



THE OR AMI BEACON

Light of our People

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF
CONGREGATION OR AMI

ISSUE 183
APRIL 2011

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*Passover will begin at the sunset on April 18th
and will end at the nightfall on April 25th*



RABBI ROMER'S REFLECTIONS

As practicing Jews (and we are always practicing to get better) we live in two worlds here in the United States. Our holidays often fall during "weekdays" and out of synch with the everyday world of school and work in which we live. Sometimes we feel the tension between similar holidays that don't quite mesh. Chanukah and Christmas, and Easter and Pesach (Passover). While Chanukah and Christmas have little in common other than presents and the time of year, there are direct links between Pesach and Easter. All you have to do is look at what Easter is called in other Romance Languages. They all use some form of transliteration of the Hebrew word Pesach, our Passover.

There are many overlapping connections between these two soaringly important holidays. And there are some significant differences. One is that for Jews, Pesach is all about group redemption rather than individual salvation- a more major focus of Easter and much of Western Christian thought and belief- and that moves into American secular culture as well.

And this spiritual difference is also something that causes tension within our culture. The American mythos of the Individual is a powerful image. Even if it is quite impossible for any individual to get anywhere in this world without a community of persons helping along the way, we continue to lift up this myth. No individual can move forward, buy a pizza, use the internet, drive on any road without dozens, even hundreds of folks having contributed their various gifts to enable him or her to do that. Still, we have an image of the individual, that lone person who did it all by himself or herself.

Yet, as Jews, we are part of a greater community. We have direct responsibilities and obligations to our community, and this community has responsibilities and obligations to each one of us. Community trumps the individual. We have spiritual and communal responsibilities to assure that all have health and wellness, that the aged are cared for, that our children are educated, that the stranger is welcomed, that the other is treated as one of us. The list is long and glorious.

Our Passover story, our Haggadah illustrates this. Think about the four children. The one who is "evil" isn't a thief or a nasty person- the child doesn't want to be a part of the community. The Seder celebrates the Jewish Community's redemption from physical and spiritual slavery. Sure, getting across the Sea of Reeds (Red Sea?) was important, that allowed us the physical freedom to choose to walk on to Sinai. Here, gathered at the foot of the mountain, our ragtag collection of ancestors listened carefully and chose to Covenant themselves as a single community. This Covenant of personal choices to surrender some personal freedoms so each would connect with others

is crucial in the understanding of Judaism. We are first and foremost a Kehillah Kedoshah- a Sacred Community- linked by this evolving Covenant. Moses goes to the mat to demand that God remember this covenant and continue to act as the nurturing parent God is in presenting guidance on how to live an ethical Jewish life. This Covenantal linking is why we still sit down each Pesach. We're still connected in community.

Hag Sameach Happy Passover to everyone. Celebrate joyfully.

Rabbi Ben

As we gather this year on Passover, take a closer look at the flow of the Haggadah. See how important our connectedness is throughout the text. Our sitting down together not only links us to Jews across the world this Pesach, but we reach back through all the years of our Jewish experiences to our ancestors, and theirs- all the way back to the original event. The text is intentional- Every one should create his and her Pesach in such a way that you are there at the original one. There and here at the same time- creating the opportunity for our children to find their future there as well.



Last year's Seder

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

Alan Freedman and Judy Katzen



Greetings,

What a wonderful time of year it is here in Richmond. Mother Nature is beginning to share her treasures with the beautiful flowers, the songs of the birds, and the rebirth of all that was dormant during the winter. It won't be long before we start to wish for cooler weather. But let's enjoy the colorful landscapes that make us appreciate the simple things in life.

Spring compels us to appreciate the rebirth of nature. This rejuvenation allows us to focus on what is important in our personal lives and in our spiritual lives. Or Ami provides a conduit for both. Over the past several weeks, there has been a great of energy and time devoted to restoring the long term viability of Or Ami. We have asked for your involvement and input. Not to anyone's surprise, the

response has been overwhelming. We have come together as a community to collectively create opportunities that ensure the long term sustainability of our welcoming community. Everyone is responding and taking ownership of our future. We have come together to address the needs of our sacred home so that future generations can learn and grow in an environment that fosters such development. Our work, however, is just beginning. This will be an ongoing endeavor that will require persistence, patience, and endurance. The excitement is contagious and there is no better time to a part of Or Ami than now.

This is also a time of year when we remember our history and traditions of being Jews with the celebration of Passover. It is a favorite time of year for many of us as we look forward to spending time with family and friends. We get the unique opportunity to remember who we are and why we are here. Please take advantage of this occasion to spend quality time with those who are important in your lives, and be thankful for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us.

On behalf of the Board, we want to wish you a happy and healthy Passover season.

All the Best,
Alan and Judy

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THE JOY KRAMER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OF OR AMI

A NOTE FROM MR. G - David Goldsmith, Educational Director

Dear All,

I have lived a blessed life, having gone 61 years before experiencing true grief. For many years I have taught the Jewish customs and traditions concerning mourning, but until now have not truly appreciated how much sense they make. Our ancestors really understood the human experience of loss, long before Elizabeth Kubler-Ross wrote the book. Here is some of what I've learned during what Ruthanne would call my "teachable moment":

- One must begin immediately to accept the reality of loss. That's one reason Jewish funerals happen so quickly after death, other than the fact that Jews generally don't embalm. Shoveling dirt on top of the casket also makes this very clear.
- There are stages of grief. The first week, called shiva, is set aside to allow the mourner to grieve without worrying about working, cooking, or even grooming (as the mirrors are covered). The first month, called shloshim, the mourner begins to slowly resume his or her life but still recognizes the pain and avoids much celebration. The mourner says Kaddish daily for the first 11 months, after which the loved one is remembered yearly on the anniversary of death (yahrtzeit) and 4 times a year on holy days



(yizkor). At a recent school assembly, I compared this to the healing of a bad cut.

