

# Or Chadash FOCUS

*By Rabbi Alison B. Kobey*

Ometz lev, or courage if you prefer the English, is a theme found throughout Jewish history. But I think it is especially germane this time of year. We have a woman, Esther, who, encouraged by her cousin Mordechai, has to be very brave in dealing with the king in order to save the Jews. In a few weeks, we will discuss the story of Passover and how a man, Moses, had to stand up to the Israelites, to the Egyptians, and to Pharaoh to be very brave in order to save the Jews. As part of the story we have Miriam, standing up and fighting for her brother and Shifra and Puah, two midwives fighting for the lives of Israelite boys. And, as we know, through the story of Passover we were given our freedom, and that forever changed the course of Jewish history.

But courage is not meant only for our Biblical heroes. Ometz lev is meant to be part of all of

us. I have seen, all too often lately, congregants struggling with illness with grace and courage. I have witnessed children in the religious school standing up for their beliefs and their views among their peers and even, sometimes, fighting for their Judaism in their extended families. I have witnessed marginalized people persevering despite fear of changes in the country. I have watched people suddenly lose their jobs or sources of income and I have seen people with Jewish hearts find tremendous courage within themselves to formally and officially become Jewish. How blessed we are indeed to see so many acts of courage all around us.

(continued on page 4)



## SHABBAT/HOLIDAY SERVICES

**Friday, March 7** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings and Women’s History Theme and OCS participation

**Friday, March 7** – 7:15ish Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

**Saturday, March 8** – 10:00am Shabbat Services with Bar Mitzvah of Elijah Pallia

**Thursday, March 13** – 7:00pm Purim schpiel (play), megillah reading, and hamantaschen bake-off

**Friday, March 14** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services

**Friday, March 21** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings and discussion about gender in Judaism

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

**Friday, April 4** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings and Guest Speaker Jack Goldman about Braver Angels (a group that focuses on having healthy discussions with people with whom you disagree)

**Saturday, April 5** – 10:00am Shabbat Services with Bar Mitzvah of Landon Rolnick

**Friday, April 11** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with discussion about immigration

**Saturday, April 12** – Flex times at home seders

**Sunday, April 13** – 6:00pm Congregational Seder (Advanced RSVPs Required)

**Friday, April 18** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings

**Friday, April 25** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Yom HaShoah / Yom HaAtzmaut Liturgy (Holocaust Remembrance Day and Israel

Remembrance Day) and OCS participation

**Friday, May 2** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Birthday Blessings

**Friday, May 2** – 7:15pm Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck

# Contacting Us



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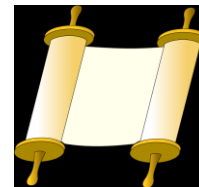
### To Receive Email Updates

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## Contact Us

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- Kiddish Kids ..... Rabbi Alison Kobey
- WCOC/Sisterhood President ..... Ilene Krom
- Brotherhood Co-Chairs ..... Jack Goldman., Ralph Locke, Bruce Thorner
- Adult Social Group ..... Open
- Ritual Committee ..... Susan White
- Adult Learning Committee ..... Ralph Locke
- Library Committee ..... Michael Abrahams
- Membership Committee ..... Michelle Bellman
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- Fundraising Committee ..... Debbie Lessans
- ..... Melissa Lebedinsky
- Social Action Committee ..... Arlene Greenspan
- Religious School Committee ..... Howard Benowitz
- Building Committee ..... Rob Eisenberg
- FOCUS Editor ..... Debbie Eisenberg
- Webmaster ..... Marti Kerner
- Dues or Tuition Relief ..... Andrew Colby

# Torah Study / Writings / Talmud



All are welcome. Check the schedule as classes may be Zoom Only or In Person Only.

## **Saturday, March 1 – 9:30 Torah Study (ZOOM only)**

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

**Saturday, March 8 – 10:00am No Regular Torah Study.** Please join us at Shabbat Services with the Bar Mitzvah of Elijah Pallia (**Multi Access**)

## **Saturday, March 15 – 9:30am Torah Study (ZOOM Only)**

**Ki Tisa (Exodus 30:11- 34:35)** What exactly is a ransom for life? Why is creating a sanctuary critically important? Yet, what trumps the creation? Why is the intangible so hard for so many of us? What does God do here that so many parents do too?

## **Saturday, March 22 – 9:30am Torah Study (In Person Only)**

**Vayakhel (Exodus 35:1-38:20)** How do you observe Shabbat? Where are you most generous with your time and financial donations? What is a wise-hearted artisan? Why do you really think Moses had to stop people from sharing their donations?

## **Saturday, March 22 – 11:00am Talmud Class (In Person Only)**

## **Saturday, March 29 – 9:30am Torah Study (ZOOM Only)**

**Pekudei (Exodus 38:21-40:38)** What is so important in your life that you would keep accurate records? How many people should keep the same accounting? What do you do with “heavy” tasks? Why did God ask for so many details about the Tabernacle?!

