



ADAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

Chronicle

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KISLEV-TEVET 5774

דובר אמת Dover Emet Speaking the Truth

Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

On December 10 and 17, Adas Israel will host a special program on how to take the Food Stamp Challenge. Adas participates in a major initiative of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Washington, and Jews United for Justice, called the "Ruth Fellowship." This fellowship trains lay leaders to spearhead projects in food justice in area congregations. We are proud that Adas member Elana Goldstein has trained in the fellowship and is bringing this initiative to the Adas community. Below, I am reprinting a piece that appeared in January about my own experience of the Food Stamp Challenge. As you can see below, it had a profound effect on my life. I hope you will join us!

In November, my family and I participated in the Food Stamp Challenge. For one week, we agreed to live on the amount

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Food Stamp Challenge 2013

Engage in a Dialogue about Food Justice in our Community and Take the Food Stamp Challenge with Adas, Tuesday, Dec. 10 & Dec. 17

Join us for an evening of discussion and learning as we gather to watch the documentary, *Food Stamped* (2010), and participate in a dialogue with national and local leaders on food justice and our Jewish connection. We will also start a week-long SNAP/Food Stamp Challenge to gain perspective and a greater understanding of hunger in our community as we experience the struggle millions of low-income Americans face in affording nutritious foods on a limited budget.

The discussion will take place at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 10. Dinner will be served beforehand at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in joining us for dinner and the program, please visit www.adasisrael.org or contact Marcia Miller,



IS IT POSSIBLE TO EAT HEALTHY ON A FOOD STAMP BUDGET?

202-362-4433 or Marcia.Miller@adasisrael.org. Cost of the dinner is \$15.

For more information, contact Rabbi Feinberg, Rabbi.Feinberg@adasisrael.org.

Then, on Tuesday, December 17, at 7 pm, those who took up the Food Stamp Challenge will reconvene to evaluate the experience and share what they learned from it. At that meeting, we will discuss future initiatives and programming. *Yasher koach* in advance!

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Ari Roth of Theater J Sunday, December 8 @ 7:00 pm Relationships Month @ MakomDC

Join us in the Biran *Beit Midrash* as Ari Roth, artistic director at Theater J, brings his powerful arsenal of theatrical and literary talents to the table as he joins us to explore the dynamics of human relationships. The session will feature an engaging dialogue and theatrical presentation by a troupe of gifted Theater J actors. We hope to see the entire community join us for this evening of art and conversation.

This event is free and open to the community. Register at www.adasisrael.org. ○



CELEBRATING OUR 143RD YEAR
THE CHRONICLE IS SUPPORTED IN
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ENDOWMENT FUND

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Clergy Corner



Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

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of money allotted to those who must eat through the food stamp program. The total amount per person for the week was \$31.50. I have to admit, I was cavalier about this challenge before I began. After all, I'm a vegetarian! I was confident that I could happily live on rice and beans for a whole week. Of course, the experience proved to be more challenging than I expected. First of all, rice and beans—even for a die-hard herbivore like me—gets old. Second, my health-nut sensibilities were shocked when I discovered that the only food I could afford to purchase at the supermarket was of lower quality, more processed, and decidedly less healthy than the Whole Foods fare I had become accustomed to.

Very quickly, I gained some personal insight on the obesity and Type 2 diabetes epidemic in this country, where the vast majority of Americans can only afford fast and highly processed junk food. In many ways, a week on the Food Stamp Challenge reminded me of our dietary changes on Passover. I certainly don't enjoy eating *matzah*, but I do it every year. At the *seder*, I hold up the *matzah* and say, "*Ha lachma anya*," "This is the bread of poverty . . ." On Passover, it's symbolic. For the Food Stamp Challenge, it became literal. There were times that I worried about my participation in this challenge. After all, might some people who have really lived on food stamps find the whole thing to be condescending in a noblesse oblige kind of way? I decided to do this anyway because this challenge was being taken up by rabbis and other Jewish community leaders across the country the week before Thanksgiving. I did this in my capacity as a spiritual leader in a position to derive insights and inspiration for *tikkun olam* for others. I did this because I sought to find the Torah in the Food Stamp Challenge . . .

In *Genesis*, we read the story of how Jacob stole his father's blessing of the firstborn from his brother Esau. When you look at the words of that stolen blessing, it's really a blessing all about abundance. Isaac blesses Jacob with a life living off the fat of the land and the dew of Heaven. Unfortunately, Jacob was anything but a believer in the abundance of God or of life. Everything about his character was all about scarcity. He struggled for birthrights and blessings with his older brother. When he runs away from home, and even when God blesses Jacob at the top of "Jacob's ladder" with a similar blessing of abundance, Jacob can only express conditional and narrow faith in God. In many ways, the journey of Jacob's entire life is about trusting the blessing of abundance that he received from his father. When he makes his way back to Mesopotamia, to Haran, his whole adult life is defined by struggle and scarcity: struggle over marrying two sisters, the duplicity and deception of his uncle, manipulation and stealing from family members, struggle and hatred among his children. The struggle of Jacob's life doesn't begin to resolve it-

Office Closings

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day (observed)

Schools/Offices Closed

self until he has returned to Israel after 20 years in exile. Alone in the dark night, he struggles with an "*Ish*," a mysterious "man," an angel of God (or was it Esau himself?). He wrestles all night with the man, until the man begs to be released before the break of dawn and Jacob says, "I won't let you go until you bless me!" The man/angel then blesses him and confers upon him the name Yisrael, meaning "He who has struggled with beings Divine and human, and has prevailed." The next morning, the wounded Jacob/Yisrael finally meets face to face with his dreaded brother Esau for the first time in two decades. Rather than hatred and violence, the two brothers embrace. Jacob/Yisrael offers Esau a gift, and Esau refuses. Jacob/Yisrael presses him and says, "*Kach et birchati*," "Take my blessing" (!) for God has been gracious to me, and, "*Yesh li kol*," "I have everything."

Finally, after all those years of stealing, deception, and struggle, Jacob is wounded and limited, but now he understands that he never needed to steal the blessing from his brother in the first place! He finally came to understand that the blessing of abundance was always his. He came to know that he is the blessing, it was always his birthright and his deepest truth. Jacob, the man who had to steal in his sense of scarcity, now said, "Take my blessing," to his brother—"Take it. I don't need it. I have everything. Enough to go around. Enough even to give away."

The Torah I learned from the Food Stamp Challenge was not a message about scarcity, but about abundance. For that week, I didn't starve. There was always enough, even on my tight budget. The scarcity in my life that I did discover, however, was the spiritual scarcity of living in the upper economic echelons of society. Living in my comfortable Cleveland Park existence, I have come to see that my very sense of entitlement was a *metzar*, a spiritual narrow-strait that cuts me off from true abundance. I didn't like eating white-flour spaghetti out of a box twice in one week. I was annoyed when I couldn't just grab lunch on my way back to *shul* from a meeting offsite. My very expectation of getting what I want narrowed my capacity for compassion itself.

During my week, I spoke to many people in the congregation about the experience, and they had remarkable stories of their own to share. One woman told me how she drives to work every day through a very poor neighborhood where people walk up to cars and ask for handouts. One day, she had an apple and handed to the individual. Inspired, she decided to buy lots of fruit and vegetables and snacks to hand out every morning. Her husband was proud of her but also concerned that, as a woman alone in an unsafe neighborhood, it might be dangerous to roll down her window to strangers. She appreciated that concern but ended the conversation by observing that each morning, it's not the people in the Priuses and the Mercedes and the SUVs who roll down their windows for these people. It's all too often the people in battered old cars who do it. She wondered if the drivers of those cars who understand what it's like not to have food because perhaps they themselves are poor or have been. And I myself wonder if those

From the President



Arnie Podgorsky

Judaism to Continue as Jews Run to Shul

Must dark times of the past mandate hand-wringing about our end? We know better than that. Torah teaches that fear can disconnect us from reality, block opportunities, and force misdeeds. Because we are responsible for our fear, it can be a *chet*.

How then should we react to the Pew study, "A Portrait of Jewish Americans?" The study reports that giants, outsize grapes, and walled cities threaten our future. Against Pew's numbers we are but grasshoppers. (Read *Shelach*.) One in five of us disclaims any religion. Of Jewish Millennials, "32% describe themselves as having no religion and identify as Jewish on the basis of ancestry, ethnicity or culture." Of that 32%, just half are raising their children Jewish or "partially Jewish." Ever sniffing out panic and crisis, the *Washington Post* reports "Jews fleeing institutional life."

Watch out for the fleeing Jews! Run! *Gevalt!*

Let's not lament. Lamentation is for disasters others visit upon us. This we visit upon ourselves. Let's put aside Pew's trunk of numbers and the *Post*'s hyperbole, but also acknowledge the fact that many Jews turn away. Let's be more like Caleb and Joshua and candidly consider reasons and solutions.

