From the President

JANICE MOSTOW, ADAS PRESIDENT

As I sit at my desk writing this letter to you, I look out my window and see the dance of the leaves in the wind. When I left DC on November 3 to visit my Dad in Florida (amazing fact: he is 102 years old and very engaged in his life), the leaves were brilliant shades of red, orange, and yellow. Today, November 7 (we write these Chronicle letters a month or so before they reach you), the leaves are mostly gone from the trees and now have their home on the ground below. The natural world continues to show us that life is ever-changing, one day can make a difference--large or small--in our lives. As the days grow shorter and the nights longer and darker, we see how light and darkness co-exist. The truth of continuous change is an awesome reality that connects me to the presence of the Divine. I am very grateful for that connection and for the honor of serving you as president of Adas. Your dedication to and participation in our community keep us together as we continue to grow and move forward.

While we will be processing the election results in the weeks ahead--each in our own way--we will also be in the midst of preparing for or celebrating Hanukkah. Many of us have childhood memories of how our families celebrated the holiday. For some, the children enjoyed favorite fried foods; for others, the main event was gelt and gift giving and receiving. What most of our families shared in common, though, was the lighting of the hanukkiah. The lighting of the candles is what Hanukkah asks of us: each family is asked to add light to the darkness and then, if we can, to share that light with our larger community.

When each family lights its hanukkiah, it brings some light into the world. When many families light their hanukkiah, as we do in our Adas community, we not only bring fuller light, we also join together as a loving, spiritual community. Together, with hope and prayer and support for one another, we can experience the potential for joy and love in our world. We can lead others in the direction of that love, joy, and thoughtful action to support one another. That is, after all, an obligation we as Jewish people hold dear. This is what Hanukkah represents.

We are approaching the end of 2022. I am grateful that now we have Hanukkah, the holiday that honors, in the most elemental and spiritual way, our belief in the power of light, of our Judaism and of our God to lead us forward.

May you feel safe
May you feel love
May you feel strong
May the lights of Hanukkah warm your heart and give you joy.

With gratitude for your presence and your continuing support to our Adas community,

Janice

Clergy Corner

RABBI SARAH KRINSKY

The rabbis of our Talmud had an interesting relationship with miracles. On the one hand, the recognition and praise of miracles is baked into - inextricably linked with - what it means, in their eyes, to be a Jew. The rabbinic tradition is replete with songs, liturgy, and exclamations of God’s greatness in bringing us out of Egypt - a redemption that is, in their very words, miraculous.

And yet they also, at times, seem wary of miracles. In Masechet Shabbat, Rabbi Yannai teaches:

“A person should never stand in a place of danger and say to themselves that God will perform a miracle for them, lest God does not perform a miracle for them. And, moreover, even if God does perform a miracle for them, (having said to themselves that God will perform such a miracle) will reduce the miracle’s value.”

In essence, Rabbi Yannai warns against hoping for miracles for two reasons: (1) they might not happen, and then we will have gotten our hopes up, and (2) if a miracle does end up happening, having anticipated it will somehow diminish its power. What Rabbi Yannai reveals here is both his own potential cynicism (which, to be honest, I do find resonant and relatable), and also a new read of what a miracle can be. Because what we see is that for Rabbi Yannai, one of a miracle’s most defining traits seems to be its element of surprise. Miracles, in this definition, are not a given. They are not something we can make happen or whose course we can alter. Miracles are, or at least should be, unexpected. Hanukkah is, in our tradition, the season of miracles. It is when we celebrate the miracles performed for our ancestors, and pray for that same divine grace to appear in our lives as well. And while there are moments or years in which this plea feels resonant, it also has the potential to fall flat. What does it mean, really, to pray for miracles?

Rabbi Yannai can help us answer that question. Perhaps this year, as we enter into our holiday season and surround ourselves with the liturgy of miracles, what we are asking for is actually something much simpler than the splitting of the sea. Perhaps what we seek is a moment of surprise. Perhaps what we bless is the potential for something unexpected to emerge. An openness to outcomes we could not have foreseen. Something turning out better, or at least differently, than we might have thought or planned. Maybe the real miracle is not what happens out in the world, but is our own expanding sense of belief and wonder at possibilities beyond what we could have imagined.

This Hanukkah, may we find these miracles in our everyday lives. May we encounter them with open hearts. And may we bless them.

Hanukkah sameach.
Hanukkah 2022
SUNDAY, DEC. 18 - MONDAY, DEC. 26

Blessing over the Candles
Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam, aisher kidishanu b'mitzvotav, v'zivanu l'had'lik neir shel Chanukah.
Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe
Who has sanctified us with His commandments and
commanded us to light the lights of Hanukkah.

Hanukkah Highlights @ Adas
As you celebrate Hanukkah this year, may your homes be bright with happiness, joy, and light. We hope you will join us for an array of Adas happenings and community events including a family Hanukkah party, community Shabbat oneg, and more.

Community Shabbat Service, Kabbalat Shabbat and Hanukkah Oneg
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 6:30PM
Celebrate the 6th night of Hanukkah here at Adas! We will feature a community candle lighting, a festive Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Arianne Brown, and a fun singalong of all your favorite holiday songs, followed by some tasty oneg treats.

Family Hanukkah Party
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 9:30AM
Join us for a morning filled with latkes, music, and plenty of Hanukkah fun! Open to all Adas families.

Teen Hanukkah Party
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 6PM
Join us at the National Zoo for a Zoo Lights Hanukkah celebration! We'll meet at the Connecticut Ave entrance to the Zoo at 6pm and after spending some time exploring Zoo Lights, we'll walk over to Woodley Park for a backyard bonfire.

