



# HA-KESHER

March/April 2012 • Volume 29, Issue 4 • Elul/Tishrei 5772

Newsletter of Or Hadash  
A Reconstructionist Congregation  
190 Camp Hill Road  
Fort Washington, PA 19034  
215.283.0276 Fax 215.283.4822  
office@orhadash.com  
[www.orhadash.com](http://www.orhadash.com)

...shedding new light on Jewish Traditions



## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2** • President's Message  
• Healing Services
- 3** • From the Administrator  
• Purim
- 4** • Upcoming Events
- 5** • One Book One  
Jewish Community
- 6** • Social Action/Tikkun Olan
- 7** • From the Education Director
- 8** • From the Education Director  
(continued)

Connect with us on  
Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/groups/136646944182>

## From Rabbi Josh



Community – it's a word that is often used and not often examined. It's a term that's frequently thrown around these days simply to refer to a group of people with a common interest, like 'the intelligence community' or 'the bicycle community' or, as I heard recently on the radio, 'the zombie studies community' (true story, although I'm pretty sure the speaker was joking...). But what does community really mean? Community speaks to more than shared interests and pastimes: it speaks to shared values and aspirations, shared hopes and dreams. But more than that, it speaks to a specific group of people whose lives are connected on an ongoing basis because they instinctively recognize themselves as part of a larger whole. People whose lives are intertwined perhaps through a shared past, but definitely by a shared present and shared hopes for the future. This is true community, and it is the sort of community we strive to build on a daily basis at Or Hadash.

We see it when congregants show up at the shiva house of someone they have never met, when they work side by side on a social action project, when they show up with a meal for someone who is sick or take someone's child for the afternoon, when they study together and when they pray together, when they celebrate together and when they grieve together. Community enriches our lives immeasurably because in a world that is increasingly fragmented and isolated, it gives us a place where we belong, a home. In the immortal words of a member of the 80's *sitcom community*, it gives us a place, 'where everybody knows your name and they're always glad you came.'

Because true community is so nurturing, we are constantly taking steps to try to strengthen our community and build connections between congregants. We just finished a listening campaign designed to reach out to longtime members to discover what moves them and what their priorities are as members of Or Hadash. Lori Rubin has added community building to her portfolio and in January we held two recent events that were designed to foster connections between congregants who don't know one another and deepen connections between those who do – our amazingly successful Shabbat Schmooze on January 20 followed by our International Night on January 28 which brought congregants together to share meals in one another's homes.

On March 30, we take the next step toward building strong connections with our new Shabbat ba-Bayit program. 'Shabbat ba-Bayit' means 'Shabbat at Home' and our goal is to help congregants host one another for a Shabbat dinner in their homes. Instead of coming to synagogue for services that evening, all congregants are encouraged to contact Lori Rubin to serve as either a host or a guest at a relaxing, enjoyable Shabbat dinner that will allow us to connect with Shabbat as an expansive time for building relationships and celebrating the goodness of Creation. Our dinners will delight our hearts with the timeless Shabbat rituals, our bodies with good food, and our minds with engaging study and conversation. We will connect deeply with Shabbat even as we connect deeply with one another. I hope you'll take part in the launch of what we hope will be a popular program and another one of the many ways in which we create connections, deepen relationships, and build our precious community.

B'shalom,

*Rabbi Josh*

Contact Lori Rubin at [school@orhadash.com](mailto:school@orhadash.com) to take part. The synagogue will match hosts and guests according to geography, dietary preferences, age of children, etc.

## President's Message

*By Janet Karp*

If I asked you about your Or Hadash experience, what would you tell me? A group of Or Hadashers met on a one-to-one basis with many congregants who fall into the category of long-time members to talk candidly, and very likely, somewhere in the conversation, that's what they talked about. As a result, a group of Or Hadash members who did not know each other previously are now acquainted with each other. The conversations were enjoyable. The plan is to expand the conversations to a broader spectrum of the congregation, always on a one-to-one basis. This is a great way to hear from more of you and get to know each other. I'll need your help to make that happen.