- At a time that one might curse God for the loss, we praise God. When we hear of a death, we say a bracha (blessing) that acknowledges God as "the true Judge". The Kaddish we say in memory of loved ones has no mention of death but instead reaffirms our faith in God.

- A caring community is of great comfort to mourners. Expressions of sympathy – whether by card, phone, email,

Facebook, contributions, food, etc. – let the mourner know that he or she is not alone at a time when he or she might feel very lonely having lost a loved one.

This is my way of saying thank you to my Or Ami family for all you have done to help me through these dark, sad days of my life. I cannot begin to tell you how much you mean to me, how much I love you.

Today Rabbah,
David Goldsmith

P.S. The faculty joins me in wishing you a Chag Same'ach for a good Passover celebration. Enjoy our liberation from a tyrant in Egypt, just as the Egyptians themselves have done this year.



THE JOY KRAMER RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OF CONGREGATION OR AMI RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Sunday, April 3

9:00-12:00
1:00

Religious School, grades K-9
Confirmation

Friday, April 8

6:15 pm

Potluck Dinner hosted by the parents of our 6th & 7th graders. Please respond to the Evite which you will receive or call the office, 272-0017, if you are coming and indicate what you will bring.

7:30 pm

Shabbat Class Service, 6th & 7th graders

Sunday, April 10

9:00-12:00
10:30-12:00

Religious School, grades K-9
Model Seder for all students (Torah Tots may attend accompanied by parents)
Confirmation

1:00

Sunday, April 17

Sunday, April 24

NO CLASS – Passover & Spring Break

NO CLASS – Passover & Spring Break

Sunday, May 1

9:00-12:00

Religious School, grades K-9, Assembly
theme: Yom HaShoah

10:30-12:00

Torah Tots
Music, grades TT – 4
Confirmation

1:00



IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WINTER WEATHER:

- Check your email for closing announcement
- Call the Temple 272-0017, Ext. 3 for a closing message
- Announcements will run on the local TV stations.

CLASS SERVICE DATES SET – SAVE THE DATES!

- It is an Or Ami tradition that every year, each class has the opportunity to write and lead a Shabbat service. Class services are usually preceded by congregational potluck dinners hosted by the parents of the class members and open to the entire congregation.

Dates for Class Services:

- 6th & 7th Grade Service - April 8 (7:30 p.m.)
- 8th & 9th Grade Service – May 13 (7:30 p.m.)
- Confirmation Service – June 7 (7:30 p.m.)

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR

Where has this school year gone? We have already begun planning for the 2011-12 school year. A calendar will appear in the May bulletin. Registration will begin in June with an early-bird discount offered until July 31.

We are anticipating some faculty openings in the

fall. If you love kids, love Judaism and want to learn more about it, you might find this to be an excellent way to spend your Sunday mornings. Call Mr. G at 740-0869 or email OrAmiSchool@gmail.com.

TORAH READINGS FOR MARCH



APRIL 1/2

- Torah: Tazria Leviticus (Vayikra) 12:1-13:59
- Haftarah: Ezekiel (Yechezkel) 45:16-46:18

Our reading discusses a series of skin diseases, often called leprosy, although it is far from clear whether it really is. Nonetheless we do read of different potentially communicable diseases that the community protects both the infected individual and the people from further spreading. There are other types of “diseases” that can spread that our tradition strongly attempts to isolate- gossip and tale-bearing. And these may be more dangerous.



APRIL 8/9

- Torah: Metzora Leviticus (Vayikra) 14:15:33
- Haftarah: 1 Kings (Melachim Alef) 7:3-20

More skin diseases and more community responsibility. The rabbis ask us to look at these also in a different way. What social failures do we spread? How does failing to control bullying become a communicable disease? Think about how we treat the other, the stranger, those different in color or religion from us- when we fail to care for them we spread diseases of intolerance and fear.

APRIL 15/16

- Torah: Acharei Mot, Leviticus (Vayikra) 16:1-18:30
- Haftarah: Malachi (Mahlachee) 3:4-24

After the death is how the reading begins- after the death of Aaron’s sons, he (Aaron) is asked to step forward and continue to lead the ritual of the Jewish people. And the ritual is that of Yom Kippur- an elaborate and complicated drama-urgy that provides for the symbolic cleansing of the Cohanim, the leaders and the entire Jewish people. Perhaps Aaron is being helped in his own moment of grief to begin to work through the process and to help the entire people realize their interconnectedness on every

level, with their leaders, with their God and with each other. And that each one is responsible to uphold and commit to the Covenant.

APRIL 22/23

- Torah: Chol Hamoed Pesach, Exodus (Shemot) 33:12-34:26
- Haftarah: Ezekiel (Yechezkel) 37:1-14; Song of Songs (Shir Hashirim)

Our Haftarah is *Song of Songs*, the first of our Five Megillot found in the Writings- the last section of the TaNaKh. What a wonderful book. The Jewish people’s relationship with the Eternal is often described as a love affair and *Song of Songs* illustrates this wonderfully. In fact, that is how it made it into the TaNaKh.

