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HA-KESHER

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Newsletter of Or Hadash
A Reconstructionist Congregation
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From Rabbi Josh



Burning to Transform

Early in the book of Exodus, God famously calls to Moses from a burning bush and commands him to go to Pharaoh to tell him to free the Israelite slaves. This momentous encounter is a pivotal one in human history: a promise that God cares about the wellbeing of people who are suffering and oppressed and will help us find the courage and resources necessary to bring justice and peace to a broken world. It is a promise that God stands with us when we undertake difficult and even dangerous work for the sake of the greater good.

The work we are called to carry out at this season is not, at first glance, dangerous but is certainly difficult! In the lead up to the High Holidays we are supposed to perform *teshuvah*, to carefully and deliberately scrutinize our behavior over the past year and seek to repent in those cases where we have inevitably fallen short of our goals and ideals. After sincerely apologizing to those whom we have harmed by our actions we ask God for forgiveness so we can enter the New Year with a fresh slate, drawing on the promise to stand with us as we strive to carry out what God demands from us. In this way we are like the bush which burns with fire but is not consumed: we allow the impulse for change and transformation – a potentially dangerous force – to burn within us, yet instead of destroying us it instead purifies and strengthens us, burning away only those shortcomings and misdeeds and allowing our core to emerge intact and ready for whatever the New Year demands from us.

This year, we are going to be focusing as a congregation on the story of Moses and the burning bush. Or Hadash is taking part in a new initiative through the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College called the Transformative Text Project. At a number of points throughout the year, RRC student Malka Packer will be with us to teach about the burning bush and inviting us to encounter the text and its messages through study, creativity, and experiential education across the spectrum of our congregation, from the youngest students in our school to the most veteran adult learners. The goal of the program is for us to be transformed individually and as a community through our ongoing engagement with this central Jewish text and I am excited about the plans Malka, Barbara Weisman, and I have put in place to allow us to experience the story of the burning bush on a number of levels. I am delighted that Or Hadash was chosen as one of the synagogues to participate in the initial cohort of the Transformative Text Project and look forward to the fruits of this collaboration.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 14 when Malka will be on hand to introduce and kick off our year-long project. We will have a program for school students and parents beginning at 9:00 and then for other members beginning at 11:30. I invite you to join us for a year of learning and transformation as we begin 5773.

l'Shanah Tovah,

Rabbi Josh



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is my first President's message in HaKesher, the Or Hadash newsletter. To me, HaKesher is a fitting name for our communications vehicle because in English it means the Connection. Creating connections amongst congregants at Or Hadash is something that the Executive Committee and Board are dedicated to. After all, as Reconstructionists, we view belonging to the community as central to our Judaism. Indeed, many members of OH state that it is the community that drew them to the synagogue and it is the community that keeps them here.

During the spring and early summer, we took a survey of our members. The Board has analyzed the results and is taking seriously what we heard. This year, we will:

- Once again print a directory of our members. Watch for it in your mailbox in late fall.
- Increase the number and frequency of programs of a purely social nature.
- Continue our highly valued Adult Education programs.
- Strengthen our school. We have hired a talented Education Director – Barbara Weisman – who will bring her boundless energy and knowledge to educate our children.
- Produce numerous community programs. We have rehired Lori Rubin and changed her title to Programming and Community Development Coordinator. Lori will be working closely with our lay leaders and volunteers on programming throughout the year and on reinvigorating our Havurot.
- We will kick off our program year with a Back-to-Shul Barbeque on September 7th. Watch the weekly e-announcements for details. This year, the BBQ is free for all current and prospective members "WITH ADVANCED RESERVATION"!!

An essential part of belonging to a community is participating in that community. Or Hadash owes much of its success to our superb professional and rabbinic staff, but we would not exist without our dedicated volunteers. Participation and volunteer efforts can take many forms in our community. This year, we are swapping our "traditional" mitzvah cards at the High Holidays for a new volunteer sign-up mechanism we are calling "Gift of the Hand." We are asking all members to complete a form and volunteer for one or more tasks in the community. These will range from cooking a meal for a congregant in need, to watering our Lifecycle Garden, to working in the office, to participating in our MLK Day soup drive, along with many more choices. The form will arrive in your mailbox along with the Campaign to Renew and Sustain Or Hadash appeal letter. So, yes, we will be asking you for a gift of funds along with a gift of your time and energy. Both of those gifts will enable our community to continue to thrive. I look forward in the coming year to deepening my connections with those of you whom I already know and forming new connections with others of you. I am always happy to talk with you over email at president@orhadash.com or by telephone at 215-635-1642.

