

Adas Israel Congregation

CHRONICLE

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Purim is a holiday urging each of us to witness our lives from an alternate reality; a day in which up becomes down, right becomes left, and life becomes laughter.

Chag Purim Sameach!

From the President

By Debby Joseph



Adas Israel is bustling with activity at all times every day. Our community is growing, with members who are engaged and involved with studying, creating, and caring for one another. Our clergy team inspires and challenges us; teachers and staff motivate and encourage our children, teenagers, and young professionals; our custodial staff maintains our building and have our spaces ready for all that is occurring, no matter how late our meetings and programs; and our security personnel provide us with reassurance. As members, we are immeasurably grateful for and appreciative of all the effort that enables these daily accomplishments. We recognize that our professional, administrative, and support staff approach their jobs with a deep commitment to our well-being.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the mighty army of volunteers who collaborate with our very capable staff, reflecting, advocating, and promoting the needs of our fellow congregants. Witness the extraordinary turnout for Hesed 2.0. Launched at an organizational meeting for which the expected audience was 20 people; however, more than 50 members attended and divided themselves into five groups, each focusing on caring for the needs of members of the Adas Israel community who are either hospitalized or unable to leave their homes. Our Bereavement Committee has grown, and our membership activities have increased.

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clergycorner



Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

'Where Is God now?'

I hear this question a lot. Particularly from people who are going through times of personal crisis. When we go through crises, like loss, illness, or betrayal, we can feel abandoned by God. We can feel abandoned by everyone whom we hoped would be there for us, even when those closest to us are trying their hardest to be there for us. Sometimes, when trying to comfort or help someone in crisis, we don't choose the right words when faced with another's loss and pain. Our words, however well meaning, can make even God feel far away.

Judaism is a religion that focuses on words, ideas, expressions, and actions. When a word is present in the Torah, it has infinite meaning. And when a word is missing, that, too, has infinite meaning. In the *Book of Esther*, one word is conspicuously absent: the Name of God. Even the name "Esther" is a nod to the Jewish expression "Hester Panim," or "The Hiding of [God's] Face." It's a book about the Jewish people in crisis. In its unique tragicomic way, the *Book of Esther* is an accurate depiction of what it's like (albeit told in national terms) to be in a state of personal crisis: It's almost comical when life utterly betrays you, when you feel out of control, and when no one around you expresses the support you need. You move into desperation. You can't trust anyone or anything. You only have your wits, and even that feels out of control. You can't find God anywhere in the equation. God's Face is just plain hidden.

This reality is why the *Book of Esther* is so important. The point of the book is actually the opposite of God's absence! In a very real way, the *Book of Esther* is the ultimate biblical depiction of the Revelation of God's presence in the world. Mount Sinai was a big sound and light show—hardly applicable to the way we experience the real world in our daily lives. But the *Book of Esther* is messy, ridiculous, even absurd, just like real life. God isn't speaking to us from heaven, or sending signs and wonders. In fact, things turn from bad to worse, and by Biblical standards, we think that God ought to intervene. But that never happens. Instead, reality happens. People struggle to do their best, even in crisis, even when feeling abandoned.

And here's why I think the *Book of Esther* is the final biblical Revelation about God: It's only when the crisis passes that we can look back and realize that, despite our experience of feeling alone and abandoned along the way, we were never actually alone. At the end of the day, the Jewish people were saved, through a crazy series of events, which, at the time, seemed like dumb luck. And that's how it is in life. It's almost always in the ways that we least expect, in ways that we never could have perceived at the time, that God was present in the natural unfolding of life. The great challenge of life itself,

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Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington Wins Second Slingshot Award



Adas Israel's Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington (JMCW) has once again received one of the most sought-after awards in Jewish North America, the Slingshot Award.

The Slingshot Award's mission is to strengthen in-

novation in Jewish life by developing next-generation funders and providing resources to leverage their impact in the Jewish community. To address this mission, Slingshot facilitates networks and runs programs for the three central stakeholders of Jewish innovation: next-generation funders, innovative organizations, and funders of Jewish innovation. Since its inception, Slingshot has become an important funding source, a closely watched seal of approval, and a leading voice advocating for innovation in Jewish life.

The JMCW at Adas Israel was originally created by Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, and a committed group of lay leaders to meet the increasingly diverse spiritual, intellectual, and social needs of our community. The seed was planted in the form of a few introductory courses on Jewish meditation and spirituality offered by the clergy. Since then, the JMCW has become a staple of Adas Israel's offerings, and has attracted thousands to engaging and soulful Jewish experiences at the synagogue. It has also served as a catalyst for innovation and new programs for the broader synagogue community, resulting in such community favorites as the "Return Again" musical services and Tuesday night Jewish meditation sessions. The JMCW has continually sought to make Judaism more spiritually meaningful, accessible, and important for Adas members, and beyond, and to foster community connections among clergy, participants, and volunteers.

When the Slingshot nominations process closed in late January, a national committee of nearly 100 volunteer evaluators reviewed the nominations forms. A minimum of four evaluators reviewed each nominee, and whenever possible, each nominee was assigned to an evaluator with insight into the particular organization as a result of geographic proximity or specific programmatic experience. Slingshot also assigned each nominee to an evaluator who had no prior knowledge of the organization. The mix of the insider's point of view with a first-timer's opinion gave Slingshot a well-balanced final picture.

The JMCW is truly a treasure for the Adas Israel community. It is a pleasure to see Adas members working so hard to contribute to their community and to receive this level of public recognition for their efforts. Now backed by this powerful national endorsement, we encourage you to try out a JMCW program for yourself. The entire month of March will be filled with ongoing programs, services, and workshops, where beginners and experienced JMCW-ers alike are encouraged to join their community for warm and welcoming spiritual programming. Learn more in the sidebar at right.



JMCW Shabbaton Experience with Guest Rabbi James Maisels-Jacobson, March 4–8



Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels teaches Jewish thought, mysticism, spiritual practices, and meditation at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem and *Yeshivat Hadar* and the Drisha Institute in New York City. He also leads Jewish meditation retreats in Israel and North America.

Rabbi James is known for his grounded, insightful, and personal teachings; his ability to make texts and concepts relevant to how we live our daily lives; and his transformative approach to Jewish practice that is relevant to people from all backgrounds.

Join us for a weekend of services and programs designed to help deepen our experience of the spiritual and create connections to foster a vibrant, diverse spiritual community.

Friday, March 4

6:00 pm: *Kabbalat Shabbat, D'var Torah* by Rabbi James Maisels-Jacobson

Saturday, March 5

9:30 am: *Shabbat Awakening* with Rabbi Maisels-Jacobson

Join clergy-led services in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, with *D'var Torah* by Rabbi Maisels-Jacobson

1:15 pm: Post-*kiddush* learning/meditation session with Rabbi Maisels-Jacobson

Tuesday, March 8

7:15 pm: MakomDC/JMCW Scholar Discussion with Rabbi Maisels-Jacobson

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Return Again to Shabbat with Rabbi Holtzblatt & Elie Greenberg

March 11 @ 6:30 pm



Just before we spring forward, we'd love for you to join us for Return Again to Shabbat on Friday,

March 11. This *Shabbat* experience—in the style of our innovative outdoor *Kol Nidre* service—you cannot miss!

