

A Message From the Rabbi

Respect for Diversity

Kadima's Social Action Committee, in cooperation with the Religious School, just had a program about autism which included the showing of a powerful film entitled *Temple Grandin* about a young woman who is autistic and brilliant in her own way. The main idea that we wanted the students to learn is that the world is made up of different kinds of people with varying strengths and weaknesses and that it is important to be respectful and sensitive to everyone. At one point, as the movie concluded, I spontaneously remarked to those members of the Social Action Committee who were sitting near me that "the whole world is full of divine glory!" By this I meant that regardless of how we might prefer the world to be, the reality is that the world is as it is with much and varied suffering, but that often within what appears to be disability and disadvantage there exist unique strengths and that all of us can expand ourselves spiritually by growing in compassion because of our pain and the suffering we witness.



At the same time, we have witnessed a further outburst of violence in Afghanistan because of the disrespectful act of the burning of copies of the Koran by members of our armed forces stationed there. This once again brings home the idea of the importance of respect for diversity, this time in the area of religion. We might not become as violent, but we would certainly be enraged if people undertook to destroy texts that we regarded as holy. I remarked at a recent family Shabbat service that though we might not accept as true miracles and other matters of faith described in the scriptures of different religions, including even our own, we must respect the teachings about good values they all contain as an effort to improve human behavior. In fact the Talmud teaches that "the righteous of all nations have a portion in the world to come." Regardless of our varying beliefs about an afterlife, the main idea being taught is respect for all people who are righteous regardless of the particular tradition they follow.

At Kadima respect for diversity and a pluralistic atmosphere are core to what distinguishes our Congregation. We have no litmus tests and celebrate every person's uniqueness in terms of religious outlook, racial or ethnic background, abilities or limitations. Our only expectation is that people respect our diverse membership and seek to help foster the kind of environment that helps everyone feel welcome and valued for who they are.

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Our upcoming holidays are Purim and Pesach. Both celebrations deal with liberating ourselves from those who seek to oppress and suppress us. But Judaism expects us not just to take note of such past events but to be inspired by these stories to become proactive in assuring respect and justice for all. For without such a raised consciousness and resultant compassionate and responsible behavior we can not achieve true liberation and fulfillment of our own spiritual potential.

With best wishes,

David Oler

Rabbi David Oler



Welcome New Members



Howard and Miriam Lipsky

Congratulations

Congratulations to **David and Julie Coleman** on the naming of their children, **Naomi** and **Benjamin**, during the Shabbat service at Kadima on February 3rd.

Get Well Soon

The congregation sends best wishes for a speedy recovery to **David Henkin**, father of **Jack Henkin**.



Condolences

Sincere condolences to **Leonard Sneider** on the tragic death of his nephew,

Aaron Cohen

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:

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Scott Warren



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From the President

One of Kadima's most popular events is coming up: the Pesach dinner. It's been our tradition to celebrate the second night of Pesach by having a community seder. We are returning to the Deerfield Hyatt Hotel on Saturday April 7th. This is also an excellent time to bring a potential member. Please send an email to office@nrck.org to make a reservation.

Social Action had a successful canned food drive and two events for Autism Awareness that included a viewing of the film "Temple Grandin" and guest speakers. Special thanks to **Brian Smart, Jack Henkin** and the whole Social Action committee.

Scott Taxman, Lou Dolgin and **Dean Frankel** and their captains have been working very hard on a major fundraising project for Kadima. More on this as it comes to fruition. Thanks to everyone who is participating!

We have new ways to donate to the New Reform Congregation Kadima. We have a Fidelity account and we can accept stocks and bonds that have accumulated in value; the full value can be written off when donated to Kadima.

Additionally, codices can be set up in wills to leave money to Kadima; sometimes donors like to make sure there are contingencies in place along with naming Kadima as a recipient of funds. Please reach out to **Howard Teitelbaum** if you have any questions.

On a personal note, I was recently in Turkey and while there I learned that Can (John) Bonomo, a Turkish Izmir Jew who mixes Turkish Pop and Klezmer into rock songs, is Turkey's entry in the Eurovision song contest. We don't hear much about this in the States but it is a big, big contest and an Olympic sized source of national pride for many nations. People all over the world get to vote for their favorite music. Israeli pop sensation Dana International was one such winner.

