

Adas Israel Congregation • February/Shevat-Adar 5780

# CHRONICLE

The *Chronicle* Is Supported in Part by the Ethel and Nat Popick Endowment Fund

ט"ו בשבט  
TU B'SHEVAT





## Clergy Corner

RABBI SARAH KRINSKY

*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](https://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.



# THE STORM

## PURIM @ ADAS



**SUNDAY, MARCH 8 @ 9:30AM**

THE YOUNGINS: PURIM CARNIVAL EXTRAVAGANZA



**MONDAY, MARCH 9 @ 6:00PM**

THE STORM: PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE FULL PURIM EXPERIENCE



**TUESDAY, MARCH 10 @ 7:15AM**

THE COMMITMENT: MORNING MINYAN & MEGILLAH READING

[ADASISRAEL.ORG/PURIM](https://adasisrael.org/purim)





# From the President

LAURIE ALADJEM, ADAS PRESIDENT



*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 I was 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 vital part of this ongoing conversation is kiddush. No, I'm not going to talk about whether fish balls are made from sustainable fish (but at the risk of setting off a firestorm, I will tell you I never eat fish balls). This conversation is about waste, both of food and trash produced when we eat. How many plates and cups do you use at kiddush? Do you reuse yours or throw it out and get a new one when you return for a refill? What are the plates, cutlery, cups, and paper goods made of? What happens to them once you dump them in the trash containers in Kay Hall? How much landfill does one kiddush create?

Thanks again to the Climate Action Team here at Adas, we can and will start to do better. With some thought and education, all the products we use at kiddush can be compostable. Instead of "trash" cans in Kay Hall, we will have receptacles for a single stream of waste (food, plates, napkins, etc.) that will eventually return to 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 kashrut 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 as long as you 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.



## The Adas Fund JUSTICE



**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, 202-362-4433, or visit [www.adasisrael.org/adasfund](http://www.adasisrael.org/adasfund)**

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Leilah Mooney Joseph & David Joseph

Lisa Morenoff  
Dylan Morpurgo  
Ginger Moss & Jamie Crausman  
Ruth Moss  
Rochelle & Barry Naft  
Ellen Margaret Olson  
Ron Owens & Rita Nicholls  
Wendy Pachter  
Julia Paley  
Toba Penny  
Deborah & Philip Pine  
Jorge Pineda & Judith Heumann  
Max Polonsky & Abby Volin  
Doris Povich  
Elise Pressma & Scott Lasensky  
Mark Raisher  
Tovah Reis  
Madeleine Remez & Stephanie Handel  
Arnold Resnicoff  
Dena Ringold & David Gossett  
Linda Rosenkrantz  
Jason & Deborah Samenow  
Mindy Saraco & Mike Madden  
Alyssa Saunders & Eric Trager  
Daniele Schiffman & Toby Heffernan  
Gail Schwartz  
Karyn Schwartz & Murrey Jacobson  
Charles Schwartz  
Jordan Schwartz  
Pamela & Stuart Shalloway  
Oren & Jonathan Shamay Draluck  
Carolyn Shanoff  
Nina Shea & Adam Meyerson  
Eileen & Randall Sherman  
Norman Shore  
Julia Siegel & Jordan Grossman  
Rachel & Adam Siegel  
Judith & Jay Silberman  
Benjamin & Elizabeth Small  
Petra & Jerome Socolovsky  
Megan & Benjamin Somers  
Gordon Sommers  
Tim & Amy Spell  
Frank Spigel  
Lois Steinberg  
Jared Sutton  
Elinor Tattar  
Cynthia & Robert Taub  
Susan Tersoff & David Margolies  
Leah Theroux & Daniel Chudnov  
Ruth & John Tifford  
Andrew Topal  
Debra & Donald Tracy  
Jessica Trisko Darden & Keith Darden  
Lauren Tuchman  
Barton Turner & Ronnie Kweller  
Luis Villavicencio & Lynne Baum  
Sara Vogler  
Stacy Weiner & Yoel Tobin  
Susanne Weinrauch  
Brian Weinstein  
Roberta Weiss  
Lauren Weiss & Lara Chausow  
Robin Wiener & Roger Nehrer  
Leonard & Helen Zax  
Stanley Zupnik  
Rebecca Zylberman & Daniel Freeman

# TU B'SHEVAT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020

## Tu B'Shevat—the New Year for Trees

Tu B'Shevat is a time when trees start drinking 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). God then put 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 tithe that the Bible requires. It also 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 trees in Israel has resulted in naturally expanded forests and reclaimed deserts. Go to the Jewish National Fund's website, [www.jnf.org](http://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.







## inclusionmonth

Inclusion Celebration Month  
February 2020

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.adasisrael.org/inclusion](http://www.adasisrael.org/inclusion) for more information and e-mail [inclusion@adasisrael.org](mailto:inclusion@adasisrael.org) to get involved.



