Proudly Presenting A New Addition To Our Adas Israel Service Locations This Year

HaMakom Outdoor Tented Sanctuary

In the Adas Israel Parking Area

It is our intention that every member of our community who would like to join us for in-person worship will be able to do so throughout the ten Days of Awe.

The HaMakom Outdoor Tented Sanctuary is a thoughtful, beautiful, and weather-resistant tented prayer space (the biggest one you’ve ever seen!) outdoors in our reimagined Adas Israel parking area.

In addition to our usual indoor worship spaces, these open-air clergy-led services will significantly increase our seating capacity, reducing congestion indoors, and enhancing the comfort and safety of all community members.

Limited valet parking will be available for those with accessibility needs. We look forward to sharing this beautiful space with you.
Full Service Schedule

**EREV ROSh HACHANAH**

**COMMUNITY SUNSET SERVICE** 6:45pm-7:45pm
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led (Sermon Rabbi Sarah Krinsky)

**ROSh HACHANAH DAY 1**

**SHACHARIT** 8:15am
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led (TEM Shacharit 8:45am)

**FAMILY SERVICE** 9:00am
- Outdoor HaMakom Tent - Led by Rabbi Solomon

**TORAH SERVICE** 9:15am
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led

**SHOFAR & MUSAF** 10:45am (including sermon)
- Outdoor HaMakom Tent - Clergy-Led (Sermon Rabbi Aaron Alexander)
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led

**MINCHA/MAARIV** 6:00pm
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led

**ROSh HACHANAH DAY 2**

**SHACHARIT** 8:15am
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led

**FAMILY SERVICE**
- Outdoor HaMakom Tent - Led by Rabbi Solomon

**TORAH SERVICE** 9:15am (Adaf 9:00am)
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led

**SHOFAR & MUSAF** 10:45am (including sermon)
- Outdoor HaMakom Tent - Clergy-Led (Sermon Rabbi Aaron Alexander)
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led

**MINCHA/MAARIV** 6:00pm
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led

Kol Nidre

**MINCHA** 5:15pm
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led

**KOL NIDRE** 6:30pm
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led (Sermon Rabbi Aaron Alexander)
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led (Sermon Rabbi Sarah Krinsky)

**OUTDOOR SOULFUL KOL NIDRE** 7:30pm
- Outdoor HaMakom Tent - Clergy-Led (Sermon Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt)

Yom Kippur

**SHACHARIT** 9:00am
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led

**FAMILY SERVICE** 9:00am
- Outdoor HaMakom Tent - Led by Rabbi Solomon

**TORAH SERVICE & YIZKOR** 10:30am (including sermon)
- Outdoor HaMakom Tent - Clergy-Led (Sermon Rabbi Aaron Alexander)
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led (Sermon Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt)
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led

**MUSAF & MARTYROLOGY SERVICE** 1:30pm
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led
- Outdoor HaMakom Tent - Musaf Storytelling Experience w/ Rabbi Krinsky

**AFTErNOON DISCUSSION** 3:00pm
- Location TBD - Clergy-Led with Special Guest

**MINCHA** 4:45pm
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led

**NE’ELAH** 6:00pm (Adaf 6:15pm)
- Outdoor HaMakom Tent - Clergy-Led (Sermon Rabbi Sarah Krinsky)
- Charles E. Smith Sanctuary - Clergy-Led (Sermon Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt)
- Kay Hall - TEM-Led (Tem Ne’elah 6:30pm)

Schedule as of 8.6.2021
- Reflective, Soulful Sounds
- Traditional, Cantorial Melodies
- Closed Captions

AdasIsrael.org/highholydays

Services fully open to the Adas community. No registration required.
All services will be open seating to allow for reasonable distancing. 
Join in person or livestream at: adasisrael.org/highholydays

**High Holy Day Prep & Immersion**

More classes & info available at: adasisrael.org/highholydayprep

**Returning & Reawakening with MakomDC and JMCW**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR A FULL LINEUP**

Join MakomDC and JMCW as we turn our energy toward spiritual, intellectual, and emotional preparations for the Days of Awe.

**Outdoor Selichot Service**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 28 AT 9PM**

This tradition invites us to open ourselves up to the essential work of the High Holy Days: the process of repair and return, of acknowledgment and longing. Join your community for a one-of-a-kind evening of personal reflection through song and text.

**The Blast**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 AT 4PM**

Join us (on the Adas front steps or in your own neighborhood) to welcome Rosh Hashanah with city-wide shofar blasts. See www.theblastdc.com for more information.

**Rosh Hashanah Seder Guide**

AdasIsrael.org/highholydayprep

This guide contains all of the tips you will need to gather friends and family for a rich and festive take on a traditional holiday meal.

**YP Rosh Hashanah Seder**

**SEPTEMBER 8, 7 PM, OUTSIDE AT ADAS**

Groups will participate in a multi-sensory experience that brings the texts and themes of the holiday into our lives and into this moment.

**Our Stories of Return: A Storytelling Musaf Experience**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 1:30 PM, HAMAKOM TENT**

Anchored by Adas member’s storytelling, and grounded by key melodies and prayers, this Yom Kippur service experience will allow us to explore what teshuva really means to us right here and now.
What joy I felt when I received the brochure for our High Holy Days. Many of us will greet one another in person and reenter our sacred physical space. Others who are not quite ready to join in-person gatherings will be able to feel the special spiritual bond of our Adas community that is strong even on the airwaves. We have waited with hope and, perhaps, a bit of fear, for this time moment. We are here now. Our theme for this most sacred time captures the awe of these moments:

Horizons: Coming Together for this Very Special Moment in Time.

