THE GAME OF PURIM

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF RIGHT + WRONG, YOU’RE BOUND TO GET IT WRONG 😅

MARCH 6 @ 6-10 PM • CHAG PURIM SAMEACH
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ADAS ISRAEL PRESENTS...

On Purim, we are commanded to embrace a state of uncertainty, forgetting even the difference between “BLESS ED BE MORDECHAI” & “CURSED BE HAMAN”

A SERIES OF ETHICAL CONUNDRUMS

We look forward to welcoming our entire Adas Israel family back into the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary for a spirited & interactive Purim celebration.

Join in the fun with a full community Megillah reading and off-the-wall “game show” competition, featuring cadres of Adas members, and all of you!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, SHOWDOWN!

adasisrael.org/purim

On Purim, we are commanded to embrace a state of uncertainty, forgetting even the difference between “BLESS ED BE MORDECHAI” & “CURSED BE HAMAN”

Full Megillah reading & “game show” competition (all will participate!) in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary.

Monday, March 6, 2023
5:45pm Mincha
6:00pm “Green Room” Happy Hour
7:00pm “Live Studio Recording” Full Megillah
9:00pm “It’s A Wrap” Dessert Party

Tuesday, March 7, 2023
7:30am Megillah Reading & Morning Minyan
From the President

JANICE MOSTOW, ADAS PRESIDENT

With Deep Gratitude

The holiday of Purim and the spiritual practice of gratitude may not, at first, seem connected to one another, but let’s pursue this idea a bit. Purim commemorates and celebrates our triumph over Haman and King Ahasuerus. Surely, we are grateful that we prevailed and can tell the story each year. And just as the story of Purim has been celebrated for many years, so are the idea of joy and gratitude honored in our long-standing Jewish tradition.

In his book, Spiritual Growth: A Contemporary Jewish Approach, Rabbi Paul Steinberg writes, “Jewish tradition asserts that the best way to experience joy is to simply realize the blessings we have been given and to understand that we are overflowing with reasons to be grateful. Consequently, Jewish practice includes blessings of gratitude at every turn beginning with our first words each day: Thank You.”

On closer reading, I noted that Rabbi Steinberg said the best way to simply realize the blessings we have been given. Perhaps this is a reason that Jewish spiritual practice includes strategies to increase our sense of gratitude.

About 20 years ago, I had a pivotal experience that brought the idea of gratitude into my life in a powerful way. For a number of years, I attended meditation sessions and listened to talks about gratitude and how feelings of gratitude could enrich my life and foster more joy. One night the meditation hall was very quiet, the lights were low and the teacher’s lovely voice and heartfelt words about ways to increase our gratitude filled the hall. A question suddenly emerged in my mind: To whom or to what am I feeling grateful? The answer was clear to me in that moment and has remained so: I am grateful to God for my being alive and for providing me with the life I have. The feeling of gratitude did not paper over the difficulties or challenges I experienced in my life; I do not believe that is how gratitude works. Rather, gratitude is a way of keeping our hearts open to God and to one another. After all, if we could hold gratitude in our hearts and minds each day, we might have a world with less anger and more love, acceptance, unity, and forgiveness.

So perhaps we could try a few of the many “techniques” to foster our own sense of gratitude. We could begin each day with the words “Modeh/Modah Ani,” thanking God for the gift of another day. We could stop for 30 seconds every hour or so, look around, and find just one thing we appreciate and note gratitude for that one thing. At the end of the day, think of one or two people or events that occurred in your day for which you can feel gratitude. Any of these practices are building the gratitude muscle in our hearts and minds, and over time will become more an integral part of our lives.

We do these gratitude practices for ourselves but equally for our own community and for the larger world. If we all could remember to do just one or two gratitude practices a day, we would have a gentler, kinder, more loving world in which to live our lives and celebrate one another.

Finally, this is my last Chronicle letter as my term as president ends mid-June. I am enormously honored by and grateful for having had the opportunity to work with you all: dedicated and supportive congregants and beyond outstanding clergy and executive director who are committed to and passionate about our Adas community in every way. Team Adas members work tirelessly for our benefit and a lay leadership who work in many ways—visible and invisible—to further the mission of Adas and support all aspects of our holy congregation.

With gratitude and warmth, Janice

OUR VOICES

Clergy Corner

RABBI AARON ALEXANDER

By this time of the year it’s almost easy to forget what a full season of Jewish holidays feels like. The High Holy Days and Sukkot are long past, and even Hanukkah feels like a faint memory. The days are getting lighter and brighter (yes!), and that means another jam-packed holiday season is upon us. A LOT OF HOLIDAYS, a ton of rituals.

- Purim
- Passover
- Counting the Omer
- Yom Ha’atzmaut (Israel’s Independence day)
- Yom Ha’atzmaut

And by then you’ll see another Chronicle. Until then, here are the religious rhythms—the intrinsic stories—to which our sacred calendar beckons us:

- Laugh at/in the world to understand the world.
- Recline at home to understand freedom anywhere.
- Notice each day ritually, one by one, to understand why each is its own, new potential.
- Internalize how our communal losses are part of us. All of them.
- Keep internalizing how our communal losses are part of us. All of them.
- Celebrate modern-day miracles in whatever form they may arrive and occur.
- Bring it all together with Torah and the capacity for new revelation.

Yes, there are seven rhythms here. Seven stories. In other words, all of it. None of them out of reach for any of us, and all of them marked here at Adas Israel in a meaningful, communal way.

Author Mark Yaconelli recently wrote in his beautiful book Between the Listening and the Telling: The longer we live, the more we understand our lives not as a single timeline leading to a particular end point, not as Jacob’s ladder rising step-by-step toward perfection, but as a landscape: a topography with rivers and forests and deserts and springs and high mountains and vales and all of it undiscovered, all of it unknown, with hidden creatures and monsters and spirits and village folk and folk angels and holy sites and desecrated sites and veins of gold and veins of fool’s gold and all of it a terrifying, wondrous mystery.

Our calendar invites us to approach the landscapes of our lives—laughing and mourning, remembering and internalizing, celebrating and integrating—all of it with ritual and reflection, grounded in the past, present in the moment, hearts pointed to the future. We, each of us in our uniqueness, draw close to and interact with our stories in very different ways, to be sure. But as these Spring holidays approach, I am once again in awe of how our magnificent tradition calls us to see ourselves as an essential part of the larger story. And I can’t wait to experience the timeline together.
Thank You to All Who Supported Us

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all of you who supported our wonderful community during this year’s Adas Fund drive. Our support has been crucial to operating this community. To donate, please contact the adasoffice@adasia.org.
First Night Community Seder with Rabbi Sarah Krinsky

EREV PESACH, WEDS, APRIL 5 @ 7:30PM

This multi-faceted evening will include insights from world-renowned scholars, small groups for discussion, socializing, and enjoying the meal together. We’ll capture all the most important parts of the Hagadah together, while also giving each participant space to bring their own experiences into the Seder.

Be prepared for thought-provoking discussion, joyful song and inspired traditions!

Register online at adasisrael.org/passover.

Biur Hametz

Burning of the Hametz
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 AT 9:30AM

VIEW LIVE: FACEBOOK.COM/ADASISRAELDC

Burn your leftover chametz with Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith live on the Adas Facebook page! Hazzan Goldsmith will be reviewing the blessing and customs for this Passover tradition. This day should be treated as an ordinary Erev Pesach in regard to biur hametz (removal of hametz). The burning of the hametz should be completed by about 10:00 am. The stove should be koshered for Pesach. All cooking should be done in Pesach pots and only Pesach utensils should be used. Food required for the first Seder should be cooked at this time.

