

Shalom from Rabbi Adam Chalom *“What Do We Learn”*



As one of the strangest Sunday School years I have ever experienced (aside from last year!) draws to a close, I noticed a fortunate calendar conjunction: our last day of Sunday School falls on the eve of Shavuot, which many years takes place after the Spring conclusion of our youth education programs.

Shavuot [“weeks”] is celebrated 50 days after Passover - a “week of weeks” or 7 days x 7 weeks. Historically Shavuot was the summer harvest holiday, paralleled by Passover in Spring and Sukkot in Fall. Like Passover and Sukkot, Shavuot was a major pilgrimage festival to the Temple in Jerusalem until its destruction in 70 CE. And as happened with other harvest- and Temple-focused holidays, rabbinic reinterpretation added a new layer of meaning by connecting Shavuot with the giving of the Torah from God to Moses on Mount Sinai. Over time, this last layer led to a tradition of late-night adult Torah study on the eve of Shavuot, called Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

So what can Shavuot mean for Humanistic Jews? Most of us do not harvest more than a modest backyard garden, and the Jerusalem Temple has been gone for 2000 years. And we believe that all Jewish literature and thought, including the Torah, was created by human beings. However, that last detail is what opens Shavuot to new possibilities.

Our Sunday School teaches Jewish cultural literacy, which means exploring Jewish life in all of its diversity and creativity. Yes, our foundational myths and literature, but also stories beyond the Bible and art and music and celebrations of life and food and everything else that gives Jewishness its unique textures and rhythms. They were all created by human beings, and they are all available for us to learn from at any age, on Shavuot or any time of year.

And our learning must be more than for learning’s sake alone; our study should lead to doing good and better in the world.

Rabbi Tarfon and the Elders were once reclining in the upper story of Nithza’s house, in Lydda, when this question was raised before them: Is study greater, or practice? Rabbi Tarfon answered, saying: “Practice is greater.” Rabbi Akiva answered saying: “Study is great, for it leads to practice.” Then they all answered and said: “Study is greater, for it leads to action.” (Babylonian Talmud, Kiddushin 40b)

Last year, the Society for Humanistic Judaism organized an [online Shavuot learning program](#) as one response to the isolation of the early months of the Coronavirus pandemic. This year, we are [preparing for our second](#) - stay tuned for more details as the program comes together. The first year something new is innovation, even heresy; the second year it becomes a tradition!

Help is Available

As you may or may not know, Rabbi Chalom has access to a Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund to provide confidential financial assistance to those in need. Funds donated may only be used for charitable purposes, which can include paying utility, medical or rent bills for those in need. If you or someone you know is in need of a little help, please contact Rabbi Chalom at rabbi@kolhadash.com. Help us to help others!

Mazel Tov!



Mazel Tov to Lia, and Jonah on beautiful B Mitzvahs from Rabbi Chalom and the entire Kol Hadash family! Because our students can choose their own Torah portion, Lia focused on the Biblical stories of Rachel and Leah while also touching on arranged marriages, women's freedom and choice, and modern poetry by Leah Goldberg, and Jonah focused on the Biblical Story of Noah and environmentalism.

[Visit our website to learn more about our B Mitzvah program.](#)

Values in Action/Helping Hands

valuesinaction@KolHadash.com

Welcome (back) to HELPING HANDS!

Values in Action has resurrected this important service! Right now if you need an important errand done like picking something up at the food store or pharmacy, etc. we can lend a helping hand. Post Covid, we will be happy to do more of what Helping Hands did in the past, such as help if you're not feeling well, require a ride to the doctor or need help setting up for a post-funeral *shiva*.

Let us know if you have a *Simcha* [joy] or a *Tsuris* [challenge or loss] so that we can help celebrate or acknowledge them. Please contact us at valuesinaction@KolHadash.com.

Become a Helping Hand!

If you're available to help out a congregant in need, please also email valuesinaction@KolHadash.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Rhonda Pawlan and Lynn Miller



Shabbat Services

Discussion Shabbat - The Magic 7: For Blessing and For Curse

Friday, May 7, 7:30pm

The traditional Torah Portions for this Shabbat, Behar and Bechukotai (Leviticus 25:1-27:34), offer the promise of a year of rest, a return to ancestral lands and the freeing of slaves in the 50th year (after 7 cycles of 7 years). But they also promise seven-fold punishment if divine laws are ignored. Was this prophecy, or the meaning drawn after the destruction of ancient Judea?

