

Adas Israel Congregation • Summer 5780

CHRONICLE

*L'Shana Tova Tikatevu
High Holy Day Plans Enclosed*

Renewal • Courage • Faith



ולא נבוש לעולם ועד

Who could've imagined a few short months ago the world we'd be living in today?

It's been a time of heartbreak, isolation, struggle, and great fear of the unknown.

It's also been a time of heroism, generosity, ingenuity, and daily testament to the strength and resilience of the human spirit.



Dear Adas family,

This year has been hard.

We have certainly felt the highs of our soaring community, but also the lows of a global pandemic. Isolation and loneliness have been close to us — emotions that we have touched daily, and witnessed in our loved ones.

Despite it all, the thread that has held us together is... each other. **Despite it all**, we are finding ways to meaningfully connect. **Despite it all**, we have experienced the full range of Jewish practice together — Torah study, shivas, B'nai mitzvah, weddings, funerals, births, and more. We have seen you laugh, cry, mourn, give comfort, sing, teach, and come together remarkably through this time.

What we have learned through this pandemic is that where there is a will there is a way.

And together we are finding our way.

And so, as these Holy Days approach, we both commit to you, and call upon you.

We commit to believing in you. **We commit** to your potential. **We commit** to your hearts. **We commit** to your journeys. **We commit** to helping you grow and flourish amidst it all. And we call upon you to believe in the transformative power of these days to help us heal, to help us dream, to help us mourn, to help us express joy, to help us forge an old and new path forward, together. Our role as your clergy is to help design the vessel in which all of us — our fullest selves — can find space for connecting with God, Torah, and one another.

Lo Neivosh L'Olam Va'Ed

May we not feel shame or despair about our sorrows, our losses, or our loneliness, and may we never lose hope for the light that is to come.

So join us. Pray with us. Sing with us. Love with us. Be with us.

L'Shana Tova,



David



Haim



Sarah



Ariana

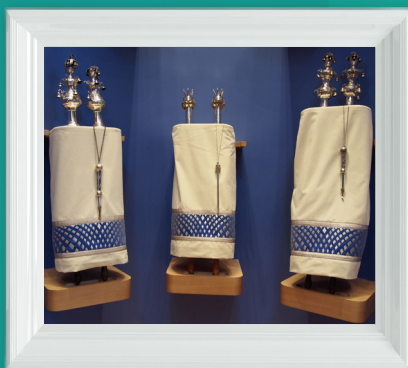
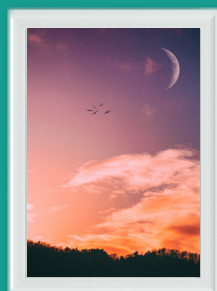
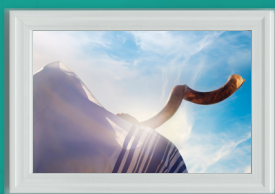
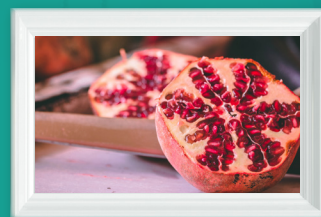
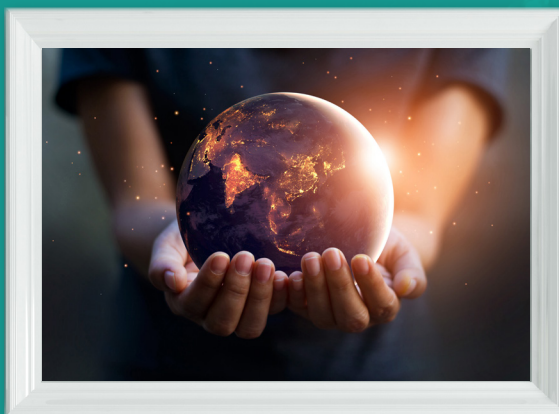
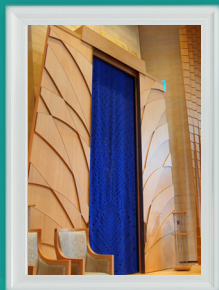


Rachel

with

Renewal. Courage. Faith.

*we proudly present a new vision for our
High Holy Day experiences in 5781.*



**“We are going to
show just how
far Adas Israel
reaches.”**

ולא נבוש לעולם ועד

“We know the only way we can truly prioritize and serve all of our people is to keep us apart in body, but bound together tightly in every other way.”

Our High Holy Days This Year - A Combination of In-Person & Online Experiences

For many of us, one of the most uplifting experiences of our high holy day season is the feeling of being enveloped in the presence of our beautiful spaces and thousands of fellow community members inclining toward renewal, together. While this truth is deeply felt by so many of us, we also continue to affirm that no religious value can be prioritized over the health and safety of each and every member of our community.

While the world has progressed in its fight against the COVID pandemic, we all know that it is indeed still spreading, extremely dangerous, and puts lives at risk. As we spent countless hours imagining how to best protect the health and safety of our community during this time of emergency, and in keeping with strictly-enforced gathering regulations mandated by the city, again and again we came back to this reality; 5,000 people in one building, on one day, is not an option. Nor is limiting in-person Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur worship, and thereby excluding some while serving others. We know the only way we can truly prioritize and serve all of our people is to keep us apart in body, but bound together tightly in every other way.

