Maimonides, the rabbinic philosopher and legal decisor from the 12th century, is not particularly known for his leniencies.

He is known for his new and sometimes radical ideas about God. He is known for his clear and concise works of halacha that have withstood the test of time. But he is not particularly known for his leniencies—which makes the opening chapter of the section about prayer in the Mishneh Torah (his preeminent code of Jewish law) especially surprising.

After establishing that there is, indeed, a positive obligation to pray, he spends much of the remainder of this chapter exploring the leniencies surrounding this obligation. In the very first halacha, he reminds his reader: “The number of prayers is not prescribed in the Torah. No form of prayer is prescribed in the Torah. Nor does the Torah prescribe a fixed time for prayer.”

To be sure, the lack of firm Torah grounding for these elements does not undermine or remove the obligation entirely. But by making explicit the realization that so many of the details of prayer life as we know it now are rabbinic laws, rather than deriving immediately and directly from the Torah itself, Maimonides opens the door to some flexibility.

He continues to articulate this flexibility in the third halacha, in which he writes: “One for whom Hebrew comes fluently offers up many prayers and supplications. One for whom speech comes more slowly prays as possible, when possible. So too does the number of services depend on one’s ability. Some pray one time per day; others several times per day. Yet everyone, during prayer, turns toward the Holy Sanctuary, from wherever they may be.”

This is a beautiful and expansive vision for what prayer can be, and what community is supposed to entail. Here, an individual’s invitation to participate is intimately connected to her ability, strengths, and capacity. There is a wide array of options, all available and all equally accepted and valued. Diversity in experience is expected. And yet—for all of this widening of the tent, for all of this welcoming of difference—there is still a common thread uniting all those participating. Everyone—no matter where they are, no matter how they pray—shares the same orientation, intends their hearts and spirits toward the same ultimate goal.

This is the vision for inclusion that we strive for at Adas, and that we take the month of February to raise up, to celebrate, and to recommit to. Over the course of this month—recognized nationally as Jewish Disability Awareness Month—we will continue to lift up the value of inclusion, and to work to remove barriers to full participation in our congregational life. See the article later in the Chronicle, or on the website (adasisrael.org/inclusion), for more details about the programs and events we have scheduled, and please participate, when you’re able, as you’re able, valued and accepted exactly as you are.
Tu B’Shevat is this month.

You, and the rabbis, will forgive me if I can’t provide a d’var on the subject. Like most of you (I suspect), when we were a child, we were taught it was the ‘new year of the trees’ and we’d ‘plant’ trees in Israel to celebrate.

While we are all familiar with the Jewish value of tikkun olam, I don’t remember talking about it on Tu B’Shevat. But what better time to think about how we can literally try to repair the earth than now? And though planting trees, here or in Israel, is certainly a worthwhile endeavor, there is so much more we can and should do.

While many congregants are engaged in this work on a daily basis, as a kehillah we have work to do. Under the stewardship of the Climate Action Team of the Social Action Committee, I am proud to say that soon Adas Israel will have solar panels on our roof. Our building is large, and it is open every single day, and our energy use reflects that. These solar panels won’t take us off the grid, but having a portion of our building directly powered by renewable energy is an important step forward. It sends a signal to the world, and a reminder to ourselves, that we must do more to diminish our carbon footprint.

Another critical part of this ongoing conversation is kiddush. While we are all familiar with the Jewish value of tikkun olam, I don’t remember talking about it on Tu B’Shevat. But what better time to think about how we can literally try to repair the earth than now? And though planting trees, here or in Israel, is certainly a worthwhile endeavor, there is so much more we can and should do.

How much landfill does one kiddush create? About the products you will use, and ask the caterer to use compostable plates, cups, etc., because on Tu B’Shevat kiddush, please try not to kvetch. The beauty of single stream composting is that everything from kiddush goes to the compost heap. But what better time to think about how we can literally try to repair the earth rather than filling landfills with single-use items that will never decompose. What could be more Jewish than that? Will this take thought, planning, and education? Of course it will. Keeping kosher takes thought; planning, and education as well, yet we use the laws of kosher to remind us of who we are and what sets us apart. Composting should be viewed as an extension of that, another reminder of what it means to be Jewish and to be charged with the sacred obligation to repair our world.

When we roll out single-stream trash/composting at kiddush, please try not to kvetch. The beauty of single stream composting is that everything from kiddush goes in one container—no sorting! So long as we are mindful not to deposit outside trash in the receptacles in the Kay, this should be easy. If you are planning a simcha, think about the products you will use, and ask the caterer to use compostable plates, cups, etc., because on Tu B’Shevat (and all year long) nothing is more beautiful than a green and healthy planet we can deed to future generations.

From the President
LAURIE ALADJEM, ADAS PRESIDENT

Thank You to All Who Supported Us
The Adas Fund High Holy Day Appeal 2019/5779
Inspired by the Work of Our Social Action Committee

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all of you who supported our wonderful community during this year’s Adas Fund drive. Adas Israel is our home, our community, and our neighborhood. For those of you who have not yet made your contribution, it is not too late. Your contribution of any size will make a big difference to this community. To make your important contribution, please contact the synagogue office, 202-362-4435, or visit www.adasisrael.org/adasfund

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Our voices

Thank you to all who supported us.

Inspired by the work of our social action committee.
Tu B’Shevat—the New Year for Trees

Tu B’Shevat is a time when trees starting drink the new year’s rainwater and the sun renews itself. As the Jewish Arbor Day, Tu B’Shevat embodies the strong dedication to ecology, environmentalism, and conservation that the Jewish National Fund (JNF) has championed since its inception in 1901. This year, Tu B’Shevat (the 15th of Shevat) falls on Monday, February 10.

On the third day of creation, God created “seed-bearing plants, fruit trees after their kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit” with the seed in it” (Genesis 1:11-12). God then placed Adam in the garden to “till it and tend it” (2:15), making humans stewards of the earth.

According to the Mishnah, where it is first mentioned, Tu B’Shevat—the 15th day of the month of Shevat—is the date farmers used to calculate the year’s crop yield and determine the time the seed is ripe. It marks the beginning of the first three years and the end of the first four years of a tree’s growth, during which one is forbidden to eat its fruit.

