

# Adas Israel Congregation CHRONICLE

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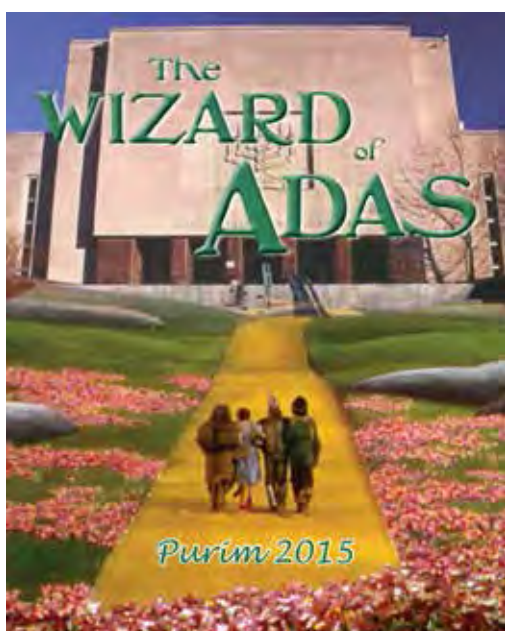
adas israel  
CONGREGATION

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## Purim 5775/2015

Join us for the festive observances of *Purim*, celebrated every year on the 14th of the Hebrew month of *Adar* (late winter/early spring). The holiday commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Haman's plot "to destroy the Jews in a single day."

This year at Adas observances include a full *Megillah* reading in the style of *The Wizard of Oz*, a Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan* family reading, readings for families with young children, and the incredible annual *Purim* Carnival with games, attractions, snacks, and more!



## Purim Schedule

### Sunday, March 1

**11:00 am:** Purim Carnival!

### Erev Purim, Wednesday, March 4

**5:30 pm:** *Megillah* Reading and *Shpiel* for Families with young children, featuring Religious School Students!

**6:00 pm:** *Mincha* (Only)

**6:30 pm:** Full *Megillah* Reading (TEM Family Service)

**7:00 pm:** Full *Megillah* Reading & "Wizard of Adas" *Purim Shpiel*

**After the Readings:** Refreshments

### Purim, Thursday, March 5

**7:15 am:** Morning *Minyan* & *Megillah* Reading

## Associate Rabbi Search Update

The Associate Rabbi search process is in full swing. The Joint Placement Committee of the Rabbinic Assembly and the search committee, chaired by **Jamie Butler**, have been in regular consultation over the last six months. The committee has reviewed more than 20 applications, conducted eight introductory Skype interviews to date, and anticipates additional ones in the coming weeks. Committee members have received applications from experienced rabbis all over the country, and they are enthusiastic about the quality of the applicants. The committee expects to bring promising candidates in for a mid-week visit that will include leading *minyan*, reading Torah, delivering a brief *d'var Torah*, and meeting with the committee, clergy, and staff. The committee will then invite finalists for a *Shabbat* weekend sometime this spring and will solicit feedback from the congregation.

Synagogue leaders have shared the vision and description of this clergy position, and committee members have discussed the search process, which is similar to the one for our senior rabbi search. Committee members are chair Jamie Butler, Rhoda Baruch, Sandra Eskin, Jeffrey Goodell, Andrew Herman, Steven Himmelfarb, Harriet Isack, Alan Roth, Rae Grad, and Judith Kronen. Ex officio members include Ricki Gerger, Herlene Nagler, Arnold Podgorsky, David Polonsky, and Rabbi Gil Steinlauf. Look for updates on the Adas website, in the *Chronicle*, and in our regular congregational e-mails.

Questions, comments, and thoughts can be sent anytime to our dedicated rabbi search e-mail, [rabbisearch@adasisrael.org](mailto:rabbisearch@adasisrael.org). We look forward to a very successful search process and to our new rabbi joining us in July 2015. ✨

## Kay Hall Renovation Construction to Begin Early April 2015

Thanks to a meaningful and significant contribution from beloved Adas member Jack Kay (z"l), the renovation and upgrade of the Kay Hall, Gildenhorn Foyer, and Wasserman Hall is about to begin. Construction will break ground immediately after *Pesach*.

The Kay Hall Renovation Design Committee, chaired by Ross Eisenman, and **Ritter Norton Architects** have completed the design process for the upcoming renovation, and construction will continue thorough summer 2015. A plan is in place to have minimal impact on our congregational activities and programming during the construction phase. Generally speaking, congregational *kiddushim* and other receptions will take place in Cohen Hall (Gan Space) during the spring—with such events usually slowing down during June, July, and August.



*Jack (z"l) and Barbara Kay, visionaries behind the upcoming Kay Hall renovation, whose lifelong commitment to Adas Israel and to the Jewish community continue to inspire us.*



Kay Hall and the adjoining spaces are multifunctional and heavily used. Over the years, the space has become well worn and is in need of some fundamental mechanical and aesthetic improvements. Having recently completed the transformational renovation of our prayer and public entry-level spaces, the congregation will update these other critical spaces to meet the functional needs of the community

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Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

Life changes us. It really does. There are those who believe that people can never really change. That's not true. It may certainly seem that some people never change. But they do. The reality is that we can't "change ourselves." What happens, instead, is that life itself changes us. I speak from personal experience. My life today is profoundly different from a year ago at this time. I never could have imagined a year ago that my life would look the way it does today. But I also know that what is different in my life happened in a way that is so much more, so much bigger than I am.

A year ago, I was a man with very private inner struggles. Today I have an inner peace more profound than I have ever known. But I wasn't the one who made that change. It was Life itself that brought me here. Another name for Life is Reality. Another name for Reality is God.

A few days ago, I was visiting a beloved Adas member who is over 100 years old. With difficulty on his walker, he gave me a tour of his apartment and showed me magnificent works of art he had collected over his lifetime. We also looked together at photographs of his family and talked of joys and tragedies in his life over a century. In the span of an hour I watched him move from smiles to tears, from wistful memories, to grief, to total gratitude. This was a man whom life had changed time and again through the decades. And in those moments, it was clear that one secret to his longevity was his gift for allowing life's endless array of blessings and surprises to affect him fully, without resistance—no matter what life brought, no matter how difficult. For him, life's experiences were like a collection of those works of art—each so precious, each one forever changing him as it came into his life.

On a different day, I visited another beloved elder member of the congregation. Always a passionate lay leader of the *shul*, she brought her great inner fire and passion to help the synagogue through several decades. Now she was in rehab after a hospitalization. She was frail but totally undiminished, and I watched all that fire and passion go into intently working with a gadget to help her reach out and pick up cups that were beyond her easy reach. Reality was changing her, changing her body. But a lifetime of meeting and surviving challenges allowed her to transform the experience of her changing body into a triumph of spirit with each cup as she successfully picked up with that gadget.

Our tradition teaches us that we are all called to make *t'shuvah*—to Return to our best selves, overcoming past sins. *Yom Kippur* is the considered the holiest day of the year because it is all about what Judaism means by the process of change: it's not about "changing ourselves." That's not possible. *T'shuvah* is about having the courage to face the Truth: Reality. *T'shuvah* is about having the courage to let go of our pretense that we can change ourselves. It's about allowing life's changes and surprises to teach us, to call

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## New Member *Oneg*

March 27



Please join us for a fun and relaxed social gathering at our New Member *Oneg* on Friday, March 27, at 5:30 pm. We will meet in the Biran *Beit Midrash* for light refreshments and to mingle with other new members, our clergy, lay leaders, and longtime members. The *oneg* will be followed by our *L'Dor VaDor Kabbalat Shabbat* service at 6:00 pm.

## Kay Hall Renovation

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and to create a gathering, social, and worship environment that befits Jack Kay's *Shem Tov*, good name.

Design committee members include Ross Eisenman (chair), Laurie Aladjem, Morris Chalick, Marcia Feuerstein, Steve Kleinrock, Bob Peck, and Herlene Nagler. Ex officio committee members are Arnie Podgorsky, David Polonsky, and Carole Klein.

The House and Grounds Committee overseeing the construction phase of the renovation includes Ross Eisenman (chair), Morris Chalick, Rhoda Ganz, Herlene Nagler, Sanford Parnes, and Jeffrey Rakitt.

Ritter Norton Architects is a nationally recognized architecture, interior design, and planning firm based in Alexandria, VA. Founded by James W. Ritter, FAIA, in 1974, the firm has a long-established reputation for design excellence and outstanding client service. It has successfully completed a wide range of award-winning commercial and institutional projects, including synagogues, churches, schools, libraries, and commercial interior renovations for the private sector, as well as many local, state, and federal government agencies.

The two committees look forward to working with Ritter Norton Architects, the construction teams, and the entire Adas Israel community to create a beautiful environment for the congregation to enjoy and cherish for years to come. ❁

# ESULAM LEADERSHIP

## Adas Board to Embark on Leadership Initiative on Board Development for the Next Generation

Adas Israel's Board of Directors, facilitated and led by Board members Molly Levinson and Russell Smith, will begin the Adas Leadership Initiative, an important new leadership development program to reinvigorate the Board and create a more effective, dynamically structured lay leadership. The goal, through a renewed focus on the future and in modernizing our leadership and governance, is to spur new voices and leaders to engage and invest in our community.

The enormous positive momentum in so many areas of Adas community life provides a perfect gateway to energize and focus our Board and to create a sustainable path to attract future leaders. Facilitated by Adas Board member **Molly Levinson**, and championed by Adas past president and Board member **Russell Smith**, this program will provide the Board and a coming generation of new leaders with tools to sustain that momentum and, in a stronger partnership with clergy and staff, guide our congregation's evolution.

