

Adas Israel Congregation

CHRONICLE

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The Adas Fund 2015

(formerly the Kol Nidre Appeal)

"We're pleased that last year was such a success and we're ready to do it again."

—Toni and David Bickart (2015 Adas Fund Chairs)



Happy summer! And yes, we've agreed to chair The Adas Fund once again in hopes of building on last year's great success. We were thrilled that so many of you participated last year, many at increased levels of giving, and we attribute this to your pride in our congregation and its accomplishments. We think there are many reasons to be even prouder.

Here are some examples of what your gifts enabled Adas to do:

- Based on popular demand, we introduced more musical *Shabbat* services into the *Shabbat* rotation, including the phenomenally successful "Return Again" service that we hold on the High Holy Days. These services have attracted many people who rarely came on *Shabbat*.
- We hired a new Director of Education, Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, who has brought an extraordinary new level of expertise and vision to the entire Adas Israel Education Department, and hired a fabulous Youth and Family Educator, Yoni Buckman. Yoni has been teaching a Torah class in the Biran *Beit Midrash* on *Shabbat* and supervising curriculum development as he works with students and teachers.
- We offered twice as many scholarships to the Estelle & Melvin Religious School.
- We served twice as many seniors in our senior lunch program.

- We made a major investment in bringing new members into our community through New Member *Oneg Shabbat* programs.
- We subsidized Parlor Concerts at Somerset House with the incomparable Cantor Arianne Brown.
- We enabled Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt to expand her extraordinary reach to more and more members of our community through pastoral work and teaching.
- We outdid ourselves for Purim with the "Wizard of Adas," involving adults, 20 children, and a band performance directed by Cantor Arianne Brown . . . not to mention fabulous thematic synagogue decorations and print materials.
- We increased the number of programs in the Biran *Beit Midrash*, attracting more members on weeknights and *Shabbat* afternoons.
- We launched a series of new programs and services through Adas's Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington, which the National Slingshot Guide for Innovation subsequently recognized as one of North America's most significant Jewish projects.
- We also addressed some of the congregation's pressing physical needs: we repaired the dangerous roof over the school wing; replaced old carpets, paint, and window treatments in the classrooms; and made a large (and necessary) investment in keeping all of us safe by increasing synagogue security. We also empowered Adas Israel to become more user-friendly in the coming months, by introducing new membership software that will allow us to log in to our accounts, view our balances, make payments, and interact with staff (coming fall 2015).

We're impressed and hope you are as well. But we believe the best is yet to come. For the past few years, we've been in the process of building (not just with bricks and mortar) an extraordinarily talented clerical and professional staff, including last year's new hires, Rabbi Rosenbaum and the fabulous David Polonsky as our Executive Director. This summer, with the addition of Rabbi Aaron Alexander, we believe that Adas Israel will have a team, led by Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, which in its vision and depth of knowledge, is unsurpassed in the United States.

There's every reason to be proud of and excited for Adas Israel. A pledge card and return envelope will arrive at your home any day now, which you can use to make a pledge. Or visit www.adasrael.org to give online; you can even use a credit card if you wish. Please join us in making your Adas Fund donation to continue building a congregation that is worthy of our pride. ✨





Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

These are difficult times for our relations with Israel as American Jews. The animus between the leadership of the two countries is palpable. Our young people are hearing more and more vocal disgust about Israel from their peers, both Jewish and non-Jewish. Anti-Semitism is on the rise in the world. We need reasons to hope. We need reasons to feel good about our connection to Israel. We need something to hold onto.

This month, we will be having a very unusual program at Adas. On the Shabbat of June 6, we will be welcoming two extraordinary leaders and activists for the sake of peace in Israel—activists who represent a new kind of response to the gripping struggle between Jews and Palestinians. Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, an Orthodox Rabbi who splits his time between the US and Israel, will be joining us. He is a leading rabbi in interfaith efforts for peace in Israel and the territories. Accompanying Rabbi Schlesinger will be an extraordinary Palestinian, Ali Abu Awwad, an activist who is a leading voice in non-violent resistance among Palestinians. The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, and with the Episcopal Church, are co-sponsoring this event at Adas. Abu Awwad is already making a name for himself internationally. He has even given a TED Talk. Within the disputed territories, Abu Awwad is involved with direct interfaith dialogue for peace with ultra-Orthodox settlers, and is doing remarkable things to open up channels for dialogue, for sharing narratives, acknowledging pain on both sides, and seeking new paths for peace.

Not everyone will agree with Abu Awwad or the many Jewish people and others around the world with whom he works through an organization called Roots (www.friendsofroots.net). We are welcoming both Abu Awwad and Rabbi Schlesinger to Adas because they both believe in the possibility of our peoples making peace. Abu Awwad summarily rejects violence, and the calls of groups like Hamas for the destruction of the State of Israel. As he puts it, "The path to Palestinian freedom should run through Jewish hearts and minds." He believes in the infinite possibilities that can arise when two human beings sit down and engage each other in real conversation and connection.

I am so excited about this program for many reasons. First, it is a message of real hope for peace in Israel. It's a hope that comes not from government policies; it's a hope that cuts through the morass of Israeli politics and intransigent extremists on both sides of the debate. Second, it is a testament to the power of *Havruta*—the vision of a holy community that can grow up, one relationship at a time. It resonates with the vision of a sacred community that we are trying to build at Adas Israel, one that recognizes that Torah becomes a living entity in our lives when we bring it into *Havruta*, a relationship

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DC Pride at Adas: A New Dialogue on LGBT Jewish Inclusion With Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson & Rabbi Gil Steinlauf DC Pride Weekend Scholar-in- Residence, June 12–14



Mark DC Pride with an exciting *Shabbat* experience, as we welcome celebrated Conservative movement thought leader **Rabbi Bradley Shavit**

Artson, along with **Rabbi Gil Steinlauf** and members of the Adas Israel clergy and community. Join us for a weekend of dialogue, prayer, and action, as we gather and recognize DC Pride with a special *Shabbat* Scholar-in-Residence, and participation in the DC Pride March and Festival. Contemporary Judaism is at a historical moment, in which tolerance and compassion for the individual are becoming celebrated values in mainstream Jewish life. Be a part of that forward momentum and demonstrate pride in our own community's achievements in fostering these essential human values: equality, justice, and inclusion for all.

"When we become judges of another person, we behave contrary to Torah law. When we foster dissonance between our insides and our outsides, we behave contrary to Torah law. When a member of our community is forced to the periphery, to the outskirts, we behave contrary to Torah law. Join and make the conversation."

Bradley Shavit Artson is a celebrated rabbi, author, teacher, and leader in the conservative movement. He holds the Abner and Roslyn Goldstine Dean's Chair of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in California and provides educational and religious oversight for Camp Ramah of California. He is also dean of the Zacharias Frankel College at the University of Potsdam in Germany, which ordains Conservative/Masorti Rabbis for the European Union.

In addition, Rabbi Artson writes a weekly Torah commentary that has more than 13,000 Internet subscribers and has written

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From the President

By Debby Joseph



As I write my first "From the President," I want to thank Arnie Podgorsky for his stewardship during these past two years as president. He has led our congregation through some unpredictable challenges and brought us to a place of greater strength and excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead.

Please join me in wishing Rabbi Charles Feinberg a *fond l'hitraot*, as he leaves our congregation at the end of this month. He has played a critical role in helping us through a challenging transition and providing a kind presence and a thoughtful understanding of the changes of that time. His commitment to *tikkun olam*, and his acknowledgment of the downtrodden and mistreated members of society, has been the hallmark of his rabbinate. His marvelous teaching skills and his attention to the spiritual and religious needs of our congregants are much appreciated.