APRIL 29/30

- Torah: Kedoshim Leviticus (Vayikra) 19:1-20:27
- Haftarah: Amos 9:7-15; Sefardi Ezekiel (Yechezkel) 20:2-20

Our reading is called the Holiness Code (Kedoshim means Holy). The focus of being commanded here is on ethical and moral connections with each other. How we treat the poor, the handicapped, each other is our focus. Within a few verses we read “Love your neighbor as yourself” and “Love the stranger as yourself”. We are all one.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

RABBI ROMER IN THE COMMUNITY:

Last month, Rabbi Romer:

- Attended the Chesterfield County Public Schools Superintendent's Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting
- Spoke at a *moveon.org* rally
- Was a community panelist on First Freedom's seminar on Bible taught in Public Schools
- Spoke to the Seniors group at the JCC
- Participated in several meetings and the March RISC Rally
- Continued work with the Greater Richmond Progressive Faith Forum

REFUAH SHELEIMAH - SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Carol Fruhwald, Paul Goldsmith, Ron Harrell, Herold Hofheimer, Sam Katzen, Jonathan Lebolt, and Gerry Vance Owen

CONDOLENCES TO:

- With deep sadness we inform you of the passing of Elizabeth Booth, beloved mother of Tony, mother-in-law of Marsha, and grandmother of Michael and Lisa Booth, on Wednesday, February 16th. May her name be for a blessing.
- With great pain and sadness we inform you of the passing of Ruthanne Goldsmith, the love of David's life, on March 2nd. May Ruthanne's soul be bound up in the bond of Eternal Life.

Be sure to let us know when something special happens in your family, so that we can pass the word along to the rest of the Congregation

NEW MEMBERS:

David and Lisa Levine
2328 Pathfinder Circle
Richmond, Virginia 23294
#346-4382



CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

- In memory of Sunny Strulson - *Paul & Selma Goldsmith*
- In memory of Clara Feuer; In memory of Tony Booth's mother, Elizabeth - *Stan Feuer & Eileen May*
- In honor of Kelli Armes and Sue Shires for the 2nd and 3rd grade Shabbat - *Rabbi Ben & Karen Romer*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Jeff & Marsha Hanzel*
- In honor of Noah Bradshaw's Bar Mitzvah - *Bart & Tobi Bradshaw*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Myer & Joan Berman*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Franklin Wolf*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Arthur & Judy Harrow*
- Harvey Lampert Memorial Garden Fund - *Evelyn Lampert*

MUSIC FUND

- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Charles & JoAnn Myers*

ONEG SHABBAT FUND

- In memory of Alex Bloom and William Charlton - *Bill & Judy Nelson*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- *Tony & Marsha Booth*

- Thank you to Rabbi Romer for making Judy's memorial service so special for all of the family and friends - *William Zettel*

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

- In memory of Rita Russakoff and Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Francine Colletti*
- In memory of Vera Schumer and Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Elizabeth Jones*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Carol Haykin*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Patricia Doniger*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Gerry Vance Owen*

REFURBISHMENT FUND

- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Herold & Ellen Hofheimer*

SACK/HIRSCH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Stefanie Papps*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Stan Feuer & Eileen May*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Werner Lichtenstein*
- In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Roxanne Grandis & Marc McConnell*

TORAH FUND

- In memory of my parents Harold Book & Delores Book Rosen; In memory of Tony Booth's mother; In memory of Ruthanne Goldsmith - *Renee Gould*

Contributions to a fund of the Congregation may be made in honor or in memory of a family member or a friend to any of the congregational funds, such as the Dorothy & Bernard Packer Educational Endowment Fund, Building Fund, Congregational Discretionary Fund, Flower Fund, General Fund, Harvey Lampert Memorial Garden Fund, The Scholarship Fund (in memory of David & Clara Sack, Margarete Hirsch, and Susanne Hirt), Sustenance/Social Action Fund, or another fund mentioned elsewhere.

CONTRIBUTION FORM TO CONGREGATION OR AMI - Page 1 of 2

I/We wish to make the enclosed contribution to Congregation Or Ami in the amount of \$ _____

TEMPLE FUNDS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Congregational Discretionary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Refurbishment Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Andrew Lendvay Teacher and Music Education Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Education Fund (Adult Education) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious School Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Babysitting Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Sack/Hirsch Scholarship Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dorothy & Bernard Packer Educational Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey Lampert Memorial Garden Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oneg Shabbat Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustenance/Social Action Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> High Holy Day Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Fund |

The Contribution is to be:

- In honor of: In memory of: In appreciation of:

.....
.....

From:

Address:

Please list the names and address of those you wish to notify:

1. Name:

Address:

2. Name:

Address:

Do you wish this contribution to be mentioned in our Temple Bulletin? Yes No

Please mail to the Or Ami Office - 9400 Huguenot Road - Richmond, Virginia 23235

Please see the reverse side of this form for additional information about Congregation Or Ami's various funds.

Yahrzeits* (MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY)

These names will be read on the following dates:

Apr. 1	Josef Levitsky	4/ 1/11	Apr. 16	Sylvia Seiden	4/22/11
Apr. 2	Morton Klein	4/ 8/11	Apr. 16	Raymond Montgomery	4/22/11
Apr. 5	Steve Jablonsky	4/ 8/11	Apr. 17	Mary H. Rosenfeld	4/22/11
Apr. 6	Bernadine S. Silverman	4/ 8/11	Apr. 18	Bernice Martha Gersh	4/22/11
Apr. 7	Ervin Ellison	4/ 8/11	Apr. 19	Evalyn Saltzberg	4/22/11
Apr. 8	Helena T. Berlinerman	4/ 8/11	Apr. 20	Solomon Vaynblat	4/22/11
Apr. 9	Harry Ganderson	4/15/11	Apr. 21	Beatrice Goldman	4/22/11
Apr. 9	Jean Ellison	4/15/11	Apr. 22	Neal Konig	4/22/11
Apr. 10	Mitchell Leskin	4/15/11	Apr. 22	Miriam Gross	4/22/11
Apr. 10	Sol Messler	4/15/11	Apr. 23	Gladys Lebolt	4/29/11
Apr. 11	Marianne Leibovic	4/15/11	Apr. 24	Karl Lichtenstein	4/29/11
Apr. 11	Marvin Lebolt	4/15/11	Apr. 26	Seymour Breslow	4/29/11
Apr. 12	Evelyn Farbman	4/15/11	Apr. 26	Keith Evan Heller	4/29/11
Apr. 13	Anne Fischer	4/15/11	Apr. 27	Harry Hans Schiffman	4/29/11
Apr. 14	Jesse Geiger	4/15/11	Apr. 27	Charles Silbert	4/29/11
Apr. 14	Jeanne Ullman	4/15/11	Apr. 29	John Frances Wolff	4/29/11
Apr. 15	Harold "Buddy" Horwitz	4/15/11			
Apr. 15	Joel Powell	4/15/11			