We Stand Together

Alongside the sense of loss this reality inevitably creates, we hope you will also hold the deep sense of pride and responsibility that comes with standing together spiritually through this moment, just as generations of Adas Israel members have done in their own times of crisis.

And so this year, we are going to show just how far Adas Israel reaches; into every home in our community, and beyond.

An Experience Like No Other

While these holidays will certainly be different in kind than what we have experienced in the past, they will also transcend everything we have done thus far online to ensure your Jewish life continues to thrive in surprising and authentic ways. This will be more than another livestream or Zoom experience. No matter what, we are committed to bringing Adas to you in ever new, creative, and dynamic ways. We pledge, as a community, to pour every ounce of ingenuity and spirit into this moment, creating an interactive, inviting, and meaningful excursion into prayer, memory, and renewal.

The Sacred Work Ahead

We will spend these summer months building new and exciting ways to expand the High Holy Day experience in ways that can be customized to your home, your needs, your reality. We will bring you all the most sacred elements of these holy days: the melodies, the teachings, the communal celebration, and the words of kavanah that will set our intention for the year to come, and guide us through the spiritual journey of the holiest of days. Please join us as we begin a remarkable journey together towards **Renewal, Courage, and Faith.**



Leah



Uri



Shira

In-Person Experiences

Throughout the month of Elul, we will be cultivating multiple opportunities for our Adas community members to come and safely visit our synagogue building for sacred pre-High Holy Day experiences and spiritual preparations. Please visit adasisrael.org/highholydays to register for the following programs (*registration required*).



ADAS ISRAEL ARK VISITS

Registration will be Required, Time/Dates Coming Soon

This is a sacred opportunity for community members to enter our building in a staggered and socially distant manner, and stand before the Aron Kodesh in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - a beloved custom from our N'eelah service on Yom Kippur each year.



SELICHOT "DRIVE-IN" PARKING LOT SERVICES

Registration will be Required, Time/Dates Coming Soon

This tradition invites us to open ourselves up to the essential work of the High Holy Days: the process of repair and return, of acknowledgement and longing. Please join your community in the Adas Israel parking lot for a one-of-a-kind evening of personal reflection through song and text -- back at the building you love!



COMMUNAL TASHLICH EXPERIENCE

Registration will be Required, Time/Dates Coming Soon

Experience the ancient, communal custom associated with the First Day of Rosh Hashanah, in which we visit an ocean, stream, or river to pray and throw breadcrumbs into the water. Join a small group at a safe distance in a guided outdoor communal tashlich experience.



COMMUNAL SHOFAR BLOWING

Registration will be Required, Time/Dates Coming Soon

Our entire community will join together at a specific time and day so our collective "voices" can echo into the universe through the sacred sounding of the shofar. Opportunities to procure shofarot and shofar training will be shared soon.

Online Experiences

We pledge to you this will not be just another livestream or Zoom experience. While these holidays will certainly be different in kind than what we have experienced in the past, they will also transcend everything we have done thus far online to ensure your Jewish life continues to thrive in new, surprising, and authentic ways.



ROSH HASHANAH

September 18 - 20, Livestreamed to Your Home, from Across the Building
Clergy-Led, Musical Services / Youth & Family Services / Traditional, Lay-Led Services

Today is the birthday of the world. It is the day to hear the call of the shofar, to be in radical amazement of the world that surrounds us. Our spirits are lifted as friends, family, and community members from all over the world are called together for a day of earnest reflection and renewal.



KOL NIDRE

Sunday, September 27, Livestreamed to Your Home, from the Adas Israel Parking Lot
Clergy-Led, Musical Service / Traditional, Lay-Led Service

The sun sets, ushering in the holiest day of the year. Kol Nidre gives us permission to pray with each other, with all of our imperfections and longings for healing. The liturgy and age-old melodies invite us in to break new ground and create space for something new.



YOM KIPPUR

Monday, September 28, Livestreamed to Your Home, from Across the Building
Clergy-Led, Musical Services / Youth & Family Services / Traditional, Lay-Led Services

This is the day we all pass before God – a God who is merciful, compassionate, abounding in love, and forgiving. We ask to be granted release. We seek to be made whole, to begin anew, to move forward with our lives with all of the potential and promise that lies within each one of us.



WHY IS THIS LIVESTREAM DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER LIVESTREAMS?

- Enhanced, High-Def Livestream
- Complete Liturgy & Torah Services
- Interactive “Pop-Up” Video Content
- Streamed-in Participatory Aliyot & Honors
- “Navigate” Across The Building & Pick Your Service
- Multiple Livestream Angles
- Engaging Family Content For All Ages

Sacred Preparations

Spirited 5781 High Holy Day Preparations, Experiences & Learning



LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT WITH ADAS CLERGY

Unpack the Days of Awe and prepare to bring your full self. Includes preparations for your physical surroundings, your ritual materials, and your emotional and mental awareness.



ELUL HOME PACKAGE - COMING YOUR WAY!

Keep an eye out for a special delivery from Adas Israel, with a complete Elul home package, designed to bring a piece of Adas Israel and High Holy Day worship into your home.



"POP UP" VIDEO CONTENT

Throughout our service livestreams, there will be additional "pop-up" video experiences from our clergy and community, delving deeper into a particular topic of discussion arising from the High Holy Day liturgy and service.



THE ADAS BUILDING COMES TO YOU

Bring a piece of the Adas Israel building into your home. Prior to the holidays, we will mail you something very special from inside the building (a surprise!), which you can carry with you into your livestream experience. Stay tuned!



