SUKKOT
@ ADAS ISRAEL

EREV SUKKOT
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
SIMCHAT TORAH
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

MORE ON PAGE 8

PATHWAYS
WONDER • JOY • PEACE

MORE ON PAGE 6
From the President

LAURIE ALADJEM, ADAS PRESIDENT

If you are a parent, the end of summer is that bittersweet time known as “back to school.”

I am happy to report that our schools are bustling at the seams. It’s a good problem to have. More and more families are choosing Adas as their Jewish home, and the place their children will grow and learn. If you are one of those parents, maybe too. And I have a challenge for you: get involved if you can. I know we are pulled in many directions, but our schools can be portals to the greater Adas community, and to a deeper relationship with Judaism for your entire family. We have a Gan Parents Association and a Religious School Committee. We have myriad classes and countless opportunities to work with committees such as Hesed or Social Action. Ideas for ways to get involved are found throughout this (and every) issue of the Chronicle, and, of course, on our website. Commit to doing one new thing at Adas this school year. I trust you will get more out of these experiences than you give. Our family has been enriched in ways I never imagined on that first first day of school. I hope yours will be, too.

I am proud to say that here at Adas, under the leadership of Noah Hichenberg. Under Noah’s leadership, the Gan will continue to be the center of early childhood excellence in ways I never imagined on that first first day of school. I hope yours will be, too.

Clergy Corner

RABBI SARAH KRINSKY

For a holiday that is about openness and vulnerability, and for a structure that is defined at its core by its temporary and even flimsy nature, Sukkot—and its major mitzvah—the sukkah—have a lot of rules. I mean, a LOT of rules.

In chapter 4 of the Mishnah Torah’s ‘Laws of Shofar, Sukkah and Lulav,’ the Rambam outlines a sukkah’s requisite height, width, and area; the specifications on number and amount of walls, down to the handbreadth; the necessary sturdiness as determined by various wind possibilities; and much, much more (including, for example, how one can or cannot make a sukkah on the back of a camel; check out 4:6). In the course of these logistical and architectural details, there is one stipulation that jumps out at me this year. It is quoted twice in this chapter, in two adjacent halachot that discuss a sukkah that does not have four full walls. Such a sukkah could be kosher; a sukkah, in fact, can exist with only three walls; provided they reach some basic height and length requirements. Yet in such a sukkah, the Rambam teaches, the builder must pay special attention not just to the size, but also to the orientation: in such a sukkah, one must be sure to consciously and intentionally construct a clear entrance.

What an interesting demand! One might have suspected that the sukkah with so much non-wall space is even more open for entry than a four-walled sukkah; why, then, would this requirement for an entrance be explicitly highlighted here?

It seems as though the tradition is reminding us that proclaiming openness can only get us so far. We have to actually act on that openness, to actively build doorways, in order to make manifest this value. Being boundlessly inclusive is certainly a worthwhile principle—and is one that we treasure at Adas. But it only works when we also create real points of entry that people can come through.

This year, our theme for the High Holy Days was “pathways”—a look at the many different ways that people move through Adas and how those courses intersect one with another. As we move into the core of the programming year, let’s also not forget the openings that lead to these pathways. As we meander through the various Adas moments that come our way in 5780, let us also commit to facilitating those connections for people who remain outside the walls, and to creating points of entry that reflect the openness, inclusivity, and love that we already feel inside.

Learn more about Sukkot at Adas: adasisrael.org/sukkot

Join Rabbi Krinsky For:

YOM KIPPUR UNPACKED

A Highlight Experience

Led by Rabbi Sarah Krinsky

Wednesday, October 9 at 11:00 AM-12:30 PM Cohen Hall

We will explore the central ideas of Yom Kippur through song, meditation, prayer, learning and discussion. More abbreviated and informal than a traditional service, this alternative will include all of the main components of the day’s themes and liturgy in a deep yet condensed and accessible fashion.

October 2019

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5780

Join us for an inspirational High Holy Day experience at Adas Israel this year. We invite you to step out of your daily routines, to join together with the kehilla, to reflect deeply on what matters to you, and to embrace the pinnacle of our Jewish prayer experience. This year our theme for the Yamim Noraim is centered around pathways. The key, always, is to pave our life’s paths with peace, beauty, and opportunities for deeper engagement. This past year has left so many of us with countless moments of joy, pain, depth, tragedy, understanding, conflict, and everything between. Together we are invited to face each other and ourselves, and to build space for honesty, loss, longing, and, ultimately, connection.

SELICHOT Saturday, September 21
ROSH HASHANAH Monday & Tuesday, Sept. 20 & 21
KEVER AVOT Sunday, October 6
KOL NIDRE Sunday, October 6
YOM KIPPUR Wednesday, October 9

Full High Holy Day Schedule & Information Available Online at adasisrael.org/highholydays

We are blessed to have so many families in our community. Children, like adults, can feel drawn toward different modalities of prayer. We have a variety of service options to enable our children and their grown-ups to engage in meaningful, communal experiences over the holidays.

FAMILY SERVICE with Rabbi Kerrith Solomon
Kay Hall @ 9am: For families who want to share the experience with their elementary school age children (grades K & up).
TORAH & TEFILLAH for Tots through K
Youth Lounge @ 10:30am: For families with young children to celebrate together, led by Manahel Peters.
YOUTH PROGRAMMING
3rd Floor @ 10:30am: For students in grades K-6: Yom Kippur and Shabbat exploration.
3rd Floor @ 11:15am-12:15pm: For students in grades K-6: Holiday activities.
TEEN CHAT
Funger Hall @ 12:30pm: Grade 9-12. Gather for a discussion and reflection on Jewish values in our modern lives.
N’EELAH
Connecticut Ave. Patio @ 7:15pm (30 min before Shofar): Students are invited to gather on the Connecticut Avenue Patio for a short program and to join the services in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary.

Please Note New Times

WITH INSTRUMENTS:
Reflective, Soulful Sounds
With Instruments: Traditional, Cantorial Melodies
With Sign Language Interpretation

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Proverbs 3:17

Drakhei Davarim Nuestos
Hol Nega’batayhem Shalome

Its ways are pleasant ways,
And all its paths, peaceful.

Page 6 The Chronicle

October 2019
SUkkOT

Sukkot begins on the 15th day of the month of Tishri (Erev Sukkot is on Sunday evening, October 13) and continues for seven days. It is known by several names, none more descriptive than Zman Simchataynu, Day of Our Rejoicing. Hag HaSukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, reminds us of the huts (sukkot) in which our ancestors dwelt in the desert for 40 years on their way to the Promised Land. Another name for Sukkot, Hag HaHavdil, the Feast of the Ingathering, stresses that this is a harvest holiday, falling at a time when crops were gathered. It is one of the three harvest festivals in the Jewish year known as the Shalosh Regalim, the three pilgrimage festivals (the other two are Passach and Shavuot).

The lulav, a palm branch composed of three myrtle twigs and two willow branches, and the etrog, a large citron resembling a lemon, both symbols of the harvest, are used in keeping with the biblical commandment (Leviticus 23:40): “You shall take the fruit of the pleasant trees, palm branches thick leafy boughs, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice . . .” Because the becheret (Blessing) for the lulav and the etrog are to be recited on six of the nine days (not on Shabbat) of this festival period, and because these harvest symbols do so much to enhance the home, many families purchase them for home use.

Attached to Sukkot is a eighth day known as Shemini Atzeret, which is a separate yom tov; it is technically not part of Sukkot. It is punctuated by two special prayers. The first is geshem, the prayer for rain, in which the Jewish people pray for a sufficient rainfall in Eretz Yisrael to make the land fruitful and the crops plentiful. This is especially meaningful since Israel has suffered years of drought. The other prayer is Yizkor, the memorial prayer for those we have lost, which is also recited on Yom Kippur, the eighth day of Pesach, and the second day of Shavuot.