Since its founding, the JNF has planted more than 240 million trees in Israel to protect the land, prevent soil erosion, green the landscape, and preserve vital ecosystems. The trees maintain forest health, combat desertification, protect watersheds, and manage water flow. Additionally, they create a “green lung” to combat carbon dioxide emissions in the region. JNF’s success at planting big trees in Israel has resulted in naturally expanded forests and reclaimed deserts. Go to the Jewish National Fund’s website, www.jnf.org, for more information or to make a donation.

Celebrating Tu B’Shevat with a seder has become traditional for families and congregations around the world. During a Tu B’Shevat seder, we bless and eat seven species of fruits and grains from Israel. The seven species are wheat, barley, grapes, fig, pomegranate, olive, and dates (Deuteronomy 8:8). It is also customary to dance the Mayim, the Jewish dance for water, during a Tu B’Shevat seder.
February will mark the sixth year that the Adas Israel community is celebrating Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month (JDAIM). This is a wonderful continuation of our work in lifting up the value of inclusion and removing barriers to full participation in our congregational life. These programs, presented by the Inclusion Task Force, comprise a unique set of opportunities to look at the progress we have made and to examine areas for improvement. Please visit www.adasrael.org/inclusion for more information and e-mail inclusion@adasrael.org to get involved.

Inclusion Celebration Month
February 2020

Inclusion Celebration Shabbat
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, CHARLES E. SMITH SANCTUARY
This year’s guest speaker is Rabbi Bobby Silverstein, a nationally recognized attorney with more than 45 years of public policy and advocacy experience. For more than a decade, he served as staff director and chief counsel for the Senate Subcommittee on Disability Policy, chaired by Senator Tom Harkin. Bobby was a behind-the-scenes architect of more than 20 disability-related bills enacted into law, including the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended. Currently, Bobby is a principal in the law firm of Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville, PC, where his areas of practice include federal regulation and legislation in disability and civil rights. Bobby earned a B.S. in economics from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in 1971, and a J.D. in 1974 from Georgetown University Law Center. He has received more than 15 national awards, including the Distinguished Services Award of the President of the United States for his work on the ADA. Bobby has also been inducted into the Public Interest Hall of Fame. Bobby will also host a post-kiddush talk entitled “Do Justice and Pursue Acts of Love and Kindness - From a Disability Perspective.”

Synagogue Inclusion Network
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, GEWIRZ BET AM, 1-2:30 PM
The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington convenes a monthly meeting of local inclusion committees. Join us when Adas Israel hosts the group and we hear from Lisa Handelman, the Federation’s Community Disability Inclusion Specialist. As a community resource and area specialist, Lisa partners with individuals with disabilities, families, and service providers to develop, implement, and monitor opportunities for inclusion of individuals with disabilities across all aspects of Jewish learning and living. Based on the strong belief that disability inclusion strengthens our community, Lisa and Federation’s Disability Inclusion Network have created disability and inclusion online crowdsourcing guides and tools to connect individuals and families with programs, events, and services, and to raise awareness and advocate for the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Jewish Disability Advocacy Day (JDAD) on the Hill
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, CAPITOL HILL
RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, 9 AM-5 PM
JDAD is an opportunity for professionals and lay leaders from Jewish organizations and communities across the nation to come to Capitol Hill to raise awareness of their work and passion relating to individuals with disabilities and their families. Jewish Disability Advocacy Day includes:
• a symposium on disability and inclusion issues from leading analysts;
• an advocacy briefing on issues to raise with Congress and training on how to be an effective advocate;
• lunch with Congressional leaders; and
• advocacy visits with your elected officials.

The day is sponsored by Adas Israel Congregation, along with Jewish Disability Network—chaired by the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism—and other supporting organizations. Join Rabbi Sarah Krisny, clergy liaison to the Inclusion Task Force, and members of the Inclusion Task Force, for this exciting day of political action and advocacy on Capitol Hill.

Acharei Lifnei Ivir: Beyond ’Before the Blind’
WEDNESDAYS, JAN. 29; FEB. 2, 12, 19, 26; MARCH 4 AT 7 PM
FUNKER HALL OR BIRAN BEIT MIDRASH
Join Rabbi Lauren Tuchman for a six-part class examining what Judaism has to say about the role and agency of people with disabilities in the Torah and Talmud. As Jewish Disability Awareness and Inclusion Month begins, many of us will be thinking about the place of Jews with disabilities in our communities. This conversation is not new; it has been a part of our tradition from the very beginning. Many of our most foundational values about disability can be found in some famous and not-so-famous narratives in the Torah and Talmud that involve people we might identify today as having disabilities. In this six-session course, we will do a close reading of a different story each week, first by reading the text and, second, through commentaries on that text, including the texts of our lives. The narratives we will read include, but are not limited to, Jacob’s stealing Esau’s blessing, Leah’s story, and the story of the ugly man in Tanait 20A in the Babylonian Talmud. We will examine stories in which people with disabilities are not mere subjects but agents in their own lives, often changing the status quo. What lessons might we take from these narratives today?

WellBodies: Disability Wisdom
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, KAY HALL, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Join us for the February edition of WellBodies, a monthly course in Embodied Judaism. This month we will look at the holiness of the body through the lens of disability. Some of us are born with disabilities, others become disabled as we age, and each of us will go through a period of disability at some point in our lives. Join Rabbi Lauren Tuchman, the first blind woman to enter the rabbinate, for a text study and an interactive exercise to deepen our awareness about disability wisdom.

Rabbi Tuchman received rabbinc ordination from JTS in 2018. A sought-after speaker, spiritual leader, and educator, she was named to the Jewish Week’s 36 under 36 for her innovative leadership concerning inclusion of Jews with disabilities in all aspects of Jewish life. Please register in advance at adasisrael.org, where you can also register for future WellBodies sessions (Sexuality and Queer Bodies with Mac Freudenrich, March 24; Health, Illness, and Aging with Yael Flusberg, April 22; and Tahara and the Holiness of the Body with Toni Bickart, May 26).
MakomDC 2019–20 Season: "The Way In"

There's always a way into Jewish learning. This 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. Each month, for the first three Tuesday evenings, 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.

To learn more visit adasisrael.org/makomdc. Register for classes or special programs online or by calling Courtney Tisch, 202-362-4433, ext. 125

**MAKOMDC FEBRUARY LEARNING**

The Double Axis of Jewish Life: Israel and the Diaspora

**WITH RABBI ELIANNA YOLKUT**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18 @ 7:30 PM**

Beginning all the way back in the Torah and weaving its 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.

