

# Or Atid News

June 2009

Volume 22 Issue 9

Sivan/Tammuz 5769

## *From the Rabbi's Keyboard*

### **The Last Day**

The day begins like any other Wednesday: emails read and answered, phone calls made, a little bit of study. But as I drive to the synagogue that day, I can feel my anticipation growing. Today will not be like any other Wednesday, for today is the last day of Hebrew school. And I know that the day will hold a bittersweet mixture of joy, immense pride, and a bit of sadness.

The pride begins as I walk through the lobby, and for the hundredth time marvel at the hard work and creativity of the Jerusalem projects. Each class had researched a different aspect of our people's beloved city, and had created visual displays of what they had learned. There are Lego models of the sacred objects of the Temple, Western Wall models made out of marshmallows, sugar cubes, and pretzels, and glitter filled drawings of Jerusalem's eight gates.

On one of the tables dolls stand, each representing the architecture of Jerusalem, and on another table there are poems and songs composed by the older students. On another table, the cards for peace written by the first graders are displayed, with the simplest of prayers written inside one of them: "Peace, God - just give us peace."

The joy begins as the final school assembly takes place. The littlest students dance in circles, and older students sing songs about Jerusalem in Hebrew. Second graders stand and proudly teach us what they learned about the city, and fourth graders recite acrostic poems. In between the class presentations, our choir, Kol Simchah, sings clever songs in Hebrew, English, and Latino. Throughout the year, the students had learned so much, and they are now delighted to share that knowledge with their parents and friends. And I am delighted to watch it all unfold.

The joy increases as the assembly ends, another good year of learning and growing together concluded. The students happily return to their classrooms for a final celebration, and to say goodbye to their teachers, some beloved, and all devoted and dedicated to the students.

As I was leaving the sanctuary, a small child excitedly hands me a note that he had written for me. It had a Jewish star on one side, and on the other, written in the unique letters of a 4-year old, were the words: "Have a happy day." What could possibly make my day happier than this?

But then, as the students began to leave, the sorrow begins to enter my happy and pride filled heart. There are warm hugs

goodbye, and wishes for a good summer are heard over and over again in the crowded lobby. The students of my sixth grade class make a special effort to say goodbye to me personally, and I find myself wishing that they would stay in my class forever. I realize that I will not get to see most of these students, students whom I have greeted and interacted with two or three times a week for nine months, for a long time.

I will miss the way they bounced through the front door, and smiled at me as they arrived. I will miss the requests for band-aids and pencils and an occasional hug. I will miss looking into the classrooms and seeing children writing, or listening to a story. And I will miss hearing the sounds of Hebrew and laughter coming from the classrooms. But most of all, I will miss them, the students of our school, the children who make it all worthwhile.

As the last children are leaving, one of the smallest ones, a recent graduate of our kindergarten class, pulls on my sleeve, and I bend down to hear her quiet voice. She looks at me with the most serious of looks, and says "I want to tell you something...I love Hebrew school." As my heart melts, she gives me a hug, and skips out the door with her father.

"Yes," I want to say to her in return. "I love Hebrew school too."

*High Holiday Information  
will be included in the  
July/August Newsletter*

### **Steven Camiel Family Education Fund**

Congregation Or Atid would like to thank all of you who have made a contribution to the Steven Camiel Family Education Fund, a private fund dedicated to the education of Steven's children.

All future contributions and letters should be sent directly to the family.

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## CONGREGATION OR ATID

PO Box 38 ♦ 97 Concord Road ♦ Wayland, MA 01778  
www.CongregationOrAtid.org ♦ 508-358-9623  
A Member of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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**Rabbi & Education Director** 508-358-9623(o)  
Rabbi Sally Finestone

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**President**  
Amy Silverstein

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**Vice President, Finance and Administration / President Elect**  
Steve Lebovitz

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**Vice President, Membership and Communication**  
Sara Bernstein

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**Vice President, Programming**  
Thea Bader

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**Treasurer**  
Neill Silverman

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**Clerk**  
Steven Shoyer

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**Office Assistant**  
Linda Rosenberg linda.rosenberg@congregationoratid.org 508-358-9623

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### Committee Chairs

**Adult Ed** Freya Berstein  
Kent Greenawalt

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**Annual Fund** Ian Rubin  
Heidi Wyle

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**Adult Social** Sheryl Schlackman  
Andrea Brener

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**Brotherhood** Jeff Ganz

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**Education** Marca Katz  
Debra Yavner  
Ann Neumeyer

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**Family Table** Jill Freedberg

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**Finance** Steve Lebovitz

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Michael Bernstein

**Holiday** Bonnie Berg

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**Events** Debbie Kaye

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**House** Jon Gossels

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**Kehillah** Judy Quint  
Faith Krasnow