Throughout this initiative, we will work with an experienced and highly respected expert in synagogue culture, **Bob Leventhal**, who spent many years at the Alban Institute and now works full time with the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism. Bob helped develop the USCJ curriculum, called "Sulam," that we will use. An essential element of the program is its customization to meet Adas's specific concerns and needs. Bob will guide us and facilitate key sessions, and the Adas Leadership Initiative team will do much of the hands-on work.

In the coming months, lay leaders will begin an intensive process of collective self-assessment, reflection, and evolution. Transparency will be vital to the success of this initiative, and we are committed to sharing our progress with everyone in the Adas community.

Members of the Adas Leadership Initiative team are Molly Levinson, Russell Smith, President Arnie Podgorsky, President-Elect Debby Joseph, Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, and Executive Director David Polonsky. Your ideas and thoughts are welcome, as we embark on this exciting and important initiative. ✨

## From the President



### Anti-Semitism and the Jewish Conspiracy

by Arnie Podgorsky

How can we not be troubled by rising anti-Semitism in Europe? Charles Krauthammer wrote recently in the *Washington Post*, "For a millennium, virulent Jew-hatred — persecution, expulsions, massacres — was the norm in Europe until the shame of the Holocaust created a temporary anomaly wherein anti-Semitism became socially unacceptable. The hiatus is over."

Anti-Semitism in Europe, he continues, pales compared to the Middle East.

Anti-Semitism is disturbing of course, but there is another perspective. Let us consider how the roots of anti-Semitism reveal opportunities to strengthen our commitment and not feel victimized.

The first root is that people are ignorant about us. Many believe that we conspire, but they do not comprehend the nature of the conspiracy. As Pharaoh did not know Joseph, they do not know us. Suspicion of otherness yields fear, hate, and you know what can follow.

And so let us admit, concede and celebrate that, yes, there is a Jewish conspiracy. Strong, global, and staunch, this conspiracy has thrived for thousands of years, miraculously defying odds.

The conspiracy is not the one charged. We establish no World Order and control no national economies. We set no interest rates. We steal no children for ridiculous "Protocols."

Our conspiracy is to comprehend *echad*—to grasp that everyone and everything in the universe, past, present, and future, is connected and bound in One and infused with its ineffable creator.

Living as One means that we all are in one boat. As Hillel, taught, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation of this—go and study it!"

Study it and celebrate we do. We gather together to pray for greater light in the world, blessings, and humility, so that all humanity may grasp these contemplations and, with contemplation and vision, better understand that which is concealed. Study reveals the limits of mere beliefs, so we enjoin each other to execute our principles, to live Judaism in our thoughts but more so in our speech and actions. So seriously do we take this injunction that we commit repetitive acts of charity, social action, scholarship, invention, and creative works in the arts and sciences. We are recidivist doers, contributors, and achievers.

Our achievements notwithstanding, we acknowledge frailties and are humble. Because we readily concede that having a godly soul does not assure that our actions are holy, we perform *mitzvot* to remind us of who we are, to whom we owe our existence. We celebrate our creation and existence with Torah study, song, prayer, penitence, *kashrut*, *tzitzit*, *chesbon nefesh*, *matzah*, *lulav*, *etrog*, schnapps, and unabashed happiness and love, even as we often contend within our own family.

Now let us turn to the second root of anti-Semitism. Placing this conspiracy in the context of a Torah theme of holiness versus idolatry, the second root is manifest. *Pesach* joy and *Purim* fun veil the darkness—the evil—that Pharaoh and Haman symbolize. Evil as he was, how could Pharaoh's heart be anything but hardened? Lacking *chesed*, Pharaoh released us solely to preserve him-

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## The 5th Annual National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Championship Competition, March 7

A *cappella* music is sweeping the country, and colleges and universities are a major factor. There is an ever-increasing number of *a cappella* groups on college campuses, and the number of Jewish collegiate *a cappella* groups (that we know of) is approaching 50!



Add to that popular TV shows like *The Sing-Off*, and anyone who's anyone realizes how cool it is to be a singer without accompanying instruments.

There are competitions for *a cappella* groups out there, such as the Harmony Sweepstakes and ICCA, but there was a void in the Jewish *a cappella* world—at least until 2011! The inaugural *Kol HaOlam* National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Competition held in Washington, DC, saw Tizmoret (Queens College) crowned as the first official National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella champion. After Tizmoret repeated in 2012, Hooshir (Indiana University) claimed the title in 2013 and 2014! Who will be crowned the next champion? And who will win the coveted Audience Favorite prize?

Our contenders are: *Tizmoret*, Queens College; *Rak Shalom*, University of Maryland; *Shireinu*, Northwestern University; *Mezumenet*, University of Maryland; *Jewop*, University of Wisconsin; *Jewkebox*, Temple University; *Kol HaKavod*, University of Michigan; *Chicago Rhythm & Jews*, University of Chicago. And there will be special performances by *Hooshir* (Indiana University).

Buy your tickets in advance at [kolhaolam.org](http://kolhaolam.org)! 🌟



## From the President continued from page 4

self. As soon as he thought he could prevail, he released his forces to chase us through the sea. Haman is less complex. He sought to blot out goodness just as we seek to blot out his name. Pharaoh and Haman are real. They are dark and destructive forces, with us through the ages and still today.

From the time of Abraham and Sarah, Jews challenge Pharaohs and Hamans profoundly with radical goodness, insisting on holiness. Judaism rejects the materiality of idolatry as unworthy of creation, as incompatible with *echad*. Through our actions we challenge their schemes, threaten the hegemony of evil, rebut their shallow explanations, and expose their darkness.

Idolaters, the greedy, the nasty, the many who profit from the weak and drink of their misery, they can only despise what we stand for. It is no surprise that they give us troubles.

Anti-Semitism demands that we rededicate ourselves with renewed passion. It reminds us that we received the Torah for a thrilling purpose—to bring light to the world with *chesed*, love, and joy. We exist to challenge Pharaoh and Haman, to be everything they are not, to defeat them and their progeny, joined with each other in *echad*, with brothers and sisters outside Judaism, and by passionate action.

Let us conspire more passionately. Let us force the hands of Pharaohs and Hamans. *Rasch, rasch, rasch*, and although *dayenu*, *l'dor va dor* our work is far from complete. 🌟

## Kolot HaLev Annual Concert



**Hazzan Ramón Tasat, Artistic Director**  
**PESAH: The Sounds of Freedom**  
**With Guest Artists: Hazzan Arianne Brown & Adas Israel Flash Choir**

The *Kolot HaLev* Community Choir presents

### **Music of Freedom, Love, Praise, and Redemption**

**Sunday, March 29, 4:00–6:00 pm**  
**at Adas Israel**

Admission: \$18 adults (\$20 at the door);  
 \$6 student & children.

Tickets available at [www.KolotHaLev.org](http://www.KolotHaLev.org).

For more information,  
 e-mail [concert@KolotHaLev.org](mailto:concert@KolotHaLev.org).

*Kolot HaLev* (Voices of the Heart) is a Jewish community choir in the Greater Washington area. 🌟



*Gan Students, Parents, and Teachers welcome in Shabbat together with the Shema!*

## Full Passover Service Schedule 2015/5775

(see Passover Guide on page 7)

### Erev Pesach, Friday, Apr. 3

- 7:15 am** Morning Minyan-Pesach Siyyum Service  
**6:00 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat  
**7:00 pm** Adas Israel Community Seder  
**7:00 pm** Babysitting

### Day 1, Saturday, Apr. 4

- 9:15 am** Pesach Clergy-Led Service  
**9:30 am** Traditional Egalitarian Minyan  
**9:45 am** Havurah Shabbat Service  
**11:00 am** Junior Congregation  
**12:00 noon** Pesach Kiddush

### Day 2, Sunday, Apr. 5

- 9:30 am** Combined TEM and Clergy-Led Service-Pesach  
**11:00 am** Junior Congregation  
**12:00 noon** Pesach Kiddush  
**6:00 pm** Evening Minyan

### Day 3, Monday, Apr. 6

- 7:30 am** Morning Minyan  
**6:00 pm** Evening Minyan

### Day 4, Tuesday, Apr. 7

- 7:30 am** Morning Minyan  
**6:00 pm** Evening Minyan

### Day 5, Wednesday, Apr. 8

- 7:30 am** Morning Minyan  
**6:00 pm** Evening Minyan  
**7:30 pm** Mussar in Action

### Day 6, Thursday, Apr. 9

- 7:30 am** Morning Minyan  
**6:00 pm** Evening Minyan

### Day 7, Friday, Apr. 10

- 7:30 am** Morning Minyan  
**8:00 am** Morning Minyan Breakfast  
**9:15 am** Combined Clergy-Led/TEM Pesach Service  
**5:30 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg  
**6:00 pm** Kabbalat Shabbat  
**6:30 pm** Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service

### Day 8, Saturday, Apr. 11

- 9:15 am** Pesach Service  
**9:30 am** TEM Pesach Service  
**12:00 noon** Congregational Kiddush  
**6:00 pm** Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services

## holidays@adas

## Eat Drink and Be Holy: The Holiday of Purim



On its surface, the holiday of *Purim* is fairly straightforward, characterized by an atmosphere of joy and celebration. We are required to eat and to drink; we parade around in outlandish costumes; and we make loud noises that can hardly be described as dignified. It is not only children who are expected to wear costumes. Adults as well are very much encouraged to wear costumes and participate in the joyous celebration. Still, beneath its almost too obvi-

ous guise of merriment, *Purim* is marked by a seriousness of purpose equal to that of the most solemn holiday. We are required to perform a variety of mitzvot, and from each we learn an important lesson.

