



ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Chronicle

VOL. 75, NO. 11

JUNE 2013

SIVAN-TAMMUZ 5773

דובר אמת Dover Emet Speaking the Truth

Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

As I write this, my family and I are still basking in the afterglow of my daughter Ravi's *bat mitzvah*. People often ask me what it's like being the rabbi at my own child's *simcha*. After all, people wonder, I officiate at *b'nai mitzvah* all the time. Does it still feel special? My answer is that it doesn't matter how many *b'nai mitzvah* I have been with. There is something uniquely wonderful about your own child's special moment. On a very real level, it is as if I have never been on that *bimah* ever before when I see my beautiful child there reading Torah and teaching and leading the service. I also add — to the surprise of some — that every *simcha* (which also includes births and weddings, among other things) has its own specialness that never grows old. This doesn't diminish the specialness of my own child's *simcha* (literally "joy" in Hebrew). If anything, it adds to it. I feel very lucky to be able to bear such

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Harriet & Art Isack Selected as 2013 *Yad Hakavod* Honorees

The Adas Israel *Yad Hakavod* Committee is pleased to announce the selection of Harriet & Art Isack as this year's worthy *Yad Hakavod* honorees.

Both Art and Harriet spent their formative years in small town America, Butler, PA and Auburn, ME, respectively. Each was raised by first-generation Americans who proudly identified as Jews in their respective communities of approximately 250 Jewish families. Both recall their parents as role models in volunteerism in their Jewish and secular communities. Perhaps it was these core values that brought Art and



CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The Adas Fund 2013 Formerly the *Kol Nidre* Appeal

"Together, let's fill our new building with lifelong community and Torah." —2013 Adas Fund Chairs, Meredith & Michael Cymerman.



Know This...
the Adas Fund
pays for 50+ membership
scholarships each year.

We are proud to chair The Adas Fund this year (formerly the *Kol Nidre* Appeal) because we feel the excitement and energy throughout the congregation. There is so much to celebrate at Adas Israel—from the profound learning in our education programs, to our vibrant and spiritual worship experiences, to the meaningful friendships and support that are fostered throughout our congregation. We have begun to witness our breathtaking new spaces take form, and a variety of exciting and groundbreaking community programs are in the works as the *shul* moves forward into the 21st century. So now it is time to fill our magnificent new building with educational programs, worship experiences, and enduring community life to ensure that our community

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



CELEBRATING OUR 142ND YEAR
THE CHRONICLE IS SUPPORTED IN
PART BY THE ETHEL AND NAT POPICK
ENDOWMENT FUND

Clergy Corner
PAGE 2
Holidays
PAGE 3
Sisterhood
PAGE 5

Education
PAGE 6
Life Cycle
PAGE 9
Calendar
PAGE 10
Keeping Up with the Vision
PAGE 12

Lifelong Learning
PAGE 13
YP@AI
PAGE 13
Library
PAGE 15
Contributions
PAGE 18

Clergy Corner



Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

DOVER EMET CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

close witness to people experiencing such a moment of joy in their lives. The irreducible experience of *simcha*—even if it's someone else's—never grows tiresome.

It's that singular and joyful quality of any *simcha* that makes life itself worth living. Judaism has a brilliant approach to a moment of joy. As I taught at my daughter's

bat mitzvah, we always experience a *simcha* not just as a party or a fun time. For us, a *simcha* is the kind of joy that comes when we are willing to embrace the fullness and totality of what life brings us. Yes, life may be fleeting and so difficult, but we have times when the blessing of it all becomes so clear. But just as at a Passover *seider*, when we reduce our cup of wine (symbolizing joy) by 10 drops for the 10 plagues; just as at a wedding when we break the glass before saying *mazal tov*, a *simcha* is not complete until we're together with all that life has to offer. The message is loud and clear from Judaism: you can't really know true joy in life until you are willing to acknowledge the good and bad, the blessings and curses, the strength and the weakness.

Without this acknowledgment, the best we can achieve is temporary ignorance—the false bliss of a drunken stupor, the escape of amusement, the distraction of loud partying. In our

society, we all too often confuse real joy with the pursuit of pleasure and leisure and entertainment. But deep down, we all know better. We know that there is something more to life. We know that there is something real to be had, but so many lack the tools to find it.

Judaism is a technology to find what's real and true. It's as simple as that. There's no clearer demonstration of this than at a Jewish *simcha* — like at a *bar* or *bat mitzvah*. Just beneath the surface of the pride and *nachas* of the parents beaming at their child, there is also the silent awe and wonder at watching our children transform into adults before our eyes. There is the wistful realization that the magical time of childhood is ending, that we (the parents) are moving onto new chapters and ending others just as our children are.

At my daughter's *bat mitzvah*, we also celebrated, that despite her Type 1 Diabetes, we live in a time where my daughter is alive and well and growing, even as her disease is so difficult and as yet, incurable. We celebrated because my family was able to affirm tradition and continuity together with our community, even as our building changes and old chapters of our congregation come to an end—and new ones begin.

And so, indeed, I'm basking in the afterglow. We all do after a *simcha*. The truth is, once we have known a *simcha* in our lives, we bask in the afterglow for the rest of our lives: *s'machot* affect us, change us forever. They're liminal moments of life celebrated together with our people, with our heritage, with all that we hold most precious. Far from mere distraction, they're moments of intense awareness and embrace of life's fullness. All *s'machot* do give us that awareness—births, *b'nai mitzvah*, weddings,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Musical Moments, a brand-new column brought to you by Cantor Arianne Brown and the Musical Moments committee, highlights everything musical at Adas Israel. Enjoy!

"Music is the silence between the notes." —Claude Debussy

Do you imagine yourself walking into familiar rooms at Adas Israel that currently are not here?

Although the lobby area has been closed for some time now, I still picture myself walking in the Quebec Street entrance. I walk toward staircases that no longer exist and find myself lost on staircases that I did not know existed!

The cacophonous sounds of construction are constant. I find myself rehearsing music with a hammer as my metronome, holding meetings with the buzz of a jigsaw as background music, and teaching *b'nai mitzvah* how to concentrate despite the slight shake of the ground and the pounding of tools below. Even our daily *minyan*, usually a peaceful respite from the hustle of a busy day, is accompanied by the sounds of a construction team doing its work.

A Yiddish folk tale describes a family that seeks advice from its rabbi because its home is too crowded and noisy. Surprised

by the rabbi's advice, the family takes chickens, goats, and sheep into its home week by week, only to find its members at their wits' end. At the end of three weeks, when the animals are finally taken out, their home suddenly feels very spacious and quiet.

After the exciting buzz (whirr, pound, clang) of construction all week long heralding our Vision of Renewal, the peacefulness of *Shabbat* takes on a deeper meaning. The singing sounds especially melodious, the buzz of conversation especially spirited. I can hear *kol d'mama daka*—a still, small voice—and *Shabbat* becomes music—the silence between the notes. ○



MUSICAL NOTES:

Save the date:

Join us for a special Musical Shabbat on June 22, including the Adas Flash Choir!

We want to hear about your musical interests, talents, and ideas! Take our music survey:

<http://www.wizevents.com/survey/1923>

Holidays

High Holy Day Packets Arriving Soon

Early Holidays (September 4) Means Earlier Deadlines
New "Return Again" Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur Service
Introduced

Planning for the 2013 High Holy Days is underway, and information packets will arrive at your home by the end of the month.

We look forward to welcoming the new year in our newly renovated spaces, including the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, Bernard & Sarah Gewirz *Beit Am*, and the Dr. Avraham Biran *Beit Midrash* and Kogod Chapel.

Rabbi Steinlauf, Rabbi Feinberg, and Cantor Brown will be joined during the holidays by Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, Rabbi/Cantor Mark Novak, and Michael Leifman. Rabbi Holtzblatt and Elie Greenberg will be leading our Family Service on *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* (note new, earlier time), followed by a new "Return Again" service on *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, and outdoors on *Kol Nidre*.

We also welcome back Robyn Helzner to our two Gan Family Services and look forward to our self-led Traditional *Minyan*

Services. Ritual Coordinator Naomi Malka will be organizing and reading Torah during the holidays.

Remember, to simplify the holiday ticket process, if you only want tickets for the people in your household in the Kay Hall, Gewirz *Beit Am* (Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan*), Family Service, or Sanctuary open seating, they will be sent to you automatically. No ticket request form is required.

You only need to return the ticket request form if you have historic dedicated seats in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary or if you want to order extra seats for family and guests. A number of seats on the main level and the majority of balcony seats in the sanctuary will be open seating, first come-first served. Please call or e-mail Elinor Tattar at the synagogue office with any questions.

We thank our committee members and coordinators for sharing their time and their holidays so others can have a meaningful High Holy Day season. Watch your mail for the High Holy Day packet. ○

From the Incoming President



Arnie Podgorsky

"It is not your obligation to complete the work, but you are not free to desist from it either . . ."
—*Pirke Avot 2:16*

In just weeks we have seen wintery landscape transform to lush green, accompanied by the return of birds and insects. This year spring comes with something particularly special— one of the 17-year periodic cicada broods. Spring reminds us that creation is infinite. The cicadas' lengthy generational gaps remind us that creation sometimes pauses before returning vibrantly. And that thought takes us, yes, to changes we are experiencing in some of our traditions and practices at Adas Israel.

Changes in worship practices can challenge our feelings of connection and stability. We dearly love our traditional past, be it *davening*, the strong hands of former rabbis, the nuances of which prayers we say out loud and which to ourselves, and the numerous sounds and actions that characterize our various services. After all, considering that we were all present at Mount Sinai when God gave us the Torah, the past is what we most honor—and it is a long past at that.

