

# Or Chadash FOCUS

*By Rabbi Alison B. Kobey*

We know we are living in uncertain times. Wherever you are socially or politically, social justice is part of our Jewish core and values are part of our basic fiber. The prophet Micah (6:8) reminds us “to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.” I hold those words in my heart and I will continue to fight in support of who we are as a people. Even in these challenging times, I am also determined to continue to look for the good in others while lifting up our Jewish values. I signed on to the following letter, along with approximately 600 other rabbis. I believe it is important to share who we are as a people.

## *A Statement of Jewish Beliefs*

In this time of swirling events and governmental chaos, it is important to remind ourselves of our core beliefs as American Jews. These are some of the values we hold dear and which guide our lives and our actions.

1. We believe that all people are the children of God, endowed with holiness, all equal in value. (Gen. 1:27)
2. We believe in welcoming the stranger, the alien in our midst, the one who lives with us. (Lev. 19:33) We are commanded to love the stranger as ourselves. We are a people of repeated migrations, descended from strangers in Egypt.
3. We believe in honesty, commanded not to bear false witness (Ex. 20:13, Lev. 19:11)
4. We believe in listening respectfully, valuing the ideas of those who disagree, and seeking peace. (Avot 1:12, 1:18)
5. We believe in fairness in business and all transactions: not engaging in fraud, paying workers promptly, honestly representing what is offered. (Lev. 19:13; 19:35-36)

(continued on page 4)



## SHABBAT/HOLIDAY SERVICES

While we encourage in-person attendance, these services are all multi-access. Zoom links are found in our weekly email blasts.

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

**Friday, May 2** – 7:15pm(ish) Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

**Friday, May 9** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Teacher/Madrikhim Appreciation and our kids' choir and Or Chadash Singers (OCS)

**Friday, May 16** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services

**Friday, May 23** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings and baby/child namings for Seth Schwartz' grandchildren

**Friday, May 30** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services

**Saturday, May 31** – 10:00am Shabbat Services with Bat Mitzvah of Natalie Wolfson

**Sunday, June 1** – 6:15pm Erev Shavuot Services followed by cheesecake bake-off/taste-off

**Friday, June 6** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Pride Theme and Birthday Blessings

**Friday, June 6** – 7:15pm(ish) Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

**Friday, June 13** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Bubbles Shabbat. Outside Shabbat (weather permitting)

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

**Friday, June 27** – 6:15pm Shabbat Services

## Contacting Us



### Rabbi

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

### Cantorial Soloist

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

### Location

24800 Kings Valley Road  
 Damascus, MD 20872

### Office Hours

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 Tuesday, 4:30pm-8:30pm  
 Wednesday 8:00am-2:00pm

### Email Address:

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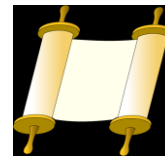
### To Receive Email Updates

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

## Contact Us

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Temple Administrator .....	Open
Religious School Administrator ....	Open
Or Chadash Board .....	
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Ritual Committee .....	Susan White
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.....	Melissa Lebedinsky
Social Action Committee .....	Arlene Greenspan
Religious School Committee .....	Howard Benowitz
Building Committee .....	Rob Eisenberg
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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, May 3 – 9:30am Torah Study (In-Person only)**

**Tazria/Metzora (Leviticus 12:1-15:33)** Why is this considered the “worst” Torah portion in all of Torah (is there such a thing?!) What are the rituals after someone has a baby? Why are skin diseases part of Torah?

## **Saturday, May 3 – 11:00am Talmud Class (In-Person only)**

## **Saturday, May 10 – 9:30am Torah Study (In-Person only)**

**Acharei Mot-Kedoshim (Leviticus 16:1-20:27)** What does it mean to be a holy people and what are our responsibilities? Is it okay to have a scapegoat? What are some of the rules about private “bedroom behavior”? How many mitzvot are in this week’s Torah portion and what are the implications? What are your favorite mitzvot?

## **Saturday, May 17 – 9:30am Torah Study (Zoom only)**

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

## **Saturday, May 24 – 9:30am Torah Study (Zoom only)**

**Behar-Bechukotai (Leviticus 25:1- 27:34)** How do people in distress enjoy a secure life? What is your reward for faithfulness to God? What will it take to hear God? Do we have an intermediary between God and the Jewish people?

## **Saturday, May 24 – 11:00am Talmud Class (Zoom only)**

**Saturday, May 31 – 10:00am** There is no regular Torah study. Please learn about the Torah portion by joining us at Shabbat Services with the Bat Mitzvah of Natalie Wolfson

## **Saturday, June 7 – 9:30am Torah Study (In-Person only)**

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

## **Saturday, June 14 – 9:30am Torah Study (Zoom only)**

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

## **Saturday, June 21 – 9:30am Torah Study (In-Person only)**

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

## **Saturday, June 21 – 11:00am Talmud Class (In-Person only)**

## **Saturday, June 28 – 9:30am Torah Study (Zoom only)**

**Korach (Numbers 16:1- 18:32)** When is rebellion okay? Do God’s punishments fit the crime? Does God need gifts? Why do the wives get punished? Why does God protect the Levites? Who are Dathan and Abiram of today? Can God really give presents? How do we know when God “taps us on the shoulder”?