Pew's numbers are no surprise. Reform Judaism arose from powerful economic and social pressures on Diaspora Jews to assimilate, first in Europe and then in America. Early Reform included Sunday worship, recast Judaism as ethics and social causes, rejected *kashrut* as kitchen Judaism, and in many respects sought to emulate an orderly Protestantism. Seeking a more moderate response to the social pressures of the day, Conservative Judaism returned to observance resting on *halacha* while advocating a more evolutionary *halacha* than the orthodox norm. But Conservative congregants have been materially less observant than the movement's standards and values.

Taking the histories and sizes of the Reform and Conservative movements together, it is no surprise that many see Judaism as mere culture, lox and bagels. Not that I don't like lox and bagels or, better yet, bialys, but ethics and culture are too thin to sustain us.

This need not be our future. No matter how assimilated we may be today, we can live a rich, vibrant Judaism. Disconnected or casual Jews will not just happen to seek out a more meaningful, authentic Judaism. But they or their children may be attracted if they experience the richness of Judaism in ways they

can enjoy and to which they can relate. How do we create those experiences? The answer lies in Judaism's core and in the ways people prefer to learn today. Let's take a look.

Judaism is less about abstract beliefs and more about what we do in our lives—our thoughts, speech, and actions. Torah and rabbinic wisdom inform us how to live joyful, loving, dignified, and mindful lives. These sources and the knowledge they contain are at Judaism's core. Experiencing these sources, studying, discussing, comparing, and debating them, is the tested path to a rich and good Jewish life. But today, relatively few of us seek study of ancient and medieval writings. How then can we make core Judaic precepts and values accessible? Caleb and Joshua-like, we must courageously bring core learning into the lives of more Jews, but in a way that reaches out broadly, enticing more to experience and learn. Enter Rabbi Gil Steinlauf and his vision for learning and engagement at Adas Israel.

Our *MakomDC* and other programs in the Biran *Beit Midrash* make Jewish learning accessible for our times. Some events will be practical and on the lighter side. Some will reach more deeply, textually, and personally, and still others will provide Torah and Talmud head on in traditional forms. With programs that appeal to diverse learning preferences across generations, more Jews will touch and potentially embrace a deeper, more authentic Judaism. We can experience Jewish learning about food, relationships, mindfulness, music, spirituality, and more in many different ways and styles, each unlatching doors to deeper learning, and offering multiple paths to incorporate Torah and Conservative Jewish values into our lives. All will include paths to Torah, and the sweetness, wisdom, and light we find at Judaism's core. Like traditional Torah and Talmud learning, this less *yeshivadik* approach is an authentic path to Torah.

Rabbi Steinlauf urged us to build a *beit midrash* at the center of the *shul*. Now our rabbi inspires us—all of us—to plunge into comprehensive, varied, and socially engaging Jewish learning. Unlike the dilutions of the past, this learning will value and reveal Judaism for all the richness it contains.

Millennia of history teach that Judaism thrives if only we live it. This is a simple truth. Torah tells us, "The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may observe it . . ." The answers are right before our eyes, not far away in the heavens. We can ignore Pew's trunk of numbers. We can live as Jews courageously and authentically. Fleeing Jews will stop in their tracks, abruptly turn around, and with quick strides head to Adas Israel.

See you in the Biran! ○

DOVER EMET CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

people in the battered old cars truly understand Jacob's words, "*Yesh li kol*," "I have everything" better than we in our nice cars do.

On another day, I was walking along K Street, heading to a meeting. I was late. I passed a woman walking down the street asking over and over, "Can someone please get me something to eat?" I observed myself at that moment—astonished!--as I kept walking on past her, feeling pressed for time; feeling that I hardly had any money in my wallet. I was in shock at my callousness for two whole blocks before I, with great effort, stopped in my tracks. I turned around. By now the woman was a tiny figure

off in the distance. I sprinted until I caught up with her. I opened my wallet and handed her the one dollar bill that I had in it. She said, "Thank you." I said, "You're welcome," but even as I said that, it felt wrong. She didn't need to thank me! I'm privileged to be able to give her what I had, and sorry that it took me so long to realize that *yesh li kol*, that I have everything, that I AM abundance, with enough blessing in my life to give.

With the Food Stamp Challenge, I have been given a gift and blessing, not a lack at all. I have been given the blessing of being a child of Yisrael. I pray that I will live up to the lesson of this experience, which is the deepest lesson of Torah and all of Judaism. ○

The Adas Israel Vision of Renewal Dedication Ceremony

October 2, 2013—28 Tishrei 5774

The congregation would like to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all those who helped make the **Vision of Renewal Dedication Ceremony** such a resounding success! It was a beautiful evening of art, culture, and celebration. Such an evening of joy, as well as gratitude for each other and for our community's remarkable achievements, will surely be remembered for many years to come. And it is with eternal gratitude that our congregation offers a well-deserved *Yasher Koach* and *Todah Rabah* to all those who contributed their time, talents, and resources to help make the Vision of Renewal building campaign such a success. Our renewed spaces are simply inspired and beautiful: May they be blessed, and of course, may they always be full!

For a full list of contributors, please see last month's November 2013 *Chronicle* or visit adasisrael.org/renewal.

The Dedication Ceremony Team

Narration: Dan Raviv

Featuring: Netanel Draiblate, Violin

Ari Roth, Rick Foucheux, Joshua Morgan, and Adi Stein of Theater J

HoraDC, Israeli Dance

Mezumenet, Jewish A Cappella

Cantor Arianne Brown and the Adas Israel Flash Choir

Ceremony Artistic Directors: Cantor Arianne Brown & David Polonsky

Dedication Ceremony Planning Committee: Melanie Nussdorf, Patty Andringa, Renée Fendrich

Production Manager: Rae Grad

Shofar: Jennie Litvack

Sound: Blue House Productions

Lighting: Smash Productions

Ushers: YP@AI, Adas Israel Sisterhood, Adas Israel Men's Club

Piano: Teddy Klaus; *Bass:* David Jerniga; *Percussion:* Alan Yellowit

Dessert Reception Sponsors: Forrester Construction Company, H3 Collaboration Architecture, Bank of Georgetown, JFW Industries

Reception Designer: Herlene Nagler

Reception Sponsor Caterer: Windows Catering Company

Special Thanks to the American Israel Cultural Foundation and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington

The Vision of Renewal Steering Committee

Steve Kleinrock, Herlene Nagler, Larry Nussdorf, Robert Peck, Russell Smith

The Vision of Renewal Design Committee

David Bickart, Jamie Butler, Leah Chanin, Jay Kirschenbaum, Steven Kleinrock, Michelle Leavy, Jerry Levine, Gary Malasky, Herlene Nagler, Lawrence Nussdorf, Robert Peck, Judith Heumann, Jennifer Gibson, Barton Rubenstein, Milton Shinberg, Russell Smith

Ex Officio to the Steering Committee

Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Johanna Chanin, Arnold Podgorsky, Glenn Easton, Ariel Fausto, H3 Collaboration Architecture, James Wilson, Adam Lotinsky, JF Wilson & Company, Inc., Forrester Construction Company ◯



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7. Two executive directors—incoming Eric Levine and outgoing Glenn Easton—toast to each other's new beginnings.

8. HoraDC performs Israeli dances.

9. Bernard Gewirz admires the beautiful Aron Kodesh (Torah ark) and Torah mantles in the renewed Gewirz Beit Am.

10. Cantor Arianne Brown leads the Adas Israel performance choir in a beautiful rendition of Mah Tovvu to open the dedication ceremony.

11. Adas members Manny Schiffres and Rae Grad, who served as dedication ceremony production manager, schmooze with others attending the ceremony.

12. Susie and Michael Gelman stand in front of the new Biran Beit Midrash named for their beloved friend and noted archaeologist and biblical historian, Dr. Avraham Biran.

13. Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt welcomes guests to the Biran Beit Midrash, where she is currently curating the innovative new synagogue learning platform, MakomDC, recently praised by the Washington Post as "boldly reimagining American congregational learning."

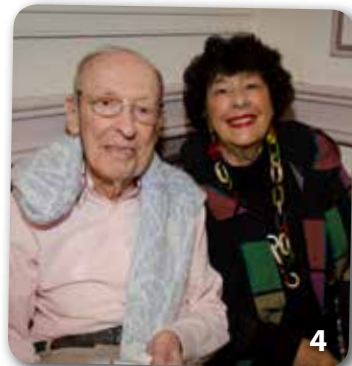
14. Rick Foucheux performs a scene from Theater J's *The Chosen*.



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Sisterhood

Save the Dates for Upcoming Sisterhood Events

Thursday December 5, Successful Aging: Hear congregant Grace Lebow, an authority on aging, offer wisdom on the subject. See details elsewhere in this issue. Part of *MakomDC* programming, Sisterhood is a co-sponsor of the event to be held in the Beit Midrash at 10:00 am.

