

Adas Israel Congregation

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adas israel
CONGREGATION

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MLK Weekend Schedule

Friday, January 16

6:30 pm: Community *Shabbat* Dinner

8:00 pm: Friday Night Musical Service, featuring Cantor Brown and Peoples Church musicians, followed by an *Oneg Shabbat*

Saturday, January 17

9:30 am: *Shabbat* Service in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, featuring Avis Buchanon

1:15 pm: Panel following *kiddush*

Sunday, January 18

Service in Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ, 4704 13th St NW, Washington, DC

Monday, January 19, 2014

Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service; watch @Adas for available projects

Social Action @ Adas

Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend of *Tikkun Olam*

January 16–19

Each year, Adas Israel dedicates the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend to an important social justice issue. This year we focus on "Criminal Justice in Our Community." Over the weekend we will learn how different organizations and community leaders are addressing issues of fairness in our justice system.

This year is also the 50th anniversary of the legendary interfaith marches on Selma and Montgomery. Rabbi

Abraham Joshua Heschel, a towering figure of Conservative Judaism, prominently demonstrated with Dr. King in the March 1965 interfaith march. That is when Heschel made his legendary remark: "When I marched in Selma, my feet were praying."

This Martin Luther King Jr. weekend marks the beginning of the 12th year of Adas Israel's partnership with Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ, a predominantly African American congregation similar in outlook and demographic characteristics to ours. We have joined hands across the park to build a partnership dedicated to justice and service to humanity, to help repair the world. Together the two congregations conduct Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Drives, monthly Save Darfur vigils, and a Veterans Day activity with Yachad to help repair a facility for veterans in need. ✨



One Congregation, One Family

The Adas Israel Social Action Council has an exciting new project to help homeless families get back on their feet and rise up from poverty.

One Congregation, One Family (OCOF) is an interfaith initiative that matches families with volunteer mentoring groups from different congregations around the city. Adas Israel's first team will consist of roughly a half-dozen members who will develop a relationship with a family to help impart life skills (e.g., budgeting and financial planning, job hunting, parenting, nutrition, literacy). This is a commitment of time and skills, something that Adas Israel members are privileged to be able to do. There is no money involved.

For more information, contact Social Action Council chair Joel Fischman, fischman@comcast.net, or Rabbi Feinberg, Rabbi.Feinberg@adasisrael.org. ✨

Adas Israel Legal Clinic Initiative

Join the crew of Adas Israel volunteers who are helping to provide legal assistance to individuals who are homeless and in need. Volunteers meet with clients an hour or more each month, on Mondays, 10:00–11:00 am, but any amount of available time, even once or twice in a year, is appreciated.

Want more information? Contact Laurie Davis, lauriebdavis@gmail.com; Social Action Council chair Joel Fischman, fischman@comcast.net; or Rabbi Feinberg, Rabbi.Feinberg@adasisrael.org. ✨

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Save the Date

Kol HaOlam V

The 5th Annual National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Championship Competition!

March 7, 7:30 pm

Register at www.kolhaolam.org



Join us for one of the most exciting Adas musical traditions of the year! Come and witness the incredible collegiate, Jewish a

cappella groups from around the country sing their hearts out as they compete to be Number 1 in the USA! Who will be crowned champion in 2015?! Join us and find out! ✨



"When the time approached for Israel to die, he summoned his son Joseph and said to him, 'Do me this favor, place your hand under my thigh as a pledge of your steadfast loyalty: please do not bury me in Egypt. When I lie down with my fathers, take me up from Egypt and bury me in their burial-place.' He replied, 'I will do as you have spoken.' And he said, 'Swear to me.' And he swore to him." (*Genesis 47:29–31*)

This is a beautiful passage that we read at the end of *Breishit* when Jacob is dying. I had always understood this passage in one dimension: Jacob's request to be buried in our people's homeland—it seems self-explanatory in many ways. And yet, this year I began to understand this passage in a new light. What might it look like to have a communal burial place as Jacob mentions in the Torah? Why might it be significant? Here's how I began to understand the importance of a communal burial place in a whole new way:

Last March I buried my oldest friend, Laura Both. The ground was still cold and hard, and though Laura was buried in the Adas section of Judean Gardens Cemetery, my heart ached leaving her there. It felt that she was alone in some way, though gone from this world; I still did not want to leave her there alone. I did.

Over the next several months after Laura died, my role at Adas began to shift. I officially became one of the clergy team members and was quickly ushered into the holy work of shepherding families through death and mourning and lovingly burying their loved ones. To me, this is the most important work of a rabbi. It is where our experience, our ability to spiritually order chaos, and to provide *nechama* (comfort) is most critical. What I did not expect to find over the next several months was a comfort I would receive.

In May, our congregation lost a beloved member, Bonnie Lewin. She was a powerhouse in the DC community—a realtor, a mother, a wife, a philanthropist, and a strong woman. I traveled to Judean again, side by side with Bonnie's loving family to bury Bonnie. Bonnie was laid to rest 10 feet from Laura. Though it was heartbreaking to be back so soon, there was something healing to me knowing that Laura was near Bonnie.

As I made my way to Laura's grave to put a stone on the newly seeded grass, I noticed the headstone of a congregant's father. I lingered there, placing a stone on the grave, remembering the sweet memories I had heard of this man. Then I placed a stone on Laura's grave. This time leaving was a little less hard, knowing she was surrounded by a community. A different community, but a community nevertheless.

In October we buried another beloved community member, Sherry Sherman. Sherry was a wife, a mother, a scientist, a beloved friend, and devoted

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Shabbat Shirah with Dale Schatz

Music Month @ *MakomDC*

Weekend of January 30–31

Music is the language that binds us, that calls to us, that elevates us, and brings us all together. This year for *Shabbat Shira*, the congregation is very excited to welcome the wonderfully talented Jewish musician, Dale Schatz! Celebrate the entire weekend of *Shabbat Shira* (the Sabbath of Song), when we commemorate singing the Song of Songs after the splitting of the Red Sea, and mark the entire weekend with music and joy!

Weekend Schedule

Friday, Jan. 30:

L'Dor VaDor Shabbat Service

Dale will lead a very special, musical L'Dor VaDor service for families with children. And join us for the warm Shabbat dinner with friends to follow.

Saturday, Jan. 31:

Musical Shabbat Shirah Service,
Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

Enjoy this unique opportunity for moments of music and spirituality with beautiful, contemplative music at the helm.

Saturday, Jan. 31:

GPA Havdalah for Families with Young Children,
Cohen-Wolpe Hall, 6:30 pm:

Dale will headline an amazing Saturday evening concert for families hosted by the Gan Parents' Association. This is a MUST SEE for the young ones! ♣



Welcome Amateur Photographers!

Elinor Yudin Sachse Juried
Photography Exhibit



Inspired Photography from Our Members Purim through Passover: March 4–April 13

Please note the updated event information below:

Ellie Sachse was not only a lifelong committed Adas Israel member, officer, committee chair, and member of our Board, she was also an inspired and avid photographer. Together with her family we are honoring her memory by announcing a juried photography exhibit as well as our very own “SELFIES: The Many Faces of Adas.”

Feel free to use some of the “inspirations” below as catalysts for your images, as they will be judged on composition, creativity, clarity, interest, and relation to any themes expressed:

- What makes you smile?
- What makes you think?
- What makes you grateful?
- What shakes your soul?

—All entries will be judged based on inspiration, composition, and creativity.

—Professional judges will be announced soon.