One of the most important things we learn from *Purim* is that no person can exist alone. We share with others not only our daily lives, but our hopes and dreams as well. Hillel taught: “*Al tifrosh min ha’tziibbur*—Do not separate yourself from the community.” In each of the mitzvot we perform on *Purim*, we learn something new about the concept of sharing.

### Reading the Megillah

Each year, we are required to listen to the complete reading of *Megillat Esther*. We are instructed to listen to every word and to do this twice—evening and morning. Perhaps, in attending these public readings, we are learning the value of sharing with the entire community recognition of, and appreciation for, our collective triumph over adversity.

Defeating Haman was a shared enterprise. Mordecai and Esther led the way, supported by the prayers of the entire Jewish people. In every generation, there are those like Haman who prey on people’s basest fears to maximize their own power. Confronting such evil must be a shared responsibility. While one group may be singled out for harsh treatment, it is the responsibility of all good people to fight against this kind of tyranny.

### Mishloach Manot

Each year, increasing numbers of Jews are discovering the wonderful *Purim* custom of sharing food with friends and neighbors, giving at least two types of food to at least two recipients. The mitzvah of *mishloach manot* is based on the verse in the *megillah* instructing us to “send portions one to another” (9:22). Some people bake *hamantaschen* and other goodies, while others send food packages through their synagogue. Use this opportunity to spread *Purim* cheer to those who might not otherwise receive such gifts. Consider bringing some brightly decorated baskets to seniors, the homebound, or newcomers.

### Matanot L’evyonim

Based on the injunction in the *megillah* that we must “send gifts to the poor” (9:22), the holiday affords us a special opportunity to share our good fortune with those in need. Gifts can be given directly—for example, bringing food and clothing to a homeless shelter, or indirectly, through an organized charity. It is important to keep in mind that whatever additional *zedakkah* we give throughout the year, donations must still be given on *Purim*. How

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## PASSOVER GUIDE 2015/5775

Passover is celebrated this year from **Friday evening, April 3, through Saturday, April 11**. The *sedarim* are held on **Friday and Saturday nights, April 3 and 4**. All cleaning and preparations to make the house *pesachdik* (kosher for Passover) must be completed by **10:00 am on Friday, April 3**. If you have any questions, please consult with the rabbis.

The rule against *hametz* on *Pesach* applies not only to eating but to enjoyment (*hanaah*) and also involves removing all *hametz* from one's home. No *hametz* is even allowed to be in the possession of a Jew during Passover. To facilitate this cleaning, certain rituals are part of Passover preparations (the text for the ceremonies can be found in most *haggadot*):

- *bedikat hametz*—searching for crumbs of *hametz*
- *bittul hametz*—a formula for renouncing *hametz* inadvertently missed
- *be'ur hametz*—burning *hametz*
- *mehirat hametz*—the sale of *hametz*

### Mehirat Hametz



We are not always able to destroy or remove all of our *hametz*. Doing so could be economically disastrous. So the rabbis ordained that a symbolic sale is made of all the *hametz* to a non-Jew in the community, who then sells it back to us after *Pesach*. The *hametz* is then no longer "in our possession." This is normally done through the synagogue for the entire congregation. Please use the form in this issue of the *Chronicle* and **send it to Rabbi**

**Feinberg c/o Marcia Miller by Monday morning, March 30**. It is only necessary to sell or destroy food stuffs; dishes and utensils are simply locked away in storage for the duration of the festival.

### Bedikat Hametz, Thursday Evening, April 2

The Search for Leaven, is a lovely home ceremony of searching for the leaven with a candle, feather, and wooden spoon, as an indication that all other preparations have been made. It is customarily done at nightfall (immediately after sunset) on the night before Passover when we search for and symbolically eliminate all remaining leavening from the house. This is an especially enjoyable ceremony for your children.

The *Kol Hamira* formula for nullifying unseen *hametz*, which can be found at the beginning of many *haggadot*, should be recited at this time and in the morning when the *hametz* is disposed of.

#### The search is performed in the following manner:

- Place 10 pieces of (visible size) bread in various locations throughout the house.
- Recite the following blessing: **Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam asher kid-shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivonu al biur hametz**, and then



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## REGISTER TODAY!

The First Night Community Seder  
Passover 2015/5775  
Friday, April 3, 7:00 pm



**RSVP by Wednesday, March 18, with the synagogue office or online at [www.adasisrael.org/seder](http://www.adasisrael.org/seder).**

Join us for our annual, festive community Passover seder at Adas Israel, with delicious food, thought-provoking discussion, and joyful song. The Passover seder is one of the Jewish peoples' most treasured traditions. Few rituals have survived so long and remained so true to their original form. Using rich symbolism, role-playing, and all of the senses, the seder warmly transmits the values of human dignity, liberty, and the search for higher meaning to every society it reaches. To this day, in every corner of the world, Jewish families come together to reconstruct that original Passover seder, again and again, year after year. And every year, there is more to learn. We look forward to sharing this beautiful and meaningful tradition with you and your family this year at Adas. 🌟

## Holiday of Purim

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important is this mitzvah? As Maimonides writes in his *Mishneh Torah* (*Hilkhos Megillah* 2:17): "It is better for a person to increase gifts to the poor than to increase his feast or the *mishloach manot* to his neighbors."

### Seudat Purim

Few things are more pleasurable than sharing a celebratory meal with our families. Happily, the megillah tells us that *Purim* should be a time for feasting. This year, approach the *Purim seudah* with the commitment we bring to preparing the Passover seder. Wear special clothing (offbeat costumes are definitely permitted), prepare special foods, and learn *Purim* songs.

**Chag Purim Sameach!! 🌟**



## PASSOVER SALE OF HAMETZ

During Passover, it is technically forbidden to have any *hametz* in our possession. Because we cannot finish it all, and it is improper to destroy usable food, the rabbis provided for a symbolic sale of all of the *hametz* to a non-Jew who then “sells” it back to us after *Pesach*. The *hametz* is then no longer “in our possession.” This includes food, dishes, and utensils, which are locked away in storage for the duration of the festival. This year the sale can be done through Wednesday, April 1.

Funds collected through donations and through the “sale” of *hametz* are used for charitable purposes and to help provide Passover food for those who might otherwise have none. This legal procedure technically transfers ownership of *hametz* that remains in our pantry during the festival. Technical ownership reverts to us when the festival is over.

**Please fill out this form and send it to  
Marcia Miller c/o Adas Israel Congregation,  
2850 Quebec Street NW, DC 20008 by April 1.**

Dear Rabbi Feinberg:

Please sell our *hametz* so that we have fulfilled our obligation of religious ownership and accept this contribution so that others are assured of a *seder*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

proceed (traditionally with a lighted candle, a feather, and a wooden spoon) to look for any leaven that can be found.

- c. The pieces of bread should be gathered in a container, such as a small cardboard box.
- d. After the 10 pieces, and whatever other leavened food, are gathered, recite the following declaration: **“All manner of leaven that is in my possession which I have not seen or have not removed, or have no knowledge of, shall be null and disowned as the dust of the earth.”**

### *Siyyum Bechorim*, Friday Morning, April 3

The fast of the firstborn is a time-honored custom that recognizes God’s role in history. On the day before Passover, it is customary for the firstborn to fast as an expression of gratitude that he or she, unlike the Egyptians’ firstborn, was saved. However, if the firstborn attends a *siyyum* (a public completion of the study of a tractate of the Talmud) on the morning before Passover, he or she is exempted from fasting and may eat. Thus any firstborn who participates in the ceremony may eat. This is known as the *Siyyum Bechorim*. As do many congregations, we hold a *siyyum* (the celebration of concluding a section of the *Mishna*). Our *Siyyum* will take place as part of the morning minyan on **Friday, April 3, at 7:15 am**

### *Seudat Mitzvah*

This small meal follows, and a firstborn who is present may eat and need not fast that day (following the *Siyyum Bechorim*).

### *Biur Hametz*, Friday morning, April 3

This day should be treated as an ordinary *Erev Pesach* in regard to *biur hametz* (removal of *hametz*). Burning of the *hametz* should be completed **by about 10:00 am**. The stove should be koshered for *Pesach*. All cooking should be done in *Pesach* pots using only *Pesach* utensils. Food required for the first *seder* should be cooked at this time.



Burn your *chametz* at Adas Israel on **Friday, April 3, at 9:15 am** in the parking lot.

### *First Seder*, Friday Night, April 3

Tradition encourages that the *seder* not begin until after sundown.

### CANDLELIGHTING TIMES:

**Friday, April 3:** Light candles at 7:15 pm

**Saturday, April 4:** Light candles *after* 8:16 pm

**Thursday, April 9:** Light candles at 7:21 pm

**Friday, April 10:** Light candles at 7:22 pm

**Memorial Candle:** It is customary to light a memorial candle for departed family members before lighting the holy day candles.

### The blessings recited are:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, אשר קדשנו במצותיו, וצונו להדליק נר  
של יום טוב.

*Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid-shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzevanu l'hadleek ner shel Yom Tov.* Praised are You, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us to light the festival candles.