## **Saturday, June 28 – 11:00am Talmud Class (Zoom only)**

***Alison B. Kobey (continued)***

6. We believe in respect for others, especially for the strangers among us, for elders and those less fortunate, and all who struggle. We are commanded not to take advantage of the weakness of others, not to place a stumbling block before the blind. (Lev. 19:32; 19:14) We feel it is important to engage in acts of kindness and believe that we are in relationship with all people and should behave with compassion and empathy. (Avot 1:2)

7. We call what we give to others tzedakah, giving based on justice. We believe in the importance of compassion, but what we give to others in need is based on seeking justice in society.

8. We believe in knowledge and the exchange of ideas, including minority viewpoints. We value learning and the advancement of knowledge, in

science, in literature, sacred and secular. (Avot 1:16)

9. We believe in respecting and caring for our world, for tending the land and acting as dedicated stewards. (Gen 1:29-30 and Lev. 19:23 ff.)

10. We cherish the religious freedom in the United States and celebrate the diversity of beliefs and practices in our country. We deeply value the American Constitutional guarantees separating religion and state that have made possible the flourishing of all religions in our country.

May we live these values and strengthen one another.

*L'Shalom*

*Rabbi Alison B. Kobey*

## *President's Column*

We are all affected by what is happening in the world around us. Sometimes, this is limited to our own home. Other times, it's a larger community. And yes, this includes our congregation. But we are all influenced by, and form opinions on, what we see and learn. One of these topics has been in the news quite a bit these last few months.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion--commonly known as DEI. It's important to spell it out. While making it easier to write, acronyms often make us lose sight of meaning. It makes it easy to dismiss it as unnecessary or superfluous. But, at least in this case, it is anything but. And it is something that affects every part of our lives. And again, yes, that includes our lives at Congregation Or Chadash.

Diversity at Congregation Or Chadash is apparent, simple and clear. We have member households that are both 100% Jewish and interfaith; born into Judaism and Jewish by choice/conversion, and more. In our eyes, you are Jewish regardless. And that's what's

important. You are a highly valued member of our community regardless of how you view your "Jewishness". None of our member households are a clone of another. And those differences shape our congregation. We take pride in being a diverse community. Diversity is important.

We all grew up learning the ideal that we are all created equal. However, "equity" is not quite the same thing as "equality". Equality means that we are all entitled to the same things. Equity requires us to allow equal access to resources that should be available to all. One tangible demonstration of this is that people who aren't as tall stand in front so they can see whereas those blessed with greater height can stand further back and get the same effect. No one is sacrificing anything in order to achieve this result. And we can all benefit from the opportunities and resources around us. At Congregation Or Chadash, we strive to be sure that all of our members have access to all the resources that we have to offer, and we do all we can to minimize obstacles that may arise, whether physical, mental, emotional, etc. Equity is important.

Inclusion is probably the part of this trifecta that is most near and dear to me personally. As an “Autism Parent,” I have been struggling to help my children find their way in a Neurotypical world and doing all in my power to make sure that they aren’t excluded from any opportunities presented to their peers because of their disability. Congregation Or Chadash is one of the few places that I have never needed to fight this fight. From the moment we joined and my kids were enrolled in religious school, they were welcomed into the community. They do stand out everywhere we go. But at the temple, they’re welcomed both despite of and because of their differences. The joy that my son shows listening to the choir (especially during Rosh Hashanah services) inspires those sitting around us. And my daughter’s hyper-focus on trying to do the right thing also seems to make those around us smile. They teach the importance of kindness and understanding to their classmates as they are trying to understand why they didn’t behave as was expected. And this is but one example from one household where inclusion is practiced at Congregation Or Chadash. “Inclusion” is important.

In the temple office, there is a poster on the bulletin board describing 7 Jewish Values for an inclusive Jewish Community. To me, the second on this list embodies all of this article and what we should include in every aspect of our lives:

Shalom Bayit:  
Peace In the Home

Our community centers, synagogues, youth groups, and camps are often our second homes. Everyone needs to feel comfortable, safe, and respected at home. Don’t ostracize those who seem different. Strive to settle disagreements in peaceful and respectful ways that allow all community members to maintain their dignity.

And this defines our community at Congregation Or Chadash!

