



ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Chronicle

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TISHREI-CHESHVAN 5774

דובר אמת Dover Emet Speaking the Truth

Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

THE GATEWAY

I have a friend who works in the Metropolitan Museum of Art; he's an ancient Assyriologist—an expert in the ancient Assyrians, Babylonians, and various other ancient Near Eastern civilizations. For him, Abraham is already “modern history.” Once, he gave a private tour to Batya and me of the Near Eastern Art section of the Met. He took us to those massive, impressive figures—those beings that are half human, half lion, with wings. Their human form is imposing, with long beards and big muscles. Their lion claws are sharp. They're scary, and they're absolutely huge. My friend, a nice Jewish guy, pointed at the fierce crea-

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GLENN EASTON SELECTED FOR SHEM TOV AWARD

Shabbat Morning Service,
November 23
Story on page 5

CELEBRATING OUR 143RD YEAR
THE CHRONICLE IS SUPPORTED IN
PART BY THE ETHEL AND NAT POPICK
ENDOWMENT FUND

Learning Opportunities in the Biran Beit Midrash

October Learning Theme: Torah Study

Join our clergy, inspiring special guests, and members of the community as we learn together and explore the rich legacy of Judaic Torah study. October's programs in the Biran Beit Midrash learning center are open to the entire community.

G-dcast

Sunday, Oct. 6, 10:00 am

An intimate group of Religious School families will study the week's *parasha* and create online animation of their experience.

Tanach and Art: Creating Biblical Art

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7:30 pm

Explore the rich legacy of sacred art as inspired through the stories of our Hebrew Bible. Join us for a lively slide-discussion of the new illuminated Book by author/artist Debra Band.

An Evening with the Maharat

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7:30 pm

Join Maharat Ruth Balinsky Friedman, one of



the first woman graduates of an Orthodox rabbinical school and new member of the rabbinic team at Ohev Shalom, as she sits down with the Jewish Study Center for an evening of open discussion.

Making Torah Personal

Sunday, Oct. 13 & 20, 10:00 am

Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf takes participants through a personal, modern approach to experiencing our ancient texts. Discover meaning,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Return of “Return Again to Shabbat” Friday, October 11 @ 6:30 pm



Join us for the first “Return Again to Shabbat” of 2013/14! RSVP today at www.adasisrael.org

Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt and Elie Greenberg will lead the community in a joyful community Shabbat experience for all ages. Featuring seasoned musicians, a spirited journey through prayer and song, and a festive Israeli tapas-style feast for all! RSVP online today or call Carol Ansell, 202-362-4433.



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Clergy Corner



Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

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tures and said, "You know what these are?" "No," we said, expecting a fascinating explanation of Babylonian mythology. "These," he said, "are mezzuzahs." Rather confused, I said, "Come again?" "Well, they're the ancient Babylonian version of our mezzuzahs. They stood in the city gateways. They guarded the city residents as they came and went. That's what a mezuzah does."

You know what? He was right. Our mezzuzot are not so fierce or frightening. Instead they contain words of Torah. But as we pass through doorways, we kiss them. They remind us that God is with us in our comings and in our goings.

Fast forward to this summer. My family and I were privileged to go on another tour, this time of the archaeology happening right now along the southern and eastern walls of Jerusalem. At one point, our guide took us through the incredible discoveries of "Iron 2A" Jerusalem, the period of David, Solomon, and other early kings of Israel. We stood just above the remnants of a massive ancient gateway to Jerusalem, which the archaeologists believe to be the "Watergate" mentioned in the book of Jeremiah (a fitting gate to visit when one is a tourist from Washington!). The gate was huge and high up atop a tall tower. It had a well and a large plaza area. The archaeologist explained that ancient gates were an essential part of ancient Near Eastern city life. They weren't just waypoints. They were centers for commerce, court cases and hearings, and popular religious ritual. The Holy Temple that once stood at the top of the hill was for official sacrificial ritual. But the common folk also needed a place for their personal and communal rituals, and the city gates served that purpose. This idea fired my mind. In the First Temple Period, in the years and centuries before the destruction of the First Temple, there were no synagogues. There were, however, the gateways.

Our ancient ancestors understood the spiritual meaning of gateways. They understood that gateways are the perfect metaphor for the journey of life itself. We are, all of us, passing through gateways all through our lives. From childhood, through *b'nai mitzvah*, to adulthood, love, marriage, childrearing, and death, we go through passageways. Our ancestors brilliantly performed rituals—no doubt life-cycle rituals among other rituals—in gateways. They affixed their mezzuzot to all of the doorways of their homes and buildings as a constant reminder that we never go through our life passages alone.

As we take our place in our wonderfully renewed synagogue building in this new year, I hope we will be able to re-envision our synagogue as a return to the "gateways" of our ancestors. With our worship spaces that connect us to our heritage, and our Biran Beit Midrash as a center of gathering, conversation, praying, and learning—our synagogue is a *Makom*, a Place to find a constant reminder, not only that we have God with us, but we have each other. My prayer is that we renew our relationship to our syna-

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gogue in this new chapter of our journey together: may we see our synagogue less as a "temple" of official worship, and more as a "gateway," a center where our lives intersect, our journeys gain meaning, our life passages are affirmed. I pray that our synagogue be a place where the focus is not on esoteric rituals on the proverbial mountaintop, but rather where our individual journeys find strength, joy, and support in a place that is about us and for each of us. As the Babylonians could attest, life is often difficult. It can be scary. But in our shared gateways, we can find protection. In our Jewish gateway that is our renewed Adas Israel, may we feel sheltered in God's wings and strengthened and inspired to move forward on the journeys of our lives. ○

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

beauty, spirituality, and depth in places you may never have thought to look!

Taste of Mussar

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 7:30 pm

Rabbi Feinberg will lead this intimate exploration of the *Mussar* path of contemplative, ethical, and spiritual Jewish practices to help an individual soul break through all barriers.

Hazak for Ages 55+

Sunday, Oct. 13, 7:00 pm

Come join us for this inaugural program for members ages 55 and up and help build this growing segment of our community through a variety of creative programs that include study, prayer, entertainment, and socializing.

Read more about the year's *MakomDC* main events on page 3 and register for any of these programs at www.adasisrael.org or by calling Carol Ansell, 202-362-4433. ○

GDCAST
GDCAST

GDCAST
GDCAST

will learn together, in depth, the week's *parasha* and create a one-minute, animated video on their experience and interpretation of the text. *G-dcast* raises worldwide Jewish literacy, having created more than 75 short films, used by over 3,000 educators, all based on Jewish texts.



