

Congregation Or Atid Highlights

4 Nisan 5784



April 12th, 2024



CANDLE LIGHTING

7:26 PM



TAZRIA

Leviticus 12:1 - 13:59
2 Kings 4:42 - 5:19



SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday Night 6:00 PM
Saturday Morning 10:00 AM

SHABBAT SERVICES INFORMATION

Friday, April 12th, 6:00 PM

Evening Shabbat service

No Pre-Neg

In-Person and via Zoom

**6:00 PM Musical Kabbalat Shabbat led by
Cantor Sharon McCord thanks to a generous
donation from Fran and Art Todras
with dinner to follow**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Join Zoom Meeting By Computer:

[Click Here to Join By Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 876 1772 6755

Passcode: 000771

Saturday, April 13th, 10:00 AM

Morning Shabbat service

In-Person and via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting By Computer:

[Click Here to Join By Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 669 242 126

Passcode: 000771

**[For All Zoom users please Click Here for a RA approved
temporarily PDF of the New Siddur](#)**

"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you." (Exodus 12:2)

Rosh Chodesh Nissan stands out as a pivotal moment in Jewish history. It was during this time in Egypt that God entrusted the Jewish people with their first commandment: to declare the start of each month and sanctify it. Nissan also symbolizes the inception of the Jewish nation.

The themes of freedom and miracles are central to our narrative of leaving Egypt. With Pesach just two weeks away, we seek miracles, especially for the release of hostages, as we anticipate this celebration of freedom.



In unity, we stand strong with Israel.

Your donation to the Israeli Emergency Fund aids immediate relief and recovery. Contribute today,

[CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ISRAEL](#)

Connections is our monthly newsletter sent at the beginning of each month. If you would like to share an article, photos, or have questions please send them via email to Connections Editor, Ruth Schoenhaut at ruthscho54@gmail.com.

The Board of Governors asks that you be considerate of others when attending services. Please stay home if you are not feeling well or if a member of your household has tested positive for Covid. Wearing a mask inside the synagogue is optional but recommended. (rev. 3/16/2023)

COA Latest Happenings

The last week at Or Atid was busy and filled with events.

On Friday, We heard the inspiring story of Benzi, an IDF veteran with PTSD, and his service dog partner Lugo from the Israel Guide Dog Center. Lugo has helped Benzi manage his symptoms and reconnect with life. Noach Braun, Co-Founder & Co-CEO of the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind, shared additional information about the Center's operations.



On Friday night, we hosted our Family Shabbat experience for our young families and children. We had a about 65 adults and children, Rabbi Sherry led a meaningful and fun service. On



Saturday morning, we welcomed 45 members of a Longwood University Comparative Religion course to our Shabbat services the next morning. Rabbi Sherry provided an excellent explanation of our services and the significance of the prayers.

On Sunday morning, Samantha Haswell MS, RD, a dietitian at VCU Massey Cancer Center, gave part 2 of her "Nutrition and Lifestyles" talk series. She shared vital insights on daily health and preventing chronic diseases like diabetes and heart disease. The next session is scheduled for May 1st.



On Sunday evening, Rabbi Sherry Grinsteiner, Amy Melnick-Scharf, and Maya Eckstein shared their experiences as participants in a Mission Delegation to Israel sponsored by the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.



They witnessed the aftermath of the October 7th attack in Kibbutz Nir Oz, heard from survivors and victim's families, and saw firsthand the struggles and resilience of the Israeli people during wartime. Their presentation provided poignant insights into this life-changing trip.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for a joyous **Musical Shabbat led by Cantor Sharon McCord on Friday, April 12th at 6:00 PM.**

Indulge in delicious dairy Mexican cuisine as we come together to celebrate the arrival of spring.

Cost: \$10 per Adult, \$5 (4 to 12 years Old)
3 and under are FREE.

Please register on line or call the office
Don't miss out on this wonderful evening of music, food,
and community

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)





Join us for an upcoming Community Wide Event
Sunday, April 28th at 9:30 AM Yom Ha'Shoah Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day Commemoration.

Rachel Loria will introduce her parents, Dr. Roger and Win Loria, who will present their family's World War II history.

A Light Passover Breakfast will be served with a suggested donation \$10.

If there any volunteers who are available for transporting guest please contact Terry Schultz at tschultzw3@gmail.com

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Passover Schedule

- April 18th Ḥametz deadline (forms online and on lobby table)
- April 22nd Erev Pesach (1st Seder)
- April 23rd Pesach Service (Please Register - Office Closed)
- April 24th First Day of Count The Omer Campaign
- April 28th Yom HaShoah Holocaust & Heroism Remembrance Day (Registration Required)
- April 29th Pesach Service with Yizkor (Please Register - Office Closed)



Join us on **Wednesday, May 1st at 6:30 PM** for a **FREE** lecture on **nutrition for diabetes management and prevention**. Samantha Haswell, a registered dietitian nutritionist at VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center, will share valuable insights and practical tips on how to control blood glucose levels through your diet. Whether you have diabetes or want to prevent it, don't miss this opportunity to enhance your understanding of nutrition's role in managing and avoiding this chronic condition.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Jewish Community Events

Congregation Or Atid is Hosting:

**Parent/Teen Workshop:
 Tools for Talking Antisemitism
 April 18th | 5:30-7:30 PM
 Congregation Or Atid**

**Register
 HERE**



Please join the Jewish Community Relations Committee of Richmond and ADL Washington, D.C. for an evening designed for discussing and combating antisemitism. This event will feature two concurrent sessions: one designed for caregivers and one for teens.

