

CONGREGATION OR ATID

Connecting community with spirituality

Friday Services: 6:00 PM | Saturday Services: 10:00 AM

☎ (804) 740 - 4747

📍 10625 Patterson Avenue, Henrico, VA 23238

✉ Office@oratid.org

April, 2024

CONNECTIONS

Adar II-Nissan 5784

Rabbi Sherry



Dear Or Atid Family,

As you know, I returned from my trip to Israel last Friday as part of the Federation's Solidarity Mission. It was a difficult, intense, and meaningful trip. We saw and heard of the atrocities of October 7th and witnessed the unity of our brothers and sisters in Israel. With the pain and the loss, there is also much hope and resilience in Israel. Amy Melnick Scharf and Maya Eckstein were also part of the delegation, and we will share our insights on April 7th. I hope you can join us. This month, we will celebrate Passover – a festival commemorating our exodus from Egypt, an event that occurred about 3500 years ago. We will continue to celebrate the holiday as part of the generational chain – M'dor L'dor – linking us to Moses and the Israelites of that time. This year, it is even more important for us to celebrate as we hold Israel of today in our hearts.

Passover is also known in Hebrew as Chag HaAviv, the Festival of Spring. Such is the cycle of nature and life; one circumstance leads to another, and there are always new beginnings. I choose to see the blossoming trees and new flowers all around us and trust that God, in his infinite wisdom and love, will turn challenges into promising opportunities for our nation and for Israel.

Happy April!

Rabbi Sherry

April

EVENTS

- | | | | | | |
|------|----------|--|------|----------|--|
| 4/2 | 7:00 pm | <u>Digging Deeper w/Frankie Snyder</u> | 4/12 | 6:00 pm | <u>Musical Kabbalat Shabbat with dinner</u> |
| 4/3 | 7:00 pm | Book Club | 4/13 | 10:00 am | 4th & 5th Graders Shabbat participation |
| 4/4 | 2:30 pm | <u>Torah and Conversations</u> | 4/14 | 4-6 pm | <u>YJF Passover Cooking Class</u> |
| 4/6 | 6:00 pm | Young Jewish Family Shabbat | 4/16 | 7:00 pm | <u>Women of the Bible</u> |
| 4/7 | 10:30 am | <u>Keeping Your Heart Healthy: Nutrition Recommendations for Prevention of Heart Disease</u> | 4/18 | 2:30 pm | <u>JCFR Parent/Teen Workshop -</u> |
| | 6:30 pm | <u>Testimonies From Israel with Rabbi Sherry</u> | | 6:00 pm | <u>Tools for talking Antisemitism</u> |
| 4/11 | 2:30 pm | Torah and Conversations | 4/25 | 2:30 pm | Torah and Conversations |
| | | | 4/28 | 9:30 am | <u>Yom Hashoah Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day</u> |

A Dose of My Own Medicine

Bob Shayne, President



It's the beginning of the baseball season, and there's a new contender making waves, Or Atid. The crowds are showing up in record numbers. Last month's Young Member's Shabbat had 95 attendees which is a record. While most of those present were Or Atid members, a good percentage were visitors who were present for the first time. In fact, the biggest resulting problem was there was discussion about the need to increase housekeeping services to deal with the resulting cleanup.

The Rabbi-in-residence program was a similar success with large crowds for all three activities. We thank Rabbi Berner and Cantor McCord for making it both an enjoyable and educational weekend.

Even routine weekly events have been impacted. Attendance at Friday and Saturday services is significantly up. There have only been two weekends where not having enough worshipers to make a minyan since Rabbi Grinsteiner has been aboard.

So why mention our successes when things are going well? With the efforts of membership recruitment, there is a potential for these records to continue. With the events above, we have had a large number of guests present. Having more guests brings the potential for new members. The challenge, is how do you do this? Tricky.

When Margo and I were new to Richmond and shopping for a synagogue we got to feel what it felt like to be a recruited guest at several synagogues. At one synagogue, during the Oneg, one of the officers sidled up to me and began a conversation, "Well, did you like the service? You do realize that this wouldn't have happened if the members weren't generously paying dues to cover expenses. We can make you a deal if you join before the end of the summer." Although we met some warm, welcoming people that night, that one interaction was enough to discourage us from going back. On the other hand, at Congregation Or Atid the secret sauce was shown to us with its hamishness, the welcoming atmosphere brought on by the members. Receiving a personal phone call a week or so later to check on our experience, was enough to have us take another look and eventually, to join.

