



A Message From the Rabbi

Revolution in the Arab World

As you are well aware, dictatorships throughout the Arab world, from North Africa through the Middle East, are being challenged by revolutions seeking democratization. The United States and Israel, as well as the rest of the “Western” world, are worried about who will come to power as a result of these revolutions. Hopefully, it will be benign democracies that will be kinder to their own people and committed to pursuing international peace. We are also fearful that Islamists encouraging of Jihad may seize the opportunity to come to power, as happened in 1979 in Iran.



The dictators in power till now have for financial gain been willing to cooperate with Western interests, including accommodation with Israel, while suppressing the will of their own people and often taking severe advantage of them. So do we support the fostering of democracy at our own risk or do we prioritize our own interests and do nothing to help the revolutionaries? We are being confronted with a significant moral dilemma.

In my view, as of this writing our government has not done enough to stand up for democracy and to provide support to those putting their lives at risk in facing down oppressive and malevolent dictators. We need to take a long term view and not be seduced by immediate short term benefits, which to date has only led to greater alienation between the Arab street and Western perspectives. Making deals with devils only results in the hostility of those who suffered under their hegemony and megalomania.

This month we will be observing Purim and next month Passover, both of which teach us about the struggle for freedom from oppression. Haman in Persia and Pharaoh in Egypt, coincidentally, were tyrants who sought to oppress our people. The biblical narrative of our people’s rebellion and self-emancipation, the resultant holidays we celebrate, the related liturgy, all are intended to foster an abiding commitment in us as Jews toward redemptiveness in society to make sure that all are free. These are goals that have influenced all of Western society. We are called on not just to observe the Sabbath ourselves but to provide the same opportunity for our servants and the strangers among us.

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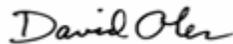
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The Sabbath commemorates the Exodus and reminds us of the centrality of freedom for everyone. The Torah commands us to pursue justice and to seek to be holy. This is not accomplished by pursuing our self interest at the expense of others, but only by identifying ourselves always with abiding values.

Let us, therefore, encourage our representatives in government to stand with the revolutionaries, aid them in becoming free and enable them to establish democratic institutions. If there are inherent dangers let's face them now, rather than postpone and aggravate those dangers by standing idly by and even supporting oppression.

In this way we will be able to celebrate our coming holidays with wholeness and integrity.

Shalom,



Rabbi David Oler



Welcome New Member

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

Michael Sobel

Visit the Kadima web site: www.nrck.org

Contact the temple at any time by e-mail at office@nrck.org or by phone at 847-229-9500

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: \$6,000
Sustaining: \$4,400
Sustaining Single: \$3,000

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A publication of the
New Reform Congregation Kadima

P.O. Box 1722
Deerfield, IL 60015
847-229-9500

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A Message from the Principal

Reflections on Tiger Parenting

Amy Chua's controversial best seller, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," has struck a chord with parents across America. If you haven't heard about it, Chua, a professor at Yale Law School, makes a case for strict, achievement-oriented, even "obsessive" parenting in a style practiced by her Chinese family. She doesn't leave her children's education to their schools but is intensely involved in coaching them toward her goals seven days a week. At a moment when Americans are seeing their students under-perform academically in comparison with their contemporaries in many other nations and the U.S. job market is weakening, Chua's argument that typical American parenting is over-indulgent and yields mediocre achievement has gotten a great deal of attention. Discussion of her book goes on in the halls during Religious School, for North Shore parents are keenly invested in our children's success. Chua is helpful in making us reflect on the hours of chauffeuring our children to activities of dubious worth, time spent on video games and emotion spent on interpersonal dramas between childhood friends and in encouraging parents (if any of us needed it) to take an active interest in our children's educational achievement. At the same time, some of her methods—choosing all of her children's activities and not allowing experimentation that would detract from the single-minded practice of a few pursuits; the denial of social activities like play dates and sleepovers; the extreme drilling, without reprieve for sleep or bathroom breaks, until perfection of a lesson is achieved; and the use of name-calling, like "garbage," and strong expressions of parental disappointment with anything less than top of the class performances—leave us deeply disturbed.

