



Shalom from Rabbi Adam Chalom *“Context Matters”*

For most of Jewish history, Judaism was a portable tradition. While there were ancient ties to a far-off promised land, Shabbat could be celebrated in Poland or Algeria or Central Asia or the American Midwest. Of course, sleeping outside in a *sukkah* [festival hut] in mid-October might have been more comfortable in Algeria than in Poland. And in their dispersions, Jews were always influenced by the peoples and cultures around them. We know they mixed personally by how different Jews look from different parts of the world, and we know they mixed culturally by the wide range of Jewish language, foods, music and clothing they used.

Context matters. Celebrating Passover with its traditional ending of “Next Year in Jerusalem,” would feel very different if it were done in Israel versus in Chicago or in Poland (or on a cruise ship - yes, people do that for Passover now!). And the gathering makes a difference - these days, non-Jewish family and guests change the dynamics of most Passover seders. In Israel, the national Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust observance later that Hebrew month includes two minutes of public silence while an air raid siren sounds. Outside of Israel, it is generally an optional observance in the private spaces of synagogues, community centers museums and memorial events.

Context matters. We are working to create community for the 21st Century Jewish family, not the Jewish family of 1950. So old ideas like what it means to “look Jewish” or “sound Jewish” need to change - they were often “ashkenormative” [acting as if all Jews are Ashkenazi/European] ideas anyways. The new concept of “doing Jewish” being open to anyone and including a wide range of activities beyond prayer and Torah study fits well with our Humanistic Jewish approach to cultural Jewish identity celebrated through individual freedom and choice. And we have great experience celebrating partnerships and families who are “Jewish AND” other cultural and religious heritages.

Yet the context today is not always in our favor: an era of declining religious identity may also mean a decline in community attachment, less curiosity about one’s family past, and the attenuation of immigrant memories. To survive and thrive, our Jewishness needs to be more than nostalgia, and in the internet era of free and new instant and individualized, it can be hard to turn the ancient ship fast enough.

If context matters, then we need to both understand this new context and then be flexible enough to change and adapt - as Judaism always has.

Due to the Coronavirus all scheduled events listed in the Shofar are subject to change.

Refer to the weekly emails for the most up to date information.

If you have questions please contact Jeremy at info@KolHadash.com.

Values in Action Update
by Lynn Miller (valuesinaction@KolHadash.com)



Values in Action is open to the entire congregation to participate in activities helping others. We try to plan activities that are inclusive for families and empty nesters. If you have any suggestions for events next year please don't hesitate to contact me at valuesinaction@KolHadash.com.

So far this year, we have had our High Holiday collection for A Safe Place, organized books for Bernie's Book Bank, put powdered meals together for Feed My Starving Children, made, served and cleaned up dinner for the families at the Ronald McDonald House, had a Kosher food collection for the ARK, and joined with the Unitarian Church for Mitzvah Day!

In the near future, we will be participating in the 5K Empowerment walk/run for A Safe Place on Saturday, May 2nd, participating in the Mental Health Fair on Saturday, May 16th, and walking in the Gay Pride Parade in Buffalo Grove on Sunday, June 7th.

It's not too late to participate...please join us in one of our future events!!!

Making the Connection(s)
by Mike Lippitz (connections@KolHadash.com)



Kol Hadash has a committee called Connections (formerly called Membership Committee) that focuses on keeping KH members happy and engaged, and in making potential new members aware of KH. Its activities include:

- Sending orientation emails monthly to new members
- Answering inquiries sent to membership@kolhadash.com
- Making calls to "check in" on how members are feeling about KH
- Writing member profiles for the Shofar
- Sending follow-up notes to non-members who buy tickets to High Holiday services or the Passover Seder.
- Brainstorming and facilitating activities and events that engage members in new ways and appeal to prospective members.
- Engaging in community outreach, like setting up an information table at local farmers' markets and marching in the upcoming Buffalo Grove Pride Parade.

As a first this year, on May 17th late afternoon, new members will be invited to an informal, child-friendly gathering at the home of Dori and Chet Mirman in Highland Park to meet each other and learn more about KH activities. Details to come!