Music Shabbat Service: How History Tells Stories

Friday, May 14, 7:30pm

May 14, 1948 is remembered very differently by Israelis and Palestinians. For Israelis it is their first Independence Day, thereafter marked on the Jewish calendar on the fifth of Iyar which fell a full month earlier on April 14 in 2021. For Palestinians, May 14 remains the eve of Nakba [catastrophe] Day, commemorating their displacement and refugee experience. How do the stories we tell from different perspectives about the same events (eg American Civil War) affect the present and possible futures?

Confirmation Shabbat Service

Friday, May 21, 7:30pm

The culmination of our Youth Education Program is our Confirmation Shabbat, where our students have the opportunity to share with us what they believe about life, the universe and everything. Many of our graduating students have been part of our congregation for most of their lives, so their messages should be very important to hear!

PRIDE Discussion Shabbat – LGBTQ Issues in Jewish Life

Friday, June 4, 7:30pm

Just as general American feminism transformed the experiences and opportunities of Jewish women, so too has LGBT advocacy challenged the Jewish community to adapt and evolve. What has changed, and what remains to be addressed, to widen the tent to truly celebrate the entire Jewish family?

Music Shabbat Service: Jews and Slavery: A Complicated Legacy

Friday, June 18, 7:30pm

“Juneteenth” has recently grown in awareness as a celebration of the end of American slavery. What is the true legacy of Jews and slavery, from Biblical concept to the realities in Europe, the Middle East and Americas? We may not always be pleased by what we find, but truth has its own dignity and can motivate us to face consequences.

Adult Education

The American Jewish Landscape

Tuesday, May 4, 7:30pm

Our understanding of the American Jewish community (or “communities”) is very different today than it was even 20 years ago. We are more diverse and more fragmented than ever, between religious beliefs and practices, acceptance of intermarried families and their children, relationships to Israel and American political parties, and more. Who are we, what do we want, and where are we going?

Jewish Current Events

Tuesday, May 11, 7:30pm

What are the pressing issues facing the Jewish World in 2021? Will we emerge from COVID-19 more unified or more divided? The current state of Antisemitism, Israel and the Diaspora, feminism and the role of the rabbi and more will be part of the conversation.

The History of Humanistic Judaism

Tuesday, May 18, 7:30pm

In 2019, the Society for Humanistic Judaism celebrated its 50th anniversary. How did the idea of a secular congregation get started, and how was it received by the Jewish community over the years? Rabbi Miriam Jerris of the Society for Humanistic Judaism has worked with Humanistic Judaism in various capacities since 1974, and she will share her experience and insight on the founding and growth of our movement.

Our Torah: How Learning Leads to Action

Secular Humanistic Jewish Tikkun Leil Shavuot/Shavuot Eve Study

Sunday, May 16, 3:00-7:00pm

Secular Humanistic Jews celebrate Shavuot with Jewish literature and ideas from all eras, not only the Torah, and we agree with the Talmud's sages that “study leads to action.” Join Leaders and Rabbis in Secular Humanistic Judaism as they turn our *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* into *Tikkun Olam*/Repairing the world through learning experiences with organizations doing good here and now! Topics under consideration include the challenges of secular education in ultra-Orthodox schools, the importance of Biblical literacy for secular people, how understanding Jewish secular diversity can help motivate work for racial justice, and maybe even the new Duolingo Yiddish program! More details on the program to come, so stay tuned.

Values in Action: Operation Gratitude

**Drop off your donations on May 2
at Sunday School or
North Shore Unitarian Church (from 3:00-3:30pm)**



During the months of February, March and April Kol Hadash will have the chance to show support for:

- Deployed Troops
- Veterans
- Recruits
- Wounded heroes and Caregivers
- Military Families
- Health Care Workers
- First Responders
- National Guardsmen

Projects you can work on include:

- ◆ Knitting or crocheting scarves: They must be no wider than 4"- 6", no longer than 48" - 50", and of 4 medium worsted yarn weight in muted colors that will match troops uniforms. Attach a letter too!
- ◆ Handmade stationery for people to write home to their families.
- ◆ Write personal letters to the people that were mentioned. Please put to whom the letters can be directed to on the envelope.
- ◆ Paracord bracelets. Please go to the Operation Gratitude website to order a kit for 5 bracelets for \$10.00.

During these winter months fill up your days with supporting Operation Gratitude. We will have a drop off on May 2nd at Sunday School or from 3:00 - 3:30 at the church parking lot!