In addition to new relationships, the listeners learned that over the years, many of us have solidly connected to Or Hadash through small group involvement. Several people expressed the importance havurot have played in their Or Hadash experiences. A havurah is a small group of people who come together regularly as individuals or as families because they are interested in getting to know each other. Often the groups form around a commonality, whether it is a common life stage or interest. In the past havurot were formed at Or Hadash with members who have children of similar ages, who are empty nesters, who are around the age of retirement, who are in interfaith relationships. In addition, members who have common interests have become havurah-like: choir, Stitchers (needleworking), Purim shpielers. We even had a softball team. In a sense, many of our committees feel like havurot and some occasionally get together socially outside of conducting the work of the committee. Most of us who have been involved in such groups find that friendships develop and our commitment to Or Hadash is strengthened.

A number of people stated that they are interested in a women's interest group or in a men's group. I am going to work with lay leaders and Rabbi Josh to facilitate interest groups and revive our havurot. As a result of one of the listening campaign conversations, Rick Dzubow is facilitating the start of a sports havurah. It is time to start a new interfaith havurah. Several have existed or still exist. The interfaith havurot have been support systems for families with young children newly navigating interfaith issues. Now Or Hadash's leadership would like to help bring that benefit to our newer interfaith members; and perhaps we'll form a havurah for parents of children in interfaith relationships. Years ago, Or Hadash had a Rosh Hodesh Group that was a women's havurah. I will bring together women interested in exploring the idea of a group for women and what that might look like as well as getting the men together who would like to create a men's group. We have many long-standing havurot, and this is a great time to facilitate the start of more havurot so everyone who would like to, can have the opportunity to join a havurah.

A very important feature of the havurah experience at Or Hadash had been that once a year each havurah was asked to give back to Or Hadash by doing something for the congregation as a whole, for example but certainly not limited to organizing an event, fulfilling a need or service for the community. A small group cultivates camaraderie, yet all the havurot remain integral to the full community of Or Hadash. Many who sat down with the listeners said they would like that facet of havurot to return. I agree.

I always invite you to contact me. I am requesting that you let me know if you would like to join or learn more about havurot, join an interest group, or suggest one. I'm also inviting you to participate in the listening campaign as a listener or as a "listenee!"

B'shalom and thanks.

Janet0517@comcast.net or 215-886-4812

### THE HEALING SERVICE IS FOR EVERYONE!

Many of you have attended one of our lovely healing services in the lifecycle garden on Yom Kippur. But did you know that services are also held throughout the year, generally every other first Wednesday of the month? Services begin at 7:00 pm and last about an hour. We have a number of volunteer leaders, and are usually fortunate to have Cheryl Kripke-Cohen and her harp to accompany us on songs by Debbie Friedman, Craig Taubman, Shlomo Carlebach, etc. No two services are alike, but our inspirational and comforting readings range from Kahlil Gibran to Maya Angelou, and there is always time for those who wish to share what's on their minds. The service is intended for anyone who is seeking physical or emotional healing for themselves or someone they care about, or anyone who would just like to share in the warmth and support of our community. These services, in short, are for everyone.

Our next service is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4th, at 7:00 pm in the rabbi's study. A reminder email will be sent out in early April. We are also planning a service for Wednesday, June 6th, as well as a summertime Shabbat healing service in July or August. We hope that you will join us.

## From the Administrator

By Laurie Albert

It is time for us to focus on the good things we have in our lives. Let's try to share the good news with others. Please send me items for the next issue, even if it's just a few sentences, about graduations, weddings, engagements, promotions or new jobs, awards, babies, etc., so we can all share nachas with each other. If **you** share, I will not feel like I am bragging when I list two of my children's graduations. So let's spread good news around.

## B'NAI MITZVAH

### MARCH 17

Bar Mitzvah of **Noah Grossman**, son of Elisabeth and Lawrence Grossman

### APRIL 21

Bar Mitzvah of **Jason Greene**, son of Debra Somers and Steven Greene

On Sunday, March 4th, the Israel Committee will host a speaker from J Street at 11:30. A.M.

