



Shalom from Rabbi Chalom **Life Through Tragedy**

At the end of 2023, I found myself experiencing another “three out of four” week.

Rabbis lead Jewish celebrations for four major life cycle events: birth (babynaming), coming of age (B Mitzvah), partnership (wedding), and death (memorial). I have had several weekends over my 22-year career where I have been involved in three out of four: wedding, babynaming, and funeral; or B Mitzvah, wedding, then babynaming. But I have never led all four in a one-week period, accomplishing the very rare “hitting for the life cycle.”

What occurred to me during that “three out of four” week near Thanksgiving 2023 was how important these life cycle celebrations are, even when it seems like the world is falling apart. Especially when the world is falling apart! We need to be reminded that there is joy in the world, that life goes on even through and after severe trauma, that laughter and tears are both part of the human condition. Even in better days, there was and is and will be injustice and suffering and tragedy that could consume us. We need to learn how to affirm both sorrow and joy at important moments.

At celebrations of life during time of crisis, I seek the proper balance between acknowledging what is happening in the world while explaining why we continue to celebrate. This has been part of Jewish tradition for centuries: after the Second Jerusalem Temple was destroyed in 70 CE, a rabbi who proposed permanent fasting and mourning was rejected in favor of balancing remembering death with living life. There has been Jewish music sung and created since the Holocaust; there was even music made during the Holocaust.

Weddings often include a space for memorial reflection: a table of family pictures, names printed in the program or shared during the service, a moment of silence to feel the love we still feel. In Ashkenazi Jewish tradition, babies are often named after deceased relatives, and so we remember a beautiful baby’s namesakes with love even if the loss was recent and still raw. We cannot live in permanent mourning, neither for those closest to us nor for human suffering everywhere in the world.

So cherish your loved ones and your opportunities to celebrate with them. Give yourself space to be sad and give yourself permission to be joyful. One of the most cherished privileges of rabbinic work is being part of these family celebrations of life, from 300-person weddings at the Drake Hotel to a graveside memorial service for only the closest family. I see what these celebrations mean to those who mark them, and I know that we all need such moments in our own lives.

Kol Hadash Development Committee

David Hirsch, development@KolHadash.com



To take a phrase from the rabbi's talk at a recent Shabbat service, you are the light that brings warmth and hope to Kol Hadash. Thank you for your generosity, commitment, and time. Thank you for all you do for Kol Hadash.

I asked you in November to consider adding Kol Hadash to the list of worthy charities to which you give. This year, your contributions are helping to fund our security initiatives. As you know, membership pledges do not cover all of our costs. Your generous contributions to the annual appeal fund help cover security guards for events, upgraded security measures at the building, and long term security projects (as we wait for a promised State of Illinois grant). Thank you.

I hope you had a meaningful Hanukkah and are going to join with family and friends to celebrate the many holidays of the winter. Let's keep celebrating together. In the late spring, we will celebrate with our annual FUNdraiser, commemorating our wonderful rabbi's twenty years (!) with Kol Hadash in June. Please considering adding your time and talents to the FUNdraiser team to help create our June event! Like the choir, there are no auditions and everyone is welcome and very much needed. Add your voice to creating the celebration!

So here is the summary:

- ♦ Thank you for your year-end contributions that go to our security initiative.
- ♦ The annual appeal lasts into 2024: [you can still contribute](#).
- ♦ **[Click on this link to make a donation!](#)**
- ♦ Our FUNdraiser event in June will celebrate the rabbi's twenty years!
- ♦ Join the shiny happy party people and create the FUNdraiser!

Questions? Want to help? Click here to contribute or email me: hirschda@gmail.com

Happy everything and see you soon,

David

New Members



Marilyn Weisberg & Soroush Batmangelich

Marilyn and Soroush were members of Temple Chai, a Reform congregation in Long Grove, that closed earlier this year. In looking for a new congregation, they attended a few services at Kol Hadash and felt very comfortable. When talking to Rabbi Adam, they mentioned that Rabbi Miriam Jerris performed their wedding service in 1992, only to discover that she is Rabbi Adam's mother-in-law!