Questions? Please call Lynn Miller (847) 234-2599

Activities

Steering Committee Meetings

Thursday, May 6, 7:30pm
Tuesday, June 8, 7:00pm (just before the Annual Meeting)

In the Zoom age, it's now easy to check out the work of Kol Hadash's committees. The Steering Committee meets monthly and all members are very welcome to attend. There's no commitment to join the committee or attend future meetings! Contact Chair, Mike Lippitz if you have questions or wish to attend. schair@kolhadash.com.

Women's Chat Group

May 3, 17, 31, and June 14, 28 at 1:30pm

The Women's Group gets together to socialize and suggest cultural things to do during quarantine. WE@KolHadash.com

Women's Group: Feldenkrais Class

May 10, 24, and June 7, 21 at 1:30pm

Join us for a Feldenkrais class taught by Joyce Hirsch. Feldenkrais is a method that improves each person's awareness for moving with ease and thus reducing stress and anxiety. WE@KolHadash.com

A Safe Place EmpowerRun Virtual 5K

May 1-31

[Click this link to join our team: The Kol Hadashers!!](#)

Safety is our top priority, so run anytime in May in a Virtual 5K to support victims of domestic violence & human trafficking.

Operation Gratitude

Sunday, May 2, 3:00-4:00pm

Projects can be done at home and brought to Sunday School or dropped off at the NSUC's parking lot from 3:00 to 4:00. This is also a great opportunity to visit with Kol Hadash members! [Click this link to see a flyer with more information and a list of projects.](#)

Food Donation to Youthbuild Lake County

Sunday, May 2, 3:00-4:00pm

Drop food items off at Sunday School or at the NSUC parking lot from 3:00 - 4:00 and visit with Kol Hadash congregants and NSUC members. [Click this link for a flyer with a list of donation items.](#) Drivers needed to deliver donations to Youth Build Lake County in North Chicago.

Development Committee Meeting

Monday, May 10, 7:00pm

In the Zoom age, it's now easy to check out the work of Kol Hadash's committees. Please feel free to visit tonight's meeting, and to contribute your ideas, if you wish. There's no commitment to join the committee or attend future meetings! If you'd like to attend this meeting or have questions, please contact David Hirsch at development@KolHadash.com.

String Theory

Monday, May 17, 7:00pm

String Theory gathers all types of crafty stringers & fiber fans -- knitting, crocheting, felting, embroidery, needlepoint, you name it. All skill levels are welcome, and, we're happy to help with a new or existing project. All genders are welcome to join us. Questions? Contact Victoria Ratnaswamy (knitters@KolHadash.com)

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 7:30pm

Please mark your calendar for a virtual Kol Hadash Annual Meeting. We will introduce the incoming officers of the congregation, present a budget for the 2021/22 fiscal year, review the past year and talk about our evolving plans for re-opening.

Book Club: Anxious People by Fredrik Backman

Wednesday, June 9, 7:30pm

This month's book is *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman. Contact Stacey Max with questions bookclub@KolHadash.com

Movie Club: To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar

Sunday, June 13, 4:00pm

This month's movie is *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar*. Please watch the movie on your own (Amazon) and join us for a discussion. Contact Leora Hatchwell with questions movies@KolHadash.com

CELEBRATE the 20th Anniversary of Kol Hadash

Saturday, June 26. 7:30pm

Sunday, June 27, 11:00am

On June 26th & 27th, we will have amazing events to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our congregation. It will be a double header. An upbeat, fun zoom evening on June 26th will include music, toasts, photos and heart warming memories. It's a night you won't want to miss, so save the date!

On Sunday, the following morning, we'll celebrate at an outdoor event. How wonderful it will feel to see so many happy, familiar faces after this long year of hibernation. A beautiful weekend for our congregation is just around the corner. More info to come!

Find out more and register at www.KolHadash.com/20.

Kol Hadash 20th Anniversary Celebratory Picnic!

Sunday, June 27 • 11:00am - 2:00pm

Brickyard Park • 375 Elm Street, Deerfield

(Rain or Shine, shelter provided)

At last — an opportunity to meet up masked face to masked face! Join your Kol Hadash family and friends to schmooze and celebrate our 20th anniversary in-person! Bring chairs and blankets and picnic supplies. Everyone is welcome! Please stay as long as you like!

