

# Or Chadash FOCUS



By Rabbi Alison B. Kobey

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

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

more and more of a me-first attitude and more and more people are on edge, snapping at one another when we should be supporting one another. And we have the added challenges of “technological communities,” facebook, twitter, youtube, chatrooms, listservs, and more. Yes, I utilize those social media as well, but, admittedly, I am a hold-out- I strongly prefer books with actual pages and definitely prefer the benefits of in-person communities. Imagine, for a moment, the hora... a wonderful inclusive dance, people touching, faces lighting up with joy, the festive music, the hands coming together, additional circles getting added, people weaving in and out of each other... Now, imagine a virtual hora... needless to say, pushing “click here to play” just is not the same.

(continued on page 3)

**SHABBAT/HOLIDAY SERVICES** *(While we encourage in person attendance, these services are all multi-access. Zoom links are found in our weekly e-mail blasts.)*

**Friday, May 1** - 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Pre-K/K participation

**Friday, May 1** - 7:15pm(ish) Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

**Friday, May 8** - 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Teacher/Madrikhim Appreciation & Birthday blessings

**Friday, May 15** - 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Anniversary blessings

**Friday, May 22** - 6:15pm

Shavuot/Shabbat Services with Confirmation & Graduation

**Friday, May 29** - 6:15pm Shabbat Services

**Friday, June 5** - 6:15pm Shabbat Services

**Friday, June 5** - 7:15pm(ish) Dairy/Vegetarian Potluck Dinner

**Friday, June 12** - 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Pride theme and Birthday blessings

**Friday, June 19** - 6:15pm Shabbat Services with Anniversary Blessings

**Friday, June 26** - 6:15pm Shabbat Services

# Contacting Us



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Religious School Committee  
Ritual Committee  
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## *President's Column*

Well, we are coming to the end of another year at Congregation Or Chadash (our fiscal year begins on June 1). And with the start of a new year, our Board Of Directors will also be changing. One of the changes that is likely to happen is that we will have a new President. So I wanted to use this letter as a chance to say "Thank You" to all of you for your support of me over the last 3 years.

Thank You!

Thank you for your patience as I learned how to do this job, and for the many, many, MANY mistakes I have made along the way. Thank you for answering the call when I asked for people to contribute to causes that we participate in including (but not limited to) Rise Against Hunger. Thank you for helping me learn that, while we all have different views (politically, religiously, personally, etc), we can all work together to grow our community. And for so

much more, Thank You!

Congregation Or Chadash continues to grow. And with growth comes opportunities for change. I urge everyone to consider how they can help shape these changes as we are preparing for this new year. Can you help with membership? Can you help by volunteering in the religious school? Social Action? Ritual Committee? Library? The list of opportunities are endless. And I encourage everyone to find ways to make a difference in helping our community to grow.

As my position is changing, I will join you in finding new ways to make a difference. While I will be remaining on the board, I will try to find other ways to help shape our congregation.

*L'Shalom!*  
*Ilene Krom*  
*President*

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

We hope you will join us in person or over zoom on **Wednesday, May 20 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).

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

I have wrestled with this primary issue for years... What holds us together? What keeps us together? How do I help you find doorways into Temple-life and how do I help you want to come back? What is it about Judaism that you love? What resonates with you? What can I do to help support your Judaism?

What is the glue that holds us together? What keeps us in a sacred community? You.

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

## Religious School Committee

The school year will conclude on **Sunday, May 17** with special **Israeli programming** on **May 12 and 17**. 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 sports, art, geography, history, and more! 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 12**, 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 games, and much more! The entire congregation is welcome to join us in the **Tuesday, May 12** 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.

### Religious School Schedule

In Session:

**May 3,5,10,12,17**

**Last Day of Religious School is May 17**

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 the Focus or on our website ([cong-orchadashmd.org](http://cong-orchadashmd.org)) for details. As an added incentive, students who attend services during the summer will receive a **treat or prize** and will be able to participate in **Shabbat Bingo** for an additional treat or prize!