Sarah Polon

the opportunity to sip soup as we delve into food's role in our spiritual lives.



Ari Roth

of human relationships. The session will feature an engaging dialogue and theatrical presentation.



Shira Kline

tion incorporating music, interactive storytelling, imaginative play, and spirituality to enrich and inspire children, will lead an exciting *L'Dor VaDor* musical *Shabbat* service for adults and families and a Sunday concert for Gan HaYeled families.

October: Torah Study

Featuring *G-dcast*

Sun, October 6 @ 10 am

To help kick off our premier Torah Study month at Adas, we are pleased to introduce *G-dcast* to an intimate group of religious school families who

November: Food

Featuring Sarah Polon (Soupergirl)

Tuesday, November 5 @ 7:30 pm

Judaism acknowledges almost every major holiday with a festive feast. Sarah Polon (founder, owner, and operator of Soupergirl, the local kosher, organic soup franchise) and her mom, Marylin, will join us for a conversation about food, ethics, spiritual eating, and how to make yummy vegan cream. We will have

December: Relationships

Featuring Ari Roth

Sunday, December 8 @ 7:00 pm

The Torah is a story about relationships; our task is to make sacred relationships come alive. Ari Roth, artistic director of Theater J in Washington, DC, since 1997, is a celebrated American theatrical producer, playwright, director, and educator. He will bring his powerful arsenal of artistic, theatrical, and literary talents to the table as he joins us to explore the dynamics

January: Music

Featuring Shira Kline

All Weekend: Jan. 10-12

Music is the language that binds us, that calls to us, that elevates us, and brings us all together. Shira Kline, who offers a unique and innovative approach to Jewish educa-



Jay Michaelson

LGBT Jewish community), will cite lessons drawn from his celebrated bestseller, *God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality*, to explore the concepts of equality, freedom, and shifting societal views on LGBT social justice.



Yehuda Kurtzer

ing his curriculum of 18 videos featuring the voices of the scholars from the Shalom Hartman Institute.



David Ingber

educator. His unique, open-hearted, and embodied approach to Jewish teaching will help welcome newcomers to contemplative Jewish practice, and teach us how mindfulness has enlightened Jewish observance for centuries. ○

February: Justice

Featuring Jay Michaelson

Tuesday, February 4 @ 7:30 pm

Central to the Jewish belief in the existence of God is the belief that our God is loving and compassionate and desires righteousness and loving-kindness from us. Dr. Jay Michaelson, VP of the Arcus Foundation (a leading global foundation for advancing LGBT equality) and founder of Nehirim (a national

March: Israel

Featuring Yehuda Kurtzer

Tuesday, March 4 @ 7:30 pm

Less than 70 years ago, Tel Aviv was a desert, and today it is a thriving city of the arts, technology, culture, and Jewish autonomy. Yehuda Kurtzer, president of the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America, will join us as we open a new dialogue on Israel, leading us through a thought-provoking evening exploring his curriculum of 18 videos featuring the voices of the scholars from the Shalom Hartman Institute.

April: Spirituality

Featuring Rabbi David Ingber

Wednesday, April 9 @ 7:30 pm

Kavanah (intention) is all about mindfulness. Rabbi David Ingber is the founder and spiritual director of Romemu in New York. Having studied philosophy and psychology at NYU, and having learned at a wide range of *yeshivot* in Jerusalem and New York, he is a sought-after national and international leader and



Holidays

Yom Kippur Break-the-Fast in Memory of Stuart Tattar



Dr. Stuart and Elinor Tattar

The name Elinor Tattar is synonymous with the High Holy Days as she recently completed her 35th High Holy Day season as our holiday coordinator. However, this year's holiday season was less joyful due to the passing of her beloved husband, Stuart this past March.

In Stuart's memory, Elinor underwrote the congregational break-the-fast after *Yom Kippur*. Connecting Stuart's memory with the conclusion of the holiest day of the year is a meaningful way for Elinor to share her love for Stuart and her long connection with our congregation.

May the memory of Stuart Tattar forever be a blessing. May Elinor's dedication to Stuart and our congregation continue to be an inspiration. ○



Such Talented Congregants!

A big *yasher koach* and thank you to all our congregants who sang so beautifully during High Holy Day Services in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary. Cantor Arianne Brown in particular expresses her deepest appreciation. The new Sanctuary space is certainly beautiful, but only half as beautiful as the voices that fill it!

Singers were Rochelle Berman, Ella Buring, Morris Chalick, Michelle Kanter Cohen, Ariella Cymerman, Isaac Cymerman, Cole Edelstein, Ruth Engel, Susannah Epstein-Boley, Emma Fensterheim, Eliya Gelb, Danny Ingber, Rebecca Ingber, Brandon Leach, Isaac Malka, Jeff Marr, Yael Nemeth, Lilah Silverman, Tessa Silverman, Elana Steinlauf, Meirav Steinlauf, Alex Wellisch, Talya Wellisch, and Yael Wellisch. ○

5774 High Holy Days *Todah Rabah* to...

...our clergy & service leaders: Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, Cantor Arianne Brown, Rabbi Mark Novak, Michael Leifman, Elie Greenberg, and Robyn Helzner.

...our service coordinators: David Bickart, Ken Goldstein, Nancy Weiss, and Leah Chanin.

...the coordinators and leaders of the Gan and Youth Services:

Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, Elie Greenberg, Rich Dinetz, Beth Ann Spector, Robyn Helzner, Menuhah Peters, Linda Yitzchak, and David Smolar.

...our *madrichim* (teen assistants).

...Torah, *Haftarah* & *Ashrei* readers for *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot* & *Simchat Torah*.

...the *daveners* in the Preliminary & *Shacharit* Services on *Rosh Hashanah* & *Yom Kippur*.

...those blowing the *shofar*: Jennie Litvack, Mark Joseph, Harry Chauss, David Nemeth, Elie Greenberg, Aaron and Noah Knishkowsky, Menuhah Peters and Rabbi Feinberg.

...the alumni of the Abe & Minnie Kay Israel Experience who shared their Israel experiences before the Israel Bonds Appeal: Annie Fisher, Max Kanefield, Benjamin Satloff, and Jessica Schwalb.

...Arnold Podgorsky, president; Ricki Gerger, VP for programs and religious practices; Cynthia Rosenberg, Religious Practices

Committee chair; and all of our officers and lay leadership.

...Meredith and Michael Cymerman for chairing our Adas Fund Appeal, along with VP for development Pamela Reeves.