Sunday December 8, Post-Hanukkah Percussion Party: Eight days of *Hanukkah* not enough? Sisterhood is extending the festivities with a party on Sunday, December 8, 1:30–4:30 pm. Bring your drums, bells, gongs, castanets—anything percussive—and jam with drummer extraordinaire Alan “the beat goes on” Yellowitz. Plan to learn dance steps as well and feast on Moti’s Israeli-style fare. Join us in the Kay Hall. Everyone is invited. Couvert is \$10 per adult, \$5 per child over 7. Bring family and friends. RSVP to Carol Ansell, carol.ansell@adasisrael.org or 202-362-4433.



Sunday December 15, Gift Wrapping at Politics & Prose: Yes, it’s that time again! Sisterhood members will gift wrap at Politics & Prose on Sunday, December 15, to benefit the Washington Literacy Center. There will be two-hour shifts, starting at 10:00 am and continuing until 6:00 pm, with one three-hour shift from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. To volunteer, contact Carol Ansell, Carol.Ansell@adasisrael.org or 202-362-4433. It’s a wonderful *mitzvah*, and you’ll have a heck of a good time! (Bonus: Gift wrappers get a 20% discount on their purchases that day!)

Saturday February 8: Sisterhood is honored to offer Sisterhood *Shabbat* for the Adas community again this year, and we look forward to your joining us. Sisterhood women interested in participating in a formal role (*leyning* or *davening*, lifting, wrapping, reading) may contact Marcie Goldstein. Marcie.b.goldstein@gmail.com.

What’s Been Happening

Our opening event on September 29, chaired by Elizabeth Sloan, featured Barbara Vinick, author of *Today I Am a Woman: Stories of Bat Mitzvah Around the World*. Pictured, left to right are Sloan, Vinick, and Sisterhood president Lisa Kleine.

November 13, several sisters dined together, then attended the showing at Adas of *Oma and Bella*, part of the DCJCC film series.



Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

Looking for that special gift for a loved one,
a hostess goodie for a friend,
or something terrific for yourself?

Visit our beautiful shop and see our many items.



Gift Shop Hours:

Sunday–Monday, Wednesday–Friday,
9:30 am–12:30 pm

Extended hours:

Tuesday, 9:30 am–3:00 pm & 6:15–8:00 pm

202-364-2888

adasgiftshop@gmail.com

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.

November 17, several members traveled to Adat Chaim Synagogue in Owings Mills, MD for the Women’s League Seaboard Region Tea thanking contributors to Torah Fund. Speakers described “The Family Experience at JTS.” It’s not too late to give to the Torah Fund Campaign of Women’s League to help train future clergy and scholars of the Conservative/Masorti Judaism movement. Send your check to **Mrs. Gerry Lezell, TF Chair, 5800 Magic Mountain Dr., Rockville, MD 20852**. Direct your questions to her at 301-231-8676 or gerrytf@gmail.com.

Adas Israel Sisterhood’s goal is \$12,000. A contribution of just \$18 from each member reading this message would allow us to reach it. With a donation of \$180, you will receive the lovely pin pictured here, depicting *Mishpachah*, “family,” the Women’s League 5774 theme. ○



December @ MakomDC: Relationships



Successful Aging: Problem-Solving Tips for Elders & Their Children

Thursday, Dec 5 @ 10:00 am

Join us for a presentation and discussion with Grace Lebow, MSW, congregant, author, former columnist, and co-founder of

Aging Network Services, on relationships with aging parents, caregiving situations, and questions elders pose about issues related to aging.



Raising the Mindful Family

Sunday, Dec 15 @ 10:00 am

Our culture's epidemic of "busy" challenges the sense of connection that is so important for families. Join Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt and Dr. Lauren

Rubenstein, author of *Visiting Feelings*, for an experiential session on mindfulness practices that can help keep families close.



Love and Desire: A Text Study on Sensual Love at the Core of Judaism

Sunday, Dec 8 @ 10:30am

A text study exploring *Shir HaShirim* (The Song of Songs), *Midrash*, and the *Zohar*.

Examining ways that Judaism

does not shy away from direct references to sexuality in expressing our core relationships to God and to one another.



An Evening of Storytelling about Interfaith Families & Jewish Identity

Sunday, Dec 15 @ 7:30 pm

A powerful evening of storytelling, music, and conversation with our own Adas members, whose

remarkable stories tell about their interfaith experiences and personal Jewish journeys. Dessert, wine, and coffee will be served.



Finding Your Beshert ... Using Online Dating & Beyond with founder of A Little Nudge, Erika Ettin

Wednesday, Dec 11 @ 7:00 pm

Are you ready to get back out on JDate and find your soul mate?

A Jewish perspective on online

dating . . . and some pointers for the first date and beyond!



Film Screening: *Israel: A Home Movie*

Tuesday, Dec 17 @ 7:30 pm

An impressive assemblage of Israeli home movies, rescued from oblivion in drawers, basements, and attics, strung together to form a mesmerizing

history that documents a living memory of Palestine and Israel's formation and future. In partnership with the DCJCC's Washington Jewish Film Festival.

FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Featured Speakers for the December 10 Food Stamp Challenge



Josh Protas joined the staff of *MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger* in 2012 as director of government affairs. He represents MAZON in Washington, DC, and helps to coordinate and advance the organization's anti-hunger policy priorities. Mobilizing support around strategies to end hunger in the U.S., addressing the rising rate of food

insecurity, and protecting funding for key federal anti-hunger programs are focal points of this advocacy agenda. Previously,

Protas served as vice president and Washington director for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.



Catherine Benvie works as an anti-hunger program associate at DC Hunger Solutions, dedicated to ending hunger in the nation's capital and promoting the health, nutrition, economic security, and well-being of low-income families. Her work focuses on increasing participation in SNAP/Food Stamps through advocacy and

outreach. Prior to joining DC Hunger Solutions, Benvie worked at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Child Nutrition Division. ○

Life Cycle

Milestones

Births:

Shayna Abigail Tauber, daughter of Benjamin & Sara Tauber

Ava Johanna Perl, daughter of Naomi & Matthew Perl

Caleb Jack, son of Talia Bar-Cohen & Adam Litle

Aaron Reid Alper, son of Rachel & Elijah Alper

Baby Boy Smolar, son of Rebecca & David Smolar

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

Wedding:

Rabbi Feinberg officiated at the wedding of Stephen Schwartz & Courtney Long.

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

B'nai Mitzvah

New member **Talya Lehigh** celebrated her bat mitzvah at 6th & I Synagogue on October 19.



Noa Rosinplotz, December 7

Noa Rosinplotz, daughter of Hanna Rosin and David Plotz, is an eighth grader at Oyster-Adams Bilingual School. Noa, who began at Gan HaYeled Nursery School and continued in the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, is thrilled to share this *simcha* with her younger brothers Jacob and Gideon, her parents, grandparents,

and other family and friends. She and her close friend Nell Leibovich will become *b'not mitzvah* together.



Nell Leibovich, December 7

Nell Leibovich, daughter of Meri Kolbrener and Mark Leibovich, is thrilled to become a bat mitzvah at Adas Israel where she also attended preschool. Nell, who attends the Oyster-Adams Bilingual School, is delighted to share her *bat mitzvah* with her best friend, Noa Rosinplotz.



Ella Goldblum, December 14 (in the Traditional Egalitarian Minyan)

Ella Goldblum, daughter of Jessica Lazar and Dan Goldblum, and stepdaughter of Adam Jonath and Erika Wasserman, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School. She began her study of Hebrew and Judaics at the age of 18 months in the Kangaroo class at Gan HaYeled, then con-

tinued on to JPDS, where her appreciation for Jewish values and traditions grew. Ella celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with her younger sister, Eden (JPDS class of 2015); grandparents Michele Lazar,

Jack Crane, Amiram Goldblum, and Idit Amihai, and her *savta* of blessed memory, Israella Goldblum. Later this fall, Ella will begin her volunteer service with Martha's Table, a DC-based organization that provides sustainable solutions to urban poverty and hunger.

Members in the News

Congratulations to **Isaac Frumkin** (catcher) and **Aaron Rosenthal** (second base) for their success on the baseball diamond. Their summer baseball team, representing Washington, DC, advanced to the semifinals of the Little League Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament, before losing to the Delaware team that won the tournament and moved on to the Little League World Series. This was the first time since 2004 the DC team had advanced to the semifinals of the Regional Tournament. Congratulations also to Aaron's dad, **Seth Rosenthal**, one of the team's coaches.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

Arthur Sislen, husband of Shirley Sislen

Paula Wolpe, wife of Donald Wolpe

Georgia Young, mother of Dale Ugel

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Ruth Pollack, mother of Barry Pollack

Joseph Tyroler, father of Evan Tyroler

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 Sandy Cohen 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 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

Life Cycle Continued

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 Sandy Cohen or Carole Klein at the synagogue office (202-362-4433) to schedule a visit. ○

Bodies of Water

Honoring Our Jewish Bodies

www.Bodies-of-Water.org

Next Up : December 8 @ 1:30 pm

More 2014 Dates to Be Announced Soon

Join us for a program the Jewish Daily Forward calls “innovative and important for the 21st century” with Naomi Malka, Adas ritual coordinator and *mikvah* director. Reframe the *mikvah* with us as a safe and positive place in which to experience the profound physical and spiritual changes of adolescence, young adulthood, and womanhood. This program is open to Jewish girls and women to join us in welcoming atmosphere, as we explore Jewish techniques for improving our sense of self and positive body image.



