

Adas Israel Congregation

# CHRONICLE

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**Happy Hanukkah from your Adas Israel Family!**

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## From the President

By Debby Joseph



This column is dedicated to the memory of William (Billy) Alterman, who died suddenly and unexpectedly during the holiday of *Sukkot*. Billy was a natural organizer and gatherer of people, whose legacy to me is the life-changing impact one person can have on another. When I was single and newly arrived in Washington, DC, a friend introduced me to Billy, who had a large circle of friends with whom he threw big parties and organized a book club and hikes for Jewish singles. Through him I learned of the *Havurah* where a number of these same people attended *Shabbat* services here at Adas Israel. With his encouragement, I attended, and within a couple of *Shabbatot*, I met my future husband, Mark. My gratitude to Billy for that life-altering introduction has been enduring. Although we lost contact, from time to time we crossed paths when our children attended the same camp and, more recently, when we saw him at Shakespeare Theatre, where he held the longest-term subscription series of any patron. What has always struck me about Billy is the apparent effortless with which he connected people to each other

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## clergycorner



There is a very important message in *Hanukkah* about what Jewish identity really is all about. Actually, it teaches us what Jewish identity is *not* about. Being Jewish cannot be reduced to focusing on how the world, or others, see us. You might find this idea strange, especially because *Hanukkah* is such a public holiday. All mainstream Americans know about *Hanukkah*. They know about *menorahs* and *dreidels*, too. If there's any holiday where Jews seem to want others to see us proudly as Jews, even to the point of putting a *menorah* in front of the White House, it's *Hanukkah*! Even from a religiously observant perspective, the idea that it's NOT about how we are seen is surprising. After all, the command of *Hanukkah* is *pirsumei nisa*, which literally means, "publicize the miracle": put your *menorah* proudly in the window so that others can see it. Be proud! Be public! But actually, many of us have been confused all along ...

I will explain why we've missed the mark by sharing a personal story. When I was in my early 20s, I went to Israel to study Judaism at a yeshiva, called Machon Pardes. While there, I studied the Talmud, the *Midrash*, the rabbinic codes, *Tanakh*, and a whole host of other Jewish texts and ideas. It was, to say the least, a life-changing experience. I showed up in Israel, fresh from college, as a more or less typical American Jewish kid. I attended Hebrew school, but I stopped going immediately after my *bar mitzvah*. I developed an academic interest in Jewish history in college and wrote my senior thesis on Jewish historiography. Intellectually, I understood a lot about the Jewish past, but I was very unfamiliar with Judaism as a living, breathing entity. Israel changed all that. Not only was I studying texts, but I was living in an immersive Jewish community with other young people exploring Judaism in an exciting and deeply personal way. Needless to say, I fell in love with Judaism. I wanted to learn everything I could. I wanted to experience every aspect of the tradition. In short, I wanted a full and deeply connected Jewish identity.

The only problem was, my observant Jewish identity—even with all my learning in that year—was so new. I had just stuck my toe into the ocean of Judaism after that year, and I wanted more. I was accepted to the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and came back to the States eager to begin my journey toward becoming a rabbi. I was 23 years old at the time. And I wanted to come home to the States and have everyone *see* that, now, I was a changed person. I started wearing a *kippah* all the time. I donned a *tallit katan* under my clothes, and proudly walked around the streets with my *tzitzit* hanging out of my shirt for all the world to see: *there goes an observant Jew!*

There is a name for young Jewish people like me at that age: a *ba'al t'shuvah*. *Ba'al t'shuvah* literally means a "Master of Return," and it typically

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# holidays@adas

## Happy Hanukkah

### Why Do We Celebrate Hanukkah?

The festival of *Hanukkah* commemorates the successful struggle for religious liberty, led by the priest Mattathias and, later, by his son, the brave Judah Maccabee, against the Syrian oppressors, in the year 167 BCE. That effort culminated in victory for the Jewish people and in recapturing the Temple in Jerusalem. The Temple was cleansed and rededicated to the service of God with lights rekindled in the Sanctuary. The festival is known in Hebrew as *Hanukkah*, which literally means “dedication.” It is also called the “Feast of Lights,” because the *Hanukkah* candles are lit on each of eight successive nights. We celebrate the “miracle of the oil,” the rededication of the Temple and the first rebellion for religious freedom.



### When Is Hanukkah Observed?

*Hanukkah* begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month, *Kislev*, the day on which the Temple was reconsecrated to the worship of God. The festival is observed for eight days. According to our tradition, the “day” officially commences on the evening that precedes it. Hence the first candle is lit on the evening that ushers in the 25th day of *Kislev*. On each succeeding night of *Hanukkah*, we light an

additional candle, totaling eight in all.

**This year, *Hanukkah* begins on Sunday evening, December 6. Candle lighting should take place in the evening.**

### Hanukkah Practices

Each Jewish home should have a *Hanukkah menorah* (*hanukkiyah*). The Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop has a wide range of *hanukkiyot* and other *Hanukkah* items available for purchase.

Place the *Hanukkah menorah* in a conspicuous place in your home. The lights should be kindled as soon as possible after nightfall with all members of the family present. Any members of the family, including children, may kindle the *Hanukkah* lights.

A famous symbol of *Hanukkah* is the **dreidel**, a four-faced top, with one Hebrew letter on each face as follows: each letter is the beginning of a Hebrew word—**Nes Godol Haya Sham**—“a Great Miracle Happened There.” Various games can be played with the *dreidel*, and it is a custom among some to eat potato *latkes* at this time because they are fried in oil.

In addition to being a “home” holiday, *Hanukkah* is celebrated in the synagogue. Hallel Psalms are recited, there is an additional Torah reading in honor of *Hanukkah*, and a special *haftarah* is chanted on *Shabbat Hanukkah*.

### How to Light Hanukkah Candles

Light the *shamash* candle first. On the first evening of *Hanukkah*, one candle is lit, which is placed on the far right of the *menorah*, as you face it. Place a candle to its left on the second night of *Hanukkah* . . . and continue placing

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### Hanukkah Calendar Highlights

#### NIGHTLY (DECEMBER 6–14)

Community *menorah* lightings on Connecticut Avenue patio at 6:00 pm

#### DAILY (DECEMBER 7–14, WHEN GAN IS IN SESSION), 9:30 AM

Community Lighting in the Gan space

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 11:00 AM

Dan Kaufman Memorial *Latke* Party, starting with a spirited sing-along in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

MakomDC December Scholar Event and Installation of Rabbi Alexander

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 &

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:00 PM

Religious School helps with community *menorah* lighting

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 7:00 PM

YP Wine and *Latke Hanukkah* Event

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 3:00 PM

Community *menorah* lighting at Somerset House

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 6:30 PM

Return Again to *Shabbat* service, followed by *latkes*, fried chicken, and *sufganiyot*

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 11:00 AM

Gan Consecration

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 5:30 PM

5778 *B'nai Mitzvah* Receiving the Torah/*Havdalah* program

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 6:00 PM

Candlelight *Hanukkah* Yoga, led by guest teacher Roni Zelivinski.



# MakomDC December Scholar Event and Installation of Rabbi Aaron Alexander

Rabbis Brad Artson, Gil Steinlauf to Formally Install Rabbi Aaron Alexander

Tuesday, December 8, beginning with evening services @ 6:00pm



Join Rabbi Gil Steinlauf and Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson as they formally install **Rabbi Aaron Alexander** as Associate Rabbi of Adas Israel. In this special community-wide Adas event, we'll share good hors d'oeuvres and drinks, good company, and good song as we all help welcome Rabbi Alexander and his family ceremonially into our sacred *kehillah*.

The installation will be followed by a keynote lecture by Rabbi Artson in the Biran *Beit Midrash* at 7:30 pm as part of our MakomDC learning series. Please Register online. ✨

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the candles toward the left on each successive night of *Hanukkah*. Always light the "new" candle for that night first, and then proceed to the right in the lighting process.

On Friday, the *Hanukkah* candles are kindled before lighting the *Shabbat* candles. On Saturday night, the *Hanukkah* candles are kindled after *havdalah*, which marks the conclusion of *Shabbat*, has been recited.

The ceremony of kindling the lights is the most significant aspect of the festival. The family should remain standing around the *Hanukkah menorah* as the *shamash* (the candle that is used to light the other candles) is lit. As the candle is held, the first blessing over the *Hanukkah* lights is chanted: ✨

## Blessings for Lighting the Menorah

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

*Baruch ata Adonai, Ehloheinu mehlech haolam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.* Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who has sanctified us by His commandments and commanded us to kindle the *Hanukkah* lights.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שעשה נסים לאבותינו בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

*Baruch ata Adonai, Ehloheinu mehlech haolam, sheasa nisim laavoteinu bayamim hahaim baz'man hazeh.* Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who did wondrous things for our ancestors, in days of old at this season.

### ON THE FIRST NIGHT, THE FOLLOWING IS ADDED:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם, שהחיינו וקיימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

*Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech haolam, Shehecheyanu, v'kiy'manu, v'higianu laz'man hazeh.* Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who has granted us life, sustained us, and permitted us to celebrate this joyous festival.

### ALL JOIN IN SINGING MA'OZ TZUR:

*Ma'oz tzur y'shuati lecha na'eh l'shabei-ah.*

*Tikon beit t'filati, v'sham todah n'za-bei-ah.*

*Leit takhin matbei-ah, mi-tzar ha'm'na-bei-ah.*

*Az egmor b'shir mizmor, Hanukat hamizbei-ah,*

*Az egmor b'shir mizmor, Hanukat hamizbei-ah.* מעוז צור ישועתי לך נאה לשבת, תכון בית תפילתי ושם תודה נזכה, לעת תכין מטבח מצר המנבח, אז אגמור בשיר מזמור חנוכת המנבח.





# Adas for Serious Learning

## December: Seeing

**Seeing the world through God's eyes.** We often see an image and assume something to be true, rather than intuitively understanding that which is in front of us. What does it mean to see the world through God's eyes? What does our tradition offer

for recognizing the image before us through not just our eyes, but our hearts and our *neshamas* (souls) as well?

Register online or by calling Melissa Adler, 202-362-4433, ext. 146

## MakomDC Learning:



### Open *Beit Midrash* with Rabbis Alexander, Holtzblatt, & Yolkut

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 @ 7:30 PM

The first Tuesday of the month will offer an Open *Beit Midrash*, a place to sit across the table from fellow seekers and explore the rich, sophisticated, sacred texts that

have animated our people for so many years. We'll question together, grapple together, and passionately talk through the uplifting and challenging ideas these ancient and modern texts provide. These sessions will be led by the Adas Israel clergy, along with Rabbi Elianna Yolkut.