We would welcome your input, and (even better), participation in helping Connections come up with and implement novel ways to make the KH experience better and to encourage greater involvement in KH activities and events.

Mental Health Fair Saturday May 16
Vernon Township Community Building (2900 N. Main Street Buffalo Grove)

One in five adults, and one in five teenagers, will experience a mental health episode. In addition, only about 40% of the adults experiencing a mental health episode will receive any type of help. (National Institute of Health statistics).

Kol Hadash's Community Service Committee, Vernon Township Trustees, and the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Lake County and Barrington chapters, are sponsoring a Mental Health Fair on Saturday, May 16 from 10am - 12pm at the Vernon Township Community Building 2900 N. Main Street Buffalo Grove. The Fair is free and open to the public. There will be various community based counseling organizations present including Soul Harbour Ranch with the therapy miniature ponies. If you wish to help out contact Lynn Miller, Values in Action chair (valuesinaction@KolHadash.com), or Al Dorfman.

Ronald McDonald House

Kol Hadash members, and the Values In Action group, volunteered at The Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Hospital in Chicago, on Saturday, February 22. It was an amazing experience!

The seventeen members who participated, alongside the House Chef, prepped, cooked, and served a delicious meal for the families residing in the Ronald McDonald House. The RMH provides a safe and comfortable place for families to stay while their child is hospitalized for a serious medical condition. The RMH includes many comforts of home, including home-cooked meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, all prepared by volunteers.

Our Kol Hadash group made a delicious dinner of shepherd's pie, spaghetti, salad, roasted vegetables, fresh fruit, apple cobbler, and of course, hotdogs and tater tots for the kids. Whether the Kol Hadash group was chopping onions, washing dishes, or packing up leftovers, it was a fun way to bond together! Most importantly, it was truly a mitzvah to serve homemade food to the families, providing them peace of mind and comfort during such a stressful time. The participants were Rabbi Adam and Maya Chalom, Rachel and Todd Keating, Betty and Paul Hurder, Lynn and Elliot Miller, Victoria, Alec, and Julia Ratnaswamy, Leah Sosewitz and Helga Gruenbauer, Ken, Laura, and Shannon Burk, and Janet Century.



Mitzvah Day 2020

On March 7, Kol Hadash and the North Shore Unitarian Church came together for our second annual joint Mitzvah Day.

Participants were able to choose from a large variety of volunteer projects that cater to diverse interests, capabilities, and ages. Some projects were located at the church, and other projects were off-site (Greater Northern Illinois Food Bank, Bernie's Book Bank). In one corner of the Fellowship Hall, some volunteers wrote letters to children in hospitals; nearby others made fleece blankets for sick children. We also knitted hats for the homeless, filled bags for Ronald McDonald House, began work on an environmental project and more.

Once the projects were completed for the day, we came together for a potluck lunch and beautiful service led by Reverend Lucas and Rabbi Adam. If you think it feels good to volunteer for a good cause, it feels that much better to join together and do good for many worthwhile causes. If you missed this year's Mitzvah Day, there's always next year! Watch the Shofar and Weekly Email and be sure to sign up, you'll be glad you did!



Celebrations

As of now all Shabbat Services and Adult Ed classes are online.
Please be sure to check your weekly email for updates.

Friday, April 3

Discussion Shabbat:

Does Jewish History Matter

Is Jewish memory (what we think happened) more important than Jewish history (what we can know about what actually happened)?

Friday, April 17

Music Shabbat: Zionism Today

“Zionism” has become a controversial accusation. Is Zionism just Israeli nationalism, or is there still relevance to the idea for non-Israeli Jews?

Friday, April 24

Discussion Shabbat:

Facing Tragedy

As we enter the season of Holocaust memorial, we remember the survivors of tragedy who have rebuilt their lives after disaster.

Friday, May 1

6th/7th/8th Grade Class

Yom HaShoah Service

The 6th/7th/8th Grade Class has been studying the Holocaust this year. Join us as they lead our Service.

Friday, May 8

Confirmation Shabbat Service

Join us as we celebrate the next generation of Humanistic Judaism at this special service led by the confirmation class.