Here's how to participate:

1. By January 15, please submit three to four images to suzanne.davidson@adasisrael.org. You can send them by e-mail, CD (JPEG format at 72 dpi; please state the intended size of the actual photograph—i.e., 4 x 6, 8 x 10, etc.), or 4 x 6 prints sent to (or dropped off): Photography at Adas, Suzanne Davidson, 2850 Quebec St NW, Washington, DC 20008.
2. Early in February we will tell you if any of your images have been selected. You will

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From the President

Judaism on the Roof

by Arnie Podgorsky

We come for wonderful music, fabulous humor, and the comfort of old ways. Just beneath that inviting warmth, *Fiddler on the Roof* confronts so many profound challenges of diaspora Judaism.

Some low-hanging fruit is picked and eaten. Parents no longer expect to select marriage partners for their children. We joyfully embrace the

centrality of love in marriage. Other issues are as timely and difficult today as a century ago. Judaism and its traditions rest on Torah, including *Midrash*, *Talmud*, and ongoing interpretations and *minhagim*. As in other systems of faith and law, for those who wish Judaism to encompass the fast pace and cultural diversity of their secular lives, evolution can seem too slow. For those who believe that the worth of contemporary values rests upon Jewish wisdom of the ages, change can seem too rapid or substantively thin. At these poles and infinite points in between, here in Anatevka the conundrum is not merely theoretical. The balance we strike—the music we play as we stand precariously on that roof—will determine how well our generations contribute to sustaining Judaism.

Keep reading. It's not that bad. Or, as Tevye says in faux threatening voice ahead of the dream scene, “Don't Be Frightened!” Because we cannot agree, Judaism has multiple flavors and flavors of flavors. At Adas Israel we recognize that our Conservative Judaism flavor (some call it plural or liberal) itself is diverse. Outside our walls are changing flavors of orthodoxy, Reform, other Conservative synagogues, and other Jewish communities. With so much creativity and even competition, we might assume optimistically that someone, perhaps several, will get it right.

But there is a downside to the cacophony. Have you noticed that some now use the word *denominations* to refer to our different flavors? As though a schism occurred, as though if a “we” are right then a “they” are wrong. As though we cannot respect the views of others even if we think them outmoded, too historically rooted, or too stylishly contemporary. As though all Jews are not a single community. As though there is not *echad* or as though *Klal Yisrael* is something we sing about but then ignore as if passé.

This fracturing is the proverbial two-edged sword. It allows for vibrant exploration and robust creativity that for many presses Judaism toward a stronger contemporary applicability. Yet it also creates divisions and rifts that can foster disrespect for timeless, ancient wisdom and values at Judaism's core. Searching for the sustainable balance, we fiddle precariously on that roof.

Keeping our balance is not just about religious practice and custom. It also is about maintaining a livable place in the world. Some traditional Jewish teachings emphasize that to maintain Jewish practice and customs we must keep our relationships within the Jewish world. But Torah also teaches us to love the stranger, for we were once strangers in Egypt. These teachings are compatible but present a hearty challenge. As Golde searches for Chava and her new gentile husband, she finds the Otherness of the Church haunting. The coldness of the priest to Golde and Golde's wariness of him speaks volumes. We are all God's creations. Must we feel so threatened by differences even in the absence of physical threat? Are we not taught to reach out lovingly to the

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Musical Moments

by Cantor Arianne Brown

10 Reasons Our Congregants Are Singing

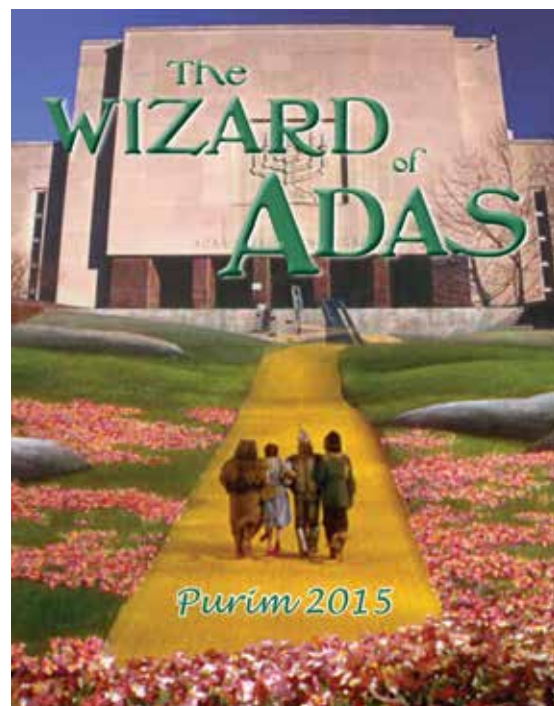
When I came to Adas Israel for my interview, there was something special about this congregation that stood out to me. This is a congregation that loves to sing! Here at Adas, in every different type of service, our congregation loves to participate. The strong command of many traditional melodies, along with a yearning to learn new melodies, was something that touched me deeply. While some *hazzanim* talk to each other about how to *convince* their congregation to join in, I know that I am blessed, because here, the strong desire to connect through music and through singing is innate. To me, as a *hazzan*, there is nothing more beautiful, more moving, and more holy than moments in which our voices join together in prayer.

There was a recent article that stemmed from the Baptist tradition, entitled "10 Reasons Congregants Are Not Singing in Worship." The article delineated many true and well-known principles of the technicalities of group singing, such as the need for melodies that repeat, set liturgy with predictable points, attention to key, and the need for congregants to hear each other. While the article was all true, I was struck by the inherent negativity in it. This caused me to think about the need for my own *hakarat hatov*—recognition of the good—of what we have here in our own congregation. I reached out to some of our own community members for their input and received such beautiful thoughts.

From members of our own Adas Israel community, I present to you:

10 Reasons Our Congregants ARE Singing:

1. I sing to express holiness, to be at one with the congregation as we sing together.
2. When the congregation is singing, I feel a powerful sense of a community adding beauty, reaching out to God.
3. When I speak, my mind is very engaged and my heart has a secondary role. When I sing, my heart is engaged as well.
4. The language of prayer is the language of the heart. Sometimes the heart needs more than words. This is why I sing.
5. When the rest of the congregation participates, I am encouraged to participate because it is energizing and engaging. Upbeat tempos and lively tunes draw me in.
6. Singing is more visceral, more communal, and less intellectual than talking. A melody can traverse centuries without ever being written down, in a way a paragraph never could. So it connects you to the people in the room and people long ago—instantly.
7. I look at the service as an opportunity to pray with others. That is why I sing. When the tune is "singable" and it is led in a range that I can fit into, I am encouraged to sing—even if the melody is new to me.
8. The aspiration to harmony inspires me to sing.
9. My very favorite all-time congregational singing moment is returning the Torah to the ark. This is the moment when it feels like the entire spirit



Announcing Purim 2015: The Wizard of Adas! Auditions to be held Jan 25

We're getting ready for our 2015 *Purim* production of *The Wizard of Adas*! All members are encouraged to participate in the *shpiel*; auditions will take place Sunday, January 25, at 12:30 pm (*Purim* is Wednesday evening, March 4). Please come prepared to sing any song a cappella! All ages are welcome.

We are auditioning for the following roles: Esther (Dorothy), Haman (Wicked Witch), Ahashverus (Lion), Mordechai (Scarecrow), Vashti (Auntie Em), and ensemble (adults and Munchkins). We are also seeking a set designer and artists who can assist the set designer.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Cantor Brown, cantor.brown@adasisrael.org, or 202-362-4433. See you on the stage!

