



ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Chronicle

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Clergy Corner

by
Rabbi
Charles
Feinberg

ON SLAVERY

Five times the Torah commands us to remember that we were slaves in Egypt. Moreover an essential element of the Torah's rhetoric is its insistence that we remember. God commands us to remember Him, the day we left Egypt, the route that we traveled during the 40 years in the wilderness, the Sabbath, what God did to Miriam, what Amalek did, and that we are but dust. Memory is a spiritual value in the Torah. We are exhorted to remember in order to make choices out of an awareness of past experience so that we not enslave ourselves to momentary passions or distractions. A wonderful teacher of Torah wrote, "Faith in the future requires knowledge of the past from which stems the fortitude to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles."

It is easy not to pay to attention to the commandment

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Adas Oneg Service to Feature Theater J: Scenes from *The Chosen*

Friday, February 11, 8:00 pm

Join us Friday, February 11, at 8:00 pm, when the ensemble from Theater J brings scenes from *The Chosen* to Adas. The



full production will be staged at the newly refurbished Arena Stage in its Fichandler Theater, and special discounted tickets will be available for Adas members. *The Chosen*, based on the novel by Chaim Potok,

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Author Dara Horn to Be Featured at Sisterhood Shabbat Saturday, March 26

Celebrated novelist Dara Horn will speak at Sisterhood Shabbat on March 26. Her appearance is made possible through the Mozelle Saltz Fund for Sisterhood Speakers. Dr. Horn will give the *d'var torah* at morning services, and following the *kiddush*, she will discuss



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Four gateways to exploring Judaism ...

Four Corners Shabbat

ארבע כנפות

Saturday, February 12 Smith Sanctuary, 9:30 am

Join us for *Shabbat* morning services—with a twist! For 30 minutes in the middle of the morning, we will break out into four "corners" around the sanctuary to participate in one of four different ways of learning about the weekly Torah portion. Choose the Jewish experience that appeals the most to **you**!



CELEBRATING OUR 141ST YEAR
THE CHRONICLE IS SUPPORTED IN
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ENDOWMENT FUND

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Clergy Corner

RABBI FEINBERG *CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

to remember that we were slaves in the land of Egypt. Slavery has been outlawed through the Western world for almost 150 years. We don't see slaves in our daily life, and most of us think that the crisis of slavery is an issue that belongs in the 19th century, not the 21st century. We assume that slavery ended here in our nation with the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Not only is this not true, but at a minimum guesstimate, the U.S. State Department estimates that 17,500 new people are trafficked into the U.S. each year, not counting those Americans already here who are forced into slavery. The estimated length of time a slave remains in servitude is three to 15 years. If we multiply the yearly rate of 17,500 by an average of six years, that is a lot of slaves at one time within our borders. The 2005 U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP) quotes then-Secretary of State Colin Powell and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) estimate: "Fifty thousand people are trafficked into or transited through the United States annually as sex slaves, domestic servants, garment slaves and agricultural laborers." Because of the clandestine manner in which the traffickers move people, it is nearly impossible to derive a concrete number of victims.

When people become "enslaved commodities" that are sold repeatedly and then trafficked to different regions or nations numerous times, the numbers of victims are hard to estimate. Most victims are kidnapped from their poor families whom they will never see again or sold by their desperate parents for a small sum to help feed the other family members.

Working 18 hours a day, the victims are locked away, sometimes shackled at night, so they cannot run away. These disposable, reusable, expendable people are uncared for and beaten for the slightest disobedience. If they attempt escape, their punishment is life-threatening. When they can no longer produce their quota of labor, they are simply thrown away, discarded.

Modern slavery most often finds its beginnings at slave sale houses in underdeveloped countries. After being sold for as little as \$20 each, these men, women, and children are transported in overcrowded ships, airplanes, trucks, or wagons to labor camps or brothels. Those who survive the grueling transport will work as prostitutes in pimp-controlled brothels, as agricultural laborers in the fields, as factory sweatshop labor under the cruelest conditions, or as domestic help in the wealthiest households.

By creating a cycle of poverty and dependence, the slaveholders keep the uneducated and untrained slaves dependent in their debt bondage. Unable to obtain a wage-earning job when freed and discarded, the desperate victims in turn often sell their own children into bonded labor for a tiny profit. Slavery flourishes on subjection to sex slavery, domestic servitude, forced debt bondage, involuntary servitude,

Office Closings & Minyan Times

Monday, February 21: Presidents Day

Offices Closed

Minyan at 8:30 am & 6:00 pm

combatant slaves, child sex tourism, child sports slaves, contract slavery, and cheap child labor. Some of the food we eat and some of the clothes we wear probably are a product of slave labor. It is possible that the teenage nanny living next door may be living in slavery-like conditions.

I believe that different religious communities should come together to bring modern slavery out of the shadows. For if slavery is revealed, then it will disappear because we have laws to combat it. Too often slavery is hidden from our view. Religious communities such as synagogues, churches, and mosques can first teach about the existence of slavery. The more we know about it, the more aware and sensitive we will be to its existence. We can help survivors of slavery by finding them shelter, donating clothes and equipment, or teaching them a skill. We can learn about which commodities and goods are the product of slave labor. Commodities such as sugar, cotton, fish, iron, steel, and wood have all been tainted by slave labor.

The command to remember that we were slaves in Egypt is relevant to the world today. Experts estimate that at least 27 million men, women, and children live as slaves. While the Torah does not ban slavery, one can certainly argue that the Torah envisions a world in which no one is a slave. That will not happen unless we make ending slavery a priority.

Some members have expressed interest in raising the level of awareness about slavery in our congregation. If you would like to join this group, or you would like some more information, please give me a call or send me an e-mail. We should never forget that we were once slaves in Egypt. ○

Purim Save the Dates

Erev Purim, Saturday, March 19

7:00 pm	YP <i>Havdalah</i> , Wine & "Cheesentashen"
8:00 pm	Family Service w/ Full <i>Megillah</i> Reading
8:30 pm	Full <i>Megillah</i> Reading & <i>Spiel</i>

Purim, Sunday, March 20

8:30 am	Morning <i>Minyan</i> / <i>Megillah</i> Reading
9:30 am	Gan <i>Purim</i> Service
10:30 am	Religious School <i>Purim</i> Service
10:30am	Gan <i>Purim</i> Carnival
11:00 am	Religious School <i>Purim</i> Carnival



From the President

There are some things a synagogue president never wants to have to face—such as having a beloved synagogue figure announce his or her departure. It was with great sadness that I received Shelley Remer's letter announcing her intention to retire as head of Gan HaYeled (The Child's Garden) at the end of the school year in June.

Over the past 20 years, Shelley has taken the excellent nursery school she found at Adas Israel and made it even better, into an inspired and inspiring community. Her love of the children and her passion for seeing them take their first steps in both secular and Jewish learning, combined with her brilliant coaching and leadership skills, have made the Gan perhaps Adas's most beloved institution. She has brought delight and pride to children, parents, teachers, and our clergy.

While we are all saddened to see Shelley retire, we are happy that she will have the opportunity to spend more time with her grandchildren and family. She will leave with our deepest gratitude for the skills and caring she has shared with us and our children (mine included).

We have assembled a search committee to find her replacement. It is an imposing, highly qualified group, including experts on early childhood education, parents who

have witnessed the magic of the Gan, and a Gan teacher. Chaired by Debbie Joseph, the committee consists of: Laurie Aladjem; Toni Bickart; Robin Goelman; Beth Kanter; Gail Levine; Molly Levinson; Jennifer Mendelson; Sandy Schulman; Jeremy Steindecker; Rob Zucker; Meredith Weiner Cymerman, officer liaison; and Sue Greenberg, Gan teacher representative. Ex-officio members of the committee are: Alex Horowitz, Gan Steering Committee chair; Pamela Reeves, Religious School Committee chair; Amy Schwartz, education & youth vice president; and Jeff Goodell, Personnel Committee chair.

Gan HaYeled Nursery School has a long and remarkable history. We have been blessed not only with Shelley, but with a dedicated staff and an involved and extraordinary parent body. We are well aware that Shelley will be hard to replace. Our award-winning Gan will require someone of excellence to nurture our next generation of synagogue children—and their parents. Our search will focus on finding just such a person.