Come with your daughters, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, or friends for an extra special experience! Contact Naomi Malka, Naomi.Malka@AdasIsrael.org, to register. This program is supported by the Tikkun Olam Women's Foundation and co-sponsored by the Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington. ○

More than 50 members over the age of 55 gathered to plan for HAZAK community building at Adas



An energized HAZAK group met for the first time to develop programs for the 55+ community at Adas Israel. HAZAK is an acronym meaning Wisdom (*Hokmah*), Maturity (*Ziknah*), and Forward (*Kadima*). The event was a great success, and we hope more people will join us to help us build this growing segment of our community through a variety of creative programs that include study, prayer, entertainment, and socializing. We had a great

time and proposed a lot of great ideas for creating activities and enhancing community life for this segment of the community.

Within this diverse community of empty nesters/singles/widows/divorced/married/retired/still working members, with many talents and skills, there is a need to create opportunities for social and educational activities. We were thrilled to chair the first meeting at Adas member Birdie Pieczenik's home in Chevy Chase. A steering committee has been formed with Doug Kamerow, Anat Bar-Cohen, Ellen Meltzer, Betty Adler, and Mark Rosenberg. The first social event

was scheduled for early November—a tour featuring the first kosher/organic distillery in Virginia since Prohibition and another nearby winery.

This is just the beginning of an exciting new adventure for this import cohort at Adas Israel. Many of us have been members for decades, and some are just joining the community, but we all have each other in common, and we are thrilled to see us come together in this way.

Contact Betty Adler, bettyadler1@gmail.com, if you'd like to learn more or get involved!

—Betty Adler & Mark Rosenberg



December 2013
Kislev–Tevet 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
1 28 Kislev 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 10:45 am JMCW Mindful Yoga 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2 29 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan HaYeled Synagogue Liaison Program with Beth Griffith, LCSW 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	3 30 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Tevet Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Introduction to Talmud 7:00 pm YP Wine & Latkes 7:00 pm Introduction to Judaism–Conversion Program 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	4 1 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Tevet Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 10:00 am Jewish Meditation Workshop 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm JSC Classes	5 2 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Program on Sacred Aging (MakomDC) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:45 pm Scotch and Scriptures Men's Group	6 3 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:30 am Gan Parent Class with Rabbi Holtzblatt (MakomDC) 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 6:30 pm Shir Delight Oneg, Service & Dinner; 8:00 pm D'var Torah by Rabbi Lauren	7 PARSHAT VAYIGASH 4 Tevet 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service B'not Mitzvah: Nell Leibovich & Noa Rosinplotz; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service; D'var Torah by Ed Kopf 10:00 am Learners' Minyan with Rabbi Feinberg 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot
8 5 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 10:30 am Adas Book Chat: "The World to Come" 10:45 am JMCW Mindful Yoga 3:30 pm Sisterhood Hanukkah Program 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Ari Roth & Theater J on Relationships (MakomDC Main Event)	9 6 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Social Action Council Meeting	10 7 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Sisterhood Taste of Tanach with Rabbi Steinlauf in the Beit Midrash 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Anne Frank House Meeting 6:30 pm Introduction to Talmud 6:30 pm Food Stamp Challenge (Dinner & Discussion) 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism–Conversion Program 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	11 8 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Religious Practices Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm YP Committee Meeting 7:00 pm The Inquisition in the Americas 7:00 pm JSC Classes 7:15 pm Bereavement Support Group	12 9 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	13 10 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:30 am Gan Parent Class with Rabbi Holtzblatt (MakomDC) 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 6:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Return Again Shabbat Service & Dinner with Rabbi Holtzblatt & Elie Greenberg	14 PARSHAT VAYECHI 11 Tevet 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:00 am Consecration 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service/Musical Shabbat; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf (Consecration at end of service) 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan; Bat Mitzvah: Ella Goldblum, with Rabbi Feinberg 11:00 am Tot Shabbat
15 12 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adult B'not Mitzvah Class 10:45 am JMCW Mindful Yoga 11:00 am Garden of the Righteous Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm The Moth: An Evening of Storytelling about Interfaith Families & Jewish Identity (MakomDC)	16 13 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan HaYeled Synagogue Liaison Program with Beth Griffith, LCSW 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	17 14 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Introduction to Judaism–Conversion Program 7:00 pm Food Stamp Challenge (Recap and Conversation) 7:30 pm Gan HaYeled Preschool Open House 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	18 15 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 pm Finding the Holy Fire with Rabbi Holtzblatt	19 16 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	20 17 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:30 am Gan Parent Class with Rabbi Holtzblatt (MakomDC) 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt & Robyn Helzner 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 6:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Dinner 7:00 pm Shabbat Dinner for Conversion Class 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class	21 PARSHAT SHEMOT 18 Tevet 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Adult B'not Mitzvah with Rabbis Steinlauf & Feinberg 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service; D'var Torah by Susan Finston 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 4:30 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 5:31 pm Havdalah
22 19 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:45 am JMCW Mindful Yoga 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	23 20 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	24 21 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	25 22 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	26 23 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	27 24 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Community Shabbat Service at Temple Sinai–Prozd (appetizers) at 6:00 pm; service at 6:30 pm NO 6:00 pm SERVICE AT ADAS ISRAEL	28 PARSHAT VA'ERA 25 Tevet 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Combined Shabbat Morning Service (Smith Sanctuary & TEM Services); D'var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 4:30 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 5:35 pm Havdalah
29 26 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:45 am JMCW Mindful Yoga 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	30 27 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	31 28 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	1 29 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2 1 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	3 2 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf 6:30 pm YP Shir Delight Oneg, Service & Dinner	4 PARSHAT BO 3 Shevat 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Sermon by Rabbi Feinberg (with Kolat Youth Choir) 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot

Education

Gan HaYeled

Values and *middot* are important parts of the Gan curriculum.

For this special year, with the coincidence of Thanksgiving and *Hanukkah*, Gan staff prepared for these holidays thoughtfully. The annual feasts provided opportunities to explore the themes of *freedom* and *gratitude* in new ways.



Please feel free to visit the

Gan and check the bulletin boards outside classrooms for a peek into the investigations of the students and staff.

The Gan hosts the second of a series of Open Houses for prospective students on Tuesday, December 17, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. If you know of someone looking for an NAEYC-accredited, exceptional preschool, please welcome him or her to this event or to our Open House on Thursday, January 9, at 9:30 am.

More information about the school is available on our website, www.adasisrael.org/gan. ○

Religious School

From the desk of Jill Epstein:

In the Talmud, *Ketuvot* 67b–68a, we read: “Rabbi Hanina had a poor man to whom he regularly sent four *zuz* (*tzedakah*) every Sabbath Eve. One day he sent that sum through his wife, who came back and told him that the man was in no need of it.

Rabbi Hanina asked, “What did you see?” She answered: “I heard the ‘poor man’ being asked: ‘On, what will you dine to-night, the silver-colored cloths or the gold-colored cloths?’”

The questions that could be asked—Was the poor man indeed really poor? Did the wife actually see the “silver-colored or gold-colored cloths”? Was the poor couple pretending to be rich?

Since we are at the end of *Hanukkah* and the beginning of our winter season, I encourage you to devote some time to learning with your children. Begin building a Jewish library. Designate a night of baking or playing games with the entire family. Continue to instill Jewish values by setting aside a day to help those in need of our help. Be creative with your *mitzvot*. Prepare a special meal and take it to a place where they only “pretend to have silver-colored or gold-colored tablecloths.” It will make you feel wonderful for you and your children.

How are you lighting your *hanukkiyah*? One of the most famous debates is how to light the *Hanukkah* menorah, or *hanukkiyah*. There were two academies of thought, Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai. According to Beit Shammai, one begins with the “days remaining”—that is, with the “maximum potential” of the commandment. According to Beit Hillel, one begins with the “days complete”—that is, with the “realized potential” of the

December Religious School & Youth Calendar

1: Thanksgiving break—No School

3–4: Community *Hanukkah* Candle Lighting

8: *Chugim* for *Kitot Gimel–Vav* (grades 3–6)

14: Gan (Kindergarten) Consecration (note the date change)

15: Kindergarten Family *Shabbat* Workshop; *Chugim* for *Kitot Gimel–Vav* (grades 3–6); Faculty Meeting

22: Winter Break Begins

22–26: USY International Convention, New Orleans, LA

Consecration Saturday, Dec. 14 (Note date change)

On Saturday, December 14, during *Shabbat* morning services, we are honoring all kindergarten-age children of Adas Israel families. RSVP to elana.woolf@adasisrael.org with your child’s name and birth date (month, day, and year) if you plan to attend this special ceremony.