Office Closing

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 19
Schools/Offices Closed

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January Religious School and Youth Calendar



- 10:** Kadima Saturday Night Live at Congregation Beth El (Bethesda)
- 18:** Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, No School
- 20:** Special Ma'alot Programming
- 24:** 6th-grade Shiur
- 25:** Kadima Event @ Adas
- 30:** Kindergarten – 2nd Grade L'Dor Va Dor

For more information or to be added to the mailing list for the Religious School newsletter, *LaHorim*, please e-mail lacy.leblanc@adasisrael.org.



Shalom, Chevre,
Youth@AI kicks off the new year cheering on our USY and Kadima basketball teams at Richard Montgomery High School beginning Sunday, January 11. Come out and support us!

On MLK Day, AIUSY will host a youth group from the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester for a joint day of lunch and social action/*tikkun olam* in downtown DC. This program welcomes all 9th–12th graders, so please contact USY@adasisrael.org for more information and to get involved.

Adas Israel is hosting the Seaboard USY Winter Formal this year; save Saturday, February 7! It's sure to be a blast.

L'Shalom, Rich Dinetz ✨

educationupdate

A Resolution by Any Other Name

by Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, Director of Education

Now is the time in the secular world when people make their new year's resolutions. The beginning of the calendar year often feels like a global moment of potential. While it is our custom as Jews to set our *kavvanot* (intentions) for the year at *Rosh Hashanah*, January, a quarter of the way into the year, is a good time to take stock of where we are. Where was I spiritually over the *yamim noraim*? What role did *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* play for me this year? What did I intend to let go of from the year past? What is it that I hoped to carry with me into this year? What pieces of myself did I intend to lift up? How true am I staying to my intention?

This secular New Year provides us with the opportunity to realign ourselves with our goals. It is not about making new year's resolutions per se, but rather about resolving to enter this New Year with the same intention and focus that we brought to our time together as a community this past fall. Let this be yet another time for us to support one another in the hard work we do on ourselves and in our world. ✨



Gan HaYeled

Gan Registration Opens This Month.



Gan registration for the 2015–2016 school year begins this month. Adas members are invited to apply during the priority period of January 5–7. Information on the wide variety of programs available and application details are available on the Gan website, ganhayeledpreschool@adasisrael.org, on the Admissions page.

The Gan's Annual Silent Auction Event, which will take place on Saturday, January 24, is the biggest, most important fundraiser for our school, and we hope to make this year's event even more fun and wonderful than ever. Please join us in the festivities! And if there's something you

would like to donate (A service provided by your office that someone would find useful? A vacation home? Season tickets to the Redskins?), we can always use your help!

All proceeds from the auction go directly toward school improvements and the Gan Parents' Association's amazing projects. Ultimately it's the

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5776 Bar/Bat Mitzvah Families

Save the Dates, May 15–17

This year's pre-*Bar/Bat Mitzvah Shabbaton* Retreat, led by Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Cantor Ari Brown, and Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, will take place over the weekend of May 15–17. The *shabbaton* is an opportunity to share *Shabbat* with other families and to deepen the Jewish aspect of the *bar/bat mitzvah* celebration. Families that participated in similar retreats in previous years have commented on how worthwhile—and how much fun—the *shabbaton* is.

The retreat, underwritten in part by the Sandra and Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education, will be held again at the Pearlstone Conference & Retreat Center outside of Baltimore. In addition to various discussion sessions with Rabbi Steinlauf, the weekend offers the opportunity for both parents and children to become better acquainted with the other families celebrating *b'nai mitzvah* the same year, and to share ideas about this important event in their lives.

Several fun activities are also scheduled over the course of the weekend, as well as some free time Saturday afternoon for leisure activities, such as nature walks, basketball, jogging, or merely to relax at the scenic property. We very much look forward to your participation.

Participation is limited to room availability. You will receive information and registration forms soon. If you have not received retreat information and you think your child should be included, or if you need more information, have questions, or want to register, contact Beryl Saltman in Rabbi Steinlauf's office, beryl.saltman@adasisrael.org or: 202-362-4433, ext. 121. ❁

Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School Graduates to Be Honored on Shabbat, Feb. 7

On Saturday, February 7, we will honor the graduating Adas Israel seniors of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School: Jack Goldberg, William Horwitz, Samantha Knapp, Annie Mendelson, and Tessa Silverman.

We will honor them with an *aliyah* and each graduate will receive a gift from the congregation. We are happy to participate in their celebration in this way, and we extend our sincere good wishes to them, their parents, and their families. ❁

Gan HaYeled continued from page 16

children who benefit, so let's make this evening really special. If you have any questions or would like to donate to this event, please contact Silent Auction chair Jayne Havens [contact info to come]. Thank you for your help!

Join other families with young children on January 31 at 6:30 pm for our *Havdalah* Program, an evening event during which we bid *Shabbat* farewell and enjoy a meal together. Our special guest will be Dale Schatz, musician extraordinaire. This event is sponsored by the Gan Parents' Association.

And Keep in Mind . . .

- For ages 18–24 months: Registration continues for our Adult-Tot program (Kangaroos). This program is offered several times during the week. Sign up for the one that best suits your schedule.
- For ages 9–18 months: Library Story Time continues in the Adas Library at 10 am on Tuesdays.

The popular Drop-In Play Group runs from 9:00 to 10:10 on Thursdays. ❁

From the President

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strange or different? Does not loving the stranger mean learning from the stranger, too, and understanding the kernel of truth in the stranger's ways?

Here in the United States the Muslim community has not turned to hate or anti-Semitism. For this we are grateful but also wary of the future. For many of us Israel is within our Jewish core. We can react to threats to Israel as though we live there and are threatened ourselves (of course, many of us visit regularly and have family there). Anger and fear can blind us to opportunities to establish a more workable model of relations here at home that possibly could influence relationships elsewhere, including the Middle East itself. Of course that is wildly optimistic, but why not? And is there a better course?

Looking from the rooftop, an opportunity to help preserve peace in the United States between Jews and Muslims appears. Muslims and Jews have enough in common to eat, talk, and enjoy together, very pleasantly. As we Jews work within our communities to sustain Judaism through evolving programs, learning, and prayer styles, we might also consider how warm relations with Muslims in our community can—in most practical ways—help contribute to a bright future of light, love, and *echad*. ❁

Musical Moments

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of the community, the souls of each of the individuals standing there are together, literally and figuratively in harmony, facing in the same direction. There are no lines between us, no differences, no complaints, no darkness. Each of us has merged our "self" with the community for those few moments.

10. Often prayer expresses a yearning of the soul. In all of us, this yearning is beauty. Music connects me with this yearning and this beauty very quickly. When I am in a group with many people singing, our souls are connected. I love the feeling of this connection.

לכו נרננה ה' נריעה לצור ישענו
Come let us sing to God, let us sing to the rock of our creation (Psalm 95)

May these beautiful thoughts be an inspiration for all of us to show the joy, the thankfulness, the pains, and the yearnings of our hearts—here at Adas Israel—through singing together. ❁

Hagbah & Gelilah Practice Session

Saturday, January 10 after Kiddush in the Gewirz Beit Am.

Free & open to all!

Hagbah is the term for raising the Torah scroll, and *gelilah* is the word for rolling up and tying the Torah scroll and replacing its cover and ornaments.

After kiddush on Shabbat, anyone who is interested is welcome to join us for an explanation and “how-to” about *hagbah* and *gelilah*. This event, hosted by the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan*, is open to anyone in the congregation who wants to practice this wonderful *mitzvah*, especially those who’ve never done it before—and women are especially encouraged!

After the explanation, everyone will be able to practice lifting the Torah scrolls, with the aid of spotters. Please join us we practice this important community *mitzvah*.