You should have received the **2026-27 Religious School registration form** in the Or Chadash annual meeting mailing in May and in the April 17 email from Congregation Or Chadash. You can also find a fillable PDF version of the form in the May 3 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 May 17: save \$100/student in Pre-K through 7<sup>th</sup> grade and \$50/student in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.**

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

*L’Shalom,*

*The Religious School Committee*

## Torah/Text Study

Please note that some Torah Study / Talmud sessions are in person only and some are Zoom only.

### Saturday, May 2 – 9:30am Torah Study

#### (In-Person Only) *Emor (Leviticus 21:1-24:23)*

Does God want perfection? Are exemptions from service a support or an embarrassment to a person? Do we shame God? What is your favorite Torah holiday and why? How have we held to the Torah principles and how have we shifted?

### Saturday, May 2 – 11:00am Song of Songs chapters 5-6 (In-Person Only)

### Saturday, May 9- 9:30am Torah Study (Zoom Only) *Behar-Bechukotai (Leviticus. 25:1-27:34)*

Why is resting the land important? What happens if we do not listen to God? How do we even “the playing field” in today’s society? What is our reward if we listen to God? Does threatening someone work? What is a vow worth?

### Saturday, May 16– 9:30am Torah Study (In-Person Only) *Bemidbar (Numbers 1:1-4:20)*

### Saturday, May 16 – 11:00am Song of Songs chapters 7-8 (In-Person only)

### Saturday, May 23 – 9:30am Torah Study (In-Person Only) *Naso (Numbers 4:21-7:89)*

What happens when one person betrays another? Where did the Salem witch trials originate and how does that connect to the Torah? What is the origin of the Priestly Benediction? Why do Levites get special presents? How often do we need a census? Why were they Biblically important and why today?

### Saturday, May 23 - 11:00am Talmud Class (In person only)

### Saturday, May 30– 9:30am Torah Study (Zoom Only) *Beha'alotecha (Numbers 8:1-12:16)*

When is an honor not an honor? Why are rituals so important in our lives? Why are we a people of complainers? Can leaving Sinai be a good thing? If we can criticize God and it is okay, why is it

sometimes harder to criticize Moses?

**Saturday, June 6 – 9:30am Torah Study (Zoom only) *Shelach L'chah (Num. 13:1-15:41)*** How do we know when to follow the 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 13 – 9:30am Torah Study (In person only) *Korach (Num. 16:1-18:32)*** When is rebellion okay? Do God’s punishments fit the crime? 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 13 – 11:00am Talmud Class (In person only)

**Saturday, June 20 – 9:30am Torah Study (Zoom only) *Chukat (Numbers 19:1-22:1)*** How do we reconcile human/animal imperfection with Torah? Why do we rewrite history no matter how horrid it was? Are there healthy and unhealthy ways of coping with death? How do we negotiate with people? What causes us to sing?

**Saturday, June 27 – 9:30am Torah Study (In person only) *Balak (Numbers 22:2-25:9)*** Are rumors ever helpful? Why does Rabbi Kobey have so much fun with this portion? How do you really know when God taps you on the shoulder? What are the repercussions of standing up for our beliefs? Can we go against God? How do we maintain our dignity in the midst of evil? Bonus: look at the last line of the Haftarah portion.

### Saturday, June 27 – 11:00am Talmud Class (In person only)

## Adult Education

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

**Sunday, May 3 at 7:00pm (In person only)**  
(OPEN TO ALL AGES) Rhythms of Israel: A Drumming Circle Experience built around Israeli rhythm and story telling by guest Yoel Gleizer. See page 9 for a fuller description.

Turning Points in Jewish History part 3 and 4  
**Friday, May 1, 12:00pm (Zoom only)**

A Look at the Ten Commandments  
**Thursday, May 21, 7:00pm (Zoom only)**

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class will be forming soon. Reach out to Rabbi to join our fun.

**Tuesday, May 26, 5:45pm-7:00pm (In person only)**

**Tuesday, June 30, 5:45pm-7:00pm (In person only)**

(OPEN TO ALL AGES) We are hoping to have a COC trip to Israel **May 26, 2027 – June 6, 2027**. If you are interested in the trip, please reach out to Rabbi.