We will be following strict COVID guidelines set by the state. We will notify everyone with updated protocol as it becomes available.

Order two Lox Boxes for \$20 or bring your own picnic. (vegetarian option available)

Feel free to make a tax-deductible tribute donation in honor of our 20th Anniversary.

Register and donate online: www.kolhadash.com/20



Youth Education

Sunday School Try-Out

May 2, 9, and 16, 9:30-11:30am

We welcome non-members to join us - there is no expectation of a commitment by coming to this program.

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. Kol Hadash Humanistic Congregation holds weekly Sunday School classes for students in Kindergarten through Confirmation. Each class has a well-defined curriculum, covering topics in Jewish history, literature and culture.

To register, contact Youth Education Director, Ilana Shaffer at youthed@kolhadash.com.

Preschool Jewish Discovery

Free monthly enrichment class!

Open to everyone!

May 2: 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 the children and parents to socialize, too. At-home resources will also be provided.

Please be sure to check your weekly email for scheduling changes due to coronavirus protocol.

Youth Education and Family Events: Contact Ilana Shaffer, youthed@KolHadash.com, 773-209-8266

Confirmation Class Shabbat Service (online)

Friday, May 21, 7:30pm

The culmination of our Youth Education Program is our Confirmation Shabbat, where our students have the opportunity to share with us what they believe about life, the universe and everything. Many of our graduating students have been part of our congregation for most of their lives, so their messages should be very important to hear!



Last Day of Sunday School Celebration

Sunday, May 16, 9:30am

While we can't celebrate our Last Day of Sunday School as we would like (no cupcakes), we are very grateful to our school teachers, families and especially our students for making the best of a most challenging year! Parents are invited to stay and shmooze with each other (masked, safe distance) outdoors at Woodland Park during our last session - walk the path, catch up with friends, thank our teachers, feel part of our community. Wearing your Kol Hadash mask is a plus!

Meet A Member



Janene & Lee Kessler

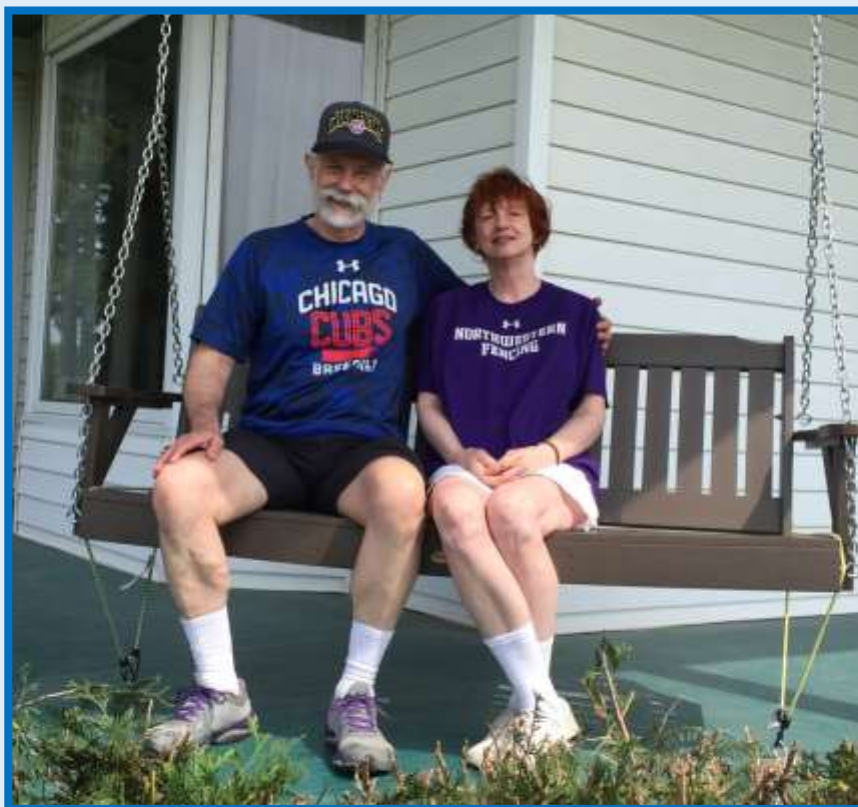
Janene and Lee are both active musicians. Janene is director of bands at Lake Forest High School and plays French horn in the Northshore Concert Band. Lee, whose day job is as an independent copywriter serving the financial industry, plays clarinet with the Northbrook Symphony.

