

A Message From the Rabbi

The Mischaracterization of Israel

The American Studies Association, with only a couple of thousand academics voting, is boycotting the Israeli academic institutions as part of a larger effort to delegitimize the Jewish state. Considering the extreme human rights violations against unthreatening minorities in many countries throughout the world, singling out Israel's defensive strictures toward Palestinians, with a significant history of terrorism, is anti-Israel, if not anti-Semitic.



Presidents of many of the most prestigious American universities have repudiated the American Studies Association's action. I encourage you to check with any university you may have attended and write to request of its president to join with the others repudiating the boycott should he or she not have already done so.

David Brooks wrote an incisive response to the ASA in the New York Times lamenting that when Israel acts to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks, its character is called into question.

These same academics and others, who should be capable of more informed and dispassionate judgments, rush to label Israel as practicing Apartheid without considering its defensive needs, as terrorists and states in its region seek Israel's destruction. The ASA allows a double standard; Jews are forbidden in certain Arab states and the Palestinians object to Jews living in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank), while Israeli Arabs are elected to serve in the Knesset, the Israeli legislature.

The mischaracterization of Israel's character is especially galling, considering Israel's absorption of Jews who were exiled from various Arab states, its intentional absorption of Ethiopian Jewry, and its record of social justice efforts throughout the world.

David Brooks' insight is especially powerful in that he points out the common tendency to denigrate people's moral character without considering the exigencies that cause them to behave in particular ways at a given time. While his article directly responds to the prejudicial attitudes of the American Studies Association, it also reminds us to be careful, when we dislike people's behavior, to consider what they are up against and what options they have, before labeling their character.

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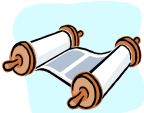
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The Talmud teaches us not to judge another until we are in his or her circumstances. It's too easy to live here in America and make judgments about people who face existential danger on a regular basis.

With best wishes for the New Year,

David Oler

Rabbi David Oler



Torah Study - Saturdays

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Come join us!!

Adult Growth Group

Led by Rabbi Oler

On Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00
At the Kadima Facility
1020 Milwaukee Avenue, Deerfield, IL



When someone is sick

Rabbi Oler requests that if you are being hospitalized or know of someone in the congregation who is going to be, please contact him at:

davidoler@nrck.org

or call the Kadima office at 847-229-9500.

Shabbat Oneg

Would you like to sponsor a Shabbat Oneg?
Any member can host an Shabbat Oneg.
Mark a special occasion such as a birthday, baby naming, anniversary, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or...just because!

Contact office@nrck.org



Donations

Patrons and Sustaining Members

Patrons and Sustaining Members choose to pay special dues which allows the congregation to continue its mission of providing a sense of community and stability for its members. Please consider becoming a Patron or Sustaining Member.

Patron: \$6,120
Sustaining: \$4,488
Sustaining Single: \$3,060

Patrons:

Al & Bobbie Levine

Jack Henkin & Louise Pearson

Dr. Scott & Amy Taxman

Sustaining Member:

Scott Warren

You can now make dues payments or donations online at <http://nrck.org/donate> with a credit card or your PayPal account



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<http://gettag.mobi>

A Message from the President

Happy New Year Fellow Congregants!

All Americans -- including Jewish Americans have a choice in how we live in our culture, we can either embrace it as consumers or we can build it. We at Kadima, by forming a small congregation, have chosen to build!

Like our various forefathers and foremothers that built the Province of New Hampshire, the Degania Alef Kibbutz, formed B'nai B'rith and the American Medical Association, I believe firmly that we have done a great thing regardless of the size or the project. This willingness to build is a great commonality between our Jewish and American cultures. It is this willingness to build and develop facilities that has brought great treasures to both cultures!

Because we have built Kadima, we do not need to overly compromise our beliefs to fit into a place that hardly notices us. We are able to teach our children that our interior lives and identities are things to be developed, built and improved rather than just drift along. The advantages of these choices at Kadima benefit our families in ways subtle and numerous.

As we reflect on our ambitions for the New Year, please consider volunteering or re-affirming your volunteerism for Kadima. Sometimes it is the smallest of endeavors that make the most lasting impact, whether you have lots of time to contribute or you are busy. The time you set aside for Kadima embellishes our community. We need volunteers for Social Action, Membership, and Fundraising for single projects and ongoing activities -- all of these activities enhance the choice we made when we formed Kadima. Sharing your time for a project means you are continuing to help build our small community, a community that lives by doing!

I look forward to seeing you throughout 2014 and beyond!

Thank you,

Marc

Marc Dubey
President, New Reform Congregation Kadima
marc@nrck.org

Principal's Letter

The New Year has started with an Arctic blast; what better time to enjoy the warmth of our community!

