



## *Shalom from Rabbi Chalom* **Life After Death**

by Rabbi Adam Chalom ([rabbichalom@KolHadash.com](mailto:rabbichalom@KolHadash.com))

If we approach this life as the only one we know, it changes how we live. It also changes how we remember others.

Historic Jewish religious thought strongly affirmed belief in a “world to come,” which would include a resurrection of the dead, paradise, and the “joy” of eternally studying Torah in the divine presence. (Try telling the “author” what he really meant by a particular phrase!) Many Jews today do not believe in a personal afterlife, preferring to emphasize the importance of the here and now. In some ways, that emphasis makes observing a death all the more important – even beyond funeral and *shiva*.

Mitch Albom, in his book *Tuesdays with Morrie*, memorably wrote, “Death ends a life, not a relationship.” We continue to love our family

and friends who have died, even when they are no longer able to love us back. And in this way, Jewish tradition provides three avenues for “life after death” that have nothing to do with supernatural resurrection.

- 1) **Ethical Wills** A Jewish tradition of composing one’s life lessons and advice for future generations, the ethical will is often written as a letter to one’s children. Composed by rabbis and laypeople alike throughout the Middle Ages into modern times, today people of all backgrounds have taken advantage of this tradition. Rather than an attempt to control the living from beyond the grave, ethical wills can be seen as acts of loving advice from the past to the future. The lessons we learned from our parents were conveyed by both word and deed; why not pass on our own?
- 2) **Names** While Sephardic/Mizrahi (Eastern) Jews have a tradition of naming children after living relatives, Ashkenazi (European) Jews prefer to name after deceased relatives. Sometimes they give a Hebrew name from the past, sometimes an English name, or sometimes a name that starts with the same sound or means something similar as the name of their deceased loved one. This naming tradition allows the family members who knew the deceased to remember them with positive associations, while also giving the child a sense of roots and continuity with their family from even before they were born.
- 3) **Yahrtzeits (death anniversaries)** Jewish tradition marked death anniversaries much more formally than birthdays – many people from the “Old Country” would be told they were born “near Hanukkah,” but with no specific date. On the other hand, the date of the death of a loved one – particularly a parent – was both recorded and observed with the lighting of a special candle, the recitation of a mourner’s *kaddish* (prayer praising God), and the giving of *tzedakah* (charity). These traditions continue at Kol Hadash with gifts of tribute and Yom Kippur memorial donations in memory of loved ones, as well as our monthly recitation of memorial names at selected Shabbat services.

As far as we know, our individual consciousness ends with our death. But our legacies live on after us in the good works we do, the people we love, the memories we made, and the actions taken in our memory to continue our life’s work. In other words, we who live, we who remember, have the power to grant life after death.

*The Shofar*  
The Monthly Newsletter of Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation

Affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism  
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**Theatre Club**

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**Winers (wine group)**

Mike Lippitz, wine@KolHadash.com

**Youth Education Committee**

Karen Jackson & Kim Stone, YEC@KolHadash.com



The **Kol Hadash Steering Committee** meets once a month, usually on the first Thursday, 7:30 PM, at the Kol Hadash office upstairs conference room. Check the calendar in this *Shofar* or on our website to confirm this month's date. Members are welcome to attend Steering Committee meetings. Contact the SC chair for information.

The **Shofar newsletter** is published monthly and is mailed to all members. An electronic version is available at [www.kolhadash.com](http://www.kolhadash.com). If you would like to contribute content to the *Shofar*, contact Mark Friedman.



**View from the Chair**

*by Steering Committee Chair Sheila Sebor (scchair@KolHadash.com)*

Dear Kol Hadash Family,

Happy Summer! It's a pleasure to be writing my first *Shofar* column as your new Steering Committee Chair. As you can tell by my summer photo, I am looking forward to warmer weather and a slower pace . . . and to using some free time to take advantage

of a number of activities planned for this summer. Shabbat services, Book Club, Theatre Club and the Winers are just a few of the programs that are continuing at Kol Hadash. I encourage you to take advantage of all that Kol Hadash has to offer year-round – dates, places and times are in this *Shofar*, on our website and in our weekly emails.

