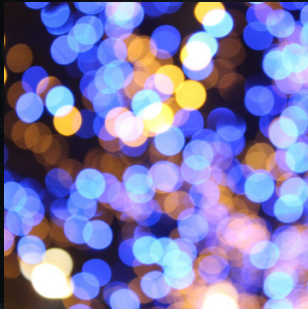
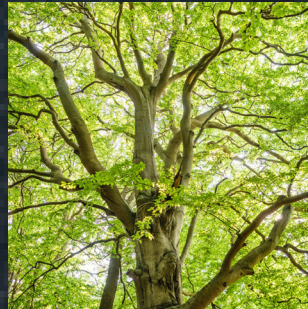


Adas Israel Congregation • Winter 5782

CHRONICLE



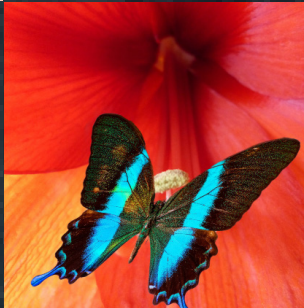
Light



Strength



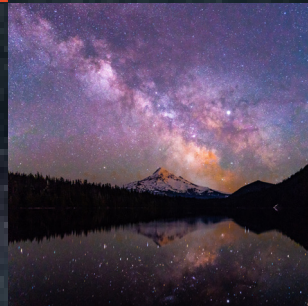
Perseverance



Joy



Intention



Vision



Hope



Dedication



Hanukkah 2021

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Hanukkah 2021

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT



Join us either:

- **Thursday, December 2 @ 6pm**
- **Sunday, December 5 @ 6pm**



1. Community Gathering & Menorah Lighting *Charles E. Smith Sanctuary*

Gather with the Adas community for candle lighting and festive music. Mark the moment, and prepare for the journey to come!



2. Immersive Hannukah Experience *Kay Hall*

Encounter Hanukkah like never before! Immerse yourself in an experiential walkthrough of ancient and modern day holiday themes.



3. Outdoor Hanukkah Bazaar *Outdoor Parking Lot*

End your evening at our outdoor Hanukkah Bazaar. Peruse items from local vendors, feast at an array of food trucks, enjoy moving lights and themed music, and see your contributions projected on the Adas building.

All you need to know at:

adasisrael.org/hanukkah



OUR VOICES



From the President

JANICE MOSTOW, ADAS PRESIDENT



Sometimes I wonder what draws us to light.

Before I write about the beauty of Hanukkah and its glorious light, I want to offer a heart-felt thank you to every person in our Adas family—clergy, entire staff, lay leadership, and congregants—for what they created and implemented during our High Holy Days. Many congregants attended online and/or in person. In fact, our attendance was greater than in previous years. We heard from many who felt their experiences were very meaningful and inspiring. Although months have passed since September, many of us continue to reflect on those moments lovingly and with tremendous appreciation.

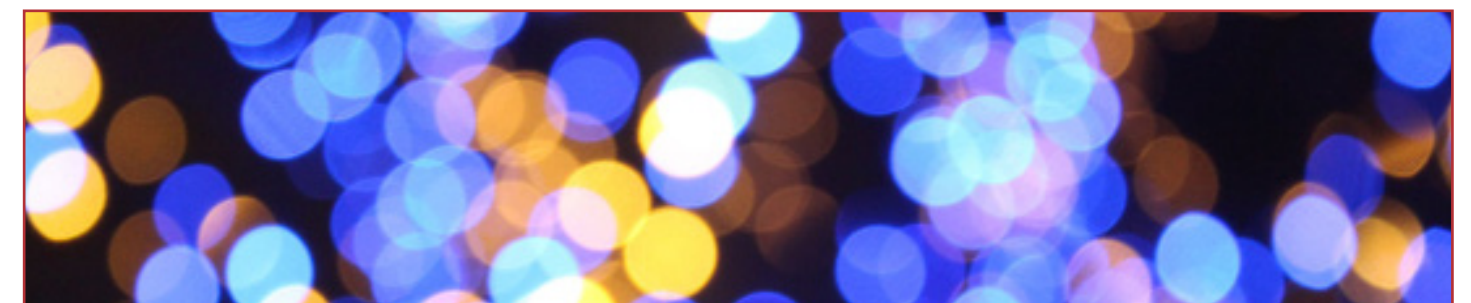
Throughout the challenges of the past 21 months (and counting), we remain a sacred community that is growing and thriving. Eighty-three new member households joined us in the past six months. We passed our Adas Fund goal and, at this time, have raised \$732,187. These contributions are a critical source of support as we continue to serve our members in so many ways. And we feel very grateful that more families are now part of our Adas community and are celebrating Hanukkah with us this year.

Sometimes I wonder what draws us to light. Many of us prefer a sunny day rather than a cloudy one, a bright day rather than a hazy one. Perhaps there is some scientific explanation about how our brains are wired or some early conditioning we experienced. Perhaps it is a spiritual longing that is eased on a sunny day, or perhaps the light reminds of us that we are all connected to one another. Maybe some combination of these conditions or others, not yet known, draws us to light.

Hanukkah allows, actually encourages, us to provide light to our families and to our world. Placing our candles in a window where all can see the flames is a beautiful act of faith, a belief that we can offer to our world the light we ourselves possess. The hope of light can be manifest in many ways, and we can each find a way that best fits who we are as individuals. We can call a loved one who misses us, contact the Hesed or Social Action committees, say kind words to someone, smile at someone walking by, donate toys and books to struggling children, write a note to someone who once helped us, pay special attention when someone talks to us tonight. We have a long tradition of offering whatever we can to whomever needs our support. We know that even a small gesture can shine light where it is offered. And we know that helping others is one of the best ways to keep our own light shining within our hearts and minds.

So this year, in the face of continual challenges in our world, let us light the way for ourselves and those in and around our Adas community. Let us imagine the light of Hanukkah shining into our lives each day, long after our celebrations are lovely memories.

May we each find light within ourselves
May we shine that light outward into our world
May we feel comfort from helping others
And may we feel the warmth of our Adas community





Clergy Corner

RABBI LAUREN HOLTZBLATT

*Though I have walked this path with so many of you,
losing a parent is really quite unimaginable.*

I lost my father in October. Though I have walked this path with so many of you, losing a parent is really quite unimaginable. Loss, mourning has felt to me like an island that I am visiting. My body feels a bit different, there is a sadness that sits, stays, and has trouble leaving. In the beginning I felt myself resisting it, trying to push out of it. Eventually I settled into the sadness, accepting it and inviting it to do what it needed to do. With the acceptance that I am different this year, like Jewish law explains, came a bit of freedom. A freedom to let tears come when they needed to, even if I was on the bimah, freedom not to pay attention to everything happening in the room as I usually do at Adas, to give myself a bit more space to take space.

I also tapped into a different type of joy. When we are in our darkest times, either physically in this season, or psycho-spiritually, we can sometimes feel that we should not tap into joy. The mourner is instructed not to purchase or wear new clothes, to refrain from cutting one's hair (unless the unruly hair becomes socially unacceptable), to refrain from enjoying music or other forms of entertainment, or to participate in joyous events (weddings, etc.). When mourning a parent, these restrictions apply for a full year.

In some ways these laws are helpful. When you do not feel normal, the law protects you and says, indeed, you are different this year. But these laws also communicate that we must spend an entire year in sorrow. What I have found is that I am in fact also experiencing joy in this year of mourning. It is not the same joy as I experienced before, but an awareness of the ephemeral nature of life. I have found profound connection with nature, with moments of connection with friends and family and a gratitude for the experience of living. It is a joy that is not all happy, but connected; a joy that also

contains my sadness. My memories of my father are also held with this joy. I have experienced a softening to the moments we shared, an openness to the parts of my relationship with my father that were difficult, and a love of all that he was—which was not always easy in my everyday life.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav taught in *Liqqutei Moharan* (Tinyana), section 23:

Concerning joy, [consider this] parable: Sometimes when people are rejoicing and dancing, they grasp a person from outside [the circle], one who is sad [be-atzvut], and press her against her will into the circle [machol] of dancers, and force her to rejoice with them. It is the same with joy; for when a person is happy, his depression (marah shechorah) and sufferings (yisurim) stand off to the side. But the higher level is to struggle and to pursue that very depression, and bring it also into the circle, so that one's sorrow and woes will flee on account of joy. For at the moment of joy, sorrow and woe stand to the side, as stated above . . . For [indeed] there are [kinds of] sorrow and woe that are [manifestations of] the Other Side, and do not wish to be bearers of holiness; thus, they flee from joy, but one must force them into [the sphere of] holiness, that is, into joy, against their will, as I have stated.

I have always read this text as teaching us that we do not have to live such a bifurcated existence. When we are in sorrow, there is joy too, and at the highest spiritual level we can allow all of our emotions to dance together—allowing space for the full experience of life. May we find the openings to be in the fullness of life, when it is dark and when it is light.



JMCW@ADAS

jewish mindfulness center of washington

For nothing is fixed, forever and forever and forever, it is not fixed; the earth is always shifting, the light is always changing, the sea does not cease to grind down rock. Generations do not cease to be born, and we are responsible to them because we are the only witnesses they have. The sea rises, the light fails, lovers cling to each other, and children cling to us. The moment we cease to hold each other, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.

~ JAMES BALDWIN

What Jews remembered from that victory over the Greeks twenty-two centuries ago was not a God of war but the God of light. And it's only the God of light who can defeat the darkness in the human soul.

~ RABBI JONATHAN SACKS

The Jewish spiritual calendar is one of the gifts of our tradition. Its predictable cycle is comforting, grounding, and connects us to the seasons. But each time we celebrate our familiar chagim, new wisdom and relevance seems to be revealed. On Hanukkah we eat latkes and sufganiyot, spin the dreidel, exchange gifts and good wishes, and sing holiday melodies. And, of course, we light the candles, watching the light expand and brighten each night.