SUNDAY, DEC. 18 - MONDAY, DEC. 26
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 AT 6:30PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 9:30AM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 6PM

Chag Hanukkah Sameach

adasisrael.org/hanukkah
Year after year the glow of Hanukkah brings warmth to our community

Candle lighting with Adas members at Sommerset House

Visit our beautiful menorah displays in the Brian Beit Midrash

Religious School students light a chanukiah on the beach in Caesarea while on their Israel trip

Outdoor Menorah lighting with Adas clergy
Oz Papados has become a key leader in the Social Action Team’s refugee efforts in recent months, with her willingness to use her flexible schedule to the SAC’s advantage.

She has stepped up to help coordinate a lot of quick turnaround projects like helping provide food this fall for a large Afghan family that was in a transitional period before their government benefits kicked in.

Oz is also part of a SAC refugee team plan to prepare a spreadsheet of the various volunteer services or donations area synagogues and their members can provide to groups assisting refugees. This way, when a need arises, there is an easy-to-access source of who might be able to assist.

The goal is to enable organizations serving refugees to put their requests for assistance into the document and to streamline efforts.

SAC gets requests for help from a wide range of organizations serving refugees in our area because these groups know they can count on Adas members, she said.

“There’s a constant stream of requests, which tells me that Adas has created a reputation as being a place where you ask for help, and your request will be addressed.”

MEET MICK NEUSTADT – HESED CLERGY LIAISON

We are thrilled to introduce Mick Neustadt to the Adas Israel community. A social worker working with the clergy and the Hesed Committee, Mick will be available to Adas Israel congregants to help sort through life challenges, whether by joining one of the support groups Mick will be running or by meeting with him in person or on zoom to talk through issues you are facing. Stay tuned to announcements in @Adas to find out ways to connect with Mick. Welcome, Mick!

Tell us a little bit about yourself. What are your interests, hobbies, favorite foods, where did you grow up?

What Jewish values guide your work?
Growing up in a Jewish home I learned the values of family/community, generosity/kindness, and responsibility. My grandparents and parents exemplified and lived these values. As a social worker I aim to see the good in everyone and to realize our interconnectedness. I believe that if you can offer generosity and help someone, you should do so. Supporting one person and his or her needs can have a positive ripple effect though one’s family, friends, and community.

What are your goals for Adas as the Hesed Clergy Liaison?
Being a part of Adas offers a unique opportunity to work with greatly compassionate and caring people. The clergy and Hesed volunteers are so intent on connecting and supporting the members of Adas. I am looking forward to our collaboration and finding a variety of ways to support our members and create connections and community. My goal is for Adas members to feel seen and heard, connected, and supported.

To reach Mick, please contact mick.neustadt@adasisrael.org or hesed@adasisrael.org.

I grew up in Bethesda, MD. Over the years I left for college, traveled nationally and internationally, and always ended up back in the DC area. I enjoy being active and outdoors, walking in Rock Creek or Sligo Creek. I’m a big baseball fan and softball player. I enjoy traveling, reading nonfiction, and meditating. I always enjoy spending time with my family and extended family.

Why did you choose social work as a career?
My first “career” was working as a schoolteacher and sports coach. I always enjoyed the one-to-one connections with students and colleagues and felt that I couldn’t do quite as much as I wanted to help students. I turned to social work because it gave me the opportunity to connect, collaborate, and help people of all ages from many different backgrounds.

What are your goals for Adas as the Hesed Clergy Liaison?
While many synagogues around the country are losing members, Adas Israel continues to thrive. The clergy, spiritual opportunities, educational programs, and feeling of community all make it very attractive to join Adas. Every new member gets a hand-delivered Hesed Welcome Bag filled with fun goodies, including yummy home-made Hesed sweet treats. Those bags don’t deliver themselves!

Thanks to the Hesed Bags Team leadership of Michael Fingerhut and Gilbert Holland, the Hesed Bags team delivered about 113 new member Hesed bags delivered (a few of them were for new babies!)

Huge thanks to Michael and Gilbert and the rest of Hesed delivery team. If you want to join the team and experience the joy as you deliver a bag to a very happy recipient, please contact hesed@adasisrael.org.
1. Minyan is back in the building (mostly). Morning minyan began meeting in-person in the Bimah Midrash on Sundays through Fridays last February. On October 25, PM minyan re-opened to in-person worship on Tuesdays, and starting January 4, Wednesday evening services will re-open to in-person gathering.

2. Weekend day services continue to be available via Zoom. Morning minyan starts at 7:30 am Monday through Friday and at 9 am on Sunday and national holidays. Morning/afternoon services start at 6 pm on Sunday through Thursday, and during standard time, at 4 pm on Friday (and at 5:15 pm during Daylight Saving Time). You can find the links to Zoomed minyan services at https://www.adasisrael.org/schedule#minyan.

3. Learn from our rabbis at minyan. Rabbi Elanor Yokots, Adas Israel’s Rabbi Midrash, Rozh Mikvah, and Rabbinic Scholar, now attends morning services in-person on Wednesday mornings and teaches afterwards (see picture above). Upon returning from maternity leave, Rabbi Sarah Krinsky has re-assumed her position as the leader of Thursday evening services on Zoom. Rabbi Krinsky teaches during PM minyan and often introduces new melodies.

