



A Message From the Rabbi

Prejudice Then and Now

A few weeks ago the governor of Arizona vetoed legislation that would have allowed vendors to discriminate against homosexual couples on religious grounds. As an example, florists and photographers of a particular religious orientation wanted to be able to refuse service to homosexuals having a wedding or other event. They wanted to legalize discrimination. This is reminiscent of the days when Americans of African descent were refused service at lunch counters and restaurants and required to sit at the back of the bus.



It is particularly galling that these arguments are made on religious grounds. People feel justified to discriminate because of ancient religious teachings. Of course, churches and synagogues have the right to follow the dogmas of their denomination and people have a right to choose their own values and have their own attitudes. However, for a business to refuse service to any minority rises to a level of prejudice that is unacceptable in our democracy. Imagine if a Christian fundamentalist store owner refused to sell a product to you because you are Jewish.

It is disturbing that at this point in history we have among the citizenry many people who support such discriminatory behavior and even the legislation to authorize it. This discrimination is similar to Nazi Germany's enacting the Nuremberg Laws in 1935, which deprived Jews of their civil rights. Later, these Laws were expanded to include other groups the Nazis found repellant. It was the Nuremberg Laws, in coordination with other actions that led to the effort to annihilate the homosexual, as well as the Jewish population of Europe not so long ago.

At this season we celebrate Purim, which highlights Haman's intentions against the Jews, and affirms the values of equality in our tradition. We will soon be observing Pesach, which makes freedom and respect for the rights of others foundational to Judaism.

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The Exodus story culminates in the Torah teaching that: "there shall be one law for the citizen and for the stranger who dwells among you," which is to say that discrimination of any kind among human beings is antithetical to the messages of freedom and equality that have been, and are, at the core of Judaism.

The purpose of our holidays is to reaffirm these values for ourselves and for our children.

With best wishes for a joyous and meaningful holiday,

Cordially,

Rabbi David Oler

Adult Growth Group

Led by Rabbi Oler

On Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00
At the Kadima Facility
1020 Milwaukee Avenue, Deerfield, IL



Torah Study - Saturdays

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



Come join us!!



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

Shabbat Oneg

Would you like to sponsor a Shabbat Oneg?
Any member can host an Shabbat Oneg.
Mark a special occasion such as a birthday, baby naming, anniversary, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or...just because!

Contact office@nrck.org



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 or Sustaining Member.

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

Patrons:

Al & Bobbie Levine

Jack Henkin & Louise Pearson

Dr. Scott & Amy Taxman

Sustaining Member:

Scott Warren

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

Dorothy Bernard wrote that "Courage is fear that has said its prayers."

Our Religious School students enact the Story of Esther each year at Purim. Each time they discuss how dangerous it can be to reveal a truth that has been hidden, to stand up to a bully, and to speak for people who have no voice. They consider the consequences of keeping silent and of speaking out. They learn how Esther consulted with her cousin and then went deep into herself to gather the courage to act on behalf of the Jewish people.

Courage is required at the testing point of all other virtues. Each of us needs courage to live with integrity and to promote justice and freedom. Through discussion, reflection and play acting, the students learn to "say the prayers," to do the inner work that leads to acting with courage.

Please join our celebration of Purim this Friday afternoon.

Shalom,

Mary Oler, M. Div.



BE HAPPY, IT'S ADAR!!



CONGREGATION HAPPENINGS

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

Welcome New Members!!

Please give a warm welcome to member Kristy Morse and her sons, Austyn and Jayden.

Welcome!
ברוכים הבאים!

Purim at Religious School

Students in 6th and 7th grade will present a humorous telling of the Purim story at 5 p.m. in the LMC at Shepard School, followed by holiday snacks.

The Shabbat service will be at 6:10, with a focus on the example of Esther's courage.

Congregants of all ages are welcome to join us! Everyone is encouraged to wear Purim costumes!

March Family Shabbat Dinner

Friday, March 21, 2014 at 6:45 p.m. at Demetri's Restaurant
660 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield

Community Seder - Save the Date - More Details to Follow

Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Demetri's Restaurant
660 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield

Facebook

Come by and like us at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-New-Reform-Congregation-Kadima/146546208721456> .



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

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Religious School

Fridays 4:30 p.m.
Shepard Middle School, Deerfield

The Shabbat Service will begin at 6:10 that evening (unless otherwise stated.)

Purim at Religious School!

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Congregants of all ages are welcome to join us!

Everyone is encouraged to wear Purim costumes!



Hebrew Class

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

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Join us for the March Family Shabbat Dinner

on Friday, March 21, 2014 at 6:45 p.m.

at

at Demetri's Restaurant 660 Lake Cook Avenue Deerfield

The family-style meal will include salad, leg of lamb, gyros, dolmades, moussaka, roast potatoes, rice, vegetables and dessert.

Children may select a meal of chicken fingers with fries. Please make this request with your reservation.

Adults: \$19.95, Children \$9.75 plus tax and tip.

Children's beverages included.

Reserve at office@nrck.org





Save the Date!!

The New Reform Congregation Kadima

Community Seder

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

Demetri's Restaurant, Deerfield

6:00 p.m.

Our Community Seder, led by Rabbi Oler, will take place on Tuesday, April 15 at Demetri's Restaurant in Deerfield at 6 p.m.

We will observe all of the Passover rituals, emphasizing the holiday's themes of personal liberation and concern for those who are oppressed.

Friends and family are welcome.





"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.***