I look forward to the next two years with anticipation of the many possibilities for personal and congregational growth within our Adas Israel community. When we welcome Rabbi Aaron Alexander as our new associate rabbi in July, Rabbi Steinlauf will have assembled a team of clergy whose members are among the most talented of Conservative Judaism's teachers and guides. They will bring myriad opportunities for learning, spiritual development, nurturance of our Jewish bodies and souls, and fellowship and friendship for all ages and stages of life. We are committed to being inclusive and welcoming of all as we create accessible

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Annual Congregational Meeting & Open Board Dinner, June 10

Featuring Special Guest Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer and the *Yad Hakavod* Award presented to Adas Member Ron Schlesinger
Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting and *Yad Hakavod* Award Ceremony at 7:30 pm in the Gewirz Beit Am.



The annual meeting is your chance to participate in the growth, health, and vibrancy of your synagogue, of your community. Take part in joining the American and Israeli communities as we welcome our special guest **Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer** who will kick off our



annual meeting this year with special remarks. Join family and friends as we plot a course for the next year of Jewish communal life in our community. This concept is not new; Moses was once the sole judge in the desert, but his father-in-law advised him to delegate that work broadly. We learn from Moses's delegation, that a community ought to be empowered to control its destiny and to govern itself. Please take this opportunity to make your voice heard, and to join us as we usher our community forward into a renewed age of warmth, welcoming, and growth.



Ron Schlesinger, who will be presented with the community's *Yad Hakavod* Award at the Annual Meeting, is a beloved Ada member for 22 years. He and his wife, joined in 1993 and have been active community members and volunteers ever since. Amongst his many volunteer activities, Ron has

earned a well-deserved reputation for being a "go-to-worker-bee" here in the congregation, always showing up to offer support and assistance wherever needed, and always doing it with a warm smile on his face. Ron helps coordinate and greet guests at the Gan every Friday for Shabbat sing and for the community's young family Shabbatot. He often ushers in Shabbat and always for the High Holy Days, He offers his assistance for virtually ALL major Adas events and programs, and attends nearly all of the social events public meetings, and services throughout the year. He's an extremely very thoughtful and considerate *neshama*, always reaching out to Adas members and staff and caring for those in need with warm greetings. Ron recently retired after a career in nursing. It's Ron's nature to take care of people, and just as he volunteers at the Shul, he helps out with other organizations around town. He is the very definition of a mensch, and the perfect candidate for receiving this prestigious recognition. We look forward to celebrating Ron and his volunteerism at the Annual Meeting. Please join us.

Tentative Agenda Items:

- Remark from Ambassador Ron Dermer
- Financial and Budget Presentation
- Election of Board Members and Executive Committee for the New Fiscal Year
- "State of the Synagogue" Address by Outgoing President Arnie Podgorsky
- Remarks from incoming President Debby Joseph
- *Yad Hakavod* Award Presentation to Ron Schlesinger
- Dessert Reception 🌸

Proposed Slate of Officers, Trustees, and Board Members

Annual Congregational Meeting, Thursday, June 11, 7:30 pm

In accordance with the Adas Israel Bylaws, and for the elections at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, June 10, the Nominating Committee (Rae Grad, Chair) has announced the following nominees for Officer, Trustee, and Board of Director positions:

I. Officers:

President	Debby Joseph
VP Administration	Ross Eisenman
VP Development & Financial Affairs	Laurie Aladjem
VP Education & Youth	Sandy Eskin
VP Membership & External Affairs	Steve Rabinowitz
VP Ritual, Programs & Adult Education	Ricki Gerger
Secretary	Janice Mostow
Assistant Secretary	Judy Bartnoff
Treasurer	Alex Horowitz
Assistant Treasurer	Steve Himmelfarb

II. Trustees

Rhoda Baruch, Jeffery Yablou, David Bickart

III. New Board Seats

Alvin Dunn, Joel Fischman, Amy Golen, Susan Kay, Jorge Kotelanski, Jennie Litvak, Jodi Blecker Lowit, Herlene Nagler, Janet Scribner

IV. Continuing Board Members

Dirk Aardsma, Jacques Antebi, Michelle Buzgon, Meredith Cymerman, Roz Doggett, Judith Heumann, Ken Ingber, Molly Levinson, Nechama Masliansky, Pamela Reeves, Gail Roache, Cynthia Rosenberg, Mark Rosenberg, April Rubin, Amy Schwartz, Michael Sloan, Joyce Stern, David Strouse, Nancy Weiss, Mark Yecies

We would like to express our appreciation to the Nominating Committee: Rae Grad, Chair, Jacob Bardin, David Bickart, Leah Chanin, Amy Golen, Andrew Herman, Jodi Blecker Lowit, Rachel Rosenthal, Sharon Samber, and Brian Schwalb (Officer Liaison). ❀

Proposed 2015/16 Membership Categories

2 ADULT HOUSEHOLDS (36 +)	\$2,985	1 ADULT HOUSEHOLD (36+)	\$1,975
2 ADULT HOUSEHOLDS (30 - 35)	\$1,970	1 ADULT HOUSEHOLD (30-35)	\$985
2 ADULT HOUSEHOLDS (<30)	\$225	1 ADULT HOUSEHOLD (<30)	\$99

Membership Dues include High Holy Day seats for the adults and children living in your household. Additional holiday seats* may be purchased for other relatives (as available).



Mazal Tov to Rhoda Baruch this year's recipient of the *Shem Tov* Award. On Page 2 of the May 2015 *Chronicle*, we stated incorrectly that last year's recipients of the *Shem Tov* award were Robert and Joy Cohen. In fact, last year's recipient was Glenn Easton.

Shabbaton Weekend Honoring Rabbi Charles Feinberg, June 19-21

The entire Adas Israel community and friends are cordially invited to honor and celebrate the achievements of Rabbi



Charles Feinberg, who has served this congregation with remarkable dedication, wisdom, compassion, and strength for nine wonderful years. Rabbi Feinberg will be leaving the congregation at the end of June 2015, and we invite you to join us in celebrating his extraordinary rabbinate with a very special "Shabbaton-Style" weekend at Adas Israel. We hope you will join us in wishing Rabbi Feinberg a heartfelt "Mazal Tov" for his inspiring work, and for the next chapter of his inspiring rabbinic journey.

We are marking Rabbi Feinberg's retirement from the rabbinate with a very special "Shabbaton-style" weekend that exemplifies the programs in learning, social justice, interfaith and community outreach which have been a hallmark of his extraordinary career. In that spirit, for those wishing to make a charitable contribution in his honor, Rabbi Feinberg has chosen a special charity, the SOME (So Others Might Eat) Employment Training Center. ❀

Rabbi Feinberg Shabbaton Celebration Weekend

Friday, June 19

6:00 pm *Kabbalat Shabbat* Services Honoring Rabbi Feinberg

7:00 pm Community *Shabbat* Dinner

Saturday, June 20

9:30 am: Combined Community *Shabbat* Service with Rabbi Feinberg

1:00 pm: Post-Kiddush Panel Discussion: "The Art of Bibliodrama," with Peter Pitzele

2:30 pm: *Mincha*

7:00 pm: *Shabbaton* Community *Seudah Shleesheet* and Dancing

9:00 pm: *Maariv* and *Havdalah* ❀

Save the Date

Nationals vs. Marlins at Nationals Park

With Adas Israel Members
Sunday, August 30



Spend the afternoon of Sunday, August 30, at the ballpark with your Adas Israel community! Great seats

(section 140 and in the shade!), great friends, and, we hope, a great Nats victory! The game begins at 1:35 pm. It's also a Jayson Werth Bobblehead game! Tickets are \$21 each, or if you prefer to meet at Adas and take a charter bus to the stadium, tickets are \$32. You can register online at www.adasrael.org/yp or call Carol Ansell, 202-362-4433. ✨

Painful Hope

Bringing Together Israelis & Palestinians, June 6



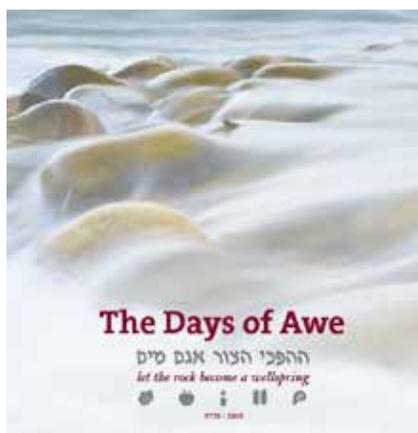
How do we move beyond the cycle of violence that engulfs Israelis and Palestinians? The Roots project is a new effort, based in the Gush Etzion area of the West Bank, to bring together Israelis and Palestinians who, despite living next to each other, are separated by walls of fear—not just fear of each other, but even of the price of peace.