On the eighth day of Hanukkah, the final flames of the hanukkiah dance their brightest and then melt down to join a week's worth of wax. According to the Hebrew lunar calendar, these eight candles shine during the first few hours of the last day of Hanukkah, yet it is still Hanukkah until sundown with (sadly) no candles to follow. This can be bittersweet: how beautiful it was to light the candles each night and now we must wait another year. Yet tradition holds that this eighth day is special and called: Zot Hanukkah or This is Hanukkah.

Why is the eighth day called Zot Hanukkah? Speaking of Jewish traditions, there are several answers to this question. Some say it is because of the final words of the parsha we read on the last day of Hanukkah: "Zot Chanukat Hamizbe'ach," meaning "This was the dedication of the Altar." Others point to the debate of Beit Shammai and Beit Hillel: Hillel prevailed, of course, and rather than beginning with eight lights and decreasing, we start with one candle and slowly increase the light each night to a final crescendo. On the eighth day, we have reached the fullest point of the commandment to light the candles and so: Zot Hanukkah.

We can also think of Zot Hanukkah in this way: By performing the mitzvah of lighting the candles in an ascending order, we were practicing bringing a little light to the darkness and then a bit more and then a bit more. At the end, it is still Hanukkah, even without the candles. So Zot Hanukkah ends without the hanukkiah, but this light sustains. Through the dark season, we can find space to rededicate ourselves to what is meaningful and precious. And we can look for the light to see that there are always miracles before our eyes, even—or especially—the miracles of the ordinary.



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

adasisrael.org/jmcw



THIS YEAR'S THEME

Shutafut/Partnership

The Exponential Power of Togetherness in Jewish Text and Practice

This year MakomDC will deeply examine the idea of what it means to be in religious partnership through two tracks: Torah Lishma, with institutions of Jewish learning and Torat Olam, creating partnerships with conversation around Eretz Yisrael.

- How much space do we, can we, and should we make for others on our paths?
- How do we open up our hearts, minds and institutions to ideas outside of ourselves while holding fast to our core principles?
- Who and what do we let into our bounds, and how do we decide?

This exploration will take place in both form and content, studying sacred texts and experiences with institutional partners who will bring new perspectives and grow and stretch our learning.

To learn more visit adasisrael.org/makomdc

IN-PERSON LEARNING OPPORTUNITY



Building Blocks with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut

JANUARY 5, 12, 19, AND 26 @ 7:30 PM

An in-person, skills-intensive experience on gaining access to Jewish texts in the original language and format with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut. Join Rabbi Yolkut for two four-week skills-based intensives exploring the basic building blocks of Jewish learning in the original Aramaic and Hebrew. You will get the chance to study basic vocabulary and terminology and cut your teeth on learning texts in the original and, by doing so, gain access to new rabbinic text materials. Study in Chavruta and small groups guided by Rabbi Yolkut on how to learn Jewish texts in their original and expose yourself to the challenge of complex concepts in rabbinic thought and the joy of learning how to learn! This class will include participants at different levels and will be great for beginners (basic Hebrew knowledge will be very helpful) and those who are more advanced. Register online at adasisrael.org/makomdc.



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.

December Learning

with the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS)



Facilitated By
Rabbi Sarah Krinsky



Rabbi Jan Uhrbach

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7 @ 7:30 PM

Rabbi Jan Uhrbach brings a passion for prayer to the JTS community. Through her work as founding director of the Block/Kolker Center for Spiritual Arts, she develops and oversees programs and discussions, as well as prayer services on Shabbat and festivals, for the JTS community and the general public.



Rabbi Gordon Tucker

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 @ 7:30 PM

As vice chancellor for Religious Life and Engagement, Rabbi Gordon Tucker focuses on enhancing Jewish life at JTS, enriching our study of Judaism with the joy and deep understanding that only lived experience can provide. A leading scholar and interpreter of Conservative Judaism, he also articulates the enduring power of JTS's compelling approach to Jewish law and Jewish life, while strengthening JTS's religious leadership through partnerships with organizations in the Conservative Movement and beyond.

January Learning

with the Shalom Hartman Institute



Facilitated By
Rabbi Elianna Yolkut



Roundtable Discussion

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4 @ 7:30 PM

Join Rabbi Yolkut and two other Hartman RLI Senior Rabbinic Fellows from three different denominations in a lively and engaging roundtable discussion as they present three texts on how partnership manifests in Jewish wisdom and their lives.



The Divine-Human Partnership: Rabbinic Theology and the Radical Call for Human Empowerment and Responsibility with Rabbi Lauren Berkun

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18 @ 7:30 PM

In this session, Rabbi Lauren Berkun, vice president of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, will explore the rabbinic theology of divine-human partnership. Through midrashim about Abraham, we will examine God's need for human leadership and engagement with Tikkun Olam. How can ancient rabbinic concepts about the mutuality of the divine-human relationship inform our understanding of human purpose and our contemporary relationships? We will focus particularly on how this theology might shape a new model of the Israel-Diaspora relationship. As a vice president of the Shalom Hartman Institute, Rabbi Lauren Berkun directs Rabbinic Initiatives and is a member of the senior executive team. She also oversees staff education, training, and curriculum development for Hartman's iEngage project. She is a summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, graduate of Princeton University with a BA in religion and was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

February Learning

Partner to be announced shortly



Facilitated By
Rabbi Aaron Alexander

MM ²¹/₂₂

Musical Moments at Adas

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

Richard L. Kramer Family Concert



Divas on the Bima

Sunday, February 27 @ 4pm

You won't want to miss the beautiful experience of live music in concert.

adasisrael.org/event/divas-on-the-bima

Divas on the Bima present an eclectic program of Jewish music meant to feed our souls and inspire our hearts. Presented by four renowned visiting cantors—Jen Cohen, Magda Fishman, Elizabeth Shammash, and Alisa Pomerantz-Boro—whose experience ranges from the Israeli Defense Force band to the opera halls of Europe to the country music venues of Nashville. They will be joined in performance by our own Cantor Arianne Brown, the Washington Men's Camerata, and top DC musicians. Come celebrate the return of live music in our lives!

adasisrael.org/musicalmoments



Composers' Corner Feat. Hazzan Ramon Tasat Wednesday, January 26, @ noon on Facebook live

In this popular, engaging series, Cantor Brown will interview celebrated and up-and-coming composers. Hear them perform and discuss their music and the method behind their creative compositions. Join us on Facebook live on January 26 at 12pm, or view the recording afterward at adasisrael.org/musicalmoments.



Shabbat Shirah on MLK Jr. Weekend with Roderick Giles & Grace Gospel Choir

We are thrilled to welcome back our musical partners Roderick Giles & Grace Gospel Choir to enhance our Shabbat morning with their deeply spiritual singing.



Havdalah & Sing for Justice w/ Musician in Residence: Micah Hendler December 4, January 15 & February 12 after Shabbat

These are evenings of collective singing and social action. We will concentrate on social issues, learning on-theme songs that can feed our souls and galvanize us to action, as we connect with community members who are affecting these areas. Our voices can help power the change we want to see in our world.

Meet Our Musicians - Micah Hendler



How did you first get connected to Jewish music?

I grew up with Jewish music all around—my mom's singing group, Calliope, rehearsed at my house, and our Kabbalat Shabbat as a family were in four-part harmony. So good Jewish music is definitely a home place for me.

How is your Jewish identity tied to your connections to the Justice Choir movement?

As a child, I was taught many things about the Jewish values tied to building a more just world. Growing up, I saw many of them applied in powerful ways in many contexts (both within and outside the Jewish community), and I also saw a lot of blind spots (particularly around Israel) where we, as a community, knowingly and unknowingly chose not to apply those values. As I came to engage more deeply in change work, music kept coming back as an often-overlooked access point to connecting with ourselves, our values, others, and the world, in new ways. So I have pursued opportunities where music can facilitate that opening-up. Justice Choir is such a movement, seeking to harness the power of collective song to

catalyze and support change-making on a variety of justice issues. I am honored to bring Justice Choir DC as a partner in the new Havdalah & Sing for Justice series we are building this year at Adas.

Tell us about the Maalot elective you'll be teaching this semester.

I'm excited to be working on two educational arcs this year within Maalot—with the ninth graders and with the 10th through 12th graders. I'll be helping the ninth graders to build community around their passions and values, manifesting themselves in new ways in the world. For the 10th through 12th graders, I'll be focusing on how to hold space for dialogue around Israel-Palestine that is both based in reality and allows for listening, learning, growth, and relationship-building to take place across lines of difference and conflict. I have been involved in Israeli-Palestinian dialogue work for almost two decades, the last of which I spent founding and directing the Jerusalem Youth Chorus, and I am excited to bring this experience to help the 10th through 12th graders navigate this sensitive topic in ways that can build bridges, rather than walls.

What were some memorable parts of Shabbat and holiday services at Adas throughout the pandemic?

For me, the most memorable parts of our pandemic services were finding ways to connect our kavanot, even across distance and isolation. Using my new setting of "Ana El Na" as a vehicle to set the different prayers people wrote in the chat and comment thread to music in real time is one of the musical experiences I am proudest of having created. I immortalized many of those first kavanot in this music video. I'm deeply grateful to Adas for the freedom to be creative and connective in new ways.