My family – Hal, Rachel, and Allison – join me in wishing you a happy and sweet new year.
L'Shanah Tova Umetukah,

Lani

CONDOLENCES

- To **David Albert**, on the passing of his mother, Corinne Albert Geist, mother-in-law of Laurie Albert and grandmother of Joshua, Elizabeth and Daniel.
- To **Marianne Adler**, on the passing of her father, Louis Allesio, father-in-law of Joe and grandfather of Zoe and Sophia.
- To **Joe Adler**, on the passing of his father, Edward Adler, father-in-law of Marianne and grandfather of Zoe and Sophia.

B'NAI MITZVAH

October 13, 2012

Bat Mitzvah of **Zoe Moscovici**, daughter of Dan Moscovici and Jennifer Amadon

October 20, 2012

Bat Mitzvah of **Lindsey Dubin**, daughter of Rachel and David Dubin

October 27, 2012

Bat Mitzvah of **Alexa Kapoor**, daughter of Gyl Zelesnick

From the Education Director

By *Barbra*

What an exhilarating month this has been! I am thrilled to be leading the religious school at Or Hadash. To get what I mean, think about your first day at a new school, the first day on a new job or maybe being the new person on the block. Well, just imagine if each new person that you encountered had some history, some advice or some personal insight designed to make sure that you feel a sense of belonging and a warm welcome feeling right from the start.

That is what my first month here at Or Hadash has been for me. I am proud to say that the Jewish value of *Hachnasat Orchim* – or *welcoming guests* – is alive and well in this vibrant and loving community. Although I am not a guest, the principle is the same.

It is a mitzvah to make our friends and family happy as well – maybe even more so. And perhaps the most welcoming person of all has been none other than your former Education Director of the past wonderful twelve years, Lori Rubin. Lori, along with Rabbi Josh, Laurie Albert, Loretta Fogel, Lani Moss and my two amazing ESC Chairs, Debra Schaeffer and Jennifer Hoagland, have given of themselves to make me feel welcome and have made the transition a smooth one. A sincere Todah rabah for your warmth and partnership.

For you see, I am not new to running a religious school or to Jewish education. I have sat at meeting tables of my colleagues in Jewish education for many years now, and one face that was a constant for me was none other than Lori's. So it is with a sense of familiarity and comfort to be able to take

the reins from her and continue the tradition of fun and engaging experiential education that has become synonymous with Or Hadash.



I had the pleasure of visiting Camp JRF this summer, meeting some of our campers, and participating in the chavayote (experiences). I intend to infuse the learning here at Or Hadash with the same lively, fun spirit that I saw in the camp culture. (If you have not seen Camp JRF for yourself, I highly recommend it. I bet that you will be as hooked as I am!)

This is going to be a great year. We will have the continuity of the past along with a few new touches. I plan to do a lot of listening - to what the students and their families love best, and with the promise of some new ideas to try going forward.

It is only through partnership and pride of ownership of our school that we will go forth and continue to succeed. So, in the welcoming spirit that I spoke of initially, please join me and spread the word about how special Or Hadash is. Invite those you think will benefit from our community and school, and join me at the Back to Shul Barbeque on September 7th at 6:30 pm. Please share with me your thoughts and ideas at school@orhadash.org. My door is always open. I look forward to getting to know you all this year.

As we approach the New Year of 5773, Shanah Tovah Umetukah to you and yours.

Barbara

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please Note That a complete schedule of High Holiday Services is available elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Erev Rosh Hashanah is Sunday, September 16. Kol Nidre is Tuesday, September 25.

Friday, September 7th - Three Part Harmony, Open House, and our Welcome Back Barbeque. Tot Shabbat begins at 6:00 pm. A kosher BBQ will follow at 6:30 and is free of charge to all returning and prospective members. **(RSVPs to program@orhadash.com are required no later than September 4th.)** Intergenerational Shabbat Service and oneg celebrating July, August, and September birthdays will follow. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors!