Come hear what this political Jewish Organization's main priorities are as they lobby for Israel.

Bagels and coffee will be provided.

## CONDOLENCES

- To **Rhoda Gansler** on the passing of her cousin, Michael Silber.
- To **William Zitelli** on the passing of his father, William Zitelli, father-in-law of Joleen Rovner, grandfather of Jonah and Justin.
- To **Michael Oswald** on the passing of Jeanette K. Oswald, mother-in-law of Lisa, grandmother of Sylvan, Emily, and Jenny.
- To **Heidi Zod** on the passing of her father, Jerry Maerker, father-in-law of Mark, grandfather of Rebecca and Ben.
- To **Barbara Siegel** on the passing of her father, Philip Gitlin, father-in-law of Burt, grandfather of Joshua.
- To **Rich Freifelder** on the passing of his brother-in-law, Dr. Ken Tucker.
- To **Janice Trope-Endter** on the passing of her husband, Alan Endter, father of Josh and Zac.
- To **Betsy Izes** on the passing of her father, Ben Stein, father-in-law of Kenneth Jaffe, grandfather of Kathryn and Amanda.
- To **Betti Kahn** the passing of her brother, Reuben Elfman.



Join us **Wednesday, March 7** for Or Hadash's fabulous Purim celebration

**6:00 - Pizza**

**6:30 - Children's Costume Parade and Adults' Costume Contest**

All children present can participate in our Parade and receive gifts. Then all grown-ups in costume can strut their stuff to compete for one of our fabulous prizes!

**7:00 - Fabulous service and reading from the Or Hadash Megillah**

Our satirical service is a must for party-goers of all ages. We will read the story of Esther from Or Hadash's own groundbreaking Megillah—graggers a must!

**8:00 - Purimspiel!**

What shenanigans will our outrageous Purimspielers pull this year?

**9:00 - Hamantashen**

'Nuff said!

**AND... arrive by 7:15** to be entered in our **free** drawing for a **special prize** (winner must be on hand at 8:00 to claim prize)



**How can you go wrong???**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friday, March 2nd - Three Part Harmony

Come for Tot Shabbat at 6, Pot Luck Dinner (dairy/vegetarian) at 6:30 and Intergenerational Service at 7 pm. We will celebrate all March birthdays at the oneg. **There will be no Three Part Harmony in April due to Passover.** All April and May birthdays will be celebrated on May 4th.

### Wednesday, March 7th - Purim

Come for pizza at 6 pm, our children's costume parade and adult costume contest at 6:30, a fabulous service and reading of our very special Megillah at 7, Purimshpiel at 8, and hamentashen at 9. There will be a drawing for a special raffle prize at 8:00 for those who arrive by 7:15.

**Friday, March 9 - Shabbat Zemirah** with music by Cheryl Kripke Cohen on harp.

### Sunday, March 11 - Museum Trip Day

Visit the National Museum of American Jewish History AND the National Liberty Museum, and enjoy brunch with Or Hadash friends. Geared to students in 6th grade and up and adults of all ages! The trip fee: \$18 for students; \$24 for adults. Brunch is separate fee. **Contact Lori Rubin (school@orhadash.com) to RSVP.**

**Friday, March 16 and Friday, April 27** – Services with our choir

### Saturday, March 17 - ONE BOOK, ONE JEWISH COMMUNITY Event

Come for a special showing of the film, *Shanghai Ghetto*.

The One Book One Jewish Community novel this year, *The List*, by Martin Fletcher, tells the story of European Jewish refugees living in London during and after World War II. The chronicle of their struggles to leave Europe and survive the war is a familiar one, but this novel is a window into

anti-Semitism, desperation of an uncertain future, and the gradual completion of the list of lost loved ones these refugees experienced in the early post-war period.

*Shanghai Ghetto* is a film about the parallel experience of Jewish refugees that went to Shanghai. This documentary (95 minutes) offers first-hand accounts of the escape from Europe, the experience of the refugees through the Japanese occupation of Shanghai, and the fate of the community after the war.