## Inclusion Celebration Shabbat

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, CHARLES E. SMITH SANCTUARY

This year's guest speaker is Robert "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 into 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 Krinsky, 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  
FUNGER 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 *Taanit 20AB* in the Babylonian Talmud. We will examine stories in which people with disabilities are not merely 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 rabbinic 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](http://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](https://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.

### 2019-2020 MENDELSON SHABBAT SCHOLAR IN FEBRUARY



6000 Editions and Counting: Why Do We Keep Revising the Haggadah?  
with Dr. Vanessa Ochs

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* (JPS), 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.

### ONGOING LEARNING



The Text 2.0: In-Depth Halakhah (Jewish Law)  
with Rabbi Aaron Alexander

REMAINING CLASS DATES: TUESDAYS FEB. 25 & APRIL 28 @ 7:30 PM

Rabbi Alexander will lead learners in a textual exploration of a topic in Jewish Law, using original sources without translation. This series is designed primarily for those with previous experience studying classical rabbinic texts in Hebrew/Aramaic.



Inside Out: Text, Translation and Transformation (Yolkut)

SPRING SESSION \$180

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

Have you ever wanted to gain access to some of Judaism's most powerful texts? Wondered 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 questions about living in this world? Join a dedicated group for these two six-part series that take a deep dive into the Mishnah and Talmud with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut. Register for one semester or both online at [adasisrael.org/makomdc](https://adasisrael.org/makomdc).



Boker Or Shabbat Study

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM

Boker Or meets Saturday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash with the weekly portion as its focus.

FEBRUARY 7, Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt  
FEBRUARY 14, Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

FEBRUARY 21, Rabbi Aaron Alexander  
FEBRUARY 28, Rabbi Aaron Alexander



Friday Parsha Study

with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, Rabbi Aaron Alexander, or Rabbi Sarah Krinsky

FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10 AM

Please join us Friday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash for an exclusive look at the weekly parsha. On the first and second Friday of the month, Rabbi Holtzblatt will explore the parsha through the lens of Hassidut and mysticism; on the third and fourth Fridays, Rabbi Alexander will use the Talmud as the prism for the weekly reading; and on the fifth Friday, Rabbi Krinsky will lead the exploration.

[adasisrael.org/makomdc](https://adasisrael.org/makomdc)



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## Musical Moments at Adas

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

### Kol HaOlam 2020



### The 10th Annual National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Championship Competition!

**Saturday, February 29 @ 8 PM**

- 6 Powerhouse Jewish acapella groups from colleges and universities around 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 Capella 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** Gedalia 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](https://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](https://adasisrael.org/musicalmoments)**



# JMCW@ADAS

jewish mindfulness center of washington

*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!

\*Please note: Since the Chronicle schedule is printed in advance, check the JMCW web page at [www.adasisrael.org/jmcw](http://www.adasisrael.org/jmcw) or e-mail [JMCW@adasisrael.org](mailto:JMCW@adasisrael.org) for up-to-date schedule information.

## 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](http://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 Piacezno 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](http://www.adasisrael.org/jmcw).**

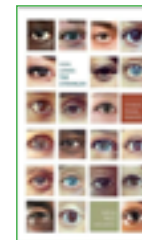
## JMCW RECOMMENDS...



### Institute for Jewish Spirituality: “Resources to Support Practice in Our Time”

[www.jewishspirituality.org](http://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 175.01, or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson ([librarian@adasisrael.org](mailto: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](http://adasisrael.org/jmcw), where you can also subscribe to our weekly newsletter. Find us on Facebook, JMCW at Adas Israel!

[adasisrael.org/jmcw](http://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





| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| <div>26</div> <div>29 Tevet</div> <div>8:45 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am End of Live Conversations</div> <div>10:00 am YP Learning w/ Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>10:30 am Wise Aging</div> <div>2:00 pm DC Klezmer Workshop</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> | <div>27</div> <div>1 Shevat</div> <div>7:15 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Miyan</div>   | <div>28</div> <div>2 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>  | <div>29</div> <div>3 Shevat</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>11:30 am WellBodies</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pm JMCW Mindful Yoga</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Class</div> <div>7:30 pm The Text w/ Rabbi Yolkut</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro to Judaism</div> <div>7:30 pm Rabbi Tuchman's Inclusion Series</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation</div>  | <div>30</div> <div>4 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>  | <div>31</div> <div>5 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha Hashavua Class</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>5:09 pm </div>  | <div>1 PARSHAT BO/INCLUSION SHABBAT</div> <div>6 Shevat</div> <div>8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service</div> <div>9:30 am Inclusion Shabbat with Rabbi Krinsky and Bobby Silverstein</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Holtzblatt, Bar Mitzvah: Adiv Brooks-Rubin</div> <div>9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>10:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 am K-3rd Grade Services</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha</div> <div>1:15 pm Shabbbat Scholar: Inclusion Speaker</div> <div>6:09 pm Havdalah</div> |
| <div>2</div> <div>7 Shevat</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>  | <div>3</div> <div>8 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>   | <div>4</div> <div>9 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pm MakomDC: Israel &amp; The Diaspora</div>   | <div>5</div> <div>10 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Class</div> <div>7:00 pm Rabbi Tuchman's Inclusion Series</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro to Judaism</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation</div> <div>7:30 pm Sisterhood Knits, Sews &amp; Crafts</div> <div>8:30 pm JSC Class</div>  | <div>6</div> <div>11 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>  | <div>7</div> <div>12 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha Hashavua Class</div> <div>6:00 pm TEM Lay-Led Friday Night Service</div> <div>6:30 pm Musical Shabbat Service w/ Rabbis Holtzblatt, Alexander and Cantor Brown + Rabbi Josh Warshawsky</div> <div>6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour</div> <div>8:00 pm Community Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>5:18 pm </div>             | <div>8 PARSHAT BESHALLAH/SHABBAT SHIRAH</div> <div>13 Shevat</div> <div>8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Service</div> <div>9:30 am Bar Mitzvah: Maxwell Scott w/ Rabbi Alexander + Josh Warshawsky</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan w/ Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>10:00 am Bar Mitzvah: Gil Leifman</div> <div>10:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pm Shabat Mincha</div> <div>6:30 pm Shabbat SHirah Havdalah &amp; Melava Malka w/ Rabbi Josh Warshawsky</div> <div>6:18 pm Havdalah</div>  |
| <div>9</div> <div>14 Shevat</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Adas Book Chat</div> <div>10:30 am Wise Aging</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>   | <div>10</div> <div>15 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> | <div>11</div> <div>16 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>12:00 pm Downtown Study Group</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pm MakomDC: Israel &amp; The Diaspora</div>        | <div>12</div> <div>17 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Class</div> <div>7:00 pm Rabbi Tuchman's Inclusion Series</div> <div>7:30 pm The Text w/ Rabbi Yolkut</div> <div>7:30 pm Into The Mystics</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro To Judaism</div> <div>8:30 pm JSC Class</div>   | <div>13</div> <div>18 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> | <div>14</div> <div>19 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha Hashavua Class</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith</div> <div>5:26 pm </div>   | <div>15 PARSHAT YITRO</div> <div>20 Shevat</div> <div>9:30 am NO Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>10:00 am K-3rd Grade Services</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha</div> <div>6:26 pm Havdalah</div>  |
| <div>16</div> <div>21 Shevat</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>  | <div>17</div> <div>22 Shevat</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> | <div>18</div> <div>23 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>10:00 am Weekday Torah w/ Sisterhood</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pm MakomDC: Israel &amp; The Diaspora</div> | <div>19</div> <div>24 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Class</div> <div>7:00 pm Rabbi Tuchman's Inclusion Series</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro To Judaism</div> <div>8:30 pm JSC Class</div>  | <div>20</div> <div>25 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> | <div>21</div> <div>26 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha Hashavua Class</div> <div>5:00 pm Happy Half Hour</div> <div>5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service w/ Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; Sisterhood Shabbat w/ Cantor Brown</div> <div>6:15 pm Young Family Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>7:00 pm Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>5:33 pm </div> | <div>22 PARSHAT MISHPATIM/SHABBAT SHEKALIM</div> <div>27 Shevat</div> <div>8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service</div> <div>9:30 am Sisterhood Shabbat w/ Rabbi Holtzblatt, Alexander &amp; Krinsky &amp; Cantor Brown</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am K-3rd Grade Services</div> <div>10:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>10:45 am 4th-6th Grade Services</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha</div> <div>6:33 pm Sisterhood Shabbat Speaker</div> <div>6:33 pm Havdalah</div>   |
| <div>23</div> <div>28 Shevat</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Social Action Full Committee Mtg.</div> <div>10:30 am Wise Aging 2.0</div> <div>2:00 pm 3GDC Authors Panel</div> <div>2:00 pm DC Klezmer Workshop</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>  | <div>24</div> <div>29 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> | <div>25</div> <div>30 Shevat</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pm Hesed Cooking</div> <div>7:30 pm MakomDC: Advanced Halakha w/ Rabbi Alexander</div>      | <div>26</div> <div>1 Adar</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>11:30 am WellBodies</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pm JMCW Mindful Yoga</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Class</div> <div>7:00 pm Rabbi Tuchman's Inclusion Series</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation</div> <div>7:00 pm The Max Ticktin Memorial Latke-Hamentasch Debate</div> <div>7:30 pm The Text w/ Rabbi Yolkut</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro To Judaism</div> <div>8:30 pm JSC Class</div> | <div>27</div> <div>2 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>    | <div>28</div> <div>3 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha Hashavua Class</div> <div>6:00 pm 4th Grade L'Dor VaDor &amp; Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Rabbi Solomon</div> <div>7:00 pm L'Dor VaDor Dinner</div> <div>5:41 pm </div>   | <div>29 PARSHAT TERUMAH</div> <div>4 Adar</div> <div>8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Service with Rabbi Krinsky</div> <div>9:30 am Bat Mitzvah: Franny Leibovich</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>10:00 am K-3rd Grade Services</div> <div>10:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha</div> <div>6:41 pm Havdalah</div> <div>8:00 pm Kol HaOlam 2020 Concert</div>  |

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

**Charles E. Smith Sanctuary:** Join us for our Shabbat morning services in the renewed Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, the synagogue's largest worship space, led by our inspiring Rabbi and Cantor. The service includes a D'var Torah and sermon by the Rabbi and often includes participation by members and B'nai Mitzvah.