The verse, “And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people” (*Nehemiah* 8:5), is the biblical precedent for raising an open scroll so the entire congregation can view the Torah script. The person who lifts the Torah traditionally opens at least three columns of the scroll before raising it up as high as possible, and then slowly turns to show the script to all assembled. This allows everyone in the congregation to see the text and proclaim, “*v’zot ha-Torah*” (this is the Torah [that Moses placed before the Children of Israel]; *Deuteronomy* 4:44). Some worshipers raise the edges of their *tallit* toward the script and then kiss the *tzitzit*, though the *halakhic* requirement is merely to bow toward the open Torah.

This is a beautiful tradition that we hope to share. We look forward to seeing you there!



lifecycle

B’nai Mitzvah



Caleb Stutman-Shaw, January 3
(at 6th & I Synagogue)

Caleb, the son of Russell Shaw and Shira Stutman, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School and a third-generation member of Adas Israel. He shares this *simcha* with his sisters, Ma’ayan and Natalia; his grandparents, Reese and David Shaw and Suzanne Stutman and Jonathan Wilkenfeld; and other family and friends. At this time, we remember with love Caleb’s grandfather, Ned Stutman (z”l), who would have been so proud. Caleb will become *bar mitzvah* at Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, where his mother is the rabbi.



Gabrielle Aladjem, January 10

Gabi, daughter of Laurie and Dan Aladjem, is a seventh grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She began her Jewish education at the Gan HaYeled, is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School, and spends her summers at Camp Ramah in New England. She celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with her younger sister, Ellie, her parents, and the rest of her family and friends. For her *mitzvah* project, Gabi is volunteering with a program that helps elementary school children with their homework.



Jeremy (Zevi) Roskes, January 10 (at Mincha)

Zevi, son of Bonnie and Sandy Roskes, is a seventh grader at Kingsbury Day School and attends Hebrew school at Chabad of DC. He shares his special *simcha* and achievement with his siblings, Aviv, Nava, Maya, and Benji; his grandparents, Phyllis Smelkinson and Saul and Danielle Roskes; and his extended family.



Max and Ethan Weinstein, January 17

Ethan, the son of Amy Cooper and Martin and Lori Weinstein, is a seventh grader at Landon School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and attends the Ma’alot program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. For his *mitzvah* project, Ethan is collecting and sorting food for the Manna Food Bank. He shares his *simcha* with his twin brother, Max; his younger brother, Joshua; his younger sister, Ruthie; and many other family members. At this special time, Ethan thinks with love about his grandparents, Ruth and Emanuel Weinstein (z”l).



Max, the son of Amy Cooper and Martin and Lori Weinstein, is a seventh grader at Landon School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and continues in the Ma’alot program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. For his *mitzvah* project, Max prepares and serves meals to underprivileged individuals at Thrive DC. He looks forward to celebrating his *simcha* with his twin

brother, Ethan; his younger siblings, Joshua and Ruthie; and his grandparents, family and friends. At this special time, Max thinks with love about his grandparents, Ruth and Emanuel Weinstein (z”l).



Aden Berger, January 17 (at Sixth & I Synagogue)

Aden, son of Kimby and Lawrence Berger, is a seventh grader at Sidwell Friends School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and graduated from the Jewish Primary Day School NC. He celebrates his *bar mitzvah* with his two younger brothers, Micah and Ollie; his grandparent; and the rest of his extended family and friends. For his *mitzvah*

project, Aden is volunteering with the Friendship Circle.



Amelia Bergman, January 31

Amelia Philips Bergman, daughter of Stephanie and David Bergman, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, and is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Amelia will celebrate her *bat mitzvah* with her siblings, Meredith and Zachary; her parents and grandparents; and the

rest of her extended family and friends. For her *mitzvah project*, Amelia will volunteer with the Montgomery County Special Olympics swim team. She is also raising money for Freedom Guide Dogs, an organization that trains and provides seeing eye dogs for the blind.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

Betty Sachs

Miriam H. Smith

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Selma Cohen, mother of Stanley Cohen

Elsie Novak, mother of Rabbi Mark Novak

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 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.

Adas Israel Community Mikvah



Our *mikvah* is a sacred space where Jews can mark life transitions with powerful physical ritual. Immersing in a *mikvah* connects the body to the water cycle of our planet and to the sources of life. People visit our *mikvah* to

observe the *mitzvah* of monthly immersion; to celebrate *s'machot*; to find strength during a difficult time; to pray for healing; to reflect on the meaning of becoming a bride, groom, or *bar* or *bat mitzvah*; to convert to Judaism; and to prepare physically and spiritually for *chagim*. To learn more about our *mikvah* or to schedule an appointment, contact Naomi Malka, 202-841-8776 or mikvah@adasisrael.org. For more information, visit adasisrael.org/mikvah.

Spiritual Support Group: Loss and Bereavement Rabbi Charles Feinberg and Carol Hausman, PhD

Meeting on six Wednesday evenings, January 7 and 21; February 4 and 18; and March 11 and 25, from 7:30 to 8:45 pm, this group will explore the experience of loss and bereavement of group members, and then turn to the riches of Jewish tradition for healing techniques, including text study, meditation on verses from psalms, writing new prayers, and finding ways to make the deceased person's memory a blessing.

Rabbi Charles Feinberg has much experience teaching and leading different groups. Carol P. Hausman, a clinical psychologist and gerontologist in private practice in Washington DC, is a founder and coordinator of the Washington Jewish Healing Network. She is also on the faculties of Georgetown Medical School, the Washington School of Psychiatry, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Center.

Suggested donation to participate in the group is \$72.