Join us for a reflective journey into the power of *Shabbat* featuring seasoned musicians and a spiritual, personal excursion into prayer and song. Traditional lay-led service will be at 7:00 pm. A community *Shabbat* dinner for all follows the service. At this dinner, there will be tables specifically reserved for those in their 40s and 50s, for good food and good conversation. Return Again is family-friendly, but the 40s and 50s tables will be adults only.

To register, visit www.adasisrael.org or call Carol Ansell, 202-362-4433. Please mark in the notes section of the registration if you're responding for the 40s and 50s tables, or, if responding to Carol, let her know if you want to sit at a 40s or 50s table. ✨

A Covenant with God Fulfilled After a Blizzard Brings D.C. to a Standstill

By DeNeen L. Brown

As published in the Washington Post, January 24



Photos by Nikki Kahn/The Washington Post

In Judaism, a male child must, if at all possible, be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. And not even a blizzard trumps that biblical commandment—especially not when the baby in question is the son of two Washington rabbis.

"It is important to us that our son enter the Jewish people in the same way his ancestors who were born Jewish or chose to be Jewish entered into the covenant," said Rabbi Aaron Alexander, 40, whose wife, Rabbi Penina Alexander, 39, had given birth to their third son at 5 a.m. Jan. 17.

But the weather made holding the *brit milah*, the circumcision ceremony, a challenge. It was scheduled for Sunday morning at Adas Israel Congregation in Northwest Washington.

The baby's paternal grandparents' flight had been canceled. An aunt who lived in New York couldn't make it on the train. Neither could an uncle in Ohio.

But the most critical attendee was the *mohelot*, the woman who would perform the *brit milah*, or *bris*. April Rubin lived on Capitol Hill, a short distance from the Cleveland Park synagogue, except in a storm expected to dump nearly two feet of snow on downtown Washington. Bus service had been suspended. Metro had closed Friday evening. And Washington's mayor was asking people to stay off the streets.

The Alexanders, who live across the street from Adas Israel, knew it might take an act of God to get Rubin, a physician, across town.

"If she is the only one who can make it," Aaron Alexander vowed, "we will do it."

Other members of the congregation also worried about the timing of the blizzard.

"When I got the Facebook message the baby was born, I knew the *bris* would be Sunday," said Sarah Brooks, who lives two blocks from Adas Israel. "I had actually been watching the weather."

On Thursday night, Brooks sent Rubin a text offering her a place to stay.

Rubin, who does about 80 *brises* each year, had planned to stay on Capitol Hill, ride out the storm, then take the subway to the congregation Sunday morning. That was before Metro officials announced the system would close at 11 p.m. Friday.

"When they shut the Metro," Rubin said, "I called [Sarah] and said, 'Is that offer still on?'"

Brooks said yes, and Rubin went to her house Friday for *Shabbat* dinner and stayed for the weekend in her family's guest room. On Saturday morning, as the wind whipped, they walked to services together.

The synagogue sent out an email to the congregation saying that if

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The 6th Annual National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Championship Competition!

Saturday, March 12 @ 8:00 pm

A cappella music is sweeping the country, and colleges and universities are a big reason for that. There is an ever-increasing number of a cappella groups on college campuses, and the number of Jewish collegiate a cappella groups (that we know of) is approaching 50! Add to that popular TV shows like *The Sing-Off*, and anyone who's anyone now realizes how cool it is to sing without accompanying instruments.

There are competitions for a cappella groups out there, such as the Harmony Sweepstakes and ICCA, but there was a void in the Jewish a cappella world—at least until 2011! The inaugural Kol HaOlam National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Competition held in Washington, DC, saw Tizmoret (Queens College) crowned as the first official National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella champion. After Tizmoret repeated in 2012, Hooshir (Indiana University) claimed the title in 2013 and 2014, and then Tizmoret again in 2015! **Who will be crowned the next champion? And who will win the coveted Audience Favorite prize?**

The contenders are: *Jewkebox* (Temple University), *Jewop* (University of Wisconsin), *Kaskeset* (Binghamton University), *Ketzev* (Johns Hopkins University), *Kol HaKavod* (University of Michigan), *Kol Sasson* (University of Maryland), *Rak Shalom* (University of Maryland), and *Sta'am* (Washington University, St. Louis).

Buy your tickets in advance at kolhaolam.org.



Scenes from Last Year's Annual Kol HaOlam



Purim Schedule

Sunday, March 20

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

Erev Purim, Wednesday, March 23

5:30 pm: *Purim* celebration for families with young children

6:00 pm: *Mincha* (Only)

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

7:00 pm: Full *Megillah* Reading & "Challah-ver" *Purim Shpiel*

After the Readings: Refreshments & Celebration!

Purim, Thursday, March 24:

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



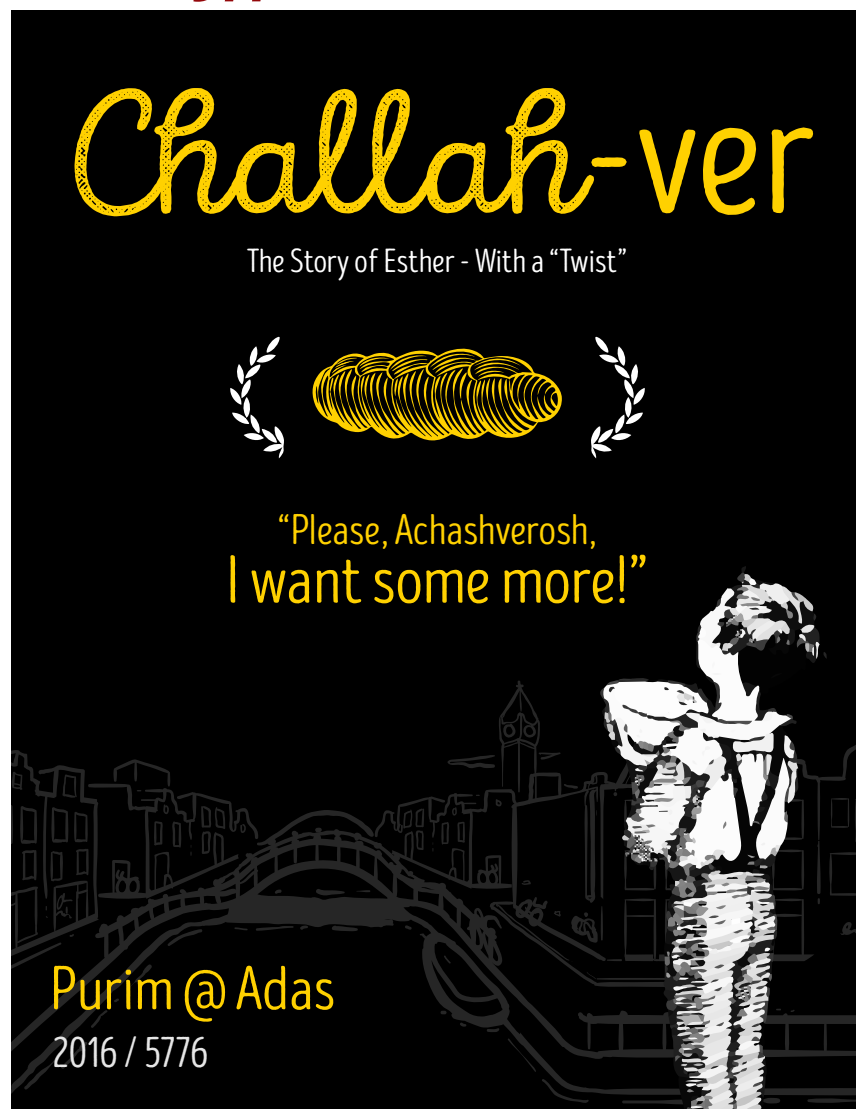
DC Purim Bash, March 19

For the past three years, Adas Israel's YP@AI has partnered with 2239, EntryPointDC of the Washington DCJCC, NOVA Tribe, Sixth & I Historic Synagogue, and Young Leadership of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington to co-sponsor the DC *Purim* Bash for Young Professionals ages 21–39. We have also had an amazing community partner in Gather the Jews.