**Saturday, April 5 – 10:00am No Regular Torah Study.** Please join us at Shabbat Services with the Bar Mitzvah of Landon Rolnick (**Multi Access**)

## **Saturday, April 12 – 9:30am Torah Study (ZOOM Only)**

**Tzav (Leviticus 6:1-8:36)** How do we prepare for something important? How do we tell someone they are important? How do we help people of all means feel valued in society? If we were to ever reach the Messianic Age (is it wrong if I say don’t hold your breath?!), what offering would still exist and why? How does that relate to society today?

## **Saturday, April 19th – 9:30am Text Study (In Person Only) Song of Songs**

## **Saturday, April 26th – 9:30am Torah Study (In Person Only)**

**Shemini (Leviticus 9:1-11:47)** What are rituals for the priests? What are rituals for the people? How do they reflect modern day? Why does it matter what we eat? What are our responsibilities with food today? What is Or Chadash doing to participate in this Torah portion?

## **Saturday, April 26th – 11:00am Talmud Class (In Person Only)**

*Alison B. Kobey (continued)*

So, now, it is your turn. How do you reflect the middah, the value, of ometz lev? What could you say to people who ask how you are courageous? It is there. You are courageous. What if you volunteered at Temple in a new way? What if you attended Torah study, even if you have never done so before? What if you asked to read Torah or take part in Shabbat morning services? What if you opened a door to Jewish life and found yourself fully welcomed for who you are?

As we enter this season of bravery with Purim and Passover, let us look within and find our own spots of courage and let us use those moments for bettering ourselves, bettering our Judaism, and bettering the world.

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

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## President's Column

There are so many things happening all over the world that many of us feel a bit overwhelmed. One of the things we can do to help keep us grounded is to look to things happening in our own backyard. So, I wanted to share some of the things happening at Congregation Or Chadash and how we are working to help our community, referring to both our members and to the area around us.

First of all, the Social Action Committee has been working hard for the last few months, taking on new projects every month. During the month of January, the committee worked on collecting supplies and assembling Comfort Cases, to give to an organization working with Child Protective Services to make sure that children being placed in foster homes can have items to call their own. Because these children are often in such a hurry to pack their belongings, it is typical for them to arrive at a foster home with their possessions packed in a black trash bag, which cannot do anything positive for their self-esteem at a time when they are already facing such confusion. With these Comfort Cases, they not only have the supplies they need, but their supplies are packed in a duffle bag of their own, helping them preserve some dignity and maintain a sense of self-worth. The Social Action Committee may not be able to help their situation, but they have helped to make their transitions just a little bit

easier. They have also been helping with reforestation efforts in honor of Tu B'Shvat for the month of February.

Did you know that Congregation Or Chadash has a full library? Well, we do! And, thanks to the Library Committee, all of the books are collected, maintained, cataloged, and available for our members to borrow and read at our leisure. Like your local library, we have children's books, fiction, non-fiction, biographies and more, each having some kind of focus in Judaism. Please stop by the library and see what is available. It's never too late to learn something new!

Do you want to know what other groups there are at our synagogue? I can promise you that there are many, even though I have only highlighted two of them in this column. We also have our Board of Directors who, with the Rabbi, help guide our community. The Board is now in the process of looking for new members for our next fiscal year beginning on June 1. If you are interested in joining, please reach out and ask questions. This is probably the broadest way that any member can help Congregation Or Chadash to grow.

*Yours in fellowship,*  
*Ilene Krom*  
*President, Board of Directors*

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## Religious School Committee

Our Religious School is entering its fourth cluster of classes in March. Each cluster has a different set of Hebrew, elective, and Judaic topics. The Hebrew topics for the fourth cluster are Modern Hebrew (focusing on passages from Dr. Seuss), Torah Hebrew, and Prayer Hebrew. The electives are Make a Jewish Board Game, our annual Purim Schpiel (based on the movie, Inside Out) and theater games, Jewish Cooking, Pop Israeli Dance, and Persuasive Club (a.k.a. Debate team). The Judaic topics are Israel (focusing on history), Jewish Holidays, American Jewish History (2000-present), and Jewish Life Cycle (adult-related events such as divorce and aging). And we always have a music class or Shabbat service preparation.

Your children attend our school for only a few hours each week, so practicing Hebrew at home and talking with parents about Sunday and Tuesday classes help students remember and reinforce the information learned in class. Just as reading with your children and being involved in their secular schools can enhance their secular learning, speaking with your children about Religious School can have a significant effect on their religious learning.

We need your assistance in teaching your children. We cannot do it alone. Spending a little time practicing Hebrew with your children each week—15 minutes a night for three or four nights a week—and asking about their Sunday classes will help maximize your investment in their Jewish education.

Please join the Religious School Committee at our next meeting on **Wednesday, March 5** at 7:30pm on Zoom.