Hanukkah Candle Lighting and Sing-Along

Join us for a *Hanukkah* candle lighting and sing-a-long on Tuesday, December 3, and Wednesday, December 4, at 6:00 pm outside on the steps of the Quebec Street entrance.

Religious School students will participate along with other community members. *Chag Sameach!*

commandment. Fast forward so that on the last night of *Hanukkah*, according to Shammai, there is only one candle left lit. Now with Hillel, the eighth night would realize its full potential, so we light the full amount of eight. Each viewpoint has either a model taken from the Bible or a strong logical argument. It is important to delve into and grapple with these sacred texts.

Thanks for listening! ○



◀ In Joe Brophy’s *Ma’alot* class, the kids discussed an unusual hat that originated in medieval Europe and evolved into one with negative connotations. The Jews of Germany had to wear these hats when they were outside the ghetto. Students learned about the cap, and then made their own.



▲ ▶ Welcome to the Israeli Army! Through the lens of Ami Greener, Hannah Porter, and our ShinShinim, Gal and Eyal, the teens experienced a day in the life of the Israeli Army in our *Ma’alot* elective, “Voices, Visions, and Tastes of Israel.”




Welcome Cantor Rebecca Pohl!

We are happy to announce that Cantor Rebecca Pohl will be working part time at Adas as our youth service coordinator and leader of our Junior Congregation. Born and raised in Olney, MD, Rebecca is the daughter of a Conservative Rabbi and has been leading services since before she can remember.

After graduating from the Joint Program between Columbia University and Albert A. List College, where she received degrees in music and *Midrash*, the H.L. Miller Cantorial School was her obvious choice. She received a master's degree in sacred music and was invested as a *hazzan* in 2013.

Cantor Pohl has worked as High Holiday

cantor in Ambridge, PA, Albany, NY, and Columbia, MD; as a cantorial intern at Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria, VA; as *b'nai mitzvah* tutor and Torah reader at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism; and as student cantor at Temple Beth Ahm of Aberdeen, NJ. She was also admissions intern for the Cantorial School and vice president of the Cantorial School Student Organization.

Last summer, Cantor Pohl completed a unit of clinical pastoral education at JTS, and she is music teacher at B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville. Visit education@adasisrael.org to learn more about her. 



Youth Services @ Adas

Please view the December and January schedule of *Shabbat* Youth Services below.

All services start at 11:00 am.

Tot Shabbat—For children 5 and under (and parents)

Led by Menuhah Peters, Tot Shabbat has captivated our youngest Adas members and their parents for years.

Netivot—For kindergarten–3rd graders

Netivot is Hebrew for pathways. Our children are ready to begin building their leadership skills in a prayer service. Staffed by Linda Yitzchak, our kindergarten–3rd graders have the opportunity to lead prayers and participate actively in a *Shabbat t'filah* service.

Junior Congregation—For 4th–6th graders

Led by Cantor Rebecca Pohl, this service places our children front and center. Our staff become facilitators as we empower our children to lead their own service!

Dec. 7: Tot Shabbat, Netivot, Jr. Congregation

Dec. 14: Tot Shabbat, Netivot, Jr. Congregation

Dec. 21: Tot Shabbat, Netivot

Dec. 28: No Youth Services

Jan. 4: Tot Shabbat, Netivot, Jr. Congregation

Jan. 11: Tot Shabbat, Netivot

Jan. 18: Tot Shabbat, Netivot

Jan. 25: Tot Shabbat, Netivot, Jr. Congregation

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, December 6, 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, December 4, to reserve your spot.

YP Wine & Latke Hanukkah-Fest

Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 pm


\$10/Members. \$12/Non-Members

RSVP online by Friday, November 29 @ noon

Light the *menorah* and enjoy some yummy wine and *latkes* with pals at Adas Israel.

Join us for the YP Wine & Latke party in the new Biran *Beit Midrash* @ Adas Israel.

Music, wine, *latkes*, schmoozing, candle lighting with Rabbi Lauren, and maybe some *dreidel*. Feel free to bring your own

Hanukkah menorah, so we can create the ambiance and really light up the room! Visit the Ruth & Stanley Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop for a wide array of *menorahs* and candles. 



Lifelong Learning

A Season of Mussar with Rabbi Charles Feinberg

Begins January 8

As with all Mussar study, this program seeks to help individuals find balance and strength in key inner traits that are essential for leading a fulfilling life, in worldly as well as spiritual matters. The goals of the course are to equip individuals with the tools of Jewish spiritual practice—the centuries-old Mussar practices that purify and elevate the traits of the soul, to create a local spiritual group in which participants can share and explore together, and to strengthen the place of spirituality in the local Jewish community.

Cost of the program is \$100, which covers the materials, which are licensed from the Mussar Institute. The course will meet on Wednesdays, January 8 and 22; February 5 and 19; March 5 and 19; April 2 and 23 at 7:30 pm. Sign up for the course by visiting the Adas Israel website or by calling Marcia Miller, Rabbi Feinberg's assistant, 202-362-4433. ○



'Successful Aging: Problem-Solving Tips for Elders and Their Children' with Grace Lebow December 5, 10:00–11:30 am in the Biran Beit Midrash (A MakomDC event)



Congregant Grace Lebow, MSW, co-founder of Aging Network Services, will kick off the *MakomDC* theme for December, "Relationships," with a program on how elders and their adult children can best address the challenges of aging. According to *Consumer Reports on Health*, data have shown that with age, wisdom grows and happiness increases (2013, p. 25).

While this may not be true for everyone, you can increase the odds for your aging relatives (and yourself) by promoting certain positive steps, like eating healthfully, exercising, and engaging in social activities. Lebow provides more tips, including how to encourage positive family relationships and provide problem-solving exercises for attendees, and offers reading lists and a guide to local resources for the aging and their caregivers.

Lebow is the author of *Coping with Your Difficult Older Parent: A Guide for Stressed-out Children* (1991) and, with colleague Barbara Kane, was a longtime columnist on aging issues for the *Montgomery Journal*. The program is co-sponsored by the Hesed Committee and Sisterhood.

Youth @ AI



Shalom, Friends



In celebration of 2013 coming to a close, the Youth Department is proud to offer *four* awesome programs to end the year in style! Be sure to check our website for more details and subscribe to our newsletter to stay updated on all current and future events!

- **Chaverim (K–grade 2):** Sunday, December 8—*Hanukkah Party*, 12:15–2:30 pm in the Youth Lounge. Lunch provided.

- **Machar (grades 3–5):** Sunday, December 15—Israel Day. Join us for an Israeli dance party, Israel arts and crafts, Israel Jeopardy and more, 12:15–2:30 pm in the Youth Lounge. Lunch provided.

- **Kadima (grades 6–8):** Saturday, December 14—SATO (Social Action/*Tikkun Olam*) Event. Give back to your community by participating in a fun and creative social action event! More details to follow, 6:00–9:00 pm (meet in Youth Lounge). Dinner will not be provided.

- **USY (grades 9–12):** Saturday, December 14—Laser Tag, 7:00–9:00 pm at Shadowland in Gaithersburg, MD. This is a parent-drop-off event. Dinner will not be provided.

For more information, contact Youth@adasisrael.org or call 202-362-6295. ○

Shabbat Hospitality...Are you interested in hosting a Shabbat dinner for your Adas neighbors? Hospitality is not a fringe benefit of synagogue membership— it's a way of life!

Adas Israel is more than just your synagogue... it's your community, it's your neighborhood! We are always looking for Adas members who are interested in hosting community *Shabbat* dinners in their homes. No big commitments, or special levels of observance required. Just let us know if there's a place around your *Shabbat* table for guests, and we'll do the matching for you. So please be a great neighbor and commit (even if it's just once in a while) to hosting 1 or 2 or even 3 guests at your *Shabbat* table. Take the opportunity to learn more about those who are new to the community or provide a warm welcome to those who are visiting from out of town. If you are interested, please contact Marcy.Spiro@adasisrael.org or at 202-362-4433, ext. 133.

Looking for a Shabbat dinner table? Contact Marcy and we'll help you find one with one of our friendly families in your area!



'Transforming to inspire at Adas Israel'

The 'ever-dying people' tries a new approach.

As Published in October 9, 2013, *Washington Jewish Week*

by David Holzel, Senior Writer for WJW

Please note: While we cannot alter the words of the published article below, it is important to note that the correct names of the three locations mentioned in this piece are the Avraham Biran Beit Midrash, the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, and the Gewirz Beit Am.

A coffee cup won't replace the menorah as the emblem of Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, but it does symbolize the changes underway at the 144-year-old Conservative synagogue.

In the beit midrash (the newly built "study house" and central gathering space), a coffee bar has a place of honor alongside study tables, comfortable chairs, bookshelves and worship area. The idea of the beit midrash "has not made it into non-Orthodox Judaism," said Adas Israel's senior rabbi, Gil Steinlauf.