And it was evening
And now it’s morning
And that’s good
So very good.
-Bereishit

This year promises to be an especially meaningful one as we join together as a sacred and welcoming Jewish community. Even during this time of separation, our community continues to grow. This time of reconnecting offers opportunities to continue reaching out to all who want to be inspired by their Judaism, in the many ways this inspiration can arise. We are blessed each day by the presence of our truly outstanding and inspiring clergy and professional team. Each day, dedicated staff work behind the scenes to keep us up and running. We benefit regularly from a lay leadership that is devoted to its work, and a diverse community that provides support in a myriad of ways.

I feel humbled and privileged to serve as your president. I have a meaningful history with Adas Israel. My paternal grandparents and their siblings and cousins belonged to Adas as did my parents. My Dad, who celebrates his 101st birthday in August, still asks me, “How are those new rabbis doing up there?” My childhood memories of Adas include getting “dressed up” for the High Holidays and visiting outdoors with my friends. I also remember that something felt sacred and special to me, although I could not articulate at that time what that feeling was.

Years later I came to understand more about that sacred feeling. I became involved at Adas through the doorway of the Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington (JMCW). I served on the JMCW Task Force and later served on the Board of Directors, first as secretary and then as the vice president of education, a natural outgrowth of my professional life in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), serving as principal at Briggs Chaney Middle School and Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School.

After retirement from MCPS, I worked as an educational advocate and tutor. That part-time work enabled me to do what I love most of all: spend time with my family, including four wonderful grandchildren. I am blessed that my son and daughter live in the DC metro area so my husband and I can spend fun time with them, their spouses, and my terrific grandchildren.

Every morning I express gratitude for the life I get to live. These expressions of gratitude and prayers for the well-being of my family, friends, and community are an integral part of my spiritual life. Sometimes, without any warning, the lines we recite after the Shema find their way into my head and my heart:

You shall love Adonai your God with all your heart,
With all your soul and with all that is yours.
These words which I command you to this day
Shall be taken to heart.
My blessing for us is that we open our hearts to all who want to walk through our doors or into our airwaves, seeing Adas as their Jewish spiritual home. Let us open our hearts to all who, as Rabbi Holtzblatt often says, need our extra love today. We can also give that extra love to ourselves so we may continue to serve Adas Israel and our entire community as we take the words of Torah to heart.

With gratitude and appreciation,
Janice Mostow
Adas Israel President

Janice Mostow
Adas Israel President
Ian Halpern
Vice President of Administration
Rabbi Aaron
Senior Rabbi
Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt
Senior Rabbi
Simchat Torah

Clergy-Led Instrumental Service
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 6:30PM

Erev Simchat Torah

Clergy-Led Service
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 9:15AM

SIMCHAT TORAH

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

On Simchat Torah, the Torah scrolls wish to dance—so we become their feet! Join the Adas Israel community for an ecstatic, musical community celebration on the most joyous holiday of our holy calendar!

HOLIDAYS @ ADAS

Full Holiday Information Available Online at
adasisrael.org/sukkot
Join MakomDC and Adas clergy as we turn our energy toward spiritual, intellectual, and emotional preparations for the upcoming Days of Awe.

August 24 at 7:30pm with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut
(Livestreamed Only)

August 31 at 7:30pm with Rabbis Holtzblatt, Alexander and Krinsky
(In-Person or Livestreamed, Charles E. Smith Sanctuary)

“Noah’s Hassidic Anger Management Techniques”
OCTOBER 5 @ 7:00PM
with Reb Mimi Feigelson,
Senior Lecturer and Mashpiah Ruhanit, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

“The Binding of Isaac: Divine Command vs. Human Morality” — a key to molding different Jewish world-views in Israel society.
OCTOBER 19 @ 7:00PM
with Rabbi Avi Novis Deutch, Dean, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

Mindfulness & Musar: Choosing Growth
NOV. 9 @ 7:30PM
How can mindfulness practice help us identify the areas in which we have potential to grow? A teaching from the 20th century mussar leader, Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler will challenge us to reflect on ourselves in newfound ways.

Is God Inside Us?
NOV. 16 @ 7:30PM
The hasidic masters taught that divinity can be found inside of ourselves and everything around us. What might that mean on a practical level, and how can it inform the ways in which we relate to our bodies? Through a body scan meditation informed by a teaching of the Piaseczna Rebbe, we will practice relating to our bodily sensations as sacred.

The Joy of Withholding Judgement
NOV. 23 @ 7:30PM
One of the foundational pillars of mindfulness is being able to relate to our present experience with nonjudgmental awareness. Through the teachings of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, we will explore the tremendous challenge of relating to others and ourselves nonjudgmentally—as well as the joy which emerges from doing so.

OFFERING 1: BIRAN BEIT MIDRASH PARTNERSHIP
(TORAH LISHMA – SHAMAYIM)

Each month, we will bring in premier teachers from a beit midrash center from around the world, and will learn with and from their wisdom and expertise. Come and learn from these master scholars in conversation with Adas clergy and all of you.

October Learning
with Schechter Rabbinical Seminary, Israel
Facilitated By Rabbi Aaron Alexander

“Noah’s Hassidic Anger Management Techniques”
OCTOBER 5 @ 7:00PM
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Senior Lecturer and Mashpiah Ruhanit, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

“The Binding of Isaac: Divine Command vs. Human Morality” — a key to molding different Jewish world-views in Israel society.
OCTOBER 19 @ 7:00PM
with Rabbi Avi Novis Deutch, Dean, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

November Learning
with Hadar, in collaboration w/ JMCW + Briyyut
Facilitated By Rabbi Yitzhak Bronstein
Hadar DC
Facilitated By Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

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Monthly Learning Schedule*

Facilitated By Rabbi Sarah Krinsky
Tuesdays, December 7 and 14 at 7:30pm
Facilitated By Rabbi Aaron Holtzblatt
Tuesdays, March 1 and 15 at 7:30pm

Facilitated By Rabbi Elianna Yolkut
Tuesdays, January 4 and 18 at 7:30pm
Facilitated By Rabbi Sarah Krinsky
Tuesdays, April 5 and 12 at 7:30pm

Facilitated By Rabbi Aaron Alexander
Tuesdays, February 1 and 15 at 7:30pm
Facilitated By Rabbi Elianna Yolkut
Tuesdays, May 3 and 17 at 7:30pm

*PARTNERS TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY
Find Your Path.