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

### **Religious School Schedule**

In Session:

**March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30**  
**April 1, 6, 8, 22, 27, 29**

Not in session:

**April 13, 15, 20**

### **Teen Class Schedule**

8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades

**March 2, 23, 30**  
**April 27**

10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades

**March 23**  
**April 6**

### **Religious Faculty Meeting**

**8:00am Sunday, April 6**

# Keeping Up with Or Chadash

## Committee Meetings

Religious School Committee (ZOOM Only)

**Wednesday, March 5** 7:30pm

**Sunday, April 6** 7:30pm

Social Action Committee (ZOOM Only)

**Wednesday, March 26** 6:30pm

**Wednesday, April 23** 6:30pm

Ritual Committee (In Person Only)

**Sunday, April 6** at 12:15pm

## For all 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents and Students

Come to a transition meeting to learn more about the 8th-9th Grade Religious School program on **Tuesday, April 29** at 7:40pm.

## Kiddish Kids and Jr. CORY

On **Sunday, March 9** join us at 12:00pm for the Purim Carnival. See Purim section on Page 7, with details about our Purim fun!

**Sunday, March 23** at 1:30pm please join us for Bowling at Bowlero in Gaithersburg. Stay tuned for details!

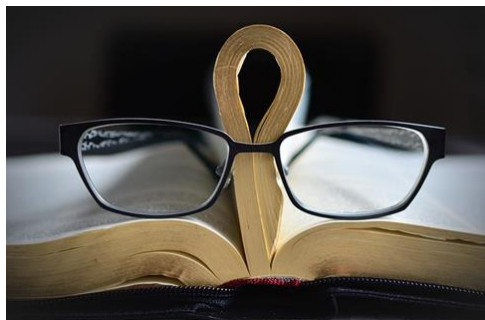
## CORY

**Saturday, March 8** 4:30pm is our Purim carnival set-up. All hands on-deck! Please RSVP to Rabbi to confirm your attendance. Please also bring treats for college student boxes. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545A4AB2B0-55319950-cory>.

The Purim carnival is **Sunday, March 9**. The carnival itself begins at 12:00pm. Please wear your CORY t-shirt and, if you are not a madrikh/madrikhah/madrachim, please plan on arriving at 11:00am. Please RSVP to Rabbi to confirm your attendance!

**Sunday, March 23** 1:30pm CORY Bowling at Bowlero in Gaithersburg. Stay tuned for details.

**Sunday, April 27** 2:30pm CORY Great Falls Hike. RSVP to Rabbi.



## Adult Learning

At Or Chadash, there are a vast array of opportunities to continue learning.

There is weekly Torah and Talmud Study. These classes are on all Saturdays in March and April except two. On **Saturday, March 8** and **Saturday, April 5**, the parashah of the week will be read and discussed within the Shabbat Morning service. Learn more about our sacred traditions, and connect it all to modern life. Most of our Torah and Talmud study classes are currently meeting Zoom-only, but a few now occur in-person only. Please see page 3 of this FOCUS for more details. Feel free to just drop in, or let the Rabbi know you're interested at [rabbikobey@gmail.com](mailto:rabbikobey@gmail.com).

We have an Adult B'nai Mitzvah class in progress with classes on **Wednesdays** at 5:00pm. Upcoming classes are: **March 5, 19, April 2, 23, 30**.

We are experimenting with a monthly discussion as part of Shabbat services. Please see the page 13 for more details.

Additionally, on **Fridays** at noon on Zoom on **March 21, 28, April 4, and April 25** we will have a four-part series about how we can spiritually reset in these times. Where do we find meaning? How have we gained wisdom over the years? We will explore joys, challenges, and opportunities to deepen our spiritual lives.

## Purim

Happy Adar, a time when we are commanded to be happy! Purim is the 14th of Adar, translating this year to **Thursday, March 13**. Purim is a holiday for the fun, silly side in each of us. It is a holiday NOT just for children, as each of us should remember that our lives were at stake, and through a brave act by Esther and Mordechai, we are here today. We have 5 rabbinic commandments as part of this holiday: to read Megillat Ester, the Scroll of Esther; to be unable to distinguish between Ahasuerus and Haman; to give to the poor; to give gifts to others; and to have a festive meal. We are going to have lots of fun for Purim this year and I hope you all will join us! Wear a costume or come as yourself, but either way I hope to see you there!

Within the Religious School (but open to all) we will celebrate **Sunday, March 9** at 11:15am with a first opportunity to see the schpiel followed by the Purim carnival that is sponsored by CORY, our senior youth group. The Religious School schpiel and carnival are open to both congregants and non-congregants alike, so if you know of other Jewish children in the area, please welcome them to our festivities. Rabbi will give you 3 tickets for free if you bring a non-member guest. Stay tuned for other details about the carnival. There will be pizza and snacks for purchase and ticket sales. All proceeds go to CORY, our Senior Youth Group.

Tickets will cost:

3 tickets for \$1.00

20 tickets for \$5.00

And there will be other ticket options too!