But our impressions of which traditions and practices comprise "genuine" Judaism can reflect the brevity of our own experiences, and that brevity, in turn, can narrow our zones of comfort. Jewish customs today certainly are different from those practiced in the Temple, in the early years of the diaspora, or even just a few hundred years ago. Change that seems dramatic

today can be mere degrees of difference compared with changes over preceding millennia. Even our relatively recent adoption of egalitarianism must have seemed shocking to many at the time. A written Talmud must have seemed radical to those who believed that oral law must be oral.

This comparison is not to diminish the validity of anyone's discomfort with change. That discomfort deserves respect and a voice. It also helps if change is incremental—not too much at once and not to the exclusion of long-standing traditions from the *shul*. Still, consideration of the historical context for change may lessen the discomfort by broadening the zones of what we feel is acceptable. Considered in their historical context, the changes we are experiencing are not a rejection of traditional "valid" worship as some may fear, but a return to older perspectives and practices lost to the stresses of the last century.

Let's look at a major aspect of that history. Adas Israel is a Conservative synagogue, with worship and practices resting on centuries if not millennia of tradition on one hand and a somewhat flexible *halacha* on the other. Conservative and Reform Judaism developed in the same times. Much in classical Reform and Conservative Judaism reflects rationalistic philosophies that helped shape the Reformation. Rationalism has some highly positive attributes for Judaism. In Conservative Judaism, rationalism fosters *halichic* interpretations that place less emphasis on each specification of the *Shulchan Aruch* and greater emphasis on the underlying purpose and spirit of the rule. A rationalist approach

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

A Celebration of Rabbi Feinberg!


June 8 at 9:30 am



Join us for a special combined service and *kiddush* Honoring Rabbi Charles Feinberg's 40th anniversary in the rabbinate, Saturday, June 8, at 9:30 am, as we pay tribute to his achievements and vital importance within our incredible community. Judith Hauptman, professor of Talmud and rabbinic culture at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and longtime friend of Rabbi Feinberg, will deliver the *d'var Torah* at this wonderful service.


Rabbi Charles Feinberg came to Adas Israel in August 2006, having led Congregation Beth Israel in Vancouver, BC, for eight years. Previously, he had served in congregations in Poughkeepsie, NY, and Madison, WI. He also spent nearly 20 summers teaching at Camp Ramah where he designed and taught an innovative prayer curriculum for 12- and 13-year-old campers.

While in Vancouver, Rabbi Feinberg founded and co-chaired the Jewish-Christian Dialogue and served as president of the Multifaith Action Society of Vancouver. He also founded and served as the first president of the Association of Attending Clergy at Madison General Hospital. He has chaired the Rabbinical Assembly Social Action Committee, which developed the RA Advocacy Day (an annual event hosted by Adas Israel) bringing up to 50 Conservative rabbis to Washington, DC, to advocate for public policy positions. He also received the 2002 Rabbinic Leadership Award from the United Jewish Communities and the Gold Medal Human Service Award from St. Cabrini Home in 1996.

Rabbi Feinberg was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1973. The congregation is thrilled to have Rabbi Feinberg serving such an integral role in our community, and we look forward to celebrating his achievements with you on June 8. 

The Legacy of Jack Kay Endures

As we mourn the loss of our synagogue trustee Jack Kay (z"l), his legacy endures as 18 of our Ma'alot 10th graders prepare for the third annual Abe and Minnie Kay Israel Experience, June 16–30. The Abe & Minnie Kay Israel trip is a heavily subsidized two-week *Tikkun Olam*-focused Israel experience for rising 11th graders in the Ma'alot DC program at Adas Israel. The students spend their 10th-grade year studying and preparing for their journey and return in the 11th grade to share their experiences with the community.

Let's all wish a *nesiah tovah* to our group of 10th graders. And we express our sincerest condolences to Barbara Kay and the entire Kay family on their loss and this larger loss for our entire community. 




Am Yisrael Chai!



Jack and Barbara Kay met with some recent participants of the Abe & Minnie Kay Israel Experience.


Summer Building Hours

As you may be aware, the building is closed on Monday and Thursday nights during the school year. As we approach the summer months, please keep in mind that we will also be closed on Wednesday nights after the evening *minyan*, to reduce energy use, utility costs, security charges, and staffing expenses. Since Tuesday will be the only available night for meetings, please plan accordingly. Thank you and have an enjoyable summer. 

Judean Memorial Gardens Cemetery Price Increases July 1

The price to purchase a cemetery plot in the Adas Israel Section of Judean Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Olney, MD, will increase to \$2,150 per site effective July 1.

The congregation recently purchased additional plots in our special section, including a limited number of sites in the Judean Interfaith section of the cemetery. The price includes Perpetual Care. Adas Israel members also receive an additional 5 percent discount on Judean cemetery and monument charges.

A very limited number of plots are also available at our historic cemetery on Alabama Avenue in Southeast DC at the same cost of \$2,150 per site. For additional information, please call Carole Klein at the synagogue office, 202-362-4433. 

Sisterhood

Upcoming Sisterhood Events

Taste of Tanach: The final meeting for 5773 in the series of Sisterhood discussions of Jewish values with Rabbi Steinlauf is Tuesday, June 18, at 10 am in the Library. All are welcome!

5773 Closing Event Promises a WOW! Sunday, June 23, 10:30 am–12:30 pm, Sisterhood will host its final program of the year. Chaired by **Kathy Sandler**, it will feature noted author Diane Horn discussing her book, *7 Simple Ways to Rediscover Your WOW Factor*, and the installation of new Sisterhood officers and board members. This will be followed by a lively session of Israeli folk dancing led by Lisah Bernstein. Couvert is \$10.

Reserve your place by June 18 by contacting Carol.Ansell@AdasIsrael.org or calling 202-362-4433. This event is open to all: grab your dancing shoes and join Sisterhood at Adas Israel.

Memorable Excursion to Philadelphia

Sisterhood and the Foundation for Jewish Studies collaborated for a stimulating excursion April 28 to the National Museum of American Jewish History, located in the heart of Philadelphia's historic district. Sisterhood members were joined by friends, spouses, other Adas Israel members, and members of other area synagogues. En route on the bus, David Epstein, a seasoned foundation guide, set the stage with a presentation featuring George Washington's correspondence with a Touro synagogue official and Grant's infamous order expelling the Jews from part of the Civil War zone. This portion of the program concluded with group singing of songs by Jewish composers, including Irving Berlin. Thanks go to Adas's impromptu song leaders Ron Schlesinger, Menuhah Peters, and Sisterhood's **Alisa Abrams!**

Sisterhood member **Prof. Carmel Chiswick** then offered an in-depth academic lecture on the history of Jews in America

since 1654 when the first ones landed in New Amsterdam, thoroughly preparing the group for this iconic museum. (Dr. Chiswick is pictured



second from the left with some of the 41 participants.) Knowledgeable docents guided the visitors through an extensive tour of the exhibits. On the return trip, the group viewed *Imaginary Witness*, the searing documentary by Danny Anker of Hollywood's evolving portrayal of the Holocaust over the decades. **Joyce Stern** chaired this event.

Other Immediate Past Events

Seaboard Spring Conference: Women's League Seaboard Region held its annual gathering May 5–6 at the Pearlstone Conference Center, Reisterstown, MD. Among the Adas Israel attendees was **Joyce Stern**, pictured here, who was chosen unanimously by the Adas Israel Sisterhood Board to be their *Eshet Hayil* WL award recipient at the conference, noting



among her many contributions to Sisterhood the creation of a monthly e-newsletter.

Bike Ride and Tour: Sunday, May 19, Sisterhood sponsored a bicycle ride via the Mt. Vernon Trail from Thompson Boat House to Old Town Alexandria. There they rendezvoused with nonbikers for a picnic lunch and walking tour of Jewish Old Town led by a docent from the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington. **Dava Berkman** chaired this event. ○

Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

Announcing our newest arrivals: GORGEOUS LADIES KIPPOT!

See our selection of unique fabric and wire kippot; many colors and two different styles available.

And—while they last—don't miss our **INCREDIBLE MUSICAL BEARS!**



Summer Hours (beginning Tuesday, June 5)
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 am–noon
or by appointment by calling
Jean Bernard, 301-654-8914
Diane Keller, 301-442-7625

202-364-2888
adasgiftshop@gmail.com

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.

Education

Gan HaYeled

As we do each year, the entire Gan took a “trip” to Israel to celebrate *Yom Ha’atzmaut*. Assisted by Ron Schlesinger (Adas volunteer extraordinaire), Carole Klein (Adas synagogue administrator), and Betsy Walker (Tapuzim Lindsay’s nanny), the children’s passports were stamped and the flight (“at an altitude of zero feet”) was uneventful—no doubt due in part to the preflight *Tefilat HaDerech* recited by Rabbi Steinlauf.

Flight attendants Sheri Brown (Gan director) and Beverly Beiman and David Zisenwine (Dubim Shira’s grandparents) ensured everyone’s safety. Gan and Adas maintenance staff turned in a herculean effort to transform the Gan spaces and the Kay Hall into replicas of Eilat, the *Kotel*, cafés, and *kibbutzim*. *Kol Hakavod* to all. ○



There are a few spaces left in the Gan for Sweet Summer-time (our camp) and for the 2013–2014 school year. Call or e-mail the Gan for more information.

Religious School

2013–14 Religious School Registration Is Now Open!