We have just concluded a very successful year for our community. Kol Hadashians were able to celebrate the conclusion of our Mitzvah Year with a wonderful party that also put a few more dollars in our coffers – always a welcome outcome!

Our June 12 Annual Meeting summarized our accomplishments over this last year, and there are many people to thank for all of their hard work and time, from our volunteers to our paid staff and our teachers – well done! I would especially like to thank our outgoing officers for a productive year: to **Bill Brook**, Steering Committee Chair for the last two years; **Larry Dworsky**, our Treasurer for the last three years; and **Mark Friedman**, our longtime Steering Committee Secretary. I want to introduce our new leadership team: **Larry Dworsky**, in his new position as Steering Committee Vice Chair; **Mike Lippitz** as our new Treasurer; and **Stacey Max**, our new Steering Committee Secretary. We are also welcoming new Steering Committee members, and I look forward to working with all of them.

Although I know many of you, I have not yet had the chance to meet all of you, and hope to make that a priority this coming year. So . . . a little bit about me. I am a native Chicagoan, went to college in Michigan (go State!), met my husband there and returned to Chicago to raise my two sons, who are now grown. I enjoy crocheting, opera and sailing on Lake Michigan, although not necessarily in that order. I have been a non-profit association executive for the last 25+ years and am looking forward to using that experience for the benefit of my Kol Hadash family.

To that end, we can always use more help. We are beginning to develop a new Strategic Plan to help us chart our next phase of growth and success, and we hope to get everyone's opinions on what we are doing right and what still needs to be done to ensure that our congregational home stays strong and continues to serve all of us well.

I look forward to getting to know all of you, hearing from you and working with you. After all, that's what families do.

Sheila Sebor

## July Events at Kol Hadash

### Shabbat Service: *Learning from Dying – Funerals that Can Change Your Life*

Friday, July 10, 7:30 PM • North Shore Unitarian Church

One of the special privileges of a rabbi is the opportunity to help families through the process of loss. Along the way, many lessons for better living can be discovered if one observes and listens carefully. Join us as Rabbi Chalom shares stories from the most meaningful memorials he has led and experienced.

### Theatre Club: *Bad Jews*

Saturday, July 11, 8:00 PM • North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie

The Theatre Club is going to see the wickedly funny new play as it transfers from its successful run downtown to Skokie. This Chicago-premier production of *Bad Jews* by Joshua Harmon has drawn rave reviews and sellout crowds in its previous engagements in New York, Boston, and Los Angeles. For ticket availability, contact Mark Friedman (theatre@KolHadash.com).

### Kol Hadash Ravinia Night: *Fantasia*

Sunday, July 12, Picnic 5:30 PM/Concert 7:00 PM • The Ravinia Festival Lawn

It's the highlight of our summer! Join with Kol Hadash friends (and a few thousand others) for food, fun, music . . . and Disney? Yes, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will accompany scenes from the beautiful, hilarious and wildly innovative 1940 Disney film, *Fantasia*, and its equally beguiling sequel, *Fantasia 2000*. Bring your family's picnic and meet on the lawn for a big, group gathering, then stay for the concert and the films to be projected on Ravinia's huge outdoor screen. Ravinia Park opens at 4:00 PM. RSVP (to info@KolHadash.com) so we know you're planning to join us and to receive meet-up info. (Families purchase their own lawn tickets. Feel free to bring your relatives and friends!)

### Book Club: *Orphan Train*

Wednesday, July 22, 7:30 PM • Kol Hadash Office Conference Room

The Book Club's July selection is the compelling novel *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline, which tells the story of interwoven family histories that share a past in the orphan trains that carried adoptive children to their parents in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Said *Publishers Weekly*: "Absorbing...a heartfelt page-turner about two women finding a sense of home...Kline lets us live the characters' experiences vividly through their skin...The growth from instinct to conscious understanding to partnership between the two is the foundation for a moving tale."