## Sabbatical

Did you know that the term “sabbatical” is related to the word Shabbat and is meant to be a time of rest? In the Torah, every seventh year is a sabbatical year in which the land lies fallow. Sabbaticals are typically taken by rabbis in their seventh year of work for a congregation. Because of various logistics, I have never taken a sabbatical, but I am delighted to share that I will be taking a sabbatical January – April 2027. During this period, I will have the opportunity to rest, study, travel, and gain new perspectives. My contract states that I can take three months during one cycle and then another three months again. I share this with you now as the concept of sabbatical is primarily found in Parashat Behar (the Torah portion on May 9). Moreover, I wanted to be sure there would be transparency and a smooth transition while I am away.

*-Rabbi Alison B. Kobey*

## FOCUS Distribution

Please note that we are no longer mailing the Focus. You may download it and we will have printed copies in the building if people want.

## **Congregation Or Chadash Kosher Policy**

Kashrut is the term applied to foods that meet Jewish religious requirements. It is used in the sense of food that is ritually clean and edible. Kasher or Kosher means fit to eat. Congregation Or Chadash asks that all people using the building or Temple grounds, including our members, show respect to our sacred tradition; so 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 or on the grounds (i.e. no pork and no shellfish and no gelatin)

- There should be no mixing of milk and meat (includes chicken) throughout the entire event.

This includes “large” or “small” ingredients. Examples include:

- o Cheeseburgers
- o Chicken dinner with rolls and butter
- o Chicken dinner with ice cream for dessert
- o A cake made with butter at a meal with meat

- There may not be dairy foods at one table and meat foods at a different table.

Pareve means something neutral, such as fish or eggs or salad and can be served with either dairy or meat. It means the items cannot even have minor meat or milk ingredients.

## **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!

## *Keeping Up with Or Chadash*

### **Committee Meetings**

#### **Membership Committee**

**Wednesday, May 6** at 7:00pm (In-person only)

#### **Ritual Committee**

**Wednesday, May 20** at 6:00pm (In-person only)

#### **Social Action Committee**

**Wednesday, May 27** at 6:30pm (Zoom only)

#### **Library Committee**

**Sunday, June 7** at 10:00am (In-person only)

#### **Religious School Committee**

**Sunday, June 7** at 7:30pm (Zoom only)

## **CALENDARING**

Now is the time that we plan the 2026-2027 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.

## **CORY**

**Saturday, May 16** at **3:00pm** Hike at Great Falls. Please RSVP to Rabbi.

### **COCers WHO ENJOY COOKING/BAKING/FOOD**

Rabbi needs a few volunteers to help with a special program on **Tuesday, May 12**. 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.

### **ISRAEL PROGRAMMING FOR ALL**

**Tuesday, May 12** from **6:30pm-8:00pm** is our final Tuesday 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 12**. We will have a special Israeli shuk (market) including food, food tasting, Israel games, and more! Please RSVP to Rabbi and join our special day.

## GUEST SPEAKER

Guest Speaker: Yoel Gleizer

**Sunday, May 3 at 7:00pm**

Rhythms of Israel: A Drumming Circle

Experience - an interactive, all-ages session that combines group drumming, Israeli rhythms, and storytelling. Hear short stories and context about Israeli culture and music, touching on how rhythm shows up in everyday Israeli life, celebrations, and community gatherings, along with how Israeli music blends Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, and Western influences, and personal reflections about growing up in Israel

and how music shapes identity and resilience.

Bio: Yoel Gleizer is an Israeli musician, singer-songwriter, and community emissary (shaliach) at Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland. Through music, storytelling, and interactive experiences, he brings Israeli culture to life for diverse audiences. Yoel leads engaging workshops, such as “Rhythms of Israel: A Drumming Circle Experience,” that combine live percussion, Israeli rhythms, and personal stories to create meaningful and joyful connections to Israel.

## Special Services

### Potlucks

We hope you will join us and make or bring your favorite dairy/vegetarian dish. There are some sample ideas in the sign-up genius. Please know that we want everyone to be welcome and included. While we hope people will sign-up in advance and bring a dish to share, if you spontaneously come to Shabbat services or cannot bring food that evening, we hope you will still be comfortable staying and joining us at the potluck dinners. Please sign up to bring a dish if you are able.

