5784.

Congratulations to Brady Hyman on becoming a Bar Mitzvah on August 17.

Congratulations to Josie Gatti on becoming a Bat Mitzvah on September 7.

Congratulations to Regan Santa on becoming a Bat Mitzvah on September 14.

Congratulations to Jordan Bellman on becoming a Bar Mitzvah on September 21.

Condolences

We extend our deep condolences to Jane Harris and her family on the death of her mother, Joyce Gartenberg, who died on July 25.

We extend our deep condolences to Claire SanNicolas and her family on the death of her father, David Grobstein, who died August 21, at the age of 91 years old.

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, August 30

Israel Lazaruk	Father of Fran Zavin
**Harry Abrahams	Father of Michael Abrahams
**Paul Benowitz	Father of Howard Benowitz

Friday, September 6 & Saturday, September 7

**Amelia Lobsenz Abrahams	Mother of Michael Abrahams
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Friday, September 13 & Saturday, September 14

**Saul Keisler	Father of Melissa Lebedinsky
Victor Farhi	Father of Lona Farhi
Jane Nadler	Mother of Karl Nadler

Friday, September 20 & Saturday, September 21

Mildred Ross	Great-aunt of Ellyn Baum
Benjamin Heritage	Brother of Robin Farquhar
Samuel Weidler	Father of Nancy Isaacson
Gertrude Marx	Grandmother of Fred Marx

Friday, September 27

Edith Cahn	Grandmother of Lisa Cahn
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Friday, October 4

Jerome Apirian	Father of Susan Drubin
Ronald Kalman	Father of Karen Conner
**Yetta Bell	Mother of Heather Bergman
Bernice Perselay	Aunt of Jane Harris
Leon Segal	Grandfather of Jared Bellman
Isaac Goldsteen Hay	Son of Donna Goldsteen & Carl Hay
Lovice Price	Mother of Esther Streusand

**Yahrzeit plaque

Friday, October 11 & Saturday, October 12

Anne Rosenthal	Mother of Cindy Bender
Maxine Bellman	Grandmother of Jared Bellman
Gabrielle Eve Barkan-Bilow	Daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Bilow
Ike Cohen	Grandfather of Heather Held

Friday, October 18

Ann Bailen	Mother of Rich Bailen
Howard Seal White	Father of Susan White
Arline Baum	Mother of Joe Baum
George Goldenberg	Grandfather of Diane Levitus

Friday, October 25

Franklin Rosenfeld	Father of Karen Rosenfeld-Dean
Nicholas Stroud	Father-in-law of Rebecca Stroud
Shirley Blum	Aunt of Howard Kaufman
Alvin Charens	Uncle of Michelle Bailen
Stanley Goldberg	Father of Julie Swain
Harriet Leef	Aunt of Diane Levitus
**Yta Gellert	Grandmother of Jesse Gellert
	Mother-in-law of Susan Gellert

Friday, November 1

Anna Benenati	Mother of Luciano Benenati
Robert Swigart	Brother of Thomas Swigart
Morris Zoldan	Grandfather of Howard Lansat
Meyer Epstein	Father of Alan Epstein
**Marshall Zeidman	Brother of Ricke Zeidman
	Uncle of Philip Zeidman
Lorraine Aronson	Mother of Marci Nadler
Ronald Engel	Father of Sheri Dayton
David Breuer	Brother of Michael Breuer
Edith Slonk	Grandmother of Barbara Marx

Friday, November 8

Morris Glosman	Grandfather of Alana Hyman
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24800 Kings Valley Road
 Damascus, Maryland 20872
 Rabbi Alison Kobey
 (301) 482-1025 F(301) 482-1027

**Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Service
 Book of Remembrance**

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). The Book of Remembrance will be distributed at the Yizkor Service.

If a loved one has a yahrtzeit plaque on our Memorial Wall in the sanctuary, the name is automatically included in the Yizkor book.

