



Adas Israel Congregation

CHRONICLE

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***Shabbat Shira* (Sabbath of Song), when we were led from Egypt
with music, song, and poetry**

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From the President

By Debby Joseph



January ushers in the new secular year of 2016 and with it, plans for making changes, opportunities for new beginnings, discarding the old, and ringing in the new. As Jews we have at least two opportunities to start again, try another way, and resolve to do better: during the High Holy Days and again, just a few months later, in January.

January is also the month in which we commemorate the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's vision for taking care of one another to create a world in which, despite our differences, we all will live side-by-side in peace. To that end, communities dedicate themselves to performing "good deeds" for those less fortunate, as both a reminder of his message, and to promote the steps it will take to achieve such a place.

At Adas Israel, we have honored Dr. King's legacy through celebrating our relationship with the African American community through reciprocal worship with Peoples Congregational Church during MLK weekend. While we pause to remember Dr. King's contributions during the month of January, throughout the year we remain committed to the values he and our Jewish tradition teaches, to care for those less fortunate in our midst through our acts of lovingkindness. In this and each month's *Chronicle* you can read about the many activities engaging

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clergy **corner**



Rabbi Aaron Alexander

In April of 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave a sermon to the New Covenant Baptist Church (Chicago) that hasn't left my soul since the day I first listened to it, and then read it. Booming slowly in the marching cadence that was his trademark, Dr. King put forth a vision for what a complete religious life might look like: "The three dimensions of a complete life." He describes three directions an awakened human ought to aspire to achieve: **Length, Breadth, and Height**. None of these is to be understood literally, each is an inner world unto itself. Let's look briefly at each one and see what we here at Adas Israel can glean from Dr. King's boundless wisdom.

Length. By length MLK certainly didn't mean the number of days each of us may live. The length of our days is to be measured by the effort with which we invest in our inner growth, our personal welfare, our unique power. In other words, a complete life begins with each of us owning our own greatness, even when it feels most challenging. In that pursuit, he writes, "We must discover what we are called to do. And once we discover it we should set out to do it with all of the strength and all of the power that we have in our systems." In order for a religious community to become greater than the sum of its parts, its parts must first see themselves, each of them, as wholly essential, an end in and of themselves. From that place of individual majesty, we are all elevated communally. Looking inward isn't always easy, or safe, but remember that if you look deep enough, you'll always find that thing that each of us holds equally: God.

Breadth. By breadth MLK asks each of us to consider our lives in relation to the welfare of others, or, to what extent do we move laterally to engage the world around us? In King's words, "And a man has not begun to live until he can rise above the narrow confines of his own individual concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." In my words: It is an instinct of love that causes us to protect and care for our own families, but it is a welling up of courage that causes us to protect and care for another person's family. For a religious community to become its best self, to fulfill its sacred mission in the world, no person may see him or herself as exempt of the obligation to regularly (not always) look beyond self-interest in favor of another's opportunity for dignity. At Adas Israel we have a long and deep history of extending ourselves beyond our four walls of prayer, led by the Social Action Committee and its stalwart leadership. Please contact us, ask us how you can become involved, and bring your unique talents and passions to our endless pursuit of justice.

Height. This dimension that MLK describes is an upward striving to be in a relationship with God. In this final direction, we get some of his best preaching. As King said,

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tikkunolam

Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend of Tikkun Olam

@ Adas Israel, Jan. 14–18

Each year, Adas Israel dedicates the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend to current issues in the struggle for racial justice. This MLK Jr. weekend marks the beginning of the 13th year of Adas Israel's partnership with Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ to build a partnership dedicated to justice and service to humanity, to help repair the world. Together the two congregations conduct Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives, monthly Save Darfur vigils, and a Veterans Day activity with Yachad to help repair a facility for veterans in need.



MLK and his historic address to the Jewish Community at Adas Israel

On Friday night, Jan. 15, we'll join with our friends from People's Church and invited guests from our social action partners for a soulful *Shabbat* service and a communal dinner. On *Shabbat* morning, Jan. 16, our *Shabbat* Service *Torah* slot will be dedicated to civil rights and race in America. On Sunday, Jan. 17, we will join Peoples Church for its service in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The weekend promises to bring deeper connections to our diverse partners across the District while also charting a path forward for our congregational work in issues of justice and race. ✨

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Mark Your Calendar

Kol HaOlam VI

The 6th Annual National Collegiate Jewish
A Cappella Championship Competition!
Saturday, March 12 @ 8:00 pm
Register at www.kolhaolam.org

Join us for one of the most exciting Adas musical traditions of the year! Come and witness the incredible collegiate, Jewish a cappella groups from around the country sing their hearts out as they compete to be Number 1 in the USA! Who will be crowned champion in 2016? Join us and find out! ✨



MLK Jr. Weekend Schedule

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

7:30 PM: Community-wide Social Justice Panel Discussion and video with Aviva Kempner, Clarence Page and David Saperstein

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

6:30 PM: *Kabbalat Shabbat*, *Maariv*, with guest speaker and Rabbi Aaron Alexander

7:45 PM: *Shabbat* Dinner

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

9:30 AM: *Shabbat* Service in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, featuring guest speaker

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

11:00 AM: Service in Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ, 4704 13th St NW, Washington, DC

Rabbi Alexander *continued from page 3*

And I'm here to tell you today that we need God. Modern man may know a great deal, but his knowledge does not eliminate God. And I tell you this morning that God is here to stay. A few theologians are trying to say that God is dead. And I've been asking them about it because it disturbs me to know that God died and I didn't have a chance to attend the funeral. They haven't been able to tell me yet the date of his death. They haven't been able to tell me yet who the coroner was that pronounced him dead. They haven't been able to tell me yet where he's buried.

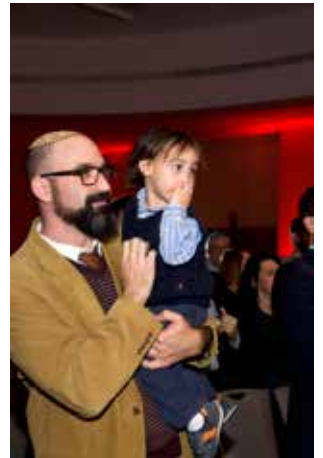
God still matters—more than we can even imagine, but just enough that we can always see and feel divine light. Our faithfulness as a community reaches well beyond a conversation about “whether or not God,” rather, it is the constant awareness of the questions: Where do I find God? In whom do I find God? In what do I find God? And only together, while looking inward and stretching outward, do we receive the capacity to be open to all possible answers.

Length. Breadth. Height. These are the dimensions of a complete religious life. Yes, it is big and aspirational and often feels far from the daily grind of life. But this lesson is for us a compass with which to navigate who we are and what we want to become.

I'm looking forward to celebrating the legacy of MLK this month with you. Please check out the calendar of events and look for updates via the Adas Israel website, e-mail, and social media. ✨

Scenes from the Musical Dedication of Kay Hall, Gildenhorn Foyer, and Wasserman Hall

With continuing gratitude to Jack Kay (z"l), Ambassador Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn and family, and the Wasserman Family for their unyielding vision and support. Special thanks as well to musical guest Craig Taubman, our own Cantor Arianne Brown, and the synagogue's dedicated Kay Hall Renovation Committees, chaired by Ross Eisenman. A wonderful community celebration for all. May our new spaces be filled with such *simcha* (joy) for generations to come! *Photos by Betty Adler.*





נאזר בקדש, נורה תהלת, עשה פלה

We chant the words of *Mi Chamocha* in the Song of the Sea on *Shabbat Shira*, as our *Torah* portion reenacts the miraculous moment of walking through the sea on dry land.

What do we mean when we call God “majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, one who works wonders”?