Marilyn is Jewish and grew up in the Detroit suburbs, occasionally attending the Birmingham Temple (the founding congregation for Humanistic Judaism). Soroush is Persian. He

was born in Iran, but because his father was an Ambassador from Iran to many countries, Soroush lived and went to school in India, Afghanistan, Tunisia, Pakistan, and Jordan before coming to the U.S. at age 15.

Marilyn works part-time in her own business doing medical writing and research in pediatric anesthesia. She is also a professional artist...a painter who does portraits, figures, and floral abstracts. You can see her art website at www.marilynscanvas.com and follow her Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/marilynscanvas/>. Soroush is also in health care, focused primarily in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R). He has worked for hospitals, national medical associations, and with his own consulting business through which he helps to create and accredit residency training programs and fellowships.

Marilyn and Soroush live in Buffalo Grove and have two grandchildren in Glenview. Marilyn and Soroush enjoy biking, walking, swimming, playing pickleball, watching movies, getting together with friends and neighbors, going out to eat, and traveling to Mexico and Barcelona. Marilyn loves art and paints a lot. Soroush can also make a few tasty Persian stews.

Marina & Ryan Murphy

Marina and Ryan found Kol Hadash when they were looking for a congregation to connect their daughter to her Jewish roots, culture and tradition, but one that was also consistent with their values. They attended a Kol Hadash family Sukkot service and thought the Sunday school and Adult Education programs were a good fit for their interfaith family.

Marina immigrated to the U.S. from Ukraine in 1990 and grew up in Buffalo Grove. She is a therapist specializing in mental health and has a small private practice in Arlington Heights. Ryan grew up in the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh and moved to the Chicago area to attend graduate school at Northwestern. He is an analytical chemist currently working at Stepan Company in Northfield.

Marina and Ryan live in Arlington Heights with their seven-year-old daughter Rosalind and their "old grumpy" cat Stella. Marina loves to knit, crochet and do crafts. Ryan picked up disc golf as a hobby during the pandemic and is an avid board game collector and player. They love to travel and go into the city as often as possible for theater and good food.



New Members



Victoria Stamova

Victoria was born in Eastern Europe and moved to Canada in the early 2000s. She moved to the US after marrying her late husband. She learned about Kol Hadash from a friend when she was looking for a Sunday school for her son that has more emphasis on tradition than religion. She did some research and felt aligned with the values and philosophy of Humanistic Judaism. She is looking to meet like-minded people and get more engaged with the community. Victoria is a mathematician by education and software engineer by profession. She lives in Lincolnshire and has two sons: Alex, who is 25 years old and is a graduate student in Aerospace engineering, and Daniel, who is 10 years old and attends Kol Hadash's Sunday school. In her free time, Victoria likes concerts (classical and other), art museums, city strolling, nature walks, reading, swimming and biking.

Alina Dizik & James Agres

Alina and James both immigrated to Chicago from the former Soviet Union when they were in elementary school. Alina is from Kharkiv, Ukraine, and James is from St. Petersburg, Russia.

They found Rabbi Chalom when they were searching for a rabbi for their wedding. James was adamant about having a wedding that highlighted Jewish traditions without the religious elements. For years after their wedding, Alina and James attended Kol Hadash High Holiday services as guests and finally decided to join. They have two children, Anais who is in 5th grade and Theo who is in 3rd grade. Anais is very excited to be attending Sunday school.

Alina and James live in Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood. James is a management consultant, and Alina is a journalist and content writer. They like to travel with their children and read as much as possible. And now that they spend most of their time staring at computer screens, they try to stay active through yoga, skiing and running.



Shabbat Services

2023 Year in Review

Friday, January 12, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

January Yahrtzeit Service

2023 is really the tale of two years: before the Hamas attack on October 7, and then after it. What should we remember to remember from the first part of the year, and what does 2024 hold as the continuation of the second? Will conflict in Gaza and Ukraine intensify or wind down? Will they affect the 2024 US elections, or vice versa? Join us for our first 2024 Shabbat, not to be missed!

Zoom Shabbat Service: The Plague of Revenge

Friday, January 19, 7:30pm ♦ Zoom Only

The climax of Egyptian slavery in the Exodus narrative is the final plague that kills the Egyptian firstborn and inaugurates the Passover sacrifice. This week's Torah portion "Bo" (Exodus 10:1-13:16) raises important questions of how best to respond to oppression, to address the suffering of our enemies, and to balance history with the meaning of myth.

