



A Message From the Rabbi

What has Happened to our Sweet Land of Liberty?

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided to allow official public prayer at town council meetings, particularly including denominational references such as are used in Christian worship. The five justices who constituted the majority were not concerned about the impact of their decision on the freedom of those who are not part of the religion followed by the majority of Americans. While in a democracy majority rules, the freedom of religion guaranteed by the United States constitution was understood by many of us to mean that the government would not sanction the imposition of particular religious beliefs, observances or practices on anyone. This led many of us to feel that America truly protected the rights of minorities and was a bastion of freedom of religion for all regardless of their particular beliefs.



Imagine that you had a reason to attend a town council meeting somewhere in America and that it began with a particularly denominational Christian prayer, following which the matter that concerned you was on the agenda. Would it enhance your feeling of welcome and of equality in that environment? Might this decision of the Court serve as a later precedent for other environments such as the public schools and ultimately once again expose vulnerable children to religious coercion?

Such disregard for the sensitivities of minorities belies an underlying contempt and an arrogance that in other places and times led to more severe acts of enmity and persecution. The Supreme Court's decision is a severe blow, a narcissistic injury, to those not committed to the majority religion, who want to feel that they are equal citizens of this land. It is of interest that besides being divided along political lines, the decision was made by five Catholic justices against the dissenting three Jewish justices and one Hispanic Catholic justice.

It is ironic that the Torah portion of the week when the Supreme Court made this ruling included the words from Leviticus XXV:10 inscribed on the Liberty Bell: "Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land, to ALL the inhabitants thereof."

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In the context of appropriate justice, the Torah teaches that a judge must not advantage the powerful over the less so and concludes that one must judge with righteousness. The justices who constituted the majority in this ruling evidently do not accept or support the notion that justice must provide equal protection for everyone. What a sad day for America!

May the time come when humanity will evolve to being less arrogant and self-serving and more receptive to the teachings of love of neighbor, of not harming others and of treating others as one would like to be treated – the essential teachings of the religious tradition these five justices and many like them purport to protect.

Most sincerely,

David Oler

Rabbi David Oler



Torah Study - Saturdays
Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Come join us!!

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



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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A Message from the President

Dear Fellow Congregants,

This is my last column to Kol Kadima as President of The New Reform Congregation Kadima. It has been a genuine honor to serve Kadima for these last three years, especially due to our wonderful community and its volunteerism from people in all walks and stages of life who have provided very meaningful contributions. After three years, there are so many people to thank for contributing to the great Kadima community that it would be impossible to name them all, but here is a short, though not total, list:

Thank you to Michael Mondschain, Steve Simon, Howard Lipsky, Miriam Lipsky, Al Levine, Linda Frankel, Scott Taxman, Becky Thall, Randy McCool, Callie Dixon, Linda Tomaszewski, Ron Tomaszewski, and the three boards with whom I have served. I would like to also thank the two preceding Presidents who made amazing commitments of time and energy; our founding President Louise Pearson and our second President Warren Schoen.

We would not exist as the Congregation we are today without all the hard work and of Mary Oler and Rabbi David Oler, both of whom I consider friends, and David as a mentor. Beyond their wonderful qualities of working hard and being open minded, is that they both take the time to assess what is going on around them, the current trends and possible opportunities. They are fearlessly willing to mine their imaginations and reinvent their own wheels to improve the relevance of the services Kadima provides. I find this willingness a very rare **quality and their readiness to share this quality** to be an awesome, intense and deeply personal commitment to our community.

What makes Kadima a great community is not just because we have great volunteers, or that we have very committed and open-minded clergy that puts community needs first or that we are a small community that makes affiliation easy. It is all of these things and more. Kadima provides our families the kind of open minded, thoughtful religious environment that makes us trend setters in the Reform Movement; but also gives the kind of Judaism that our families with many different approaches to religion, different life styles such as interfaith families, need to be successful, happy people. Kadima has great qualities, but its greatness will last beyond a moment or a series of moments. We are the kind of productive, exciting, bright community that develops a deep roots and strong branches that allows us to maintain our uniqueness, but also see our ambitions come into flower with successful actions.

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I am very, very excited about our new leadership. They have drive, ideas and commitment. The new board understands that the congregants are not mere purchasers of membership in a club that provides services, but builders of an intentional community that will benefit us personally and spiritually. And that the building will continue with the betterment of our children and larger communities we live in.