The final day of this holiday season, Simchat Torah (which in Israel is the same day as Shemini Atzeret), celebrates the Festival of Rejoicing in the Torah, at which time we give thanks for the Torah by parading the scrolls around the synagogue in a joyous ceremony known as seven Hakafot, in which men, women, and children of all ages participate. It is on this day that we complete the annual reading of the Torah and begin again with the first words of Genesis.

Simchat Torah begins this year on Monday, October 21. Celebration of Simchat Torah at Adas Israel will begin at 6 pm with Mincha followed by Maamor & Hakafot at 6:30 pm. The celebration continues on Tuesday morning, October 22, at 9:30 am, at which time we will recognize our Simchat Torah honorees. Please come to honor them and the Torah.

SCHEDULE:

Erev Sukkot, Sunday Oct. 13
7:30 am - Morning Minyan
6 pm - Mincha / Kabbalat Chag Services
Day 1, Monday, Oct. 14
9:15 am - Combined Morning Service
11 am - Children’s Service, 12 pm - Kiddush in the Sukkah
6 pm - Mincha/Kabbalat Chag Services
Day 2, Tuesday, Oct. 15
9:15 am - Combined Morning Service
12 pm - Kiddush in the Sukkah, 1 pm - Mincha
Day 3, Wednesday, Oct. 16
7:15 am - Morning Minyan/Chai HaMoed Sukkot
6 pm - Mincha/Maariv, 6:30 pm - New Member Reception
Day 4, Thursday, Oct. 17
7:15 am - Morning Minyan/Chai HaMoed Sukkot
12 pm - Gan Snack in Shack, 6 pm - Mincha/Maariv
Day 5, Friday, Oct. 18
7:15 am - Morning Minyan/Chai HaMoed Sukkot
11:45 am - Gan Snack in the Shack
6:30 pm - TEM (all invited) Mincha/Maariv
Day 6, Saturday, Oct. 19
9:15 am - Shabbat Service/Tefilin (Baby) Shabbat
9:15 am - TEM Service, 9:30 am - Havdara Service
11 am - Tot Shabbat, 11 am - Youth Services
12 pm - Congregational Kiddush, 1 pm - Mincha
Day 7, Erev Shemini Atzeret, Sunday, Oct. 20
8:45 am - Morning Minyan/Hoshana Rabba Service
6 pm - Erev Shemini Atzeret - Mincha/Maariv Kabbalat Chag
Day 8, Erev Simchat Torah, Monday, Oct. 21
9:15 am - Shemini Atzeret/Yanika Service
9:15 am - TEM Service 12 pm - Kiddush in the Sukkah
6 pm - Mincha, 6:30 pm - Erev Simchat Torah Maariv & HaKafot
7 pm - TEM Erev Simchat Torah Service
8:30 pm - Erev Simchat Torah Reception
Simchat Torah, Tuesday, Oct. 22
9:15 am - Simchat Torah Service joined by TEM
11 am - Simchat Torah Children’s Service
12 pm - Congregational Kiddush, 1 pm - Mincha

HOLIDAYS @ ADAS

SIMCHAT TORAH

Erev Simchat Torah

Clergy-Led Instrumental Service Mincha, 6pm
MONDAY, OCT. 21, BEGINNING @ 6:30 PM
Non-Instrumental Service w/ TEM MONDAY, OCT. 21, @ 7:00 PM

Simchat Torah Morning

Community Service w/ S.T. Honorees TUESDAY, OCT. 22, BEGINNING @ 9:15 AM

Featuring the Mayer brothers, along with our local DC klezmer workshop instructors, to lead us in festive song & dance!

On Simchat Torah, the Torah scrolls wish to dance—so we become their feet! Join the Adas Israel community for an ecstatic, musical community celebration on the most joyous holiday of our holy calendar! There will also be a joyous Erev Simchat Torah service with the Traditional Egalitarian Minyan, without instruments, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome! Also look out for a post-hafta klezmer jam session — bring your instrument along to keep the music going after we’ve sung, danced, and read Torah! The Erev Simchat Torah Reception in Wasserman Hall is sponsored by Steve Rabinowitz & Laurie Moskowitz in memory of Steve’s mother, Dorothy Rabinowitz, on her yahrzeit, linking her memory with the beauty and importance of Simchat Torah is a lasting and meaningful memorial.

See our 5780 Simchat Torah Honorees on the following page!

Full Holiday Information Available Online at adasisrael.org/sukkot
Each year, several congregants who have served with unusual dedication are selected to receive special honors on Simchat Torah. Please join us on the morning of Simchat Torah on Tuesday, October 22, when we honor this year’s worthy honorees.

Sarah Brooks — Sarah Brooks joined Adas Israel in 1995 when she and her young family moved to DC. All three of her children attended the Gan and went on to continue at JPSD. Sarah and her children found a place at the Havurah service when her youngest child went off to college, she has been able to further engage in two of her passions: cooking and text study. She is an active participant in Hesed Baking and text study. She is an active participant in Hesed Baking and text study. She is an active participant in Hesed Baking and text study. Sarah served as the mikvah lady for two years starting in August 1998. (Her youngest, Aaron, was known as the mikvah boy, after he arrived in Feb 1999.) Since becoming semi-retired (please G-d) as a full time stay at home mother when her youngest child went off to college, she has been able to further engage in two of her passions: cooking and text study. She is an active participant in Hesed Baking and has cooked for countless families through Meal Train. She also bakes cupcakes once a month for the Security and Building Maintenance staffs. As for Text Study, Sarah has never missed a service in the TEM, Smith and Kay. When he's not at Adas, Sarah enjoys attending events with lots of music like Return Again service program at So Others Might Eat, and she particularly enjoys attending events with lots of music like Return Agaman services. Sharon is a lawyer and has spent the bulk of her career representing the interests of indigent criminal defendants. As a result of this work she has become increasingly interested in issues surrounding poverty and criminal justice reform. Because she believes strongly in the power of community, Sharon is extremely grateful for the ever increasing involvement of the Adas community in a myriad of social justice and human rights issues that plague our city, our country and our world.

Michael Leifman — Michael and his wife Sharon, Sambor joined Adas Israel when they moved to DC in 1995. Their first apartment in town was in Cleveland Park so that they could be walking distance from Adas and their house in the Van Ness/Tenley area was chosen in part for the same reasons: it was never a question that Adas would be part of their lives. “Adas is where we’ve celebrated both of our sons’ births, it’s where we celebrated Ethan’s bar mitzvah and where we’ll celebrate Gil’s upcoming bar mitzvah; and it was the Adas community that provided me comfort and meals while I sat shiva for my parents. Adas - the community, the clergy, the staff and even the building - have been a central part of my family’s life. Even Shabbat aftersnoons after shul are spent hanging out with Adas people!” Michael served two terms on the Adas board, was a member of the ritual committee (now religious practices committee) for several years, and sat on two clergy search committees. As part of the Traditional Egalitarian Minyan, Michael has served as the davening coordinator and co-led each of its shabbatonim. Michael is a frequent b’al tefillah in the TEM, and also has led various High Holiday services in the TEM, Smith and Kay. When he’s not at Adas, Michael consults on clean energy and technological innovation, cohosts a podcast on startups and the economy, roots for the Nats and throws around a frisbee. Sharon writes for HIAS, is a Torah reader and trope tutor par excellence, and has served in various Adas and TEM committees. Ethan is a senior at Wilson High School and Gil is a 7th grader at Alice Deal.