What is our connection to this ancient text, and how do we relate to it in modern times?

How do different musical settings of this text bring out different meanings, insights, and feelings?

The Return Again band will join us in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, along with children of Adas and our Flash Choir, for an uplifting Shabbat morning. Join us for a musical and midrashic exploration of this text and celebration of *Shabbat Shira*! A special community Kiddush for Shabbat Shira sponsored by Larry and Melanie Nussdorf. We also look forward to hearing from Larry and Melanie during this special musical service as they reflect on their recent journey through Israel. Led by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, they traveled with several members of the Adas community and with the broader DC Jewish community.

Tradition & Rebellion

Sunday, January 24 @ 4:00 pm

We partner with the Levine School of Music in this *Shabbat Shira* weekend concert. Some of the most crucial and dramatic innovations in classical music have been inspired by the Judaic vocal tradition. In this unique mingling of life and art, two award-winning duos will explore tradition and rebellion. There will be a pre-concert lecture at 3:15 pm.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$17 at the door. For more information or to register, call 202-686-8000, ext. 1039, or go to www.levinemusic.org/performance/events-calendar/event/1075.



A Message from David & Heather Polonsky, After Their Wedding!

Dear Adas Israel Community,

We are delighted to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for this extraordinary community, and to all those who showered us with love, support, and joy during our wedding



celebrations this past month. There are no words to express our gratitude for the kindness and care of the entire *kehilla kedosha*. *Everyone took such good care of us!* Whether it be through cards, letters, gifts, phone calls, e-mails, planning support, participation in our *aufruf*, welcoming our friends and family, hosting bridal showers, or just sharing warm, vital words of wisdom as we prepared for the adventure ahead, every act of outreach and participation meant the world to us.

It remains an extraordinary honor and privilege to serve the Adas community in my role as executive director, but nothing could have prepared us for the joy of sharing in our special moment with the thousands of community members we have come to know, love, and share life with at Adas Israel.

Special thanks to beloved and brilliant Adas member **Herlene Nagler** (our Chief Wedding Planner Extraordinaire, who lovingly and patiently fashioned the wedding of our dreams), the Adas Israel clergy (who bestowed extra blessings on us every step of the way), the members of the Adas Board of Directors (who cheered us on with great kindness, generosity, and support), and to YOU, the Adas community—this synagogue truly is a *makom* (a holy place). Without you, without this special community, our wedding journey could never have been the meaningful adventure it came to be. We thank you all for everything. Through your love, we were able to fully experience *our* love. And for that, we are eternally grateful.

B'vracha,
David & Heather

Tu B'Shevat Seder with the Jewish Study Center

January 27, 7:00–9:00 pm



On Wednesday, January 27, join Adas Israel and the Jewish Study Center for a *Tu B'Shevat* Community Seder led by Rabbi Gilah Langner and Susan Barocas.

Everyone's been to a Passover seder, but did you know there is also a traditional seder for *Tu B'Shevat*? This lovely holiday has been rediscovered in recent years as a way to embrace environmental awareness. Traditionally, we eat a new fruit and the seven species found in abundance in the biblical Land of Israel—wheat, barley, figs, dates (honey), pomegranates, grapes (vines), and olives.

Holding a seder in conjunction with *Tu B'Shevat* dates to the 16th century and has enjoyed a revival in the modern world. Join us for some learning and discussion related to the holiday and delicious tasting of fruits, the seven species, and other holiday dishes.

Cost: JSC & Adas member, \$20; others \$30. Pre-registration is required by Sunday, Jan. 24, at www.jewishstudycenter.org. ❀

Lawyer Call Out: Partner with the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

Are you a lawyer? Consider using the law to make justice a reality for our neighbors who struggle with homeless and poverty. Combining community lawyering and advocacy to achieve their clients' goals, the expert staff of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, with the help of a network of volunteer attorneys, provides low-barrier, comprehensive legal services at intake sites across the District of Columbia. The clinic helps clients to access housing, shelter, and life-saving services, aiming to break down any barriers that may exist between potential clients and their access to legal services.

For more information, contact Adas member and one of the founders of the Clinic: Laurie Davis, lauriebdavis@gmail.com, or Social Action Council chair Jamie Butler, butler364@aol.com.

holidays@adas

Tu B'Shevat 5776



Tu B'Shevat—the New Year for Trees—is a time when trees start drinking the new year's rainwater and the sun renews itself. As the Jewish Arbor Day, *Tu B'Shevat* embodies the strong dedication to ecology, environmentalism, and conservation that the Jewish National Fund (JNF) has championed since its inception in

1901. This year, *Tu B'Shevat* (the 15th of *Shevat*) falls on Monday, January 25.

On the third day of creation, God created "seed-bearing plants, fruit trees after their kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it" (*Genesis* 1:11). God then put Adam in the garden to "till it and tend it" (2:15), making humans stewards of the earth.

According to the Mishna, where it is first mentioned, *Tu B'Shevat*—the 15th day of the month of *Shevat*—is the date farmers used to calculate the year's crop yield and determine the tithe that the Bible requires. It also marks the beginning of the first three years and the end of the first four years of a tree's growth, during which one is forbidden to eat its fruit.

Since its founding, the JNF has planted more than 240 million trees in Israel to protect the land, prevent soil erosion, green the landscape, and preserve vital ecosystems. The trees maintain forest health, combat desertification, protect watersheds, and manage water flow. Additionally, they create a "green lung" to combat carbon dioxide emissions in the region. JNF's success at planting trees in Israel has resulted in naturally expanded forests and reclaimed deserts. Go to the Jewish National Fund's website, www.jnf.org, for more information or to make a donation.



Celebrating *Tu B'Shevat* with a seder has become traditional for families and congregations around the world. During a *Tu B'Shevat* seder, we bless and eat seven species of fruits and grains from Israel. The seven species are wheat, barley, grapes, fig, pomegranate, olive, and dates (*Deuteronomy* 8:8). It is also customary to dance the "*Mayim*," the Jewish dance for water, during a *Tu B'Shevat* seder. ❀

Book Launch with Rabbi Ben Shalva

February 16, 7:00–9:00pm



Join the "Wandering Rabbi," Ben Shalva, on February 16, when he will read from his new book, *Spiritual Cross-Training: Searching through Silence, Stretch, and Song*. Participants also will have a chance to try some of the book's methodologies and purchase the book at the Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington (JMCW) weekly meditation.

On a quest for enlightenment, Benjamin Shalva journeyed through the wilds of Tibet and took a pilgrimage to a white-walled monastery in Rhode Island. He wrestled with demons, danced with temptresses, and sang with hundreds of voices under the stars. Now, using the lessons and techniques gained through years of religious exploration and inward reflection, Rabbi Shalva offers simple and powerful ways to connect with your spiritual self, whether it be in a place of worship or the yoga studio, or even while sitting in traffic, working late at the office, or kneeling in your garden. You won't want to miss this opportunity. ❀



Adas for Serious Learning

January: Listening

Listening is more than hearing. We hear so much, but how much do we actually listen? Hearing is easy. Listening is hard. The Torah offers us a blueprint for the practice of listening and invites us to hone those skills within the framework of our textual tradition and the practical skills that bring them to life. Register online or by calling Melissa Adler, 202-362-4433, ext. 146

MakomDC Learning:



"Open Beit Midrash Night" in the Biran Beit Midrash

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 @ 7:30 PM

The "Open Beit Midrash" is 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. Jewish learning has the potential to create an unmatched soulful energy. The "Open Beit Midrash" is where that energy is found.



