What does it mean to lead a religious life?

The Rambam's Definition in his Mishneh Torah:

- to visit the sick.
- to gladden the simcha celebrant.
- to give tzedaka.
- to escort the dead.
- to comfort the mourners.
- to concern yourself with your neighbor’s wellbeing.

Mishneh Torah, Laws of Mourning, 14:1

re•seed

• to sow an area of land with seed, again.
• to faithfully renew, rebuild, and recommit.

re•li•gious life

noun

- to visit the sick.
- to gladden the simcha celebrant.
- to give tzedaka.
- to escort the dead.
- to comfort the mourners.
- to concern yourself with your neighbor’s wellbeing.

There’s really no quick or pithy way for us to capture the peaks and valleys of the past few years. In so many ways, the lives we had been living, the community we were fostering together, were disrupted—physically, emotionally, spiritually—and we have to acknowledge that, accept that, and together work through this new reality.

As is so often the case, our rich & textured tradition offers the blueprint for this next phase of our communal journey. And it is as elegant as it is simple—we deliberately re-seed with precisely the same stuff that religiously layered our tumult.

- We cultivate unbridled joy in the context of sacred ritual
- We hold one another in pain
- We confront the conditions that perpetuate human suffering
- We pray with hearts open to one another, and to God
- We plumb the riches of our tradition for sacred pathways

We’d like you to imagine yourselves, each of you, in the Smith, Gewirz, Tent, Braun-Bart Midrash, or in your homes—as the beginning of something special, something true, something hopeful, something eternal—because you are just that—a seed amidst other seeds, together becoming the garden that is our holy kehillah.

These coming High Holy Days are so ripe for personal and communal hopefulness. We are once again honored to be able to share it with you, our beloved community. See you soon!

L’shana Tova!
The Adas Israel Clergy
The Adas Fund 2022

In Honor of our “3GDC” Community at Adas
Devoted grandchildren of Holocaust survivors
(3rd generation), committed to serving as a living
link for the next generation, and beyond.

3GDC is devoted to lifting up the memories and lessons of those we’ve
lost in the Shoah. Many of its founding members took up the mantle of this
sacred work right here in the halls of Adas Israel, and we have been
overwhelmed with gratitude and pride to see their work and reach expand
over the course of these past several years.

Their mission is to educate diverse communities about the perils of
intolerance and to provide a supportive forum for the descendants of
survivors. We couldn’t be more honored to inspire and lift up their work.

The Adas Fund supports everything we do at Adas Israel,
and is critical if we are to operate and serve our members in
the way you expect and deserve.

This year, a generous donor will contribute an
additional 10% of the total amount raised, to seed
a new support fund for the 3GDC community.

Donate online at
adasisrael.org/adasfund
Dear Congregants,

While thinking about how to describe my first year as Adas President, I explored one of my favorite books, *The Empty Chair: Finding Hope and Joy written by Hasidic Master Rebbe Nachman of Breslov. Rebbe Nachman says:

> When your own world is fractured, increase your knowledge of God. It will spawn inner peace. When the outside world is fractured, promote the search of truth. It will spawn universal peace. And, finally, always remember. Joy is not merely incidental to your spiritual quest. It is vital.

What stands out for me during this past year is that, in spite of everything we have faced, we have remained a spiritual home. Inside the walls of our prayer spaces and our learning spaces, we found some inner peace and we prayed for universal peace. We also found joy. No matter what we experienced in the outside world, with the commitment of our dedicated, supportive, loving clergy; our creative, intuitive Executive Director; our knowledgeable, engaged development director; our enthusiastic, efficient staff; our thoughtful, wise lay leadership, and our devoted, active congregants, we continue to be a place that heals, a place that brings us inner peace, a place committed to providing us joy and truth. Throughout everything, Adas Israel remains our spiritual home. This is what I believe is the most important reason we are here.

We are happy to share some of our accomplishments during the past year with you. We have:

- Increased our membership to about 1,700 family units
- Participated in a full year of Gan and Religious School
- Watched many volunteers actively involved in Hesed, Social Action, Adas committees, the BOD, Shabbat greeting and ushering, and helping our congregants in quiet ways that remain between those helping and those who are helped
- Redesigned our lobby into a safer, spiritual space
- Offered a multifaceted Israel education program
- Listened to our amazing Cantor’s diva concert
- Looked forward to a high school teen trip to Israel for the first time since covid
- Received a contribution of $12,500 from our Sisterhood in spite of the many days the Gift Shop was closed
- Created a new sabbatical program in which all who serve Adas will have some time after seven years’ employment to rest and recharge
- Welcomed back our senior lunch program
- Honored the achievements of Brad-Brooks Rubin, who received the Yad Hakavod Award, and of Oz Papados, who received a Hesed Award
- Provided a full complement of MakomDC programs with other Torah study experiences every Friday and Shabbat

Participated in meaningful and inspiring Shabbat and holiday services that meet the differing spiritual needs of our many congregants.

So, what’s ahead: We look forward to more praying, more loving, more volunteering, more educational opportunities for our kids, more planning with our BOD to figure out how to increase engagement after spending all of our time on zoom, examining our structures to maximize open engagement with all who want to participate in our Adas community, and to giving and receiving more love and hope and truth.

Finally, I offer a very special thank you to our senior Rabbis Holtzblatt and Alexander for holding us all up as it is large, so fostering deep, open, and honest conversations around Israel and Palestine requires careful planning and thoughtful preparation. And meaningfully discussing Israel and lovingly engaging with her as a community is not something we can, or should, avoid. From Genesis to Deuteronomy, and then throughout our history, we are rightfully drawn to Deuteronomy 34, a slow, windy, precarious, and hope-filled journey endures in search of a collective home. And while the Torah itself (the first five books) ends before the dream is fulfilled, throughout history we both make it, and long for it, in ways tangible and metaphorical.

As you can probably imagine, Adas is as diverse as it is large, so fostering deep, open, and honest conversations around Israel and Palestine requires careful planning and thoughtful preparation. And meaningfully discussing Israel and lovingly engaging with her as a community is not something we can, or should, avoid. From Genesis to Deuteronomy, and then throughout our history, we are rightfully drawn to be in relationship with one another about the things that matter most.

Over the past year a large group of Adas community members have engaged in learning and conversation about the land (Israel), the people (Israel), and the State (Israel). With guidance from our Israel Engagement Committee, we developed a curriculum with four sections, each exploring an aspect (or aspects) of our relationship to Israel and, just as important, one another.

I hope you will find the summary of the Israel Engagement page of the Adas website, but here’s a basic summary of what the course looked like:

1. Conversations L’shem Shamayim (For the Sake of Heaven) with Rabbi Holtzblatt and Rabbi Shira Stutman. This group began with the question: “How do I love Israel?” and centered on each participant’s experience and personal journey as the template for discussion.