Contributions to Or Ami memorializing a loved one may be sent to the Or Ami office. You may specify a fund to which the contribution should go, such as the Andrew Lendvay Teacher and Music Education Fund, Continuing Education Fund (Adult Education), High Holy Day Fund, Landscaping Fund, Library Fund, Music Fund, Oneg Shabbat Fund, Refurbishment Fund, Religious School Fund, Torah Fund, or another fund mentioned elsewhere.

*Yahrzeit: Remembering on the Anniversary of a Death

The yahrzeit is a time of remembering the dead by reciting the Kaddish, lighting a 24-hour candle, and remembering the person who has died.

SAYING KADDISH

The last column of the Yahrzeit list gives the Shabbat service at which your loved one's name will be read. Please call Maria at the Temple (272-0017) if you would like to change the date a name will be read, or if you wish to add to the list.

Please call the Temple office if you would like to change the date a name will be read.



OR AMI CARES

Please let the Temple office or Rabbi know if a family member is in the hospital or if other situations arise when the congregation may be of assistance or comfort. Changes in hospital privacy rules prohibit officials from contacting the Temple, so we aren't always aware of situations unless family or friends notify us.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Congregation Or Ami, "Light of My People," is a dynamic, sacred community — Kehillah Kedoshah — welcoming people of all ages and backgrounds who seek spiritual fulfillment and involvement grounded in principles of the Reform Jewish Movement.

We affirm fresh pathways and approaches to our core values:

Torah: Jewish study, education, knowledge, and values.

Avodah: Jewish prayer, worship, creative liturgy, and prayer based on Jewish thought.

Gemilut Chasidim: deeds of loving kindness, actively embracing our sacred responsibilities to each other, our community, our nation, and our world.

Thus, individually and as a congregation, we interpret the tenets of social action and ethical imperatives in our lives through our relationship with Torah, prayer, and tikkun olam (making our world whole.)



April 2011 - Congregation Or Ami

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 ☹️ April Fool's Day 🎨 Bon Air Artists Assoc., 9 am -12:30 pm ☆ Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m.	2 ☆ Torah Study/Brunch, 10:30 a.m.
3 🏫 Religious School, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. ☆ OATY Mtg., 12:15 - 2 ☆ Confirmation, 1 p.m.	4	5	6 ☹️ Richmond Quilt Guild, 9 a.m. ☆ Parents of Quirky Kids Jewish Journey Group, 7 p.m.	7 ⚡ Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	8 ☹️ Congregational Potluck Dinner, 6:15 pm ☆ Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m. 6 th & 7 th Grade Class Service	9 ☆ Torah Study/Brunch, 10:30 a.m.
10 🏫 Religious School, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. 🏫 Torah Tots, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. 📖 Model Seder 🍞 Or Ami Book Club @ Panera Bakery Stony Point, 10 a.m. ☆ Confirmation, 1 p.m.	11 ⚡ Finance Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	12 ⚡ Adult Learning Team Mtg., 7:30 p.m.	13 ⚡ Social Action Committee Mtg., 7 p.m. ⚡ Personnel Team Meeting, 7:30 p.m.	14 ☆ RISC Nehemiah Action Assembly at Good Shepherd Baptist Church, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	15 ☆ Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m. ⚡ Deadline for Submission of May Beacon Articles	16 ☆ Torah Study/Brunch, 10:30 a.m. 🎬 Movie Night, 6:30 pm "The Prince of Egypt"
17 🏫 NO Religious School ☆ OATY Bagel Order Deadline ☆ OATY Mtg., 12:15 - 2 🎬 Reel Theology Movie Night, 6 p.m. To Be or Not To Be	18 ☆ 1 st Passover Seder	19 🏫 Congregational Passover Seder, 5:30 p.m.	20 ☆ Parents of Quirky Kids Jewish Journey Group, 7 p.m.	21 ⚡ Membership Committee Mtg., 7 p.m.	22 🌍 Earth Day ☆ Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m.	23 ☆ Torah Study/Brunch, 10:30 a.m. ☆ Find Your Passion Workshop, 2 – 3:30 p.m.
24 🐣 Easter 🏫 NO Religious School ☆ OATY Bagel Pick-Up	25	26	27	28 ☆ Interfaith Dialogue 2011, 7 – 8:30 p.m. at Or Ami ☆ OATY - Spring Kallah (4/28 – 5/1)	29 ☆ Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m.	30 ☆ Bar Mitzvah of Michael Wagner, 10:30 a.m. 🎵 Richmond Folk Music Society, 8 p.m. Rick Franklin

MITZVAH DAY

Sunday, May 15, 2011

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

*Mark your calendars for our
Annual Congregational Mitzvah Day
on Sunday, May 15th.*

Help is needed with all kinds of projects around the Temple.