Scholar: Rabbi Ebn Leader

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12 @ 7:30 PM

While "Shema"—listen—is the primary divine instruction that Jews repeat on a regular basis, we often think of listening to God as being either in the realm of prophets (or lunatics) or a phrase that really means "obey." Based on classical

texts we will learn the Jewish religious practice of listening to/for God, that it could become the main focus of our prayers, and that as a practice it has the potential to affect the way we go through the rest of our lives as well.



Drum Workshop

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 @ 7:30 PM

The Biran Beit Midrash will become a drum studio for the beginner and advanced alike, with Alan Yellowitz. You know you've always wanted to learn how to drum alongside your favorite music; you just

don't think you have the talent. Well, you do, and we are going to bring it out of you! This is your chance to show that, in fact, you've got the beat. You've got the beat. You've got the beat. Yeah!



The Middle & the Margin, Heard Together

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 @ 1:00 PM

Post-Kiddush Halakah class with Rabbi Alexander. Jewish law often tries to find the balance between serving communal norms and individual

needs. The faculty for navigating the space between the two is our listening. In this text-based class we will explore some medieval opinions on how we hear people influences the diversity of our communal practice.



The Shema: Using This Text to Find Connection with Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 @ 10:30 AM

This in-depth learning session focuses on the month's theme—Listening—as a catalyst to go deeper into various

critical Jewish texts and concepts. The *Shema* is universally known to be the centerpiece of our theological experience, and this class draws on its timeless wisdom for living in today's world.



Religious School Parent Drop-In, Drop-Off

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 @ 10:30 AM

Once a month Religious School parents are 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 listening.

Additional Ongoing Learning



Boker Ohr Shabbat Study

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM

JANUARY 2, No Boker Or

JANUARY 9, Rabbi Holtzblatt

JANUARY 16, Rabbi Alexander

JANUARY 23, Guest Rabbi Elianna Yolkut

JANUARY 30, Rabbi Alexander

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. ❀

Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

Do you have a child whose *bar or bat mitzvah* is approaching and needs a *tallit*? Is it time for you to buy your own *tallit* instead of using those available at the synagogue?

Beginning January 4, we will offer a number of *tallitot* at a **25% DISCOUNT.**



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

*Note: We will be closed January 17 & 18 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.

202-364-2888

adasgiftshop@gmail.com

SISTERHOOD UPCOMING EVENTS

February 26–28: Sisterhood *Shabbat* with Mozelle Saltz Scholar-in-Residence Naomi Less

March 6: Cantor Arianne Brown performs at Torah Fund Concert, Har Shalom, Potomac

June 26: Sisterhood Closing Event

sisterhoodnews

Storahteller Naomi Less to be Mozelle Saltz Scholar-in-Residence for Sisterhood *Shabbat*, Feb. 2–28



In keeping with Adas Israel's 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 Mozelle Saltz Scholar-in-Residence for 5776. Naomi is recognized as a dedicated performer and songwriter who makes biblical text accessible,

understandable, and personal, thereby empowering individuals in their Judaism.

Associate Director and Ritual Leader of the well-known Lab/Shul in New York City, Naomi 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 the social and historical contexts of the stories of the Torah to contemporary terms. Members of the congregation will witness Naomi's unique interpretation of the characters at both the Friday night and *Shabbat* morning services. In addition, Naomi will offer her own special take on the *Havdalah* service.

As a gift to the congregation from Sisterhood, on Sunday morning, Naomi will lead and teach religious school students at their weekly *Shacharit* service. Later in the day, she will facilitate a unique *mikvah* program for women and daughters. Mark your calendars now for what will be a terrific Sisterhood *Shabbat*, February 26–28.

Seaboard Region-WLCJ Education Day at Kol Shalom

By Myra Promisel

In keeping with the Women's League theme of *Nat'ah Karem*, a woman who "plants a vineyard by her own labors" (*Proverbs* 31:7), the November 20 event focused on taking advantage of seeds (or programs) that have been planted in Sisterhoods throughout the region and sharing those programs so that they can continue in other Sisterhoods.

Andi Dorlester from Olam Tikvah spoke about her Sisterhood's program on Jewish Life on Campus, and Michael Goldman discussed being a Jewish chaplain at the Georgetown Law and Medical schools. The Sheva Brachas singers from Har Shalom also performed, shared their love and knowledge of music, taught a song that even non-singers could perform, and introduced a game that could be used as an icebreaker and a way to involve Sisterhood members of any age and background.

Finally, we all made beautiful bowls decorated with autumn leaves and shared ideas of what they might hold—candies, other foods, hopes and wishes, or things we are thankful for. The women who attended were able to take these ideas home with them, but taking part in the programs also inspired other ideas and possibilities for future programs.

Adas Israel Sisterhood members **Alisa Abrams**, **Carol Ansell**, and **Myra Promisel** attended this event.

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life**cycle**

Milestones

Births

Daniel Andrew Blumenfeld, son of Joshua & Diana Blumenfeld, and Shira Noemi Baider Meyers, daughter of Allegra Baider & Alan Meyers, were born October 29.

Sunny Gabrielle Gotlib, daughter of Brett & Mike Gotlib, was born October 30.

Elizabeth Esther, daughter of Rachel Farbiarz & Alexander Laskey, was born November 1.

Charlotte Penelope Werner, daughter of Ben & LCDR Meredith Werner, was born November 4.

Ethan Leo Gerst, son of Jennifer & Matthew Gerst, was born November 10.

Vera Ellen Honeck, daughter of Mischa Honeck & Elena Matveeva, was born November 11.

Abigail Lauren Samenow, daughter of Deborah & Jason Samenow, was born November 28.

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

Wedding

Rabbi Steinlauf officiated at the wedding of Jennifer Smolin and Jason Berman on Sunday, Dec. 13.

We wish the newlyweds and their families a hearty mazal tov.

B'nai Mitzvah



Rochelle Berman, January 9

Rochelle Helene Berman, the daughter of Julia Gordon and Geoffrey Berman, is a sixth grader at the Jewish Primary Day School NC. For her *mitzvah* project, Rochelle is sharing her passion for the performing arts by volunteering at and raising money for the Sitar Arts Center, a nonprofit that provides low-income families in DC with access to after-school, weekend, and summer classes in performing and visual arts. Rochelle celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with Grandma Shirley, Gramma Rhona, Uncle Rich, Aunt Jo-Anna, Uncle Steve, and many other family and friends, and she's thinking with love of her late grandfathers, Gus Berman and Barnett Gordon, and great-grandmother Sylvia Nachbar, all of blessed memory.



Nava Roskes, January 30 (TEM)

Nava is a sixth grader at Alice Deal Middle School and attends the text-based study group at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Nava was named at Adas Israel in 2004, and she began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and continued at the Jewish Primary Day School. Nava looks forward to sharing her *simcha* with her parents, siblings, extended family, and the entire TEM community.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue member:

Kenneth Doggett

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Albert Brunwasser, father of Eileen Sherman & Lou Ann May

Naomi G. Josephs, mother of Meredith Josephs

Mort Sobel, father of Ellen Winter ❄

sisterhood**news** continued

Torah Fund News

Torah Fund Concert to Feature Cantor Arianne Brown, March 6



Join Seaboard Region in celebrating this year's Torah Fund theme of *Nat'ah Karem*, or "She Plants a Vineyard," with a concert and wine and cheese reception featuring cantors from Seaboard congregations.

The concert, "Wine, Women, and Song," will feature our own Cantor Arianne Brown, so it's sure to be terrific.

The concert takes place at Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac, on Sunday, March 6, from 2:00 to 4:30 pm. Be sure to note the date; registration forms will be sent out soon.

Torah Fund Campaign Continuing

The Torah Fund Campaign of Women's League for Conservative Judaism is a grassroots fundraising effort dedicated to perpetuating Conservative/Masorti seminaries and professional communal leadership programs. You can contribute any amount to this important fundraising effort. Those sending \$180 or more will receive the beautiful Torah Fund pin. Please send your contribution to Torah Fund, c/o Adas Israel Sisterhood, 2850 Quebec St., NW, Washington, DC 20008.