The Kesslers discovered Kol Hadash in 2013, when they started attending Family High Holidays services and Passover Seders at Bluegrass. When asked what drew them to Kol Hadash, Lee says, "We like that it's inclusive, and that it helps us honor tradition while not being bound by it." Their two children, Evan, 14 (himself an accomplished trumpet and piano player), and Naomi, 5, both attend Sunday School.

Laurie Schiller & Cathy Dyersville

Laurie and Cathy met in Swahili Club as graduate students at Northwestern University. They made Northwestern home. Cathy earned a Masters in Anthropology and worked at the University Library. She was also the technician (armorer) for the fencing team, which made sense, since Laurie was the Head Fencing Coach for 38 years. Laurie earned his PhD in African History and was adjunct history professor. Now retired from the University, they both like to read history and travel to national parks and historical sites and museums. Laurie is writing a book on Civil War cavalry tactics. He is also a national fencing coaching and in-between, relearning French. Cathy is relearning German.

Laurie was raised as an Ethical Culturalist, but lived in a Jewish neighborhood and was attracted to his Jewish heritage. Cathy was raised Protestant. They have been attending Rabbi Adam's adult education classes, and Cathy enjoys learning about Humanistic Judaism. Laurie serves on the Steering Committee and is a member of the choir.



The Congregation is invited

Bar Mitzvah of Asher Solomon

Son of Karlyn Rosentiel and Chad Solomon

Saturday, May 22, 5:30pm on Zoom

May Yahrtzeits

The following names will be read at the **May 14** Shabbat service.

William Addelson	Gertrude Edelstein	Gertrude Hart	Edythe Miller	Irving Rittenberg	Rose Sohn
Jan Bloch	Edward Fisher	Dina Hatchuel	Sy Passen	Carl Sabath	Max Sosewitz
Pearl Brook	Michael Fisher	Michael Hatchwell	Rosalind Podolin	Mary Sheck	Robert Stendel
Richard Cohn	Nathan Goldberg	Edward Hollander	Eugenia Podrobnik Kowalenko	Philip Shoolin	Rose Villi Bilotti
Caryl Cole	Lilian Gordon	Beverly Klein	Barry Raben	Emil Simon	
David Davis	Franz J. Gruenbauer	Miriam Kopelman	Ethel Rittenberg	Sidney Smiley	

June Yahrtzeits

The following names will be read at the **June 18** Shabbat service.

Naomi Abend	Muriel Diamond	Franz X. Gruenbauer	Rose Lambert	Marion O'Neill	Mary Lu Spencer
Laura Addelson	Anne Dorfman	Hy Gurolnick	Susan Landsman	Louise Ogle	Lester Teich
Hans Aschman	Irving Fishkin	Danny Hart	Roberta Levitt	Louis Podolin	Mort Trachtenberg
Diane Aschman	Josephine Friedman	Glicka Hepner	Lillian Lieb	Sidney Robin	Harriet Wiederhorn
Charles Bernstein	Marvin Gibson	Terri Jaykowski	Florence Meisenberg	Susan RogovinUlrich	
Dolores Century	Lillian Goldberg	Gregory Kowalenko	Harry Nissenson	Miriam Sohn	

Tributes

AJ & Rabbi Adam Chalom, General Fund, in gratitude for their help preparing for Jonah's Bar Mitzvah - to Ellen Apley for her musical accompaniment, David Hirsch, Mara Heichman, Leah Sosewitz, and the Kol Hadash Youth Education staff and Sunday School teachers.

Michelle Davis, General Fund, Ben and I appreciate all the online programming that we have been able to participate in during this time. Thank you very much!

Andrea & Mark Friedlander, General Fund, in honor of Jonah Chalom's Bar Mitzvah

Phyllis & Allen Gantman, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, in honor of Jonah Chalom's Bar Mitzvah

Happy Stone & Rick Henriksen, General Fund

Happy Stone & Rick Henriksen, Tzedakah Fund

Glynis & David Hirsch, Annual Appeal Fund, in memory of Belle Wauldron

Joyce & Rich Hirsch, General Fund, in memory of Belle Wauldron

Lynn & Elliot Miller, Tzedakah Fund, in honor of Jonah Chalom's Bar Mitzvah

Nancy Okamoto, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, Thank you for a joyous and meaningful Passover Seder on Zoom.

