

A Message From the Rabbi

A Jewish Reaction to the Killing of Bin Laden

The United States, after nearly a decade, was able to find and kill Osama Bin Laden yesterday. Having been responsible for the planning and incitement of gruesome, horrific terrorist actions that resulted in many deaths here and abroad, including many of our soldiers in Afghanistan and Pakistan, his assassination is most fitting and welcome.



Our media are publicizing the jubilation and celebration throughout our country of this accomplishment. While such reaction is understandable, it makes me uncomfortable. Jewish tradition encourages us not to celebrate the downfall of our enemies. That is the basis for the spilling of the ten drops of wine while recounting the ten plagues at the *Pesach Seder*. There is a *midrash* that tells the story of God's distress that the angels sang a song as the Israelites crossed the Red Sea while the Egyptians drowned. God is quoted in this tradition as having said, "My creatures are drowning in the Red Sea and you are singing a song?" While clearly mythological, this story shapes the values of Judaism and its adherents.

We certainly need to work hard to protect innocent people from terrorism and that includes bringing perpetrators to justice, but we should be more discrete. Celebration serves to incite our enemies and to further incite ourselves toward hatred. We need to try to influence world events through measured pursuit of justice and through the constructive fostering of democratic values.

Over the centuries there have been significant trends within Islam toward spirituality, the pursuit of peace and respect for others. Such voices are muted because of fear of retribution by radical Islamists. It is imperative that we seek to encourage moderate Islamic thinkers and practitioners and not push people in an opposite direction through our own immoderate reactions. The West has much to teach, but it is important that we not undermine our own credibility.

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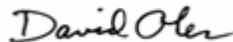
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The Arab Spring is developing in a direction which is threatening to the security of Israel as it also turns away from American and European influence. Egypt's new government is enhancing its relationship with Iran and with Hamas. We need to be effective communicators seeking to influence the emerging Arab populations while not letting down our guard.

In our personal lives we sometimes experience people who betray, abuse and even terrorize us. What is most important at such times is our resilience, our capacity to move on in ways that are best for ourselves, not an over-emphasis on retribution that results in our undermining our own goals.

Whether in our national life, community or congregational life or in our own homes, it is important to transcend our hurts and attend to making things better for ourselves and for others whom we have the capacity to influence.

With best wishes,



Rabbi David Oler

Summer Shabbat Services



In June and July our Shabbat services will be held in the homes of our members. We look forward to the more leisurely pace of summer evenings and to the special quality of home hospitality for celebrating Shabbat. A schedule with locations will be sent to all members soon.

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

Patrons:

Jack Henkin & Louise Pearson

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Sustaining Members:

Warren & Ellen Schoen

Scott Warren



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A Message from the Principal

I was sitting on the bleachers last weekend, enjoying the sunshine and watching my son, who has been disappointed by one rained out baseball game followed by another, finally out on the field with his friends. Many of us feel a happy contentment when our kids are having fun in a ballgame, but there are parents who can inject judgment and performance pressure into the balmiest atmosphere. After the flyball his son hit was caught infield, a father jumped to his feet to greet him as he returned to the bench: "Line drive! I told you before the game that's what you needed to do out there!" The eleven year-old tried to shrug it off, but you could see he was rattled, "It wasn't the best hit, Dad, but it wasn't the worst hit either..." Later the same boy was on the pitcher's mound and threw two strikes, which moved his dad to stand and scream, "He's yours, son! Finish him!!!"

I've had several conversations with Kadima parents recently who are concerned about the stressful atmosphere in which our kids are developing, whether at school, in extracurricular activities and even at "play." Parents are concerned about overloaded schedules, unrealistic expectations, and even the increasing use of performance-enhancing drugs we see around us. Anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances and psychosomatic disorders increase as our children and teens are increasingly stressed and pressured. Relationships suffer when families focus too much on performance instead of grounding children with reasonable expectations and a balanced schedule that allows ample time for sleep, "down time," family time and play time when they are being neither evaluated nor coached.

In our teen group we talked about stress last Sunday, and it gave me a fresh appreciation of the institution of Shabbat as responding to a fundamental need of humankind. We now have scientific research about the needs of developing children and youth, about what contributes to a well-being and personal success that transcends numbers, whether GPAs or batting averages. Children and teens need unstructured time to reflect on and integrate their experience, to imagine and create. They need time to build relationships, to be part of a rich, ongoing conversation in their homes, to learn to cooperate and have empathy for others. They need a sustaining vision for more than superficial successes, but for a life that is inwardly fulfilling and outwardly beneficial. The conception of the Shabbat, with its emphasis on rest, reflection and recreation in community with others, is a lovely response to the deeper needs of the human spirit.

I'd like to recommend the website for Challenge Success, a project of the Stanford University School of Education, because I think it is a wonderful resource for parents, students and schools seeking to help young people prepare for deeper living. It dovetails beautifully with our religious approach to life by encouraging us to consider "success" on our own terms, with our own values. It also offers research-based and common sense tips for supporting the healthy development of children and teens.