Saturday, September 8th at 8 pm - The Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah is known as Selichot, a time to focus our intentions in preparation for the upcoming High Holidays. Join us for a dramatic reading of the play, *The Gates are Closing*, by acclaimed writer and poet, Merle Feld, followed by discussion and a brief service.

September 9th – Sunday School begins. First and second session will begin with an orientation for students and their parents. After students are dismissed to their classrooms, Barbara Weisman, our new Education Director, will make a presentation, which will be followed by a Q & A session. Each session will end with a light brunch, during which time parents will have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with Barbara.

September 11th – Hebrew School begins.

Friday, September 14th at 7 pm - Shabbat Al Fresco, an erev Shabbat service on the patio

Friday, September 21 at 8 pm - Meditation Shabbat

Sunday, September 30 - Sukkot will be celebrated beginning at 5 pm with Sukkah decorating and assembling “Aid for Friends” meals. Pizza dinner will be at 6, and a family-friendly Sukkah Service with Lulav and Etrog will be held at 6:30.

Friday, October 5 - Three Part Harmony with Tot and Pet Shabbat at 6 pm. Bring your pets on leash or stuffed animals for a special pet-themed service in the Sukkah, a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner at 6:30, and an Intergenerational Service at 7 pm with a special Oneg in the Sukkah! We will be celebrating all October birthdays. Please RSVP for the dinner to office@orhadash.com

Friday, October 5 – Grade 7 Shabbaton

Saturday, October 6 - SUSHI AND SAKE IN THE SUKKAH, an adults-only Sukkot party. Watch for details coming soon.

Sunday, October 7th - Join us to celebrate Simchat Torah, the end and the beginning of the Annual Torah reading cycle as we unfurl the entire Torah around the Sanctuary. Our service begins at 6 pm and includes music and dancing with the Torah, with dance leader Donna Hendel. ICE CREAM SUNDAES follow at 7:30!

Friday, October 26th - Shabbat Schmooze with a kabbalat Shabbat service at 7 pm, followed by a catered Shabbat Dinner. **Advanced RSVPs will be required for the dinner.**

Friday, November 2nd - Three Part Harmony and Camp Shabbat with Tot Shabbat at 6 pm, a dairy/vegetarian pot luck dinner at 6:30, and an Intergenerational Service at 7 pm. **Please RSVP for the dinner to office@orhadash.com.**

Sunday, November 4th at 11:30 am – A special program presented by the Israel Committee. Watch for details.

Friday, November 9th at 8 pm - Interfaithways Shabbat

Sunday, November 18 - The Third Annual GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING. This year’s topic is Shema.

Friday, November 30 - Annual RRC Shabbat with a dinner at 7 pm and special service with RRC students at 8 pm, including the reading of the 2012 Goldman Prize winning D’var Torah. **Advanced RSVPs will be required for the dinner.**



Or Hadash: A Reconstructionist Congregation
SCHEDULE OF CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
2012/ 5773

First Day Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

| Pre-K—6th Grade (ages 3-12) | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Time | Activity | Room |
| 9:00— 10:00 am | Family Service (concurrent optional games for youngest children) | Sanctuary |
| 10:00—12:00 | Social Action Opportunities | Rooms 5 and 10 |
| 12:00—1:30 pm | Games/Art | Room 5 & 10 |
| 1:30 pm | Depart for Tashlich | |
| 7th-12th Grade (ages 12+) | | |
| 9:00—10:00 am | Family Service | Sanctuary |
| 10:00—12:00 | Social Action | Rooms 205 and 203 |
| 12:00—1:30 pm | Teen Discussion/Service | Room 203 |
| 7th-12th Grade (ages 12+) | | |
| 9:00—10:00 | Lounge | Room 207 |
| 10:45—12:00 | Lounge | Room 207 |
| 12:00— 1:30 | Lounge | Room 207 |

Second Day Rosh Hashanah

| Programming for children of all ages | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| Time | Activity | Room |
| 9:30—10:30 am | Arts and Games | Rooms 203 and 207 |
| 10:30—11:30 | Family Service | Room 203 |
| 11:30—1:00 pm | Social Action | Rooms 203 and 207 |