...Sandy Bobb, Israel Bonds chair.

...our ushers and their coordinator David Lynn and Men's Club president, David Nemeth. Ushers: Betty Adler, Irwin Ansher, Jacques Antebi, Michael Berg, Dava Berkman, Ira Berkower,

Mark Berlin, Toni Bickart, Rick Cantor, Leah Chanin, Carmel & Barry Chiswick, Sheldon Cohen, Stan Cohen, Edith Couturier, Steve Davidson, Roz Doggett, Michael Fingerhut, Leah Hadad, Rachel Hall, Jack Herman, Art Hessel, David Kempler, Lisa Kleine, David Kline, Ed Kopf, Andy Lipps, David Margolies, Robert Marvin, Nechama Masliansky, Steve Miller, Sid Moskowitz, Vicki Perper, Edna & Larry Povich, Gail Roache, Mark Rosenberg,

Cynthia Rosenberg, Alan Roth, Deborah Russak, Harry Sachse, Ron Schlesinger, Janet Scribner, Margie Siegel, Nancy Silverman, Joyce Stern, Judy Strauch, Justin Swain, Stef Tucker, James Whitman, Mark Yecies, Robert Yerman, and Razi Yitzchak.

...our *Yom Kippur* afternoon speakers: Ambassador Michael Oren and Jeffrey Goldberg.

...Cantor Arianne Brown for coordinating our *Selichot* program, which was underwritten by the Joseph & Mollie Muchnick *Selichot* Fund.



Holidays Continued

TODAH RABAH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

...the Martyrology readers.

...Marky & Martin Kirsch for dedicating our *Yizkor* Book of Remembrance in loving memory of their parents, Samuel & Sadie Lebowitz and Ralph & Helen Kirsch.

...the Sisterhood for the beautiful High Holy Day *bimah* flowers and the Sisterhood Decorating Committee and coordinators for the beautiful *Sukkot* decorations on the *bimah* and in the *sukkah*.

...David Nemeth and the Men's Club "*Sukkah* Studs" and our maintenance staff for building our *sukkah*.

...to Elinor Tattar, High Holy Day coordinator; and to the synagogue and school administrative staff: Carol Ansell, Jane Baldinger, Suzanne Klein Davidson, Marcia Miller, Rita Nicholls, Beryl Saltman, Becki Walter, Elana Woolf, and Marcus Allen.

...to Naomi Malka, ritual coordinator; Jill Epstein, interim director of education; Sheri Brown, early childhood director; Rabbi Sarah Meytin, assistant Gan director; David Polonsky, director of communications; Marcy Spiro, membership & program manager; Beth Ann Spector, religious school program coordinator; Rich Dinetz, director of youth activities; Sasha Bloch, youth advisor; Gail Mattison, event coordinator; Robin Jacobson, librarian; and Lesley Brinton, controller.

...to Glenn Easton, executive director, and Carole Klein, synagogue administrator.

...to Brad Anderson, building manager, and the maintenance staff: Calvin Casey, Steve Claar, Marc Holderman, Charles Mallory, Phil Thomas, and the crew from PMM Companies.

...to the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary quartet and musicians: Elizabeth Picker, Noah Palmer, Alexander Ebin, and Lily Arbisser; pianist George Peachey; and cellist Lavena Johanson. On the 2nd Day of *Rosh Hashana*: Piano: Teddy Klaus, Bass: Daniel Shorstein, Woodwinds: Seth Kibel and Percussion: Kenneth Krohn.

...to those who assisted with High Holy Day tickets in the office: Gerry & Mark Lezell, Arleen Kessler, Stephanie Deutchman, Ron & Rise Schlesinger, Stephanie Chill, and Alex Chill.

...to the Ruthe & Nathan Katz Dial-In Fund, so members can hear our services from afar.

...to Elinor Tattar for underwriting the Congregational Break-the-Fast in memory of Dr. Stuart R. Tattar and to the Dr. Judith Kossoff Outreach Program Fund for underwriting the Young Professionals Break-the-Fast Supper.

...to Sec Tek, Inc. Security and the Metropolitan Police Department, Second District.

...to Steve Rabinowitz & Laurie Moskowitz for sponsoring the *Erev Simchat Torah* refreshments in memory of Steve's mother, Dorothy Rabinowitz, on her *yahrzeit*. Linking her memory with the beauty and importance of *Simchat Torah* is a lasting and meaningful memorial to this special person.

...and to the nearly 5,000 members and guests who attended and participated in our High Holy Day services. ○

SHEM TOV AWARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Adas Israel will present its prestigious *Shem Tov* award to Glenn Easton on *Shabbat* morning, November 23, announced synagogue president Arnold Podgorsky.



Established in 1963, the *Shem Tov* Award recognizes members who have contributed significantly to the betterment of our congregation and community. The inspiration for the award comes from the passage in *Pirke Avot* (*Ethics of our Ancestors*): "There are three crowns of a Good Name, a *Shem Tov*, however, exceeds them all."

Glenn's accomplishments as Adas's executive director from 1991 to 2013 are evident in virtually all aspects of our synagogue's life. During his tenure, Glenn worked with lay leaders and staff to pay off a \$4.5 million mortgage, eliminate a \$1 million operating deficit, create a significant operating reserve fund, build a \$20 million endowment fund, and institute a unique set of personnel practices and policies, which helped *The NonProfit Times* designate the congregation as "One of the Best Nonprofits to Work For." Glenn's crowning achievement has been to spearhead the fundraising campaign with lay leaders for close to \$17 million for the Vision of Renewal project while also serving on the Steering Committee as the best-informed member with regard to every aspect of the building and its uses.

Beyond his significant contributions to our fiscal and organizational stability, Glenn has touched the lives of our congregants with his sensitivity and thoughtfulness. Many of our members point out Glenn's gift for knowing us; he remembers who you are, knows your family, remembers your "story," extends a helping hand, greets you with a warm smile, and always takes time to stop and chat. Distinguishing Glenn as a true *Shem Tov* are his countless "quiet" efforts on behalf of others—helping Rabbi Rabinowitz (*z"l*) as he grew older; advocating, caring for, and visiting Jimmy Young, our revered custodian; and helping the countless "little ladies" of the neighborhood who sometimes needed milk, or a ride, or someone to listen.