Join us after *kiddush* on Saturday, June 6, in welcoming to Adas Israel two of the leaders of the Roots Project, Ali Abu Awwad and Hanan Schlesinger, who will present the gut-wrenching personal narratives that brought them to discover the humanity and the legitimacy of the other, and will discuss how they are working to move their communities past suspicion, fear, and violence, and toward a positive solution of the conflict. ✨

holidays@adas

High Holy Day Packets Arriving Soon

Rosh Hashanah begins Sunday, September 13



Planning for the 2015 High Holy Days is well underway, and packets of information will arrive at members' homes by the end of the month.

Join us for a new High Holy Day experience this year. Whether you're new to the community or a member of many years, we invite you to step out of your daily routines, join together with the *kehilla*, reflect deeply on what matters to you, and embrace the notion that anything is possible.

The theme of this year's High Holy Days, derived from a passage in *Hallel*—"Let the rock become a wellspring"—will serve as the connecting thread throughout this year's service experiences. It is an expression of our deepest longings as human beings: a hope that the places where we struggle—that become impassible—slowly give way and become a path to something new, to something transformational. On the Days of Awe, we embrace the possibility of transformation.

We look forward to welcoming the new year with our Adas Israel family and a newly formed clergy team that includes **Rabbi Aaron Alexander**.

Adas Israel clergy will be joined during the holidays by Rabbi/Cantor Mark Novak and Michael Leifman. We also look forward to our High Holy Day family services with Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum.

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

The ticket request form only needs to be returned if you have historic dedicated seats in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary or if you want to order extra seats for family and guests. If you are a dedicated seatholder in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, you will need to request the number of your seats you intend to use for the coming holidays. (Two seats are included in membership; additional seats will be charged to your account). Members will also be able to reserve non-dedicated seats (with limited availability) in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary. These can be listed on your seat request forms in the High Holy Day booklet. Please call or e-mail Naomi Malka, Naomi.Malka@adasrael.org, with any questions.

Seating Reminder

Please note that, as in past years, after the sermons in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, a seat that has not been occupied will be considered available. This applies to both dedicated and reserved seats.

We thank our committee members and coordinators for sharing their time and their holidays so others can have a meaningful High Holy Day season. Watch your mail for the High Holy Day packet. We look forward to celebrating the most exciting time of the year with you, our Adas family. ✨

musicalnotes



Cantor Brown Concert for Adas Members at Somerset

Tuesday, June 16, 3:00 pm

Celebrate the beginning of summer with Cantor Ari and your neighbors at the Somerset House on **Tuesday, June 16, 3:00–4:30 pm.**

Cantor Ari will delight her audience with a variety of songs, including Broadway show

tunes, operetta pieces, and Israeli music. After the mini-concert, please join us for refreshments and schmooze with your neighbors.

This concert is open to all Adas members. Please contact Marcy Spiro, marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org or 202-362-4433, ext. 113, to RSVP or with any questions. ✨

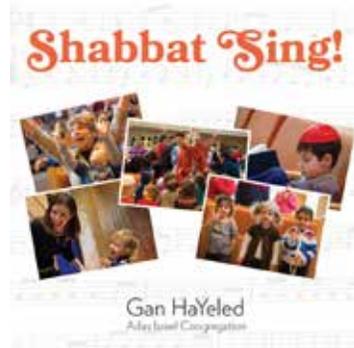
June Musical Moments

by Cantor Arianne Brown

Anyone who has ever experienced *Shabbat Sing* with the Gan knows how joyous and uplifting it is to welcome *Shabbat* with the voices of our youngest children. Every week, our entire Gan gathers together. Students, teachers, family members, and Adas staff join in singing songs of *Shabbat* and our holidays. Our children are blessed to sing with many wonderful leaders, all of whom bring their own gifts and styles to the *Shabbat Sing* sessions, Tot *Shabbat*, music classes, or sing-along sessions they lead.

I am thrilled to announce the official release of our CD, *Shabbat Sing*! This CD, meant to bring the joy of our *Shabbat* music into the homes of all of our young children, includes songs sung by Caron Dale, Robyn Helzner, Menuhah Peters, Rabbi Ben Shalva, and me. I happen to think that the very best part of the CD is the 60-voice choir of students, ages 2 to 12, who participated in a recording session! We hope you will enjoy listening and singing along. To listen to the music, please visit www.adasisrael.org/musicalmoments/.

We appreciate your \$15 donation to the Toby Cutler *Shabbat Sing* Fund in exchange for any CDs you wish to pick up from the Gan office. This is a great way to share Jewish music with the little children in your lives! ✨



Dedicated to: Toby Cutler

Toby Cutler felt that music was an extraordinary gift.

The highlight of Toby's week was listening to children singing timeless *Shabbat* melodies at Adas Israel's *Shabbat Sing*, with her grandchildren among the singers.

These voices brought a smile to her face and welcomed the weekly miracle of *Shabbat*.

This CD, funded by Toby's friends and family in her memory, will be an everlasting reminder of the joyful sounds of *Shabbat* and of the role that Adas Israel's Gan serves in nurturing the



Mazal Tov to Herlene & Yaakov Nagler and Family

The congregation wishes a heartfelt *mazal tov* to our beloved members, the Mendelson and Nagler family, upon receiving the Janice W. Goldstein Award from the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH). The family received the award "on behalf of their love and spirit, generosity, and enduring commitment" to *tikkun olam*.

Their family's legacy of generosity, compassion, justice, and community service continues to be an inspiration to all of us, and to the greater Washington Jewish community. We are deeply honored to have their good names linked to our congregation, and to partner with them on behalf of those who need our voices—and our support—for greater independence, dignity, choice, and community in the DC metropolitan area. The annual Janice W. Goldsten Award goes to recipients who have demonstrated the love and spirit, generosity, and enduring commitment that Janice Goldsten continually showed JFGH.

When the Melvin and Estelle Gelman Home opened in 1983, Herlene and Ira's father, Murry Mendelson, visited the home and soon after, weekly trucks from Murry's were delivering food to the home to fill the pantry. A few years later, JFGH's Ida Mendelson Home opened, and shortly thereafter the Lorita and Murry Mendelson Home opened. The next generations of Mendelsons, Helene (Yaacov) Nagler and Ira (Becky) Mendelson, and their families and friends have continued their extraordinary dedication to JFGH. In addition, Herlene and Yaacov and Ira and Becky co-chaired the JFGH 2006 Gala and have continued to serve as advisors to the staff and subsequent event chairs. *Mazal tov* and *yasher koach* again to the entire family for this well-deserved honor. ✨

ongoing learning

TEM *Aliyah* Class, June 6



Join the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan* on June 6, 1:00–2:00 pm after *kiddush* in the Biran *Beit Midrash* for an *aliyah* class! Would you like to practice the *aliyot* blessings chanted when called up to the Torah? Have you been hesitant to accept an *aliyah* because you haven't had one in a long time? Join with the TEM for an *aliyah* practice!

First, we'll go over the *aliyah brachot* in a group setting, then we'll pair up those who need to review the blessings with those who can help practice in a *havurah*-type setting. Then, next time you're offered an *aliyah*, you'll be prepared and confident! ✨

Celebrate Your Second Bar/Bat Mitzvah, June 27

Jewish tradition tells us that 70 years is a full life. Age 83 marks the time for a second bar/bat mitzvah (whether or not you celebrated your first). Please join us in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary on *Shabbat* morning, June 27, at 9:30 am, when all those age 83 and above will be called to the Torah for a group *aliyot*, a special blessing, and a bar/bat mitzvah certificate signed by our clergy. There is no need to prepare anything in advance.