*Please continue to send in non-perishable food items to the Temple
for distribution to the local food bank.*

*We will also continue to put together Foster Care Welcome Kits.
These kits provide items for the many children that enter foster care,
often on an emergency basis, with few or no belongings to take with
them. We will be collecting items for 2 years olds through young
teens. Some of the items needed are as follows:*

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:

Sanitary products for teen girls, Shampoo (8-10oz. size), Chapstick, Toothbrushes,
Toothpaste, Deodorant, Small hair brushes, Combs, Washcloths, Bath sponges, Body wash,
Bars of soap, Combs, Small packages of Kleenex, Hair barrettes and hair ties

FOR FUN AND COMFORT:

Small stuffed animals (Beanie Baby type are good for older kids), Small Coloring books,
travel-size board games, Decks of playing cards, Matchbox cars, Koosh balls, Nerf balls,
Diaries/Journal books, Change purses, Wallets

ITEMS FOR SCHOOL:

Pens, Pencils, Crayons (24 count and smaller) and thin markers, Spiral notebooks,
Small notepads, Small calculators, Rulers, etc.

If you have any questions, please call Renee Gould #379-5752 or Liz Shank #320-8049.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please donate to the
Social Action Committee Mitzvah Day Fund.



CONGREGATION OR AMI ANNUAL PASSOVER POT-LUCK SEDER



TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 5:30 P.M.*

****PLEASE ARRIVE BEFORE 5:30 P.M., WE WILL START PROMPTLY***

DONATION OF \$10/Adult and \$5/Children under 13

To help defray our costs - please pay at the door or when reservations are made

For additional information or for late reservations, call the Temple office at
#272-0017/fax #272-3931. Guests are very welcome, but must make reservations.

I promised to bring:

_____ **and help with** _____

Retain this portion as a reminder. Cut out and return lower section as your reservation
to:

Congregation Or Ami, 9400 Huguenot Road, Richmond, VA 23235
by April 5, 2011

RESERVATIONS

Name _____ Phone # _____

Number attending Seder _____ Adults, _____ Children (up to 13)

• I WILL BRING (Check one or more)

MAIN COURSE: Beef _____ Chicken _____ Turkey _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian _____

VEGETABLES: Green Salad _____ Cooked vegetables _____ Potato Kugel _____

DESSERT: Fruit Salad _____ Cake _____ Cookies _____ Other _____

ALL FOOD SHOULD BE FOR PESACH

(No flour, noodles, yeast products, beans, lentils, peas, corn, corn syrup, peanuts, or rice)
Food should be ready to serve *preferably in a disposable container*, covered,
and please label your serving utensils and non-disposable dishes with your name.

BRING ENOUGH TO SERVE 8 - 12 ADULTS GENEROUSLY

• CALL ME TO HELP WITH (Check one or more)

____ Table and Chair Set Up ____ Clean Up ____ Preparation of Ritual Foods and Seder Plates

A Meaningful Mother's Day Gift for Loved Ones and Women in Need



Congregation Or Ami has once again joined Jewish Women International (JWI) in honoring the 30,000 women and children who will spend Mother's Day in battered women's shelters. Through the annual Mother's Day Flower Project, JWI will send bouquets of flowers, as well as beauty products from OPI Products, Inc. to 150 shelters across the United States. By participating in the Mother's Day Flower project our congregation helps provide hope for these families on this special day, and everyday, through initiatives, supported by Flower Project proceeds, that work to educate communities, empower women and break the cycle of abuse.

"The roses that come to us from Jewish Women International are a beautiful sign that they are cared about, that someone recognizes them as special and that they are not forgotten.

For some it may be the first time they have been honored on

Mother's Day. There is something about the beauty of a flower that is so touching to the senses and in its own way helps to revive the spirit. We are grateful to be recipients of this gift of hope." - Ann Marie Bartlett, Residential Program Manager at the Cornerstone Shelter in Bloomington, MN, 2009 Flower Project Recipient

For each \$25 contribution, JWI will send a Mother's Day card to any woman you choose, thanking her for the inspiration to help women in need. In addition, **for every \$25 contribution you make to the Flower Project, Congregation Or Ami will receive \$5 back from JWI.** The project is an opportunity for us to raise awareness about domestic abuse while we deliver compassion and support to women forced to live in domestic violence shelters.

Contributions to the Mother's Day Flower Project can be made by phone (202-857-1300) or online at www.jwi.org/fp

For more information, please contact JWI at 202-857-1300 or flowerproject@jwi.org





Each year, JWI runs a nationwide campaign to honor and give hope to the 30,000 women and children spending Mother's Day in battered women's shelters.

Your contribution to the Mother's Day Flower Project will let us deliver beautiful bouquets to 150 shelters across the U.S. on this special day – and support programs that work every day of the year to educate communities, empower women and break the cycle of abuse.

For each \$25 contribution you make to the project, JWI will send a beautiful Mother's Day card to a woman you'd like to honor, to thank her for inspiring you.

Send a card to a loved one and support thousands of women at risk nationwide.

List your honorees below (PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS)

RECIPIENT'S NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
NAME(S) TO BE LISTED AS SENDER(S) OF THE CARD		
PERSONAL MESSAGE (OPTIONAL)		

TOTAL \$

RECIPIENT'S NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
NAME(S) TO BE LISTED AS SENDER(S) OF THE CARD		
PERSONAL MESSAGE (OPTIONAL)		

TOTAL \$

NAME (IF PAYING BY CREDIT, WRITE NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD)

NAME OF SYNAGOGUE OR PARTNERING ORGANIZATION & CITY (IF APPLICABLE)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

JWI CHAPTER NAME & NUMBER (IF APPLICABLE)

FY10FLW 101 Ind
SYN

You may donate online at www.jwi.org/fp, by phone at 800.343.2823, by faxing this form to 202.857.1380, or by mailing this form to JWI . 2000 M Street NW Suite 720 . Washington DC 20036.