Tu B'Shevat Shabbat

Friday, January 26, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

Even though it is winter in Chicagoland, the Jewish holiday of Tu B'Shevat is connected to the blossoming of trees in the land of Israel. This Shabbat, we'll enjoy a Humanistic Tu B'Shevat Seder, complete with 4 cups of wine and many varieties of fruits and nuts, and taste the Spring to come. This Shabbat will be hosted by The Winers, so you know it will be good!

From Ideas to Deeds: Values in Action

Friday, February 9, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

February Yahrtzeit Service

Hope can be hard to come by these days. Natural disasters, political turmoil, war and disease loom over festive gatherings and personal joy. Where can we look to find light, inspiration, positive momentum towards a better life? In the season of darkness, perhaps we need to be the light.

Jewish and African-American Communal Relations: Past and Present

Friday, February 23, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

American Jews are proud of their historical role in the mid-20th century Civil Rights movement, but the 21st century has seen greater complications. The growing population of Jews of Color, many of whom have a foot in both communities/cultural experiences, could be a bridge between them but sometimes report feeling torn instead. Where do things stand, and how can we find common cause and solidarity moving forward?

Adult Education

Jewish Literacy – 50 Jewish Words

Tuesday, January 9, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

Can you identify some of the most common words connected to Jewish life and identity? Join us for a fun crash course in the basics of "speaking Jewish." Everyone of all levels of prior knowledge (or none!) are welcome to join.

Jewish Literacy – Holiday Edition

Tuesday, January 16, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

What are some of the most common words and phrases connected to Jewish holidays? Join us for a fun crash course in the basics of "speaking Jewish." Everyone of all levels of prior knowledge (or none!) are welcome to join.

Jewish Literacy – Places and Ideas

Tuesday, January 23, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

What are the 18 most important places in Jewish history? And what are the 18 most important ideas? Join us for a fun crash course in the basics of "speaking Jewish." Everyone of all levels of prior knowledge (or none!) are welcome to join.

What Jews Believe: God and the Soul

Tuesday, February 6, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

A recent book, *Open Judaism: A Guide for Believers, Atheists and Agnostics* by Barry Schwartz compares the Jewish answers of religious believers, Reconstructionist Jews, and Humanistic Judaism on the big questions. This month, we'll look at some of the topics he explores; no need to read the book, though you may find it interesting! This week's session is on the supernatural: God and the Soul.

What Jews Believe: Torah & Religious Law

Tuesday, February 13, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

A recent book, *Open Judaism: A Guide for Believers, Atheists and Agnostics* by Barry Schwartz compares the Jewish answers of religious believers, Reconstructionist Jews, and Humanistic Judaism on the big questions. This month, we'll look at some of the topics he explores; no need to read the book, though you may find it interesting! This week's session is on the core Jewish literature of Torah and Talmud.

What Jews Believe: Jewish Identity & Israel

Tuesday, February 20, 7:30pm ♦ in-person & Zoom

A recent book, *Open Judaism: A Guide for Believers, Atheists and Agnostics* by Barry Schwartz compares the Jewish answers of religious believers, Reconstructionist Jews, and Humanistic Judaism on the big questions. This month, we'll look at some of the topics he explores; no need to read the book, though you may find it interesting! This week's session is on the boundaries of Jewish community, both as an ethno-religion and a modern state connected to a global peoplehood.

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Chalom

Antisemitism: Past and Present

Wednesday, January 31, 12:00pm ♦ Zoom Only

The hatred of Jews goes back over 2000 years. The recent resurgence of antisemitic rhetoric and actions is both similar to and distinct from earlier examples. The more we understand, the better we can respond.

The History of Inter marriage

Wednesday, February 14, 12:00pm ♦ Zoom Only

Love has always crossed ethnic and religious boundaries. From Biblical times through the Middle Ages to today, Jews have married and made families with other peoples. How has this transformed Jewish life?

Community

Steering Committee Meetings

Thursday, January 11 and February 1 at 7:30pm
The Steering Committee meets monthly and all members are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Laurie Schiller. scchair@kolhadash.com.

Kol Hadash Women's Group

see Weekly Email for dates and times

Our canasta group meets each Monday, and our Chat group meets the first Wednesday of each month. Questions? Email WE@KolHadash.com.