### And on the first night only:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.  
*Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she'hecheyanu, v'kee'manu, v'heegee anu lazman hazeh.* Praised are You, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has kept us in life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season. ❁



## ONGOING LEARNING

### Shabbat Scholar Series at Adas Israel

The Lifelong Learning Committee is offering a three-part scholar series at Adas Israel this year. Throughout the year, scholars from around the Jewish and scholarly worlds will participate in informative post-kiddush lectures in the Biran *Beit Midrash*. This series, generously underwritten by the Mendelson Family Learning Fund, will enable congregants to continue learning from leading scholars in the Jewish community during a full year of formal and informal lectures and discussions.



#### JUDITH HAUPTMAN, Saturday, March 21, 1:00 pm, After Kiddush

Judith Hauptman is the E. Billi Ivry Professor of Talmud and Rabbinic Culture at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Dr. Hauptman's scholarly research focuses on two areas. The first is unraveling the mystery of how the Talmud came into being, and the second involves investigating women's roles in Judaic thought.

Shortly after her ordination as a rabbi, she founded Ohel Ayalah, an outreach project for disaffected young Jews, named in memory of her mother. Since 2004, Ohel Ayalah has run free, walk-in High Holy Days services and Passover *sederim* for all ages on the first night and for 20- and 30-year-olds on the second. Hundreds of people attend these events each year.

Dr. Hauptman has served as a board member of the Association for Jewish Studies and as rabbinics section coordinator for the association's last four conferences. She also serves on the board of the Jewish Community Project, which seeks to enhance Jewish life in lower Manhattan.

In addition to her full-time post at JTS, where she has taught since 1973, Dr. Hauptman is a frequent instructor in the adult-education program at the 92nd Street Y in New York City. She has also served on the faculties of Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion; the Seminario Rabínico Latinoamericano, JTS's campus in Buenos Aires; JTS's Rebecca and Israel Ivry Prozdor supplemental Hebrew high school; the UAHK Kallah; the Wexner Heritage Foundation Summer Institute; and LimmudUK and LimmudNY.

Dr. Hauptman has a degree in Talmud from the Seminary College of Jewish Studies at JTS (now Albert A. List College of Jewish Studies) and one in economics from Barnard College as well as an MA and a PhD in Talmud from JTS. She was ordained as a rabbi in May 2003 by the Academy for Jewish Religion. ✿

### Downtown Study Group

Tuesdays at noon

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](mailto:Beryl.Saltman@adasisrael.org).

### Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

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us to our best selves, to becoming the people whom God created us to be.

In the Zohar, we are taught that in the World To Come, the holiest day of the year will not be *Yom Kippur*. It will be *Purim*! In fact, our ancient rabbis playfully called "*Yom KiPurim*" as the "*Day that is Like Purim*"—meaning the holiness of *Yom Kippur* is but a taste of the holiness that *Purim* will be in the World to Come. Why *Purim*? The *Book of Esther* is about how we experience God-as-Reality. In the *Megillah*, God doesn't magically intervene and fix things. In Esther's and Mordechai's courage to face Reality with their fullest selves, without hesitation or reservation, all the Jewish people are saved. The "secret" of the *Book of Esther* (the very name Esther in Hebrew refers to something "hidden") is that while God can't be seen directly, God is completely there. God "happens" when we meet Reality with the fullness of our selves, with the courage to face the Truth of Life itself. And this hidden secret is the holiest message of all of life.

Life changes all of us, whether we like it or not. The difference between the true heroes and everyone else is in how open-hearted we are to whatever life itself brings us—no matter how wonderful or terrible. This *Purim*, may we see the sacred dimension of what it means to live life fully, overcoming our fears. In our courage, may we bring on the World to Come. ✿



*Shalom, Chevre,*

Youth@AI is as busy as ever and looking forward to sharing some more good times with all of you. *Purim* is this month, and that means we're gearing up for our annual *Purim* Carnival on Sunday, March 1, 11:00 am–12:15 pm in Kay Hall—be there! We'll have games, moonbounce, fun prizes and yummy treats. And be sure to wear your best costume to participate in our costume contest.

Be on the lookout for more youth event notifications through our biweekly youth blas, which details all upcoming youth events for the next couple of weeks. To subscribe or learn more, e-mail Rich Dinetz, [Rich.Dinetz@adasisrael.org](mailto:Rich.Dinetz@adasisrael.org), or call the Youth Dept., 202-362-6295.

Last, AIUSY hosted a group of teens from Rochester for MLK Day 2015. We led icebreakers, had a pizza lunch, learned a little bit about *tzedakah*, and participated in a *mitzvah* project for SOME! Check out some photos below.

*L'Shalom, Rich Dinetz* ✨



## lifecycle

### B'not Mitzvah



#### Alexander Orlove, March 7

Alex began his education at Gan HaYeled and is currently a seventh grader at The Field School. For his *mitzvah* project, Alex has chosen to continue the work of his sister, Elliotte, in her *mitzvah* project to benefit Pathways to Housing by collecting housewares for this organization, which helps those who are homeless establish housing on the "housing

first" concept. Alex looks forward to celebrating his *bar mitzvah* with his family and friends.



#### Alex Green, March 14

Alex, the son of Karen and Andrew Green, is a seventh grader at Green Acres School. He shares his *simcha* with his sisters, Eliana and Charlotte; his grandparents, Adrienne and Stuart Green; and other friends and family traveling from England, Canada, California, Florida, Boston, and New York.

An avid hockey fan, Alex's *mitzvah* project is to

teach ice hockey and sportsmanship to children with developmental disabilities at the Montgomery Cheetahs Special Hockey program. At this time, we remember with love Alex's grandparents, John and Dottie Goldmeier (z"l).



#### Shifra Waskow, March 14 (TEM)

Shifra Hadar Persellin Waskow, daughter of Ketura Persellin and David Waskow, is a sixth grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, attended the Jewish Primary Day School NC, and spends her summer at Ramah in the Rockies. She celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with her brother, Elijah; her parents and grandparents;

and her family and friends.



#### Yaakov (Jake) Rabinowitz, March 21 (TEM)

Jake, the son of Laurie Moskowitz and Steve Rabinowitz, is a seventh grader at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School and a proud graduate of Gan HaYeled and the Jewish Primary Day School NC. He also spends part of each summer at Camp Ramah in New England. Jake looks forward to celebrating his *simcha* in the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan*,

where he has grown up, along with his younger brother Sammy, his parents, and friends and family from near and far. At this time we remember with love Jake's grandparents, Harold and Dorothy Rabinowitz (z"l) and his namesake, great-grandfather Jacob (Jack) Rabinowitz (z"l).



#### Maya Kagan, March 28

Maya Rose Kagan, a daughter of Jennifer and Michael Kagan, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School. She attends the Ma'alot program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School and plans to celebrate her *bat mitzvah* with her sister, grandparents, and other relatives and friends. For her *mitzvah* project, Maya volunteers as a Reading Buddy in

Montgomery County Public Schools.

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## March: Israel

Featuring Rabbi David Rosenn

Tuesday, March 10 @ 7:30–9:00 pm

Less than 70 years ago, Tel Aviv was a desert and today it is thriving city of the arts, technology, culture, and Jewish autonomy. The early Zionists attempted to establish a better, wiser, more humane, and more moral state in the Holy Land. Explore the many facets, both cultural and spiritual, of the Jewish experience of having the modern state of Israel in our ancient land of prophecy.

**Featured Speaker: Rabbi David Rosenn**



Rabbi David Rosenn is executive vice president at the New Israel Fund, a leading-edge grantmaker supporting Israeli social change and social justice nonprofits. David was ordained a Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary, which he attended as a Wexner Fellow. Before completing rabbinical school, he held positions at Shatil, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, the Jewish Fund for Justice, and the

National Council of La Raza. In addition, David founded AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps, where he served as executive director for 13 years.

### Additional Israel Month Programming:



**Conservative/Masorti Judaism in Israel  
Shabbat with Rabbi Chaya Baker of  
Ramat Zion**

**Saturday, March 28 @ 9:30 am**

Shabbat services and post-kiddush discussion with the senior rabbi of one of Jerusalem's only Masorti synagogues. Learn about the pioneers of religious

pluralism in the state of Israel and hear what it takes to be one of the only egalitarian congregations in the Jewish people's homeland.

**Downtown Study Group with Rabbis  
Steinlauf, Feinberg, and Holtzblatt**

**Tuesdays @ Noon, Feb. 10**

The Downtown Study Group meets (mostly) the second Tuesday of the month over lunch at a convenient downtown location to study texts and grapple with powerful Jewish issues.



**Boker Ohr with Rabbi  
Feinberg**

**Saturday mornings, 8:00–9:15 am**

*Boker Ohr*, which focuses on the weekly portion, meets every Saturday morning at 8:00 am.