Before the DC *Purim* Bash, we all used to have our own *Purim* celebrations, often on the same night. Two years ago, we asked ourselves, "Why?" There's one big DC community of Jewish 20s and 30s, so what about celebrating together instead? The DC *Purim* Bash launched an unprecedented level of collaboration among our organizations, and after a lot of planning, DC saw the biggest *Purim* celebration in our city's history.

This year, the celebration will be **Saturday, March 19, 8:00 pm, at Arena Stage**. Tickets are available online at www.adasrael.org/YP. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement, at marcy.spiro@adasrael.org or 202-362-4433, ext. 113.

holidays@adas Purim 5776/2016



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

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



Eat Drink and Be Holy

The Holiday of *Purim*



On its surface, the holiday of *Purim* is fairly straightforward, characterized by an atmosphere of joy and celebration. We are required to eat and to drink; we parade around in outlandish costumes; and we make loud noises that can hardly be described as dignified. It is not only

children who are expected to wear costumes. Adults as well are very much encouraged to wear costumes and participate in the joyous celebration. Still, beneath its almost too obvious guise of merriment, *Purim* is marked by a seriousness of purpose equal to that of the most solemn holiday. We are required to perform a variety of *mitzvot*—and from each, we learn an important lesson.

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

Reading the *Megillah*

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

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

Mishloach Manot

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

Matanot L’Evyonim

Based on the injunction in the *Megillah* that we must “send gifts to the poor” (9:22), the holiday affords us a special opportunity to share our good fortune with those in need. Gifts can be given directly—for example, bringing food

Eat Drink and Be Holy continued from left



and clothing to a homeless shelter, or indirectly, through an organized charity. It is important to keep in mind that whatever additional *tzedakah* we give throughout the year, donations must still be given on *Purim*. How important is this *mitzvah*? As Maimonides writes in his *Mishneh Torah* (*Hilkhot Megillah* 2:17): “It is better for a person to increase gifts to the poor than to increase his feast or the *mishloach manot* to his neighbors.”

Seudat Purim

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

Chag Purim Sameach!



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Register Today!

The First Night Community Seder

Passover 2016/5776, Friday, April 22

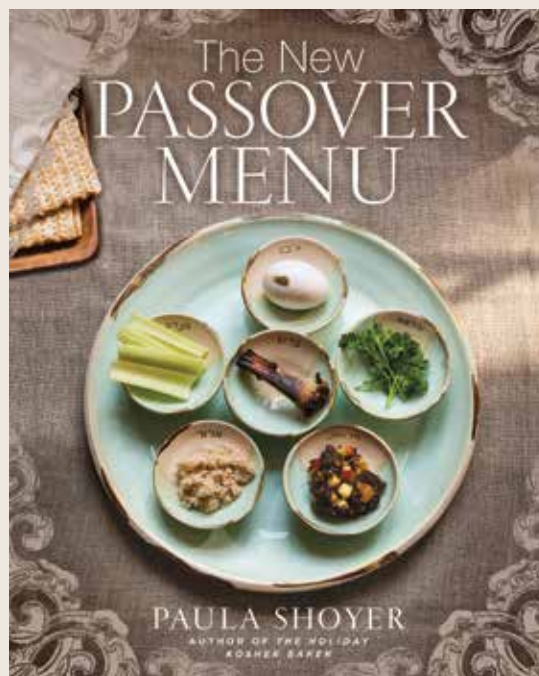


Join us for our annual, festive community Passover seder at Adas Israel with delicious food, thought-provoking discussion, and joyful song. The Passover seder is one of the Jewish peoples' most treasured traditions. Few rituals have survived so long

and remained so true to their original form. Using rich symbolism, role-playing, and all the senses, the seder has warmly transmitted the values of human dignity, liberty, and the search for higher meaning to every society it has reached. To this day, in every corner of the world, Jewish families come together to reconstruct that original Passover seder, again and again, year after year. And every year, there is more to learn. We look forward to sharing this beautiful and meaningful tradition with you and your family this year at Adas. Registration now available online. ❀

Paula Shoyer, A Fresh Look at Passover Food

Tuesday, March 29th at 7:30pm



Hosted and underwritten by Adas members Ken and Kathy Ingber

Meet Paula Shoyer, pastry chef and owner of Paula's Parisian Pastries Cooking School in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Paula will do a demonstration and share samples from her latest book, "The New Passover Menu," a cookbook full of healthy, simple, modern and beautiful recipes for Passover organized into 8 menus, for Seders

and all week long. Learn some tips and recipes and have the opportunity to purchase her newest book. **This event will take place at the Ingber's home in Chevy Chase, MD. Contact information will be provided to those who have RSVP'd to Marcy Spiro at marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org or 202.362.4433 ext. 113.** ❀

Mark Your Calendars

Garden of the Righteous Ceremony

Honoring the Memory of Joachim Alexopoulos, Greek Orthodox Bishop of Volos, Sunday, May 22

On Sunday afternoon, May 22, at 4:00 pm, Adas Israel Congregation will honor the memory of His Eminence, Joachim Alexopoulos (1873–1959), Greek Orthodox Bishop of Volos. His courage and faith during World War II were little known until his posthumous recognition in 1997 by the State of Israel, for saving the lives of 700 people who were hidden by the residents of the villages of Mount Pelion. When the Nazis asked him to hand over the list of Jewish residents, he refused, answering, "I am a Jew."

Honored as "Righteous Among the Nations," Father Alexopoulos's name is inscribed in the Holocaust Museum here in Washington and entered on the Righteous Honor Wall at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

The Adas Israel Garden of the Righteous is a beautiful reminder of numerous acts of decency and daring performed by many non-Jews in the midst of one of the most tragic moments in human history. The entire community is cordially invited to this moving event.

This program, initiated in 1992 by Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg to honor non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, is supported in part by the Men's Club of Adas Israel and the Peter Dreyer Memorial Endowment Fund. Adas member Judith Strauch, who chairs this program, has dedicated herself to the success of this program for more than two decades. We look forward to seeing you there. 🌸



JCMW continued from page 3

JMCW Book Launch with Rabbi Ben Shalva
Tuesday, March 29,
7:30–9:00 pm



One of our very own rabbis and practitioners has written a new book, *Spiritual Cross-Training: Searching through Silence, Stretch, and Song*. Join Rabbi



Ben Shalva for a reading and an opportunity to try some of his methodologies and to buy the book at 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 is 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. 🌸

HAZAK@AI

HAZAK Dinner for Members 55+
Friday, March 18—Services at 6:00 pm immediately followed by dinner



The HAZAK Steering Committee invites Adas members ages 55+ to a very special *Shabbat* dinner following the

congregational *Kabbalat Shabbat* services, Friday, March 18. *Shabbat* is a time to lift our mood and spirit, and that is best achieved with good friends and family. So join us as we sit down to a delicious *Shabbat* dinner together, reconnect with old friends, and meet new ones.