On **Thursday, March 13** beginning at 7:00pm we will have some megillah reading, see the schpiel, and have a hamantaschen bake-off. For the hamantaschen bake-off, please bring at least one dozen hamantaschen of the same flavor and label all main ingredients. The more you bake, the more we all taste! Even if you do not want to bake, please join us and be part of the tasting! As a reminder, there can be NO gelatin. (No marshmallows or gummies unless they are vegan.)

## Passover

### First Night: To House or be Housed

The first seder is **Saturday, April 12**. Are you hosting a seder and willing/able to host extra people? Are you looking for a seder to attend? As soon as you know your plans, please contact the Rabbi so that we have ample time to help make matches and ensure that everyone has a place for seder!! Please send an email to Rabbi with how many people you can host or how many people you wish for someone else to host, any food allergies, any pets, prefer with children / prefer no children, etc. Together, we will make sure that everyone is part of a seder!

### Second Night: Please Join Us at Seder

The second seder is **Sunday, April 13**. We will have a congregational seder at Or Chadash. Doors will open at 6:00pm and seder will begin at 6:30pm. It is open to all. We are still firming up the menu and prices but there will be food for vegetarians and non-vegetarians alike. If you are interested in attending, but concerned about the price, please reach out to Rabbi Kobey. All details remain confidential, and we want to be sure everyone is welcome and no one is turned away because of pricing. If you already know you want to attend, sign up now! RSVPs (to Rabbi Kobey at [rabbikobey@gmail.com](mailto:rabbikobey@gmail.com)) are mandatory for seder. More details will be provided at a later date.

## Membership and Prospective Outreach

We know that the best way to reach other Jewish people is through word-of-mouth. If you know someone Jewish and unaffiliated, please reach out to them and see if they are interested in joining us at Purim, at Passover seder, at Shabbat Services, or at another holiday or event. Feeling shy about asking? Give Rabbi their information. She's happy to reach out!

## Social Action / Social Justice

### Braver Angels

An important theme in Jewish life is Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). We should always strive to make the world a better place for ourselves and, perhaps more importantly, for our children and grandchildren.

No matter your political positions, many of us are concerned with the current polarized state of American society and its politics. Despite many people fearing “the other side,” polls show that each side does not hate the other side as we may think, and that there is a clear longing for a more civil society, one that allows for solving more of the problems facing the United States and the world.

One organization that is clearly in the spirit of Tikkun Olam is Braver Angels. It was founded in 2016, and its mission is to bring people together by rekindling civil conversation about our differences so that we may solve our problems. The organization holds hundreds of events annually, both nationally and through over 100 local alliances, or chapters. The events generally fit into three categories:

- Workshops that give you skills on how to talk with someone with whom you disagree;
- Debates that are designed not to emerge with a “winner,” but with a greater understanding of opinions different from your own; and
- Conversations between people of different opinions or backgrounds, using a structure that allows each person to better understand the other.

If you are interested in the work of Braver Angels, you can learn more at [www.braverangels.org](http://www.braverangels.org) or contact Jack Goldman, one of the organization’s almost 15,000 Red and Blue members, at jackgoldman24@gmail.com. Jack will speak about Braver Angels at Shabbat services on **Friday, April 4**.



### The Final Week of COC’s Fund Drive for Planting Trees!

In honor of Tu B’Shevat, the world’s first Earth Day, the Social Action Committee launched a fund drive to support planting trees world-wide. We set up donation links to two organizations: the **Jewish National Fund**, for planting trees in Israel (\$18 to plant a tree); and **One Tree Planted**, which plants trees all over the world in areas most in need. (\$1 to plant a tree, with a minimum donation of \$2.)

Donations to either of these organizations do not go to Or Chadash, and Or Chadash will not benefit from these donations. However, in the spirit of Tikkun Olam, we think these are important efforts to improve the world-wide environment.

In the days since this fund drive began, COC congregants and supporters have contributed \$448 to One Tree planted, which means 448 trees will be planted. We want to thank everyone who has contributed to this world-wide conservation effort and announce that we have already surpassed our original goal of \$400 and are now aiming for \$600! Please continue to donate to both of these worthwhile tax-deductible organizations through **Sunday, March 9**.

Please use the following links for tree donations.

**Jewish National Fund:**  
[shop.jnf.org/collections/plant-trees](http://shop.jnf.org/collections/plant-trees)

**One Tree Planted:**  
[businesspartners.raisely.com/arlene-greenspan](http://businesspartners.raisely.com/arlene-greenspan)



## Supporting Refugees

New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), in which Or Chadash participates with 29 other faith and civic organizations, is now assisting more than 50 new refugee families (over 250 individuals) here in Montgomery County. The large majority of the families are from Afghanistan, but others are from Syria, Peru, Ukraine, and Haiti.

Our Social Action Committee has just kicked off a new activity to produce ten Welcome Baskets of supplies for our New Neighbors. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0D4FABAE1-55409118-nnia#/> and/or join us at temple at noon on **Sunday, March 30** to assemble the baskets.