Sharon Burka — Sharon has deep roots at Adas Israel. Both her maternal and paternal grandparents were congregants as well as her parents who first met at an Adas confirmation class picnic and were subsequently married in the synagogue in 1955. Sharon grew up at Adas from consecration to Bat Mitzvah to confirmation class picnic and went on to continue at JPSD. Sharon and her children found a place at the Havurah service when her youngest child went off to college, she has been able to further engage in two of her passions: cooking and text study. She is an active participant in Hesed Baking and text study. She is an active participant in Hesed Baking and text study. She is an active participant in Hesed Baking and text study. Sarah served as the mikvah lady for two years starting in August 1998. (Her youngest, Aaron, was known as the mikvah boy, after he arrived in Feb 1999.) Since becoming semi-retired (please G-d) as a full time stay at home mother when her youngest child went off to college, she has been able to further engage in two of her passions: cooking and text study. She is an active participant in Hesed Baking and has cooked for countless families through Meal Train. She also bakes cupcakes once a month for the Security and Building Maintenance staffs. As for Text Study, Sarah has never missed a service in the TEM, Smith and Kay. When he's not at Adas, Sarah enjoys attending events with lots of music like Return Again service program at So Others Might Eat, and she particularly enjoys attending events with lots of music like Return Agaman services. Sharon is a lawyer and has spent the bulk of her career representing the interests of indigent criminal defendants. As a result of this work she has become increasingly interested in issues surrounding poverty and criminal justice reform. Because she believes strongly in the power of community, Sharon is extremely grateful for the ever increasing involvement of the Adas community in a myriad of social justice and human rights issues that plague our city, our country and our world.

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Russell Smith — Russell and his wife Judy joined Adas Israel in 1974 and became active when their son Harris was born in 1977. Russell wrote a letter to the Adas President expressing concern about a dues increase and was immediately appointed to the Adas Board! Once Harris entered
There's always a way in to Jewish learning. This MakomDC year we intend to capture the passion and expertise of our core teachers and offer topics in text learning that will inspire deep learning, generate new knowledge, and open up critical conversation. For the first three Tuesday evenings of each month, a rabbi (Holtzblatt, Alexander, Krinsky, or Yolkut) will offer a three-part mini-series that will tackle essential subjects in Judaism, with close attention to the textual tradition that inspires so much of Jewish life today.

Rav Kook, the first Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of British Mandatory Palestine in the Land of Israel, was considered one of the founders of religious Zionism. Together we’ll explore his unique take on Zionism, his approach to Parshanut (weekly Torah commentary), and his novel observations of religious life in the 20th century.

You hear it all the time: "Rashi says . . ." So let’s take a few sessions to explore who, why, and how this great intellect became the most influential Jewish author of all time. Through a close reading of a few key texts alongside some biographical essays, each of us will come out with a greater appreciation for the figure whose words have been "absorbed into the bloodstream of Jewish culture.”

Mussar is an ancient Jewish spiritual practice aimed at cultivating and honing specific inner virtues and traits. Following the curriculum of Rabbi David Jaffe, we will delve into this practice and relate it to our own spiritual lives, and to a foundation for a Jewish social justice ethic. Each session will focus on one particular trait and will examine traditional Mussar texts as well as practical applications for ourselves and our communities.

The Adas Fund

JUSTICE

The Adas Fund is the Congregation’s only annual campaign and is critical if we are to operate in the way you have come to count on and deserve. We seek 100% participation, at any level of giving. This year, we will honor the sacred work of our Social Action Committee, as its members work tirelessly to make the world everything we know in our hearts it should be.

Now is the time.
Please make your contribution today.
We seek 100% participation.

This year’s campaign is inspired by the work of our Social Action Committee, and supports all of our activities at Adas. The Committee is made up of teams focused on the pressing issues facing us today:

- Poverty / Homelessness / Housing Team
- Climate Action Team
- Lev B’Lev ("Heart to Heart")
- Gun Violence Prevention Team
- Kehilah Multiracial Engagement Project
- Refugee Response Team

Visit adasisrael.org/socialaction to learn more about this incredible work. Please join us as we demonstrate our gratitude for the many personal and family journeys Adas Israel’s members, clergy, and staff inspire. Please do give something today, and make everything possible.

Donate online at AdasIsrael.org/AdasFund

MakomDC 2019–20 Season: "The Way In"

MakomDC 2019-2020 Season: "The Way In"

There’s always a way in to Jewish learning. This MakomDC year we intend to capture the passion and expertise of our core teachers and offer topics in text learning that will inspire deep learning, generate new knowledge, and open up critical conversation. For the first three Tuesday evenings of each month, a rabbi (Holtzblatt, Alexander, Krinsky, or Yolkut) will offer a three-part mini-series that will tackle essential subjects in Judaism, with close attention to the textual tradition that inspires so much of Jewish life today.


NOVEMBER 5, 12, 19 (HOLTZBLATT)

Rav Kook, the first Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of British Mandatory Palestine in the Land of Israel, was considered one of the founders of religious Zionism. Together we’ll explore his unique take on Zionism, his approach to Parshanut (weekly Torah commentary), and his novel observations of religious life in the 20th century.

Because Rashi Said So: An Introduction to the Life and Writings of Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki (1040-1105)

DECEMBER 3, 10, 17 (ALEXANDER)

You hear it all the time: “Rashi says . . .” So let’s take a few sessions to explore who, why, and how this great intellect became the most influential Jewish author of all time. Through a close reading of a few key texts alongside some biographical essays, each of us will come out with a greater appreciation for the figure whose words have been “absorbed into the bloodstream of Jewish culture.”

Virtues and Vices: An Introduction to the World of Mussar

JANUARY 7, 14, 21 (KRINSKY)

Mussar is an ancient Jewish spiritual practice aimed at cultivating and honing specific inner virtues and traits. Following the curriculum of Rabbi David Jaffe, we will delve into this practice and relate it to our own spiritual lives, and to a foundation for a Jewish social justice ethic. Each session will focus on one particular trait and will examine traditional Mussar texts as well as practical applications for ourselves and our communities.

continued...
The Double Axis of Jewish Life: Israel and the Diaspora

FEB. 4, 11, 18 (YOLKUT)

Beginning all the way back in the Torah and weaving their way through the rabbis, our people have debated questions of home, land, and Jewish communal life. As the world becomes increasingly connected and global, while at the same time tribal, divided, and particular, how can we understand the Jewish perspective on our home in the Diaspora and in the Homeland? What challenges does Zionism as nationalism present to our American democratic and Jewish values? How might we understand the rabbis as challenging us to create interconnected and interdependent relationships of these two fundamental holy spaces to create sacred spheres of sacredness? We will explore three Talmudic passages to try and unpack these questions and challenges.

Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik (1902-1993): Lonely Man of Faith, Halakhic Man, & Selected Writings

MARCH 3, 17, 24 (HOLTZBLATT)

Known as “The Rav,” this towering figure in 20th-century Jewish life left an indelible imprint not only on Modern Orthodoxy, but on all modern-day Jewish theology and practice. We’ll learn together some of his key writings and religious concepts—in particular, how to live in the midst of dialectical tension—humility and majesty, alone and together, submissive and autonomous.

Rabbi Nachman of Brazlav (1772-1810): Medshiboaz, Ukraine, and Bratzlav

APRIL 1, 22, 29 (YOLKUT)

Rebbe Nachman was one of the Chassidic world’s most creative and unconventional thinkers. Many of his ideas were challenged by leading rabbis, who accused him of arrogance, messianic pretensions, and propagating semi-heretical doctrines. Have we piqued your interest? In these three sessions we will study his perspective on three ideas: Creation as interconnected with Machloket (dispute and disagreement); hitbodidut, his prayer practice as a path to spiritual refinement and enlightenment; and his prescription for achieving a state of simcha or joy as a religious practice!

Intention, Action, and Reaction: “Kavanah Unpacked and Explored”

MAY 5, 12, 19 (ALEXANDER)

It’s a question that touches so many aspects of life: Do our intentions influence how our actions ought to be judged? Or, is it just the deed itself that matters, regardless of the reason? As you might imagine, classical and modern Jewish texts have a lot to say about this, and the answers will help all of us navigate our lives today. Together we’ll explore the paradigmatic sources on this issue, and discuss their relevance in religious and secular life, individually and communally.