Please register online at adasisrael.org/hazak or call Carol Ansell at 202-362-4433. 🌸



Hubris & Humility

Living with both self-worth and humility.

This month is a joint program of the JMCW & MakomDC.

It's so easy to feel both ever-important and ever-unnecessary all at once. But how do we find the balance between self-worth and self-negation? The Torah wants us to live with both—grand self-worth and a realistic humility. This month stretches us to achieve a healthy religious balance.

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

MakomDC Learning:



"Open Beit Midrash Night" in the Biran Beit Midrash

TUESDAY, MARCH 1 @ 7:15 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 James Jacobson-Maisels

TUESDAY, MARCH 8 @ 7:15 PM

How do we find the balance between self-worth and self-negation? The Torah wants us to live with both. Join Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels, co-founder of OR HALEV: Center for Jewish Spirituality

& Meditation, for an in-depth exploration of this sacred practice.



Meditation Practice with Rabbis Steinlauf & Holtzblatt

TUESDAY, MARCH 15 @ 7:15 PM

In this session, Rabbis Steinlauf and Holtzblatt give us a chance to deepen our understanding of how Judaism seeks to guide us on a mindful path

through seeing, hearing, listening, sacred conflict, and building an open heart.



Upside Down, Inside Out" – Post-Kiddush Purim Torah Study

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 @ 1:00 PM

Post-kiddush Halakah class with Rabbi Alexander. This month Rabbi Alexander will explore the ways in which Purim

flips the major principles of Jewish law upside down and inside out, reframing everything we once knew about how the Jewish legal system works.



The Chasidic Story: Having a Jewish Soul

With Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 @ 10:30 AM

Delve into an in-depth learning session, using this month's theme and traditional texts as catalysts to go deeper into the Jewish concepts of hubris and humility.



Religious School Parent Drop-In, Drop-Off

SUNDAY, MARCH 13 @ 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 humility and

hubris with Rabbi Alexander.

Additional Ongoing Learning

Boker Or Shabbat Study



SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM

MARCH 5 Guest Rabbi Elianna Yolkut

MARCH 12 Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

MARCH 19 Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

MARCH 26 Rabbi Aaron Alexander

Boker Or 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

Purim will be here before you know it!
Come in and check out our groggers,
beads, crowns, and other holiday items.



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 FOR SISTERHOOD SPECIAL EVENTS

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

June 26: Sisterhood Closing Event

sisterhoodnews

Torah Fund Spring Event, Sunday March 6 RSVP Today for 'Wine, Women and Song'

Last call to all Torah
Fund supporters for this
year's Torah Fund Spring
Event on Sunday
March 6, 2:00–4:00
pm, at Har Shalom
(11510 Falls Road,
Potomac). Featuring
our own Cantor Ari in



performance with Cantor Henrique Ozur-Bass, the event also includes a pre-Passover wine tasting, together with professional networking/socializing with your Seaboard sisters.

RSVP by March 1. Send your covert check for \$18, payable to Seaboard Region WLCJ, to Bobbi Gorban, 10402 Sandringham Ct., Potomac, MD 20854, and note your affiliation with Adas Israel Sisterhood. Also please send e-mail adasisraeltorahfund@hotmail.com to let us know you're attending and whether you can give/need a ride so we can arrange carpooling.



Torah Fund Campaign 5776 Update

Haven't donated to Torah Fund for 5776 yet, and would like to join us at the Spring Event? Contact the AI Torah Fund campaign at the above e-mail address to pledge. The annual Torah Fund campaign is ongoing. For those who were waiting to pledge or pay in 2016, we would

love to hear from you! We have some distance to go to meet our 5776 goal of \$12,000.

Please support Torah Fund and, in so doing, plant a seed for the future. Every gift matters, so choose a level of giving that is right for you and send a check today, payable to Torah Fund-JTS, to: Torah Fund, c/o Adas Israel Sisterhood, 2850 Quebec St., NW, WDC 20008, or e-mail to adasisraeltorahfund@hotmail.com to pay by credit card. All monies go to scholarships for clergy and lay professionals candidates at JTS, the Ziegler School, and the Machon Schechter in Jerusalem.

Sisterhood Co-Sponsors Meet-the-Author Book Chat, Sunday, March 13, 10:00 am

The ebullient Boris Fishman will describe the story behind his highly praised novel, *A Replacement Life*, about Soviet Jewish émigrés. Book-signing to follow. Some of you read it for the December Chat; now you can meet the author! But there's no need to read the book in advance to enjoy the Chat.

Next Taste of Tanach, March 15

Continuing a time-honored tradition, Sisterhood members and friends meet once a month for Taste of *Tanach* with Rabbi Steinlauf, who leads a lively Torah-based discussion. We meet next Tuesday, March 15, 10:00–11:00 am in the Biran Beit Midrash. **Remember to RSVP to Beryl Saltman, Beryl.Saltman@adasisrael.org.**

Sisterhood Shabbat Inspires Everyone!

Last month we welcomed our 5776 Sisterhood *Shabbat* speaker, Naomi Less. Throughout the February 26–28 weekend, Naomi brought soul and spirit to our worship and text study with her own inspirational and participatory

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march2016
adar I–adar II 5776

