

A Message From the Rabbi

Bullying and What You Can Do About It



You have likely heard of the growing number of suicides resulting from anti-gay bullying. In recent months these include: Justin Aaberg, 15, of Minnesota; Asher Brown, 13, of Houston; Tyler Clementi, 18, of New Jersey; Billy Lucas, 15, of Indiana; and Seth Walsh, 13, of California.

All five of these young men recently took their own lives. Tyler, a Rutgers University freshmen, jumped from a campus bridge. Billy, a high school student, hung himself in his family’s barn. Asher, a middle school student, died in his stepfather’s closet. Each of these boys was a victim of anti-gay harassment and bullying and, unable to cope with the pain and humiliation they endured, they turned to suicide.

Jews should be the first to abhor bullying of any kind. More than any other concern, the Torah teaches us 36 times to “love the stranger.” The rationale provided is that we were strangers in the Land of Egypt, meaning that our experiences of suffering should make us sensitive to that of others. Our history of being the victims of bigotry should motivate us not to stand idly by while others are being hurt (see Leviticus xix:16). Our congregation and I personally are signatories to a document being circulated in the Jewish community that expresses a pledge to speak out when witnessing “anyone being demeaned for their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.” It also includes a commitment to do whatever one can “to ensure that each and every person ... is treated with dignity and respect.” I encourage you to sign this pledge as well at <http://jewishcommunitypledge.org>.

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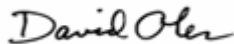
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Some politicians in recent weeks have resorted to homophobic bullying. School children taunt one another with the word “gay” used as an epithet. Old prejudices and homophobic anxieties die hard.

Yet, the military and the government are seeking to move beyond “don’t ask – don’t tell” to an open non-judgmental stance regarding the ability to serve in the military regardless of the acknowledgment of a homosexual identity. Polls indicate that 70% of Americans are in support. Such progress would certainly be in keeping with constitutional rights.

As a congregation we stand for equal rights and respect for diversity however manifested in life. Not only do we want to make sure that everyone be welcome in our congregation, but we need to be proactive in the struggle against prejudice in the larger community. Of course, bullying is expressed in a myriad of ways, not only in terms of homophobia. One of the most important aspects of Jewish spiritual development is to have the courage to intervene when others are being bullied or otherwise abused. As the ultimate concern of Judaism is for us to become compassionate, its highest realization is taking on the responsibility to intervene to protect those being caused to suffer.

Shalom,



Rabbi David Oler

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

Al & Bobbie Levine

Dr. Scott & Amy Taxman

Howard & Debbie Teitelbaum

Avers & Gloria Wexler

Sustaining Members:

Warren & Ellen Schoen

Scott Warren

Welcome New Members

A warm welcome to our new members:

Sheldon and Annette Engelhardt
Yakov and Victoria Garbuz
Lawrence and Deborah Hermalyn
Todd and Ellen Lazar
Sara Linton
Mike and Susan Winkelstein



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From the President

We had wonderful, spiritually inspiring High Holiday services. We have now settled into our regular schedule of Friday evening services and religious school. Attendance is growing for our monthly Shabbat dinners. We have a new Shabbat liturgy and new Torah volumes. Our Programming Committee has been arranging regular social events for Kadima. Our members are involved and committed and support our activities.

We will be able to manage a balanced budget for the year, but we need all members to pay their dues in a timely fashion and also, if possible, to give a little more if they are able. A number of our people are helping in this way.

To enable Kadima to grow and thrive we also need to raise funds in the general community through various projects being planned by the board. We need your help. We need volunteers from the Congregation who care about Kadima to step up and offer their time to help us raise funds from beyond the membership. If you can spare some time to help us in these endeavors please contact me at warren@usadishtv.com or 847-456-5033, Vice-President Bruce Hirsh at brucehirsh@gmail.com or 847-561-5500 or Rabbi Oler at davidoler@nrck.org or 847-229-9500.

If we all do our share we will be able to really strengthen our New Reform Congregation Kadima. Please let us know if you are able to help or if you have any suggestions.

Thank you.

Warren Schoen

New Liturgy at Kadima

A new edition of the liturgy for Shabbat services at Kadima has recently been completed. In addition to enriching the services, the new edition presents an opportunity to honor a loved one with a dedicatory name plate in one or more of the 100 copies. The dedicatory name plate will indicate the name of the donor and the individual being honored or memorialized. Your donation of \$18 for each dedication may be sent to the New Reform Congregation Kadima, P.O. Box 1722, Deerfield, IL 60015.

Stay in Touch

Contact Kadima at any time by e-mail at office@nrck.org or by calling the synagogue office at 847-229-9500.

Visit the Kadima web site: www.nrck.org.