In the broader community Glenn has served as president of the Jewish Communal Service Association of North America, the North American Association of Synagogue Executives, and the Jewish Professionals Association of Greater Washington. In addition, he was among the first of his peers to be commissioned as an *Amin Tzibur*, a prestigious recognition awarded to exemplary Jewish communal professionals. He has also served on the boards of *Ziv Tzedakah* Fund, Friends of Allison Bone Marrow Project, Mercaz USA, and the Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism.

The American Jewish University also honored Glenn with its Mickey Weiss Distinguished Alumnus Award, calling him "the *Shul* Doctor" in recognition of his many years helping small congregations without a professional administrator.

Please join the entire congregation on *Shabbat Vayeishev*, November 23, when Glenn will receive the *Shem Tov* award. A festive *kiddush* in his honor will follow services. ○

Life Cycle

Milestones

Birth:

Ryan Eitan Brown, son of Kate & Ted Brown, grandson of Cynthia Rosenberg, was born on August 1.

Noa Jane Morningstar Baylis, daughter of Lea Morgenstern Baylis & Whit Baylis, granddaughter of Devra Davis & Richard Morgenstern, was born on June 23.

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

Weddings:

Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlberg officiated at the wedding of Michael Robinson, son of Richard & Betsy Robinson to Shelly Eva Helfgott, daughter of James Helfgott & Vered Azhari on July 21.

We wish our newlyweds and their families a life of joy, good health, and connection to the Jewish community.

B'nai Mitzvah



Lilah Silverman, October 5

Lilah Silverman, who will turn 13 on the first night of *Hanukkah*, is a seventh grader at the Edmund Burke School in Washington. Lilah enjoys art, cooking, music and hanging out with her friends, as well as spending time with her dogs, Charlie and Simon.



Alex Wellisch, October 12

Alex Wellisch, son of Jessika and David Wellisch, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. He began his Jewish education at the Gan and attends the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He is delighted to share this *simcha* with his sisters, Talya and Yael; his grandparents, Lina Linkimer and Eva

and Helmut Wellisch; and other family members and friends. At this special time, he also remembers his grandfather, Luis Sorrosa, of blessed memory. For his *mitzvah* project, Alex is volunteering at the Sunrise Senior Living.



Elior Waskow, October 12

Elior Waskow is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School and is a graduate of the Jewish Primary Day School and Gan HaYeled. He also attends Ramah Outdoor Adventure camp in Colorado and is a member of the DC Stoddert Blue Metros soccer team. He is looking forward to celebrating his *simcha* with his

parents Ketura Persellin and David Waskow, his sister Shifra, his grandparents and extended family, and many friends.



Daniel Koenig, October 26

Daniel Koenig, son of Eric Koenig and Amy Schwartz, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School and attends the Ma'alot program. His Jewish education has included the Gan, the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School and three happy summers at Camp Ramah New England.

Daniel is excited to share his *simcha* in the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan* with his friends and relatives, his grandmother, Doris Schwartz Koenig, and his siblings.



Amelia Davidson, November 2

Amelia Davidson, daughter of Alan and Melissa Goldman Davidson, is a seventh grader at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School and a proud graduate of Gan HaYeled. Amelia's lineage at Adas Israel goes back six generations, and she will follow in the footsteps of mother Melissa, grandfather Michael, and great-

grandfather Aaron Goldman (z"l), in celebrating her *bat mitzvah* at Adas. Amelia shares this *simcha* with her younger brother, Harry, and her adoring extended family. For her *mitzvah* project, Amelia is a volunteer with the Gudelsky Swim Program, helping children and adults with disabilities learn to swim.

Members in the News

President Obama has appointed Adas Israel member **Beth Heifetz** to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Isaac Frumkin was on a winning Little League team that made it very close to the Little League World Series.

Marissa Cannon, daughter of Lisa Cannon Kopit and granddaughter of Sidney and Peggy Silver, was the starting point guard on the Gold Medal award-winning U.S. National Junior Basketball team at the 19th Maccabiah Games in Israel.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

Alyson Pilzer, daughter of Geraldine Pilzer

Rose Savadow, mother of Ava Gross

Henry Taskier, father of Paul Taskier

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Margaretha Antonelli, mother of Arthur Antonelli & Faye Yablon, mother of Jeffery Yablon

Alice Cecil Engelbrecht, sister of Joe Cecil

Ivan Allan Ezrine, brother of Rhoda Ganz ○

YP@AI

Shir Delight, Friday, October 4, 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, Oct. 2, to reserve your spot. ○

Sisterhood

Day Trip to Richmond, VA, Sunday, Oct. 6

This is a Foundation for Jewish Studies excursion focusing on Jews and the Confederacy. Executive director of FJS is Sisterhood member Lauren Strauss. The cost of the excursion is \$100, but it is \$90 for FJS and Sisterhood members. Contact www.foundjs.org for details and to sign up.

Creating Biblical Art, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7:30 pm

Sisterhood joins other auxiliary groups in the synagogue to co-sponsor the *Beit Midrash* program featuring Debra Band, who will discuss Art and the *Tanach*, based on her new book, *Arise! Arise!—Deborah, Ruth, and Hannah*. (Note: *Arise! Arise!* was the 5773 theme for Torah Fund.)

Recent Events: September 15 and September 17 saw our community come together to build and decorate the *sukkah* with the Men's Club and Gan HaYeled. As part of our *sukkah* program, we sponsored a successful food drive in conjunction with Ezra Pantry to support S.O.M.E. and to share the bounty of the season with those less fortunate throughout the city. Our opening program, September 29, featured Barbara Vinick, author of *Today I am a Woman: Stories of Bat Mitzvah around the World*. In addition, author Dara Horn, our 2011 Sisterhood *Shabbat* speaker, was back in town September 30 discussing her new novel, *Guide for the Perplexed*. A Book Chat "field trip" co-sponsored by Sisterhood to hear her at Politics and Prose was a treat for the many who attended.

Membership for 5774

Dues for 5774 are now being accepted. Use the form you received in the mail or send a note with your check, payable to *Adas Israel Sisterhood*, to Treasurer **Dava Berkman**, 2475 Virginia Avenue, NW, Apt. 803, Washington, DC 20037. Basic membership is \$36; other categories are Contributor \$54, Patron \$72, and Welcome Membership (one-year complimentary membership for new members of the synagogue). Join today and participate in our many programs and volunteer opportunities.

Women's League for Conservative Judaism Torah Fund Campaign

The Torah Fund supports the training of our rabbis and cantors, educators and administrators, social workers, researchers, and scholars. *Adas Israel Sisterhood* is hoping to reach its campaign goal of **\$12,000**. A contribution of just \$18 from *each of you* would allow us to surpass that goal.