**Engaging Israel with  
Rabbi Holtzblatt**

**Fridays, March 6, 20, 27, 10:00–11:20 am**

In this class we will explore the questions: Where is home? What do we do with the vision of Israel in our imagination and the reality on the ground? What can sovereignty offer us as a people? 🌟



## In Memoriam

**We mourn the loss of synagogue members:**

Diana Engel

Lt. Colonel Emanuel Glickman

Susan Glickman

Miriam Melrod

Hilde Michele Simenauer

**We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:**

Sheldon Baldinger, husband of Eleanor Baldinger

Bernard Bellitz, uncle of Stanley Cohen

Phyllis Eyl, mother of Jackie Eyl

Dorothy B. Greenberg, mother of Edward Greenberg

Richard Hariton, brother of Nancy Gewirz

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](mailto:mikvah@adasisrael.org). For more information, visit [adasisrael.org/mikvah](http://adasisrael.org/mikvah). 🌟

march2015
adar–nissan 5775

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>110 Adar</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am JMCW Yoga Stretch</div> <div>11:00 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div> <div>11:00 am Purim Carnival</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>211 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm Social Action Committee Meeting</div>	<div>312 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pm Intermediate Talmud</div> <div>7:00 pm Conversion Course</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>4EREV PURIM13 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Mincha (only)</div> <div>6:30 pm Full Megillah Reading (Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Family Service)</div> <div>7:00 pm Full Megillah Reading &amp; “Wizard of Adas” Purim Shpiel</div> <div>Refreshments after the Megillah Readings</div>	<div>5PURIM14 Adar</div> <div>7:15 am Morning Minyan &amp; Megillah Reading</div> <div>9:00 am GAN Parent-Tot Playgroup</div> <div>10:00 am Gan Pre-School Megillah Reading &amp; Shpiel</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>615 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Mindful Parenting with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing</div> <div>5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat</div> <div>6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour</div> <div>7:30 pm Shir Delight Service</div> <div>8:00 pm D’var Torah by Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>8:30 pm Shir Delight Dinner</div>	<div>7PARSHAT KI TISSA16 Adar</div> <div>8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Bar Mitzvah: Alexander Orlove; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>10:00 am Learners’ Minyan</div> <div>11:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 am Netivot</div> <div>11:00 am Junior Congregation</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>5:45 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>6:47 pm Havdalah</div> <div>7:30 pm Kol HaOlam Concert</div> <div>REMEMBER to change your clocks on Saturday night before you go to bed.</div>
<div>817 Adar</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am JMCW Yoga Stretch</div> <div>11:00 am JMCW Yoga Flow</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>918 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>1019 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Sisterhood Taste of Tanach</div> <div>12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site)</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pm Intermediate Talmud</div> <div>7:00 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>7:00 pm Conversion Course</div> <div>7:30 pm MakomDC: Rabbi David Rosenn Lecture</div>	<div>1120 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am RA Meeting</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting</div> <div>6:30 pm Bereavement Support Group</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Classes</div> <div>7:30 pm Mussar In Action</div> <div>8:00 pm JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div>	<div>1221 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am GAN Parent-Tot Playgroup</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>1322 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt</div> <div>6:30 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service</div> <div>7:30 pm Return Again Shabbat Dinner</div>	<div>14PARSHAT VAYAKHEL-PEKUDE/SHABBAT PARAH23 Adar</div> <div>8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Bar Mitzvah: Alex Green; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>9:15 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Feinberg; Bat Mitzvah: Shifra Waskow</div> <div>11:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 am Netivot</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>5:45 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>7:54 pm Havdalah</div>
<div>1524 Adar</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am JMCW Yoga Stretch</div> <div>10:30 am Mussar in Action</div> <div>11:00 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div> <div>1:30 pm Bodies of Water</div> <div>2:00 pm Sisterhood Regional Torah Fund Event</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>1625 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>1726 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>5:30 pm New Member Oneg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm Conversion Course</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>7:30 pm lEngage Israel</div>	<div>1827 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting</div> <div>6:30 pm Adas Authors Event</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Classes</div> <div>8:00 pm JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div>	<div>1928 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am GAN Parent-Tot Playgroup</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>2029 Adar</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing</div> <div>5:00 pm Young Family Happy Half Hour</div> <div>5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service with Cantor Brown and Robyn Helzner</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>6:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Dinner</div>	<div>21PARSHAT VAYIKRA/SHABBAT HACHODESH1 Nissan</div> <div>8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:15 am Shabbat Morning Service/YP Shabbat; Sermon by Rabbi Feinberg</div> <div>9:15 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Steinlauf; Bar Mitzvah: Yaakov Rabinowitz</div> <div>9:30 am Havurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 am Netivot</div> <div>11:00 am Junior Congregation</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pm Study with Rabbi Judith Hauptman: The Rules of the Rabbis and the Practice of the People</div> <div>6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>8:01 pm Havdalah</div> <div>7:00 pm Kadima Event</div>
<div>222 Nissan</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Religious Practices Committee Mtg.</div> <div>10:00 am JMCW Yoga Stretch</div> <div>10:30 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div> <div>4:30 pm JUFJ Labor Seder</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>233 Nissan</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>244 Nissan</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm Conversion Course</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>255 Nissan</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pm Bereavement Support Group</div> <div>7:00 pm DCJCC Film Screening–Film Festival</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Classes</div> <div>7:30 pm Mussar In Action</div> <div>8:00 pm JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div>	<div>266 Nissan</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am GAN Parent-Tot Playgroup</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>277 Nissan</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing</div> <div>5:30 pm New Member Oneg</div> <div>5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>6:00 pm L’Dor VaDor Shabbat Service for 3rd Grade with Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>7:00 pm L’Dor VaDor Shabbat Dinner</div>	<div>28PARSHAT TZAV/SHABBAT HAGADOL8 Nissan</div> <div>8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service “Shabbat in Harmony” w/Robyn Helzner; Bat Mitzvah: Maya Kagan; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>11:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 am Netivot</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>8:08 pm Havdalah</div>
<div>19 Nissan</div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am JMCW Yoga Stretch</div> <div>11:00 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div> <div>4:00 pm Kolot HaLev Concert</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>210 Nissan</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>8:45 am Mikvah Mondays</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>311 Nissan</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm Conversion Course</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>412 Nissan</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>6:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting</div> <div>8:00 pm JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div>	<div>513 Nissan</div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 am GAN Parent-Tot Playgroup</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div>6EREV PESACH14 Nissan</div> <div>7:15 am Morning Minyan-Pesach Siyyum Service</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat</div> <div>7:00 pm Adas Israel Community Seder</div> <div>7:00 pm Babysitting</div>	<div>7PESACH DAY 115 Nissan</div> <div>9:15 am Smith Pesach Service; D’var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:30 am Havurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 am Junior Congregation</div> <div>12:00 pm Pesach Kiddush</div> <div>6:00 pm Mincha/Maariv</div> <div>after 8:16 pm</div>

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. ‘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 (lbrarian@adasisrael.org).



## Coffee Club for Parents of Our Youngest Adas Members



Drop in Wednesday mornings any time between 10:30 and 11:30 am to meet other parents of babies. Use our Keurig to make your coffee or bring your own. Either way, you're sure to make a new friend or run into people you know. The cozy corner of the *Beit Midrash* is the place to be on Wednesday morning if you have a baby!

Some of the best Adas ideas come from congregants, and this gathering was suggested by new member Sharon Cohen as a way for her to meet other parents with babies. Come get to know Sharon and *schmooze*.

## Weekly Gan Events:



**Story Time in Library,**  
Tuesday mornings, 10:00 am  
**Drop-In Play Group**  
Thursday mornings, 9:00 am

## educationupdate

### Gan HaYeled

#### STEAM at the Gan!

The Gan's STEAM room and experiences enrich the learning of our preschool students. Check out this excerpt from a recent STEAM blog entry, and visit <http://ganhayeledpreschool.org/steam-blog>:

Four children from the Squares class had come into the STEAM room and looked around to see what they wanted



to do. One child discovered the basket of magnets and brought it to the table. The other children were interested in all of the different things in the basket and jars. There were plenty of magnet sticks for the children as well as lots of other metal objects, such as paper clips, metal balls, small colored discs, and other small magnetic objects. I let the children have a chance to play uninterrupted so they could explore and experiment with the magnets.

After about 10 to 15 minutes playing with the magnets, I asked them, "Why do these things stick to the magnets?" With confidence the children said because they are magnets. They understood that magnets attract to (some) things but I wanted to know how I could get them to understand what they do (and don't) attract. I brought over a small wooden golf tee and asked the children what it was made of. One child took it while the others watched, and they realized right away that it was a wooden tee. I asked them if wood can stick to the magnet. They tried and could see right away that the magnet was not attracted and would not stick to wood. I then picked up one of the small metal balls and asked them to tell me what it was made of. They grabbed one and felt it and one girl said it was made of metal. They put it up to the magnet and saw that it attracted to the magnet. I picked up the wood golf tee and showed them and reinforced this lesson to them by asking, "Does wood stick to magnets?" With that they knew wood doesn't stick because they just used the metal ball to stick on the magnet. One of the children then replied . . . , "Wood doesn't stick. Metal sticks to magnets."

#### Registration Continues!

Registration is strong for the fall, but we still have some spots available, however. For more information, log on to [ganhayeledpreschool.org](http://ganhayeledpreschool.org).

#### Register for Sweet Summertime

Although we're not quite done with cold, wintery weather, it's not too early to look ahead to summer! Along with the warm weather and sunshine comes Sweet Summertime, the Gan's summer camp. This year Sweet Summertime begins June 15 and runs in two-week sessions through August 7. Throughout the eight weeks of Sweet Summertime, you'll see smiles and hear laughter from our campers and staff alike. Our many activities range from cooling off in wading pools to creating special art projects to going on field trips to places such as the Puppet Company at Glen Echo and the National Aquarium.

Most important, Sweet Summertime is a time to connect with former classmates, meet new people, and form new friendships. Our very special

*continued on page 15*

# Religious School

## Education Update



While it is our custom to intentionally count the days between *Pesach* and *Shavuot*, in the education world, we also find ourselves marking the time between *Purim* and *Pesach*. This year March begins with revelry and chaos, carnival and *shpiel*, and draws to a close as we move toward a different kind of celebration.