PASSOVER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Day 1, Thursday, April 6
9:15 am • Clergy-Led Seder with Rabbi Solomon
11:00 am • Family Seder Service with Rabbi Solomon
6:00 pm • Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Day 2, Friday, April 7
9:30 am • Combined Shabbat Service, Hallel and Yizkor
11:00 am • Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Solomon
6:00 pm • Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Day 3, Saturday, April 8
9:15 am • Clergy-Led Shabbat Pesach, Shacharit and Hallel
9:30 am • TEF Shabbat Pesach, Shacharit and Hallel
11:00 am • Mah Tovu, Youth Lounge

Day 4, Sunday, April 9
9:00 am • Shacharit and Hallel
6:00 pm • Maariv (Join Us on Zoom - No In-Person)

Day 5, Monday, April 10
7:30 am • Shacharit and Hallel
6:00 pm • Maariv (Join Us on Zoom - No In-Person)

Day 6, Tuesday, April 11
7:30 am • Shacharit and Hallel
6:00 pm • Maariv/Kabbalat Chat

Day 7, Wednesday, April 12
9:15 am • Clergy-Led Shabbat Service and Yizkor
9:15 am • TEF Shabbat Hallel and Yizkor
10:30 am • Passover Songs & Books, Youth Lounge

Day 8, Thursday, April 13
9:00 am • Clergy-Led Shabbat, Hallel and Yizkor
9:30 am • Combined Shabbat Service and Hallel
6:00 pm • Maariv/Kabbalat Chat

Day 9, Friday, April 14
7:30 am • Shacharit and Hallel
6:00 pm • Maariv/Kabbalat Chat

Day 10, Saturday, April 15
6:00 pm • Maariv/Kabbalat Chat

PASSOVER @ ADAS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5—THURSDAY, APRIL 13

The eight-day festival of Passover celebrates the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. It is observed by avoiding leaven, and highlighted by the Seder experiences and the retelling of the Exodus. Together, we will march towards hope and freedom, see wonders, and give thanks for the abundant blessings in our lives. Dayenu. Please join us as we celebrate the holiday of freedom, together.

First Night Community Seder

with Rabbi Sarah Krinsky

EREV PESACH, WEDS, APRIL 5 @ 7:30PM

This multi-faceted evening will include insights from world-renowned scholars, small groups for discussion, socializing, and enjoying the meal together. We’ll capture all the most important parts of the Hagadah together, while also giving each participant space to bring their own experiences into the Seder.

Be prepared for thought-provoking discussion, joyful song and inspired traditions!

Register online at adasisrael.org/passover.

Mehirat Hametz

Selling of the Hametz

Please visit adasisrael.org/passover to fill out the Mehirat Hametz form to authorize Hazzan Goldsmith to sell your hametz. We are not always able to destroy or remove all of our hametz. So the rabbis ordained that a symbolic sale is made of all the hametz to a non-Jew in the community, who then sells it back to us after Pesach. The hametz is then no longer “in our possession.” This is normally done through the synagogue for the entire congregation. It is only necessary to sell or destroy food items; not dishes or utensils. Please fill out the online form by April 3. It is only necessary to sell or destroy food; dishes and utensils are simply locked away in storage for the duration of the festival.

Sefirat HaOmer

The Counting of the Omer

Begins The Second Night of Passover – Find the Sefirat HaOmer Prayer Pages at adasisrael.org/passover (beginning on the second night of Passover we begin to count 49 days, 7 weeks until we reach the wheat harvest and Revelation at Mount Sinai on Shavuot. We call this time the Sefirat HaOmer or “Counting of the Omer.” The Omer is counted each night after the sun goes down- if one forgets, you can say the blessing all day until nightfall the next evening.

Yizkor

Yizkor in Hebrew, means “Remember.” In this prayer, we explore G-d to remember the souls of our relatives and friends that have passed on. When we recite Yizkor, we renew and strengthen the connection between us and our loved one, bringing merit to the departed souls. Adas will be holding it’s Yizkor memorial service on the eighth day of Passover, Thursday, April 13, following the Shacharit service at approximately 11:00 am.

HOLIDAYS @ ADAS

Erev Pesach
Wednesday, April 5
7:30 am • Shacharit/Hallel and Yizkor
9:30 am • Biur Chametz with Hazzan Goldsmith
5:00 pm • Mincha on Zoom
7:30 pm • First Night Community Seder with Rabbi Krinsky
Register online at adasisrael.org/passover

Day 1, Thursday, April 6
9:15 am • Combined Shabbat Service, Hallel and Tal
5:00 pm • Mincha on Zoom

Day 2, Friday, April 7
9:30 am • Combined Shabbat Service
11:00 am • Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Solomon
6:00 pm • Kabbalat Shabbat Service

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Day 10, Saturday, April 15
6:00 pm • Maariv/Kabbalat Chat

Schedule is subject to change. For all current and up-to-date service schedule times and links, please visit adasisrael.org/passover.

View Live: Facebook.com/AdasIsraelDC

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 AT 9:30AM

Burning of the Hametz

Erev Pesach

Register online at adasisrael.org/passover.
By the time you read this the Adas Israel Beit Midrash will have been buzzing for months, filled with Jewish learning and community gathering for this 2022-2023 season of Jewish learning. We have offered and continue to offer (check out all the classes listed here: www.adasisrael.org/makomdc) with a wide range of topics, from building a Jewish home, to our capacity to engage in dynamic listening and learning on Israel, to the study of Talmud and so much more. The Beit Midrash, though, is more than a place of learning, it is a place of gathering. As such in deserves a lot of attention, not just to be in it (come and schmooze or meet a friend for coffee) but to care for it too.

What you may not have noticed is a change in the space itself spearheaded by a committee of lay people who are dedicated to helping to make the room that sits at the center of the building a Beit Midrash to be its best self.

The working Beit Midrash committee has been re-shelving books, re-thinking signage, adding joyful toys and books for our youngest participants, and so much more. Come check it out, even if you aren’t into text study or aren’t sure where to begin. There are maps and guides to help you find books that might interest you, there’s coffee and tea to bring you warmth and sustenance, and there are lots and lots of people who want to sit and talk with you about your life, your Judaism, and any topic you might imagine.

And if you don’t know what our Beit Midrash, literally translated as a house of inquiry, strives to be here’s a list to get you started.

Valuable and Challenging: To gather in a space of study, of Jewish life is to access a Judaism that is valuable and challenging.

Significant Relationships: The experiences of the Beit Midrash should help our community develop significant relationships with the texts we study, the people we meet, our spiritual life, and the Divine.

Expressing Yourself and Their Values: We believe the Beit Midrash and the learning, gathering, and praying we do there should be an expression of our communal and individual value set.

Spirituality: Learning isn’t always easy or simple but it is meant to equip us with more tools to do the work that is needed to develop a sense of spirituality, ethics, and morality.

Be a Part of the Jewish People: Engaging with text, new and old friends, and teachers and rabbi so you can connect in many different ways across millennia until right now . . . in the Beit Midrash you can weave yourself into the story of the Jewish people.

Inspiration and Fun: We want the Beit Midrash to be a space of profound inspiration and deep joy! Don’t come only for the learning, come to be moved and to laugh and to connect to a community of people who are seeking an elevated experience.

Don’t want to experience alone? Reach out to Rabbi Yolkut, rabbiyolkut@adasisrael.org, for a tour.

Written by Rabbi Elianna Yolkut

LEARNING THE TORAH OF RESILIENCE FROM THE TALMUD TO THE MYSTICS WITH JMCW

SERIES #2: TUESDAYS, MARCH 14, MARCH 21, AND MARCH 28
AT 7:30 PM IN THE BIRAN BEIT MIDRASH

Lately, every day seems like another wave of bad news from the war in Ukraine, the climate emergency, the state of politics in the 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?

In this two-part (three-week session), we will explore stories from the Talmud, the Zohar, and the teachings of the mystics on building a resilient spirit. All texts will be provided in both Hebrew and English. We will study the contexts in which these texts were written, how the rabbis and mystics approached their struggles, and how we might integrate resilience into our own lives.