2. Bookclub: I led this group in conversations on a selection of books that included historical, political, and fictional (novels) from a wide range of authors from right to left, Israeli, Palestinian, and American. While the content of each book was the basis of our conversations, we also talked about the ways in which we communicate our thoughts and opinions to one another.

3. Hartman iEngage: Rabbi Elianna Yolkut led an in-person and textual exploration of the Hartman Institute’s latest curriculum, Foundations, focusing on homeland, diaspora, and their intersection in Jewish thought alongside texts on peace and conflict in Israeli/Palestinian reality.

4. 101 Class: Rabbi Krinsky coordinated this offering for those who were ready to meaningfully engage, but needed the historical foundation with which to do so. Rabbi Krinsky brought in scholars from around the area to teach students the historical movements, pivotal events, and foundational ideas from the last 150 years that brought us to this current moment.

We want to participate in our Adas community, and to give and receiving more love and hope and truth.

With gratitude and blessings for a safe and joyful summer,

Janice
These were intense conversations. They were informative, joyous, challenging, deepening, warm, open, and piercing all at once. We’re so grateful to the cadre of community members who participated.

Next year we will be marking and celebrating the State of Israel’s 75th anniversary. As the Israel Engagement Committee meets over the summer and plans for what the year will hold programmatically, we do know now that we plan to offer at least two of last year’s courses once again. Please watch @adas, Israel Page) for these classes, which will begin soon after the High Holy Days.

In the meantime, I want to leave you with a few quotes from this year’s participants about their experience.

All my best,
Rabbi Alexander

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Let’s face it, nowadays, it’s hard for any gathering of Jews of different generations, backgrounds, or political bents to have a rational conversation about how American Jews should respond to the needs and deeds of our beloved Israel. That’s why Adas’s class, “How Do We Love Israel” (#1 above) was such a revelation.

Rabbi Shira took great pains to create an environment where real and meaningful dialogue and learning could occur over several months among people with starkly diverse opinions. Those conversations were enhanced every week by a wide-ranging menu of readings and sources, in-class exercises, and the personal narratives of the students.

My friends on the right and those on the left seem so far apart that everyone avoids the conversation. Through its careful and thoughtful preparation and diplomatic leader, this class managed to overcome the barriers to dialogue and created a space where we could talk to one another and learn something, not just about Israel, but about each other and even ourselves. I highly recommend it.

How do we love Israel. “Our class contained a variety of views and opinions. From the beginning, it was agreed upon that our space was sacred. This allowed for all opinions to be heard and held, and judgment to be paused. I now have a better understanding from diametrically opposed sides and a move for all to be more patient and understanding. Now the real work begins.

There’s nothing better for understanding than a factual, opinion-free deep dive into the complexities of the history, personalities, and policy leading up to the present. That’s what we experienced in the Israel 101 class. We learned from excellent speakers thoughtfully chosen for their depth of expertise. With active participation, we looked forward to each month’s session, knowing that we would learn the nuances of important facets of the history and times that led to modern Israel. The worst thing about the class? It ended!”

I was opened and sometimes disrupted in the readings by the many viewpoints and expressions on—and by—the peoples of Israel and Palestine. In our discussions, my work with the aspirations of Palestinians was met with curiosity and compassion as we wrestled from various but ineffably united perspectives of connection and need for Israel.

Through its careful and thoughtful preparation and diplomatic leader, this class managed to overcome the barriers to dialogue and created a space where we could talk to one another and learn something, not just about Israel, but about each other and even ourselves. I highly recommend it.

Gratitude runs deep in our tradition, even in its humor. As a Yiddish saying goes: “If you cannot be grateful for what you have received, then be thankful for what you have been spared!” The Hebrew word for Jews, Yehudim, is a form of the word today (thank you), making gratitude at the core of who we are as a people. In fact, Jewish prayer invites us to start each morning with a moment of gratitude as we say Modeh/Modah Ani L’Taneha, thanking God for the miracle of life and that we wake to yet another day. Likewise, we can think about the words of the Sheheheyanu prayer recited on holidays, at simchas, and for anything that is new or good. Blessed are you, Adonai, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this moment. Both of these prayers call us to notice the gift of being awake, of being alive to partake in a joyful occasion—gifts that can be easily taken for granted without the intention to remember that, as the poet Jane Kenyon reminds us, “it could have been otherwise.”

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel says: “It is gratefulness which makes the soul great.” One way to understand this wise teaching is to remember that the soul is always great, but what if we don’t know that? Like the tree falling in the forest quandary, how can we be fully present if something is blocking access to hearing, to knowing the greatness of our own soul? As we face so much brokenness today, it is especially important to tap into the benefits of gratitude. While we are obligated to work toward healing the world, dwelling only on sadness or anger constricts our essence and robs us of needed energy.

When Rabbi Heschel links gratefulness to making the soul great, we can think of “great” as meaning vast and expansive. Practicing gratitude is like breathing air into the soul; expanding what we feel, so that negative feelings recede in a swirl of joy. Inspired by our traditional prayers, we can practice gratitude anytime, even for seemingly small happenings: a message from a favorite friend, a particularly nice cup of tea, a warm shower, a comfortable bed, the people gathered around your dinner table, the local farmer’s market, or a neighborhood walking trail. The list is endless, really. Stop for a moment and concentrate on what this gratefulness feels like, let it linger, let it expand and make the soul great.

The ancient wisdom on gratitude is today borne out by science. People who practice gratitude are less prone to depression, suffer fewer physical illnesses, and sleep better. As Rabbi Heschel says, we are strange in the world and gratefulness is the only response that can maintain us. In this way, gratitude is like a key opening the door to the greatness of the soul. May you have a joyful summer filled with moments of peace, wonder, inspiration, and, of course, gratitude.

How strange we are in the world, and how presumptuous our doings! Only one response can maintain us: gratefulness for witnessing the wonder, for the gift of our unearned right to serve, to adore, and to fulfill. It is gratefulness which makes the soul great.

~ RABBI ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

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!
MakomDC

2022/2023 Season

Have you been away from Torah study for a while? Have you been a regular in our online or in-person classes in the Biran Beit Midrash?

We are back in full force to offer you a deep dive into serious and meaningful Jewish ideas, texts, and wisdom. Dynamic learning takes place in our Biran Beit Midrash, online and at home with scholars and your Adas Israel rabbis. We will have all the favorites continuing: Boker Or, our annual High Holy Day preparation series, the Mendelsohn Scholar series, and so much more. And we will create new pathways, touchpoints, and ways into Torah study, planting seeds of wisdom into Jewish mysticism, Torah commentary and law, a monthly Shabbat lunch and learn, building blocks of text study, and more.

Keep your eyes out this summer for a full brochure of offerings.