Values in Action at Highwood Food Bank

Friday, January 5 & 19 and February 2 & 16 at 2:45pm
Fort Sheridan Metra Station

Join us at the Highwood Food Bank as we load groceries into cars. Questions? Contact Tony at anthbilotti@gmail.com or 312-859-0500.

NonFiction Book Club: *The Pope of Physics*

Thursday, January 4, 7:30pm

This month's book selection is [*The Pope of Physics: Enrico Fermi and the Birth of the Atomic Age*](#). Contact Ilya at nonfictionbookclub@KolHadash.com.

String Theory

Sunday, February 4, 9:30am

We'll meet at Deerfield High School (the classroom number will be posted near the entrance to Sunday School). This will be drop-in style during Sunday School, so come and go as you like between 9:30 and 11:30 am. Bring your crafty fiber projects and your morning beverages, exchange ideas, and enjoy oohing & aahing. Questions? Email Victoria Ratnaswamy knitters@kolhadash.com.

SciFi Book Club: *The Dispossessed*

Monday, February 5, 7:30pm

This month's book selection is [*The Dispossessed by Ursula Le Guin*](#). Questions? Contact David Hirsch scifibookclub@KolHadash.com.

Adult Challah Making Class

Sunday, February 11, 9:30-11:30a,

at Our Sunday School at Deerfield High School
Have you wanted to make challah yet were hesitant to do so on your own? Join with other adults at Kol Hadash as we learn and make challah together. We are welcome to join this free program. [Follow this link to register](#).

SAVE THE DATE

Winers Gathering: March Madness

Saturday, March 2, 7:00pm

Join us at the home of Andrea & Mark Friedlander in Deerfield. For more information and to RSVP contact Mike Lippitz at winers@kolhadash.com.

Taste of Kol Hadash

Sunday, March 3, 11:00-11:30am

at Our Sunday School at Deerfield High School

Please join us at one of our most popular events — sharing and eating beloved family recipes!

The Congregation is invited

Bar Mitzvah of Gabe Shaffer

Son of Ilana Shaffer
& Marty Shaffer

Saturday, February 3, 5:00pm
North Shore Unitarian Church

Adult Education with Rabbi Chalom at North Shore Senior Center

Rediscovering Jewish Diversity

Part 1:

What are the Jews & The Jews of Baghdad

February 21, 10:00-11:30am

What ties together Jews with roots in Russia, Syria, Azerbaijan and Ethiopia? Is there one "Judaism" that covers the wide range of Jewish experiences, attachments, cultures and beliefs? Is being Jewish a nationality, or a race, or a culture, or a people, or a religion, or something else? Does the 2,500 history of Jews and Arabs in what became the capital city of medieval Muslim empires give us hope or despair for future prospects of tolerance and peace?

Part 2:

Sephardic Jews of Salonika & Beta Yisrael of Ethiopia

February 28, 10:00-11:30am

What ties together Jews with roots in Russia, Syria, Azerbaijan and Ethiopia? Is there one "Judaism" that covers the wide range of Jewish experiences, attachments, cultures and beliefs? Medieval Jewish refugees from Spain transformed this small city near the border between Europe and Asia. Are they a model for modern challenges of immigration, multiculturalism and the breakdown of community? And as the American Jewish community becomes more aware of and open to Jewish racial diversity, how can we learn from the experiences of the Beta Yisrael in the State of Israel?

[Follow this link to register](#)

Youth Education

Youth Education programs are at our Sunday School at Deerfield High School unless otherwise noted.

Questions to Ilana Shaffer at youthed@kolhadash.com or 773-209-8266

Sunday School Tryout & Open House

Sunday, January 14, 9:30-11:30am

[follow this link to register](#)

Are you thinking about how to expose your children to Jewish culture and identity? Your family is welcome to 'try out' our Sunday School by visiting their grade's class for the day. We hold weekly Sunday School for students in First Grade through Ninth Grade Confirmation. Non-members are welcome to join us. There is no expectation of a commitment by attending.

Tu B'Shevat Family Fruit Seder

Sunday, January 21, 10:30-11:30am

- ◆ Our all-ages Tu B'Shevat Fruit Seder celebrates this "new year for trees" as a Jewish Earth Day.
- ◆ Our Tu B'Shevat Fruit Seder includes a delicious variety of fruits growing on trees and in Israel.
- ◆ Rabbi Adam Chalom leads our Seder, relating the holiday to our lives today by exploring environmental awareness and connection to nature.