POST-KIDDUSH HALAKHA CLASS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 @ 1 PM

**Why is this year the same as all other years? Because this year, countless hosts will publish and create new haggadot, each one seeking to create a guide to an effective and engaging seder once and for all. But we know it will all happen again next year. The haggadah has been revised so many times because, on many levels, it has never quite worked. Dr. Vanessa L. Ochs is a professor in the Department of Religious Studies and the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Virginia. She is also the author of Inventing Jewish Ritual (UPS), winner of a 2007 National Jewish Book Award. For her writing, she was awarded a Creative Writing Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts.**

**REMAINING CLASS DATES:** FEB. 2, 26; MARCH 11, 25, 31

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**REMAINING CLASS DATES:** FEB. 2, 26; MARCH 11, 25, 31
Kol HaOlam 2020
The 10th Annual National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Championship Competition!
Saturday, February 29 @ 8 PM
• 6 powerhouse Jewish a cappella groups from universities and colleges across the country
• The stakes are higher — the music is louder!
• Audience participation! Vote for your favorite group!
About Kol HaOlam
Prepare yourself for the ultimate Saturday night, as Pitch Perfect takes on a Jewish twist! Six A Cappella groups from universities and colleges across the country – selected through a rigorous video audition process – take the stage to see who will emerge as this year’s Kol HaOlam Champion. A panel of expert a cappella musicians will judge the competition and select the winners, with the exception of our famous “audience favorite” category, chosen by none other than YOU!
The Contestants
Ketzev (Johns Hopkins), Kol HaKavod (Michigan), Koleinu (Princeton), Mezumenet (Maryland), Rak Shalom (Maryland) & Jewop (Wisconsin)
WITH BONUS performances by last year’s winner, Hooshir (Indiana) & special guest Shir Madness of CESJDS!
The MC
We are excited to announce our MC this year, Gedala Penner
Gedala Penner is a resident at Yeshivat Hadar’s Rising Song Institute in Philadelphia, studying and applying the cultivation of grassroots activity that nurtures Jewish spiritual life and community through music. He is a ba’alneginah, experiential music educator, tefillah leader, composer, and vocalist with a degree in Vocal Music Composition from Yeshiva University. He is also a member and the musical director of Y-Studs A Cappella, a professional group with millions of views on Youtube and singing engagements across the globe.

We’re also honored to have three fantastic judges participating. Adas Israel’s own Cantor Arianne Brown will be joined by Tizmoret alumnus Cory Hecht, who has performed on the Kol HaOlam stage multiple times over the years, and Aaron Dunn, voice and theater teacher at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, who coaches the CESJDS high school a cappella group Shir Madness.

In addition to hearing from our six competitors and voting for the winners, the audience will have an opportunity to hear a short musical set by last year’s Kol HaOlam winner, Hoosier of Indiana University. We look forward to seeing you – and singing with you – at Kol HaOlam!

Tickets are available online at adasisrael.org/kolhaolam.

Upcoming Events
Shabbat Shirah
Featuring Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and his Band
Friday Night Service, February 7 @ 6:30 PM
Shabbat Morning Service, February 8 @ 9:30 AM
Havdalah and Melava Malka, Saturday, February 8 @ 6:30 PM
Josh Warshawsky is a leader in creating communal singing experiences. As a composer, song leader, and rabbinical student, his melodies capture the essence of our prayers and invite participation. Josh will join us throughout Shabbat for services as well as Havdalah and more music on Saturday night.

L’Dor Vador Service
Joined by Kol HaOlam Participants
Friday, February 28 @ 6 PM
Come together as a multi-generational community as students join our rabbis and cantor in leading services. Our clergy team and students create an inclusive and joyful atmosphere engaging children and offering adults an uplifting and traditional experience of t’filah (Jewish prayer). This week’s special service will feature the surround sound harmonies of our collegiate a cappella groups, along with the sweet voices of our 4th grade students. Experience a rousing Kabbalat Shabbat service, where the students join with Adas members to pray not just with kavanah but also in multi-part harmony. Services are followed by a Shabbat dinner for the students and anyone else who wishes to sign up, after which there is both dessert for our mouths and also dessert for the soul in the form of spirited and tuneful zemirot (Shabbat and other Jewish songs).

adasisrael.org/musicalmoments
Smile, breathe and go slowly.
THICH NHAT HANH

Some of us have been working with mindfulness for some time, and some of us are new or just beginning to explore these practices. One of the beautiful qualities here is that we all are really at the same place: beginning with our breath, finding “that still, small voice within,” and bringing in expansiveness as we work to quiet our thoughts. Together, we are guided and supported by Jewish texts, ritual, and many teachings from our tradition. And it seems that we need mindful practices now more than ever as we face especially challenging days in our community, country, and world.

Meditation, mindful movement, and the wisdom found in Jewish texts can help keep us grounded and steady. All of these practices help us develop the equilibrium to live our own lives fully and to do whatever we are called on for tikkun olam, repairing the world. Additional resources on mindful teachings for these times can be found on The Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS) website (see IJS link below under JMCW Recommends). Likewise, JMCW’s offerings here at Adas Israel provide a variety of contemplative programs, practices, and services to help us remember our joy, find peace, and give us the strength to face challenges. We hope you’ll join our community as we breathe, sit, listen, move, sing, and practice together.

ONGOING OFFERINGS

Weekly Meditation Sit
Led by JMCW Faculty
WEDNESDAYS @ 7:30-8:30 PM* (NO CLASS FEB. 12)
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.

Monthly Yoga
Led by JMCW Faculty
WEDNESDAYS @ 6:30-7:20 PM (CLASS WILL BE HELD THIS MONTH ON FEB. 26)
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 AM*
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!

*Straighten and fold your legs. Avoid using any props and focus on the kabbalistic shem seraphim.

JMCW RECOMMENDS . . .

Institute for Jewish Spirituality: “Resources to Support Practice in Our Time”
www.jewishspirituality.org
Here you will find teachings in various formats, including short essays, poetry, webinars, and guided meditations. Using wisdom from both contemporary and traditional sources, a host of rabbis and other teachers present topics in mindfulness relevant to today.