*L’Shalom!*  
*Ilene Krom*  
*President, Board of Directors.*

## Religious School Committee

The school year will conclude on **Tuesday, May 13** with special Israeli programming on **Sunday, May 11 and Tuesday, May 13**. On **Sunday, May 11**, the students will “travel” to Israel. Upon landing, they will each receive a passport and have the opportunity to learn about Israel by participating in different activities involving science, sports, art, geography, dancing, history, archeology, and star gazing! If they finish an activity, they will receive a stamp in their passports, and if they earn enough stamps, they will receive a prize. On **Tuesday, May 13**, our weekly Pizza Bar will become part of the Israeli activities as the students will receive “shekels,” go to a “shuk” (market), learn how to order food in Hebrew, participate in Jew-pardy, and much more! The entire congregation is welcome to join us in the **Tuesday, May 13** fun!

Thank you to students, teachers, and madrikhim for a great year! We also want to give a big shout-out to the parents, grandparents, siblings, and whomever brings our students to Temple for Religious School on Sundays and Tuesdays, reminds them to do their homework and study their prayers, and serves as a role model simply by being involved in the students’ religious education.

Just like secular schools recommend that our kids read during the summer, our children should be reading Hebrew over the summer, too. A great way to read Hebrew and see Or Chadash friends is to come to Shabbat services on a Friday night or Saturday morning at the Temple. Check the calendar in this FOCUS or on our website ([cong-orchadashmd.org](http://cong-orchadashmd.org)) for details.

Also look in this FOCUS for information about summer Shabbat service attendance incentives for students.

You should have received the 2025-26 Religious School registration form in the Or Chadash annual meeting mailing in April and in the April 9 email from Congregation Or Chadash. You can also find a fillable PDF version of the form in the April 9 email from Rabbi Kobey. Please fully complete your registration form, even if the only information on the form that changes from this past year is your child's age and grade, and submit it to the Temple office (electronically or paper copy) as soon as possible. There is a

financial incentive to submit the registration form by **Wednesday, May 14.**

Join the Religious School Committee at our next meeting on **Wednesday, June 4** at 7:30pm on Zoom.

*L'Shalom,  
The Religious School Committee*

### Religious School Schedule

In Session:

**May 4, 6, 11, 13**

## Keeping Up with Or Chadash

### Committee Meetings

Religious School Committee (Zoom Only)

**Wednesday, June 4** 7:30pm

Social Action Committee (Zoom Only)

**Wednesday, May 28** 6:30pm

**Wednesday, June 25** 6:30pm

Ritual Committee (In-Person Only)

**Tuesday, June 8** 10:00am

### Religious School Summer Shabbat Incentives

Religious School students who attend at least 4 Shabbat services over the course of the summer from **Friday, June 6** through **Friday, August 29** will be invited to participate in a special party at the start of the school year. If you attend at least four services this summer, you can help pick what happens at the party!

### Calendaring

Now is the time that we plan the 2025-2026 calendar. If you have committee meetings, events, or other ideas that you would like included on the Temple calendar, please let Rabbi know so she can add them to the calendar and ensure we avoid conflicts.

### Tot Programming

We invite all our five years and younger kiddings and their special grownups to join us on **Sunday, May 11** at 9:30am as part of our Religious School special Israel programming. We will be "flying" to Israel and having the opportunity to experience Israel by participating in lots of hands-on stations. Please RSVP to Rabbi.

### CORY

Sandy Spring Adventure Park, **Saturday, May 17** at 1:30pm. If you have not paid the annual CORY fee, cost for this event is \$48.00. Shul-in, **Friday, June 6** beginning at 5:45pm and ending **Saturday, June 7** at 9:15am. If you have not paid the annual CORY fee, cost for this event is \$12.00.

As always, if you are interested in an event and in need of financial assistance, please reach out to Rabbi. All information will be strictly confidential.

## Annual Meeting

We hope you will join us in person or over Zoom on **Wednesday, May 14** at 7:30pm for our annual meeting. Regardless of attendance, please make sure to submit your paperwork, including the slate/budget form, financial commitment form, and religious school papers (as applicable).

## Gratitude

I have been blessed to be a Rabbi for the last 25 years and was delighted to receive an honorary doctorate from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion on **Thursday, May 1**. It seems like just yesterday that I was ordained in Cincinnati. Time flies when you are having fun! Within those 25 years, I am especially grateful to have been your Rabbi these last 16 years and thrilled that my contract has been renewed. It is truly a joy and blessing to be your Rabbi!

## Religious School Last Days

**Sunday, May 11** at 9:30am and **Tuesday, May 13** we will be having special Israel programming for our final Religious School days of this school year. On **Sunday, May 11**, we will be “flying” to Israel and having the opportunity to experience Israel by participating in lots of hands-on stations. On the **Tuesday, May 13**, we are inviting the entire congregation to join us where we will have a special Israeli shuk (market) with food, olive oil tasting, Israel Jeopardy, and more! Please note: we ask that you do not come early for pizza bar, but rather that you arrive for the start of school which will be at 6:30. Pizza bar will be incorporated into our shuk activities.