### Scholar: Rabbi Brad Artson

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 @ 7:30 PM

Rabbi Brad Artson, celebrated speaker, teacher, and theologian and dean of the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. What does it mean to see ourselves and others for their potential rather than our perceptions? How is clarity of vision

attainable in a world in which religious blind spots lurk around every corner? In this engaging and enlightening class Rabbi Artson will bring the best of our tradition's wisdom to light and present us with a framework for living with open eyes that match our open hearts.



### Paint Night

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 @ 7:30 PM

The Gewirz Beit Am will be turned into a paint studio, and everyone leaves with a piece of Jewish art! Picking up on our monthly theme, we'll tap into our imaginations to create a piece of art

that reflects what it means to see the world with an open heart. Expert, novices, and beginners alike will leave with something they will be proud of.



### Uncovering the Talmud's Hidden Texture with Dr. Aaron Amit

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 @ 1:00 PM

"Uncovering the Talmud's Hidden Texture": part of the Mendelson *Shabbat* Scholar Series. Set in the context of *Hanukkah*, when the days are shortest

and darkness permeates, Dr. Amit will use Talmudic texts on *Hanukkah* to uncover the layers hidden behind the words on the page and bring more light to our holiday of miracles.



### Judaism & the Problem of Evil with Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 @ 10:30 AM

This in-depth learning session, using the month's theme, Seeing, as a catalyst will delve more deeply into various critical Jewish texts and concepts.



### Religious School Parent Drop-In, Drop-Off

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 @ 10:30 AM

Once a month Religious School parents will be given a space to learn on the month's topic. Come in, enjoy a cup of coffee, and explore some traditional

and relevant texts on Judaism and the Problem of Evil with Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf.

## Additional Ongoing Learning



### *Boker Ohr Shabbat* Study

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM

DECEMBER 5, Rabbi Steinlauf

DECEMBER 12, Rabbi Holtzblatt

DECEMBER 19, Rabbi Alexander

DECEMBER 26, No Class

*Boker Ohr* meets Saturday mornings in the Biran *Beit Midrash* with the weekly

portion as its focus.



### Friday *Parsha* Study with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 AM

Study a piece of the weekly *parsha* through the eyes of the Hasidic masters. Taste a piece of their Torah and the world from which they

emerged. Among the teachers we will study: Kedushat Levi, Netivot Shalom, Rav Soloveitchik, Noam Elimelech, and the Sefat Emet. ✨



# Thank You to All Who Supported Us

## The Adas Fund High Holy Day Appeal 2015/5776

From Toni & David Bickart, Adas Fund Co-Chairs

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank all of you who supported our wonderful community during this year's Adas Fund drive. Adas Israel has been our home for more than 35 years, and it is our community, our neighborhood. Thanks to all of the generous and invested members like you, we are confident about the next 35! For those of you who have not yet made your contribution, it isn't too late. Your contribution of any size will make a big difference to this community. To make your important contribution, please contact the synagogue office, 202-362-4433, or visit [www.adasisrael.org/the-adas-fund](http://www.adasisrael.org/the-adas-fund).



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 Alfred Munzer & Joel Wind  
 David & Jessica Nemeth  
 Lawrence Newhouse  
 Kenneth Ordene  
 David & Tedi Osias  
 Max Parness & Elena Alschuler  
 James Posner & Jill Prosky  
 Larry & Myra Promisel  
 Jonah Richmond & David Olson  
 Clifford & Lori Rones  
 Elaine Rose

Peter & Naomi Rosenblatt  
 David Rubashkin & Pamela Karasik  
 David Sacks & Beth Merachnik  
 Arrigo & Mary Elizabeth Sadun  
 Ron & Debbie Sann  
 Chris Sautter & Harriet Lipkin  
 Miriam Schlesinger  
 Leah Schloss  
 Madelyn Shapiro  
 Matt Shapiro & Emily Stolzenberg  
 Steve & Susana Shapiro  
 Bernard Sharfman & Susan David  
 David & Peggy Shiffrin  
 Greg & Samantha Shron  
 Raymond Shwake  
 Fred & Felisa Siegel  
 Jay & Judith Silberman  
 Joseph & Frances Silverman  
 Harold & Carrie Singer  
 Mike Sloan & Maria Laszlo-Sloan  
 Stuart Sloane & Ellen Seeherman  
 Gilda Snyder (z"l)  
 Jerome & Petra Socolovsky  
 Mark & Carol Steinbach  
 Michael & Joyce Stern  
 Hadar Susskind & Ilana Preuss  
 Ian & Fran Tarlie  
 Harry & Charlotte Teicher  
 Howard & Gayle Teicher  
 Rey & Susan Tejada  
 Donald & Debra Tracy  
 Mark Uretsky  
 Devon Walker  
 David Waskow & Ketura Persellin  
 Diane Wattenberg  
 Steven Weiner  
 James Weinstein  
 William Willis & Rennie Sherman  
 Charles & Nancy Wolfson  
 Steven Zaleznick & Caron Dale  
 Daniel Zisenwine & Ifat Reshef  
 Stuart Zuckerman & Patricia Levy-Zuckerman

# **FRIENDS**

Alisa Abrams  
 Roselle Abramson  
 Jake & Sara Addeo  
 Steven & Kim Aftergood  
 Carol Ansell  
 James Armbruster & Robin Jacobson  
 Lynn Arons  
 Alfredo Azocar & Kara Leibin  
 Judith Beltz-Schreiber  
 Heidi Berenson  
 Adam & Erika Berg  
 Linda Berg  
 Geoffrey Berman & Julia Gordon  
 Sasha Bloch  
 Jeffrey Bolotin  
 Connie Bowers  
 Joseph Bressler & Urszula Krzych  
 Benjamin & Shelly Buring

A. J. Campbell  
 Lillian Cardash (z"l)  
 Joe Cecil & Judith Friedman  
 David & Ilene Chait  
 Marvin & Sylvia Charen  
 Jennifer Chemel  
 Ruth Chernikoff  
 AC & Erin Claxton  
 Fran Cohen  
 Ken Cohen & Joanne Kenen  
 Sandy & Bev Cohen  
 Jamie Crausman & Ginger Moss  
 Michael & Laura Cutler  
 Arnold Danziger  
 Alan Davidson & Melissa Goldman Davidson  
 Thomas Donnelly & Bonnie Benwick  
 Glenn & Jennifer Dubin  
 Glenn & Cindy Easton  
 Eddie & Rachel Eitches  
 Aliza Epstein  
 Josh & Mita Felman  
 Joan Field  
 Ron & Patty Flagg  
 Shalom & Deborah Flank  
 Sandi Fox  
 Allan & Bobbie Fried  
 Sarah Frumkin  
 Sam Fuchs  
 Stefan & Augusta Fuma  
 Matthew & Jennifer Gerst  
 Lev & Margaret Gilboa  
 Allen Goldberg & Laurie Strongin  
 Merrill Goldsmith  
 Lauren Granite  
 David & Yudit Greenberg  
 Andrea Handel  
 Jack & Flo Herman  
 Jorge Pineda & Judy Heumann  
 Ron & Audrey Hoffer  
 Frances Hoffman  
 Lawrence & Carol Horn  
 Elliott Hurwitz  
 Paula Jorisch  
 Cory Julie & Miriam Ganem-Rosen  
 Kent & Pamela Kahler  
 Steve & Toby Kahn  
 David Kass  
 Mark Katkov & Ellen Hamilton  
 Laura Katzin  
 Harry Kempler  
 Elliot & Iona Klayman  
 Joshua & Lauren Kolko  
 David Krantz & Lynn Feinberg  
 Elaine Kremens  
 Judith Kulick  
 Tom & Debbie Lehigh  
 Michael Leifman & Sharon Samber  
 Keith & Tamar Levenberg  
 Bob & Gail Leventhal  
 Brant Levine & Katherine Curley  
 Lois Levitan  
 Bruce Lewis

Zev Lewis  
 Michael Liebman & Sharon Cohen  
 Norbert & Doris Lustine  
 Aaron & Shoshana Marcus  
 David Margolies & Susan Tersoff  
 Lily Matusiak  
 Ellen Meltzer



Bruce Mencher  
 Richard & Jill Meyer  
 Adam Meyerson & Nina Shea  
 Ethyle Miller  
 Todd Miller & Margot Schwadron  
 Charlie & Lissy Moskowitz  
 Ruth Moss  
 Roger Nehrer & Robin Wiener  
 Nancy Peck  
 Phil & Debbie Pine  
 Jordan Potash & Adam Nelson  
 Jeffrey & Reena Racki  
 Mark & Cathleen Raisher  
 Jeff Rakitt & Susan Bayles  
 Eva Rehfeld  
 Arnold Resnicoff  
 Scott Robinson & Sheryl Stolberg  
 Carolyn Rogers  
 Rachel Rosenthal  
 Alan Rukin & Heather Hoffman  
 Alan & Beryl Saltman  
 Stanley Salus  
 Barbara Sandler  
 Charlie Schwartz  
 Gail Schwartz  
 Sidney Sclar  
 Carolyn Shanoff  
 Steve Sherman  
 Norman Shore  
 Ronald Slotkin & Cheryl Wasserman  
 Ruth Snyder  
 Sabrina Sojourner  
 John Speaks, III & Susan Shirley  
 Frank Spigel  
 Jimmy & Anne Suissa  
 Jonny & Samantha Sultoon  
 Elinor Tattar  
 John & Ruth Tifford  
 Vicky Vogel  
 David Weinberg & Rachel Singer  
 Michael Wiesenfelder & Beth Werlin  
 Kirk & Gabi Wilbur  
 Dennis & Blake Yedwab  
 Razi & Linda Yitzchak  
 Elianna Yolkut & Stephanie Wethington



## Rabbi Steinlauf continued from page 2

refers to a secular or nominally observant Jew returning to full observance, usually within Orthodoxy. In my case, I was a Conservative *ba'al t'shuvah*. It was incredibly important for me to have my family and friends back home see that I wasn't the kid who left for Israel. Now, all of my choices about how I dressed, talked, and associated were very self-consciously directed toward showing the world about my deep and real connection to traditional Judaism.

Fast forward to roughly a quarter-century later. You don't see me walking around with my *tzitzit* hanging out anymore. You may even see me in a non-kosher restaurant having a vegetarian meal. What changed? I grew up! I realized that in trying to emulate the stereotypes of what I imagined committed Jews did and wore and acted like, I was trying too hard to *be seen* as what I wanted to be seen as. As time went by, as I settled into my identity as a genuinely knowledgeable and observant Jew, I realized that I didn't need to show off to the world how observant I am. I began to trust how I fundamentally am a deeply connected Jew. My identity was no longer new. I could relax and just be me. And observance and Jewishness are natural parts of who I am.

