

From the Rabbi's Desk

Terror in Paris and Jewish Values

There has been much debate as to the propriety of mocking someone else's religion, since the terror attack against Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris earlier this month. Regardless, one cannot compare the publication of even "offensive" cartoons with the murder of human beings. The former in no possible way can justify the latter. The murderous nature of these terrorists is further demonstrated by the killing of people in the Parisian Kosher supermarket soon thereafter, with no mocking of Mohammed as a pretext.



The perpetrators were likely hostile to Zionism and, therefore, felt justified in attacking Jews. Interestingly, in Israel it is against the law to mock another's religious symbols and a Jewish woman was sent to prison for two years for publishing a derisive depiction of Mohammed.

The powerful outpouring of support for liberty, equality and fraternity by so many French citizens and representatives of so many countries was heartwarming and inspiring. Watching the parade in Paris it was hard not to think of how different things are now in comparison to the collaboration of many French citizens with the Nazis in France during WWII. Today it is illegal in France and even in Germany to deny the Holocaust.

There are calls for further legislation to prohibit incitement of ethnic related violence. While we fully reject the violence and murder, condemning incitement by those we do not like and expressing pride in the democratic right of cartoonists to denigrate Islam invites much subjectivity, confusion and ongoing tension and leads to tragedy.

It is disrespectful to mock other peoples' religion, and I, also, think it was disrespectful to mock the leader of North Korea in a recent film. While such actions are not illegal and come under freedom of speech, they result in predictable acts of violence and terrorism by those offended.

At the same time, it is certainly legitimate and even a moral imperative to write about the oppression and violence practiced in the name of Islam as well as by the North Korean dictatorship.

In our new class at Kadima on Shabbat mornings we study Jewish ethics for personal character development. We learned last week about the importance of measured speech, that nothing should be uttered by us unless it has a spiritual, healing, gentle and constructive purpose. We must first deal with how we behave day to day and then try to bring about an atmosphere of healing, sensitivity, thoughtfulness and consideration in the world beyond us.

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What is legal is one thing. Pious people, which I trust we all are striving to become, seek to go beyond the minimum requirements to function from a higher plain of consideration for the feelings of others. The Book of Psalms is referenced in daily traditional Jewish liturgy – “Guard your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile.” The Torah in Leviticus XIX:16 teaches us not to be talebearers, i.e. not to gossip about or slander others.

In other words, we need to encourage more civility in the world and to begin first of all with ourselves.

Shalom,

David Oler

Rabbi David Oler

Join Us for Our New Program!



Jewish Ethics for Personal Growth with Rabbi Oler

**On Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. 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.



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.

Patrons:

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Dr. Scott & Amy Taxman

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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Principal's Letter

The cold, dark evenings of January and February are the perfect backdrop for lighting Shabbat candles and sharing stories from our tradition. This month we are reading stories, both historical and fictional, of ordinary people who felt empathy for another's plight and did extraordinary things to help their neighbors. We are learning how people who fulfill the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself" reason and act, so that we can develop similar habits of mind and behavior. As always, the students' responses and insights educate the teachers and me.



We are looking forward to the next holidays: On Tu B'Shevat we will do activities to enhance our natural environment, just as Israelis plant trees in observance of the holiday. Purim will be celebrated as an occasion to reflect on the virtue of courage to speak the truth to power - and to have fun with a traditional Purim play. Events of recent months provide many examples for older students to discuss regarding the limits of free speech, the character of hate speech, and the proper response to intimidation and violence aimed at limiting freedom of expression. Our students are astute observers of world events, and they are well aware that the environment and religious extremism are issues that their generation will face after ours. It is always interesting to engage with them and hear their ideas.

Please join us for Shabbat services at the end of Religious School or for our monthly Family Shabbat Dinners. Our intergenerational community brings real warmth to these winter months!

Shalom,

Mary Oler, M. Div., M.S.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Religious School

When: Fridays
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Where: Shepard Middle School Library (*unless otherwise noted*)
440 Grove Place, Deerfield, IL

Tuition Reminder for New Families

This year the Kadima Board has decided to offer free Religious School tuition for one year to elementary school children under 11 (grades K-5) of new member families. We hope this will enable them to try our school as well as the full range of activities our congregation offers. Please let your friends who are looking for a synagogue know about this offer. Growth through relationships with like-minded families makes for a warm and cohesive community.

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CONGREGATION HAPPENINGS

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

Shabbat Services

Fridays, 6:10 p.m. (*unless otherwise noted*)
Shepard Middle School Library
440 Grove Place, Deerfield

All are welcome to attend!

Of Interest: The Movie "Selma"

In theaters now.



The link below is to an article in the JTA, "Op-Ed: What Selma means to the Jews," by Susannah Heschel, which gives a Jewish and religious perspective regarding the movie.

<http://www.jta.org/2015/01/18/news-opinion/opinion/op-ed-what-selma-meant-to-the-jews>



Congregation Condolences

Our congregation offers condolences to Jack, Louise, Anna and J.J.
on the recent death of Jack Henkin,
who was a beloved member of our community.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Bobbie Levine on her 80th birthday!