Friday, May 15

Guest Speaker:

Reverend Lucas Hergert

Join us for our part of a special “pulpit exchange” weekend as Reverend Lucas Hergert of the North Shore Unitarian Church joins us for Shabbat. (Rabbi Chalom speaks at NSUC on May 17.)

Friday, May 29

Discussion Shabbat:

A Rabbi's Life:

15 Years Behind the Scenes

What are the most challenging parts of being a rabbi in the 21st century? What is the most rewarding? Join us for an illuminating conversation with Rabbi Adam Chalom about the ins and outs of congregational leadership as we celebrate his fifteen years with Kol Hadash this weekend!

Adult Education

Tuesday, April 14, 7:30pm

North Shore Unitarian Church Pluralism – Israel & America

What do secular Jews in the US have in common with ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel? The challenge today is finding unity in our diversity.

Sunday, April 19, 9:30am

Deerfield High School

Humanistic Jewish Parenting

What role can Humanist philosophy play in helping us guide our children to making their own decisions?

Tuesday, April 21, 7:30pm

North Shore Unitarian Church Yiddishists

The first secular Jewish communities were created for Yiddish-speaking Jews of Eastern Europe and America. Their example still informs our work today.

Tuesday, April 28, 7:30pm

North Shore Unitarian Church Zionists

For all of the challenges of the modern state of Israel, Zionism's assertion that to be Jewish is to be part of the Jewish people is ours as well.

Tuesday, May 5, 7:30pm

North Shore Unitarian Church Haskalah, Reform & Reconstructionist Judaism

What roots can we find in these religious Judaisms, and where did our paths diverge?

Tuesday, May 12, 7:30pm

North Shore Unitarian Church Great Thinkers

Are there limits to claiming famous Jews as “roots” of Humanistic Judaism?

Tuesday, May 19, 7:30pm

North Shore Unitarian Church Contemporary & Conclusions

Secular Humanistic Judaism has had to negotiate the differences between “secular Jewishness” and “Humanistic Judaism.” What they share is an approach to Jewish life—cultural, this-worldly, appreciating the past and creating for the future.

Coming Soon!

Virtual Passover Seder

Thursday, April 9, 5:30pm
Our Community Passover Seder is online this year. You can register now by visiting the Kol Hadash website calendar.

Contact Jeremy Owens
info@KolHadash.com

Movie Club

Saturday, April 11, 4:00pm
Watch *My Favorite Year* (available on Amazon and Comcast) on your own and then join us for a discussion. Watch the weekly email for a Zoom link for the group discussion.

Sunday, April 26, 4:00pm
Watch *Unorthodox* on Netflix on your own and then join us through Zoom for a discussion. *Unorthodox* is based on the bestseller by Deborah Feldman (read some years ago by the Kol Hadash Book Club. This one is a four-part series so you might need to plan ahead!

Contact Jeremy Owens
info@KolHadash.com

Book Club

Wednesday, May 13, 7:30pm
City of Scoundrels by Gary Krist is our Book Club selection for our next meeting.

Contact Stacey Max
bookclub@KolHadash.com

Vernon Township

Mental Health Fair

Saturday, May 16, 10:00am
Join Values in Action Committee for this event.

Contact Lynn Miller
valuesinaction@KolHadash.com

L'Chaim L'Chalom!

Sunday, May 31, 7:30pm
Don't miss this special tribute to Rabbi Chalom's (first!) 15 years with Kol Hadash.

Contact David Hirsch
development@KolHadash.com

Women's Group

Canasta Game
Mondays @ 1:30 PM

Walk the Botanic Gardens
Tuesdays @ 9:30 AM

Contact Joyce Hirsch
WE@KolHadash.com

Virtual Sunday School Class

Grades 1-5
April 5, 10:00-10:30am

- Design a Seder Plate
- Rabbi Adam discusses Passover symbols and students will design their own Seder Plate and can digitally share their creation

Virtual Tour Through the Passover Seder

All Sunday School Families
April 5, 10:30-11:00am

- Rabbi Adam will lead a tour through the Passover Seder and discussion.

6th/7th/8th Grade Class Shabbat

May 1, 7:30pm

The 6th/7th/8th Grade Class has been studying the Holocaust this year. Join us as they lead our Yom HaShoah Service.