Cemetery Hours

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 6 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	29 7 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	30 8 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	31 9 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	1 10 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan—Parent-Tot Playgroup 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2 11 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 4:39 pm	3 PARSHAT VAYECHI 12 Tevet 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Feinberg 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Junior Congregation 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 4:30 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 5:39 pm Havdalah
4 13 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am JMCW Yoga Stretch 10:30 am Makom DC: How to Series with Cantor Brown 11:00 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	5 14 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Social Action Committee Meeting	6 15 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Sisterhood Taste of Tanach with Rabbi Steinlauf 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Conversion Course 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm iEngage Israel	7 16 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:30 am Gan Open House 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm JSC Classes 7:30 pm Bereavement Support Group 8:00 pm JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow 8:15 pm JSC Classes	8 17 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan—Parent-Tot Playgroup 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	9 18 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan Advisory Committee Meeting 10:00 am Mindful Parenting with Rabbi Lauren 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:30 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service 6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt 7:30 pm Return Again Dinner 4:45 pm	10 PARSHAT SHEMOT 19 Tevet 9:30 am Return Again to Shabbat Morning with Rabbi Holtzblatt; 10:00 am Bat Mitzvah: Gabrielle Aladjem; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 10:00 am Learners' Minyan with Rabbi Feinberg 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 1:00 pm Synagogue Skills: Hagbah Practice 4:30 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services; Bar Mitzvah: Jeremy (Zevi) Roskes with Rabbi Feinberg 5:45 pm Havdalah
11 20 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Move & Groove 10:00 am JMCW Yoga Stretch 10:30 am Adas Book Chat 10:30 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow 10:30 am Makom DC: How to Series with Cantor Brown 1:30 pm Bodies of Water 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	12 21 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Creative Movement 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Kay Hall Design Committee Meeting	13 22 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Anne Frank House Board Meeting 7:00 pm Conversion Course 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	14 23 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JSC Classes 8:00 pm JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow 8:15 pm JSC Classes	15 24 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Creative Movement 9:00 am Gan—Parent-Tot Playgroup 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	16 25 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Mindful Parenting with Rabbi Lauren 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Brown 6:30 pm Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat Dinner 8:00 pm MLK Shabbat Service 4:53 pm	17 PARSHAT VAERA 26 Tevet 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; B'nai Mitzvah: Max & Ethan Weinstein; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:00 pm MLK Panel Discussion 4:45 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 5:53 pm Havdalah
18 27 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 11:00 am MLK Service at Peoples Congregational Church 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	19 MLK DAY 28 Tevet 9:00 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Social Action Committee MLK Day of Service 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	20 29 Tevet 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:00 pm Masorti Olami Dinner 7:00 pm Conversion Course 7:00 pm Masorti Olami Event 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm iEngage Israel	21 ROSH CHODESH 1 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Shevat Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting 7:00 pm YP Kavanah Experience—Rosh Chodesh 7:00 pm JSC Classes 7:30 pm Bereavement Support Group 8:15 pm JSC Classes	22 2 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan—Parent-Tot Playgroup 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	23 3 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Mindful Parenting with Rabbi Lauren 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Sisterhood Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:30 pm YP Shabbat Dinner 7:00 pm Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner 5:00 pm	24 PARSHAT BO 4 Shevat 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service—Sisterhood Shabbat; D'var Torah by Guest Speaker Rahel Musleah 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 10:30 am 6th-Grade Shabbat Shiur 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 11:00 am Junior Congregation 12:00 pm Oneg/Kiddush for Kitah Vav 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 1:15 pm Sisterhood Shabbat Scholar program with Rahel Musleah 5:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 6:00 pm Havdalah 8:00 pm Gan Gala (GPA)
25 5 Shevat 9:00 am Morning Minyan 9:30 am 5778 B'nai Mitzvah Parents Coffee; followed by Meeting 10:00 am JMCW Yoga Stretch 10:30 am Makom DC: How to Series with Cantor Brown 11:00 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow 12:15 pm Kadima Event 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	26 6 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 8:45 am Mikvah Mondays 9:00 am Creative Movement 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Kay Hall Design Committee Meeting	27 7 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Conversion Course 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	28 8 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Religious Practices Committee Meeting 7:00 pm JSC Classes 8:00 pm JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow 8:15 pm JSC Classes	29 9 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Gan—Parent-Tot Playgroup 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	30 10 Shevat 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Mindful Parenting with Rabbi Lauren 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing with Dale Schatz 5:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 5:30 pm L'Dor VaDor Service with Guest Musician, Dale Schatz & Kolot 7:00 pm L'Dor VaDor Shabbat Dinner 5:08 pm	31 PARSHAT BESHALLAH/SHABBAT SHIRAH 11 Shevat 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Musical Service with Dale Schatz; Bat Mitzvah: Amelia Bergman; Sermon by Rabbi Feinberg 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 5:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 5:30 pm Young Family Havdalah Dinner 6:30 pm Young Family Havdalah Service with Dale Schatz, Rabbi Steinlauf, & Cantor Brown 6:08 pm Havdalah

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 ser-

vice 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: Our third-floor library is open on *Shabbat* following services. You may sign out materials using our "no-writing *Shabbat* method," explained in signs on the check-out desks. For assistance during the week, contact our Director of Library Services, Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).



Community & Connection
for Ages 55+ at Adas Israel

HAZAK Aging to Saging

Workshops Led by Betty Adler

Thursday, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29, 10 am–12 noon,
Biran Beit Midrash

Becoming an “elder” is a process, one that is best practiced over a period of time. The concept of this workshop series is that within a like-minded and supportive community, those willing to engage in personal and spiritual growth will find a definition and identity that rather than restricting the aging/saging process, enhances it.

This four-week workshop is based on the groundbreaking book by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi (z”l). Betty Adler has been engaged in a two-year-long mentorship program offered by the Jewish Renewal Alliance and taught by Rabbis Victor and Nadya Gross and Rabbi Shaya Shugarman and Bahira Shugarman. ✨

Ongoing Learning

ONGOING LEARNING

For additional information or to register, go to adasisrael.org/makomdc; e-mail marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org; or call 202-362-4433, ext. 113

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Jan. 7, 21; Feb. 4, 18, 7:30–8:30 pm

The Bereavement Support Group is for people who have experienced a loss sometime during the last year.

BOKER OHR WITH RABBI FEINBERG

Saturday mornings, 8:00–9:15 am

Boker Ohr meets every Saturday morning at 8:00 am and focuses on the weekly Torah portion.

JEWISH HOW TO SERIES

Join us each month at MakomDC for a special speaker teaching an insightful How To session.

Sunday, Jan. 11, 25 @ 10:30 am–12 noon

Haftara Trope w/Cantor Arianne Brown

Sunday, Feb. 1, 10:30 am–12 noon

Making Torah Personal w/Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

Sunday, Feb. 22, 10:30 am–12 noon

Mikvah: Who/What/Where/When and (most important) WHY? w/Naomi Malka



Downtown Study Group

Tuesdays at noon

Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 12, June 9

Join this highly motivated group, taught by Rabbis Steinlauf, Feinberg, and Holtzblatt, that has been meeting monthly in a downtown conference room for more than 25 years. The Downtown Study Group meets (mostly) on the second Tuesday of the month over lunch at a convenient downtown location to study texts and grapple with powerful Jewish issues.

The intellectual level of the group ensures that every session is challenging, intellectually satisfying, and horizon-broadening. This cohesive group welcomes new members. This class is open to the community.

There is no charge for the class, but there is a fee for lunch. For more information, please contact Beryl Saltman, Beryl.Saltman@adasisrael.org.

Parking Decals

As part of our security precautions and procedures, we ask all congregants and school parents to register their automobile information. Our permits, which are numbered and tracked, speed up the flow of traffic into our lot, aid us in parking lot management, provide a level of security, and assist us in case of an emergency or blocked car.

If you do not have a parking decal, please contact Carol Ansell via e-mail, Carol.Ansell@adasisrael.org, or by calling her, 202-362-4433. Once you receive your form, please complete and return it to Carol. Once the information is recorded, we will send you your parking permit. Please display the permit on the driver’s side of the windshield, top or bottom, your choice. The important thing is that it is visible to the security guard in the booth. ✨



JEWISH STUDY CENTER @ ADAS

Come learn with the Jewish Study Center
@ Adas Israel on Wednesday evenings.

Jews of Sweden, Turkey, Latin America, and more! Is European anti-Semitism getting worse? Where do you go for news you can trust about Israel?—a discussion. Mark Novak on Blessings.

Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 at 7:00 and 8:15 p.m.

For more information and to register, visit www.jewishstudycenter.org or contact info@jewishstudycenter.org or 202-332-1221. ✨

Mussar Shabbaton Featuring Rabbi Feinberg and Alan Morinis

March 6–8 at Capital Camps

\$550 for couples, \$275 for singles



Adas Israel's 2015 *shabbaton* (retreat), the weekend of March 6–8, will take place at Capital Camps. This year, Alan Morinis, guest scholar for the entire *shabbaton*, is the founder and dean of The Mussar Institute. The *shabbaton* will be devoted to the study and practice of Mussar. Rabbi Feinberg and Dr. Morinis will lead the *shabbaton*. There will be groups for those who have some experience with Mussar practice and groups for beginners.

For the last year Rabbi Feinberg has been leading Mussar groups at Adas using materials that Dr. Morinis developed for the Mussar Institute. In addition, Rabbi Feinberg attended and passed a training program that enables him to teach a number of the courses for the Mussar Institute. Student response to Rabbi Feinberg's Mussar courses has been very positive.