MACHZOR BORROW AND PICKUP

Our High Holy Day Machzors wait all year to be taken out and cherished. Adas will be facilitating a coordinated borrow/pickup system so that each of you will have a physical machzor in your hands.



"ELUL CLUSTER" COMMUNITY GROUPS

Join a digital High Holy Day watch group with your Adas Israel community to engage in the communal spirit of our livestreamed Days of Awe.



SHANA TOVA FROM MEMBERS "VIDEO LOOP"

We all love walking through our doors to be greeted by our fellow members and staff in our lobby. Each stream begins with a l'shana tova video to get you in the spirit of moving into our sacred spaces.



MAKOMDC & JMCW LEARNING

Delve deeply into the spiritual messages of the Days of Awe with these High Holy Day-themed MakomDC and JMCW programs throughout the month of Elul.

Coming Soon

- Full Service & Event Schedule
 - High Holy Days @ Home:
A “Spritual & Practical” Guide
 - Additional Opportunities To Engage & Prepare
-



SELICHOT

Saturday, September 12



ROSH HASHANAH

Saturday, September 19 & Sunday, September 20



KOL NIDRE

Sunday, September 27



YOM KIPPUR

Monday, September 28

complete holiday guidance, schedules,
and information coming soon:

**[adasisrael.org/
highholydays](https://adasisrael.org/highholydays)**





Mourning, Healing, and Proximity in a COVID World



by Rabbis Lauren Holtzblatt & Aaron Alexander
Published in *The Forward*

There is a story told in the Talmud (Tractate Berakhot, 5b) about Rabbi Yohanan. He possessed a great healing ability, the unique ability to listen and hold the pain of the other, and he had also experienced unimaginable loss as 10 of his children died in his lifetime. In one famous story, he goes to visit Rabbi Hiya bar Abba who is ill.

Rabbi Yohanan asks Rabbi Hiya: "Is your suffering dear to you?"

"No," says Rabbi Hiya.

"Then give me your hand," says Rabbi Yohanan.

Rabbi Hiya extends his hand and Rabbi Yohanan miraculously cures him, the story goes. The underlying message: there is something truly healing about being in the presence of another.

In this time of the pandemic, one of the sufferings that we have witnessed again and again is the loneliness of those who are ill and those who are mourning. Hospitals have limited corridors for the sick alone. Those who have to go into hospitals for treatments must not only go alone but then also worry about exposure to COVID-19.

Our experience of mourning during this grief-stricken period has been one of witnessing trauma layered with more trauma. Families are unable to hold their loved ones at the end of life—forced to be apart, which is further compounded by funerals where families either must be absent entirely, or stand six feet apart, faces with masks, toting their own shovels. Much of it feels surreal, though all too real. We have walked families through this agony throughout the last three months, many times needing recovery ourselves because of the sheer pain of the entire experience.

We have talked together at length lately about how some of the most meaningful rituals within Jewish practice: *avelilut* (mourning), burial, *shiva*, and *bikkur holim* (visiting the sick) no longer possess, in the way they did before COVID, pathways to lead the sick or the mourner to feel, quite literally, held. These millennia-old practices were exquisitely constructed to elicit moments of person-to-person interaction, a chance for one human heart to help fill the empty space of another's broken heart. And their absence can be emotionally and physically excruciating.

Though we do not have a salve, we have noticed something shift during this period: the power of language, and in particular, the potency of its most visceral delivery mechanism—voice (including real-time transcription).

Left without the opportunity for an in-person, physical encounter, we have had to rely almost solely on the comfort of our words: comfort through a phone call, through texting, and through the very conscious tones we communicate over Zoom.

But can the sound of one's voice, or the reading of words/lips, create physical proximity?

It has to.

Our rabbinic tradition, in several places, asserts that when God desires an intimate experience with one of God's creations, the voice chosen is one of familiarity. One midrash suggests that when God addresses Moses from the burning bush, God chooses to sound to Moses as his father would sound.

Another midrash, quite famous, claims that when God gave Torah, God's voice was heard by each and every individual in precisely the way they needed to hear it (which we would have to believe included the capacity for those who couldn't hear to see the words). A voice they would respond to, as it were.

These teachings deeply resonate with our experience of pastoral care in a COVID world. While our bodies may be distant from one another, there is still the possibility of a physical connection through voice, which vibrates throughout the listener's body, creating sensations that offer at least a measure of solace during this unimaginable period.

These interpretations also resonate with the scientific explanation of how humans process sound—vibrations moving at different frequencies, creating sound waves, then bouncing on the eardrum. These vibrations meet up with tiny bones in the ear before moving on to the inner ear, which is filled with a liquid that processes the vibrations, converts them into electrical impulses, before finally traveling to the brain.

The brain, ever-magical, interprets the impulses, and then translates them into a number of possible feelings, memories, thoughts, and activities. This is true of sight as well (for those seeing the words), as the same element of the brain that processes our senses is partially processing emotions as well.

We as clergy have become all too aware of what is and what isn't under our control. We have quickly re-learned our various limitations, and they are many.

But also, in the context of facing previously absent restrictions, we have found our voices, or so to speak. We have seen the power they possess. We have felt the reverberations flowing through our community. We have embraced this new song, embedded in ancient wisdom and cadence.