We wish Shelley a long, happy, and fulfilling retirement, and we thank our Gan teachers and parents and all Adas members for their continuing support of this extraordinary community of little people and grown-ups. —Robert A. Peck, President



Bob Peck

The Ten Commandments: Panel Featuring Rabbi Steinlauf How Our Most Ancient Moral Text Can Renew Modern Life

Thursday February 17, 7:30 pm, Washington DCJCC
\$7/\$5 DCJCC Member discount

Hear noted author David Hazony discuss his new book, *The Ten Commandments: How Our Most Ancient Moral Text Can Renew Modern Life*. A panel comprising Rabbi Gil Steinlauf; Nadine Epstein, editor, *Moment Magazine*; and Bill Kristol, editor, *The Weekly Standard*, and moderated by William Daroff of Jewish Federations of North America, will participate as well in a discussion of the relevance of the Ten Commandments to the 21st century and our lives in America today.

The Ten Commandments are one of the most widely recognized religious texts in the world, yet few of us can name all of them, and fewer still know what they really are trying to teach us. When these commandments first appeared in ancient Israel, they were a key element of the Torah. Today, they're large-

ly overlooked in discussions of how best to live one's life.

Now, by taking a careful look at both the Commandments' biblical context and the ancient Jewish traditions of interpreting them, we can learn how the Ten Commandments relate to our modern existence by unlocking their original meaning, showing how they make 10 major statements about human life, integrity, love, the family, wisdom, property, and community—values that place the individual human being at the center and emphasize the power of humanity to better the world. The result is a vision of a good society that is every bit as striking and relevant today as it was in millennia past, and that may go a long way toward helping us to overcome the sharp divides that continue to fracture our society.

If you'd like to attend this event, you can purchase tickets online at washingtondcjcc.org. ○



Save the Date Garden of the Righteous Ceremony Sunday, May 1

José Arturo Castellanos, a diplomat from El Salvador, is this year's Garden of the Righteous honoree. El Salvador's consul in Geneva during World War II, Castellanos approved about 40,000 passports and birth certificates for Jews from different countries so they would not be caught by the Nazis and sent to death camps. Castellanos, who died in 1977 at age 83, was honored on July 15, 2010, by the Embassy of El Salvador in Israel and Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum as a "Righteous Gentile" for saving thousands of Jews during the war.

Ahavat Yisrael Weekend May 20–22

The third of our Three Pillar Weekends

Featuring:

- Special Friday night dinner with entrees from different Middle Eastern cuisines cooked by guests from Bet Shemesh, our Federation Sister City
- Celebration of the Abraham and Minnie Kay Israel Experience for this year's Confirmation Class
- Shabbat guest Rabbi Yoav Ende, a Masorti Rabbi from Kibbutz Hanaton
- Conference on Sunday examining some of the major issues that Israel and the Diaspora face
- Concert on Sunday featuring Israeli music

Men's Club



Poker Night

Starbuck's and poker, a lucky combination. At the end of December, a group of guys got together to enjoy a few hours of poker, food, and good cheer at a Card Night. If you missed the event but are interested in playing, e-mail and let us know you're in for the ante. We are starting a rotating game on a Sunday night every other month. The next game is in February. E-mail mensclub@adasisrael.org for details.



World Wide Wrap—Help Us Carry On the Tradition



Last year we got snowed out, so we need a redoubled effort this year! On Sunday, February 6, we are gathering with more than 7,000 men and women of the

Conservative movement across North America to *daven* as a crowd with *tefillin*. Bring your children and grandchildren or just come to help us wrap one another in the ties that bind us to hundreds of generations.

Breakfast will be served after the morning *minyan* services at 8:30. Let us know you're coming by e-mailing mensclub@adasisrael.org.

Kol HaOlam Is Coming!

Have you seen the TV shows, *Glee* or *Sing Off* or caught Ye-shiva University's *Maccabeats* video from *Hanukkah* that went viral on YouTube? The a capella craze is here, and we're riding the wave. Adas Israel is the venue for the first annual

Kol HaOlam—National Jewish A Cappella Competition.

We are expecting 10 colleges and universities (almost 200 contestants) to converge in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary on Saturday night, April 2. Do you live near the *shul* and have room to house some students? We need weekend hosts for all these college kids coming from Chicago, Boston, New York, Toronto, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and even Maryland!

E-mail mensclub@adasisrael.org and let us know how many kids you can host.



Join Us for These Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 20: *Purim* Carnival Food Service

Saturday, April 2: *Kol Ha'Olam*—A National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Competition

Sunday April 10: Passover Wine Sale

Youth @ AI



We had an amazing kick-off to the beginning of 2011! We sent a wonderful AIUSY delegation to join 850 other USYers at International Convention in Orlando, FL, where we won an international *Tikkun Olam* award. *Machar* demonstrated its Jewish knowledge at our "Jewpardy" event. *Kadima* rocked the video games in Game-Truck's 18-wheeler in Adas Israel's parking lot. AIUSY chilled out Israeli style at our Israeli Lounge Night in the Youth Lounge. Needless to say, it was the perfect way to start the new year!

Now we look ahead to our jam-packed month of February!

February 5: Seaboard Region USY's annual Regional Formal at B'nai Shalom of Olney.

February 18–20: Seaboard Region *Kadima* is rockin' it back at Capital Camps for its Regional Winter *Kallah*!

February 27: *Chaverim* is bringing some beauty into this world at the *Chaverim* Art Extravaganza!

We hope to see everyone at all of these amazing events!

Kadimaniks Hannah Spector, Sole Sloan, and Hannah Robinson pose on their way back from our covert spy operation at the Spy Museum. ▶



Gabi Rubin and Samantha Daniels-Kolin smile from Disney World. ▶

Machar's "Minute to Win It." ▼



Sisterhood

WLCJ Biennial Convention Wrap-Up

Adas Israel Sisterhood received an inaugural WLCJ Jewel of the Crown Award, named in recognition of outstanding educational programming, service to community/world affairs, and Women's League engagement for the period July 2008 through June 2010 at Women's League for Conservative Judaism Convention 2010, *Kehillah Kedoshah: Celebrating Community Woman to Woman*.

Joining four full-time returning and first-time delegates was Rabbi Emerita Avis Miller, who moderated a panel discussion of creating community and chaired a breakout session featuring many aspects of communal achievement at Adas Israel. Sisterhood member and former Sea-board Branch WLCJ President Myra Promisel was installed as WLCJ International Financial Secretary.

Other convention highlights included plenum addresses by JTS Chancellor Arnold Eisen; AJU Vice President and Dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies R. Bradley Shavit Artson and R. Gilah Dror, president of the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel.

Plan now to join the next WLCJ Convention, November 11-14, 2012! ○

Personal Reflections

by Carol Ansell

From December 12 to 15, 2010, I joined almost 750 women at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, MD, as a first-time delegate to the Women's League for Conservative Judaism Biennial Convention. I came home with a glow that has still not dimmed. The speakers, sessions, workshops, and recreational activities were dynamic, instructive, and inspiring, and the women were amazing.

Having been a member of Sisterhood for more than 16 years, I never knew the power of the organization of which we are members. We are a small but integral part of a global network that educates Jewish women, supports many *tzedakah* projects, and creates an environment where Judaism flourishes. I came home a changed woman with a newfound clarity about Sisterhood, why Adas Israel Sisterhood exists, and how Conservative/Masorti synagogue affiliates mesh to create a congregation of Sisterhoods that brings light and strength to Judaism and positive change to the communities of the world.



Myra Promisel (second from right) was installed as Women's League for Conservative Judaism's International Financial Secretary at WLCJ's December 12-15 convention in Baltimore. Congratulating her (left to right) are Sisterhood President Alisa Abrams, Adas Israel Rabbi Emerita Avis Miller, Jean Bernard, and Carol Ansell.

Sisterhood Calendar

February 14: Sisterhood Book Group, *All Other Nights* by Dara Horn, Library, 11:00 am

February 23: Taste of *Tanach*, Library, 10:00 am

For more info on ongoing activities or scheduling updates, see adasisrael.org/sisterhood.