Everyone making a contribution of \$36 or more will be invited to a special Torah Fund event on November 3. A donation of \$180 or more will designate you as a Benefactor, and you will receive the lovely Torah Fund pin pictured here. The pin's theme is **Mishpachah**, reflecting the Women's League focus for 5774. We are acknowledging both the sanctity that comes with being one big family and the complexity of our families and relationships.

If you would like more information about the Torah Fund Campaign, please contact Gerry Lezell, 301-231-8676 or gerrytf@gmail.com. ○

United Contributions for Worldwide Conservative/Masorti Judaism

by Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

As in past years, *Adas Israel Congregation* dues statements include voluntary contributions to *Mercaz/Masorti* and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Our contributions to and efforts on behalf of these organizations are proving more vital every year. I strongly encourage all of us to make commitments to *Mercaz/Masorti* and JTS. In doing so, we can help to ensure that the Jewish traditions and values that are so important to us will continue to resonate in our lives.

Masorti, meaning traditional, is the organization of Conservative congregations across Israel. *Masorti* congregations are fulfilling the religious and social needs of the 80 percent of the Israeli population who are not Orthodox. In spite of their vital role, these congregations receive no support from the Israeli government. Currently boasting more than 60 congregations, the *Masorti* movement provides nursery schools, camps, and youth groups, in addition to social services, clothing distribution centers, and more. Your donations to *Masorti* are critical for this work to continue.

Mercaz is the Zionist membership organization of the Conservative Movement, the voice of Conservative Jewry within the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Zionist Movement, and the Jewish National Fund.

It supports religious pluralism in Israel and strengthens the connection between Israel and the Diaspora. Your membership in *Mercaz* enables our representatives to obtain allocations for many of the Conservative programs and for the movement to secure millions of dollars of funding from the Jewish Agency.

For more than 100 years, the **Jewish Theological Seminary of America** has played a unique and central role in the life of the Conservative Movement. Situated in New York, its influence and leadership are felt here in the United States, Europe, South America, and Israel. In addition to the Conservative rabbis, cantors, Jewish educators, and teachers JTS educates, many others take courses or are enrolled in programs at the Seminary because of its excellent academics. Because it is a religious institution and cannot solicit government funds, the only constituency to which the Seminary can turn for support is members of the Conservative Movement. We are its primary source of funding, just as it is our source of intellectual and spiritual strength. Therefore, we call on every member to contribute a minimum of \$18 to JTS. Thank you for participating in this endeavor and for recognizing how vital the Seminary is for our Movement, for the future of the American Jewish community, and for our Movement's efforts to create pluralism in Israel. ○

October 2013
Tishrei–Cheshvan 5774

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: Please turn off cell phones and pagers before entering services.

Charles E. Smith Sanctuary: Join us for our *Shabbat* morning services in the renewed Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, the synagogue's largest worship space, led by our inspiring Rabbi and Cantor. The service includes a *D'var Torah* and sermon by the Rabbi and often includes participation by members and *B'nai Mitzvah*.

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.