Before COVID, a list of people to call to check in with was often simply that, a list. We saw phone calls as a follow-up to those we would visit in person. But now, the list is no longer just a list—it is an invitation to proximity. It is an invitation to enter another's world and to bring a closeness that is so desperately needed at this time.

Min ha-meitzer karati Yah—"from a very narrow place I called out," says the Psalmist. For now, we will answer the call through the power of the voice until we can one day be in person again.



From The President



by Laurie Aladjem, Adas President

Every synagogue president has a crisis to deal with. That's what people told me. With all due respect to my predecessors, I win.

But honestly, despite the hardships, which are real, I have never been prouder of Adas Israel.

We talk a lot about what it means to be a kehillah, something I have been thinking about even more now that we are turning our attention toward the High Holy Days.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote something about the term Kehillah that resonated with me. He said that a kehillah is different from other groups, such as an edah or a tzibbur, in that a kehillah is a group of diverse individuals united around a common purpose.

We are a diverse lot. The Jewish community in America hasn't always been great at celebrating our diversity, though I am proud to say that at Adas we are making progress. Our kehillah is white and Black and Latinx and Asian. We are families and single people. We are people who can trace our Jewish lineage back for generations, and people who have recently chosen Judaism. We are heterosexual and LGBTQ. And when we recognize each other's whole selves, and make space for the diversity within our community, our kehillah grows stronger.

We are united around a common purpose. As Rabbis Holtzblatt and Alexander have taught us, our purpose is to teach and learn and live Torah, both within Adas and out in the world.

As a kehillah, we live our Torah within our community and take care of one another, regardless of whether we can be physically together. The Hesed team continues its outreach, and has contacted every single Adas household. They've been assessing the needs of our congregants and helping those who need it. And members of our community keep our twice daily minyanim going virtually.

We are united around the common purpose of living our Torah as citizens of our city and country. We believe that Black Lives Matter. We believe that we cannot be truly free while people are hungry and homeless and are pushed out of our city in the name of economic progress. None of us are truly safe when black people are killed because of the color of their skin.

We are also united by our belief in human life, and science, and objective facts. Now more than ever, this can lead to disappointment, as we proceed with extreme caution as we contemplate the High Holy Days. We yearn to come together, while also yearning for health and safety. As you can see from the beginnings of the plan outlined on

the preceding pages, our approach will be to balance these competing yearnings.

Our incomparable clergy and staff is working more tirelessly than ever to ensure that we still feel like a kehillah during these weird and unsettling times. The entire team is pushing the creative envelope to ensure the meaningful experiences we expect.

I want to thank each and every one of you, for your patience and your commitment. Your support of this place is humbling. Despite the myriad challenges we are facing as a community and a nation, you continue to do the work, you challenge us to think creatively about how we can better live our Torah.

I truly am honored to get to be the President of such an inspiring kehillah, especially during these difficult times. We will get through this crisis. We will learn from it. And, until we can be together again, I wish you all health, strength and sanity.



The Adas Fund 2020

In Honor of our Incredible “Team Adas”

Adas Israel Is Our Home, Now and Always

Support our one annual campaign, and ensure that the Adas we know and love is here to stay.

We can't do this without you.

Once a year, we ask you, to contribute to a special campaign. It is the engine that drives all of the meaningful work in our community.

This is The Adas Fund.

This year, as the world grapples with circumstances beyond imagination, our team of dedicated Adas staff members has been there, binding us together through their sacred, diligent work and service. Overnight, these remarkable individuals created a fully digital institution under challenging circumstances, enabling thousands to attend weekly Shabbat services and Daily Minyanim, to continue with their children's Jewish education, and to stay connected with each other and with our remarkable clergy.

And so, in honor of their tireless efforts, we dedicate this year's Adas Fund campaign to them, our incredible Team Adas.



We seek 100% participation, at any level of giving. Your support will ensure we have the resources we need to keep our full team engaged and serving you in the way you deserve. Every dollar counts, now more than ever. We ask that you please stand with this uncommonly devoted team, who serve Adas with full heart and full soul, come what may.

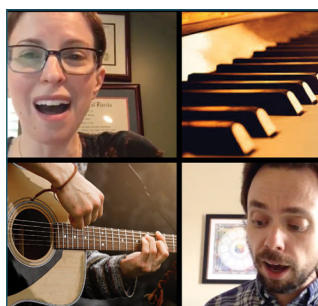
Visit adasisrael.org/the-adas-fund to contribute today.

Toda Raba,
the Officers of Adas Israel Congregation

adasisrael.org/the-adas-fund



Pray with us. Learn with us. Connect with us. Online.
adasisrael.org/adasairwaves



Visit us online to find a comprehensive collection of upcoming services, classes, and other opportunities to engage remotely. We affirm once again that our unwavering connection to each other is among our greatest blessings at Adas, and is felt just as palpably in our hearts, and even online, as it is in our building. We are each of us, *aravevim zeh la-zeh*, deeply bound, one with the other. Let our robust prayer, learning, social, and programmatic offerings over the airwaves serve as a beacon of hope, connection, and inspiration.



Shabbat Services

Friday Night & Saturday Morning

FRIDAY NIGHT, 6PM

Visit adasisrael.org/adasairwaves to join live.

