

קהילת אור חדש
CONGREGATION OR CHADASH
CONGREGATION OF NEW LIGHT



The New Light

The Chain Continues

By Marvin Levin, OC Co-President

In many congregations, it is a tradition at a Bar/Bat Mitzvah to pass the Torah from grandparents to parents and then to the child about to assume the role of an adult. This tradition symbolizes the continuity of Judaism and forges a new chain in that history. At last month's Gala, Or Chadash witnessed a new form of continuity, a new chain in a new tradition.

This year's Gala marked the conclusion of a challenge grant by Norman Sandfield, in which he challenged the congregation to match his donation with the pledge to match the monies collected. We met his challenge.

Later in the evening Robin Sampliner, Vice-President and Gala coordinator, interrupted the festivities

with an announcement. **Howard Wax** and **Rob Pooley**, moved by Norman's generosity and the success of Norman's challenge, had just issued a challenge of their own. If, over the next year, Or Chadash members donate \$5,000 toward meeting that challenge, Howard and Rob will match that amount with a \$5,000 donation at next year's Gala.

First, a great big *Todah Rabah* - Thank You - first to Norman for his generosity, leadership, vision and inspiration. And then to Howard and Rob for picking up the torch/torah. Now it's up to us, the other members of Congregation Or Chadash. In the next 12 months, please make your own contributions to the

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the community of

**Or Chadash,
The Congregation of
New Light**

In Chicago

**Come Add
Your Light
To Ours!**

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congregation and mark them as matching the Wax/Pooley challenge grant. We've been issued a challenge; let's show Howard and Rob that we will meet their challenge with our own generosity.

Congratulations to Rabbi Edwards

Rabbi Edwards has been chosen to participate in a seminar on "Christianity and the Holocaust: Teaching the Tough Questions" to be held at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in June. We offer our congratulations to him for being selected.

Shavuos is Coming! Ruth & Cheesecake!!

Sunday June 8 @ 7:30 PM for Shavuos

What was the real reason that Naomi returned with Ruth? Was she a woman without a country? How do you build an interfaith relationship? These and other questions will be the focus of our study. (See Rabbi's column)

Or Chadash will have its own study, schmooze and nosh session from 7:30 – 10 p.m. before the Kehilla all-niter (remember all-niters?) We will have our own room at Anshe Emet for our

group and then those who wish to stay for the Rabbinic panel or more may join the larger group.

Save the Date: Shabbat on the Shore, June 13

Please join us Friday, June 13 when we hold our Shabbat service on the beach just outside Emanuel, beginning at 8 p.m. Please bring something comfortable to sit on, such as a blanket or beach chair. A flashlight will also be helpful for reading. If the weather does not cooperate, we will hold services in Stonewall Chapel.

Greater Chicago Jewish Festival June 15th

The Greater Chicago Jewish Festival will be held this year on Sunday, June 15th, at the Forest Preserve in Morton Grove. The Festival is one of the largest such events in the country, and features entertainment, music, dance, crafts and ethnic food.

Or Chadash will have an information booth at

the Festival and we need people to help staff the booth. The Festival runs from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM and we need volunteers to cover these hours, as well as to help set up (at 9 am) and take down the booth. If you are willing to give an hour or two of your time, please let us know. Send email to office@orchadash.org or call the hotline (773-271-2148). And even if you are not able to help we encourage everyone to come to the Festival and bring your friends and family – it's free and is great fun for all!

Save the Date: June 29th ...Pride!

Or Chadash will once again have an entry in the Chicago Pride parade, which this year is on Sunday, June 29th at noon. We will gather at around 11 a.m.

If you are interested in working on the entry or just marching, please see Howard Wax or email the O.C. office at office@orchadash.org or call (773) 271-2148.

Cycles of Our Lives

Happy Birthday:

June 1 Larry Posen
June 2 Burl Covan
June 15 Linda Preston
June 19 Stephanie
Friedman
June 21 Burton D. Korman
June 24 Cari Rezman
June 25 Sheila Beller
June 28 Steven Rosenberg

Happy Anniversary

June 21 Stephen Weiser
and Andrew
Deppe
June 29 John Griffith and
Matt Santori-
Griffith

Thanks for the Oneg....

June 6: Richard Bender in memory of his grandfather, David Levin

June 7: Lunch sponsored by Sara Fisher in honor of her birthday

June 13: Ed Mogul in memory of Luis Coral

June 20: Oneg sponsored by John Griffith and Matt Santori-Griffith in honor of their 10th anniversary

June 27: Potluck sponsored by Susan Boone and Rabbi Larry Edwards in honor of Burl Covan, to thank him for his efforts in seeking oneg sponsors and to wish him good luck with his move.