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**Kiddush** Heather Rafey

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**Kitchen** Sara Abramovitz  
Bonnie Gossels

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**Membership** Beth Backer  
Rachael Barabell  
Melissa Janfaza  
Maggie Rubin

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**Newsletter** Merrill Buchhalter

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**Publicity** Carol Goldman

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**Ritual Comm** Howard Gold  
Ross Scribner

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**Sisterhood** Marilyn Engelman

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**Social Action** Ann Greenawalt  
Julie Rosenfeld

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**Yad Chesed** Adele Klickstein

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Amy Rose  
Susan Weiss

**Youth** Kate Rafey

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**Webmaster** Steven Shoyer

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**Weekly Email** Jamie Gossels

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## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

We held our Annual Members Meeting at the end of May when our new Board of Directors and Officers were approved. Our Committee chairs new and old had an opportunity to update our membership on their plans for the coming year.

One big change this year was the institution of a one year President-elect position which will enable that person an opportunity to plan ahead and get the big picture before actually taking responsibility as President. I am very happy to announce that Stephen Lebovitz is our President-elect this year. What that also means is you have to put up with me for another year. For a list of our incoming Board of Directors and Officers, see below.

The Education Committee reported some changes to the Religious School program next year integrating Family Education into the weekday school program and fine-tuning the Shabbat B'Yachad program for our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. In addition, I am very excited about new plans to host an Ikkarim program next year for parents of young children and a dynamic program of learning for adults as well.

The Education Planning Subcommittee reported on their plans to continue to study options for refining our school schedule including studying other synagogues, surveying members and prospective members on their preferences and opinions.

The Finance Committee reported on our budget and fundraising plans. We continue to tackle our financial situation with a sharp pencil, creativity and energy. Our Annual Fund Subcommittee continues to develop a cohesive and effective fundraising strategy.

The Ritual Committee is deep into High Holiday planning already. We have improved plans for Simchat Torah and Purim and have trained a new cadre of Gabbais to keep our Shabbat Services running smoothly.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our new Board members, William Foster, Andy Janfaza and Ross Scribner, for accepting the responsibility of helping us to shape Or Atid as we forge ahead in these challenging times. I would be neglectful if I did not also thank our outgoing Board members who have given so many years of devoted service to Or Atid. Sheryl Schlackman has served on the Board for many years in numerous roles including Publicity, Design, and currently as co-chair of Adult Social Events.

Many thanks are also due to Steve Weiss who is leaving the Board after serving as co-chair of our Finance Committee. Lastly, Lori Whitmore has been on the Board for a shorter time but has devoted herself to many Adult events including Keshet Club and Sisterhood and most recently served as Chair of the Ritual Committee.

I also want to thank Amy Rose who has been our Vice President of Membership for several years and now moves on to Yad Chesed and a role in Programming. Thanks also to Lori Kreidberg who has kept our Board minutes for several years in

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## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

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such detail that many organizations would envy. I appreciate Sara Bernstein and Steve Shoyer who have agreed to assume the vice president and clerk responsibilities, respectively.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and relaxing summer and we look forward to seeing you at summer Shabbat services or in the fall.

Amy Silverstein

### **Board of Directors 2009-2010**

Thea Bader  
Sara Bernstein  
Jodi Cutter  
Marilyn Engelman  
William Foster  
Jeff Ganz  
Andy Janfaza  
Lori Kreidberg  
Stephen Lebovitz  
Martha Lerman  
Judy Quint  
Amy Rose  
Ian Rubin  
Ross Scribner  
Steve Shoyer  
Kay Silverman  
Neill Silverman  
Amy Silverstein  
Larry Sternberg  
Michael Tichnor  
Debbie Yavner

### **Officers 2009-2010**

President - Amy Silverstein  
President Elect - Stephen Lebovitz  
Vice President Finance and Administration - Stephen Lebovitz  
Vice President Programming - Thea Bader  
Vice President Membership/ Communications - Sara Bernstein  
Treasurer - Neill Silverman  
Clerk - Steve Shoyer

### **Board of Trustees**

Jamie Gossels  
Jon Quint  
Howard Rubin  
Steve Wald  
David Winer

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## **B'NAI MITZVAH**

Please join us as our daughter  
**Claire**  
is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah  
Saturday, June 6, 2009  
Kiddush Luncheon to Follow  
Debbie Horwitz and Steve Shoyer

Please join us as our daughter  
**Paula Faye**  
is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah  
Saturday, June 13, 2009  
Kiddush Luncheon to Follow  
Cindy Fenichel and Bob Weiman

Please join us in prayer and celebration  
as our son,  
**Shane Rozen-Levy**  
is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah  
Saturday, June 20, 2009  
Kiddush to Follow  
Barbara Levy and Steve Rozen

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## **MAZEL TOV – PROZDOR GRADUATES**

Congregation Or Atid congratulates our high school students who are graduating from the Prozdor Program at Hebrew College this month. Mazel Tov!