INTRO TO JUDAISM

Register online at adasisrael.org/makomdc

WEDNESDAYS, 7:30-9 PM
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022—MARCH 29, 2023
$350 FOR INDIVIDUALS, $450 FOR COUPLES*
*SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Are you interested in exploring 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 integrate 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 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
- Life cycles (Birth, Marriage, Death)
- Shabbat (The Sabbath)
- Prayer and Liturgy
- Jewish Holidays
- Israel
- Theology

Note: This class will be a hybrid of virtual and in-person learning. Most sessions will meet on Zoom, with monthly in-person gatherings at Adas.

*BABAYIT—BUILDING A JEWISH HOME

Register online at adasisrael.org/makomdc

A small sample of what’s to come! Stay tuned to adasisrael.org/makomdc
From the Director of Education

RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON

Each new year we get excited to welcome both new and returning students and sometimes we get to welcome new staff as well. We have a number of new faces this year - one of which is Jenna Shaw, our new Assistant Director of Schools, K-12.

Jenna Shaw is in their final year of Rabbinical School at Hebrew College in Newton, MA. They have served as an educator and rabbi in a variety of Jewish educational settings across the country, including BBYO, Temple Israel of Boston, Hill Havurah in DC, Boston University Hillel, and Camp Herzl in Webster, Wisconsin.

Jenna most recently served Temple Sinai in Brookline, MA and Hebrew College’s Teen Learning Department. They oversaw the development of curriculums, including writing a pre-B’nai Mitzvah curriculum focusing on spiritual growth, mental health, identity exploration, and social justice. Adas Israel was the community that first inspired Jenna to become a Rabbi; they are excited to be returning to our community!

We hope that you get a chance to see them around Adas throughout the course of the year.

YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

The Education Team has spent the last few months reinventing in-person youth and family programs at Adas, and we are excited to announce our 2022-2023 lineup of programs.

We will be offering five different Shabbat programs each month, each targeted toward a different age group. For young children, we will have our 45-minute song-filled Mah Tovu service. Once a month we will have our Lechu Neranana service, led by our very own Rabbi Kerrith Solomon and Cantor Arianne Brown, along with our musicians. This service will also highlight participation and leadership from our 3rd- to 6th-grade students throughout the year. The first Saturday of each month is dedicated to the entire family. Rabbi Kerrith Solomon will take our families through a meaningful Shabbat experience. To round out our Shabbat programming, we will have our Junior Congregation service for our Kindergarten-2nd-grade students and our 3rd -through 6th-grade students. Junior Congregation will include singing, a short service, and learning about the week’s Torah portion.

As I write this, I am staring at an empty office, as I have now just about finished cleaning out the books, artwork, coffee mugs, etc., that I have collected over the last six years at Adas. I am so thankful that I was able to spend the last six years of my work in Jewish education at Adas Israel (36 in total). I used to joke that I got ‘woke’ at Adas Israel, but the truth is that until I came to Adas in 2016, I had only worked in small suburban synagogues, so this was a fabulous opportunity for me. I have always said that educators must be lifelong learners, and I had so many opportunities to do profound learning during the years I worked at Adas. I am deeply grateful to Rabbi Solomon for allowing me the chance to work so closely with her as, together, with the rest of the Education team, we created connections with our students— with each other, their teachers, the community, and Judaism, something that became tremendously important these last two plus years during the pandemic.

Wishing everyone a Shanah Tovah u’metukah—a year filled with connection and sweetness.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We are also excited to announce our special program calendar for youth and families!

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Wishing everyone a Shanah Tovah u’metukah—a year filled with connection and sweetness.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Please mark your calendars for the following dates!

Mah Tovu Service:
September 10 and 17; October 22 and 29; November 12 and 19; December 10 and 17; January 21 and 28; February 11 and 25; March 11, 18, and 25; April 22 and 29; May 13 and 20, June 3, 10, and 17

Shabbat Morning Family Service:
November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6

Junior Congregation:
September 10 and 17; October 22 and 29; November 12 and 19; December 10 and 17; January 21 and 28; February 11 and 25; March 11, 18, and 25; April 22 and 29; May 13 and 20

We are also excited to announce our special program calendar for youth and families!

September 6: Back to School BBQ for 7th- through 12th-grade, 6:00 pm
September 25: Family Apple picking at a local orchard
October 2: Family Tashlich, open to everyone
October 15: Shabbat Tikon
October 16: Breakfast in the hut for newborns through 6th graders
November 5/6: 6th-grade Shul In
November 6: Camp Fair
December 3: Kindergarten Consecration
December 18: Dan Kaufman Latke Party/Hanukkah Party, open to everyone
January 21: Young Families Havdalah for 0- to 5-year-olds
January 27: 3rd-grade Chagigat HaSiddur
February 4: Havdalah and Tu Bishvat program for K—3rd grade and their families
March 5: Purim Carnival, open to everyone
March 11: Purim Party and Silent Disco for 7th-12th grade
April 9: Passover Program for K-6th grade
April 30: Israel Experience for K-3rd grade
May 7: Lag B’Omer BBQ and Bonfire for 7th-12th grade
A Note From Gan HaMishpacha Family Center

Community, connection, and support are so important when welcoming a baby into the family. Prior to the societal structure we live in today, villages or shtetls housed extended families. If support was needed, a person could knock on a neighbor’s door, or call on an auntie or grandparent. To recreate this structure of connection and support in the evolution of life for young families, came the creation of Gan HaMishpacha, The Family Center at Adas Israel. Beginning in the fall of 2020, I have had the pleasure of facilitating Prenatal and Postpartum Support Groups. As a Postpartum Doula, and Gan professional, I have the privilege of connecting with young families, guiding them toward birth, and then bringing them back to Gan HaMishpacha for Postpartum Support Groups. Knowledge, preparedness, community, and connection are the results for group participants during this significant life transition.

Additionally, in Gan HaMishpacha we have our beloved Kangaroo Class, taught by Dale Sorcher, and Shir a Song, with Ms. Ellie. Both classes, designed for children 6 months—2 years, are a wonderful way for young children and families/caregivers to connect with peers. This upcoming fall, we will welcome students into the Gan who began with me as newborn babies. The opportunity to transition families from Gan HaMishpacha into Gan HaYeled is a dream come true.

If you or someone you know is preparing to welcome a baby into the family, I would love to connect; please send me a message at darci.lewis@adasisrael.org. Check out my upcoming Prenatal and Postpartum Support Groups, find me in the Gan, or visit me in room 217, the home of Gan HaMishpacha. Thank you for the opportunity to guide and nurture so many young families.

ADAS ISRAEL COMMUNITY MIKVAH

Adas Israel Community Mikvah

The B’nai Yissachar, a 19th-century Chasidic text, famously connected the month of Elul to the ritual of immersion in a mikvah. While this overlap has been practiced widely across centuries, the B’nai Yissachar’s author takes the nexus of these two experiences and elevates it further. He claims that the 40 days comprising Elul and the Yamim Nora’im are themselves a mikvah—a mikvah, a spiritual bath, in time.