Enclosed is my gift of \$25 (one tribute card) \$50 (two cards) \$75 (three cards) \$100 (four cards) other \$_____

Please accept my additional contribution of \$_____

A check for \$_____ is enclosed. (Please make checks payable to *Jewish Women International*.)

Charge my VISA MasterCard AmEx Card # _____ Exp Date _____ Security Code _____

Please send tribute cards to the people listed on the back of this form, or to me. (Unless indicated, all cards will be sent to honorees.)

Send forms & payment by Tuesday, April 27th to ensure that your cards arrive by Mother's Day!

On Mother's Day and every day, proceeds from JWI's Flower Project support at-risk women and children – and the entire Jewish community – with innovative programs that create *safe homes, healthy relationships and strong women*. To learn more, visit www.jwi.org or call 800.343.2823.

OATY UPDATE

The Shabbat Across America service held on March 4th was a big success! A big thanks to Abigail and Michael for putting the service together and to all the OATYites who contributed and participated. To those of you who have ordered bagels, thanks again, the project is going well. We had a record number of orders for February! If anyone would like to place bagel orders, the fundraiser is going on until May. The Spring Kallah is coming up April 28th- May 1st. We welcome two new members who just joined OATY- welcome Kaitlyn and Matt Beckman!



Laura and Rob Wagner
Cordially invite you to the
Bar Mitzvah of their son

Michael Aaron

Saturday, April 30, 2011

10:30 in the morning

Congregation Or Ami
9400 West Huguenot Road

Richmond, Virginia

Luncheon will follow service



The Adult Learning Team presents . . .

Find Your Passion

This workshop will be held on Saturday, April 23rd from 2:00 to 3:30. The workshop will help you find what moves you – perhaps even your mission in life – and what type of work would fulfill your soul. Watch the bulletin board, Beacon, and announcements for more details. But here’s a teaser: Wear comfortable clothes and bring a nosh to share, a writing utensil, and a pad of paper. If you have crayons or colored pencils or colored chalk, bring them as well. Since space is limited, please contact Maria at the office to let her know you plan on attending.



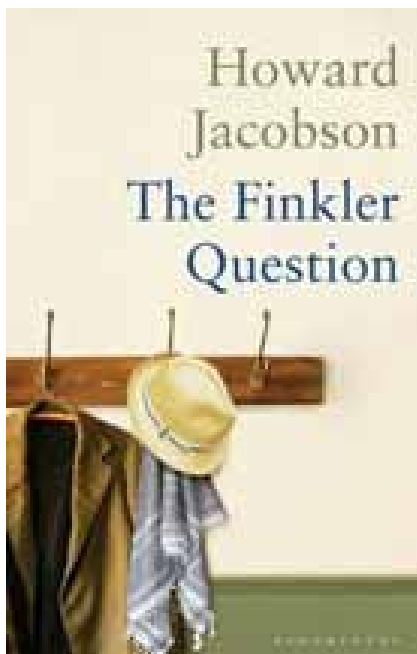
OR AMI BOOK CLUB

Join the Or Ami Book Club on April 10, 2011, as we discuss the 2010 *Man Booker Prize* winning novel by Howard Jacobson, *The Finkler Question*.

“Julian Treslove, a professionally unspectacular former BBC radio producer, and Sam Finkler, a popular Jewish philosopher, writer and television personality, are old school friends. Despite a prickly relationship and very different lives, they’ve never quite lost touch with each other - or with their former teacher, Libor Sevcik, a Czech always more concerned with the wider world than with exam results.

Now, both Libor and Sam are recently widowed, and with Treslove, his chequered and unsuccessful record with women rendering him an honorary third widower, they dine at Libor’s grand, central London apartment. It’s a sweetly painful evening of reminiscence in which all three remove themselves to a time before they had loved and lost; a time before they had fathered children, before the devastation of separations, before they had prized anything greatly enough to fear the loss of it. Better,

perhaps, to go through life without knowing happiness at all because that way you have less to mourn? Treslove finds he has tears enough for the unbearable sadness of both his friends’ losses.



And it’s that very evening, at exactly 11:30, as Treslove, walking home, hesitates a moment outside the window of the oldest violin dealer in the country, that he is attacked. And after this, his whole sense of who and what he is will slowly and ineluctably change.

The Finkler Question is a scorching story of friendship and loss, exclusion and belonging, and of the wisdom and humanity of maturity. Funny, furious, unflinching, this extraordinary novel shows one of our finest writers at his brilliant best.” (Synopsis from: <http://www.themanbookerprize.com/prize/books/426>)

The book club will meet at 10:00AM at Panera Bakery at the Stony Point Fashion Park. Questions? Contact Terri Halperin at 359-9343 or tdhalperin@gmail.com.

The Adult Learning Team Reel Theology Series

PRESENTS



A bad Polish actor is just trying to make a living when what should intrude but World War II in the form of an invasion. His wife has the habit of entertaining young Polish officers while he's on stage which is also a source of depression to him. When one of her officers comes back on a Secret Mission, the actor takes charge and comes up with a plan for them to escape.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Bring a nosh to share – We'll provide the drinks!

UPCOMING ISRAELI COURSES AT THE WEINSTEIN JCC

Courtesy of our Amazing Community Shaliach Nadav Schachter

Café Israel

7:00 -8:30PM on 3/31, 4/7, 21, & 28th

Let's take a broader look at Israel

“A nation builds army builds a nation” – a completely different look on the IDF:
What is the IDF's role in building a society and not only defending it?