4. We read Torah at morning minyan.

5. We celebrate simchas at morning minyan. Rabbi Elanor Yokots, Adas Israel’s Rabbi Midrash, Rozh Mikvah, and Rabbinic Scholar, now attends morning services in-person on Wednesday mornings and teaches afterwards (see picture above). Upon returning from maternity leave, Rabbi Sarah Krinsky has re-assumed her position as the leader of Thursday evening services on Zoom. Rabbi Krinsky teaches during PM minyan and often introduces new melodies.

6. Minyan services are relatively quick. After morning minyan typically lasts 45-40 minutes on non-Torah-reading days, 55 minutes on Torah-reading days, and an hour on Rosh Chodesh and most other holidays. During Daylight Saving Time, PM services, when we daven mincha and maariv back-to-back, take about 30 minutes. During standard time, when we replace mincha with a psalm and a mourner’s kaddish for mincha, the service lasts about 15 minutes. Our Zoomed Friday afternoon mincha-only service lasts less than 10 minutes.

7. We dress casually at minyan.

8. We serve breakfast after morning minyan. Our breakfasts are not only filling but give people morning energy to help them start their day. We provide platters on special occasions, such as yahrtzeit and the aforementioned simchas. If you’d like to order a platter, contact Adas Israel’s Food and Beverage Manager, Juliana Nieto, at Juliana.Nieto@adasisrael.org.

9. Leaders and Torah readers are welcome. If you want to lead a service or read Torah, contact Hazzan Goldsmith (hazzan.goldsmith@adasisrael.org).

10. We would love for you to attend services in the building.

As successful as the re-opening of in-person services has been, we won’t always get a quorum of 10 adults, which allows us to conduct a complete service (our rabbis have determined that Zoom participants don’t count toward making a minyan). So join us anytime you can and seize an opportunity to make a difference. You will be doing a mitzvah, and you’ll make new friends.
It is forbidden to sleep in a synagogue, even for a short nap, but this is permitted in a house of study. (Shulchan Aruch 151:3, 16th century by Rabbi Joseph Karo)

We, along with many Jewish thinkers over the course of history, might ask why in Jewish law the rabbis going back 500 years distinguished between the house of study and a synagogue. The commentators to this minute point of Jewish law suggested that the distinction is made here, that you are permitted to rest in a house of a study, a Beit Midrash, and not in a synagogue, because the Beit Midrash’s purpose, its mission, is to become your home, the place where you spend the most time outside of your literal home. Which begs the question, exactly what is a Beit Midrash and how do we understand its use and purpose in our community? Hint: it isn’t for nap time.

In English “Beit Midrash—ביתMidrash” can be translated as a “house of inquiry.” This translation, paired with the aforementioned point of Jewish law, gives us a number of clues as to how we might understand and use this incredible and ancient spiritual technology. The Beit Midrash is meant to be an ideal Jewish home, a place where we are rooted and where we can return again and again. It is a space that welcomes us at every station along our journey.

First and foremost, it is a place of learning and cultivating in that learning a growth mindset. The process of learning is as important as the discoveries we make therein. The offerings of MakomDC in the Beit Midrash are about the process of learning as much as the discovery or acquisition of knowledge. Rather than seeking the “right answers,” Beit Midrash learning is centered around asking generative, probing, thoughtful questions. This is why we have created a new shelf space for so called “banned books”—no ideas, no wresting of meaning or language is out of bounds. We aren’t seeking a space to all agree or where one opinion is correct; we want the acquisition of knowledge and the process of learning to be sacred and holy, to challenge us to be in the conversations of our ancient tradition and modern ideas.

The Biran Beit Midrash at Adas Israel sits, literally, at the center of our building because we center the values of learning and how do we understand its use and purpose in our community? Our rabbis faced a world that was in tumult and continued to innovate, re-charge, find their footing, and carry on. How do we learn from their experiences? United States and abroad. How do we face troubling times with an open heart and a resilient spirit? Our rabbis faced a world that was in tumult and continued to innovate, re-charge, find their footing, and carry on. How do we learn from their experiences?

MakomDC
The Why And What of a Beit Midrash

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Stepping Back In: The Waters of Return, Covenant Concert

Saturday, February 4, 7:00 pm

Celebrate Shabbat Shirah with a musical journey through time, space, memorial, and healing. Together, we take communal, ritual steps to process the pandemic and to enter our next phase of life. Performers include Theater J, Cantor Arianne Brown, Micah Hendler, Flash Choir, and top DC musicians. You will experience transformative congregational song and prayer, meaningful musical moments, and original theater inspired by our congregants’ pandemic experiences.

This concert is supported by Covenant Foundation grant.

adasisrael.org/musicalmoments

Shabbat A Cappella with Shir Appeal

Friday, January 6 - Saturday, January 7

Join us for a special Shabbat experience with the a capella group, Shir Appeal. Shir Appeal will sing during Friday night TEM Kabbalat Shabbat, in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary for Shabbat morning, and more!

Shir Appeal, Tufts University’s mixed-gender Jewish a capella group, is touring the D.C. area in January 2023! Shir Appeal has toured in Los Angeles, Florida, New York, and Philadelphia, performing at synagogues, nursing homes, day schools, private parties, and fundraisers. It is our goal to share our love for Jewish music and spread Jewish messages with audiences all over.

Havdalah & Sing for Justice

February 11 & March 11 @ 7:00 pm with Micah Hendler

Thank You!

One of the highlights of High Holidays 5783 was the ability to have members of our congregation participate on the bima again. Thank you to those who sang with us!