Please wear clothing showing plants & animals or nature themes & colors. Our seder is not just for Sunday School students! Adult members, parents, grandparents, younger siblings, and guests are more than welcome!

Family Home Havdalah & Potluck Dinner

Saturday, February 10, 5:00-7:00pm

A casual way for our Sunday School families to meet up and chat and enjoy a meal together in one of our homes. Each family will bring a dish for the potluck dinner (you'll let us know of allergies or dietary restrictions). And, you will also have the materials and blessings for a brief Havdallah service (marking the end of Shabbat).

[follow this link to register](#)

Bring Your Parents to Sunday School

Sunday, January 14

Parents are going back to school! Each of our classes welcomes parents to join for a bit. Teachers expect lively discussions and participatory activities! Light breakfast & coffee in parents gathering room. Complimentary childcare for younger children

- ◆ 9:30-10:00—1st/2nd Grade Class
- ◆ 10:00-10:30—3rd/4th/5th Grade Class
- ◆ 10:30-11:00 — 6th/7th Grade Class
- ◆ 11:00-11:30 — 8th/9th Grade Confirmation Class

Youth Education Committee

Sunday, January 28, 9:30-11:30am

Kol Hadash's Youth Education Committee (YEC) is like a PTO for our Youth Education program. We meet about every six weeks during Sunday School while our children are in class. Come to one or all the meetings -- and, get to know other parents, too. Please contact our Youth Education Director, Ilana Shaffer, at youthed@KolHadash.com or 773-209-8266 with questions.

Adult Challah Making Class: Shapes

Sunday, February 11, 9:30-11:30am

[follow this link to register](#)

Have you wanted to make challah (traditional braided egg bread for Shabbat) yet were hesitant to do so on your own? Join with other adults at Kol Hadash as we learn and make challah together. At the end of this class, you'll bring your challah home to bake it. All are welcome to join this free program. Please register so we can have supplies for everyone.

Adult Tot Programs

January 28: Tu B'Shevat and February 25: Shabbat

Open to Everyone! Free for Members, \$10/class for others

[follow this link to register](#)

Our newly-expanded Adult Tot Programs are led by Rabbi Adam Chalom on Sunday mornings at our Sunday School at Deerfield High School. Once a month, See, Sing, Celebrate (for 0-2 year olds) meets at 10:30-11:30am and Jewish Discovery (for 3-6 year olds) meets at 9:30-10:30am. In each monthly class, Rabbi Adam will explore a Jewish holiday through interactive songs, books and hands-on activities. Each family will take home something they've made to make their holiday more meaningful. There is time for a snack and for children and parents to socialize, too.



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3 Women's Group: Online Chat 7:30pm	4 NonFiction Book Club 7:30pm	5 Values in Action at Highwood Food Bank 2:45pm	6
7 No Sunday School	8 Women's Group: Canasta 1:30pm	9 Adult Education: Jewish Literacy — 50 Jewish Words 7:30pm	10	11 Steering Committee Meeting 7:30pm	12 Shabbat Service: 2023: Year in Review (Yahrtzeit) 7:30pm	13
14 Sunday School 9:30am Sunday School Tryout & Open House 9:30am Bring Your Parents to Sunday School 9:30am	15 MLK Day Women's Group: Canasta 1:30pm	16 Adult Education: Jewish Literacy — Holiday Edition 7:30pm	17	18	19 Values in Action at Highwood Food Bank 2:45 Zoom Shabbat Service: The Plague of Revenge 7:30pm	20
21 Sunday School 9:30am B Mitzvah FAQ 9:30am Tu B'Shevat Family Fruit Seder 10:30am	22 Women's Group: Canasta 1:30pm	23 Adult Education: Jewish Literacy — Places and Ideas 7:30pm	24	25 Tu B'Shevat	26 Shabbat Service: Tu B'Shevat Shabbat 7:30pm	27
28 Sunday School 9:30am Youth Education Committee Meeting 9:30am Jewish Discovery: Tu B'Shevat 9:30am See, Sing, Celebrate: Tu B'Shevat 10:30am	29 Women's Group: Canasta 1:30pm	30	31 Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Chalom Antisemitism Past & Present 12:00pm			