Ever-Evolving Halakhah: Critical Questions, Real-time Responses

JUNE 2, 9, 16 (KRINSKY)

The form of shutim—halakhic questions answered by expert authorities—goes back as far as the Jewish tradition. Yet it is also as modern as 2020. Each of these three sessions will examine a present-day teshuva about a contemporary issue, ranging from bioethics to technology to identity and practice. We will look at the content of the answer, as well as the processes and prooftexts the authors invoke to make their claims.

Inside Out: Text, Translation and Transformation (Yolkut)

FALL/WINTER: 10/23, 10/30, 11/13, 11/27, 12/11, 1/8; $180

SPRING: 1/29, 2/26, 3/11, 3/25, 4/1; $180

• Have you ever wanted to gain access to some of Judaism’s most powerful texts?
• Are you wondering what it means to study ancient sources in their original language with the guidance of a master teacher and a Beit Midrash full of reference materials?
• Can you imagine studying a rabbinic text from the start and seeing it all the way through; imagine starting a riveting novel and not being able to put it down?
• Want to challenge yourself to gain a foundational understanding of how the rabbis operated?
• What did these ancient sages want the learner to gain from the window the text gives us into their endless conversations, debates, and questions around some of our biggest religious and spiritual issues about living in this world? Join a dedicated group for two six-part classes with a deep dive into the Mishnah and Talmud with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut. Sign up for one semester or both!

Mendelson Scholar Series

Dr. Eilyahu Stern

OCT. 26

Eilyahu Stern is associate professor of Modern Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History in the Departments of Religious Studies and History at Yale University.

Prof. Jeffrey Rubenstein

DEC. 14

Jeffrey L. Rubenstein is the Skirball Professor of Talmud and Rabbinic Literature in the Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies of New York University.

Dr. Deborah Barer

MARCH 21, 2020

Dr. Deborah Barer’s research explores models of rabbinic decision-making, with an emphasis on the intersection of ethical and legal reasoning in Talmudic legal narratives.

End-of-Year Siyyum

MAY 26, 7:30 PM, WITH DR. BURT VISOTZKY

Join us as we celebrate the end of our MakomDC year! Rabbi Dr. Burt Visotzky serves as Appleman Professor of Midrash and Interreligious Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he directs the Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue. Visotzky also serves as the Louis Stein Director of the Finkelstein Institute for Religious and Social Studies at JTS, programming on public policy. Rabbi Visotzky has been named to “The Forward 50” and repeatedly to the Newsweek/Daily Beast list of “The 50 Most Influential Jews in America.”

adasisrael.org/makomdc
MUSICAL MOMENTS

Musical Moments at Adas

Brought to you by Cantor Arianne Brown & the Musical Moments Committee

Featured Musical Performance

A Sweet Celebration of Song

Starring Cantor Azi Schwartz

Richard L. Kramer Family Concert Series

Joined by Cantor Arianne Brown, Musical Director Colin Fowler, DC’s Thomas Circle Singers, and our own Flash Choir

Sunday, November 10 @ 3 pm

SPECIAL EVENT

A gift to the Jewish community as the second of our incredible Richard L. Kramer Family Concert Series.

Join world-renowned Israeli cantor and recording artist Azi Schwartz, of New York’s Park Avenue Synagogue, in a dazzling concert. Azi’s vocal craft has been described as emotional, spiritual, and artistically dynamic. Followed by an hors d’oeuvres reception.

RSVP by visiting adasisrael.org/musicalmoments or calling 202-362-4433.

2019-2020 / 5780 Program

Sounds of Faith: Songs of Hanukkah

Concert at the National Museum of American History

Sunday, December 8 @ 2:30 pm

Cantor Arianne Brown will perform a program of music celebrating Hanukkah in the eclectic setting of our National Museum of American History.

Giles & Grace Gospel Choir

Saturday, January 18 @ 9:30 am

As we celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with our community partners, Roderick Giles & Grace gospel choir will join us on Shabbat morning for inspirational moments of prayer.

Shabbat Shirah

Featuring Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and His Band

Saturday, February 8 @ 6:30 pm

As a composer and songleader, Josh is known for creating warm communal singing experiences. Join us throughout Shabbat and Saturday night for a Havdalah musical experience you won’t want to miss.

Kol HaOlam 2020

Saturday, February 29 @ 8 pm

Witness the ever popular Annual National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Championship Competition as we celebrate a decade of a cappella at Adas!

Halleluyah! Sing 150

Celebrating 150 Years of Adas Israel

Wednesday, June 10 @ 6:45 pm, followed by the Annual Meeting

Halleluyah! Adas is turning 150. Let’s celebrate this milestone with a musical immersion into Psalm 150. This psalm is the inspiration behind compositions across genres, faiths, and languages.

adasisrael.org/musicalmoments
In the sukkah, a house that is open to the world, the illusion of protection falls away, and suddenly we are flush with our life, feeling our life, following our life, doing its dance, one step after another. And when we speak of joy here, we are not speaking of fun. Joy is a deep release of the soul. Hashkiveinu Adonai eloheninu l'shalom. During the service, we ask God to shelter us with a canopy of peace! The imagery is external, but the protection from such shelter emanates from within us. No matter how strong an outer shelter we build, there is no guarantee that it will withstand the unknown. Our siddur, Lev Shalem, has a beautiful sidebar commentary on the Hashkiveinu prayer: “Peace comes to us in the recognition that when we allow ourselves to be vulnerable, when we recognize that we cannot control how strong an outer shelter we build, there is no guarantee that it will withstand the unknown. Our sukkah is a fragile structure, open to the elements. Peace is pictured not as a temple, solidly built, gilded, perhaps ornate, but rather as created out of the most fragmentary of materials, leaving us vulnerable and at risk.” When we find peace, as Rabbi Lew says, in a house that is open to the world, we also open ourselves to joy. As the Haggit continue this month with Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah, we hope you’ll join JMCW prayer practices and programs. Throughout this new year, may we find joy as we work to open ourselves to the world and strengthen our inner shelter of peace.

ONGOING OFFERINGS

**Weekly Meditation Sit**
Led by JMCW Faculty
**WEDNESDAYS @ 7:30–8:30 PM**
Note: Classes will not be held 10/2, 10/9, 11/27, or 12/25
Each week we come together for a community sit. Our time is marked by explorations of meditation techniques, guided teachings, and silent sits. No experience necessary—all are welcome, including drop-ins. Open to beginners and experienced practitioners alike.

**Vinyasa Lunar Flow**
Led by JMCW Faculty
**WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30–7:20 PM**
Fall classes held on 10/30, 11/20, and 12/18
Our monthly Jewish Yoga practice offers a home to those who wish to explore embodied spirituality. This class seeks to awaken and stimulate the senses through a full mind/body exploration of asana. Drawing inspiration from Mussar, Kabbalah, and the wisdom of Jewish thinkers, this class reinterprets “Jewish Yoga.” Mats and props are provided.

**Morning Awakening**
with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt
**TUESDAYS AT 9:00AM - RESUMING AFTER THE HAGGIM ON 11/5**
Come join JMCW for an uplifting 45 minutes of mindful prayer and song as we begin the day together. Morning Awakening is a new take on the traditional Jewish morning service. Start your Tuesday with a dose of mindfulness!

**JMCW RECOMMENDS . . .**

Yom Kippur Readings: Inspiration, Information and Contemplation, by Rabbi Dov Peretz Eilins, Dr. Arthur Green
In weaving together a variety of readings, from traditional Jewish texts to modern reflections, this collection is a beautiful resource for the spiritual contemplation we seek during the days leading up to Yom Kippur to prepare us to embrace that holy day.