THE SPIRITUALITY OF EMOTIONS: EXPLORE TEXTS DEALING WITH ANGER, JOY, DESPAIR, AND HOPE

SERIES #2: SUNDAYS, APRIL 23, APRIL 30, AND MAY 7
AT 10 AM, IN-PERSON IN THE BIRAN BEIT MIDRASH

The sustained uncertainty, grief, and fear of the last several years have left many of us unsure of how to harness our emotions toward hope, possibility, growth, and anchoring. With an ever-changing reality we vacillate among myriad emotions. So what does Judaism think about and ask of us when it comes to our emotional well-being? What are we to do when anger burns inside of us in our personal lives? How do we navigate the global anger coursing through the world today? How can we cultivate a heart of joy? What happens when we are blocked by life circumstances and joy seems elusive and distant? How do we find hope in dark periods?

Join Rabbi Yolkut for two three-week sessions (in-person) in which we will explore how the tradition deals with the universal and challenging myriad human emotions and how they intersect with a religious and spiritual world view. Study texts (translations provided) from the Torah all the way through modernity that ask these questions and offer deep exploration of the panacea of emotions we all experience. Gain some practical skills to work on cultivating an intentional spiritual life.

Decorate the bags, prepare the lunches and deliver them yourself or have Adas (for a fee) deliver a box of food supplies to your place. Contact Oz Papados (opapados@gmail.com) to reserve a date.

written by rabbi elianna yolkut

The Chronicle

Got a Story? Let's Talk.
Tikkun Olam

‘REPAIRING THE WORLD’

SOCIAL ACTION

This Passover will mark two years of the Social Action Committee’s work on the Uyghur genocide, including two years of monthly protests in front of the Chinese embassy.

The regular nature of the protests has helped maintain focus on the ongoing crisis.

“There is, kind of like in prayer, a set time. And when you have a set time for something, your attention turns to it,” said Nechama Liss-Levinson, who co-leads the Uyghur work with Karen Guberman.

Guberman, who came up with the idea for the monthly demonstrations, develops a new theme for each protest to help educate people about atrocities being committed, such as sexual abuse of women or the impact of the Winter Olympics in Beijing on Uyghurs.

Passover is a good time to think and learn about ways to help Uyghurs as the haggadah reminds us that we cannot be fully free until everyone is free.

During your seder you can put cotton balls on the table to represent Uyghur slaves forced to work in the cotton industry.

If Adas community members want to take practical action you can avoid buying clothing, textiles, or other cotton goods made in China, the majority of which is connected to Uyghur slave labor, Guberman and Liss-Levinson said. Jewish World Watch has an online database that lists companies that are connected to slave labor.

Guberman is also working to get the Uyghur Human Rights Protection Act passed by Congress. Members can contact their representatives to push for passage of the bill, which would provide priority refugee status for Uyghurs currently trying to settle in the United States, including some who are living abroad and risk being sent back to China where they may be imprisoned, tortured, or killed. The bill has bipartisan support, Guberman emphasized.

The SAC team is looking for additional mental health professionals who can provide pro bono services to refugees in the local area. The SAC work has led to strong relationships with the Washington-area Uyghur community, which keeps Guberman and Liss-Levinson going. “It’s just this reminder that this isn’t just something out there. These are people we know and are helping,” said Guberman.

Nevertheless, I wanted to find ways to do Hesed that fit into my life. That’s when I signed up to check in regularly with an Adas member who doesn’t have family in the area. The goal is to call every Friday before Shabbat. It seemed like a very manageable commitment. My Hesed friend is Shirley Horn, who just turned 90 and lives at Ring House in Rockville.

If you would like to have a very special experience like the one Sandy Eskin describes, please contact Hesed@adasisrael.org to find out how you can do Hesed—deeds of lovingkindness—and help create community at Adas. And if you know of anyone who needs Hesed, a call, a meal, a delicious frozen casserole from the Hesed freezer, please let us know.

Hesed—lovingkindness:
Adas Israel provides so many opportunities to live this word through big commitments or small gestures. I returned to full-time work when my youngest left for college, and now have a demanding job. Nevertheless, I wanted to find ways to do Hesed that fit into my life. That’s when I signed up to check in regularly with an Adas member who doesn’t have family in the area. The goal is to call every Friday before Shabbat. It seemed like a very manageable commitment. My Hesed friend is Shirley Horn, who just turned 90 and lives at Ring House in Rockville.

Henes—for the first time. Now, at the age of 76, she’s nearly halfway toward achieving her goal of leyning every regular Torah portion that is read on most Mondays and Thursdays. Minyan regular Manny Schiffres interviewed Ilene to learn more about her path to Torah reader extraordinaire.

Ilene, tell us about your Jewish background.
My father was an original member of Beth El synagogue in Baltimore, where I grew up. Other families would go on picnics and go out to restaurants and to amusement parks. Our family didn’t do any of those things. But our family went to shul, and I loved it. I loved our shul and I loved our rabbi, Jacob Agus. He was important in my life.

And then you moved to Michigan.
I went to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1964. David and I married in the middle of my junior year. We moved to Detroit after we graduated and stayed there until 2007, when we moved to the DC area. In Detroit we belonged to Shaarey Zedek, a large, Conservative synagogue similar to Adas Israel. It, too, had an inspiring rabbi, Irwin Groner; I’ve had nothing but great rabbis. We were very involved. I sat on the Board of Directors and in the early ’80s I was the first woman to have an article about my work. I love to hear about her life, where she grew up, how she met her husband, her work in the NYPD and also the sad things: her son and only child died a few years ago. Shirley and I finally got to meet in person at Adas Israel during Sukkot. It was wonderful, and I hope we can see each other again soon.

Every time we talk on the phone, Shirley always ends the conversation by thanking me profusely for calling. When I started with this Hesed program, I focused on the fact that I would be making someone else a little happier. What I realized is that it makes me a little happier too. I started with this Hesed program, I focused on the fact that I would be making someone else a little happier. When I started with this Hesed program, I focused on the fact that I would be making someone else a little happier. When I started with this Hesed program, I focused on the fact that I would be making someone else a little happier.

Ilene Chait aims to learn and leyn every regular weekday Torah reading—all 54 of them.

In 2020, Ilene Chait read Torah for the first time. Now, at the age of 76, she’s nearly halfway toward achieving her goal of leyning every regular Torah portion that is read on most Mondays and Thursdays. Minyan regular Manny Schiffres interviewed Ilene to learn more about her path to Torah reader extraordinaire.

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aliyah at Shaarey Zedek. It was on Rosh Hashanah, and it hadn’t been announced in advance. There were 5,000 people in the room, and when I went up for the aliyah, there was hushed silence, and someone very prominent got up and dramatically walked out. That afternoon, Rabbi Groner, walking home, fell and broke his leg. Some thought it was a sign.

So how did you come to be such a prolific Torah reader? It’s your fault.

My fault? It’s absolutely your fault. In the fall of 2018, you sent a note to the Daily Minyan list asking if anyone was interested in reading Torah during the times of the year when there are traditionally no b’nai mitzvah, primarily during the summer months and around the winter holidays. I thought, “Maybe I could do it.” So you put me in touch with Hazzan Goldsmith, Adas’s ritual director. She had me come in and read the Shema.” I did and she said, “You can learn it.” I said, “OK” and chose the parsha that matched the day we were married, December 26, 1966. The parsha was Vaychii, which is in Bereishit. The plan was for me to read in January 2020, 14 months later.

How do you prepare?

I meet with Hazzan Rachel early in the Jewish year, after the holidays, and we go over parshiyot for me to learn that year. I’m now on a schedule to learn a new one about every six weeks. For each parsha, she prints out a copy with a color-coded scheme from Trope Trainer that helps identify sections of phrases. After that, I go to a website (www.weekdaytorah.weebly.com) to hear the reading chanted, mainly to help me with Hebrew, because I struggle with word and letter reversal.

How much work does this entail?

I practice every day, an hour a day from 4 to 5 p.m. David says, “Ilene goes to cheder.” In the beginning, I was learning two or three words at a time. Then I’d learn the next phrase. It wasn’t until 12 months later when Norman Shore (an accomplished Torah reader and, coincidentally, Rabbi Agu’s nephew) was coaching me and explained that tropes were not just about notes but about the phrasing and, therefore, the meaning. That was a turning point. And I’m still learning, especially grammar and pronunciation rules. And I’ve had help from many others during this journey—from you, Harry Chaus, Steven Aftergood, and, especially, Michele Finkle.