Kolot Shofar Callers: Nathaniel Brown, Yonah Brown, Gabriel Cutler, Zachary Cutler, Eli King, Ayla Wethington-Yolkut, Maya Yahana, Mallory Yedwab
Teen Musicians: Charlotte Green, Eliana Green, Courtney Pine, Sonia Skolnik, Noam Pan Stier
Flash Choir: Chana Engel, David Olson, Debby Joseph, Ely Merenstein, Healey Sutton, Jonah Richmond, Laura Benbow, Michael Rodgers, Oz Papa, Rachel Mauro, Susan Calderon, Toni Bickart, Wendy Doernberg

Geniza: Hidden Fragments by Arnold Saltzman

Sunday, April 23, 4:00-6:00 pm, Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

We return to these evenings of collective singing and social action. We will focus 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 driving impact in these areas. Our voices can help power the change we want to see in our world. Visit adasisrael.org/musicalmoments for upcoming dates.

Geniza: Hidden Fragments will be a featured opera in concert presented by the Adas Israel Congregation with members of the Chesapeake Orchestra forming a klezmer/chamber ensemble, and eight opera singers with national and international reputations conducted by Jeffrey Silberschlag.

This new opera, Geniza: Hidden Fragments, is a 90-minute neoclassical light opera, with arias and ensembles in a melodic and memorable setting with the libretto of Rabbi Arnold Saltzman, who has drawn upon some of the writings and texts of Solomon and Mathilde Schechter, and twin sisters and scholars Agnes Smith Lewis and Margaret Dunlop Gibson.

Save the Date! A New Opera in Concert
As I looked at the names of the students in this year’s b’nai mitzvah class, I couldn’t help but picture them as the three-year-old Gan students they were when I first arrived nine years ago. It is humbling to be part of a community where you get to watch families and children grow, and it has been our privilege to watch our school community and the numbers of families with young children grow as well.

We are committed to continuing to find new, meaningful, creative ways to serve our congregation and we are so proud that this year it has been bringing Leilah Mooney Joseph in as our new Director of Schools, K-12 to oversee our religious schools, working alongside Lindsay Kagin, our Director of Youth & Family Programming.

Each of them brings her own particular passions around Jewish family life and learning as well as her own professional strengths and gifts. I’m feeling such joy and gratitude working with the two of them--joy as we dream together about what congregational life for our Adas families can look like, and gratitude as I reflect on our amazing congregation that continues to make these dreams possible. Looking forward to more learning, more playing, and more laughing together!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

As we wrap up an amazing fall, we are ramping up for an equally amazing winter. Take a look at all the fun things the Youth and Family Department has planned. Please go to the Youth and Families section of the Adas website (adasisrael.org) to learn more about these programs and to register.

Teen Hanukkah Party, Saturday, December 17, 6:00 pm
Join us at the National Zoo for a Zoo Lights Hanukkah celebration! We’ll meet at the Connecticut Ave entrance to the Zoo at 6 pm and, after spending some time exploring Zoo Lights, we’ll walk over to Woodley Park for a backyard bonfire.

Family Hanukkah Party, Sunday, December 18, 9:30 am
Join us for a morning filled with latkes, music, and plenty of Hanukkah fun! Open to all Adas families. Grown-ups are required to attend with their children.

Young Family Pajama Havdalah, Saturday, January 21, 5:00 pm
Tu B’Shvat Family Celebration, Saturday, February 4, 5:00 pm

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE OPTIONS

Shabbat Sing: The Shabbat Sing for our families with kids typically ages 2-5 meets monthly on Friday night at 5:15 pm. We will join in the Cohen Hall for a 30-minute Shabbat song session with Micah Pickus. Join us on December 16, February 17, April 21, May 19, and June 16.

Families with Young Children Shabbat Service: This monthly Kabbalat Shabbat service for our families with young children (typically ages 0-5) meets monthly on Friday night at 5:30 pm in the Kay. We join a service led by Rabbi Solomon and the Adas Band, followed by an informal, Shabbat dinner. Join us on December 9, February 10, March 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9.

Lechu Neranena Community Service: Come sing! Join us for a spirited musical community service. Rabbi Solomon, Cantor Brown, and Adas musicians create an inclusive and joyful atmosphere engaging children and offering adults an uplifting experience of t’filah (prayer). We will feature our students in this multi-generation Kabbalat Shabbat service. An informal, family-and-friend-style Shabbat dinner will follow the service. Join us at 6:00 pm in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary on January 20, March 17, April 21, and May 19.
SATURDAY MORNING SERVICE OPTIONS

Family Services with Rabbi Kerrith Solomon: This Shabbat morning service is meant for families who want to share the experience with their elementary-school-age children. The Family Service is open to children and adults to participate together. Join us at 10:45 am in the Beit Midrash on January 28, February 25, and March 25.

Ma Tovu Shabbat Morning Service: Join other families for a joyful, song-filled Shabbat morning service. Come ready to sing, dance, and pray (typically ages 0-5)! Join us at 11:00 am on December 3, December 10, December 17, January 7, January 21, February 4, February 11, March 4, March 11, March 18, April 1, April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, and May 20.

Junior Congregation: Come together to form your own prayer community with others your age! Junior Congregation, for children in K-6th grades, is a chance for all students to experiment with prayer, learn the elements of the Shabbat morning service, and have fun. This service happens at 11:00 am on December 3, December 10, December 17, January 7, January 21, February 4, February 11, March 4, March 11, March 18, April 1, April 22, April 29, May 6, May 13, and May 20.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

The Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School has made some exciting and innovative curricular additions this year focusing primarily on access to Jewish texts and Torah learning. Our youngest learners, in Gishron through 2nd grade, are learning Torah stories through a play-based and experiential teaching approach called Torah Godly Play. Torah Godly Play combines social-emotional learning, emotional regulation, and Torah-related debates geared toward kids. They explore theological questions such as: “Are you local, or are you in visiting your daughter?” “What a treat; what a rarity in American social life--institutional stability to sustain these interactions.”