Please join us for the Or Hadash celebration of The One Book One Jewish Community Program. There are still copies of *The List* available through the office. Even if you haven't read the book, please come to learn about the *Shanghai Ghetto*. The evening will start with a short Havdalah service at 7:30, followed by the documentary and delicious desserts!

**Sunday March 18, 4:00 pm.** - SATO presents an awareness and advocacy event related to "fracking."

**Saturday, March 24 and Saturday, April 21, 9 am - Introduction to Torah Study**

This class meets in the Rabbi's Study with Anne Feibelman.

**Sunday, April 1st, 11:30 am** - Aliza Green will present a program on Charoset with recipes from around the world. What a great way to prepare for Passover!

**Friday, April 20, 8pm** - The service will include Lucy Raizman speaking on the topic of Survivors and Trauma.

**Sunday, April 22, 9am - Nosh with Rabbi Josh** will be followed by a congregational Yom HaShoah service at 10:45. Everyone is welcome!

**April 28 and 29 - Scholar in Residence Weekend** Peter Beinart of CUNY will be our speaker. You can read about this event in this Ha Keshet.

*A Celebration of  
Jewish Life and Learning*  
honoring  
*Michele and Robert Levin*

Thursday, April 26, 2012  
4 Iyar 5772  
6:00 PM

Har Zion Temple  
1500 Hagys Ford Road  
Penn Valley, PA

*Honorary Chairperson*  
Joseph H. Levine

*Event Chairpersons*  
Lori & Raymond Levin  
Holly & Norm Nelson

*Associate Chairpersons*  
Randi & Dan Grauman  
Jill & Eric Weitz

*Featuring Martin Fletcher,  
NBC News Correspondent  
and Author*

To reserve space in the Electronic Tribute Journal or purchase reservations to the event:  
[jewishlearningventure.org/2012event](http://jewishlearningventure.org/2012event)

For more information:  
Lisa Licht / 215.320.0382  
[llicht@jewishlearningventure.org](mailto:llicht@jewishlearningventure.org)

Hershel Richman, *President*  
Rabbi Phil Warmflash, *Executive Director*

  
**Jewish Learning Venture**  
Formerly ACAJEJOP



## One Book One Jewish Community

The One Book One Jewish Community novel this year, *The List*, by Martin Fletcher, tells the story of European Jewish refugees living in London during and after World War II. The chronicle of their struggles to leave Europe and survive the war is a familiar one, but this novel is a window into the anti-Semitism, desperation of an uncertain future, and the gradual completion of the list of lost loved ones these refugees experienced in the early post-war period.

*Shanghai Ghetto*, a film about the parallel experience of Jewish refugees that went to Shanghai will be shown on Saturday, March 17th. This documentary (95 minutes) offers

first-hand accounts of the escape from Europe, the experience of the refugees through the Japanese occupation of Shanghai, and the fate of the community after the war.

Please join us for this event, the Or Hadash celebration of The One Book One Jewish Community Program. There are still copies of *The List* available through the office. Even if you haven't read the book, please come to learn about the *Shanghai Ghetto*. The evening will start with a short Havdalah service at 7:30, followed by the documentary and delicious desserts!

### SCHOLAR-IN RESIDENCE

This year's Joan and Ben Dickstein Scholar-in-Residence will take place on April 28 and 29. Our scholar will be Professor Peter Beinart of the City University of New York (CUNY). He is Associate Professor of Journalism and Political Science at CUNY, Senior Political Writer for The Daily Beast-Newsweek, and a Schwartz Senior Fellow at the New America Foundation. His first book, *The Good Fight: Why Liberals—and Only Liberals—Can Win the War on Terror and Make America Great Again*, was published by HarperCollins in 2006. His second book, *The Icarus Syndrome: A History of American Hubris*, was published by HarperCollins in 2010. His forthcoming book, *The Crisis of Zionism*, which expands his New York Review of Books essay, "The Failure of the American Jewish Establishment," will be published by Times Books in April 2012. He is the editor of the forthcoming blog Zion Square, which will facilitate an open and unafraid conversation about Israel.