While the B’nai Yissachar’s grounding is a textual one (he notes the number 40 in the requirement that a kosher mikvah have 40 “se’ot” of water), his realization is quite profound, and can inform both how we experience the mikvah and how we can move through this month of Elul.

Elul is most potently characterized by its intense preparation and self-reflection, typically manifest through the practice of teshuvah, of returning to one’s most authentic, aligned self. Comparing this time to immersing in a mikvah can help uncover what this process can feel like, and how we ought to support and approach this deep spiritual work. In a mikvah, two things are true: we are bare, and we are buoyant. We enter as our most revealed selves, with no place to hide, and we are lifted—carried—through that vulnerability. So too with Elul. Elul works, the High Holy Days work, when we move into them as naked and pure as we can get, and when we realize that, even in that state, we are still supported and held.

But it is not just Elul that can be re-understood in light of this intersection; it is mikvah as well. We sometimes think of mikvah as the type of transformation that wipes one thing away completely, and leaves something else totally new in its wake. Elul reminds us that it is not always so simple. During this period of teshuva, we are not trying to become wholly new selves; we are attempting, working, to return to our best selves. So too can it be with mikvah. The mikvah can be a place not of erasure, but of moving forward with. Just as Elul invites us to sharpen and highlight who we already are and know who we can once again become, so too can the mikvah be a place to reconnect with the parts of our bodies and souls that may otherwise spend the year hidden or tucked away.

This year, this Elul, we invite you in—to our mikvah of time, and also to our mikvah of space.

Please visit adasisrael.org/mikvah to sign up for an Elul immersion and for our sample immersion ceremony. Whether you engage with our new ritual of stepping back into community, whether you bring a kavanna (intention) or ritual of your own, or whether you merely walk into the waters and see what it is that emerges, you are welcome. You are invited. Shana tova.
In the last edition of the Chronicle, Anne Frank House reported that the Georgetown Chorale had selected our nonprofit as the beneficiary of its spring concert, a celebration of Mozart and Beethoven. In this edition we have wonderful news to share: the concert, held in May at the Historic Church of the Epiphany in Washington, generated $30,000 for Anne Frank House.

We are so grateful for the Chorale’s support, and for yours. Our Adas Israel community has sustained Anne Frank House for 55 years—even since a small group of Adas volunteers, responding to a challenge from the Lutheran pastor who founded N Street Village, worked to create what a 1987 Adas Israel news release called “a home for homeless women.”

Today Anne Frank House provides homes for 12 formerly homeless men and women who struggle with chronic mental illness. Our residents live in single-occupancy condominiums or rental units in Northwest Washington DC. We are an all-volunteer organization, and more than 90 percent of our income goes directly to serving our clients.

And we aim to grow. The Anne Frank House Board of Directors recently completed strategic planning that not only calls for us to expand the number of people we serve, but also to hire a full-time staff person, the first ever, to help realize our goals. But we cannot achieve our planned growth without you. Here are three ways you can help:

- **Contribute:** Go to our website, [http://www.annefrankhouse.org](http://www.annefrankhouse.org). Click on the “how you can help” link, and then select “donate” from the drop-down menu. Or send a check to Anne Frank House, PO Box 73275, Washington, DC 20056-3275.

- **Spread the word.** Follow us, like us, and share our posts on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/Anne-Frank-House-DC-154776871209990](https://www.facebook.com/Anne-Frank-House-DC-154776871209990).

- **Volunteer.** We are always looking for volunteers, particularly those with experience in real estate, property management, or social work. But really, all you need is compassion and a kind heart. Contact Sue Ducat at stansue@verizon.net to get involved.

### A Decade of Hesed—What’s YOUR New Year’s Resolution?

For the new year of 5783, we have some suggestions for you. Let’s make this the decade of Hesed. We know many of you have already done so much for Hesed. A new year provides a new opportunity to do even more. Can we count on you? Here are some ideas:

- **Help a friend or neighbor or family member by surprising them with an unexpected gift of time or treasure: a phone call, a plate of cookies, an offer to run errands, a cute greeting card. We are very good about responding to people who ask for help. But how about trying to do something nice for someone even when they do not particularly need it? It would be a lovely surprise and a treat.**

- **Ensure that you go the extra mile. If you have already cooked one Hesed meal this year, next year cook two. Whatever you are already doing is terrific, and now do a bit more.**

- **Smile. Seriously, truly smile. If you can’t smile with your mouth it’s behind a mask, smile with your eyes. Or smile with your voice by asking someone how their day is going. It is amazing how far a smile and a pleasant greeting goes to make people feel welcome and part of a community. Make a goal to smile several times a day when people are not expecting it. You will probably get back a lovely smile in response.**

- **Educate others on the importance of Hesed and give them examples (and be a role model) for how to do acts of Hesed. Many times people are just not sure what to do to support someone. If you know, then teach. If you do not know how to do acts of Hesed, contact Hesed@adasisrael.org to get lots of ideas.**

- **DO HESED! Do an act of Hesed today. And then do an act of Hesed tomorrow. Before you know it, doing acts of Hesed will become part of your daily practice. The world will always be a better place when more people do more Hesed.**

L’shannah tovah.

### SAC Adds Reproductive Justice Team

Lesley Frost was thinking of starting a reproductive justice team at Adas. Leaked news in early May that the Supreme Court might soon gut federal abortion rights in the United States gave her the impetus to move fast.

The new team, which quickly grew to 25 members in its first weeks, began its actions at the Jewish Rally for Abortion Justice on May 17 alongside Adas rabbis, other members of the Adas community, the National Council of Jewish Women, and more than 100 Jewish organizations representing every denomination of Judaism. The goal of this rally was to make one thing clear: Abortion access is a Jewish value.

Following the rally, the team organized a study session with Rabbi Sarah Krinsky to examine Abortion access is a Jewish value. Following the rally, the team organized a study session with Rabbi Sarah Krinsky to examine "Repairing the World".

May was also a busy month for the SAC housing and homelessness team. It hosted a candidate forum for DC Ward 3 council candidates as part of its work with Washington Interfaith Network’s (WIN) Ward 3 Congregation Affordable Housing Work Group. WIN and Friendship Place were co-sponsors of the event. All Ward 3 candidates participated, and attendance was 200 hundred strong, including in-person and on Zoom. Rabbi Aaron Alexander and Rabbi Hannah Goldstein from Temple Sinai, as well as Jean-Michel Giraud, president and CEO of Friendship Place, gave opening remarks to set the stage for the event.

Meanwhile, the SAC also continued its long-standing work to assist refugees. The Afghan refugee team collected household items for two newly arrived Afghan families and helped welcome an Afghan journalist by providing her and her host family (also Afghan refugees) with a welcome basket.