I share this story because I believe that, sometimes, communities-writ-large can behave a lot like individuals. The publicity and success of *Hanukkah* in America has a lot to do with second- and third-generation American Jews realizing that they can be proud of their Judaism, but they themselves haven't grown up in observant or Jewishly knowledgeable homes. But they are, indeed, proud to be Jewish! *Hanukkah* has largely become a holiday based on stereotypes of Jews in America. I was walking down the street the other day and I saw a movie poster of the Jewish actor Seth Rogen at a Christmas party wearing a sweater with a giant Jewish star on it. While it's wonderful that we live in a time when a Christmas movie has Jews who are proud *Hanukkah*-observers, I can't help but think that maybe it's time for us to grow up as American Jews.

While it's true that we are supposed to "publicize the miracle" of *Hanukkah*, we are NOT asked to make giant *menorahot* and put them out on our lawn, or even on the White House lawn. Very significantly, the *menorah* stays in our homes. The light emanates from within! Yes, we have nothing to hide. We are proud that the world can know who we are. But the point of the holiday is that WE know about the light, about the miracles that have sustained us through the generations. The point is that WE derive strength from within our homes, within our hearts, to stand tall and proud in the world as Jews, knowing that a light from deep in our souls preserves us and sees to our survival and strength.

This *Hanukkah*, let's ask ourselves how we are making known the miracle of our Jewish identities. Is our identity more about externals, stereotypes, and approximations? Or is our Jewish identity flowing from an abiding faith in a sacred mission and purpose in our Jewishness? If you identify more with the first question than the second, let me promise you this: the miracle, the light, the strength of all the Jewish people already lives within you, within your home, and within your heart. The trick is to trust that it's already there. There is no need to prove anything external to ourselves or to our children. And certainly no need to prove it to the Christians who put out Christmas trees nativity scenes. The trick is to place the *menorah* that is the light of who we are proudly in the proverbial windows of our lives. The trick is to let the light of our Jewishness shine out in our every word and action and choice. When we live our Jewish identities deeply from this inner light, that's how we truly show ourselves, our children, and the whole world what the miracle of the Jewish people is really all about.

Happy *Hanukkah*! ❀



## Combined Community Shabbat Service, Friday, Dec. 25

Continuing a tradition of more than 30 years, Adas Israel Congregation will again participate in a combined community service on Friday, December 25, to be held this year at Adas. Join Cantor Arianne Brown, officers, and congregants of our synagogue, together with Washington Hebrew, Temple Sinai and Temple Micah. We are also pleased to welcome teens from the Tzafon USY region (Upstate NY) on this *Shabbat*.

This long-standing tradition of sharing is a significant way to mark the end of the secular year and a wonderful opportunity to share *Shabbat* with members of sister congregations in our area.

We encourage you to attend as a way of strengthening inter-synagogue relationships and of marking the transition in the calendar in a religious manner.

Hors d'oeuvres are at 5:30 pm, followed by *Kabbalat Shabbat* services at 6:00 pm and dessert refreshments. ❀

## Downtown Study Group Second Tuesday of the Month

The next meeting of the Downtown Study Group is Tuesday, December 8. Join this highly motivated group that has been meeting monthly in a downtown conference room for more than 25 years 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. 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). This class is open to the community. ❀

## Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

*Hanukkah* is right around the corner...come in and shop for family and friends. And don't forget *dreidels*, cookies, *gelt*, and toys!



### Gift Shop Hours:

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

Tuesday, Special Extended Hours  
9:30 am–3:00 pm, 6:00–8:00 pm

*Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.*

202-364-2888

adasgiftshop@gmail.com

## SAVE THESE DATES Sisterhood Special Events

**February 26–27, 2016:** Sisterhood Shabbat with Scholar-in-Residence Naomi Less

**June 26, 2016:** Sisterhood Closing Event

**March 6:** Torah Fund Cantors' Concert at Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac

**June 26:** Sisterhood Closing Event



*Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith and Rabbi Penina Alexander at the tzitzit-making class conducted at the opening event*

## sisterhoodnews

### Storahteller Naomi Less to Be Scholar in Residence for Sisterhood Shabbat, Feb. 26–27



In keeping with Adas Israel and Sisterhood's goals of discovering new ways to understand and connect to Jewish prayer and our Jewish source texts, we have invited Naomi Less as our Scholar in Residence for 5776. Naomi brings the soul and spirit back to Jewish worship and text study with her own unique inspirational and participatory techniques.

Naomi also is one of the original *Storahtellers*, those who use a method of studying Jewish texts by drawing from the ancient tradition of Torah reading, while providing an alternating translation in the local language. She becomes the characters in the weekly *parsha* who open up the social and historical contexts of the stories of the Torah into contemporary terms. Naomi will lead us in these two processes at several services over the weekend.

On Sunday, she will lead and teach religious school students in their weekly *Shacharit* service and will facilitate a unique *mikvah* program for women of all ages. Mark your calendars now for this unique Sisterhood Shabbat.

### Study, Hands-On Learning, Song Mark Sisterhood's Opening Event

At the opening event in October, Sisterhood members and their guests from the Jewish Foundation of Group Homes welcomed new **Associate Rabbi Aaron Alexander** and his wife **Rabbi Penina Alexander**, together with the new **Ritual Director, Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith**. Following a welcome from **Rabbi Gil Steinlauf** and a delicious lunch, the rabbis Alexander and Hazzan Goldsmith team-taught a dynamic program about the *mitzvah* of *tzitzit*.

Rabbi Aaron Alexander led it off by engaging the group in an intense discussion about a miracle recorded in the Babylonian Talmud involving *tzitzit* that resulted in a prostitute's conversion to Judaism (*Tractate Menahot, 44a*). Next, Rabbi Penina Alexander taught the participants how to tie the knots of a *tzitzit*. Each table was provided with the necessary strings and written instructions. Working alone or in teams and with hands-on aid from the three guests of honor, our sisters learned how to wind the strings and knot them correctly until they resembled one of the four *tzitzit* that mark the corners of a *tallit*. Then Hazzan Goldsmith invited the sisters to stand, hold hands, and link their newly made *tzitzit* together to form a chain of friendship. The group moved in a circle about the room, as she taught them this song:

*Round and round we go  
We hold each other's hands  
And weave our lives in a circle  
Our love is strong  
The dance goes on.*

For this memorable program, we wish to thank the participating clergy and chair **Susan Winberg**, together with her able co-chairs, **Lucy Hassell** and **Linda Yitzchak**. *Kol hakavod*, everyone!

### It All Starts with YOU, So Join Sisterhood Today

Dues for 5776 (July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016) are now being accepted. Send in your membership check, payable to *Adas Israel Sisterhood*. Basic Membership: \$36; Contributor: \$54; Patron: \$72; and feel free to contribute any amount above these suggested amounts.

Please provide your contact information or use the form provided in the late summer mailing and send it to Treasurer **Dava Berkman**, 2475 Vir-

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## lifecycle

### Milestones

#### Weddings

Lauren Jonas and James Murphy Lauren were married on October 11, in Napa, CA.

Miriam Ganem-Rosen and Cory Julie were married October 31. They met at a YP Shir Delight Service in 2011

Shai (Carol) Abramson and Peter Paz were married on November 1.

David Polonsky and Heather McWilliams were married at Adas Israel on November 8.

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

#### Births

Isaac David Levitin, son of Sarah & Adam Levitin, was born September 12.

Daniel Schwartz, son of Courtney & Stephen Schwartz, was born September 19.

Zachary Isaac Plumser, son of Matthew & Polina Plumser, was born September 21.

Thomas Mooney Joseph, son of Leilah & David Mooney, was born September 25.

Levi Webber, son of Mitch & Theresa Webber, was born September 30.

Zachary Lieberman, son of Cynthia & Ross Lieberman, was born October 6.

Levi Samuel Cohen, son of Michelle & Jonathan Cohen, grandson of Sidra Rauch, was born October 25.

Reid Carter Nussdorf, son of Jed & Sarah Nussdorf, grandson of Larry & Melanie Nussdorf, was born October 27.

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

## B'nai Mitzvah



### Miriam Carvalho Loeb, December 5

Miriam, daughter of Maricy Carvalho Schmitz and Alan P. Loeb, is a student at Swanson Middle School in Arlington. She started her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and has been attending the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since first grade.

Miriam continues her involvement by participating in the Ma'alot program and by volunteering in the *madrichim* program on Sundays. For her *mitzvah* project, Miriam is volunteering at the Nature Conservancy. At this special time she thinks with love about her grandparents, Orlando and Sinésia de Carvalho and Milton Lehman Loeb, of blessed memory. Miriam shares this *simcha* with her parents and extended family, especially her grandmother, Mimi Back Loeb.



### Anya Herzberg, December 5 (TEM)

Anya, daughter of Deborah Isser and Benjamin Herzberg, is a sixth grader at Alice Deal Middle School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and studied at the Jewish Primary Day School through fifth grade. She spent two summers with the *Eclaireurs-Eclaireuses Israelites de France* (French Jewish Scouts),

following in her grandparents—Albert and Mali Herzberg—and her father's footsteps. Anya looks forward to sharing this *simcha* with her brother, Samuel, her extended family and friends, and the entire Adas community. For her *mitzvah* project, Anya is organizing a fundraising event for the National Parkinson's Foundation, to support research and assistance to patients like her grandmother, Charlotte Isser.

## lifecycle continued

### Ethan Leifman, December 12 (TEM)



Ethan, son of Sharon Samber and Michael Leifman, is an eighth grader at Alice Deal Middle School and attends the Ma'alot program at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School.

A graduate of the Jewish Primary Day School-NC, Ethan celebrates his *bar mitzvah* with his grandparents, his brother Gil, and many family members and friends. For his *mitzvah* project, Ethan worked with Behrend Builders to renovate a community center and repair damaged houses, and at the Sunflower Bakery, which provides employment training to young adults with cognitive and other developmental disabilities.

### Lucy Irene Goldberg, December 19



Lucy, daughter of Monica Burke Goldberg and Adam William Goldberg, is a seventh grader at Pyle Middle School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and attends the Estelle

& Melvin Gelman Religious School. Lucy celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with her sister and brother, Sadie and Josiah; her grandparents, Judith Goldberg, Geraldine and Arthur ("Bud") Dandurand, and Rose and Carl Burke; and other family and friends. At this special time, she recalls with love her grandfather Arthur Goldberg and great-aunt Ethel Schwam, with whom she spent many joyous hours. For her *mitzvah* project, Lucy will be working to benefit the Capital Area Food Bank.