Our older learners, in grades 3 through 6, are using a new Torah learning curriculum created by Hadar, an educational institution that empowers Jews to create and sustain vibrant, practicing, egalitarian communities of Torah learning. They are engaging in weekly text study and Torah-related debates geared toward kids. They explore theological questions such as: “Can we pray in English? What does it mean to welcome?” Did G-d write the Torah? This goes hand-in-hand with our prayer curriculum where students are encouraged to ask questions and learn the meanings behind the prayers we say.

It’s party time at the Gan! We’re celebrating our 50th birthday as a preschool this year and reflecting on the journey that has brought us to where we are today. We will be capping off our year of celebration with a 50th Birthday Party on May 21, a gala event at which we will wine and dine and dance the night away with past and present Gan community members.

Our school opened in 1972, and I am privileged to be the Gan’s fifth school director--Alice, Charlotte, Shelley (at 20 years, the longest-serving), Sheri, and me, Noah, in my fourth year here. I feel the history at the Gan, of those who came before, of those who did the building, of those who passed their love down through the generations. History gives gravity, gravity gives weight, weight gives importance. This is an important place, not only because of who we are today but because it holds so many stories, so many lives.

I see that gravity as I walk throughout our school. One of our families moved to DC from Chicago several months ago, and I watched as the mother dropped off her four-year-old child in one room and then walked to the neighboring classroom. She re-introduced herself to one of our teachers who had taught her when she was here as a preschooler herself, a literal lifetime ago. To be in a place where you are known, where your history is still living and breathing, it matters.

And the amazing thing about the Gan is that what I say that morning is not uncommon. Just a few months later, I was greeting families for morning drop-off in the parking lot and wound up chatting with a grandmother as her adult daughter dropped off her own preschooler. I offered my standard, go-to chit-chat question with DC grandparents, “Are you local, or are you in visiting your daughter?” The grandmother responded with a wry smile, “Quite local. I came here years ago to drop my daughter off at the Gan for school, and now I accompany her as she drops off her own son at the Gan.”

We are grateful to have been kept alive, sustained, and brought to this moment in our journey. Here’s to the last 50, and the next 50!
In the fall of 2020 archaeologists in Jerusalem unearthed a 2,000-year-old ritual bath, or mikvah, near a site believed to be the location of the biblical Garden of Gethsemane. Researchers from the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) and the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum uncovered the mikvah, near the foot of Jerusalem’s Mount of Olives. How incredible that layers of Jewish life were right underneath the feet of those who have live and walked Jerusalem—evidence of a lived Jewish life using this ancient spiritual technology!

For nearly all of Jewish history, more than 5,000 years, Jewish people have been using mikvah as a profound spiritual technology, one that can help human beings transition in moments of shifting and change. While the mikvah has some traditional uses (conversion, immersing before marriage, and after the completion of a menstrual cycle), it is more than that list; it is a spiritual method of uplifting the liminal moments in our lives. From illness to wellness, from needing space of your own to desiring physical intimacy, from a single person to one who is partnered, and so much more.

Our Mikvah guides and Mikvah users can share even more about how this experience can be a deep and moving experience:

"Whether you are healing from a trauma, illness, or surgery, marking a coming out, preparing for Shabbat or holidays, celebrating a simcha, or just need a space for any type of sacred transition, the mikvah is there for you. You don’t need to have any experience or knowledge of the mikvah to visit. You can enlist the help of one of the incredible mikvah guides or just go on your own. In my own experience as a regular mikvah user the experience feels like a spiritual spa, and the room is stocked with resources to help you experience the mikvah in the most spiritual way possible. I am so grateful to have the Adas mikvah in the DC community and am looking forward to many more visits!"

- Paige Plucker, Mikvah User

"As an Adas Israel Mikvah guide, I have the opportunity to help women observe an ancient and meaningful Jewish ritual. It is a meaningful and spiritual experience for me and the woman immersing. One of the most exciting aspects of being a guide is seeing the revival of the mikvah ritual for so many women: brides preparing for their wedding day, b’not mitzvah, and, of course, to witness conversions for those who are choosing a Jewish life. And every time it has the feel of doing a mitzvah."

- Leah Chanin, Mikvah guide

We are so incredibly blessed to have the mikvah as part of our culture and religion, but for us here at Adas Israel, it is a profound blessing that we have this technology in our very own building. Feel free to reach out to me via email to get a tour or learn more about Mikvah: rabbi.yolkut@adasisrael.org, or to schedule an appointment, https://www.adasisrael.org/mikvah.

Hanukkah begins on the 25th of Kislev during the dark days of the moon with Rosh Chodesh, the new moon, falling on the last day of the holiday. There is ambient poetry in the heavens as we begin the eight days under a dark sky and move throughout our celebration toward the promise of light with the new moon. Rabbi Jill Hammer writes: "Holidays that fall during the waning days of the moon include Chanukah (which extends into the new moon), a holiday celebrating victory after near defeat, and Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, a holiday that marks the end of the Torah and its beginning. These are holidays of descent and ascent—of gateways from death into life."

Like many cultures, there is ample use of light as metaphor in Jewish ritual and myth. We often remind ourselves of 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. And there is the mystical tradition of Ohr Haganuz, hidden light, which says that the light of the first day of creation was not the sunlight that brightens the earth, rather it was an illumination saved for the righteous to see from one end of the world to another. Some commentaries suggest Ohr Haganuz was stored in the words of the Torah, while other traditions place this hidden light in the Hanukkah candles.