- “A Word is a Lot” – Discover Israel's best known short-stories writer through a collection of his stories accompanied by scenes from his movie “\$9.99”.
- “Am Yisrael Chai”: These three words are graphitized in every street corner in Israel. Who did that? What responses did it receive? join us for a tour of the street art of Tel Aviv.
- Commercials as a mirror to society – looking at the changes that went through the society in Israel over the years through commercials, a market that rolls about \$1 million in Israel today.

The Melting Pot

Israel has absorbed 350% of its population in 60 years,
Jews from all over the world with different traditions, cultures and best of all – cuisines,
Got together in a country the size of New Jersey.
Come to taste the result at this special JCC program for Yom Ha'atzmaut with our own Israeli
Shaliach – Nadav Schachter:

- May 5th: North-African Jews got it right: Shakshoka.
- May 09th: Israelis Chickpeas: Hummus & Falafel
- May 16th: Israeli Salads, Not Just Cut-Up Vegetables: From Baba Ghanoush To Tabule
- May 23rd: A Balkan delight: Burekas

KB Levin
Director, Hillel of Richmond
Jewish Education Coordinator,
Weinstein JCC
5403 Monument Ave
Richmond VA 23226

COMMUNITY NEWS



RICHMOND FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY

"Bringing the finest traditional folk music to Richmond, Virginia"

The Richmond Folk Music Society is a not for profit organization dedicated to preserving and encouraging traditional folk music. From September through May, we present monthly acoustic concerts featuring a variety of traditional music styles.

Rick Franklin : Traditional Piedmont Blues

On **Saturday, April 30**, 2011 the Richmond Folk Music Society presents Rick Franklin in an evening of Traditional Piedmont Blues. Doors open at 7:15 and the concert will begin at 8:00.

Since 1981, Rick Franklin has been playing and singing the Blues at local festivals and community events, as well as various clubs and cafes, both in and around the Washington, DC area.

His musical interests are eclectic, reflecting his considerable travels both domestic and abroad. In addition to the Blues, Rick is an aficionado of everything from African High Life, Brazilian Batucada and Samba to Reggae and Zydeco; musical idioms which, like the Blues, reflect the considerable contribution of the African heritage to the musical scene.

Rick's musical style of blues is known as the "Piedmont" style identified with such legendary players like Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller and William More along with contemporary players like Virginia residents John Cephas, the late John Jackson and the late Maryland

resident, Archie Edwards

Rick has taught guitar to youths and adults and is personally committed to the preservation and diffusion of the Blues, especially amongst the young. Rick has been an Executive Board member of the DC Blues Society and helped organize and performed in the first annual DC Blues Festival. Rick also contributed to the DC Blues Society as a music critic for their monthly and quarterly publication. Rick has performed throughout the metropolitan area at events such as the Washington Folk Festival, Northern Virginia Folk Festival, the DC Blues Society Blues Festival, the Columbia Pike Blues Festival, the Old Songs Festival, the Herndon Blues Festival, and for the Baltimore Blues Society, in addition to appearances at The National Portrait Gallery and local elementary schools.

For more information about Richmond Folk Music, and to purchase \$12 advance tickets visit www.richmondfolkmusic.com (e-mail richmondfolkmusic@yahoo.com) or telephone 804-647-7856. Tickets at the door are \$15.00.

MOVIE NIGHT AT OR AMI

OR AMI FAMILY PASSOVER MOVIE

& CHAMETZ NIGHT

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 6:30 PM

"THE PRINCE OF EGYPT"

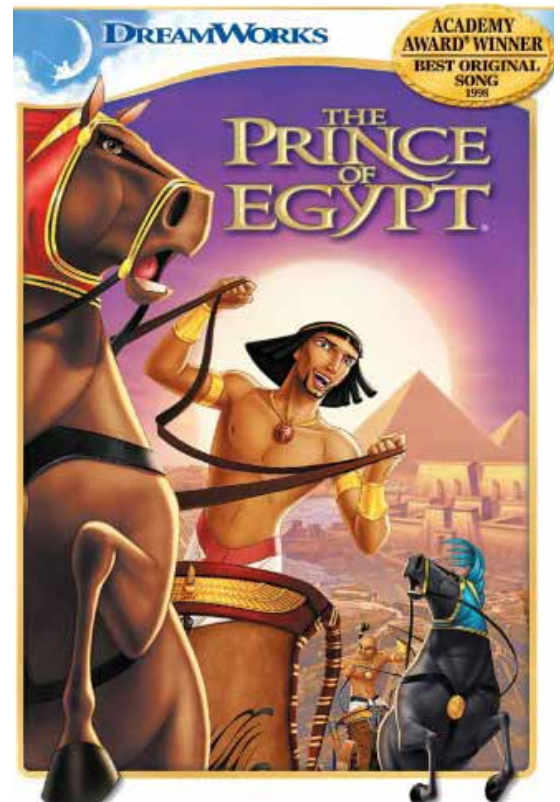
A classic animated story of Moses' life. Rated PG. Potluck chametz (breads, cakes, cookies) and other foods (meats, sandwich stuff, fruits, veggies)!

Fun, delicious, educational, AND perfect for Passover!

FREE ADMISSION AND REFRESHMENTS!

LARGE WIDESCREEN FORMAT!

BRING OUT YOUR CHAMETZ!!





Did you know Or Ami has a Facebook page? Search for us at "Or Ami" and request to join. We are hoping to start making good use of this page.