Klezmer is slowly becoming the backbeat of the world's popular music. Klezmer cross-over music is no longer relegated to boutique parody acts like 2LiveJews or The Hebrew Hammer (Shaft parody) sound track. The Klezmatiks, while managing not to sound punk at all, took the stripped down and earnest aesthetic of the Plasmatics and translated it into what became the start of the Klezmer Revival. Since then, there are two American streams: a sweaty, crayfish- and jazz-infused Klezmer from the New Orleans Klezmer All Stars, which led to the more meditative bands like Klezfactor; and an equally experimental post-punk variety with bands like Golem! that also inspired the Gypsy Punk phenomenon, started in New York by Israeli expats who formed the Balkan Beat Box, and led to genre-bending cross-over bands like Gogol Bordello and J.U.F., and even an excellent Turkish band called Luxus. If you have not caught up with much Klezmer these days, don't worry--it will soon catch up with you.

Marc Dubey
President, New Reform Congregation Kadima
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Congregational Happenings

Purim Service

Friday, March 9

6:00 p.m.

Shepard Middle School

Family Service and Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 16

6:45 p.m.

Jimmy's Charhouse
1111 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Riverwoods
(corner of Milwaukee Ave. & Deerfield Rd.)

Adults \$14.95

Children 12 and under \$8.95

Children 3 and under Free

Please reply by email to office@nrck.org and plan to pay Jimmy's directly, adding tax and tip.

Community Seder

Saturday, April 7

6:00 p.m.

Deerfield Hyatt Hotel



A Message from the Principal

In the coming weeks our Religious School classes will be learning and reflecting on the story of Moses and the Exodus. There are many lessons to be learned—about the daring and ingenuity his family used to save his life, the way Moses overcame self-doubt to undertake the leadership of a people he was uniquely positioned to help, the tests of resolve and the adoption of common values that gradually transformed the fugitive slaves into a self-governing community.



While we learn about tzedekah and mitzvot throughout the year, in this season we focus on the importance of advocacy for the victims of injustice. Older students will learn about forms of slavery and exploitation that continue today—the city of Chicago is renowned as a center of human-trafficking. Younger students will hear the recollections of people who have suffered discrimination and injustice and reflect on how they may promote understanding and fairness. We encourage you to engage with your children at home about these subjects.

Our congregation's Community Seder on Saturday, April 7 is an intergenerational event that ritually celebrates the Exodus and we hope you will attend as a family. The symbolic foods, familiar verses and lively songs have made it a timeless way of celebrating freedom and transmitting Jewish identity and values to each new generation.

Shalom,
Mary Oler

Religious School Calendar March-May 2012

March

- 2 Religious School 4:30-6:30 at Shepard Middle School
- 6 Hebrew Class
- 9 Religious School 4:30-6:30 at Shepard Middle School
Purim Service begins at 6. Parents are welcome!
- 13 Hebrew Class
- 16 Religious School 4:30-6:30 South Park Elementary School
(Shepard Middle School unavailable)
Family Shabbat Service and Dinner 6:45, Jimmy's Charhouse
- 18 Confirmation Class Brunch 10:30 a.m., Shapiro home
- 20 Hebrew Class
- 23 *No Religious School – Spring Break*
- 27 *No Hebrew Class*
- 30 *No Religious School*

April

- 3 Hebrew Class
- 6 *No Religious School – First Seder*
- 7 **Community Seder** 6 p.m. Deerfield Hyatt
- 10 Hebrew Class
- 13 Religious School 4:30-6:30 Shepard Middle School
- 15 Confirmation Class Brunch
- 17 Hebrew Class
- 20 Religious School 4:30-6:30 Shepard Middle School
- 24 Hebrew Class
- 27 Religious School 4:30-6:30 Shepard Middle School
- 29 Confirmation Class Brunch

May

- 1 Hebrew Class
- 4 Religious School 4:30-6:30 Shepard Middle School
- 8 Hebrew Class
- 11 Religious School 4:30-6:30 Shepard Middle School
Family Shabbat Service and Dinner 6:45, Jimmy's Charhouse
- 15 Hebrew Class
- 18 Religious School 4:30-6:30 Shepard Middle School
End of School Celebration
- 20 Confirmation Class Brunch
- 22 Hebrew Class final session