To participate, RSVP to Carol Ansell, 202-362-4433. If possible, please tell Carol your Hebrew name and your parents' Hebrew names when you respond, and please let us know if you would like us to coordinate transportation for you. ✨

lifecycle

Bat Mitzvah



Arielle Klein, June 13

Arielle, daughter of Shelley Klein and Cathy Bendor, is a seventh grader at Pyle Middle School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, and is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Arielle celebrates this simcha with her younger sister, Daniela; grandparents Cooky and Lenny Klein and Susan Bendor; and other family members and friends. At this special time she lovingly recalls her grandfather, Edgar Bendor, of blessed memory. For her *mitzvah* project, Arielle is volunteering with homeless children at the Greentree Shelter, including teaching piano and organizing a special party for children at the shelter.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue member:

Marvin Blumberg

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

David A. Brooks, father of Renana Brooks

Victor Gotbaum, father of Joshua Gotbaum

Berta Guiloff, mother of Claudio Grossman

Thelma R. Melmed, mother of Allan Melmed

Giuliana Braha Sadun, sister-in-law of Arrigo Sadun

Janet Frankel Staub, mother of Eli Kasargod-Staub

Arlene Geline Stiles, mother of Susan Stiles

Pearl Tabachnik, mother of Laurie Aladjem

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. For more information, visit adasisrael.org/mikvah. ✨

Kol HaMayim: The Voice of the Waters



Starting this summer, the Adas Israel Community Mikvah offers free visits for all Adas members. While we always appreciate donations, from now on your pre-wedding, pre-holiday, post-retirement, monthly, conversion, and creative immersions are now included in your membership dues. Many thanks to Leah Chanin for suggesting this and to all of our members for their support of the mikvah!

A Note from Ritual Coordinator & Mikvah Director Naomi Malka

The last four years have been among the most fulfilling in my career as a Jewish professional. As I transition into a new role in this community—coordinating our High Holy Day experiences, focusing more on *mikvah*, and continuing to teach *b'nai mitzvah* students—I want to take this opportunity to reflect and give thanks.

The experience of being the *Baalat Koreh*—Torah reader—has been a powerful one. Chanting Torah is a spiritual practice like no other. The discipline of working on your readings has to be internalized so that there are specific times of day and days of the week, as well as certain places with the right level of quiet, when you sit down to concentrate and memorize. The nervousness of looking into the *Sefer Torah* and seeing the calligraphied words you've been repeating over and over during the past week—wondering if you will remember them all—is a thrill. Finally, there is an excitement about delivering this text to the congregation. It's like giving your friend a perfectly braided *challah* for his or her *simcha* . . . This is for you! For *Shabbat*! For our Tradition! You enter a mindful zone when you are reading Torah. Unaware of anything else, you bring into sharp focus the sight of the words and their pronunciation and melody. You may finish the readings and find yourself drenched in sweat, even though you've been standing perfectly still.

Foremost, I want to give thanks to *Hashem* for guiding my life in this direction and giving me the abilities to serve in this capacity.

I am thankful to my parents and music teachers who encouraged me to practice my violin when I was growing up. The skills I learned from playing etudes, polishing solo pieces, and rehearsing orchestra parts have served me very well as a Torah reader. I never knew that these were transferrable assets! Tropes are essentially a system of musical notation, although one trope can be a symbol for many notes. I feel blessed to be able to communicate in the language of music.



continued in right column

lifecycle continued from left column

I want to acknowledge that I learn a lot of the finer points of *dikduk*—Hebrew grammar—and pronunciation from listening carefully when I am at my family's Sephardic synagogue. The differences between *alef* and *ayin*, *shva na* and *shva nach*, *hey* and *mapik hey* are highlighted beautifully by Sephardic *hazzanim* and Torah readers. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from them as well as from our own Cantor Ari.

I applaud the software developers who created Trope Trainer, a brilliant desktop program and app that I use every single day. If you'd like to see how cool it is, stop by my office; I'd be happy to show you what it does.

I am amazed by the *zerizut*—the alacrity—of the regular *leyners* in the Smith service who always answer the call to do an *aliyah*, a *haftarah*, or a *megillah* reading. Thank you so much to Ira Berkower, Sarah Chapper, Meredith Cymerman, Mel Gelman, Fradel Kramer, Mark Joseph, Andy Lipps, Cantor Aaron Marcus, Adina Mendelson, Kathy Sandler, Cantor Maurice Singer, Michael Sloan, Michael Stern, and Razi Yitzchak. And to the adults who have learned to read Torah with me—Cathy Bendor, Anna El-Eini, Alex Horowitz, and Howard Marks—keep going!

Thank you also to David Bickart, who served as the floor *gabbai* for many years, and to the team of congregants who now work hard to fill his shoes and serve the congregation every *Shabbat* by making sure the service flows—Jamie Butler, Mark Joseph, Jay Kirschenbaum, Ruth Kleinrock, and Janet Scribner.

Aharon Aharon Habib—I saved the best for last. I want to thank my family—Haim, Yosef, and Isaac—who, most (!) *Shabbat* afternoons, patiently waited until I got home so we could eat lunch as a family. I appreciate their flexibility and support. I love you; now let's eat! ✨

Rabbi Steinlauf

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of human beings who recognize one another as being truly in the image of God.

Please join us on June 6 for an amazing conversation after *kiddush* in the Biran *Beit Midrash*. What we will see there may indeed be the real beginnings of the kind of peace in Israel that we have been longing for. ✨

june 2015
sivan–tammuz 5775

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 13 Sivan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Rehearsal for Jewish Music Concert 10:30 am Entering the Torah of the Mystics: An Exploration of Hasidic Texts Followed by Meditation with Rabbi Steinlauf 1:00 pm A Minyan of Thinkers 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Music—A Journey Through Time 9:00 pm Cantor's Concert Reception	1 14 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Creative Movement 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2 15 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Sisterhood Taste of Tanach 10:00 am Library Song & Play 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm iEngage Israel	3 16 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	4 17 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Library Song & Play 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	5 18 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 5:30 pm Gan Siyyum with Rabbi Steinlauf & Cantor Brown 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Schwartz 8:12 pm	6 PARSHAT BEHA'ALOTCHA 19 Sivan 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service; D'var Torah by Arnie Hammer 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush & the Hammers' 50th Anniversary Celebration 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:12 pm Havdalah
7 20 Sivan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am Caron Dale Recital 4:00 pm YP Jews & Booze 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	8 21 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	9 22 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Library Song & Play 10:00 am Cantors Assembly Meeting 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Return Again Shabbat Band Rehearsal 7:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Anne Frank House Meeting 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm iEngage Israel	10 23 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:15 pm Annual Meeting: Open Board Dinner Meeting & Yad Hakavod Award	11 24 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Library Song & Play 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	12 25 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbi Hotzblatt 7:30 pm Return Again Dinner 8:15 pm	13 PARSHAT SHELACH LECHA 26 Sivan 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Return Again Shabbat Morning Service with Rabi Holtzblatt; Bat Mitzvah: Arielle Klein; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf; Blessing for JPDS Graduates 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:15 pm Havdalah
14 27 Sivan 4:00 am Flash Choir Party 4:00 am Flash Choir Party 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow 1:30 pm Sisterhood Closing Event 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	15 28 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	16 29 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Library Song and Play 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	17 30 Sivan 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Hodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 9:00 am RA Meeting 9:00 am RA Meeting 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:30 pm Religious Practices Committee Meeting	18 1 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Hodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 10:00 am Library Song and Play 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	19 2 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service honoring Rabbi Charles Feinberg 7:00 pm Shabbat Dinner for Rabbi Feinberg 8:18 pm	20 PARSHAT KORACH 3 Tammuz 8:00 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service joined by Traditional Egalitarian Minyan & Havurah Service honoring Rabbi Charles Feinberg 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 1:00 pm Post Kiddush Panel Discussion: "The Art of Bibliodrama" with Peter Pitzele 2:30 pm Shabbat Mincha Services 7:00 pm Shabbaton Community Seudah Shleesheet & Dancing 9:00 pm Shabbat Maariv & Havdalah Service 9:18 pm Havdalah
21 4 Tammuz 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow 1:00 pm Shabbaton for Rabbi Feinberg 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	22 5 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	23 6 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Library Song & Play 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	24 7 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	25 8 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Library Song & Play 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	26 9 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Schwartz 8:19 pm	27 PARSHAT CHUKAT 10 Tammuz 9:30 am Shabbat in Harmony with Robyn Helzner; 2nd B'nai Mitzvah (for members over age 83); Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:18 pm Havdalah
28 11 Tammuz 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am JMCW Mindful Yoga Flow 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	29 12 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	30 13 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Library Song & Play 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	1 14 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2 15 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	3 16 Tammuz 7:30 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat; D'var Torah by Rabbi Schwartz 8:19 pm	4 PARSHAT BALAK 17 Tammuz 9:30 am Combined Smith/TEM Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Schwartz 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:19 pm Havdalah