LEARNING @ ADAS ISRAEL

Intro to Judaism

WEDNESDAYS, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM
AUGUST 25, 2021 - APRIL 2, 2022
(Optional 7:00-7:30 PM HANGOUT • SCHMOOZE)

$350 FOR INDIVIDUALS / $450 FOR COUPLES

Are you interested in exploring the Jewish tradition from the ground up, with master Jewish teachers? Have you been wondering about the core beliefs and practices that animate the Jewish religion? Are you looking to deepen your experience of God and prayer into the rhythm of your life?

This course is designed to give you the raw materials with which to appreciate and access the Jewish tradition. Whatever it is you may be seeking, we offer a safe space for acquiring the experiential and intellectual knowledge that allow you to deepen your own religious life. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- The World of the Bible
- Ritual exploration
- Lifecycles (Birth, Marriage, Death)
- Shabbat (The Sabbath)

 Prayer and Liturgy
 Jewish Holidays
 Israel
 Theology

Note: As of now, the plan is for the class to be a hybrid of virtual and in-person learning. More information and registration are available on the Adas website.

Intro to Judaism 2.0
TAUGHT BY RABBI KRINSKY

Babayit - Basics of Building a Jewish Home

This course is designed for alumni of Intro to Judaism. Each of the four sessions will focus on a practical aspect of Jewish life, incorporating the learning from the Intro class into everyday routines and spaces. Topics will include: living Jewish space, creating a Jewish kitchen, observing Jewish time, and practicing Jewish ritual.

The class will meet on four Wednesdays from 7:30-9:00: 11/3/21, 1/12/22, 3/23/22, 5/11/22. Registration is available on the Adas website.

Find Your Path.
Upcoming Programming

**Simchat Torah**
Zachary and Aaron Mayer, along with our local DC klezmer players, lead us in festive song & dance Simchat Torah evening and Simchat Torah morning

On Simchat Torah, the Torah scrolls wish to dance—so we become their feet! Join the Adas Israel community for an ecstatic, musical community celebration on the most joyous holiday of our holy calendar! There will also be a joyous Erev Simchat Torah service with the Traditional egalitarian Miyan, without instruments, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!

**Havdalah Singing Circle with Micah Hendler**
October 17 @ 7:15pm

Join us @Adas for special musical Havdalah services led by Micah Hendler. As Shabbat leaves us, Micah will lead us in song following Havdalah, to keep the warm Shabbat feeling lingering and to motivate us for the week ahead. Come ready to sing!

**Composers’ Corner Series**
Wednesday, October 27 @ 12pm on Facebook live, view afterward at adasisrael.org/musicalmoments

In this popular, engaging series, Cantor Brown will interview celebrated and up-and-coming composers. Hear them perform and discuss their music and the methods behind their creative compositions. Wednesday at noon on Facebook Live, available for viewing afterward at www.adasisrael.org/musicalmoments.

**Save The Date! Divas on the Bima**
Sunday, February 27th @ 4pm

Sponsored by the Richard L. Kramer Family Concert Series. Our Kramer Family Concert will be back on Sunday afternoon February 27th @ 4pm with the renowned Divas on the Bima!

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**Musical Opportunities @ Adas Israel**

**Flash Choir** - Did you sing in your high school choir or college a cappella group? Perhaps you just enjoy singing with others and even harmonizing on your own? Or maybe you have formal training and time makes it difficult to immerse yourself in music? This is a group for you! The Flash Choir is a commit-per-event choir. The only requirement is being able to sing on key. Contact cantor.brown@adasisrael.org to join!

**Kolot** - Kolot is our youth choir, for students in grades 3-6. This year, we will meet on 5 select Fridays prior to our Lechu Neranena Family Services. Come ready to learn, have fun, and sing your heart out soon after! Contact cantor.brown@adasisrael.org to join!

We also have 3 spots available for teen madrachim.

**DC Klezmer Workshop** - Informal, enthusiastic collective of Metro Area musicians. We meet monthly at Adas Israel to learn and play klezmer tunes together by ear and from sheet music. Contact howard_ungar@yahoo.com. 2-4pm starting on 10/17

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**Meet Our Musicians**

**Featuring Zvika Sharabi**

How did you first get connected to Adas?
I was introduced to Cantor Ari through a friend/guitar student who is an Adas member—thank you Dan Cohen! I started teaching music at the Gan and then joined the Adas Band.

How do your Israeli roots influence the way you accompany prayers on the guitar?
Very much! I grew up in a religious school in Israel so I grew up with many of these prayers and tunes. I am very connected to Jewish music—mostly Sephardic, but a lot of Hassidic and Ashkenazic tunes too.

What are the similarities and differences in your experience of the music of Tefillah in Israel and here at Adas?
There are a lot of similar things and a LOT of differences. For example, the melodies, the warm feeling of Shabbat services and holidays, and the warm community is the same. In a way, I rediscovered Judaism in America, because of the differences. Growing up in a Sephardic Orthodox community, the women are separated from the men in the synagogue, and there are no women cantors—which always bothered me. The melodies of the prayers always captured me as a little kid but there were no instruments. The dress code is different too; my first year in the U.S. I went to a synagogue in Silver Spring. Someone approached me and said “You know how I know you are Israeli? Look around you, you are the only one who wears jeans.”