Sisterhood Book Group Reads Dara Horn, February 14

Prize-winning novelist Dara Horn will be the featured Sisterhood *Shabbat* speaker Saturday morning, March 26. Our speaker's appearance, the festive Friday night *Oneg Shabbat*, and the Saturday *Kiddush* are being generously underwritten by Donald Saltz in memory of his wife, Mozelle (z"l), to honor her commitment to the Jewish education of the women of Adas Israel.

In anticipation, *All Other Nights*, Dr. Horn's most recent novel, will be discussed at the next Sisterhood Book Group meeting, Monday, February 14, at 11 am in the Library. For more information on this meeting, contact Marilyn Cooper, MCLYTA1@gmail.com. ○

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"English as a Jewish Language." The entire congregation is invited to attend.

Dr. Horn's first two novels each received the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction: *In the Image* (2003) and *The World to Come* (2006). Her 2009 novel, *All Other Nights*, set during the American Civil War, which has as its protagonist a Jewish spy for the Union, is on Booklist's "Best Books of the Decade." Dr. Horn's novels may be ordered through the Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop, 202-364-2888 or adasgiftshop@gmail.com. ○

Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

NEW REGULAR HOURS

Sun-Mon & Wed-Fri, 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Tues, 9:30 am-3:30 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm



DID YOU KNOW...

that we carry an extensive array of EMANUEL JUDAICA from Yair Emanuel's Jerusalem studio, including candlesticks, seder plates, mezzuzah cases, tzedakah boxes, Hanukkah menorahs, Havdalah sets, and other items for your home?

COME IN FROM THE COLD AND SHOP!

202-364-2888

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.

Education

Gan HaYeled

TZINGO Is Coming to the Gan!

Save March 13, 4:00–6:00 pm, for TZINGO, a fun-filled afternoon for our Gan students that not only fulfills the *mitzvah* of *tzedakah* but also helps our children understand *tzedakah* in a tangible way. The afternoon starts off with the kids and grown-ups participating in a hands-on *tzedakah* project. Then the kids play a rousing game of TZINGO (a version of picture bingo) in which every participant wins a prize. The whole afternoon is capped off with pizza and homemade *hamentashen*!

TZINGO is also the primary fundraiser for the worthy organizations supported by the Gan Parents Association—Hope for Henry, providing gifts for hospital-bound children with life-threatening diseases; Jewish Women International's Library Project, which provides libraries for children in domestic violence shelters in the United States; the Youth Renewal Fund, which supports underprivileged children in Israel with educational resources; and the Brandon Heschel Leach Fund, providing research money to help find a cure for mitochondrial disease.


For more information, call the Gan office, 202-362-4491.

Artisan-Book Fair, February 23

If you've written a book, we'd love to read it, and so would the rest of the Gan community! Sign up to sign and sell your books and join a great roster of writers.

Do you design jewelry, make hair barrettes, customize children's furniture, or create something? If you're an artisan and would like to sell your wares, we'd love to hear from you.

Come join the new Artisan-Book Fair and make it a great success. The fair takes place the evening of February 23.

For information, contact Pam Ehrenberg, 202-362-2780 or pmehrenberg@starpower.net, or Caroline Friedman, 301-320-3633 or carolinefriedman@yahoo.com. 

Religious School

Mah Tov Moments

Mah tovu means "how wonderful," and this section highlights positive and memorable moments in the Religious School.



The Zayin Class (7th Grade) Plans Thanksgiving Party for Homeless Children

Fourteen families from the *Zayin* class teamed up for a *mitzvah* project to benefit the Homeless Children's Playtime Project. HCPP is a nonprofit that brings structured play sessions to children whose families live in temporary shelters throughout

DC. Our students put together a Thanksgiving party for the children at the Park Road shelter that included many activities such as face painting, cupcake decorating, making caramel apples, and yoga. They also brought snacks for all and donated Giant gift cards and games for each family.

But perhaps what our kids did best was to make connections with children whose families are in crisis. As seventh grader Charlotte Waldman said, "At the party, everyone got along really well. The kids there looked as though they were having lots of fun. Playing with the kids made me feel good, because I knew I was helping them, even if it was just helping them have fun. I think most people made new friends with some of the kids at the shelter." To prove her point: When one boy was asked about a picture he drew, he said, "I made it with my new friend, Charlotte."

If other classes would like to help out HCPP, please contact Lauren Rubenstein, laurenrubenstein@aol.com.

Another Successful Dan Kaufman Latke Party!



More than 400 students, parents, and siblings came together to celebrate Hanukkah with great food, a tzedakah project for Hope for Henry, and music, including songs from our third-fifth grades, the adult choir, and the a cappella group Rak Shalom.



Special Siddur Presentation to Javier Vidal



Javier Vidal moved with his family to Dubai over winter break, and since he will miss the *Chagigat HaSiddur* in the spring, during *Mincha* we presented him with a *siddur* to use during his travels. Rabbi Feinberg also said *Tefillat HaDerech* (the Traveler's Prayer) to wish

him and his family a safe journey. *Mazal tov* also to Isabela Vidal, who celebrated her *bat mitzvah* in December. We will miss you and look forward to your return!

Free 7th and 8th Grade Shabbaton!

All of Adas Israel's seventh and eighth grade students will be able to attend the combined seventh and eighth grade *Shabbaton/Kadima Kallah* for **free**! (The event is also open to sixth graders, but their participation is not subsidized.) We are so certain that the kids will have an amazing time on this weekend retreat that we received an ICE Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington to help subsidize the cost to participate. Time and time again we hear how much of a positive impact these *Shabbatons* have on our teens.

The Winter *Kadima Kallah* will bring together over 200 Jewish middle school-age kids from across the region (Maryland,

Virginia, North Carolina, and Washington, DC) at the Capital Camps and Retreat Center in Waynesboro, PA, February 18–20. Participants will get a chance to make new friends, participate in fun games and activities, experience Judaism, and have a fantastic time. There will even be snowtubing Saturday night!

Past *Kadima Kallah* participants have said the following about their experience:

- "I thought it was a GREAT Jewish experience!! I made two new close friends that I'm still in touch with to this day!" —Kalia Hoechstetter
- "I had a great time and I made a lot of friends!" —Hannah Spector

To learn more, contact Elie Greenberg, elie.greenberg@adasisrael.org. We look forward to seeing our seventh and eighth graders there!

Teen Advocacy and the Ma'alot Leadership Class

As one of the largest synagogues in Washington, DC, Adas Israel is home to some of the most politically influential Jews in the nation. Knowing this, one might not be surprised to hear discussions on immigration bills while wandering the synagogue on a Sunday afternoon. Upon further inspection, however, you might make an unexpected discovery: the conversation is among high school sophomores, juniors, seniors, and Guy Ziv, their teacher.

Members of the group include Lily Moghadam, David Peck, Julia Peck, Eli Schwat, Sarah Sloan, Marty Strauss, Jake Wohl, and me.

Every three to four weeks, we meet to discuss a topic that we chose at the beginning of the school year: immigration reform. The meetings are meant to prepare all of us for the end-of-year trip to Capitol Hill, where we will talk about this topic with senators and representatives and their aides. Each student in our class has been assigned a specific role. Our substantive tasks range from studying legislation in the House, to calling Senate

offices, to researching facts and figures about immigration. Collectively, we are learning in-depth about the complexities of immigration reform, particularly as it pertains to the uncertain destinies of illegal immigrants and their children.

We also are studying what Judaic texts have to say about immigration, focusing on such concepts as *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming the stranger.) In our December 19 meeting, we met with Liza Lieberman, a lobbyist and grassroots activist from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS). Liza discussed many problems involved with illegal immigrants and their children; gave detailed description of relevant legislation; and offered useful talking points to help us prepare for our Capitol Hill trip.

The *Ma'alot* Leadership class is a great way for young people to study specific issues and, more important, learn how Jewish values apply to these issues. As an added bonus, we are also learning a lot about how politics actually works. For government to function properly, though, people need to be involved. The *Ma'alot* Leadership class is a great way to prepare Jewish teens to be politically astute future leaders and enable them to express their opinions to those who need to hear them, the men and women working in our nation's legislature.

