

Simchat Torah Honorees 5782

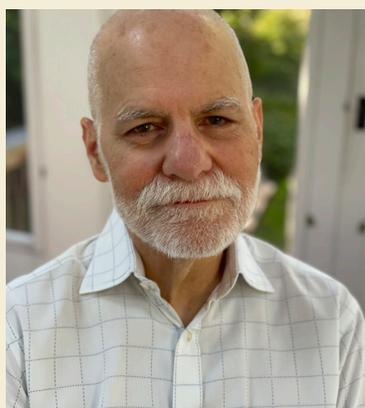


Jill Jacob

Following a marketing and communications career in sports and entertainment that spanned more than 25 years, Jill currently provides small business, nonprofits, and associations with strategic marketing solutions.

In July 2018 Jill was elected president of the Adas Israel Congregation Sisterhood, after having served on the Membership committee and Sisterhood board. She was re-elected to a second term as president to serve July 2020 – June 2022. Jill was a member of the 2004 adult bat mitzvah class at Adas and joined the Congregation in 2001.

Jill is an aspiring baker in her free time. A Philadelphia-area native, she graduated from Temple University with a degree in Journalism, concentrating in advertising and public relations, and she holds a Master of Science in Sports Administration from Ohio University.



Michael Fingerhut

My wife Lois and I have been members of Adas for over 30 years. Currently, I am the co-chair of the Hesed sub-committee responsible for delivering gift bags to new congregants welcoming them to Adas and to Adas families with a newborn celebrating the birth of their daughter or son. I also am responsible for assigning volunteers to deliver Rosh Hashanah gift bags to senior congregants. And I was part of the Adas contingent who went to Brownsville, Texas in January 2020 to prepare and serve meals to asylum seekers waiting in Matamoros, Mexico pending their hearing. I am a Reading Partner volunteer, and I am a member of JSSA's Ambassador's Council which I joined after serving two terms on JSSA's Board of Directors. Our son Josh lives in Los Angeles and our son David, his wife Bethany and our newborn grandson Ethan live in Denver.



Rochelle Berman

Rochelle Berman, 17, is currently a senior at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. The daughter of long-time Adas members Julia Gordon (2014 Simchat Torah honoree) and Geoffrey Berman, Rochelle developed her love of Judaism at the Adas Israel Traditional Egalitarian Minyan and at JPDS (now Milton).

At a young age, Rochelle lobbied her parents to hold her bat mitzvah just 4 days after her 12th birthday so she could begin to lead services and read Torah as soon as possible. By the time she was 15, Rochelle had read at least



one Aliyah from every parasha in the Torah and is now well on her way to her goal of reading the entire Torah.

Beyond her lay leadership in services, Rochelle has tutored more than 25 b'nai mitzvah students and adults, teaching leyning, davening, and Hebrew skills. During the summer of 2020, she was selected as a Teen Davening Fellow by the Hadar Institute, and in 2021, she received the Jewish Theological Seminary Ahavat Torah Award given annually to 12 Jewish day school students around the country for outstanding school leadership.

Rochelle loves to sing and participates in every choir opportunity offered by Cantor Arianne Brown. Inspired by Adas's annual Kol HaOlam competition, Rochelle was recently elected as the Student Conductor of Shir Madness, CESJDS's flagship a cappella group. She also participates in musical theater and performs with Yesodot, the DC area's high school Israeli dance troupe.