Judith Perlman, General Fund, Yahrtzeit donation

Judy & Steve Rosenzweig, Rabbi's Discretionary Fund, in honor of Jonah Chalom's Bar Mitzvah

Michele & Joel Shoolin, General Fund, in gratitude for Rabbi Chalom's interesting and insightful Jewish history course.

Community Passover Seder Sponsorship

Susan & Roger Addelson, Jenny Berman Ross, Sandra & William Brinkman, Eve Chalom, Susan Chalom, Cindi Emerson, Marcia Clark, Marcia Cottle, Craig Davishoff, Michelle Delise, Marilyn Litz & Milton Field, Michelle Fishman, Suzi Garfield, Joyce & William Goldman, Peggy Bartelstein & Bill Gurolnick, Joyce & Rich Hirsch, Janene & Lee Kessler, K. Michael & Nina Lipkin, Cindy & Michael Albright Marquis, Susan Marrinson, Dori Rosenbloom & Chet Mirman, Nancy Okamoto, Linda Paul, Rhonda Pawlan, Judy & Steve Rosenzweig, Ellen Shepard, James Shepard, Nancy Sohn & Mike Simon, Aliza Werner, Hilleri Zander

Family News & Thank You

- Mazel Tov to Michelle and Steve Fishman on the recent engagement of their daughter Jordyn (who celebrated her Bat Mitzvah and Confirmation at Kol Hadash)!
- Mazel Tov to Andrea and Mark Friedlander, who expect to become grandparents by the end of the summer!
- Mazel Tov to all Kol Hadash members who have successfully received their COVID-19 vaccination!
- Mazel Tov to Neal and Amy Parker on the marriage of their son Jonathan (who celebrated his Confirmation at Kol Hadash!)
- Thank you to the parents who joined our recent Youth Education Committee (YEC) meeting; and, also to those parents who give verbal and email feedback regularly. It is your involvement and sharing of ideas which strengthens our Sunday School and family programs.
- Congratulations to the students of our 4th/5th Grade Sunday School Class for preparing and leading a wonderful virtual Shabbat Service. Each student put much time and effort into researching and presenting their Hero Project and it showed! A special 'thank you' to their teacher, Ken Burk.

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 A Safe Place EmpoweRun virtual 5K (all month long)
2 Sunday School 9:30am Sunday School Try Out 9:30am Preschool Jewish Discovery: Shabbat 10:45 Operation Gratitude 3:00-4:00pm Food Donation, Youthbuild Lake County 3:00-4:00p	3 Women's Chat Group 1:30pm	4 Adult Education: The American Jewish Landscape 7:30pm	5	6 Steering Committee 7:30pm	7 Discussion Shabbat Service: The Magic 7: For Blessing and For Curse 7:30pm	8
9 Sunday School 9:30am Sunday School Try Out 9:30am	10 Women's Group: Feldenkrais Class 1:30pm Development Committee Meeting 7:00p	11 Adult Education: Jewish Current Events 7:30pm	12	13	14 Music Shabbat Service: How History Tells Stories (Yahrtzeit Service) 7:30pm	15
16 Sunday School 9:30am Last Day of Sunday School Celebration 9:30am Sunday School Try Out 9:30am Education: Our Torah: How Learning Leads to Action 3:00pm	17 Women's Chat Group: 1:30pm String Theory 7:00pm	18 Adult Education: The History of Humanistic Judaism 7:30pm	19	20	21 Confirmation Class Shabbat Service 7:30pm	22 Asher Solomon Bar Mitzvah 5:30pm
23	24 Women's Group: Feldenkrais Class 1:30pm	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Women's Group: Feldenkrais Class 1:30pm					

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	3	3	4	5
					PRIDE Discussion Shabbat Service: LGBTQ Issues in Jewish Life 7:30pm	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Women's Group: Feldenkrais Class 1:30pm	Steering Committee 7:00pm Annual Meeting 7:30pm	Book Club: Anxious People by Fredrik Backman 7:30pm			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Greater Chicago Jewish Festival 12:00pm Movie Club: To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar 4:00pm	Women's Chat Group 1:30pm				Music Shabbat Service: Jews and Slavery: A Complicated Legacy (Yahrtzeit Service) 7:30pm	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Father's Day	Women's Group: Feldenkrais Class 1:30pm					Kol Hadash 20th Anniversary: Virtual Gala Celebration 7:30pm
27	28	29	30			
Kol Hadash 20th Anniversary: In-person Picnic Party 11:00am-2:00pm	Women's Chat Group: 1:30pm					