As responsible parents, we should aspire for much more for our children: an intrinsic love of learning; an ability to make wise choices for themselves; freedom to choose their vocation based not on our ambitions but on their own sense of what they are good at, what they enjoy doing and what contributes to life; and a capacity to build a balanced life with satisfying work, loving relationships, varied interests and the healthy ability to recognize when they need to rest.

There is an old stereotype of Jewish mothers employing guilt and exploiting their children's love in order to foster achievement, and Chua describes something like that by some Chinese parents. She recounts with appreciation the important life lesson she learned when she won second place in a recital and her beloved father gruffly told her never to shame him like that again. She tells readers that she gave her own children the message that nothing less than being first in the class—in every subject—was worthy of their parents; no excuses, no "false" self-esteem support allowed. She does everything, she says, in "love" for them, certain that her strictness now will give them freedom to do what they want as adults.

While competitiveness, narcissism and yearning for approval may sometimes cause children to perform better, the wisdom of religious teachings is that there is deeper motivation and satisfaction to be found in working for the welfare and happiness of all, that it is better to seek personal excellence in developing our gifts so that we can contribute more to life than for the sake of besting our peers or pleasing our parents. If all our children were capable of being first in the class, in Chua's world we'd all be up all night—with no bedtime or bathroom breaks, until—forever? And, of course, not all of our children are

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capable of being first in the class in a competitive environment. Our vision, therefore, needs to enlarge to see the many worthy roles our children might play in life and help them to find satisfaction and a healthy self regard in work they enjoy and which benefits others. Right motivation is critical to achieving the most worthwhile results.

In Western civilization we are raised to honor individual autonomy, and this derives in no small part from a religious heritage in which God is portrayed as yearning for, but not compelling, human beings to “choose life” and follow the law “that is written in their hearts.” God is shown as allowing people to make mistakes and fail, limiting his power out of respect for human autonomy. It is true that children whose path is chosen by their parents before they have reached the age of reason may have an advantage in the development of muscle memory and neurological structures for particular tasks. Tiger Woods was made to watch his father hit golf balls while sitting in his highchair, before he could walk, and was put through a grueling training program designed by his father that paid off in his ability to play the game well. However, prodigies like Woods, whether in sports or music, chess or academics, often feel they missed normal opportunities for social development or to explore other paths they might have chosen had they been free to do so; it is common for them to either idolize or become estranged from their parents in adulthood, with repercussions for other significant relationships. One of Chua’s daughters eventually rebelled. As we encourage our children toward excellence it is important to remember that they are not extensions of us, and their own intuitions and interests may lead the way to their most successful and meaningful vocation.

It should be said that tiger-parenting is not necessary for good results. I have a brother-in-law who went to Harvard on a full undergraduate scholarship—all that Chua could hope to achieve for her children. My brother-in-law was one of thirteen children, and his parents had few resources or spare time to devote to his education. He participated in his congregation and Boy Scouts but never had an enrichment class, tutor or SAT prep class. His parents instilled idealism through activities of community service, and he studied hard on his own because he liked learning and wanted a career helping people. He is now a university administrator who finds satisfaction in promoting research in health sciences, in performing his own research on friendship to help teachers promote the social well-being of all their students, in volunteering as a math and science coach for kids and participating in a rich community of family, colleagues and friends. Given his values and motivation, even if he had not been intellectually gifted, he would still have created a rewarding life with others.

The best results—love of learning, wise choices, loving relationships, balanced lives—don’t come from dictating to our children or from criticizing or “guilting” them. They come from modeling and supporting learning, doing our best, service, caring and respect. Even then there are no guarantees, and like the God of the Torah we have to be patient, hopeful and steadfast in love.

Shalom,

Mary Oler



Kadima Youth Programs

Grades 8-12

Teenagers in grades 8-12 are meeting in homes every other Sunday morning for breakfast and learning with Rabbi Oler. Sometimes these meetings will be extended to include a service or recreational activity. If you are interested in receiving more information or joining this group, please contact Mary Oler at office@nrck.org.