Abigail Silverman  
Allison Pastor  
Joshua Sternberg  
Andrew Fixler

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## **MAZEL TOV – SCHECHTER GRADUATE**

Congratulations to Congregation Or Atid member **Sara Atlas**, who is graduating from Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston.

## JOB CLUB BEGINS

Career Moves @ JVS and JFSMW announces the launching of the Career Moves Job Club, a weekly networking group for professionals. The group will be facilitated by JVS Career Coach, Debbie Lipsett and will be held at the JFSMW office in Framingham.

The Career Moves Job Club is open to all area job seekers and career changers, free of charge. Participants share ideas, information, contacts and strategies. After each group meeting Debbie Lipsett will be available for individual consultation.

Participants may also make appointments with a staff member from the JFSMW Family Assistance Network.

Presented by: Debbie Lipsett, Career Moves Career Coach

**WHEN:** Beginning May 21, 2009

**TIME:** 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

**WHERE:** JFS of Metrowest  
475 Franklin Street Suite 101  
Framingham

**FEE:** No Cost

**REGISTRATION / INFORMATION:** Contact Debbie Lipsett at 617-965-7940 or [DLipsett@JVS-boston.org](mailto:DLipsett@JVS-boston.org)

*High Holiday Information  
will be included in the  
July/August Newsletter*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The May meeting of the Education committee will be Monday June 22 at 8 PM in the library.

The Education Committee would like to thank Maggie Rubin and Jodie Cutter for all their help in running the highly successful Book Buddy Program in the Hebrew school. The numerous hours they spent planning and preparing these sessions and the time they spend with the children is really appreciated.



MARA WEINER

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## LITTLE KIDS.BIG QUESTIONS. IKKARIM COME EXPLORE WHAT JEWISH TRADITION OFFERS PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN IKKARIM ("ROOTS") PROGRAM COMING TO OR ATID

Ikkarim is a 19-week interactive educational experience for parents raising Jewish children (newborn to third grade).

- Learn with dynamic Jewish educators and other parents...
- Interfaith families and all levels of learners encouraged...
- Class forming now for fall 2009.

Class will meet on Friday mornings

from 9:45 to 11:15 am

at Congregation Or Atid

**Free On-Site Babysitting**

**Cost: \$250. (Subsidies available)**

### Interested?

Visit [www.cjp.org/ikkarim](http://www.cjp.org/ikkarim), call Gloria at 617-694-4257, or contact Rabbi Finestone at [Rabbisrf@aol.com](mailto:Rabbisrf@aol.com).

In partnership with Combined Jewish Philanthropies

## MEMBERSHIP

Or Atid has a new membership committee:

Sara Bernstein

Beth Backer

Rachel Barabell

Melissa Janfaza

Maggie Rubin

We need your help with outreach!! If you see a neighbor, friend, family member over the summer break and they happen to be looking for a congregation to join, please let anyone of us, know. The Fall is the time of year when the greatest numbers join a synagogue.



## invitations for celebrations

978-443-7900

357 Boston Post Road, Sudbury  
Sandy Markowitz and Diane Metzger

handmade chocolate treats

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### USY AND KADIMA

USY and Kadima finished off their year with an exciting trip to Kimballs Farm in Westford. They played a challenging round of miniature golf and enjoyed homemade ice cream. Everyone had a great time.

Thanks to all the parents who helped this year and thanks and best wishes to Kate Rafey, our advisor, for a wonderful year.

We look forward another amazing year!

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### OR ATID SISTERHOOD

Our final Sisterhood breakfast meeting will be held on Sunday June 14 at 9:30 A.M. We will be planning programs for next year as well as electing officers.

It is a time to get together and socialize before the summer. I look forward to seeing many of you.

Please feel free to contact Marilyn Engelman for more information.

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### OR ATID BROTHERHOOD

Thanks to all who supported our programming this year.

All programming ideas for the summer and next year are welcome. Please contact Jeff Ganz.

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### SOCIAL ACTION

Thanks to all who help with Family Table and Bristol Lodge. Keep the Parmalat and rice coming. It is greatly appreciated, especially in these times.

THANK YOU!

**Do You Feel Unsafe at Home?**

**Call Kol Isha 1-781-647-5327**

or

**REACH at 1-800-899-4000**

**Concerned about . . . ?**

**Abusive behaviors**

**Elder Abuse**

**Bullying**

**Abusive dating relationships**

**Family violence**

**Help is available in the MetroWest area.**

**Visit [www.domesticviolenceroundtable.org](http://www.domesticviolenceroundtable.org)**

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