

A Message From the Rabbi

The Economic Crisis and Our Religious Values

There is an ancient religious myth about King Ashoka who died and went to heaven but wanted to visit his countrymen who had not been so fortunate. They rejoiced and celebrated when the king visited them in hell. The king asked the accompanying angels, who insisted it was time for him to return to heaven, whether it was always so pleasant in hell. They responded that it was really awful but that his countrymen appeared to be so happy only because of his visit. He responded that in that case he preferred to remain with them in hell saying, "I have found my heaven!"



In surveying today's political environment it is hard to find elected officials functioning with a spirit of devotion to the people whom they are supposed to represent. Selfish interests have led our country to its present difficult economic situation and continue to shape the debate concerning how to overcome the deficit. There is a rigid resistance in Congress to taking a balanced approach of both cutting expenses and increasing income. Lowering taxes in the 1980's and again twenty years later did not lead to the creation of more jobs and to argue that it will is immoral and self-serving.

Religion is primarily about the values of kindness and compassion. Our Jewish tradition is replete with teachings about individual and communal responsibility for the welfare of the needy and the aged. It is shocking the extent to which our political discourse is being influenced by a growing proportion of people holding libertarian views, wherein one is taught to care only about his or her personal welfare and feel no obligation or concern for the needs of others. We Americans presently are among the lowest taxed citizens of the industrialized world, with income tax levels at their lowest in the last sixty years. The selfishness of those who advocate diminishing so-called entitlements while resisting any increase in taxation even of the most wealthy is totally inconsistent with the values of any religious heritage with which I am familiar. Yet religious fundamentalists, including many evangelical Christians and some ultra-orthodox Jews, join with other self serving people in being supportive of these libertarian positions. The principles of democratic government are based on the teachings of the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle, who had a profound impact on politics and religion, and who taught that "the function of the State is to *make possible* the development and happiness of the individual.

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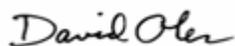
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There can at times be a deep chasm between fundamentalist belief and religious values. It is of critical importance that we who question fundamentalist faith but strongly affirm the values of compassion and communal responsibility make known that we, consistent with our religious tradition and commitment, support a generosity of spirit, as opposed to a self serving mentality, in dealing with the aged and the infirm and others in need in our land.

The Torah teaches that we are obligated to share our bounty with the poor and hungry and to enhance the lot of the aged in our midst. Our congregation emphasizes a religious approach in which we seek to become the most spiritual and compassionate people that we have the potential to be, even though we are free thinkers when it comes to matters of theological dogma. We may not feel obligated to perform certain rituals or understand prayer to be efficacious in a traditional way, but we care deeply about the transformational values central to Judaism.

As the economy continues to stress and divide our citizens, it is critical that we be caring and compassionate Jews and together with others who are also truly religious seek to influence the character of our society, rather than leave the mantle of religiosity to those who are merely dogmatic while devoid of spiritual sensitivity.

With warm regards,



Rabbi David Oler



Welcome New Members



The New Reform Congregation Kadima extends
a warm welcome to our newest members

**Dr. Randy and Michele McCool
and daughters**

Patrons and Sustaining Members

Patrons and Sustaining Members generously choose to pay special dues that make it possible for the congregation to assist members who find it difficult to pay full dues or school fees.

Please consider becoming a Patron or Sustaining Member.

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

Patrons:

Jack Henkin & Louise Pearson

Dr. Scott & Amy Taxman

Avers & Gloria Wexler

Sustaining Members:

Warren & Ellen Schoen

Scott Warren



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From the President

I would like to thank everyone for electing me and our new board. I will endeavor to maintain the level of quality and dedication that Warren Schoen provided us although I know how large those shoes are to fill. Thanks to Warren Schoen and Louise Pearson and too many other people to thank for all they have done to bring us to this benchmark of our second year of service to the community.

