

A Message From the Rabbi

Thanksgiving

In light of the stressful economy and the extent of unemployment and underemployment in the community, the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago has contributed a \$1,000 gift to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund of our Congregation for me to make funds available to people who are in serious financial need for food, medicine and the like. If you are in such need or know someone who is, please contact me on a confidential basis.



If you are in a position to contribute to this newly established tax-deductible fund, which I administer for charitable and community purposes, your generosity will go to good use and be gratefully appreciated.

The upcoming Thanksgiving holiday was modeled by the Pilgrims after the Torah's festival of Sukkot. In both instances the emphasis was intended to be on giving, hence the term "Thanksgiving." The celebration of Sukkot involved extensive animal sacrifices in the Temple. The Torah emphasizes that true joy in holiday observance can only be achieved when we are generous to the needy in our midst. For the Pilgrims, Thanksgiving was similarly a time for religious expression.

In modern times, Thanksgiving is mostly celebrated with an emphasis on enjoying a wonderful dinner with family and friends. Little if any time is allotted to reflecting on appreciation for what we have, nor is there a religious aspect to our observance. Very few people see it as a time to consider the needs of the less fortunate.

On Sunday November 13, in anticipation of Thanksgiving, members of our Congregation, students in our Religious School as well as adults will participate, under the auspices of Kadima's Social Action Committee, in collecting canned food and other packaged goods for contribution to the local food pantry.

Whether you choose to volunteer to go door to door with us in Kadima's pre-Thanksgiving food drive, or to donate to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund or to any other charity of your

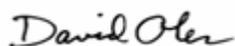
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choice, I hope you will think of some way to be giving and thereby add meaning to your celebration of Thanksgiving.

I also hope you will have the opportunity to enjoy yourself together with loved ones.

With warm regards,



Rabbi David Oler

Welcome New Members

Joe and Pam Handwerker
and their children **Max and Sophie**

Michael and Julia Koyfman
and their children **Daniel and Sam**

Thanks

The New Reform Congregation Kadima gratefully acknowledges holiday donations from

Al and Bobbie Levine

Howard and Debbie Teitelbaum

Would you like to sponsor an Oneg?

Any member can host an Oneg Shabbat. Mark a special occasion such as a birthday, baby naming, anniversary, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or...just because.

Contact office@nrck.org

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 or call the Kadima office at [847-229-9500](tel: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: \$6,120
Sustaining: \$4,488
Sustaining Single: \$3,060

Patrons:

Al & Bobbie Levine
Jack Henkin & Louise Pearson
Dr. Scott & Amy Taxman
Avers & Gloria Wexler

Sustaining Members:

Warren & Ellen Schoen
Scott Warren



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847-229-9500

www.nrck.org
office@nrck.org

Rabbi
Principal
President
Editor
Associate Editor

David Oler, Ph.D.
Mary Oler, M. Div.
Marc Dubey
Roslyn Nitzberg
Callie Dixon



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Congregational Happenings

Annual Progressive Dinner

Saturday, November 12

7:00 p.m.



Join us for:

Appetizers

at the home of **Dr. Scott and Amy Taxman, 1080 Lampton Lane, Deerfield**

Main Course

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

Dessert

at the home of **Shana Mallin, 1419 Laurel, Deerfield**

Kadima members and friends who are interested in our congregation are welcome. The cost is \$18 per person and all funds raised will benefit our congregation. Please mail checks to: The New Reform Congregation Kadima, P.O. Box 1722, Deerfield, IL, 60015. To reserve, contact office@nrck.org.

Holiday Food Drive

Sunday, November 13

10:00 a.m.



The Social Action Committee is organizing a drive to collect non-perishable foods and household supplies. Our collections will be donated to the West Deerfield Township Food Pantry. Please join us at 10 a.m. at **Amy and Scott Taxman's home at 1080 Lampton Lane** in Deerfield for donuts, cider and coffee before we walk through surrounding Deerfield neighborhoods to collect food. We are planning this as an intergenerational event, so please bring the whole family. If you have wagons, they are useful for carrying donations. We welcome any level of participation. Please let us know if you plan to come by responding to office@nrck.org.