God Loves the Stranger: Stories, Poems, Prayers by Sheila Peltz Weinberg
This is the latest book (2017) from one of the foremost voices in Jewish Mindfulness. Rabbi Weinberg offers a timely guide to practicing loving kindness for the stranger within ourselves and out in the world.

Other books on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness can be found at the Adas library under call number 245.7. For more information, please visit our Adas web page at www.adasisrael.org or e-mail librarian@adasisrael.org.

Special Services & Workshops

Shabbat Shirah
Featuring Rabbi Josh Warshawsky and Adas Clergy
FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE, FEBRUARY 7 @ 6:30 PM
Josh Warshawsky is a leader in creating communal singing experiences. As a composer, song leader, and rabbinical student, his melodies capture the essence of our prayers and invite participation. Dinner requires reservations; see www.adasisrael.org/jmcw.

Into the Mystics, taught by Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt
FEBRUARY 12, MARCH 10, APRIL 28, 7:30 PM
This class offers a once-a-month dive into Jewish mystical practices of centering the mind. We will explore the teachings of the Piazezno Rebbe, Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, the Zohar, and Rav Kook. We will look into the specific Hasidic theologies of each teacher and delve into their mindfulness practices. Each class will conclude with a “mindfulness lab,” giving us an opportunity to try on the practices that we studied. Please register online at www.adasisrael.org/jmcw.

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!

-adasisrael.org/jmcw

“The whole world is a very narrow bridge. And the most important thing is not to be afraid.”
- Reb Nachman of Breslov

February 2020
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: Please turn off cell phones and pagers before entering services.

Sunday 29 Tevet
- 6:00 pm Morning Minyan
- 7:00 pm Evening Minyan

Monday 1 Shevat
- 7:15 am Morning Minyan
- 6:00 pm Evening Minyan

Tuesday 2 Shevat
- 7:30 am Morning Minyan
- 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Laury
- 6:00 pm Evening Minyan

Wednesday 3 Shevat
- 7:00 am Morning Minyan
- 11:30 am MidRishei
- 6:00 pm Evening Minyan
- 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Laury
- 6:00 pm Evening Minyan
- 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Laury
- 7:30 pm In Tova Torah
- 7:30 pm Rabbi Tuchman’s Inclusion Series
- 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation

Thursday 4 Shevat
- 7:00 am Morning Minyan
- 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Laury
- 10:00 am PKH Bar Mitzvah w/ Rabbi Tuchman
- 6:00 pm Evening Minyan

Friday 5 Shevat
- 9:00 am Morning Minyan
- 9:00 am Morning Awakening w/Rabbi Laury
- 6:00 pm Evening Minyan

Traditional Egalitarian Minyan (TE): Every Shabbat morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around 10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with a full financial D’Zimmah (Introducary Psalms). Shaarit, and Mussaf, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a divar Torah. For more information, e-mail tradtionalminyan@adasisrael.org.

Havurah Service: Lay-led, participatory service at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read Torah, and conduct an in-depth discussion of the weekly Torah portion. A kiddush follows the service. For additional information and to participate, e-mail havurah@adasisrael.org.

Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menahem Peter. Netivot, for students in grades K-3, is led by Sarah Attermann or Jeremy Kadden. Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menahem Peter. Netivot, for students in grades K-3, is led by Sarah Attermann or Jeremy Kadden.
The Chronicle

FEBRUARY 21-22, 2020

SISTERHOOD

The Torah portion for Sisterhood Shabbat is Mishpatim in which Moses received, wrote down and read to the people the first body of Torah legislation. The Book of the Covenant. The Laws. (Ex. 24:1-4). Among the many legal codes, we find, “If her father refuses to give her to him, he must still weigh out silver in accordance with the bride price for virgins.” (Ex. 22:16). Conversely, the year 2020 marks the Centennial of women in the U.S. receiving the legal right to vote in elections with the ratification of the 19th Amendment. On this Shabbat, let us celebrate the strides women have made and honor those who made it possible. We stand on the shoulders of those who bravely traveled the long road from property to the polls. However, there is still work to be done.

Sisterhood is so pleased to welcome Dr. Vanessa Ochs as our Sisterhood Shabbat weekend speaker, thanks to Donald Saltz and the Mozelle Saltz (z”l) Fund for Sisterhood Speakers. Dr. Ochs is a professor in the Department of Religious Studies and Jewish Studies Program at the University of Virginia. She is also a rabbi, ordained in 2012. In the summer of 2020, she will return as a faculty member for the Bronfman Youth Fellowship.

In her research and writing, she investigates new ritual, feminism, and material culture in Jewish life and continues to expand her work on Jewish Sensibilities to include health care.

Weekend Learning and Activities

Thursday, February 20: Morning Minyan – (Biran Beit Midrash)
For the second year, Sisterhood Shabbat weekend will kick-off with a Sisterhood-led minyan, coordinated by Marilyn Cooper. We encourage you to join us. Sisterhood will be sponsoring a platter afterward.

Friday, February 21: Kabbalat Shabbat – (Biran Beit Midrash)
Why marking the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment guaranteeing women’s right to vote matters to Jewish women, whose rights have grown, but remain unequal.

Friday, February 21: Shabbat Dinner (Youth Lounge) – registration required, adasisrael.org/sisterhood
Dr. Ochs: The legacy of Jewish women’s activism
Drawing the line between the Jewish Women’s League for Suffrage (known as “blackguards in bonnets”) who disrupted services in the UK in 1913 demanding “religious as well as political suffrage for women” and the women of Ezrat Nachim, who, in the US, disrupted a 1972 rabbinical convention, demanding that women be counted as full participants in Jewish religious life and become rabbis and cantors.

Saturday, February 22: Shabbat Morning Service (Smith)
Dr. Ochs: From Amelioration to Transformation
What had to happen in order for Judaism to move from (somewhat) ameliorating women’s status within a patriarchal system to (almost fully) acknowledging the moral claim of women’s equality?

Saturday, February 22: Kiddush (Kay Hall)
Through the generosity of Donald Saltz and his support of Sisterhood Shabbat weekend, we have planned a special kiddush with an Americana theme, in honor of 19th Amendment Centennial.

Dr. Ochs: 6,000 Editions and Counting: Why Do We Keep Revising the Haggadah?

Why is this year the same as all other years? Because this year, countless hosts will publish and create new Haggadot, each one seeking to create a guide to an effective and engaging seder once and for all. But we know it will all happen again next year. The Haggadah has been revised so many times because, on many levels, it has never quite worked.