Education & Youth

@ ADAS ISRAEL

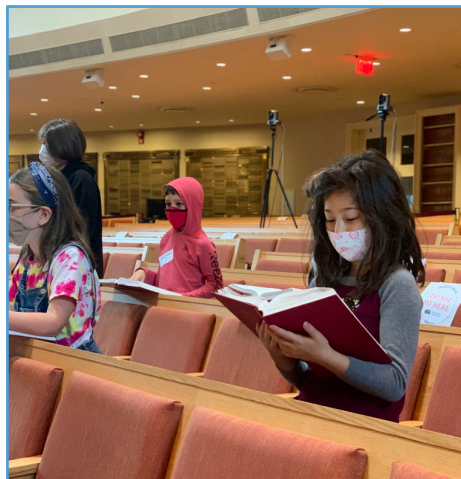
From the Director of Education

RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON



Right after the chagim, we officially opened our religious school doors and enthusiastically welcomed our students back to the building. We have made many changes to our procedures and protocols while keeping the love, values, and commitment to education that have always guided us. One of those new protocols includes greeting our students on the sidewalk outside the building before they come inside. The first week that we set up our “mobile office” right outside our front lobby, a few of our Quebec Street neighbors stopped to inquire if it was another Jewish holiday. And while the official answer was no, it did certainly feel like we were celebrating. Watching our students arrive, in person, filling our classrooms and halls with joy, learning, and laughter, was a moment in time we had all been longing for; each subsequent school day has continued to fill out hearts. We are back to doing what we love: learning together, praying together, and the simple, holy act of just being together. We are excited for the rest of the year ahead and look forward to sharing our school community with all of you.

FOCUSING ON GATHERING



For many of us, the focus of this year (in school and in life) is on gathering. Our fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade religious school students have always gathered in classroom communities and continue to do so—but this year we are overjoyed to welcome them into the building as well for monthly programming as a full grade.

On Sunday mornings, I get to welcome our older students and begin to create space with them to learn and be with one another. Over the course of our school year, we’ll trace the cycle of the Jewish year together, delving deeply into the upcoming holidays each month and exploring the rituals of our traditions in creative and experiential ways. I have already been delighted by the beautiful art our students have made, and I can’t wait to see the passion, creativity, and insight they have to share with me and with each other.

—Tessa Rudnick, Youth Programming Educator



HIGHLIGHTING OUR TEACHERS



Meet Emmy Cohen!

Emmy Teaches: 6th-Grade Religious School & 8th-Grade Ma'alot

Years Teaching at Adas: 5

Professionally: Program Analyst at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Enjoys: Reading, going to farmers’ markets, and playing with her dog, Samson.

Meet Morah D’vorah Flank!

D’vorah Teaches: 2nd-Grade Religious School and 3rd- & 4th-Grade Virtual Hebrew Classes

Years Teaching at Adas: 10

Professionally: D’vorah has taught at Merrimack Valley Hebrew Academy, spent two decades in IT as a programmer and manager, and has taught at Adas in the Religious School, Gan, and Adas Afterschool programs

Enjoys: Singing, art out of recycling, making playlists for students, napping (Shabbat!), and streaming British murder mysteries



Meet David Diamond!

David Teaches: 5th- & 6th-Grade Virtual Hebrew Classes

Years Teaching at Adas: 25

Professionally: Teaches 5th grade in Montgomery County Public Schools

Enjoys: Spending time with his children and grandchildren and doing genealogical research

Meet Sharon Gelboin-Katz!

Sharon Teaches: 5th- & 6th-Grade Virtual Hebrew Classes

Years Teaching at Adas: 32

Professionally: Teaching Israeli folk dance and movement to children and seniors, and working with her husband in their auto-repair business

Enjoys: Dancing, hiking, reading, watching movies, and gardening

TEFILLAH IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Our return to in-person learning in our religious school has given us an opportunity to create a new model for our students’ Shacharit experiences. As part of our schedule this year, we are providing multiple different services over the course of the morning so that every grade has an opportunity to learn and pray in an age- and developmentally appropriate setting.

What would you see if you were walking through the halls on a Sunday morning? Our time in school is filled with musical moments. From Cohen Hall to Kay Hall and up to the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, you will hear student voices participating enthusiastically in their services. Zamar Ben Romano leads joyous, movement-filled services for most of our students, while Raviv Brooks, who he is also teaching this year, continues to lead a beautiful and engaging Shacharit for Gishron, our youngest learners.

During our midweek sessions with our older students, Zamar Ben leads Mincha and/or Maariv (depending on the time of year), and you will see our students spread through the entirety of the Smith Sanctuary—balcony and all! This same group has a special new piece of learning on Sundays, called Divrei Tefillah. Each week Rabbi Solomon or Zamar Ben will highlight a piece of text, a prayer, a blessing, with explanations to illuminate and personalize these moments of tefillah.

We know that our students all experience prayer spaces differently, and we are excited to be sharing so many new ways for us all to connect!

Welcome to

Gan HaMischpacha

Family Center



Building a family is filled with emotion—joy, excitement, exhaustion, elation, and commitment. In earlier times society was structured in a way that provided communal support—extended families living together, the wisdom, calm, comfort, and knowledge of generations living side by side. Today we find ourselves experiencing a different narrative: one in which families are living as individual family units, without the support and knowledge of extended family. This acknowledgment leaves a question—how can we provide familial and communal support within our context and create our village within a village here at Adas Israel?

Considering this question and looking closely at the incredible community we have at Adas, and within our early childhood school, the Gan HaYeled, we decided to harness the power of creativity, community, and knowledge, and open the Gan HaMishpacha—the Parenting Center—at Adas Israel. Throughout my career as an early childhood professional, and my personal journey as a mother of three children, my passion has always resonated with supporting families as they grow and welcome babies home, thus finding joy through the many moments of parenting.



As a postpartum doula, and a CLC (certified lactation consultant), I am fortunate to offer perinatal support groups in the Gan HaMishpacha. I connect with families during both their prenatal and postpartum time. These groups are small cohorts of parents going through life transitions together. We explore, discover, and discuss all things pregnancy, birth, family, and baby. From week to week, there is continuity and relationship that provides space for group members to share, question, and receive information, all the while engaging in a supportive community.

The Gan HaMishpacha is our village. Members lean on each other, creating connections as young Jewish families. As the babies grow into toddlers, we have our Kangaroo Class—an experience for children with a parent or caregiver, all the while staying connected to the Gan Ecosystem.

Please come and visit our village—Gan HaMishpacha—on the second floor of the Gan HaYeled. Visit our website and encourage those preparing to bring a baby into the family to join a support group: <https://www.adasisrael.org/gan-hamishpacha.html>. I look forward to embracing each member of our beautiful Adas family.

Darci Lewis is Gan HaYeled Assistant Director, and Senior Educator of Gan HaMishpacha. She is a DONA certified postpartum doula and CLC. Please contact Darci with any questions about Gan HaMishpacha, or if you are in need of perinatal support at darci.lewis@adasisrael.org.



*Gan Ha’Neshama works in tandem with our Gan ecosystem;
Gan HaYeled “Garden of the Children” and Gan HaMishpacha “Garden of the Family”*



ADAS ISRAEL DAILY MINYAN HOW MINYAN BUILDS COMMUNITY

BY MELANIE FRANCO NUSSDORF

Where do you look for community? If you are reading this, hopefully you are thinking “Adas Israel.” But what does community mean and how do you build it? I attended Adas’s Daily Minyan every day for 11 months to recite the mourner’s Kaddish after my Dad died when I was 37 and after my mother died when I was 61. And when my husband, Larry, died in November 2020, I attended minyan for another 11 months.

Each time, I was struck by the caring of other minyan-goers who, at the start, were really strangers. I hardly knew anyone. But day after day I came, as did others, and soon we knew each others’ losses, schedules, reasons for coming or really knew nothing except they came and we could count on them to make a minyan. They showed up.

Many who come to minyan are saying Kaddish, either because they are in mourning or are observing a Yahrzeit. We say Kaddish in recognition of the fact that despite a terrible loss, we still praise God. The rabbis have historically referred to the saying of Kaddish as an obligation. They note that it is neither a biblical nor a rabbinic mitzvah. Reciting Kaddish is just a custom, but like other customs, it defines who we are as Jews.

The midrash that explains Kaddish brings with it the notion that each time you say Kaddish, you raise the soul of your loved one toward a higher level. No matter how righteous a life he or she led, the deceased’s soul is in danger of being lost. I don’t believe that for a minute, or find it comforting in any way, but I love the obverse notion that I help to lift up a soul each time I recite Kaddish. Others explain that saying Kaddish brings merit to the soul of the deceased. But I am quite certain that my loved ones do not need me to bring merit to their souls. Their souls were full of merit.

So I have looked at the opportunity to recite Kaddish as a privilege: It reminds me daily of how grateful I am for what I had, and how the wonderful memories I have keep my loved ones in my life, my sons’ lives, and their children’s lives. The idea that the person for whom you are saying Kaddish is no longer in the world is incomprehensible, an uncharted emotional territory. And there you are, saying Kaddish every day with a bunch of people, few of whom you knew when you showed up at minyan on that first day. But you know they care about community and, soon, you know their hearts.

The minyan is your community while you recite Kaddish. It assumes center stage for the mourner; it defines the days, the

weeks and the months of one’s loss. So why does a mourner not say Kaddish privately, whenever he or she thinks of their loved one? Which brings us to the community that is the minyan. A gathering of people. Some you know, some you didn’t when you started. You will know all of them when your period of mourning is over. Is that true of every minyan? Probably not, but it is surely true of ours.

Over the past year, when someone isn’t on the Zoom screen, we say Kaddish for their loved one and we email and call to make sure they are all right. We know who can’t get a Covid shot and who already has. We know who has been ill and who has just been on vacation. We know what Hesed is doing and we make plans to help. We celebrate weddings, and astounding prizes, and new grandchildren, and we empathize with sad events and world tragedies and reassure each other that we will get through this, too. We get the Nats scores and an expert evaluation from Manny on the best pitchers and the likely trades. In my case, without fail I would join the Zoom call to see my sister from California and my wonderful friend Lois, always there, always watching my face, calling me afterwards to comfort or laugh or just recount the day’s ups and downs. And my best friend from Buffalo, and my longtime friend from New York, and my sister’s fabulous daughter-in-law, who is Catholic but knows the minyan prayers better than I do, and whose face sustained me for 11 months because she is such a busy young mother in a different time zone who dropped everything in the middle of her day to be on the calls. Who said Zoom calls are intolerable? Indeed, over the past year, they made the intolerable and unthinkable holy and divine.