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

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

Traditional Egalitarian Minyan (TEM): Every *Shabbat* morning at 9:30 am, with the Torah service around

10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory 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 (librarian@adasisrael.org).

Gan HaYeled

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



As we do each year, the entire Gan took a "trip" to Israel to celebrate *Yom Ha'atzmaut*. This year our "airplane" was in the Gewirz due to the Kay renovation. Assisted by Rabbi Herb Schwartz, David Polonsky, and Carole Klein, the children's passports were stamped and the flight ("at an altitude of zero feet") was uneventful—no doubt due in part to the preflight

Tefilat HaDerech recited by Rabbi Steinlauf. Sheri Brown and Shlomi Yahana (*Dubim* father) were flight attendants, and Rich Dinetz and Marcy Spiro were instrumental in the flight's success.

Once acclimated to the—Israel Standard Time—the children visited many parts of the country. Classes were seen snacking on falafel, hummus, and pickles in a café; fishing and enjoying the aquarium in Eilat; squeezing their own fresh orange juice; and learning Israeli dances. There was also a *kibbutz* where children cared for babies in a children's nursery and collected eggs from a chicken coop. At the end of the day, all of the children came together to sing and dance Israeli dances. They were exhausted by their long journey, but said they would cherish the memories of their trip for a lifetime!

Still time to register: There are limited spaces left in the Gan for Sweet Summertime (our camp) and for the 2015–16 School Year. Call or e-mail the Gan for more information. ✨

Religious School Fom the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum

We made it! As this amazing whirlwind of a year comes to a close, it's hard to remember what it felt like to arrive here at the end of last summer. Friends and colleagues remind me that, in the beginning, I often described Adas as being "big." A year in, while it is certainly true that Adas is a large community, I don't think "big" is the first word that would come to mind. With each month, I built relationships with new people, felt embraced by different parts of the community, and learned from everyone I encountered. We studied together, prayed together, celebrated together, dreamed together, and grieved together. I no longer experience Adas as being "big"; rather, I have come to feel as though this is a dynamic community that is both intimate and familial. I am incredibly grateful to all who let me into their stories, and who, in doing so, have become part of mine. Together, we exist in the place which, once upon a time last summer, I might have called "busy."

And yes—a lot happens here. But it is not about trying to find time to meet all of our obligations. We are not "busy"; we are engaged in the project of making meaning, through programming, conversations, learning, prayer, and beyond. We strive to create meaningful moments for everyone who comes through our doors, calls us on the phone, or encounters us in the community. And it is our students who reflect this mission with the greatest clarity—they are our best mirror. We can weigh our success in this endeavor by their experience, not just of Adas, but of Judaism.

Our goal is to make this a place where they can explore, experiment, and engage with the beauty of our tradition; to have honest and complicated conversations about being Jewish in this modern world; and to begin to articulate

Education Update continued on page 13

educationupdate continued

their own Jewish identity, informed by, although independent from, that of their parents and their congregation. They are the promise of the role that Judaism will play in our communal future. They inspire—and challenge—me every day, and for that I am eternally grateful. May the end of this year serve only as an “end to being new” and a beginning for everything else. We are looking forward to continuing this journey with you.

Learning Lishmah

By Yoni Buckman

Summer marks the culmination of a school year and the beginning of a long-awaited vacation. Our extended break is a celebration of freedom, a departure from structure and routine, and a moment of boundless possibility. While summer vacation may seem like time away from learning, it is, in fact, the perfect opportunity to exercise *Torah lishmah*, Torah study for its own sake. Throughout the year, our students have gained more than the information their teachers have shared with them; they have learned to ask deep questions, seek out tough answers, and cultivate curious minds. Having developed these skills, time out of the classroom is not only a break from school but an open invitation for our students to continue their Jewish education.

When Moses prepared to send the people of Israel into a new land of unlimited promise, he conveyed a message of encouragement to his students:

For this Commandment which I command you this day is not concealed from you, nor is it far away. It is not in heaven... Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will... retrieve it for us . . .” For the Word is very close to you. (*Deuteronomy 30:11–14*)

As the people of Israel sustained their tradition of studying Torah and lived outstanding lives in the absence of their teacher, we hope our students will continue asking questions and seeking answers outside the walls of our classrooms.



The Legacy of Jack Kay Endures

As we continue to mourn the loss of our beloved synagogue trustee, Jack Kay (z”l), his legacy endures as another group of our Ma’alot 10th graders prepares for the fourth annual Abe and Minnie Kay Israel Experience, June 18–July 2. The Abe and Minnie Kay Israel trip is a heavily subsidized, two-week *tikkun olam*-focused Israel experience for rising 11th graders in the Ma’alot DC program at Adas Israel. The students spend their 10th-grade year studying and preparing for their journey and return in the 11th-grade year to share their experiences with the community. Let’s all wish a *nesiah tovah* to this year’s participants. ✨



Jack (z”l) and Barbara Kay met with past participants of the Abe & Minnie Kay Israel Experience.

Summer School and Youth Calendar

30: 10th-Grade *N’siah Tovah* (9:30 am–12 pm)

June 18–July 2: Abe and Minnie Kay Israel Experience

youth@ai

Youth Update

By Rich Dinetz, Youth Director



Shalom, Chevre!

While the sun is shining, the beach is calling, and our students are counting down their school days, we are preparing for our 5th Annual Abe and Minnie Kay Israel Experience on June 18. Along with our Director of Membership Engagement, Marcy Spiro, our 10th graders from the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School and I will embark on our journey of discovery in faith, history, self, and education. We cannot wait to share our experiences (and pictures!) with you once we return in early July. In the meantime, be sure to check out the youth page on the Adas website (www.adasrael.org/youth) for our new programming information for the 2015–16 school year. For more information about Youth@AI, or to say hello during the summer, e-mail youth@adasrael.org.

We want to thank everyone who participated in youth events this year. I look forward to a fresh and exciting year of programming in 2015–16, filled with innovation, *ruach*, and fun! ✨



Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

We are now operating on a summer schedule.

Gift Shop Summer Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday,
10:00 am–12:00 noon
or by special appointment by calling
one of the co-managers:

Jean Bernard, 301-654-8914
Diane Keller, 301-442-7625
Susan Winberg, 301-656-7766

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.

202-364-2888

adasgiftshop@gmail.com

sisterhoodnews

Upcoming Events

Taste of *Tanach*, Tuesday, June 2, 10:30 am

Join us as we study our sacred texts in the Biran *Beit Midrash* with Rabbi Steinlauf. This is the final meeting of 5775.

Closing Event



Sophie Silfen



Margaret S. Vining

'With Respect to Women's Military History,' Sunday, June 14

By Lucy Hassell

Sisterhood will mark Flag Day with a memorable program honoring women in the military and remembering our own Sisterhood and Adas Israel legacy, Master Sargent **Sophie Silfen** (z"l). The guest speaker will be world-renowned curator of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History Division of Armed Forces, Margaret S. Vining. Vining, who acquired Sophie's extensive military collection in 2012, will discuss her recently founded Women in the Military Archives, which Sophie's collection will soon join.