So, if you happen to be in the synagogue on a Sunday afternoon and you hear political discussions, don't jump to conclusions on who might be talking. If you stop in, you might see doctors, lawyers, and business and congressional leaders sitting around a table, eating bagels and talking politics, but you may see *future* doctors, lawyers, and business and congressional leaders, being transformed from young teenagers to politically active men and women.

—Jake Shapiro

EDUCATION SECTION CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

From generation to generation...

L'DOR VA'DOR

service and dinner

Join us for a Shabbat experience for all generations with a Friday night service and Shabbat dinner.

Services led by the clergy with the help of our children. Feel free to bring your own kosher wine to enjoy!

\$20 – Adult Dinner
\$12 – Child Dinner (Ages 3-12)
Children 2 and under eat FREE!

RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 2 to
Talya.Baiamonte@adasisrael.org or (202)362-4449

Friday, February 4
6:00 pm – Service
7:00 pm – Dinner

**L'Dor VaDor Dates: March 4,
April 1, May 6, June 3**

Purim Carnival 2011

Shushan Comes Alive!

March 20
Gan: 10:00 am
Religious School: 11:00 am–1:00 pm

Featuring...

- > Obstacle Course
- > Dunk-the-Rabbi
- > Moonbounce
- > Spin Art
- > Ring Toss
- > Henna
- > Hand Wax

- > Sand Art
- > Fishing in the Galilee
- > Prizes
- > Music
- > Cotton Candy
- > Hamantaschen
- > Popcorn & More!

Prizes, food, and fun for the entire family!

come in your favorite costume!
Awards will be given out!

Admission is \$10 per child
Food sold separately (cash only)

Contact Elie Greenberg at elie.greenberg@adasisrael.org or call (202)362-6295 for more information.

Life Cycle

Milestones

Births

Samuel Michael Kantor, son of Ryan & Alycia Kantor
 Henry David Levenstein, son of Mark & Sue Levenstein
 Chayse Samuel Levin, son of Jason Levin & Laurie Mihalich
 Amalia Nicolson, daughter of Tamar & David Nicolson
 Avi Joseph Steiner, son of Nienke Grossman & Ezequiel Steiner,
 grandson of Dr. Claudio Grossman & Irene Klinger
 Sasha Levi Trauben, son of Steven & Sarah Trauben
We wish our newborns and their families strength, good health, and joy.

B'nai Mitzvah



Jessica Mason, February 19

Jessica, daughter of Thea and Gary Mason, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. She is a graduate of Gan HaYeled and attends the Melvin Gelman Religious School. For her *tzedakah* project, Jessica is volunteering with the Friendship Circle birthday club where she helps plan and participates in a monthly birthday party

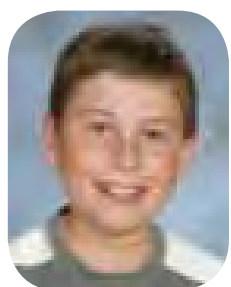
for children with special needs. Jessica celebrates this *simcha* with her brother, Matthew; her grandparents, Dan and Lauris Mason and May and Marvin Berkowitz; and other family members and friends.



Julia Rohde, February 26

Julia, a seventh grader at Pyle Middle School, began her education at Gan HaYeled Nursery School and has attended the Melvin Gelman Religious School since kindergarten. She shares this *simcha* with her parents, Louise Sheiner and Jay Rohde, her sisters Stefanie (a *bat mitzvah* in 2005) and Ali (a *bat mitzvah* in

2007), her grandparents Claire and Nathan Sheiner of Montreal, Quebec and Pearl and Gerard Rohde of Rockville, and many other relatives and friends.



Jacob Paul, February 26

Jacob, son of Douglas Paul and Stacy Merenstein, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School and receives his Jewish education at the Melvin Gelman Religious School. He shares his event with his sisters, Sarah and Rebecca; other family members; and friends. Jacob's *tzedakah* project supports the HSC

Pediatric Center's Kids In Action (KIA) program, which enables children with disabilities and varying abilities to participate in sports. He is the grandson of Donna Paul and the late Bruce Paul (z"l) and Bonnie Merenstein and the late Jerry Merenstein (z"l).

Member in the News

The White House tapped **Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff** to offer the invocation at the signing of the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

New Members

Risë Birnbaum lives in Washington and is the CEO of Zcomm, a public relations agency.

David Clayman, a manager at Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, and Debra Satinoff Clayman, an attorney at Jones Day, live with their son, Matthew, in Washington.

Ethan Davis, an attorney at the Department of Justice, lives in Washington.

David & Lauren-Nicole Gabel and their daughter, Sari, live in Potomac. David is an attorney at the U.S. Department of Labor, and Lauren-Nicole, whose parents Philip & Marianne Gabel are also members, is an IT consultant, actor and singer.

Daniel Leigh, an economist at the International Monetary Fund, and Julie Leigh, an ophthalmologist at the Northern Virginia Center for Eye Care, live in Washington with their daughter, Maya.

Dan & Aviva Rosenthal and their daughter, Sadie, live in Bethesda. Dan works in government affairs at Albright Stonebridge, and Aviva is a consultant.

Joseph Saka is an attorney at Howrey, LLP and lives in Washington.

Joel & Putnimit Schwarz live in Chevy Chase with their daughter, Betsy. Joel works for the federal government, and Putnimit is an accountant with MarketBridge Corporation.

Russell Shaw & Shira Stutman and their children, Caleb, Ma'ayan, and Natalia Stutman-Shaw, live in Washington. Russell is the headmaster at Georgetown Day School, and Shira is a rabbi at Sixth & I Historic Synagogue.

Carolyn Webber is a teacher at Little Flower School and lives in Bethesda.

Kenneth & Stephanie Weber live with their son, Jack, in Washington. Kenneth is chief operating officer at The One Campaign, and Stephanie is vice president for marketing at New Media Strategies.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

Ida Chernikoff

Melvin Cohen

Jessie Gertman

Sophie Silfen

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Agnes Baiamonte, grandmother of Talya Baiamonte

Manuel Plotkin, father of Lori Plotkin

Miriam Shore, mother of Norman Shore

Morris Satloff, father of Robert Satloff

Life Cycle Information

When Death Occurs

When death occurs, please call the synagogue office, 202-362-4433, so that we may inform the clergy and be of assistance.

During business hours, ask for Glenn Easton or Henry Silberman. After business hours, a staff member on call may be reached by calling the synagogue office at the number above and pressing

Life Cycle Continued

"2" to be connected automatically, or by calling the answering service, 301-421-5271, which will page the staff member on call.

On *Yom Tov* and *Shabbat*, even though detailed funeral arrangements should not be made, a staff member on call can still be reached at 301-421-5271.

Cemetery Hours

Visitation at the Adas Israel Cemetery is by appointment only. Contact Henry Silberman at the synagogue office (202-362-4433 ext.144) to schedule a visit.

Kol HaMayim: Voice of the Waters

The Hebrew words for *mikvah* and *tikvah* share a common three-letter root. מ-י-ק is expressed in *mikvah* as "a gathering of waters" and in *tikvah* as "hope." How do these words inform each other in the context of the Adas Israel Community Mikvah? A brief story may illustrate the connection.

A few months ago, a woman called to make a *mikvah* appointment before undergoing donor-egg transfer, a complicated fertility treatment. It was to be her first attempt at this particular procedure, but one of many others that she and her husband had tried over the past seven years. On the day of the scheduled *mikvah* visit, I received a tearful cancellation call, she said that the donor eggs weren't ready, and the whole transfer was being called off.

Last month she called back, sounding a bit brighter this time, to make another appointment. In between her call and the appointment itself, I kept hoping she wouldn't call again to cancel. Finally, the day came, and she arrived at the *mikvah*, very nervous and very hormonal. She spoke for awhile about the treatment, about wanting a child, and about how seven years of infertility had left her feeling betrayed by her own body.