**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 Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with a full P'sukei D'Zimrah (introductory Psalms), Shacharit, and Musaf, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a d'var Torah. For more information, e-mail [traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org](mailto:traditionalminyan@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](mailto:havurah@adasisrael.org).

**Youth Shabbat Services:** Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menuhah Peters. Netivot, for students in grades K–3, is led by Sarah Attermann or Jeremy Kadden.  
**‘Dial-in’ for Programs & Services:** If you are unable to attend programs, lectures, or services, dial in to hear them. Call 202-686-8405.  
**Library Open on Shabbat:** Our third-floor library is open on Shabbat following services. You may sign out materials using our “no-writing Shabbat method,” explained in signs on the check-out desks. For assistance during the week, contact our Director of Library Services, Robin Jacobson ([librarian@adasisrael.org](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org)).





## Sisterhood Shabbat

### *Having a Vote: The Spiritual Consequences of Jewish Women Having Voice, Agency, and Power*

FEBRUARY 21- 22, 2020

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](https://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 Nashim, 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.



### Saturday, February 22: Shabbat Post-Kiddush Halakha\* (Biran Beit Midrash)

#### 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!

ruth & simon albert

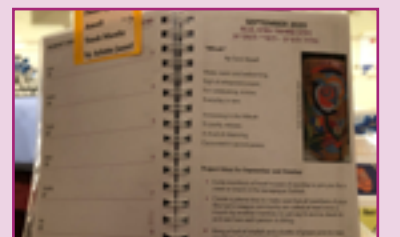
## sisterhood gift shop

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.

Every purchase benefits  
Adas Israel Congregation.  
202-364-2888  
[adasgiftshop@gmail.com](mailto:adasgiftshop@gmail.com)





## Weekday Torah with Sisterhood

MONTHLY, 3RD TUESDAY AT 10 AM, FUNGER HALL  
NEXT UP: FEBRUARY 18, MARCH 17

Norman Shore will lead the one-hour text study session on February 18. Weekday Torah with Sisterhood is open to the entire Adas Israel community.

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](mailto:MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com)) with questions.



## Help Educate the Next Generation of Jewish Leaders: Contribute to Sisterhood's 2019-20 Torah Fund Campaign

Adas Israel Sisterhood proudly joins Women's League for Conservative Judaism's annual Torah Fund campaigns to help educate our future rabbis, cantors, educators, and scholars. Please send a check payable to Torah Fund to: Rona Walters, Torah Fund Chair, 5117 Linnean Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20008.

## THE ADAS SHLICHA'S CORNER

BY TALIA GARBER

As I write this, even though it will be published in February, I have just returned from our Teen Trip to Israel (with the 10th and 11th grade students). I am happy to say that it was an extremely successful trip, filled with wonderful moments and visiting places that were even new to me! I got to experience 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 oils (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 to tell us about the history and amazing story behind what this place is today. She told us about the ancestors who came to Israel to start from scratch and felt as if they "returned to Israel," even though they had never been before, because this land is "part of our DNA" (as Shosh said).

As I heard this story and then saw the kids go to the field and help clean and organize everything, I was reminded of the reasons I came on Shlichut in the first place and why I am here today. This special moment in this special place

gave me so much hope for the work that I am doing and for the inevitable connection that we have as "the Jewish People" and the bond between the Israeli and American communities. I was filled with awe toward this woman and what she does every day, and I am sure that the kids were also moved by this day and it will remain a memory they cherish (if not the whole day, at least they'll remember the pita-making experience we had).

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 neighbors who are good friends with one another. (Shosh showed us the pictures of her wedding and how many of the guests were Arab). When we finished making the pitot, we cut them up and put them out on the tables along with other home-cooked food that was made especially for us. This was possibly one of the best meals we had on the trip, immensely enjoyed by all!

I am grateful I got to go on this trip and experience Israel in new ways, I am also thankful that I met Shosh and got to see the amazing things she does, and I am very much looking forward 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) עד הפעם הבאה  
טליה השליחה (Talia Ha'Shlicha)



## Ma TovU

Jill Jacob

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

*Interviewed by Marcy Spiro,  
Senior Director, 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 Israel-inspired cuisine and a James Beard U.S. Restaurant of the Year winner.

**You're a Philadelphia Eagles fan! Congrats 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 are 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 have 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 venue 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 for Georgetown GLOW, a fantastic walk through 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?**  
Latkes!





# Education & Youth

## @ ADAS ISRAEL

### From the Director of Education

RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON



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.