It All Starts with YOU, So Join Sisterhood Today

Dues for 5776 (July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016) are still 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, to Treasurer **Dava Berkman**, 2475 Virginia Avenue, NW, Apt. 803, Washington, DC 20037. New Adas members will 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.

Taste of Tanach

We will be meeting 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* will be Tuesday, January 19th. For more information about the Taste of *Tanach*, contact coordinator Roselle Abramson at rosellelabramson@yahoo.com. ❄

january2016
 tevet–shevat 5776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 15 Tevet	28 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 16 Tevet	29 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 17 Tevet	30 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 18 Tevet	31 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 19 Tevet	1 9:00 am Morning Minyan 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Hazzan Goldsmith 20 Tevet 4:38 pm 	2 PARSHAT SHEMOT 8:30 am No Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class (New Years Weekend) 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 4:30 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 5:38 pm Havdalah 21 Tevet
3 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 22 Tevet	4 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 23 Tevet	5 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm MakomDC—Open Beit Midrash 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 24 Tevet	6 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JSC Classes 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 8:15 pm JSC Classes 25 Tevet	7 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 26 Tevet	8 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt 7:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Community Shabbat Dinner 27 Tevet 4:44 pm 	9 PARSHAT VA'ERA 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Combined Smith/TEM Shabbat Morning Service; Bat Mitzvah: Rochelle Berman with Rabbi Steinlauf; Sermon by Rabbi Holtzblatt 9:30 am Shabbat Awakening 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 4:45 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 5:44 pm Havdalah 6:00 pm YP Havdalah and a Movie 28 Tevet
10 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am JMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga 10:30 am Adas Book Chat 10:30 am JMCW Class-Wise Aging 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 29 Tevet	11 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan Rosh Chodesh Shevat Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund 1 Shevat	12 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:30 pm MakomDC Speaker Ebn Leader 2 Shevat	13 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JSC Classes 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class—Talmud 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 8:15 pm JSC Classes 3 Shevat	14 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Community-Wide Social Justice Panel Discussion with Aviva Kempner & Clarence Page 4 Shevat	15 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 6:30 pm MLK Kabbalat Shabbat/ Maariv Service with Speaker 7:45 pm MLK Shabbat Dinner 5 Shevat 4:51 pm 	16 PARSHAT BO 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 4:45 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 5:51 pm Havdalah 6 Shevat
17 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am MakomDC—Parent Drop In 11:00 am Attendance at Peoples Congregational United Church 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7 Shevat	18 9:00 am Morning Minyan 9:00 am Social Action Committee/MLK Day of Service 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 8 Shevat	19 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Sisterhood Taste of Tanach 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm MakomDC—Drum Workshop 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 9 Shevat	20 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm YP Kavanah Experience 7:00 pm JSC Classes 7:30 pm Intro to Judaism Class—High Holy Days 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 8:15 pm JSC Classes 10 Shevat	21 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 11 Shevat	22 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 5:30 pm L'Dor VaDor Shabbat Service (K—Grade 2) & Young Family Combined Shabbat Service with Rabbi Steinlauf & Cantor Brown 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Hazzan Goldsmith 6:30 pm L'Dor VaDor & Young Family Shabbat Dinner 12 Shevat 4:59 pm 	23 PARSHAT BESHALLACH/SHABBAT SHIRAH 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Return Again Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt & Cantor Brown 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 1:15 pm MakomDC—Halakhah Class 5:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 5:59 pm Havdalah 13 Shevat
24 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am JMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow 4:00 pm Concert with Levine School of Music: Tradition & Rebellion 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 14 Shevat	25 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 15 Shevat	26 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 16 Shevat	27 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm JSC/Adas Israel: Tu B'Shevat Seder 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow 17 Shevat	28 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 18 Shevat	29 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 5:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg 6:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service; Led by the Roskes Family 19 Shevat 5:07 pm 	30 PARSHAT YITRO 8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service—Shabbat in Harmony; D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Rosenbaum; Bat Mitzvah: Nava Roskes 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Junior Congregation 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 5:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 6:07 pm Havdalah 20 Shevat
31 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am JMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga 10:30 am MakomDC—Rabbi Steinlauf: The Shema 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 21 Shevat						

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 (librarian@adasisrael.org).

Office & School Closings

New Year's Day
Friday, January 1
Schools/Offices Closed

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, January 18
Schools/Offices Closed

January Religious School Calendar

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

Jan. 5: Classes Resume

10: 5779 B'nai Mitzvah Meeting, The Soul and Text of Jewish Parenting

17: No School (MLK Day)

22: K–Grade 2 L'Dor VaDor

24: Tu B'Shevat Sederim; Parent Sunday in the Beit Midrash

January Youth Services

9: Junior Congregation, Netivot, Tot Shabbat

16: Junior Congregation, Netivot, Tot Shabbat

23: Junior Congregation, Netivot, Tot Shabbat

30: Junior Congregation, Netivot, Tot Shabbat

From the President

continued from page 2

our Social Action Council.

As a well-educated, diverse congregation, our members provide gifts of time, interest, and professional expertise to those who appear to have so little in common with us. These activities enable us to learn more about our neighbors and members of our communities with whom we may have few other chances to spend time understanding who they are, what matters to them, and teach them about us, as Jews. As we do so, it is a time of reciprocity in which we relate to one another as human beings. We are each expanding our view of each other's world and the commonalities that exist despite our apparent differences.

As you make your secular New Year's resolutions, please consider participating in one of the projects initiated by Adas Israel's Social Action Council. Each step we take to repair the world brings us closer to achieving our own and Dr. King's dream. ✿

educationupdate

From the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum



Sometimes in the midst of the cold and grey landscape it is difficult to think about the potential of greenery, of new growth. But even as we find ourselves right in the middle of winter, we are treated to the promise of what is to come. With *Tu B'Shevat* at the end of the month, we are reminded to celebrate trees, even as their limbs are still bare. We are encouraged to rejoice in nature, despite being bundled in hats and scarves. And while the buds that begin to appear might seem like small

miracles, they have not appeared out of nowhere. They were planted, they drank in water and soaked up sun. The preparation to become beautiful might not have sounded so exciting or glamorous, but that foundational work for what will come to be is magical.

Learning can sometimes feel like that long stage of preparation. In our day-to-day life there aren't always major milestones to check off a list, or large-scale celebrations of achievements. But each moment is indeed magical. Whether we realize it or not, we are constantly building and strengthening that foundation. Our accomplishments in one day, or one week, or one semester, might not always seem impressive, but they are invaluable, and in time we can look back, marveling at just how far we have come—how much we have bloomed. May this *Tu B'Shevat* help us to lift up the process of planting, the patience of tending and the value of perspective. ✿

Gan HaYeled

Gan Parent Association Family Concert Series

Please join us for the first concert of our two-part series: On Sunday, Jan. 10, at 10:00 am, we welcome children's performer John Henry to the Gan Space (Cohen Hall). John Henry, the well-loved child entertainer, is guaranteed to get your little one(s) jumping and singing and to provide a break from the winter blues! Take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet Gan and Adas families as well as others in the community . . . all are welcome!

Tickets can be purchased in advance by going to www.wizevents.com/register/3912 or at the door.

Gan Registration Opens this Month

Gan HaYeled registration for the 2016–2017 school year begins this month. Adas members are invited to apply during the priority period of January 4–10. Information on the wide variety of programs available and application details are available on the Gan website



on the Admissions page. The Gan continues to offer programs that run for the traditional school year (September–June) and for the full year (12 months, 8:00am–6:00 pm, 5:00 pm on Fridays). Our NAEYC-accredited program features the finest teaching staff, and our full-time Developmental Support Coordinator ensures that *each* child's individual needs are met.