Celebrating Simchas and Comforting Our Mourners; Congregational Notices

If you would like to receive notices regarding recent *simchas* or bereavements regarding members of the congregation, please send an e-mail to jane.baldinger@adasisrael.org. E-mails regarding the deaths of congregants and their family members are sent automatically to those who request such notification. By sharing this information, our entire congregation can comfort the mourners in our synagogue family. ○

Then she chose a reading from the collection of prayers, poems, and ceremonies we offer. She immersed alone and when she emerged from the *mikvah* space, she radiated a new calm. As she gathered her belongings, she commented about how very blessed we as Jews are to have an ancient ritual to guide us through this most modern of moments.

As of now, I don't know whether the treatment worked; I can only pray that it did. But the waters of the *mikvah* both offered and received her hope for a new life.

Adas Israel Community Mikvah

Our *mikvah* is a sacred space where Jews can mark life transitions with a powerful physical ritual. Immersing in a *mikvah* connects a body to the water cycle of our planet and to the source of life. People visit our *mikvah* to observe the *mitzvah* of monthly immersion; to celebrate *simchas*; to find strength during a difficult time; to pray for healing; to reflect on the meaning of becoming a bride, groom or a *bar mitzvah* or *bat mitzvah*; to convert to Judaism; and to prepare physically and spiritually for *chagim*.

To learn more about our *mikvah* or to schedule an appointment, please contact Naomi Malka, 202-841-8776 or mikvah@adasisrael.org. For more information, please visit adasisrael.org/mikvah. ○



A community for young adults between the ages of 21 and 35. Singles can meet singles, young couples can meet young couples, newcomers can connect with other newcomers.

'Shir Delight'

February 4, 6:30 pm

Shir Delight is Adas Israel's *Kabbalat Shabbat* experience for young Jewish professionals between the ages of 21 and 35. Our evening begins at 6:30 with a happy hour *oneg*, followed by a lay-led *Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv* service and a FREE *Shabbat* dinner. While everyone is welcome to join us for our happy hour *oneg* and services, we can only accommodate a limited number of people for dinner. Please register at adasisrael.org/yp by February 1 to reserve your spot.



Bar/Bat Mitzvah & Wedding Party Planning Expo
Benefiting local charity
Hilton Gaithersburg
11:00 am to 3:30 pm
Sunday, February 27th
680 Perry Pkwy. • Exit 11 from I-270
Gaithersburg, MD
Sheraton Baltimore North
11:30 am to 3:30 pm
Sunday, March 13th
Dulany Valley Rd. • Exit 57 from I-495
Towson, MD
The BEST show of its kind...
DON'T MISS THIS!

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Yard Cleanups, Mulching, Woodchips
Lawn Renovation-Seeding,
Fertilizing Shrub Pruning and Removal
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AVI CHERTOCK (301) 593-0577
Landscapesplus@hotmail.com
www.Landscapesplus.com

February 2011
Shevat–Adar I 5771

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES:

In the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary: Cantor Jeffrey Weber will chant the liturgy. Hazzan Jenna Greenberg will read Torah. Congregational *kiddushim* co-sponsored by the Paul Goldstein–Lillian Goldstein–Lande Shabbat Kiddush Fund and members of Adas Israel.

Traditional Egalitarian Minyan (TEM): Every *Shabbat* morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around 10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with a full *P’sukei D’Zimrah* (introductory Psalms), *Shacharit*, and *Musaf*, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a *d’var Torah*. For more information, e-mail traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org.

Havurah Service: Lay-led, participatory service at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read Torah, and conduct an in-depth discussion of the weekly Torah portion. A *kiddush* follows the service. For additional information and to participate, e-mail havurah@adasisrael.org.

Learners’ Minyan: A service for those who wish to become better acquainted with the structure and ritual of *Shabbat*

worship, meets in the Library. Led by Rabbi Feinberg or Rabbi Steinlauf.

Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot *Shabbat* for children ages 5 and under led by Menuhah Peters. *Shorashim*, for students in grades K–1 is led by Allison Redisch and/or Linda Yitzchak. *Netivot*, for students in grades 2–3 is led by Tamar Bar-din and/or Aviva Weinstein. Junior Congregation, for grades 4–6 is led by David Smolar, Josh Bender, and/or Elie Greenberg.

Shabbat Unplugged: A new musical family service for families with young children on Saturday mornings at 10 am. The service is designed for kindergarten families and above, though older children are welcome and encouraged take on leadership roles. Led by Josh Bender and Elie Greenberg.

‘Dial-in’ for Programs & Services: If you are unable to attend programs, lectures, or services, dial in to hear them. Call 202-686-8405.

WEEKDAY SERVICES: Morning *Minyan*, Monday–Friday, 7:30 am; Evening *Minyan*, Sunday–Thursday, 6:00 pm; Civil Holidays, 8:30 am & 6:00 pm; refer to calendar for *Erev Shabbat* and *Shabbat Mincha* times.

Please turn off cell phones and pagers before entering services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:30 am Morning Minyan 9:30 am 5774 B’nai Mitzvah Parents’ Meeting 9:30 am Lifelong Learning Classes 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 25 Shevat	31 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Parent/Teacher Conferences–No Classes 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 26 Shevat	1 7:30 am Morning Minyan 11:00 am Administrative Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 27 Shevat	2 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Parenting Class 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Torah Club 7:00 pm Context Class 7:30 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 28 Shevat	3 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 29 Shevat	4 ROSH CHODESH ADAR I 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Adar I Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 5:14 pm 9:15 am Gan Melton School 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 6:00 pm L’Dor VaDor Service with Rabbi Steinlauf & Hazzan Greenberg 6:30 pm YP Shir Delight with Rabbi Steinlauf 7:00 pm L’Dor VaDor Shabbat Dinner 30 Shevat	5 PARSHAT TERUMAH/ROSH CHODESH ADAR I 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:15 am Shabbat Service, Smith Sanctuary; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf 6:14 pm Havdalah 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:30 am Havurah Shabbat Service, D’var Torah by Julie Weisman 10:00 am Shabbat Spot 11:00 am All Youth Services 12:30 pm Congregational Kiddush co-sponsored by Traditional Egal. Minyan Kiddush Fund 1 Adar I
6 8:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Minyan–World Wide Wrap 9:30 am Beit Midrash 12:00 pm Chesed Committee Meeting 12:30 pm Religious School Faculty Meeting 4:30 pm Mikvah Workshop 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 2 Adar I	7 7:30 am Morning Minyan 12:15 pm Gan Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Social Action Committee Meeting 3 Adar I	8 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 4 Adar I	9 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Parenting Class 10:00 am RA @ the Mikvah 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Sisterhood Board Meeting 6:30 pm Religious Practices Committee Mtg. 6:30 pm Torah Club 7:00 pm Context Class 7:30 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 5 Adar I	10 JYDA Annual Conference Begins 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 8:00 pm Scotch & Scriptures Men’s Study Group (off-site) 6 Adar I	11 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Class Shabbat–Rectangles 9:15 am Gan Melton School–Year One 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv Service 6:30 pm Ruach Minyan Service 8:00 pm Adas Oneg Service with Rabbi Steinlauf Guest Performance: Theater J with scenes from The Chosen 5:22 pm 7 Adar I	12 PARSHAT TETZAVEH 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Service, Smith Sanctuary Four Corners Shabbat 6:12 pm Havdalah 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan; D’var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 10:00 am Shabbat Spot 11:00 am All Youth Services 12:30 pm Congregational Kiddush co-sponsored by Traditional Egal. Minyan Kiddush Fund 8 Adar I
13 8:30 am Morning Minyan 9:30 am RS Parents’ Corner 9:30 am Beit Midrash 9:30 am Lifelong Learning Classes 10:30 am Grandparenting Interfaith Grandchildren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 9 Adar I	14 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Movement Class 11:00 am Sisterhood Book Club 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 10 Adar I	15 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Taste of Tanach 11:00 am Music w/ Robyn Helzner 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Gan Artisan’s Fair 7:00 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 11 Adar I	16 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Parenting Class 11:00 am Music w/ Robyn Helzner 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Board of Directors Dinner Meeting 6:30 pm Torah Club 7:00 pm Context Class 7:00 pm Adas/People’s Dialogue at People’s Church 7:30 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 12 Adar I	17 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 13 Adar I	18 Purim Katan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Gan Melton School 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv Service 5:30 pm 14 Adar I	19 PARSHAT KI TISSA 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Service, Smith Sanctuary; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf Bat Mitzvah: Jessica Mason 12:30 pm Havurah Kiddush 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service; D’var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 6:30 pm Havdalah 10:00 am Shabbat Spot 11:00 am All Youth Services 15 Adar I
20 Presidents’ Day Weekend–No RS Classes 8:30 am Morning Minyan 8:30 am Morning Minyan 16 Adar I	21 Presidents’ Day Weekend–Offices Closed 8:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 17 Adar I	22 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:15 pm Budget & Finance Meeting 7:00 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 18 Adar I	23 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am GPA Book Fair Setup 9:00 am Gan Parenting Class 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Torah Club 7:00 pm GPA Book/Artisan’s Fair 7:00 pm Context Class 7:15 pm Rabbi Steinlauf’s Meditation Class 7:30 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 19 Adar I	24 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Movement Class 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 20 Adar I	25 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Gan Melton School 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv Service 6:30 pm Ruach Minyan Service 8:00 pm Adas Musical Shabbat Service with Cantor Weber & Rabbi Feinberg 8:00 pm Ruach Minyan Dinner 9:00 pm Oneg Shabbat sponsored by Louise Sheiner 5:37 pm 21 Adar I	26 PARSHAT VAYAKHEL 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Service, Smith Sanctuary; Sermon by Rabbi Feinberg Bat Mitzvah: Julia Rohde 6:37 pm Havdalah 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 10:00 am Learners’ Minyan with Rabbi Steinlauf 10:00 am RS Shabbat Unplugged Family Service 10:00 am Shabbat Spot 11:00 am All Youth Services 12:30 pm Congregational Kiddush sponsored by Louise Sheiner 22 Adar I
27 8:30 am Morning Minyan 9:30 am Beit Midrash 9:30 am R.S. Steering Committee Meeting 9:30 am Lifelong Learning Classes 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 23 Adar I	28 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Steering Committee Meeting 10:00 am Gan Rabbi–Parent–Child Program: Purim 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 24 Adar I	1 7:30 am Morning Minyan 11:00 am Administrative Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 25 Adar I	2 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Parenting Class 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Torah Club 6:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Context Class 7:30 pm Lifelong Learning Classes 26 Adar I	3 7:30 am Morning Minyan 8:45 am Gan Bagels & Coffee 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 27 Adar I	4 7:30 am Morning Minyan 8:45 am Gan Bagels & Coffee 9:15 am Gan Melton School 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 6:00 pm L’Dor VaDor Service with Rabbi Steinlauf & Cantor Weber 6:30 pm YP Shir Delight with Rabbi Steinlauf 7:00 pm L’Dor VaDor Shabbat Dinner 5:45 pm 28 Adar I	5 PARSHAT PEKUDE/SHABBAT SHEKALIM 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Service, Smith Sanctuary; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf Bar Mitzvah: Samuel Ringel 6:45 pm Havdalah 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service; D’var Torah by Sander Mendelson 10:00 am Shabbat Spot 11:00 am All Youth Services 29 Adar I