What encouragement would you give others who would like to get into guitar?
I think everyone should be involved with music in some way. It’s another way to express yourself beyond words. Guitar is such a great instrument because it’s very expressive, very versatile, really fun to sing along with, and you can take it everywhere with you. It’s like a mobile piano! It might be a bit hard at first for your fingers to get used to pressing the strings and stretch the chord shapes, but it’s not that bad—especially if you do it while practicing your favorite songs. I ask all my students to start with writing a list of their favorite songs and we start from there. It’s way more satisfying when you get to play something that you love while getting your hands used to the guitar. 6 years is a good age to start playing and it is never too late (I have 6 years old students, and students in their 70’s)! Feel free to contact me for more details—dzfingers@gmail.com.

Do you have any favorite or very memorable moments while playing at Adas that you can share?
There are so many! I am blessed to play and share music with an amazing and talented group of people, and it’s so easy and fun for me to “get lost” in the music while we play. The band is amazing. Music to me is about warmth, fun, and friendship—I’ve made so many great memories playing along with Hassan Rachel and her piano before we went out to perform on Shavuot together, sitting on the floor with Alon and Cantor Ari at the Smid to practice our songs (while the service was going on at the parking lot), and always playing along with Rabbi Alexander and his guitar. Fun stuff!

Anything else we should know about you?
Besides playing music I love cooking (a lot of Israeli food of course) and gardening. I enjoy teaching music and Hebrew, and I teach music at the Gan and Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School.

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[adasisrael.org/musicalmoments]
Every summer, the Education Team takes time to reflect on the year that has passed and to dream, think, and work to refine the year ahead. As we look with joy and hope to the beginning of the 2021/22 school year, we cannot wait to see our students, parents, and teachers again in our building. Although returning to “normal” will take time and look different across different parts of our lives, the Education Team is taking what we have learned this past year and using it to inform our new vision for the future – combining our best practices from in-person learning and the new (online) elements that we have come to value in meaningful ways.

This past year has tested our students in unimaginable ways, and the losses cannot be minimized. With that in mind, we will be focusing our professional development this coming year on supporting our students by providing emotionally-attuned classrooms. Supporting both students and families means practicing compassion and providing safe and accepting spaces for our students to share about their feelings and struggles. We always strive to acknowledge and validate the range of experiences that our students share with us; this year that mission is more important than ever. Our tradition will be our guiding light as we affirm our commitment to share about their feelings and struggles. We always strive to acknowledge and validate the range of experiences that our students share with us; this year that mission is more important than ever. Our tradition will be our guiding light as we affirm our commitment to share about their feelings and struggles. We always strive to acknowledge and validate the range of experiences that our students share with us; this year that mission is more important than ever. Our tradition will be our guiding light as we affirm our commitment to share about their feelings and struggles.

THE EDUCATION TEAM IS GROWING!

Rabbi Kerrith Solomon, Pam Gorin, and Tessa Rudnick are so excited to announce the addition of three “new” staff members to our team. Each new member is providing a depth of knowledge and expertise that will allow us to grow and provide new and exciting experiences to our students and families. Our three new team members all have played roles at Adas, either in the past or currently and we are thrilled to introduce them to you.

Yoni Buckman returns to the Education Team after a four-year sojourn in Denver. He brings vast knowledge in Jewish education, along with insights into programming and communication. Yoni will be managing our Hebrew Department, running our high school Ma’alot program, and assisting with all Religious School programs.

Jocelyn Dorfman has worked at Adas for four years, on the administrative team and as a classroom teacher in the Gan, and as a Gishron teacher in the Religious School. Jocelyn now joins the Education Team as our school operations manager. Although you may not see her in our offices, she will be hard at work behind the scenes, ensuring we are running efficiently.

Zamar Ben Pagliaro will be a familiar face to many of our families from his work with our Families with Young Children Shabbat services, and he now joins the Education Team to bring even more joyful music to our community. Zamar Ben will be leading all Tefillah experiences for our students, working with Rabbi Solomon on Shabbat and holiday family services, and assisting with youth programming.

GROWING & RETURNING

When I first joined the Adas Israel team in 2014, I remember being inspired by our community’s creativity in engaging with Jewish wisdom and our commitment to building a compassionate Jewish space in the world. For three years here, I grew in my position within the Education Department professionally, intellectually, and interpersonally. Adas Israel was a place for me to explore the depth of Judaism and share my enthusiasm with others.

Moving to Denver, Colorado in 2017 to explore and grow in new ways was an opportunity I deeply cherish. I adopted my dog Stevie, took ambitious risks professionally, stretched myself artistically, and guided a synagogue community through the past year and a half with patience, passion, and empathy. I don’t think I could have served the Denver Jewish community in such a crucial time of need without my experiences at Adas Israel, and I certainly would not have been in the right place at the right time for them had I not taken big leaps leading up to it.

It can be hard, scary, even doubt-inducing to pick up and start anew. But novel and meaningful experiences necessitate change. I have immense gratitude for what I experienced and accomplished in Denver. I have so much love for what I found - within myself and from what I brought into my life - in Colorado. Now, returning to the Education Department, I am overjoyed to rejoin Adas Israel, move back to D.C., and be a part of this intentional community once again.

SUMMER CAMPS

The Education Team is thrilled that so many summer camps are back in session this year! It has been such a pleasure to share in the excitement with many of our students as they return to their beloved camp communities or head off to their first camp experiences this summer.

Our Summer Subsidies program helps many of our Adas families send their children to meaningful Jewish summer programs and we’re so grateful that we were able to offer financial assistance to so many families in 2021. We’re committed to offering summer scholarship opportunities to our community and helping all our families take advantage of Jewish summer experiences for years to come.