For ages 18–24 months:

Registration continues for our Adult-Tot program (Kangaroos). This program is offered several times during the week. Sign up for the one that best suits your schedule (downloadable applications for this class are available on our website, www.ganhayeledpreschool.org).

Education Update continued on page 13

For ages 9–18 months:

Library Story Time continues in the Adas Library at 10:00 am on Thursdays, and the popular Drop-In Play Group runs from 9:00 to 10:00 on Thursdays.

Tzedakah Efforts Continue

In January, the Gan Parent Association is collecting clean, gently used outer garments for community members in need. Our efforts, combined with those of the Adas Social Action Council, will help clients of SOME (So Others Might Eat). Collection boxes will be outside the Gan office and in the coat room on the main Adas level. Thank you in advance for your help. ✨

Upcoming Youth Events:

Saturday, Jan. 9: Kadima Saturday Night Live @ B'nai Israel

Monday, Jan. 18: USY MLK Day Program

Sunday, Jan. 24: Machar Bowling



Youth Update

By Rich Dinetz, Youth Director

Shalom, Chevre,

Youth@AI celebrates the New Year with another fantastic month filled awesome programming, including social action, basketball, and, of course, loads of fun! Here's what we've got going on.

On Saturday, Jan. 9, Seaboard presents *Kadima* Saturday Night Live at B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville. Be on the lookout for more information regarding info and registration at adasisrael.org/youth.

Join AIUSY on Jan. 18 for our annual MLK Social Action Project. Our USY Social Action/Tikkun Olam VP, Kali Hoehstetter will circulate more information about this

in the beginning of the month, but mark your calendars!

Machar (grades K–5) continues its roll with a bowling trip on Sunday, Jan. 24. Stay with your friends after religious school or meet up with us in the Quebec Street Lobby at Adas at 12:30 pm before we board our bus to AMF Lanes in College Park for two hours of bowling and fun! Transportation to and from the bowling alley will be provided. Please bring a cold dairy, nut-free lunch; refrigerators will be available during religious school if needed.

Remember to check out our website, adasisrael.org/youth, to stay up to date on current events, check out pictures from previous events, and to view our 2015–2016 Youth@AI Calendar. Always feel free to reach out to me for any questions at Rich.Dinetz@adasisrael.org, 202-362-6295. Happy New Year!

Religious School Back in Action

Sefer Shemot shifts our narrative of the children of Israel from a story of a small family to that of a growing nation. While much of *Bereishit* dealt with sibling rivalries and individual accomplishments, *Shemot* focuses on the struggle and redemption of a people. As religious school students return from winter break, our focus shifts from making space for ourselves within the school to moving forward together, finding our groove as a community.

Just as *Shemot* begins by listing the names of Jacob's children, it is still important for each of us to retain our personal identity. But having established ourselves as individuals within the group, we can look ahead and build our community of learning to greater heights. ✨

**CESJDS 50th Anniversary
Shabbat, March 19**

Please join us for a special Shabbat Service as we celebrate Jewish Day School education and, specifically, the milestone of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School's 50th anniversary. We will highlight congregants who have attended or are currently attending the school as well as those who have played an important role in building the school over the past 50 years.

Alumni and faculty (current and former), please inform Beryl Saltman (Beryl.Saltman@adasisrael.org) of your affiliation with CESJDS to ensure that we include you in all communications regarding CESJDS 50th Anniversary Shabbat. Please contact Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith, Hazzan.Goldsmith@adasisrael.org, if you would like to participate in the service.

**Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School
Graduates to Be Honored Feb. 6**

At our Shabbat services on Saturday, February 6, we will honor the graduating Adas Israel seniors who are graduating from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. We wish a hearty *mazal tov* to graduates Eliana Mendelson and Carol Silber. We will honor them with an *aliyah* and a gift from the congregation and extend our sincere good wishes to them, their parents, and their families. ✨



**Winter Coat Drive to benefit
SOME continues with help
from our Gan Families**

The Gan Parent Association is partnering with the Social Action Council to collect clean, gently used outer garments for community members in need. The clothing will help clients of SOME (So Others Might Eat). Collection boxes will be outside the Gan office and in the coat room on the main Adas level. We thank everyone for thinking of others as you go through your closets and share with those in need.

Ma Tov: Helen Kramer

HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement



What originally brought you to Washington, DC?

After five years at an economics institute in Belgrade, the former Yugoslavia, I was expelled without explanation by Tito's secret police and returned to the United States in October 1973.

I was uninterested in returning to teaching college economics (my initial career path), and found a job as economist in the Washington office of the International Association of Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implements Workers, UAW. In addition to working full time, I was elected an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and was deeply engaged in the revitalization of the Logan Circle neighborhood, which involved reviewing developers' plans for consistency with historic preservation and zoning guidelines, negotiating agreements with liquor license applicants, and working with the police to curb street prostitution.

How long have you lived here, and what was your career before retiring?

I have lived here since 1974. After five years with the UAW, I was asked to relocate to headquarters in Detroit. Instead, I joined the International Affairs Department of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, IAM. In both positions, I represented the unions on advisory committees to the U.S. Trade Representative in the Tokyo Round of General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade negotiations. While working for the IAM, I also ran training programs for trade unionists in Africa, Thailand, and Turkey on occupational safety and health and democratic trade union governance in collaborations with the International Metalworkers Federation and the International Transport Workers Federation.

I was laid off during the recession in 1981 when the IAM lost 250,000 members and did not find stable employment until I was hired as an international economist by the U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, and began working in Import Administration in March 1987. For the first eight years, I worked in administration of national security-related agreements with Japan and Taiwan temporarily limiting their exports of certain categories of machine tools to the United States. When the agreements expired, until I retired in 2007, I worked on antidumping cases, mainly involving imports of steel products. I traveled to Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Italy, and the Netherlands to visit companies under investigation.

You've been a dedicated Adas member since 1981. Why did you choose Adas, and what has kept you here for 20+ years?

My parents belonged to Congregation Agudas Achim in Austin, TX, a Conservative synagogue, and when my father died, I asked Ricki Gerger, who was then my neighbor, to recommend a Conservative *shul* so I could observe the mourning period. Ricki introduced me to Adas just at the beginning of Cantor Saltzman's tenure. I was enthralled by the beauty of his chanting and the brilliance of Rabbi Rabinowitz's sermons, which I found (to my surprise) intellectually stimulating. Adina Mendelson invited me to participate in *Havurah*, where I met some of the leading lights of our *kehillah*. I have been delighted with the transformation of the Adas experience since Gil Steinlauf became our senior rabbi.

For the two years I've worked here, I see you at almost every event. Return Again services, Sisterhood events, HAZAK dinners, Shabbat mornings, learning sessions, etc. Did you always have such a passion for Judaism? What inspires you to stay so involved?

My father was a *Kohen*, but my mother and her brothers, first-generation Americans, were atheists, although my grandparents from Galitzia were observant. I had almost no formal Jewish education, but until I was 12 years old, we lived on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and I went to kindergarten, after-school activities and Jewish summer camp at the famed Educational Alliance, a settlement house founded by wealthy German-born Jews to help Americanize the Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe. I absorbed *Yiddishkeit* by osmosis, and both sides of my family identified strongly as Jews at least culturally. I experienced antisemitism first-hand both in New York City and in Madison, WI, where I earned my doctorate in economics, and in the former Yugoslavia.