Lifelong Learning

Jewish Study Center Classes

Register at jewishstudycenter.org.

Translation as Commentary Comparing English Versions of the Bible

Taught by Norman Shore, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 8:30–9:40 pm

Why did God “harden Pharaoh’s heart”? Would you answer differently if God had merely made Pharaoh “strong-willed”? This class examines the significance of different translations of the *Tanakh*, or Hebrew Bible. Every week the class studies a short selection from the *Tanakh* in Hebrew with several English translations and uses the different translations in combination with traditional commentaries to explore different readings of the text, literary issues, and language problems. This is also a useful tool for people preparing *divrei torah*. Cost: JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75

You May Already Know 100 Words of Hebrew

Taught by Dan Hecker, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, 7:00–8:15 pm

Intimidated by the thought of learning Hebrew? It may not be so bad! Our instructor demystifies the language and gives you a head start! Cost: JSC and Adas members \$15 per session, non-members \$20 per session

Jewish Life in Civil War Washington

(co-sponsored with Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington)

Taught by Laura Apelbaum (Adas member) with guest lecturers, Feb. 16, 23, March 2, 7:00–8:15 pm

To mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War’s beginning, the JHS of Greater Washington has prepared an exhibit and book, *Jewish Life in Mr. Lincoln’s City*, that illuminate a difficult era, and a divided city and nation, through the prism of the small but growing Jewish communities of Washington and of Alexandria, VA. These talks look at the different communities of Jews in Civil War Washington—soldiers, spies, immigrants, and others. Copies of *Jewish Life in Mr. Lincoln’s City* will

be available for sale. Look for a related walking tour when the weather turns warm! (Laura Apelbaum is executive director of JHS of Greater Washington.) Cost: JSC, Adas, and JHSGW members \$45, non-members \$55

Jews in Spain: Events Leading Up to the Spanish Inquisition

Taught by Jeffrey Gorsky, March 2, 16, 23, 30, 7:00–8:30 pm

As Monty Python said: “No one expects the Spanish Inquisition.”

The four sessions cover the following aspects of this key moment in Jewish history:

- “Convivencia”—How the Jews prospered in Islamic and Christian Spain
- The end of tolerance: shifting attitudes by the Church and State lead to the conversion of a third or more of the Spanish Jews to Christianity

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Grandparenting Interfaith Grandchildren

Sunday, February 13

10:30 am–12:00 pm in Miller Chapel

**Dr. Marion Usher and
Rabbi Charles Feinberg**



This discussion will focus on ways grandparents can introduce and foster Judaism with their interfaith grandchildren. The program will focus on how to acknowledge the entire family, how to promote Jewish experiences, how to celebrate the Jewish holidays and how to attend to the complex feelings that grandparents experience dealing with this area of their lives.



Dr. Marion Usher has been the leader of interfaith couples groups for the past 15 years and has worked with over 450 couples. Rabbi Charles Feinberg has led many discussion groups for parents of adult children who have intermarried.

adasisrael.org 202.362.4433
2850 Quebec Street NW Cleveland Park Metro (Red Line)



Ma Tovv

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

For many congregants, the annual Garden of the Righteous ceremony is the highlight of the Adas Israel program year. The event, which honors non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, was initiated in 1992 by Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlberg. The congregant—more like the force—who ensures that the program will occur each year is this month's *Ma Tovv* honoree, Judith (Judy) Strauch. From the beginning, Judy has worked tirelessly with the committee to find appropriate honorees, help plan the program, procure extra funding, handle logistics, and open her home to the honorees or their representatives and synagogue leaders.

Judy's commitment to Adas Israel goes way beyond the Garden of the Righteous Program. She and her husband of 47 years, Saul, a retired physicist who worked for the Atomic Energy Commission, have been members of Adas Israel since 1971. She became active immediately, serving on the school committee; becoming president of the school's parent association; and serving on the personnel, house and grounds, nominating, and other synagogue committees. She headed the search committee for Executive Director Glenn Easton, and for 10 years ran a stock club of Adas members interested in investing in Israel.

Judith Strauch, interviewed by Steve Lachter

S: What is the basis of your long-term commitment to Adas Israel? What attracted you to the synagogue, and how has your involvement enhanced your life?

J: After we moved to the Washington area, Saul and I were looking principally for a Jewish education for our boys. We were not very observant, but we wanted to establish roots and instill a strong Jewish identity in our children. In the early years, we were involved with Clem Alpert in running a strong, participatory family service, where the children would read Torah, chant the *haftarah*, and help run the service. The success of that effort gave us a strong "reason to stay" at Adas. All of our boys have strong Hebrew skills, finished Hebrew School, and were involved in USY and *Kadima*. The school was just wonderful to our kids, providing great educational opportunities and even financial incentives to support trips to Israel. My family has done extremely well in part because of their Adas education, and I feel very lucky. We have 10 grandchildren; one of my sons, Hank, is a chemical engineer, Eric is a pediatric surgeon, and Andrew is an electrical engineer.