### Isabella Lefkowitz-Rao, December 26



Isabella, daughter of Alan Lefkowitz and Neomi Rao, is celebrating her *bat mitzvah* in Mumbai, India. She will share the *simcha* with her parents and brother Ezra, grandparents, aunts

and uncles, cousins, and family friends. Currently a sixth grader at Maret, Isabella began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and attended the Jewish Primary Day School from pre-kindergarten until fifth grade.

## In Memoriam

### We mourn the loss of synagogue members:

Lillian Cardash

Gilda Snyder

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

Allan Burke, brother of Thea Mason

Leonard Slesinger, father of Cathy Slesinger

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>2917 Kislev</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>3018 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>119 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>7:30 pmMakomDC: Open Beit Midrash</div>	<div>220 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pmJSC Classes</div> <div>7:30 pmConversion Class-Passover</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Mindful Yoga</div> <div>8:15 pmJSC Classes</div>	<div>321 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>422 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParshat Hashavua Class</div> <div>5:30 pmKabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>6:00 pmKabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>6:30 pmShir Delight Happy Hour</div> <div>7:30 pmShir Delight Service;</div> <div>8 pm: D'var Torah by Rabbi Rosenbaum</div> <div>8:30 pmShir Delight Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>4:28 pm</div>	<div>5 PARSHAT VAYESHEV23 Kislev</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service;</div> <div>Bat Mitzvah: Miriam Loeb;</div> <div>D'var Torah: Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>with Rabbi Rosenbaum;</div> <div>Bat Mitzvah: Anya Herzberg</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amJunior Congregation</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pmSocial Action Book Discussion</div> <div>4:30 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>5:28 pmHavdalah</div>
<div>624 Kislev</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amJMCW Yoga Stretch</div> <div>10:30 amJMCW Class-Wise Aging</div> <div>10:30 amMakomDC</div> <div>11:00 amJMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>EREV HANUKKAH—LIGHT FIRST CANDLE</div>	<div>725 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>826 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>12:00 pmDowntown Study Group</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>7:30 pmMakomDC: Rabbi Brad Artson</div>	<div>927 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pmYP Hanukkah Wine &amp; Latke Event</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Mindful Yoga</div> <div>7:30 pmConversion Class—Open Session</div>	<div>1028 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>1129 Kislev</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParshat Hashavua Class</div> <div>5:30 pmKabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>7:00 pmLeifman Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>6:30 pmReturn Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>7:00 pmTraditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service</div> <div>7:30 pmReturn Again Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>4:28 pm</div>	<div>12 PARSHAT MIKETZ; ROSH CHODESH; SHABBAT HANUKKAH30 Kislev</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:15 amShabbat Morning Return Again Service</div> <div>with Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>9:15 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Steinlauf;</div> <div>Bar Mitzvah: Ethan Leifman</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>11:00 amGan Consecration with Rabbi Rosenbaum and Alexander in the Biran Beit Midrash</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>4:30 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>5:30 pm5778 B'nai Mitzvah Havdalah Program: Receiving the Torah</div> <div>5:28 pmHavdalah</div>
<div>131Tevet</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>Rosh Chodesh Tevet Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund</div> <div>10:00 amJMCW Yoga Stretch</div> <div>10:30 amAdas Book Chat</div> <div>10:30 amMakomDC</div> <div>11:00 amJMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div> <div>3:00 pmJewish Historical Society</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>142Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>153Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>10:00 amSisterhood Taste of Tanach</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>7:30 pmMakomDC: Paint Night!</div>	<div>164Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmConversion Class: God/Theology</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Mindful Yoga</div>	<div>175Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>186Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParshat Hashavua Class</div> <div>5:30 pmKabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>6:00 pmKabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Brown</div> <div>4:30 pm</div>	<div>19 PARSHAT VAYIGASH7Tevet</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service;</div> <div>Bat Mitzvah: Lucy Goldberg;</div> <div>D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service;</div> <div>D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amJunior Congregation</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>4:30 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>5:30 pmHavdalah</div> <div>5:30 pmYP Havdalah and Zoolights Event</div>
<div>208Tevet</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amJMCW Yoga Stretch</div> <div>10:30 amMakomDC: Rabbi Steinlauf's Seeing Class</div> <div>11:00 amJMCW Mindful Yoga Flow</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>219Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2210Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>2311Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2412Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2513Tevet</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>5:30 pmKabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>6:00 pmCombined Community Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Cantor Brown</div> <div>4:33 pm</div>	<div>26 PARSHAT VAYECHI14Tevet</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amCombined Smith/TEM Shabbat Morning Service;</div> <div>D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>4:30 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>5:33 pmHavdalah</div>
<div>2715Tevet</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2816Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>2917Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div>3018Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>3119Tevet</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div>	<div>120Tevet</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>5:30 pmKabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>6:00 pmKabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith</div> <div>4:38 pm</div>	<div>2 PARSHAT SHEMOT21Tevet</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service;</div> <div>D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>4:30 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>5:38 pmHavdalah</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

or Rabbi Ben Shalva. Netivot, for students in grades K–3, is led by Linda Yitzchak or Allison Redisch. Junior Congregation, for grades 4–6, is led by Yoni Buckman and teenage madrichim. '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).



# Office & School Closings

**Christmas Day**  
**Friday, December 25**  
Schools/Offices Closed

## December/Early January Religious School Calendar

**Dec. 6:** Dan Kaufman Memorial *Latke* Party

**Dec. 8:** Community Candle Lighting

**Dec. 9:** Community Candle Lighting

**Dec. 12:** Gan Consecration; 5778 B'nai Mitzvah Receiving the Torah/Havdalah Program; USY Event

**Dec. 13:** 6th-grade *Parsha* Project, The Soul and Text of Parenting; *Machar* Event

**Dec. 20:** Parent Sunday in the *Beit Midrash*; *Kadima* Event

**Dec. 22–Jan. 3:** No School (Winter Break)

**Jan. 5:** Classes Resume

## December Youth Services

**5:** Tot *Shabbat*, Junior Congregation, *Netivot*

**12:** Tot *Shabbat*, Junior Congregation, *Netivot*

**19:** Tot *Shabbat*, Junior Congregation, *Netivot*



## Flash Kahal!

Do you love to sing? Have great *ruach*? Enjoy learning new tunes? Then the Flash Kahal (Congregation) is for you . . . whether or not you can carry a tune!

Come to the Smith Sanctuary on *Shabbat* morning, December 19, at 9:00 am sharp. We'll learn two new melodies, and then you'll sing out from your seats during the service.

If you'd like to prepare in advance and receive a recording to listen to, e-mail Rae Grad, [rgrad@comcast.net](mailto:rgrad@comcast.net). We look forward to singing with you!

## educationupdate

# From the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum



As we approach *Hanukkah* and the holiday season, I feel as though I should be writing about light, warmth, miracles, and joy. But this is the time of year that I always feel obligated to write about darkness. Despite all the light and joy I am often able to celebrate in the world, I am profoundly aware of the darkness that also exists, sometimes lurking as shadows on the periphery and sometimes more centrally located, eclipsing pieces of the light.

One just has to turn on the news to feel the darkness start creeping in. Some of the news might feel a little closer to home and a little closer to the heart, but wherever your home and heart may lie, there are plenty of pools of darkness to fall into. Think about the challenges of people you know personally—people who are carrying pieces of darkness with them. As you think about the struggles you know about, take a moment to wonder what else people have not shared. Who else in our community is suffering? How do we make sure that we are sensitive and attuned to the emotional needs of the people who aren't telling us their stories? How do we teach ourselves to approach others without expectation, ready to receive whatever it is they need to put out in the world? How do we hold our pain and joy, happiness and assumptions as we encounter those around us?

The days are shorter; the sun sets before we are ready for the darkness to begin. We huddle against the chill and tuck in our chins, becoming less aware of our surroundings and the others we pass on the streets. In this time when it is so important to draw near to one another, it is actually so easy to drift farther apart.

But this is what it means to live in community. It is our responsibility to reach out; to acknowledge that sometimes, the darkness can feel too much, too early, too all-encompassing; and to help one another find solace in the warmth and light of being together. As we gather together to pray, to learn, and to light candles, it is my wish for us that the warmth and light spread a little farther and a little deeper this year, celebrating this incredible community that we are building together. ✨

## Gan HaYeled



### Gan Students Doing Tzedakah: A Glimpse into the Shoebox Project.

The Gan's *tzedakah* effort, "the Shoebox Project" is a cute name for some important work. The Gan community collects toiletries, hats, mittens, socks, and shoebox-size

toys. These items are placed in shoeboxes, which Gan children decorate and help to assemble, and are delivered to So Others May Eat (S.O.M.E.), for people living in a temporary housing situation. The parent co-chairs, Cory Levine and Deborah Srabstein, and volunteers collect items before the event and encourage people to donate. The chairs and other volunteers are there the day of the event to organize the classes and coordinate making the boxes. In all, Gan children donate close to 150 shoeboxes for people in need.

Education Update continued on page 15

## Gan Open Houses

The Gan is hosting a series of open houses for prospective students on December 2 at 9:30 am, December 16 at 7:30 pm, and January 13 at 9:30 am. If you know of someone looking for an NAEYC-accredited, exceptional preschool, please invite him or her to one of these events.



More information about the school is available on our website, <http://ganhayeledpreschool.org>.

## Concert for Families with Young Children

Join us on January 10 at 10:00 am for a concert aimed at preschool-aged children. Visit <http://ganhayeledpreschool.org/calendar> for more information about the concert and tickets.

## Kangaroo Class: Adult/Toddler Class

(for children 18–24 months old)

Children in this program have the opportunity to get to know Gan HaYeled as a warm and secure place, while exploring the preschool's facilities and materials. Flexibility of the program and space allows them freedom to interact with their caregivers and then experience some independence as their confidence increases.

Caregivers participate in discussions on issues such as discipline, fathering, toilet training, language development, etc. Father participation is encouraged and appreciated! Visit <http://ganhayeledpreschool.org/under-2s> for registration information.

## January Twos

Children who turn two years old between September 30 and January 1 are eligible to sign up for the January Twos class. This class runs two mornings a week (Tuesday and Thursday), for three hours. Children ease into preschool with this abbreviated schedule, and thrive in our developmentally appropriate, play-based program, which continues through early June.

For registration information, please visit <http://ganhayeledpreschool.org/admissions>. ❄



## Youth Update

By Rich Dinetz, Youth Director  
Shalom, Chevre!