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Steering Committee Meeting 7:30pm	2 Values in Action at Highwood Food Bank 2:45pm	3 Gabe Shaffer's Bar Mitzvah 5:00pm
4 Sunday School 9:30am String Theory 9:30am	5 Women's Group Canasta 1:30pm SciFi Book Club 7:30pm	6 Adult Education: What Jews Believe: God and the Soul 7:30pm	7 Women's Group: Online Chat 7:30pm	8	9 Shabbat Service: From Ideas to Deeds: Values in Action (Yahrtzeit) 7:30pm	10 Family Home Havdalah & Potluck Dinner 5:00pm
11 Sunday School 9:30am Adult Challah Making Class 9:30am	12 Women's Group: Canasta 1:30pm	13 Adult Education: What Jews Believe: Torah and Religious Law 7:30pm	14 Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Chalom: The History of Intermarriage 12:00pm	15	16 Values in Action at Highwood Food Bank 2:45	17
18 Sunday School 9:30am	19 Presidents' Day Women's Group: Canasta 1:30pm	20 Adult Education: What Jews Believe: Jewish Identity and Israel 7:30pm	21 Rabbi Chalom at North Shore Senior Center 10:00am	22	23 Shabbat Service: Jewish and African- American Communal Relations: Past and Present 7:30pm	24
25 Sunday School 9:30am Jewish Discovery: Shabbat 9:30am See, Sing, Celebrate: Shabbat 10:30am	26 Women's Group Canasta 1:30pm	27	28 Rabbi Chalom at North Shore Senior Center 10:00am	29		

January Yahrtzeits

*The following names will be read at the **January 12** Shabbat service.*

Bill Brinkman	Evelyn Dribin	Harold Kirsner	Fannie Moses	Sharon Shepard	Mary Spiegel
Sheldon Brottman	Joseph Eisenberg	Doris Libman	Marilyn Muroff	Bessie Shlensky	Diane Teich
Helen Chase	Edward Freund	Ernest Linick	Muriel Paseltiner	Morris Shlensky	Charles Weigley
Jerry Cole	Miriam Gurewitz	Golda Lippitz	Evelyn Rosenzweig	Mary Smiley	Lois Wolens
Bill Cottle	Hattie Kahn	Holly Lively	Bobbie Sarasohn	Bertha Sonshine	Robert Zeleny
Richard Crane	Shepard Kass	Ben Meisenberg	William Sheck	Sol Spiegel	

February Yahrtzeits

*The following names will be read at the **February 9** Shabbat service.*

Joseph Aaron	Alfred Eichner	Ann Jerris	Isadore Lieberman	June Rothstein	Kurt Strauss
Jan Baxter	Roland Finkelman	Helen Kass	Samuel Mayer	Jacqueline Schechner	Catherine Vanderbeck
Joan Berger	Betty Fishkin	Nina Kroft	Milton Miller	Ellis Shaffer	Norman Wauldron
Moshek Biniamin Podrobnik	Harry Goldman	Louis Lason	Jerome Miller	Isadore Sheinbein	George White
Joseph Birnbaum	Allen Goldstein	Terry Lason	Laura Morgan	George Shendelman	
Charlotte Dantico	Yakov Itsikson	Sheila Lieb	Eve Niport	Lena Miller Simon	

Annual Appeal Fund

Sarah Beatty, Emma Kowalenko & Tony Bilotti, Marsha & Rick Bolnick, AJ & Rabbi Adam Chalom, Joan Chase, Pearl & Larry Cohn, Marcia Cottle, Suzanna & Larry Dworsky, Marilyn Litz & Miki Field, Andrea & Mark Friedlander, Irene Chase & Jeremy Gibson, Joyce & William Goldman, Nan Weiss-Ham & Eldon Ham, Glynis & David Hirsch, Joyce & Rich Hirsch, Karen Jackson, Jeffrey Kawalsky, Alisa & Bruce Klein, Roz & Art Kroft, Marjorie Leon, Lipkin, Mike Lippitz, Hope Malis, Margie Marcus, Leora Hatchwell & Tom McCune, Sharon & Stan Noskin, Amy & Neil Parker, Mary Vanderbeck & Dan Parker, Lita Passen, Judith Perlman, Butch & Lorna Pfaelzer, Judy & Steve Rosenzweig, Lynne & Neil Samuels, Tamar & Ron Schwartz, Esther Silberman, Ed Waxler

Tributes

Marilyn Weisberg & Soroush Batmangelich, Donation to sponsor Family Hanukkah Celebration

Michelle Delise, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Dawn & Mark Friedman, General Fund in memory of Bob Seeley

Becky Gustafson, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Rami Henrich, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Glynis & David Hirsch, Annual Appeal Fund, in honor of Joyce and Rich's move and start of a wonderful new chapter!