## COCers Who Enjoy Cooking/Baking/Food

Rabbi needs a few volunteers to help with a special program on **Tuesday, May 13**. The program itself is 6:30pm-8:00pm. If you are willing to help with food, please reach out to Rabbi. She will provide details privately, but does not want to ruin the surprise for all.

## Summer Jewish Fun

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

- 1) Read a Jewish book. Bonus: Join our COC Book Club
- 2) Keep snacks and water in your car. When you see a person who is homeless or struggling, offer them some water and food. Alternatively, or additionally, please continue to donate non-perishable food to Or Chadash which goes to Manna
- 3) Listen to Jewish music. Maybe join Or Chadash Singers, our COC Choir?!
- 4) We are taught that we are supposed to say 100 blessings a day. What if you make a list of 100 blessings you experience?
- 5) Come to Shabbat Services and bring a friend! Bonus if they are unaffiliated
- 6) Give tzedakah to Jewish causes
- 7) Read the weekly Torah portion and join us at Torah study!
- 8) Light Shabbat candles. Make Shabbat feel different than the rest of your week. Relax and rejuvenate.
- 9) Watch a Jewish movie
- 10) Invite other Or Chadash-ites to your house for a meal or have coffee with me. Rabbi would love to hear an update of how you are doing!



## Congregation Or Chadash 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.

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.

## Israel Programming For All

**Tuesday, May 13** from 6:30pm-8:00pm is our final day of Religious School. We are having special Israel programming and thought it would be fun to invite the entire congregation. Thus, you are cordially invited (but please RSVP to Rabbi so she has an accurate head count) to join us on **Tuesday, May 13**. We will have a special Israeli shuk (market) including food, olive oil tasting, Israel Jeopardy, and more! Please RSVP to Rabbi and join our special day.

## Guest Speaker

Dean Bagdadi: The Story of the Iraqi Jewish Community

**Wednesday, May 7** at 7:00pm

Join Northern Virginia's community Shaliach (Israeli Emissaries) for a program about Iraqi history and culture, from a personal perspective. We will have a conversation about the history, rich culture, and Aliyah story of one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world! And, together, we'll make the classic Iraqi spice mix, the Baharat! If you have a mortar and pestle, we ask that you please bring it.

Bio: Dean Bagdadi is the Senior Shaliach (Israeli Emissary of the Jewish Agency) at the Pozez JCC of Northern Virginia. Dean has a BA in political science & business from BGU. He is also an IDF captain in Reserves. Before coming here, Dean was involved with ADL; Israel's national student's union; local student unions; national political campaigns; and informal education work. His previous position was part of the community engagement team at the “Movement for quality government in Israel” which is a non-profit NGO that combats corruption in Israel. Dean is coming from a mixed background of both secular and traditional Jewish families with roots across the globe. He has experience in the civil society field, community engagement, informal education, and public affairs.



**Ronald Isaacson, Tutor**

**Hebrew**

(Bar/Bat Mitzvah, 65+ students)

Member of Or Chadash since 1994

**(301) 996-9153**

**isaacson4@gmail.com**



## Job Loss / Job Insecurity

All of us seem to be affected in some way by the upheaval in our government. If you have experienced job loss or are concerned that you might lose your job, please reach out to Rabbi Kobey. If you are in need of financial assistance outside of COC, Rabbi can help provide up to \$1500 to cover mortgage, food, utilities, or medical bills through a Federation grant. All grants will be strictly confidential. As always, we are here for you.

And, as has always been the case, if you find yourself in financial difficulties, whether permanent or temporary, you can always reach out to Terri Binder, our treasurer, (terri.binder@congrchadashmd.org) who will work with you to find a path forward.

## Navigating Uncertainty: Managing Stress in a Changing World

**Wednesday, April 30** at 7:00pm–8:00pm  
Guest Speaker: Erin Gates, LCSW-C, LICSW

We are currently living in challenging times both as a nation and as a Jewish community. Please join the Social Action Committee for an insightful presentation and discussion aimed to build resilience and emotional well-being by offering strategies to manage these stressors and navigate uncertainty.

Erin Gates is an individual and family therapist with extensive expertise in supporting adolescents, adults, and families in their work through various life challenges, relationship issues, stress, trauma, depression, anxiety, and other concerns that impact daily life.

We encourage congregants to attend in person, but we will have a Zoom link for those who would like to join remotely.

Refreshments will be served.