SATURDAY MORNING, 10AM

Visit adasisrael.org/adasairwaves to join live or dial in at 202.686.8405



Daily Minyan

Weekday Mornings & Evenings

SUNDAY MORNING, 9AM

MON.-FRI. MORNING, 7:30AM

SUN.-THURS. EVENING, 6PM

Visit adasisrael.org/adasairwaves to join live.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO STAYING CONNECTED:

adasisrael.org/adasairwaves

JMCW@ADAS

jewish mindfulness center of washington

When the spirit shines, even foggy skies make pleasant light.

Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook

When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.

Viktor Frankl

JMCW began eight years ago bringing an array of Jewish spiritual practices to Adas Israel and the DC area. Jennie Litvack (z"l), leader of our founding task force, talked about spirituality as translating God from a concept to a feeling and using Jewish mindfulness practices to access those feelings. As JMCW has grown over the years, so have those yearnings to create a space for spiritual practice. Especially now. How do we access that shining spirit to which Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook refers? What does it mean to "change ourselves," as Viktor Frankl counsels?

Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt beautifully weaves Hasidut into mindfulness practice. She talks about the early Hasidic rabbis and their teaching of Gadlut (mind expansion) and Katnut (mind contraction). Katnut is the anxiety, the tight corners where our mind dwells in fear, in anger, in regret. While katnut can pop up at any time, spiritual

practice (breathing, praying, connecting with nature) brings an ease and openness—a gadlut that can linger and to which we can always return.

The 13th-century Persian poet Rumi says: Your eyes are so small, yet they behold the whole world. Indeed, notice how your little eye can take in the whole sky. That is expansiveness. And imagine how your heart can take in and hold our world right now: isolation and community connections; immense sorrow and unexpected joy; the comfort of daily rituals, along with unsettling uncertainties; the beauty and expansiveness of the sky. That is gadlut.

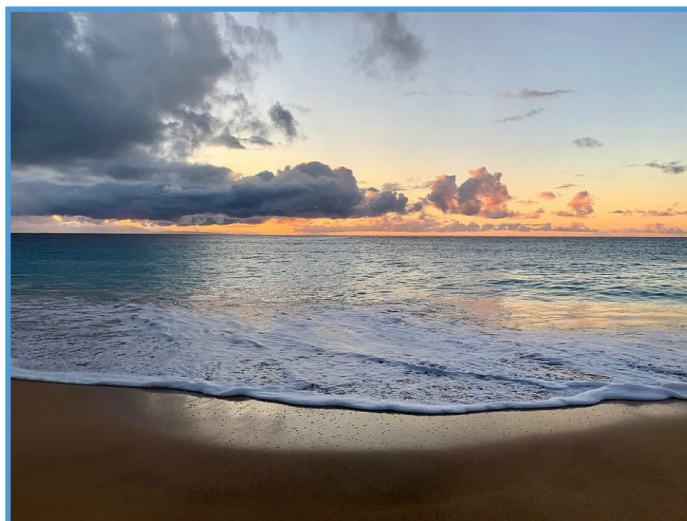
Please join our listserv to learn about Jewish mindfulness opportunities. May this summer and beyond be a time of expansion and ease.

ADAS ISRAEL COMMUNITY MIKVAH

The best mikvahs are natural ones! If you're traveling to a body of water this summer, try this simple (bathing suit on!) immersion ritual.

- Immerse once and say the blessing, "Baruch Ata . . . vetzivanu Al HaTevila"
- Immerse a second time and say Shehechiyanu
- Immerse a third time and add your own words of prayer
- Even if you forget the words, you can still do this! Before the first immersion think about the past; before the second immersion appreciate the present; and before the third immersion set an intention for the future.

Be safe and enjoy!



tikkunolam

'REPAIRING THE WORLD'

Ever since March, the Social Action Committee has been hard at work reaching out to those in our community most affected by COVID-19. We have experienced the trauma of injustice and a country that must reckon with racial injustice. We have also been uplifted by the multitude of voices speaking up for change. Looking for ways to help? You can find a list of concrete, up-to-date actions to take on our website, adasisrael.org/socialaction. Please join us in this critical (and remote!) work.

We recently hosted a Zoom discussion between Rashawn Ray, associate professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, and Ryane Nickens, founder and president of the TraRon Center, on understanding racial disparities in health and COVID-19 deaths. There are long-standing racial disparities in many of our public systems, including housing, education and health care, and COVID-19 is shining a bright light on how it disproportionately affects communities of color, particularly here in the District of Columbia. In May, Lev B'Lev hosted a Virtual Pre-Iftar for our Muslim neighbors at the Muslim Community Center, the ADAMS Center, and the Rumi Forum. Participants shared informal conversation to occur between Jews and Muslims about our common experiences preparing for holidays and festivals, and to add a musical element

to the evening that showcased a lev b'lev (heart to heart) theme, namely, that shared music is an outstanding way to build bridges between people and communities. We've continued to bring much-needed donations of food and personal items out to the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission, where we had previously been serving meals to Mission residents, many of them affected by opioid addiction, and more than half veterans, and other food-insecure families. In addition, individual members have been working with other local organizations to deliver food to those in need. Finally, a number of members, including several of our teens, have been working to remote tutor local refugees through Solutions in Hometown Connections. We thank you for all of the hard work you do and the kindness and caring you show to the world in this difficult time.