*Part of the Mendelson Shabbat Scholar series.

Please join Sisterhood in welcoming Dr. Ochs and in thanking Donald Saltz for enabling Sisterhood to continue this wonderful tradition of scholarship and study in memory of his wife Mozelle, who was for a long time a dedicated member of the Adas Israel Congregation Sisterhood. Sisterhood Shabbat would not be possible without the dedicated work of our Committee, including June Kress (Chair), Marcia Feuerstein, Leah Hadad, Jill Jacob, Ellen Snyder, Julie Weisman, and special thanks to Joyce Stern.

Declutter and Downsize Your Home—and Manage the Stress of Transitioning to a Smaller Home

MARCH 22, 1-3 PM
Are you overwhelmed by the thought of decluttering, downsizing, and moving a home full of memories? The decision to downsize is far more than just the sale of the big house and a move to a smaller living space. While every other sale and purchase has been a move up, this move is letting go. Giving up possessions, memories, and the familiar is often the hardest part of the downsizing transition. Lori James and Theresa Taylor, two of the best in their fields, will discuss strategies, processes, and plans that will help minimize the stress when you are downsizing.

Sisterhood in Your Community & Sunday Salons

NEXT UP: FEBRUARY 2, WINE & CHEESE, MCLEAN, VA, 3-4 PM
MARCH 1, WINE & CHEESE, KALORAMA, DC, 3-5 PM
Join us for these members-only gatherings to deepen friendships and make new ones!

Winter doldrums got you down? It’s time for a little retail therapy. Weddings, b’nai mitzvah, or special occasions coming up? Visit the gift shop to check out our lovely hostess gifts, children’s items, and much more.

Gift Shop Hours*: Sunday-Monday, Wednesday-Friday 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Extended hours on Tuesdays: 9:30 am-3 pm & 6-7 pm

*Please note: The Gift Shop will be closed Feb. 16 & 17 for Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend.

ruth & simon albert
sisterhood gift shop

202-364-2888
adasgiftshop@gmail.com

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.
I am here today. This special moment in this special place, the reasons I came on Shlichut in the first place and why I wanted to go to Israel to start from scratch and felt as if they “returned to this place is today. She told us about the ancestors who came to Israel through the eyes of my students and for some of them it was the first time, so this was very meaningful.

One day in particular stands out in my mind, one of the first days of touring when we visited Kfar Hasidim. This is a special place to go to, as it is still inhabited by orthodox and secular Jews, and it was founded by no other than our very own David Polonsky’s great grandfather!

The woman who runs it now, is Shosh (David’s cousin). She is a true testament to what a strong inspirational woman looks like. She runs the whole place by herself; she manages the visitors center, she runs the olive tree harvest and the making of the olive oil (this year they made about six tons of olive oil), and she does all this and so much more with grace and determination.

She greeted us with a smile and took us to the visitors center, she showed us the pictures of her wedding and how many of the neighbors who are good friends with one another. (Shosh is a true testament to what a strong inspirational woman looks like. She runs the whole place by herself; she manages the visitors center, she runs the olive tree harvest and the making of the olive oil (this year they made about six tons of olive oil), and she does all this and so much more with grace and determination.

After working in the field, we washed our hands and sat at long tables, where we were given dough to make pitot. When we were done, we gave the pita to Shosh and she put them in the open oven (called a tabun in Hebrew). This food we were making is inspired by their neighbors, the Druze, so the culture in this Jewish land is mixed with the culture of the Arab neighbor to our next Adas trip, where I am hoping to revisit this place with more of my community members.

Until next time (Ad Ha’Paam Ha’Ba’a) (Talia Ha Shiticha)}

For the kids, the amazing things she does, and I am very much looking forward to visiting this place with more of my community members.

You’re a Philadelphia Eagles fan! Congratulations on your recent Super Bowl win! I’ve heard a lot of stories about the Eagles stadium. Have you ever been to a game there? Do you have any special Eagles gear or favorite Eagles bars? You’re writing your answers in December and by the time this is printed, we will already know who is headed to Super Bowl LIV. What are your predictions for which teams will be headed to Miami?

Thank you. I’ve waited my whole life for the Eagles to win the Super Bowl! It was amazing. I’ve been to Lincoln Financial Field several times, including a pretty cool pregame on the sideline. You’ve probably heard some not so nice stories about the Linc, but many people don’t realize the stadium has a LEED Gold certification from the US Green Building Council, which is a huge commitment. In my capacity at the sports marketing firm, I consulted on the sale of naming rights, and the Eagles were a client of ours. The only prediction I’ll make regarding the Super Bowl is that we’ll see beer and avocado ads during the big game!

One of the Sisterhood ongoing programs is “Take a Walk” where you discover a different neighborhood or museum together each month. What have been some of your favorite locations through this program that you would recommend we check out?

It’s hard to pick. We did a nighttime walk through Georgetown, a walk in Logan Circle/14th Street neighborhood, a walk from Union Station to the US Botanical Gardens with a guided tour, and a docent (Sisterhood member)-led trip to the Library of Congress.

You are coming to Israel with Adas this summer! Have you been to Israel before? What made this congregational trip so appealing to you? What are you most excited for on this trip?

I’ve never been to Israel and I’m very excited for this trip. Going with people I know and clergy who can give perspective both religiously and historically is immensely valuable to me. I liked the track idea and several Sisterhood members are also going. I think I’ve watched nearly every Biblical history program available, and now I’ll see it for myself.

Since I’m writing these questions right before Hanukkah and the article will come out close to Purim, what is your stance on the great debate: Latkes or Hamentaschen?

Taliesin Welch, Senior Editor, Engagement & Programming Operations

You joined Adas in 2001. Had you just moved to the DC area? What brought you to DC and why did you choose Adas?

I moved to the Washington area in 1998 for a job with a sports marketing firm downtown, and I was living in Alexandria. I read about the women’s bat mitzvah program and joined Adas to participate. What’s so nice is that years later, many of the women from our 2004 bat mitzvah class are in Sisterhood.

You are in your second year as president of Sisterhood. Why did you decide to take this leadership role? What does it mean to you to be a part of Sisterhood? What has been your vision for Sisterhood during your presidency? And if there were no budget restrictions, what is one of your dream programs or activities for Sisterhood to offer the Adas community?