## Adult Education

In addition to Torah Study and Talmud Classes, upcoming adult learning includes:

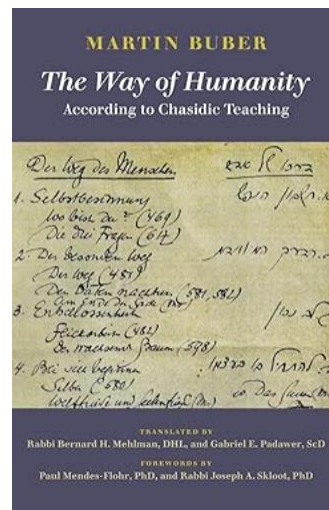
### Adult B'nai Mitzvah Classes

**Wednesdays, May 7, 14, and June 4** at 5:00pm. (Please note there is now class **Wednesday, May 14** and **NOT Wednesday, May 21**).

### New Class: Marti Buber

Discussion about Martin Buber's book *The Way of Humanity According to Chasidic Teaching*. You are encouraged to get the book (published by CCAR), but it is not required. Here is a visual of the book cover and an Amazon link in case that is helpful:

<https://www.amazon.com/Way-Humanity-According-Chasidic-Teaching/dp/0881236373>



Martin Buber is a theologian/philosopher from Austria born in 1878. His ideas are inspiring (at least to Rabbi Kobey) with his most famous, perhaps, being the concept of I-It or I-Thou relationships. Please RSVP to Rabbi to ensure adequate numbers.

Classes are **Fridays** at 12:00pm, Zoom only  
**May 16, May 23, May 30, June 6**

## Oneg

Once again, this year, we will have a signup schedule for Oneg at our Shabbat services. Every family is expected to sign up to provide the Oneg for at least one of the services during the next fiscal year (June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026).

You will have until **Wednesday, May 14**, to sign up for a service of your choice. After **Wednesday, May 14**, those who have not yet signed up for a date will be assigned a Friday night or Saturday morning. Instruction for what you need to provide is located on the signup sheet.

I urge you all to look at the schedule and find a service that works for you.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050845ACA622A7FC1-56236090-shabbat>

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Shabbat services over the next year!  
 Thanks!

## Mah Jongg

Last year, we started a monthly Mah Jongg session. (You need not attend every session.) We will meet on the third Sunday of the month from 2-4:00pm. All levels are encouraged and beginners are welcome. Everyone is learning. We will provide instruction and refreshers as needed. If you have and are able, please bring a Mah Jongg set and/or square card table.

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



## Rise Against Hunger

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

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

If every family that plans to participate can consider making a directed donation to the program, it would make a large difference.

*Thank you for your help!*  
*Ilene Krom, President*

## Policy Update

The Board has a policy to announce to the congregation whenever the Board adds a new policy or updates an existing one. The Board recently updated Policy 2025 001 - Greeting & Board Rep Duties for Shabbat and B'nai Mitzvah Services

We have updated the list of the duties and responsibility for the Board Representative for all services outside of High Holy Days. This list includes such duties as arriving early and being the last person to leave, providing tacit security (in the form of a Greeter), reading announcements, helping to set up and clean up from Oneg as needed, and locking up the building at the end of the event.

Everything contained in this policy existed previously, but the details were updated and consolidated.

## Or Chadash Singers

Do you love singing or playing an instrument? Now's a great time to join Or Chadash Singers! Everyone is welcome.

We'll be singing for Teacher Appreciation Shabbat on **Friday, May 9**, and not long after that we'll begin summer rehearsals ahead of the High Holidays.

Questions? Contact Rachel Stroud-Goodrich at [rachel.stroudgoodrich@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.stroudgoodrich@gmail.com) or 718-490-7042.

## Passover Seder

There were so many people who helped bring off the Second Night Passover Seder again this year. Thanks to Susie Gellert, our organizer. As always, Debbie Lessans provided her catering expertise to enable us to make it a nice evening for all.

Those who did set up on Saturday were Debbie, Andrew Colby, and Jesse and Susie Gellert. Thanks also to those who had moved the gold chairs out of the way and set up all the tables on Friday night. That really helped make setup easier on Saturday. Several people came early on Sunday to help with the many last-minute tasks. Thanks to Susan Drubin, Jack Goldman, Terri Binder, and Andrew and Suzanne Colby. Heather Held stepped in to help as a greeter at the door to direct people as needed



Following the seder, lots of folks stepped in to clear tables, and to put away tables and chairs. Many also stepped in to help in the kitchen, especially Nancy Goldspiel, Julie Swain, Hilary Rosenbloom, and Andrew and Suzanne Colby.

Apologies to anyone we have forgotten to mention.

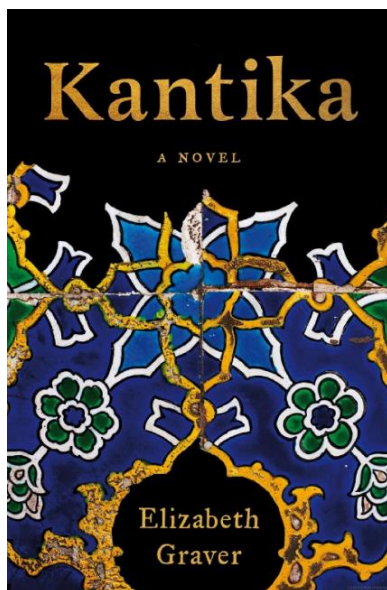




## Congregation Or Chadash Book Club

The next meeting of the Congregation Or Chadash Book Club is **Friday, May 9** 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 May is *Kantika* by Elizabeth Graver. 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, May 6** to Jane Harris, [clamityjgh@aol.com](mailto:clamityjgh@aol.com).