S: How did you get involved in the Garden of the Righteous program, and how do you feel as the 20th ceremony approaches?

J: Well, if you want to discuss the Garden of the Righteous, I have to go back in time to the renovation of Adas more than



Judith Strauch

20 years ago. I helped start the Landscaping Committee to redesign and replant the landscaping around the synagogue after the renovation. While much has changed, the basis for the landscaping plan we see today was put in place by the Landscaping Committee. Afterward, Rabbi Wohlberg came up with the idea for the Garden of the Righteous Program; it was to be a vehicle to teach the kids about the Holocaust, to demonstrate that even during those horrible, horrific times, there was good. The first years we planted trees; in 1997, Saul and I donated funds to create the garden in memory of my mother, Beatrice Lachman, and my father, Irving Lachman, and in memory of Saul's sister, Estelle Strauch. I hired a landscape architect, and we brought in the stone tablets and began placing the engraved plaques in the garden as a permanent acknowledgment of the honoree. Of course, it's getting harder and harder to find living honorees, but I am certain, despite the problems that seem to pop up annually, that this year's ceremony will be memorable when we honor José Arturo Castellanos, a diplomat from El Salvador.

S: As a longtime member of Adas, how do you feel about the direction of the synagogue today?

J: Well, as I said before, my family has been very lucky and I feel uplifted by the clergy, programming, and events at the synagogue. We really have entered the 21st century in the right way. The direction of the synagogue is sound. We are appealing to new groups of potential members, and a new population is finding its place in Jewish life at Adas Israel. I feel wonderful about my role at Adas and will continue to remain involved as long as possible. ○

Welcome to Our New Librarian, Robin Jacobson



Welcome to Robin Jacobson as our new Adas librarian, a graduate of Tufts University and Yale Law School. Robin practiced law in Washington for 15 years and later worked for Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute as a research associate professor.

Since June 2007, Robin has chaired the Library Committee

of Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, running the library and planning its literary programs with a team of dedicated volunteers. Under her leadership, Beth El's library has flourished and grown in new and exciting ways. Robin and her husband, Jim, have two teenage daughters who attended Gan HaYeled Nursery School.

AIUSY *Madrachim* Leadership Program: *Madrachim* of the Month

9th grader Jeremy Epstein

November "*Madrach* of the Month" *Kitah Gimel* class assistant

He's excited to be here every week (in fact, he has perfect attendance!), and his positive attitude is contagious. An excellent Jewish role model, students look up to Jeremy and appreciate having him around.

10th grader Jonathan Gabel

December "*Madrach* of the Month" Art program assistant

Every Sunday morning, Jonathan is the first *madrach* to arrive and has yet to miss a day. He is always smiling and takes initiative.

12th grader Samantha Daniels-Kolin,

January "*Madracha* of the Month"

7th grade class assistant

She has shown on many different occasions how well she works with our faculty and students. We thank her for being so responsible and committed to our school, and we are grateful that she has continued to stay involved all these years.

We salute them for their hard work and commitment to our school. *Yasher koach!* Our *madrachim* program develops important leadership skills for students in eighth through twelfth grade. *Madrachim* hold a number of different leadership roles in the religious school, from assisting teachers in classrooms to helping our education office and library with various tasks. There are 40 *madrachim* enrolled in our program this year! To learn more about the *madrachim* program, contact Elie Greenberg.



February Calendar for School, Youth, and Families

4: L'Dor VaDor Service and Dinner

6: Zayin (7th Grade) *Shacharit* service with World Wide Wrap program; Vav (6th Grade) New York Trip Meeting; Faculty Meeting

7: Mid-year Progress Reports Sent

13: Zayin (7th Grade) Trip to N Street Village; Parents' Corner

18-20: 7th & 8th Grade *Shabbaton* & *Kadima* Winter Kallah

20-21: NO SCHOOL, Presidents' Day

Shabbat Unplugged Musical Family Service, Feb. 26, 10 am

Shabbat Unplugged, a new musical family service for families with children in kindergarten and above on Saturday mornings, will meet on Saturday, February 26, at 10 am. The service is designed for kindergarten families and above though older children are welcome and encouraged take on leadership roles.

Shabbat Unplugged is led by Josh Bender, director of education, and Elie Greenberg, director of informal programming. Modeled on *Shacharit Live*, a Sunday morning musical service for K-2 religious school students, *Shabbat Unplugged* seeks to build a prayer experience that is fun, interactive, and spirited. This is also an opportunity for families to explore some of the key concepts and themes in Jewish prayer. Guitars and other instruments enhance the experience and help teach Jewish and Israeli songs. The Torah portion will come alive through the art of Jewish storytelling. Come join us on Feb. 26, March 26, April 30, and May 21!

Jewish Value for January-February: *Kavod Habriyot*

During January and February, the students learn about *kavod habriyot*, a set of values and laws encouraging the dignity of and respect for all human beings. In addition to students learning about this value in classes, a *mitzvah* project at the *Purim* Carnival will support Luther Place N Street Village. The night shelter provides housing for up to 31 women while helping them set and achieve goals for moving out of homelessness.

To learn more about N Street Village, go to nstreetvillage.org.

Daily *Minyan* Moment A Personal Observation

You might know it as the Adas Israel coat room, but every weekday morning it's "Bernie's Café." Join us for morning *Minyan*, and you'll have the pleasure of getting to know Bernie Meyer. He has been giving out Torah honors and serving up *minyan* breakfast for the past 12 years.

You never know: Bernie may honor you with an *aliyah*, and then serve you a fresh cup of coffee after services! Come to *minyan* to *daven*, and you, too, will get to know Bernie and our other committed *Minyanaires*. You might even become one yourself! ○

Joan Nathan and French Jewish Cooking, March 13, 10:30 am

The Adas Israel Library is sponsoring a book signing and sale featuring Joan Nathan, who will discuss her new book, *My Search for Jewish Cooking in France*. Much more than a beautifully illustrated cookbook, the work contains the 200-year history of Jews in France and many stories of individual Jewish families, along with their recipes.

Quiches, Kugels, and Couscous, which is similar to Joan's previous books in that it is well researched with fascinating descriptions, has received outstanding reviews.

This event, co-sponsored by Sisterhood and the Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop, is free and open to the community. ○



Mazal tov to Adas Israel Sisterhood on being named a Women's League for Conservative Judaism "Jewel in the Crown" at Convention 2010!

Help Create Sisterhood Shabbat 5771 Celebrating Women and Building Community

March 25 & 26, Shabbat Para

Friday night services at 8 pm, followed by *Oneg Shabbat*
Saturday morning, hear novelist Dara Horn

How can you get involved?

- Volunteer to help plan and publicize
- Organize a Dara Horn book discussion with your friends
- Be a Sisterhood greeter at *Shabbat* events
- Participate in the services (a few slots remain).

Contacts for all opportunities are co-chairs Maria Lasasloan, 301-654-1988 or mlasasloan@gmail.com, and Joyce Stern, 202-363-9113 or joycestern@starpower.net. ○

Only 42 Judean Cemetery Sites Remain

Prices to Increase in March 2011

Only 42 plots remain in the current Adas Israel section of Judean Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Olney, MD. The congregation is not scheduled to purchase any additional plots at this time.

The Adas Israel section currently comprises nearly 500 sites, each of which sells for \$1,850, including Perpetual Care. Adas Israel members also receive an additional 5 percent discount on Judean cemetery and monument charges. Site prices are scheduled to increase to \$1,995 in March.

A very limited number of plots are also available at our historic cemetery on Alabama Avenue in Southeast DC. For additional information, please call Henry Silberman or Glenn Easton at the synagogue office 202-362-4433. ○

JEWISH STUDY CENTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

- The New Christians: the rise of the converts and their scapegoating during political unrest in 15th-century Castile
- The Spanish Inquisition: from its inception in 1481 to the expulsion of the Jews in 1492

(Jeffrey Gorsky, a career State Department attorney who has served in Spain has been working for the past four years on the book, *Jewish Blood*, a history of the Spanish Jews. Cost: JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75)

Savoring the Psalms

Taught by Amy Schwartz, March 2, 16, 23, 30, 8:30–9:40 pm

The Book of Psalms always comes as a surprise on first reading—and even more on deeper acquaintance. We dip into various Psalms as the interests of the class move us—untangling metaphors, comparing translations, tracing the meanings of the words over time. We read mostly in English, with a look at the Hebrew, depending on class preferences. (Journalist Amy Schwartz has taught many Study Center classes on poetry. She is vice president for education and youth at Adas Israel.) Cost: JSC and Adas members \$55, non-members \$75 ○

ADAS ONEG CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was adapted and directed by Aaron Posner.