Confirmation Class Shabbat Service

May 8, 7:30pm

Join us as we celebrate the next generation of Humanistic Judaism at this special service led by David Hirsch and Rachel Samlan's 9th/10th Grade Class.

Preschool Jewish Discovery



Free monthly enrichment class
open to everyone!

April 19
10:30-11:30am

Israeli Independence Day & Shabbat

Children ages 2-6 with a grown-up join Rabbi Adam Chalom and veteran preschool teacher Lynn Miller as they explore a Jewish holiday or cultural value along with interactive songs, books, and hands-on activities. There is time for a snack, and for the children and parents to socialize. At-home resources will also be provided.

B Mitzvah FAQ Session for Parents
Sunday, May 3
9:30-10:30am

Members and interested families can learn about our unique B Mitzvah. Get all your questions answered by Rabbi Adam Chalom, Youth Education Director Ilana Shaffer, and B Mitzvah Coordinator Leah Sosewitz!

Sunday School Try-Out
Sunday, May 3
9:30-10:30am

For families interested in our education program, your child can join their grade's class for the day.

There is no expectation of a commitment by attending.

Last Day of Sunday School Sunday, May 3



Class Model Wedding
10:45-11:00am

The 1st/2nd/3rd Grade Class has been studying Jewish life-cycle events this year which will culminate in a Model Wedding.

All-School Party
11:00-11:30am

Parents and congregants are invited to celebrate the year at Sunday School! We'll enjoy music, watch a yearbook photos slideshow, and enjoy cupcakes.



Save the Date!

L'Chaim L'Chalom!

Sunday, May 31, 7:30pm

Don't miss this special tribute to Rabbi Chalom's (first!) 15 years with Kol Hadash.

Questions? Contact David Hirsch development@KolHadash.com

April Yahrzeits

The following names will be read at the April 24 Shabbat service.

Bernice Aaron	Nathan Eichner	Tyler Grant Juneau	Rita Muroff	Leonard Shepard
Rose Adler	William Goldberg	Bill Korr	Mary Winandy Parker	Roslyn Simon
Dorian Chalom	Rella Harris	William Korr	Aaron Pashkow	Philip Sitrick
Edward Dorfman	Cyma Hefter	Belle Marks	Evelyn Rosen	Miriam Sitrick
Richard Dreifuss	Rae Holtzberg	Louis J. Moses	Theodosia Sebor	Sheldon Sitrick
				Louis Sonshine

May Yahrzeits

The names being read at the May 29 Shabbat service

William Addelson	Gertrude Edelstein	Lilian Gordon	Eugenia Kowalenko	Ethel Rittenberg	Emil Simon
Sol Adler	Ruth Feldman	Franz J. Gruenbauer	Edythe Miller	Irving Rittenberg	Sidney Smiley
Richard Cohn	Edward Fisher	Gertrude Hart	Sy Passen	Carl Sabath	Rose Sohn
Caryl Cole	Leah Gibbs	Michael Hatchwell	Rosalind Podolin	Mary Sheck	Max Sosewitz
David Davis	Nathan Goldberg	Miriam Kopelman	Barry Raben	Philip Shoolin	Rose Villi Bilotti

Tributes

Susan & Roger Addelson, In appreciation of all the love and kindness from my Kol Hadash friends and family, General Fund

Susan & Roger Addelson, In honor and in celebration of Andrea & Mark Friedlander's daughter's marriage, General Fund

Glynis & David Hirsch, in memory of Bruce Hainsfurther, General Fund

Joyce & Rich Hirsch, in memory of Billy Cottle, General Fund

Joyce & Rich Hirsch, in honor of Susan Addelson, General Fund

Joyce & Rich Hirsch, Mazel Tov to Andrea & Mark Friedlander on the marriage of their daughter, General Fund

Tu B'Shevat Seder: Lisa & Jon Landsman, Sara & Bill Race, Bradley White

4th & 5th Grade Shabbat Dinner: Brandon Callahan, Karen & Richard Juneau, Rachel & Todd Keating, Abby & Jim Sayegh