Youth Service Camp

Youth Service Camp for students entering grade 6 and older will meet June 13-17 this summer. We welcome new friends to join us! For more information or to sign up, contact Mary Oler at office@nrck.org.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Dates Being Accepted for the 2013-2014 School Year

Dates are being coordinated for fourth graders in many area public schools! If you have a child in fourth grade or older and want to save a date, please contact Mary Oler at office@nrck.org.

Religious School Wish List

If anyone has an electronic keyboard and/or presentation easel to lend or donate to our school, these would be most appreciated. Contact Mary Oler at office@nrck.org.

Shabbat Services, Holidays and Religious Education

Friday, March 4	Religious School: 4:30—6:30 p.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Study followed by oneg: 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 11	Religious School: 4:30—6:30 p.m. Adult Hebrew Class: 6:30—7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Study followed by oneg: 7:30 p.m.
Friday, March 18	<i>Family Purim Celebration and Service at Jimmy's Charhouse: 6:30 p.m. No Religious School or Adult Hebrew classes</i>
Friday, March 25	Religious School: 4:30—6:30 p.m. Adult Hebrew Class: 6:30—7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Study followed by oneg: 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 1	<i>Spring Break: No Religious School or Adult Hebrew classes</i> Shabbat Service and Torah Study followed by oneg: 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 8	Religious School: 4:30—6:30 p.m. Adult Hebrew Class: 6:30—7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Study followed by oneg: 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 15	Religious School 4:30—6:30 p.m. Model Seder Adult Hebrew Class: 6:30—7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Study followed by oneg, 7:30 p.m.
<i>Tuesday, April 19</i>	<i>Kadima Community Seder at the Deerfield Hyatt Hotel: 6:00 p.m.</i>
Friday, April 22	Religious School: 4:30—6:30 p.m. Adult Hebrew Class: 6:30—7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Study followed by oneg: 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 29	Religious School: 4:30—6:30 p.m. Adult Hebrew Class: 6:30—7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service and Torah Study followed by oneg: 7:30 p.m.

Spring Holidays at Kadima

Join fellow congregants for a Shabbat service and dinner in celebration of Purim on Friday, March 18, and reserve your place at our annual community seder, conducted by Rabbi Oler, to be held on April 19 at the Deerfield Hyatt Hotel.

Purim Celebration **Purim Family Service and Shabbat Dinner** **Friday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.**

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

We'll enjoy a family style meal of London broil, roast chicken and Pasta Alfredo with rice, potatoes and seasonal vegetables as well as soda, coffee and dessert.

Adults \$15
Children 12 and under \$8
Children 3 and under Free

Please reply by email to office@nrck.org by March 17 and plan to pay Jimmy's directly, adding tax and tip.

We encourage children and adults to come in costume for the holiday!



Passover Celebration **Kadima Community Seder** **Tuesday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.**

At the Deerfield Hyatt Hotel
1750 Lake Cook Road



Please join us in celebrating the second night of Passover at a seder led by Rabbi David Oler
You are welcome to bring family and friends

To make reservations, please print the form on page 10 and mail with check (made out to Congregation Kadima) to: Mary Oler, 14 Chicory Lane, Riverwoods, IL 60015.
If you have questions, please contact Mary Oler: office@nrck.org or 847-520-9511.

In anticipation of the upcoming holidays, here are some delicious recipes to enhance your family's enjoyment!

For Purim: Hamantaschen

The hamantaschen's triangular shape represents the three-pointed hats that were worn around the time of the Purim story. The pastry was originally known as mohn taschen, mohn meaning poppy seed (the traditional filling) and taschen meaning pocket. Over time, the mohn was replaced with haman because of Haman's role in the Purim story.

Yield: About 22 2-inch cookies

8 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
3 ounces cream cheese at room temperature
3 tablespoons sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon orange zest
1 1/3 cups plus 4 teaspoons flour
1/4 teaspoon salt

Various fillings: Jams (raspberry, blackberry and apricot)
Prepared fillings (such as poppy seed or prune pastry filling)
Chocolate chips



1. Cream butter and cream cheese together until smooth.
2. Add sugar and mix for one minute longer, then egg, vanilla extract, orange zest and salt, mixing until combined.
3. Finally, add the flour. The mixture should come together and be a tad sticky. If it feels too wet, add an additional tablespoon of flour.
Form dough into a disc, wrap in plastic and refrigerate for at least an hour, preferably overnight.