The much beloved novel is the story of two boys, two fathers, and two very different Jewish communities in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Aaron Posner's award-winning adaptation introduces us to two passionate, intelligent boys on opposite sides of a baseball game. When Reuven is injured by Danny's errant pitch, a unique friendship is born.

The Hebrew word *oneg* means pleasure or delight. The great pleasure of *Shabbat* is that it's a time to be together with one another, and to learn, study, and grow together. At the Adas *Oneg* Service, we welcome extraordinary guest speakers, teachers, and performers who will education and enlighten us and deepen our experience of Jewish culture, knowledge, and heritage.

Save these dates for future Adas *Oneg* services: March 11, Mark Novak & Renée Brachfeld; April 8, Martin Indyk; May 20, *Ahavat Yisrael* Weekend. ○

Annual Latke-Hamantash Symposium

Adas Israel and the Jewish Study Center will hold Washington DC's 20th Annual *Latke-Hamantash* Symposium on Wednesday March 9. The synagogue is hosting the event.

Even after decades of research, the nature of the symposium remains a mystery, with some considering it to be a mock debate (something of a verbal food fight), while others see it as an attempt to fully understand the application of every branch of human knowledge to our understanding of *latkes* and *hamantashen*.

We probably won't settle this issue on the 9th, but after our distinguished panel of researchers presents its findings, the event (whatever it is) will conclude with a lab session affording ample opportunities for in-depth research at our *latke-hamantash* taste test.

Cost is \$12 Adas and Jewish Study Center members, \$18 for non-members. RSVP to jewishstudycenter.org. ○



Bereavement Committee Adas Israel's Chevra Kadisha

The Adas Israel Bereavement Committee comprises remarkably dedicated individuals involved in one of Judaism's most important *mitzvot*. These special volunteers quietly perform a *mitzvah* for which they cannot be thanked. Following the tradition of honoring the *Chevra Kadisha* on 7 Adar—occurring this year on Sunday, February 6—marking the *yahrzeit* of Moses, we thank our bereavement committee *chaverim*, *taharah* group, and *shomrim* for their extraordinary work on behalf of their fellow members.

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 either Jane Beller (301-986-1133) or Edie Hessel (202-244-7189) or contact Toni Bickart (202 244-2747) regarding the *Tahara* Committee.

For Information about joining the Bereavement Committee, please leave a message for Jane Beller or Edie Hessel at the synagogue. ○

"Dial-In" to Services, Lectures, Simchas, and Programs 202-686-8405

Thanks to the generosity of Ruthe & Nathan Katz, along with other generous contributors, house-bound family, distant friends, hospitalized members, and others are able to "dial in" to our *Shabbat* and holiday services, community lectures, family weddings, congregational funerals, and synagogue programs from their own homes.

Fourteen direct telephone lines into the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary and Kogod Chapel sound systems enable anyone to "dial in" and listen in from any exterior telephone. The number of telephone lines is expanded for the High Holy Days. Prayer books are available to borrow from the synagogue to follow the service. Speakerphones are also available to borrow at the synagogue.

We have many members who dial in each week for services as well as *bar* and *bat mitzvah* families who have shared their *simcha* with a grandparent unable to travel to the synagogue. We have also had brides and grooms with distant relatives "attend" the wedding and have had friends who were unable to travel to a funeral service from across the country dial in for the memorial service.

Members and friends may dial in at 202-686-8405.

We thank Ruthe and Nathan Katz for their meaningful contribution and for their sensitivity to the needs of others. ○



SIX CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

DC: Adas Israel Congregation
MD: JSSA's Silver Spring and Falls Grove offices
NoVA: Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, Beth El Hebrew Congregation and JSSA's Fairfax office

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In Honor Of: **Sophie Silfen** by Karen Strauss & Judith Herr. **Hazel Keimowitz** by Judith Herr. *In Memory Of:* **Adele Kleiman & Estelle Tepper** by Thelma Becker. **Bessie Schlesinger** by Dr. and Mrs. Norman Schlesinger. **Benjamin Brodsky** by Larry & Jean Bernard. **Marcia Feldman** by Barbara & Arthur Levine. **Jonah & Marjorie Baldinger** by Jane Baldinger.

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Bereavement Fund

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Tsipora Masliansky & in gratitude for all the support from the congregation by Nechama Masliansky.

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In Honor Of: **Rabbi Steinlauf** by Gabriel Eber & Stephanie Green Eber. Birth of **Joshua Eli Nussdorf** by Bruce Ray & April Rubin.

In Appreciation Of: **Rabbi Steinlauf's** participation in Arnold Bortman's *Shiva Minyan* by Nadine Levin. **Rabbi Steinlauf's** help by The Weiss Family. **Rabbi Steinlauf's** participation in the baby naming & *bris* for the Dunn twins by Larry & Flo Meyer.

In Memory Of: **Lillian Rosenfield** by Roberta Sands. **Tsippora Masliansky** & in gratitude for all the support from the congregation by Nechama Masliansky. **Arnold Weiss** by Harry & Judy Melamed. **Howard Sloan** by Michael Sloan. **Ralph Rothstein** by Leo & Fradel Kramer.

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Florence Sanders by Veneeta Acson.

For Little Help For: **Peace on Earth** by Jane Baldinger.

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Buy One More!

Thanks to everyone who has donated to the Ezra Pantry. In partnership with So Others Might Eat (SOME), the Ezra Pantry collects nonperishable food for distribution in shelters, soup kitchens, day care centers, and elder care facilities. Please buy one more item than you need when you shop for food and bring it to the Ezra Pantry shelves in the synagogue cloakroom. Feeding the hungry is a *mitzvah*. Thank you again for your continued support. ○

Tikkun Olam

Solar Cookers for Darfur

Nearly 100 solar cookers will be sent to Darfur, thanks to the generous donations of Adas members. The cookers will enable Darfuri women to cook family meals safely without risking their lives to collect firewood and encounter violence when leaving the refugee and resettlement camps.



Anne Frank House

Anne Frank House recently purchased a studio apartment on Idaho Avenue, NW, our first since 2001. During the past decade, facing high real estate prices, AFH expanded by assuming rental units. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have provided housing and services for our residents at an annual cost of \$11,000 per resident.

One of our residents, David Harris, is an accomplished poet. This 2004 poem describes how his life was changed by becoming part of Anne Frank House.

Where I Came From

Welcome to this place I owned;

my home, prison, university
and universe.

These are the same streets
you trample on your way
to your office days;

Out There, I descended into their covert life;
I deciphered the hidden messages
in rheumy eyes stationed
behind cups of coins.

I learned a fresh dialect
of my mother tongue,
whispered or shouted
into the wind that chills your face

during your brief walks
from parking lot to office.

I joined
a new tribe and faith;
the saints we praised
had tender hands, warm smiles,
and hot meals to offer;

we found shelter
in packed dining halls,
where we trudged
in predawn gloom, drizzles and flurries.

Yesterday,
I marched in a church parade;
children toted signs urging passersby to
help the poor;

ragged men on sidewalks
waved and cheered;
I greeted each by name.

This was the place which owned me,
where I slept restlessly in a cardboard mansion.
This morning, I bathed beneath
steamy water as my cup of tea
cooled on the kitchen counter;
I've escaped and graduated,
returning only as a tourist
but tonight, a thousand friends and colleagues
will sleep among the brittle softness
of falling leaves,
and I will
remember.

Upcoming Chronicle Deadlines—

March 2011 issue: Tuesday, February 1, noon; April 2011 issue: Tuesday, March 1, noon