Family News & Thank You

- Wishing Larry Dworsky a swift recovery from recent medical treatment.
- Mazel Tov to Marsha and Mark Miltein on the birth of their first grandchild.
- Mazel Tov to Mary Vanderbeck Parker and Dan Parker on their new grandson!
- Mazel Tov to Andrea and Mark Friedlander on the recent wedding of their daughter Jamie to John. Jamie was one of Kol Hadash's first B Mitzvahs!
- Mazel Tov to Mary Vanderbeck Parker and Dan Parker on the recent birth of their first grandchild, Orion Emmett Parker.
- Wishing Susan Addelson a complete recovery from ongoing medical treatment.
- Our deep condolences to Marcie Cottle on the recent loss of her beloved brother William R. Cottle.
- Thank you to recent oneg hosts: Susan & Roger Addelson, Marsha & Rick Bolnick, Marcie Cottle, Marla Davishoff, Andrea & Mark Friedlander, Lynn & Elliot Miller
- Thank you to all the parents who helped behind-the-scenes to make our Tu B'Shevat Family Seder run seamlessly – Karen Jackson, Karen Juneau, and Rachel Samlan for bringing seder items; Alex Brook, Lisa Landsman, Victoria Ratnaswamy, and Sally Rosen for the extra shopping trips; Ellen Apley, Laura and Ken Burk, Alex Brook, Maya Chalom, Amy Cohan, Miriam Fisch, Ric Granroth, Rachel Keating, Sara Race, Victoria Ratnaswamy, Abby and Vivienne Sayegh, and Chad and Asher Solomon for help with setting and cleaning up.
- We appreciate our members who made and served their delicious, memorable family recipes at Taste of Kol Hadash. Our chefs include: Rick Bolnick, Marcie Cottle, Faye Eisenberg, Mark Friedman, Helga Gruenbauer, Rachel Keating, Karen Jackson, Jenny Occhipinti, and Victoria Ratnaswamy. An additional thank you to Jenny Occhipinti for help with setting up the room.
- Thank you to Ellen Apley, Alex Brook, Rachel Keating, Lisa Landsman, Liz Parent, Sara Race, Sally Rosen, Victoria Ratnaswamy, and Leah Sosewitz for their participation at our February and March Youth Education Committee (YEC) meetings (and, with emailed event feedback) as your participation and sharing of ideas strengthens our family programs.
- Thank you to all the students in our 4th/5th Grade Class along with their teacher, Karen Jackson, their class aide, Ben Katz, and our music accompanist, Laura Burk, for a delightful Shabbat Service. We appreciate the class families hosting the Oneg. Thank you to Maya Chalom, Sara and Bill Race and Karen Jackson for help with setting and cleaning up the Family Dinner.
- Thank you to David Cohn & Joyce Bleir of The North Shore Unitarian Church for your Mitzvah Day leadership.
- Thank you to Janet Century, Lynn Miller and everyone who participated in Mitzvah Day!

Host an Oneg

Hosting an Oneg is an easy way to get involved.
We have dates available for upcoming Shabbats:
May 15, July 2, July 31, August 21, and August 28

If interested contact David Hirsch (oneg@KolHadash.com)



Your Shofar awaits!

The Shofar
The Newsletter of Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation

Affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism
2100 Half Day Road, Deerfield, IL 60015
847/383-5184 • info@KolHadash.com • www.KolHadash.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday – 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Steering Committee 7:30pm	Online Discussion Shabbat: Does Jewish History Matter 7:30pm	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Virtual Sunday School (Grades 1-5) 10:00am Virtual Tour Through the Passover Seder 10:30am				Online Community Passover Seder 5:30 Seder		Virtual Movie Club: My Favorite Year 4:00pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL		Online Adult Education: Pluralism - Unity or Uniformity 7:30pm			Online Music Shabbat: Zionism Today 7:30pm	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School 9:30am Preschool Jewish Discovery: Passover 10:30am Youth Group Meeting 11:00am Mitzvah Class 11:30am Please see weekly email for updates		Yom Hashoah Online Adult Education: Yiddishists 7:30pm			Online Discussion Shabbat: Facing Tragedy (Yahrtzeit Service) 7:30pm	
26	27	28	29	30		
Sunday School 9:30am Mitzvah Class 11:30am Staff Meeting 11:30am Please see weekly email for updates Virtual Movie Club: Unorthodox 4:00pm		Online Adult Education: Zionists 7:30pm				