It’s that time of year again when we kick off our Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School registration process! We have an easy-to-use online registration form that will make this process as quick and smooth for our school families as possible. Please note that this year, we are asking all families to complete the registration form in its entirety so we can update all student and

June Religious School/Youth Calendar

2: Last Day of school for Pre-K–7th (End-of-Year Program); 6th Grade to Wax Museum; *Zim-Kudiyah*; Faculty meeting; AIUSY Candle Passing/Installation

10: End-of-Year Progress Reports Sent

family information. Please visit www.adasisrael.org/rsregistration to learn more and to register.

Please send the 50 percent deposit, plus a \$40 per student registration fee, payable to Adas Israel, by July 1. Your remaining balance will be due by December 1. The registration fee will increase to \$80 per student after July 1.

All school families must be current in their tuition and synagogue dues to register for the 2013–14 school year. To discuss your account, please contact Rita Nicholls in the accounting office, 202-362-4433 or rita.nicholls@adasisrael.org. For special financial arrangements, please contact Glenn Easton at Glenn.Easton@adasisrael.org.

Feel free to contact us at education@adasisrael.org if you have any questions! ○



Seventh graders made beautiful cards and donated art supplies for the women at N Street Village.



Sixth graders enjoy learning about the history of Adas Israel at the historic Lillian and Albert Small Jewish Museum.

Susan Kay and Ziva Schuchman Honored at Jewish Educators Assembly Gala



Accepting her award, Susan Kay is flanked by her husband, Sam Frumkin, and Josh Bender, Adas director of education.

The Seaboard Region Jewish Educators Assembly honored outstanding teachers and lay leaders on April 21 at B'nai Israel Congregation. *Mazal tov* to our Adas Israel Jewish educators and lay leaders of the year: Susan Kay, chair of the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Religious School, and Hebrew teacher Ziva Shuchman.

Susan Kay has been an active lay leader in the Adas Israel community for many years and continues to be an incredible advocate for Jewish education as the chair of the Religious School Committee. Under her leadership, the Estelle and Melvin Gelman Religious School continues to grow and thrive. Her commitment to Adas Israel, her active participation in our *Shabbat* community, and her understanding of the importance of a welcoming community have made her an asset to the congregation and the greater Jewish community.

Ziva Shuchman has a gift with children and teaching Hebrew. As a Hebrew reading teacher supporting students who have learning differences, Ziva has been able to inspire and motivate students who never thought they would read a word of Hebrew. She

not only supports her students in their Hebrew learning but also connects with their *neshama* and makes them feel Jewishly connected and confident in who they are. Adas Israel and all our students are blessed to have Ziva as a teacher, mentor, and friend. ◉

Mazal Tov to our 2013 Ma'alot (High School) Graduates!

Elyse Eitches ■ Eliana Kanefield
Daniella Klayman ■ Sarah Sloan
Eric Blitzer ■ David Landerman
Adam Miller ■ Jonathan Gabel
Benjamin Kean ■ David Peck
Eli Schwat ■ Jacob Shapiro

YAD HAKAVOD HONOREES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Harriet together 42 years ago at the Hillel in Ann Arbor, MI.

Both have spent the majority of their careers in health care. Early in his career, Art practiced pharmacy. Following graduate school, he transitioned to hospital administration, medical school physician practice management, and involvement in health care legislation. Before retiring, he was a hospital industry analyst for a national financial firm. Art is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and received a master's in public health from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. He also was awarded a research fellowship in health care management from the University of Michigan. Since retiring from health care, Art has worked as a Licensed DC Professional Tour Guide and is a certified tour guide for the National Cathedral.

Harriet began her career as a public health nurse and, following graduate school, was engaged in teaching, research, and administration in academic medical centers and nonprofit organizations. She is a graduate of the Boston University School of Nursing and earned a master's in public health from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. After her career in health care, Harriet transitioned to a second career in hospitality/tourism where she was involved in quality assurance and training.

Art and Harriet have been members of Adas Israel since they moved to DC over 20 years ago. And Adas has been central to their lives because of the many friendships they have formed here. Art is a regular at Sunday morning *minyán*, is a Hesed volunteer visitor, and has served for many years as a member of the *tahara* team. Harriet co-chairs the Hesed Project and the *Purim*

and *Rosh Hashanah* Projects and pinch hits for Toni Bickart as *tahara* coordinator on our Bereavement Committee. She's also a member of the Sisterhood and for many years served on the Anne Frank House Board.

The Isacks' volunteerism extends beyond Adas. Art is a volunteer tour guide at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and has been an interpreter at the National Zoo. Harriet has served on community boards, as a volunteer job coach for AARP Work-Search Program, a senior fellow at Generations United, and now volunteers with the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. They also enjoy much *nachas* from their daughter, son, son-in-law and granddaughter!

The *Yad Hakavod* Award was created in 1997 to honor members of the congregation who have distinguished themselves through service to the congregation and its members. It recognizes someone who has served beyond the call of duty to make Adas Israel a better place. The first *Yad Hakavod* Award was presented in 1997 to Sophie Silfen. Other recipients are Gail Schwartz, Estelle Jacobs, Jimmy Young, Rhoda Ganz, Bernard Fischgrund (z"l), Irwin Lebow, Ruthe Katz (z"l), Mildred Jacobs, Sybil Wolin, Samuel Weisbach (z"l), Sue Rosenthal, Michael Stern, Bernard Meyer, David Bickart, and Judith Strauch.

Please join us at our annual meeting on June 5 at 7:30 pm when we honor Harriet and Art Isack as our *Yad Hakavod* honorees at the annual congregational meeting followed by a dessert reception in their honor. ◉

to *mitzvot* has fostered our assimilation and allows us to remain in step with positive developments in secular society such as egalitarianism and, more recently, respect for gays and lesbians.

But not all rationalistic influences are positive. Rationalism can tamp down what many call spiritualism—an emotional, warm connection with God. It can challenge faith, influencing Judaism toward a collection of ethical principles and away from the imperatives of *mitzvot*. Rationalism tends to suppress our acknowledgment and discussion of God outside the formal liturgy. An overemphasis on rationalism stifles expressions and senses of faith, yielding a bit too much assimilation and a bit too little Judaism.

If parts of Judaism since the late 1800s are marked by rationalism (rationalism never infused all of Judaism), Judaism today is enjoying a resurgence of slightly less rational faith and spirit. Faith and spirit do not threaten our rational existences, but they do strengthen the community's desire for more open and spiritual worship experiences. People will have differing reactions to this development. Many rightly find traditional *davening* beautiful, soulful, and connecting. The large numbers attending our various *Shabbat* services demonstrate the vitality of our traditional worship. Yet, many others hunger for still warmer, spiritual experiences, with harmonious musicality, with sounds and meditations that bring us closer to God. If you doubt the extent of this hunger, check out the hundreds attending the outdoor *Kol Nidre* service or Return to *Shabbat* on occasional Friday nights. These many Jews powerfully drawn to warmer, more connecting forms of worship have strong voices.

Orthodox Judaism is experiencing parallels that are leading to significant growth in its numbers. Chabad has had terrific success. But orthodoxy is not for everyone. If Adas Israel and Conservative Judaism are to provide accessible paths to worship, they, too, should and must respond.

Responding is not a problem or a challenge; it should be a rewarding pleasure for all of us. The movement toward greater warmth and spiritualism is nothing short of a Jewish Renaissance. We deserve that. After anti-semitism and difficulties in Eastern Europe yielded waves of immigration, after decades of anti-semitism in the United States that included blatant housing

and employment discrimination well into the 1960s, after the extermination of six million at Hitler's hands and the immeasurable psychological impact on Jews throughout the world, Judaism is now recovering and revitalizing. Today Wall Street teems with *kippot*. Many of our children have Hebrew names. Torah study flourishes not just in Hasidic communities but in *shuls* and Jewish community centers of all stripes. We are back, unabashed, proud of our Covenant, and hungry to embrace the full measure of Judaism's beauty and richness.

By now some of you may be crying out, what does yoga, "mindfulness" and "Return Again" have to do with this resurgence? There are many possible answers to that question. My personal, admittedly irrational answer is *echod*. The *Sh'ma* teaches monotheism, but also that each one of us is a part of—and living symbiotically with—everything and everyone that is or could be experienced in the universe. If this sounds unduly funky, I can only invite you to think about it. You can perceive *echod* if you listen when you *daven* and *daven* often enough to hear, when you say the *Sh'ma*, sing the Song at the Sea in a *minyan*, hear our rabbis' *d'var*, or be drawn to our cantor's beautiful voice. Return again, mindfulness, yoga, and the undoubtedly more to come all offer differing, varying paths to oneness.

Considered in the historical context, we are not going modern or Californian at Adas Israel, as much as returning to a warmer, more connected, more spiritual Judaism that expresses Torah values more expansively and openly, more poetically, and in ways more of us can take into our lives. There is nothing new in this. Even so, given the length of time we have been hamstrung by anti-semitism, by fears, by pressures to assimilate, and by "classical" limits, the change can seem revolutionary. This is, indeed, evolution and perhaps revolution, but it is better understood as a stronger embrace of what we always have been. These changes are the fresh air and energy that allow for the continuing creation of Judaism, even if, like the cicadas, that creation took a pause before coming back strong. And as Rabbi Tarfon implies, although we are not obligated to complete the task of creating Judaism, neither are we at liberty to insist on the status quo and desist from sustaining its creation. ○

—Arnie Podgorsky

DOVER EMET CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

moments of *shehechianu*. They remind us what life is really all about, and point us to what never dies or leaves us.