'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
29 9:00 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:45 am <i>JMCW Mindful Yoga</i> 1:00 pm <i>Sisterhood Mother–Daughter Book Discussion</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 25 Tishrei	30 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 26 Tishrei	1 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:30 pm <i>JMCW Mindful Meditation</i> 27 Tishrei	2 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:30 pm <i>VISION OF RENEWAL DEDICATION CEREMONY</i> 28 Tishrei	3 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 29 Tishrei	4 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 9:30 am <i>Life After the Gan</i> 10:50 am <i>Gan Shabbat Sing—Children Only</i> 5:30 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg</i> 6:00 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg</i> 6:30 pm <i>YP Shir Delight Oneg, Service & Dinner</i> 30 Tishrei	5 PARSHAT NOAH/ROSH CHODESH 8:00 am <i>Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</i> 9:15 am <i>Smith Sanctuary Shabbat Service; Bat Mitzvah: Lilah Silverman; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf</i> 9:30 am <i>Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</i> 9:30 am <i>Havurah Shabbat Service; D'var Torah by Mike Sloan</i> 11:00 am <i>Tot Shabbat</i> 12:00 pm <i>Congregational Kiddush</i> 12:30 pm <i>Havurah Shabbat Kiddush</i> 1 Cheshvan
6 9:00 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:00 am <i>MakomDC October</i> Main Event: G-DCAST 10:00 am <i>Adult B'not Mitzvah Class</i> 10:45 am <i>JMCW Mindful Yoga</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 2 Cheshvan	7 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 1:30 pm <i>Living with Illness Support Group</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 3 Cheshvan	8 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:00 am <i>Sisterhood Taste of Tanach with Rabbi Steinlauf</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:00 pm <i>Introduction to Judaism Conversion Program</i> 7:30 pm <i>JMCW Mindful Meditation</i> 7:30 pm <i>Creating Biblical Art in the Biran Beit Midrash (MakomDC)</i> 4 Cheshvan	9 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:00 pm <i>An Evening with Maharat Ruth Balinsky Friedman (MakomDC)</i> 7:30 pm <i>A Taste of Mussar (MakomDC)</i> 5 Cheshvan	10 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:45 pm <i>Scotch and Scriptures Men's Group</i> 6 Cheshvan	11 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:50 am <i>Gan Shabbat Sing</i> 6:00 pm <i>Traditional Lay Led Shabbat Service hosted by the TEM</i> 6:30 pm <i>Return Again Service & Dinner with Rabbi Holtzblatt</i> 7 Cheshvan	12 PARSHAT LECH LECHA 8:00 am <i>Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</i> 9:30 am <i>Smith Sanctuary Shabbat Service; Bar Mitzvah: Alex Wellisch; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf</i> 9:30 am <i>Traditional Egalitarian Minyan; Bar Mitzvah: Elior Waskow, with Rabbi Feinberg</i> 11:00 am <i>Tot Shabbat</i> 11:00 am <i>Netivot</i> 11:00 am <i>Junior Congregation</i> 8 Cheshvan
13 9:00 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:00 am <i>Making Torah Personal with Rabbi Steinlauf (MakomDC)</i> 10:00 am <i>Adult B'not Mitzvah Class</i> 10:45 am <i>JMCW Mindful Yoga</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:00 pm <i>Hazak Program for Ages 55+</i> 9 Cheshvan	14 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 9:30 am <i>Gan HaYeled Preschool Open House</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 10 Cheshvan	15 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:00 pm <i>Introduction to Judaism Conversion Program</i> 7:30 pm <i>JMCW Mindful Meditation</i> 11 Cheshvan	16 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 6:30 pm <i>Board of Directors Meeting</i> 7:00 pm <i>Mikvah Guide Training</i> 7:00 pm <i>JSC Classes</i> 7:30 pm <i>A Taste of Mussar (MakomDC)</i> 12 Cheshvan	17 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 13 Cheshvan	18 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:50 am <i>Gan Shabbat Sing</i> 5:30 pm <i>Young Family Shabbat Service with Cantor Brown & Robyn Helzner</i> 5:30 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg</i> 6:00 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</i> 6:30 pm <i>Young Family Shabbat Dinner</i> 7:00 pm <i>Ruach Minyan Service & Dinner</i> 14 Cheshvan	19 PARSHAT VAYERA 8:00 am <i>Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</i> 9:30 am <i>Smith Sanctuary Shabbat Service; Sermon by Rabbi Feinberg</i> 9:30 am <i>Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</i> 9:45 am <i>Havurah Shabbat Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</i> 11:00 am <i>Tot Shabbat</i> 11:00 am <i>Netivot</i> 11:00 am <i>Junior Congregation</i> 12:00 pm <i>Congregational Kiddush</i> 15 Cheshvan
20 9:00 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:00 am <i>Making Torah Personal with Rabbi Steinlauf (MakomDC)</i> 10:00 am <i>Adult B'not Mitzvah Class</i> 10:30 am <i>Adas Book Chats</i> 10:45 am <i>JMCW Mindful Yoga</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 16 Cheshvan	21 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 1:30 pm <i>Living with Illness Support Group</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 17 Cheshvan	22 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:00 pm <i>Introduction to Judaism Conversion Program</i> 7:30 pm <i>JMCW Mindful Meditation</i> 18 Cheshvan	23 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 6:30 pm <i>Religious Practices Committee Meeting</i> 7:00 pm <i>JSC Classes</i> 7:30 pm <i>A Taste of Mussar (MakomDC)</i> 19 Cheshvan	24 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 20 Cheshvan	25 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:50 am <i>Gan Shabbat Sing</i> 5:30 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg</i> 6:00 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg</i> 21 Cheshvan	26 PARSHAT CHAYE SARAH 8:00 am <i>Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</i> 9:30 am <i>Smith Sanctuary Shabbat Service; Sermon by Rabbi Holtzblatt</i> 9:30 am <i>Traditional Egalitarian Minyan; Bar Mitzvah: Daniel Koenig, with Rabbi Feinberg</i> 11:00 am <i>Tot Shabbat</i> 11:00 am <i>Netivot</i> 22 Cheshvan
27 9:00 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:00 am <i>Adult B'not Mitzvah Class</i> 10:45 am <i>JMCW Mindful Yoga</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 23 Cheshvan	28 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 24 Cheshvan	29 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 5:30 pm <i>PJ Library Storytime in the Adas Library</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:00 pm <i>Introduction to Judaism Conversion Program</i> 7:30 pm <i>JMCW Mindful Meditation</i> 25 Cheshvan	30 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 7:00 pm <i>JSC Classes</i> 7:30 pm <i>A Taste of Mussar (MakomDC)</i> 26 Cheshvan	31 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 6:00 pm <i>Evening Minyan</i> 27 Cheshvan	1 7:30 am <i>Morning Minyan</i> 10:30 am <i>Steinlauf & Starbucks</i> 10:50 am <i>Gan Shabbat Sing</i> 5:30 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg</i> 6:00 pm <i>Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</i> 6:30 pm <i>YP Shir Delight Oneg, Service & Dinner; 8 pm D'var Torah by Rabbi Hotlzblatt</i> 29 Cheshvan	2 PARSHAT TOLDOT 8:00 am <i>Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</i> 9:30 am <i>Smith Sanctuary Shabbat Service; Sermon by Rabbi Feinberg</i> 9:30 am <i>Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</i> 9:45 am <i>Havurah Shabbat Service; Bat Mitzvah: Amelia Davidson; with Rabbi Steinlauf</i> 10:00 am <i>Shabbat Spot</i> 11:00 am <i>Tot Shabbat</i> 11:00 am <i>Netivot</i> 29 Cheshvan

Lifelong Learning

Here Is Your Opportunity to Get a Taste of Mussar!

Rabbi Feinberg expounds on his upcoming MakomDC Program in the Biran Beit Midrash

A Taste of Mussar is a home-study program that offers an ideal first exposure to Mussar study and practice. Topics covered in this four-week course include:

- What is Mussar?
- The soul and its traits
- Mussar practice and inner change
- Spiritual obstacles and how to overcome them
- Humility and anger
- Laziness and enthusiasm
- Identifying your personal soul curriculum
- Personal transformation and changing the world

Each topic is taught in easy-to-understand lessons created and written by Alan Morinis. Lessons are delivered by e-mail and include reading and assignments as well as audio recordings to guide meditations and contemplations.

This course provides a solid introduction to what the study of Mussar is all about and what it offers. Through *A Taste of Mussar*, you will experience for yourself how transformational Mussar can be.

"I am grateful every day for the way this work is impacting my life and deepening my spiritual practice."

—N.W., Los Angeles, CA

In just one month, you will see how Mussar can bring you a deeper understanding of yourself and give you valuable tools to live a better, more fulfilling life. The cost is \$36. We look forward to starting you on your journey in the way of Mussar.

"I had been struggling with some projects that needed to get done and some changes in career. Mussar has grounded me and given me new momentum."

— M. B., Houston, TX

Or you might want to give *A Taste of Mussar* as a gift.

Know someone who might benefit from an introduction to the way of Mussar? Give *A Taste of Mussar* as a gift. For just \$36, you can open a world of tradition and wisdom to a soul today. Visit www.mussarinstitute.org/learning-course3.htm and scroll down to the "Give *A Taste of Mussar* as a Gift" box.



Jewish Study Center Classes Start October 9

Wednesday nights at 7:00 and 8:15 pm

For more info and to register, visit www.jewishstudycenter.org.

Judaism and Feminism: Where Do We Go From Here?

Wednesdays 7:00–8:15 pm

- Oct. 9: **Women in the Orthodox Clergy: Meet D.C.'s First Maharat!** Ruth Balinsky Friedman, Ohev Shalom: The National Synagogue (*in partnership with MakomDC*)
- Oct. 16: **Women and the Jewish Book**, Jennifer Breger, editor, board member, Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance
- Oct. 23: **Gender in the Middle East: Arab and Israeli Women and National Identity**, Adina Friedman, American University
- Oct. 30: **Women and Prayer in the Sources**, Rabbi Batya Steinlauf, Jewish Community Relations Council
- Stay tuned for more sessions in November!*

The Best Maintenance Team on Planet Earth



Taking a rare break are members of the best maintenance team on earth (left to right): Steve Claar, Calvin Casey, Charles Mallory, Phil Thomas, Marc Holderman, and Bradley Anderson.