This winter and spring ADSAC members also helped collect more than 150 coats for So Others Might Eat (SOME) and collected and delivered food and cleaning supplies for the Feed the Family Pantry.

Religious school students used puzzles to learn about homelessness. What makes a house a home? In partnership with Anne Frank House, Adas Israel Religious School teachers posed this question to their students earlier this year and asked them to write their thoughts on puzzle pieces, which they then put together. The answers were endorsing, hopeful, and sobering all at once: food, water, puzzles, toys, banana, phone, juice, couch, and refrigerator.

At Anne Frank House, we know that it takes more than physical items to make a house a home. It takes security and stability. And, thanks to you, Adas Israel members, Anne Frank House provides secure, stable housing to those who would otherwise be living on the streets of our nation’s capital.
This Letter, from Rabbis Holtzblatt and Alexander, went out to the Daily Minyan in March 2022. We have been doing well, but we can always use more support and people for our in-person davening!

Dear Daily Minyan,

We hope this note finds you well. As we have transitioned back to having in-person spaces for so much of what happens at Adas, we are also taking stock: from where we’ve come, where we are, and where we want to be. Our daily minyan, particularly the morning minyan, provides a phenomenal metric for asking these questions.

We have been so proud of our daily minyan and its lay/professional leadership over the past few years. Together we’ve created a formidable online community where each person’s presence matters for the whole. We also take great pride in the hybrid that is now our daily morning minyan, even knowing it presents challenges for reaching a quorum of 10 in the Biran Beit Midrash.

We want to reiterate that whether you join us in-person or virtually, your presence is deeply valued. We love that this multiple-venue forum gives so many a chance to experience the obligation of prayer together as an Adas community. Even when we can’t say every line of the morning, or 9:00 on a Sunday morning. However, we also know that the pool of those who might be able to make it is larger than our current attendees.

Can we all work together to achieve this goal?

We periodically tried different sign-up mechanisms in the before times, but the strength of our minyan community made them redundant. In conversation and consultation with Hazzan Goldsmith (and some in-person regulars), we’ve decided to try a streamlined sign-up experiment to raise visibility into what it takes to make a minyan.

We’ve set up a shared google doc at adasisrael.org/daily-minyan-message with days and slots to which we want to ask people to commit. All you need to do is add your name to the list by 8:00 pm the night before. You will be able to see whether we have a minyan, or if the community needs you!

Please check it out and fill in your name if you can commit. We will try this sign-up system for a few months and see if it helps.

And, thank you. For all of it.

Let’s do this.

Our very best,

Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander

In 1972, associate Rabbi Richard Yellin saw that young couples joining the synagogue were eager to both socialize and study their religious tradition. He organized them to achieve those dual aims. Over the decades, one such “study group,” as it was called, stood the test of time. On the weekend of May 6-7, Rabbi Aaron Alexander welcomed the present members, including nine founders, to mark their 50th anniversary with festivities and prayer.

Jane Fidler-Rosenblum organized the event; Friday’s Kabbalat Shabbat was led by member Larry Paul; and at Saturday’s service, the group was honored with an aliyah. Members leyned all the aliyot, and Kathy Sandler chanted the haftarah.

But in the beginning, few had advanced their Jewish studies into adulthood. So Rabbi Yellin taught the group how to probe the foundational texts of our faith. They examined the five books of Moses and over the years studied 25 related topics such as Hasidism, modern Jewish authors, and the book, The Torah Revolution, by Rabbi Reuven Hammer (z’l). Many of the curricula were developed by member Michael Stern (z’l), who, on the occasion of his 80th birthday in 2018, was designated a “master teacher” by the synagogue’s clergy.

In due course, study group members became active in the synagogue, participating in various organizations such as the Bereavement Committee and Sisterhood. Most joined the Adas Israel Havurah, which was established around the same time. Barbara and Mel Gelman became teachers in the religious school; several were tapped for the synagogue board; and one, Dr. Stuart Fidler (z’l), was elected synagogue president. Member Avis Miller forged a path as one of America’s first women rabbis, serving at Adas Israel for 18 years.

One of the earliest topics the study group encountered was Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers). The group has now returned to it, bringing to that classic of Jewish moral guidance five decades of life experience. May the study group continue to “go from strength to strength” (Psalms 84:7).

—Joyce Stern, Study Group Member

Photo “The Study Group” May, 2022

Front row left to right: Ayah Johnson, Carol Mates, Suzanne Stutman, Jane Fidler-Rosenblum, Mel Gelman, Jon Wilkenfield, and George Johnson.

Middle row left to right: Lynette Spira, Donna Goldman, Rabbi Avis Miller, Mary Hammmer, Arnie Hammer, Barbara Gelman, Kathy Sandler, Joyce Stern, and Janet Goldman.

Rear row left to right: Ben Rosenblum, Mark Kahan, Larry Paul, Ralph Miller, Diane Rogell, Gerry Rogell, Martin Goldman, Jerry Sandler, and Michael Goldman.
After the war, Cohen recommitted to his family and to his career. His post-1973 songs frequently riffed on Jewish themes. "I wanted to give the English-speaking people a chance to identify with the music, with the artist," partly because "at one of the worst moments in my life, I felt very strongly the spirit of this song . . . be a shield for you . . . against the enemy." Meanwhile, on the peaceful Greek island of Hydra, poet-novelist-songwriter-singer Leonard Cohen caught news reports of the war and impulsively headed for Israel, unsure what he would do once he got there. He wound up performing non-stop for weary soldiers camped throughout the battle zone who briefly granted him permission to perform. (Who by Fire: Leonard Cohen in the Sinai, by award-winning Canadian-Israeli journalist Matti Friedman, retraces Cohen’s dangerous concert tour. Captivating and insightful, Friedman reflects on Cohen’s life, Israel, and the transcendent power of art in wartime.)

On October 6, 1973, air raid sirens shattered a solemn, quiet Yom Kippur afternoon in Israel. Egypt and Syria had launched a two-front surprise attack. Within a few days, Israeli casualties were skyrocketing, and the state had lost alarming numbers of planes and tanks. Fearing for Israel’s survival, Minister of Defense Moshe Dayan spoke despairingly of “the destruction of the Third Temple.” Meanwhile, on the peaceful Greek island of Hydra, poet-novelist-songwriter-singer Leonard Cohen watched the news reports of the war and impulsively headed for Israel, unsure what he would do once he got there. He wound up performing non-stop for weary soldiers camped throughout the battle zone. Who by Fire: Leonard Cohen in the Sinai, by award-winning Canadian-Israeli journalist Matti Friedman, retraces Cohen’s dangerous concert tour. Captivating and insightful, Friedman reflects on Cohen’s life, Israel, and the transcendent power of art in wartime.