My children's *b'nai mitzvah* were uniquely meaningful and special to me and my family. Every *simcha* is also special to me and to our whole congregation because each one is its own unique, irreducible experience of life's fullness. Each *simcha* that we experience is a window to the face of God. ○

JUNE 22 MUSICAL SHABBAT

Join us on June 22 for a musical *Shabbat* service, featuring our very own Adas Flash Choir!

This service will include Mah Tov, the beautiful prayer that comes from Parshat Balak, piano accompaniment, and spirited congregational melodies.



Life Cycle

Milestones

Birth:

Raya Beth Yellin was born to Gary Yellin and Pamela Kesner.
We wish our newborn and her family strength, good health, and joy.

B'nai Mitzvah



Hayley Antonelli, June 22

Hayley, daughter of Kim and Arthur Antonelli, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School. She began her education at Gan HaYeled and attends the Melvin Gelman Religious School. She shares this *simcha* with her parents, her brother Jonah, and many other family members and friends.



Noah Daniel, June 29

Noah is in seventh grade at Longfellow Middle School in Falls Church, VA. He loves being on the debate team, playing basketball, and skiing. He has been fortunate to have learned Torah and Jewish studies from his grandparents, Donald and Susan Lubick. Noah is raising

money for a foundation established in memory of his older brother, the David Gordon Louis Daniel Foundation.



Teddy Daniel, June 29

Teddy is a seventh grader at Longfellow Middle School in Falls Church, VA. He is an aspiring writer and, like his brother, enjoys being on the debate team. He also has been fortunate to have studied Torah and Jewish studies with his grandparents, Donald and Susan Lubick, and is joining Noah in raising money for the David

Gordon Louis Daniel Foundation.

New Members

Daniel Alexander and Alexis Huff live in Washington, where Daniel is a paralegal at Goel and Anderson, and Alexis is a diplomat at the U.S. Department of State.

Jeremy Benjamin, an accountant at KPMG, lives in Oakton, VA. Dr. Elana Rosenthal is a physician living in Potomac.

Members in the News

Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff received the Dartmouth Daniel Webster Award for Distinguished Public Service, presented by the Dartmouth Club of DC, at a special award dinner on May 21.

Mazal tov to Adas member **Stuart S. Kurlander** on completing his successful term as president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

Bert Foer received the Alan and Adrienne Barth Service Award from the ACLU of the Nation's Capital.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

Jack Kay, husband of Barbara Kay, father of Lauren A. Pollin and brother of Sylvia Greenberg

Margaret Schulman, mother of Robert and Jeffrey Schulman

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Scott Freidel, son of Ellen Wilner

Robert Kleine, father of Lisa Kleine

Stuart Lezell, brother of Mark Lezell

Rose Schnall, grandmother of Lisa Schnall

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 Carole Klein. After business hours, a staff member on call may be reached by calling the synagogue office at the number above and pressing "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.

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 either Jane Beller (301-518-2275) or Edie Hessel (202-244-7189) or contact Toni Bickart (202-244-2747) regarding the *Tahara* Committee.

Adas Israel Community Mikvah

Our *mikvah* is a sacred space where Jews can mark life transitions with powerful physical ritual. Immersing in a *mikvah* connects the body to the water cycle of our planet and to the sources of life. People visit our *mikvah* to observe the *mitzvah* of monthly immersion; to celebrate *s'machot*; to find strength during a difficult time; to pray for healing; to reflect on the meaning of becoming a bride, groom, or *bar* 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, contact Naomi Malka, 202-841-8776 or mikvah@adasisrael.org. For more information, visit adasisrael.org/mikvah.

Cemetery Hours

Visitation at the Adas Israel Cemetery is by appointment only. Contact Glenn Easton or Carole Klein at the synagogue office (202-362-4433) to schedule a visit. ○

Cemetery Open on Father's Day




The Adas Israel Cemetery will be open on June 16 (Father's Day), 10:00 am–2:00 pm.

The cemetery is located at 1400 Alabama Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Carole Klein, 202-362-4433, ext.157. Find directions on our website adasisrael.org/cemeteries.

June 2013
Sivan–Tammuz 5773

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: Please turn off cell phones and pagers before entering services.
Charles E. Smith Service: Interim Ritual Director, Naomi Malka 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.
Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot *Shabbat* for children ages 5 and under led by Menuhah Peters. *Netivot*,

for students in grades K–3, is led by Linda Yitzchak, Allison Redisch, Rina Bardin, and/or Naomi Michaelis. Junior Congregation, for grades 4–6, is led by David Smolar and/or the Steinsaltz Ambassadors. **Shabbat Unplugged:** A new musical family service for families with young children on Saturday mornings at 10:45 am. The service is designed for elementary school 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.
Library Open on Shabbat: The Adas Israel Library is open on Saturdays from 12:30–1:30 pm. Our *Shabbat* volunteers will help you find just the right book to bring home. For assistance during the week, contact our librarian, Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 17 Sivan	27 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 18 Sivan	28 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 19 Sivan	29 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Religious Practices Committee Meeting 7:00 pm JSC Classes 20 Sivan	30 7:30 am Morning Minyan 8:30 am Vision Steering Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 21 Sivan	31 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D’var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf 22 Sivan 8:08 pm 	1 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Smith Shabbat Service; Bat Mitzvah: Nina Lane; Sermon by Rabbi Feinberg 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Steinlauf; Bar Mitzvah: Ezra Meyer 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service; D’var Torah by Rabbi Holtzblatt 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 23 Sivan 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush sponsored by the Strauss/Meyer family, & the Bannier/Lane family 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:08 pm Havdalah
2 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 24 Sivan	3 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 25 Sivan	4 7:30 am Morning Minyan 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 26 Sivan	5 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:15 pm Board of Directors Dinner Meeting 7:00 pm Women of the Wall 7:30 pm Annual Meeting: Elections/Yad Hakavod 8:15 pm Who Is a Rabbi? 27 Sivan	6 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 28 Sivan	7 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 5:30 pm Gan Family Shabbat Service 6:15 pm Gan Family Shabbat Dinner 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D’var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 6:30 pm Shir Delight Oneg 7:30 pm Shir Delight Service; 8 pm D’var Torah by Rabbi Holtzblatt 8:30 pm Shir Delight Dinner 29 Sivan 8:13 pm 	8 PARSHAT KORACH/ROSH CHODESH TAMMUZ 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:15 am Combined Smith Sanctuary Service & Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Honoring Rabbi Feinberg’s 40 years in the Rabbinat GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Judith Hauptman Special Blessing for JPDS Graduates by Rabbi Steinlauf 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 30 Sivan 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush sponsored by Adas Israel Congregation 12:00 pm Ice Cream Kiddush to Honor JPDS Graduates 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:13 pm Havdalah
9 9:00 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 11:00 am Caron Dale Piano Recital 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 1 Tammuz	10 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 2 Tammuz	11 7:30 am Morning Minyan 1:00 pm JSSA Job Search Group 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Anne Frank House Meeting 3 Tammuz	12 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 4 Tammuz	13 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 5 Tammuz	14 7:30 am Morning Minyan 11:20 am Shabbat Sing 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D’var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf 6 Tammuz 8:16 pm 	15 PARSHAT CHUKAT 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Smith Sanctuary Service; Bat Mitzvah: Ella Buring; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Havurah Service; D’var Torah by Sander Mendelson 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 11:00 am Netivot 7 Tammuz 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush sponsored by the Buring family 12:30 pm Havurah Kiddush 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:16 pm Havdalah
16 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 8 Tammuz	17 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 9 Tammuz	18 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Sisterhood Taste of Tanach 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm CCHFP Board Meeting 10 Tammuz	19 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Religious Practices Committee Meeting 7:30 pm Grandparents’ Support Group 11 Tammuz	20 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 12 Tammuz	21 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D’var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 13 Tammuz 8:19 pm 	22 PARSHAT BALAK 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Sanctuary Service; Bat Mitzvah: Hayley Antonelli; Sermon by Rabbi Feinberg Daniel Weiss Bar Mitzvah in Israel 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 14 Tammuz 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush sponsored by the Antonelli family 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:19 pm Havdalah
23 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am Sisterhood Event - Israeli Dancing 4:00 pm YP’s Jazz, Jews & Booze 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 15 Tammuz	24 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 16 Tammuz	25 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 17 Tammuz	26 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 18 Tammuz	27 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 19 Tammuz	28 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D’var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 7:00 pm Ruach Minyan Service 8:00 pm Ruach Minyan Dinner 20 Tammuz 8:20 pm 	29 PARSHAT PINCHAS LECHA 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Combined Smith Sanctuary Service and Traditional Egalitarian Minyan; D’var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 9:45 am Havurah Service; B’nei Mitzvah: Theodore & Noah Daniel; with Rabbi Steinlauf 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 21 Tammuz 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush sponsored by the Daniel family 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:20 pm Havdalah
30 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 22 Tammuz						

Keeping Up with the Vision



The incredible new Charles E. Smith Sanctuary ark takes shape.

Keeping Up with the Vision is a monthly column providing up-to-the-minute information about our exciting renovation process. This is where you can find all you need to know to access all of our programs and activities during the construction phases. You can also follow all the noteworthy developments as they unfold over the coming year. Keep up with the progress as we strengthen Adas's ability to meet the social, intellectual, and religious needs of our wonderful congregation.

Entrance Foyer, Beit Midrash, Gift Shop, & MakomDC

Please note: After testing the use of the Gewirz Beit Am exterior door for Shabbat, we have concluded that this option is not ideal, so we will switch to using only the parking lot door at all times between now and the end of construction (except when the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary opens for b'nai mitzvah). Please also note that all floors are accessible via elevator, handicap parking has not been eliminated, and there is a handicap-accessible restroom



Even the kids got in on the action

in the lower level—so the building remains highly accessible.