And there are those who aren’t saying Kaddish but come nevertheless. They show up and get counted. And the lay leaders who aren’t there to say Kaddish but are there just the same, supporting the rest of us, checking in to see how we are, joining the conversation, always willing to let someone finish a story or do another prayer or add another Kaddish for someone who has dialed in late. Manny, Nina, Bob, Jamie, and Howard: we know you have other things to do but you show up for us. My very wonderful, wise husband always said three-quarters of life is just showing up. And how the members of this community have shown up for us.

What makes a community? How do you create and nurture one? How do you make strangers feel like beloved family? Come to minyan. Change a bad time in someone’s life. Change your life, too.



tikkunolam

'REPAIRING THE WORLD'

SOCIAL ACTION

Afghan Refugee Response

Our Afghan Refugee sub-committee mobilized in mid-August when we learned about all of the families in need of advocacy and support as they escaped the Taliban regime.

Our early outreach focused on ways we could support evacuation efforts, but we quickly pivoted to forming partnerships to support the families being resettled in the DC metropolitan area.

We have established partnerships with local organizations, including the International Rescue Committee and Solutions in Hometown Connections, to support their resettlement efforts, including collecting home goods and clothing for families.

We recently completed a drive to collect backpacks and school supplies for children, and we've also made a connection with a newly arrived family and helped get them supplies and clothing to feel more comfortable in their new home. We also provided support to the ADAMS Center in Northern Virginia to contribute to its direct work with Afghans resettled in their community.

We continue to explore all of the ways the Adas community can partner with local agencies and are working to provide a wide array of volunteer opportunities to those interested, which will likely include family mentorship, tutoring, ongoing donation collections, and providing professional expertise.

Our team is grateful to everyone who has expressed interest and already donated time and resources. There is a lot of work ahead, and we look forward to continuing to partner with all of you to help those in need.

Other Social Action Highlights

Our other teams continue important work. In recent months, this has included:

- Organizing monthly protests at the Chinese embassy to voice our outrage at the ongoing Uyghur genocide. In October, bat mitzvah Sonia Skolnik organized the protest as part of her service work.
- Spearheading a sign-on letter to the Biden administration on behalf of hundreds of organizations, synagogues, and prominent Jewish community members, through which Adas Israel demonstrated clear and visible leadership on this urgent issue.
- Developing further campaigning around affordable housing in Ward 3, including in areas around Fort Reno, which was once a thriving African American community known as Reno City.

- Initiating a hosting a multi-synagogue event, along with HIAS, to focus attention at the ongoing crisis on the border, including having speakers from McAllen, TX, join us.
- Reviving our partnership with the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission in West Virginia to serve a monthly meal, which happened to feature the food cooked by our very own Hesed Committee.

And much, much more. Please go to <https://www.adasisrael.org/socialaction> to learn more and contact Brad Brooks-Rubin (barubin10@hotmail.com) to be added to our e-mail list.

ANNE FRANK HOUSE

In spite of everything," Anne Frank wrote in her diary, "I still believe that people are really good at heart." As 2021 draws to a close, Anne Frank House wants to thank the Adas Israel community for its support and generosity this year—and for being truly "good at heart."

In the spirit of Anne, who longed for a home of her own, Anne Frank House provides safe and comfortable housing for formerly homeless people who struggle with mental illness, on a budget of roughly \$1,500 per resident per month. Your giving has made it possible for us to purchase a new apartment and to welcome a new resident, bringing the total number of residents to 12. We are also making plans for expansion.

Here's how you can help:

Volunteer: One of the ways we support our residents is to provide each with his or her own volunteer liaison. Being a liaison takes only a few hours a month and offers the opportunity to develop a very special relationship and make a difference in someone's life. If you are interested, reach out to Marty Lewin: mlewin0805@gmail.com.

In-Kind Gifts: Anne Frank House partners with A Wider Circle to furnish apartments, but furnishings wear out over time, and it's nice for our residents to have new (gently used) things. If you have furniture or household items to donate, reach out to Sheila Meyer: sheilameyer@mindspring.com.

Spread the Word: Follow or like us on Facebook, and share our posts: <https://www.facebook.com/Anne-Frank-House-DC-154776871209990/>.

Donate: The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated an already acute housing crisis in Washington, D.C. In this time of increasing need and diminishing financial support, our residents need you more than ever. Contributions by check may be sent to Anne Frank House, c/o Adas Israel. Or give online at https://www.theannefrankhouse.org/what_you_can_do/.



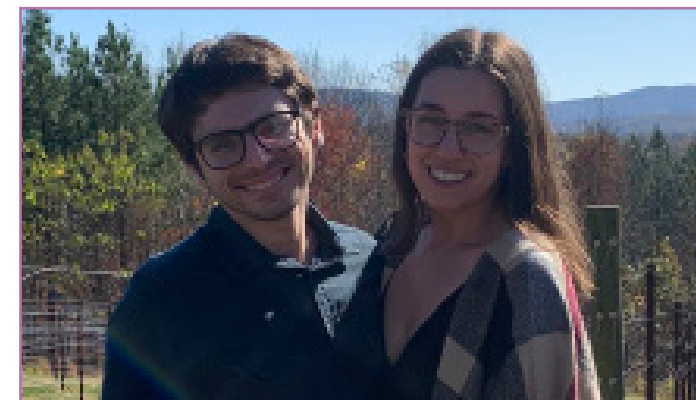
Hesed

Acts of Loving Kindness

WANT TO GET MORE ACTIVE AT ADAS? JOIN A HESED TEAM!

Have you ever felt like you were on the outside looking in at Adas members enjoying themselves and working together for a common cause? Hesed gives you the opportunity to engage with activities that are fun and rewarding. At a large shul like Adas, it can sometimes be intimidating to figure out where to find your place. Volunteering for committees is a wonderful way to engage. Hesed provides opportunities to jump in, do rewarding work, and feel part of something important.

Two of our relatively new members—Jared Sutton and Ciara Bennese—have done just that. They have jumped into leadership roles with the Hesed Cooking Team and are doing a fantastic job. You can follow the lead of Jared and Ciara and join Hesed activities. Contact hersed@adasisrael.org for more information.



INTRODUCING . . . JARED SUTTON AND CIARA BENNESE, COMMUNICATION/LOGISTICS LIAISON FOR THE HESED COOKING TEAM

Jared Sutton and Ciara Bennese are both originally from Florida and attended Drew University in Madison, New Jersey and Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL, respectively. Jared has lived in DC for almost three years and started attending Adas Israel soon after moving. Jared is a part of the Young Professionals committee and is also involved in Shabbat clusters through the JCC. Ciara moved to DC just over two years ago and got involved with Adas Israel in 2020 and is now part of the coordinating team for the Afghan Refugee Response team through the Social Action Committee.

Ciara and Jared got involved with Hesed cooking by volunteering

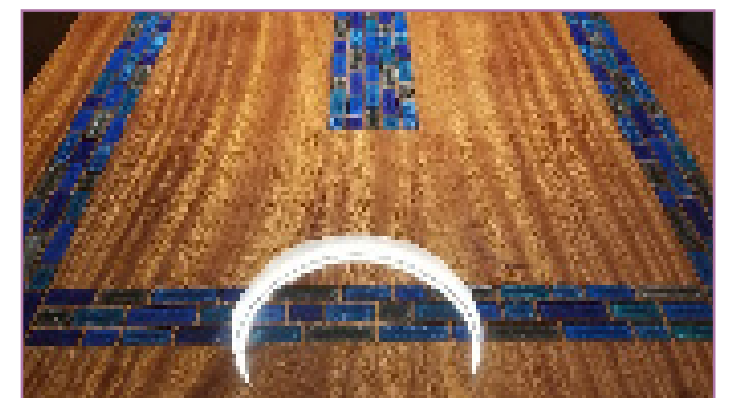
at the food collection and sorting events in January 2020, when the programming adapted to allow people to prepare food at home due to Covid. After a few months of volunteering, Jared and Ciara became involved in administrative support for the Hesed Cooking events and just helped with their first in-person cooking event at Adas that happened in August. Jared was drawn to Hesed Cooking because he feels it is important to give back to the community, and Ciara says that she was drawn to Hesed Cooking due to her wanting to help the community and her love of baking stemming from her time working at a bakery in college. Both feel that the Hesed Cooking programming provides a great way to give back to the community while also getting to know other Adas members!

The Adas Israel Hesed Committee encourages building community through its Member Connector Committee, chaired by Healey Sutton. Healey loves introducing interesting members of our community.

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



Aaron Goldstein is a new member at Adas, along with his wife Wendy Doernberg. When you see him around Adas, ask him about: Woodworking! Aaron says: "I've been woodworking since 2016, completing projects ranging from menorahs to a beautiful dining table we can't wait to use for a huge Shabbat dinner."





TORAH FUND

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Torah Fund, a campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism, supports scholarships and programs at the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning:

- The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY
- Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Los Angeles, CA
- Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel
- Seminario Rabinico Latin America, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Zacharias Frankel College, Potsdam, Germany

Adas Israel Sisterhood's participation in the 2021-2022 Torah Fund B'Yachad campaign contributes to these efforts. Please consider making a donation. Your gift to Torah Fund will help strengthen Jewish education and ensure the vibrancy of the Jewish people for decades to come.

Here is what others have to say about the importance of Torah Fund:

"I give to Torah Fund because I am a proud Conservative/Masorti Jew, and I understand how vital our five seminaries are to our movement's existence and perpetuation," says contributor Marilyn Cohen.

"I am so grateful to Torah Fund for making this excellent level of education possible for myself and hundreds of other students. It will support the next generation of Jewish leaders," said Assistant Rabbi Abi Weber, Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, Philadelphia, PA, and a Jewish Theological Seminary graduate.

To donate, mail a check, payable to TORAH FUND, to Torah Fund Chair, Rona Walters, 5117 Linnean Avenue, NW, DC 20008, or contribute online at www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund.

