



New Reform Congregation Kadima

Established March 1, 2010

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A Message From the Rabbi

Kadima – Let Us Go Forward Together



The founding of a new congregation is a very special experience. I am gratified by the readiness and enthusiasm of so many to become founders of the New Reform Congregation Kadima. We have the opportunity to form and shape this congregation together as we choose from its inception.

Someone asked, “Why should ‘new’ be in the name? Can it be called that years from now?” We intend that this be a distinct new congregation that will always be open to ideological and programmatic innovation as well as to new members from all walks of life. We also intend “new” as an adjective modifying “Reform,” as a way to communicate our commitment to a progressive approach within Reform Judaism.

We are using the term “congregation” rather than “temple,” because of our desire to emphasize people rather than a material facility, even after arrangements are made to have one.

Kadima means “progressive oriented” or “forward.” We want to be on the cusp of serious developments in Jewish and religious life. We want to bring to the fore the values we learn from the teachings of Judaism as they apply to the personal day-to-day, as well as the communal and global challenges of our time. As we have just observed Passover, our first festival as a new congregation and also the first festival of the ancient Israelites as they were liberated from Egyptian bondage, let us reaffirm that the primary task of the Jew is to be responsive to the needs of others who are suffering.

Life is too short to wallow in our own pain and losses. We achieve healing and wholeness by moving forward and in attending to the needs of others. We must be vigilant for the security of Israel and work to alleviate the suffering of others, be they those threatened with genocide in Darfur or the hungry and needy in our community or the lonely and distressed in our own congregation. We need to work to protect the environment in order to secure the future of generations to come. One priority in our new congregation is the building of a strong social action committee that will set priorities, develop programs and engage the involvement of the members.

Another priority is membership development. Some wonderful new ideas are under consideration such as providing a special dues rate for the parents of members. The strongest fabric will come if we intertwine people who already have connection with one another. Please encourage family and friends to join you as founders in the adventure of developing our New Reform Congregation Kadima. We need volunteers to form a strong and effective membership campaign. Actually, we need volunteers who are ready and willing to work hard in all aspects of congregational life so that we will be a vibrant center of Judaism responsive to the needs and aspirations of our members.

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There are many other avenues through which to become involved and to help at this critical juncture, be it programming, education, facilities search or one of many other areas that could benefit from your interest and participation. Everyone brings different strengths and talents. Please contact one of the officers (see below), a member of the nominating committee or myself (davidoler@nrck.org or 847-520-9511) to indicate how you would like to help.

Of course the New Reform Congregation Kadima has significant start up costs in addition to regular ongoing expenses of operation. We need to purchase a Torah scroll and other religious and educational materials. We need your added generosity as we get started in addition to regular dues and fees.

Most important, we need your involvement and participation as we proceed together on this great and exciting enterprise of building our new congregation.

With best wishes and abiding hope,

David Oler

Rabbi David Oler

New Reform Congregation Kadima

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Congregational Events

Sabbath Services

Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Rabbi and Mary Oler, 14 Chicory Lane, Riverwoods, Illinois.



Monthly Family Services

One Friday each month at 6:30 p.m. at Jimmy's Charhouse Restaurant, Deerfield Road and Milwaukee Avenue.

April Family Service

Join us for a Shabbat dinner and service on Friday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the private dining room at Jimmy's Charhouse. We will share an abundant family style meal with three entrees (typically meat, chicken and pasta) and salad, a variety of side dishes, beverages and dessert. Adult meals are \$15 plus tax and tip, Children 4-12 \$8, and children 3 and under free. Watch for an email reservation form or contact Mary Oler at maryoler@comcast.net.

Religious School and Adult Education



Each Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Shepard Middle School, 440 Grove Place, Deerfield, Illinois.

Classes resume April 11, following spring break.

Religious School and Adult Education News

The Religious School of Congregation Kadima, along with its Adult Education classes, began meeting on Sunday, March 7 at the Shepard Middle School in Deerfield. Looking toward the upcoming holiday, Religious School classes studied the story of the Exodus and the meaning of the Passover Seder, and children in many grades practiced the Four Questions in Hebrew. Dr. Josh Kellman led a study of Evolution and Religion during the first hour of Adult Education, while the second hour was devoted to Torah study with Rabbi Oler.

When we return from spring break on Sunday, April 11, through the end of the school year on May 23, the curriculum for most classes will focus on Israel. During the first hour of classes, adults and Confirmation students will watch videotapes of speeches by Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other leaders at the recent AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. and discuss with Rabbi Oler a variety of issues facing Israel today. Our congregation aims to have a larger delegation attending next year, perhaps including high school students, and there will be an opportunity for interested members to sign up now. During the second hour, the Adult Class will continue its Torah study. Students in the Religious School will study the history, geography and modern life in Israel in preparation for a meaningful celebration of Israel's Independence Day. On the final day of school, students of all ages will join in an Israeli meal and cultural celebration.

As we begin a new congregational school, it is an exciting and busy time. I have been very grateful for the support of our hard-working school board members and gratified to receive offers of help from so many of you. There will be many needs for volunteers in the months ahead to provide programs for all ages of learners. I appreciate having a list of energetic and creative helpers! I especially look forward to engaging with interested members of the congregation in envisioning the kind of educational programs we want to offer at Congregation Kadima. Please watch for announcements of meetings or contact me if you would like to participate.

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of our teachers, parents and students, we are making a wonderful beginning.

Mary Oler

Kadima Youth Honored

Ryan Hanna and Ann Oler, both Congregation Kadima students, were honored by the Deerfield Optimist Club for Exemplary Service to the Community at a ceremony at Deerfield High School on March 24. Ryan, an eighth grade student, has helped out at the West Deerfield Township Food Pantry, Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter and Center for Enriched Living and has participated in charity fundraisers with his cotton candy business. Ann, a seventh grader, has volunteered through the Philanthropy Club and Student Council of Caruso Middle School, raising money for Camp Twitch and Shout (for children with Turret's Syndrome) and collecting Teddy Bears for law enforcement officers to distribute to children whose homes have been disrupted by crime. Jack Henkin represented the congregation in presenting the awards. We are proud of Ryan and Ann!

Congregation Kadima Celebrates Its First Community Seder



About 70 participants celebrated Congregation Kadima's first Community Seder on the second night of Passover at the Deerfield Hyatt Hotel. Rabbi Oler prepared a new Haggadah for the occasion, one which provides for people with varying theological perspectives and includes readings that relate the story of the Exodus to the Holocaust, modern social liberation movements and the journeys of individuals seeking personal liberation and wholeness. All adult congregants present participated in reading selections. The children asked the Four Questions, opened the door for Elijah and, of course, hid the Afikomen. The tables were set beautifully for the holiday with bouquets of spring flowers, and guests selected entrees of herb-roasted chicken, beef brisket, salmon in citrus broth and vegetarian melanzano.

Next year the Community Seder will be held on Wednesday, April 20.