The June book club meeting is **Friday, June 13** and is the planning meeting for 2025-2026. Meeting location to be determined.

## Brotherhood

We finished updating The Brotherhood email list to include all of the current male members of the congregation who told us that they would like to receive our announcements. The new mailing list was used for the first time for our March Guys' Night Out, and we had a significant increase in attendance. We encourage all of our brothers to join us for good food and conversation.

The next Guys' Night Out dinners are scheduled for:

**Thursday, May 15** at New Village (Chinese) in Germantown, and **Thursday, June 19** at Barking Mad Cafe (a somewhat unique twist on American food) in Gaithersburg.

## Social Action / Social Justice

### Supporting Refugees

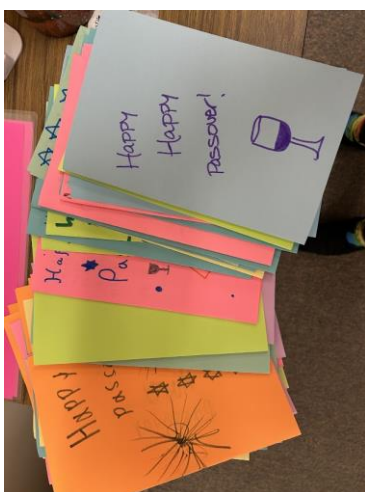
New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance (NNIA), in which Or Chadash participates with 29 other faith and civic organizations, is now assisting more than 60 new refugee families here in Montgomery County.

The resettlement agencies continue to reach out to NNIA to help families in need. (The agencies are unable to help because their federal funding has been revoked. We are also very worried about those families that came here with Temporary Protected Status, since that status is being revoked by the government, and these families are working with lawyers to be switched to a more permanent status.

We are very grateful to Congregation Or Chadash members who assisted in filling Welcome Baskets of necessary supplies for our families.

Resume writing, job search assistance and English tutoring is always needed. Contact us at [NNIAMaryland@gmail.com](mailto:NNIAMaryland@gmail.com), or contact congregant Debbie Eisenberg at [rjeisenberg@comcast.net](mailto:rjeisenberg@comcast.net) for more information, or to volunteer.

All of this work would not be possible without the incredibly generous financial support that we have received from our compassionate donors! 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 Gets Real Active at COC!

As in previous years, Congregation Or Chadash participated in Good Deeds Week, an event that takes place in early Spring every year in Jewish communities around the world.

Many activities were organized by the Social Action Committee. The children and teachers in the Religious School wrote and decorated Happy Passover cards that were delivered to the many Jewish residents at Riderwood. The B'nai Knitzvah group made scarves to be handed out to refugee families when the cold weather returns this fall. We had a whopper Food Drive for Manna. We organized a collection of household items to be given to 10 refugee families (in our association with NNIA) who arrived recently. Each family's items were put in a new laundry basket. All of these contributions—time, labor, money, sorting of items, delivering the collected items, etc.—are forms of Tikkun Olam: making the world a better place.





## Special Services

### Upcoming Potluck Dinners

We hope you will join us and make or bring your favorite dairy/vegetarian dish. There are some sample ideas in the SignUpGenius. 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, May 2**, and **Friday, June 6**. 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. Be called to the bimah and receive a special blessing and birthday treat to mark the occasion. We have Birthday Blessings every month. For the month of May, come on **Friday, May 2** at 6:15pm and for the month of June, join us on **Friday, June 6** at 6:15pm.

We also celebrate anniversaries within our Or Chadash family. Again, be invited onto the bimah for a special blessing and treat. This is also monthly with Anniversary Blessings on **Friday, May 23** at 6:15pm and **Friday, June 20**, at 6:15pm.

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

### Teacher / Madrikhim Appreciation

We hope you will join us at Shabbat services on **Friday, May 9** for a chance to thank our teachers and student volunteers for all their hard work over the year. Our teachers and madrikhim give time, energy, knowledge, and a lot of love to our students. Join us in expressing our gratitude for their dedication to ensuring a strong Jewish future.

### Shavuot

Shavuot is often a holiday that gets lost or forgotten in liberal Judaism as it usually happens after the conclusion of the Religious School year. It is the summer harvest holiday, but also the holiday that commemorates the receiving of the Torah. Moreover, according to our traditions, Shavuot is of the same importance as Sukkot and Passover. This year we are having a cheesecake bake-off! Make or buy a cheesecake, or come just to eat! Please join us on **Sunday, June 1** at 6:15pm to celebrate the Torah and participate in our taste-off!