Prior to becoming president, I served on a committee and then on the board. In doing so, I had a chance to learn more about Sisterhood, the events, procedures, etc. As a marketer, I would contribute my ideas and I could see where there were opportunities. Having been an executive-level manager in the workplace, I was comfortable with the leadership aspects. When the president role was offered to me, I envisioned helping Sisterhood become more modern in marketing and process, as well as meeting and involving as many members as possible. I also wanted to add value to the membership and create events that would spur socializing among members. Sisterhood is a community within a community and offers an avenue into Adas.

If money were no object, I’d love to create a field trip or two. I’ve thought about planning a bus trip to Philadelphia to visit the National Museum of American Jewish History; Rodeph Shalom Congregation, which includes the Leon J. and Julia S. Obermayer Collection of Jewish Ritual Art and the 1928 Byzantine revival building itself; and a drive by of the Rebecca Gratz House, followed by dinner at Zahav, with its amazing Israeli-inspired cuisine and a James Beard U.S. Restaurant of the Year winner.

You’re a Philadelphia Eagles fan! Congratulations on your recent Super Bowl win! I’ve heard a lot of stories about the Eagles stadium. Have you ever been to a game there? Do you have any special Eagles gear or favorite Eagles bars? You’re writing your answers in December and by the time this is printed, we will already know who is headed to Super Bowl LIV. What are your predictions for which teams will be headed to Miami?

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Taliesin Welch, Senior Editor, Engagement & Programming Operations
We are always striving to make our learning engaging and relevant, to provide opportunities to learn through action and exploration, and to offer new ways to engage with our environment and surroundings. We have found that these elements often come together most naturally and powerfully through immersive experiences. Our 5th-grade shul-in here at Adas Israel, the 6th-grade shabbaton at Capital Camps, and the Abe and Minnie Kay Israel Experience are just a few of the immersive programs we are proud to offer. Over the course of the spring, we will be highlighting more learning in action outside of the classroom walls and look forward to sharing our experiences with you.

Rabbi Kerrith Solomon with Ma’alot students in Jerusalem.

From the Director of Education
RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON

SHIRA WOLKENFELD'S JOURNEY TO ADAS AND BEYOND

Shira Wolkenfeld is part of our fifth-grade teaching team, and for Shira, Judaism has played a large role in her life far back as she can remember. She grew up in Berkeley where she fondly remembers Shabbat dinner every Friday night. Her family belonged to Netivot Shalom, the conservative synagogue, and she attended the community Jewish day school through eighth grade. In fifth grade, her family spent a semester in Argentina, and Shira went to a Jewish day school there as well. This began her interest in Judaism around the world.

When she went to public high school, she became active in a community youth group, called Jewish Youth for Community Action, her first experience connecting Judaism to social justice. She stayed throughout high school. In the summer after her junior year in high school, she participated in SCARVAS—in Hungary. This was Shira’s first exposure to both Eastern European Judaism and different denominations of Judaism. During her senior year in high school, she participated in March of the Living, where the participants spent one week in Poland and one week in Israel. She took a gap year before she started university and spent one semester in Israel, studying Arabic at Givat Haviva (Center for Shared Society).

Shira had just moved to DC to begin her studies at GW when she had an interview with our youth director, who was looking for an advisor for K-5. We hired her for that position and then convinced her to teach fifth grade as well. She worked for us for two years until her senior year, where she was active in both Hillel and Chabad, as well as doing a lot of organizing for J Street U. After graduation this summer, she staffed the inaugural Israel trip for college students through J Street and then stayed to study at Pardes.

As Shira planned for life after university, she knew that wanted to stay in the Jewish community and work for a more just world. She felt that Avodah would be a good pathway to doing the work that she wanted to do, including being in a community with like-minded people. This year, she is an Avodah corp member working for Jews United for Justice as a community organizer in Montgomery County, working on policy at both the county and state level.

We are so grateful that Shira returned to us this year, again to fifth grade, and we know that her students are grateful as well.

Important Dates
Sunday, February 2:
World Wide Wrap

Sunday, February 19:
No Religious School in Observance of Presidents Day

In December, a group of our 10th-and 11th-grade Ma’alot students traveled to Israel as part of the Abe and Minnie Kay Israel Experience. We learned, explored, celebrated Hanukkah, and left with questions, ideas, memories, and new friendships. We asked our 11th-graders what surprised them, what was most meaningful to them, and what last impressions they made on the trip. They shared the following sentiments:

• I was amazed by the beauty of this country and how Jerusalem was more incredible than I expected. Even with the language barrier, it didn’t diminish my experience in any way.
• What I have found is that this trip allowed me to learn about Israel in a way that gives it meaning. I tried to take in everything we learned and observed and, along the way, it helped me connect to others in the group in a deeper way.
• I was surprised about all I have learned in the past—the narrative of the state of Israel is only a piece of Israel’s history. From this experience, I learned about various minority populations that live in the country.
• Going to Israel for the first time in my life, and being able to celebrate Hanukkah and seeing the lights everywhere (and adding light every night) was so nice. I was in awe of the diversity—we were in Tel Aviv, and then we drove a little to a remote city or town where they don’t speak English. It was wonderful and allowed me to see how wonderful Israel is (and not always how it is portrayed in America).
• It was nice to be in a place where we are the majority. Us all being together is an experience I won’t forget and makes me want to move to Israel!
partnership with the Mission and provide more opportunities in the Martinsburg area. We hope in 2020 to develop an ongoing relationship with kids, and learning about the many challenges for families in the area, including those affected by opioid addiction, and more than half are veterans.

During the meal, Adas volunteers had the opportunity to assist with cooking, preparing trays, serving guests, playing games with children, and learning about the many challenges for families in the area, including those affected by opioid addiction, and more than half are veterans.

The Mission houses up to 85 men at any one time and provides a wide array of services to both its residents and other local community members, including treatment, work opportunities in its recycling facility and thrift shop, job placement, computer training, and more. Most of the residents and guests have been affected by opioid addiction, and more than half are veterans.

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N Street Village Members of the Adas-WIN (Washington Interfaith Network) Affordable Housing Team, along with Temple Sinai members and WIN organizers, met with top staff at the DC Office of Planning to learn more about Mayor Bowser’s plans for creating affordable housing in Rock Creek West (the mayor’s term for housing in our neighborhoods) and to share our thoughts and questions with them. The team learned that the Office of Planning is focusing immediately on amending DC’s Comprehensive Plan, a 20-year framework that guides future growth and development. Originally adopted in 2006 and first amended in 2011, it addresses a wide range of topics, including land use, economic development, housing, environmental protection, historic preservation, and transportation. The goal is to ensure that it remains responsive to the needs of the community.