Recently, due to cuts in federal funding for refugee resettlement, NNIA is being approached by various Social Service agencies to assist in outfitting apartments for newly arrived refugee families from multiple countries. We appreciate your in-kind donations. All items should be either new or in good to excellent condition.

If you can spare any of the items listed below, please contact Furniture & Supplies leads at [nnia-furniture-leads@nnia-maryland.org](mailto:nnia-furniture-leads@nnia-maryland.org) or congregant Debbie Eisenberg at [rjeisenberg@comcast.net](mailto:rjeisenberg@comcast.net) and we will contact you about pickup / drop off options.

Also, please reach out to us if you might be able to accompany our truck drivers to assist in lifting on furniture moves.

Here are Needed Items:

Furniture:

- Small chests, shelving units or another small unit appropriate for clothing storage (48" or shorter unit)
- Dining table to seat six
- Chairs
- Lamps
- Cribs
- TV consoles
- Night stands

- Coffee tables
- Shoe rack

Kitchen Items:

- Tableware
- Large pots (6qt. and 8qt.)
- Frying Pans (large and medium)
- Baking/casserole dishes
- Mixing/serving bowls
- Can openers
- Scissors
- Kitchen knives
- Cooking utensils
- Electric water kettle
- Instant pot or pressure cooker
- Thermos

Other Household Supplies:

- Twin size sheet sets
- Crib sheets
- Twin size blankets and quilts
- Queen size blankets and quilts
- Bath towels, hand towels, washcloths
- Dish towels
- Pillows
- Broom and dustpan
- Mop and bucket
- Vacuum cleaner
- Iron
- Smart TV's

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. Job search assistance and English tutoring is always needed.

All of this work would not be possible without the incredibly generous financial support that we have received from our compassionate donors! NNIA paid all or partial rent for 22 families over the previous 3 months to avoid eviction in this freezing weather. Our rent subsidies are running double our normal rate. 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>.

## Social Action Committee's Participation in Good Deeds Week

The Social Action Committee will again be participating in The Jewish Federation's Sara and Samuel J. Lessans' Good Deeds Week, which this year will be the week of **Sunday, March 30** through **Sunday, April 6**. This special week will bring together 60+ community partners and thousands of participants across DC, MD and Northern VA to address pressing needs and do good in our region.

This year, COC's Social Action Committee has selected three special activities to participate in this regional cause.

- The first activity will involve the B'nai Knitzvahs, a COC knitting group created by congregant Nancy Thorner. The group will donate hand-knitted scarves to NNIA (New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance), an organization that assists refugee families in Montgomery County. The finished scarves will be delivered to NNIA, to be distributed to refugees in need.
- The second activity is one that we have done in the past and one that has been well received. Religious School students will be writing and decorating Happy Passover cards to be sent to Jewish residents of Riderwood Senior Living Community, located in Silver Spring, MD. Some of these residents are Holocaust survivors. The cards will be delivered to Riderwood by **Sunday, April 6** to make sure that they reach the residents on time.
- The third activity for Good Deeds Week 2025 will be to collect canned and boxed food items for Manna Food Center, located in Gaithersburg, MD. Manna Food Center's mission is to fight food insecurity and provide



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healthy, nutritious food to those community members in need through food distribution, education and advocacy. Congregant volunteers will deliver the collected food items directly to Manna.



Thank you to all congregants in advance for your anticipated participation in these activities!

## 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. Upcoming dates are **Sunday, March 16**, and **Sunday, April 20**. 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 ([nationalmahjonggleague.org/index.aspx](http://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.



## Library Committee

With Spring holidays coming, we want to mention our Cooking section, with 39 cookbooks to add variety to your menu. Recent additions to this section include: *Kosher by Design - Picture Perfect Food for the Holidays and Everyday*; *At Oma's Table - More than 100 Recipes from a Jewish Family's Kitchen*; *Quiches, Kugels, and Couscous - a Search for Jewish Cooking in France*; and *Friday Night Dinners - Menus to Welcome the Weekend with ease, warmth, and flair*. You can find the cooking section of the library on the left, in the corner, after you enter the library. Also, a reminder: the library is open before and after Services, and most times when the building is open (except for when the preschool is active).

Some congregants may not realize that we have a well-stocked library of books on Jewish topics: Jewish history, novels, Jewish philosophy/ethics, Jews in sports, and much more.

The library is in the schoolroom wing, on the right-hand side after the kitchen door.

The Library Committee has recently begun putting some wonderful books of different kinds on display in the Lobby (see photo above).

To check any book out, just write its title (alphabetically) in the looseleaf notebook near the door. Add your name and phone number. And take the book home for as long as you need. Enjoy!

## Brotherhood

By the time you read this, the Brotherhood will have held its monthly “Guys’ Night Out” on February 20 at Caspian House of Kabob in Kentlands. The next dinner will be held at Mission BBQ in Germantown on **Thursday, March 20** at 6:30pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jack at jackgoldman24@gmail.com.