## Oneg Schedule

Assignments for 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. You will be sent a reminder two weeks beforehand.

Friday, April 25	Rinkoff	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Rosenfeld - Dean	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, May 9	Sagona	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Schwartz	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, May 16	Schweizer	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	DiBartolo	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, May 23	Siskind	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Stahl	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, 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

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

### General Donations

Lisa Cahn in honor of Landon's Bar Mitzvah  
 Andrew & Suzanne Colby  
 Susan Gellert  
 Jack Goldman & Susan Drubin  
 Gerald Ray Mollie Lipshy Charitable Trust &  
 Judy Gable  
 Elie & Ziza Pallia in honor of Elijah's Bar  
 Mitzvah

### Tree of Life Donation

Lisa Cahn in honor of Aiden's Bar Mitzvah  
 Lisa Cahn in honor of Landon's Bar Mitzvah

## Mazel Tov

Congratulations to Natalie Wolfson on becoming a Bat Mitzvah on May 31.

## Welcome

Welcome to our new members: Alan Tinkleman, Laura Tinkleman, Emily Hanlen, and Anthony Rosado!!



## Condolences

We extend our deep condolences to Ilene Krom and her family on the death of her mother, Rosanne Blechman, who died on March 19.

## Yahrzeits

If you have an upcoming yahrzeit that is not listed, please call the office at 301-482-1025, and we will add any names you wish to remember. Names will be read at Shabbat services during the week of a loved one's death. When two dates are shown, the names will be read during the Friday evening and Saturday morning Shabbat services. Note that the second column lists the observing member.

### Friday, May 2

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

### Friday, May 9

William Eisenberg	Father of Robert Eisenberg
Dorothy Grenadier	Great-aunt of Ellyn Baum
Pauline Greenspan	Mother of Arlene Greenspan
Richard Spector	Friend of Michael Abrahams & Susan White
Bruce Gould	Uncle of Diane Levitus
Francis Carmody	Stepfather of Leslie Dicken

### Friday, May 16

Ella Garfunkel	Grandmother of Diane Levitus
Dorothy Petok	Mother of Fred Petok
Sophie Blagman	Grandmother of Karl Gussow

### Friday, May 23

Norman Lobsenz	Father of Michael Abrahams
Helen Raucher	Mother of Melissa Benowitz
Sybil Slong	Great-aunt of Barbara Marx

### Friday, May 30 & Saturday, May 31

Donna Page	Sister of Debbie Lessans
Arnold Paley	Father-in-law of Ken Tharp
Sylvia Wasserman	Great-aunt of David Bender
Joseph Page	Father of Debbie Lessans
Anne Farhi	Mother of Lona Farhi
**Linda Tharp	Wife of Ken Tharp
Marvin Lansat	Father of Howard Lansat
Florence Tropp	Grandmother of Anne Gussow
Anne Steinberg	Maternal Grandmother of Lisa Cahn

### Friday, June 6

Betty Cohen	Mother of Doreen
Phyllis Rosenthal	Sister of Cindy Bender
Reva Cooperstein	Mother of Daniel Cooperstein
Samuel Light	Father of Susan Lichtman
David Glaser	Father of Nancy Goldspiel
Jack Greenspan	Father of Arlene Greenspan
Lillian Young	Mother of Gary Young

### Friday, June 13

Samuel Stein	Grandfather of Ilene Krom
Roslyn Goldberg	Mother of Julie Swain
Benjamin Zavín	Father of Jack Zavín
Roslyn Elson	Mother of Terri Binder
**Helen Lebedinsky	Grandmother of Alex Lebedinsky

### Friday, June 20

Selma Privot	Mother of Roz Zeidman
Morris Slonk	Grandfather of Barbara Marx
Robert Elson	Father of Terri Binder
David Thorner	Father of Bruce Thorner
Patty Lansat Pollack	Sister of Howard Lansat

### Friday, June 27

John Benenati	Father of Luciano Benenati
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### Friday, July 4

Nathan Blagman	Grandfather of Karl Gussow
**Philip David Zeidman	Father of Ricke Zeidman
	Grandfather of Philip Zeidman
	Mother of Jon Clark
Florence Clark	Father of Dave Bender
**Mitchell S. Bender	Son of Andrew & Alison Felrice
Samuel Felrice	Mother of Debbie Lessans
Elinor Page	Grandfather of Lisa Cahn
Ludwig Cahn	Father of Rona Kandel
Lawrence Solowey	Father of Sam Taylor
Samuel Richard Taylor Jr	Father of Susan Gellert
**Ferrell Winfield Furr	Grandfather of Jesse Gellert
	Grandfather of Ron Isaacson
Leonard Wolfson	