Brian Smart, Co-chair, Social Action Committee

November Family Service and Shabbat Dinner

Friday, November 18

6:30 p.m.

Jimmy's Charhouse

1111 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Riverwoods (corner of Milwaukee Ave. and Deerfield Rd.)



Enjoy a family style meal of London Broil, Roast Chicken and Spagettini Marinara with Rice, Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables; 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 November 16 and plan to pay Jimmy's directly, adding tax and tip.

A Message from the Principal

Sometimes an educational experience is so powerful that it takes my breath away. We had such an experience last month when **David Henkin** was the guest speaker at one of our confirmation class/youth meetings. Mr. Henkin shared brunch with our Middle and High School students and held them spellbound for two hours with stories from his 100 years — as a boy growing up in Poland during and after the First World War and as a young family man during the Nazi invasion; as he worked in a labor camp and escaped before further transport; as a runaway rescued by local farmers; a resistance fighter living in the forest; a postwar refugee adrift in Europe trying to locate his family and return home; a survivor learning about the founding of the State of Israel; an immigrant facing the challenges of making a new life for himself and his family in America; and a wise and beloved grandfather. He brought the students' study of 20th Century Jewish history to life, integrating the most haunting and uplifting moments of our common story into his personal narrative. As one of the students said afterward, "I'll never read about these things again without remembering him. It makes me feel proud that he survived all those things and is such a good man." His account was vivid but also sensitively edited for his young audience. And not only did Mr. Henkin share his own story, he wanted to know the heritage of each student — and in many cases he shared some memory or bit of information about visiting the place in which a student's ancestors were born. As parents arrived to pick up their children, we quietly arranged another row of chairs so that they could listen too. Many of them asked if we could arrange a Shabbat service with David Henkin as our speaker so that the adults in our congregation may also hear his living witness to history. Consequently, we are pleased that he will be the guest speaker at services on November 4. We want to thank Jack Henkin for accompanying his father and facilitating our conversation in the confirmation class.

Kadima's Sunday youth program provides us the time and flexibility to engage students in a variety of activities for sharing our Jewish legacy. These include such events as attending a concert of klezmer music (featuring one of our talented Confirmation students, high school sophomore Daniel Shapiro, on keyboard) in October and participating in the congregation's holiday food drive, based at student Sammie Taxman's house, in November. Our Sunday brunches provide the home hospitality that we value at Kadima and give students extended opportunities to learn and socialize. We appreciate the support of parents who open their homes to us, bring delicious food, drive and chaperone for this program!

Shalom.

Mary Oler

Religious School Collections

On Fridays **November 4 and 11**, students in the Religious School will be collecting blankets and towels for Orphans of the Storm animal shelter. Please check your linen closet for unused items you can give to help the shelter keep the dogs warm and comfortable during the winter months.



Also, please remind students to bring some tzedekah money each Friday. The students have identified several worthy causes, and giving tzedekah is part of their preparation for Shabbat.

Adult Education



**Fridays
5:30 p.m.**

Library Conference Room, Shepard Middle School

Dr. Jack Henkin will present “Judaic Tradition in Modern Bioethics.” The course will cover:

- 1-Jewish legal and ethical principles that inform medical decisions
- 2-Jewish views on conception and procreation
- 3-Judaic tradition and end of life decisions
- 4-Evolving Jewish views of lifestyle choices
- 5-Merging of religious and secular ethics in complex medical decisions
- 6-Jewish views on genetic manipulation and the treatment of animals

It is planned to become more seminar-like over time so that participants can share their health/research related experiences.