When I joined Adas I taught myself to read Hebrew and began to study Torah independently. Since Adas instituted the study sessions, I have been inspired to delve into the texts and commentaries with ever-increasing intensity. Rabbi Steinlauf's monthly Taste of *Tanach* study sessions sponsored by Sisterhood and, more recently, Rabbi Holtzblatt's weekly Friday morning sessions in which we study the *Parshat Hashavua* and explore commentaries by the Hasidic masters, have opened new doors for me in text mining and discussion with fellow congregants.

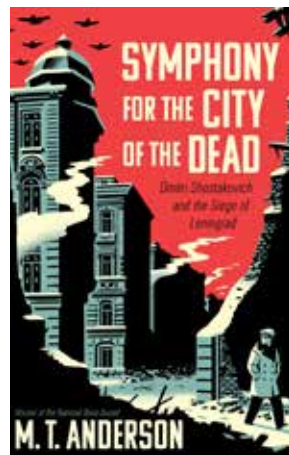
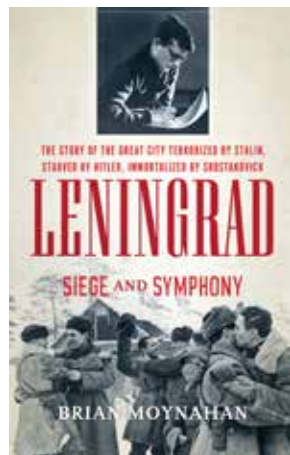
I am also delighted by the *ruach* in the Return to *Shabbat* services led by Rabbi Holtzblatt and Eli Greenberg. Being connected to the Jewish community and feeling the warmth of the Adas staff and members means a great deal to me. I believe that everyone can benefit from developing his or her innate spirituality.

Who is your Jewish hero?

Natan Sharansky, for discovering his Jewish identity and surviving nine years in the Soviet *gulag* with unbroken spirit, and helping to absorb Soviet Jews in Israel. ✨

A Symphony of Freedom

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director



One of humanity's ancient songs of freedom rings out each year on *Shabbat Shirah* (Sabbath of Song), this year on January 23. At Adas Israel, and around the world, the Torah reader will chant *Shirat HaYam* (Song of the Sea), the exultant song of praise the Israelites offered to

God after their miraculous escape from Pharaoh's army.

Down the march of time, other "freedom songs" have made their mark (e.g., *La Marseillaise*, *We Shall Overcome*). Yet, for a dramatic back-story, few musical tributes to freedom can compare to the *Leningrad Symphony*, composed during a horrific World War II siege. Read about it in *Leningrad: Siege and Symphony* by Brian Moynahan (2013) and *Symphony for the City of the Dead* by M. T. Anderson (for young adults, 2015). Here are some highlights.

Siege of Leningrad

For nearly 900 days—from September 1941 through January 1944—the Nazis blockaded and bombarded Leningrad (now St. Petersburg). Hitler's brutal aim was to starve the entire population to death. The German army destroyed Leningrad's food warehouses and then positioned land mines and artillery units around the city's perimeters to kill any escapees.

During long, harsh winters, electric power failed, water pipes froze, and food stocks dwindled. Desperate Leningrad residents roasted cats, dogs, and rats, and they stripped wallpaper to eat the dried paste. Dismembered corpses lay in the streets, missing body parts that had been hacked off for food. Some even resorted to murder to procure fresh human meat.

A Shostakovich Symphony

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–1975), a native of Leningrad, was one of the Soviet Union's foremost composers. Nonetheless, he often lived in dread of arrest. After Stalin walked out of Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth* opera in 1936, Soviet newspapers denounced the composer for betraying the artistic conventions of Socialist realism. The Soviet state executed many Soviet artists and intellectuals, and Shostakovich feared he would meet the same fate.

As the siege began, Shostakovich began feverishly composing his *Symphony No. 7* ("*Leningrad*"), which musically depicted the German invasion and Leningrad's defiance. Despite interruptions from air-raid alarms, Shostakovich rapidly completed the first two movements. Realizing the symphony's value for propaganda and morale boosting, Soviet authorities evacuated him to Kuibyshev (now Samara), a safer location. There, Shostakovich finished his monumental work.

The symphony was a sensation when it premiered in Kuibyshev and then in Moscow in March 1942. Western allies clamored to perform the symphony,

Books & More continued from left column

too, so microfilmed copies of the score were transported perilously across war-torn nations for triumphant concerts in London and across the United States.

Performance in Leningrad

Of all the symphony's performances, the most extraordinary was in Leningrad on August 9, 1942—the very date on which the Nazis had boasted they would celebrate the city's defeat.

Initially, it seemed impossible that the weak and hungry orchestra members remaining in Leningrad would have the strength or breath needed to play an entire symphony. Yet Karl Eliasberg, their determined conductor, mustered extra rations and recruited additional musicians from the army's regimental bands. With a mixture of bullying and patriotic pep talks, he led his exhausted troupe through rehearsals.

On the evening of the concert, the Red Army protected concertgoers from German shells by firing continuously at German gun positions. The city center remained safe, and the emaciated audience gave the symphony a rapturous reception. Loudspeakers broadcast the concert throughout the city and across no man's land at enemy lines. Years later, a German soldier told Eliasberg that when he heard that defiant broadcast he realized that the Germans "would never take Leningrad." 🇺🇸

Meet the Author Book Chat

Co-sponsored by the sisterhood.

Sunday, January 10, 10:00 am:



The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust.

Professor Lisa Leff of American University will present her new book on a controversial figure. No need to read the book in advance! For more information, contact Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).

continued in right column

Anne Frank House Update



As we begin 2016, we want to express our appreciation to the entire Adas Israel community for everything its members do to support Anne Frank House. In the March 2016 *Chronicle* we will include the names of those congregants who have made significant financial contributions in 2015.

We want to give another shoutout to all the children and families who participated in the November 1 Mini-Walk to End Homelessness. Between the donations from event sponsors and registration fees from Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School families, the Mini-Walk Walkathon raised over \$22,000 for Anne Frank House! We are grateful to the Religious School staff for their work coordinating the Mini-Walk, and to the students and families for their participation. As you can see from these photos, everyone also had a great time!

We also wanted to share a note one of our residents sent the AFH Board of Directors, telling us what a difference her Anne Frank House apartment has made in her life. Here is part of what she wrote:

When all other options had failed . . . the Anne Frank House apartment came through. It is a miracle. I am stronger emotionally, optimistic and encouraged. The space . . . with its natural light and clean lines has become a calm and peaceful haven. ✿



tikkunolam continued from page 3

Social Justice Discussion with Aviva Kempner, Clarence Page and Rabbi David Saperstein

Thursday, January 14 at 7:30pm
Hosted by CESJDS and Adas Israel



Join us as we apply the Jewish values of *tikkun olam* and social justice outside the classroom in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. A short video will be shown on the role of Jews in African American history in the early part of the 20th century, followed by a discussion with Aviva Kempner, Clarence Page and Rabbi David Saperstein regarding social change, the Civil Rights movement, and the impact Jews can make for the wider community in 2016.

Kempner's recent film, *Rosenwald*, is a documentary describing how businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald joined with African American communities in the South to build schools for their children during the early 20th century. Learn more and RSVP at www.cesjds.org/socialjustice.