### Friday, July 11

Doris Locke	Mother of Ralph Locke
Milton Marx	Father of Fred Marx
George Slong	Uncle of Barbara Marx
Sarah Soltar	Grandmother of Fred Petok



## **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:

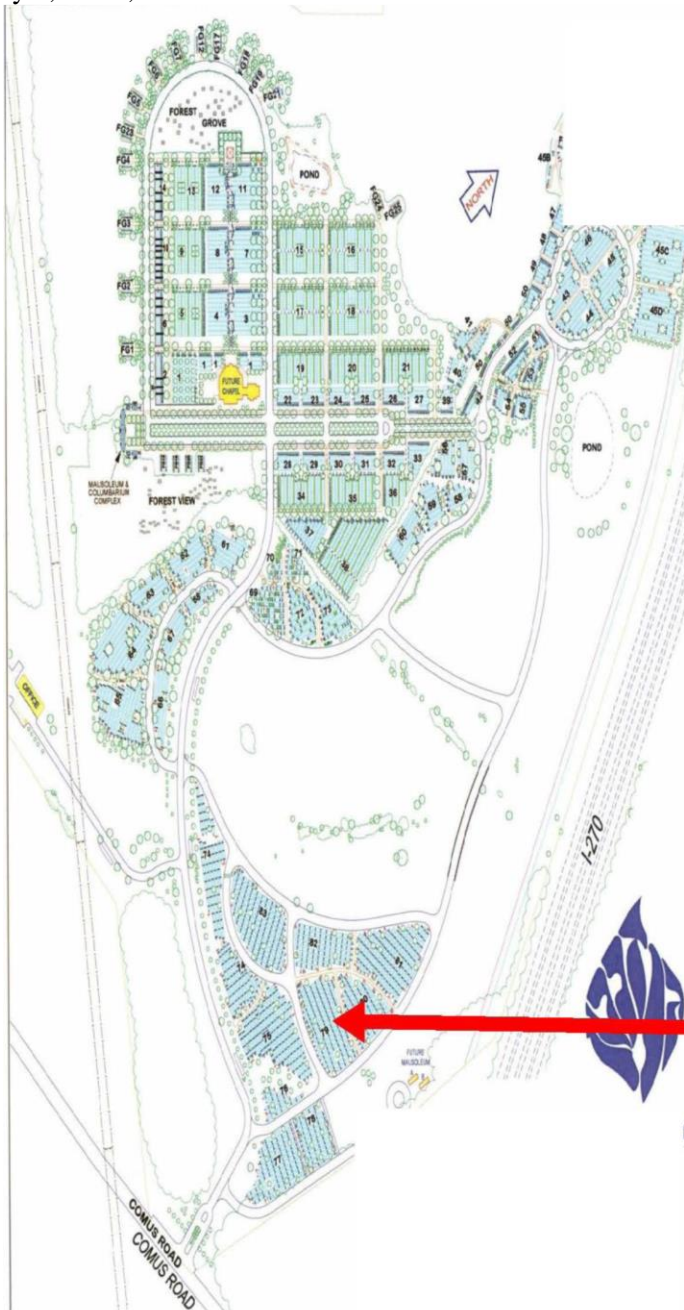
-Interment (opening/closing of grave).....	\$1,950
-Installed Concrete Grave Liner.....	\$ 900

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)



12	11	10-5	10
13-30	12-30	11-30	10-30
13-29	12-29	11-29	10-29
13-28	12-28	11-28	10-28
13-27	12-27	11-27	10-27
13-26	12-26	11-26	10-26
13-25	12-25	11-25	10-25
13-24	12-24	11-24	10-24
13-23	12-23	11-23	10-23
13-22	12-22	11-22	10-22
13-21	12-21	11-21	10-21
13-20	12-20	11-20	10-20
13-19	12-19	11-19	10-19
13-18	12-18	11-18	10-18
13-17	12-17	11-17	10-17
13-16	12-16	11-16	10-16
13-15	12-15	11-15	10-15
13-14	12-14	11-14	10-14
13-13	12-13	11-13	10-13
13-12	12-12	11-12	10-12
13-11	12-11	11-11	10-11
13-10	12-10	11-10	10-10
13-9	12-9	11-9	10-9
13-8	12-8	11-8	10-8
13-7	12-7	11-7	10-7
13-6	12-6	11-6	10-6
13-5	12-5	11-5	10-5
13-4	12-4	11-4	10-4
13-3	12-3	11-3	10-3
13-2	12-2	11-2	10-2
13-1	12-1	11-1	10-1
12	11	10-5	10

\*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

☒ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ Check or cash (enclosed)

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

**Return forms to the Temple office at  
24800 Kings Valley Rd., Damascus, MD 20872 or  
email to [orchadashadmin@gmail.com](mailto:orchadashadmin@gmail.com).**