We try to fill the time between the two holidays with meaningful experiences that help us prepare for our communal journey toward liberation. Our month is filled with service opportunities and new relationships. Whether it is seventh-grade students visiting N Street Village or the sixth-grade model *seder*, this is a time of action. Preparing for *Pesach* is not just about cleaning and cooking; it is about doing, about using our freedom to make a difference. This is a time to be part of a service opportunity, to demonstrate to our families the amazing learning we have done, to watch our younger students



take leadership roles in our services (third grade *L'Dor VaDor* on March 27), and to use new musical approaches to explore our service (visit from *Mezument*, the University of Maryland's all-female a cappella group on March 29). We look forward to sharing these experiences, and more, with you as we all take action this month. ✨

## Gan HaYeled continued from page 8

Gan teachers work in the summer and make Sweet Summertime a wonderful experience. We are very fortunate to have a number of terrific teenagers as well, many of whom are Adas Israel members, join our summer staff and add energy and excitement to the camp. Sweet Summertime registration has begun.

For more information call the Gan office, 202-362-4491. Registration forms can be found at [www.adasisrael.org/gan](http://www.adasisrael.org/gan). ✨

## Vote For Me!

Vote for Mercaz, by Toni Bickart



Please! I'm running for the World Zionist Congress and I need your help.

I care about Israel and Israel's future and I want to influence how our money is allocated

in Israel. The World Zionist Organization, an extra-governmental organization, receives money from donors all over the world, including money raised by our Federations in the United States, and then decides how to distribute it in Israel.

I think a large amount of these funds should be used to support a **pluralistic, democratic Israel – an Israel that we, our children, and grandchildren will be proud to recognize**. Currently, the millions of dollars distributed each year go disproportionately to fund settler building projects and ultra-Orthodox schools and communities.

The more votes I get (I'm part of Slate #2), the more likely these funds can be directed to support inclusive institutions and programs in Israel, including those of the Masorti/Conservative movement. The Masorti movement plays an important role in providing opportunities for Israelis to participate in a modern and authentically Israeli religious experience. Did you know that 1/2 million Israelis now identify as Masorti or Progressive? Did you know that almost 3,000 young Israelis are part of the NOAM/Masorti youth movement? Did you know that there are now 73 Masorti congregations flourishing throughout the country, five new ones in the last year alone?

I want to support Israelis who care about promoting a democratic state that recognizes and fosters all forms of Judaism. Will you help me?

You CAN by voting for MERCAZ USA (the Conservative/Masorti party) in the current

*continued on page 17*



## Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

In January we visited the American Made Show and discovered several new jewelry vendors.

We are pleased to present Fleur Jolies, which bases its pieces on Victorian-style designs.

Please come in and check them out!



### 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

*Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.*

202-364-2888  
adasgiftshop@gmail.com

## sisterhoodnews

### Upcoming Events

#### Torah Fund Celebrations at Adas Israel, March 14 & 15



The Adas Israel Sisterhood is hosting Seaboard Region's "Chai" Tea for Torah Fund, Sunday, March 15, 2:00–4:00 pm in the Youth Lounge. You won't want to miss it. This is a celebration of those who donated at least \$18 (*chai*) to the Fund. The covert is an additional \$18. The special program features Connie Krupin, author of *A Time to Be Born—A Jewish Baby Journal*. Ms. Krupin will

discuss the origin and meaning of our names, and her book will also be available for purchase at a reduced rate.

We anticipate a good showing from our region and hope you'll want to be part of it. Here's how to sign up:

- Send your qualifying donation with a check of at least \$18, payable to *Torah Fund*, to TF Chair **Gerry Lezell**, 5800 Magic Mountain Dr., North Bethesda, MD 20852.
- Fill out the registration form (next page) and send it with a check for the \$18 covert, payable to *Seaboard Region WLCJ*, to: our WL Liaison **Myra Promisel**, Apt. 42, 2101 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008.
- The deadline is March 9. If you have questions, please call Myra at 202-265-0196.

Women's League for Conservative Judaism's Torah Fund Campaign supports the training of future rabbis, cantors, and teachers in Conservative/Masorti Judaism. Your support is vital. Even if you can't come to the tea, please consider making a donation.

**Saturday March 14.** In an effort to further publicize the important work of the Torah Fund and to honor those who help support it, we invite all those who have made a donation to Torah Fund in the Benefactor category and above for a group *aliyah* on *Shabbat* morning in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary. Be sure and wear your Torah Fund pin in a show of solidarity.

### Ongoing

We are always looking for women interested in joining our board and helping to direct the future of our organization. Our new standing Nominations Committee was established to facilitate effective leadership development and transition within the Sisterhood. Members are Chair Marian Fox with Miriam Rosenthal and Deborah Wallach, assisted by Membership VP June Kress. We are looking for those who share a vision for a vibrant organization for women within the *shul*, people interested in taking an active role in promoting our mission of knowledge, friendship, and community. Please contact Marian, [marian.fox@comcast.net](mailto:marian.fox@comcast.net) or 202-363-7633, or Sisterhood President **Marcia Feuerstein**, [mfeuerst@hotmail.com](mailto:mfeuerst@hotmail.com) or 240-669-9170, if you are interested in exploring what this would entail or sharing some ideas. All suggestions are welcome. We look forward to hearing from you.

continued on page 17



## Recent Events

• For the fourth year in a row, Sisterhood has held its "Sisterhood Goes to the Movies" event as part of the DCJCC Jewish Film Festival. On Sunday, February 22, a group of sisters went to the AFI Silver Theater to see the east coast premiere of *The Mus- es of Isaac Bashevis Singer*. The late

author, who wrote in Yiddish, received a Nobel Prize winner in literature, and is best known in the U.S. for his story, "Yentl the Yeshiva Boy," on which the Barbra Streisand movie, *Yentl*, was based. The movie is a documentary about Singer's more than 40 female translators who helped popularize his work in this country. He chose these translators carefully, was inspired by their presence, and often fell in love with them. Nine of these women are still living. Theirs are the voices heard in the film—and they have plenty to say about Singer as an author, lover, and person! Those attending the opening had the added treat of hearing the film's Israeli director, Asaf Galay, field questions. Later, Sisterhood members repaired to a nearby restaurant to continue the discussion. **Judy Melamed** chaired the event, assisted by Marcy Feuerstein.

• In January we had the thrilling experience on Sisterhood *Shabbat* of hearing Indian-Baghdadi authority Ra- hel Musleah regale us with stories of her Mizrahi culture. In addition, she chanted the *Kabbalat Shabbat* service, Saturday's Torah service, and *Mincha* using the ancient melodies she learned from her father, a rabbi. Rahele has found a permanent place in our hearts. To continue the experience you can check out her website, <http://www.rahelsjewishindia.com/>. Good news! Sisterhood has on hand a small number of the items listed below, which can be purchased through Lucy Hassell, thus avoid- ing shipping charges. Other items are available through the website.



## Rahel Musleah Order Form

- ☐ *Hodu: Jewish Rhythms from Baghdad to India* (CD) \_\_\_\_\_ # @ \$15  
☐ *Apples & Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah* \_\_\_\_\_ # @ \$8  
☐ *B'Kol Arev: Songs of the Jews of Calcutta* \_\_\_\_\_ # @ \$15

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To order any of these items, fill out the information below and send your check, **payable to Rahel Musleah**, to Lucy Hassell, 46 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001. The information will be sent to Ms. Musleah, along with your payment, but Lucy will arrange to deliver your purchase directly. Remember, this is for the above items only. Anything ordered on the website should be ordered directly through Ms. Musleah.

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Phone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Fax)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (E-mail)

Organizational Affiliation: Adas Israel Sisterhood

☐ Please add me to your e-mail list

For more information, contact Rahele at (516) 829-2358 or *Rahele*.  
[musleah@gmail.com](mailto:musleah@gmail.com) or visit her website, [www.rahelsjewishindia.com](http://www.rahelsjewishindia.com).

## "Chai" Tea Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out and send it with a check for the \$18 couvert, payable to *Seaboard Region WLCJ*, to: our WL Liaison **Myra Promisel**, Apt. 42, 2101 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washing- ton, DC 20008.

**The deadline is March 9.**

If you have questions, please call Myra at 202-265-0196.

## Join Sisterhood Today

The first step toward being part of Sisterhood is to become a member! Here's how. 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.

## Vote For Me! continued from page 15

election for the World Zionist Congress. The more votes MERCAZ receives, the more we can influence how our money is spent. **For too long the voices of moderation, including our voices, have been silent and we've allowed others to determine how our money, and the money of Jews around the world, is distributed.** Let's do our civic duty as Jews and try to change the formulas.

Please go online to [www.votemercarz.org](http://www.votemercarz.org) to register (it will cost you \$10) and vote for Slate #2 now. Join me in trying to make a difference.

Thank you.

**Toni Bickart**

[tonibickart@gmail.com](mailto:tonibickart@gmail.com) ✉





## The Daily *Minyan*

When was the last time you made it to the *minyan*? Twice daily, we have the opportunity to strengthen our community by participating and sharing in the joy and responsibility of making a *minyan*. Attending the daily *minyan*, in one respect, serves a charitable purpose. It allows others to pray and recite *Kaddish* for their loved ones. Just as significant, however, is the spiritual gifts you receive from the service itself. It is diverse in its attendees and filled with beautiful melodies, a special *ruach*, *Torah* readings on Monday and Thursdays, many opportunities to have an *aliyah*, and the chance to take a meaningful pause in your day and to connect with friends. As members of a synagogue community, we owe it to each other and to ourselves to participate regularly in the daily *minyan*.