November-December Calendar

November

- Friday, November 4**
4:30-6:30 p.m. Religious School and Adult Education at Shepard Middle School
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service with **David Henkin** as guest speaker at home of Jack Henkin and Louise Pearson in Highland Park.
- Friday, November 11**
4:30-6:30 p.m. Religious School and Adult Education at Shepard Middle School
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service
- Saturday, November 12**
7:00 p.m. Progressive Dinner, beginning at Dr. Scott and Amy Taxman's
- Sunday, November 13**
10:00 a.m. Holiday Food Drive, beginning at Dr. Scott and Amy Taxman's
- Friday, November 18**
6:30 p.m. Family Shabbat Dinner and Service at Jimmy's Charhouse
(No Religious School or Adult Education)
- Friday, November 25**
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service
(No Religious School or Adult Education—Thanksgiving Break)

December

- Friday, December 2**
4:30-6:30 p.m. Religious School and Adult Education, Shepard Middle School
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service
- Friday, December 9**
4:30-6:30 p.m. Religious School and Adult Education, Shepard Middle School
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service
- Friday, December 16**
4:30-6:30 p.m. Religious School and Adult Education, Shepard Middle School
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service
- Tuesday, December 20**
6:30 p.m. First Night of Hannukah
Dinner and Service at Jimmy's Charhouse
- Friday, December 23**
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services
(No Religious School or Adult Education—Winter Break)
- Friday, December 30**
7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services
(No Religious School or Adult Education—Winter Break)

Bar Mitzvah

*The New Reform Congregation Kadima takes much pride when those within our family become Bar or Bat Mitzvah. **Jonathan Stuart Isaac Dixon** celebrated his Bar Mitzvah earlier this year in Israel, then again marked that milestone, as well as his involvement with the Kadima community here, when he was called to read from the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at Shabbat services recently. He made the following comments on that happy occasion:*

The Torah portion I am reading tonight is Mattot. It is the parsha that I read in Israel. The parsha is not one I chose, but the one that was assigned for the week according to the traditional Jewish practice.

Mattot means “tribes” in Hebrew. The tribes that are referred to are named after Jacob’s sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin. In this parsha, Moses is telling the tribes what God has commanded regarding vows that a woman may make and if or how the vow can be broken.

While the parsha is very specific about a woman’s vows, I found the idea of making or breaking vows significant to me. It made me think of all the vows or promises people make. I’ve made promises and vows too: “I promise to feed the cats” and “I vow to not to use a sewing machine again.” I then thought about how do people keep promises? Can the vows be broken? And when is it okay to break vows or promises?

What is clear from the parsha is that vows are taken very seriously in Jewish law. And that vows should not be broken except under extreme circumstances. From reading this parsha, I will try to take the vows and promises I make more seriously. One vow I will try to keep is to be accepting, kind and non-judgmental. Another vow I will try to keep is to help make the world a better place. And I promise to always love my parents and family.



A Bar Mitzvah means “Son of the Commandment” and becoming a responsible adult in the Jewish community. It’s also about family, friends, and taking another step in my commitment to Judaism.

As most of you know, I went to Israel this past July. It wasn’t just your everyday vacation (though I had a blast), but I also had a bar mitzvah there. It was amazing to know that I was in a place where thousands of Jews stood, lived and breathed before me.

My mother took me to Israel with the idea that I would be able to touch history instead of just reading about it, and feel a physical connection to Israel, not just know where it exists on a map.

My mother succeeded: I was in awe of the Western Wall; I was amazed by all the small but beautiful synagogues in Safed; Masada was extraordinary; hearing Hebrew spoken was cool and seeing the Israeli flag flying everywhere made me so proud. While my home is in Mount Prospect, I feel at home in Israel too.

But my trip did include some fun. I ate ice cream in every city, town and national landmark. I got great tee-shirts; posed with Israeli soldiers for pictures; watched a lot of National Geographic. as it was one of the few English-speaking TV channels; floated in the Dead Sea and made friends from around the world.

My trip to Israel inspired me. I want to go back – desperately!! As a Jewish man, I will continue to be kind, caring and respectful. I also want to increase and expand my knowledge of Judaism.

I’d like to thank Rabbi Oler for giving me the opportunity to practice reading my parsha before I left for Israel and helping me with my speeches. I would also like to thank Mrs. Oler for providing a religious class that I actually look forward to going to. A thank you to my Uncle Jimmy for being patient and making learning my parsha and prayers fun. I so appreciate the time and energy he put into tutoring me. I’d like to thank my brother, Justin, for letting me actually get bar mitzvah stuff done. And I’d like to thank my parents for their patience, support and love. Lastly, I want to thank all of you who are here tonight; it means a lot to me.