### 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 as 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



### ABE AND MINNIE KAY ISRAEL EXPERIENCE IN DECEMBER

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 lasting 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!







# tikkunolam

'REPAIRING THE WORLD'

## SOCIAL ACTION



### 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.

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.

During the meal, Adas volunteers had the opportunity to assist with cooking, preparing trays, serving guests, playing games with kids, and learning about the many challenges for families in the Martinsburg area. We hope in 2020 to develop an ongoing partnership with the Mission and provide more opportunities

for volunteering, especially for families with kids and teens interested in direct service.



*Cantor Brown and Adas Israel singers at N St Village on Christmas Day. Another group of Adas members prepared food and served the women. Photos by Jamie Butler.*

### 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*



### Hesed Member Connector

The Adas Member Connector Committee will be introducing you to interesting facts about people you may know or have never met. Please introduce yourself to new-to-you members! If you have a suggestion for our next featured member (or have a fun fact about yourself), please contact [healey.sutton@gmail.com](mailto:healey.sutton@gmail.com).

James Sullivan joined Adas just recently; he is a regular morning minyan-goer and has participated with the Flash Choir. When you see him around Adas, ask him about: Harm Reduction! In his own words: "For about nine months I've been working for an organization called HIPS, helping to reduce drug-related harms in Washington, DC. I also love a good espresso tonic, heirloom tomatoes, and his big Jewish tattoos."

### Cooking With Kids

The Hesed Cooking Team held its first ever family-cooking event just before Hanukkah. The productive bakers made over 400 beautifully decorated holiday-themed cookies, and each member of the Adas staff was given a bag of cookies with a note thanking them for all the work they do throughout the year to make Adas such a special place. Cookies were also provided to the Ma'alot students returning from their special trip to Israel. A highlight of the event was the opportunity for our shlichah, Talia Garber, to teach the families about how Hanukkah is celebrated in Israel.

If your family is interested in cooking with Hesed, can you please let us know? Contact [hesed@adasisrael.org](mailto:hesed@adasisrael.org). If you would like to volunteer with many Hesed activities taking place at Adas, please contact [hesed@adasisrael.org](mailto:hesed@adasisrael.org).



### Grief Counseling Workshops

You are invited to participate in the new series of Hesed Grief Counseling Workshops starting in February. Whether you have experienced the loss of a loved one, or perhaps an unexpected life event, or just feeling like you would like to talk about challenges you are facing, please join us for these sessions. You can join one or both sessions. There is no cost.

#### Grief Counseling Workshop #1

For this group, we encourage registration and a commitment to attend each of the six sessions, which will be held once a month on the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM. Dates: February 26, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24, July 29.

#### Grief Counseling Workshop #2

This is a drop-in group that you can attend for 1 or more sessions, which will be held the first Wednesday of the month at 11:30 AM. Dates: February 19 (note this is the third Wednesday for just this session), March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1.







## 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.

Mazal tov to our CES-JDS graduates and their families:

**Sabrina Bramson, daughter of James & Nanci Bramson**

**Joe Goldberg, son of Allen Goldberg & Laurie Strongin-Goldberg**

**Alexandra Knapp, daughter of William Knapp & Jeanie Milbauer**

**Reilly Lowell, daughter of Abbe Lowell & Molly Meegan**

**Yonatan Preuss, son of Gil & Terri Preuss**

**Yaakov Rabinowitz, son of Steve Rabinowitz & 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 Bacalski, [Roberto.Bacalski@adasisrael.org](mailto:Roberto.Bacalski@adasisrael.org), or Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith, [Hazzan.Goldsmith@adasisrael.org](mailto: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 only every 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](mailto:tonibickart@gmail.com) or [apodgorsky@verizon.net](mailto:apodgorsky@verizon.net).

Please make sure your voice is heard and Pledge Your Vote today at [MERCAZ2020.org](http://MERCAZ2020.org).

—Toni 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](http://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 preserved 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 [slburka@aol.com](mailto:slburka@aol.com). **Please contact Courtney Tisch at [Courtney.Tisch@adasisrael.org](mailto:Courtney.Tisch@adasisrael.org) to register.**



## Adas Israel Summer Subsidies

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 2, 2020**

**APPLY ONLINE AT [ADASISRAEL.ORG/YOUTH-AI](http://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](mailto: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 fail visit.

**When:** Jail visits are full-day commitments. Volunteers may need to leave to DC between 5:30-7:30am, depending on the facility, and should plan to return by 8:00pm. 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](mailto:hoffenberg.jackie@gmail.com)) and complete a volunteer sign-up form and confidentiality agreement at <https://www.caircoalition.org/how-to-help/volunteering>.