With 1,400 families, Adas Israel serves multiple constituencies. (There are often four separate services on Shabbat mornings.) The congregation has reimagined the beit midrash "in a new cultural language" to try to answer the question of how to "create a synagogue where people whose lives barely intersect feel like part of one community," he said.

"On Sunday mornings during religious school, the place is jammed," he continued. "There are people sitting with coffee and laptops open, other people with Talmuds. There was a Jewish author researching her book, dads who want to talk about Judaism together and people who just want to hang out."

The new beit midrash is one of a series of changes Steinlauf set in motion after he came to Adas Israel in 2008. Central to the goal of what the congregation calls the "vision of renewal" is to use synagogue activity to elevate relationships. The renewal required significant rebuilding, including a renovated sanctuary and chapel, as well as the beit midrash, at a cost of \$14 million.

"Most congregations are running as if it's 1965," he said. "When I came here, I had a very specific message: The Jewish community is shifting radically. We must look at the fundamentals of what synagogues are."

He said change at Adas Israel required a "paradigm shift" about what Judaism is. Most Jews grew up in "an objectified Judaism — an artifact Judaism. Judaism was a thing. Like a museum, you go and visit it, sometimes every week, sometimes at the High Holidays, and you must get access to make use of the thing."

Getting access required knowing "the right amount of Hebrew. Knowing that you must rise on Page 52. It creates anxiety," he said.

The point of the shift was to stop viewing Judaism as an artifact and "see all of it as a series of tools or technologies that are there for us. [Judaism] exists for the sake of human beings—to connect us to meaning, to God, to each other and to humanity," Steinlauf said.

To encourage those connections, the mid-century sanctuary was redesigned to de-emphasize the predominance of the clergy

on the high bima and increase the visibility of worshippers in the seats. The community instituted the Jewish Mindfulness Center, which has programs and workshops to deepen participants' experience of the spiritual. And to sharpen the intellect, MakomDC offers ongoing educational activities in the beit midrash.

Steinlauf said the recently released Pew study of American Jews bears out the need for change. It found that the Jewish affiliation rate continues to drop and the Conservative movement continues to shrink.

"The reaction should not be to reinforce the 1965 model," he said. "That's an anxiety-based Judaism—we're the ever-dying people. It's a constant neurosis in the Jewish people."

Instead, the Pew study is "a statement that the Jewish community in the United States is changing, and we have to evolve."

Rabbi Steven Wernick, CEO of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, said Adas Israel now sees itself "as a communal institution and not a membership club," and that new focus "is a key for success. It doesn't just service the needs of congregants; it services the needs of Jews."

He said the process Adas Israel went through to develop its innovations can be followed by other congregations.

"They're a model of renewal and innovation. And they have the resources to do it as well. The challenging thing about it as a model is its size."

Wernick said few congregations have the size, staff or resources to replicate what Adas Israel is doing. Still, said Steinlauf, "We have the responsibility to model programs and experiences that can be adapted in smaller congregations."

Innovation is on the schedule of the centennial of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The gathering this weekend in Baltimore will look at new models for congregations. One keynote is called "Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community."

On Oct. 2, some 1,000 people gathered in Adas Israel's redesigned sanctuary for an evening of music, dance and drama to dedicate the congregation's new spaces. Standing on the bima-turned-stage, synagogue President Arnold Podgorsky admired the congregation's "more welcoming, more spiritual spaces."

In the ceremony's program booklet, Steinlauf spelled out the community's vision this way: "With this renewal we are poised to become not just a synagogue for programs, services and religious schools, but a true spiritual Jewish community."

Success for Adas Israel, said Wernick, will be a matter of more than just numbers. "It's also, how many people are adding to their lives a Jewish experience, a Jewish opportunity, as a result of their vision and strategy."

In other words, quality of Jewish life is important, too. ○

Washington Jewish Week



Tikkun Olam

N Street Village

Later this month, Adas Israel volunteers will prepare a dinner for homeless or low-income women at the Luther Place Night Shelter of N Street Village, a monthly *mitzvah* Adas members have been fulfilling for the past three decades. On December 25, upwards of 100 Adas volunteers will visit N Street Village, as we have for many years, to offer the women a festive Christmas dinner and to give the N Street Village staff time to celebrate the holiday with their families. During November Adas volunteers delivered two dinners, one prepared by the Religious School fourth grade and a Thanksgiving turkey dinner.

Adas Israel's association with N Street Village, now the largest provider of women-only services for DC's homeless population, goes back to 1984, when Elaine Kremens instituted the weekly volunteer program of members to staff the nightly shelter for homeless women. Adas Israel clergy actively supported Elaine's efforts and helped her recruit her band of volunteers.

Fast forward 30 years and Adas Israel is still prominent at N Street Village programs. Each month Laura Epstein organizes 10 or so volunteers to contribute a meal for 30 women at Luther Place Night Shelter, including the November Thanksgiving dinner, and Roger Nehrer delivers the meals. Volunteers participate once in a while or every month, by contributing something simple like 30 apples or an entrée for 10. A few years ago, Lauren Rubinstein organized the *Zayin* (seventh grade) Religious School students for a second monthly evening dinner for the clients at the night shelter, as part of their class *mitzvah* project. This November, Susan Kay is doing the same with the fourth grade.

The Christmas Day festivities, a joyous annual tradition for Adas Israel, was coordinated by Jamie Butler for 10-15 years, and now by Ruth Kleinrock. Ruth organizes the volunteers, some entire families, to help prepare and serve a festive meal to and serenade the N Street patrons. We form an impressive assembly line in the kitchen, filling every available space around the plentiful bins of holiday food. We wait solicitously on each and every client. An Adas Israel chorus, including Cantor Arianne Brown, completes the holiday atmosphere, leading everyone in a community sing. Laurie Williams of N Street Village says she

always knows she can count on Adas Israel volunteers to bring good cheer to the women and expert help to the kitchen.

"The mission of N Street Village is to 'welcome the stranger'—to be a place of traditional hospitality where all are welcome; a place that brings mutual blessing to both guest and host." The Village began in 1973, an outgrowth of ProJeCt (Protestant-Jewish-Catholic), an interfaith response to suffering in our nation's capital. According to its website, N Street Village serves nearly 1,400 homeless and low-income women each year. According to a 2012 District count, N Street Village was serving over 60 percent of DC's adult female homeless population (those unaccompanied by minor children).

We are grateful to Rev. John Steinbruck, who encouraged our partnership with N Street Village (and later Anne Frank House).



Fulfill an Adas Christmas mitzvah—volunteer at N Street Village.

Rev. Steinbruck served from 1970 to 1997 as spiritual leader of Luther Place Memorial Church at Thomas Circle and the consortium of shelters and services for homeless women and their families. He became a leading voice locally and nationally for the homeless and victims of persecution and prejudice and was known for his close relationships with Jews and as a prominent advocate for Soviet Jewry. He and his Luther Place congregants stood in for Jewish protesters on Jewish holidays. In

addition, he inspired synagogues in the District, including Adas Israel, to volunteer regularly for N Street Village.

Volunteers are needed for Wednesday, December 25, to set up, serve, entertain, and do a little cleanup on Christmas Day at N Street Village, a community of empowerment and recovery for women. The events last from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. N Street Village is located at 1333 N Street Village between Vermont Avenue and 14th Street; parking is usually available on the street nearby. If you want to volunteer, please contact Ruth Kleinrock, ruthkleinrock@gmail.com.

Adas Israel is proud to be an N Street Village partner. To help out with monthly dinners for N Street Village, contact Laura Epstein, laura_epstein@hotmail.com.

For more information on Religious School *Tikkun Olam* activity, contact Ellen Winter, eswinter7@gmail.com, or Interim Director of Education Jill Epstein, Jill.Epstein@adasisrael.org.

Finally, remember the Social Action Fund in your *mitzvah* and *yahrzeit* remembrances. ○

Books, Ideas, & More

Remembering and Forgetting

by Robin Jacobson, Director of Library Services



Only 36 years old, author Dara Horn is dazzlingly accomplished. In 2002, at age 25, she published her first novel to rave reviews. Since then, she has written three more novels and many articles, won two National Jewish Book awards, been named one of the Best Young American Novelists by the prestigious British literary journal, *Granta*, earned a Harvard PhD in comparative literature (Hebrew and Yiddish), taught at several universities,

and begun to raise a family of four lively children.

Energetic and engaging, Dara Horn dined and chatted with Adas Book Club members earlier this fall. We discussed her latest book, *A Guide for the Perplexed: A Novel*. This reads like a fast-paced suspense thriller, yet is infused with unusual insights on a host of weighty subjects, including sibling rivalry, forgiveness, free will, and, perhaps most interesting of all, remembering (and sometimes deliberately forgetting) the past.