When Walmart was coming into the area one of their selling points was "The Greeter", a person whose sole responsibility was to welcome people into the building, offering to answer questions and provide advice for patrons. Or Atid could copy that strategy using a cadre of greeters, members willing to take 10 minutes or so to call visitors after they have gone home, to be sure that their experience was positive and inquire if there is anything else that anyone can do. If you are available to be part of our Membership Brigade, send me an email to kidzdoc78@gmail.com or Jeff Samuels at Jeffrey@williamjeffreys.com or just leave a message with the Wanda or Gal. And if not, make a point to introduce yourself to unfamiliar visitors and offer to answer any questions.

Happy Pesach!

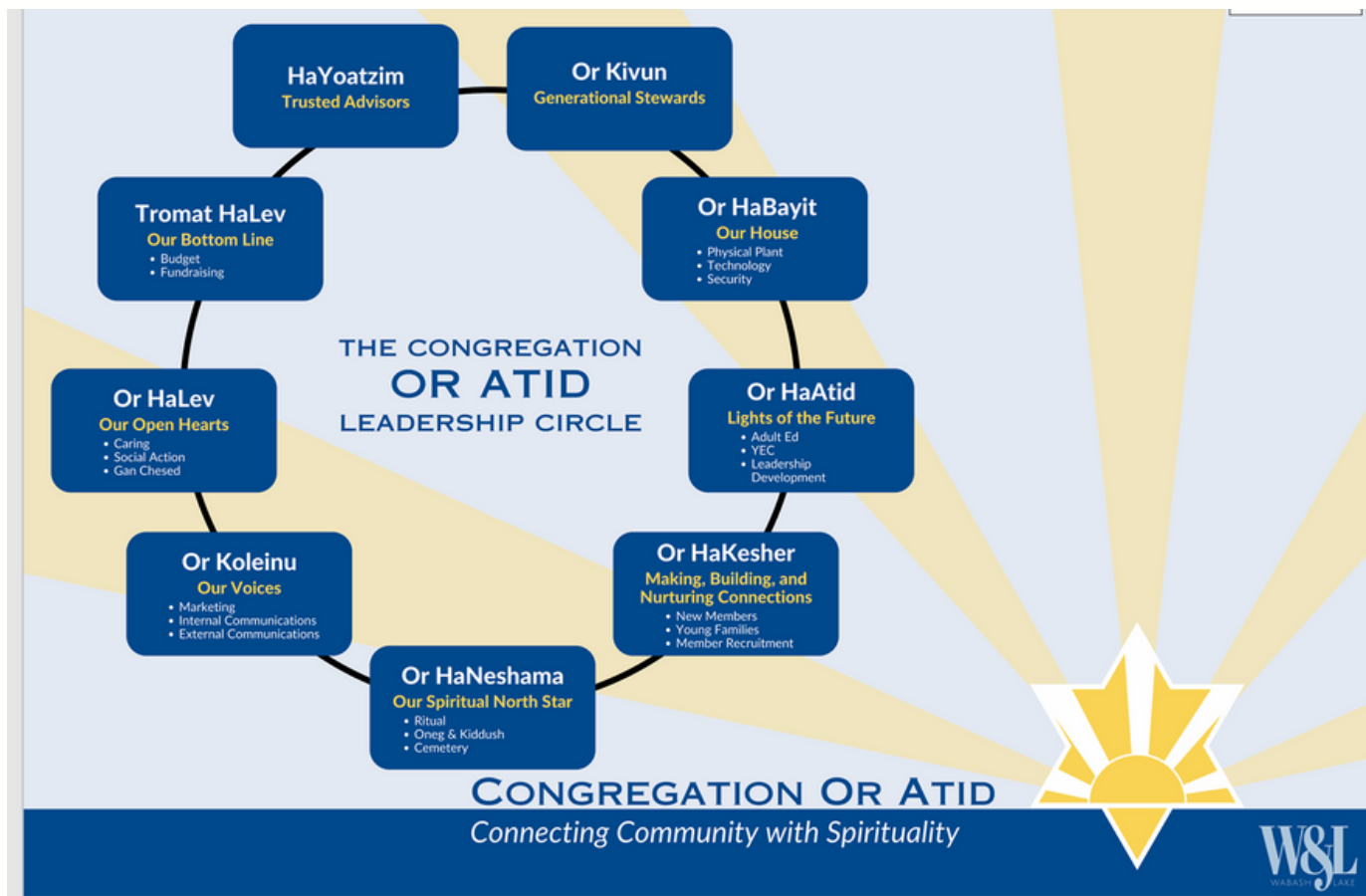
B'Shalom

Bob Shayne

President

Free Surprises at the June 2nd Annual Meeting!