We have recently started sending out announcements to all potential Brotherhood members. If you (a) received an email announcement and would like us to use a different email address, (b) didn’t receive any announcements, or (c) would like to stop receiving announcements, please contact Jack. Finally, we are exploring what additional activities the Brotherhood could sponsor. We recently sent out a survey with a list of possible activities. If you haven’t responded yet to the survey, please do so as soon as possible so that we can hold events that you would like. Again, please contact Jack. Thank you.

## Sisterhood

Our next Girls Night Out is **Thursday, April 10** at 7:30pm at Senor Tequilas. RSVP to Ilene Krom at kromfamily726@gmail.com.



**Ronald Isaacson, Tutor**  
**Hebrew**  
 (Bar/Bat Mitzvah, 65+ students)  
 Member of Or Chadash since 1994  
**(301) 996-9153**  
**isaacson4@gmail.com**

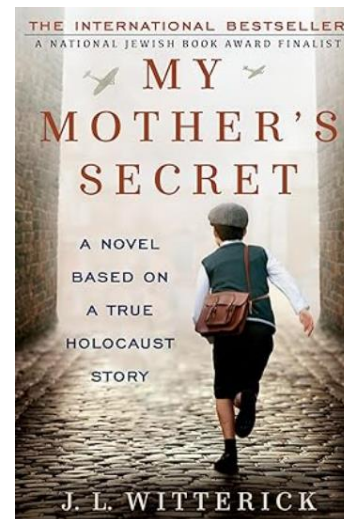
### Congregation Or Chadash Book Club

The next meeting of the Congregation Or Chadash Book Club is **Friday, March 14** at 11:30am at Wegmans Market Cafe, 20600 Seneca Meadows Parkway, Germantown. This is an in-person meeting. Zoom is not available.

The book for March is *My Mother's Secret: A Novel of the Jewish Autonomous Region* by Alina Adams. This book is available at the Montgomery County Public Libraries in eBook format only.

This is a coed book club. All are welcome to attend!  
Please RSVP by **Tuesday, March 11** to Jane Harris, [clamityjgh@aol.com](mailto:clamityjgh@aol.com).

Looking ahead to **Friday, May 9**, we will be discussing *Kantika* by Elizabeth Graver.





## Garden of Remembrance

GAN ZIKARON MEMORIAL PARK

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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](http://www.gardenofremembrance.org)

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## Special Services

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### Friday Shabbat Conversation Series

I know that we are in a polarized world where people have a wide variety of views about a host of issues. I am experimenting with starting something new... respectful monthly discussions at Friday night Shabbat services about hot topics. Whether you label yourself liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican, or something else entirely, I believe it is important to share Jewish text and traditions and to hear from all of you.

Wherever you stand on different issues, you are welcome to join in these respectful Shabbat conversations. The first two will be **Friday, March 21** at 6:15, focusing on gender in Judaism and the second one will be **Friday, April 11** at 6:15, focusing on immigration.

### 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.

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 dinner. The next two are **Friday, March 7**, and **Friday, May 2**. Please sign up to bring a dish if you are able.

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

### Celebrating Simchas (Joyous Events)

Celebrate your birthday with your Or Chadash family. Receive a special blessing and birthday treat to mark the occasion. If you are in-person, you will get the treat that evening. If you are sharing services with us through Zoom, the Rabbi delivery service will be happy to make sure you receive your treat. (Just send her an email.) We have Birthday Blessings every month. For the month of March, join us on **Friday, March 7** and for the month of April, Birthday Blessings will be on **Friday, April 4**. Both will be held on Fridays at 6:15pm.

We also celebrate anniversaries within our Or Chadash family. Again, receive a special blessing and different treat. This is also monthly with Anniversary Blessings on **Friday, March 21** and **Friday, April 18**, at 6:15pm.

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

### Tech Support

We are trying to build our Shabbat/holiday tech team! We are happy to train you, but need you to volunteer to help us. Once you are trained, you would choose dates that work for you. This is a low-key, but important way to help Or Chadash! Teens could get SSL hours as needed. Please let the Rabbi know if you are interested/willing!

# Oneg Schedule

Assignments for March/April/May are listed below. We appreciate everyone's willingness to provide hospitality for our community in our sacred home. If you have issues with your assignment, please email [orchadashadmin@gmail.com](mailto:orchadashadmin@gmail.com). You will be sent a reminder two weeks beforehand.