### Shabbat Service: *Secular Spirituality and Humanistic Judaism*

Friday, July 31, 7:30 PM • North Shore Unitarian Church

Can Humanistic Jews be "spiritual"? If we want to be inspired, if we uplift the human spirit, if we transcend our limits through ethics and history and art and culture, then the answer can be "yes." Join the ongoing discussion about the possibilities and limits to "secular spirituality."



### Save the Date!

Please note these future events.

Aug 21	Shabbat Service
Aug 22	Bar Mitzvah of Ryan Carlson
Aug 26	Adult Education/Lunch & Learn
Aug 28	Shabbat Service
Aug 30	First Day of Sunday School & Picnic/Field Day
Sept 13	Rosh Hashana Evening Service
Sept 14	Rosh Hashana Day Services
Sept 22	Yom Kippur Evening Service
Sept 23	Yom Kippur Day Services
Oct 3	Bar Mitzvah of Jack Gold
Oct 4	Sukkot Celebration @ Heller Nature Center
Oct 6	Tuesday Evening Adult Education Begins
Oct 17	Kol Hadash Progressive Dinner
Oct 18	Choir Concert at Sunday School
Nov 14	Movie Club
Dec 13	Kol Hadash Hanukkah Celebration
Mar 20	Purim Carnival
Apr 23	Community Passover Seder
May 13	Confirmation

## Mitzvah Celebration!

The year-long celebration of our Mitzvah Year (our 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary year) culminated with a gala luncheon enjoyed by more than 120 Kol Hadash members at the Arboretum Club in Buffalo Grove on Sunday, June 7. A delicious brunch buffet was followed by reflections from Rabbi Chalom and several members. Meanwhile, a spectacular raffle and silent auction was ongoing, ending in the exciting announcement of all winners. The event raised more than \$10,000 for Kol Hadash. We extend a tremendous **THANK YOU** to all who attended and donated goods and services to the raffle, those who bid on raffle and auction items, and to the tireless committee members who organized the day: **David Hirsch (chair), Sue Addelson, Betty Gordon, Leora Hatchwell, Alisa Klein, Mike Lippitz, Stacey Max, Marcy Schumaker and Sheila Sebor**. Thanks to our wonderful teen volunteers: **Jonah Hirsch, Quinn Hirsch, Adam Kaz, Skylar Max, Rylie Max, and Zack Klein**. Thanks are also due to our PR consultant **Catherine Driscoll** for her invaluable assistance. And a big thank you to **Jim Jacobs**, who donated the time and talents of his band, the **Jim Jacobs Trio**, for our listening pleasure. Here's to our next 13 years!



Clockwise from above:  
The entire Hirsch clan  
enjoy the afternoon;  
the Shaffer family  
peruse the dozens of  
raffle items; incoming  
SC Chair Sheila Sebor  
listens; Rabbi Chalom  
speaks.



These and many other photos from our Mitzvah Celebration are available for downloading at the following website:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ztmqipuexy1xi9/AABWQvEpmxP8DWh95Tu8BWpAa?dl=0>

All photos by Bonnie Robertson.

Clockwise from left: Kol Hadash member Jim Jacobs and his fine jazz trio provide beautiful music; Sam Sandler is thrilled that his family won the sports package in the raffle...including Bulls tickets!; Rylie Max assisted master of ceremonies David Hirsch in announcing the silent auction winners; all current and former Steering Committee members in attendance gathered for a group photo; our own '60s club reunited — Aileen & Bob Seeley, Marge Marcus, and Lita Passen were all members of our predecessor congregation, Beth Or, back in the early 1960s!