Phase III is progressing nicely. We are in the process of creating a wonderful new entrance foyer, an inviting new Gift Shop, a brand-new set of lobby restrooms, and the new *Beit Midrash* and Chapel. Upon completion, the *Beit Midrash* will be a fully functioning House of Study equipped with sacred Judaic texts, modern computer and Internet technology, a coffee bar, and an inviting worship space for daily services. *MakomDC* (Place DC), the innovative learning and engagement center to be housed within this flagship new space, will house a series of speakers, workshops, and worship opportunities throughout the year, specifically catering to the various cohorts represented in our community. This is a very exciting time for Adas Israel and for Jewish DC as a whole.

Until approximately mid-August, the Daily *Minyan* will be held in the Gewirz *Beit Am*, and the Sisterhood Gift Shop will be located on the third floor in Sisterhood Hall A. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we are excited about the magnificent results we anticipate.

We truly look forward to gathering, worshipping, and connecting with you, and with each other, in your new and improved Adas Israel. Here's to the continuation of Phase III! ○



Adas member Leslie Kogod Libby inspects the construction of the Kogod Chapel, named in memory of her grandfather, Charles Kogod.



Making way for the beautiful new entrance foyer and gathering space.



Skilled Forrester Construction workers carefully remove the beautiful mosaic in the lobby to preserve it for future generations.

Lifelong Learning

Two Learning Opportunities with Rabbi Feinberg

Grandparenting Interfaith Grandchildren

Wednesday, June 26, 7:30 pm, Fungler Hall (3rd floor)

This grandparents' group for parents of intermarried children, led by Rabbi Feinberg and Marian Usher, is a drop-in group, and all are invited to attend. If you know someone who has intermarried children and would like to talk, please let him or her know about this group. Call Rabbi Feinberg, 202-362-4433, for more information.

New Talmud Group Begins June 17

Rabbi Feinberg will teach an introductory Talmud course beginning Monday, June 17, at 8:00 pm; the location of the class will be announced soon. He will examine a piece from *B'rachot*, the section of the Talmud that discusses the ins and outs of Jewish prayer. Text study will be in both Hebrew and English. No prior knowledge of the Talmud is assumed. Please contact Marcia Miller, 202-362-4433 or marcia.miller@adasisrael.org, to sign up for the course or you may also register on the Adas Israel website, www.adasisrael.org. ○

Two Jewish Study Center Classes Wednesday, June 5

Women of the Wall: A Paradigm for Advancing Religious Pluralism in Israel

June 5, 7:00–8:15 pm

The protests by Women of the Wall, a group of women who for 24 years have sought to pray and read Torah peacefully as a group at the Western Wall, sparked worldwide support and may even lead to a compromise solution. Does this mean real change for religious politics in Israel?

Instructor Linda Yitzchak is a leader of Washington Friends of Women of the Wall and chaplain at the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes.

JSC and Adas members \$15; non-members \$20

Who Is a Rabbi?

June 5, 8:15–9:20 pm

Interfaith Seminars. Messianic seminars. Movement seminars. Online ordination. Private ordination. Trans-denominational seminars. Female rabbis. Gay rabbis. Non-Jewish rabbis. Transgender rabbis. Unmarried rabbis. Whom are you willing to call "rabbi"? Where do you draw the line? A survey with history and background.

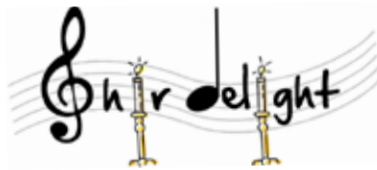
Instructor Jonina Duker, Taibel bas Rachel Leah v'Shlomo Yehoshua, is a longtime Study Center teacher and is proud to claim noted rabbis among her ancestors.

JSC and Adas members \$15; non-members \$20 ○

YP @ AI



YP@AI is a community for young Jewish adults between the ages of 21 and 35. Singles can meet singles, young couples can meet young couples, newcomers can connect with other newcomers—join us!



Shir Delight

Friday, June 7, 6:30 pm

Shir Delight is Adas Israel's Kabbalat Shabbat experience for young professionals between the

ages of 21 and 35. Our evening begins at 6:30 pm with a happy hour oneg, followed by a lay-led Kabbalat Shabbat/Maariv service and \$8 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. Register at www.adasisrael.org/yp by Wednesday, June 5, to reserve your spot.

Jazz, Jews, & Booze

Sunday, June 23, 4:00 pm

Join us for the annual Jazz, Jews, & Booze YP fest outside Adas Israel in the back parking lot. It's what it sounds like: a huge YP, outdoor BBQ with all you can nosh and drink—accompanied by an amazing live Jazz band! \$8 for Adas members; \$10 for non-members. Register at www.adasisrael.org/yp. ○



Welcome, Rachel Miller Griffith!

We are pleased to welcome Rachel Miller Griffith to Team Adas to the freshly minted position of director of engagement. An Adas member, Rachel comes to us after successfully serving as executive director of the Jewish Study Center in Washington, DC. Rachel will fulfill two roles: membership engagement and program planning. She will organize programmatic curricula for new and existing members and will produce Adas events, *Shabbat* services, and *Shabbat* meals.

Rachel is particularly excited to serve as a resource to help our members find a deeper sense of connection to one another as part of our congregational family. As such, she will establish targeted focus groups to identify and help meet all congregational needs. She will also head three programmatic platforms of the congregation: Beit Midrash programming, Young Professional programming, and the Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington. We look forward to benefiting from Rachel's many talents. ○



Mah Tov

HONORING OUR LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

'A Home Away From Home'

Aviva Bensimon, Director of the Senior Lunch Program, interviewed by Naomi Malka

The Senior Lunch program, which has been at Adas for 30+ years, is a partnership that includes the DC Office on Aging, DCJCC, Adas Israel, and the Jewish Federation.

How did you come to this job?

My mother actually found me the job. I wasn't sure at the beginning what it would be like for me, but this is my 10th year at Adas! Before this, I was working with extremely disabled young people and adults. It was very depressing, and I felt disconnected because it was hard for them to express appreciation. I cared about them and the job and the people I worked with, but I wanted to be around more responsive people.

I was raised by my grandmother and her elderly girlfriends, whom I called my aunts. I was always around seniors so I was immediately comfortable at this job. It's like I get to hang out with grandma and grandpa. I love that the seniors here are independent and that they want to stay active. This is my calling . . . what could be better than helping people maintain their independence?

What is working here like for you?

I'm from Israel, where there's more of a sense of being social. This program is like a kibbutz for seniors. My job is to let the seniors know that just because they've aged they shouldn't feel disconnected from the mainstream. Especially in DC, they are surrounded by younger people. These folks are lonely and bored. Their children are working full time or they live far away, so they want to be around others who relate to them and are a part of their generation. This is a home away from home where they get to sit at a round table, talk to friends and neighbors, and feel connected, without the Internet! I make sure we have art, theater, cooking demos, computers, exercise, and yoga.

A lot of the participants never used to talk to people in this neighborhood even though they've lived here for years. After they come here, they are members of a community. Not just a senior community, but the Adas Israel community. What I am most proud of as a Jewish person is that we get to serve everyone here. It is a *Kiddush Hashem* to be able to bring all faiths together. We share a meal and educate them about Judaism and holidays. It's beautiful because it can change people's mind in terms of anti-semitism.



Aviva Bensimon helps longtime Adas member Harriet Sobel celebrate her 90th birthday at the Senior Lunch Program.

We are all human, and we all need each other. The price of food in this neighborhood is so expensive. For these folks, if they had to go out and buy all the ingredients and cook for one person, it wouldn't work. They might suffer from some sort of malnourishment. Living on a small fixed income they look for deals and want to stretch their money for rent, prescriptions, and food. This program is based on contributions. They don't have to pay, yet many people make anonymous contributions.

My favorite part of this work is seeing dating and relationships between widowed people. Life and love is pleasing to see. Love is ageless. Also, on Fridays we have a special Shabbat program with live entertainment. Guys get up and dance and sing. There's a lot of life there and it's inspiring. I don't feel like this is a job. I feel like I'm home with my family. I have a lot of fun.

What are the values that you express through your work?

I respect everyone's faith and background. I believe that people are private, but once you get to know them, they'll open up their homes and their hands. We have an open-door policy, everyone is welcome and there is respect for everyone who walks through the door. I want the Senior Lunch to be a pleasant and dignified experience for everyone. ○

Library Corner

Bomb: A Thrilling, Tragic Tale

by Robin Jacobson

Wander any beach this summer and you will notice two types of readers. Some ambitious souls appear to have saved their densest, heaviest, most significant reading for the lazy, languid days of summer. In the opposite camp are the weary folk who rest their brains with light, frothy fare sure to be long forgotten by autumn. Yet, unbeknownst to many, there is a covert third camp of readers seeking a middle ground—these adults want books that are both worthwhile and easy to read. That is why they turn (sometimes furtively) to kids' books. I confess that some of the books I have enjoyed learned the most from are nonfiction books written for 12- to 16-year-olds. A stunning new entry in this category is *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin, a 2012 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature (available in our library).

Bomb reads like a screenplay for a Hollywood thriller. The narrative shifts rapidly from scene to scene—from Soviet spies trying to steal the secrets of the atomic bomb, to scientists developing the bomb in Los Alamos, to Allied saboteurs who destroy a key Nazi power plant, to the final, tragic anguish of Robert Oppenheimer, the "father of the bomb" who failed to convince President Truman to halt the arms race after World War II. When I left *Bomb* lying on a table at home, my daughters (ages 17 and 20) seized it, and later, at their urging, my husband read it, too. Our whole family recommends this historical, scientific page-turner.