Vining has dedicated her career to recovering women's military history, and her methods serve as a model for recovering histories of women in other institutions of society. Following the talk, we will pay a special visit to the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, where the American flag that draped Sophie's casket hangs.

Please join us on Sunday, June 14, at 11:00 am in the *Gewirz Beit Am* for what promises to be an unforgettable event! Refreshments will be served and the membership will vote on our incoming slate of Board and Executive Committee members. We thank the Nominating Committee, chaired by **Marian Fox**, for its work in recommending candidates.

Torah Fund Update

Thanks to the generosity of so many Sisterhood members and others in the *shul*, we have raised more than \$7,200 for Torah Fund. Torah Fund supports the preparation of future clergy in the Conservative/Masorti movement at the Jewish Theological Seminary and other religious training institutions around the world. Though the campaign for 5775 has concluded, we always welcome your check to augment what has been raised so far. Contact TF Chair **Gerry Lezell**, 5800 Magic Mountain Dr., North Bethesda, MD 20852, if you wish to make a contribution.



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From the President

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physical, religious, and educational spaces within the context of Conservative Judaism's values and precepts. Adas Israel's members, clergy, and staff are well suited to help us balance traditional and contemporary religious expression of our Judaism.

It is this richness of offerings that first brought me to Adas Israel. As a single professional attending Friday night "Singles Services," I resumed friendships with fellow Northern New Jersey USYers living in the Washington, DC, area. Later, meeting Mark at the *Havurah*, joining a study group, getting married, and discovering the joys of the Gan, our family found its congregational home. We treasure our family's many wonderful experiences at Adas Israel. It is the diversity of people and opportunities, the learning and contemplation, the combination of the familiar and the new that make Adas Israel Congregation unique. We are a community of individuals, couples, and families who are both similar and different, but who all share a yearning for a meaningful expression of our Judaism, which we will continue to nurture. Our clergy, staff, board leadership, and I are committed to listening to and supporting you through all the various ways we can offer assistance, facilitating the personal, spiritual, and religious growth you seek.

Please join me in exploring all that is Adas Israel Congregation. ✨

Join the women listed below who have donated in 5775. Those contributing \$180 or more (Benefactor level and above) received the beautiful "Tree of Life" pin pictured above. Donors include anonymous, Betty Adler, Rhoda Baruch, Dava Berkman, Jean Bernard, Helen Bognovitz, Susan Braden, Cantor Ari Brown, Jamie Butler, Lillian Cardash, Leah Chanin, Edith Couturier, Faye Cohen, Sue Ducat, Anita Epstein, Ruth Ernst, Marcy Feuerstein, Beth Feldgarden, Krayna Feinberg, Renée Fendrich, Marion Fox, Rhoda Ganz, Susie Gelman, Ricki Gerger, Sonya Gichner, Debra Goldberg, Sylvia Greenberg, Sonia Herson, Edith Hessel, Alexandra Horowitz, Estelle Jacobs, Nadine Jacobs, Arlette Jassel, Marlene Kirsch, Lisa Kleine, Helen Kramer, Elaine Kremens, June Kress, Michelle Leavy, Grace Lebow, Lynn Kletzkin, Janet Kolodner, Gerry Lezell, Judie Linowes, Judith Melamed, Adina Mendelson, Annette Morchower, Edna Povich, Myra Promisel, Aurora Reyes-Ansher, Gail Roache, Miriam Rosenthal, Donald Saltz, Gladys Sharnoff Epstein, Rise Schlesinger, Gail Schwartz, Janet Scribner, Rita Segerman, Madelyn Shapiro, Arlene Sidell, Gilda Snyder, Joyce Stern, Betsy Strauss, Susan Ugelow, Cheryl Wasserman, Roslyn (Bunny) Weinstein, and Nancy Weiss. (If you donated but your name does not appear here, please contact Gerry, gerrygl@aol.com, so your name will appear on a corrected list in the future.)

Recent Events

'Sisterhood in the Neighborhood'—a new pilot program chaired by **Mary Hammer**— is a planned series of small, home-based brunches to welcome and get to know new Adas Israel women members in various neighborhoods. The first three brunches this spring were hosted by **Nancy Weiss** and **Mary Hammer** (North Bethesda); **Lucy Hassell**, and **Julie Weisman** (downtown DC); and **June Kress**, **Marian Fox**, and **Susan Winberg** (Glover Park).

More welcome brunches are planned in the future thanks to other sisters who have volunteered to host them. If you are interested in attending or hosting a brunch, please contact President **Marcy Feuerstein** (mfeuerst@hotmail.com).

Women's League Seaboard Region Spring Conference, celebrating 70 years of Seaboard, took place Sunday, May 3, at Kehilat Shalom, Gaithersburg, MD. **Myra Promisel** and **Alisa Abrams** represented Adas Israel Sisterhood at the conference.

Book Chat, May 3, featured author Michelle Brafman discussing her new novel, *Washing the Dead*. Sisterhood co-sponsors the Library's Book Chats.

Welcoming Women to Sisterhood During 5775, Membership VP June Kress and her committee engaged in several ambitious outreach efforts to acquaint women in the congregation with Sisterhood, its significance, and the value in becoming members. To date, the following women have joined Sisterhood as new members, many of them new members of Adas Israel Congregation as well: Sharon Chase, Barbara Cline, Pamela Ehrenberg, Renee Everett, Lynn Fries Feinberg, Barbara Geffen, Miriam Isaacs, Ruth Kurzbauer, Mara McDermott, Janice Mostow, Janet Scribner, Carolyn Shanoff, Rachel Slone, and Tanya Yahana. Welcome to all. We are delighted to add you to our roster, which now numbers nearly 200. We look forward to getting to know you in the coming months and hope to see you at our various programs, including the closing event on June 14. ❁

tikkunolam



Adas Israel's Green Committee Seeks New Volunteers Interested in Preserving the Environment

Are you interested in helping protect the environment both inside and outside Adas Israel? Join fellow synagogue members who want to revive the Green Committee and work on this important contemporary issue. Contact Social Action Council Chair Joel Fischman, fischman@comcast.net, if you'd like to become involved.

Ezra Pantry



Give to the Ezra Pantry @ Adas Israel

The Ezra Pantry is located in the coatroom of the Quebec Street Entrance Foyer, next to the Biran *Beit Midrash*. When you go to the supermarket, be sure to buy extra for those in need!

Ma Tovv: Ron Lapping

HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement



Let's start with the basics. Where are you from, and how did you end up in Washington, DC?

I am a lifelong Chicagoan who moved to Virginia Beach before coming here because my wife was tired of eight months of winter every year. We were in Virginia Beach for nine months, but it was too small a city for us. We came to DC for a long weekend, liked it and decided to move here after [my wife] Kelley got a job here.

How were you introduced to Adas Israel? Why did you decide to join?

I was introduced to Adas because one year when I was not able to get home for the High Holidays, I called around to get last-minute tickets and Adas was very accommodating. I decided to join because, after coming every day for 11 months, I felt this community was right for me and I wanted to join.

You're here every day for morning minyan. For those who have never attended, what is it about that service and community that brings you back each day?

It started with the community. I had just finished sitting *shiva* for my dad in Chicago and was looking for a place to say *kaddish*. I came the first morning and Rabbi Feinberg came up to me to introduce himself and helped me get settled in. The next day Michael Sloan

was leading and he also came up to me, introduced himself, and offered his condolences. They made me feel very comfortable in a trying time. I have tried to pay that forward by greeting people who come to the *minyan* who are not regulars and make them feel as comfortable as I did when I first arrived. The service itself is so spiritual in that we sing so much more than any place I've ever been. People always come up to me afterward to say how much they enjoy it because of how much we sing during the service. It's just a great way to start your morning.

You helped coordinate the Rosh Hashanah bag project this past fall. Would you explain this project and why everyone should help out next year?