## Committee and Activities News – So Many Opportunities to Participate!

### Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee is has a lot of ideas for new and exciting service programs for 2015-16 . . . we want *your* ideas too! Consider joining the committee and helping us plan these important Kol Hadash programs. We'll be holding a planning meeting this summer (date TBA). If you're interested, contact Sue Addelson (communityservice@KolHadash.com).

### Daytime Culture Club

If evening events are not for you, many cultural affairs are held during the day: art exhibits, street fairs, museums, films, lectures, theater, music (perhaps Boy George), and so much more. If you would like to participate in or help form a Culture Club, please contact Susy Dworsky (cultureclub@KolHadash.com, 847-387-3874).

### Genealogy Club

Kol Hadash members Marcy Schumacher and Leora Hatchwell are planning to start a Kol Hadash Genealogy Club. Interested? Get in touch with an email to info@KolHadash.com.

### Sukkot Is Coming: We Need Your Help!

For many members, the fall festival of Sukkot is a highlight of the year. We are looking for volunteers to help us continue our tradition of erecting our own sukkah at Heller Nature Center in Highland Park. Volunteers are needed to coordinate sukkah assembly at Heller in October, as well as transporting the materials to and from Heller and storing them during the year. Jeremy Gibson has been our sukkah chief for many years and is now ready to pass on this role! Jeremy is available to help train the new volunteers. Our sukkah is very easy to assemble in a couple hours the weekend before Sukkot, but we need someone to supervise volunteers, transport the lumber and lattice panels to and from Heller (they fit in a minivan or pickup), and store it during the rest of the year. Assembly, transport, and storage can be handled by different volunteers. If you can help in any of these capacities, contact Dawn Friedman (education@KolHadash.com, 847-997-8931).

### Youth Education Committee (YEC)

Our YEC serves as a combination school board and PTO, discussing policies, coordinating school events and family programs, and sharing ideas and suggestions with staff to make our school the best it can be. The committee will have an annual planning meeting over the summer and will then meet monthly during the school year. And you don't have to have children in Sunday School to join – we welcome empty-nester and other members to lend their energies and creative ideas to helping make our school a success! For more information, contact YEC Co-Chairs Kim Stone and Karen Jackson (YEC@KolHadash.com) or Youth Education Director Dawn Friedman (education@KolHadash.com).

## Annual Meeting

The congregation gathered on June 12 for the Annual Meeting of the congregation. Following a brief Shabbat service led by Rabbi Chalom, Steering Committee Chair Bill Brook presided over the business meeting, which included reports from the rabbi, Youth Education Director Dawn Friedman, Treasurer Larry Dworsky and Membership Chair Andrea Friedlander. Members who had reached their 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with the congregation were also congratulated. The new officers of the congregation for the 2015-16 year were introduced.

Steering Committee Chair	Sheila Sebor
Steering Committee Vice-Chair	Larry Dworsky
Treasurer	Mike Lippitz
Secretary	Stacey Max

Perhaps most importantly, Bill Brook issued a call for volunteers and encouraged members to take advantage of the many ways they can become more involved at Kol Hadash. Whether it's joining a committee to help create new programs or simply participating in those programs, our congregation offers many ways to get involved! (See the above news for just a few suggestions!)

*The Annual Meeting saw a transfer of leadership of the Steering Committee: past SC Chair David Hirsch thanked Bill Brook for his two years of service with an engraved gavel as a gift from the committee (below); Bill handed over the official gavel to incoming SC Chair Sheila Sebor (top). Photos by Mark Friedman.*



## Kol Hadash News & Announcements

### It's Membership Renewal Season!

Watch your mailbox for Kol Hadash membership renewal forms, which will be mailed this month. We kindly appreciate your prompt return of membership and Sunday School registration forms.

### Membership Survey Coming this Summer

As a first step in our new Strategic Planning process, we will be preparing an online survey for all members to participate in this summer. Watch for an email announcing the survey and an online link. Your opinions count – we look forward to having you participate in this crucial information-gathering step in our process.