Glynis & David Hirsch, Annual Appeal Fund, in honor of Gabe Shaffer's Bar Mitzvah

Joyce & Rich Hirsch, General Fund, in honor of the marriage of Eva Friedman to Miriam Lakin

Karen Jackson, Donation to sponsor Family Hanukkah Celebration

Terry & Geoff Kass, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Jennifer & Mitch Kranitz, Donation to sponsor Family Hanukkah Celebration

Nina & Michael K. Lipkin, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Janene & Lee Kessler, Donation to sponsor Family Hanukkah Celebration

Hope Malis, Annual Appeal Fund, in honor of my five sons

Stephanie & Patrick Marino, Youth Group Fund

Katie & Sam Milgrom, Donation to sponsor Family Hanukkah Celebration

Rebecca Riddick-Ostrovsky & Daniel Ostrovsky, Donation to sponsor Family Hanukkah Celebration

Liz & Mike Parent, General Fund

Cathy Weigley & Laurie Schiller, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Erika & Tom Schulty, Tzedakah Fund

Michele & Joel Shoolin, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Victoria Stamova, Donation to sponsor Family Hanukkah Celebration

Media & Ben Tolsky, Donation to sponsor Family Hanukkah Celebration

Family News/Thank You

- Mazel Tov to Susan Chalom on her marriage to Frank Mandlebaum after 22 years of loving partnership. And Mazel Tov to Susan's children Eve Chalom and Rabbi Adam and AJ Chalom as well!
- Wishing Roz Kroft a swift recovery from recent surgery.
- Wishing Bill Brook a swift recovery from recent surgery.
- Deep condolences to Phyllis Cohen on the recent loss of her husband, Cary, after a long illness.
- Wishing Toby Fisher a swift recovery from recent medical treatment.
- Wishing Susan Chalom a swift recovery from recent surgery.
- Mazel Tov to Margie Marcus on her grandson's recent admission to Brown University
- A special thanks to the Friedman Family Fund for making possible the wonderful Klezmer Concert enjoyed by all!
- Thank you to our Special Guest Teachers at Sunday School: Rick Bolnick, Michelle Fishman, Victoria Ratnaswamy, and Leah Sosewitz. And, to Laurie Schiller for being a Guest Speaker.
- Much appreciation goes to Rabbi Adam Chalom, Irene Chase, David Hirsch, Chad Solomon, Victoria Stamova, and Ben Tolsky for opening and closing the building and ensuring Sunday School ran smoothly while Ilana Shaffer was out.

Adult Challah Making Class: Shapes

Sunday, February 11, 9:30-11:30am

Have you wanted to make challah (traditional braided egg bread for Shabbat) yet were hesitant to do so on your own? Join with other adults at Kol Hadash as we learn and make challah together. At the end of this class, you'll bring your challah home to bake it. All are welcome to join this free program. [Please follow this link to register](#) so we can have supplies for everyone.

Bring Your Parent to Sunday School

Sunday, January 14

Kol Hadash Sunday School at Deerfield High School

Parents are going back to school! Each of our classes welcomes parents to join for a bit. Teachers expect lively discussions and participatory activities! Light breakfast & coffee in parents gathering room. [Complimentary childcare for younger children.](#)

- 9:30-10:00—1st/2nd Grade Class
- 10:00-10:30—3rd/4th/5th Grade Class
- 10:30-11:00 — 6th/7th Grade Class
- 11:00-11:30 — 8th/9th Grade Confirmation Class

Sunday School Tryout

For families interested in our weekly education program (from first grade through ninth grade confirmation), your child can join their grade's class for the day to see if we are a fit for your family. There is no expectation of a commitment by attending. [Please register at KolHadash.com](https://kolhadash.com)



FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Open to everyone! Free!