Youth@Adas welcomes in the winter with an exciting lineup of programming, including welcoming the Tzafon region from Upstate NY for the 2015–2016 USY International Convention in Baltimore.

In October, *Machar* (grades K–5) enjoyed its first event, *Machar Macabiah*, where we enjoyed a friendly

competition, color war-style, with the emphasis on *ruach* and building a *kehillah kedosha*. This month, we are looking forward to our second *Machar* event, *All Fired Up*. Our neighborhood stalwart members will bring their gear to Adas for an afternoon filled with creativity and fun. To register, please visit [adasisrael.org/youth](http://adasisrael.org/youth).

This month, *Kadima* will embark on a new journey in *Project SA/TO, Part I*. This event will build a foundation for what it means to be a *mensch* by

Youth Update continued in right column

## December Youth Calendar

6: Washington Wizards Game

13: *Machar* All Fired Up

20: Project SA/TO, Part I

23–27: USY IC Pre-Convention

26: USY IC Pre-Convention Dance (Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore)

27: Regional *Kadima* Day (Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore)

27–31: USY International Convention (Baltimore)

## Youth Update continued from left column



emphasizing *tzedekah* and *tikkun olam*. We hope you will join us on this new venture. To register, please visit [adasisrael.org/youth](http://adasisrael.org/youth).

USY continues its hot streak this month with a trip to a Wizards game on Sunday, December 6! We'll meet at Adas in the Quebec Street Lobby at 5:00 pm before hopping on the Metro to the game. Bring your Metro card and some cash for dinner/snacks during the game. As an added bonus, each participant will receive a free Washington Wizards T-shirt! This trip would make for a great first night of *Hanukkah* gift. Just saying . . .

From December 27 to 31, over 1,000 teens from around the world will gather in Baltimore for USY's annual International Convention (IC). Please read my letter below to the congregation to learn more. Adas Israel has the privilege of hosting more than 20 teens from the Tzafon region in this year's pre-convention from December 23 to 27. I know you will join me in welcoming these guests to our community and showing them what Adas Israel is all about. In the four days they will be here, we have put together an exciting itinerary, which includes spending *Shabbat* at Adas. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Rich in the Youth Department at [Rich.Dinetz@adasisrael.org](mailto:Rich.Dinetz@adasisrael.org) or 202-362-6295.

I hope everyone has a warm and safe winter. Happy *Hanukkah*! ❄

Education Update continued on page 17



## From the President

continued from page 2

and to activities in which there might be shared interest. I would venture to guess that he did what came naturally to him, and, in so doing, he opened up a world of possibilities for others, which, in my case, led to a significant change in my life.

Reaching out to others, greeting guests and newcomers in our midst is a *mitzvah*, certainly. At Adas Israel, we have the opportunity to do this on a regular basis. It is our goal to increase our members' involvement with the work of the synagogue so we can develop a pipeline of leaders, even as we are providing a community for one another. We are all ambassadors to our members, offering welcome to our visitors; intellectual and spiritual engagement through our myriad services, programs, and Torah study; and comfort and support to those who are convalescing at home or have lost a loved one. We are also taking care of our community through a number of social action activities. We are always learning about challenges facing others, which our members address by performing important tasks as well as through financial contributions. These activities take leadership, planning, and coordinating. Your involvement in these endeavors is appreciated and enhances our *kehillah*.

As you continue to explore and participate in the Adas Israel offerings, please remember that even if you have very limited time or resources, participating in a way that is meaningful and comes naturally to you may be the very action that will change the life of someone else, not to mention your own. Billy is such a role model. His memory is most certainly a blessing to his wife, children, mother, extended family, and friends. During this *Hanukkah* season in which we celebrate the Festival of Lights, I think of Billy as the *shamash* of the *menorah*, who brought light to all of us who were lucky to have been touched by him. ✨

## Adas Israel *Hanukkah* Wish List

From time to time, members and friends of the congregation call to make a contribution and ask what we might need. Below is a wish list of small items developed from requests by members and staff. If you would like additional information, please contact David Polonsky at the synagogue office (202-362-4433).

**Co-sponsor a *Shabbat kiddush* in Honor or Memory of a Loved One (\$250–\$800)**

**Co-sponsor Martin Luther King Jr. *Oneg Shabbat* Reception (\$500)**

**Underwrite *Shabbat* Babysitting (\$3,000/YEAR)**

**Underwrite Tot *Shabbat* (\$3,500/YEAR)**

**Underwrite Purim *groggers* and *hamentashen* (\$750)**

**Underwrite the 2016 *Yom Kippur Yizkor* Memorial Book (\$5,000)**

**Underwrite and upgrade our synagogue membership technology (\$3,000/YEAR)**

**Help underwrite weekly Confirmation Dinner (\$750/WEEK)**

**Underwrite synagogue's contribution to the Jewish Historical Society/Jewish Museum (\$1,000)**

**New computer technology for the Library and Gan Staff Lounge (\$2,500)**

**Five new *tefillin* for the daily *minyan* and Religious School (\$500)**

**New digital camera for schools (\$1,000)**

**Expanded High Holy Day "dial-in" lines (\$2,000)**

**Underwrite Adas security efforts (\$5,000)**

In addition, as many of you know, the Adas Israel **Fund for the Future Endowment Campaign** began in 1994 to ensure our future as a synagogue by endowing our major synagogue programs and departments. Today, the Endowment is a critical mechanism for funding yearly operations and for safeguarding the synagogue's future.

Named endowment funds begin at \$18,000. Please contact Executive Director David Polonsky or Board VP for Development, Laurie Aladjem, for a sampling of Fund for the Future naming opportunities or to discuss participation in growing and strengthening the synagogue's endowment. ✨

## *Shabbat* Awakening (9:30–10:30 am) Led by Rabbis Holtzblatt and Alexander



Join us in the Biran *Beit Midrash* to sing, learn, and deepen your experience with prayer. *Shabbat* Awakening is open to everyone, regardless of skill level, from new folks to people who have come for years. Join us as we explore the meaning of the liturgy, find a way in to *kavanah* (intention), and use music to open ourselves to prayer. No previous background in Hebrew or Jewish education is necessary, just the desire to learn and pray.

*Shabbat* Awakening takes place on the following dates: Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 27, March 5 (with Rabbi James Jacobson Maisels), April 2, and May 7. ✨

## Dear Adas Israel Congregation,



Adas Israel are so excited that the International Convention is coming to our area. For our teens, this is a great opportunity to attend the convention without having to worry about airfare. We hope to send a significant delegation to Baltimore, bringing the spirit of Adas Israel to USY.

International Convention coming to Baltimore means that our region—Seaboard Region, which consists of USCJ-affiliated synagogues from MD, DC, VA, and NC—is hosting “Pre-Convention.” Pre-Convention, a tradition of USY, allows convention delegates to tour the area and experience *Shabbat* on a smaller, more personal scale. We are delighted to be hosting the Tzafon Region (upstate New York, western Massachusetts, and southern Vermont), which is bringing a delegation of 20+ teens. They will be visiting Adas Israel from December 23 to 27.

While they are here, they will be sightseeing, celebrating *Shabbat*, and experiencing everything our community has to offer. The infusion of their spirit and love of Judaism and USY into our community will undoubtedly be a boon to our congregation. It will also be a lot of work. In the coming weeks, we will be looking for families to house teens, and for adults to serve on different committees before and during Pre-Convention.

As you begin to make plans for winter break, I hope you will consider saving space for the *mitzvah* of *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming guests). The opportunities are not limited to parents of teens; we would love to have support from the entire congregation. Please contact Rich Dinetz (202-362-4433, ext. 137 or [Rich.Dinetz@adasisrael.org](mailto:Rich.Dinetz@adasisrael.org)) if you're interested in housing teens or chairing or serving on one of the committees.

More information will follow about his special event, but for now, please save the date: December 23–27, USY Pre-Convention!

Sincerely, **Rich Dinetz**, Youth Director ❀

## Youth & Family Education

*Yoni Buckman, Youth & Family Educator*

The year is winding down, and while it isn't the end of the school year, or the end of the Jewish year, December presents us with an opportunity to reflect on our work in the religious school. Our classes and programs are in full swing, and the commitment of our students, teachers, faculty, and parents remains the invaluable foundation on which we raise a community of exceptional learning. From implementing our new Hebrew and *tefilah* curriculum, to expanding our *Madrichim* program, to partnering with MakomDC, our religious school ambitiously strives for excellence. Looking ahead, this month serendipitously holds two Jewish occurrences that put our experience into perspective: lighting *Hanukkah* candles and concluding our reading of *Genesis*.

The Talmud makes note of a dispute between the House of Shammai and the House of Hillel regarding the issue of how one should enhance the *mitzvah* of lighting *Hanukkah* candles. The House of Shammai asserts that one should light eight candles on the first night and progress down to one, and the House of Hillel asserts that one should light one candle on the first night and progress up to eight.

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## Youth & Family Education

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While neither house's explanation is recorded, later rabbis suggest possible reasoning for each argument. One rabbi of the Talmudic era famously postulated that the House of Hillel argued to increase the number of candles lit per day because *ma'alin b'kodesh v'ain moridin*—we increase in holiness and do not decrease. Today, we follow the practice of the House of Hillel and generally accept this principle of increasing in holiness as its reasoning.

Later this month, we will read *Parshat Vaye-chi*, the last portion of *Genesis*. At the end of the reading, as we do when concluding the reading of any book of Torah, it is customary to recite the phrase, “*Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek*”—Be strong, be strong, and we will be strengthened.

So what do these two phrases, “*Ma'alin b'kodesh v'ain moridin*” and “*Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek*,” have to do with each other and with the Estelle & Melvin Religious School? Our community has accomplished so much and continues to grow in support, strength, and sanctity. Our success ignites our passion and fuels us to innovate further. Like the custom of the House of Hillel, our *kehillah kedosha*—our holy community—at Adas moves forward toward a bright future. Like an everlasting light, our passion for Torah has been strong, remains strong, and will continue to be strengthened. ❀



## Treat yourself with the gift of theater this Hanukkah!

**Join us for *Oliver!* at Arena Stage with Adas Israel Members, Sunday, December 13**

You can purchase tickets online or by calling Carol Ansell, 202-362-4433.

Join Adas families, clergy, and staff for this wonderful performance in Arena's theater! Charles Dickens's unforgettable characters come to life in this classic Tony Award-winning musical about an innocent orphan thrown into the dark world of double-dealing thieves and conmen of 19th-century London. Bursting with jubilant songs, including “You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two,” “Consider Yourself,” “Where Is Love?” and the scrumptious “Food, Glorious Food,” director Molly Smith (*Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oklahoma!*) will serve up a musical feast for the eyes and ears that will have every theater-lover calling out for more!