## Books & More *The Adas Israel Library Corner*

### *Risking Death to Rescue Strangers*

BY ROBIN JACOBSON

*LIBRARY & LITERARY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR*

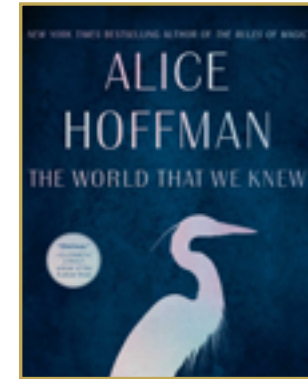


One day, anthropologist Maggie Paxson suddenly decided to “study war no more.” Weary and dispirited from fieldwork in violent, strife-torn countries, Paxson resolved to switch her research to human decency and altruism. This led her to a cluster of mountain villages on the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon in 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, Daniel Trocmé, distantly related to Paxson, refused to abandon his charges to Gestapo capture; he died in a concentration camp. Paxson painstakingly traces Daniel’s life and choices, trying to channel his world view.



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 World We Knew* is a dark fairytale, a haunting work of magical realism that speaks to the enduring love between mothers and daughters. Hanni, a Berlin widow, is so desperate to protect her teenage daughter Lea from the Nazis that she creates a female golem, Ava, to accompany Lea to France and protect her as fiercely as a mother. But France holds dangers that Hanni did not anticipate.

*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, “Tourteau” (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 . . .



### UPCOMING ADAS BOOK EVENTS



*The Flight Portfolio* by Julie Orringer

**Book Chat: Sunday, February 9, 10 am, in the Library**

Join the discussion of this historical novel about real-life hero Varian Fry who rescued 2000 artists and intellectuals during WWII. All welcome! Questions? Please contact Robin Jacobson ([librarian@adasisrael.org](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org)).



**Author Chat—Author Sing!**

*The Plateau* by Maggie Paxson

**Author Chat: Sunday, March 15, 10 am in the Library**

Join us for a memorable morning! Anthropologist and performer Dr. Maggie Paxson will introduce *The Plateau*, about a remarkable French mountain community that rescued Jews during the Holocaust (see accompanying review). Dr. Paxson will also perform early 20th-century French and American songs that became important during her research. A book signing will follow (purchases by cash or check only). To RSVP for this unique free program, please e-mail Robin Jacobson ([librarian@adasisrael.org](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org)).



#### NEW FEATURE

### From Our History

#### A LOOK BACK AT ADAS' HISTORY

**Did you know...**

Among the synagogue bills approved for payment on December 10, 1925, were \$3.05 for telephone; \$275.50 for coal; and \$116.06 to repair the furnace.





BIRTHS

**Max Simon Hoffer**, son of Marin & Melissa Hoffer, grandson of Ron & Audrey Hoffer was born December 9.  
**Hannah Izamar 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 Bubbe, 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 Colibri.



**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. Max 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.



**Gil Leifman, February 8 (TEM)**  
Gil is a seventh-grader at Alice Deal Middle School. He attended JPDS (now Milton), is currently a student in the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School and is a camper at Ramah in the Rockies. For his mitzvah project, Gil plans to help the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in its efforts to save the bay from pollution. Gil shares his simcha with his parents, Michael Leifman and Sharon Samber; his brother, Ethan; his grandparents, Rabbi Moshe and Alisa Samber; and his extended family and friends.



**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 HaYeled 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.

MEMBER IN THE NEWS

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

IN MEMORIAM

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>We mourn the loss of synagogue members:</b><br>Rhoda Baruch  | Norma Frank, mother of Simone Frank & Len Frank<br>Jim Gordon, father of Dan Gordon<br>Richard Mass, uncle of Mike Madden<br>Erika Schlesinger, aunt of Ronald Schlesinger<br>Rose Singer, mother of Suzanne Stutman & grandmother of Shira Stutman |
| <b>We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:</b><br>Helga Baer, mother of Don Baer<br>Ronald Baker, father of Alyson Baker<br>Dr. Martin Blumenfeld, father of Jeffrey Blumenfeld & grandfather of Beth Taubman |   |

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](mailto: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 chance to return again. Mikvah is a turning point.

For more information, visit [www.adasisrael.org/mikvah](http://www.adasisrael.org/mikvah), and to make an appointment, go to [www.mikvahcalendar.as.me](http://www.mikvahcalendar.as.me).







SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

**Anna Glaser Berman Memorial Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **Anna Glaser Berman** for the future of Adas Israel Congregation by Diana Hart.

**Anne Frank House Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **Harry Kahn** by Hazel Keimowitz.

**Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **Benjamin “Jamie” Cecil** by Joe Cecil, Judith Friedman. **Linda Harris & Barry Chajet** by Judith Friedman & Joe Cecil.

**Bereavement Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **Littman Danziger** by Arnold J. Danziger. **Alan Friedman** by Lou Altarescu.

**Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund**  
*In Honor Of:* **Cantor Brown** for making Howard’s 75th birthday party a great success by Sandy & Howard Marks.  
*In Appreciation Of:* **Cantor Brown** & the Sweet Celebration of Song Concert by Rhoda Ganz.  
*With Thanks To:* **Cantor Brown** for her beautiful contribution to Gaby Joseph & Ilan Layman’s wedding by Debby & Mark Joseph.