So how long did it take you to learn that first reading?

I practiced every day for nine or 10 months. By then, I felt I knew the reading pretty well and I said to Rachel, “I think I can learn another one, just one more.” Let me pick one that’s relevant to me. So I picked my parents’ anniversary, which was December 20 (1942). Rachel looked it up and it turned out to be the same parsha as the one I had already learned. So I said, “Let’s pick my grandparents’ anniversary.” They were married January 10 (1920). She said, “Not only is that the same parsha, it’s the same day, you were married the same day as your grandparents on the Hebrew calendar.” So that was bashert; I was supposed to have that parsha for my first time reading. So I did that first reading in January 2020. It was supposed to be a surprise for my mother. But she died in October 2019. Don’t try to surprise someone who is almost 100 years old . . . lesson learned.

What are some of your other techniques for learning the readings?

The weekday services typically have three aliyyot, so I read through one aliyyah one day. It takes me an hour. I practice with the trope, the vowels, and punctuation. The next day I repeat the first aliyyah and read the second one. The third day I repeat the first and second aliyyot, and then add the third one. By the fourth day, I start reading without the vowels, trope, or punctuation. It generally takes me four or five weeks to have one day’s reading cold. Also, at some point I take a picture of the scroll from which I’m reading and practice with that.

As of today, how many weekday readings have you learned?

Twenty-three. Also, I keep practicing the parshiyot I already know. I’m practicing each reading probably 150 times per year, and that’s after the few hundred times it took me to learn each one.

Do you plan to learn the special readings, such as the ones for Rosh Chodesh and holidays?

Nope! My goal is to know all of the regular weekday readings by my 80th birthday, which is just a little over three years from now. I don’t think I’ll make that, but it’ll be close enough for horseshoes. And that will be enough! Dayenu.
A New Opera in Concert ‘Geniza: Hidden Fragments’ by Arnold Saltzman

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

An operatic retelling of the story of Solomon Schechter and the discovery in Cairo’s Ben Ezra Synagogue of an attic that contained a thousand years of documentary fragments of history acquired, and in the opera, woven with a 12th-century love story and lost love. Composed by our beloved Cantor Emeritus, Rabbi/Cantor Arnold Saltzman

adasisrael.org/musicalmoments
From the Director of Education & Director of Schools  
RABBI KERRITH SOLOMON & LEILAH MOONEY-JOSEPH

One of the things that brings us great joy is to watch our students expand their learning, experiences, and relationships outside of the classroom. As you will read below, from holiday celebrations and havdalah pajama parties, to hesed activities and learning with scholars and clergy, this year continues to be packed with opportunities for our students to engage with one another, our tradition, our community, and beyond. We are so proud of the way that they have stepped into these experiences over the first half of the year and look forward to all that is still ahead.

This past November, our 4th, 5th, and 6th grade religious school students had the opportunity to participate in a mitzvah celebration coordinated by the wonderful Adas Israel Social Action Committee. Students engaged in a conversation about how they can apply the lens of the Jewish values they’re learning about in religious school including tzedakah, t’shuva, and hakarat ha’tov, to the homelessness, housing, and food insecurity issues so many of our DC neighbors face. They then worked together to make, pack, and decorate meals for residents of La Casa, a Permanent Supportive Housing building in Ward 4 for previously chronically homeless men. Our students found great meaning in engaging in this mitzvah celebration during the week before Thanksgiving, and we look forward to more opportunities to help our students make real-world connections to what they are learning in religious school.

We are also thrilled to once again be bringing expert educators into our Ma’alot teen education program this spring, including Micah Hendler, our Musician-in-Residence. Micah actually spent most of the last decade in Jerusalem, where he founded and built the Jerusalem Youth Chorus, an Israeli-Palestinian music and dialogue project. He is excited to be working with this year’s 9th and 10th graders in Ma’alot on a several-month intensive seminar to help them navigate this sensitive topic in ways that can build bridges, rather than walls. To complement this series, the students will also be learning from American University Professor Guy Ziv, an Israel history and politics expert, and from the Adas Israel clergy team, who will bring their signaturebeit-midrash style sessions to the program.

In addition to seeing many of our families each Shabbat morning, we’ve also held a number of havdalah programs on Saturday evenings. Our Families with Young Children Pajama Havdalah was a very sweet evening and we also got to celebrate and make Havdalah with our K-3 grade students at our Family Tu B’Shevat and Havdalah in early February. In January, our older students had a blast at our 5th Grade Sleep-Under.

This winter, we’ve also started holding a monthly Parent Breakfast with Lindsay Wasserman, which gives the grown-ups time to meet and schmooze on Sunday mornings. We’ve also begun a learning series on Sunday mornings, where a monthly Parent Learning session is led by Rabbi Kerrith Solomon.

We’ve had so much fun with our youth and family programs this winter! During Hanukkah, we visited Zoo Lights with our high school students for a Teen Hanukkah Party. The next morning we celebrated with a Family Hanukkah Party where we collected donations for the DC Diaper Bank, had wacky fun with a visit from Mad Science, and in the end hosted more than 300 attendees! In December, we also honored over 50 Kindergarten students with Torah scrolls of their own at Kindergarten Consecration.

Lechu Nerana 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 participation of our students in this multi-generation Kabbalat Shabbat service, which is followed by an informal, family-and-friend-style Shabbat dinner. Join us at 6:00 pm in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary on March 17, April 21, and May 19.

Future programming will include an Adas Israel Purim Carnival. Take a look at all the fun things the Youth and Family Department have planned.

Please go to the Youth and Families section of the Adas website to learn more about these programs and to register.

FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE OPTIONS

Shabbat Sing: Shabbat Sing for our families with kids typically ages 2-5 meets monthly on Friday night at 5:15 pm. We join in the Cohen Hall for a 30-minute Shabbat song session with Micah Pickus. Join us on 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 in a service led by Rabbi Solomon and the Adas Band followed by an informal, Shabbat dinner. Join us on March 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9.

Lechu Nerana 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 participation of our students in this multi-generation Kabbalat Shabbat service, which is followed by an informal, family-and-friend-style Shabbat dinner. Join us at 6:00 pm in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary on March 17, April 21, and May 19.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

ROLLING OUT OF A WINTER OF PROGRAMS, WE LOOK FORWARD TO A WARMER SPRING AND LOTS OF FUN TO COME, INCLUDING THE ADAS ISRAEL PURIM CARNIVAL. TAKE A LOOK AT ALL THE FUN THINGS THE YOUTH AND FAMILY DEPARTMENT HAVE PLANNED.

Please go to the Youth and Families section of the Adas website to learn more about these programs and to register.

Family Purim Party
Sunday, March 5
9:30 am-11:30 am
Adas Parking Lot

Parent Breakfast
Sundays, March 12, April 23, and May 7
9:00 am
Wasserman

Parent Learning with Rabbi Kerrith
Sunday, March 26, 9:15 am
Library
Power of Liminality

Rabbi Sarah Hurwitz writes, “Liminality, from the Latin word limine, means on the threshold or between two actual or existential moments. 'In-between' time. Sometimes, liminal time can be but a fleeting moment, like the breath between life and death or the brief moments between . . .”

Liminality is the space between: they are moments that offer us, even difficult ones or perhaps especially difficult ones, give us the chance to elevate our lives through ritual. One of the most ancient Jewish technologies we have to guide us, hold us, and change us in these times is the Mikvah. Ritual immersion in Mayyim Hayyim, life-giving waters can hold us, as we mark life transitions of deep struggle and profound joy.