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

**Friday, May 1, June 5, July 3 at 7:15pm(ish).**

### Shabbat Greeter and Tech Support

We would love for you to sign up on the SignUpGenius (or reach out to Rabbi if you are having trouble) to be the door greeter or the tech person. If you are not yet trained in either (or both), we would be happy to train you! This link is also the link for the oneg list. Thank you in advance for volunteering!

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050845ACA622A7FC1-56236090-shabbat#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050845ACA622A7FC1-56236090-shabbat#/)

### Celebrating Simchas (Happy Occasions)

Celebrate your birthday with your Or Chadash family. Be called to the bimah and receive a special blessing and a birthday treat to mark the occasion. We have birthday blessings every month. For May and June join us at **6:15pm on Friday, May 8 and Friday, June 12**, respectively.

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 15 at 6:15pm and Friday, June 19 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 8** for a chance to thank our teachers and student volunteers for all their hard work over the year. Our teachers and madrikhim give time, energy, knowledge, and a lot of love to our students. Join us in expressing our gratitude for their dedication to ensuring a strong Jewish future.

## Shavuot

Shavuot is often a holiday that gets lost or forgotten in liberal Judaism as it usually happens after the conclusion of the Religious School year. It is the summer harvest holiday, but also the holiday in which we received the Torah. Moreover, the reality of Shavuot is that according to our tradition, it is actually of the same importance as Sukkot and Passover. This year Shavuot begins **Thursday, May 21** and the second night is **Friday, May 22**. When Shavuot coincides with Shabbat, we celebrate them together. Thus, please join us on **Thursday, May 21** for an adult education class on the Ten Commandments and please join us on **Friday, May 22 at 6:15pm** for Shabbat/Shavuot/Confirmation. This year, we are delighted to have three Confirmands and hope you will join us in celebrating with them. Also, on that evening, we will celebrate our four High School graduates as well.

### Confirmands:

Zack Chidakel  
Ben Felrice  
Adam Wolfson

### High School Graduates:

Aiden Ballonoff  
Ryan Chidakel  
Micah Felman  
Natalie Gussow



## 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, Board of Directors*

## Brotherhood

The Brotherhood continues to meet monthly for dinner on the third Thursday of each month. In March, Guys' Night Out met at The Athens Grill in Montgomery Village and in April at Burton's Grill & Bar in the Kentlands. Tentative plans are to meet at Dogfish Head in Gaithersburg in May and at Rio Grande in Germantown in July. Give yourself a night off from your busy schedule. Join us for Guys' Night Out and enjoy meeting new friends along with eating a good meal! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jack Goldman at [jackhgoldman24@gmail.com](mailto:jackhgoldman24@gmail.com), Bruce Thorner at [robinhood@earthlink.net](mailto:robinhood@earthlink.net), or Ralph Locke at [rlocke@esm.rochester.edu](mailto:rlocke@esm.rochester.edu). We hope to see you at a future Guys' Night Out!

## Mah Jongg

We meet on the third Sunday of the month from 2:00pm-4:00pm. All levels are encouraged and beginners are welcome. Everyone is learning and we will provide instruction and refreshers as needed. There is no obligation to come every month ... just come whenever you are able. If you have and are able, please bring a Mah Jongg set and/or square card table.

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

## Social Action

Thank you to students and adult congregants who donated their time on Sunday, February 22 to fill backpacks with essentials needed by

children going into foster care. We are also very appreciative to everyone who donated backpacks as well as personal care and other essential items for filling the backpacks. We were able to fill 20 backpacks which were delivered on Monday, February 23 to Comfort Cases. This hopefully brings some comfort and dignity to children in need of foster placement.

In March and April, we turned our attention to Good Deeds Day, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. This year our activities focused on fighting food insecurity in Montgomery County. The Social Action Committee sponsored three events for Good Deeds Day.

1. We hosted a canned food drive throughout March, ending on Good Deeds Day, April 12. We were able to fill the back and backseat of my SUV with canned goods and other non-perishable food. The food was delivered to the Manna Food Center on Monday, April 13. Thanks to everyone in the congregation for making this such a big success.

2. Members of the Social Action Committee prepared a meal Saturday evening April 11 for the Stepping Stones Family Shelter. We received donations of food from the Social Action Committee membership. Beth Switzer and Arlene Greenspan prepared a spaghetti dinner and Mike Crutcher and Arlene Greenspan delivered the meal.