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| <div>2819 Adar I</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amJMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga</div> <div>10:30 amMakomDC-What Is Jewish Identity in the 21st Century? with Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>11:00 amJMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>2920 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>121 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>7:00 pmTikkun Olam Women's Foundation: Second Annual Bonnie Lewin Memorial Lecture</div> <div>7:30 pmMakomDC-Open Beit Midrash</div> | <div>222 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pmForbidden Wisdom: Jewish Mysticism through the Ages</div> <div>7:00 pmDCJCC Film Screening</div> <div>7:00 pmJSC Class</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism Class-Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow</div> <div>8:15 pmJSC Class</div> | <div>233 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>244 Adar I</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; D'var Torah by Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels</div> <div>6:30 pmShir Delight Happy Hour</div> <div>7:30 pmShir Delight Service D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>8:30 pmShir Delight Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>5:46 pm</div> | <div>255 PARSHAT VAYAKHEL/SHABBAT SHEKALIM</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service; Bat Mitzvah: Ruby Kaplan; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Awakening w/Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pmMakomDC-Post-Kiddush Discussion with Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels</div> <div>5:45 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>6:46 pmHavdalah</div> <div>7:00 pmHavdalah Service</div> |
| <div>266 Adar I</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:30 amJMCW Class-Wise Aging</div> <div>10:30 amMakomDC-The Chasidic Story with Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>11:00 amJMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow</div> <div>12:15 pmMachar Purim Workshop</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>277 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amJMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>288 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>12:00 pmDowntown Study Group (off-site)</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:15 pmMakomDC Scholar: Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels</div> <div>7:00 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> | <div>299 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Work Out</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pmForbidden Wisdom: Jewish Mysticism through the Ages</div> <div>7:00 pmJewish Study Center Classes</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism Class-Birth to Bar Mitzvah</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow</div> | <div>3010 Adar I</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>Rosh Chodesh Adar II Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>1 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>Rosh Chodesh Adar II Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund</div> <div>10:00 amParshat Hashavua Class</div> <div>11:20 amGan Shabbat Sing</div> <div>5:30 pmNew Member Oneg</div> <div>6:30 pmReturn Again Service with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt</div> <div>7:00 pmTraditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service</div> <div>7:30 pmCommunity Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>5:53 pm</div> | <div>212 PARSHAT PEKUDE</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</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>5:45 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>6:53 pmHavdalah</div> <div>8:00 pmKol HaOlam A Cappella Competition</div> |
| <div>3 Adar II</div> <div>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS — SPRING AHEAD!</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amAdas Book Chat with Boris Fishman</div> <div>10:00 amJMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga</div> <div>10:30 amMakomDC-Parent Drop In</div> <div>11:00 amJMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow</div> <div>3:30 pmGan Tzingo Tzedakah Event</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>414 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>515 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:00 amMusic Class with Cantor Ari</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>10:00 amSisterhood Taste of Tanach with Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:15 pmMeditation Practice with Rabbis Steinlauf & Holtzblatt</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> | <div>616 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Work Out</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pmForbidden Wisdom: Jewish Mysticism through the Ages</div> <div>7:00 pmJewish Study Center</div> <div>Latke-Hamentasch Debate</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism Class-Death</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow</div> | <div>717 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>818 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParshat Hashavua Class</div> <div>11:20 amGan Shabbat Sing</div> <div>5:30 pmKabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>6:00 pmKabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Brown</div> <div>7:30 pmHazak Dinner</div> <div>7:00 pm</div> | <div>919 PARSHAT VAYIKRA/SHABBAT ZACHOR</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service: CES-JDS 50th Anniversary Shabbat, D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Steinlauf; Bar Mitzvah: Adam Diaz</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:15 pmMakomDC-Post Kiddush Purim Torah</div> <div>6:00 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>8:00 pmHavdalah</div> <div>8:00 pmDC Purim Bash (off-site)</div> |
| <div>10 Adar II</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amJMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga</div> <div>11:00 amPurim Carnival!</div> <div>11:00 amJMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow</div> <div>5:00 pmDoniel Hartman Book Tour</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>1121 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>1222 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> | <div>1323 EREV PURIM</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>5:30 pmAdas Young Family Purim Celebration</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan/Mincha</div> <div>6:30 pmFull Megillah Reading/TEM Family Service</div> <div>7:00 pmMaariv/Full Megillah Reading/ Purim Shpiel</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow</div> | <div>1424 PURIM</div> <div>7:15 amMorning Minyan/Megillah Reading</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>15 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParshat Hashavua Class</div> <div>11:20 amGan Shabbat Sing</div> <div>5:30 pmKabbalat Shabbat Oneg</div> <div>6:00 pmKabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith</div> <div>7:07 pm</div> | <div>1626 PARSHAT TZAV</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service/ Shabbat in Harmony; Bat Mitzvah: Vanessa Mark; D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</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>1:15 pmSynagogue Skills-Service Coordinator, Floor Gabbai, and Torah Reading Gabbai Class</div> <div>6:00 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>8:07 pmHavdalah</div> |
| <div>17 Adar II</div> <div>9:00 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>1828 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>8:45 amMikvah Mondays</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>1929 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Meditation Session</div> <div>7:30 pmPaula Shoyer Book Event (Offsite)</div> <div>7:30 pmBen Shalva Book Release</div> | <div>2030 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 amMorning Work Out</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pmIntro to Judaism Class</div> <div>7:30 pmJMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow</div> | <div>21 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pmEvening Minyan</div> | <div>22 Adar II</div> <div>7:30 amMorning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 amParshat Hashavua Class</div> <div>11:20 amGan Shabbat Sing</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; 8 pm: D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>8:30 pmShir Delight Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>7:14 pm</div> | <div>232 PARSHAT SHEMINI/SHABBAT PARAH</div> <div>8:30 amBoker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Morning Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>9:30 amTraditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:30 amShabbat Awakening</div> <div>9:45 amHavurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 amTot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 amNetivot</div> <div>12:00 pmCongregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pmHavurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:15 pmMakomDC- Post Kiddush Passover Discussion</div> <div>8:00 pmGPA Gala/Havdalah</div> <div>6:00 pmShabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>8:14 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).

techniques.

As an original "Storahteller," she shared her unique method of studying Jewish texts by drawing from the ancient tradition of alternating the original Hebrew with the translation. Her method included enacting the characters of the *parsha* (*Ki Tisa*) and opening up the social and historical contexts of the portion to address modern concerns. Since it was Sisterhood *Shabbat*, she did this through the eyes and hearts of women, both historical and contemporary. She also introduced her original music for prayers.

Naomi employed these two processes—Storahtelling and new music—at Friday night services, *Shabbat* morning services, and at study following *kiddush*. She also shared her special take on exiting *Shabbat* with *Havdalah*, which was followed by a brief acoustic concert of her own music. As a gift to the congregation from Sisterhood, on Sunday, Naomi shared her music with the religious school students at *Shacharit* service.

Sisterhood members led all services throughout the weekend. Of course, Sisterhood *Shabbat* is not complete without its signature communal festive meals. Our creative and delicious Friday potluck dinner was chaired by Sabrina Sojourner, and Leah Hadad again worked her magic with the Edward Hoffman Caterers' lavish *kiddush* luncheon.

Again this year, Donald Saltz graciously underwrote the speaker and the Saturday *kiddush* in memory of his dear wife and Sisterhood leader, Mozelle Saltz. Thank you, Donald, and everyone who worked so hard to make this another special Sisterhood *Shabbat*, including our prayer leaders, Torah readers, *haftarah* reader, committee members, clergy and staff, and Lucy Hassell, who always adds her grace and precision to everything Sisterhood.

It All Starts with YOU, So Join Sisterhood Today

Dues for 5776 (July 1, 2015– 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 send 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. For membership questions, call June Kress, 202-316-3439.

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lifecycle Milestones

Births

Tessa Eve Schiller, daughter of Lowell & Julia Schiller, was born January 6.

Grayson Fox Gilman, son of Rachel Jonas Gilman & Adam Gilman and grandson of Rosalyn Levy Jonas & the late Gary F. Jonas (z"l), was born January 14.

Gabriela Koch, daughter of Karolina Arias & Peter Koch, was born January 15. *We wish our newborns and their families strength, good health, and joy.*

B'nai Mitzvah



Ruby Kaplan, March 5

Ruby, the daughter of Jill Wilkins and Jonathan Kaplan, is a seventh grader at the Georgetown Day School. She began her Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and continuing at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Ruby is happy to celebrate her *bat mitzvah* with her brother Harry, sister Stella, parents, grandparents, other family, and friends. For her mitzvah project, Ruby is supporting the Malala Fund, a global advocacy group for girls' education, through her own outreach and education efforts as well as fundraising.