A Message from the Principal

The weekly observance of a day of rest was a revolutionary institution in the ancient world. As modern Reform Jews, most of us have an ambivalent relationship with our Shabbat. On the one hand, we don't feel bound to ritual observance, and we enjoy the freedom to decide how to balance work and leisure for ourselves. On the other hand, we find ourselves coming up short on leisure. In the midst of the Great Recession, many of us are working more than ever before, and anyone raising children on the North Shore today experiences that the downside of taking advantage of the almost endless enrichment opportunities available for them is time-famine.

Getting our children to Friday School is a challenge, and many of our families are chronically "running late," just as they were for Sunday School. Have no illusions that our family is different! Our daughter is irritated if she doesn't have time to change her clothes from school, and our son has to eat his after-school snack in the car en route. I search for soothing music on the radio as we drive in order to set a serene tone or ask about their school day and weekend plans in order to make a transition to Shabbat.

Once school begins, I really enjoy the warm relationships, intelligent questions and laughter that enliven the classrooms. The teachers are well aware that the students are coming from a full week of school and other activities and strive to create a nurturing atmosphere. The Shabbat service at the end of school is a sweet time. Students take a large part in leading readings, discussing a Torah portion with the Rabbi or presenting a message of their own to the school. Older students help the younger ones, some parents come early to join us, and there is a lovely experience of generations sharing our tradition.

There are small victories for carving out the Shabbat experience of community and rest that we all crave. Yesterday our very sociable teenager told me that she was communicating with her friends on Facebook about going to see "The Social Network" film this weekend. "I guess you don't want me to suggest doing it on Friday night, do you – because of Friday School and Shabbat, right?" You'd have to know her to understand that this was an admission that the Shabbat time with her synagogue friends is, strangely, as fulfilling as seeing the movie everyone's talking about. And last Friday when the Rabbi concluded our Shabbat service with a reminder that some of us were going on to a Shabbat dinner at Jimmy's, a number of tweens and teens asked if they could still join in. Jimmy's set up ten more place settings, we found rides for everyone and we packed the room. The young people were as good as gold conversing and laughing at their end of the dining room, and when I drove a few of them home – kids who are used to DJ parties and Ultimate Bowling under strobe lights, they expressed immense satisfaction with this warm and relaxed Shabbat meal.

I hope families will let us know how we can ease the stress and help make Shabbat a rewarding and replenishing experience. Finding Shalom is partly about the choices we make and the activity load we allow, but there are inevitable conflicts with activities that are very important to our children, work and social obligations, rush hour traffic and other hurdles to navigate. None of us can do it all, we can only do our best to sort out and balance the conflicting claims on our time. Teachers can prepare home work, and there are

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other things we can do to help when a student has to arrive late, miss school, have a snack or be supervised while a parent attends the adult class. For example, in order to help working parents with transportation we have established five carpools to school. We have a lot of resources and flexibility as a community and want to hear about your needs and receive your suggestions. Achieving Shabbat Shalom, the peace of the Sabbath, requires communication and planning. Let us do it together.

Shalom,

Mary Oler

Congregational Happenings

Social Action Committee



Thanks to everyone who generously contributed food items during the High Holiday services. They were greatly appreciated.

We are planning a Blood Drive to be held during the month of December. We will inform you of the exact date very soon. We are coordinating the dates with Life Source.

Also, the cold weather is here and we will be collecting coats, gloves, hats etc. for those in need. More information on the dates we will be collecting these and other items will be coming soon.

Paula Krecun, Chairman

Adult Education

Adult education classes are held on Friday evenings at the Shepard School in Deerfield. Jack Henkin teaches Hebrew from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Torah study continues with the Rabbi as part of the Shabbat services beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Kadima Progressive Dinner
Saturday Evening November 6, 7:00—10:00 p.m.

Come join in the fun, good food and camaraderie

Appetizers at Shana Mallin's
1419 Laurel Avenue, Deerfield

Main Course at Louise Pearson and Jack Henkin's
1370 S. Lincoln Avenue, Highland Park

Dessert at Linda and Ron Tomaszewski's
782 Links Court, Riverwoods

The cost is \$20 per person.

Please send payment by November 3 to
Congregation Kadima, P.O. Box 1722, Deerfield, Illinois 60015

Contact Shana Mallin, shanam945@aol.com, or
the congregation office at office@nrck.org or 847-229-9500
for further details and to make reservations.

Family Bowling Night
Saturday, November 13, 5:30—7:30 p.m.

Brunswick Zone Deerfield, 10 S. Waukegan Road

\$9 per person, includes shoe rental

Everyone, adults and children, are welcome!

howard@the-colemans.tv or 847-367-7688 or
the Kadima office, office@nrck.org or 847-229-9500

Family Shabbat Service and Dinner
November 19, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m.* at Jimmy's Charhouse in Riverwoods

Adults: \$15, Children 12 and under: \$8, 3 and under: No charge

Reserve at office@nrck.org.

*There will be no Religious School or Adult Education on this evening.

Community Hannukah Service and Celebration
Friday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.

Caruso Middle School Multi-purpose Room

Join us for Hannukah stories and songs, lighting the menorah, dinner with latkes,
crafts and games.