June Service Schedule

June 6: Shabbat service with Marvin Levin and Judith Golden, 8 p.m.

June 7: Saturday morning service, 10 a.m. A light lunch follows.

June 13: Beach service with David Morck, 8 p.m.

June 20: Board Installation and Torah service with Rabbi Edwards and Judith Golden, 8 p.m.

June 27: Pride Shabbat service with Rabbi Edwards, 8 p.m. A potluck dinner precedes the service at 7 p.m. Please bring a kosher style side dish (no pork or shellfish, no mixing of meat and milk) or dessert to share.

June Dine-around

The June dine-around will be at Summer Noodles & Rice, 1123 West Granville, on June 13 at 6:15 p.m. No reservations are needed, but try to arrive by 6 p.m. to ensure adequate seating.

June Potluck

Beginning in June, we will no longer be having the Shabbos Tisch service on the last Friday of the month. Instead, we will be holding a regular Shabbat evening service in Stonewall Chapel at 8 p.m.

Services on the last Friday of the month will now be preceded by a separate potluck dinner in the Dannenberg Room at 7 p.m.

Out at the Ballgame

Or Chadashniks will be heading to Wrigley Field on Sunday, July 27 for the annual Out at the Ballgame event.

The Cubs will be playing the Florida Marlins that afternoon at 1:20 p.m.

For information, please see Susan Jacobson or email or phone the Or Chadash office at office@orchash.org or (773) 271-2148.

Congregation Or Chadash

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Cantorial Soloist: Judith Golden

Co-Presidents:
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Executive VP: Robin Sampliner
Treasurer: Rick Greenthal
Webmaster: Steven Joachim

Rabbi Edwards is available by appointment and can be reached via email:
rabbiedwards@orchadash.org
or phone (773) 326-1490

ONEG SPONSORSHIP

Celebrate a birthday, graduation or anniversary, or honor/memorialize a loved one with an oneg sponsorship. Please contact the Or Chadash office at office@orchadash.org to make arrangements and pick a date. Thank you!

Thanks for the donation!

Thank you to Maria Parks and Stephanie Friedman in memory of Rosann Parks, and to Yehuda Jacobi and Mike Simon in memory of Corinne Pelletier.

Also, we collected \$100.31 in Tzedakah that went to Seeds of Peace.

Our Mission

To provide a warm and affirming community where all Jews can feel welcome. To accomplish this mission, Or Chadash will:

Remember that it was founded as an answer to the prejudice that gay and lesbian Jews experienced in other synagogues;

Strive to ensure that no Jew experiences prejudice within our community;

Maintain affiliations with the Union for Reform Judaism and the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations;

Build strong ties within the greater Jewish community of the metropolitan Chicago area;

Dedicate itself to the basic obligations of Jewish life, including:

- **Respecting** the contributions of people of all generations
- **Sharing** the life-cycle events of its members
- **Celebrating** Shabbat and the holidays
- **Fostering** prayer with sincerity
- **Visiting** the sick
- **Comforting** the bereaved
- **Encouraging** the study of Torah

Congregation Or Chadash is a not-for-profit organization that is largely supported by contributions from its members and friends. Please remember us generously.

Reading Ruth

By Rabbi Laurence Edwards

I hope that you will plan to come for some or all of the all-night Tikkun Leyl Shavuot on Sunday evening, June 8. It is being held this year at Anshe Emet. Or Chadash will hold its own pre-Tikkun study session at 7:30 in the Anshe Emet library. Then you can stay on for many refreshments (9:15), the rabbinic panel discussion (10:00), and a wide variety of study offerings through the night (11:15 – 4:30), and a sunrise service or yoga by the lake.

For our own session, we'll examine the Book of Ruth, which is traditionally read on Shavuot. Please try to read it ahead of time (it's short). As you read, think about the following questions, which will form the basis of our conversation:

1. What is the importance of the Land of Israel, of leaving the Land and returning to it?
2. Some have suggested that the Book of Ruth originated as a kind of underground protest

literature against official policies banning intermarriage. Isn't it important to the Jewish future that Jews marry Jews? Are there circumstances in which intermarriage might actually be redemptively important for the Jewish future?

3. Well, what about that special relationship between Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi?

4. How does one enter a new community and become a full member? Ruth is our number one model, but it isn't easy.

I came across an entertaining and intelligent blog about Ruth (and other biblical books) at Slate: <http://www.slate.com/id/2164487/>

If you don't have a complete Tanakh at home (we'll need to do something about that!), you can easily find Ruth's four chapters on line, at (e.g.)

<http://www.hareidi.org/bible/Ruth1.htm#1>