Adam Diaz, March 19 (TEM)

Adam is a seventh grader at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. In thinking about becoming a teenager, Adam was inspired by the bravery of Malala Yousefzai and how one teenager is able to make such a difference to girls all over the world who don't have access to education. He chose to share his celebration with the Malala Fund and started an online fundraising campaign to help provide education to some of the more than 60 million girls out of school around the world. He shares his *simcha* with his parents, Stacy Burdett and Tom Diaz, and his grandmother, Norma Burdett.



Vanessa Mark, March 26

Vanessa, daughter of Thais and Alexander Sasha Mark, is a sixth grader at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. She shares her *simcha* with her brothers, Philippe and Julien, and her sister, Natalie, who preceded her as *b'nai mitzvah*, and with her grandmothers, Erna Mark and Susan Takagi. Her grandfathers were Daniel Mark and Makoto Takagi, of blessed memory.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue member:

Rose Burka

Bette Rothstein

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Charles Baron, father of Susan Baron

Edward Kluft, brother of Beverly Cohen

Alan Kress, brother of June Kress

Toty Reyes, father of Aurora Reyes Ansher

Life Cycle Information

When Death Occurs

When death occurs, please call the synagogue office, 202-362-4433, so that we may inform the clergy and be of assistance. During business hours, ask for

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Carole Klein. After business hours, a staff member on call may be reached by calling the synagogue office at the number above and pressing "2" to be connected automatically, or by calling the answering service, 301-421-5271, which will page the staff member on call. On *Yom Tov* and *Shabbat*, even though detailed funeral arrangements should not be made, a staff member on call can still be reached at 301-421-5271.

Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee assists families with all of the arrangements surrounding the funeral and subsequent burial of loved ones. We welcome your interest and encourage your participation and assistance. We need you; please join us. If you have questions, or know of someone whom you think might be interested in participating in this important work, please feel free to call Edie Hessel (202-244-7189) or contact Toni Bickart (202-244-2747) regarding the *Tahara* Committee.

Adas Israel Community Mikvah



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

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

Kol HaMayim— Voice of the Waters



Inclusion @ the Mikvah

Adas Israel Congregation is blessed to house the only progressive and pluralist *mikvah* in the Greater Washington region. In addition to welcoming more than 450 immersions each year, we educate 200+ tour participants of all ages, and engage another 100+ community members in off-site outreach. Our inclusion efforts have brought the idea and practice of *mikvah* to

many corners of the community and reached people who either didn't know anything about *mikvah* or didn't know they'd be welcomed at one so warmly!

As we plan the upcoming *mikvah* renovation, we are excited to expand the physical facility to offer greater access to individuals with impaired mobility. This is the intrinsic message of the *mikvah*—that each body is holy, that our bodies are our means of doing *mitzvot* and bringing goodness to our world. The waters and the ritual connect us to our Source. Regardless of our age, color, relationship status, degree of dis/ability, sexual orientation, or level of observance, the *mikvah* is a place for Jews and those becoming Jewish to experience this holiness. ❀

JPDS Honors Adas Israel Congregants at Purim Ball!



The Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital will honor Adas Israel congregants Kimberly and Steven Aftergood, Pamela Wexler and Kent Kahler, and Laurie Moskowitz and Steve Rabinowitz, as well

as Laurie and Daniel Brumberg, at its annual *Purim* Ball and Auction on March 20 at the National Press Club. Mazal tov to these very worthy honorees!

Join the JPDS-NC community as its members celebrate the hard work of these extraordinary families, who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to Jewish day school education. For more information, or to purchase tickets to the event, visit jpds.org/purimball.

From the President

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The Gan HaYeled Strategic Planning Committee, comprising parents, teachers, board members and staff, has completed its work with a statement of values and goals drawn from a comprehensive review process of internal and external stakeholders, including clergy, teachers, parents, lay leaders, Adas Israel members, and the broader metropolitan Washington, DC, community. This will now be turned over to Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum and her staff to translate into an implementation plan to address the needs of Adas Israel's young children and their families through Gan HaYeled and the broader congregational community.

The finance committees, including Budget, Investment, and Audit, exercise the critical responsibility of overseeing our financial soundness and sustainability. The Building and Grounds Committee works with the Gan Parents Association on improvements to the playground and with the Inclusion Task Force to develop priorities for creating a physically accessible building. In addition, a Development Task Force is working on creating a fundraising plan to secure our financial future. There are program committees and, of course, the

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Adas Isral Purim Carnival & Celebration, March 20

10:00 am: Megillah Madness for Gishron–Grade 7 Religious School Families (Charles E. Smith Sanctuary)

10:30 am: Pre-K–Grade 2 Non-Religious School families only Purim Carnival & games (Kay, Wasserman)

11:00 am–12:15 pm: Purim Carnival Extravaganza with all of your favorites (Kay, Wasserman, Cohen Hall)—*Obstacle Course • Dunk Tank • Moonbounce • Sand Art • Costume Parade • Music • Cotton Candy • Hamantaschen • & more!*

Games, food, and fun for the entire family! Come in your favorite costume! Admission is \$10 per child for children **not** enrolled in the Religious School; no charge for Religious School students. Food sold separately (cash only).



בית מדרש צוריאל

CES-JDS 50th Anniversary Shabbat Saturday, March 19, 9:30 am

Please join us for a special *Shabbat* service as we celebrate Jewish Day School education and specifically the milestone of the 50th anniversary of Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. 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 CES-JDS 50th Anniversary *Shabbat*. Please contact Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith, hazzan.goldsmith@adasisrael.org, if you would like to participate in the service. ❀

educationupdate

From the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum



Purim is a time of masks, of hidden identities and revealed truths. We dress up, we impersonate, we play with the idea of knowing “who is good” and “who is evil” as if they are absolutes. In so many ways, *Purim* is the perfect opportunity to explore the idea of what it means to present a certain face to the world. And while on *Purim* we are allowed, even encouraged, to experiment with a “face” that is not our own, it makes me think of the many faces we wear in our daily lives. Even as we try to live authentically

in this world, we show different versions of ourselves, different faces, depending on the context. And it is not necessarily a negative thing.

We have lots of ways of expressing this. We talk about the many “hats” we wear or the lenses we see through, but it is all getting at the same sentiment: what piece of myself am I sharing with you in this moment? What perspective am I approaching this from? I think the classic rabbinic expression of *shiv'im panim la Torah*—the idea that there are 70 faces to the Torah—can help us to understand that there can be beauty and depth in those many facets and that each serves a purpose. They allow people to access the Torah in a multitude of ways, to enrich their relationship with Torah through the complexities of those many sides, and they remind us that there are always new perspectives to be uncovered.

What if we could approach one another that way—knowing that in any given interaction with someone we are only seeing one of that person’s many authentic faces? Perhaps it would remind us that we are all complicated in beautiful ways. In some ways, we are “masked” year round, but this year, may one of our lessons from *Purim* be that our job is not always to “unmask” ourselves or one another, but to instead embrace the many faces that make us whole. ❀

Where God Is Not . . . What Is?

Megillat Esther is famously known for not containing the name of God, but it is not the only Biblical text that leaves out an explicit mention of God. Three books in the *Tanakh*—*Shir HaShirim*, *Kohelet*, and *Esther*—do not contain the Tetragrammaton (*Yud-Hey-Vav-Hey*), and *Shir HaShirim* and *Esther* do not contain any of the seven proper names of God (*Kohelet* is heavy on the use of “*Elohim*”). While *Esther* is not the only book to exclude the name of God, it is the best known, perhaps due to the book’s motif of keeping things hidden, one of the many key themes of *Purim*.