With the approach of summer, we can all enjoy more "down time," or more of the kind of time Shabbat was instituted to provide. The Jewish people have traditionally viewed the Shabbat as a gift from God that uplifted and hallowed the quality of human life. Let's be sure to pass on to our children and youth the gift of time to rest, reflect and recreate their world in accordance with a grounded and loving spirit.

Shalom,
Mary Oler

Thanks to our Religious School and Adult Education Teachers

Religious School and Adult Education classes end for this semester on Friday, May 20. We want to thank our Religious School teachers **Callie Dixon, Joanne Elster, Yana Fayn, Hagit Levi, Alexa Mather, Rabbi David** and **Mary Oler, Rachel Powers** and **Maor Yonovitch** and our Adult Hebrew Class teacher, **Jack Henkin**, for their dedication and hard work.

Kadima Confirmation Class

Kadima's Confirmation Class with Rabbi Oler will have its final meeting of the school year on Sunday, May 15 with breakfast and activities at the Oler's home. We want to thank the **Frankel, Oler** and **Shapiro** families for hosting our bi-weekly meetings with warm hospitality. Youth activities will continue through the summer—watch for notices!

Youth Summer Service Camp

Middle and High School students are invited to join our Youth Summer Service Camp in June. Please contact Mary Oler at office@nrck.org as soon as possible if you are interested in joining us next month!



Summer Hebrew Learning

Learning can continue through the summer months. Many of our teachers are available for Hebrew tutoring. If your child would like to study individually or with a small group, contact Mary Oler at office@nrck.org.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Annual Meeting, Friday, May 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

The Annual Meeting of the New Reform Congregation Kadima will take place on Friday evening May 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the library of Shepard Middle School, 440 Grove Place, Deerfield, prior to the Shabbat service. The meeting will include reports on the congregation and election of officers. Please join us for this important meeting!

The following members have been selected by the nominating committee in accordance with the by-laws and have agreed to serve:

Officers (2011-2012)

President	Marc Dubey
Executive Vice President	Warren Schoen
Financial Vice President	Howard Teitelbaum
Membership Vice President	Mark Shapiro
Technology Vice President	Louise Pearson
Treasurer	Michael Mondschain
Secretary	Bruce Hirsh

Trustees

Continuing term through 2012	Sasha Feingold Paula Krecun Al Levine Scott Taxman
Nominated to new 2 year term through 2013	Linda Frankel Leonard Sneider Mike Winkelstein

Article XII Section B of the Congregation's by-laws provides that: "Other nominations may be made by a petition signed by not less than ten percent of Kadima's members then entitled to vote and filed with the Secretary of Kadima not later than 20 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Such petition shall contain the name and address of the nominee(s), the office for which he/she is nominated and a statement signed by the nominee(s) that if elected he/she will serve in the office for which he/she is nominated." The present secretary Louise Pearson's email address is secretary@nrck.org or you can reach her at her personal e-mail address pearsonls@aol.com.

During the Annual Meeting the Congregation's 2011-2012 budget will also be presented.

Dinner to Honor Outgoing and New Board Members Sunday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Adult Kadima members are invited to join in our Annual Congregation Dinner in honor of our outgoing and new Officers and Board members to take place this year in the private dining room at Demetri's Greek Restaurant on Lake Cook Road in Deerfield at 6:30 on Sunday, June 12. You will be able to order from the menu. Please contact the office, office@nrck.org, with reservations.

Holiday Celebrations



Israel Independence Day Friday, May 13 at 6:45 p.m.



Please join us for the May Family Service and Shabbat Dinner
in celebration of Israel's Independence Day

At Jimmy's Charhouse
1111 N. Milwaukee Ave., Riverwoods
(corner of Milwaukee Ave. and Deerfield Rd.)
Friday, May 13 at 6:45
following Religious School at Shepard Middle School

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

Please reply by email to maryoler@comcast.net by May 11 and plan to pay Jimmy's
directly, adding tax and tip.

Shavuot Wednesday, June 8 at 6:45 p.m.



All Kadima members are invited to attend a dinner and Torah study with Rabbi Oler on
Wednesday, June 8 in honor of Shavuot. We'll meet in the private room at Max and
Benny's Restaurant on Waukegan Road at 6:45 p.m. You will be able to order from the
menu. Please contact the office, office@nrck.org, to reserve.

Community Seder Enjoyed by Kadima Members

Seventy-five Kadima members, family and friends gathered at the Deerfield Hyatt Hotel to
celebrate the second night of Pesach on April 19. Rabbi David Oler led us in a seder using
the congregation's own Haggadah, printed last year. Two of our senior members, **David
Henkin** and **Essie Hirsh**, made the Kiddush and gave the blessings over the candles; our
teenagers opened the door for Elijah; the children recited the Four Questions and bargained
with the Afikomen. Many members and guests participated by leading readings
commemorating the Exodus and humankind's continuing journey to freedom. We enjoyed a
delicious meal of Passover dishes and the company of friends, and we took away fresh
inspiration for our own movement toward liberation.

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 _____