A Contemporary Thriller

Horn's ambitious novel weaves together several stories united by common themes. In the primary story, a brilliant and beautiful American software innovator, Josie Ashkenazi, invents a cutting-edge, wildly successful software platform called Genizah. Every moment of a user's day is automatically recorded in Genizah, which catalogs images, conversations, e-communications, and other material within a personal archive.

Designed as a contemporary retelling of the biblical Joseph story, the Josie story features a jealous older sister, rather than brothers. Judith, a lowly employee in her sister Josie's booming technology company, plays on Josie's vanity to get her to accept a

Next Book Chat:

Sunday, December 8, 10:30 am

Join us to discuss Dara Horn's novel, *The World to Come*, a National Jewish Book Award winner. All are welcome!

For more information, please contact Robin Jacobson, Director of Library Services, librarian@adasisrael.org.

prestige-boosting invitation to consult in Egypt. There, in the post-Arab Spring turmoil, Josie is kidnapped and held for ransom.

A Historical Novel

Two historical stories set in Old Cairo weave in between the chapters about Josie. One involves Cambridge University professor Solomon Schechter. In 1897, Schechter rescued a vast trove of medieval Jewish manuscript fragments from an ancient Cairo synagogue storage room, a *genizah* (from which Josie's invention takes its name). One spectacular find was a letter from Maimonides, poignantly expressing his grief over the death of his beloved brother, who drowned in a shipwreck.

The second interwoven historical story features philosopher-physician Maimonides himself. In Horn's re-imagining, it is Maimonides who commissions his brother to embark on his final, fatal voyage to obtain a rare therapeutic plant. Maimonides hoped to use the plant to treat a hard-to-impress royal patient suffering from asthma.

Judaism and Memory

Remembering the past is a call that resonates in Judaism. As famously noted by the eminent historian, Yosef Yerushalmi (z"l), the Hebrew command, "*Zakhor*" (Remember!), appears (in various forms) 169 times in the Torah. But that command, suggests Horn, was never a charge to remember every episode in the Jewish people's long history, but instead, to remember certain key events—slavery in Egypt, the Exodus, the giving of the Torah, and so forth—events that, taken together, form a powerful narrative about the Jewish experience, identity, and mission. In Horn's view, individuals also have the power to choose what is worth remembering from their pasts, and to remember the past more positively than it really was. To follow this interesting idea further, read Dara Horn's imaginative novel, available in our library. ○

Anne Frank House

Anne Frank House is grateful to the Estelle & Melvin Religious School and the Adas Israel community for its fabulous support of the November 10 mini-walk. A special shout-out goes to Jill Epstein, Beth Ann Spector, and David Polonsky for all they did to make the day a big success.

As 2013 draws to a close, Anne Frank House wants to thank the entire Adas Israel community for its support and generosity this year. **As all of you plan your year-end giving, please consider a contribution to Anne Frank House.**

On a budget of about \$11,000 a year, Anne Frank House

- houses 11 formerly homeless people in attractive apartments.

- furnishes the apartments.
- pays for medical, psychiatric, and social services.
- supports the residents with phone calls, visits, holiday meals, and other assistance.

In these uncertain financial times, your support is especially important. Contributions by check may be sent to Anne Frank House, c/o Adas Israel 2850 Quebec Street, NW, DC 20008, or online at www.theannefrankhouse.org/donate.html.

Please give generously. Thank you!



ANNE FRANK HOUSE

Contributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adas Fund

In Appreciation Of: **Arnie Podgorsky's** skills as a *gabbai*, **Meredith Cymerman's** skills as a *gabbai* by Jeffrey Goldberg & Pamela Reeves
In Memory Of: **Dora Rosenkrantz** by R. Walter Rosenkrantz. **Cantor Morris Lang, Morris Klein** by Sander & Suzanne Davidson.

Anne Frank House Fund

By: Susan & Morris Klein, Denyse Tannenbaum & James Horowitz, Ralph & Frances Dweck Family Foundation, Himmelfarb Commercial Inc., Mitchell Prince, Jonathan Mayer, Philip Rubin, Perseus Realty, Ginger Moss, Jay Kirschenbaum, Rabbi Charles & Krayna Feinberg, David M. Cohen, Marilyn Conyers, Gene Santomartino, Alice Burton, Joseph Berman, Ari Strauss, Edna & Larry Povich, June Kress, Clark Enterprises, David Kahn, Matt Weaver, Ellen Sobel Winter, Adina & Sandy Mendelson, Share Fund, Kevin Morin
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In Memory Of: **Helen Sirkin** by Cynthia Johnson, Patricia Eliot, Jeremy Marcus, Ryan McDonough, Adina & Sandy Mendelson, Susan McDonough, Fradel Kramer, Kaitlin McDonough, Eva Rehfeld, Mary Frances Winsor, Boris & Natalya Katz.

Beit Midrash/Makom DC

In Memory Of: **Burton Schwalb** by Brian Schwalb.

Bereavement Fund

In Memory Of: **Morris Tersoff, Sophie Tersoff** by David Margolies & Susan Tersoff.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

By: Leonard & Frances Burka.
With Great Appreciation For: **Cantor Brown's** beautiful chanting during William's *bar mitzvah* by Jeffrey Goldberg & Pamela Reeves
In Memory Of: **Leo Sherman** by William Willis & Rennie Sherman

Congregational Kiddush Fund

By: Phillip & Bess Lewis
In Honor Of: **Our aufruf** by Stephen Schwartz & Courtney Long. Our marriage by Steve Swern & Marisa Goldstein. My retirement by Ruth Ernst. **Pearl Franck's** 100th birthday by Phyllis Tauber. Birth of **Hannah Edelstein** by Susan & Kenneth Ordene. Marriage of **Martin Prosky & Ellen Snyder** by Martin Prosky, Ellen Snyder, Daniel & Jacqueline Prosky. *Aufruf* of **Hannah Hessel & Andrew Ratner** by Edie & Art Hessel, Ellen & David Ratner. **Bill Levenson** by Sandy Levenson, Rabbi Joel Severson & Leora Cohen, Annie & Ari Hoffnung.

Daily Minyan Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of **Luke Wyatt Nussdorf** by Mark Yecies & Ellen Roche. Those who attend the nightly *minyan* by Abby Blum.

Dorothy & David Linowes Program Fund

In Memory Of: **Reba K. Wolf** by Dorothy Linowes.

Dr. Louis & Althea Jacobs Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

In Honor Of: **Daniel Koenig** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Leah Chanin.

Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund

In Memory Of: **Sandy Seidman** by Dorothy Block, Nappy & Steven Block, Mindy & Marshall Mintz.

Executive Director Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Glenn Easton** by Joe & Jamie Baldinger, Marty & Bonnie Lewin.

Fund for the Future

In Memory Of: **Milton Kleinrock** by Steven Kleinrock. **Irving Katz** by Elyse Kaye.

Arthur Winer by Samuel Winer.

Garden of the Righteous Fund

In Honor Of: **Al Munzer & Joel Wind** by Judy Strauch.

In Memory Of: **Erika Brodsky** by David & Gail Schwartz. **Paula Wolpe** by Judy Strauch.

Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **David F. Linowes** by Harry & Judie Linowes.

Havurah Kiddush Fund

By: Betsy Strauss, Rey & Susan Tejada, Carl & Michelle Schoenberger, Mike Sloan & Maria Laszlo-Sloan, Nechama Masliansky, Barry & Carmel Chiswick, Donald & Susan Lubick, Sandi Fox, Sheldon Kimmel, David & Sarah Brooks.

In Honor Of: **Joyce Stern's Simchat Torah** honor by Nancy, Dan & Jory Weiss. Our 45th anniversary by Mel & Barbara Gelman.

Hymen & Sadie Goldman Prayer Book Fund

In Memory Of: **Albert Sidney Altman** by Zalma Slawsky. **Bernard Bobb** by Stanley & Sandy Bobb.

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington

By: Mikaela Seligman & Benjamin Temchine.

Julius & Anna Wolpe Auditorium Fund

In Memory Of: **Allen M. Wolpe** by Bo & Marky Kirsch, Bud & Lorain Rothstein, Marian Gordon, Sharon Brown, Alan & Nancy Bubes, Michelle A. Neuman, Leslie & Allan Slan, Diana & Jack Binder, Flora Atkin, Geraldine Pilzer, Stef & Marilyn Tucker, Irma Poretsky, Goodman-Gable-Gould, the Donohoe Companies. **Paula Wolpe** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Martha & Joseph Mendelson Adult Education Fund

In Memory Of: **Henry Taskier, Estelle Markowitz, Israel Mendelson, Martha Mendelson**, all by Sandy & Adina Mendelson.

Men's Club Amuday Torah Fund

In Memory Of: **Joseph M. Gichner** by Sonya Gichner.

Mikveh Capital Campaign

With Great Appreciation For: **Naomi Malka's** help & support to the entire Goldberg family by Jeffrey Goldberg & Pamela Reeves.