We are a small congregation but *we are the small congregation that does*. We have an advantage over many places that are large, institutional, expensive and cold because at Kadima everyone matters and nearly everyone actively contributes to our success as a congregation. While these larger congregations are fine places, they are not nimble. An associate was telling me about a fish-out-of-water experience that she had when she attended services at a large congregation in the area after many years of not being affiliated. It was easy to tell her about Kadima because we are friendly and open. We have excellent weekly services led by Rabbi Oler who is dedicated to not just giving a good sermon but having a thoughtful discussion with every service. We also enjoy well attended high holiday services, a high quality religious school and we do it all in an atmosphere where every congregant, every child and every parent has a voice that is heard as the contribution to the well being of our community that it is. We enjoy a congregation where interfaith couples are not only welcome but non-Jewish spouses are often an integral part of congregation life, and we do it all without dogma or a fixation on ritual. This is a congregation where people of all backgrounds and religious points of view feel they have a home and move forward with Kadima as a launching point for their own spiritual growth at their own pace in their own way.

Congratulations to the new board and committee chairpersons, and I look forward to serving our congregation.

Sincerely,

Marc Dubey
President
New Reform Congregation Kadima

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors:

Officers

President	Marc Dubey
Executive Vice President	Warren Schoen
Vice President	Louise Pearson
Vice President	Mark Shapiro
Vice President	Howard Teitelbaum
Treasurer	Michael Mondschain
Secretary	Linda Frankel

Trustees

Sasha Feingold
Paula Krecun
Al Levine
Randy McCool
Scott Taxman
Leonard Sneider
Ron Tomaszewski

And to the incoming School Board:

Chair

Alexis Gunn

Members

Callie Dixon
Oya Dubey
Yelena Kalugina
Josh Kellman
Michele McCool
Vicky Polotsky
Becky Thall

And to the chairmen of Kadima committees:

Finance Chair	Howard Teitelbaum
House Co-Chairs	Leonard Sneider and Ron Tomaszewski
Social Action Co-Chairs	Paula Krecun, Brian Smart, Jack Henkin
Newsletter Editor	Ros Nitzberg and Associate Editor Callie Dixon
Librarian	Paula Krecun
Technology Chair	Sasha Feingold
Fundraising Chair	Warren Schoen
Bingo Co-Chairs	Lou Dolgin, Jerry Krecun, Leonard Sneider, Scott Taxman

Please feel free to contact any of these dedicated individuals through the temple office e-mail, office@nrck.org. With their guidance and your input, the congregation looks forward to another year of continued spiritual growth and personal involvement.

A Message from the Principal

When Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed a joint session of the United States Congress in May, he received nearly thirty standing ovations from American lawmakers. It was a stunning show of support for one of the United States' most important allies and intended to demonstrate to those seeking to isolate Israel in the international community that the U.S.-Israel bond remains strong.

The United States and Israel have increasingly to struggle with the detractors and enemies of the Jewish state in the United Nations as Israel is singled out for criticism and as the Palestinians seek the creation of a state without direct negotiations with Israel.

The effort to portray Israel as “the problem” in the Middle East has gained a good deal of traction throughout the world, and as our children go to college they may encounter anti-Israel demonstrations and efforts to stigmatize and hurt Israel economically on U.S. campuses. This can be painful and confusing for Jewish students.

It is important that our young people have the knowledge to understand the Middle East conflicts and stand with Israel, if they choose, with the confidence of understanding. While we believe they should think critically about the policies of the Jewish state just as they should about U.S. policies, we want them to know the story of Israel — the ancient and continued Jewish presence, the reasons Jews had to leave their homeland, the despair of finding justice and safety in Europe that led to Zionism, the struggles and triumphs that led to the establishment of the modern nation of Israel in 1948, and the unique, innovative society that throughout its brief and threatened existence has contributed so much to humankind. We want them to know that Israel is not the problem of the Middle East but, as a truly democratic and progressive society, an expression of the promise of the Middle East.

At our final Confirmation class meeting in June, students enjoyed an Israeli style breakfast and a discussion with Rabbi Oler about Israel. Such discussions will continue as part of our curriculum with the aim of preparing students to understand the history of Israel and its neighbors and take part in the dialogue about the Middle East as they enter adulthood, joining the pursuit of truth, human rights, security, opportunity and peace for all its inhabitants.