Pre-Passover Pause

April 21st

1:30 PM - 2:15 PM

West End Public Library |
Meeting Room A
5420 Patterson Avenue |
Richmond, VA 23226

Families with young children ages 0-8, please send an adult (spouse, aunt, uncle, grandparent, friend, caregiver, friend, etc.) with your child(ren) for a short break from the house so you can get some grownup tasks accomplished. We'll read a book or two, examine feathers, learn about their relevance to cleaning the home for Passover, use them for calming exercises, and enjoy public library time. Come as you are, very casual.



Register Here!

Registration preferred,
but not required



EDUCATION



Join Rabbi Sherry and friends for a weekly **Torah and Conversations** session! Beginning with the Parasha, our discussions delve into various topics inspired by the group's conversation. **Next session is April 11th 2:30-3:30 PM.** Attend in person or via Zoom.

NEW TIME 2:30-3:30 PM until May.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Introducing **Millstone Scholars: A national honors program for exceptional middle schoolers**, delving into Zionism and the inspiring history of modern Israel. Engage in core seminars and special events, exploring Jewish thought and contemporary Israel. **Program starts April 14th, 2024, at Congregation Or Atid.**

Tuition: \$175 (with sibling discount) with scholarships available. **Congregation Or Atid members: please contact Rabbi Sherry for tuition scholarship.** Join us in shaping the next generation of Jewish leaders.

Learn More & Apply: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4981992>

| Contact: aunger@tikvahfund.org

[CLICK for more info](#)

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 HERZL 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.

MILLSTONE SCHOLARS 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
Learning connects with service

Discover the stories of fascinating **women of the Bible** with Rabbi Sherry. Join our monthly discussions, exploring history and tradition through biblical, Talmudic, and aggadic sources. Next up: "Miriam and the other prophetesses" **Tuesday, April 30th 7:00 to 8:30 PM**

In person and on ZOOM

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Women of The Bible
Class Series
With Rabbi Sherry
Miriam and The Other Prophetesses

Tuesday, April 30th
7:00 - 8:30 PM
In Person and online on ZOOM

COA Book Club



Join our **book club**, resuming on the following dates at **7:30 PM:**

May 22nd, June 26th, August 7th, September 18th, October 30th, and December 11th.

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

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES



CAN YOU BELIEVE WE HAVE JUST FOUR MORE SCHOOL DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE END OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR? WE WILL SURELY MISS YOU IN THE SUMMER. BUT WE STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN. STAY TUNED FOR THE MANY EVENTS FOR OUR YOUNG FAMILIES. THIS SUNDAY, WE ASK THAT ALL STUDENTS GO STRAIGHT TO CLASSES AT 9:30 DUE TO AN EVENT IN THE SANCTUARY.

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION:

ALEX MENDEZ-ZFASS AMENDEZ.ZFASS@GMAIL.COM OR

GAL SHIRI BIRNBAUM GBIRNBAUM@ORATID.ORG

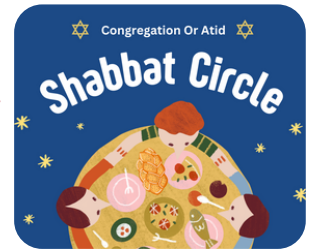


COA Pathways to Engagement

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.

Come join our SHABBAT CIRCLE

This is a great opportunity to make new friends and spend time with old friends as we *renew* socially and spiritually together. If you would like to *Host a Shabbat Dinner* as part of our Shabbat Circle, please contact the office or you can [CLICK HERE](#) to pick your date on our Sign-up Genius sheet.



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**



Get Involved and Stay Connected: Shabbat Services, Feedback, and Support

Participation in Upcoming Shabbat Services: Contact Michael Schoenhaut to participate in reading Torah, Haftorah, leading prayers in Hebrew or English, at miru719@gmail.com

The members of the **Leadership Task Force** value your feedback and input. Please don't hesitate to contact the Task Force members at LeadershipTaskForce@oratid.org

Report antisemitic or security incidents related to a Jewish organization to the Secure Community Network (SCN), the safety and security organization for the Jewish community. The Jewish Community Federation of Richmond encourages you to share information on any threats or antisemitic activities you experience or are aware of, whether in person, by phone, mail, social media, or via a flyer left on your doorstep. This helps implement safety strategies, working with law enforcement to address threats. Use the reporting form on the Federation's website: <https://www.jewishrichmond.org/incidentreporting>

If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush to recognize a life event, please contact Sandy Mayer 804 822-0604 or Fran Todras 757 692-4263



Gan Chesed Garden



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THE GARDEN, PLEASE CONTACT SUE GELLER AT: SUSANRGELLER@GMAIL.COM OR 804-387-7643.

Or Atid's Gan Chesed Kindness is supported, in part, by a generous contribution from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER](#)

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