Campers heading off to Camp Ramah New England this summer. In late June, there was an impromptu reunion for many of our families at Baltimore/Washington International Airport as more than 100 Ramah campers boarded the plane to Palmier, MA.
Dear Adas Community,

I am so grateful. For the past 18 years, I have been fortunate enough to start each work day with joy and purpose. I knew from early on that my career would involve advocating for children. As a young social worker, brimming with optimism, I was determined to be a voice for children who didn’t yet have one. I learned about early intervention during graduate school and I knew I had found my calling. When I started my job at Adas Israel Congregation in 2003, the Gan was the only school in the DC metro area that offered children therapeutic support within their classroom environment, rather than sending them to a specialized setting. Together with the classroom teachers, we implemented strategies to enrich the school experience for all Gan students. I had previously worked in a therapeutic preschool that started my job at Adas Israel Congregation in 2003, the Gan was the only school in the DC metro area that offered children therapeutic support within their classroom environment, rather than sending them to a specialized setting. Together with the classroom teachers, we implemented strategies to enrich the school experience for all Gan students. I had previously worked in a therapeutic preschool that

Gan HaNeshama
A Multidisciplinary Evaluation Center for Early Childhood Development & Inclusion

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SOCIAL ACTION

Over the last year, the Social Action Committee has changed up the way we do our holy work of tikkun olam; socially-distanted food drops-offs, guest speakers on Zoom, and finding new ways to keep our community connected and moving forward. We’ve also added new initiatives while continuing our work with long-time partners. We’re now tentatively moving back towards in-person volunteer opportunities, while continuing to build on the progress we’ve made in the last year.

Never joined us, but want to? We’d love to make a shidduch between your interests and our work. Please reach out at any time to chair, Brad Brooks-Rubin, we’d love to talk to you. You can also find a list of concrete, up-to-date ways to help on our website, adasisrael.org/socialaction. Please join us in this critical work.

In April, we hosted an iftar at the ADAMS Center, where Adas teenagers joined teenagers from the ADAMS Center in serving food to those observing Ramadan.

In May, we welcomed Rayhan Asat, Uyghur Human Rights Attorney and activist as a special speaker. We hosted a successful "watch party" with WIN around the Reservation 13 development attorney and activist as a special speaker. We hosted a successful "watch party" with WIN around the Reservation 13 development

Our key initiatives for this year:

- Over the past few years, China has perpetrated shocking human rights abuses against the Uyghurs. As Jews and as human beings, we feel a moral obligation to respond to the crime of genocide. The new Uyghur Crisis Team is working to respond through demonstrations, protests, support of local Uyghur businesses (such as Dolan restaurant in Cleveland Park) and other advocacy.
- We are partnering with WIN, a broad-based, multi-racial, multi-faith, non-partisan organization, to address community issues such as housing affordability and public safety. Our current campaign, in partnership with Temple Sinai, is supporting efforts to bring affordable housing to Ward 3.
- Through providing food in cooperation with Hesed, we remain in close touch with organizations in DC providing direct service to local communities, despite changes in protocols, and have developed connections with the Ward 3 Mutual Aid Society, Sasha Bruce Youth Network, We Are Family, Anne Frank House, Joseph’s House, as well as the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission in Martinsburg, West Virginia.
- We are advocating on behalf of refugee and asylum-seeking communities through the IRC Family Mentoring Program and the sale of challah covers made by refugee women in Amman through the Collaborative Repair Project’s Hope Workshop, as well as increasing efforts to provide remote tutoring to students from refugee families through Solutions in Hometown Connections and other organizations.
- We are exploring ways to ensure that all SAC events are accessible, and aligning our efforts with the Inclusion Task Force.
- We are joining Temple Sinai and Tifereth Israel, as well as other local synagogues to strengthen our engagement and advocacy around the DC Budget.

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.
- SAC chair Brad Brooks-Rubin

"TOCHO KVORO" - WHEN THE INSIDE MATCHES THE OUTSIDE

This will require change management and leadership led by a guiding coalition committed to continual improvement of making Adas a welcoming and engaging Jewish space. To that end, Adas has contracted with DIMENSIONS, Inc. - led by the incomparable Yavilah McCoy - for several months-long process with our congregation’s lay and professional leadership.

While the anchors of our work with DIMENSIONS is three training sessions for the select leadership team, its goal is to create an “arc of change” that will be enacted at every level of congregational life, and that will both raise up and expand upon our efforts to be a diverse, equitable, inclusive and loving institution.

The work with DIMENSIONS is part of our journey as a community to more fully and intentionally engage in racial equity learning that is rooted in experiential learning, transparency and accountability. It is a beginning, or a middle - but certainly not the end. As the leadership trainings progress this summer, we look forward to thinking with the community as a whole about how to best implement our learnings within the broader Adas network. If you are interested in being involved in these efforts or conversations, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In order to build a truly inclusive community that values pluralism, both within Adas Israel and within the larger Jewish community, we must face reality with courage. It means reflecting upon, and coming to terms with, our treatment of Jews of Color. We must raise our community’s awareness of how our biases and assumptions can unintentionally manifest to make Jews of Color feel othered or excluded. Coupling this work with the exploration and understanding of Adas members’ beliefs, attitudes, assumptions and interactions with all people of color with the goal of strengthening personal, professional and communal relationships, brings us closer to building a truly inclusive global community. This is our goal. This is our aspiration. This is our obligation. May we have the strength to embark on it together.

Lauren Queen and Stephen Horblitt, Kehilah Multiracial Engagement Project Co-Chairs
Janice Mostow, President
Rabbi Holitzblatt, Alexander and Kinsky

Yavilah McCoy, DIMENSIONS, Inc.

One of the tenets of our community at Adas - informed and inspired by our deepest religious commitments and responsibilities - is social justice work. Our robust Social Action Committee (SAC) is focused on several projects that seek to expand our sense of community, provide outreach and support to those in great need, and advocate for systemic change when appropriate.

Much of this work is focused on groups or communities outside of Adas and even outside of the Jewish community. We are active participants in the fight for affordable housing in DC, and for gun violence prevention, and for solutions to poverty and homelessness. While these issues can of course affect Jews, that focus is not exclusive.