He has appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," ABC's "This Week," "Charlie Rose," "The McLaughlin Group," "The Colbert Report," MTV, CNN, Fox, MSNBC and many other television and radio programs. Beinart graduated from Yale University in 1993, winning a Rhodes scholarship for graduate study at Oxford University. After graduating from University College, Oxford with an M.Phil. in International Relations, Beinart became *The New Republic's* managing editor in 1995. He became senior editor in 1997, and from 1999 to 2006 served as the magazine's editor. Beinart was a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations from 2007 to 2009.

According to Ron Kampeas of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (May 25, 2010),

"Peter Beinart attends an Orthodox synagogue, once edited The New Republic (the closest thing to a smicha for Jewish policy wonks) and backed Sen. Joe Lieberman's quixotic 2004 bid to become the first Jewish president.

Which is why he's always been counted among the Washington pundits who defend Israel, Zionism and the right of American Jews to lobby for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. Beinart also frets about how Jewish his kids will be. Which is why he worries about how Israel behaves, how it is perceived and what it means for American Jewry."

The program will begin with a Torah Study presentation by Peter at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, April 28, related to the weekly *parashah* (*Tazria-Metzora*), preceded by a bagel breakfast at 8:45 A.M. Saturday morning services will follow at 10:30.

The next session will consist of a Saturday evening presentation beginning at 7:00 P.M., followed by Havdalah and dessert at 8:30. The title of Saturday evening's presentation will be "The Failure of the American Jewish Establishment."

The weekend will conclude on Sunday morning, April 29, with a presentation at 11:30 A.M., following a brunch at 11:00 A.M. The topic will be "U.S.-Israeli Relations in the Age of Obama."

Watch your email for updated details as we get closer to the 4/28-4/29 weekend.



**Jewish Federation of  
Greater Philadelphia**

One People ■ One Community ■ One Federation™

## Scholarships Now Available for Day and Overnight Camp



The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia is pleased to announce that it has needs-based scholarships available for families from the Greater Philadelphia region seeking to send their children to non-profit, Jewish-identity day camps and overnight camps during the summer of 2012. Federation is proud to sponsor two funds, which last year helped more than 500 children from low- and moderate-income households to further develop their Jewish identities and establish new friendships with other Jewish children. Families reporting net incomes of less than \$100,000 on their 2011 IRS tax returns are encouraged to apply for awards generally ranging between 10% and 30% of tuition. Families with higher incomes, but with special circumstances, are also encouraged to apply. Scholarship applications are available through the participating camps and at [www.jewishphilly.org/campscholarships](http://www.jewishphilly.org/campscholarships).

- Overnight camp scholarship application **deadline is Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**
- Day camp scholarship application **deadline is Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

If you have questions, please contact Drew Martin via email at [dmartin@jfgp.org](mailto:dmartin@jfgp.org) or 215-32-0530. For more information and a complete list of camps please visit our website: [www.jewishphilly.org/campscholarships](http://www.jewishphilly.org/campscholarships).

## Social Action/Tikkun Olam (SATO)

*By Alisa Belzer and Debbie Bernstein*

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered and contributed to our SATO efforts so far this year. The congregation's generosity and hard work has been demonstrated every month since September!

For the High Holidays, we collected canned fruit and were able to donate four hundred forty-two cans to the Mitzvah Food Pantry. In October, approximately fifty congregants and guests assembled 85 meals for Aid for Friends.

In November we hosted two families (five kids and two moms) through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We provided volunteers for twenty nights. We had about seventeen dinner volunteers, sixteen overnight volunteers, two afternoon drivers, plus our overnight folks who drove in the morning, three laundry volunteers, four shoppers, and three families who helped with the move-in. All in all, we had about thirty-seven different adult volunteers.

In December we collected items to shelter from the cold for the Philadelphia office of HIAS, an immigrant resettlement agency. We collected two hundred forty-eight items: forty-six blankets, forty-four scarves, twenty jackets, fifty-nine hats, fifteen pairs of socks, forty-nine pairs of gloves, four earmuffs, five sets of bed sheets, and six umbrellas. Special thank you to Rachel Dubin and Julie Jacobson for transporting the stuff to the HIAS office.