One of the ways our Adas Israel Mikvah is unique is our commitment to opening up access to this ancient mitzvah (spiritual technology) to broader applications in our modern life. We tell people, facing a difficult medical circumstance, going through a relationship change, marking a special birthday, come to the Mikvah. These are threshold moments, just like the ancient reasons; they invite us to be intentional, to build in kavanah, to our mundane, everyday lives. Surrounding yourself, in these moments, with the sacred waters (which also happen to be delightfully warm) can shift something in each of us, no matter if you are coming to mark joy or sorrow, a reason used long ago, or something brand new.

And this is exactly what I got to witness a few days ago as I write, in the heart of winter, when a young woman who was one week away from celebrating her bat mitzvah came to immerse to mark that transition from spiritual youth to young adulthood. She and her mom came after completing one of her final lessons in preparation for her service, and I was moved beyond measure to witness this moment of transition for mother and daughter. When I asked her mom to reflect on the experience Heather (Abby’s mom) said,

I had never been to a Mikvah before and I wasn’t sure what to expect other than that Abby was really excited about the opportunity to immerse before her Bat Mitzvah. The entire experience was beautiful—learning about the mayyim hayyim, to listening to Abby declare what she is grateful for and prays for, to watching her immerse ahead of her transition into a Jewish adult. It was overwhelming and it left me teary and kvelling . . .

What a gift to celebrate moments of transition in sacred space marking time through a connection to the ancient tradition of the Jewish people with an eye toward growing one’s own future Jewish journey.

Feel free to reach out to me at rabbi.yolkut@adasisrael.org if you need guidance in accessing this beautiful spiritual technology.

Rabbi Arthur Green writes that “ancient memory is embedded in our lives as Jews.” This is seen in many of our traditions: rituals around Torah and tallit, liturgy that weaves together words across centuries, stories passed down through generations, and, of course, holiday observances. Passover is a perfect illustration. The storytelling central to our seder is animated by embodied practices: we lean on pillows, taste salty tears, savor bitter and sweet, drink (and drink!) the fruit of the vine, and, as Rabbi Green says in his latest book, Judaism for the World, “[w]e still eat that thin, crunchy stuff, bread like that which people made before we settled down, before we had ovens.”

These sensory experiences are more than mere recollection; they awaken our physical memory and response. We don’t just discuss freedom, we conduct our seder to embody going from bondage to liberation, so that every person feels as though they have actually been redeemed from Mitzrayim. This acting out of the Exodus can tap into a range of emotions: gratitude for the freedom to practice our Judaism, fear of resurgent antisemitism, a call to action to protect the liberty of others (‘for you were strangers in the land of Egypt’), and facing ways in which our own spirits may be captive and not quite free. While through the haggadah’s rituals we practice this art of ancient memory, each seder imprints upon us our own remembrances. The smell of horseradish can bring you right back to the Passover table, no matter the season. The taste of your beloved grandmother’s gefilte fish, the sound of your father’s raspy rendition of Chad Gadya, the sight of a worn and wine-stained haggadah—these are as much a part of tradition as Elijah’s Cup.

In thinking about our Pesach practices, it is worth considering our own personal memories. Recent scientific research looks at how individual, familial, and societal distress are carried in the body, often remaining well beyond the point of experience or trauma. Mindfulness as a spiritual practice can move us toward comfort, ease, and release by focusing on the breath, presence, and compassion. There is no end to ancient wisdom and practices; we can continue to bind our traditions to modern life through practices like programming for us to join together in this way. One of the beautiful qualities here is that whether a new or experienced practitioner, each of us is really at the same place: beginning with our breath, finding “that still, small voice within,” and bringing in expansiveness as we work to quiet our thoughts. Please watch for announcements on our website and newsletters. Wishing everyone chag sameach and the blessings of creating and sharing warm memories.
3GDC—A Microcommunity Experience @ Adas Israel

BY: DARCI LEWIS, SENIOR EDUCATOR, GAN HAYELED DIRECTOR, GAN HAMISHPACHA

Part of the work of Bnai mitzvah at Adas Israel is to provide space for “microcommunities” to develop, connect, and flourish. We have the great fortune of having community members with varied backgrounds, histories, and life experiences. One group with which we have a relationship is 3GDC, which brings together third-generation survivors of the Holocaust.

Through collaboration and the passion of 3GDC lay leaders, we have created “A Microcommunity Discussion Group Set in Nature for the Descendants of Holocaust Survivors.” This group meets one Sunday afternoon a month in the beautiful Tregaron Conservancy. Through group meditation, hiking, connection with nature, and intimate, safe conversation, participants share around a suggested theme. Themes and discussions are curated through the lens of providing a space for 3GDC members to connect, via the shared experience of the entirety of their lives being influenced, shaped, and informed by the commonality that they are descendants of Holocaust survivors.

As Yom HaShoah approaches, and Holocaust survivors continue to age, it is our collective responsibility to shed light, tell the stories, and create sacred space for the descendants of survivors to always remember. We are grateful to serve as the foundation for this microcommunity.

As Manfred Goldberg, Holocaust survivor, reminds us, “It will not be long before there will be no first-hand survivors alive. And it is important to record this testimony as evidence for future generations.”

Let’s start off very DC. Where are you from, what brought you to DC, and what do you do?

I was born and raised in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul in Minnesota. After college/work in Boston and grad school/work in New York City, like so many others I moved to DC for a job in 2001. I’ve been a psychiatric nurse practitioner for the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) since then, currently as part of a group that researches teen depression and anxiety. Outside of my paid work, I would say I am equally passionate about two important volunteer efforts: I help coordinate the Handmade for the Homeless craft group at the EDC/JCC and knit a LOT, and I work with the DC Abortion Fund (DCAF) as a data volunteer and fundraiser. And I’m always happy to talk to anyone who wants to get involved with either, or a question about research!

You joined Adas in July 2021 and have already recruited several new members and serve on a few different committees. Can you tell us a bit about your Jewish life growing up and how that brought you to Adas and effectuated your eagerness to become involved?

The Twin Cities have a relatively small Jewish population, which meant I knew who each of the few other Jewish kids were in my public school. I’m sure you can imagine how often I had to explain the spelling of my first name and how to pronounce it! I think seeking out Jewish communal experiences was an important part of understanding my Jewish identity growing up, and it was really important to deliberately find places where I could feel a sense of belonging surrounded by other Jewish people. So, I threw myself into all the learning opportunities that crossed my path; I had a bar mitzvah tutor, attended after-school Hebrew School through the 12th grade, did Alexander Muss High School in Israel for eight weeks as an 11th grader, and was a camper at multiple Jewish summer camps and then a counselor. I also have had plenty of family role models who were very engaged in synagogue life, especially my mom (who is a former Sunday-School and parent/toddler teacher, past Sisterhood president and currently serves on the regional Sisterhood board), and my paternal grandfather (who was a Holocaust survivor and became the ritual director at his synagogue in Minneapolis after arriving in the US). Because of their examples, I was very involved in Sixth & I during my first several years in DC. When it came time to join a more multi-generational congregation, I had several friends already at Adas who had shared their experiences here with me and it seemed like a great fit; once I joined and shared my experiences with others who were looking for a new spiritual home, they came along too.

You sing in our Flash Choir, serve on our Musical Moments committees, and co-chaired the Stepping Back In Concert in February. What is your musical background and why did you choose to get involved?

In college I decided I would try my best to sing the national anthem at sporting events, so I looked up if/how to do so. I definitely think I grew up surrounded by music at home (both Jewish and secular), and I’ve found that singing with others can be incredibly spiritual and profound, especially when you hit the harmonies perfectly. I feel like music has consistently been a piece of my life; I took piano and guitar lessons growing up, loved singing around a campfire or the outdoor sanctuaries at summer camp, sang in a choir in college, and did the same at Sixth & I! I especially love that no matter what your Jewish background is, or if you can read Hebrew, anyone can join and sing Jewish music together, especially reggagim where you don’t even have to know the words! It’s a wonderful way to build community and spirit, and of my closest Jewish friends are ones whom I have gotten to sing with over the years, as well as my musical theater buddies. I think Broadway counts as Jewish music too, most of the time!