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6th/7th/8th Grade Class Yom HaShoah Service 7:30pm	2
3 Sunday School (Last Day) 9:30am Sunday School Try Out 9:30am B Mitzvah FAQ Session for Parents 9:30am 1st/2nd/3rd Grade Class Model Wedding 10:45am All School Party 11:00am Please see weekly email for updates	4	5 Adult Education: Haskalah, Reform & Reconstructionist Judaism 7:30pm	6	7 Steering Committee 7:30pm	8 Confirmation Class Shabbat 7:30pm	9
10	11	12 Adult Education: Great Thinkers 7:30pm	13 Book Club: City of Scoundrels 7:30pm	14	15 Music Shabbat: Guest Speaker Reverend Lucas Hergert of 7:30pm	16 Vernon Township Mental Health Fair 10:00am
17	18	19 Adult Education: Contemporary & Conclusions 7:30pm	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Discussion Shabbat: A Rabbi's Life: Fifteen Years Behind the Scenes (Yahrtzeit Service) 7:30pm	30
31 L'Chaim L'Chalom! A Tribute to Rabbi Chalom's 15 Years with Kol Hadash						



B Mitzvah FAQ Session

For parents of students up to 6th grade

Sunday, May 3 • 9:30–10:30 AM
Kol Hadash Sunday School
at Deerfield High School

Open to everyone!

- Are you debating how (or whether) to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah for your child?
- Are you feeling pressure because “how it’s supposed to be” and “how it’s always been done” isn’t a good fit for your family?
- Are you concerned that non-Jewish family members might not be allowed to participate fully?
- Are you looking for a custom celebration that will be both personal and meaningful, balancing Jewish traditions and your unique family heritage?

**Explore your options during this free, informal FAQ session
with Rabbi Adam Chalom, our Youth Education Director, and our B Mitzvah Coordinator**

You may also schedule a one-on-one information session in-person, by phone or email with Rabbi Chalom, our Youth Education director, or our B Mitzvah Coordinator

Sunday School Try Out

For families interested in our education program from preschool through confirmation, your child can join their grade’s class for the day.

There is no expectation of a commitment by attending.



How is Our B Mitzvah Different from All Other B Mitzvahs?

The Kol Hadash B Mitzvah program (gender-neutral, non-binary term for “Bar Mitzvah” and/or “Bat Mitzvah”) is unique, meaningful, and personal to the student in many ways:

1. Our B Mitzvah preparation fits into the busy lives of today’s middle-schoolers and their families. Students learn Hebrew through one-on-one tutoring sessions.
2. Our Hebrew curriculum balances the need for Hebrew reading skills with an understanding of Hebrew as a modern, living language.
3. Rather than be automatically assigned the Torah or Haftorah portion coinciding with their B Mitzvah service date, our students choose their own Torah portion, whichever one they find to be most inspirational or meaningful.
4. Students have the choice to read from other Jewish literature or do a Jewish-related research project instead of reading from the Torah.
5. All the readings and music celebrate the milestone of becoming a B Mitzvah. The B Mitzvah is the only reason for the gathering.
6. Every B Mitzvah service is devoted to only one student.
7. Families can customize their B Mitzvah celebration service by choosing their favorite readings and music from an array of options.
8. All parents of B Mitzvah students participate fully in our ceremonies. We are fully welcoming and inclusive of modern families in all their diversity.
9. Following the B Mitzvah presentation, the parents have the opportunity to share their feelings about the occasion in a short but meaningful address to their child.
10. Families may honor other family members and friends by having them read selections from the service, hold the Torah, or light candles on our congregational menorah.
11. Service readings are in English and sensitive to a diverse audience, enabling all family members (of all ethnic and religious backgrounds) to equally and meaningfully participate.
12. Our families almost always get their first choice of date. Ceremonies can be held on a Friday evening, Saturday morning or Saturday evening.