SCHEDULE OF HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES 2012 / 5773
All events at Or Hadash

Saturday, September 8- Selichot
 8:00 – 10:00 pm Selichot observance and performance of *The Gates Are Closing*

Sunday evening, September 16 — Erev **Rosh Hashanah**
 8:00 - 9:30 pm Evening Service

Monday morning, September 17 — First Day **Rosh Hashanah**
 9:00 - 10:00 Family Service - Sanctuary
 9:30 - 11:00 Adult Study Havurah leads a discussion in the Community Room
 10:30 - 1:00 Main Service - Sanctuary
 10:00 - 1:30 Activities for Children and Teens
 1:00 - 1:30 Kiddush
 1:30 Depart for Tashlich at Sandy Run Middle School

Tuesday morning, September 18 — Second Day **Rosh Hashanah**
 10:30 - 11:30 Family Morning Service
 9:30 - 1:00 Activities for Children and Teens (rooms 203 and 207)
 10:30 - 1:00 Morning Service (*note new time*)
 1:00 - 1:15 Kiddush

Friday evening, September 21 - Erev Shabba
 8:00 - 9:30 pm A contemplative journey into the heart of the Holidays for Shabbat Shuvah

Tuesday evening, September 25 — Erev **Yom Kippur**
 6:15 - 8:30 pm Kol Nidre and Main Evening Service (Sanctuary)
 6:45 - 7:45 pm Family Service (following chanting of Kol Nidre)

Wednesday morning, September 26 — **Yom Kippur** morning
 9:00 - 10:00 Family Service - Sanctuary
 9:30 - 11:00 Adult Study Havurah leads a discussion in the Community Room
 10:30 - 1:00 Main Service - Sanctuary
 10:00 - 1:30 Activities for Children and Teens

Wednesday afternoon, September 26 — **Yom Kippur** afternoon
 1:30 - 2:30 pm Meditation - *NEW*
 2:30 - 3:30 pm Healing Service (in the Lifecycle Garden, weather permitting)
 3:30 - 4:30 pm Discussion Group
 5:00 - 7:30 pm Yizkor, Minchah and Ne'ilah
 7:30 pm Shofar, Havdalah and Break the Fast: light refreshments in the Community Room.
 All are welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAURIE ALBERT

Our very own Laurie Albert has been elected President of the DVASA. The DVASA is the Delaware Valley Association of Synagogue Administrators. What do they do?

DVASA is a regional organization dedicated to bringing together synagogue executive directors and administrators in order to further the development of their profession and to enable each member to serve their congregation more effectively. It disseminates administrative information and suggested procedures to members and offers on-line and in-person meetings for the sharing of professional issues and support.

Many thanks to Laurie for taking on this vital role.

Jay Cohen
Vice President for Administration

Off-Site Rosh Hashanah Parking

The High Holidays are quickly approaching and, amid our spiritual preparations, we need to consider a logistical matter. We are going to need to use off-site parking and shuttle buses on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, **Monday, September 17**. Parking will not be available at Play N Learn or Wordsworth Academy, so most congregants and guests will have to park at Christ's Lutheran Church, 700 E. Pennsylvania Ave, Oreland, and take a shuttle bus to and from Or Hadash.

The buses will be running from 8:30-2:00 and parking lot attendants will be present to help you. Please contact Laurie in the office (office@orhadash.com) by September 10 if you are unable to step up onto a bus, and a parking space will be reserved for you at Or Hadash.

Pat Steinberg
High Holiday Co-Coordinator
psteinbe@verizon.net

Or Hadash and Inter-Faith Housing Alliance

This November, Or Hadash will continue its important volunteer work with the Inter-Faith Housing Alliance by helping to provide families with food and shelter while they transition to permanent housing. This year we are making some changes: the families will stay at St. Thomas' Church in Whitemarsh – just down the street on Camp Hill Road! As usual, we will provide dinner, overnight supervision, transportation, and shopping volunteers; but this time for only ten days during the first half of the month. Look for more details in late September or early October! Please contact Jennifer Hoagland if you have any questions at (215) 887-6757 or jlhoagie@comcast.net.