You are an avid reader, and I know you do some book exchanges with our Adas staff. Can you share any recommendations and any tips for those wanting to read more?

A few favorites from 2022 across genres. Seeing Ghosts by Kat Chow (a memoir), Thank You for Listening by Julia Whelan, Book Lovers by Emily Henry, and Flying Solo by Linda Holmes (all fiction/romance). Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin (fiction); and Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland by Patrick Radden Keefe (non-fiction/history). For me, one of the best parts of reading something you love is sharing it with other people. I’m in a book club and I encourage those wanting to read more to start or join a book club. It’s a great way to get reading suggestions if you’re not sure where to start, and you enjoy discussing what you’ve read with other people. You can find free book clubs through the DC Public Library as well as lots of local independent bookstores. I also encourage people to check out lots of different genres to find what you like best, and to try different types of content, particularly essays, short stories, and audiobooks, especially if sitting down to read a long novel isn’t your style.

This is our Spring Chronicle edition, even though you’re answering the questions in January. What are your favorite things to do in DC during the springtime?

Walking outside when the weather turns warm again is fantastic—strolling the cherry blossoms, checking out a new-to-me park or garden, exploring a new museum or museum exhibit, and just taking a walk or sitting outside with friends enjoying good food/coffee or tea/good conversation. Bonus points for getting to meet cute dogs out for a walk as well, but that’s a year-round favorite activity!

We have a lot of holidays coming up: Purim, Passover, and Shavuot! Let’s do rapid fire favorite foods for each holiday:

-Purim: hamantaschen (traditional filling—poppyseed; modern fillings, nutella or, cookie butter)

-Favorite seder plate food? And favorite kosher for Passover dish?

-Favorite seder plate food is the matzah/chancelorHorseradish “sandwich.” And my favorite kosher for Passover dish is probably a tie between matzah ball soup and a perfect brisket (don’t make me pick just one!). Because I eat mostly gluten-free year-round, I love the challenge of making really good potato and egg dishes that are also kosher for Passover, there’s so much overlap there.

-Favorite dairy (or dairy substitute) dessert?

-Non-dairy dark chocolate ice cream paired with raspberry or blood orange sorbet—perfection!
Which three persons, living or dead, would you invite to a dinner party? The New York Times Book Review regularly asks this question in interviews. After reading Georgetown Law professor Brad Snyder’s fascinating biography, Democratic Justice: Felix Frankfurter, the Supreme Court, and the Making of the Liberal Establishment, I propose Justice Felix Frankfurter (1882-1965) as an exciting guest for one of those dinner slots.

Celebrated as a brilliant, enthralling teacher and a witty, charming raconteur, Frankfurter was also a human dynamo. He filled one lifetime with several lifetimes worth of activity – federal government lawyer, Harvard law professor, civil rights activist, Zionist leader, advisor to leading figures in law, government, and journalism—all that and a Supreme Court Justice too!

As Professor Snyder recounts, Felix Frankfurter was 11 years old when he arrived in New York City with his family, emigrants from Vienna. He spoke no English, a lack that was quickly remedied by his public-school teacher; she threatened to hit any child who spoke to Felix in German. Before long, Felix was a star student and voracious reader of English-language books and newspapers. By age 19, he completed City College of New York’s combined high school and college program. He went on to Harvard Law School, graduating as the top student in his class.

Despite glowing Harvard recommendations, as a Jew, Frankfurter was unwelcome at many Wall Street law firms. He finally landed a position at a prestigious firm (even after declining his interviewer’s suggestion to change his surname). Within months, though, he left private practice to work for Henry Stimson, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York (and subsequently Secretary of War under presidents Taft, Roosevelt, and Truman). This was the first of several federal government positions Frankfurter held. He developed expertise in criminal law, antitrust, public utilities, and labor issues while becoming a trusted advisor to numerous public figures and a close confidant of Franklin Roosevelt.

AN IMMIGRANT SUCCESS STORY

Legal scholars Brad Snyder and Jeffrey Rosen will discuss Democratic Justice, Snyder’s acclaimed new biography of Felix Frankfurter. As a Harvard law professor, civil rights activist, Zionist leader, and Supreme Court Justice, Frankfurter participated in the seminal events of his time. What can we learn from Frankfurter’s life that illuminates today’s fierce partisan divides on the Supreme Court and across the nation?

Brad Snyder is a Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center and Jeffrey Rosen is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Constitution Center, a Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School, and a contributing editor of The Atlantic. Contact Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org) to register for this exceptional program.

In 1914, Frankfurter joined the faculty of Harvard Law School. For 25 years, he taught and mentored students, inspiring many to choose careers in public service. He placed scores of graduates (dubbed Frankfurter’s “happy hot dogs”) in key government posts. In fact, in Snyder’s view, “Frankfurter made his greatest contribution to twentieth century America’s liberal democracy as a talent scout.”

On the side, Frankfurter immersed himself in civil rights and social justice causes, including the controversial defense of anarchists/accused murderers Sacco and Vanzetti. He became a leader in the American Zionist movement and served on its delegation to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. With others, he helped persuade Harry Truman to be the first world leader to recognize the State of Israel in 1948.

At a time when the country is fiercely divided over the Supreme Court’s role in social issues (e.g., abortion, gun control, voting rights), Snyder believes that Frankfurter’s philosophy of judicial restraint is worth re-visiting. We’ll ask Frankfurter about it, and his amazing life, when he comes to dinner.

Mazel Tov to Adas Author Pamela Ehrenberg! We proudly announce that Detour Ahead, by Pamela Ehrenberg and Tracy Lopez, was named a National Jewish Book Award Finalist in the Middle Grade Literature category.

THE HARVARD YEARS

THE SUPREME COURT
Why Sisterhood? Personal Journeys to Leadership Roles

Despite going to online programming during the pandemic, Sisterhood membership and the number of new members have grown steadily in recent years. Now that we are happily back to meeting in person, we hope our informative and engaging programs, which are open to all, and our spirited and enlightening member-only events, continue to draw dozens of attendees. To explore why several newer members have taken on Sisterhood leadership roles—in one case with Seaboard Region of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism—we asked what drew them to Adas Israel, to Sisterhood, and to our Board of Directors and Executive Committee. We hope you find these stories inspiring.

Elissa Barpal, Torah Fund Co-Chair
I am a Registered Nurse, and my husband works as a civilian architect for the Navy. When we moved from Michigan to Northern Virginia 11 years ago, I started searching for a synagogue, but I didn’t discover Adas Israel until 2018. Since joining, I have found a warm, inclusive congregation that seems to strengthen every year. I joined Sisterhood a couple of years later and quickly found the women I met to be fascinating, with a wide range of life experiences. Sisterhood programs are stimulating and have provided opportunities to interact with people I might otherwise never have met. Working with Torah Fund co-chair Rona Walters has provided another level of engagement, leading to valuable new friendships and connections. Because of my involvement with Sisterhood, every time I step into the sanctuary, I feel a sense of belonging and of being part of something important, something that deepens my connection to my faith and feeds my need for spiritual growth.

Wendy Kates, Co-VP for Communications
I have lived in four cities in my adult life and have belonged to a synagogue in each. Two synagogues had formed in the late ’60s, and neither saw the need for a sisterhood, most likely influenced by the changing roles of women during that time. The third, most recent, synagogue (prior to Adas Israel), had a very traditional Sisterhood, whose major role was to cater synagogue events. (I paid dues but rarely participated.) When my husband and I retired to Washington, DC, seven years ago, we found that Adas Israel offered the engaging and caring spiritual community that we sought. I soon learned that our Sisterhood was quite different from that of my previous congregation. I was attracted to the like-minded women I met; the intellectually stimulating programming; and the warm, welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment that Sisterhood creates. These factors motivated me to become increasingly active in and committed to Sisterhood, and I am very grateful to be part of this community of women!