Friday, February 28	Kreger	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Lansat	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, March 7 Saturday, March 8	Pallia	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats) Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, March 14	Accardi-Epstein	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Himmelfarb	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, March 21	Levitus	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Lichtman	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, March 28	Lorenz	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Marx	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friay, April 4 Saturday, April 5	Cahn / Rolnick	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats) Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, April 11	Nadler	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Weber	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, April 18 (Passover)	Raphael	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	TBD	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friay, April 25	Rinkoff	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Rosenfeld - Dean	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friay, May 9	Sagona	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Schwartz	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friay, May 16	Schweizer	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	DiBartolo	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friay, May 23	Siskind	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Stahl	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friay, May 30 Saturday, May 31	Wolfson	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats) Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)

## *Thank You to Our Donors*

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

### **General Donations**

David & Jean Bender  
Rob & Debbie Eisenberg  
Elizabeth & Giorgio Gatti  
Jack Goldman & Susan Drubin  
Andrew and Julie Klingenstein Family Fund  
Anthony & Pietro Magri in memory of Harvey Gussow  
Gerald Ray Mollie Lipshy Charitable Trust & Judy Gable  
Percival Stern Foundation  
Vivian Stahl & Bob Senseney

### **Library Fund**

Vivian Stahl & Bob Senseney

### **NNIA Refugee Fund**

Ralph Locke & Lona Farhi in honor of Nancy Thorner's special birthday

### **Rise Against Hunger**

Rob & Debbie Eisenberg  
Barbara & Fred Marx

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

Howard and Melissa Benowitz  
Karl & Anne Gussow  
Ralph Locke & Lona Farhi in honor of the birth of Susan White and Michael Abraham's grandson Natan  
Barbara & Fred Marx  
Vivian Stahl & Bob Senseney

### **Yahrzeit Board**

Jane & John Harris in memory of Gary Gartenberg  
Jane & John Harris in memory of Joyce Gartenberg  
Jane & John Harris in memory of Richard Gartenberg

## *Mazel Tov*

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Congratulations to Susan White and Michael Abrahams who are delighted to welcome their newest grandchild into their family: Natan Tzvi Travers, born on November 15. Proud parents are Diana Abrahams and Avi Travers.

Congratulations to Elijah Pallia on becoming a Bar Mitzvah on March 8.

Congratulations to Landon Rolnick on becoming a Bar Mitzvah on April 5.

## *Welcome*

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Welcome to our new members: Emily Himmelfarb, Pat Panzer, and Samantha Frankel!!

# 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, March 7 & Saturday, March 8

Lillian Epstein	Mother of Alan Epstein
Ronald Santa	Dara & Stephen Santa
Gerald Stahl	Father of Vivian Stahl
David Stein	Father of Barbara Marx Spouse of Florence Stein

## Friday, March 14

Harry Kandel	Father of Milton Kandel
Frank Berry Korenge	Father of Ed Korenge
Marilyn Goldspiel	Mother of Barry Goldspiel
Ruth Kobey	Mother of David Kobey
Doris Ruth Light	Mother of Susan Lichtman
Sol Aron	Grandfather of Phil Dicken
Morris Bender	Grandfather of David Bender
**Jesse Gellert	Father-in-law of Susan Gellert Grandfather of Jesse Gellert
Paul Levitus	Father of Sydney Levitus
Edith Breuer	Mother of Michael Breuer
Mary Heritage	Mother of Robin Farquhar
Myrna Rosenthal	Mother of Lou Rosenthal

## Friday, March 21

Grace Stroud	Mother-in-law of Rebecca Stroud
**Estelle Eisler	Mother of Nancy Thorne
**Leslie Schwartz	Wife of Seth Schwartz
Sunnie Zahler	Sister-in-law of Marsha Weber
Anne Cahn	Step-grandmother of Lisa Cahn
Tillie Bender	Grandmother of David Bender
Claudette Engel	Mother of Sheri Dayton
Ethel Mossman	Grandmother of Ziona Mossman Swigart
Dara Lansat	Wife of Howard Lansat

## Friday, March 28

Ed Gable	Step-father of Karen Conner
Charles Kobey	Father of David Kobey
**Nick Stroud	Father of Rachel Stroud-Goodrich
	Husband of Rebecca Stroud
Florence Weber	Mother of Marsha Weber
Ruth Blechman	Grandmother of Ilene Krom

## Friday, April 4 & Saturday, April 5

Lewis Berkowitz	Father of Rosalind King
Dorothy Zoldan	Grandmother of Howard Lansat
Michael Goldfine	Uncle of Ellyn Baum
Dorothy Paley	Mother-in-law of Ken Tharp
Samuel Rosenthal	Father of Cindy Bender

## Friday, April 11

Douglas Apirian	Brother of Susan Drubin
**Dolly Grobstein	Mother of Claire SanNicolas
Max Smith	Gerri Sliffman
Samuel Raphael	Father of Steven Raphael
Norman Soltar	Fred Petok & Marsha Weber

## Friday, April 18

Stanley Zoldan	Uncle of Howard Lansat
Jon Clark Sr.	Father of Jon Clark
Lilian Fink	Mother-in-law of Howard Lansat
Jerome (Jerry) Kreger	Husband of Doreen Kreger
William Storck	Father of Dara Santa
Sharon Goldberg	Mother of Chris Goldberg