—Brad Brooks-Rubin and Liz Scheier, SAC Co-Chairs



Hesed

Acts of Loving Kindness

The Hesed Committee has been busy checking on all of you. With a monumental effort of 300 volunteers, the Hesed Committee has contacted every member of the Adas community to see how you are doing during the COVID pandemic. Even the clergy got calls! The feedback we got was heartwarming. We need our community more than ever during this time. Even though we can't see each other in person, our community is still connected. If we didn't contact you (sorry about that), please let us know how you are doing. If you need anything or know of anyone who we should contact, please e-mail hased@adasisrael.org.

Some of our Religious School students also wrote to Adas members who are First Responders and front-line workers. We want them to know we care about them and thank them for all they do to keep us healthy and safe.

A delivery of food from our Hesed freezer was transported to West Virginia to our partners at Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission. We can't wait to be able to cook again and stock up the freezer with our yummy Hesed treats.

If you would like to do an act of Hesed, just a simple call to a neighbor or friend is all it takes. We all crave human connections, so any effort to touch base with someone is a good thing, especially someone who is living alone. You don't need an assignment; just pick up the phone and call someone to say you are thinking about them. That's Hesed!

Stay healthy and keep washing your hands.





Sisterhood Reflects on a Challenging Yet Successful Year

By Jill Jacob, Sisterhood President

“The Earth was made round so that we would not see too far down the road.”

—Isak Dinesen, Out of Africa

Coming off a year of unforeseen events, challenges and opportunities, Sisterhood looks forward to a new year of special events and ongoing programs that build friendship and connection while reflecting our Jewish values: acts of hesed and tzedakah, Torah study, inclusion, and women’s full participation in synagogue life. We are proud that our programming and growing membership reflect Adas Israel’s rich diversity.

Our stimulating Opening Event explored the many colors and cultures of Jewish women, as Adas Israel members from different backgrounds and countries shared their stories. A spectacular Sisterhood Shabbat celebrated women achieving voice at the ballot box and on the bimah.

At members-only Sisterhood in Your Community gatherings and Sunday Salons, we met in members’ homes to socialize and get to know each other better. Each of the three salons featured an accomplished Sisterhood member who shared her path to a successful, fulfilling career.

Following the COVID shutdown, we continued to build community with Zoom programs on de-cluttering at home, women’s heart health, and a “Get Happy Hour.” We also heard member Esther Safran Foer read from and discuss her memoir of Holocaust survival. (A link to the event recording is on our web page, adasisrael.org/sisterhood.)

In the coming year we will continue to learn from one another, nurture women’s friendships, and share individual and collective joys and sorrows. We look forward to welcoming new members and new leaders on our board of directors.

Find a preview of our programming, most of which is open to all, on our web page.

Whatever 2020-21 brings, we look forward to seeing you!

ruth & simon albert

sisterhood gift shop

We don’t know when we will reopen, but we miss seeing our wonderful customers.

If you need to communicate with us, we check our e-mail every day.

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



Education & Youth

@ ADAS ISRAEL



Even from home our Religious School and Gan HaYeled teachers continue to inspire us and connect with our students and families.

2020/21 RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ENROLLMENT OPEN!



Register Online At:
adasisrael.org/rsregistration

Our Religious School program seeks to provide an education designed to inspire our students to lead their lives as identified, committed Jews and ethical human beings. Our purpose is to instill Jewish values and a sense of pride in our students for their Jewish heritage, customs, language and traditions by creating a learning environment that is warm, challenging and engaging.

If you or anyone you know of are interested in our Religious School program, please direct them to the Adas Israel Religious School registration page to learn more and register!



B'NAI MITZVAH

Adas Israel would like to celebrate the following students who were scheduled to have their Bar/Bat Mitzvah this summer. We want to acknowledge this group for all of their preparation, hard work, and flexibility during this unprecedented time and share their successes with the Adas community. We also want to commend those who chose to celebrate virtually on their originally scheduled date, and wish congratulations in advance to those who plan to have future celebrations either virtually or back at Adas, when we can gather together again!



Gabriella Goldberg

Gabriella, daughter of Elyse Wasch and Ben Goldberg, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School and began her Jewish education at Adas in the first grade. She virtually celebrated her simcha with her parents, her sister Madeleine, her grandparents, and other family and friends. Her mitzvah project is to

work with Reach Out and Read, which promotes literacy by giving children a book at their regular wellness checkup.



Hannah Danin

Hannah Elizabeth Danin, daughter of Jeanette Thomas and Robert Danin, is a seventh grader at Sheridan School who began her Jewish education at the Gan all the way through Ma'alot, Adas's Religious School. She shares this simcha with her grandfather, Jerry; her grandmother, Jill; and her aunts, uncles, and

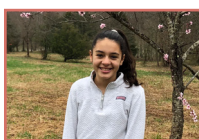
cousins, and she lovingly remembers her grandmother, Micki Danin, and grandfather, Jimmy Thomas, of blessed memory. Hannah's mitzvah project actively supports the climate strike in DC and participating in tree planting.



Daniela Cotlear

Dani, daughter of Blanche and Daniel Cotlear, is a Peruvian American sixth grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School who began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and now continues at Adas's Religious School. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, her previously scheduled May 2020 bat mitzvah was postponed, but she

was able to celebrate recently with a beautiful Havdalah blessing ceremony on Zoom. Dani looks forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah in April 2021 with the Adas Community and her friends and family from around the world.