SLEEPING IN THE SINA’I

In the Sinai Desert, Cohen and the pickup band trucked from encampment to encampment to perform. Ammunition crates served as a stage and jeep headlights for spotlights. Cohen fully identified with the soldiers. He wrote a new song (Lover Lover Lover Lover) that originally included the line: “I went down to the desert to help my brothers fight.” Movingly, the song invoked mystic protection for the army audience: “may the spirit of this song . . . be a shield for you . . . against the enemy.” Today, Friedman says, “Israelis think of Leonard Cohen as an Israeli artist,” partly because “at one of the worst moments in our history, he came.” Each fall, Israeli newspapers retell the story of his generous, brave Yom Kippur War tour. Cohen’s last concert in Israel, in 2009, played in a packed stadium and famously ended with Cohen raising his hands and offering the Birkat Kohanim (priestly blessing) to the crowd. After the war, Cohen recommitted to his family and to his career. His post-1973 songs frequently riffed on Jewish themes and texts, including Who by Fire inspired by the Yom Kippur liturgy and the iconic Hailelujah (about King David). Whatever mix of altruistic and selfish reasons propelled Cohen to Israel in 1973, he seemed to have found revelation and redemption in the Sinai Desert.

SINGING IN THE SINA’I

In the Sinai Desert, Cohen and the pickup band trucked from encampment to encampment to perform. Ammunition crates served as a stage and jeep headlights for spotlights. Cohen often performed songs that included the lines: “I went down to the desert to help my brothers fight.” The song invoked mystic protection for the army audience: “may the spirit of this song . . . be a shield for you . . . against the enemy.”

Today, Matti Friedman says, “Israelis think of Leonard Cohen as an Israeli artist,” partly because “at one of the worst moments in our history, he came.” Each fall, Israeli newspapers retell the story of his generous, brave Yom Kippur War tour. Cohen’s last concert in Israel, in 2009, played in a packed stadium and famously ended with Cohen raising his hands and offering the Birkat Kohanim (priestly blessing) to the crowd. After the war, Cohen recommitted to his family and to his career. His post-1973 songs frequently riffed on Jewish themes and texts, including Who by Fire inspired by the Yom Kippur liturgy and the iconic Hailelujah (about King David). Whatever mix of altruistic and selfish reasons propelled Cohen to Israel in 1973, he seemed to have found revelation and redemption in the Sinai Desert.
What is Klezmer music? 

Originally played mainly on strings (fiddle, bass, hammered dulcimer), klezmer later added the wall of the clarinet, with many bands adding brass instruments that came home from military service. This was music played for simchas, including weddings. The music can be found on early recordings and in newly accessed collections collected during ethnographic expeditions dating back to the early 20th Century. Joining these has been a rich collection of new tunes that draw on collections collected during ethnographic expeditions dating back to the early 20th Century. Joining these has been a rich collection of new tunes that draw on把这些 added to klezmer, and expanded the traditions that came out of shtetls in Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Romania, Bessarabia, Belarus, Hungary, and more. 

What do you mean by “an open community orchestra”? 

It’s also part of a general revival of interest and respect for Yiddish culture—language, literature, and folklore as well as music. This is an interest shared by Jews and non-Jews alike. 

Who leads the workshop? 

The local leaders, Howard Ungar and Judy Barlas, do the organizing. Howard is in charge of program and repertoire. Most of our workshops feature an expert teacher. We have hosted some of the top klezmer musicians and scholars in the field: Alicia Scigal, Dan Blacksburg, Joel Rubin, Zoe Aqua, and David Julian Gray, among others. During lock down, we took advantage of Zoom by having guest teachers from Ukraine, Germany, Reunion, and across North America. The worldwide Yiddish/klezmer community produced an extraordinary number of other classes, concerts, and festivals. Our first back in real life, in-person workshop, in fall of 2021, featured Violinist Jake Shulman-Ment and cellist Francesca Ter Berg. Often, our visiting teachers will arrange concerts around their visits at Bossa Bistro in Adams Morgan or other venues around town. 

You said that this is dance music. Can people come and dance? 

Absolutely. Playing dance music is twice the fun when you’re playing for dancers. And it’s all part of bringing back Yiddish culture. Our goal is to hold two dance parties a year, bringing in Yiddish dance masters Steve Weintraub or Judy Sweet to teach and lead the very accessible traditional dances of the Eastern European Jews. 

How do I get started? 

Just show up! We’ll start up rehearsals and workshops after the High Holy Days (schedule of dates below). You can see some of our repertoire in the workshop Howard put together at adasisrael.org/musicalmoments. We look forward to making freilach with you! 

What is the DC Klezmer Workshop? 

The DC Klezmer Workshop is an open community orchestra, dedicated to sharing the music of Eastern European Jews. Yiddish music was played in The Old Country and has developed both in North America and elsewhere in the last 40-50 years. We continue that tradition, meeting at Adas Israel monthly for workshops and dances, and weekly for more informal rehearsals. 

The DC Klezmer Workshop 

Klezmer Dates: Sept. 11, Nov. 20, Dec.18, Jan. 22, Feb. 12, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 11 @1-4:30 PM 

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Ari Rubin
Ari Rubin, child of Nilmini and Joel Rubin, is an eighth grader at Silver Creek Middle School. Their Jewish education began at Temple Sinai and continues at Adas Israel. Ari looks forward to celebrating their b’nai mitzvah in Jerusalem with extended family this summer.

Ezekiel Gibbons
Ezekiel Ned Green Gibbons, son of Nathaniel Green and Fern Gibbons, is a rising seventh grader at BASIS DC. He has attended Adas Israel’s Religious School since pre-K. His service project is beautifying the world around him by cleaning up an abandoned urban site as part of his Jewish education. His grandparents, Richard and Joan Green and his younger siblings Eliana and Isaiah, are beyond proud of him.

Roxanne Rosenwasser
Roxanne Rosenwasser, daughter of Jennifer Zwilling and Jon Rosenwasser is a rising 8th grader at DC International School. Her Jewish education has included the Washington DCJCC preschool, the Melvin Gelman Religious School and Camp Ramah in Palmer, MA. She and her family, including her brother Max, are thrilled to have the opportunity to gather family and friends to celebrate her bat mitzvah in person. Roxanne is an avid soccer player and talented baker and plans to help the Adas Israel’s Hesed Committee stock the Adas kitchen.

Rina Saxon
Rina Alice Saxon, daughter of Deborah and Ethan Saxon, is finishing her seventh grade year at Washington Latin. She has been a student at the Melvin Gelman Religious School since Gishron and is grateful to her many teachers over the years, including her tutor Rochelle Berman and the dedicated Adas staff, for helping her prepare for this milestone. In addition to Adas, Camp Judaea and DC Minyan have been important Jewish communities that have shaped Rina’s understanding and connection to her Jewish identity. Her family—especially her grandparents, parents and siblings—are beyond proud of her.