## Friday, April 25

Richard Gartenberg	Father of Jane Harris
B. Paul Heritage	Father of Robin Farquhar
Ted Petok	Father of Fred Petok
Sol Jackel	Grandfather of Jonathan Jackel
**Nahum Lebedinsky	Father of Alex Lebedinsky
Lawrence Arthur Young	Father of Gary Young
Rose Apirian	Mother of Susan Drubin
Marilyn Himmelfarb	Mother of Scott Himmelfarb
Rae Ostrov	Grandmother of Fred Marx
Jeff Phipps	Father of Hilary Rosenbloom
Norman Wickwire	Father of Alison Felrice
Charles Ogg	Brother of Karl Gussow

## Friday, May 2

Audrey Dicken	Mother of Phil Dicken
Fred Lafer	Uncle of Ellyn Baum
Linda Wickwire	Mother of Alison Felrice
Anna Zavin	Mother of Jack Zavin
Ira Silverleib	Brother of Lynn Kobey





**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:

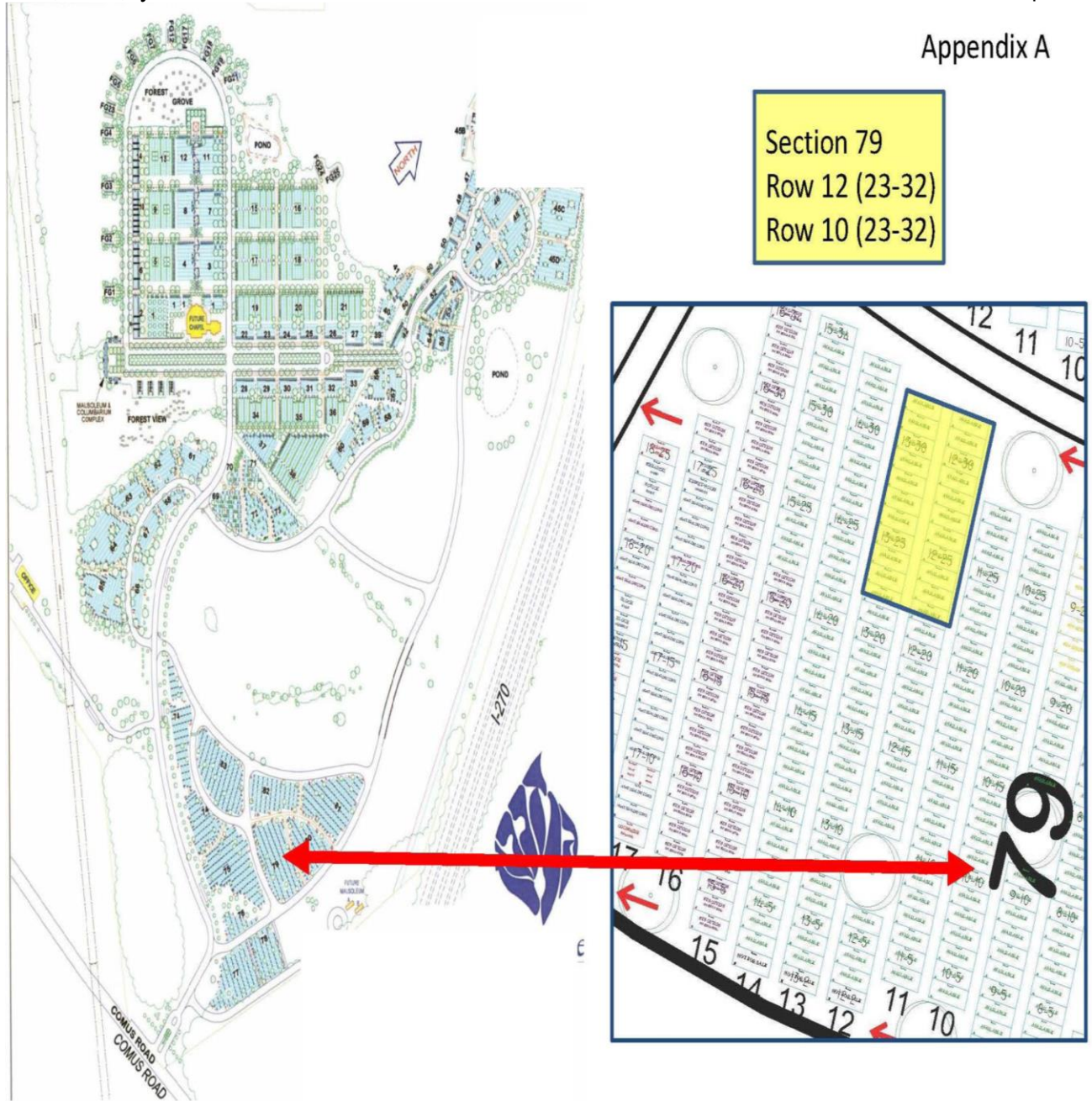
- Interment (opening/closing of grave)..... \$1,950
- Installed Concrete Grave Liner.....\$ 900

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](mailto:info@gardenofremembrance.org) or visit email visit [www.gardenofremembrance.org](http://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.

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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)



# 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.**