### Thank You!

- To **Susy & Larry Dworsky** for hosting the oneg at our June 5 Shabbat service.
- To the **Steering Committee** for hosting the oneg at the June 15 Annual Meeting and Shabbat Service.
- To the *many* volunteers who worked so hard to make our **June 7 Mitzvah Celebration** a great success. See page 4 for a complete list of those who helped.

### Family News & Events

*If you or someone you know is experiencing important and life-altering events, please share the news with Kol Hadash. In times of need, Kol Hadash members can offer support. In times of happiness, we can help celebrate. To share your news, please contact Rabbi Chalom.*

- Condolences to **Nancy Sohn & Mike Simon** on the recent death of Nancy's mother, Miriam Sohn.
- Mazel tov to Dan Addelson, son of **Sue & Roger Addelson**, on being selected as one of five filmmakers selected by the *New York Times* to make branded content for its T Brand Studio.
- Mazel tov to **Jan Reed**, who was appointed senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Walgreens Boots Alliance, a subsidiary of the Walgreens Co. Jan continues as general counsel at the Walgreens Co.
- Mazel tov to Jonathan Bilotti, son of **Emma Kowalenko & Anthony Bilotti**, on receiving his M.A. in Political Science from Western Illinois University and on being commissioned as a U.S. Army second lieutenant.
- Mazel tov to **Alisa Klein**, who earned her BFA in interior design from the Illinois Institute of Art-Schaumburg.

### This Month's Yahrzeits

*The following names will be read at the July 10 Shabbat service at the North Shore Unitarian Church. If there is a name missing or if you would like to have a name read at the service, please contact the Kol Hadash office (847-383-5184, administrator@KolHadash.com).*

Alvin Arbetman	Dorothy Arbetman
Brad Balson	Samuel Berger
Iris Finkelman	Ninette Freed
Dorene Gold	Abert Goldman
Jerome Gurewitz	Lawrence Handelsman
Warren Herron	Yona Holland
Gladys Leichenko	Gladys Libman
Sherwin Malis	Gail Mesirov
Monne Moses	Rose Pashkow
Charlotte Schoenbrod	Sigfried Silberman
Frieda Simon	Sylvia Simon
Minerva Weiss	Sherwin Wine

### This Month's Birthdays

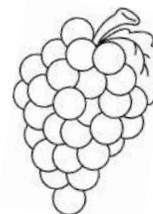
Maya Samlan	July 2
Louis Lieberman	July 6
Leena Schwartz	July 6
Kevin Malis	July 8
Sandra Aristodemo	July 10
Ian Bouma	July 11
Ryan Malis	July 11
Nancy Sohn	July 13
Mike Simon	July 15
Richard Hirsch	July 18
Ilya Talman	July 18
Gabriella Brook	July 20
Ron Schwartz	July 24
Raif Wexler	July 24
Marty Shaffer	July 26
James Styer	July 26
Ellard Pfaelzer, Jr.	July 27
Anika Blitzstein	July 28
Kim Stone	July 29

### This Month's Anniversaries

Laura & Ken Burk	July 17
Nancy Sohn & Mike Simon	July 22
Glynis & David Hirsch	July 27

### Host an Oneg!

Hosting one of our Oneg Shabbats is an easy and fun way to get involved at Kol Hadash and meet new friends. The time commitment is minimal, and the rewards are plentiful. You can even pair with a friend and co-host if you prefer (or we can find a co-host for you!). Upcoming available dates include July 10 & 31; August 21 & 28; September 11 & 29; October 30; November 6 & 20; and December 11 & 18. Interested? Contact David Hirsch (oneg@KolHadash.com).