**Capital Fund Contributions**  
*In Recognition Of:* Simchat Torah honors of **Sarah Brooks** and **Russell Smith** by Herlene & Yaacov Nagler.

**Charles Pilzer Computer Center**  
*In Memory Of:* **Yetta B. Pilzer** by Geraldine Pilzer.

**Congregational Kiddush Fund**  
*In Honor Of:* Marriage of **Gaby Joseph & Ilan Layman** by Debby & Mark Joseph. **Ruth’s** birthday by Steve & Elizabeth Kleinrock.  
*On Behalf Of:* Families that need assistance with their simchas by MB Lewis Charitable Foundation.  
*In Memory Of:* **Stanley Kaufman** by Rabbi Jan Kaufman.

**Daily Minyan Fund**  
*In Honor Of:* **Bill Levenson’s** 50th birthday by Donna & Jacob Bardin. **Joyce & Michael Stern.** Publication of **Sheldon Kimmel’s** research essay in *Nashim* by Joyce & Michael Stern.  
*In Memory Of:* **Judith Himmelfarb** by Dan Himmelfarb. **Sylvia Horwitz** by Marvene Horwitz. **Morris Stirman** by Sonia Herson.

**Dan Kaufman Children’s Program Fund**  
*In Honor Of:* **Rabbi Solomon** for her great

work for children by Dale Kaufman.

**Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **Lewis Lutter** by Trina & Lee Rubenstein.

**Doris Herman Gan Teacher Recognition Fund**  
*In Honor Of:* **Susan Wedlan** by Betsy Hockstein.

**Dr. & Mrs. Stanley W. Kirstein Gan Memorial Fund**  
*In Honor Of:* **Andrew Meyers** by Beth Simon & Richard Ruland.

**Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **John Eichberg, Sandra Shulman, Bev Simons, Dr. Edward Abramson, Sharon Peiken,** all by Dorothy Block. **Dr. Lewis Biben** by Dorothy Block, Harriet Bubes.

**Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment**  
*In Memory Of:* **Leonard Burka** by John & Renny Kossow, Sharon & Michael Burka.

**Fund for the Future**  
*In Honor Of:* **Russell’s** Simchat Torah honor by Judith & Russell Smith.  
*In Memory Of:* **Irving Kaye (Katz)** by Elyse Kaye. **Adele Pilsk** by Judy & Russell Smith.

**Garden of the Righteous**  
*In Honor Of:* Birthdays of **Judy Strauch** and **Gail Schwartz** by Jean Bernard  
*In Memory Of:* **Rhoda Connick** by David Connick. **Dr. Marcus Jacobson** by Ruth Ann Kurzbauer.

**Gonzalez Family**  
*In Honor Of:* New baby by Betsy Strauss, Denyse Tannenbaum & Jamie Horwitz.  
*In Recognition Of:* **Sarah Brooks’s, Sharon Burka’s, Russell Smith’s, & Michael Leifman’s** Simchat Torah honors by Miriam Rosenthal & Mileve Phillips.  
*On Behalf Of:* **The Gonzalez family** by Carolyn Rogers & Espy Almeda, Gene Sofer & Judith Bartnoff.

**Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **Frances Coler, Harry C. Bierman & David F. Linowes,** all by Judie & Harry Linowes.

**Havurah Kiddush Fund**  
*By:* Joyce & Michael Stern.  
*In Recognition Of:* **Sarah Brooks’s Simchat Torah** honor by Joyce & Michael Stern.  
*In Memory Of:* **Stanley Siegel, Ethel Daniels & Max Kahn,** all by Mary & Arnie Hammer.

**Hazzan Goldsmith Discretionary Fund**  
*In Appreciation Of:* **Stuart, George & Eric’s**

Ark opening on Rosh Hashanah by Pamela & Stuart Shalloway.

**Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund**  
*In Honor Of:* **Allan Gerson** (z”l) by Ava, Neal, Elissa, Jay & Alexis Gross. **Howard Marks’s** special birthday by Joyce & Michael Stern. **Rabbi Elianna Yolkut** by Lexi Light & Deborah Hall. **Ruth Kleinrock’s** big birthday by Rae Grad & Manny Schiffres.  
*With Thanks For:* Lovely High Holy Day gift by Bobbi & Allan Fried.  
*In Memory Of:* **The Levy/Woronow family** by Doris Povich. **Sophie & Morris Tersoff** by Susan Tersoff & David Margolies.

**Adas Fund**  
*With Thanks For:* Bus transportation to the cemetery by Doris Povich.  
*In Memory Of:* **Edward Abramson** by Jay & Lynn Freedman. **Lewis Bolotin** by Jeffrey Bolotin.

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**Ida Mendelson Memorial Prayer Book Fund**  
*In Memory Of:* **Hyman Gross** by the Hon. Joseph & Alma Gildenhorn.