Jamie Butler

One America Day of Service Thanks to a connection made by our partners at One America, a group of more than 20 Adas members—including 11 kids and teens—volunteered at the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission in Martinsburg, WV, for its Christmas meal. The meal served hundreds of people, including residents of the Mission and other food-insecure families in the Martinsburg area.

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Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School Graduates to Be Honored

SHABBAT, FEBRUARY 8

On Saturday, February 8, we will honor the graduating Adas Israel Seniors of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School.

Mazel tov to our CES-JDS graduates and their families:
Sabra Hermanson, daughter of James & Nancy Hermanson
Joe Goldberg, son of Allen Goldberg & Laurie Strongin-Goldberg
Alexandra Knapp, daughter of William Knapp & Jeannie Milbauer
Reilly Lowell, daughter of Abbe Lowell & Molly Meegan
Yonatan Preuss, son of Gil & Terri Preuss
Yasikowabinowitz, son of Steve Rubinowitz & Laurie Moskowitz
Amelia Rich, daughter of Norman Rich & Sara Cohen
Rebecca Weiss, daughter of Baruch Weiss & Laura Blumenfeld

If you have not already confirmed your child’s participation, please contact Roberto Bacaliski, Roberto.Bacaliski@adasisrael.org, or Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith, Hazzan.Goldsmith@adasisrael.org.

We will honor our graduates with an aliyah and a gift from the congregation. We are happy to participate in this way and extend our sincere good wishes to our graduates and their parents and families.

Vote Mercaz

We know that elections have consequences, both in Israel and here in the United States. However, as Americans, we have very few opportunities to effect change in Israel. This is our chance. As American Jews who care deeply about Israel, we are facing a rare opportunity to make a difference, one that comes only every five years.

Vote to elect MERCAZ representatives to the World Zionist Congress, where they will champion the need for a vibrant pluralistic movement in Israel and, specifically, demonstrate American support for the core values of religious pluralism, democracy, and equality for all Jews. This opportunity is fleeting. The Congress meets once every only five years. This is our one opportunity to make a strong showing and help secure leadership positions and influence critical funding decisions for the future of the Conservative/Masorti Movement in Israel. Your vote for MERCAZ, the official slate of the Conservative Movement, couldn’t be more important.

Go to MERCAZ2020.org or text VOTE to 917-336-1162. Once you take the pledge, you will get updated information on the campaign and be reminded when the election begins. We are asking for a strong turnout from Adas Israel members and encourage you to sign up family, friends, and colleagues as well. Finally, if you would like to get more involved in the campaign, please reach out to the clergy or contact us at tonibickart@gmail.com or apodgorski@verizon.net.

Please make sure your voice is heard and Pledge Your Vote today at MERCAZ2020.org.

—Tony Bickart and Arnie Podgorsky, Israel Engagement Committee

Hesed Open House

Sunday, February 9 @ 10am

Please join us on Sunday February 9 at 10 AM for a super exciting and interesting Hesed OPEN HOUSE! Are you already involved in Hesed activities at Adas but want to learn more? Are you new to Hesed at Adas and wonder what it’s all about? FEATURED SPEAKER: Chef Alex Levin, interviewed by Susan Barocas, will tell us about his journey into the food industry, how he views Hesed and food, and share stories about his amazing grandparents. Plus team updates and kavanah (intention) setting with Rabbi Holtzblatt.

Register online at adasisrael.org/hesed

3GDC Presents: 3 Generations, 3 Authors

A Multigenerational Authors Panel in Special Partnership with Adas Israel

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Join 3GDC - Washington DC Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors for a moderated discussion with Edith Cord, a first generation Holocaust survivor and author of Finding Edith, Max Hirshfeld, a second generation Holocaust survivor and author of Sweet Noise: Love in Wartime, and Felice Cohen, grandchild of Holocaust survivors and author of What Papa Told Me. We look forward to introducing you to Edith, Max, and Felice...3 generations who will come together to tell us how they transmitted their family’s legacies and became authors in the process.

*Books will be available for sale by author immediately following the panel*

Spend President’s Day with Adas at SOME

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 @ 2PM - 4PM

Breakfast & Games: 6:30am - 10:15am | Lunch: 10:30am - 1:15pm

Adas Israel volunteers will be returning to SOME (So Others Might Eat) on Monday February 17 for a full day of service. Please join us as we cook, prep, serve, chat and play games with SOME guests. The breakfast and games shift is from 6:30am to 10:15am; the lunch shift is from 10:30am to 1:15pm. This is a great family activity and anyone 13 or older can participate. For questions, contact Sharon Burka at siburka@aol.com. Please contact Courtney Tisch at Courtney.Tisch@adasisrael.org to register.

Adas Israel Summer Subsidies

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 2, 2020
APPLY ONLINE AT ADASISRAEL.ORG/YOUTH-AI

Summer Scholarships are back! Adas Israel will again be offering Summer Scholarships to engaged youth of our community. For questions or information about Jewish summer camps or Israel trips, please contact Sarah Attermann at 202-362-4433 x131, sarah.attermann@adasisrael.org. Deadline to apply is February 2, 2020.

Interested in Volunteering Your Time With Immigrants in Detention?

On Feb. 9, from 1-2:30pm, Adas Israel will host a training session to prepare volunteers to visit immigrants in nearby detention centers. The training will be conducted by the CAIR (Capitol Area Immigrants Rights) Coalition, which conducts regular visit at ICE detention facilities in Maryland and Virginia. CAIR needs volunteers to conduct intakes with detained adults to help them understand their legal options, to read messages to folks containing legal information, and to assist staff in conducting workshops and presentations. All new volunteers must attend a training session before volunteering on a fall visit.

When: Jail visits are full-day commitments. Volunteers may need to leave DC between 5:30-7:30am, depending on the facility, and should plan to return by 6:00pm. Visits take place Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays each month.