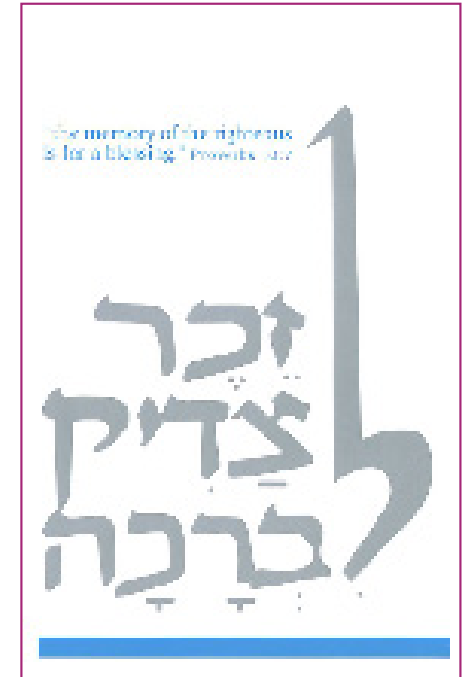
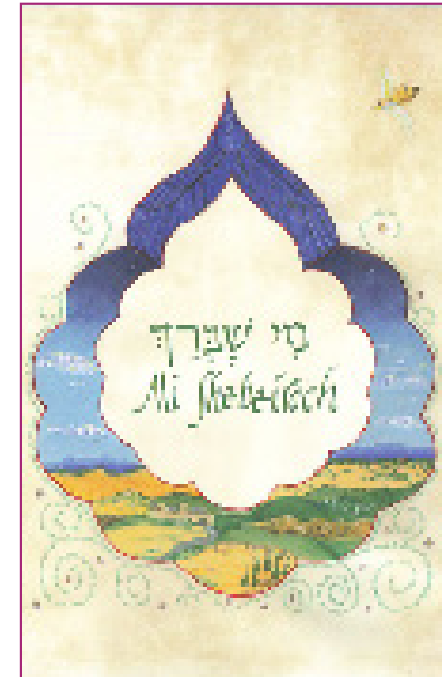
TORAH FUND CARDS NOW AVAILABLE

It's always a good time to reconnect with family and friends, and Sisterhood's Torah Fund has greeting cards available for any occasion, including the designs on the opposite page. All cards are 4.5" x 6.25". Cards are \$5 each, and envelopes are included with your order.

To purchase cards, contact Rona Walters at ronawalters@gmail.com or 202-744-2854.

Sisterhood's Upcoming Leap into the Twenty-First Century

By the start of 2022, Sisterhood will have taken a giant step to becoming more administratively savvy through a new CRM – a technology platform that will improve "Customer Relationship Management" for our beloved members. Somewhat akin to Adas' ShulCloud, the platform is being organized through MembershipWorks, a user-friendly program that will offer lots of great opportunities for Sisterhood members to register for events, pay their membership (still by check or credit card), have access to an actual Membership Directory, and view a colorful schedule of upcoming activities – all in one place on the Adas website Sisterhood page.



ruth & simon albert

sisterhood gift shop

We're Back!

We are pleased to announce that the Ruth & Simon Albert Gift Shop is now open six days a week. Please visit us during the following hours:

Sunday-Monday & Wednesday-Friday:

9:30 am-12:30 pm

Tuesday:

9:30 am-3:00 pm

All of our volunteers are masked and ready to help you find that special gift, tallit, or anything else. If these hours are not convenient, please email us at adasgiftshop@gmail.com and we'll be glad to set up an appointment for you.

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel.

202-364-2888

adasgiftshop@gmail.com

202.364.2888

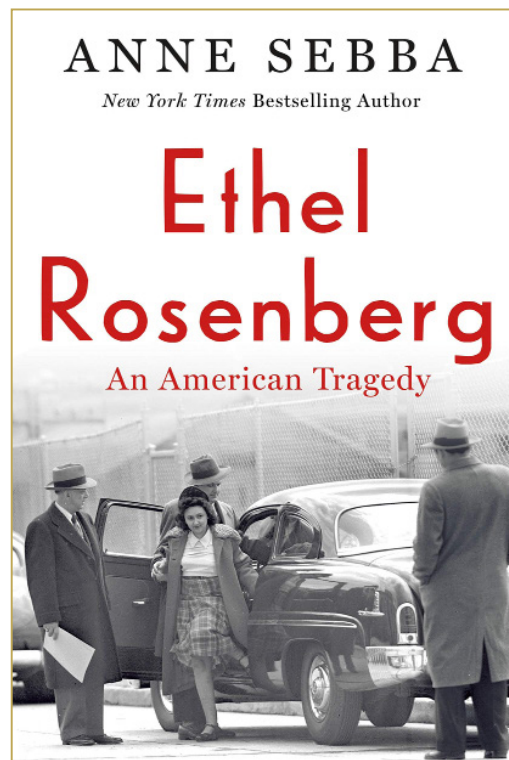




Books & More *The Adas Israel Library Corner*

A Fresh Look at Ethel Rosenberg

BY ROBIN JACOBSON
LIBRARY & LITERARY
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR



In 1953, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg went to their deaths in New York's infamous Sing Sing prison, convicted of conspiring to commit espionage for the Soviet Union. Ethel's execution was particularly horrific. After a first session in the electric chair failed to kill her, jailers strapped her back in to be electrocuted again. The executions orphaned the couple's two young sons. Up till the last moment, federal authorities promised to spare the couple's lives if they confessed their guilt and identified co-conspirators. Neither one did.

Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy by noted biographer-journalist Anne Sebba presents Ethel as an individual, rather than just one-half of the Rosenberg couple. In recent years, with the release of once-classified documents, most scholars have concluded that Julius did in fact recruit spies to pass military-industrial information during World War II to the Soviet Union, an ally at the time. As to Ethel, scholars assume she was aware of her husband's actions, but there is little evidence of her active participation. In fact, government documents reveal that Ethel's arrest was a government ploy to force Julius to confess, and her conviction rested largely on the false testimony of her own brother, pressured by prosecutors to implicate Ethel.

Yet so many questions remain. What motivated Julius to aid the Soviet Union? Why was Ethel unwilling to bargain for her life and her sons' future? Did anti-Semitism or attitudes about women play a role in the case? In an illustrated presentation via Zoom, Anne Sebba will share her research on these and other questions on **Sunday, December 12, at 11 am**. Register at <https://www.adasisrael.org/adas-library>.



ETHEL'S STORY

As Sebba recounts, Esther Ethel Greenglass was born on New York's Lower East Side in 1915 to a family of Jewish immigrants. She excelled in school, and her beautiful singing voice won her a spot in a prestigious chorus based at Carnegie Hall. As a young woman, she was attracted to progressive causes, taking an active role in a 1935 union strike at the shipping company where she worked. She met Julius Rosenberg, an engineering student at City College, when she sang at a benefit concert for the International Seamen's Union, and they married in 1939.



During World War II, Ethel's younger brother, David Greenglass, served as an Army machinist at Los Alamos, the New Mexico site where the atomic bomb was developed. He testified that he conveyed bomb information to his brother-in-law Julius, and that his sister typed his handwritten notes for delivery to Soviet agents. The jury believed David, explaining in later interviews that if Ethel's own brother testified against her, she must be guilty. But David had lied. As prosecutors knew, and as Greenglass admitted years later, he had changed his initial statements absolving his sister in order to obtain leniency for himself and protect his own wife from prosecution.

COLD WAR TERROR

The Rosenbergs' case unfolded against a backdrop of frightening global events. In 1949, the Soviet Union tested its first atomic bomb, years earlier than expected. In 1950, North Korea, backed by the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea, backed by the United States. American soldiers were dying daily in this conflict. Meanwhile, Americans at home were terrified by the prospect of a Soviet nuclear attack.

As Sebba shows, this environment of pervasive fear influenced both the Rosenberg trial and its aftermath. Pleas for clemency for the Rosenbergs, or just for Ethel, were brushed aside. No American officials wanted to appear "soft on communism" when the survival of the United States was thought to hang in the balance.

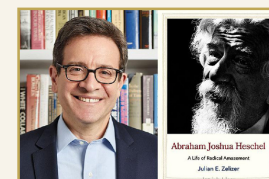


BOOK & AUTHOR CHATS (VIA ZOOM)



Sunday, December 12 @ 11 am
Meet Author Anne Sebba

Noted biographer-journalist Anne Sebba will introduce *Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy* in a special illustrated presentation.



Sunday, February 6 @ 11 am
Meet Author Julian Zelizer

Princeton professor Julian Zelizer will present his new book, *Abraham Joshua Heschel: A Life of Radical Amazement*, which portrays Heschel as a political activist as well as a religious figure.



Sunday, March 27 @ 11 am
Book Chat on *Antiquities* by Cynthia Ozick

Join us to discuss literary legend Cynthia Ozick's charming and enigmatic new book, set in early 20th-century New York.

Register online for the program at [adasisrael.org/adas-library](https://www.adasisrael.org/adas-library). For more information or registration assistance, contact Robin Jacobson at Librarian@adasisrael.org.



B'NAI MITZVAH



Nathan Ehrenberg, November 13

Nathan Eric Ehrenberg began his Jewish education at Tot Shabbat, attending with his mom, Pamela Ehrenberg, and his older sister Talia, before continuing to Netivot and Junior Congregation services.

Nathan is a Gan HaYeled graduate, a student in the Ma'alot program of the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, and he attends Camp Havaya in the summers. For his mitzvah project, Nathan is volunteering with the D.C. State Chess Federation to expand chess equity and opportunity throughout the city. He looks forward to sharing his simcha with grandparents David Grebow and Randy and Ronald Ehrenberg, along with other family and friends. His family remembers fondly Nathan's dad, Eric Ehrenberg (z"l), who would have loved to play chess with Nathan, as well as his beloved grandmother Joan Grebow (z"l).