## Tributes, Donations & Gifts

*Kol Hadash offers several opportunities for donations:*

Kol Hadash General Fund  
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Weiss Choir Fund  
Kol Hadash Tzedakah Fund

Kol Hadash Youth Group Fund

*To donate to any of our funds, please make your check payable to "Kol Hadash" and send with instructions about the gift to: Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation, 175 Olde Half Day Road, Suite 123, Lincolnshire, IL 60069. The congregation expresses its gratitude to the following individuals, whose donations were received in the last month.*

**Joan Berger**, in memory of Ruth Feldman

**Happy Stone & Rick Henriksen**, to the General Fund

**Glynis & David Hirsch**, in memory of Ruth Feldman

**Joyce & Richard Hirsch**, in memory of Ruth Feldman

**Joyce & Richard Hirsch**, wishing Sarah Beatty a speedy recovery

**Leah & Judd Levy**, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, in honor of Izzy's Bat Mitzvah

**Janice Linn**, to the Tzedakah Fund, in memory of Ruth Feldman

**Lita Passen**, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, in memory of Ruth Feldman

**Mimi & Brad Saks**, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, in honor of Caleb's Bar Mitzvah

**Alice & Don Schindel**, to the Tzedakah Fund, in memory of Ruth Feldman

**Brenda & Marv Segal**, to the Youth Group Fund, in memory of Ruth Feldman

**Betty & Stanley Weinberger**, to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, in memory of Ruth Feldman, who led the way for so many families and individuals in a multitude of ways

**We thank the following members for their generous donations in honor of Kol Hadash's Mitzvah Celebration**

Lenore & Howard Adler

Joan Chase

Ellen Rudnick & Paul Earle

Roland Finkelman

Michelle Fishman

Irene Chase & Jeremy Gibson

Joyce & William Goldman

Peggy Bartelstein & Bill Gurolnick

Nan Weiss-Ham & Eldon Ham

Paula & David Harris

Happy Stone & Rick Henriksen

Joyce & Richard Hirsch

Karen & Chris Jackson

Julia & Richard Katz

Louise Neidorf

Mary Vanderbeck Parker & Dan Parker

Marcy & Paul Schumacker

Sheila & Ronald Sebor

Nancy Sohn & Mike Simon



## ***Mazel Tov!***

Mazel tov to Caleb Saks (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and the entire Saks family on Caleb's May 29 Bar Mitzvah!

*Photo by Dawn Friedman*

# Celebrate and Commemorate through Kol Hadash

*Fill out and mail the form below – or – donate online at [www.KolHadash.com](http://www.KolHadash.com)*

When choosing to make a contribution in honor or in memory of someone, consider a donation to Kol Hadash. Your generosity will support our programs, our school, and our future growth, and those you designate will receive a special acknowledgement of your gift on their behalf, in addition to your message being printed in the *Shofar*.

There are five Kol Hadash tribute funds from which to choose:

- ☆ Kol Hadash General Fund – contributions support all Kol Hadash programs and activities.
- ☆ Rabbi Chalom’s Discretionary Fund – used by Rabbi Chalom for charitable purposes.
- ☆ Kol Hadash Tzedakah Fund – contributions to fund Kol Hadash volunteers’ assistance with charitable organizations.
- ☆ Weiss Choir Fund – contributions support the Kol Hadash Choir and music program.
- ☆ Kol Hadash Youth Group Fund – contributions support Youth Group programs and activities.

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Enclosed please find \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ Fund from:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address & Phone #

Message for *Shofar*/Acknowledgement letter:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
The Occasion (e.g., “in honor of” or “in memory of”)

*Please send acknowledgement to:*  
Please print legibly and include complete address. Thank you!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recipient’s Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recipient’s Address

Mail completed form and payment to:  
Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation, 175 Olde Half Day Road, Suite 123, Lincolnshire, IL 60069

**Thank you for your generosity!**



Your July *Shofar* is enclosed!

***This month!***



## ***Ravinia Night!***

Sunday, July 12  
5:30 PM Dinner • 7:00 PM Concert  
on the Ravinia Lawn  
The CSO & Disney's *Fantasia!*

*Details inside*