It was the practice of Rabbi Gedaliah Aharon Koenig, one of the founders of the Breslov community of Safad, to chant the traditional Hanerot Hallahu prayer while lighting the hanukkiah and then gaze at the lights in silence for 30 minutes. Decades later, this Hanukkah mindful practice resonates. It is a reconnection—in the parlance of Hanukkah, a rededication—to the parts of our inner world that may have been shrouded in darkness by dread, anxiety, anger, fatigue. What wisdom, joy, and light has been hidden from us by these states of mind?

We can try our own version of this practice. In the soft echo of the Hanukkah blessings, close your eyes for a moment and connect with your breath. Open your eyes and acknowledge the amazement of that first candle: Shehekianu—we are grateful for being sustained to reach this season. On each subsequent night, focus on the growing glow of the hanukkiah. The goal is not to have our worries disappear, but to nod at them with compassion as they arise, and then set them off to the side while we watch the flames dance. This meditation might last for one minute, three minutes, or, like Rabbi Koenig, thirty minutes; our focus will increase with each candle. May you find peace, comfort, and meaning in Ohr Haganuz, the hidden light. And in the glow of the nerot, may you catch a glimpse of the world to come.

That glimmer of light, surrounded by so many shadows, seemed to say without words: Evil has not yet taken complete dominion. A spark of hope is still left.

- ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER, THE POWER OF LIGHT: EIGHT STORIES FOR HANUKKAH

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!
Books & More
The Adas Israel Library Corner
Snapshots of Israel

BY ROBIN JACOBSON
LIBRARY & LITERARY PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

AN ISRAELI AUTHOR WRITING IN ENGLISH

Israeli author Omer Friedlander, only 28 years old, made a stunning entrance onto the literary stage this past spring. Big-name publisher Random House published his debut short story collection, *The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land*, and announced that it would also publish Friedlander's upcoming novel. To add to the excitement, the prestigious One Bay One Book program run by San Francisco's Jewish Community Library selected *The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land* for its 2022-23 book.

Even if you're not usually a short story reader, try one of Friedlander's beguiling tales, set in Israel in different locations and time periods. In the time it takes to drink a cup of coffee, you can encounter intriguing characters and explore Israeli communities rich with culture.

Born in Jerusalem in 1994, Omer Friedlander grew up in Tel Aviv, except for two years spent in Princeton, NJ, as a small child. Friedlander's parents are academics: Tel Aviv University professors Eli Friedlander (philosophy) and Michal Grover Friedlander (musicology). Friedlander's paternal grandfather, Saul Friedländer, is a renowned Holocaust scholar honored with the Israel and Pulitzer prizes, among other notable awards.

After completing his Israeli national service, Friedlander studied for three years at the University of Cambridge in England, receiving a BA in English literature, before earning an MFA from Boston University.

As a native Israeli, Friedlander is often asked about his decision to write his first book in English, rather than in Hebrew, his mother tongue. In a recent interview, Friedlander explained: "Writing in English gives me some distance from [my] home. It allows me to do more probing, to see Israel's strange contradictions and complexities more clearly."

MAZAL TOV TO NEW ADAS AUTHOR ALAN SALTMAN

Alan Saltman is the author of *No Peace With Hitler*, which explores Winston Churchill's refusal to negotiate a peace treaty with Germany in May 1940, a decision many decried as insane and suicidal at the time. Acclaimed Churchill historian Andrew Roberts praises *No Peace With Hitler* as a "well-researched, well-written and above all wise book," which "conclusively proves that all of Churchill’s past life had also been a preparation for his refusal to negotiate peace with Hitler . . ."
My Vision for Sisterhood: Mix Tradition with Innovation for Rewarding Results

“Sisterhood, even if you were a 125-year-old organization while leading this impressive group of women to new heights.

I want to especially thank those members who have renewed membership or joined for the first time, our membership is near a record high for recent history.

Have you joined yet? Thanks to those who have renewed membership or joined for the first time, our membership number is near a record high for recent history. I look forward to meeting every Sisterhood member. But until we meet in person, I can connect with each of you through the website (www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood). Using the system for event registration and to update Sisterhood’s directory. All current members can access the directory through Sisterhood’s page on the Adas Israel Congregation website (www.adasisrael.org/sisterhood). Using the directory search function, members can contact other members, find women with similar interests, or connect with those who live nearby. We use this new online system for event registration and to update Sisterhood’s Calendar of Events.

Wishing all a Happy Hanukkah, Chag Sameach. Margie Corwin, Adas Israel Sisterhood President

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 staff members in honor of their good work during the High Holy Days and throughout the year.

Sisterhood gift shop

As most of you probably know, the first Hanukkah candle is lit Sunday, December 18. But many of you may not know, The synagogue is giving its staff the week off from December 20 through 26. This means that you need to plan to finish your Hanukkah shopping by December 19. To accommodate as many holiday shoppers as possible, we have set up the following schedule:

• Monday, December 12 and 19, we will be open 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, and again from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.
• Tuesday, December 13, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm and again from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
• Sunday, December 18 (Erev Hanukkah), 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.
• Monday, December 19, 9:30 am to 3:00 pm and again from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

We will post these hours on the shop door.

If these dates and times are not convenient for you, please email us (adasgiftshop@gmail.com) to set up an appointment. Emailing is better than calling us because we’re more likely to respond in a timely manner.