Shira Boggs Wenthe
Shira Rose Boggs Wenthe, daughter of Rebecca Boggs and Michael Wenthe, is a rising eighth grader at Alice Deal Middle School. Exploring all over Adas Israel since she was a baby, she has attended the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since Gishron (pre-K), sung with Kolot and other Adas musical groups, and been a familiar face in services in the Smith sanctuary, the Traditional Egalitarian Minyan, the Havurah, and at kiddush. Shira looks forward to celebrating this simcha with her younger siblings Sammy and Talia, grandparents Judy and Danny Boggs and Lee and Jim Wenthe, as well as her uncles, aunts, cousins, and other friends and family. Shira’s mitzvah project supports Miriam’s Kitchen, whose mission to end chronic homelessness in DC is carried out through providing healthy meals and personalized social services with dignity for those in need and advocating for permanent supportive housing.

Anna Hoffenberg
Anna Rose Hoffenberg, daughter of Jackie and Mark Hoffenberg, granddaughter of Helena and David Hershkowitz, Shirley Hoffenberg, and Monte Hoffenberg z”l, is a 7th grader at Maret School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, and attended elementary school at the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation’s Capital. Anna looks forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with her older brother, Eli, and older sister, Maia, and the rest of the extended family and friends. For her mitzvah project, Anna will play piano concerts at several local retirement homes. She also plans to “twin” with a child who perished in the Holocaust and learn about that individual and the world from which she came.

Joshua Weinstein
Joshua Weinstein, son of Lori and Martin Weinstein, is a seventh grader at St. Albans School. He has been a student at the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Religious School since pre-K. Joshua is a pole vaulter, an ice hockey player, a parkour enthusiast, a rock climber and an avid downhill skier. The best weeks of his year are the several he spends at Camp Wachusett in Vermont each summer. For his mitzvah project, Joshua is raising money for #TeamSeas, a charity that removes trash from our beaches, oceans and rivers. He looks forward to sharing this simcha with his older brothers, Max and Ethan, his younger sister, Ruthie, and the rest of his family and friends.

Sam Levenberg
Sam Levenberg, son of Tamar and Keith Levenberg, is in the seventh grade at the Ivymount School. He began his Jewish education at the Gan Halyeled Nursery School and has continued with learning with the support of Adas Israel. He celebrates this simcha with his younger brother Josh and his grandparents, Rina Shuldiner and Valerie and Ronald Levenberg. At this special time, we remember with love Saba Zvi Shuldiner z”l. For his mitzvah project, Sam will be collecting toys for The Brooks Short-Term Family Housing facility.

Ben Rashkin
Benjamin Jules Rashkin, son of Allison Rashkin, and Jason Rashkin is a sixth grader at the New School of Northern Virginia. He has been a member of the Adas Israel Congregation since his days in the Gan Halyeled Nursery School. He is a student of the piano and enjoys creating his own music. He also turns his creativity towards writing computer programs, as well as games. He has a great love for all animals, and for his mitzvah project, he is working with Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, a non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing neglected, abandoned and homeless animals that would otherwise face certain euthanasia. He is very much looking forward to celebrating this simcha with his parents, brother Noah, grandparents Tina, Michael, Reggie, and Ed as well as aunts, uncles and cousins. At this special time, he remembers his grandmother Patricia of blessed memory.

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**LIFE CYCLE**

**BIRTHS**

- Rabbi Sarah Kirinsky & Daniel Novick, welcomed their first child, a son on June 25.
- Amy Belchatsky, daughter of Bernie Shfran & Susan David, & Eliot Belchatsky welcomed their daughter, Ava Rose, on May 26.
- Julie & Ben Balter welcomed their daughter, Ruth Lily Balter, on May 11.
- Sarah Ash Combs & Aaron Gershbock, welcomed their daughter, Isaiah Ash Gershbock, on May 3.
- Cante Shfrin, daughter of Peggy & David Shfrin, & Moudy Elkarnamh welcomed their son, Rami Shfrin Elkarnamh, on May 3.
- Julie Siegel & Jordan Grossman welcomed their son, Eliah Samuel Siegel Grossman, on April 30.
- Ronit Schwartz, daughter of Charles Schwartz, & Benjamin Katz, welcomed their son, Dan Lev Katz, on April 29.
- Esme & Brett Jacobson welcomed their son, Caleb Mica Jacobson, on April 26.
- Hannah & Brian Herman welcomed their son, Samuel Reid Herman, on April 21.

**WEDDINGS**

- Joshua Reuben Brooks, son of Sarah Brooks, & Carmen Lucas were married on Sunday, June 12, in Richmond, VA, officiated by Adas member Judy Bartoff.
- Ben Eskin, son of Sandra & Andrew Eskin, & Elisa Jaconne were married on June 11 in Washington, DC.
- Nora Colman, daughter of Ellen Nissenbaum & Jeffey Colman, & Jakob Cohen were married on March 4 in New Orleans, LA.

**IN MEMORIAM**

- Milton Bernard Adesnik, father of Ariel David Adesnik.
- Patrick Anderson, father of Lee Ann Anderson.
- Shirley Baer, mother of Susan Baer.
- Richard Balsam, cousin of Susie Sorrels.
- Marjorie Bartley, mother of Andrew Bartley.
- Aliza Fromson Ben-Tal, loved one of Derek Fromson.
- Jessie Dixon Moore Birtha, mother of Rachel Birtha Eitches.
- Thelma Litwak Borodkin, grandmother of Stephen Swern.
- Charles Ralph Buncher, uncle of Pamela Shalloway.
- Adam Cohen, son of Michael Cohen & Lisa Goldberg.
- Rafael Coltear, son of Daniel & Bianche Coltear.
- Alyah Deans, mother-in-law of Gail Roache.
- Dorothy Deans, mother of Don Roache.
- Fred Dunn, father of Alvin Dunn.
- Rene Dweck, mother of Aboud Dweck.
- Norma Lee Fung.
- Albert Goodeman, father of Connie Krupin.
- Barbara Grandis, mother of Susan Goldstein.
- Saline Greene.
- Rabbi David Weiss Halvni.
- A. Betty Hamburger, grandmother of Aaron Gershbock.
- Ilan Franken Herschfield, father of Deborah Herschfield-Campos.
- Selina Hoffman, loved one of Ariel Brickman.
- Irving Liss, husband of Grace Liss.
- William Loev, father of Jennifer Loev Mendelson.
- Daniel Milstein, brother of Amanda Koppleman-Milstein.
- Leslie Elise Parker, wife of former Adas Israel Rabbi Stephen Listfield.
- Beloved Gan HaYeled teacher Susan Carol Torchinsky.
- David Schon, husband of Michael Schon.
- Felixa Siegel, wife of Frederic Siegel.
- Earle Silber, father of Rick (Debbi Wilgoren) Silber.
- Blanche Speisman, wife of Howard Speisman.
- Terry Taff.
- Bene Martin Tenner, father of Adam Tenner.
- Carl Tuxin, father of Julia Tuxin.
- Ila Wachs, father of Josh Wachs.