Noam Trommer, November 13

Noam Friedberg Trommer, son of Edna Friedberg and Stig Trommer, is a seventh grader at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital. He began his formal Jewish education at Milton (then

JPDS) in pre-K and also attends Camp Ramah New England. Noam shares this simcha with many family members, and he remembers with love grandparents Barbara Bisguier Friedberg, Maurice Friedberg, and Niels Trommer, all of blessed memory. For his mitzvah project, Noam volunteers with cemetery crowdsourcing projects to enable mourners and researchers to view graves and memorials around the country, including the Covid-19 flag installation on the National Mall.



Gabriella Goldberg, November 13

Gabriella Goldberg, daughter of Elyse Wasch and Ben Goldberg, is a ninth grader at School Without Walls High School. She began her Jewish education at the Estelle & Melvin

Gelman Religious School in first grade. She had a virtual bat mitzvah service on April 18 and is looking forward to an actual in-person service and celebrating her simcha with her parents, her sister Madeleine, her grandparents, and other family and friends. For her mitzvah project, she organized a book drive for Reach Out and Read, a nonprofit organization that promotes literacy by giving children a book at their regular wellness checkup.



Maya Leigh, November 20

Maya Leigh, daughter of Julie and Daniel Leigh, celebrates her bat mitzvah with her younger sisters, Dina and Dalia, as well as her grandparents, Valeria and Mark Freidlin, Scarlet Hassner, and

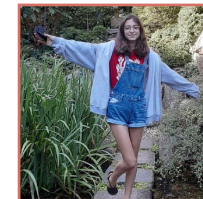
Michael Leigh, and family scattered across the U.S. and Europe. Maya enjoys playing volleyball, drawing, reading, skiing, hiking, and questioning absolutely everything. She is a seventh grader at Washington International School, and for her mitzvah project, she is helping to clean up Rock Creek Park.



Zoe Moskowitz, November 20

Zoe Daniella Moskowitz, daughter of Lissy and Charlie Moskowitz, is an eighth grader at the Washington International School. She began her Jewish education at the Edlavitch Jewish Community Center of

Washington DC, and was a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School at Adas Israel. Zoe celebrates her bat mitzvah with her brother, Julian; her grandparents, Stephen Saft and Debbie and Ivan Moskowitz; her great-grandfather Seymour Lichtenstein; and many other family and friends. At this special time, we remember with love Zoe's grandmother, Marcia Saft, and her great-grandmother, Irene Lichtenstein, of blessed memory. For Zoe's mitzvah project, she is supporting Dress for Success, an organization that empowers women to achieve economic independence through a network of support, professional attire, and development tools to help women thrive in work and life.



Sonia Skolnik, November 27

Sonia Skolnik, an eighth grader at Alice Deal Middle School, is the daughter of Masha Belenky and Jonathan Skolnik. She is named

Elizaveta Vinogratskaya (z"l). Sonia attends the Ma'alot program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School and has been working with Nechama Liss-Levenson and the Adas Israel Social Action Committee to raise awareness about the communist regime's persecution of the Uyghur Muslims in China.



Jacob Kolko, December 4

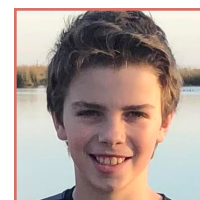
Jacob Isaiah Kolko, son of Joshua and Lauren Kolko, is a seventh grader at Deal Middle School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, and is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School.

Jacob celebrates his bar mitzvah with sister Rachel, and grandparents Arnold and Karen Markoe, Naomi Greenwood, and Linda Borst Kolko, along with other family and friends. He never met his grandfather Burton S. Kolko (z"l), but he knows he would be proud of him. For his mitzvah project, Jacob is raising money for the Cynthia Graham Hurd Foundation, which provides books to underprivileged kids.



Jonah Mishalove, December 11

Jonah is the son of Debra Perlson Mishalove and Ian Mishalove. He first came to Adas when he was four years old as a student at the Gan HaYeled, a place where he was able to explore and experience his Jewish identity and culture. He is excited to finally be 13 and have his bar mitzvah with this special community, and he is especially happy he is able to do it in person! Jonah is a seventh grader Sheridan School and loves surfing, traveling, reading, sports, and playing guitar.

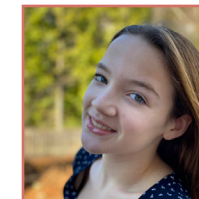


Silas Gordon, December 11

Silas Gordon, son of Catherine Brown and Robert Gordon, is a 7th grader at Maret School. Silas has been attending the Gan and Adas's religious school since he was three (with a brief interruption when he was in Michigan). For his mitzvah project, Silas is raising money for the International Rescue Committee and mentoring a refugee family. He celebrates his bar mitzvah with his brother Gabriel, his parents, his grandmothers, Carol Brown and Lois Gordon, and with other family and friends. He



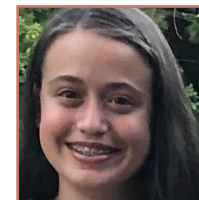
remembers with love his grandfathers, David Brown and Alan Gordon.



Reese Rosenkranz, December 18

Reese Michelle Rosenkranz, daughter of Taryn and Eric Rosenkranz, is a seventh grader at Norwood School in Bethesda. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled in the Kitten class. Reese celebrates this

simcha with younger brother Sam, grandparents Ilana and Marc Rosenkranz and Mike and Julie Houghton, great-grandmother Diane Rosenkranz, and with other family and friends. At this special time, she honors her great-grandfathers Solomon Zeev and Ralph Rosenkranz and great-grandmother Mirriam Zeev, all of blessed memory, of whom she was named.



Serena Perelman, January 8

Serena, daughter of Joshua and Stacey Perelman, and granddaughter of John and Renny Kossow, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. She began her Jewish education at the Estelle & Melvin

Gelman Religious School, following in the footsteps of her mother and grandfather. Serena is a fifth-generation member at Adas Israel, going back to her great-great grandfather, Elias Gelman. Serena shares her simcha with sisters Abigail and Emily, uncle Andrew Kossow, cousin Sharon Burka, and her extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



Orli Wildman Halpern, January 15

Orli Wildman Halpern, daughter of Sarah Wildman and Ian Halpern is a seventh grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. She celebrates her bat mitzvah with sister Hana, parents, grandparents Ken and Mishele Halpern, and Margot and

Joseph Wildman, and with other family and close friends. Orli started her religious education at Gan HaYeled at Adas Israel. Her mitzvah project was born out of her own experience as a liver cancer (and transplant) patient: Orli has chosen to re-imagine and gather presents for what is known as the "Treats and Treasures" cart at Children's National Medical Center. Treats and Treasures is a selection of small prizes given to children who have blood drawn, or longer outpatient procedures, including chemotherapy. Orli will be gathering and helping distribute gifts to help distract older patients—'tweens and teens. She is also collecting larger gifts for teen patients at Children's, and wants to draw attention to the experience of young adults in long-term care.

**Alexandra Nehrer, January 22**

Alex Nehrer, daughter of Robin Wiener and Roger Nehrer, is a seventh grader at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital. She began her Jewish education at Adas Israel's Gan HaYeled. Alex shares her simcha with sister Jennifer, a senior at the School Without Walls High School in DC, grandmother Wilma Wiener, and other family and many friends. At this special time, Alex is thinking with love of grandparents Arthur and Naomi Nehrer, and grandfather Donald Wiener, all of blessed memory.

**Mirabel Shefferman, January 22**

Mirabel Shefferman, daughter of Scott and Ilissa Shefferman, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Mirabel celebrates her bat mitzvah with younger brother, Augie, grandparents Maynard and Sheryl Kabak and Ileen Shefferman, and with other family and friends. She also remembers her grandfather, Michael Shefferman (z"l), for whom she was named. For her mitzvah project, Mirabel is raising money and volunteering for the Humane Rescue Alliance of Washington, DC.

**Sanchi Halper, January 29**

Sanchi, daughter of Shela Halper, is a seventh grader at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School, which she has attended since kindergarten. Sanchi celebrates her bat mitzvah with her mother, grandmother Lakshmi Halper, aunts Nina Halper (son Rafael, a former Gan student) and Shalini Taneja (and family), and extended family and friends. She also remembers her grandfather, H. Robert Halper, of blessed memory. Sanchi is the second generation to celebrate her bat mitzvah at Adas Israel, following her mother and aunt. For her mitzvah project, Sanchi is raising funds and awareness for Edu-GIRLS, a nonprofit that educates girls living in extreme poverty in India, where Sanchi was born.

**Elizabeth Perlmutter, February 5**

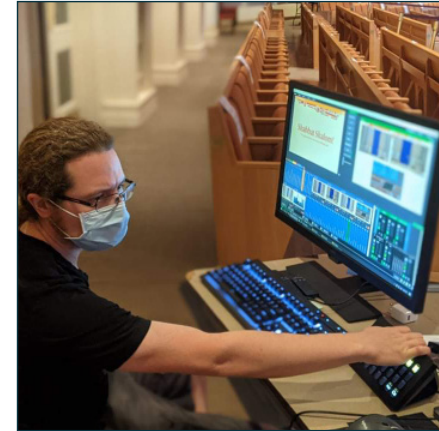
Elizabeth Perlmutter, daughter of Andrew Perlmutter and Marianna Lvovsky, is a seventh grader at Deal Middle School. She has been attending the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since kindergarten, and she looks forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with brother Jacob and with her extended family and friends.

**Leo Borovay, February 12**

Leo Borovay, child of Marna Schoen and Zachary Borovay, is a seventh grader at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital. Leo and his family joined Adas Israel in 2017, after attending their first Kabbalat Shabbat service and connecting immediately with the sermon and music. A skilled guitarist, composer, and member of Kolot, Leo believes in the power of music. For his mitzvah project, Leo chose to focus on the mitzvah of caring for our elders by performing songs in Yiddish and English for the residents of the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, where his great grandmother lives. Leo looks forward to sharing his bar mitzvah, the first in his generation, with brother Solly, parents, grandparents Sharon Borovay, David Rubin, Rena Goldman, and Eric Hawkins, two great grandmothers Elaine Spielberg and Ida Goldman, and other family members and friends. At this special time, Leo and his family lovingly remember his late grandfather, Leonard Borovay (z"l), for whom he was named.