# Ma Tovv: Judith Kroner and David Schorr

## HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

**You've been members of Adas for 20 years this year. What brought you to Adas initially and what keeps you here?**

In 1994, we bought a house in Mt Pleasant. We knew we were going to join a *shul*, and we had already come to the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan* with friends. That was when it was still small enough to fit into the old Miller Chapel. Soon after we signed the contract on the house, with my mother's voice in my head saying, "Join a *shul*!" we signed on as members.

Adas became the center of our social life before we had kids and then in their early years. It was also a time when we wanted to get more involved in continuing Jewish education, and we were regulars at Jewish Study Center classes. We had dreams of establishing a *shetl* in Mt. Pleasant, but unfortunately over the years, many of our friends moved away from Adas and from the 'hood. The neighborhood became too expensive and some had other needs for their *shul* community. We stayed, although we continued to *shul* hop over the years to be with our old *chevre*.

Our kids went to the Religious School and participated in the youth group activities, which also kept us connected. Our connection to the *shul* really deepened with the process of hiring Rabbi Steinlauf. The facilitated process opened our eyes to the many people in the *shul* whom we had never met, and we found a trove of new connections. We have continued to *daven* with the TEM, we have served on various ad hoc and regular committees, and we have developed friendships with staff, clergy, and members. The *shul* continues to grow in ways that have made it increasingly interesting and rewarding for us.

**In a city full of politicians, lobbyists, etc., you two have very different careers. Can you tell us about your work and what inspired you to follow these paths?**

I am a Certified Nurse Midwife. After having worked in NYC promoting local agriculture (through the State Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Markets), I needed to find a career that met my interest in political and social action as well as my need to develop a marketable job skill. Assisting a friend with her pregnancy and birth opened my eyes to a perfect profession. I've since worked in many settings both in and out of hospital, with large institutions and small free clinics. I've provided direct patient care; done administrative work; and educated nursing, midwifery, and medical students. My focus has always been on the improvement of health care and empowerment of, primarily, inner-city, undereducated, and underserved women.

David is trained as a lawyer, but for 20 years has worked as an international environmental policy advocate, primar-

ily focused on ocean sustainability and fisheries conservation. He works for the World Wildlife Fund.

David has been drawn to international issues and international living since his boyhood. Maybe two things that most influenced him were the first time, as a young boy, he spent an afternoon playing happily and interactively with an older boy who spoke no English, and (around the same pre-adolescent period) watching every episode of *Flipper* and *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*. He chose environmental work because it is a kind of peace-making and *tikkun olam*. He loves working with global connectivity, but we are both looking forward to a time when he can reduce his heavy travel schedule.

**Both of your daughters have been very active at Adas throughout high school. Why is it important for you to have your children involved?**

We felt that it was important for our children to gain a Jewish education along with expanding the Jewish identity they were developing at home. We also had other goals for them that included a bilingual (Spanish/English) public education and involvement in the broader community.

The Religious School and youth group allowed them to learn and to develop friendships in the *shul* community and offered them opportunities for social activity, service projects, and *shul* engagement. Hebrew high school and USY have continued to be an asset, at least for Natanya, who is now USY president. They have found it to be a comfortable place where they are known and valued. Also, working toward their *b'not mitzvah* was an important focus. David spent many hours with each of them, many evenings over many months, teaching both of them trope and helping them prepare their *leyning* and *davening*. We also attended (and helped organize) the retreats for our *bar/bat mitzvah* cohort families. In their very different ways, both Ronit and Natanya found the multi-year process very rewarding, and both felt very at home in the *shul*.

**Judith, you serve on the Social Action Committee. What are some of the projects you are most proud of, and how do you connect to the value of *tikkun olam*?**

I came on to the Social Action Council to serve as the project manager of Ezra Pantry. This was a natural fit for me as professionally; I was generally working with the population that

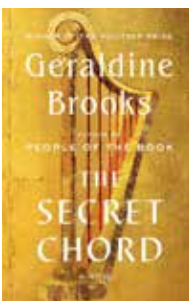


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## In Search of King David

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director

Shepherd boy, musician, giant-slayer, king, lover, grieving father, and old man—the richness and vitality of the biblical portrait of King David have inspired manifold works of art, literature, and scholarship. Our library abounds with books devoted to King David (see the catalog on the Adas website), including two recent stand-out additions: *The Secret Chord*, a historical novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks, and *David: The Divided Heart*, an extended reflection on the biblical text by Rabbi David Wolpe. Don't miss either one.

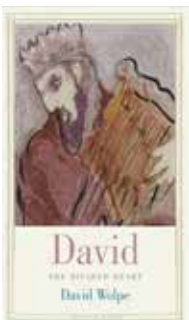


### *The Secret Chord*

It was a *bar mitzvah* boy who inspired Geraldine Brooks to fashion a novel around the life of King David. (Brooks's previous novels—irresistible to fans of historical fiction—have dealt with a 17th-century plague [*Year of Wonders*]; native Americans in Colonial America [*Caleb's Crossing*]; the Civil War [*March*]; and the Sarajevo Haggadah [*People of the Book*]). Like the biblical king, Brooks's son, Nathaniel, took up the harp. At his *bar mitzvah*, Nathaniel performed Leonard Co-

hen's *Hallelujah*, a contemporary song about the "secret chord" that David played which "pleased the Lord."

Intrigued, Brooks began researching biblical texts and biblical times (including stints herding sheep and riding mules). The narrator of *Secret Chord* is Natan, the prophet with the courage to confront David over his sins. Natan also unflinchingly chronicles the brutality of warfare and the precarious lives of women in a patriarchal society (Brooks's past career as a war correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal* and author of the nonfiction work, *Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women*, serves her well here). Through Natan, we learn of the travails of David's wives and the tragedy of his daughter, Tamar, who is raped by one brother and avenged by another. Above all, the novel immerses readers in the sensory experiences—the sights, sounds, tastes, textures, and smells—of biblical Israel. When you close the book, you will want to dust the sand from your shoes.



### *David: The Divided Heart*

David Wolpe, the prominent rabbi-author of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, is captivated by the question of why King David, despite his grievous failings, is so beloved—both in the biblical narrative and by posterity. But unlike Brooks, Wolpe seeks to understand David not through literary imagination (although he references many interesting literary treatments of King David), but through a more homiletic, rabbinic analysis of the biblical text.

To Wolpe, the secret of David's appeal lies in the complexities and contradictions in David's character; he represents the best and worst of humanity—the fullness of human experience, expression, and emotion. David's sins are heinous (murder, adultery, betrayal), but his gifts are extraordinary. Wolpe writes eloquently of David's remarkable ability to envision possibilities that others cannot begin to imagine:

*When it is clear that Goliath cannot be felled with armor and sword, he envisions another possibility. Later, when Saul's pursuit makes his continued existence in Israel impossible, he flees to the enemy. When Jerusalem is a backwater, he will see it as a capital; when worship in Israel is nomadic, he will envision a Temple.*

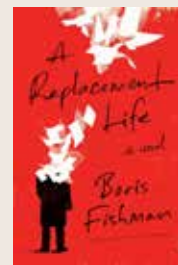
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## Book Chat

Sunday, Dec. 13, 10:00 am

Book Chat on A

***Replacement Life* by Boris Fishman**, a humorous and poignant novel about Soviet Jewish émigrés. For more info, contact Robin Jacobson ([librarian@adasisrael.org](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org)). ❁



## Books & More continued from left column

David lives larger than we do, but nonetheless, says Wolpe, David is the quintessential human, an amalgam of good and evil. Although David's deeds are both more sublime and more sinful than ours, we recognize ourselves in David, and David in ourselves. That is why we love him, Wolpe proposes. Maybe. Or maybe we just love a good story. ❁

## Sisterhood continued from page 10

ginia Avenue, NW, Apt. 803, Washington, DC 20037.

New Adas members receive a complimentary membership for one year, but we need your contact information to make this happen. For membership questions, call June Kress, 202-316-3439.

## Sisterhood Co-Sponsoring Book Chat, Sunday, December 13, at 10:00 am

We will discuss Boris Fishman's *A Replacement Life*, a humorous and poignant novel about tensions within a Soviet Jewish émigré family.

## Taste of Tanach

We meet once a month for Taste of *Tanach* with Rabbi Steinlauf, who leads the group in a lively Torah-based discussion. The next Taste of *Tanach* is Tuesday, December 15. For more information about the Taste of *Tanach*, contact coordinator Roselle Abramson at [rosellelabramson@yahoo.com](mailto:rosellelabramson@yahoo.com).

## Help ensure that our Torah Fund campaign reaches 60% of our goal by Hanukkah!



New Torah Fund pin for 5776

A reminder to supporters who want donations to be applied for the 2015 taxable year: please send checks no later than December 10 using the pre-printed envelope from the membership mailing, or you can send your donations to Torah

Fund, c/o Adas Israel Sisterhood, 2850 Quebec St., NW, Washington, DC 20008. ❁



## Anne Frank House Update



Anne Frank House (AFH) is grateful to the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School and the Adas Israel community for its fabulous support of the November 1 miniwalk. We send a special shout-out to Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, Lacy LeBlanc, David Polonsky, and other members of the Adas Israel leadership and staff for making the day a big success.

As 2015 draws to a close, AFH wants to thank the entire Adas Israel community for its support and generosity this year. **As all of you plan your year-end contributions, please consider a contribution to Anne Frank House.**

On a budget of about \$11,000 per resident per year, AFH:

- Houses 12 formerly homeless people in attractive apartments
- Furnishes the apartments
- Pays for medical, psychiatric, and social services
- Supports the residents with phone calls, visits, holiday meals, and other assistance

In these still uncertain financial times, your support is especially important. Contributions by check may be sent to Anne Frank House, c/o Adas Israel, or they can be made online at <http://www.theannefrankhouse.org/donate.html>. **Please give generously.**

### Yasher Koach to

our own Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt & Elie Greenberg – leading the beautiful Shabbat experiences at this year's USCJ Convention of Conservative Synagogues in Chicago! Together, they demonstrated to the world how music can be used to serve the liturgy with nuance, drama and joy – to help lead the davening community through an experience of the joy and bounty that is Shabbat. [www.shapeth-center.org](http://www.shapeth-center.org)



## tikkunolam

### Ezra Pantry Winter Coat Drive Continues



Keep those winter coats and jackets coming! SOME (So Others Might Eat) will distribute them, free of charge, to homeless and poor men, women, and children enrolled in its programs. SOME asks that coats be laundered and free of tears or stains. Adas Israel has been partnering with SOME for a number of years, collecting food all year

round and helping with other needs, such as our winter coat drive.

SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization that meets the immediate daily needs of the people it serves with food, clothing, and health care. SOME is committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness by offering services, such as affordable housing, job training, addiction treatment, and counseling, to the poor, the elderly, and individuals with mental illness.

There are 7,298 homeless men, women, and children in our nation's capital. Nearly one in five DC residents lives at or below the poverty line. SOME, along with community partners, advocates for affordable housing, more effective mental health and drug abuse services, and other needed supports and services. You can join SOME's Advocacy Network by visiting its webpage, [www.some.org/advocacy/homelessness/](http://www.some.org/advocacy/homelessness/). For more information or to help, contact Judith Krones, [judith.krones@gmail.com](mailto:judith.krones@gmail.com).

### Luther Place Night Shelter Monthly Meals 4th Thursday of the Month



Like to cook or grocery shop? Then join with other Adas members to provide a monthly meal to the women of Luther Place, a transition shelter that is part of N Street Village, one of our community partners. This month, the fourth Tuesday happens to fall on Christmas Eve. N Street Village offers five shelter and housing

programs for homeless and low-income women that incorporate intensive case management focused on helping women to achieve personal stability and make gains in their income, employment, mental health, physical health, and addiction recovery.

Check out volunteer activities at [www.nstreetvillage.org/get-involved/](http://www.nstreetvillage.org/get-involved/).

### Christmas Day at N Street Village

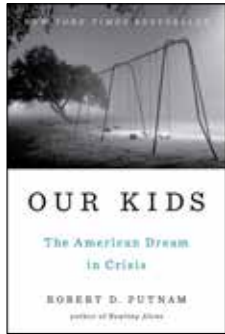


Adas volunteers return again to N Street Village to visit with and serve a festive meal to women in our nation's capital who are homeless and poor. N Street's Laurie Williams, food services manager, has been preparing this special and bountiful meal for many years, and she looks forward to her Adas volunteers

continued on page 21

partnering with her to create a welcoming and fun atmosphere. Volunteers help Laurie prepare, serve, and clean up. With our own Cantor Brown at the keyboard, volunteers also sing holiday songs. Volunteers are needed from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to set up, serve, and clean up; from 11:45 am to 2:00 pm to serve and clean up; and from 11:45 am to 2:00 pm to join the chorus.

For more information, contact Ruth Kleinrock, [ruthkleinrock@gmail.com](mailto:ruthkleinrock@gmail.com). Please put "Christmas Day Adas Israel" in the subject line.



## Our Kids Book Discussion, Dec. 5, 1:00 pm

The Social Action Council and Rabbi Alexander invite you to a book discussion that will give all of us a chance to reflect on where we are and begin to chart a path forward together. The book is *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis* by Robert Putnam. We're focusing on chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5, and we're counting on a lively, meaningful discussion. Child care is available from 12:45 to 2:30 pm

## Adas Gives the Gift of Life: Bone Marrow Registry Drive, Dec. 9



[www.giftoflife.org](http://www.giftoflife.org) | 800-9MARROW

As we approach the *Hanukkah* season, we think of gifts for loved ones. Though beautifully wrapped presents are fun to give and receive, nothing can be more important than giving

the Gift of Life through registering with the National Bone Marrow Registry. Plan to join us Wednesday, December 9, 6:00–9:00 pm, in the Adas Foyer to register.

Longtime Adas members Ilene and Barry Heller have a four-year-old relative diagnosed with Fanconi's anemia, a genetic disorder that strikes Ashkenazi Jews. Every year families are stricken with possibly fatal blood-related diseases. In the past, such diagnoses were often lethal. Chemotherapy and radiation treatments could sometimes induce a remission, but rarely offer a cure. Today, transplantation of healthy stem cells donated by related and unrelated volunteers offers hope to many patients suffering from these deadly diseases. Advances in transplantation have made this procedure a reality for thousands who are alive today because a stranger gave them the gift of life.

With a simple and quick swab of your cheek, you can be registered in the National Bone Marrow Registry. Maybe you'll get a call, maybe not. But you will know you have done a huge *mitzvah* for patients all over the country if you are a match. It is indeed a tragedy that so many patients who could benefit from this life-saving procedure cannot be treated. To have a transplant, there must be a donor—a volunteer who shares a tissue type similar to the patient's. For many, finding a match is no easy task.

Adas members and their friends between the ages of 18 and 45 are eligible to register. This age cohort gives the best transplant outcomes. If you want to learn more about the Gift of Life program, its website is <http://www.giftoflife.org/>.

Please join us on December 9 to give the gift of life. ❀

## Ma Tovv continued from page 18

the Pantry was trying to serve. We shifted our focus to S.O.M.E. from the Capital Area Food Bank so that the *shul's* donations could go more directly to those in need. In addition to the traditional holiday food drives on *Yom Kippur* and Passover, we added a number of new annual projects that increase visibility and provide more resources to the S.O.M.E. community: edible *groggers* on *Purim*, Winter Coat Drive for Thanksgiving, occasional toiletry drives, and now partnering with the Religious School to engage the children more directly with the Pantry.

Our goals for the future include our desire to increase the Pantry's visibility and function in the future with a more attractive and permanent presence in the *shul*.

**Members will receive this Chronicle right before Hanukkah, our Festival of Lights, a time to light up the darkness. What do you hope our community can shine a light on for the next year?**

*Hanukkah* is one of our family's favorite holidays. It represents for us so much more than the historical miracle, candles, and gifts. It is the embodiment of so many important values: political and religious freedom and self-determination. Spiritually, *Hanukkah* provides opportunities for great joy, community, and for literally bringing darkness to light.

There are so many ways in which the Adas Israel community can bring light to the world, but since I serve on the SAC, I would like to advocate for more and more service to the communities around us whose members are not as comfortable as we are. I think a congregation of this size could provide much more *tzedakah* than we currently do, and providing it as a group from Adas can have a greater effect than the sum of our parts.

**For your latkes, are you an applesauce or sour cream family? And do you have any secret recipes for your latkes or special toppings that you are willing to share?**

Hah! I would say we are emblematic of the Conservative Jewish community and Adas in particular. We like diversity! We make *latkes* with white and sweet potatoes mixed. We serve them with homemade cranberry applesauce AND sour cream. And, boy, do we make a mess. ❀



# synagoguecontributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

## Anne & Ned Bord Endowment Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Bernard Sanker & Martin Norwitz** by Joanie Miller Levine.

## Anne Frank House Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Rebecca Kopf** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

## Beit Midrash/Makom DC

*By:* Andrea Kalin, Blanche Cotlear, Edith Couturier, Jennifer Kagan, Morris Chalick, Sheldon Kimmel, Stephen Horblitt, Vicki Perper. *For The Speedy Recovery Of:* **Ruth Kleinrock** by Ricki Gerger.

*In Memory Of:* **Rebecca Kopf** by Ricki Gerger.

## Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Francesca Cloonan** by Joe Cecil & Judith Friedman.

## Bereavement Fund

*In Memory Of:* **David Schwartz** by Fradel Kramer.

## Board Sunshine Fund

*By:* Mark & Debby Joseph.

## Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

*In Honor Of:* Rae Grad's grandson, **Milo Sebastian Droller's**, birth by Bruce Ray & April Rubin, Jonah Richmond & David Olson. **Gabriel Kanter-Goodell** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by Jeff Goodell & Beth Kanter. Birth of **Michelle & Ian Cohen's** baby by Manuel Schiffres & Rae Grad.

*With Thanks For:* Helping **Matthew** with his *bat mitzvah* training by Scott Siff & Kinney Zalesne.

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

## Capital Fund Contributions

*In Recognition Of:* **Susan Kay's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Daniel & Nancy Weiss.

## Charles Pilzer Computer Center

*In Memory Of:* **Yetta B. Pilzer** by Geraldine Pilzer.

## Congregational Kiddush Fund

*By:* MB Lewis Foundation.

*In Honor Of:* Naming of **Elizabeth Brooke "Ellie" Rosenthal** by Daniel & Jennifer Rosenthal. Marriage of **Mitchell Malasky & Adrienne Berman** by Gary & Ellen Malasky.

**Miriam Shron** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by Greg & Samantha Shron.

*In Appreciation Of:* **Herb's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Herb & Sharon Schwartz.

## Daily Minyan Fund

*In Honor Of:* **Rabbi Schwartz** by Marvene Horwitz, Rafaelle Nyrop Brooks. **Brian Weinstein's** birthday by Richard & Susan Ugelow.

*In Recognition Of:* **Rabbi Schwartz's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Daniel & Nancy Weiss.

*In Memory Of:* **Sylvia Horwitz** by Marvene Horwitz. **Lillian Cardash** by Richard & Susan Ugelow.

## Esther Saks Abelman Yiddish Cultural Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Anne Silverman** by Joseph Silverman.

## Executive Director Discretionary Fund

*In Honor Of:* Wedding of **Heather McWilliams & David Polonsky** by David & Toni Bickart, Don & Gail Roache, Ian Gershengorn & Gail Levine, John, Lesley & Liam Brinton, Michael Leifman & Sharon Samber, Ricki Gerger, Ron Owens & Rita Nicholls.

## Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment

*In Memory Of:* **Leonard W. Burka** by Frances Burka, Sharon Burka, Michael & Barbara Burka, John & Renata Kossow.

## Fund for the Future

*In Honor Of:* Marriage of **Erin Cohen & Eric August** by Shirley Cohen.

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

**Betty Kossow Sachs** by Susan Goldman,

## Garden of the Righteous

*In Honor Of:* **Irv & Estelle Jacobs's** 70th anniversary by Judy Strauch.

*In Memory Of:* **Gilda Snyder** by Judy Strauch.

## Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Frances Coler, David F. Linowes & Harry Bierman**, all by Harry & Judie Linowes.

## Havurah Kiddush Fund

*By:* Barry & Carmel Chiswick, Donald & Susan Lubick, Grayce Warren-Boulton Kenneth Heitner & Rhoda Ritzenberg, Morris & Susan Klein, Sheara & Silvio Krvaric. *In Memory Of:* **Becca Kopf** by Jane Fidler & Ben Rosenblum

## Adas Fund

*In Honor Of:* Birth of **Christie Larsen & Arnie Podgorsky's** grandson, **Sydney Schwalb** becoming a *bat mitzvah*, **Gabe Kanter-Goodell** becoming a *bat mitzvah*, Birth of **Maya Nagler**, Birth of Rae Grad's grandson **Milo Sebastian Droller**, all by David & Toni Bickart. *For The Speedy Recovery Of:* **Arnie Podgorsky & Joel Ganz** by David & Toni Bickart.