We also have some new volunteers that bring with them a lot of positive energy and deep life experience. Many of the volunteers are knowledgeable about team dynamics and know that the most important factor in making a project a success is to bring the team along. I believe success is defined by participation, rather than the destination. And as participation is such a major element of our Kadima community, this is a great time to volunteer.

With the wonderful combination of fresh faces and experienced congregants on the board and as volunteers, and with your active support, they will continue and improve upon the communal vitality that is our Congregation Kadima!

Warmly,

Marc

Marc Dubey

President
New Reform Congregation Kadima

*On behalf of the New Reform Congregation Kadima,
a huge thank you to*

Marc Dubey

for his service and dedication as the President of the congregation.



Principal's Letter

Watching one of our Religious School students become a Bar and Bat Mitzvah is always a highlight of the school year. This year's students read beautifully and shared the personal meaning they found in the Torah portion, their Mitzvah project and the process of learning and reflection about becoming a more responsible and caring person.

Robin Tomaszewski spoke about the kindness of Rachel, her Hebrew namesake, and about donating toys for children who are in the hospital. Zoe Warren's reading was about the Jewish people's quest to understand and realize holiness. She talked about her volunteer service to benefit Hadassah Hospital. Two years ago Max Handwerker asked the Rabbi for the etrog used by the congregation at Sukkot, and several months later Max had grown a small orchard of potted etrog trees from the seeds; he read about the Sukkot holiday and discussed the meaning of its rituals.

We always ask the B'nai Mitzvah to read their Torah portion in a Religious School service. Max will be reading for us on Friday, May 16.

Our school year ends on May 16. We want to thank our students, parents and teachers for their contributions to a year of growing together. We wish all of you the good gifts of summer break – rest, a break from routine, new experiences, learning and growth.

Shalom,

Mary Oler, M. Div.



CONGREGATION HAPPENINGS

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

Annual Congregational Meeting and Board Installation

When: Saturday, May 17, 2014

What time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: The home of Ron and Linda Tomaszewski

782 Links Court

Riverwoods, Illinois

Potluck Supper

A potluck supper will follow the Annual Congregational Meeting and Board Installation for the adult members of our Kadima.

When: Saturday, May 17, 2014

What time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: The home of Ron and Linda Tomaszewski

782 Links Court

Riverwoods, Illinois

Please R.S.V.P. to office@nrck.org.

Everyone is asked to bring a bottle of wine, or other beverage, as well as either a salad, side dish, entrée or dessert to share. If you indicate what dish you will bring, that will help us to balance the meal. Thank you.

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

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

Max Handwerker will be reading his Torah portion in a Religious School Service on Friday, May 16.

The Shabbat Service will begin at 6:10 that evening.

Congregants of all ages are welcome to join us!

**** Please note that Friday, May 16, 2014 ****
**** is the last day of Religious School ****

ENJOY THE SUMMER!!



אבגדהוזחטיכלמנסעפצקרשת

The New Reform Congregation Kadima

Please join us on Saturday, May 17

for our

*Annual Congregational Meeting
and Board Installation*

at 6:30 p.m.

*followed by a Potluck Supper for adult members of
our congregation at 7:00 p.m.*

*at the home of Ron and Linda Tomaszewski
782 Links Court, Riverwoods, Illinois*

Please R.S.V.P. to office@nrck.org.

*Everyone is asked to bring a bottle of wine, or other beverage,
as well as either a salad, side dish, entrée or dessert to share.*

*If you indicate what dish you will bring, that will help us to
Balance the meal.*

Thank you.





The New Reform Congregation Kadima
Deerfield, Illinois 60015

The nominating committee has selected the following individuals to be on its slate for the congregation's Board of Directors for the coming year, beginning with the Annual Meeting on May 17th:

President - Jack Henkin

Executive Vice President - Linda Frankel

Vice Presidents - Howard Lipsky and Ron Tomaszewski

Treasurer - Michael Mondschain

Secretary - Kristy Morse

Board of Directors - Al Levine and Bill Russin

David Coleman, Cliff Silverman, and Scott Warren will be continuing to serve the second year their two year terms.

Marc Dubey will serve as the immediate past President.





"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.***