This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared: The Days of Awe as a Journey or Transformation, by Rabbi Alan Lew
A classic text by one of the leading voices in Jewish Mindfulness practice. Whether reading for the first time or revisiting these wise words, there is always something new to discover in this engaging exploration of high holy days spiritual renewal.

The Days Between: Blessings, Poems and Directions of the Heart For the Jewish High Holiday Season, by Marcia Falk
This gorgeous collection of poetry and alternative holiday prayers touches the heart of our high holy days tradition and adds moving insight to traditional liturgy.

These selections are available in the Adas Library, along with other books on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness. Some of these can be found under call number 175.01 or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org) for more information.

**The Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW)**
offers services, programs, and workshops that help deepen contemplative practices as part of our individual and communal religious and spiritual lives. Watch this space each month to follow these JMCW offerings. Visit our Adas web page at adasisrael.org/jmcw, where you can also subscribe to our weekly newsletter. Find us on Facebook, JMCW at Adas Israel!
OCTOBER 2019

Sunday

29 30
9:00 am Morning Minyan
9:45 am Community Sunset Service

30 KOSH HASHANAH DAY 1 1 1 Tishri
NOTE: See HHD Book for Full Schedule

Monday

1 2
9:30 am Morning Minyan
10:00 am Evening Minyan

2 KOSH HASHANAH DAY 2 1 1 Tishri
NOTE: See HHD Book for Full Schedule

Tuesday

3 4
7:30 am Morning Minyan
8:00 pm Evening Minyan

4 Tishri

Wednesday

5
7:30 am Morning Minyan
8:00 pm Evening Minyan

5 Tishri

Thursday

6
7:30 am Morning Minyan
8:00 pm Evening Minyan

6 Tishri

Friday

7
7:30 am Morning Minyan
8:00 pm Evening Minyan

7 Tishri

Saturday

8
7:30 am Morning Minyan
8:00 pm Evening Minyan

8 Tishri

Traditional egalitarian minyan (TEM): Every Shabbat morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around 10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Rabbi or Cantor. The service includes a D’var Torah and sermon by the Rabbi and often includes participation by members and B’nai Mitzvah.

Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menucha Peters. Netivot, for students in grades K–3, is led by Sarah Attermann or Jeremy Kadden.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: Please turn off cell phones and pagers before entering services.

NOTE: See HHD Book for Full Schedule
Sisterhood Helps Adas Increase Lovingkindness

As Adas Israel's Hesed projects have become an increasingly integral part of our congregation over the past four years, Sisterhood members are happy to be among those who help spread lovingkindness and compassion within our congregation, in the wider local community, and beyond.

We also want you to know that since its inception in 1897, Adas Israel Sisterhood has carried out its own mitzvah projects that engage our members in a variety of meaningful activities, while strengthening our ties to Jewish traditions and values.

These mitzvot include creation of textile products by members of our Knit, Sew & Craft Group; raising money for Torah Fund, a project of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism (WLJC), the governing body and support organization for Sisterhoods in Conservative congregations; and the gift of a beautiful kiddush cup to each Adas bar and bat mitzvah.

Sisterhood’s Knit, Sew & Craft Group has multiple mitzvah projects that reach Adas members and people beyond our immediate community. These creative and talented women make baby hats to welcome the newest Adas members; knit hats and scarves for donation to Washington, DC, emergency centers via the DCJCC; and knit or crochet squares for afghans that also are donated.

A few years ago, members created the beautiful Torah mantles (covers) for the Adas Havurah’s Shabbat services. We proudly display the gorgeous handiwork in the photo at the top of the Sisterhood web page (www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood).

An ongoing textile activity this year is Bears for Israel, a project of the American Friends of the Jordan River Village, an overnight camp for children with special needs and for those living with chronic, serious, or life-threatening illnesses and disorders. Sewn by volunteers, the bears are given to campers as a memento.

And last month, members of the group again joined Adas member Shifra Waskow, the Adas Mikvah, and the Rockville, MD, chapter of Days for Girls to create menstrual care kits for girls in developing countries. The kits and the accompanying education help girls attend school during their periods, thus enabling them to continue their education.

Torah Fund is a yearly fund drive for scholarships and programs at five Conservative/Masorti institutions of higher education: two in the United States, one in Israel, one in South America, and one in Europe. But Torah Fund is so much more than yet another request for a donation. The heart and soul of Torah Fund is its power to enable young Jews to become the Conservative Movement’s future rabbis, cantors, educators, and scholars at one of five seminaries around the globe.

This was brought home in a very direct and compelling way to Sisterhood President Jill Jacob when she attended a recent WLJC Leadership Institute program in New York. While attending morning services at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), a cantorial student told her that if the dormitory that was built with funds raised by Sisterhood’s Torah Fund had not existed, the high New York City rents might have prevented him from attending JTS and pursuing his dream to become a cantor.

Sisterhood continues the tradition of giving the gift of a kiddush cup to each Adas bar and bat mitzvah. We believe such gifts help young people find beauty and meaning in our rituals, and we hope the cup will someday enhance their own Jewish homes.

As we embark on a new program year, we invite all the women of Adas to join us in our ongoing programs and at our special events. Look for event notices here in the Chronicle, on the Adas website, and on the Sisterhood Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/AdasIsraelSisterhood).

We look forward to doing mitzvot with you!

Sisterhood Opening Event - One Faith, Many Cultures

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Financial Planning for and in Retirement Event

Sisterhood will host Ron Schwarz, a local financial advisor and member of Adas, discussing “Financial Planning for and in Retirement.” For context, Ron will present some historic patterns in the market, discuss the importance of evaluating risk in one’s portfolio, describe some asset types that may reduce risk, and address the impact that a severe drop in the market can have on retirement assets, as happened in 2008. In addition, he will talk about how to blunt some of that impact with advance planning.

Ron’s formal presentation will be brief because we believe that many in the audience will have pertinent questions to ask, and Ron will do his best to address them, as he does routinely in his practice. So please come with your questions for what we hope will be a lively interactive program. For more information contact Susan Winberg (susanw1608@comcast.net) or Rona Walters (ronawalters@gmail.com).

sisterhood gift shop

We are proud to present many new religious and gift items this year. From affordable jewelry, to tallitot, to hostess gifts, to mezuzah cases, to tableware for your home, to children’s toys, we’re sure you’ll find what you’re looking for.

And enjoy our regular hours*:
Sunday–Monday, Wednesday–Friday
9:30 am–12:30 pm
Extended hours on Tuesdays:
9:30 am–3:00 pm & 6:00–8:00 pm

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.
202-364-2888
adasgiftshop@gmail.com

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Upcoming Events

**Mah Jongg**
**WEEKLY, THURSDAYS AT 1:00 PM, SISTERHOOD HALL**
Soap, Bam, Dot. Whether you’re a novice or a Mah Jongg champ, there’s a space for you at the table of this game.

**Take a Walk! (October: Pierce Mill/Rock Creek Park)**
**MONTHLY, MONDAYS AT 6 PM, SUNDAYS AT 10 AM (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) NEXT UP: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 11 AM; MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 6 PM**
Take a Walk! explores different Washington neighborhoods on foot. All are welcome, so bring a friend! For the October walk (please note start time of 11 am), we will meet at Peirce Mill, a historic mill building in Rock Creek Park located at Tilden Street and Beach Drive. After a tour of the mill, we will walk toward the National Zoo and up to Connecticut Avenue.

**Weekday Torah with Sisterhood**
**MONTHLY, 3RD TUESDAY AT 10 AM, FUNGER HALL NEXT UP: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**
Weekday Torah with Sisterhood is an engaging approach to traditional text study that offers participants the opportunity to study and discuss challenging texts and ideas. Classes are monthly, except in the summer, and meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Students of all levels and backgrounds are welcome. Please contact Marilyn Cooper (MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com) with questions.