3. Finally, the Social Action Committee obtained a microgrant of \$1,000 to fight food insecurity for Good Deeds Day. We used the money to buy halal meat, rice, oranges, and milk for Afghan refugee families who are a part of the New Neighbor Interfaith Alliance (NNIA). I want to thank NNIA members for buying the food and obtaining the many volunteers needed to distribute food throughout Montgomery County. From COC, I would like to thank Debbie Eisenberg who stepped in to

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Iyar, Sivan, Tammuz 5786      May/June 2026  
assist with organizing the distribution on  
Sunday, April 12. I had the opportunity to  
deliver to three different families and they were  
all so grateful for the food. To me it  
demonstrated the importance of interfaith work  
and recognizing the needs of everyone,  
celebrating our diversity.

Good Deeds Day was a huge lift for our  
committee. As summer approaches, we will  
take a short break and cancel our April and May  
meetings. We will meet again in June to start  
planning for the coming year. Announcement  
for our June meeting will be in Happenings.  
*Arlene Greenspan, Social Action Chair*

### **Congregation Or Chadash Book Club**

The next meeting of the Congregation Or  
Chadash Book Club is **Friday, May 8**  
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 **Henna House** by Naomi  
Eve.

This book is available at the Montgomery

### **Fundraiser**

The Fundraising Committee is back up and  
running. We did our first event, a very social  
Trivia & Game Night. We raised about \$500 and  
had some fun! A comedy night at Give a Hoot



County Public Libraries but there are only two  
copies of the book. The book is also available  
as an eAudiobook on Hoopla. Book club  
discussion questions can be found at  
<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Henna-House/Nomi-Eve/9781476740287>

This is a coed book club. All are welcome to  
attend!

Please RSVP by **Tuesday, May 5** to Jane Harris  
at [clamityjgh@aol.com](mailto:clamityjgh@aol.com).

Comedy Club for the fall months is in the  
works!

If you'd like information on the committee or  
would like to join the committee to help plan  
things just call or email Debbie Lessans.

## Mazel Tov

Janet Ballonoff is proud to announce the birth of her grandchild: Oliver Peregrin Ballonoff.  
 Born February 25, 2026, 5 lbs. 11 ounces; 20.5 inches long.  
 Proud Parents: Kyle Ballonoff and Ashley Whitmire

Nancy and Barry Goldspiel are proud to announce the birth of their grandchild: Jonah Ash Goldspiel  
 Born March 12, 2026, weighing in at 6 lb 15 oz.  
 Proud Parents: Ethan and Tamara Goldspiel

Eliana Reese on becoming a B'nai Mitzvah March 14, 2026  
 Proud parents: Deborah and Matt Reese

## Oneg Schedule

Oneg assignments have been made for the year. Assignments for May are listed below. We appreciate everyone's willingness to provide hospitality for our community in our sacred home. If you have any issues with your assignment, please email us at orchadashadmin@gmail.com. You will be sent a reminder the Monday beforehand.

Friday, May 8	Margot & Steve Raphael	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Cara & Evan Rinkoff	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, May 15	Laura Rose	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Lou & Ting Rosenthal	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, May 22	Francine & Rob Sagona	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Dara & Stephen Santa	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)
Friday, May 29	TBD	Oneg A (wine/juice/drinks, sweet treats)
	Laura Sardilli	Oneg B (challah, fruit/veggies, healthy snacks)



### Ronald Isaacson, Tutor

#### Hebrew

(Bar/Bat Mitzvah, 65+ students)

Member of Or Chadash since 1994

**(301) 996-9153**

**isaacson4@gmail.com**

## Thank You to Our Donors

Thank you to our generous donors. Note that this list includes donations that were deposited between February and mid-April. Please contact the office for more information.