Hoonjoo Lee, Board Member
My faith in God started at a young age in South Korea. Growing up and becoming an independent woman, I increasingly disagreed with the practices of family members and others closest to me. I am grateful that I had opportunities to recognize who I am: a beautiful and magnificent Jewish woman. That is where everything started. When I lived in Portland, OR, Rabbi David Kosak at Neveh Shalom introduced me to Rabbi Aaron Alexander, which led to my joining Adas Israel. I was lucky from the first day. Howard Marks, whom I met at a kiddush luncheon, helped me settle into my new synagogue.

One day I was recommended to Sisterhood Programming Committee members who were preparing for the 2019 Opening Event, where we were discussing the Jewish community’s diversity, and that is how I became a Sisterhood member! It is absolutely fascinating to be with such intelligent and fabulous ladies who have tons of energy to spend on behalf others, while having a lot of fun together. I am thankful to be a part of Sisterhood and plan to enjoy every minute I spend there, for as long as I can.

Oz Papados, Co-VP for Education/Programming
My youngest, Joseph, introduced me to Adas Israel in 2017. After the first “Shabbat Sing,” I knew Adas was my home. I often waited in the Beit Midrash while Joseph was in school. This afforded me the opportunity to listen to teachings by Rabbis Alexander, Holtzblatt, Krinsky, and Yokult. After some time, I was so interested, I began attending evening classes as well. Their wisdom and approach to the sacred texts intrigued me; their tolerance, kindness, and acceptance captured my heart. After becoming an Adas member, I joined Sisterhood as a way of further integrating into the community and getting to know more members. Even though I was new and, frankly, an outsider, these amazing women embraced me with warmth and friendliness. The positive attitude and the group’s energy made me comfortable, and I took on a more active role as VP of Programming alongside Rona Walters. In addition, Sisterhood’s involvement in social service projects like Hesed Cooks, meal trains, meal deliveries benefiting Anne Frank House, and donation drives benefiting those in need cater to my commitment to Tikkun Olam.

Cheryl Wasserman, Board Member, Seaboard Region Torah Fund Vice President
My journey to Sisterhood was recent, rewarding, and surprising. No women in my family were Sisterhood members, and as a child of the ’60s I have a long-standing reluctance to JOIN but I’m so glad I did! Inspired by our senior rabbis, I was drawn to be more active at Adas Israel. Attending Havurah on a friend’s recommendation, I complimented a lovely pin worn by Joyce Stern. She linked me to Torah Fund donations for scholarships at five Conservative seminaries. I could get behind that! Steadily meeting impressive women of all ages and backgrounds helped me overcome preconceived, erroneous notions of Sisterhood.

After paying my dues, I was invited to a Sisterhood brunch in my neighborhood, then asked to join the Board. I offered to help Rona Walters, our enthusiastic and dedicated Torah Fund chair. My efforts to improve the Torah Fund accounting and reporting systems gave me visibility at Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. My “reward?” I am now Seaboard Region VP for Torah Fund! True, my arm was twisted, and I was already overcommitted. But something deep inside told me that this was a way to give back for Sisterhood’s inspired programming, getting to know impressive women I would not have met otherwise, and feeling a greater sense of belonging in our Adas community.

SISTERHOOD ruth & simon albert sisterhood gift shop
No sooner was Hanukkah ending when we began to think about Purim and Passover. In addition to a number of items we’ve carried in past years, we have searched out new seder plates, matzah baskets, children’s toys and books, and many other items. We’re also ordering items we haven’t carried before, including hostess gifts. Come visit and see what catches your eye.

We will be closed during several days during Passover, so please shop early for the best selection. Days we will be closed include April 6, 7, 9, 11, and 13. When in doubt, check the monthly notice on the shop door. Our hours throughout this season are:
- Sunday-Monday & Wednesday-Friday, 9:30am-12:30pm
- Tuesday, 9:30am-5:00pm

In addition, if these hours are not convenient for you, please email us at adasgifshop@gmail.com so we can arrange a time to serve you. Emailing is better than calling as there is no one to answer the phone when the shop is closed.

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel.
202-364-2886
adasgifshop@gmail.com
Abby is adored by her aunts, uncles and cousins, and is the beloved granddaughter of Sandra and Jay Rozen, of Kansas City, and of Larry Evans, of Cambridge, MA. At this special time, Abby and her whole family are thinking with love of her late paternal grandmother, Beverley Evans, who passed away in January. Abby is working on a mitzvah project related to Alzheimer’s disease, with which two of her grandparents have been afflicted.

Yael Jacobs
Yael, daughter of Josh Jacobs and Julia Zuckerman, is a sixth grader at the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School and has been a DC Minyan member since birth. She shares her simcha with the DC Minyan, Milton, and Adas Israel TEM communities; her grandparents Linda and Richard Jacobs and Jane and Jack Zuckerman; and her younger brothers Zev and Amir. In connection with her bat mitzvah, Yael has chosen to raise money for the scholarship fund at Camp Ramah in New England, where she has spent several summers. She hopes to raise $1,000 to help make camp more affordable for all families and, in particular, for families of campers in the Tikvah special needs program.

Tessa Lipman
Tessa, daughter of Amy Pollick and Joshua Lipman, is in the seventh grade at Georgetown Day School. Tessa has been a member of the Adas Israel community beginning with the Squares class in the Gan, and has continued her Jewish education at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. She shares this simcha with her brother Eli, her grandparents, and extended family and friends. For her mitzvah project, Tessa is supporting Water.org, which strives to make clean water accessible around the world.

Joshua Lipman
Josh, son of Rebecca and Larry Lipman, is a seventh grader at The Lab School. Josh has been attending Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since he was 4 years old. He shares this simcha with his brother Robbie, parents, grandparents, and many family and friends. At this special time, Josh remembers his grandmother, Harriet Huttner; great uncles, Jack Wurgaft and Martin Huttner; and Wendy Harris of blessed memory. Josh’s mitzvah project will be to support homelessh shelters throughout the DC region.

Abigail Evans
Abby, daughter of Laura Rozen and Michael Evans, is in the seventh grade at the Sheridan School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled. She is the sister of Zoe Evans, who celebrated her bat mitzvah at Adas six years ago.

Sydney Klarfeld
Sydney, daughter of Debbie and Jonathan Klarfeld, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. Sydney began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and attends the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. She is excited to share her simcha with her sister, Nicola; her grandparents; and the rest of her family and friends. At this special time, her family remembers with love Sydney’s grandfather, Neil Klarfeld, of blessed memory. For her mitzvah project, Sydney is collecting donations for Martha’s Table to help support children and families on their way to reaching economic security.

Amalia Karmiela Yecheskel Nicolson
Amalia, daughter of Tamar and David Nicolson, is a sixth grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. Her Jewish education began in the Kangaroo at Gan HaYeled and continued at Milton. Amalia celebrates this simcha with her older sister, Eliana; her older brother, Jacob; as well as many other loving family members (including grandparents, Dr. Eliahu Yecheskel, Karen Yecheskel and Alice Nicolson, affectionately known as Saba, Maki, and Sitti). She also remembers with love her brother, Chaim Menachem Yecheskel Nicolson, and her paternal grandfather, Dan Nicolson (of blessed memory). Amalia’s bat mitzvah will be a Mizrahi experience, celebrating the Arabian Jewish cultures of her family. We are excited to share this milestone with our community!

Anya Miller
Anya, daughter of Chris and Lisa Miler, is a seventh grader at the Sheridan School. She celebrates this simcha with her sister, Evie, a fourth grader at the Sheridan School; her grandparents, Lewis and Sharon Cylus and Dan and JoAnn Miller; and many other family members. Anya is an avid basketball player, cross country runner, and artist.

Lihi Ravin Cook
Lihi, daughter of Aynat and Dan, is a seventh grader at Edmund Burke. She began her Jewish education at Adas Israel’s pre-K. Every month, Lihi bakes for Hesed to provide food for Adas’s social action partner organizations. Her mitzvah project is a letter-writing campaign advocating for legislation that prevents gun violence. Lihi looks forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with her older sister Adi, her family and friends.