**Knit, Sew & Craft Group**
**MONTHLY, 1ST WEDNESDAY AT 7:30 PM, YOUTH LOUNGE NEXT UP: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16; WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6**
Members are welcome to work on annual group projects or continue their ongoing knitting, sewing, crocheting, and crafts. We are excited that for the third year we have a new project, Bears for Israel, which will continue throughout the year.

**Bears for Israel**
Bears for Israel is a project of the American Friends of the Jordan River Village, an overnight camp for children living with chronic, serious, or life-threatening illnesses and disorders and for children with special needs. The bears are sewn by volunteers around the country and given to the campers as a memento. We are happy to help anyone who is interested in joining us.

Dates for meetings and other news from the Knitting, Sewing & Craft group can be found on the Sisterhood page of the Adas website: www.AdasIsrael.org/Sisterhood.

**Sisterhood in Your Community & Sunday Salons**
Brunch, wine and cheese, and tea-get-togethers on select Sundays for members of Sisterhood to socialize and get to know one another. In addition, four “Sunday Salons” featuring exceptional Adas/Sisterhood members—women who have built remarkable careers that we can all learn from—will be presented. For more information, contact June Kress at junebkress@gmail.com.

**Travel Window:** June 18–28, 2020
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
In Memory of Jayme Rani Schlenker (1997-2019)

This summer our community mourned the loss of Jayme, beloved fourth-grade religious school teacher, Shabbat regular, daily minyan participant, and so much more. In the weeks after his death, many of the stories that were shared about Jayme were about books, reading, learning, and study. I shared these thoughts at his memorial service at the end of August:

From the description of Jayme’s bedroom at home—floor to ceiling bookshelves, brimming with titles—to the oft-told tale of Jayme’s fourth-grade year, which he spent flying through non-school-related books strategically placed inside an assigned text, Jayme’s passion for reading was clear, even from an early age. This was not just a love of books; this was a need, a devouring of information and stories and people and worlds that fed his soul and shifted his perspective on the world. In his college application, interspersed with vignettes of books that had resonated deeply, Jayme wrote these words: “I have always kept time by the books I’ve read . . . The books I read in any moment shape my conception of my history. Each book has its own kind of clock, each book turning its pieces of me into something understandable; deciphered by the truths and arcs of stories—a map of recollections.”

This year, the religious school is dedicating our learning to Jayme. We began at orientation, just two days after his memorial service, when the teachers and madrichim, inspired by Jayme’s passion for reading, generated a list of books that had an impact on them. We share this list here, hope some of the titles inspire and motivate you, and are happy to collect your suggestions as well. Zichrono l’ivrakh, may his memory be a blessing.

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Grann,

As the year begins, we’re excited to introduce our USY chapter co-presidents. We sat down with them for a little Q&A to preview the year ahead.

Question: Who are you? Can you tell us a little about yourselves?

Sammy: My name is Sammy Rabinowitz. I’m a sophomore music student at Duke Ellington School of the Arts. I have a passion for music and I also play Frisbee.

Noah: Oh no, we’re going to sound like the same person. I’m Noah Krasnowsky. I’m a sophomore at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. I play piano and guitar and play Ultimate Frisbee at my school.

S: And we both go to Camp Ramah. We love Jewish education, and we both have older brothers, too.

Question: What is USY?

N: It’s a high school youth organization where you get to hang out with your friends, make new ones, and also just be Jewish.

You can meet people at local and regional events, plus there’s an international convention.

S: And being on a chapter or regional board is cool. You learn great leadership skills and get to help plan programs.

Question: Why should teens get involved in USY?

S: And you get to meet a lot of new people.

N: Honestly, it’s fun, it’s a good time.

S: And you get to meet a lot of new people.

Question: What exciting things are in store for USY this year?

S: All the classics, ice skating, bowling, zoo trips.

N: Hopefully a baseball or basketball game.

Question: Can you tell us another reason why teens should get involved in USY?

S: And you get to meet a lot of new people.

N: And you get to meet a lot of new people.
Join us for an array of engaging and meaningful Shabbat experiences

We are blessed to have so many families in our community. Children, like adults, can feel drawn towards different modalities of prayer, learning and Shabbat. To that end, we are excited to share with you our new and expanded pilot programming for Shabbat mornings. It is our hope that this variety of offerings will enable our children and their grown-ups to engage in meaningful, communal experiences over Shabbat.

For Children Five & Under:

Tot Shabbat services in Cohen Hall
10am to 11am
For families with young children to join together. This service will have a rotation of leaders including Menahah Peters and Rabbi Ben Shalva, offering different styles of tefillah.

Babysitting
11am to the end of Smith Services
Children ages 2 through 1st grade are welcome to attend babysitting in room 343.

For Children in Kindergarten-3rd grade:

Services in the Youth Lounge on the 3rd Floor
10am to 11am
This service allows grown-ups to drop their children off for tefillah and will have a rotation of leaders including Rabbi Elianna Yolkut and Sarah Attermann.

Experiential Tefillah (1st, 3rd and 5th shabbatot)
11am to the end of Smith Services
Students will engage in experiential tefillah, ritual and parshah-based activities with Rabbi Ben Shalva, Sarah Attermann and others. Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade also have the option to join babysitting.

Parsha Class (2nd and 4th shabbatot)
11am to the end of Smith Services
Students will have a parshah class with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut. Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade also have the option to join babysitting.

For Children in 4th-6th Grade:

Parsha and Tefillah
10am to the end of Smith Services
Students meet in the Smith Sanctuary for the beginning of the Torah service, move to Sisterhood Hall for Parsha discussion and tefillah, and then return to the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary for the end of the service. This group will be joined by Tessa Rudnick, Sarah Attermann and others.

WellBodies: A Monthly Course in Embodied Judaism

What does it mean to live in your body? What does it mean to live in a Jewish body? WellBodies is a monthly program that delves into body-related topics such as healthy boundaries, food and eating, growth and aging, disability wisdom, and sexuality—all through the lens of Jewish text and ritual.

This month, we’ll learn about the embodied spirituality of food with Jodi Bailes (eXtentioConsulting.com), food ritualist and founder of Red Lentil Consulting. Future presenters include Yael Flusberg (yaelflusberg.com), Rabbi Lauren Tuchman (rabbituchman.com), Rabbi Sarah Tasman (samancenter.org), Toni Bickart, and other wonderful thinkers. If you are a doctor, nurse, therapist, yogi, or massage therapist, you will get a lot out of this and have a lot to contribute. Each session will include lunch, a presentation, and an interactive component. A certificate in Embodied Judaism is available for people seeking professional development credits who attend each month and complete a final project, but you are welcome to come to any session without registering for the full year. For all ages, genders, and backgrounds. Join us—all you need is your body!

The course topics will revolve around these central themes:

- **Body Positivity:** The belief that all bodies—regardless of age, size, shape, color, gender, orientation, religion, ornamentation, partnership status, ability, wealth, health—are fully and equally holy. Body positivity places a higher value on accepting one’s body as it is than on changing it to conform to social or internalized norms.
- **Creative Expression:** Bringing art into ritual and developing new rituals through a supportive creative process. Exploring ritual objects as art and the creation of art as a sacred ritual.
- **Safe Boundaries:** Ensuring the emotional, physical and spiritual safety of all who enter our spaces. Without this sacred trust, our work is meaningless, if not dangerous. We continually return to practices of upholding boundaries to remind ourselves of the power and vulnerability of embodied ritual.