Where: Detention facilities in Virginia and Maryland, between 1 and 3.5 hrs from DC

Who: Volunteers must be over age 18, and have a valid visa, green card, or citizenship in the US. Spanish speakers are highly desired, but non-Spanish speakers are needed too. Volunteers who can go on multiple visits are preferred. No members of the media or government are permitted. No knowledge of immigration law is required.

If you are interested, please RSVP to Jackie Hoffenberg (hoffenberg.jackie@gmail.com) and complete a volunteer sign-up form and confidentiality agreement at https://www.caircoalition.org/how-to-help/volunteering.
Risking Death to Rescue Strangers

BY ROBIN JACOBSON
LIBRARY & LITERARY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

One day, anthropologist Maggie Paxson suddenly decided to “study war no more.” Weary and dispirited from fieldwork in violent, strife-torn countries, Paxson resolved to switch her research to human decency and altruism. This led her to a cluster of mountain villages on the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon in south-central France, one of only two communities honored by Israel’s Yad Vashem for saving Jews during the Holocaust. From 1939 to 1945, these French hamlets collectively hid approximately 800 refugees and smuggled perhaps 3,000 more to safety in Switzerland. As a social scientist, Paxson wanted to understand why French villagers risked their lives for strangers. A captivating blend of history, memoir, fieldwork, and philosophical reflection, Paxson’s new book, The Plateau, explores whether there were unique factors at work in the French highlands.

AN EXTRAORDINARY HISTORY

The inhabitants of the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon are heirs to a remarkable, centuries-long tradition of providing refuge to the persecuted. During religious wars in the 16th century, Paxson explains, villagers sheltered Protestants. Then, in the 18th century, during the French Revolution, they hid Catholic priests. In the 1930s, they aided refugees fleeing the Spanish Civil War. Today, the Plateau houses one of France’s 300 welcome centers for asylum seekers from Africa, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere.

But the Plateau’s time of greatest valor was during World War II. As Nazi and Vichy persecution and deportations intensified, the Plateau became a haven for Jews, particularly Jewish children. Farmers hid Jews in barns and attics; other villagers pretended the Jews were family members, sharing their scarce food with them. Still others crafted forged identity cards. Some valiant villagers served as passeurs, smuggling Jews across the border to Switzerland. One courageous school director, Pastor André Trocmé (Daniel’s cousin) spoke boldly for his community. “We don’t know Jews, we only know human beings.”

Why did the villagers shelter Jews? In part, the answer is because they could. During the snowy winter months, the roads up the mountains became impassable, limiting Nazi raids on the area. Housing, including guest houses and hotels, was plentiful due to the region’s pre-war popularity as a summer resort. But most crucially, the time-honored ethos of the community, passed down from both persecuted people and protectors, was to help people in need. Confronted by the police, Pastor André Trocmé (Daniel’s cousin) spoke boldly for his community. “We don’t know Jews, we only know human beings.”

THE PLATEAU IN FICTION

It is not surprising that the wartime heroism of the French mountain villages has inspired not only social scientists, like Paxson, but novelists too. Two new novels, The World We Knew by Alice Hoffman and The White Bird by R.J. Palacio (a graphic novel for teens) are largely set on the Plateau.

The White Bird centers on plateau dwellers Julien and his parents who hide Sara, a Jewish girl, in their barn. A polio survivor, Julien walks with a sideways gait that has earned him the nasty nickname, “Tortueau” (crab). Interestingly, it is Sara, the hidden Jew, who learns to stand up against cruelty over the course of the novel.

Look for all three books in our library …
**BIRTHS**

Max Simon Hoffer, son of Marin & Melissa Hoffer, grandson of Ron & Audrey Hoffer was born December 9. Hannah Izmar Gonzalez Rugama, daughter of Meylin & William Gonzalez Rugama, was born December 27. We wish our newborns and their families strength, good health, and joy.

**WEDDING**

Alyssa Weiner and David Sandler were married Sunday, December 15, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. We wish the newlyweds and their families a hearty mazal tov.

**B’NAI MITZVAH**

Adiv Brooks-Rubin, February 1 (TEM)
Adiv, son of Liana and Brad Brooks-Rubin, is a seventh grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation’s Capital (formerly JPDS-NC), where he has received both his Jewish and secular education since kindergarten. Adiv is excited to celebrate his bar mitzvah with many family members. At this special time, we also remember with love Adiv’s Babbe, Gail Rubin z”l. For his mitzvah project, Adiv and Liana spent four days in Arizona and Mexico with several organizations providing much-needed support to vulnerable and underserved migrants and asylum seekers. After this trip, Adiv decided to raise money for Frontera del Cristo; The Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project; No More Deaths (No Mas Muertes); and Colibrí.

Maxwell Scott, February 8
Maxwell is a seventh grader at Oyster Adams Bilingual School. He celebrates his bar mitzvah with his parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. Maxwell began his Jewish education in first grade at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He now attends the Ma’alot program. For his bar mitzvah project he is collecting children’s books and donating them to local shelters.

**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 Hessel (202-244-7189) or contact Toni Bickart (202-244-2747) regarding the Tahara Committee, or contact Wendy Kates about Shmira (wendy.kates.30@gmail.com).

Adas Israel Community
Mikvah
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 a turning point.

For more information, visit www.adassrael.org/mikvah, and to make an appointment, go to www.mikvahcalendar.as.me.

**MEMBER IN THE NEWS**

Mazal tov to Carly Pildis, named as one of the Forward 50 most influential Jews of 2019.

**IN MEMORIAM**

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:
Rhoda Baruch
Helga Baer, mother of Don Baer
Ronald Baker, father of Alyson Baker
Dr. Martin Blumenfeld, father of Jeffrey Blumenfeld & grandfather of Beth Taubman

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:
Rhoda Baruch
Helga Baer
Ronald Baker
Dr. Martin Blumenfeld

**LIFE CYCLE**

Franny Leibovich, February 29
Frances, daughter of Meri Kolbrener and Mark Leibovich, is a seventh grader at Oyster Adams Bilingual Middle School. She started her education at Gan HaFeileed Nursery school and has been attending the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since first grade. Frances looks forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with her sisters Penelope and Eliza, her parents, her grandparents, Jack Kolbrener, Joan Leibovich, Ted Sutton and Betty Grossman, her aunts, uncles, cousins and the rest of her family and friends. She also remembers her grandparents Miguel Leibovich and Barbara Kolbrener, as well her great-grandmothers Frances Kolbrener and Florence Brownstein for whom she was named.