The March 2015 *shabbaton* will be an opportunity for those of you who do not know much about Mussar to learn something about this spiritual practice. For those who have some experience with Mussar, this will be an excellent opportunity to learn more and work with Alan Morinis, who is an inspiring teacher and a wonderful person.

Dr. Morinis is an anthropologist, filmmaker, writer, and student of spiritual traditions. He is an active interpreter of the teachings and practices of the Mussar tradition and regularly gives lectures and workshops. Born and raised in a culturally Jewish but nonobservant home, he studied anthropology at Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship. His doctoral thesis was published by Oxford University Press as *Pilgrimage in the Hindu Tradition*.

Dr. Morinis has written books and produced feature films, television dramas, and documentaries and has taught at several universities. Although he took a deep journey into Hindu and Buddhist thought and practice, for the past 14 years the nearly-lost Jewish spiritual discipline of Mussar has been his passion, a journey recorded in the book, *Climbing Jacob's Ladder* (Broadway 2002). His guide to Mussar practice, entitled *Everyday Holiness: The Jewish Spiritual Path of Mussar*, was published in May 2007.

The cost of the *shabbaton* is \$275 for individuals (who share a room) and \$550 for couples. You may reserve a place at the *shabbaton* by visiting www.adasisrael.org or you may contact Marcia Miller, Marcia.Miller@adasisrael.org, in the Rabbinical Office. ✨

Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

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feminist. It felt to me that she was taken too soon from this earth, and yet that was the reality in front of us. Sherry, too, was buried at Judean. I lingered after the funeral, understanding the idea of a communal cemetery in a very different way now. These are my people—friends, loved ones, congregants, and they reside in their eternal resting place as a community. I also understood my role in a different way. In a congregation the size of Adas, the clergy regularly visit the cemetery and begin to know the terrain and the resting places of each congregant—holding the family and loved ones in our hearts every time we are there.

Over Thanksgiving weekend I was back at Judean to do Laura's unveiling. The whole family was in town for the holiday, and we decided it was a good time to do this ritual. It was a cold, blustery day and as the family began arriving, not yet ready to start, I took my daughter around our section of Judean. We visited congregants whom I knew, whom I had laughed with, cried with, and buried. I told her about each one and then we visited congregants whom I had never had the chance to meet. We placed a stone on each grave and I realized—this is our place too.

"Abraham breathed his last, dying at a ripe old age, old and contented; and he was gathered to his kin. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre, the field that Abraham had bought from the Hittites; there Abraham was buried, and Sarah his wife." (*Genesis 25:8–10*) ✨

Snow Closures

The synagogue office follows the federal government's inclement weather policies. When the federal government closes, the synagogue office closes. When the federal government opens late, the synagogue office also opens late.

When in doubt, visit adasisrael.org or call the synagogue/school for a taped message. If synagogue offices are closed due to the snow, all daytime and evening programs are cancelled. If schools are closed but building/offices are open, please call the synagogue office regarding evening programs and classes. The daily *minyan* typically meets twice daily regardless of the weather, but again, please consult the website. ✨

Sisterhood Shabbat to Feature Rahel Musleah, January 23–24



Award-winning author, journalist, and storyteller Rahel Musleah is this year's Sisterhood scholar. Her appearance is also a highlight of Adas Israel Congregation's Musical Moments series developed by Cantor Ari Brown. The entire congregation is invited to participate in this unique *Shabbat*.

Shabbat services and lectures will focus on acquainting us with the Baghdadi-Indian Jewish tradition, one that Ms. Musleah is uniquely qualified to describe. She was born in India, the seventh generation of a Cal-

cutta Jewish family that traces its roots to 17th-century Baghdad. A graduate of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, she has researched and written about her roots extensively and led recent tours to Jewish India.

Her book, *Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah* (Lerner/Kar-Ben) introduces Sephardic customs for blessing the Jewish New Year. Her *haggadah*, *Why on This Night? A Passover Haggadah for Family Celebration* (Simon & Schuster), has received critical acclaim. She is the co-author of *Sharing Blessings: Children's Stories for Exploring the Spirit of the Jewish Holidays* (Jewish Lights), and the author of *Journey of a Lifetime: The Jewish Life Cycle Book* (Behrman House). Ms. Musleah also has published hundreds of articles in the *New York Times*, *Family Circle*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Hadassah*, *Reform Judaism*, *Jewish Woman*, and *Na'amat Woman*, among others.

On Friday night at 6:00 pm, Ms. Musleah will lead *Ma'ariv* with the melody of Baghdadi-Indian worship. She will also present a short *d'var Torah* and sing a duet with Cantor Brown. At the Sisterhood potluck dinner that follows, Ms. Musleah will teach some songs from her tradition, including one whose melody will be reprised for *Ein Keloheinu*, which concludes the *Shabbat* morning service.

On Saturday morning, Ms. Musleah will be honored with an *aliyah*, during which she will *leyn* Torah using her traditional trope; she will also present the *d'var Torah*. The Indian theme will continue at the *kiddush*, and afterward, the congregation is invited to hear Ms. Musleah expand further on the traditions, history, and legacy of her community.

The presence of our scholar and the *kiddush* are underwritten by the *Mozelle Saltz Fund for Sisterhood Speakers* established by Adas Israel Board member Donald Saltz, in memory of his beloved wife. Like our scholar, Mozelle traced her roots to India and Baghdad. She was active in our Sisterhood and would *leyn* Torah with the Baghdadi-Indian trope on Sisterhood *Shabbat* and other occasions. This *Shabbat* will bring back beautiful memories of Mozelle.

Sisterhood *Shabbat* services are led by our members. To pray in English or Hebrew, contact service coordinator **Marcie Goldstein**, marcie.b.goldstein@gmail.com, to inquire about remaining opportunities. The Torah service has been organized by **April Rubin** and **Betsy Strauss**; these service slots are filled. Also contributing to the weekend in a major way are **Linda Yitzchak**, co-chair of Sisterhood *Shabbat*, who has arranged for Ms. Musleah's appearance, and **Leah Hadad**, who is organizing Saturday's *kiddush*. **Susan Klein** is planning Friday's potluck dinner to be held in the Youth Lounge. To sign up to bring something, contact her at Susan_Klein@mindspring.com. ❀

Ruth & Simon Albert
Sisterhood Gift Shop

It's finally here . . . the grand reopening sale you've been waiting for!

We've been working overtime to stage and stock our shop, and now it's time to reap the rewards. We're offering reductions of **25% to 50%**, so come in and shop!

Sale Schedule:

Sunday, January 11– Sunday, January 25*

Gift Shop Hours:

Sunday–Monday, Wednesday–Friday,

9:30 am–12:30 pm

Tuesday, 9:30 am–3:00 pm &

6:15–8:00 pm

*Note: We will be closed January 18 & 19 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.



Sale 20-50% Off!
January 11-25



202-364-2888
adasgiftshop@gmail.com

Other Upcoming Sisterhood Events

Taste of Tanach, Tuesday, January 6

Text study with Rabbi Steinlauf continues in the Biran *Beit Midrash* at 10:00 am.

Meet the Author

Sunday, January 11, 10:30 am, in the Library

(Co-sponsored with Men's Club and the Library Committee)



Sisterhood member Carmel Chiswick, professor of economics at George Washington University, will present her new book, *Judaism in Transition: How Economic Choices Shape Religious Tradition*. In Dr. Chiswick's view, economics is a blind spot in our understanding of religion; she blends her economic expertise with her personal experiences to reflect on Jews' decisions to participate (or not) in the Jewish community. Come and enjoy!