### Daily *Minyan* Schedule:

**Morning:** Monday–Friday: 7:30 am/Sundays & Legal Holidays: 9:00 am

**Evening:** Sunday–Thursday: 6:00 pm

### A Brief Background

In Judaism, there are three daily prayer services: morning (*Shacharit*), afternoon (*Mincha*), and evening (*Maariv*). The tradition of three services is attributed to the prayers of our forefathers. The morning prayer was learned from Abraham, the afternoon prayer from Isaac, and the evening prayer from Jacob. It is also structured in this way to recall the three daily sacrifices offered up in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

The morning service is divided into several sections, which include the *Amidah* (the standing prayer of 19 key blessings); the afternoon prayer consists of the *Amidah* and supplications; and the evening service consists of the *Shema* and the *Amidah*. Morning prayer is often recited wearing *tefillin* (phylacteries) and *tallit*. You, too, can learn how to wrap *tefillin* by coming to the morning *minyan* and receiving instruction from our helpful community members. Each service is unique in its way and offers different opportuni-

continued on page 19 , right column

## tikkunolam



**TIKKUN OLAM**  
Social Action

## From Anne Frank House

Anne Frank House and its residents have much to be grateful for, particularly for the continuing support and generosity of Adas Israel congregants. We are also most appreciative of the Adas clergy and staff for their continuing special support to Anne Frank House.

**We want to thank these Adas Israel**

**members for their contributions of \$360 or more in 2014:**

Rhoda Baruch, Eric Bensky & Amber Cottle, Joel Brenner, Alan & Nancy Bubes, Frances & Leonard Burka, Richard M. Cooper & Judith Aren, Scott Dreyer, Sue Ducat & Stan Cohen, Diana Engel (z"l), Joel Fischman & Judith Rabinowitz, Marian Fox & Stuart Horn, Steven & Jane Gilbert, Laura & Jonathan Ginns, Sylvia Greenberg, & Ava Gross, Kenneth Heitner & Rhoda Ritzenberg, Hazel & Robert Keimowitz, June Kress, Peter & Sarah Mancoll, Matthew Mariani & Meredith Josephs, Jennifer & Daniel Mendelson, Adina & Sandy Mendelson, Alfred Munzer & Joel Wind, Lovell & Jane Olender, Edna & Larry Povich, Steven & Lisa Schwat, Julia & Daniel Small, Irene & Richard Spero, Kathryn Waldman, and Marvin Weissberg & Judith Morris.

**We also want to thank our 2014 Mini-walk corporate sponsors and the foundations supporting our work:**

Aeroseal Windows & Storefront, Bethesda Magazine, Bonstra/Haresign Architects, CBRE Global, Clark Construction, Coleman Floors, Ralph & Louie Dweck, Evers & Company, The Fleisher Group, FMC & Associates LLC, Goulston Storrs, The Greysteel Company, Himmelfarb Commercial Inc., Ingber Dental, Moti's Market, Rabinowitz Communications Inc., Sandy Spring Bank, United Security & Communications, Inc., Water Management, Inc., and West Financial Services, Inc.; William S. Abell Foundation, Inc., John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation, Hicks Family Charitable Foundation, Share Fund, and Isador and Bessie Turover Philanthropic Fund.

Anne Frank House welcomes new Adas Israel contributors to support our current residents and to respond to the many requests we receive from area agencies to take in new residents. Thank you for helping us continue to be an important resource in combating homelessness in the Washington, DC, community.

To make a contribution to Anne Frank House, please send your check to Anne Frank House, Inc., c/o Adas Israel Congregation, or visit our website, [theannefrankhouse.org](http://theannefrankhouse.org).

## DC Mayor Muriel Bowser at Adas

On January 16, Martin Luther King Jr. *Shabbat*, Adas Israel welcomed newly inaugurated DC Mayor Muriel Bowser. The mayor spoke informally about her priority of working with Washington's faith-based community at Adas Israel's annual *Tikkun Olam Shabbat* dinner, sustaining Adas Israel's unbroken record of having hosted every elected mayor of Washington, and the last three, at least, during their first days in office. Mayor Bowser was at Adas Israel just two weeks after her inauguration.



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## Purim! It's Time Again for Our Edible Groggers

Yes, it is a great Adas tradition! Come on *Erev Purim*, March 4, and celebrate (sustainably and joyfully) with "Edible Groggers," those wonderful noise-making macaroni and cheese boxes. Buy your edible *groggers* as you come for the reading of the *Megillah*, then recycle them for the next user. After *Purim*, the *groggers* morph into mac and cheese when we donate them to So Others Might Eat. Blot out *Haman's* name (noisily, of course) and support SOME (financially and with food).



## Adas Social Action Volunteer Opportunities

### One Congregation, One Family

Want to be part of an exciting new initiative in our community? Join fellow Adas members and become part of the first Adas Israel Mentor Team to help a family emerge from homelessness to hope with dignity.

The Adas Mentor Team will work with a family to promote life skills and offer the care and encouragement necessary to foster personal and economic growth as it transitions from homelessness to stable housing and an improved quality of life. We will offer help with budgeting, parenting skills, job networking, family literacy, nutrition, and linkages to ongoing services in the community. More important, we will help create supportive relationships to enable acts of lovingkindness.

The Adas Israel Social Action Council is forming a pilot Mentor Team of five to six people to work with a family for a six-month period. The commitment is modest but could have valuable long-term benefit. Members of the team will meet with the family twice a month or more during those six months.

Interested? Want to hear more? Contact Social Action Chair Joel Fischman, [fischman@comcast.net](mailto:fischman@comcast.net), or Rabbi Feinberg, [Rabbi.Feinberg@adasisrael.org](mailto: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, [lauriedavis@gmail.com](mailto:lauriedavis@gmail.com); Social Action Council chair Joel Fischman, [fischman@comcast.net](mailto:fischman@comcast.net); or Rabbi Feinberg, [Rabbi.Feinberg@adasisrael.org](mailto:Rabbi.Feinberg@adasisrael.org).

## Green Committee

Interested in helping to protect the environment, both inside and outside Adas Israel? Willing to participate in a revived Green Committee as it grapples with these issues? Contact Social Action Council Chair Joel Fischman, [fischman@comcast.net](mailto:fischman@comcast.net), or Rabbi Feinberg, [Rabbi.Feinberg@adasisrael.org](mailto:Rabbi.Feinberg@adasisrael.org). 🌿

## Calling All Adas Authors!

Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 pm

Have you published a book that you'd like to share with our community? You are invited to participate in an Adas Authors Event on Wednesday, March 18, at 7:30 pm. Authors will briefly describe their books and their literary journeys for congregants who will have an opportunity to ask questions and purchase the authors' books. Interested authors may contact Robin Jacobson, [librarian@adasisrael.org](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org), for more information and to sign up!



## Annual Passover Food Drive: Ezra Pantry Shelves Are Looking for Your Hametz!

Passover begins the evening of Friday, April 3. As you clean your homes for the holiday, please remember to fill the Ezra Pantry shelves with your unwanted *hametz* and other food items. The food that Adas Israel donates to SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat), makes a huge difference in the lives of many in our community. Consider taking this opportunity to enlarge your *tzedakah* donations by purchasing food for the Pantry shelves. Check @Adas for a list of needed pantry items.

**Ezra Pantry Passover Food Drive will be collecting food throughout March.**

## Daily Minyan

continued from page 18

ties for connection and introspection.

Individual prayer is encouraged, but prayer with a quorum of 10 adults—a *minyan*—is the most highly recommended form of prayer and is required for some prayers. An adult in this context means a person over the age of 13 (*b'nai mitzvah*). Prayer is the service of the heart, and is one of the many ways that love of God and community is expressed. Although one may obviously pray in private, praying with a congregation provides us the opportunity to come together in a most beautiful and meaningful way. Come and experience it for yourself at the Daily *Minyan* and on *Shabbat* and holidays at Adas. 🌿



# Ma Tovv: Geoffrey Berman

## HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Geoffrey Berman was interviewed by Marcy Spiro,  
Director of Membership Engagement

### How did you end up in DC?

I grew up in Morris County, NJ, after which I headed to Alfred University in the Southern Tier of New York State. But after experiencing the brutally cold weather for a couple of years, I transferred to American University in DC, where the climate was warmer, the students friendlier, and the classes more interesting. The friends I made graduated and moved around the world. I stayed in DC.

### What brought you to Adas Israel?

I came to Adas because my wife, Julia Gordon, brought me.

### What is your favorite way to spend Shabbat?

I enjoy spending Shabbat outdoors enjoying nature, as long as the temperature exceeds 45 degrees. I also like to enjoy a nice Shabbat meal with great singing with my family.

### What's your favorite thing to do in DC?

I love to drive or bike through the many interesting neighborhoods. Julia and I both enjoy the music, theater, and dance scene here, both professional performances and ones that our performing-arts-obsessed daughter Rochelle is in.

### What is your career?

I'm an IT specialist with the Department of Defense.

### What are your favorite Jewish holidays?

As a family that loves entertainment, of course we love Purim, although we still miss the old days of the late '90s and early 2000s where a group of us used to write and perform in the funniest shpiels in the metro area.

We also love Shavuot because we go to a state park with a large number of other families to celebrate. I get to go hiking



in the woods, Julia gets to chat and sing with her friends, and Rochelle gets to put on a show.