It's an extraordinary project. Members of the synagogue deliver goody bags to new members and members over 80. The expressions of gratitude from the people receiving the bags make it so worthwhile. They make you feel so good after you hand them the bag and wish them a Happy New Year. One family was so happy to receive a bag that I was invited in and introduced to the extended family members who happened to be there. Another family had just had a new baby and invited me in to meet the new addition and family members who were visiting. You leave with a big smile on your face because you're doing a *mitzvah* for the recipient and for yourself.

You're a huge Chicago sports fan. If you had to rank the Chicago teams, what would your order be?

Cubs, Blackhawks, Bears, Bulls and . . . White Sox.

Summer is right around the corner. How do you like to spend your summers?

My wife and I like to spend our summers at the beach. We try to go to Virginia Beach for a couple of long weekends and do a week at the Outer Banks. ✨

Teen-Led Shabbat in the Traditional Egalitarian Minyan

The 18-and-over crowd had it easy at the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan* on *Shabbat* on April 18, *Parashat Shemini*. That's because the entire service was led by members of the *Minyan* who had celebrated their *b'nai mitzvah* sometime in the last five years. From the early morning *Birkot Hashachar* to the Torah service to the *d'var Torah* and beyond, adolescent members of the *Minyan* were in charge.

Twelve-year-old Shifra Waskow, whose *bat mitzvah* was just a few weeks earlier, on March 14, read Torah and led a soulful *Musaf*. Aaron Knishkowsky, who was a *bar mitzvah* last fall, read an impressively long *aliyah*. Isaac Silber, 15, and Ilan Cohen, 14, were the *gabbaim*, gently and skillfully helping Torah readers if they needed a prompt or a correction. Claire Miller, 16, offered a moving *d'var Torah*, asking whether teens and adults "can take the fundamental message of the Torah and make it compatible with our modern values."

And the younger children took part, too. Sixth- and seventh-graders whose *b'nai mitzvah* are on the horizon opened the Ark, led *Anim Z'mirot* and *Ashrei*, and recited the prayers for the U.S. government and the state of Israel. A second grader, Gil Leifman, led *Ein Keloheinu*, and a gaggle of JPDS-NC fifth graders led a rousing "cup-song," *Adon Olam*.

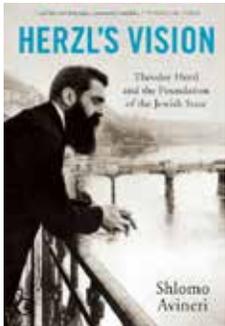
It was the second time the *Minyan* has had a teen-led service, and *minyan* leaders hope to plan another for the fall. The full list of participants follows: *P'sukei D'Zimrah*: Elijah Waskow; *Shacharit*: Ilan Cohen; Torah service: Kate Sosland; Ark openers: Maia Hoffenberg and Ethan Neufeld; *Gabbaim*: Ilan Cohen and Isaac Silber; Torah readers: Shifra Waskow, Isaac Silber, Elijah Waskow, Ari Gershengorn, Naomi Alter, Aaron Knishkowsky, and Rebecca Weiss; *Aliyot*: Ari Gershengorn,

continued on page 19

Big Jewish Lives

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Arts Director

Why read biographies? When I googled that question, all kinds of responses popped up, some grand and lofty, others more prosaic. But whether you read biographies “to stand on the shoulders of giants” or whether (like me) you find that the life stories of famous persons offer an easy, entertaining way to brush up on basic history, two short new biographies on eminent Zionists fit the bill. Try *Herzl's Vision: Theodor Herzl and the Foundation of the Jewish State* by Shlomo Avineri and *Ben-Gurion: Father of Modern Israel* by Anita Shapira (both in our library). The books' authors are distinguished Israeli professors, both recipients of the prestigious Israel Prize for their scholarship.



Herzl's Vision

Theodor Herzl (1860–1904) was crucial to the establishment of the State of Israel, contends Professor Avineri. This is not because he was the first to call for a Jewish state (he wasn't), but because he commanded attention for the cause from world leaders, the international public, and ordinary Jews. Additionally, says Avineri, the Zionist Organization, founded by Herzl, created an institutional structure that later became the foundation of the State of Israel.

Born in Hungary and a longtime resident of Vienna, Herzl was a law school graduate, respected journalist, and sometime playwright. Contrary to popular myth, insists Avineri, it was not the start of the Dreyfus Affair in 1894 (when the French army wrongly denounced a Jewish officer as a spy) that triggered Herzl's Zionism. Based on a close reading of Herzl's diaries, Avineri concludes that Herzl became convinced that Jews must have a state of their own by witnessing the rise of anti-Semitism in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The increasing prominence of Jews in business and in the arts and sciences provoked widespread, virulent hostility. Nationalist politicians portrayed Jews as menacing “aliens” who were penetrating European economic and cultural life.

In 1896, Herzl published *The Jewish State: Proposal of a Modern Solution to the Jewish Question*. An instant bestseller, *The Jewish State* fired the imaginations and aspirations of Jews around the world. For most of the next decade, Herzl tirelessly promoted Zionism, pressing the cause on international leaders—the German Kaiser, the Pope, and others—until his untimely death at age 44.

Ben-Gurion: Father of Modern Israel

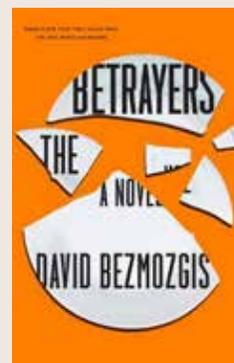
The inauspicious early life of David Ben-Gurion (1886–1973) offered no clue that he was destined to bring Herzl's Zionist dream to fruition. No one could have guessed, says Professor Shapira, that he would become a significant political leader, let alone one day proclaim the State of Israel or become its first prime minister. In contrast to the cosmopolitan, sophisticated Herzl, David Ben-Gurion (born David Green) came from a humble Polish *shtetl*. His family

could not afford to send him to high school; he largely educated himself by reading. He had no profession or purpose until he developed a passion for Zionism and socialism and began to grow (slowly) as a leader.

For Shapira, Ben-Gurion's most momentous actions took place during the crucial decade between 1942 and 1952. He envisioned the establishment of the State of Israel, prepared for and directed the War of Independence, implemented mass immigration (which doubled the population), moved

continued in next column

Summer Reading for the Fall Book Chat!



Dive into *The Betrayers* by David Bezmozgis, winner of the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction. Mark your calendar for our discussion on **Sunday, October 18, 10:30 am.**

Recommended by Rabbi Feinberg!

An inveterate reader, Rabbi Feinberg compiled this list of books that have influenced him over his career. They cover a wide range of subjects, including Israel, the Cairo Geniza, Mussar, disability, and the American criminal justice system.

God in Search of Man by Abraham Joshua Heschel

The Sabbath by Abraham Joshua Heschel

Climbing Jacob's Ladder by Alan Morinis

In This Sign by Joanne Greenberg

The Jewish Century by Yuri Slezkine

Thursday's Child Has Far to Go by Walter Laqueur

The Yellow Wind by David Grossman

The Unmaking of Israel by Gershom Gorenberg

My Promised Land by Ari Shavit

Sacred Trash by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole

Inferno: An Anatomy of American Punishment by Robert Ferguson

Books & More continued from previous column

the capital to Jerusalem, and more. In particular, Shapira writes movingly of Ben-Gurion's courageous decision to send Jews to fight and die for a Jewish homeland only a few years after the Jewish population had been decimated in the Holocaust. Despite all of Ben-Gurion's achievements, his gravestone is inscribed simply, as he requested, only with his name and the dates of his birth, death, and immigration to Palestine. ✨

synagogue contributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adas Fund

In Memory Of: Florence Sanders by Ron & Rise Schlesinger, Sheri Brown.

Ben Cooper Memorial Endowment-High School Program Fund

In Honor Of: Yosef Malka becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Irv & Grace Lebow.