BEACON DEADLINES

In order to ensure that you receive your Or Ami Beacon on time, we have established monthly deadlines for submission of information to be included in the Beacon. These deadlines will be published in the Beacon several months in advance and are final — no information will be accepted after the deadline date.

The deadline for the May Beacon will be the morning of Friday, April 15th.

The deadline for the June Beacon will be the morning of Monday, May 16th.

Your articles can be faxed (272-3931) or emailed (office@or-ami.com) to the office 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your cooperation is appreciated.

PLEASE DONATE!

Please continue to remember those with insufficient income faced with high food costs, and bring non-perishables to the synagogue for the Food Bank.

Food Bank



GIFT SHOP

We have a beautiful selection of gifts for Shabbat, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, births, Chanukah, and more. Mezuzahs, candlesticks, Kiddush cups, and jewelry are just some of the items we carry. Items not found in our Gift Shop can be ordered. Catalogs are available for you to view. Contact Renee Gould.

EXCLUSIVE TO OR AMI... RENT-A YENTA

Or Ami yentas now offering full service Bar/Bat Mitzvah party and event services. Sit back and relax as we craft exquisite, handmade decorations, arrange artful presentations, and make sure that your SIMCHA is SPECTACULAR. For more information, please call Dell at 741-0489

Many Thanks to Bobby Silver and Cavalier Construction & Remodeling Co., Inc. (804) 342-1000 for all the repair work they do at Or Ami.



MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Membership Lists (November 2010) are available on the racks on the wall outside the Sanctuary. If you are unable to come to the Temple to pick one up, call Maria in the office and she will mail one to you.



TRIALOGUE 2011

GOALS

- Build better relationships between the Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities based in Bon Air Presbyterian and Bon Air United Methodist, St. Edward Catholic, Or Ami and VA Muslim Coalition/Islamic Center of Virginia.
- Build trust and familiarities through regular meetings and sharing food.
- To start a public conversation among the three traditions about theology such as scripture and revelation.
- To have a joint community service project

FORMAT

We will have three meetings in the spring, one in each congregation and a community service project at Crestwood Elementary School. Desert and tea/coffee will be available. People will be seated around tables (about 8 to 12 people per table). Dr. Imad Damaj will MC the events.

A- 1st session: Or Ami - April 28, 2011

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 7:00-7:15 pm | General introduction/Reflections from the organizers about the dialogue
Table introductions |
| 7:15-7:35 pm | Living faithfully in speech-free America- Rabbi Ben Romer |
| 7:35-7:45 pm | Comments from Pastor Gordon Maples and Imam Ammar Amonette (3-5 minutes each) |
| 7:45-8:15 pm | Table discussions - Facilitator |
| 8:15-8:30 pm | Reports from tables. |

B- 2nd session: at St. Edward Catholic Church May 05, 2011

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 7:00-7:30 pm | Opening/Introduction - Role of Faith communities in public affairs- Fr. Kevin O'Brien's |
| 7:30-7:40 pm | Comments from Rabbi Romer and Imam Amonette (3-5 minutes/each) |
| 7:40-8:10 pm | Table discussions - Facilitator |
| 8:15-8:30 pm | Reports from tables. |

C- 3rd session: Islamic Center of Virginia - May 12, 2011

7:00-7:30 pm: Opening/Introduction
Community and Individualism- Imam Ammar Amonette

7:30-7:40 pm: Comments from Pastor Bill Davis and Pastor Gordon Maples (3-5 minutes/each)

7:40-8:10 pm: Table discussions - Facilitator

8:15-8:30 pm: Reports from tables.

D. Community Service Project: May 1st from 2-6 pm

Crestwood Elementary School - 7600 Whittington Drive - Richmond, VA 23225

PRESS RELEASE

INTERFAITH TRIALOGUE IN CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

April 8, 2011- Richmond, VA. Bon Air Presbyterian Church, Bon Air United Methodist Church, Or Ami Congregation, Virginia Muslim Coalition for Public Affairs, St. Edward Catholic Church and the Islamic Center of Virginia are launching their third annual interfaith dialogue in 2011. The aim of the dialogue is to deepen mutual understanding and appreciation between the three Abrahamic religious communities. The three communities will meet three evenings in April and May to understand each other's traditions and build better relations. The organizers stressed the importance of such dialogue because it helps appreciate our respective faiths as good neighbors, will lead to goodwill and mutual understanding and provide a model of neighborhood harmony in Chesterfield County and the region. They see these gatherings as important opportunities to address together religious, ethical and moral issues facing the Richmond region. The organizers stressed that one does not need uniformity to seek common grounds. All three communities will unveil a joint community service project with Crestwood Elementary School. The events are open to the public and start at 7:00 pm. Free parking and refreshments will be available.

Dates and places of the trialogue:

- **1st session on April 28, 2011: at Or Ami
(9400 Huguenot Road, Richmond, VA 23235)**
- **2nd session on May 05, 2011: at St Edward Catholic Church
(2700 Dolfeld Drive, Richmond, VA 23235)**
- **3rd session on May 13, 2010: at the Islamic Center of Virginia
(1241 Buford Road, Richmond VA 23235)**

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Imad Damaj: vmcpa@vmcpa.org Phone: 804-304-5541



Congregation Or Ami

"A Dynamic Sacred Community Grounded in Reform Judaism."

9400 Huguenot Road | Richmond, VA 23235 | (804) 272-0017

www.or-ami.com

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Return Service Requested



Dr. Ben Romer, Rabbi

Alan Freedman, Co-President

Judy Katzen, Co-President

Elaine Ragone, Cantorial Soloist Emerita

David Goldsmith, Director of Education

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism



The Or Ami Beacon Issue 183 - April 2011