While this work is essential, it must also be coupled with the equally important - yet often overlooked - social justice work that we as Jews need to do internally: within our own Jewish spaces, to address the injustices within our community – injustices being exacted upon Jews, by fellow Jews. “To’cho k’voro,” the Talmud teaches - may your insides match your outsiders.

As the Jewish community joins the nation in beginning to take a difficult, long overdue, and hopefully honest, look at how systemic racism continues to cause harm to communities of color, it is also time that the Jewish community examine mental models and look inward, honestly, at our own beliefs around identity and race, and how these beliefs impact our interactions with, and our inclusion (or lack thereof) of Jews of Color.
HESED: LOOKING AHEAD
The theme of the Adas high holiday experience this year is "Horizons." In keeping with that theme, the Hesed Committee wanted to take this opportunity to look ahead and see what’s on the horizon.

One word summarizes the key area for the future of Hesed: YOU! More than ever, we want to emphasize the importance of community in the Hesed work we do. This year has taught us that community matters. A lot. In order to create community, each and every one of you has a role to play. No matter where you are in your life and work situation, Hesed has a place for you and we invite you to engage.

Being active in Hesed activities is a reminder that one day you help others, and the next day you may be the one needing help. The circle of life gives us the chance and the gift to give and receive. Hesed is there for you regardless of the situation. If you want to feel like you are part of our amazing Adas community, please volunteer for one of the activities listed below. If you are in need of TLC – meals, groceries, a personal connection – please reach out to us and let us know.

Looking ahead, we will continue with the rewarding work we already do. If you have not already signed up to join any of these teams, please contact hesed@adasisrael.org and let us know what you would be interested in.

HESED PHONE CALLS – wish someone a shabbat shalom or L'Shana Tova
HESED MEALS – provide a meal to someone ill or new parents or bereaved
HESED COOKING – cook for the Hesed freezer as well as non-profit community partners
HESED BASKETS – deliver a Hesed bag of goodies to new members and new parents
HESED HIGH HOLIDAY BASKETS – join the legion of volunteers who bring honey cakes to our seniors
HESED PEN PALS – make a connection through letters and stories
HESED NOTECARDS – write notes to Bnai Mitzvah families, bereaved, and new grandparents
HESED MEMBERSHIP CONNECTION – welcome new and old members into our community
HESED L’DOR V’DOR – support our members in their golden years of life

As just a small sample of our activities during Covid, we had 400 volunteers make 1500 phone calls at the start of COVID-19; 300 volunteers making food to deliver to our community partners, which has fed hundreds of people in need over the last year, and 15 Adas teens creating relationships with veteran Adas members through our own pal program. And so much more.

We also will be exploring where Hesed can be helpful at various stages of life: newborns, working parents, growing older. We most likely will be re-instituting our End Of Life sessions, which has fed hundreds of people in need over the last year, and 15 Adas teens creating relationships with veteran Adas members through our own pal program. And so much more.

From a practical standpoint, the return of in-person minyanim allows us to include many of the prayers that, based on guidance from Adas Israel’s rabbis, we have omitted and continue to omit on Zoom-only services. In particular, when we have at least 10 adults present in the Gewirz Beit Am, we can conduct full Torah services, complete with aliyot, and mourners and those observing fahrzeits can recite the full kaddish (on Zoom, we omit the congregational response—the Yehi shem rabban line).

The availability of Zoomed services has been a blessing for many worshippers who wish to recite the mourner’s kaddish, especially those who live far from Adas or those with physical disabilities. As Adas member Steven Aftergood notes: “Zoom provided important connections that would otherwise have been impossible. Among other things, it created new opportunities for learning and socializing not just locally but across time zones and continents. All of that is great.”

But Aftergood, whose mother, Lila Aftergood ("I") died in September 2020, much prefers what he calls “the real thing” and has mostly avoided virtual services. “When you’re davening, you ideally want to be focused on the words of the tefilot and on wherever they lead,” he says. “But that’s tough to do with Zoom, when your attention is fixed on a computer screen or when you’re distracted by whoever forgot to mute themselves. So a real live minyan is a welcome return to the way things should be.”

When Adas member Roberta Boam attended minyan on Monday, July 5, it was her first in-person service at Adas in 15 months. She was pleased that worshippers in the Gewirz wore masks and were widely spaced. And she was happy to see a large-screen TV that projected those who were joining via Zoom, a sign, she says, that “this inclusive, expanded, diverse prayer community would be sustained.”

But it was being with others in the Gewirz and participating in the shachrit service itself, including hearing a d’var Torah by scholars Norman Shore and receiving an aliyah, that, Boam said, caused “my morning gratitude to soar. Being physically close to the Torah, looking at those beautiful letters and words, and reciting the congregational response in the mourner’s kaddish out loud and with others, there’s no substitute.”

Why attend Daily Minyan, especially if you’re not reciting the mourner’s kaddish? Steve Aftergood sums it up nicely: “Daily minyan is an opportunity to get better acquainted with the weekday siddur, which has some beautiful features. It’s a chance to pause and to rise beyond the turmoil of the moment. Some of the best, most moving nuggets of Torah that I’ve heard from our Adas clergy have been presented at the minyan. And the minyan regulars themselves are a wonderfully quirky and welcoming group. So you might give it a try!”
Sisterhood Rolls Out Another Year of Engaging Programming for 5782

Adas Israel Sisterhood rose to the pandemic challenge by offering an impressive array of informative, engaging and socially-connecting programs. Plans for 5782/2021-22 promise continued relevant programming. Some are for members only, such as our Sunday Salons and Sisterhood in Your Community gatherings. Many will be open to the entire Adas Israel community, including our Opening and Closing Events.

Attendees can expect to deepen existing friendships and form new ones with women of varying ages, backgrounds, and talents. To stay informed, check our web page, www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood.