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel.
202-264-2888
adasgiftshop@gmail.com
### B’NAI MITZVAH

#### Madeleine Goldberg
Madeleine Goldberg, daughter of Elyse Wasch and Ben Goldberg, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She has attended the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since pre-K. Madeleine looks forward to celebrating this simcha with her parents, sister Gabriella, grandparents, and all of her family and friends. She also lovingly remembers her grandfather, Charles Goldberg, and others in her family who are of blessed memory. For her mitzvah project, Madeleine is working with Wands for Wildlife, a nonprofit organization that repurposes and recycles used mascara wands to help wildlife and the environment.

#### Samuel Leveton
Samuel Reid Leveton, son of Amy and Jay Leveton, is in the seventh grade at Georgetown Day School. His Jewish education began at the Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center in Scottsdale, AZ, and has continued at Adas Israel since 2015. For his mitzvah project, Samuel has chosen to work with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to connect with survivors about their experiences and share their stories with members of his generation to help combat future atrocities. Samuel is thrilled to celebrate this important milestone with his family and friends.

#### Leo Namerow-Entenberg
Leo Namerow-Entenberg, son of Bruce Namerow and Adam Entenberg, is in the seventh grade at Bullis School. He began his Jewish education as a preschooler at the DCJCC, an elementary student at Adas and currently attends the Ma’alot program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He is celebrating this simcha with his grandparents Ken and Marcia Namerow, as well as other family members. At this special time we remember with love his uncle, Chris Mohr, and his grandparents, Leon and Ronni Entenberg.

#### Zach Prober
Zach Prober, son of Bonnie and Rafi Prober, is in seventh grade at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. He currently attends the Ma’alot program. He shares this simcha with his sister, Madeleine, his grandparents, Mark and Janie Davis and Mark and Fyllis Etter, as well as many other family members. In his free time, Elliott enjoys playing tennis and basketball and is a voracious reader of adventure fiction. Zach also started his own business making custom soap (Sudz by Zach), which was featured at the Adas Holiday Bazaar last winter. His mitzvah project supports Comfort Cases, which is committed to providing comfort and dignity to children in foster care.

#### Sadie Elleithée
Sadie Elleithée, daughter of Mo Elleithée and Tali Stein, is in seventh grade at Georgetown Day School. She began her education at Gan HaYeled as a Kangaroo and has continued her Jewish education at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Sadie is excited to celebrate her bat mitzvah with her brother, Oliver, her grandparents, extended family, and friends, and the Adas community.

#### Abby Feffer
Abby Feffer, daughter of Miriam Feffer and Jeremy Nalewaik, is in seventh grade at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation’s Capital. Her Jewish education began at home, has been nurtured by Milton, and is enriched at Camp Ramah in New England. She is also an avid student of karate. She celebrates this simcha with her grandparents, Beth Feffer, Linda Nalewaik, and Peter Nalewaik; aunts, uncles, and cousins from across North America; treasured friends from school and camp; and her beloved labradoodle, Waffles. At this special time, we remember with love her grandfather, Rabbi Abraham Feffer; great-aunts Tikvah Weis and Janet Waldron; and great-grandmother Tzipah Weis. For her mitzvah project, Abby is collecting supplies and raising funds and awareness for Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, recognizing the importance of home and family for all creatures.

#### Elias Arbitman
Elias Arbitman, son of Marianna Sachse and Nathan Arbitman, is in the seventh grade at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. He is a graduate of the Gan HaYeled Nursery School, and as a result of the close friends he has made as part of the Adas community, and his great-grandmother’s (Micki Smith’s) long-term membership in the congregation. Zach shares this simcha with his sisters (Elie Prober and Arielle Popovsky), his grandparents (Leslie and Ronald Schreiber and Sharon and Daniel Prober), and many other friends and relatives. At this special time, he thinks about his aunt, Lisa Schreiber, of blessed memory. Zach enjoys baseball, cross country, acting, and spending time with his family (including his two dogs). Zach also started his own business making custom soap (Sudz by Zach), which was featured at the Adas Holiday Bazaar last winter. His mitzvah project supports Comfort Cases, which is committed to providing comfort and dignity to children in foster care.

#### Elliott Etter
Elliott Etter, son of Erin Davis and Jonathan Etter, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. He began his Jewish education at Tot Shabbat services. He shares this simcha with his brother, Parker, as well as other family members, including beloved grandparents Joan and Abe Brauner and Ilene and Bert Vogelstein, and great-grandparents Helen Sossen and Shirley Vogelstein. For her mitzvah project, Sage is hosting a donation drive on behalf of N Street Village for women and girls experiencing homelessness who need essential toiletries.

#### Abigail King
Abigail Kendall King, daughter of Heather Rothman and Peter King, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She has been a student at the Melvin Gelman Religious School since first grade and attends Perlman Camp in Lake Como, PA. Abby loves lacrosse, running, puzzles, and building with Lego bricks. In April, she and her family will travel to Israel for the first time and she will read her Torah portion on Masada. Abby celebrates her bat mitzvah with her brother, Eli, her grandparents, Susan and Herman Siegel, and many cousins, aunts, uncles and friends. She also remembers her grandparents, Elizabeth and Charles King (z”l). For her mitzvah project, Abby is continuing her work with Hesed and focusing on food dignity.

#### Madeleine Goldberg
Madeleine Goldberg, daughter of Elyse Wasch and Ben Goldberg, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She has attended the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since pre-K. Madeleine looks forward to celebrating this simcha with her parents, sister Gabriella, grandparents, and all of her family and friends. She also lovingly remembers her grandfather, Charles Goldberg, and others in her family who are of blessed memory. For her mitzvah project, Madeleine is working with Wands for Wildlife, a nonprofit organization that repurposes and recycles used mascara wands to help wildlife and the environment.