In January we made 1,050 containers of soup for Aid for Friends. Thank you to all of those who cleared out their freezers to make storage space and to drivers who delivered the soup to Aid for Friends.

Be on the lookout for announcements about our fracking information and advocacy event on March 18th. We will be showing the film Gasland and initiating a petition or letter-writing action. We hope you'll join us to learn more about this important issue and how it affects us all.

We are already beginning to look forward to next year and, in addition to the collections and other activities we are so good at, have begun to plan a more concerted and consistent SATO effort around the single theme of local hunger-relief for the poor. We will be developing a series of action, advocacy, and educational events throughout the year around this need. In this way, we hope to have a greater impact, involve more people in the congregation, and do more to build community within and outside of Or Hadash. Please contact Alisa Belzer ([alisa.belzer@gse.rutgers.edu](mailto:alisa.belzer@gse.rutgers.edu)) or Debbie Bernstein ([debbie.bernstein@mac.com](mailto:debbie.bernstein@mac.com)) if you are interested in getting involved at the planning stage this spring.

Thanks again to everyone who has participated in SATO efforts this year.

## From the Education Director

By Lori Rubin

About four years ago, I became the Director of Education at Camp JRF. I grew up in the Conservative Movement. As a young girl, I was invited and encouraged to go to Camp Ramah in the Poconos, the Conservative Movement's overnight camp in this area. However, I was not interested in being away from home for so long. I went to week-long camps at the end of the summer for USY, the youth organization of the Conservative movement, but never for more than one week. So I was a bit surprised to find that at age forty, I was finally ready for overnight camp.

My experience that first summer at camp was life changing. I had spent countless hours writing the curriculum for the havayot, the educational experiences we have at camp. Watching the faculty and counselors run the programs I created was exhilarating. Getting to know the staff, the schedule and the minhag hamakom, the tradition of the place, took some time; but I made some friends that will remain with me for life. Spending Shabbat at Camp JRF was incredible. That first summer, I remember thinking that we should bake challah at home to make Shabbat different from the rest of the week. At Camp JRF, the difference between Shabbat and the rest of the week is palpable. You can feel the difference; you can see the difference. I wanted to bring that home.

I spent some time in the fall of 2009 trying to process what I had experienced at Camp JRF: how the multi-aged groupings actually worked well; how Shabbat felt so special in the outdoors; how prayer could mean so many different things - not just reading from a prayer book. I started talking with teachers, parents and lay leaders about how our school could look different. It could become more experiential, more engaging, less frontal, and less monotonous. We knew that what we really wanted our students to know, do, and feel at the end of the religious school experience was that they were comfortable in the synagogue, comfortable leading and understanding prayers, feel like they are part of our community - that they belong and feel strongly identified as Jewish. The question remained - how we reach those goals in a meaningful way?

I presented a power point at a Town Hall Meeting spring 2010 explaining our intentions of a new school structure. Parents and lay leaders seemed excited about this new approach. It is now 2012. What has happened? Allow me to give you a little insight as to how our school works now.

Our Pre-K/K/1st grade class meets twice a month and learns together about the Jewish holidays, Bible Stories, Jewish Values, and Hebrew alphabet. Check out this picture

of the class after they learned about an organization called Pinwheels for Peace. <http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.org/>

Our second to fifth-graders begin with a fifteen-minute text study, a little bit of Torah to begin each Sunday after they pick up a bagel in the community room on their way to class. Then, the second-, third- and fourth-graders learn one unit with a teacher while the fifth-graders learn another with the other teacher. After forty-five minutes, they switch. In this way, the students work with more than one teacher each day and no lesson is too long in length. The students get to engage in small units of study over



multiple years rather than one large unit of study over a single year. There are no textbooks in our religious school. Instead, we try to use technology, arts and crafts, games, and manipulatives to explore our curriculum in innovative ways. For example, our fourth-graders learned the Chanukah blessings by creating their own Chanukiah, or Chanukah menorah. They didn't have to be usable, but they needed to have the first blessing written in Hebrew on it. This activity resulted in edible menorahs, menorahs made out of wood, hockey pucks, and play dough. Here is one artistic rendition by Dori Spector.