Here is a taste of what’s to come: Our early October Opening Event will host author and Georgetown University Professor of Linguistics Dr. Deborah Tannen, who is renowned for raising awareness about gender differences in communication styles. Dr. Tannen will be discussing her latest book, Finding My Father. The Spring Closing Event in June will feature Adas Israel member and Mexican chef Pati Jinich.

Members-only Salons showcase accomplished Sisterhood members speaking about their careers. Our plans include a Salon with Leah Chanin describing her distinguished legal career. Sisterhood in Your Neighborhood gatherings will continue to connect members over brunch or wine and cheese.

We look forward to a fully-programmed Sisterhood Shabbat February 25-26, 2022, with members leading the Shabbat morning service and a notable Jewish woman as guest speaker.

Additional plans include a program on “Wise Aging,” an event with Kathy Chiron, president of the League of Women Voters of DC, discussing DC Statehood and voting rights, a Chanukkah event in December, and a May outing to Baltimore’s American Visionary Museum to view 36 hand-embroidered panels depicting Esther Krinitz’s Holocaust survival story.

We hope to continue the successful bi-monthly virtual Happy Hours and Coffee Klatches, along with our monthly Weekday Torah with Sisterhood, coordinated by Marilyn Cooper, and the Knitting, Sewing, and Craft Group, led by Lesley Frost. These groups are open to welcoming new participants. Also, watch for the fascinating book chats and author events organized by Adas Israel librarian Robin Jacobson, who presides over the synagogue’s Rose Ruth Freudberg Memorial Sisterhood Library.

Sisterhood is always available to provide comfort, meals, and other support for those members experiencing illness or loss. Also, we continue to raise funds to provide much-needed financial support for student housing, university infrastructure and tuition scholarships at the five Conservative Movement seminaries around the world through the Women’s League of Conservative Judaism’s Torah Fund.

Please join Sisterhood and watch for more information about the upcoming year’s exciting programs!
Adas Israel Library

Books & More

The Adas Israel Library Corner

Empathy Diaries

BY ROBIN JACOBSON
LIBRARY & LITERARY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

EXPLORING EMPATHY

Turkle arrived at M.I.T. in 1976 at the start of the digital revolution. A just-minted Harvard Ph.D. in psychology and sociology, she began researching the psychosocial impact of computers. She writes that she had a personal interest in investigating “empathy as the defining characteristic of the human.”

Developing empathic skills had been essential for Turkle to understand her mother, who spoke in half-truths and coded language. Turkle was disturbed to see some scientists put empathy aside to single-mindedly focus on a specific research question.

The most dramatic example was her own father, Charlie Zimmerman. After her mother died, Turkle tracked him down, and discovered why Harriet had left him – Charlie had secretly subjected Sherry, as an infant, to experiments on attention deprivation. As Charlie described these chilling experiments, Turkle was appalled by his insensitivity to the needs of his baby daughter. This episode and others, Turkle says, heightened her commitment to her research, especially when investigations revealed that people immersed in digital culture increasingly treat others like objects, rather than fellow human beings.

Reclaiming Conversation reports on Turkle’s extensive field work examining the social and psychological effects of overreliance on texts, social media, email, and other digital communication. For both children and adults, she found that using screens to replace real-world interactions adversely affects relationships, creativity, and productivity. Fortunately, these adverse effects can be reversed if families, schools, and workplaces prioritize face-to-face conversations.

Turkle is not anti-technology; she embraces technology and all its gifts. Her message is that we should use technology purposefully. She fears that children who interact primarily with devices will fail to grow into emotionally intelligent, empathetic adults. She worries that adults’ personal and work relationships will wither if left online. This has ramifications beyond individuals. As President Biden has said, “empathy is the fuel of democracy.” Turkle agrees; she believes that empathetic citizens, who listen to and respect others, help democracy flourish.

FIRST AUTHOR CHAT OF THE NEW YEAR (VIA ZOOM)

Meet Author-Psychologist Sherry Turkle
Sunday, October 3 @ 4:30 pm
MIT Professor Sherry Turkle will introduce her latest book, The Empathy Diaries, a vivid and poignant memoir of growing up in Jewish Brooklyn and her awakening interest in topics that led to her path-breaking work. Turkle is a pioneer in the study of people’s relationships with technology and the impact of technology on human behavior. A frequent media commentator on computer culture and ethics, Dr. Turkle’s previous books include the bestselling Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age.

Register online for the program at adasisrael.org/adas-library. For more information or registration assistance, contact Robin Jacobson at Librarian@adasisrael.org.

If you catch yourself or see your child obsessively checking devices for texts or emails, or living much of life online, M.I.T. Professor Sherry Turkle has some advice. Fortunately, it is not “get rid of the phone!” This renowned expert on digital culture will visit via Zoom on Sunday, October 3, at 4:30 pm (see registration information next page).

Sherry Turkle is the Abby Rockefeller Mauzé Professor of the Social Studies of Science and Technology at M.I.T., as well as the founding director of the M.I.T. Initiative on Technology and Self. A licensed clinical psychologist, she pioneered the study of what she calls the “inner history” of technology – how technology changes not only what we do, but who we are and the nature of our relationships.

Turkle’s latest book, The Empathy Diaries, a vivid and moving memoir, reveals the roots of her humanistic approach to technology. It follows her bestseller, Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age, and multiple other acclaimed books on people and computers.

SECRETS IN JEWISH BROOKLYN

As Empathy Diaries recounts, Sherry Turkle spent her early years in a close-knit Jewish world in Brooklyn with four adults who adored her – her mother, aunt, and grandparents. They were thrilled by her success in school and enthusiastically supported her interests with their limited funds.