Elana and Clara Bilbao

Clara and Elana Bilbao, who will be eighth graders at Westland Middle School this fall, have been attending religious school at Adas Israel since kindergarten. They celebrate this simcha with Grandma Phyllis and family and friends, and they lovingly remember their Abuela Viviana, and Grandfather Fred. Since last year, they have been volunteering at Kids in Action, a sports and social organization that works with children who have emotional and physical disabilities, and they have been doing

farm work with the Dream Catchers Meadows Farm, a therapeutic farm and animal sanctuary.



Liam Saxon

Liam, son of Deborah and Ethan Saxon, celebrated his bar mitzvah in May. Connected with family and friends over Zoom in his dining room, Liam did an awesome job chanting Torah and Haftorah and made his parents, grandparents, and great-grandmother incredibly proud. Liam has finished seventh

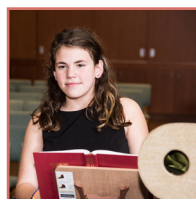
grade at Washington Latin Public Charter School and is a proud member of Adas Israel and DC Minyan.



Matthew Freedman

Matthew, son of Tom and Karin Freedman, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School and has been attending Adas Israel's Religious School since fourth grade. Matty celebrated his bar mitzvah with his parents; his siblings Noah and Abby; and his grandparents Dorothy Freedman and Uri and Dr. Alitta Kullman.

He also lovingly remembers his grandfather, Dr. Lawrence Z. Freedman, of blessed memory. For his mitzvah project, Matty is working with Leveling the Playing Field to help give more children the opportunity to enjoy the mental and physical benefits of youth sports participation.



Shayna Strong-Jacobson

Shayna, daughter of Rachel Strong and Michael Jacobson, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School who began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and is currently in the Ma'alot program at Adas's Religious School. Shayna was scheduled to have her bat mitzvah with the Traditional Egalitarian Minyan in May,

but it has been postponed until November. Shayna was tutored by her grandfather for her bat mitzvah, following in the steps of her brother, cousins, uncles, and father, and currently reads her parasha and haftorah over Zoom for her far-flung family.



Louis Diamond

Louis Benjamin Diamond, son of Stephan Diamond and Unice Lieberman, is a seventh grader at the McLean School of Maryland. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, and continues learning at Adas's Religious School. Louis celebrates his bar mitzvah with his older brother David; his grandparents, Ruth

Diamond and Abe and Ina Lieberman; and other family and friends. He also lovingly remembers his grandfather, David Diamond (z"l). For his mitzvah project, he is baking cakes for Birthday Cakes 4 Free, which bakes, decorates, and delivers free birthday cakes to financially and socially disadvantaged children and seniors.



Samantha Cutler

Samantha is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School. She attended the Gan and is currently a student in the Ma'alot program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. As her mitzvah project, Samantha volunteers with Nourish Now, an organization that provides resources to food-insufficient families.

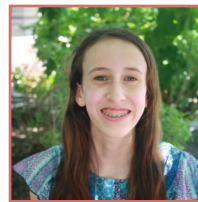
Samantha is looking forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with her mother, Margie; sister, Tabitha; her grandfather, aunts, uncles, cousins; and the rest of her family and friends.



Garrett Edelstein

Garrett Liam Edelstein, son of Lynne and Darryl Edelstein, is a seventh grader at The Lab School of Washington and began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled. Garrett celebrates his bar mitzvah on Zoom with his older brothers, Max and Cole; his grandmothers, Gail Edelstein and Shirley Hoffenberg; and his aunts, uncles and

cousins. He also remembers his grandfathers, Mannie Edelstein (z"l), and Monte Hoffenberg (z"l). For his mitzvah project, Garrett is making calls to older people in isolation to brighten their days.



Adi Cook

Adi Ravin Cook, daughter of Aynat and Dan Cook, will be an eighth grader at School without Walls this fall and looks forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with her younger sister, Lihl, and her family and friends. She began her formal Jewish education at the JCC and joined Adas Israel's Religious School in second grade;

her "informal" Jewish education began at birth from her Saba and Savta, Bracha and Noach Ravin, Jewish educators in the DC area for over 40 years. Adi's mitzvah project included creating thank you cards for essential workers with the "Print to Protect" program, and she has also helped make protective face masks for those in need.



Harry Groves

Harry, son of Beth and Curtis Groves, is a rising eighth grader at Sheridan School who began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and has attended religious school at Adas since kindergarten. Harry looks forward to celebrating his bar mitzvah with his parents, his older brother Jackson, and the rest of his

family and friends. An ardent fan of the Washington Nationals, Harry plans to volunteer with the Washington Nationals Youth Baseball Academy for his mitzvah project.



Reuven Magder (TEM)

Reuven, son of Maia and Dan Magder, is a seventh grader at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School and began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled. For his b'nai mitzvah project, Reuven traveled with his dad and 12 other members of Adas to Matamoros, Mexico, to work with Team Brownsville, which provides

meals and supplies to asylum-seekers at the border. He shared his simcha with the Milton and Adas communities, friends, and family; his grandparents David and Edna Magder and Marc Sternbaum and Susan Leaventon; and his sister, Ayelet. He also remembers his grandmother, Brenda Sternbaum (z"l).