Shalom,

Mary Oler

Summer Shabbat Services

Summer Shabbat services are held in the homes of our members. The schedule is as follows:

- July 1** at the home of **Jack Henkin and Louise Pearson**
1520 Oakwood Avenue, Highland Park
7:30 p.m.
*David Henkin will be called to the Torah
in honor of his 100th birthday*
- July 8** at the home of **Ron and Linda Tomaszewski**
782 Links Court, Riverwoods
7:30 p.m.
- July 15** Family Shabbat Service and Dinner
Jimmy's Charhouse Restaurant
Corner of Milwaukee Ave. and Deerfield Rd., Riverwoods
6:30 p.m.
- July 22
and 29** at the home of **Mark Shapiro and Yelena Kalugina**
4001 Rutgers, Northbrook
7:30 p.m.
- August 5** at the home of **Ron and Linda Tomaszewski**
782 Links Court, Riverwoods
7:30 p.m.
- August 12** at the home of **Dean and Linda Frankel**
3905 Medford Circle, Northbrook
7:30 p.m.
- August 19** at the home of **David and Mary Oler**
14 Chicory Lane, Riverwoods
7:30 p.m.
- August 26** Family Shabbat Service and Dinner
Jimmy's Charhouse Restaurant
Corner of Milwaukee Ave. and Deerfield Rd., Riverwoods
6:30 p.m,

We look forward to the more leisurely pace of summer evenings and to the special quality of home hospitality for celebrating Shabbat.

September Shabbat services and High Holiday Services will be held at the Patty Turner Center in Deerfield.

Bnai Mitzvah

Jonathan Stuart Isaac Dixon

July 21, 2011

7:45 a.m.

Robinson's Arch, Jerusalem, Israel



This fall, Jonathan will be attending eighth grade at Lincoln Middle School in Mount Prospect, Illinois. He was on the honor roll the past two quarters at school. His favorite classes are math, science and French. He belongs to the Lego Robotics and track teams. He loves to try different types of food, watch numerous YouTube videos about chemistry, play computer games, read books on random facts, and traveling. He is intensely inquisitive and has been called a human encyclopedia by a past teacher. He has a kind heart, is a good friend, has a unique ability to form connections with people, and loves to rescue wild animals.

Jonathan started studying early this year for his bar mitzvah with his great-uncle, Dr. James Frank. He has worked hard, but has enjoyed learning with his uncle and the challenge of learning to read Torah. He is thrilled to be going on this special trip to Israel with his mom.

A date is yet to be set, but after the high holidays, Jonathan and his family will host a Shabbat oneg for the congregation and Jonathan will reprise his Torah portion.

Justin Walter Lew

August 20, 2011

Justin Lew is an honor roll student in seventh grade at Shepard Middle School. He is a member of the track and cross country team at Shepard. His love for science has him inventing and experimenting all over the house! He loves to ski and travel. He spent the summer working in his dad's office and hanging out with friends. He has worked very hard to prepare himself for his Bar Mitzvah. We are very proud of him and what he has achieved.



All members of the Kadima congregation send congratulations to Jonathan and Justin and to their families!

Dedicate a Service Booklet in Honor or in Memory of a Loved One

A lovely and meaningful opportunity to honor someone special to you

Our congregation has recently published new booklets for regular and Family Shabbat services and for Bar and Bat Mitzvah services. Members may dedicate these booklets in honor or in memory of loved ones. The dedications will be recorded on beautiful bookplates specially created for us.

The cost for dedicating a Shabbat or Family Shabbat booklet is \$18 each; dedication of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah booklet is \$25 each.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please use the order form below and mail with your check to:

The New Reform Congregation Kadima
P.O. Box 1722
Deerfield, IL 60015

I would like to dedicate the following:
(Please print)

____ Shabbat booklet(s)
(number)

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

____ Family Shabbat booklet(s)

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

____ Bar/Bat Mitzvah booklet(s)

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Name _____

Amount _____