It was a childhood awash with love, but also with secrets. Sherry’s parents divorced when she was an infant, and her mother, Harriet, rarely mentioned Sherry’s mysteriously absent father. When Harriet later remarried and had two additional children, she pretended her second husband, Milton Turkle (who eventually adopted Sherry) was the biological father of all three children. There were also secrets about money and health, including Harriet’s bouts with cancer.
cooking meals and baking for people in need at House of Ruth and the country and around the world. She remembers with love her father Jeffrey Maisels and Diane Klein, and family and friends from Ward 3. Group, organizing to bring more affordable housing and integration to Rock Creek Conservancy, where he has volunteered for years, helping to pull invasive weeds, rehabilitate soil, plant native plants, and lead a garbage clean-up of the park.

Helena Oscherwitz, daughter of Amanda and Michael Oscherwitz, is an eighth grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School this year, and plans to return to Adas if she can come but, alas, they are busy that day. She wishes her cats, Reed and Tulip could come but, alas, they are busy that day.

Abigail Tucker
Abigail Tucker, daughter of Melissa and Eric Jacobson, is an eighth grade student at BASIS DC. Abigail is preparing to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah at BASIE DC. She has been attending religious school at Adas since Pre-K. Abigail is preparing to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah with her twin brother, Sam, her grandparents, Andrea and Jahn Chesnov and Robin and Harold Tucker and her aunts, uncles, cousins and other family and friends. For her mitzvah project, Abby is working on an animal welfare initiative for dogs in the community.

Cecelia Grant
Cecelia Edith Grant, daughter of Stacey and Jeremy Grant, is a rising eighth grader at BASIS DC. An alumna of Gan Hal yeled, she is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. She has been attending religious school at Adas since Pre-K. Cecelia is preparing to celebrate her Bat Mitzvah this year. Her sister, Anna, her parents, her grandparents, Daniel Amir Jacobson, and Peter and Jocelyn Saltz, as well as her aunt, Rebecca, her grandparents, Charlene and Hooshang Karlin, and Bonnie and Jack Jacobson, and with her aunts, uncles and other family and friends. For this special time, she thinks with love about her grandmother, Berta S. de Jacobson, and with her siblings, Maia and Danny, her grandparents, Charlene and Hooshang Karlin, and Bonnie and Jack Jacobson, and with her aunts, uncles and other family and friends. For her mitzvah project, Cecelia is working on ways to improve access to volunteer opportunities for kids.

Ella Kotelanski
Ella Rebecca Kotelanski, daughter of Marina and Carlos Feldman, is an eighth grader at Milton Gottespman Jewish Day School. She began her Jewish education at Gan Hal yeled. She is planning to celebrate her Bar Mitzvah with her grandparents, Darla and James Strouse and her older brother, Jake Strouse, as well as her grandparents, Ann Schwartz and Peter and Jocelyn Saltz, as well as her aunt, Abby Schwartz, and siblings, Calie, Danny and Jemma. For her mitzvah project she will be raising money for the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society in honor of late mom Pamela Saltz.

Eden and Adele Sharon
Eden and Adele, daughters of Adam and Abigail Sharon, are eighth and seventh graders at Milton Gottespman Jewish Day School of the Nation’s Capital. They began their Jewish education at Gan Hal yeled at Adas Israel. Eden and Adele celebrate their Bar/ Bat Mitzvah with their great grandmother, Gladys Buckler, their grandparents, Dns. Iris and Jeanne Tanenbaum, Vivien Shlom, Shlom Shlom and with extended family and friends from throughout the U.S., Canada, and Israel. With many family members living with diabetes, Eden and Adele are supporting JDRF for their mitzvah project.
Welcome to Our New Adas Staff!

We are thrilled to introduce two new faces to Team Adas! Gerry Castillo and Bianca Saget (Sah-juh), joined us in June 2021.

Gerry

- Currently working as a Programming and Building Operations Manager. He manages our daily building calendar, maintenance and facility requests, and ensures that all our services, school programs and events are successful.

A little bit about Gerry:
- He has free time, his favorite DC place to visit with his family is the Museum of Natural History.
- His favorite thing to cook is a well marbled ribeye.
- In his new role at Adas, Gerry is most excited to make a meaningful difference.

Bianca

- Our new Front Desk Manager & Administrative Assistant. Bianca will be the friendly voice and face you meet when you call or visit Adas during the week. In addition to being our director of first impressions, Bianca will also assist with our lifecycle announcements, Yahrzeit reminders, etc.

Get to know Bianca:
- Her dream vacation is Switzerland.
- She is busy planning her wedding – May 2022 will be here before we know it!
- In her new role at Adas, she’s most excited about learning more about Judaism, the Jewish community and the impact of Adas Israel on the community.

How to connect with Bianca: Bianca can be reached via email, Bianca.Saget@adasisrael.org or via phone at 202.362.4433. Or you can come visit her in-person at the Adas Front Desk during the week.

Gerry

- Our new Programming and Building Operations Manager. He manages our daily building calendar, maintenance and facility requests, and ensures that all our services, school programs and events are successful.

Anne Frank House DC is Expanding – and It Needs Your Help!

"When you live in another country, you think everything is Beverly Hills." Those are the words of Rebekah who, like so many immigrants, came to this country in search of a better life. Unfortunately, the America she found was not the one she envisioned. Despite jobs in retail and as a home health aide, she wound up homeless and alone in Washington D.C. Her fortunes changed thanks in part to members of Adas Israel.

Rebekah is one of about a dozen people who live in single-occupancy apartments owned or rented by Anne Frank House, a tiny nonprofit with big dreams that offers long-term housing to formerly homeless people who struggle with mental illness. It is run entirely by volunteers, mostly from our congregation.

Now, back to Rebekah. As a young woman in East Africa, Rebekah attended sewing school. After settling in her new apartment, she bought a used sewing machine for $100. With fabric donated by an Anne Frank House board member, she used it to make colorful face masks to protect against the coronavirus and donated them to those in need. She spoke of what Anne Frank House means to her: "I'm able to feel comfortable, to have a place to relax and start to plan another phase of my journey."