



Congregation Or Chadash

A warm and welcoming community where all can experience God

Thomas A. Louchheim

Rabbi

Janece E. Cohen

Cantor

Rina Liebeskind

**Executive Administrator and
Director of Youth Engagement**

Eileen Cook

Executive Assistant

Jim Liebeskind

Facilities Manager

Sarah Bollt

Clergy Assistant

Jim Neal

Accounting Manager

Jenifer Gold

**Religious School and
Administrative Assistant**

Elaine Jones

President

Gary Kippur

First Vice President

Beverly Sandock

Vice President

Mark Ross

Treasurer

Stephen Caine

Secretary

Benjamin Vogel

Immediate Past President

Directors

Dana Adler

Benjamin Goldberg

Steve Groff

David Markzon

Morris Riback

Marc Sbar

Auxiliary Representatives

Laurie Kassman

Sisterhood

Steven Oscherwitz

Brotherhood

Member:

Union for Reform Judaism

January 17, 2021

Dear Or Chadash Members,

We recognize that change is inevitable, and we choose to shape that change. There are many benefits of coming together to create Kol Ami – “All of My People”:

- a) renewed sense of purpose, mission and growth;
- b) eliminating redundancy and duplication of efforts with greater efficiency and effectiveness;
- c) stronger financial health to withstand future challenges.

After two years of collaborations and planning, we are pleased to provide an opportunity for our religious community to vote in order to form a new synagogue in Tucson – Kol Ami. Your vote represents an affirmation to combine Temple Emanu-El (“TE”) and Congregation Or Chadash (“OC”) into Kol Ami, a new synagogue. An affirmative vote will also represent an endorsement of a Plan of Consolidation (“PoC”). We are enthusiastic about creating a new Kol Ami community, together with our friends from Temple Emanu-El.

The Boards of Directors of both of our synagogues elected to pursue creation of a new synagogue entity instead of a traditional merger, to emphasize our desire for an equal partnership. Both Boards have approved these Bylaws, and the Plan of Consolidation.

Voting:

We encourage members to read the attached:

The Plan of Consolidation (PoC), and its supporting documents:

- a) Exhibit A – *Bylaws of Kol Ami*
- b) Exhibit B - *First Year Financial-Projection Summary*
- c) Exhibit C - *How Additional [Employment] Positions Will Be Filled*

Many of the questions you may still have are likely answered in our *Frequently Asked Questions I and II*. These will be posted on our Or Chadash website shortly.

In order to vote, each member unit (one vote per family) will vote electronically any time between Sunday, January 17 and Friday, February 5 (by 5:00 p.m.) on a link that will be emailed from www.electionrunner.com. As you are receiving this mailing, you are an Or Chadash member in good standing and therefore eligible to vote. We have set up voting on *electionrunner* so that we can tally the number of “yes”, “no”, and “abstain” votes. **Your vote is entirely anonymous.** We CANNOT see whether individual members voted Yes, No, or Abstain.



(520) 512-8500 | octucson.org | 3939 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85718



******A YES vote** means: You approve synagogues Emanu-El and Or Chadash forming Kol Ami and the Plan of Consolidation (PoC).

******A NO vote** means: You do not approve Emanu-El and Or Chadash forming Kol Ami.

******An Abstention** means: You do not wish to participate in the process of forming Kol Ami.

You have another opportunity to get more information before you vote:

Town Hall: We will hold a virtual Town Hall on **January 24 from 4:00 p.m. -- 5:30 p.m.** to answer questions about Kol Ami and the PoC. This is an opportunity to meet together with Temple Emanu-El congregants during the first part of the meeting, and then we will have break-out sessions for congregants to meet with their own presidents, Clergy and Board members.

You can submit questions ahead of time to Rina Liebeskind at Education@orchadash-tucson.org. She will forward your questions to our Board President, Elaine Jones, to be answered at the Town Hall.

Pre-registration is required for the Town Hall. A registration link will be emailed to our members in the weekly eblast.

The result of the vote will be announced at a **Special OC Congregation Meeting**. The meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 7 at 12:30 p.m.** A registration link will be sent in the weekly eblast.

1. If both synagogues approve of creating Kol Ami then we will move into a transition period. During that time, we will interview and hire the necessary employees, and file our Articles of Incorporation with the Arizona Corporation Commission. All current members of Congregation Or Chadash and Temple Emanu-El will be considered founding members of Kol Ami.
2. If members of both synagogues do not approve the creation of Kol Ami, then we will remain separate organizations. However, our religious schools, now a joint entity, will remain together.

Kol Ami will build on the legacies of Temple Emanu-El and Congregation Or Chadash to move forward in our goal of representing Reform Judaism's values that elevate and sanctify our lives and the lives of others.

Sincerely,



Elaine Jones, PhD
President



Thomas Louchheim
Rabbi



Janece Cohen
Cantor



Rina Liebeskind
Executive Administrator
Director of Youth Engagement
Current Director of Education of
Joint Religious School