ALL FORMS AND CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE TEMPLE OFFICE:

Payable to: Congregation Or Chadash
 24800 Kings Valley Road, Damascus, MD. 20872

MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2024 (FIRM DEADLINE)

Please list (print clearly) all names you wish to include in this year's *Book of Remembrance*. If needed, please add in parentheses how to pronounce a name. Additionally, if you would like photos of your loved ones as part of the slides, please e-mail them to Rabbi Kobey no later than October 1st (but earlier is better!) If needed, attach a separate page with additional names.

In Loving Memory of:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Remembered by: _____ (print clearly)

Contact number, and e-mail to clarify information if needed: _____

_____ Member Households: \$18.00 donation for up to 10 names

_____ Non-Member Households: \$36.00 donation for up to 10 names

Additional donations kindly appreciated.

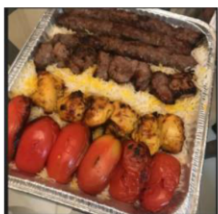
Please include a check for the appropriate amount.

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



Congregation Or Chadash Rosh Hashanah Luncheon
Thursday, October 3 2024

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 26th

\$20 per Adult (13+) * \$10 for Children (6-12) * \$0 for Children 0-5

RSVP to Orchadashadmin@gmail.com

Pay Online:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=9AFY7HWRLP9LQ
 or

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



PayPal Link

Complete form below and email to Orchadashadmin@gmail.com to RSVP

Name		email	
# Adults (\$20)		#Children (6-12) \$10	#Children (0-5) \$0
# of Vegetarian Meals			
Total Remitted			





GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL PARK INFORMATION

FOR MEMBERS OF CONGREGATION OR CHADASH

Congregation Or Chadash is now a Partner Congregation in the Garden of Remembrance (Gan Zikaron) Memorial Park in Clarksburg, Maryland. The synagogue has purchased permanent interment rights in a section of the 150-acre nonprofit memorial park (see map on reverse).

The Garden of Remembrance memorial counselors are available to meet or speak with Or Chadash families to discuss advance planning or at-need arrangements and to assist in the selection of spaces in the Or Chadash section of the memorial park.

Or Chadash members and their families receive a 10% Partner Congregation reduction on the interment rights. The regular price is \$2,900* per space which is reduced to \$2,610 for Or Chadash members. All spaces also require a one-time \$290 fee towards the Perpetual Endowed Care Trust Fund.

To assist in planning, the following represent the current, usual costs* associated with a burial at Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park:

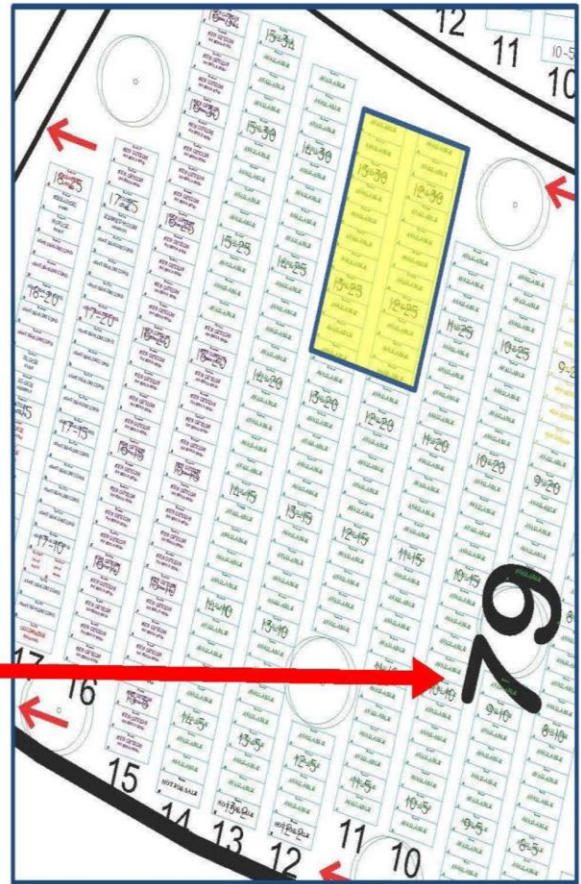
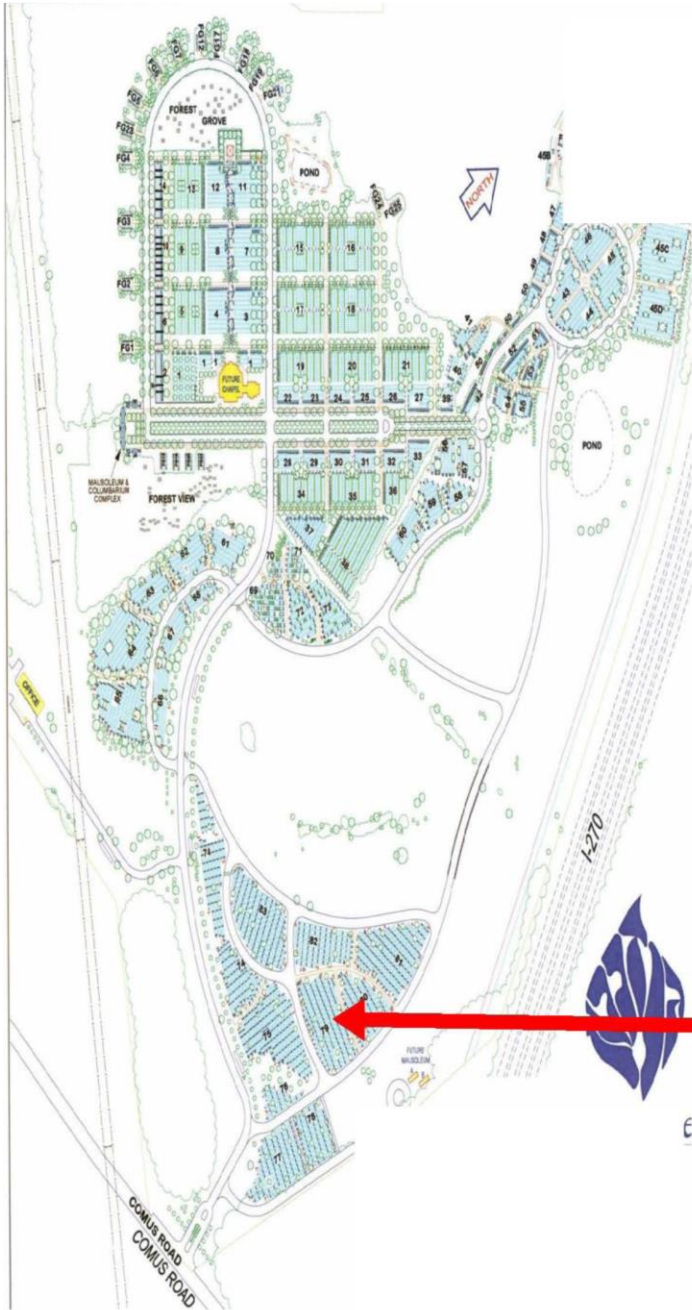
- Interment (opening/closing of grave)..... \$1,950
- Installed Concrete Grave Liner.....\$ 900

The Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park also offers the largest, most affordable selection of memorials and markers in the Greater Washington area.

The Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park office is currently open on Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm, Friday from 9 am to 4 pm, and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. It is closed on Federal and Major Jewish holidays. For additional information please call 301-428-3000, send an email to info@gardenofremembrance.org or visit email visit www.gardenofremembrance.org.

Appendix A

Section 79
Row 12 (23-32)
Row 10 (23-32)



*prices are subject to change without notice

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.



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)



Yahrzeit 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.**