Devoting over two decades to examining religion, hers—Judaism—through an economic model of time allocation, Dr. Chiswick observes that “religion is an economic good on which a consumer is willing to spend resources.” The most expensive resource we allocate to the practice of Judaism is our time.

Previous generations seemed to have more time to spend on Judaism, even though paradoxically, Dr. Chiswick points out, our ancestors had few of the technological time-saving devices we enjoy. What has to happen for the American Jew to choose synagogue over other goods? “We want to feel that it is worth our time and that it respects our capabilities,” she advises.

She adds that synagogue activities that provide time-saving synergies, like incorporating family time or meals while reducing food-preparation time and other chores, can attract members to be even more engaged. At Adas Israel, think, Return Again *Shabbat*, Gan Family *Shabbat* Services, Community 2nd *Seder*, MLK weekend, and, of course, Sisterhood *Shabbat*, to mention a few.

Says Dr. Chiswick, “Too often, we rely exclusively on our clergy (and those with clerical training) for insights into Jewish concerns. Yet each of us brings to our Judaism a perspective shaped by our training, and many of us have expertise that we use not only at work but also in our daily lives. Our community is enriched if we share these insights with each other. This book is my contribution as an economist to this process.”

For more information on this book, check it out at <http://www.sup.org/book.cgi?id=17264>.

—Lucy Hassell



Sisterhood Goes to the Movies

For the 25th Washington Jewish Film Festival, February 19–March 1, Sisterhood will choose one of the films to see as a group. Afterward, at a reception we will discuss the film. Venue, tickets, and film TBA. For more information and to volunteer to help, contact Chair Renee Everett, renee@breverett.com.

Torah Fund

Women's League for Conservative Judaism's Torah Fund Campaign supports the training of future rabbis, cantors, and teachers in Conservative/Masorti Judaism. Those donating at least \$18 are invited to a Torah Fund Tea on March 15, which Adas Israel Sisterhood is proud to be hosting. Those sending \$180 or more will receive the beautiful “Tree of Life” pin pictured here. Send your donation today in any amount to TF Chair **Gerry Lezell**, 5800 Magic Mountain Dr., North Bethesda, MD. 20852.



Gift Wrapping at Politics & Prose

Last month, Sisterhood members donated their time to wrap gifts at Politics & Prose to benefit the Washington Literacy Center. Thanks to **Carol Ansell** for organizing this annual event.

Join Sisterhood Today

It's not too late; our membership campaign for 5775 is still in progress. To send in your dues for 5775, make your membership check payable to Adas Israel Sisterhood (Basic Membership = \$36; Contributor = \$54; Patron = \$72; Other = \$____), provide your contact information, and send it to:
Treasurer Dava Berkman,
2475 Virginia Avenue, NW, Apt. 803,
Washington, DC 20037.

Thanksgiving Food Drive



Our November 19 Thanksgiving Food Drive was a great success! Krayna Feinberg and Nathaniel Moore (above) corral a cart full of turkeys about to be bagged with other holiday meal items during the Adas-Peoples Thanksgiving Food Drive. Moore, who has been organizing the workload for this event for many years, directed these volunteers (top) in filling the bags. The turkeys and other food are destined for households in need.

Social Action @ Adas

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Interested in the Environment?

Join fellow Adas members who want to revive the Green Committee to look at protecting the environment both inside and outside Adas Israel. Contact Social Action Council chair Joel Fischman, fischman@comcast.net, or Rabbi Feinberg, Rabbi.Feinberg@adasisrael.org. ✨

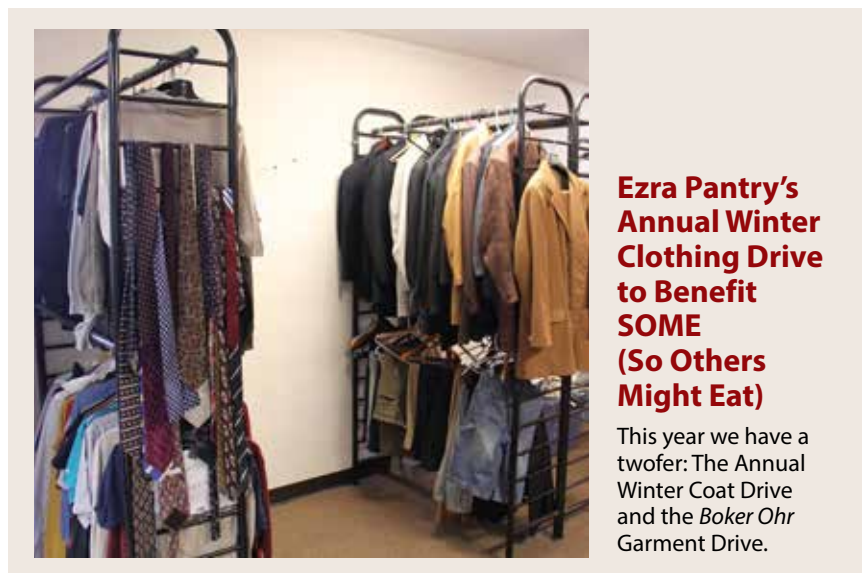


Beth Kanter and Jeff Goodell, USY Alumni of the Year 2014

Mazal tov to Beth Kanter and Jeff Goodell, recipients of the 2014 USY Alumni of the Year award!

Despite the demands of their hectic careers, Beth, a writer and author of several books, and Jeff, vice president of government airport affairs at JetBlue Airways, are pillars of their community. They exemplify the values instilled by USY and Adas Israel Congregation. Whether by volunteering on behalf of a community mental health center, supporting an organization that helps young adults with cognitive and developmental disabilities, or engaging with their children's Jewish day school and their synagogue, Beth and Jeff put the experience and skills they gained as USYers, Beth in METNY and Jeff in Far West, into day-to-day action.

Thanks to USY, Beth and Jeff learned of social responsibility and that making a difference locally can change the conversation and outcome on larger levels. We are incredibly proud to have such wonderful members in our community, and to represent that national conservative movement.



Ezra Pantry's Annual Winter Clothing Drive to Benefit SOME (So Others Might Eat)

This year we have a twofor: The Annual Winter Coat Drive and the *Boker Ohr* Garment Drive.

Reading Stories with Rabbi Portnoy

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Arts Director



I had heard about the famous Rabbi Mindy Portnoy for years before I met her. She is a trail-blazer, one of the first women rabbis. She is also an author of children's books, including the breakthrough *Ima on the Bima* and the sensitive *Where Do People Go When They Die?*, which has helped countless families talk about death. She is a synagogue leader, serving the prominent local Temple Sinai for 25 years before retiring last year. But what I didn't know about Rabbi Portnoy is that she is a talented teacher of literature; she talks about literary characters from the unique perspective of a rabbi who has counseled con-

gregants through many challenges. This past fall, Rabbi Portnoy introduced me and other lucky members of a Jewish literature class to a remarkable short story writer, Edith Pearlman.

Pearlman's award-winning stories encompass secrets, disappointed expectations, relationships we don't choose voluntarily (e.g., in-laws, neighbors)—all difficulties that find their way to a rabbi's office. Below are some highlights from Rabbi Portnoy's course. For a more personal, exhilarating experience, come to the **Adas Book Chat on Sunday, February 22, at 10:30 am**, where Rabbi Portnoy will lead a discussion on Edith Pearlman's short story collection, *Binocular Vision*.

Who Is Edith Pearlman?