Ok...that was just to get your attention for this important update from the Leadership Council. On Thursday March 21st, Congregation Or Atid's Board of Governors agreed to a one year trial run of our new leadership model, The Leadership Circle. In a specific rejection of the hierarchical form of governance, this unique concept invites us all "in" to participate in the egalitarian model you see below:



Our Guides for each of the pods you see on the chart, plus two of our Trusted Advisors and the five Generational Stewards will be the voting body of Leadership. We are redoubling our efforts to share as much of our institutional memory as we can, adding to our online cache of documents in COA's cloud file.

Our objective is to fully realize a project driven, vibrant synagogue doing the activities in which our members are interested.

Less legislation, more just doing things....what could possibly go wrong?

Well, without your help and feedback, PLENTY can go wrong! Without your help and your voice, we can't grow into the community of kindness and caring that we know you want from your synagogue community. Reach out to anyone in our leadership circle to ask how, and we will have a mentor ready to help you format, promote and execute your ideas. In the meantime, if you'd like a more detailed description of each of the pods, or have any questions or comments about this new model, please let one of us know at leadershiptaskforce@oratid.org.



SPONSOR KIDDUSH

Sponsors Needed!

Each week the Oneg and Kiddush Committee prepares a luncheon for anyone attending Saturday services, and also a small pre-neg for Friday night. The luncheon is a time where we can connect and schmooze and enjoy a nosh. We are a self funding committee of very hardworking volunteers. In order to continue providing this service we need funds to purchase the food. That's where you all come in. For \$ 45 you can sponsor a luncheon. It can be in honor of a Birthday, Anniversary, Birth, Graduation....Or it can be in memory of someone special, or, just because. You do not have to attend services, but would love to have you there. You don't need to shop or cook or prepare or clean up, but we would never refuse the help. All you need to do is provide the funds to keep this mitzvah continuing. Can we count on you?

You can contact Sandy Mayer at 804-822-0604 or Fran Todras at 757-692-4263. Hope to hear from you soon!



Join our book club, resuming on April 3rd at 7:30 PM, where we will be reading, [A Long Petal of the Sea](#), by Isabel Allende. Mark your calendars for May 15th, June 26th, August 7th, September 18th, October 30th, and December 11th, for future Book Club dates.

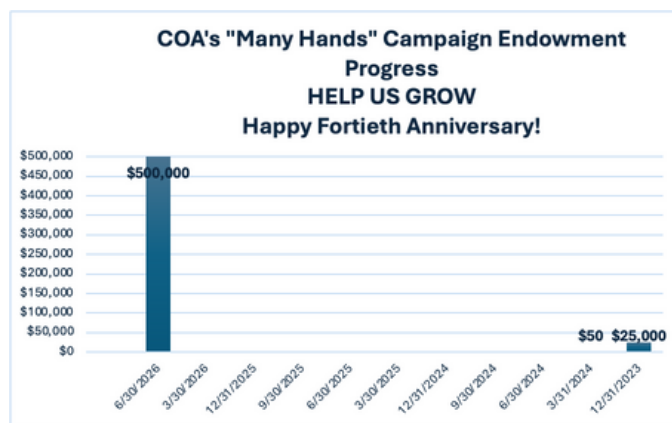
For more information and to join, please contact Sandy Mayer at clynemayersd@gmail.com Don't miss out on the opportunity to discuss great books with fellow enthusiasts

Many Hands Campaign

Have you ever left the spilled coffee grounds on the counter in the break room or walked past the paper jammed copy machine? Each of us has, given the chance, let "someone else do it". There's even a name for the phenomenon: the Diffusion of Responsibility. The idea that we don't have to act because we think someone else will is the exact opposite feeling of communal generosity, we are hoping to foster with the Many Hands Campaign!

In order to reach our goal of raising \$500,000 for the Congregation Or Atid Endowment Fund by June 30th, 2026 to commemorate Or Atid's 40th birthday, we need to do so with a spirit of mutual effort, common purpose and a jointly held objective that supporting our synagogue community is fun, good, important and holy.

Here are the results of Endowment gifts for the quarter ending 3/31/24. Thank you to the congregant who made a gift.



As we turn our attention to the spring and the joys of Passover starting in just a few weeks, we will thereafter begin our annual Counting the Omer Campaign. This year, all funds raised during the Counting the Omer Campaign will be credited to the Many Hands Campaign. What a wonderful way to engage in our communal count while simultaneously supporting the Endowment! Look for weekly messages about the Omer count!



Congregation Or Atid owns and sells the rights to burial plots in two sections of Greenwood Memorial Gardens known as Azalea Gardens and Cedar Gardens.