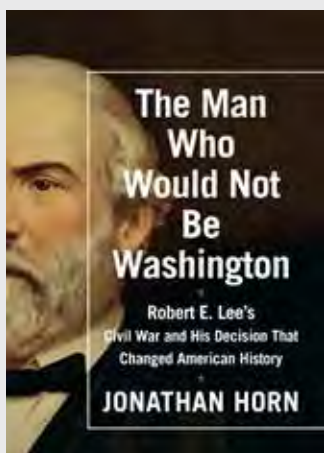
*Kol HaOlam*, the nation's collegiate Jewish *a cappella* competition is coming up on Saturday, March 7. How did you get involved in organizing this huge event? What are some of your favorite parts of the event?

I've spent many decades singing in barbershop quartets and choruses, including competing in large national events, and have been a fan of 1940s close harmony singing forever. I love the Swingle Singers and Singers Unlimited. I was flattered when Rob Rubin asked me to help kick off *Kol HaOlam* I, and I've remained involved in the event ever since.

In our copious spare time, we also produce concerts in our living room where we host professional singer-songwriters working in a variety of musical genres.

If you were to compete in a family *a cappella* competition, what song would you choose? And what would your group name be? ❄

## Jonathan Horn's Book Now Available



Jonathan Horn, son of longtime Adas members Carol and Larry Horn, has just published his first book, *The Man Who Would Not Be Washington* (Robert E. Lee's Civil War and His Decision that Changed American History). The book tells the riveting true story of Robert E. Lee, the brilliant soldier bound by marriage to George Washington's family but turned by war against

Washington's crowning achievement, the Union.

Information about the book is available at [www.jonathanhornauthor.com](http://www.jonathanhornauthor.com).

## Moss Haggadah

The Moss Haggadah is one of the most creative among the more than 3,000 editions of the Haggadah. David Moss, who now lives in Israel, and is known worldwide as a Jewish calligrapher, made every page a unique artistic rendering. Drawing both on the text and its interpretations, he prepared the beautiful Haggadah in such a way as to make it exquisite, evocative, and unique. The quality of his work makes it a source of study as well inspiration.



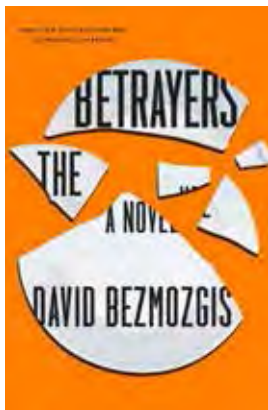
Adas Israel is fortunate to have acquired one of the Moss Haggadot through the generosity of Dr. Clement and Sandra Alpert. It is currently on display in the museum case opposite the Rabbis' offices in a specially designed display case. The open pages are changed periodically to allow viewers to see and appreciate this wonderful creation.

We thank Clem and Sandra for enabling us to celebrate Passover in such a beautiful way. ❄

## Soviet Jews Storm the Literary Gates

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Arts Director

In the literary world, Soviet Jews are everywhere. The last year alone saw such a bumper crop of novels and memoirs by Soviet Jewish émigrés that the *Forward* named 2014 “the Year of the Soviet Jew.” Two of my favorites from this émigré genre are *The Betrayers* by David Bezmozgis and *A Replacement Life* by Boris Fishman. *Betrayers* won the National Jewish Book Award in Fiction for 2014, and *Replacement Life* was a finalist. Both novels are suspenseful, engrossing, and provocative in portraying characters facing difficult dilemmas.



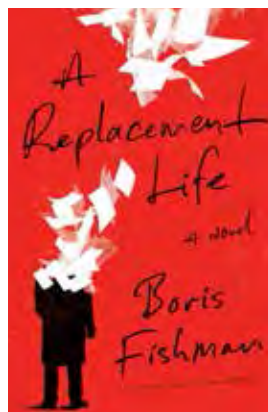
### *The Betrayers* by David Bezmozgis

Born in Riga, Latvia, in 1973, David Bezmozgis moved to Canada in 1980. He is the author of the critically praised *Natasha and Other Stories*, a collection about Soviet Jews in Toronto, and *The Free World*, a novel about Soviet Jews stuck in Rome en route to Canada. In *The Betrayers*, Bezmozgis tells the tale of a Soviet Israeli Jew, Baruch Kotler, modeled loosely on the Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky.

Kotler is a high-ranking Israeli cabinet minister in his early 60s with a heroic past. He endured 13 years in a Soviet prison on trumped-up charges

until an international human rights campaign led by his wife Miriam won his release. As the novel opens, Kotler faces a crisis. He has publicly opposed an Israeli government decision to dismantle Jewish settlements in the West Bank. To silence him, the Prime Minister threatens to expose Kotler's extramarital affair with his young assistant, Leora. Kotler refuses to yield to blackmail, even to protect his family. As the damaging photos appear in the press, Kotler escapes with Leora to the Crimean resort of Yalta, which he remembers fondly from childhood.

Fatefully, the couple winds up renting a room in the home of Vladimir Tankilevich, the very man who betrayed Kotler to the KGB. When confronted, Tankilevich defends his false denouncement of Kotler and angrily claims that he, too, was a victim of the Soviet regime. To add to the complexity, Kotler's soldier son telephones, seeking his father's blessing to disobey Israeli army orders to evict the settlers.



### *A Replacement Life* by Boris Fishman

Boris Fishman emigrated from Minsk, Belarus, to Brooklyn in 1988. Only nine years old, he learned English faster than his parents; several years later, they relied on him to apply for Holocaust reparation funds for his grandmother, a survivor of the Minsk ghetto. The experience inspired *A Replacement Life*, Fishman's darkly comic debut novel.

Slava Gelman, the novel's narrator, is a 25-year-old aspiring writer, frustrated with his junior staff duties at a Manhattan magazine.

Wanting to become truly American, Slava has broken contact with his Soviet émigré family. Then Slava's grandmother, Sofia, dies. Slava's grieving grandfather, Yevgeny, draws Slava back to the Soviet enclave in South Brooklyn with a challenging writing assignment.

continued in next column

## Upcoming Book Chats

Tuesday, April 28 @ 7:30 pm



### *Paper Love: Searching for the Girl My Grandfather Left Behind.*

Book Chat with author Sarah Wildman about her journey to discover the fate of the young

woman her grandfather loved and then lost when he fled pre-WWII Europe.

Sunday, May 3 @ 10:30 am



### *Washing the Dead.* Book Chat with author Michelle Brafman about her new novel on family secrets, forgiveness, and Jewish ritual.

## Books & More

continued from previous column

Yevgeny plans to file, in his own name, the application for Holocaust reparation funds sent to Sofia just before she died. He wants Slava to write the application essay. Slava protests, pointing out that, unlike Sofia, Yevgeny does not qualify for reparations; although Yevgeny suffered grievously, he was not in a ghetto, forced labor brigade or concentration camp, as required. Yevgeny responds fiercely, “Maybe I didn’t suffer in the exact way I need to have suffered . . . but they made sure to kill all the people who did.” Reluctantly, Slava drafts the application and before long has become the “Forger of South Brooklyn,” fabricating Holocaust narratives for his grandfather's many Soviet émigré friends, all based on elements of Sofia's experience, partly factual and partly imagined. ♣



# synagogue contributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

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*In Memory Of:* **David Rudnick** by Michael Zeldin & Amy Rudnick.

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*In Recognition Of:* **David Polonsky's** honor at the Jewish Educators Assembly's annual conference by Judy Strauch.

*In Memory Of:* **Pauline Katz, Elaine Miller** by Judy Strauch.

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## **Kol HaMayim: The Voice of the Waters**

### **How Do Men Use the Mikvah?**



Part of our ongoing work in reframing *Mikvah* involves expanding access to this ritual for *all* Jewish people. What was customarily considered a “woman’s *mitzvah*” actually has a significant history for men and plenty of modern applications as well. Some of the traditional ways that men would immerse in a *Mikvah* include:

- converting to Judaism
- preparing spiritually for *Shabbat* or holidays

as a groom, the week before the wedding

Additionally, there is a custom associated with a *sofer* (Hebrew calligrapher) immersing before he wrote the Holy Name of *Hashem* into the scroll. (Of course, today we know that there are female *sofrot* and that they can do this, too.) In some communities, even today, *Mikvah* is actually a daily practice for men.

In the last 10 years, ceremonies have been developed for *Mikvah* use relating to a wide variety of life transitions. These pertain equally to men and to women. Think about immersing in the *Mikvah* at moments such as these:

- becoming *bar mitzvah* as a 13-year-old or as an adult
- marking the finality of a divorce
- making room in one’s heart for the arrival of a new baby
- mourning a partner’s miscarriage
- concluding the end of a month or a year of mourning
- coming out as LGBTQ
- celebrating milestone birthdays, retirement, anniversaries, or new beginnings
- embarking on a new career

Just to note another aspect of this issue . . . one of many ripple effects of the Barry Freundel scandal isn’t immediately apparent, given that the immediate victims of his actions were women. But some men who use our *Mikvah* communicated feelings of vulnerability and intimidation when returning here after the news broke. They spoke about not wanting women to be frightened by possibly seeing them near the *Mikvah* door, and they expressed their shock and anger that their motivations for being at a *Mikvah* could now be construed as anything less than sacred. Like the women who have immersed here after learning that they were victims of voyeurism or to acknowledge that their conversions were abusive, these men are recommitting to this practice in an inspiring way.

In their name, and in the name of our *Mikvah* community, we strive to make our *Mikvah* a *makom kodesh*—a holy place—that is safe and meaningful for everyone. ❀







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