Monthly during Sunday School, our whole school -- students, teachers, families, and guests — come together to celebrate Jewish holidays as well as for special programs on Jewish culture, community service activities and more. Please join us!

**at Kol Hadash Sunday School at Deerfield High School
(park and enter through rear/east entrance)**

Please register on our website calendar at KolHadash.com

Come once, or come to them all!



Family Bagel Brunch & Activities

Sunday, September 10, 10:30-11:30am

Rosh Hashana Family Service

Saturday, September 16, 2:00-3:00pm
@ our congregational home at
North Shore Unitarian Church

Yom Kippur Family Service

Monday, September 25, 2:00-3:00pm
@ our congregational home at
North Shore Unitarian Church

Sukkot Family Service & Pizza Dinner

@ our congregational Sukkah at
North Shore Unitarian Church
Sunday, October 1, 4:00-6:00pm

Family Jewish Culture Experience:

Klezmer Concert

Sunday, November 19, 10:30-11:30am

Hanukkah Family Celebration & Lunch

Sunday, December 10, 10:30am-12:00pm

Tu B'Shevat Family Environmental Project

Sunday, January 21, 10:30-11:30am

Taste of Shabbat & Taste of Kol Hadash

Sunday, March 3, 10:30-11:30am

Purim Family Celebration

Sunday, March 17, 10:30-11:30am

Passover Family Seder

Sunday, April 21, 10:30-11:30am



Sunday School Try Out

For families interested in our weekly education program (from first grade through ninth grade confirmation), your child can join their grade's class for the day to see if we are a fit for your family.

There is no expectation of a commitment by attending. **Please register at KolHadash.com**

Questions to Youth Education Director Ilana Shaffer at youthed@kolhadash.com or 773-209-8266

Members choose financial commitment — Trial Memberships offered — Jewish and Interfaith families fully participate

www.KolHadash.com

Adult Tot Programs

Monthly enrichment classes open to everyone

Help your child experience Jewish holidays each month for the first (or second) time! Join Rabbi Adam Chalom and Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation for music, stories and fun. Parents can schmooze while their kids snack and play, and each family will take home something they've made to make their holiday more meaningful. Open to everyone with advance registration (free for Kol Hadash members, \$10 per class for all others).

See, Sing, Celebrate!

Children ages 0-2

Sundays at 10:30-11:30am

Jewish Discovery

Children ages 3-6

Sundays at 9:30-10:30am

**Both classes are held monthly at Kol Hadash Sunday School at Deerfield High School
(park and enter through rear/east entrance)**



High Holidays for Tots

Sunday, September 17

9:30-10:30am

This class is for children up to age 6 and free and open to all



Tu B'Shevat

Sunday, January 28



Shabbat

Sunday, February 25



Sukkot

Tuesday, October 3

This class is held outside in our Sukkah at the North Shore Unitarian Church



Purim

Sunday, March 10



Tikkun Olam

Sunday, November 5



Hanukkah

Sunday, December 3



Passover

Sunday, April 14



Please register on our website calendar at KolHadash.com

Come once or come to them all!

Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation provides a comfortable home for individuals and families who identify as Culturally Jewish, Just Jewish, Jew-ish, Jewish and . . . , Half-Jewish, Interfaith, Jews by Choice, Multicultural, Not Religious, Secular, Humanistic, Atheist, and Agnostic. No prior knowledge or Jewish literacy is needed; come as you are!

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B Mitzvah FAQ Session

For parents of students up to 6th grade

Sunday, January 21

9:30-10:15am

At our Sunday School at Deerfield High School

Open to everyone! Free!



- 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**

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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.

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Tu B'Shevat Family Fruit Seder

Sunday, January 21, 10:30-11:30am

- Our all-ages Tu B'Shevat Fruit Seder celebrates this “new year for trees” as a Jewish Earth Day.
- Our Tu B'Shevat Fruit Seder includes a delicious variety of fruits growing on trees and in Israel.
- Rabbi Adam Chalom leads our Seder, relating the holiday to our lives today by exploring environmental awareness and connection to nature.

Please wear clothing showing plants & animals or nature themes & colors. Our seder is not just for Sunday School students! Adult members, parents, grandparents, younger siblings, and guests are more than welcome!

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