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*In Memory Of:* **Jennie Litvack** by Arlene & Robert Kogod, Beth & Jeremy, Miriam Sapiro & Stephen Labaton Steindecker, Charles Small, Stephanie & Scott Deutchman. **Marsha Goldberg** by Jamie & Stuart Butler.

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**MakomDC Fund**  
*In Gratitude To:* **Betsy Strauss** for leading our Pirke Avot sessions by April Rubin & Bruce Ray.  
*In Recognition Of:* **Sarah Brooks’s** Simchat Torah honor by April Rubin & Bruce Ray, Nancy, Dan & Jory Weiss.  
*With Thanks To:* **Rhoda Ritzenberg & Ken Heitner** for Erev Yom Kippur dinner by Nancy Weiss.

**Martha & Joseph Mendelson Adult Education Fund**  
*With Thanks To:* **Adina & Sandy Mendelson** for the Sukkah party by Dan & Nancy Weiss.

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SYNAGOGUE CONTRIBUTIONS



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*In Honor Of:* **Harry Friedman’s** 100th birthday by Barbara Bosses, Sandra Teplin. Rabbi Jan Kaufman by Michael Brochstein. **Miriam Kanter-Goodell** becoming a bat mitzvah by Toni & David Bickart.  
*With Thanks To:* Adas Israel & your inspiring clergy by Marilyn & Manny Vegh.  
*In Memory Of:* **Jeffrey Dunn** by Eric Dunn & Stephanie Meyer. **Edward Abramson** by Nancy & Alan Bubes. **Alan Friedman** by Stephen Tiber.

**Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund**  
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*In Honor Of:* **Rabbi Alexander** for his heartfelt birthday blessing by Howard & Sandy Marks. Our wonderful rabbis by Lisa Zycherman & Keith Apple. **Howard Marks’s** 75th birthday, **Bill Levenson’s** 50th birthday by Nechama Masliansky. **Rabbi Alexander** for officiating at our wedding by Stephen & Claire Krupin.  
*Mazel Tov To:* **Scott & Taylor Greenberg** on their wedding by Melanie & Steve Greenberg.

*With Thanks To:* **Rabbi Alexander** by Shirley Horn. **Rabbi Alexander** for officiating our wedding by Adam Levy & Rebecca Kaplan Levy.

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*In Honor Of:* **Talia Loeffler** becoming a bat mitzvah by Jane & Bob Loeffler.  
*In Memory Of:* **Jack Chernikoff** by Larry Chernikoff.

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*With Thanks To:* **Julie Weissman** for hosting topical erev Shabbat dinners by April Rubin & Bruce Ray  
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*In Memory Of:* **George Sidell** by Arlene Sidell Cohen. **Shirley Breger Eitches** by Eddie Eitches. **Jean Title, Reeva & Max Goldberg,** all by Elinor Tattar. **Bernardo Kotelanski** by Jorge Kotelanski & Marina Feldman. **Arthur N. Lerner** by Linda Dreeben & family. **Terry Goldstein** by Marcie Goldstein. **Harry Seltzer** by Toba Penny.

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*In Memory Of:* **Robert Rovinsky & Jennie Litvack** by Shelley & Stewart Remer.

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*In Honor Of:* **Ben Mulitz’s** 100th birthday by Bobbi & Allan Fried. **Marc Aaron Sussman** becoming a bar mitzvah by Holly Resnick.  
*With Thanks To:* Adas Israel for providing streaming of High Holy Day services by Bobbi & Allan Fried.  
*In Memory Of:* **Addison David Lesser** by Deborah Lesser.

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*In Gratitude For:* The awesome work of our staff by April Rubin & Bruce Ray.

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*In Honor Of:* **Bill Levenson’s** 50th birthday by Patti Lieberman & Jeff Knishkoway, Rabbi Jan Kaufman.  
*Mazel Tov To:* **Bill Levenson** on his milestone birthday by the Roskes family.  
*In Memory Of:* **Lillian Cardash** by Marshall Lewis.

**Tzedakah Fund**  
*In Recognition Of:* **Sarah Brooks’s, Sharon Burka’s, Michael Leifman’s, & Russell Smith’s** Simchat Torah honors by Glenn & Cindy Easton.  
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OFFICES

**VOL. 82, NO. 7**  
**FEBRUARY 2020**  
**SHEVAT-ADAR 5780**

**A SACRED BLEND OF  
TRADITION &  
INNOVATION**

CHRONICLE (USPS 005-280)  
Jean Brodsky Bernard, *Editor*  
Rich Webster, *Graphic Design*

Published monthly (except combined issue July/August) by The Adas Israel Congregation, 2850 Quebec Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008-5200. Subscription \$25 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Chronicle, 2850 Quebec Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008-5200. Telephone 202-362-4433; Hearing Impaired Relay Services 711; Fax 202-362-4961; Religious School 202-362-4449; Gan HaYeled Nursery School 202-362-4491; e-mail: [AdasOffice@AdasIsrael.org](mailto:AdasOffice@AdasIsrael.org). Affiliated with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Supported in part by The Ethel and Nat Popick Endowment Fund.

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