Jewish tradition struggles with Biblical texts that leave out the explicit mention of God, and many rabbis have attempted to justify or explain away the issue. But perhaps it is worth meditating on the following questions: What do our Biblical stories look like without the explicit mention of God? What does our Jewish practice look like without the explicit mention of God?

I encourage personal reflection on this issue, but I would also like to present one possible approach. Throughout the ages, rabbis and prominent Jewish thinkers have understood God in unique ways. Even a cursory study of Jewish philosophy will discover that there is not one single, comprehensive, and specific way of understanding or viewing God. Rather, there are many diverse and acceptable ways, supported by Jewish text and tradition, to understand God and see God’s presence in the world. The omission of the name of God in *Megillat Esther* has led generations of Jews to ask the question: How do I see God’s influence in this story? And, as a result: How do I see God’s influence in my life and the world around me? In seeking out that which is hidden and unclear, we can individually find God within the text’s white space, and, with our own handwriting, inscribe a name that reflects our personal understanding and relationship with God. May we all have an insightful and joyous *Purim*.

Chag Sameach!

—Yoni Buckman, Youth & Family Educator ❀

Upcoming Youth Events:

Friday, March 4–Saturday, March 5: Grade 6 *Shabbaton*, USY

Sunday, March 6: *Machar Purim* Set Workshop; Youth Lounge, 12:15–3:00 pm

Saturday, March 12: SA/TO *Kol HaOlam*, Quebec Street Lobby

Sunday, March 13: *Kadima* Bowling, Youth Lounge/Off-site, 12:15–4:00 pm

Sunday, March 20: *Purim* Carnival, USY, Kay Hall/Wasserman



Youth Update

By Rich Dinetz, Youth Director

Shalom, Chevre,

March truly “comes in like a lion” for Youth@AI this March, with many awesome programs and events for all three of our youth groups. Here’s what we have ahead of us:

From Friday, March 4–Saturday, March 5, leaders from AIUSY will join Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, Yoni Buckman, Rich Dinetz, and our sixth-grade students for our Winter *Shabbaton* at Capital Camps. The weekend will be filled with learning, bonding, games, and lots of fun. On Sunday, March 6, *Machar* (grades K–5) will create the set for the congregation-wide Adas Israel *Purim spiel*. We’ll meet in the Youth Lounge at 12:15 pm to put our stamp on the 2016 *Purim spiel*—and enjoy some pizza and games while doing so. Lunch will be provided.

The following weekend, Saturday, March 12, AIUSY will sell snacks and refreshments for Adas’s annual *Kol HaOlam* event, where Jewish a capella groups from universities all over the U.S. will dazzle our community with their voices and creative Jewish-inspired songs and mash-ups.

On Sunday, March 13, our *Kadimanicks* (grades 6–8) will go bowling. We’ll all meet up in the Quebec Street Lobby at Adas at 12:15 before we board our bus to AMF Lanes in College Park, MD, for two hours of bowling and fun! Transportation to and from the bowling alley will be provided. Please pack a cold, dairy, nut-free lunch for your child. Refrigerators will be available during Religious School if needed.

To register for all Youth@AI events, visit www.adasisrael.org/youth and click on the registration link. Remember to check out our website, www.adasisrael.org/youth, to stay up to date on current events, check out pictures from previous events, and view the 2015–2016 Youth@AI Calendar. Always feel free to reach out to me, Rich.Dinetz@adasisrael.org, 202-362-6295, with any questions. *L’Shalom!* ✨

Gan HaYeled

Gan HaYeled Registration Continues!

The Gan is excited to announce that registration is strong for the fall. We still have spots available, however. For more information, please check the Gan website, www.adasisrael.org/gan.

Register for Sweet Summertime Camp

Though we’re not quite done with cold, wintry weather, it’s not too early to look ahead to summer! Along with the warm weather and sunshine comes Sweet Summertime, the Gan’s summer camp. This year Sweet Summertime



Gan HaYeled continued from left column

begins June 20 and runs in two week sessions through August 12. Throughout the eight weeks of Sweet Summertime, you’ll see smiles and hear laughter from our campers and staff alike. This summer we’re celebrating the “Elements” of Fun, with themes each session related to Earth, Air, Water, and Fire.

As always, Sweet Summertime is a time to connect with former classmates, meet new people, and form new friendships. Our very special Gan teachers work in the summer and make Sweet Summertime a wonderful experience. We are very fortunate to have a number of terrific teenagers as well, many of whom are Adas Israel members, joining our summer staff and adding energy and excitement to the camp. Sweet Summertime registration has begun.

For more information call the Gan office, 202-362-4491; registration forms can be found at www.adasisrael.org/gan.

Programs for Children Under Age 2!

While not yet old enough to come on their own, we have a number of programs for our youngest community members, ages 0–2, and their parents that will entertain, build community, and introduce your young ones to Gan HaYeled. Visit <http://ganhayeledpreschool.org/under-2s> to learn more about our drop-in Parents with New Babies “Coffee-Club,” Toddler Playgroup, and Library Story Times! ✨

March Religious School Calendar

4–5: Grade 6 Retreat

5: Kindergarten Family *Shabbat* Program, The Soul and Text of Parenting Class, *Machar* Event

12: *Kol HaOlam*

13: Grade 5 Intergenerations Program, Parent Sunday in the *Beit Midrash*, *Kadima* Event

20: *Purim* Carnival

23: Special *Purim* Program

27: No Religious School

March Youth Services

5: Tot *Shabbat*, *Netivot*

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

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

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

continued in right column

Ma Tovv: Sandy Eskin, Purim Shpiel Extraordinaire!

HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

What originally brought you to DC, and what keeps you here?

My husband Andrew and I moved to DC after law school for work. We both wanted to be part of the public-policy-making process, so Washington was the obvious professional choice for us. We moved from San Francisco, and many people thought we were crazy to leave, but I'm an "East Coast girl," so DC felt more like home. I love that it is the center of our federal government, but it's so much more than that. It has great culture, great green spaces, great food—and great people.

Your children grew up here at Adas. What are some of your favorite memories from that time?

I have three adult children, Naomi, Rebecca, and Ben. Like many families, our point of entry to Adas Israel was Gan HaY-eled. We have so many mementos (like the beautiful *challah* cover made [ha!] by my two-year-old son) and memories (we still talk about "singing prayers" and "dancing prayers"). Memories from my children's years in religious school include both special events (like the *Kitah Vav* immigration program when they dressed like their immigrant grandparents) and everyday moments (including trips to Jimmy's store before class). My three children's *b'nai mitzvah* ceremonies and celebrations were also at Adas (during the "Mauve period" in the Kay) and all so meaningful. For a number of years, when I taught in the religious school, two of my children were my *madrichim*, and that was very special. And now that they are grown, there has been a pre-wedding trip to the *mikvah* and an *auf Ruf* at Adas!

You are extremely active at Adas. One of the ways you serve the community is by sitting on the Education Committee and serving as Vice President for Education and Youth. Why is this specific aspect of our community so important to you?