The basic structure of each session:

11:30 am–12 Noon: Light lunch, schmoozing, and introduction to the facilitator
12 noon–12:05 pm: Opening ritual
12:05–12:45 pm: Presentation, text study, Q & A
12:45–1:15 pm: Experiential or interactive activity
1:15–1:30 pm: Journaling and closing ritual

Monthly Topics and Facilitators:

- **October 29:** Art and Creative Process
  - **November 19:** Children and Body Positivity with Ronit Zelovinsky
  - **December 17:** Co-Creating Ritual with Rabbi Sarah Tasman and Steph Black
  - **January 29:** Safe Boundaries & Sacred Spaces with Tova Zimm and Jordan Babin
  - **February 26:** Disability Wisdom with Rabbi Lauren Tuchman
  - **March 24:** Sexuality and Queer Bodies with Mac Freudenrich
  - **April 22:** Health, Illness, and Aging with Yael Flusberg
  - **May 26:** Tahara and Mikvah with Toni Bickart
  - **June 23:** Community Celebration and Final Presentations

**The cost of the course is $100 for the year.** A certificate in Embodied Jewish Studies will be issued by the Adas Israel Community Mikvah for anyone seeking professional development credits. Please e-mail Mikvah@adasisrael.org to express your interest in joining this group. There is a basic application process to fill out here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1x6JH4A8ykXO0B8xv5h4w3x7/ed

**The Chronicle**

**October 2019**

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29
The Kehilah Multiracial Engagement Project (‘Kehilah’) is excited for the upcoming year of activities focusing on our theme for 5780, “Who do you see as a Jew?” Our first event of the year will be a Shabbat afternoon discussion on Saturday, December 7.

We are also excited to support our clergy in planning programming for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend in January. In March, Kehilah will host a Torah study session in preparation for Purim, and a workshop and discussion for religious school parents.

Stay tuned; more details coming as these dates approach.

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THE ADAS SHLICHA’S CORNER

BY TALIA GABBER

For those of you who haven’t met me yet (or didn’t read the July-August Chronicle): My name is Talia Garber, I am the new Israeli Shlicha (Emissary) at Adas. I got here through the Jewish Agency and in association with the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

I know this will be published in October, after I have already been here for over a month and have probably met a lot of new people, but as I write this, it is actually my first week here . . . so I feel I need to briefly mention what this journey has been like.

I arrived from Israel at the end of August, after many months of training, preparation and lots of packing. I wasn’t quite sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience. I was sure what to expect when I got to DC, I had visited here once as a tourist, but living here is a whole new experience.
Ma Tovu
Micah Ramsey
HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS
Interviewed by Marty Spira, Senior Director, Engagement & Programming Operations

You are originally from North Carolina. Where in NC did you grow up, where did you go to college, and how did you find yourself in DC?

I’m a Tar Heel born and a Tar Heel bred. I was born and raised on the outskirts of Fayetteville, NC, near the town of Hope Mills. My town is known for its military base and as the home of Puff-Putt. I’m the child of a southern mother and a German immigrant father. I went to college at UNC Chapel Hill where I majored in chemistry with a focus on organic synthesis of small molecules. I always dreamed of living in a big city, and I used my science degree as a springboard to land a job at a large company in Rockville, MD. I am completely enamored with DC and the diversity of communities that call this city home. Cleveland Park, where I live now, is the perfect fit, and I don’t foresee moving anytime soon.

You work as a biologics training specialist. Can you tell us more about your field, what a typical day is like, and what drew you to this type of work?

I work for a biopharmaceutical company that primarily employs scientists. Their experience levels range from “fresh out of school” to veteran PhDs with years of experience. I find my work to be fulfilling because it allows me to help others develop their skills and advance their careers.

You are the newest co-chair of our Young Professionals Committee, attend every Hesed cooking event we have, regularly attend Shabbat services, and now live next door to Adas. What makes Adas so special for you?

You recently got engaged to your fiancé, Bryan! Mazel tov! I know the engagement happened in Israel. What more can you tell us?

I first met Bryan on a Blind Date. We hit it off and have been seeing each other ever since.

You’re answering these questions in late August when it’s 100 degrees outside, but we’ll be reading your answers in October. What are some of your favorite things to do in the cooler weather during fall in DC?

Bryan and I have a few traditions we’ve established over the last few years. We always go apple and pumpkin picking. I’m not so keen on carving pumpkins, but I love the taste of roasted pumpkin seeds. We also help build the Adas community sukkah. Living in an apartment impedes our ability to build our own sukkah, so building one at Adas is a great way to fulfill the mitzvah. Last year it rained during the sukkah building, but this year our apartment is next door if we need to warm up with spiced wine and blankets.

You love to cook and post some great photos of your creations on social media. What are some of your favorite traditional Jewish foods you prepare? And do you have any modern takes on the traditional recipes you’re willing to share with us?

I have to confess that Bryan is the better chef and has taught me all I know. When I want to get my hands dirty, my favorite Jewish food to make is challah (shoutout to Hesed for teaching me the six braid!). I started challah-making as a great form of stress relief, and you really can’t beat a warm challah on Shabbat. I generally season my challah with “Everything But the Bagel Seasoning,” poppy seeds, or dukkah. When Bryan and I make traditional Jewish food, we generally make a batch or two with our own flare. While our sweet potato latkes and savory hamantaschen are pretty delicious, I am most proud of our last Pesach seder where we served four different chanukah curries!
When we tell the story of Israel, it’s often a story about European Jews. Theodor Herzl of Vienna dreamt of a Jewish state; David Ben-Gurion, born in Poland, proclaimed Israel’s statehood; and other European Jews escaped the Holocaust to build modern Israel. Yet half of today’s Israeli Jews have ancestral roots in the Arab world, from North Africa through the Middle East. To understand Israel’s complicated Jewish identity, Israeli author-journalist Matti Friedman contends, we need a fuller narrative of Israel, one that encompasses these Mizrahi (literally “eastern”) Jews.

In Spies of No Country: Secret Lives at the Birth of Israel, Friedman vividly recounts the largely unsung history of the Mizrahi Jews who comprised Israel’s first intelligence service, predating the formidable Mossad. The “Arab Section” was a secret spy unit initially under the auspices of the Jewish military underground and later, after Israeli statehood, the Israel Defense Forces. Tellingly, the unit was sometimes referred to as the “Black Section” because of its dark-complexioned agents.

Like Israeli history, Israeli literature has tended to overlook Mizrahi Jews. This makes the recent work of Ayelet Tsabari especially welcome. Tsabari’s memoir, The Art of Leaving, recounts the largely unsung history of the inception of Israel that painted us as mere extras.”1

Spies of No Country focuses on four Jewish spies in the Arab Section. All four were native Arabic speakers: two were from Syria, one was from Yemen, and one was born in Jerusalem. Preparing to pose as Muslim Arabs, they practiced local Arabic dialects and studied Islam, learning Muslim rituals for eating and prayer. Then they infiltrated Arab communities and collected information. Refusing to call themselves agents or spies, labels that struck them as dishonorable, Arab Section operatives chose instead the term mita’arvin, translated as “ones who become like Arabs.”

Some of the operatives’ missions involved derring-do (e.g., blowing up a fake ambulance concealing a bomb; damaging an armed yacht originally built for Hitler). Yet other assignments entailed patiently gathering information about Arab morale and military preparedness out of a small store and taxi service the men ran in Beirut. The work was dangerous; of the dozen active Arab Section operatives at the beginning of Israel’s War of Independence, half were caught and killed.

Born in 1973 into a large Israeli Yemenite family, Tsabari moved to Canada as an adult and, unusual for Israeli-born authors, writes her books in English. Born in 1973 into a large Israeli Yemenite family, Tsabari moved to Canada as an adult and, unusual for Israeli-born authors, writes her books in English. 

Tsabari’s stories in The Best Place on Earth portray Israeli characters of Mizrahi background. There are stories about siblings, friendship, army service, and lost love. "Growing up,” Tsabari writes, "I had often felt out of place in my own country.” Some of that had to do with the exclusion of my [Mizrahi] culture from so many facets of Israeli life, with not seeing myself in literature and in the media, with being taught in school a partial history about the inception of Israel that painted us as mere extras.”