**Evelyn Neaville, February 19**

Evelyn (Evie) Luzzatto Neaville is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She began her Jewish education in preschool at Gan HaYeled. Evie celebrates her bat mitzvah with younger brother Cal, parents, Paul Neaville and Marisa Luzzatto, and other wonderful family and friends. She remembers her late grandfathers, Francis A. Luzzatto and Gordon N. Litwin (z"l). She looks forward to sharing this wonderful milestone with the Adas community.



Ma Tovu

Noah Firtel

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

*Interviewed by Marcy Spiro,
Senior Director, Engagement & Programming Operations*

Noah, you are like the Wizard of Oz, but instead of a green curtain, you hide behind the Adas airwaves. Can you tell us a bit about what you do for Adas and how you became our go-to tech/production guru?

I primarily operate all the equipment necessary for the livestream setup, usually with one other technician. This includes making sure audio is working, both in the room and on the stream, operating cameras, and switching between shots. I started working with Adas during the High Holidays last year. SMASH Productions, the company that Adas works with for setting up the Livestreams and acquiring gear, hired Spydermen Production Group for additional equipment rental and labor, and they hired me mostly as an extra hand for if/when little things went wrong. For example, if a camera was bumped, someone could fix it while the operators kept the show going. I apparently made a good impression, because after that I was hired directly to do the regular Shabbat Livestreams. Over the last year, as equipment has been replaced and added, I'm the one who's mostly had to add that equipment and make sure it works with the Livestream needs and the other gear in the system.

We have you scheduled here at Adas for every Shabbat and big production event like concerts, learning programs, and holidays. Where are you when you're not at Adas?

I'm a full-time freelancer, mostly around the DC area, but I occasionally travel for work as well. I used to mostly do audio for live corporate events with occasional concert and theater work, but since the pandemic, it's mostly broadcast, virtual events, or hybrid events like the High Holidays were this year. So lately you can find me at work, wherever that is.

What was your favorite Jewish holiday growing up and why? And what is your favorite holiday that you've celebrated with Adas and why?

I mean, as a kid I think just about everyone picks Hanukkah; the holiday that gets me a Nintendo was definitely my favorite. But after that was probably Passover, we had a lot of food I liked. Matzoh ball soup and brisket in particular. Simchat Torah is probably my favorite Adas holiday. It's chaotic and wild, and that energy is really fun to be around and really interesting to try and capture properly on the livestream. If most of the services are similar to a more typical live broadcast (like the news, award shows, etc.), Simchat Torah is more like trying to film a theatrical production. So many people are doing so many different things all at the same time, that it's not just about capturing the "main action," but trying also to be quick enough to both notice and capture all the little moments happening on the sides and in the crowd.

You love to cook, and this article will come out as we are finishing Hanukkah. So, what are your go-to toppings for latkes? And what are your go-to oil-filled foods to make or eat?

I treat latkes like extra crispy hash browns, and the best toppings for both is hot sauce. The fried food I probably make the most is breaded chicken cutlet. I'll make several pounds of it at a time and freeze it for when I'm too busy to really cook.

You've seen a lot of behind-the-scenes at Adas. When you have time to write your tell-all book, what will the title be?

Which David Wants What? (David Polonsky from Adas and David Goldstein from SMASH Productions)

The year 2022 is around the corner. What are you most excited about for the new year?

I'm most excited to either get married or not to have to do any more wedding planning—both of which will happen at the same time, but aren't exactly the same thing.



Tips to the Staff Holiday Gift Fund

Adas Israel Congregation is fortunate to have a wonderful, dedicated maintenance, clerical, administrative, and support staff, all of whom ensure that the synagogue runs as needed. Our staff serve our members, officers, committees, schools, and clergy in achieving the mission and goals of the congregation. Several years ago, the synagogue adopted a policy of “no tipping” to individual staff members following events or programs. Some staff members are more visible than others, but it takes all of them to prepare. In lieu of tipping, the congregation has created a Staff Holiday Gift Fund, which is divided equally among the support staff every December. We appreciate those who contribute to the holiday gift fund to our maintenance and support.



Mazal Tov & Happy 80th Birthday, Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlberg!

We are pleased to note that Adas Israel senior rabbi emeritus, Jeffrey Wohlberg celebrated his 80th birthday this year. We wish him and Judy and his family much love and simcha in the year ahead. Please send your birthday wishes to Rabbi Wohlberg here: birthdays@adasisrael.org.



Adas’ New Digital Calendar Is Now Live!

Looking for a full calendar of Adas events? Our dynamic, user-friendly calendar is now live! Find the calendar icon at the top of our website at adasisrael.org.



In-Person Daily Minyan Begins Nov. 28

We are happy to announce that beginning with Chanukah – November 28, shacharit (morning) services with the Daily Minyan will move to a Hybrid model (both in person and on zoom) every day, Sunday-Friday. You can attend minyan in person at 7:30am (9:00am on legal holidays and Sunday mornings), or continue to log into the zoom to participate in the service. We look forward to seeing you on zoom or in person!

BIRTHS

Jeremy Landsmen & Susan Katz, grandchild and grandchild-in-law of Adrian & Annette Morchower, welcomed their daughter, Elle Rachel Landsmen, August 10. Adrian & Annette also recently welcomed great grandchildren, Meyer Landsmen and Jonah Franklin Lerner.

Brittany & Nick Olson, grandchild and grandchild-in-law of Don & Gail Roache, welcomed their son, Jaxon Olson, on August 30. David Fingerhut, son of Lois & Michael Fingerhut, and Bethany Fingerhut welcomed their son, Ethan Matthew Fingerhut, on August 31.

Noah Waxman, son of Seth Waxman & Debbie Goldberg, and Lia Stone Waxman welcomed their son, Lev River Waxman, on September 22.

Steven Cohen, son of Kathy Krieger, and Lia Winograd welcomed their son, Gabriel Ricardo Winograd Cohen, on September 13.

Dr. Brett Linowes, grandson of Harry & Judie Linowes, and Rachael Linowes welcomed their son, Ezra Norman Linowes, on September 13.

We wish our newborns and their families strength, good health, and joy.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Mazal tov and congratulations to Adas Israel member Laurie Strongin, founder and CEO of the Washington, DC-based Hope for Henry Foundation, who will receive the Irene and Abe Pollin Humanitarian Award at the Dinner of Champions benefit at the Bender JCC.

WEDDINGS

Cyndi Malasky, daughter of Ellen and Gary Malasky, and Sashi Conway were married on August 26.

Lily Kirschenbaum, daughter of Barbara Silverstein & Alan Kirschenbaum, and Henry Cesari were married on September 25 in Vermont.

Jonathan Stephan Edward Slotkin, son of Cheryl Wasserman & Ronald Slotkin, and Ashley Rose McLaury were married on September 25.

Anna Kamerow, daughter of Celia Shapiro and Doug Kamerow, and Jessa Deutsch were married on September 25 in Marin, California.

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

Joy Cohen
Sydell Sandy

Sandi Fox
Naomi Heller
Dr. William Kurstin

MIKVAH

Adas Israel Community Mikvah

The ancient Israelites knew a great deal about plagues and quarantines. The Book of Leviticus describes a framework for public health that the CDC and Dr. Anthony Fauci would definitely question, but which takes stopping the spread of disease very seriously. At its core are concrete steps for isolating infections and symbolic rituals for both safely reentering collective spaces and expressing gratitude for survival. While washing and immersing in water are universal ways of cleansing, immersing in a Mikvah is a uniquely Jewish ritual of transition. It connects us to our desert ancestors and to God and, as in *Y'mei Kedem* (the Days Past) it helps us cross the threshold between isolation and community. This year more than ever, the tradition of immersing before the High Holidays invites us to leave behind the past, to experience a moment of presence, and to set an intention for the future. The Adas Israel Community Mikvah is fully inclusive of all ages, genders, bodies, colors, abilities, and levels of observance. For more information check out our webpage, www.adasisrael.org/mikvah and to book your appointment, please visit www.mikvahcalendar.as.me.

—Naomi Malka, Director of Immersive Experiences



LIFE CYCLE INFORMATION

When Death Occurs

When death occurs, please call the synagogue emergency line answering service, 301-421-5271, which will page the staff member on call. We will be back in touch to support you promptly.

Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee assists families with all of the arrangements surrounding the funeral and subsequent burial of loved ones. We welcome your interest and encourage your participation and assistance. We need you; please join us. If you have questions, or know of someone whom you think might be interested in participating in this important work, please feel free to call Billy Begal (bbegal@begal.net), or contact Toni Bickart (202- 244-2747) regarding the Tahara Committee, or Wendy Kates about Shmira (wendy.kates.30@gmail.com).



The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

The Adas Fund
In Honor Of: Our parents by Sasha & Thais Mark. Rochelle Berman by Joyce Wood.
For the Speedy Recovery Of: Ilana Valerie bat Rina Rachel & the well-being of Dr. Michael Naor by Dr. Michael Naor.
In Memory Of: Michael Zigman by Jayson Zigman. Yehuda ben Dovid, Bayleh bas Doniel & their departed loved ones by Joyce Wood.

Adult Education Donations
In Honor Of: Diane Wattenberg’s birthday by Marsha Pinson.

Anne Frank House Fund
By: Barbara & Mel Gelman.
In Memory Of: Richard Thomas by Karen & Scott Strauss.

Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund
In Memory Of: Benjamin “Jamie” Cecil by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Bereavement Fund
By: Ellen Popper, Elliot Wolff.
In Memory Of: Richard L. Thomas & Ralph Fistel by Ari Strauss. Richard Thomas by April Rubin & Bruce Ray. Roger Fendrich & Michael Stern by Sybil & Steven Wolin.