From Berlin to Los Alamos

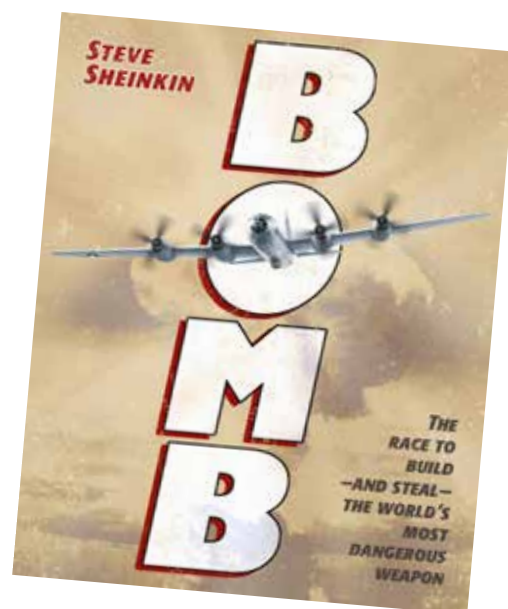
On the eve of World War II, German chemist Otto Hahn discovered nuclear fission, finding a means to split uranium atoms and release immense energy. Physicists around the world understood the implications of this discovery for bomb-making, including an alarmed Albert Einstein who warned President Roosevelt how dangerous Hitler would become with an atomic bomb in his arsenal. Roosevelt formed a committee of military leaders

and scientists that morphed into the Manhattan Project, the code name for the effort to develop an American atomic bomb.

One of the fascinating figures in *Bomb* is J. Robert Oppenheimer, a brilliant Jewish physicist who was scientific director of the Manhattan Project. As a young professor, Oppenheimer was famously absent-minded, so lost in his abstract world of theories and formulas that he didn't hear about the stock market crash that launched the Great Depression until six months after it happened. Beginning in 1936, however, he began to pay increasing attention to the Nazi takeover of Germany, where he had earned his doctorate. When Oppenheimer learned that Hitler was threatening Jewish physicists, he dedicated a portion of his salary to help them escape Germany.

Obsessively focused on building an atomic bomb before Germany did, Oppenheimer began to reflect on the moral implications of atomic weaponry only after a test bomb successfully exploded in the New Mexico desert. With rising dread, Oppenheimer, an erudite scholar who spoke eight languages, recalled a verse from the sacred Hindu text, the *Bhagavad Gita*, "Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds."

After the war, Oppenheimer urged the U.S. government to stop its bomb-building program and opposed development of the more powerful hydrogen bomb. Angry political officials accused him of communist sympathies and revoked his security clearance. Disgraced and humiliated, Oppenheimer returned to teaching, haunted by the realization that the weapon he had created to save the world had provoked an arms race that could destroy it. ○



Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education Supports Annual B'nai Mitzvah Family Retreat

This year's pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah Family Shabbaton Retreat for children celebrating a bar/bat mitzvah in 5774 (2013—14) was led by Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Cantor Arianne Brown, and Josh Bender at the beautiful Pearlstone Conference & Retreat Center just outside of Baltimore. The shabbaton, underwritten in part by the Sandra and Clement Alpert Fund for Family

Education, was a wonderful opportunity to share Shabbat with other families celebrating a bar/bat mitzvah next year, share ideas about this important event in their lives, and deepen the Jewish aspect of the celebration.

The shabbaton included fun activities as well as opportunities for prayer and discussions with Rabbi Steinlauf and Cantor Brown. We again thank the Alpert family for helping to underwrite this annual retreat and wish Dr. Alpert a happy 101st birthday! ○

Know This...
the Adas fund bridges
a more than 15% gap
between dues and
operating costs.

Know This...
the Adas Fund helped
the Adas Mikvah welcome
over 5,000 people to Judaism.

Know This...
the Adas Fund supports the Estelle &
Melvin Gelman Religious
School and the Mildred & Jess
Fisher Early Childhood Center (Gan)
programs as well.

stays strong long into the future.

Please join us this year by making a contribution to The Adas Fund. With your support, we'll be able to embark full steam on an incredible year of synagogue programming at Adas. We can support more congregants who are struggling to pay tuition and dues, we can greatly expand the reach of our adult education programs, and we can ensure that all of our vibrant committees have the resources they need to best serve the synagogue.


Did you know that the gift you make through The Adas Fund allows more than 1,000 people to pray each *Shabbat* at

Adas; provides teachers for our children's Jewish education; supports adult education and programming; delivers kosher meals to elderly and sick people; provides a cushion for those who cannot afford synagogue dues; infuses our early childhood center, Gan HaYeled, with vital resources; helps support Anne Frank House, a homeless shelter; supports the only conservative *mikvah* in the DC Metro area, and so much more? None of this would be possible without your support. Period.

So this year, we are urging each congregant to invest in our community. We are aiming for 100 percent participation.

We trust that we'll be able to include every Adas member as a contributor during this significant stage in the growth and renewal of this *shul*. Gifts of any size are encouraged and appreciated as we strive to sustain our remarkable programs and services. It's up to us.

As always, feel free to contact us or VP for Development Pamela Reeves at any time.

Warmly and gratefully,
2013 Adas Fund Chairs, Meredith &
Michael Cymerman . 

Know This...
the Adas Fund
maintains almost 7,000
prayer books at Adas.

Know This...
the Adas Fund helps
subsidize a 500 person
Kiddush each week.

Know This...
the Adas Fund helps
house hot kosher meals
for 175 seniors each week.

Letter from Anne Frank House

Dear Adas Israel Community:

We hope you have received Anne Frank House's annual fundraising letter. As always, Anne Frank House relies in so many ways on the Adas Israel community, and we're grateful for everyone's continued support of our work.

For those not familiar with AFH, here are a few "fast facts" about the work we do:

- AFH provides apartments in NW Washington to 11 formerly homeless people who suffer from mental illness.
- AFH makes the difference between a degrading, difficult existence on the streets and a secure, stable, dignified, and independent home life.
- AFH is an all-volunteer organization.
- About 95 percent of our income goes directly to serving our clients.
- Through a partnership with Friendship Place (formerly Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place), AFH pays for our clients to receive psychiatric, medical, and case management services.

Anne Frank House is also involved in a partnership with Friendship Place, which helps formerly homeless people who have recently found jobs maintain their employment and housing. Through the "Aim Hire" program, AFH provides funds to enable people who have recently found employment to obtain and remain in an apartment for up to three months, until they become stabilized in their new job and can begin to make the payments on their own.

Your support will help us to continue supporting this new program as well as our current residents. To contribute, you can mail a check to Anne Frank House c/o Adas Israel, or go online and make a contribution on the Adas Israel website. You can also make a donation on our website: <http://www.theannefrank-house.org/>.

Thank you and have a wonderful summer.

Sue Ducat & Mark Chambers
Co-Presidents

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please join us on

**Wednesday evening, June 5, at 7:30 pm
for our Annual Congregational Meeting,**

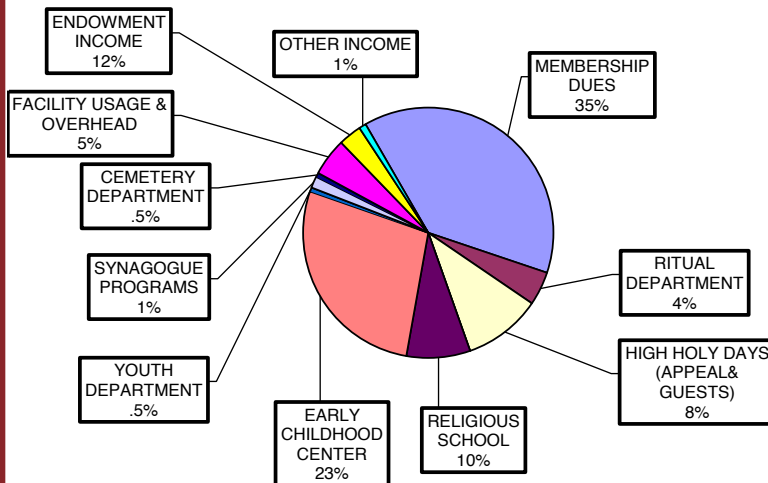
which will include the "State of the Synagogue" by outgoing president Johanna Chanin; election of synagogue leaders, including an "Installation Address" by incoming president Arnold Podgorsky; financial report; Vision of Renewal Building Campaign; and our Yad Hakavod Award to Harriet & Arthur Isack.

Open Board dinner preceding Congregation Meeting at 6:15 pm.

Dessert reception by Yarden Caterers follows the meeting.