When ready to bake:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. To form the hamantaschen, roll out the dough on a well-floured surface until it is about 1/4-inch thick.
3. Using a round cookie cutter or a glass (3 inches is traditional), cut the dough into circles.
4. Spoon a teaspoon of your filling of choice into the center. Do not over-fill the hamantaschen, as you will not easily be able to crimp the dough into its triangular shape and the filling will spill over when it is baking.
5. Fold the dough in from three sides and firmly crimp the corners and give them a little twist to ensure they stay closed. *(See the web site below for additional tips.)*
6. Bake on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper and bake until golden brown, about 20 minutes. Cool on racks

Source: <http://smittenkitchen.com/2008/03/hamantaschen>

For Passover: Passover Chocolate Mandel Bread



2 C sugar
1/2 lb. butter or margarine
6 eggs
1 3/4 C matzah cake meal
3/4 C potato starch
2 bars (3 oz each) bittersweet chocolate, broken up
1 C chopped nuts
1 tsp. cinnamon
2 tsp. sugar

1. Cream butter/margarine and sugar in large bowl.
2. Add eggs one at a time to the creamed butter/margarine mixture, beating after each addition.
3. In a separate bowl, sift matzah cake meal, salt and starch together.
4. Gently fold cake meal/salt/starch mixture into egg mixture.
5. Add chocolate and nuts; mix well.
6. Form mixture into two round loaves, two inches wide.
7. Place loaves on a greased cookie sheet.
8. Mix together the 1 tsp. of cinnamon and 2 tsp. of sugar and sprinkle on top of the loaves.
9. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes.
10. Slice loaves while still warm into 1/2 inch slices. If you try to slice the loaves when they are completely cooled, they will crumble instead.

Source: Blintzes and Beyond, Beth Israel Center (1978)

Submit a recipe of your own!



Do you have a favorite holiday or family recipe you'd like to share with the members of Kadima? Send it to the office (office@nrck.org), along with information about where the recipe comes from and perhaps a personal note about its special meaning for you.

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.

Kadima members the **Teitelbaums**, the **Levines** and **Lois Sommers** have already participated in this program.

If you too 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 _____

The New Reform Congregation Kadima Passover Seder

At the Deerfield Hyatt Hotel
1750 Lake Cook Road
Tuesday, April 19 at 6 p.m.

Please join us in celebrating the second night of Passover at a seder
led by Rabbi David Oler

You are welcome to bring family and friends

To make reservations, please print this page and mail with check (made out to
Congregation Kadima) to: Mary Oler, 14 Chicory Lane, Riverwoods, IL 60015.
If you have questions, please contact Mary Oler: office@nrck.org or 847-520-9511.

Name _____

Please mark your choice of Adult Entrees:

- _____ # Herb Roasted Half Chicken with Madeira Wine Sauce
- _____ # Roasted Brisket of Beef, Au Jus
- _____ # Salmon with Fresh Herbs and Citrus Tarragon Broth
- _____ # Vegetarian Melanzanno – Marinated and Grilled Eggplant with Grilled
Vegetables, Sautéed Spinach, Buffalo Mozzarella, Portabella and Vine
Ripened Tomato served with a Light Cream Sauce

And your choice of Entrees for Children ages 4-12:

- _____ # Child's portion of Herb Roasted Chicken
- _____ # Child's portion of Brisket
- _____ # Child's portion of Salmon
- _____ # Child' Grilled Chicken Fingers, Fruit Cup and French Fries

- _____ # Child's plate with Grilled Chicken for ages 3 and under, free of charge

- _____ # of Adults at \$48/Person \$ _____
- _____ # of Children (4-12) at \$24/Person \$ _____
- _____ # of Children (3 and under) free _____

Reservations must be received by Tuesday, April 12, but
we appreciate your early response.

Thank you!