Milton Engel Library Fund

In Honor Of: **Morris & Susan Klein's** 50th anniversary by Lucy Hassell.

Offerings Fund

In Honor Of: Marriage of **Susana & Steven Shapiro** by Dava Berkman. **Toni & David Bickart** by Joe & Jamie Baldinger. My Torah Honor by Joe & Jamie Baldinger. Birth of **Leah Elinor Jossen** by Jean Bernard, Sander & Suzanne Davidson.

Offerings Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of **Luke Wyatt Nussdorf** by Morris & Lynn Kletzklin.

With Thanks For: **Bob Peck, Ira Berkower & Stanley Cohen** conducting Friday night *Shabbat* services by residents of Five Star Premier Residence

In Memory Of: **Ari Zymelman** by Frederick & Priscilla Kay. **Anita O. Reiner** by Linda & Jimmy Cafritz. **Israel Stern** by Alvin Stern. **Leonard Weinstein** by Judge Paul Weinstein. **Simon Albert & Ruth Albert** by Barbara Sandler.

Minnie Margolis by Mel Elfin. **Leonard Hardis** by Dr. Jonathan Hardis. **Dena Weiss & Shoshana LeVine** by David LeVine & family.

Ethel Jacobs by Frances Kornberg. **Sidney Ross** by Judith Ross. **Trudy Wilensky** by Dr. Robert Wilensky. **Katalin Karpati** by Maria Burka.

Rabbi Avis Miller Lifelong Learning Fund

In Memory Of: **Dr. Donald Stiles** by Susan Stiles. **Jack Chernikoff** by Larry Chernikoff.

Rabbi Feinberg Discretionary Fund

By: Frances Kornberg, Shirley Sislen
In Honor Of: **Rabbi Feinberg** by Jean Bernard, Leonard & Frances Burka. **Daniel Koenig's** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Eric Koenig & Amy Schwartz. Marriage of **Hannah Feinberg to Bryan Romick** by Sheri Brown, Abbe Esocoff Zimmerman.

With Thanks For: **Boker Ohr** class by Warren Clark Jr.

In Memory Of: **Gertrude R. & Joseph Weinstein** by Harris Weinstein.

Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz History Fund

In Memory Of: **David Fibus** by Carole Lerner.

Rabbi Steinlauf Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Rabbi Steinlauf** by Leonard & Frances Burka, Jamie Kreitman & Jason Rosenfeld, Jeffrey Goldberg & Pamela Reeves.

Rise & Ronald Schlesinger Music Fund

In Memory Of: **Nathan Meril** by Rise Schlesinger.

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

In Honor Of: **Glenn Easton** by Craig Yokum. **Daniel Koenig** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Irv & Grace Lebow. **Joyce Stern's** accomplishments & *mitzvot* by Gila Ducat-Lipton.

In Memory Of: **Elliott Burka** by Andrea Lenkin.

Arthur Sislen by Elinor Tattar.

Contributions Continued

Harry Seltzer by Toba Penny. **Dr. Gerald**

Aurbach by Hannah Aurbach.

Ruthe Katz Dial in Program

In Memory Of: **Edith Krohn** by Rae Grad.

Samuel & Sadie Lebowitz Israel Scholarship Fund

In Honor Of: **Marky & Bo Kirsch's** special anniversary & **Marky's** special birthday by Barbara & Mort Spiegel.

In Memory Of: **Hyman Kornberg** by Bo & Marky Kirsch.

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Jewish Education

In Appreciation Of: **David Bickart's** participation in William's *bar mitzvah* by Jeffrey Goldberg & Pamela Reeves

Shelley Remer Gan Hayaed Enrichment Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of **Leah Elinor Jossen** by Glenn & Cindy Easton, Sheri Brown. Birth of **Ava Perl**, birth of **Sadie Kalfus** by Sheri Brown.

For The Speedy Recovery Of: **Danny Keller** by Stewart & Shelley Remer.

Mazel Tov On: **Alex Wellich, Elijah Waskow, Danny Koenig, Amelia Davidson** becoming *b'nai mitzvah*, all by Stewart & Shelley Remer. *In Memory Of:* **Ari Zymelman** by Stewart & Shelley Remer. **Sam Teichman** by Frances Y. Wilson.

Shirley Abrams Memorial Fund

For The Speedy Recovery Of: **Diane Keller** by Jean Bernard, Jane Baldinger, Ricki Gerger.

Siegel-Kalmekoff Family Adult Education Fund

In Honor Of: Marriage of **Josh Siegel Katz & Colleen Carey** by William Willis & Rennie Sherman.

Social Action Fund

For The Speedy Recovery Of: **Danny Keller** by Jean Bernard.

Susan Linowes Allen Memorial Music Fund

In Memory Of: **David F. Linowes** by Dorothy Linowes, Dr. Richard Linowes.

Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of: **Bill Levenson's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Nancy Weiss. **Elijah Waskow**

becoming a *bar mitzvah*, **Daniel Koenig** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Bill Levenson.

In Memory Of: **Ary Zymelman** by Bill Levenson.

Tzedakah Fund

In Memory Of: **Ethel Laby** by Ms. Miriam Vinicur. **Norman Shreier & Sylvia Shreier** by Carolyn Goldman. **Dr. Gerald Aurbach** by Hannah Aurbach. **David Lesser** by Margery Elfin. **Herbert Kean** by Edward Kean.

Vision of Renewal Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of **Luke Wyatt Nussdorf** by Roger & Renée Fendrich. **Glenn Easton** by Abbe Esocoff Zimmerman.

In Memory Of: **Adele Pilsk** by Judith Smith.

George Levinson by Jackie Levinson.

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In Memory Of: **Ruth Lipton** by Diane Dennis.

Yizkor/Yahrzeit Fund

In Memory Of: **Lewis Bolotin** by Jeffrey Bolotin.

Marguerite Adler by Lilliane Litton. **Elliott**

Kress by June Kress. **Sally Goldberg** by Robert Goldberg. **Alexander Guss** by Roberta Weiss.

Dr. Gerald Aurbach by Hannah Aurbach.

Feiga Zilberbaum by Joseph Zilberbaum.

Susan Chonoles by Dr. Carl Schoenberger.

Youth Activities Fund

In Memory Of: **Ruth S. Albert** by Stanley &

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Return Again to Shabbat

Friday, December 13 @ 6:30 pm

With Rabbi Lauren & Elie Greenberg

RSVP by Wednesday, Dec. 11 @ noon

Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt and Elie Greenberg will lead us in this 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 the community. RSVP online today or call Carol Ansell, 202-362-4433. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington.

There will also be a joyful traditional lay-led *Shabbat* service, without instruments, hosted by the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan* at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 13. All are welcome! (See article below to learn more.)



A Joyful Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service

Next up: Friday, December 13 @ 6:00 pm

Every second Friday of the month

Join us for a traditional, participatory, lay-led *Shabbat* service the second Friday of each month! Enjoy a joyful evening of good tunes, good *ruach*, and good community. As an added bonus, you can share a *Shabbat* meal after the service with community members, as you enjoy an Israeli-style tapas feast.



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Rabbi Charles Feinberg, *Rabbi*
Cantor Arianne Brown, *Cantor*

Naomi Malka, *Ritual Coordinator/Mikvah Director*
Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, *Director of Lifelong Learning*
Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz, *z"l, Emeritus*
Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg, *Emeritus*
Rabbi Avis Miller, *Emerita*
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Ezra Pantry Winter Coat Drive

The Ezra Pantry annual Winter Coat Drive is back! Bring all coats and jackets for men, women, and children to the Ezra Pantry collection center in the cloakroom. All donations benefit the clients of SOME (So Others Might Eat).

We at Adas Israel have done well in the past. Let's double our contributions this year! As we dig through our winter clothes, set aside the coats and jackets your family members won't wear again. Please bring them to the Ezra Pantry (in the coatroom), where you'll see a large wardrobe box. Let's fill it! Place clean, outgrown or no longer used winter coats in the box by Thanksgiving. Thank you!

For more information, contact Judith Krones, david.judith@verizon.net.

A Signature Event

An Evening of Storytelling about Interfaith Families & Jewish Identity

Sunday, Dec. 15 @ 7:30 pm
Relationships Month @ MakomDC

Join us for an evening of storytelling, music, and conversation—with our own Adas members, whose remarkable stories tell about their interfaith experiences and their own personal Jewish journeys.

Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt and celebrated interfaith pioneer (and beloved Adas member), Dr. Marion Usher, will present this inaugural showcase on this important topic of interfaith families and their journeys.

All of the families who will tell their stories are Adas members and started out with two religions. All are raising Jewish children. Some of the parents have become Jews by choice; others have not, but all have amazing stories to tell. This will be an



opportunity to hear from the mouths of those who have experienced an interfaith family, and to start a new dialogue around this important Jewish conversation.

Free and open to the public. Please RSVP at www.adasrael.org.

Upcoming Chronicle Deadlines—

February: Friday, December 27, at noon; March: Friday, January 31, at noon