Thanksgiving Food Packing

On November 18, eight Adas congregants got together with Shirley Moseley, Nathaniel Moore, and others from Peoples Congregational Church to pack 145 bags of food for Thanksgiving. With his ever-present dedication to the job, Nat guided us in the proper food packing order. This is the seventh year we have joined with members of Peoples Church in its annual Thanksgiving food distribution to low-income DC residents, and this activity continues to be one of those very worthwhile Adas moments. ✿

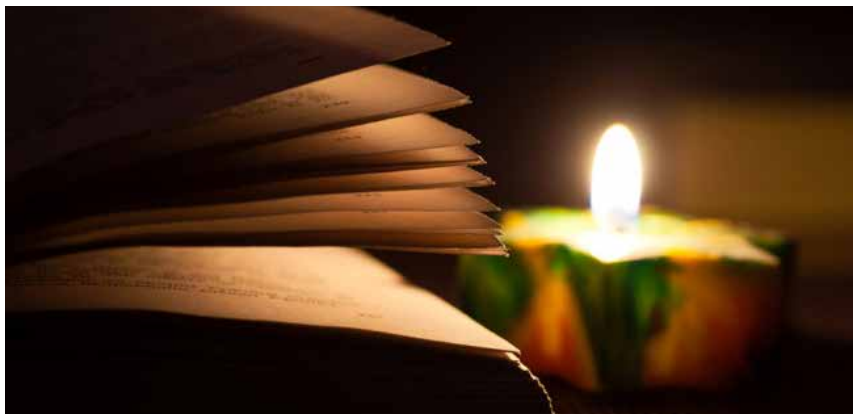


Adas members helping to pack bags of Thanksgiving food: Joel Fischman, Rae Grad, Lois Fingerhut, Rennie Sherman, Marvene Hurwitz, Dena Bauman, Krayna Feinberg, and coordinator Jamie Butler.



The Power of *Kaddish*

A reflection by Adas member Beth Heifetz



Saying *kaddish* for my father at Adas these past 11 months has been very powerful. I would like to share with you what I have experienced coming to morning *minyan*.

I experienced the power of prayer. Taking the time each day to recite the *kaddish*, to connect with G-d, to have a time and space to think about my father has lifted me up and comforted me and soothed me all at the same time. I experienced the power of ritual. I so appreciated knowing what it was I was to say and do, especially in the early days after my father died. And knowing that my father recited these same words for his parents, and his father did the same for my great-grandparents, this tethering to the generations before me gave me purpose and strength. I also know this is what my father wanted.

I experienced the power of discipline, of habit. Coming here each morning, when it was cold and dark and the world did not feel so inviting, and I showed up, and I gained from that.

I experienced the power of a name. Each morning in the minyan I've said my father's name aloud before reciting *kaddish*. It keeps him real and present for me even in death. It reminds me of why I am here and why it matters that I am here. It connects my father to all of you, even though most of you never met him. And each time I said his name, I had the benefit of recalling my grandparents and feeling their presence also.

I experienced the power of song. This is a minyan that joins together in song. I leave here each day feeling a little brighter, a little lighter. I experienced the power of time. It's been a march through time standing right here in the morning minyan. When I began saying *kaddish*, it was *Hanukkah* and we davened with candles burning. Then it was *Rosh Hodesh* and then *Purim* with a special prayer in the *Amidah*, and *Pesach* where we recite *Hallel* each day during *Hol HaMoed*. We stopped asking for rain. And so it continued, with *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, and the wonderful *shofar* blowing during Elul and the psalm for the season of repentance, and now we are back to asking for rain.

I experienced the power of the life cycle. As Rabbi Schwartz says, life happens in the morning minyan. Baby namings, bar mitzvahs, bat mitzvahs, weddings, people coming to recite *kaddish*—it all happens here. The joys, the sorrows—it's good to be reminded that life continues.

But perhaps most important of all, I experienced the power of ten. Each morning you all come to morning *minyan*, maybe to say *kaddish* yourself, maybe because you daven each morning, or maybe, just maybe, so that I and others are able to recite *kaddish*. You welcomed me, you comforted me, you taught me, you uplifted me. There is nothing more powerful than people coming together as a community, a community united by prayer, a community united by faith, a community united by caring. That's the power of ten. For that I am so grateful to you and I thank you. ❀



Come practice and play with JMCW's Jewish Yoga Program!

As the new JMCW Jewish Yoga coordinator, I would like to extend a personal invitation to the Adas community to join us on our path of discovery in this new year. You're probably asking yourself, "What is Jewish Yoga anyway?" At JMCW, we celebrate and wrestle with this evocative question, body, mind, and spirit.

Beginning with a deep understanding that Jewish Yoga celebrates the intersection of two spiritual traditions that share a similar heart, we are taking bold steps as a mindfulness community to inquire together. Through a practice of moving meditation we seek to deepen our spirituality through embodied knowledge. Using Judaism as a frame to hold yoga and yoga as a frame to hold Judaism, we are constantly refocusing and diving deeper.

Please join us in our weekly Jewish Yoga classes, special workshops, and evenings of *Kavanah Experience* in 2016. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions, yoga@adasisrael.org. All of our programs heartily welcome beginners!

Namaste L'Shalom, Alesandra Zsiba ❀

Parking Decals

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

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

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. ❀

synagogue contributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Adas Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of our twins, **Jonah & Rowan** by Haleigh & Frank Bartos. **Rabbi Holtzblatt** by Jonathan Manheim & Michelle Lackie.

Jared & Annie Rubenstein by Marlene & Lee Rubenstein.

With Thanks For: Wonderful Adas hospitality at *Yom Kippur* by Kelly Sweet & David Gross.

In Memory Of: **Lydia Snyder** by Caryn Brown.

Hersh, all my loved ones, & all the members of Adas Israel by Charlotte Muchnick. **Jack & Rona Blumkin** by Ian & Fran Tarlie. **Sarah Brodsky & Benjamin Brodsky** by Jeffrey Siegel. **Suzu Obstfeld** by Maurice Obstfeld & Jennifer Cobb. **Sol Lifschitz & Diana Bressner** by Michael Spira.

Benjamin James Cecil Special Education Fund

In Loving Memory Of: **Benjamin "Jamie" Cecil** by Joe Cecil & Judith Friedman, Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Bereavement Fund

In Memory Of: **Littman Danziger** by Arnold Danziger. **David Schwartz, Lillian Cardash** by Vicki Perper.

B'Yahad Special Needs Fund

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In Memory Of: **Gilda Snyder** by Ellen Bortz.

Irving Goldsmith by Jud & Deborah Sommer.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

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In Memory Of: **Leo Sherman** by William Willis & Rennie Sherman.

Cantor Saltzman Youth Music Endowment Fund

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In Honor Of: Marriage of **Heather Beruriah & David Polonsky** by Larry & Myra Promisel.

Charles Pilzer Computer Center

In Honor Of: **Geraldine Pilzer's** special birthday by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Congregational Kiddush Fund

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In Honor Of: **Lucy Goldberg's** upcoming *bat mitzvah* by Adam Goldberg.

In Memory Of: **Lillian Cardash** by Rene & Melanie Moreno, David & Heather Polonsky.

Craig Jeffrey Atlas Hebrew University Fund

In Honor Of: **Arline & Alvin Atlas's** special anniversary by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Daily Minyan Fund

In Honor Of: **Hazzan Goldsmith** by Ricki Gerger.

In Memory Of: **Betty Kline** by David Kline.

Baila Rivkah & Shlomo Gershberg by

Roberta Boam. **Morris Stirman** by Sonia Herson.

Dan Kaufman Children's Program Fund

In Memory Of: **Dan Kaufman** by Jeanne Mandelblatt, Minna Kaufman. **David H. Kaufman** by Minna Kaufman.

Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund

In Honor Of: **Ari Rubenstein** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Gail Schwartz.

In Memory Of: **Lewis Lutter** by Trina Rubenstein.

Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund

In Memory Of: **Gilda Snyder, Marshall Cole** by Dorothy Block.

Executive Director Discretionary Fund

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Fund for the Future

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In Memory Of: **Abraham Povich** by Larry Povich. **Sidney Sachs** by Susan Sachs Goldman. **Jack A. Sender** by Sydel Sandy.