Are you an underemployed or unemployed

**Jewish resident
of the Greater
Philadelphia region?**

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www.jevshumanservices.org

JEVS Human Services partners with the
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Sunday, September 8 at 8:00 PM



Join us at Or Hadash for a powerful and moving presentation of the acclaimed play that explores themes of loyalty, identity, betrayal, repentance, and forgiveness.

"A drama of great religious insight and nuance... By the play's end we realize we have been introduced to dimensions not only of our community but of ourselves."
 - Rabbi Lawrence Kushner

8:00 – Live performance to be followed by discussion
 9:30 – Selichot service in anticipation of the High Holiday season
 10:00 – Dessert and reception



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 215-283-0276 • www.orphadash.com

The program is free of charge and open to the community.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to **Betti Kahn** on her marriage to Bill Conrad.

Mazel Tov to **Shelley and Paula Pavel** on the birth of their grandson, Raphael Akiva Bardach.

Mazel Tov to **Ken and Shelley Rosenberg** on the birth of their granddaughter, Arianna Faith Rosenberg.

Mazel Tov to **Daniel Albert**, son of Laurie and David Albert, on his graduation Magna Cum Laude from Brandeis University.

Mazel Tov to **Allison Moss**, daughter of Lani and Hal Moss, on her graduation with a Masters degree from Simons College, and her new position of teaching Spanish at Winthrop Middle School in Winthrop, MA.

From the Administrator

I feel blessed to part of this wonderful community. When my mother-in-law passed away this spring, I had lots of hugs and support from so many of you. When my sons graduated in May, I got lots of "mazel tovs." I see the efforts made by the Hessed Committee whenever someone is in need. There is tremendous generosity whenever a call is put out for a special collection, whether it is peanut butter, warm clothing, blood donations or other. I hope that this year we can all give thanks for being part of Or Hadash and feel the warmth of our congregation.

Wishing that you all are inscribed in the book of life for this new year

Or Hadash is Now Home to the Dresher School of Music

Dresher School of Music will open its new location at Or Hadash on August 6. The school offers instrumental and vocal lessons for all ages: Sally's Music Circle parent-child classes for infants through four-year-olds, and harp classes for children and adults taught by our congregation member, Cheryl Kripke Cohen. Discounts will be given to Or Hadash members.

SATO 2012-2013: A Focus on Hunger Reduction

This year the SATO committee is focusing all of its efforts on the single theme of hunger reduction. While we hope to increase our impact in the community, we also hope to build community within Or Hadash as we work together on a range of projects and events. As a congregation, we are great at collecting food and other goods for those in need, and we thank you for your support and generosity; but now we want to do more by concentrating our efforts and providing opportunities for advocacy and education. To that end we have planned the following events and activities:

Fall/Winter:

Congregational Share Our Strength's "Dine Out for No Kid Hungry" Campaign - September 22 and 23

High Holiday food collection: peanut butter

Sukkot Aid for Friends Meal Construction - October 3

Mitzvah Day Soup Making or Soup Kitchen Volunteering - November 11

Interfaith Hospitality Network Hosting of Families in Transition - November

Coffee House and Food Stamp Challenge: bring a bag of food and learn all about it - December 1

Winter/Spring

Martin Luther King Day of Service Soup Cooking - January 21

Passover Food Drive: cereal - March 1-22

Hunger Seder - April (date to be announced)

Congregational Participation in JRA - June 2

Please consider volunteering to help publicize and organize one of these events or, for more information and to volunteer, please contact co-chairs, Alisa Belzer at alisa.belzer@gse.rutgers.edu or Debbie Bernstein at debbie.bernstein@mac.com.

we are SPRINGING INTO ACTION
TO PLAN OUR FALL 2012

Mitzvah Mania

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28
9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

This coming Fall, let's harvest our volunteer energy to transform communities and change lives one mitzvah at a time. Mark your calendars for this community-wide day of good deeds and repair, replenish, replant, restore and renew your commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.

For more information,
visit jewishphilly.org or call the
Mitzvah Mania hotline 215.832.0557

Jewish Federation of
Greater Philadelphia
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