Our sixth-grade class studies the Holocaust and the Torah Portion of the week. Their curriculum works very well both on Sunday and on Tuesday. This past week, they took a trip to the Holocaust Awareness Museum at the Klein JCC where they met Ruth Hartz, a Holocaust survivor who has spoken with our sixth-graders for the past four years. They are looking forward to beginning the annual shoe project. The shoes will be unveiled at our annual Yom Hashoah program, and this summer we hope to have them on permanent display. *(continued on page 8)*

## From the Education Director *(continued from page 7)*

Our seventh-graders study a variety of topics with a variety of teachers. Lita Weinstein teaches current events, a photo journalism class, and units of study such as immigration. Lita has also taken the students to Manna on Main Street so they could experience first-hand how to make a difference in the lives of others. Sandra Lawson teaches Jewish values and Jewish holidays, while Rabbi Josh teaches about Reconstructionism and helps the students figure out how they will move forward in our community as Jewish adults.

We like to have our older students spend time with our younger ones as they do at Camp JRF. One day, the seventh-graders acted as mystery readers for our younger students.



Our high school program meets twice a month. The students in our TEL (Teens, Experience and Learning) Program are invited to attend two retreats at Camp JRF in the fall and spring and in between they have eight classes. This year's theme is Derech Eretz, or character. The students have engaged in text study, participated in skits, created artwork, and pondered song lyrics as they delved deeply into the subject. The teens also have the opportunity to learn about other religions and are looking

forward to their upcoming trip to the Devon mosque. We are thrilled that 100% of our tenth-grade class will participate in an upcoming Panim El Panim seminar in Washington D.C. Here are a few of our teens making dreidle muffins for Jewish families in need for Chanukah.



Perhaps these photos have given you some insight into how our school works now. We want our kids to know about Jewish holidays, Jewish values, and Jewish stories. We want our kids to “do Jewish” - to take care of others, to be considerate to each other, to belong to a Jewish community, to continue to learn. We want our kids to feel good when

they are at Or Hadash, to know it is their space in which to learn and grow as Jewish adults. We want our kids to feel strongly about their Judaism in a way that makes sense to them. We want our families to connect with others within our community, to find relevance and meaning in what we have to offer.

If you have thoughts on our curriculum, our programs, or have new ideas about what we could or should offer, I would be happy to meet for coffee. Take me up on it! I won't bore you with endless pictures and stories of our innovative lessons and programs, but would love to hear from you! Be in touch! I can also be reached by e-mail at [school@orhadash.com](mailto:school@orhadash.com).

### Ha-Kesher Now Accepting Advertising

Thank you for your interest in advertising in our synagogue newsletter, Ha-Kesher. We have “gone green,” and Ha-Kesher is now a bimonthly online publication available at our web site, [www.orhadash.com](http://www.orhadash.com). We will be publishing quarter-page ads at a rate of \$30.00 per issue or reproducing business cards at a rate of \$20.00 per issue. Please contact me if you have general questions. If our terms are acceptable, please email photo-ready ads to [debra.schaeffer@gmail.com](mailto:debra.schaeffer@gmail.com) for evaluation. If your ad is accepted for publication, we will invoice you through email and forward your ad to our printer. Please contact our printer, Guy Homer, at [homer@homer-group.com](mailto:homer@homer-group.com), for more specific information regarding printing specifications.

### Are You Looking for a **JOB or NEW CAREER?**

JEVS Career Strategies provides individualized services to help you find a job or career that best suits you.

- Individual career consulting
- Career assessment
- Job search assistance



#### Career Strategies

Call **215.854.1874** today!  
**[www.jevshumanservices.org](http://www.jevshumanservices.org)**

JEVS Human Services partners with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

Or Hadash has been the recipient of many gifts from our congregants, for which we are grateful. However, we are requesting that all donations of treasured items such as books, tapes, videos and other Judaica be placed on hold. We appreciate your cooperation at this time.