**When Death Occurs**

When death occurs, please call the synagogue emergency line answering service, 301-421-5271, which will page the bereavement committee. We wish our newborns and their families strength, good health, and joy.

**The 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 Bega (bbecca@begaal.net), or contact Tami Bickart (202-244-2747) regarding the Tahara Committee, or Wendy Kates about Shmira (wendy.kates.30@gmail.com).
In the September 2018 issue of the Chronicle, as I began my first term as Sisterhood president, I wrote, “As this new year 5779 gets underway, I embark on the beginning of my tenure as Sisterhood President with great enthusiasm. I am honored and excited to work with our Board to bring thoughtfulness, relevant, and entertaining programming to Sisterhood and all Adas members.”

Now, four wonderful, sometimes challenging, years later, I am so proud of what our organization has accomplished. Through the creativity, commitment, and camaraderie of the Board members and membership, we accomplished the following:

1. Rebranded the Sisterhood with new logo/brand style.
2. Increased membership by 22% in number of members and 34% in membership revenue.
3. Provided a full schedule of events, even throughout two years of the pandemic.
4. Planned and executed four successful, meaningful Sisterhood Shabbats.
5. Built out our committees for greater member participation.
6. Reached our Torah Fund goal each year.
7. Updated the Sisterhood Bylaws and created the president-elect position.
8. Selected, set up, and rolled out a new CRM system for integrated member records, event postings and registration, membership fee collection, and more, called SisterhoodDirect.
9. Developed an electronic newsletter for members.
10. Created a means of electronic payments online.

None of this would have been possible without the contributions of many, including and especially:

*Helen Kramer*, Recording Secretary, Bylaws Committee, Policy Book
*Marian Fox*, Parliamentarian, Bylaws Chair
*Margie Corwin*, Bylaws Committee, Sisterhood Shabbat Chair
*Ozana Papadatos*, Sisterhood Shabbat, Challah Bake, Great Ideas Generator
*Jennifer Gibson*, Programming Committee and Movie Night
*Robin Berman*, Corresponding Secretary
*Leah Hadad*, Corresponding Secretary, Sisterhood Shabbat Kedusha
*Elinor Tattar*, Treasurer
*Marilyn Cooper*, Weekday Torah with Sisterhood
*Lesley Frost*, Sewing, Knitting, and Craft Group

All Sisterhood Board members
All the Sunday Salon participants
All hosts of Sisterhood in Your Community
Jean Bernard, Susan Winberg, and Marian Fox for managing the Gift Shop and all our gift shop volunteers

Thank you all so very much!
Jill Jacob

Much gratitude for the help, support, and guidance we receive from:

Adas Clergy team
David Polonsky
Marcy Spiro
Brenna Srouda
Mr. Donald Saltz
Adas Office team
Adas Operations team

Thank you all!

We welcome our next Sisterhood President, Margie Corwin, who will be an excellent leader! Our Opening Event for the 2022-23 year will take place in October. Please check the Sisterhood page on the Adas website for updated event information. www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood. Memberships for 2022-23 year are now available on the Sisterhood webpage as well.

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**Sisterhood gift shop**

Summer is here, and that means that our volunteers are going to take it easy for the next few months. But don’t let this stop you from stopping by to see the latest additions to our stock. And we offer lovely items that are appropriate for wedding and anniversary gifts and other joyous occasions.

Please note our summer hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 am to noon.
Of course, we are happy to set up special appointments if these hours are not convenient for you. If you would like a special appointment, please send us an email at adasgiftshop@gmail.com.

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

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**Welcome To Adas!**

**Lynwood Norris, Facility Operations Manager**

**Favorite place in DC to visit?**
My favorite place to visit in DC is Georgetown. It has great restaurants, shopping, stores, and water scenery.

**Dream vacation?**
My dream vacation would be to travel to four different countries in one month. Thing you’re most excited for in the next year? I’m most excited about welcoming my son into the world. #2TimeBoyDad.

**What you’re most excited about in your new position at Adas?**
I’m most excited about reforming the operations department and improving on the foundation that was set before me.

**Favorite thing to cook or bake?**
My favorite thing to bake is salmon.

**Rabbi Elianna Yolkut, Ravbinic Scholar**

While I have been a part of the Adas Israel community since late 2013, I am thrilled to be taking on this new and expanded part-time role as Ravbinic Scholar and Director of the Mivkah and Beit Midrash. Both the Mivkah and Beit Midrash are unique components to this community and are at the nexus of a deepening, bold, dynamic, and engaged Jewish life that serves the heart, mind, and soul of every individual who walks through the doors of this community. The role of shaping, guiding, and growing, along with your clergy and programming teams, a vision and opportunities that strengthen our capacity to meet this community’s needs is truly an honor, and I am looking forward to working with the entire community in the days ahead.
In Honor Of: Minnie Kaufman’s 103rd birthday by
William Loew & Irwin Lebow by Renée Fendrich.
In Memory Of: Felisa Siegel by Julia Small. Irwin
Levenberg.
In Honor Of: Bubi Schwartz on his shabbath by
Miranda May’s wedding in Israel for Rabbi Alexander & Hazzan Goldsmith by
Friedman & Joe Cecil. Benjamin “Jamie” Cecil by
In Memory Of: Samuel Lebowitz Israel Scholarship Fund
In Appreciation Of: Baruch Weiss’s extraordinary
Talmud teaching by Gail Levine & Ian
Kirschenbaum.
In Memory Of: David Buring & Anne Buring by
In Memory Of: Hazzan Goldsmith by Bob
Blacksberg, Terry Novick, Scott & Wendy Siegel,
In Honor Of: 50th anniversary of the Adas
Carmel Synagogue.
In Memory Of: Patrick Anderson by Judith
Berkowitz. Felica Siegel by Dava Berkman.
In Memory Of: Frances Kossow Burka & Ellen
Kessler. Dr. Stuart Tattar by Cindy & Herbert
Stern.
In Memory Of: demo king by John & Renny Kossow.
In Memory Of: Samuel Aroni by Betsy Strauss, Ricki
Gerger. Sheldon Kimmel. Miranda May’s wedding in Israel for Rabbi Alexander & Hazzan Goldsmith by
In Memory Of: Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund
In Appreciation Of: Baruch Weiss & his
volunteers & others who made Jacob Kolk’s bar
mitzvah possible, safe & meaningful by Lauren &
Bill Levenson.
In Memory Of: David Buring & Anne Buring by
In Memory Of: Bubi Schwartz on his shabbath by
Miranda May’s wedding in Israel for Rabbi Alexander & Hazzan Goldsmith by
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