Spies of No Country begins with the death of Tsabari’s father when she was nine years old. After a rebellious adolescence and Israeli army service, she roamed the world for 10 years, spending time in India, New York, Mexico, and Thailand, even titling her bank account “the wandering Jew fund.” Part of the attraction of India, she says, was that the dark-skinned Indians looked like her.

Charles King, professor of international affairs and government at Georgetown University, will discuss his latest book, Gods of the Upper Air: How a Circle of Renegade Anthropologists Reinvented Race, Sex, and Gender in the Twentieth Century. In an era when societal fear of immigrants, African Americans, Jews, and people who stayed from gender norms was rampant, Franz Boas, a German Jewish immigrant, and his famous students (Margaret Mead, Zora Neale Hurston) pioneered new scientific methods in anthropology to show that “humanity is one undivided thing.” A book-signing and sale will follow the program. Co-sponsored by the Kehilah Multiracial Engagement Project of the Adas Social Action Committee. For more information, please contact Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).
LIFE CYCLE

BIRTHS

Karlyn Beatrice Begal, daughter of Kira & Bill Begal, was born July 8

We wish our newborn and her family strength, good health, and joy.

B’NAI MITZVAH

Miriam Kanter-Goodell, October 19 (TEM)
Miriam, daughter of Beth Kanter and Jeffrey Goodell, is a seventh grader at the Edmund Burke School. A graduate of the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School, Miriam started her formal Jewish educational journey as a Chick at Gan HaYeled. She currently participates in the Ma’alot program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School and loves spending part of her summers at Camp Ramah in New England. Miriam looks forward to sharing this milestone with her brother, Gabriel, as well as her family, friends, teammates, and Traditional Egalitarian Minyan community.

Max Aaron, October 26
Max, son of Susie Baer and Steve Aaron, is a seventh grader at Washington Latin. He began his Jewish education in Gan HaYeled’s Rainbow class and is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Max’s Torah portion is Bereshit. For his mitzvah project, Max is volunteering at the TraRon Center in SE DC, reading with and supporting kids who have been affected by gun violence. Max celebrates his mitzvah bar mitzvah project, Max is volunteering at the TraRon Center in SE DC, reading with and supporting kids who have been affected by gun violence. Max celebrates his mitzvah project, Max is volunteering at the TraRon Center in SE DC, reading with and supporting kids who have been affected by gun violence. Max celebrates his mitzvah project, Max is volunteering at the TraRon Center in SE DC, reading with and supporting kids who have been affected by gun violence. Max celebrates his mitzvah project, Max is volunteering at the TraRon Center in SE DC, reading with and supporting kids who have been affected by gun violence. Max celebrates his mitzvah project, Max is volunteering at the TraRon Center in SE DC, reading with and supporting kids who have been affected by gun violence. Max celebrates his mitzvah project, Max is volunteering at the TraRon Center in SE DC, reading with and supporting kids who have been affected by gun violence. Max celebrates his mitzvah project, Max is volunteering at the TraRon Center in SE DC, reading with and supporting kids who have been affected by gun violence. Max celebrates his mitzvah project, Max is volunteering at the TraRon Center in SE DC, reading with and supporting kids who have been affected by gun violence.

HOLY UNION

Gabriel Willis and Darian Roffe were married September 1, in Pikesville, MD.

We wish the newlyweds and their families a hearty mazal tov.

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of synagogue member:
Steven Kay

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:
Jerry Lee Bohn, father of Kevin Bohn
Dr. Arthur David Kirsch, brother of Martin “Bo” Kirsch
Jack Klevan, father of Michelle Cohn
Phillip Mogilefsky, stepfather of Gayle Neufeld
Judith Scheier, mother of Liz Scheier
Miriam Spector, mother of Jeremy Spector
Donald Wiener, father of Robin Wiener
Melvin H. Worth Jr., father of Nancy Worth

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

Randall Wagner, Adas member and Hospital Director in Bangladesh for Doctors without Borders, was featured for his work on msf.org, a news outlet on the refugee crisis

LIFE CYCLE INFORMATION

When Death Occurs
When death occurs, please call the synagogue office, 202-362-4433, so that we may inform the clergy and be of assistance. During business hours, ask for Marcy Spiro. After business hours, a staff member on call may be reached by calling the synagogue office at the number above and pressing “2” to be connected automatically, or by calling the answering service, 301-421-5271, which will page the staff member on call. On Yom Tov and Shabbat, even though detailed funeral arrangements should not be made, a staff member on call can still be reached at 301-421-5271.

Bereavement Committee
The Bereavement Committee assists families with all of the arrangements surrounding the funeral and subsequent burial of loved ones. We welcome your interest and encourage your participation and assistance. We need you; please join us. If you have questions, or know of someone who you think might be interested in participating in this important work, please feel free to call Edie Hesselt (202-244-7189) or contact Toni Bickart (202-244-2747) regarding the Tahara Committee, or contact Wendy Kates about Shmira (wendy.kates30@gmail.com).

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On one Family’s Struggle With Addiction. On One Nation’s Path to Recovery. Freedom Song
A Musical Production About Addiction & Recovery in the Jewish Community

Freedom Song is an original musical production created and performed by recovering addicts who are current or past residents of Beit T’Shuvah. Freedom Song showcases a family celebrating a Passover Seder while also confronting the impact of addiction on a Jewish family and a celebration of the strength of the family to accept challenges and overcome shame and fear. Interspersed are scenes from a 12-Step meeting, giving the audience an inside look at the process of recovery. Following the performance, audience members are encouraged to ask questions of the cast, who courageously and honestly share their own stories of addiction and recovery.

Adas Israel Community
Mikvah immersion is an embodied Jewish ritual. It is an opportunity to reflect on the times that brought you to this moment in your life. Mikvah is also a chance to return again and a turning point.

For more information, visit www.adasisrael.org/mikvah, and to make an appointment, go to www.mikvahcalendar.as.me.
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Anna Frank House Fund
Barbara & Mel Gelman, Steven Weiner.

Benavenu Fund
In Memory Of: Benjamin E. Friedman by Judith Friedman.

Berkowski Trust Fund
In Memory Of: Yetta & Shirley Tersoff by Susan Tersoff & David Margolies, Bedeine Serbes by Robert & Barbara Cline.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of: Phyllis Kravetz’s 90th birthday by Fred Kramer. Cantor Brown in grateful appreciation for her help in preparing me for my bar mitzvah by Sydney Anna Lowit.

Cantor Congregational Kiddush Fund

Daily Minyan Fund
With Thanks For: Daily minyan so I can be prepared to become a mitzvah by Sydney Anna Lowit.

David’s Challenge Fund
In Honor Of: Morton A. Lampert’s 100th birthday by Dr. William Kurstin.

Duffy Fund
In Memory Of: Joseph Gildenhorn by Stuart Miller.

Education Fund
In Memory Of: Barbara & Mel Gelman.

Epstein Family Fund
In Honor Of: Rabbi Alexander for all he’s done for Adas Israel during his term as president by Ricki Gerger.

Friedman, Sheila & Howard Friedman, by Stacey & Joe Friedman (Nava Aliza)

Global Minyan Fund
In Memory Of: Scott Funger by Morton & Norma Lee Funger.

Herman Fund
In Memory Of: Adam, Braam, Michelle & Jonathan Cohn, Barbara & Mel Gelman.

Hazzan Goldman Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of: Harvey Koffler by Linda Winslow, Mindy Coplevitch, Jeff Altman & Renate Berman.

Hazzan Litvack
In Honor Of: Rabbi Alexander for all he’s done for Adas Israel during his term as president by Ricki Gerger.


In Honor Of: Barbara & Mel Gelman.

In Honor Of: Rabbi Joseph Gildenhorn by Stuart Miller.


In Memory Of: Rabbi Alexander for all he’s done for Adas Israel during his term as president by Ricki Gerger.

In Memory Of: High Holy Day parking by Susie & Michael Gelman.

In Memory Of: Michael Klein by Janet Koidnor.


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