With the close of the Vision of Renewal building renovation, followed up immediately by the daunting operational demands of the High Holy Days, we would like to express, with the utmost of gratitude, our sincere and heartfelt "thank you's" to Bradley Anderson, Steve Claar, Calvin Casey, Charles Mallory, Phillip Thomas, and Marc Holderman for successfully and graciously navigating one of the most challenging operational periods in the history of Adas Israel. *Yasher Koach* and Thank You, guys. We simply could not do this without you – and we are eternally grateful.

Education

Gan HaYeled Happy 41st Birthday!

The Gan at Adas Israel is celebrating its 41st birthday this year, and there is much to be excited about. "We are thrilled that enrollment is so high this year and we have so many new families joining this wonderful community," said Sheri Brown, Gan director.

In addition to a pilot full-day program which has filled two classrooms, the Gan has augmented its robust curriculum with a nutrition education program with *First Bites* founder Karen Gremont and more STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts & math) activities. For more information, please visit www.adasisrael.org/gan or contact Sheri Brown, sheribrown@adasisrael.org.

The Gan kicked off its 41st year in September with its traditional Buddy Dinner and Parent Orientation on August 28 (see photos). Parents and staff learned about new initiatives at the Gan as it operates on the premise that if one is not moving forward, one is losing ground. During staff development, Gan staff had a chance to meet Jill Epstein, interim director of education, and learn about assessment and nutrition with experts. They were also treated to an inspirational teaching session by Rabbi Steinlauf. A few spots are left in the Gan for the 2013–2014 school year. Please contact Sheri at the Gan for more information.

Toddler Play Groups Starting Up Again



Starting October 3, the Gan will offer a toddler playgroup each Thursday morning, 9:30–11:00 am. Children ages eight months+ and their adult caregiver are welcome to join Dale Sorcher, MSW, for a chance to

socialize with others in the same demographic. The cost is \$10 per session (or a book of 10 tickets for \$75). No reservations are required.

Questions? Call Rabbi Sarah Meytin, Gan assistant director, 202-362-4433, ext. 150.



Havdalah Service for Gan HaYeled families



Saturday, November 2, 4:30 pm

All Gan HaYeled families are encouraged to join us for this warm and fun community Havdalah experience in the new Bi-

ran Beit Midrash to close out *Shabbat* in style! Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt will lead the fun, featuring story, arts and crafts, and a beautiful Havdalah ceremony. ○

Religious School



Welcoming Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School students at the beginning of the school years are (left to right) Beth Ann Spector, Religious School program coordinator; Rich Dinetz, director of youth activities; Elana Wolf,

executive assistant; and Jill Epstein, interim director of education.

Welcome back; we hope you had a great summer. A great sage, Ben Zoma, said, "Who is wise? One who learns from all people." This teaching from *Pirkei Avot—Ethics of Our Fathers* (4:1) suggests that we can learn from everyone—our parents, our teachers, and our students. The religious school offers many creative ways to accomplish these words of wisdom.

During discussions in our classrooms and in our services, or even while reviewing your child's work, we may encounter insights that, while different from our own, are thoughtful and valid. We take your children's ideas seriously, and we endeavor to show them respect and value their opinions. It is so important to learn from one another.

We also discuss and learn the services' prayers in Hebrew and English for weekday *Shabbat* and holidays. We look for meanings that are relevant for us, today. We also practice these prayers in the classroom, in our weekly *mincha*, and, of course, at *Shabbat* services.

Our shared goal should be to sanctify our students' lives through the practice and experience of *mitzvot* and, most important, to develop a love of learning to be Jewish. Please help us in achieving our goal!

Save the Dates for Parents Visiting Days!

Sunday, Nov. 3: *Gishron–Bet*

Tuesday, Nov. 5: Grades 3–6

Wed., Nov. 6: Grades 3–6

For students of teachers who only teach on Sunday in Gimmel–Zion, you and your families are welcome to come on Tuesday or Wednesday as well.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Shacharit Live with Rabbi Steinlauf & Rabbi Ben Shalva!



An exciting musical Shacharit service for Gishron–2nd graders & families

Join Rabbi Steinlauf and celebrated musician, artist, and performer Rabbi Bel Shalva for an all-new

Shacharit Live every Sunday after drop-off at around 9:30 in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary. Everyone's favorite Sunday morning

worship experience for children and families!



Fall Youth Activities Updates:

Kolot Youth Choir & Torah Club!

Kolot Youth Choir



3rd–6th Graders (for both JPDS & Religious School students)

Do you like to sing?

Then come and be part of Kolot, the young voices of Adas Israel! Kolot meets on Sundays twice a month, 11:30 am–12:15 pm,

beginning after the High Holy Days.

Please mark your calendars for Kolot to sing on these dates:

Sunday, Nov. 24, at the Dan Kaufman *Hanukkah* party at 11:30 am

Saturday, Jan. 4, in all three *Shabbat* morning services

Friday, Mar. 28, at the *L'Dor VaDor Shabbat* service

Sunday, June 1, in the big Yiddish concert with Zalmen Mlotek!

Torah Club

5th & 6th Graders (for both JPDS & Religious School students)

Eat dinner with your friends and learn Torah trope with Sara Chapper (beloved Adas Torah reader & tutor of *b'nai mitzvah* students for over 11 years) in a relaxed, fun environment. These are wonderful skills that students can use to prepare for both Junior Congregation *Shabbat* services and their *b'nai mitzvah*!



Can't Make Torah Club?

Come learn with Cantor Brown!

- 5th-grade Torah trope: Sundays, 11:00–11:20 am, Dec. 8, 15; Jan. 5, 12
- 6th-grade *haftarah* trope: Sundays, 11:00–11:20 am, Oct. 6, 20, 27; Nov. 3

Contact education@adasisrael.org to learn more and to register for any of these activities! ○

Todah Rabah to Joseph and Ellen Goldstein from our B'nai Mitzvah

We express our sincerest thanks to Joseph and Ellen Goldstein for providing the books we give as gifts to our *b'nai mitzvah* from the Paul Goldstein–Lillian Goldstein Lande *B'nai Mitzvah* Book Fund. Through this fund, our *b'nai mitzvah* received *Siddur Sim Shalom*, which will be worthwhile and useful to them in the coming years.