Alex Lasensky

Alex Shai Lasensky, son of Elise Pressma and Scott Lasensky, is a seventh grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School and he looks forward to celebrating his bar mitzvah on Zoom with friends and family across the United States and in Israel, where he lived for three years. He will be joined by his congregation

from Hod ve'Hadar in Kfar Saba, for a very special Israel-diaspora joint simcha. He also celebrates with his grandparents and loved ones, Grandma Donna Pressma, Grandma Dorothy Lasensky, Zayde Gerald Lasensky in spirit (z"l), Grandpa CJ Pressma, Nana Marcelle Gianelloni; brothers, Evan and Gabriel; and other family members.



Jonah Grosser

Jonah, son of Meredith and James Grosser, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School and attends the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. For his mitzvah project, Jonah is volunteering and organizing a walk team for JDRF, which raises funds for type 1 diabetes research. Jonah looks forward to sharing his

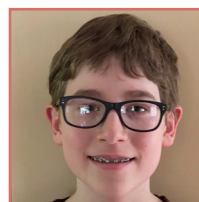
simcha with his friends, siblings, parents, and grandmothers, Barbara Sanderow and Ellen Grosse. He also remembers his grandmother, Marian Grosser and grandfathers, Howard Sanderow and Richard Grosser, all of blessed memory.



Natasha Rubinson

Natasha, daughter of Susan Weinstein and Adam Rubinson, is a rising seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School who began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and is currently a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. For her mitzvah project, Natasha is working with Lucky Dog Animal Rescue. Natasha shares her

simcha with her brother Alex; her parents; her grandmother, Gloria Rosengarten; and her extended family. She also lovingly remembers her grandparents, Norman Rubinson, Gloria Weinstein, and Nathan Weinstein, for whom she was named.



Gideon Siff (TEM)

Gideon Zalesne Siff, son of Kinney Zalesne and Scott Siff, is a seventh grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. Gideon celebrates his bar mitzvah with his older siblings, Matthew and Adina; his grandparents, Judy and Harvey Zalesne and Jackie and Sherwin Siff; and many other friends and family.



Max Rosenwasser

Max is a rising eighth grader at DC International School where he studies Mandarin and is part of the robotics team. Max has studied at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since first grade, and last summer attended URJ Sci Tech Academy. He will initially be celebrating his bar mitzvah on Zoom with his parents, Jennifer

Zwilling and Jon Rosenwasser; his sister Roxanne; and family and friends. He also looks forward to celebrating with the broader Adas community in person in the months ahead.



The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adas Fund

With Thanks To: **Adas Israel staff** for all their help with the shiva for Joel Packer by Rae Grad & Manny Schiffres.

Abraham & Anna Nathanson Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Bennett Nathanson** by Keith & Wendy Nathanson Miles.

Anne Frank House Fund

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Bereavement Fund

In Memory Of: **Arthur Isack** by April Rubin & Bruce Ray. **Annie Naiman** by Arnold Danzinger.

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Cantor Saltzman Youth Music Endowment Fund

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Daily Minyan Fund

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In Appreciation Of: **Norman Shore's & Hazzan Goldsmith's** kind help by Ilene Chait.

In Memory Of: **Stan Cohen, Art Isack, Razi Yitzchak, Bob Lasken & Jennie Litvack**, all by Bill Levenson. **Tillie & Edgar Seidman** by Ilene & David Chait. **Sidney Yecies** by Mark Yecies. **Toby Cutler** by Nancy & Jonathan Cutler. **Jennie Litvack** on her first yahrzeit by Rob Satloff. **Arthur Isack** by Sheldon Kimmel, Susan & Richard Ugelow.

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Executive Director Discretionary Fund

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Fund for the Future

In Memory Of: **Arthur Isack** by Herlene Nagler.

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In Memory Of: **Gloria Macklis** by April Ray & Bruce Ray. **Arthur Isack** by Hazel Keimowitz.

Marilyn & Stefan Tucker Program Endowment Fund

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Max Singer by Livia & David Bardin.

Stanley Cohen by Lynda Rotter.

Mildred Leonard by Marc Albert.

Bessie Lewis by Melanie & Larry Nussdorf.

Bob Cohen by Renée & Roger Fendrich.

Shirley Cohen by Rich & Monica Sussman.

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Arthur Isack by Susan Miller & Jim Williams.

Stanley Bobb by Woodmont Country Club.

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Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: The clergy's great work by Judith Beltz. **Rabbi Alexander** for his support of Stanley Cohen's family by Lissa Schorr. **Rabbi Alexander** by Rob Satloff.

With Thanks To: **Rabbi Alexander** for his support after my husband Bob's passing by Joy Cohen.

Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: The clergy's great work by Judith Beltz. **Rabbi Holtzblatt** for her support of Stanley Cohen's family by Lissa Schorr. **Rabbi Holtzblatt** by Rob Satloff. Adas Israel clergy by Rosamund Timberg.

In Memory Of: **Anne Melamed Serota** by Elizabeth & William Brudnick.

Rabbi Krinsky Discretionary Fund

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In Honor Of: **Josh Goodglick, Nora Sachse, Franny Leibovich, Benjamin & Maya Roskes, Aaron Genachowski, Zachary Henderson, Evan Weinstein, Ben Kahn, Eliana Boyar, Max & Natalie Veksler, Sam Mallen, & Zoe Neufeld** becoming b'nai mitzvah, all by Shelley Remer. Birth of Noah Hichenberg's twins by Sheri Brown. *In Memory Of:* **Stan Cohen** by Shelley & Stewart Remer. **Isabel Deutchman** by Stephanie, Scott, Adam & Emily Deutchman.

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