### General Donations

Rich & Michelle Bailen: In Memory of M. Roizner  
Howard & Melissa Benowitz  
Irwin & Terri Binder  
Andrew & Suzanne Colby  
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Jonathan & Laura Jackel  
Milton & Rona Kandel: In Memory of Gladys & Harry Kandel  
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### Tree of Life

Margot & Steven: In Honor of Elias Samson Raphael

### Yahrtzeit Board

Alex & Melissa Lebedinsky: In Memory of Betty Lebedinsky



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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)

## Yahrtzeits

If you have an upcoming yahrtzeit 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 1

Audrey Dicken	Mother of Phil Dicken
Fred Lafer	Uncle of Ellyn Baum
Gerry Reese	Father of Matthew Reese
Linda Wickwire	Mother of Alison Felrice

### Friday, May 8

Sophie Blagman	Grandmother of Karl Gussow
Francis Carmody	Stepfather of Leslie Dicken
William Eisenberg	Father of Robert Eisenberg
Bruce Gould	Uncle of Diane Levitus
Dorothy Greadier	Great-aunt of Ellyn Baum
Richard Spector	Friend of Michael Abrahams and Susan White

### Friday, May 15

Ella Garfunkel	Grandmother of Diane Levitus
Dorothy Petok	Mother of Fred Petok
Helen Raucher	Mother of Melissa Benowitz
Sylvia Wasserman	Great-aunt of David Bender

### Friday, May 22

Betty Cohen	Mother of Doreen Kreger
Reva Cooperstein	Mother of Daniel Cooperstein
Samuel Light	Father of Susan Lichtman
Norman Lobsenz	Father of Michael Abrahams
Phyllis Rosenthal	Sister of Cindy Bender
Sybil Slong	Great-aunt of Barbara Marx
Vivian Stahl	Wife of Bob Senseney
Anne Steinberg	Grandmother of Lisa Cahn

### Friday, May 29

Anne Farhi	Mother of Lona Farhi
Jack Greenspan	Father of Arlene Greenspan
Marvin Lansat	Father of Howard Lansat
Donna Page	Sister of Debbie Lessans
Joseph Page	Father of Debbie Lessans
Arnold Paley	Father-in-law of Ken Tharp
**Linda Tharp	Wife of Ken Tharp
Florence Tropp	Grandmother of Anne Gussow
Nancy White	Mother of Susan White

### Friday, June 5

Roslyn Elson	Mother of Terri Binder
David Glaser	Father of Nancy Goldspiel
Benjamin Zavin	Father of Jack Zavin

### Friday, June 12

Robert Elson	Father of Terri Binder
Roslyn Goldberg	Mother of Julie Swain
**Helen Lebedinsky	Grandmother of Alex Lebedinsky
Samuel Stein	Grandfather of Ilene Krom
David Thorner	Father of Bruce Thorner
Lillian Young	Mother of Gary Young

### Friday, June 19

Nathan Blagman	Grandfather of Karl Gussow
Sue Carr	Wife of Richard Carr
Patty Lansat Pollack	Sister of Howard Lansat
Selma Privot	Mother of Roz Zeidman
Morris Slonk	Grandfather of Barbara Marx
Norma K. Stone	Grandmother of Deborah Reese and Sarah Stone

### Friday, June 26

John Benenati	Father of Luciano Benenati
Ludwig Cahn	Grandfather of Lisa Cahn
Beatrice Stone	Grandmother of Deborah Reese and Sarah Stone

### Friday, July 3

**Mitchell S. Bender	Father of Dave Bender
Florence Clark	Mother of Jon Clark
Annette Dirlam	Wife of David Dirlam
Samuel Felrice	Son of Andrew & Alison Felrice
Elinor Page	Mother of Debbie Lessans
Lawrence Solowey	Father of Rona Kandel
**Philip David Zeidman	Grandfather of Philip Zeidman
Rhonda Zinn	Sister of Donna Goldsteen

\*\*Yahrtzeit Plaque

# Congregation Or Chadash

## Tree of Life

Honor simchas (happy life events) with  
a leaf on Congregation Or Chadash's

Tree of Life.

Two leaf sizes are available as well as a few special doves.

To order, please fill out the form below and return to the temple office.

To order remembrance plaques for the Yahrzeit Board, Please use the Yahrzeit Plaques

Order Form



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Small Leaf - Suggested Donation \$180 - Up to four lines, 25 characters per line.

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

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Dove - Suggested Donation \$1000 - Call the office for more details

Congregation Or Chadash  
24800 Kings Valley Rd., Damascus, MD 20872

301-482-1025 (d)  
301-482-1027 (f)