Azalea Gardens rules have always stated plots are only for traditional burials. Cremated remains are not allowed. This rule remains.

The Rabbinical Assembly (the legal body of the Conservative movement) has ruled that cremation should be discouraged, but that **"If families choose to dispose of a loved one's remains through cremation, they must take every step to give those remains an honorable burial. All residual ash and organic material should be buried in a Jewish cemetery, in graves dedicated to each individual, not scattered, with full liturgy and mourning rites."**

COA will allow cremated remains in a subsection of the 120-plot area of Cedar Gardens, specifically the six columns on the right.

Burial of non-Jewish significant others alongside their Jewish life partner has always been allowed in subsections of these two areas.

Suppose you own a plot in the Azalea Gardens and are considering or have decided on cremation before burial. In that case, COA will allow you to trade your current Azalea Gardens plot or plots for the same number of Cedar Gardens plots at no charge from COA. Transferring your ownership to a new plot may incur a record update fee from Greenwood Memorial Gardens.



The Caring Committee offers various forms of support to our members: phone calls, cards for the unwell, home or hospital visits, and celebrating life events like welcoming a new baby with gifts and meals. Reach out to Ellen Bernstein at 804-399-3649 for help or to refer someone. Current Caring Committee needs: Some members need cards, visits, or meals. Please contact Ellen for details.

April Events

KEEPING YOUR HEART HEALTHY
Nutrition Recommendations for the Prevention of Heart Diseases
BY SAMANTHA HASWELL MS, RD

SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH
10:30 - 11:30 AM
Congregation Or Atid
Please RSVP online

CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS
STUDY ZIONISM AND THE HEROIC STORY OF MODERN ISRAEL

Millstone Scholars is a national honors program that offers exceptional students a unique opportunity to study Zionism and the history of modern Israel.

Millstone Scholars participate in a one-year sequence of in-person core seminars and special events. Students engage with the central concepts and history of Jewish thought and modern Israel.

The program will develop the next generation of young Jews into leaders who are confident in their identities and in the robustness of their heritage.

PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- THE ZIONIST PROJECT** is one of the great moral, cultural, and political triumphs in human history, and every young Jew should understand the achievements and challenges of modern Israel.
- THE HERZI COLLOQUIA** are high-level discussions featuring in-depth conversations with renowned Jewish leaders, such as Harvard professor emeritus Ruth Wisse.
- OPTIONAL ONLINE ELECTIVES** are an opportunity for students to select from online seminars in Jewish literature, philosophy, and history.

PROGRAM START: April 14, 2024

ELIGIBILITY: Public & Private School Middle School Students

CLASS TIME & LOCATION: Sundays, 5 - 6:15 PM
Congregation Or Atid
10625 Patterson Ave
Richmond, VA

TUITION: \$175 (\$25 sibling discount)
Scholarships Available

CONTACT: aunger@tikvahfund.org

CONGREGATION OR ATID
Creating Community with Integrity

Learn More & Apply: MillstoneScholars.org

COA YOUNG FAMILIES
Passover Cooking Class
Childcare Provided

Sunday, April 14th
4:00 - 6:00 PM

Join us for a fun cooking class, with schmoozing and dinner to follow

Suggested donation of \$18 per family
Please register online or call the office

Join us for an upcoming Community-wide Event!

Yom Ha'Shoah Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day Commemoration

Sunday, April 28th, 2024 | 9:30 AM to Noon
At Congregation Or Atid

Dr. Roger & Win Loria present their family history in WWII.
Introduction by Rachel Loria
Light Passover Breakfast will be served

To RSVP scan QR code
Or go to <https://t.ly/DzvGA>
Or call 804-740-4747

Reservations required, donations encouraged

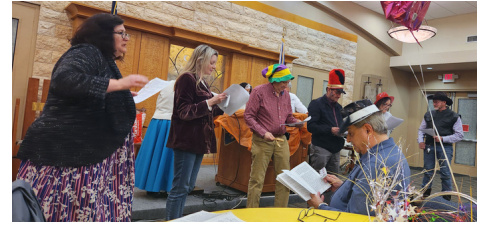


Religious School Celebrates Purim

Our students had so much fun learning about Purim. They began the day by listening to a talk by congregant Ephraim Seidman about his time in Israel during the war, volunteering at the Israel Guide Dog Center. Afterward, they all went upstairs to make groggers and masks.



Magilla Reading 3/23/24



JCC / Dr Atid Purim Carnival

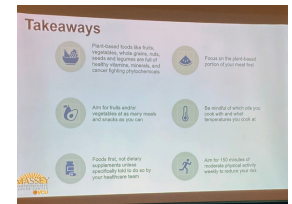
A good time was had by all with record-breaking crowds at the JCC for Purim this year. Children of all ages enjoyed face painting, making balloon animals, bounce house, Magillah Reading, laser tag, and much more!