Bereavement Fund

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Beverly Bernstein Adult Bat Mitzvah Fund

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Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

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Cantor's Concert

By: Anonymous.

Capital Fund Contributions

In Honor Of: Rhode Baruch receiving the 2015 *Shem Tov* award by Herlene Nagler, David Polonsky.

In Loving Memory Of: Pearl Tabachnik by Herlene Nagler. **Florence Sanders, Bern Segerman** by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

In Memory Of: Edward Goldberg, by Ross Eisenman. **Florence Sanders** by Steve & Sybil Wolin, Ross Eisenman.

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Daily Minyan Fund

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Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment

In Honor Of: Rhoda Baruch receiving the 2015 *Shem Tov* award by Frances Burka.

Frances Friend Fund

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Fund for the Future

By: Harold & Jane Hirsh Special Endowment Fund.

In Memory Of: Max Frank by Barbara Frank.

Harry Lustine by Norbert & Doris Lustine.

Rhoda Smith by Richard & Carol Margolis.

Florence Sanders by Ricki Gerger.

Garden of the Righteous

By: Sousa Mendez Foundation.

In Honor Of: Judy Strauch by Jan & Carole Klein.

Rhoda Baruch receiving the *Shem Tov* award for 2015 by Judy Strauch. **Judy Strauch's** warm hospitality on Passover by Lawrence & Jean Bernard.

In Memory Of: Eugene Callahan by Judy Strauch.

Goldstein Rosh Hodesh Minyan Fund

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In Memory Of: Florence Sanders by Harry & Judie Linowes.

Havurah Kiddush Fund

By: David Rubashkin & Pamela Karasik.

In Honor Of: her trip to Israel with **Julie Weisman** by Grayce Warren-Boulton.

In Memory Of: Dr. Victor Schneider's mother by Arnie & Mary Hammer.

Irvin Wolloch Memorial Endowment Fund

In Honor Of: Lil Wolloch's very special birthday by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington

By: Joel & Cynthia Rosenberg.

Judith & Russell Smith Endowment Fund

In Honor Of: Russell Smith by Ricki Gerger.

Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects

In Memory Of: Bernard Segerman, Florence Sanders by Joel & Rhoda Ganz. **Diana Cooper & Adolph E. Cooper** by Norbert & Doris Lustine.

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In Memory Of: Bernie Segerman by Stefan & Marilyn Tucker.

Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund

In Honor Of: Nicholas Pine becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Roger & Renée Fendrich.

In Memory Of: Pearl Tabachnik by Amy Cooper. **Florence Sanders** by Joel & Denise Gershowitz. **Daisy Rosenberg** by Samuel Frumkin & Susan Kay, Sarah Frumkin.

Men's Club Amuday Torah Fund

In Memory Of: Aristides de Sousa Mendes by

Craig Yokum.

Mikvah Capital Campaign

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Minnie & Abraham S. Kay Israel Scholarship Fund

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Offerings Fund

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Florence Sanders by Alan & Nancy Bubes, Alfred Munzer & Joel Wind, Jan Kaufman, Jessica Lipps, Joshua Rubin, Judith Hauptman, Lawrence & Melanie Nussdorf, Lorna Grenadier, Morris & Lynn Kletzkin, Roger & Renée Fendrich, Sheryl & Edward Kagen. **Leonard Rovner** by Berdie Pieczenik. **Esther Waxman** by Cong. Henry Waxman. **Max Cohen** by Dr. Sharon Cooper.

Sophie T. Lasky & Simonsie Rubin by Fae Brodie. **Max Weinstein** by Judge Paul Weinstein.

Robert Leibowitz by Roslyn Weinstein. **Bunny Tabachnik** by Steven & Gayle Neufeld.

Rabbi Feinberg Discretionary Fund

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Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund

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Rabbi Jeffrey & Judith Wohlberg Masorti Fund

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Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz History Fund

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Rabbi Steinlauf Discretionary Fund

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Rose & Simon Laupheimer Fund

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Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

With Great Appreciation For: Adas's vibrant library by Bernard Sharfman & Susan David.

In Memory Of: Florence Sanders by Adrian & Annette Morchower, Elinor Tattar.

Revella Sidell by Arlene Sidell Cohen. **Joan Eisenkramer** by Arthur Hessel. **Sam Isack** by Arthur Isack. **Paul Klein** by Barry Simon.

Arnold Brophy by Beth Brophy. **Kalman Seigel** by Carolyn Shanoff. **Karen Tersoff** by David Margolies & Susan Tersoff. **Gussie Kossak** by Dr. Michael Kossak. **Herbert Birtha** by Dr. Rachel Birtha Eitches. **Irving Eitches** by Eddie Eitches. **Ruth Wineburg** by Harry & Judy Melamed. **Bernard Segerman** by Irv & Grace Lebow. **Edward Nelson Cooper** by Norbert & Doris Lustine.

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In Memory Of: **Bernard Segerman, Florence Sanders** by Bo & Marky Kirsch. **Samuel Lebowitz** by Marlene Kirsch. **Helen Kirsch** by Martin Kirsch.

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education

In Honor Of: **Dr. Clement Alpert's** 103rd birthday by Janet Baldinger, Glenn & Cindy Easton, Jane Baldinger, Roger & Renée Fendrich.

Shelley Remer Gan HaYeled Enrichment Fund

In Honor Of: **Alexander Isaac & Maia Hoffenberg** becoming *b'nai mitzvah*. **David Polonsky**, all by Stewart & Shelley Remer. *In Memory Of:* **Florence Sanders** by Ariel Adesnik & Susanna Chu, Stewart & Shelley Remer. **Pearl Tabachnik** by Glenn & Cindy Easton, Stewart & Shelley Remer. **Berta Guiloff** by Sheri Brown.

Simcha Wall

In Honor Of: **Judy & Richard Cohen's** 50th anniversary by Lenny & Beth Sloan, Stanley & Sandy Bobb, Arlene and Steve Friedlander.

Social Action Fund

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Sophie Silfen Shalom Tinok Fund

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In Honor Of: **Zevi Roskes, Avery & Maren Dunn** becoming *b'nai mitzvah*, all by Bill Levenson.

Michael Leifman, Mark Katkov, Alan Ronkin reading Torah at *Shabbat Mincha* first day of *Pesach*, all by Ricki Gerger.

In Memory Of: **Phyllis Eyl, Florence Sanders** by Bill Levenson.

Tzedakah Fund

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Youth Activities Fund

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In Memory Of: **Marving Blumberg** by Stuart & Wilma Bernstein.

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Yasher koach to all! ❁

DC Pride at Adas

continued from page 3

a number of acclaimed books. He has served a member of the senior management of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles and as executive vice president of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California. In 1999, he began his work at the University of Judaism (now the American Jewish University) and received DHL at Hebrew Union College's Jewish Institute of Religion in Contemporary Jewish Theology. His work focuses on Jewish philosophy and theology, particularly a process approach integrating contemporary scientific insights from cosmology, quantum physics, evolutionary theory, and neuroscience to a dynamic view of God, Torah, *mitzvot*, and ethics.

To volunteer to help staff the Adas Pride booth, or to support any other part of this weekend, please contact Marcy Spiro, marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org.



Adas DC Pride Schedule

Friday, June 12: We Are Commanded

to Love Return Again to *Shabbat* Services, *d'var Torah* by Rabbi Brad Artson, 6:30 pm

Saturday, June 13: The Cause of

Freedom Has Just One Story *Shabbat* Morning Service with special guest speaker, Rabbi Brad Artson, on LGBT Inclusion, **9:30 am**

LGBT Justice Panel Discussion with Rabbis Brad Artson, Gil Steinlauf & Lauren Holtzblatt, after *kiddush*

March in the DC Pride Parade with Rabbi Brad Artson, Rabbi Steinlauf, Adas Clergy, and Community. We will meet at 3:00 pm at the Dupont Circle Hotel and march at 4:00 pm.

Sunday, June 14: DC Pride Festival on Penn Ave, stop by the Adas Booth, 12:00–7:00 pm ❁



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