With her usual understated wit, Edith Pearlman describes herself as a "New Englander by birth and preference." Born in 1936, she grew up in Providence, RI, and is a longtime resident of Brookline, MA. The "Bard of Brookline" has published more than 250 works of fiction and nonfiction; *Binocular Vision* (2011) is her most recent short story collection. Often asked why she writes short stories rather than novels, Pearlman has various answers—she's a miniaturist, she's never had an idea for a novel—but surely her most endearing answer is, "My mother told me not to take up too much of people's time."

Reviewers extol the rich craftsmanship and human depth of Pearlman's stories. One reviewer compared the stories to ships in a bottle: "each meticulously made" and "miraculously precise," full of the "complexity of individual lives." A common lament among reviewers is that Pearlman, despite piling up literary prizes, is still not as famous as her talent warrants. Calling Pearlman a "national treasure," author Ann Patchett quipped that Pearlman's relative anonymity is on that "great list of human mysteries which includes the construction of the pyramids and the persistent use of Styrofoam as a packing material."

What Does Pearlman Write About?

Many of Pearlman's stories are set in a Boston suburb that resembles Brookline; other stories are set in Latin America, Europe, and Israel. Often, her characters are sophisticated and literate Jews: they read, they travel, they go to museums and concerts—not unlike members of Adas Israel.

In class, Rabbi Portnoy opened with Pearlman's *The Story*, a short, powerful piece set in a restaurant. Two couples dine there together; they meet only once a year, despite the fact that their children are married to each other. Rabbi Portnoy noted that Pearlman subtly reveals facets of these characters even as they react to the breadsticks on the table: "Paprika

continued on bottom of next column

Adas Author Book Chat Sunday, January 11 @ 10:30 am



Meet Professor Carmel Chiswick of George Washington University when she presents her new book, *Judaism in Transition: How Economic Choices Shape Religious Tradition*.

Juried Photo Exhibit

continued from page 4

then be asked to frame your photos in a black frame with a white mat. The maximum framed size may not exceed 16" x 20" or be smaller than 6" x 8."

3. You will be asked to deliver your selected and framed photographs to the synagogue on particular days and times.

4. Opening night will be *Purim*, March 5. All entrants will be acknowledged in the *Chronicle*.

"SELFIES*: The Many Faces of Adas"

With the click of your camera send us your favorite selfie. Even better, a selfie taken on the Adas campus! We will print your selfies and tack them up on the entrance foyer wall leading to the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary. On March 5, you can add another selfie, preferably in costume, that we will attempt to print and hang before services are over. This ongoing, interactive, dynamic, ever-evolving installation will accept additions right up to the closing day.

Please e-mail your selfies (and identify yourself) to suzanne.davidson@adasisrael.org.

If you have any questions, contact exhibit organizer Christy Larsen, clarsen@att.net. ✨

* A selfie is a picture taken of yourself alone, or with others, using a digital camera or phone.

Books & More

continued from previous column

breadsticks! . . . Judith took none; Justin took one but didn't bite; Lucienne took one and began to munch; Harry took one and then parked another behind his ear."

For more Edith Pearlman, come to Rabbi Portnoy's Book Chat on February 22! She suggests that participants read in advance the following six stories from *Binocular Vision*: "The Story," "Allog," "Day of Awe," "Purim Night," "If Love Were All," and "Relic and Type". ✨

synagogue contributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adas Fund

In Honor Of: **Meri Kolbrener and family** by Jack Kolbrener.

Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund

In Memory Of: **Benjamin "Jamie" Cecil** by Joe Cecil & Judith Friedman.

Bereavement Fund

In Memory Of: **Morris Tersoff** by David Margolies & Susan Tersoff. **Tea Stiefel** by Bob & Jane Loeffler. **Louis Naiman** by Arnold Danziger. **Gary Jonas** by Rosalyn Jonas. **Selma Cohen, Lillian Rubin** by David Polonsky.

B'Yahad Special Needs Fund

In Memory Of: **Tea Stiefel** by Keith & Tamar Levenberg.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

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In Memory Of: **Betty Sachs** by Zena & Paul Mason. **Barbara Meltsner** by Dava Berkman.

Congregational Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of: **Ethan & Max Weinstein** becoming *b'nai mitzvah* by Amy Cooper, Martin & Lori Weinstein. My birthday by Leah Chanin. My 92nd birthday by Harriet Sobel.

Daily Minyan Fund

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Executive Director Discretionary Fund

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With Great Appreciation For: **Rabbi Feinberg** by Richard Cohen & Kathy Krieger.

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With Thanks To: **Rabbi Feinberg** by Frances Burka.

Thank You: by Sharon Burka.

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In Honor and Support Of: **Rabbi Steinlauf** by Alvin Stern.

Thank You: by Sharon Burka.

With Thanks To: **Rabbi Steinlauf** for performing our wedding by Alyssa Kahn & David Fiedler.

Rabbi Steinlauf by Frances Burka

Return Again to Shabbat

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Mazel Tov To: **Rita & Ron Perlman** on the birth of their grandson **Elon Perlman** by Neal, Ava, & Jay Gross. **Alexandra Knapp, Sam Jinich,**

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In Memory Of: **Tea Stiefel** by David Polonsky, Glenn & Cindy Easton, Stewart & Shelley Remer.

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In Memory Of: **Esther Nussdorf, Miriam Gerger, Marjorie Rosenberg, Gary Jonas, Sara Palmer**, all by Margie Siegel.

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In Memory Of: **Albert Helzberg** by Judith Hellerstein.

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& Alexander Zeldin.

Ma Tovv: Ethan Sorcher

HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Ethan Sorcher was interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

Ethan is a fourth-generation member of Adas Israel. At 16 years old, he is serving his second year as USY president and is on the Education Committee. He is a very dedicated young man and a bright light in the future of Adas.

Ethan, what is your first Adas memory? As a fourth-generation member, a lot of memories come to mind. I think my first, most vivid memory was breaking my arm in pre-school when I was three. We were in the playroom and a girl jumped on it. It was my *Gan Shabbat*, and everyone from my family was there. Luckily this happened after the festivities.

What inspired you to become so active in USY? Both of my older sisters, Jill and Leah, were involved in USY when they were in high school. My oldest sister, Jill, was USY vice president five years ago, and I saw how much fun she had planning events and socializing with her peers. So when I was old enough to get involved I followed her path.

What school do you attend and what are some of your favorite subjects? I'm an 11th grader at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda. My favorite subjects are government, history, comparative politics, and geography.

You're a huge New York Giants fan. If you were able to give them a motivational speech this season, what are some things you would say to them? You need to play with more pride! Stay in the game, keep the confidence up, and don't let the other team get back in the game.

What is one of your favorite Adas Israel memories? Israel.

Way to steal my next question. You went on the Abe and Minnie Kay Israel Trip last summer. What were some of your favorite moments? Definitely all of Jerusalem because it was such a different experience to celebrate *Shabbat* there. You learn about the history and importance of Jerusalem all throughout Religious School, but once you're there in person, it's amazing. The camel ride in the Negev was really fun; a camel almost pooped on me. Hiking through Hezekiah's tunnel was awesome, and I love all of the Hebrew NFL merchandise I collected throughout the trip.

What is your favorite Jewish holiday and why? *Rosh Hashanah*. It gives us a chance to come together and celebrate the New Year and you get to blow the *shofar*.

What is your favorite dinner at Ma'alot? Barbecue; I love meat!

You're a huge fan of Camp Ramah. What makes Jewish summer camp so special? I think it's the fact that people within the same age group come together from different regions for eight weeks to live and breathe Judaism. We become each other's brothers and sisters and form bonds and memories with one another that will live on forever. This is what camp has given me over the past six years.





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