Cast of Characters:
 King Ahasuerus- Leo Grinsteiner
 Esther- Sandy Mayer
 Haman- Michael Schoenhaut
 Narrator- Art Todras
 Marian Turk, Gretchen Goff

Nutrition Series

On Tuesday, March 12, eight lucky people got to hear Samantha Haswell, a Registered Dietitian with VCU Massey Cancer Center, talk about eating for health, "Recommendations for Cancer Prevention and Survivorship". The audience was engaged and asked a lot of questions, which were addressed. The next event will be on April 10th, where Samantha will discuss "Keeping Your Heart Healthy". We hope to see you there!





Donna McClish	4/1	Gary Donis	4/16
Salha Mishaan	4/2	David Epstein	4/17
Philip Perschetz	4/2	Rachel Mollen	4/18
Fay Barss	4/3	Regina Richman	4/18
Ethan Greenberg	4/3	Jeffrey Samuels	4/18
Paul Witten	4/6	Lauren Powell	4/18
Marvin Curry	4/8	Tim Coffey	4/18
Lynn Simonoff	4/10	Anna Salomonsky	4/20
Frank Senger	4/11	Ann Battle Macheras	4/20
Robin Disler	4/12	Sheila Pour	4/25
Charlotte Binder	4/14	Adam Binder	4/25
		Tom McClish	4/29

Margo & Bob Shayne	4/16
Robin & David Disler	4/16
Isabela & Caleb Shively	4/30



Jessie Greenberg	22 Adar II
Norma Berson	24 Adar II
David Cheslock	25 Adar II
Guy Battle	27 Adar II
Abe Donis	1 Nissan
Joseph Berman	1 Nissan
Hyman Moore	3 Nissan
Maria Membrives	5 Nissan
Marion Mirmelstein	7 Nissan
Lee Rhoda Bank	8 Nissan
Herman Bloom	8 Nissan
Sylvia Ann Russell	9 Nissan
Kenneth Frishtick	9 Nissan
Ruth Goldman Bloom	10 Nissan

Selma Wendroff	10 Nissan
Irving Raphael	11 Nissan
Marc Gerstein	12 Nissan
Svetlana Banchik	15 Nissan
Michael Sopher	16 Nissan
Louise Weiner	16 Nissan
Barry H. Dorfman	17 Nissan
Henry Moss	17 Nissan
David Cohen	17 Nissan
Esther Amkraut Gavurin	19 Nissan
Gussie Eisenberg	19 Nissan
Abraham Kolman	20 Nissan
Adele Pond	21 Nissan
Mortimer Epstein	21 Nissan
Isabel Ostheimer	22 Nissan



March 2024 Donors

Yahrzeit Fund

Sandra and Franklin Levin in memory of Celia Sidenberg.

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Sam and Amy Richardson.

Oneg and Kiddush Fund

Fran Todras, in celebration of Art's birthday.
Barbara Hirshorn, in celebration of her birthday.
Rick Wiener, in celebration of Marilyn's birthday.
A special Kiddush in honor of our Trope Class.

Gan Chesed Garden Fund

Marsha and Neil Gewirtzman in celebration of Bunny Wilks and Ephraim Seidman's wedding anniversary.

Young Family Programs Fund: Young Family Shabbat Experience with Dinner

Ethan Greenberg, Lauren Powell, Elyssa Haynes, Gal Shiri Birnbaum & Ariel Birnbaum, Will & Ellen Frank, Sara Cone, Mike and Inna Marcus, Victoria Maddox.

Musical Kabbalat Shabbat with Dinner

Fritz and Karen Lucas, David Epstein, Ayelet Weisz- Israeli.

Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day

Mike and Inna Marcus.

COA Endowment Fund

Sabina Levy in memory of her father, Joe Levy.
Sharyn and Gerry Milsky in honor of Rabbi Sherry Grinsteiner.

Toda Raba! Thank you so much!

COA FUNDS

Please go to oratid.org for printable donation form.

Endowment Fund (click on ICON)

General Synagogue Fund

Helen and Sam Kornblau Religious School Education Fund

Kerper Floral Fund

Library Fund

Membership & Care Fund

Youth Music Fund

Music Program Fund

Gan Chesed Garden Fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (please send to Rabbi directly)



REMEMBER WHEN DOING YOUR WEEKLY SHOPPING:
Join our Community Partners who make giving to Congregation Or Atid as easy as everyday shopping!
Just CLICK On Their ICON