Garden of the Righteous

In Memory Of: **Rhoda Connick** by David Connick.

Havurah Kiddush Fund

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In Memory Of: **Irving E. & Elizabeth M. Cantor** by Arnie & Mary Hammer.

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington

By: Rabbi Shira Stutman.

In Memory Of: **Julia Mayer Rosenberg** by Dr. Joel Rosenberg.

Julius & Anna Wolpe Auditorium Fund

In Memory Of: **Paula Bellmore Wolpe** by Donald Wolpe.

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In Memory Of: **Stan Emas** by Maxine Freedman.

Makom DC

By: Bianca Faccio, Bill Levenson, Dr. Robert Keimowitz, Edna Povich, Gail Roache, Helen Kramer, Jill Jacob, Judith Kronen, Kathy Krieger, Ketura Persellin, Rachel Mauro, Richard Lipman, Rick Fox, Sharon Burka, Sheldon Kimmel, Stephen Horblitt, Stephen Lachter, Wendy Rudolph.

Men's Club Amuday Torah Fund

In Honor Of: **Irv & Estelle Jacobs's** special anniversary by Glenn & Cindy Easton, David & Heather Polonsky.

Mikveh Captial Campaign

In Honor Of: Our daughter **Lise** chanting the *haftorah* on the first day of *Rosh Hashanah* by Michael & Joyce Stern.

For The Speedy Recovery Of: **Ruth bat Colleen** by Bracha Pluscarr.

Mildred & Jess Fisher Nursery School Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of **Reid Carter Nussdorf** by Barbara Winnik.

Morris Hariton Senior Programming Fund

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Offerings Fund

By: David & Rhona Byer.

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Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Rabbi Alexander** by Frances Burka. **Marion Usher** by Ricki Gerger.

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In Memory Of: **Jack Chernikoff** by Larry Chernikoff.

Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Rabbi Holtzblatt** by Jacqueline Forster.

Rabbi Jeffrey & Judith Wohlberg Masorti Fund

In Memory Of: **Dutchy Cohen-Markowitz** by Avram Bar-Cohen.

Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz History Fund

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

Rabbi Steinlauf Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Rabbi Gil Steinlauf** by Steven & Lisa Himmelfarb.

In Appreciation Of: **Rabbi Steinlauf** by Gail Schwartz.

In Memory Of: **David Schwartz, Rebecca Kopf** by Michael & Joyce Stern.

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

In Honor Of: **Susie Wedlan's** birthday by Betsy Hockstein, Claudia Taskier. Marriage of **Heather Beruriah & David Polonsky** by Irv & Grace Lebow

In Memory Of: **George Sidell** by Arlene Sidell Cohen. **Sophie Tersoff** by David Margolies &

Susan Tersoff. **Shirley Breger Eitches** by Eddie Eitches. **Gilda Snyder, Jean Title** by Elinor Tattar. **Dr. Leo Brodie, Gilda Snyder** by Fae Brodie. **Gilda Snyder** by Glenn & Cindy Easton, Kris Kornemann, Maddie Shapiro. **Nathan Promisel** by Larry & Myra Promisel. **Susan Baram** by Lester & Karen Goldberg, Mildred Jacobs. **Alfred Jacobs** by Mildred Jacobs. **Aaron Samban** by Raquel Frenk. **Ethel & Jack Boam** by Roberta Boam. **Regina Sclar** by Sidney Sclar.

Sandra & Clement Alpert Fund for Family Education

In Memory Of: **Ann Colman** by Dr. Clement Alpert.

Shelley Remer Gan Hayered Enrichment Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of **Daniel Andrew Blumenfeld** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Siegel-Kalmekoff Family Adult Education Fund

For The Speedy Recovery Of: **Margie Siegel** by Jane Baldinger.

Sisterhood Donations

In Memory Of: **Gilda Snyder** by Alan & Nancy Bubes, Carol Winer, Joe & Alma Gildenhorn, Miriam Schlesinger, Paula Goldman, Wendy Rudolph, Rita Segerman.

Staff Gift Fund

By: Leah Chanin, Manuel Schiffres & Rae Grad, Richard & Carol Margolis, Richard & Susan Ugelow, Ricki Gerger, Ronald & Debbie Sann, Russell & Judith Smith, Sheldon Kimmel. *In Honor Of:* Wonderful **Adas Israel Staff** by Lawrence & Jean Bernard.

With Great Appreciation For: All of your hard work throughout the year by Ron & Rise Schlesinger.

Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of: B'not mitzvah of **Mendel Socolovsky and Sami Himmelfarb** by Bill Levenson.

Tzedakah Fund

In Honor Of: Wedding of **Heather Beruriah & David Polonsky** by Manuel Schiffres & Rae Grad.

In Memory Of: **Ruth Marenus** by Barbara Marenus. **Irving Torgoff** by Carole Ash. **Norman Shreier** by Carolyn Goldman. **Morris Tersoff** by David Margolies & Susan Tersoff. **Dr. Jordan S. Bloom** by Dr. Sally Bloom-Feshbach & family. **Bella Briansky Kalter** by Eliot & Sandra Kalter. **Carlotta Schiffres** by Manuel Schiffres. **David Lesser** by Margery Elfin. **Minnie Margolis** by Mel Elfin. **Rae Levy** by Rosalyn Jonas. **Fannie Handman** by Sarah Elpern. **Alan Cohen** by the Lechrich family.

Yizkor/Yahrzeit Fund

In Memory Of: **Simon Albert** by Barbara Sandler. **Leonard Slesinger** by Barbara Winnik. **Max Rovner** by Berdie Pieczenik. **Rose Gildenhorn** by Blanche Speisman. **Dr. Melvin Clayman** by Caryn Clayman. **Beatrice Diener** by Daniel Diener. **Charles Tauber** by Dolly Kay. **Kenneth G. Levin** by Dr. Jonathan Hardis. **Trudy Wilensky** by Dr. Robert Wilensky. **M. Jerry Winnick** by Ellen Sinel. **Albert Roggin**

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Ash. **Zoila Luskin** by Miriam Ain. **Evelyn Bernstein Bishoff** by Richard Bernstein. **Louise Burka** by Robert Burka.

Youth Activities Fund

In Memory Of: **Evelyn Bernstein Bishoff** by Amb. Stuart Bernstein. **Raffaele Sadun** by Arrigo Sadun. **Bernardo Kotelanski** by Jorge Kotelanski & Marina Feldman. **Simon Albert** by Stanley & Ellen Albert.

YP@AI and Youth@AI SOME Hygiene Kit MLK Shoebox Drive

YP@AI and Youth@AI will be collecting donations of items to assemble into hygiene kits for So Others May Eat (SOME). Please provide assorted hygiene items including new, unopened, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, hand wipes, body wash, etc. On MLK Day Young Professionals and USY students will come together to assemble and deliver the kits. A box will be set up in the Adas coat room for all donations. Thank you for any donations you can provide!



Kol HaMayim: The Voice of the Waters



in detail what will happen and assuring the kids of their privacy.

While the girls were preparing to immerse (separately), the parents told me they would like to send the children to a Jewish camp this summer. Because of my longtime connection to and support of Camp Judaea in North Carolina, I knew the camp was recruiting military kids and offering substantial financial assistance. I told the parents about this program and gave them the name of the camp director. Later, when the girls learned about the camp, they were quite excited at the idea that they would go off to North Carolina to camp by themselves.

The next day the camp director e-mailed me and said they could accept the kids and give them assistance. Their father e-mailed me and said he would keep me posted. He also thanked me and Adas Israel for the warm and welcoming conversion. I hope these two new "Mikvah-ed" kids will enjoy and benefit from a wonderful Jewish camp experience!

Leah Chanin,
Adas Israel Mikvah Guide



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