Bernard & Rita Segerman Endowment Fund
In Honor Of: Ava Jade Goldstein by Rita Segerman.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of: Eden & Abigail Sharon’s b’not mitzvah by Adam & Abigail Sharon. Talia Yavinsky’s brit bat by Jennifer Saperstein. Cantor Brown by Edna Povich. Renée Fendrich, Jean & Stephen Zivitz.
In Recognition Of: Rochelle Berman’s Simchat Torah honor by Nancy & Dan Weiss.
With Thanks To: Cantor Brown by Janet Scribner, Michael Gellis, M.D.

Capital Fund Contributions
By: Sean Savett.
In Memory Of: Richard Thomas by Bill Levenson.

Daily Minyan Fund
In Honor Of: Manny Schiffres by Richard Solloway.
In Memory Of: Arthur Rosenshein by Jodi & Louis Rosenshein.

Dr. Irving & Estelle Jacobs Memorial Fund
In Loving Memory Of: Irving Jacobs by his children & grandchildren.

Esther Saks Abelman Yiddish Cultural Fund
In Honor Of: Diane Wattenberg by Debbie Schwartz.

Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund
In Loving Memory Of: Stanford Steppa & David Paulson by Dorothy Block.

Executive Director Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of: David Polonsky by Ruth & Steven Kleinrock.

Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment
Mazel Tov To: Lois & Michael Fingerhut on the birth of their first grandson by Rae Grad & Manny Schiffres.

Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund
In Honor Of: Judie & Harry Linowes becoming great-great-grandparents by Jane Baldinger.

Hazzan Goldsmith Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of: Eden & Adele Sharon’s b’not mitzvah by Adam & Abigail Sharon. Hazzan Goldsmith by Janet Scribner.
In Appreciation Of: Hazzan Goldsmith by Rita Segerman.

Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund
In Honor Of: Hesed Committee by Bobbie Fried
Birth of Debbie & Mark Joseph’s granddaughter by Laurie Alban Havens. Birth of Lois & Michael Fingerhut’s grandson by Susie & Mike Sorrells.
For the Speedy Recovery Of: Manny Schiffres by Jamie & Stuart Butler.
In Recognition Of: Michael Fingerhut’s Simchat Torah honor by Nancy & Dan Weiss, Rae Grad & Manny Schiffres, Jamie & Stuart Butler.
In Memory Of: Richard Thomas by Mary & Arnie Hammer Nancy, Daniel & Jordan Weiss, the Nemeth family, Elissa Barpal, Jane Fidler & Ben

Rosenblum, Myra & Larry Promisel, Marsha Pinson, Ava, Neal, Elissa, Jay & Alexis Gross, Renée Fendrich, Steve & Sandra Lachter. Sandi Fox by Mary & Arnie Hammer. Larry Povich by Sybil & Steven Wolin.

Jennie Litvack Memorial Fund
In Honor Of: Nechama & Bill Liss-Levenson by Alisa Abrams.
In Memory Of: Jennie Litvack by Philip Friedman, Wendy Pangburn.

Jewish Mindfulness Center
In Memory Of: Jennie Litvak by Dr. Lisa Miller. Richard Thomas by Jamie & Stuart Butler.

Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects
In Memory Of: Lillian Ezrin & Richard L. Thomas by Rhoda Ganz.

Michael Stern Torah Study Scholarship Fund
In Memory Of: Michael Stern by Janet Kolodner. Larry Povich & Roger Fendrich by Roz Doggett. Aaron Levinson by Nechama & Billy Liss-Levinson.

Mikvah Fund
By: Ricki Gerger.

Momentum Fund
In Recognition Of: David Polonsky’s Simchat Torah honor by Nancy & Dan Weiss, Myra & Larry Promisel.

Mozelle Saltz Memorial Endowment Fund
In Memory Of: Richard L. Thomas by Sharon & Herb Schwartz.

Offerings Fund
In Honor Of: Clergy team by Edna Povich. Birth of Ethan Matthew Fingerhut by Carole & Jan Klein. First birthday of Elliott Stone Tracy by Lesley Robinson. Our newborn daughter, Rhea Rose Bell (Nitzan Hadasah) by Sarah Rapoport & David Bell.
Ronnie Kweller by Sharon Koransky. Naming of Aviana Edelman-Strauch by Susan & Matthew Edelman.
Mazel Tov To: Grandma Kathy Krieger by Irwin & Grace Lebow.
In Loving Memory Of: Sheldon & Faye Cohen by Judith & Mark Siegel.
In Memory Of: Herbert, Jackie & Philip Winograd by Allison Goldberg.



George Katsoff by Brian & Tina Seliber. Talah Bellin by Elena Schwartz. Roger Fendrich by Franklin & Jackie Paulson. Miryam & Nachum Weiler by Dr. Liat Weiler. Virginia Moss by Linda Segal. Ronald & Babette Kaplan by Marsha Kaplan. Harvey & Marilyn Robinson by Peter Robinson. Larry Povich by Rob, Rachel, Gabi & Mali Rubin, Sonia Haimes. Sonia & Bill Drachman by Ronnie Drachman.

Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of: Rabbi Alexander by Alan Rich, Barry & Kamal Cohen, Edna Povich, Fred Cohen, Lester Sotsky & Judith Gravitz, Barbara & Mel Gelman.
In Appreciation Of: Rabbi Alexander & the liturgical team by Rabbi Gila Colman Ruskin.
In Gratitude To: Rabbi Alexander for his kindness by Renée Fendrich.
With Thanks To: Rabbi Alexander by Bobbie Fried, Janet Scribner, Michael Gellis, M.D.
In Memory Of: Matthew Joel Zinn by the Shiffman family.

Rabbi Avis Miller Lifelong Learning Fund
In Memory Of: Albert & Shirley Langerman & Elaine Shalowitz by Elaine & Sam Langerman.

Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of: Rabbi Holtzblatt by Lester Sotsky & Judith Gravitz, Barbara & Mel Gelman, Ruth & Sy Frenkel. Rabbi Holtzblatt & the clergy by Abby Cohen.
In Gratitude To: Rabbi Holtzblatt by Renée Fendrich.
With Thanks For: Iselin’s conversion by Dara Katz.
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In Memory Of: Ralph Fistel by Gail Levine & Ian Gershengorn, Laurie Alban Havens.

Rabbi Krinsky Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of: Eden & Adele Sharon’s b’not mitzvah by Adam & Abigail Shron. Rabbi Krinsky by Lester Sotsky & Judith Gravitz, Nancy Burd & Mel Nasielski, Renée Fendrich.
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Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund
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In Recognition Of: Jill Jacob’s Simchat Torah honor by Myra & Larry Promisel.
In Memory Of: Roger Fendrich by Dava Berkman. Maier Burstyn, Evelyn Goldberg, Lisa Silber & Richard L. Thomas Michael Nathan, all by Elinor Tattar. Sandi Fox by Julie Weisman.
Nathan Promisel by Myra & Larry Promisel.

Ruthe Katz Dial in Program
By: Barbara & Mel Gelman.

Samuel & Jeannette Weiss Special Needs Fund
In Memory Of: Joy Cohen by Dorothy Block.

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education
With Thanks For: High Holy Day streaming services by Dorathy & Arnold Goldberg.
In Memory Of: Myron Madden by Dale & Alan Sorcher.

Sisterhood Donations
In Honor Of: Marriage of Jonathan & Ashley Rose by Carole & Jan Klein. Jill Jacob by Jamie & Stuart Butler.
In Recognition Of: Jill Jacob’s Simchat Torah honor by Nancy & Dan Weiss.

Social Action Fund
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In Loving Memory Of: Allan Fried by Bobbi Fried & family.
In Memory Of: Milton Eisner by Gail

Fisher. Larry Povich by Bonnie Politz & Jerome Berman, Simeon Kriesberg. Robert Pitofsky by Sally Pitofsky. Razi Yitzchak by Karen Strauss. Baird “Buz” Michelson by Susan Liss & family.

SOME
By: Suzette Williams.

Staff Gift Fund
In Honor Of: Adas Israel Staff by Sheldon Kimmel,

Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund
In Memory Of: Dorothy Rabinowitz (z”l) by Alisa Abrams. Ralph Fistel by April Rubin & Bruce Ray, Rabbi Jan C. Kaufman, Patty Lieberman & Jeff Knishkowsky, Marilyn Cooper, Ricki Gerger, Sandra Levenson, Sheldon Kimmel. Danielle Roskes by Rabbi Jan C. Kaufman, Patty Lieberman & Jeff Knishkowsky, Marilyn Cooper, Bill Levenson.

Tzedakah Fund
By: Barbara & Mel Gelman.
In Memory Of: Harry Paikin by Susan & Allan Abravanel. Richard Thomas & Ralph Fistel by Cindy & Glenn Easton & family. Phillip Silverman by Mark Silverman. Rachel Schachter by Ricki Gerger.

Yizkor/Yahrzeit Fund
In Memory Of: Israel Stern by Alvin Stern. Ian Mendelson by Barry Friedman. Leonard Hardis by Jonathan Hardis. Hyman Gross by Joseph & Alma Gildenhorn. Helena & Bronislaw Krzych by Urszula Krzych. Jerry & Rose Bressler by Joseph Bressler. Sidney & Terry Goldstein by Marcie Goldstein. Bess Lewis & Lillian Cardash by Marshall Lewis. Mark & Selma Litowitz, Wayne & Karen Luft, Karen Dubin & Risa Dubin, all by Robert Litowiz. Richard Thomas by Cheryl & Sheldon Cohen. Richard W. Goldman by Susan Sachs Goldman.

Yom Kippur Break Fast
In Memory Of: Stuart Tattar by Elinor Tattar.

Youth Department Activities Fund
In Loving Memory Of: Jerome Gross by Alma & Joseph Gildenhorn.



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