*In Gratitude For:* A wonderful High Holy Day Service by Murray & Doreen Fromson.

*In Recognition Of:* *Simchat Torah* honors for **Elinor Tattar, Rabbi Herb Schwartz & Susan Kay**, all by David & Toni Bickart.

*In Memory Of:* **Babette Blumenthal Kaplan, Madeleine Blumenthal & Bessie Kaplan**, all by Marsha Kaplan.

## Hymen & Sadie Goldman Prayer Book Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Bernard Bobb** by Stanley & Sandy Bobb.

## Ida Mendelson Memorial Prayer Book Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Rubin I. Sanders** by William Sanders.

## Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington

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

## Kullen Family Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Joseph Robinowitz** by Dr. Shirley Kullen.

## Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects

*In Memory Of:* **Lillian Ezrin** by Joel & Rhoda Ganz.

## Marilyn & Stefan Tucker Program Endowment Fund

*In Honor Of:* **Marilyn Tucker** by Steve & Toby Kahn.

## Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund

*In Honor Of:* **Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum's** dedication to the education of our religious school children by Andrew & Amy Herman. *In Memory Of:* **Betsy Kay** by Samuel Frumkin & Susan Kay.

## Men's Club Amuday Torah Fund

*In Honor Of:* **Irv & Estelle Jacobs's** 70th anniversary by Allan & Bobbie Fried.

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

## Mikvah Fund

*In Honor Of:* **Janet Scribner** by Ricki Gerger.

## Mikvah Captial Campaign

*By:* Amy Nevel, Lital Shair & Garrett Nada, Rachel Grinberg & Melissa Schraibman.

*In Honor Of:* **Ari Rubenstein, Gabriel Kanter-Goodell, & Sydney Schwalb** becoming *b'nai mitzvah*, Herlene Nagler. Birth of **Milo Sebastian Droller** by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler. *Mazel Tov To:* **Susan Kay** on her *Simchat Torah* honor & for all she does for Adas Israel by Herlene Nagler. **Elinor Tattar** on her *Simchat Torah* honor & all of her service & love of Adas Israel by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

*In Memory Of:* **Becca Kopf & Morris Tabachnik** by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

## Mildred & Jess Fisher Nursery School Fund

*In Honor Of:* **Gabe Kanter-Goodell** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by Marsha Pinson.

*In Memory Of:* **Harris Rosenthal** by Marsha Pinson.

## Minnie & Abraham S. Kay Israel Scholarship Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Minnie B. Kay** by Sylvia Greenberg.

## Morris Hariton Senior Programming Fund

*In Memory Of:* **Lillian Cardash** by Daniel & Nancy Weiss, and David Polonsky.

## Offerings Fund

*By:* Dr. Penn Lupovich, William Cohen.

*In Honor Of:* **Paul & Bunny Weinstein** by Adele Lehrman. **Gabriel Kanter Goodell** becoming a *bat mitzvah* by David Waskow & Ketura Persellin. Life & in memory of **Sharon Youcha** by Jacqueline M. Myers Edlow.

*With Great Appreciation For:* *Shabbat* services conducted by **Stanley Cohen, Robert Peck,**

**Michael Goldman & Ira Berkower** at Five Star Premium Residences by Regina Schatz.

*In Memory Of:* **Howard M. Bender** by Andrea Lenkin. **Lillian Cardash** by Anna Tien. **Rebecca Kopf** by Bruce Ray & April Rubin. **Marvin Sugar** by James Hamerski, Morton J. Zetlin. **Morris & Pearl Tabachnik** by Katy Denman, Peter & Lynn Alberding. **Sylvia Friedman, Ruth Lombard** by Robert & Sherry Gratz.

### **Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund**

*By:* Betsy Strauss, Cynthia & Fredric Kleinbart. *In Honor Of:* **Rabbi Alexander** coming to Adas Israel by Ricki Gerger.

### **Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz History Fund**

*In Memory Of:* **Charles Lerner** by Carole Lerner.

### **Rabbi Steinlauf Discretionary Fund**

*By:* Kirk & Gabi Wilbur.

*In Honor Of:* **Gabriel Kanter-Goodell** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Jeff Goodell & Beth Kanter.

*With Thanks For:* Helping with **Matthew's** *bar mitzvah* training by Scott Siff & Kinney Zalesne.

### **Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund**

*In Honor Of:* **Elinor Tattar** by Perry & Laura Apfelbaum, Steve & Toby Kahn. **Elinor Tattar's** retirement & her years of service by Sonya Gichner.

*In Recognition Of:* **Elinor Tattar's** *Simchat Torah* honor by Larry & Myra Promisel, Nancy, Daniel & Jory Weiss, Roger & Renée Fendrich, Sherry Kaiman.

*Refuah Shlema To:* **Myra Promisel** by Miriam Rosenthal

*In Memory Of:* **Lillian Cardash** by Irv & Grace Lebow. **Jerome A. Gross** by Joe & Alma Gildenhorn. **Pauline Jacobs** by Mildred Jacobs. **Harry Paikin** by Susan Abravanel.

### **Rothstein Family Israel College Scholarship Fund**

*In Honor Of:* **Bud Rothstein** being part of the Court of Honor on *Kol Nidre* by Dr. Irving M. Rothstein.

*In Gratitude For:* **Robin Berman & Benjamin Berman** being included in the *Kol Nidre* Court of Honor by Bob & Robin Berman.

### **Ryna & Melvin Cohen Senior Rabbi Program Fund**

*In Memory Of:* **Theodore Glick** by Ryna Cohen.

### **Samuel & Jeanette Weiss Special Needs Fund**

*In Memory Of:* **Masliansky & Bogopulsky** family members by Nechama Masliansky.

**Sylvia Miller Friedman** by Bo & Marky Kirsch.

### **Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education**

*By:* Ilene & Matthew Heller.

*In Memory Of:* **Myron L. Madden** by Alan & Dale Sorcher. **Avram Alpert** by Dr. Clement Alpert.

### **Shelley Remer Gan HaYeled Enrichment Fund**

*In Honor Of:* Birth of Larry & Melanie Nussdorf's grandson **Reid Carter Nussdorf** by Glenn &

Cindy Easton. **Sydney Schwalb, Oren Strobel, Gabe Kanter-Goodell, Brandon Leach, & Ari Rubenstein** becoming *b'nai mitvah*, all by Shelley Remer.

*In Memory Of:* **Morris Tabachnik** by Stewart & Shelley Remer.

### **Social Action Fund**

*In Honor Of:* **Alex Winkleman's** engagement by Susie & Barry Haberman.

*In Memory Of:* **Rebecca Kopf** by Daniel & Nancy Weiss. **Tobee Fischman** by Joel Fischman & Judith Rabinowitz.

### **Sophie Silfen Shalom Tinok Fund**

*In Memory Of:* **Irving Goldsmith** by Richard & Susan Ugelow.

### **Staff Gift Fund**

*By:* Janet Scribner.

### **Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund**

*In Honor Of:* **Scott Siff, Gabe Kanter-Goodell & Yoav Susskind** becoming *b'nai mitzvah*, all by Bill Levenson. **Gabriel Kanter Goodell** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Kent & Pamela Kahler, Steven & Lisa Himmelfarb.

*In Appreciation Of:* **Bonnie Roskes & Debbi Wilforen's** coordination of Gabe's *bar mitzvah* service by Jeff Goodell & Beth Kanter.

*In Memory Of:* **Rebecca Kopf & Lillian Cardash** by Bill Levenson. **Lillian Cardash** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

### **Tzedakah Fund**

*In Honor Of:* All of my fellow & sister *Kaddish* travelers in the evening & Sunday morning *minyanim* by Rabbi Mark Novak.

*In Memory Of:* **Joel Cogen** by Ed & Ruth Cogen. **Annabelle Kutcher Shapiro** by James Kutcher. **Hyman Gross** by Joe & Alma Gildenhorn.

### **Yizkor/Yahrzeit Fund**

*In Memory Of:* **Benjamin Roth** by Alan Roth.

**Ruth S. Albert** by Barbara Sandler. **Sondra Merachnik** by Beth Merachnik. **Myron L. Madden** by Brian & Judy Madden. **Herman Goldberg** by Diane Cross. **Morris Tabachnik** by Tom & Debbie Lehigh. **Bess Schwartz & Abraham Schwartz** by Dr. Frederic Schwartz.

**Leonard Hardis** by Dr. Jonathan Hardis.

**Martin K. Miller** by Dr. Marilyn Schwartz.

**Samuel Shapiro & Barbara Shapiro Ginsburg** by Dr. Stanley Shapiro. **Anna & Morris Schreiber** by Frances Hoffman. **Dr. Gerald Rose** by Hannah Aurbach. **David M. Schwartz** by Howard & Susan Liberman.

**Sydell Sandy. Leo Goodman** by Jacqueline Arrowsmith. **Morton Bachrach** by Joan Slatkin.

**Feiga Zilberbaum** by Joseph Zilberbaum.

**Terry Goldstein** by Marcie Goldstein. **Katalin Karpati** by Maria Burka. **Philip Silverman** by Mark Silverman. **Betty Dinsmore** by Robert & Marion Rosenthal. **Sally Goldberg** by Robert

Goldberg. **Alexander Guss** by Roberta Weiss.

**Arthur Winer** by Samuel Winer. **Nathan Klufft** by Sanford & Beverly Cohen. **Anne Strassman, Alexander Altman & Albert Sidney Altman**, all by Zalma Slawsky.

### **Youth Activities Fund**

*In Memory Of:* **Muriel Dulberger** by Faith Apt.

**Celia Malasky** by Gary Malasky. **Raphael Ziony** by Joseph & Denise Ziony. **Marguerite Adler** by Lilliane Litton. **Ethel Laby** by Miriam Vinicur.

**Ruth S. Albert** by Stanley & Ellen Albert. ❄



Adas Israel wishes a *mazal tov* to our own members Kimberly and Steven Aftergood, Pamela Wexler and Kent Kahler, and Laurie Moskowitz and Steve Rabinowitz.

## **Snow Closures**

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

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

## **Before You Head South for the Winter**

Please contact Melissa Adler in the synagogue office, 202-362-4433 or [Melissa.Adler@adasisrael.org](mailto:Melissa.Adler@adasisrael.org), and let her know the date you will be heading south and the date you plan to return, so you will continue to receive your synagogue mailings.





2850 Quebec Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

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**December 2015**  
**Kislev–Tevet 5776**

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David Polonsky, *Executive Director*  
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