Religious School classes resume on **Friday, January 10, at 4:30 p.m.** at Shepard School in Deerfield. We will be reading stories by Isaac Bashevis Singer, who conveys to children the importance of lighting candles in the darkness and appreciating the warm companionship on a winter day. Congregants are invited to join our Shabbat Service at the Shepard School library at 6:10 p.m.

Following our first afternoon back at school, there will be a **Family Shabbat Dinner at Demetri's beginning at 6:45.** The Greek food is delicious, and Demetri's continues to work with us to provide an abundant, well-priced meal to enjoy with our family and friends.

Parents also need opportunities to learn, grow and make friends. The **Adult Group at Kadima resumes meeting at 9 a.m. Saturday, January 10;** it provides a place for deep sharing and reflection and support for the emotional, ethical and spiritual challenges adults face. **Torah Study follows at 10 a.m.**

Adults may also want to make reservations for the congregation's **Progressive Dinner on Saturday, January 18,** an evening good food and warm friendship.

Shalom,

Mary Oler, M. Div.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Religious School

Fridays 4:30 p.m.
Shepard Middle School, Deerfield

The Shabbat Service will begin at 6:10 that evening (unless otherwise stated.)

Hebrew Class

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.



אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת

CONGREGATION HAPPENINGS

Keep an eye on <http://nrck.org/events!>

January Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 10, 2014 at 6:45 p.m. at Demetri's Restaurant
660 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield

Progressive Adult Dinner

Friday, January 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
(see page 7 for details)

Fund-raising

Every Tuesday evening. Volunteers are welcome to join our friendly group of workers! Please contact Linda Frankel or Howard Lipsky to sign up today or send an email to office@nrck.org.

Facebook

Come by and like us at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-New-Reform-Congregation-Kadima/146546208721456> .



Note: Further details and additional congregational activities are likely to be sent out in additional emails

*Come in From the Cold!
Join us for the January Family Shabbat Dinner*

on Friday, January 10, 2014 at 6:45 p.m.

at

at Demetri's Restaurant 660 Lake Cook Avenue Deerfield

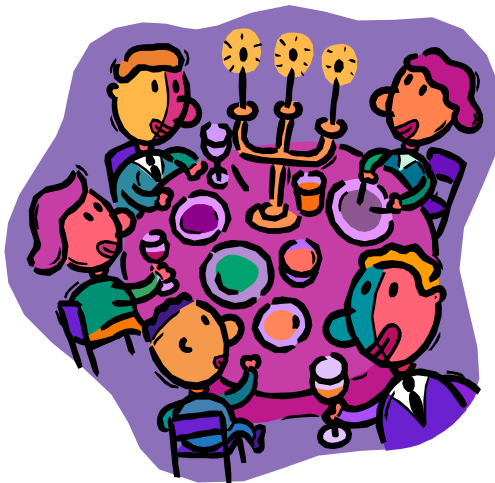
The family-style meal will include salad, leg of lamb, gyros, dolmades, moussaka, roast potatoes, rice, vegetables and dessert.

Children may select a meal of chicken fingers with fries. Please make this request with your reservation.

Adults: \$19.95, Children \$9.75 plus tax and tip.

Children's beverages included.

Reserve at office@nrck.org



*You are invited to attend our
Progressive Dinner for Adults
an evening of warm friendship and good food*

Saturday, January 18th

7 p.m.

Hosted by the Colemans, Jaxmans and Koymans

Directions will be sent after reservations are received



*Please reserve at office@nrck.org
and send \$20 per person to Kadima at
1020 North Milwaukee Avenue, Suite 310
Deerfield, Illinois 60015*





Introduction to Judaism Classes



Offered by the Union for Reform Judaism in partnership with the Chicago Association of Reform Rabbis

A 17-week course covering topics about living Jewishly, including: practice and observance, beliefs, creating a Jewish home, life cycle observances, synagogue and prayer, history, shabbat and holidays, basic Hebrew, and choosing Judaism.

Classes will be held at:

New Reform Congregation Kadlma

1020 Milwaukee Avenue, Deerfield, IL 60015 • 847.229.9500

December 1, 2013–April 13, 2014

Sundays, 9:00–11:00 A.M.

Instructors: Rabbi David Oler, Ph.D. and Rabbi Anne Persin

For more information on Reform Judaism in Chicago, contact Felicia Ross, Coordinator, Reform Jewish Chicago, at fross@urj.org or 847.721.2888



reformjudaism.org/introil

Kadima Sing-a-Long Music Night!



*On Piano:
Sam Bassin*

*Hosted at the Home of:
Shana Mallin*

THANK YOU!