Last year's *b'nai mitzvah* also received Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community, underwritten in part by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington. These gifts are in addition to the *kiddush* cups given by the Sisterhood and Men's Club. We know the recipients appreciate these gifts because we hear from previous *b'nai mitzvah* and their parents that they use them while in high school and take them when they go off to college. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide these special gifts. ○

Welcome Marcy Spiro, New Membership & Program Manager

We welcome Marcy Spiro to the Adas Israel family as our new membership and program manager! Marcy will be working with lay leaders, clergy, and staff to ensure that our members, potential members, guests, and school parents feel truly welcome at Adas Israel, and to help all of our members find their niche within our large and diverse community.



She will welcome and engage new and veteran members and facilitate fulfilling community relationships. She will also help our members get the most out of our busy programming calendar. She will coordinate, plan, produce, and staff major Adas events and social programming and facilitate informal get-togethers with clergy. She will also focus heavily on program planning and execution for the new *Beit Midrash* and special *Shabbat* and holiday programs. Marcy can be reached at the synagogue, 202-362-4433, ext. 113, and Marcy.Spiro@adasisrael.org. Her office is upstairs near the elevator.

Growing up in Rochester, NY, Marcy attended private Jewish day school for a few years and then attended religious school three days a week through high school. She also went to performing arts camp at the local JCC, and when she was too old to participate, she became a counselor and eventually the choreographer.

Marcy comes to us from the Shakespeare Theatre Company in DC where she served as community engagement manager for more than four years, and she is eager to get to know her new community at Adas and work with clergy, staff, and congregants to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to connect to Judaism, our synagogue, and each other in meaningful ways. Over the coming weeks and months, we look forward to many opportunities for members to get to know Marcy. Please wish her a warm and heartfelt welcome to Team Adas! ○

Library Corner

Beware of Golems and Dybbuks

By Robin Jacobson, Adas Israel Librarian

Every October, local stores transform into dens of dark magic, brimming with vampire masks, witches' hats, and ghoulish decorations for that pagan-Christian-secular Holiday Not Celebrated in *Shul*. Bewitched by the dizzying displays, some seek a Jewish experience of the occult. Fear not, our library is well stocked with spine-tingling treats—and not just for children. Adults with a taste for fantasy or historical fiction should try *The Golem and the Jinni*, a delightfully original novel by Helene Wecker.

Golems and Dybbuks in Jewish Lore

Jewish culture abounds with stories of the supernatural, with golems and dybbuks as prevalent characters. Think of golems and dybbuks as mirror opposites of each other. A golem begins as a body without a soul, and a dybbuk is a restless soul that seeks a body to inhabit.

In the classic golem legend, Rabbi Judah Loew of Prague (c. 1525–1609), a master of *kabbalah*, brought to life a giant golem crafted from the mud of the Vltava River. Mighty and powerful, the golem protected Jews from their enemies until Rabbi Loew returned him to his original lifeless form. Some say the golem slumbers still in the attic of Prague's medieval synagogue, the Altneuschul.

The legend of the golem may have inspired Goethe's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*

(popularized by Disney) and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*; it also appears in Michael Chabon's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, in which Jews smuggle the golem out of Nazi-occupied Prague.

As for dybbuk tales, the celebrated masterwork *The Dybbuk: Between Two Worlds* by S. Ansky (1863–1920) is captured in plays, films, operas, and even a ballet. Ansky wrote of a young bride possessed by a dybbuk—the soul of a dead man who loved her and could not bear for her to marry another.

When a Golem Meets a Jinni

Helene Wecker's novel cleverly blends Jewish and Arab fantasy traditions. In 1899 Poland, a lonely Jewish man named Otto Rotfeld persuades a mystic to create a golem-wife for him. Rotfeld asks that she be curious, intelligent, and modest. With the golem safely stored in a crate, Rotfeld departs for America. During the sea voyage, Rotfeld dies suddenly of appendicitis. Her master gone, the golem must navigate New York City alone.

Luckily, the golem meets a kindly, elderly rabbi who names her Chava, teaches her to pass for human, and finds her employment in a bakery. To avoid suspicion, Chava tries hard not to outdo her co-workers. On one of her long nightly walks (a golem needs no sleep), Chava meets her Arab counterpart—a

jinni (genie) named Ahmad. In contrast to the solid golem, made of earth, the shape-shifting dybbuk-like jinni is born of fire. Ahmad came to America trapped in a copper flask; a tinsmith repairing the flask accidentally let Ahmad loose. Two strangers in a strange land, the golem and the jinni become allies. Wecker's novel has flaws (e.g., too many characters), but what an imaginative, folkloric twist to the early 20th-century immigrant experience.

Ghostly Tales for Kids in Our Library

The Entertainer and the Dybbuk by Sid Fleischman

Deborah the Dybbuk: Ghost Story by Marilyn Hirsh

The Golem's Latkes by Eric Kimmel
Ghosts and Golems: Haunting Tales of the Supernatural by Malka Penn (ed.)

Golem: A Giant Made of Mud by Mark Podwal

Dybbuk: A Story Made in Heaven by Francine Prose

The Dybbuk: A Version by Barbara Rogasky

The Golem: A Version by Barbara Rogasky

The Golem by Isaac Bashevis Singer

The Golem: A Story of a Legend by Elie Wiesel

Golem by David Wisniewski ○

Library Save the Dates

Creating Biblical Art

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7:30 pm in the new Beit Midrash

Scholar-artist Debra Band will discuss her latest book, *Arise! Arise! Deborah, Ruth and Hannah*. Her shimmering illuminated paintings present three biblical stories of women who preserved the nascent nation of Israel and shaped its character.

Next Adas Book Chat

Sunday, Oct. 20, 10:30 am

Prague Winter by Madeleine Albright
A personal story of remembrance, war, Czechoslovakia, and Albright's discovery of her Jewish roots. Co-sponsored by Sisterhood, Men's Club, & the Library Committee


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By Amy Herzog
Sep 7 - Oct 6



The Argument
By Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros
Oct 23 - Nov 24

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the entire Adas
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but heartfelt
wishes for a
sweet and



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for this year. Thanks to the generosity of many
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our 11 clients, who are all doing well.

Please save the date for the Help the
Homeless mini-walk on Sunday, November 10.
You and your family can sign up to participate;
however, if walks aren't your thing, you can
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For more information or to become in-
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