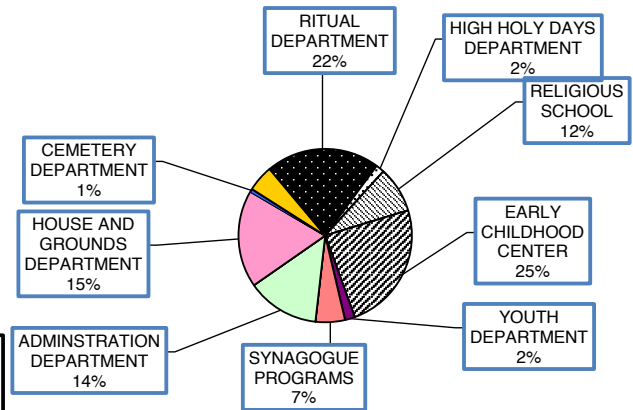
Revenue Chart by department for proposed FY 13-14 Budget

Total Revenue = \$6,026,150



Expense Chart by department for proposed FY 13-14 Budget

Total Expenses = \$6,033,910



PROPOSED 3.5% MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

CATEGORY	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CATEGORY	CURRENT	PROPOSED
2 Adult Household (36+)	\$2,745	\$2,840	1 Adult Household (36+)	\$ 1,815	\$ 1,880
2 Adult Household (30-35)	\$1,810	\$1,875	1 Adult Household (30-35)	\$ 900	\$ 935
2 Adult Household (<30)	\$ 205	\$ 215	1 Adult Household (<30)	\$ 99	\$ 99

Please remember that financial hardship is never a barrier for membership. Please call Glenn Easton if there is a financial need. For a complete copy of the synagogue budget, please contact Glenn Easton at the synagogue office.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS, TRUSTEES, & BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

President	Arnold Podgorsky
Vice President for Administration	Herlene Nagler
Vice President for Membership	Steve Rabinowitz
Vice President for Rel. Practices/Adult Ed.	Ricki Gerger
Vice President for Development	Pamela Reeves
Vice President for Education/Youth	Deborah Joseph
Secretary	Laurie Aladjem
Assistant Secretary	Brian Schwalb
Treasurer	Jeffrey Goodell
Assistant Treasurer	Alexandra Horowitz
Immediate Past President	Johanna Chanin

CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS

Jacob Bardin, Judith Bartnoff, Rosalyn Doggett, Alvin Dunn, Judith Heumann, Kenneth Ingber, Susan Kay, Steve Kleinrock, Stephen Lachter, Andrew Lipps, Jennie Litvack, Jodi Blecker Lowit, Gail Roache, Cynthia Rosenberg, Amy Schwartz, Joyce Stern, Nancy Weiss, Mark Yecies

TRUSTEES

Judie Linowes
Lawrence Nussdorf
Continuing Trustees:
Dr. Clement Alpert
Martin "Bo" Kirsch
David Povich
Sheldon S. Cohen, emeritus

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(term expiring 2016)

Dirk Aardsma
Jacques Antebi
Michelle Buzgon
Meredith Cyerman
Ross Eisenman
Molly Levinson
Nechama Masliansky
Mark Rosenberg
April Rubin
David Strouse

Filling Unexpired Terms

Michael Sloan (2014)

Sandra Eskin (2015)

Contributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Abraham & Anna Nathanson Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Anna B. Nathanson** by Bennett Nathanson.

Anne Frank House Fund

In Memory Of: **Melvin Goldberg** by Stuart & Jamie Butler. **Daisy Gilbert** by Sally Gilbert Moskowitz. **Robert Kleine, Barbara Eames Cox** by Lisa & Steve Schwat. **Henry Keimowitz** by Hazel & Bob Keimowitz.

Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund

In Memory Of: **Stuart Tattar** by Joe Cecil & Judith Friedman.

Bernard & Rose Fischgrund Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Charles Silverman** by Joseph Silverman.

Bikkur Cholim Flower Fund

By: Sydel Sandy.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

By: Robert Scherr.

In Memory Of: **Herbert Goldberg** by Stuart & Jamie Butler.

Cecile & Seymour Alpert Israel Youth Scholarship

In Memory Of: **Dr. Seymour Alpert** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Congregational Kiddush Fund

By: Dr. David Buck & Ms. Ottilia Keresztes-Nagy. *In Honor Of:* Our daughter's naming ceremony by Jake Yeston & Sarah Leffler.

Daily Minyan Fund

In Memory Of: **Murray Jarvik** by Laurence Jarvik.

Dan Kaufman Children's Program Fund

In Honor Of: **Minna Kaufman's** 95th birthday by Esther Silverman, Shoshana & Aaron Marcus, Sylvia Herman.

In Memory Of: **Dan Kaufman** by Julia Batishev.

Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund

In Memory Of: **Bessie Rubenstein** by Lee Rubenstein.

Dr. Louis & Althea Jacobs Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of: **Warren Levy, Eitan Stern-Robbins** by Marvin Szymkowitz & Diana Savit.

Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund

In Memory Of: **Stuart Tattar** by Dorothy Block.

Executive Director Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Glenn Easton** by Ron & Rise Schlesinger. **Abraham & Leslie Stein's** new grandson by Rob & Rachel Rubin. *In Memory Of:* **Stuart Tattar** by Richard & Susan Ugelow.

Ezra Pantry

In Memory Of: **Jack Rosenthal** by Allan & Bobbie Fried.

Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment

In Memory Of: **Elizabeth Gelman Kossow** by Leonard & Frances Burka, John Kossow.

Fund for the Future

In Memory Of: **Albert E. Cousins** by Leonard &

Beth Sloan & family. **Mendel Sender** by Sydel Sandy.

Garden of the Righteous Fund

In Honor Of: **Judy Strauch** by Steve & Sandy Lachter. Birth of **Noah Gregory Saltman** by Larry & Jean Bernard.

Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Stuart Tattar** by Harry & Judie Linowes.

Havurah Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of: Birthdays of **Nati & May'an Stutman Shaw** by Jon Wilkenfeld & Suzanne Stutman.

In Memory Of: **Eitan Stern-Robbins** by Donald & Susan Lubick.

Howard Karl Amchin Memorial Fund

By: Sophie Amchin.

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington

By: Ian & Debra Mishalove, Joel & Cynthia Rosenberg, Robert Satloff & Jennie Litvack.

Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects

In Memory Of: **Esther Ganz, Stuart Tattar** by Joel & Rhoda Ganz.

Marilyn & Stefan Tucker Program Endowment Fund

In Honor Of: **Flo Meyer** by Bob & Anita Wellen.

Maxine & Gerald Freedman Endowment Fund

In Honor Of: **Lilli Friedman's** granddaughter's marriage by Maxine Freedman.

In Memory Of: **Bette Kurstin's** mother by Maxine Freedman.

Mikvah Fund

By: Lauren Tuchman.

Mildred & Jess Fisher Nursery School Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of **Oliver Elleithee and Stella Pearson** by Sheri Brown. **Aaron & Erin, Collette Bayla & Charles Lewis Claxton** by Mark Rosenberg & Betty Adler.

For The Speedy Recovery Of: **Sandy Bobb** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Minnie & Abraham S. Kay Israel Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of: **Jack Kay** by Jeffrey Goldman, Anita Bobys, Glenn & Cindy Easton, Lenny & Beth Sloan, Allan & Bobbie Fried, Amanda Rachel Davis, Ray Celedinas.

Offerings Fund

By: Charles Koppelman.

In Honor Of: **Wayne Hudders** by Amy, Cindy, & Glenn Easton.

With Thanks For: Everyone's friendship & support by Carolyn Shanoff.

In Memory Of: **Robert Leibowitz** by Roslyn Weinstein. **Ann Rosenthal** by Cathy Miller.

Benson Zweig by Phyllis Zweig. **Marty Fiterman** by Matthew Brodsky. **Robert Kleine** by Kent & Pamela Kahler. **Beverly Bernstein** by Richard Bernstein.

Rabbi Feinberg Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Rabbi Feinberg's** 40 years in the rabbinate by Ed & Amy Godin, Sheri Brown, Bruce Ray & April Rubin. Naming of our

daughter by Jake Yeston & Sarah Leffler
With Thanks For: Boker Ohr class by Warren Clark Jr.

In Memory Of: **Anne Fingerhut** by Michael Fingerhut.

Rabbi Steinlauf Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Meirav Steinlauf** becoming a bat mitzvah by Fradel Kramer, Sid & Linda Moskowitz, Kent & Pamela Kahler.

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

In Honor Of: **Gail Schwartz's** special birthday by Fae Brodie.

In Memory Of: **Stuart Tattar** by Adrian & Annette Morchower, Sonya Gichner, Sander & Suzanne Davidson, Shoshana & Aaron Marcus, Daniel & Diane Keller, Frankye Linde, Ava, Neal, Elissa & Jay Gross, Sherry Kaiman, Lester & Karen Goldberg, Art & Edie Hessel, Fae Brodie, Sheri Brown, Nancy, Daniel & Jory Weiss, Steve & Sandy Lachter, Larry & Jean Bernard, Roger & Renée Fendrich, Beth Ann Spector, Harry & Judy Melamed, Stuart & Jamie Butler, Lenny & Beth Sloan, Ron & Rise Schlesinger, Geraldine Pilzer, Mark & Gerry Lezell, Arnie & Mary Hammer, Sid & Linda Moskowitz, Anonymous.

Sydelle Berley by Dr. David Berley. **Robert Kleine** by Steve & Sandy Lachter, Rob & Rachel Rubin, Don & Gail Roache. **Karen Tersoff** by David Margolies & Susan Tersoff. **Simon Sie Rubin, Arnold Belkin, Miriam Baskind**, all by Fae Brodie. **Eitan Stern-Robbins** by Marcia Miller. **Stuart Lezell** by Jane Baldinger Glenn & Cindy Easton. **Miriam & Irwin Baskind** by Harry & Judy Melamed. **Samuel Lebow** by Irv & Grace Lebow. **Joan Eisenkramer** by Arthur Hessel. **Herbert Schwartz** by Stephen & Barbara Bent. **Janet & Richard Butler** by Stuart & Jamie Butler. **Beatrice Rubin** by Gail Roache.

Ruthe Katz Dial-in Program

In Memory Of: **Liza Grundwag** by Dr. Nathan Katz.