Eric Fromson
Eric, son of Ileana Kure and Derek Fromson, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School. Eric began his Jewish education as a toddler at the Temple of Israel in Hollywood in Los Angeles, and continued later at the Gan, the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, and at Camp Ramah. Eric looks forward to celebrating his bar mitzvah with his twin sister, Isabella; his parents, paternal grandmother, Dodi Fromson, maternal grandfather, Mario Kure; with many other family members and friends. At this special time, Eric also remembers his beloved Aunt Aliza and his grandfather, Murray Fromson, of blessed memory. For his mitzvah project, Eric works to raise awareness about the relationship between food security and homelessness. He has volunteered at the Martinsburg Union Rescue Mission in West Virginia, helping in the kitchen and serving meals to the patrons, and subsequently, during MLK Weekend he participated in the “Floor replacement meal help.

American Academy of Achievement (AAA) President Robert K. Munch attended Amalia Nicolson’s bat mitzvah celebration. Munch also congratulated the Klarfeld family on the occasion of Sydney’s bat mitzvah. He expressed his deep appreciation for the Klarfeld family’s commitment to Jewish education and the community. The celebration was a joyous occasion for the entire family and friends, who came together to support and celebrate this special milestone.

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program” while the Mission didn’t have access to its kitchen preparing lunch for 175 men who find themselves in need of a place to stay.

Isabella Fromson
Isabella (Izzy), daughter of Ileana Kure and Derek Fromson, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School. Izzy’s Jewish education began at the Temple of Israel in Hollywood in Los Angeles, and continued later at the Gan, the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, and at Camp Ramah. Izzy looks forward to celebrating her bat mitzvah with her twin brother, Eric, and her parents; her paternal grandmother, Dodi Fromson; her maternal grandfather, Mario Kure; along with many other family members and friends. At this special time, Izzy also remembers her beloved Aunt Aliza and her grandfather, Murray Fromson, of blessed memory. For her mitzvah project, Izzy is volunteering at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington in Rockville. From friendly weekly visits, or doing artwork and other activities, she enjoys spending time with the residents and developing a sense of purpose and connections with them.

Ethan Hirsh
Ethan is the son of Marney Cheek and Bruce Hirsh. He is a seventh grader at Oyster-Adams Bilingual School and has been going to Adas since he was in the Monkeys class at the Gan. Ethan will be called to the Torah with his sister, Rebecca, and looks forward to sharing this milestone with his extended family, friends, and the Adas community.

Rebecca Hirsh
Rebecca is the daughter of Marney Cheek and Bruce Hirsh. She is a seventh grader at Oyster-Adams Bilingual School and has been going to Adas since she was in the Puppies class at the Gan. Izzy is sharing this special day with her brother, Ethan; her parents; and her extended family and friends.

Asher and Noah Baer
Asher and Noah, sons of Andrew and Sandi Baer, are in the seventh grade at Alice Deal Middle School. Their Jewish education started in the Kangaroo class at the Gan, continued at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City, and then back at Adas Israel. They celebrate this simcha with their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, as well as their friends from school, BSA Troop 61 and Camp Harlam.

Madeleine Adddeo
Madeleine, daughter of Sara and Jake Adddeo, is a seventh grader at Wakefield Country Day School in Huntly, VA. She began her Jewish education at Adas Israel and has continued her learning through persistent studying and many Zoom tutoring lessons. She shares this simcha with her sisters, Tea and Gigi, both of whom also attend WCDS; her grandparents, Jerry Ochs (Grandpa), Carla Ochs (Nana), and Jeremy Bernstein (Boo); along with many dear family members and supportive friends. During this time we remember Maddie’s grandmother, Linda Collins, and her great aunt Loree, of blessed memory. Maddie is passionate about reading, and her mitzvah project will reflect that as she works toward creating a young adult library at WCDS by holding book drives and exchanges to augment the library’s resources and enrich the lives of the students.

Theo Asher Goldman
Theo, son of Evan Goldman and Amie Perl, is a seventh grader at Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation’s Capital. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and has continued at JPDO/Milton ever since. Theo feels fortunate to be sharing his simcha with his parents; his sisters, Zoe and Maya; all four of his grandparents; and a wonderful extended family and many friends. For his mitzvah project, Theo will be working with an organization to combat homelessness in DC.

LIFE CYCLE

BIRTHS

- Danny Miller, son of Lindsay & Aaron Miller, and Katherine Hamilton welcomed their child, Frances Hamilton Miller, on November 25.
- Soochyun Choi & Jacob Fromer welcomed their child, Ezik Kyubin Fromer-Choi, on November 24.
- Leah Schloss & Joshua Tauberer welcomed their child, Sydney Dina Tauberer, on December 1.
- Carly Pildis & Papa–Kwesi Coleman welcomed their child, Aviva Miriam Adjoa Coleman, on December 12.

- Lily & Paul Scanlon welcomed their child, Daniella Josephine Scanlon, on December 23.
- Leah Edelman & Martin Strach welcomed their child, Joaquim Adan, on January 9.
- Heather & David Polonsky welcomed their child, Shoshana Ora Polonsky, on January 11.
- Laura Robbins & Simcha Levental welcomed their child, Yaniv Ohr on January 31st.

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

WEDDINGS

- Jeffrey Bieber, son of Linda Rosenzweig & Sandy Bieber, and Jennifer Carlo were married on October 15.

IN MEMORIAM

- Otto Schleifer, father of Yigal Schleifer.
- Doris Kleiman, mother of Sharon & Phyllis.
- Dr. Robert Ettleman, brother of Joyce Bonnett.
- Carol Stoff, mother of Beryl Saltman.
- Elliot Saul Steinberg, father of Aviva Rosenthal.
- Molly Steinberg, mother of Beryl Saltman.
- Richard Wilgoren, father of Debbi Wilgoren.
- Robert David Hoffman, father of Josh Hoffman.

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 Bégal (bbegal@begal.net), or contact Toni Bickart (202- 244-2747) regarding the Tahara Committee, or Wendy Kates about Shmirah (wendy.kates.30@gmail.com).

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

LIFE CYCLE
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adas Fund
In Memory Of: Joan Rubin by Tariq Naqib & Dan Hartling, Fred Lowit, Rose & Sidney Blecker by Jodi Blecker Lowit & Philip Lowit
In Memory Of: Jean Greenberg Fogel by Charles Pilzer Computer Center
In Memory Of: Jamie Cecil & Maxine Flank.
In Memory Of: Maxine Easton by Leonard & Sylvia Rusoff by Jane Baldinger.
In Memory Of: Joan Rubin by Tanvi Ian Jacobson.
In Memory Of: Jaime Cecil & Maxine Flank.
In Memory Of: Alan Hurst & Maxine Nagler.
In Memory Of: Jerry & Bernice Kirschenbaum.
In Memory Of: Maxine Easton by Daiva & Sandy Pattison, Gail Leive & Maxine Freedman.
In Honor Of: Dr. William & Vivienne Stark Wedding.
In Memory Of: Hazzan Goldsmith by John & Jenny Bernard, Jane Dershowitz.
In Honor Of: Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund
In Honor Of: Sandra Shreier by Shoshana Ora Polonsky by Elinor Tattar.
In Memory Of: Sandra Alpert by John & Jenny Bernard, Jane Dershowitz.
In Memory Of: Alan Hurst & Maxine Easton by Leonard & Sylvia Rusoff by Jane Baldinger.
In Memory Of: Maxine Easton & "Lena" Zell. Howard Josephs by Dorothy Block & Fred Bonnett. Rabbi Sarah Krinsky by Lauren Rabinowitz.
In Memory Of: Maxine Easton by Shadow, Rick & Larry Rosenblatt.
In Memory Of: Alan Hurst by Rhoda Ganz.
In Honor Of: Alan Hurst by Rhoda Ganz.
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In Honor Of: Alan Hurst by Rhoda Ganz.
A SACRED BLEND OF TRADITION & INNOVATION

The Chronicle Is Supported in Part by the Ethel and Nat Popick Endowment Fund