Mazel Tov!



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





Potential Athletes and Artists,

Whether you have heard of the JCC Maccabi Games or you are new to the program, I invite you to learn more about JCC Maccabi at an information night or attend tryouts.

The JCC Maccabi Games are the largest Jewish teen event in the world and are an experience of a lifetime. This unique "Olympic-style" event gives 13 to 16 year old athletes and artists a chance to compete in one of 14 sports or 8 art specialties.

The closest information night to you is:

Tuesday, January 27 from 7-8pm at Lake County Community Campus, 23280 N. Old McHenry Rd in Lake Zurich

Tryouts are from February 15 - March 15. The tryout schedule is attached.

If you have any questions or can not attend the meeting, feel free to call me, 847.763.3607, or email me, sjacobson@gojcc.org.

To learn more about JCC Maccabi Chicago, visit gomaccabi.org.

Join us for the Games in Summer 2015 and let's go for the gold!

Shelby

Shelby Jacobson
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<http://www.gomaccabi.org>

See the flyer on Page 7

Tryout Schedule

Team	Date and Time	Location
Milwaukee, WI (August 2-7)		
Boys Basketball 16U	Thursday, March 5, 6:30-8pm	Bernard Weinger JCC
	Sunday, March 8, 11:30am-1pm Sunday, March 15, 11:30am-1pm	Mayer Kaplan JCC
Boys Baseball 16U	Sunday, February 22, 9-11am Sunday, March 1, 9-11am	Frozen Ropes
Boys Soccer 7v7 16U	Sunday, February 15, 7-8pm	Windy City Fieldhouse
	Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-8pm	Bernard Weinger JCC
Girls Soccer 7v7 16U	Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-8pm	Bernard Weinger JCC
Girls Basketball 16U	Wednesday, March 11, 7:30-9pm	Mayer Kaplan JCC
	Sunday, March 15, 2-3:30pm	Bernard Weinger JCC
Swimming	Sunday, February 22, 5-6:30pm	Bernard Weinger JCC
	Thursday, February 26, 7:15-8:45pm	Mayer Kaplan JCC
	Sunday, March 1, 2:30-4pm	Bernard Horwich JCC
Flag Football 16U	Tuesday, March 3, 6:30-8pm	Bernard Weinger JCC
Girls Volleyball 16U	Sunday, February 22, 11:30am-1pm	Mayer Kaplan JCC
Tennis	Sunday, February 22, 6-8pm	North Shore Racquet Club
Inline Hockey 16U Track & Field Golf Dance		Please call for more information. 847.763.3607
Ft. Lauderdale, FL (August 9-14)		
Artsfest		Please call for more information. 847.763.3607
Boys Lacrosse 16U	Sunday, March 1, 11:30am-1pm	Mayer Kaplan JCC
	Sunday, March 15, 6:30-8pm	The Fieldhouse
Boys Basketball 14U	Sunday, March 1, 7-8:30pm Sunday, March 8, 7-8:30pm	Mayer Kaplan JCC
	Sunday, March 15, 3:30-5pm	Bernard Weinger JCC
Boys Baseball 14U	Sunday, February 22, 9-11am Sunday, March 1, 9-11am	Frozen Ropes
Girls Softball 16U	Sunday, February 22, 10-11:30am	Mayer Kaplan JCC

Locations

Bernard Horwich JCC
3003 West Touhy Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645

Bernard Weinger JCC
300 Revere Dr.
Northbrook, IL 60062

Mayer Kaplan JCC
5050 W. Church St.
Skokie, IL 60077

Frozen Ropes
6000 W. Touhy Ave.
Chicago, IL 60646

North Shore Racquet Club
2860 Old Willow Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025

Windy City Fieldhouse
2367 West Logan Blvd.
Chicago, IL. 60647

The Fieldhouse
2710 Old Willow
Northbrook, IL. 60062

Free Trip to Israel for 18-26 Year Old Congregants



Information is available at www.gokeshher.org. Young adults may register risk-free on February 3 for a trip this May through August. Potential applicants should sign up for the Early Update List before February 3 at www.gokeshher.org in order to receive email and phone reminders pertaining to registration. Signing up for priority status will give applicants high priority for trip placement.

The trip is sponsored by the Reform Movement and Taglit Birthright Israel.





"It's okay, the children aren't effected."

But what if you knew they were?

Shalva clients will often say that they can withstand their husband's abuse as long as he never directs his anger toward their children. What many women don't understand is that children are the silent victims of abuse and that they often repeat the behaviors they have seen.

According to a recent study, over 90% of children are aware of domestic abuse in their home. These children are affected emotionally, cognitively, and physically. They are at great risk and often experience low self-esteem, shame, fear and guilt. Many distrust adults, fail to thrive or suffer from depression and anxiety.

What can we do?

The issue of domestic abuse is not just a women's issue; it affects the entire family as well as our Jewish community.

SHALVA offers free counseling to Jewish women who are or were in an intimate partner relationship. If you or someone you know needs our help, call 773-583-4673.

***Giving voice to the unspeakable...
responding to domestic abuse in Jewish homes.***