Sadie & Herman Hanfling Memorial Fund

In Memory Of: **Aliza Hanfling** by Dan Hanfling & Tanvi Nagpal.

Samuel & Sadie Lebowitz Israel Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of: **Leonora Leonard** by Martin Kirsch. **Stuart Tattar** by Martin & Marlene Kirsch. **Samuel Lebowitz** by Marlene Kirsch.

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education

In Honor Of: **Dr. Clement Alpert's** 101st birthday by Jane Baldinger, Glenn & Cindy Easton.

In Memory Of: **Seymour Alpert** by Dr. & Mrs. Clement Alpert.

Shirley Abrams Memorial Fund

In Memory Of: **Robert Kleine** by Carol Ansell, Nancy, Daniel & Jory Weiss, Mark & Gerry Lezell.

Social Action Fund

In Memory Of: **Muriel Ziffren** by Toni

Contributions Continued

Ritzenberg. **David I. Fischman** by Joel Fischman & Judith Rabinowitz.

Solar Cookers

In Memory Of: **Betty Levinson** by Jackie Levinson.

Sylvia & Harold Greenberg Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Harold Greenberg** by Sylvia Greenberg. **Jack Kay** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Tzedakah Fund

By: Eric Kuchner.

In Memory Of: **Tess Cogen** by Ed & Ruth Cogen. **Morton H. Wilner** by James Wilner.

Dorothy Daffe by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Werner Heumann by Judith Heumann.

Malcolm Shatz by Pierre & Corinne Bensahel.

Nathan Rosenberg by Linda Rosenkrantz.

Bess Schwartz & Abraham Schwartz by Dr. Frederic Schwartz. **Pearl & Meyer H. Dubrow** by Marsha Dubrow. **Anne Levinson Rosoff** by Gail Rouchdy. **Charles Besner** by Arthur Besner. **Ruth Fine, Manuel Miller, & Ida Margolis** by Betty Miller. **Betty Kaye** by Elyse Kaye.

Vision of Renewal Fund

In Memory Of: **Jack Kay** by Irv & Estelle Jacobs.

Stuart Tattar by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

Stuart Lezell by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Yizkor/Yahrzeit Fund

In Memory Of: **Beverly Bernstein** by Lois Levitan. **Martin Jorisch** by Paula Jorisch.

Arthur Dell by Marilyn Austern. **Rose D.**

Herman by Jack M. Herman. **Louis Harrison** by

Florence Herman. **Florence Ross** by Kenneth & Melanie Pell. **Claire E. Bacher, Joseph Bacher** by Anita Bobys. **Raisa Robinson** by Debra Tracy. **Paul Klein** by Barry Simon. **George Weinberg** by Edith Block. **Mel Mantz** by Beth Steindecker. **Harry I. Clayman** by Shirley Steinberg. **Eva Silverman** by Barbara Rein. **Alan Zimmerman** by Abbe Zimmerman.

Youth Activities Fund

In Memory Of: **Libbie Scherr** by Stanley Scherr.

Inga Freyer-Nicholas by Lisa Dunn.

Rose Herson by Lorita Mendelson. **Thelma**

Shapiro by Stephen Shapiro & Susana Fainbraun. ○

Keruv (Interfaith Outreach): Our Communal Journey

by Stephen Lachter

It's right on the first page of our website: "Adas Welcomes Interfaith Households." Click on the link, and there is a welcoming and embracing message that many Conservative synagogues have failed for too long to state: "We welcome both Jewish and non-Jewish family members to worship at all services." This opening is followed by a link to Rabbi Steinlauf's 2009 *Rosh Hashanah* sermon, entitled "The Importance of *Keruv*." As he explains in the first paragraph, "*Keruv* literally means 'to bring close,' 'to draw near.' . . . *Keruv*," according to Rabbi Steinlauf "is a beautiful Jewish value that is all about welcoming. It's the heart and soul of what has sustained us as a community for generations."

As the rabbi notes in his welcome letter, "Our synagogue welcomes those who wish to partake in the richness of Jewish life. Interfaith couples and families are part of the makeup of our congregation, reflecting the diversity of an ever-widening variety of people committed to or interested in Jewish life."

Such statements would have been unthinkable 15 or even 10 years ago when I started my work with the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) *Keruv* Initiative. But in the past decade, owing to the rapid demographic shift in the Jewish community (according to Jewish population surveys nearly 50 percent of marriages involving Jews are interfaith marriages), our communities and institutions have developed a new sensitivity and concern.

On April 28, 2013, both Rabbi Steinlauf (representing Adas) and I (representing the FJMC) participated in a community-wide conversation about interfaith families sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. For the first time, local institutions, together with national organizations, came together to discuss creative approaches to dealing with interfaith issues. Many members of Adas are involved in this initiative, including Dr. Marion Usher, who has been facilitating programming for interfaith couples for many years, at Adas, the WDCJCC, and elsewhere.

There is no question that interfaith families present a host of sometimes new and difficult issues. We are, of course, a religion based on legal principles, some of which make interfaith couples wary of approaching us. Some Conservative synagogues and institutions have taken a hostile or disinterested approach to people who are genuinely interested in joining, not necessarily by converting but by offering support to their Jewish spouses and children. Rather than stand in their way, we need to provide comfort and make Judaism accessible for those who were born Jewish, those who have chosen Judaism, and those who are part of a Jewish couple or Jewish family.

An important part of our *Keruv* effort is to change our synagogue culture to acknowledge the non-Jewish partners in our midst and, where it is legally correct, to alter practices that are insensitive, even rude, and do not conform to our Jewish values of compassion, acceptance, and welcoming, going back to our patriarchs. In that vein, Rabbi Steinlauf's *Keruv aliyah*, where he welcomes and acknowledges newly married interfaith couples on the *bima* with a special prayer after their wedding, is an innovation that is being discussed by rabbis and lay leaders throughout our movement.

In addition, our programs, including our parent and grandparent discussion groups, led by Rabbi Feinberg and Dr. Usher, meet the needs of our young people who are involved in interfaith relationships in ever increasing numbers.

In short, Adas Israel is recognized as a leading Conservative synagogue in its efforts to welcome and embrace interfaith couples and households. At a recent *Keruv* retreat I attended, attendees, my consultant colleagues, and rabbis extolled the new Adas website and our innovative practices and programs. It is an enormous pleasure to continue this meaningful work, and I invite anyone interested in discussing the issues raised or working on current or planned programs to contact me at lachter@starpower.net. ○

Chronicle

VOL. 75, NO. 11 | JUNE 2013 | SIVAN—TAMMUZ 5773

ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION
2850 QUEBEC STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20008-5296

WWW.ADASISRAEL.ORG
202.362.4433

Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, *Senior Rabbi*
Rabbi Charles Feinberg, *Rabbi*
Cantor Arianne Brown, *Cantor*
Naomi Malka, *Interim Ritual Director*
Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, *Director of Lifelong Learning*
Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, z"l, *Emeritus*
Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg, *Emeritus*
Rabbi Avis Miller, *Emerita*
Cantor Arnold Saltzman, *Emeritus*

Johanna Chanin, *President*
Lisa Kleine, *Sisterhood President*
David Nemeth, *Men's Club President*
Abigail Tannebaum Sharon and Alexandra Wisotsky,
Co-Presidents, Gan Parents Association
Mali Rubin, *USY President*

Glenn S. Easton, *Executive Director*
Josh Bender, *Director of Education*
Sheri Brown, *Director, Gan HaYeled*
David Polonsky, *Director of Communications*
Lesley Brinton, *Controller*
Carole Klein, *Synagogue Administrator*
Beth Ann Spector, *Program/Membership Coordinator*

CHRONICLE (USPS 005-280)
Jean Brodsky Bernard, *Editor*
Adina Moses, *Graphic Design*



Published monthly by The Adas Israel Congregation, 2850 Quebec Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008-5296. Telephone 202-362-4433; Hearing Impaired Relay Services 711; Fax 202-362-4961; Religious School 202-362-4449; Gan HaYeled Nursery School 202-362-4491; e-mail: AdasOffice@AdasIsrael.org. Affiliated with The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. Supported in part by The Ethel and Nat Popick Endowment Fund. Subscription \$25 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, DC, and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Chronicle, 2850 Quebec Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008.



Give to the Ezra Pantry @ Adas Israel

The Ezra Pantry has moved to the end of the Gan HaYeled hallway on the ground floor. When you go to the supermarket, be sure to buy extra for those in need!

Tikkun Olam

Save Darfur Vigil



Vigil participants bring attention to genocide and other atrocities in Darfur at the April 21 Monthly Darfur Vigil at the Embassy of Sudan, 2210 Massachusetts Ave NW. The April vigil was adopted by Adas Israel Congregation and Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ. Adas is a member of the Darfur Interfaith Network, which organizes the vigils. The next monthly vigil is **Sunday, June 16, 1:30–2:30.** The Embassy of Sudan is only a few blocks from the Dupont Circle Metro, near Florida Avenue, NW. For more information contact Laura Cutler, mbcutler@aol.com, or Rabbi Feinberg at the synagogue. ○



Chloe Ross, a 6th grader at the Holton-Arms Lower School and a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, designated Anne Frank House at a recent school event. Students were asked to create a product to sell to raise money for a charity or foundation. Chloe, who baked cookies and created a poster, raised \$70. Thank you, Chloe!

Upcoming Chronicle Deadlines—

September: Wednesday, July 31, at noon; October: Friday, August 30, at noon

PERIODICALS POSTAGE
PAID
WASHINGTON, DC
AND AT ADDITIONAL
MAILING OFFICES