#### Zach Prober
Zach Prober, son of Bonnie and Rafi Prober, is in seventh grade at the Norwood School. Zach feels a great connection to Adas Israel as
Hardy Middle School. Elias began his Jewish education at one of the oldest synagogues in the Netherlands and now follows in his mother’s footsteps as a student at Adas. He celebrates this simcha with his brother, Joshua, and family members including grandmother Marion Robboy and grandparents Muriel and Jeff Waterman, along with many aunts, uncles and cousins. At this special time, we remember with love his grandfather Stan Robboy, and his grandmother, Mimi Liebeskind; and with other family and friends. For their mitzvah project, Scout is collecting and donating books to children in the DC area.

Teddy Sachse
Teddy Sachse is an Adas lifer. He began his education in the Puppy class and has been a mostly regular attendee since. He is in the third generation of Sachsos to be part of the Adas community. His grandfather, Harry Sachse, will be in attendance. We will acutely miss Teddy’s grandmother, Elinor Sachse, and grandfather, William Arbitman. For his mitzvah and devoted Adas member, Elinor Sachse, and her grandson, Oliver; their grandmother, Mimi Liebeskind; and the examples they set. Jake is an avid soccer player, piano player, and dog-lover of his four-year-old lab, Stella.

Jude Waterman
Jude Waterman, son of Rachel and Jeremie Waterman, is a seventh grader at Sheridan School. His Jewish education began at Temple Sinai Nursery School and continues at Adas Israel and Camp Ramah, where Jake has joined three generations of Waterman campers. He celebrates this simcha with his brother, Joshua, and family members including grandmother Marion Robboy and grandparents Muriel and Jeff Waterman, along with many aunts, uncles and cousins. At this special time, we remember with love his grandfather Stan Robboy, and his great grandparents, of blessed memory, all of whom instilled Jewish values through teaching and the examples they set. Jake is an avid soccer player, piano player, and dog-lover of his four-year-old lab, Stella.

Margalit Shane Brandriss Schonebaum
“Marge” Schonebaum, daughter of Chava Brandriss and Andy Schonebaum, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She has attended the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since pre-K. Maggie looks forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with her sisters, Ella and Molly; her grandparents, Ruth Shane, Marc Brandriss, Nancy Eisenberg, Pat and Bob Vogt, and David and Lyn Schonebaum, along with many other family and friends. For her mitzvah project, Maggie in continuing her work with, and hoping to raise awareness of and funding for, Food For All DC, which delivers food to the homebound throughout the District.

IN MEMORIAM
We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

- Anne Horowitz, mother of Michael Horowitz
- Maxine Easton, mother of Glenn Easton
- Barbara Garber, mother of David Garber
- Alfred Greenfield, father of Arnold Greenfield
- Sydney Kalver, sibling of Stephan Diamond
- Tony Kates, father of Matty Kates
- Theodora Liberman, mother of Joel Liberman
- Ronald J. Newmark, father of Nancy Liffmann
- Shira Anderson & Yochai Ben-Haim welcomed their daughter, Aya Louisa Ben-Haim, on July 12
- Emily Yu & Zuri Litensky welcomed their daughter, Zoe
- Xueli Qiu & Aaron Levin welcomed their daughter, Lindsay
- Robert Hillel Winter, father of David Winter
- Harold Rosen, and Chase Delong welcomed their son, August Wedlan Delong, on October 26
- Naveh Berner-Kadish, child of Nicole Berner & Debra Katz, and Solimar Apointe-Berkad welcomed their son, Oli Mateo Apointe-Berkad on August 18
- Gabriella Krohmal & Frederico Cohen welcomed their daughter, Emilia Cohen Freue, on July 19
- Rose Andrea & Antonio Levy welcomed their son, Adam Charles Levy, on July 15
- Rhona Nachbar Gordon, mother of Julia Gordon
- Maxine Easton, mother of Glenn Easton
- Charles Goldberg, father of Ben Goldberg
- Rhona Nachbar Gordon, mother of Julia Gordon
- Anne Horowitz, mother of Michael Horowitz
- Sonia I. Hymer, mother of Michele Blitz
- Jay Levit, brother of Randy Levit
- Samuel Katz, father of Susan Calderon
- Sylvia Kalver, sibling of Stephan Diamond
- Doris Koenig, mother of Eric Koenig
- Frank Nathan Liebermann, father of Joan Liebermann
- Joan Rubin, mother of Robert Rubin
- Rabbi Stanley Skolnik, father of Jonathan Skolnik
- Marion C. Smith, mother of Kathy Krieger
- Elaine Taubman, grandmother of Joel Taubman
- Janet Tenner, mother of Adam Tenner
- Robert Hillel Winter, father of David Winter
- Rabbi Stanley Skolnik, father of Jonathan Skolnik
- Marion C. Smith, mother of Kathy Krieger
- Elaine Taubman, grandmother of Joel Taubman
- Janet Tenner, mother of Adam Tenner
- Robert Hillel Winter, father of David Winter

LOBE CYCLE

BIRTHS

- Rachel DeLong, daughter of Susan Wedlan & Harold Rosen, and Chase Delong welcomed their son, August Wedlan Delong, on October 26
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- Robert Hillel Winter, father of David Winter

WEDDINGS

- Marcy Feuerstein & Ron Schwarz were married July 24
- Harry & Jude Linowes celebrated 70 years of marriage on July 6

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 Shirina (wendy.kates.30@gmail.com).

We wish our newborns and their families strength, good health, and joy.
A SACRED BLEND OF TRADITION & INNOVATION