Quite simply, children will become the adults responsible for Jewish continuity, and we need to make sure they are prepared. I grew up in a Conservative congregation in suburban New Jersey, and what I learned and experienced there as a child and young adult was foundational to my Jewish identity. I know as a parent—and as a former religious school teacher—that children should learn, beginning at an early age, what it means to be Jewish and how to make it meaningful to them.

What are your educational dreams for Adas in the next five years?

I believe that Rabbi Kerrith's vision for the children and youth at Adas Israel is exciting and right on point. She wants to incorporate into the educational program many of the innovations we now offer to "grown-ups,"—primarily, the *Beit Midrash* paradigm, but also different activities through which to connect to your Judaism (like drumming and meditation). In addition to giving students the tools they need to live a Jewish life, I agree with the education team at Adas that we should

integrate creative elements into the religious school experience because the more we can do this, the more engaged the students will be.

You have been the creative genius behind the Purim shpiel plays the last few years. Where do you get the inspiration for the script and lyrics? What is your background in musical theater?

One of my earliest memories was listening to the cast album from the Broadway musical, *Milk and Honey*, so I guess it all started then. I have been a huge musical theater fan my whole life (more Stephen Sondheim than Andrew Lloyd Webber) and spent many weekends as a teenager seeing matinees of fabulous shows for very cheap, thanks to the TKTs booth in Times Square (how about the original cast of *A Chorus Line* for \$6?). My directing career began and ended with a high school production of *Guys and Dolls* (wonderful experience). Except for the play about Cicero I wrote for my senior thesis in college (don't ask), I didn't really start writing plays until I had young children. I got involved in the Playwright's Forum, run by Ernie Joselovitz, and had some plays and readings at the Source Summer Theater Festival. Then, I started taking my kids to shows at Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park, which led to my serving on the board and then to writing a musical adaptation of the children's book, *Molly's Pilgrim*, which was produced there. That was my first experience writing lyrics, and I was hooked. It was so challenging and fun—like putting together a puzzle.

What are some of your favorite theaters in the DC area?

Adventure Theatre (of course), and my husband and I are long-time subscribers to Theater J. However, we go to shows at a wide variety of venues—in DC, but also in Virginia and Maryland. This is a great area for anyone who loves theater, musical or otherwise.

The Great Latke/Hamentashen Debate: Which side are you on?

Given my weakness for cookies, I will have to say *hamentashen*—apricot are my favorite (poppy seed, not so much).

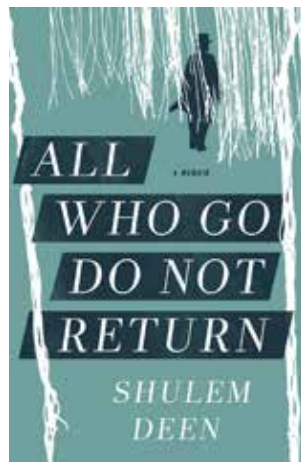
And what are your favorite latke toppings or hamentashen fillings?

For *latkes*, only applesauce. With *hamentashen*, I am more creative—thanks to my children. Favorite family fillings include chocolate and marshmallow ("s'mores") and peanut butter and chocolate. ♡



A Peek into the Hasidic World

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director



When I was a small child, my family lived near the entrance to a Hasidic village. Transfixed by the parade of fur hats, black coats, and long beards going in and out of the community, I was thunderstruck when my mother told me that these oddly dressed people were Jews, like us. She made the Hasidim sound like mysterious, distant cousins, and I've been curious about them ever since.

Apparently, lots of people are curious about ultra-Orthodox communities. The Jewish book world is awash in what publishers call "ex-frum" memoirs. Alas, these tend to have a sensationalistic, score-settling, anti-Orthodox

flavor. But there is a notable exception: Shulem Deen's *All Who Go Do Not Return*, winner of a 2015 National Jewish Book Award. Intelligent and lyrical, *All Who Go* transforms Deen's personal experience into something more universal. The book resonates, as one reviewer said, with "anyone who has ever struggled with doubts and dreams that their family and community cannot accept." Here are some highlights.

The Skverers

Deen belonged to a Hasidic group called the Skverers, originally from the town of Skvyra in the Ukraine. Today, a large Skverer community lives north of New York City in a village called New Square, purportedly named by a county clerk who misheard "New Skvyra" as "New Square." Deen joined the Skverers when he was 13, captivated by the warmth and exuberance of New Square celebrations. Deen's parents raised no objections although they were not themselves Skverers; they had a loose affiliation with another Hasidic sect.

Marriage and Family

Deen felt comfortable with Skverer life until he became engaged at age 18. The community matched him to Gitty, a girl he had never met, although he knew and disliked members of Gitty's family. He shared his misgivings with the teacher of his "groom instruction" class. The teacher reassured Deen, explaining, "a wife isn't a friend," but merely someone to assist with Deen's service to God.

Despite this inauspicious beginning, the couple cobbled together a life. Before long, they had five children. Fortunately, because he was competent in English (not typical among the Yiddish-speaking Skverers), Deen was able to teach himself computer programming and land a job in Manhattan. This was a signal success in New Square, where most live below the poverty line and depend on food stamps and other government aid to survive.

Loss of Faith

Gitty appreciated her husband's success, but became alarmed by his increasing fascination with the outside world. Deen surreptitiously listened to the radio, read secular newspapers, and watched movies—all forbidden activities for Skverers. On clandestine trips to the public library, he devoured the *World Book Encyclopedia*. As Deen began to reappraise Hasidic teachings, a friend steered him to books intended to reconcile faith and science. Ironically, reading these books only deepened Deen's doubts.

After years of hiding his inner turmoil, Deen finally left the Hasidic world at age 33. He paid an enormous price. Although he and Gitty initially vowed

continued in right column

Meet the Author Book Chat Next Book Chat

Boris Fishman, author of *A Replacement Life*

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 10:00 AM



Come hear the ebullient Boris Fishman talk about his award-winning Soviet Jewish emigré novel. Book-signing to follow. Questions? Contact

Robin Jacobson, librarian@adasisrael.org.

Books & More continued from left column

that they would have the "most amicable split in the history of amicable splits," their relationship turned acrimonious after Skverer leaders convinced Gitty that Deen was a bad influence on their children. Today, Deen has no contact with his children. He was not invited to his eldest daughter's wedding or to his sons' *b'nai mitzvah*. In interviews, Deen mourns for his children, saying that living a life of greater authenticity can never compensate him for their loss. *All Who Go* offers readers unusual insights, a well-crafted narrative, but definitely not a happy ending. 🕯



**Adas Israel is proud to present
livestreaming of our keynote
weekday learning events in the
Biran Beit Midrash.**

What is livestreaming? If you can't make it to Adas, you'll still be able to connect to a live feed through any computer, laptop or mobile device! Visit adasisrael.org/adaslive to view upcoming broadcast times and recently archived videos.



Mark Your Calendar Good Deeds Day, April 10

Join the Greater Washington community, along with 930,000 volunteers from around the world, in a day of service. Adas Israel will have cooperate with We Are Family, an organization that serves more than 600 seniors in the Shaw, North Capitol Street, Adams-Morgan, Petworth, and Columbia Heights neighborhoods. We Are Family brings advocacy, services, organizing, and companionship into the homes of the elderly, while helping to build friendships across boundaries like race, class, religion, age, culture, and sexual orientation.

We are working on the specifics of our project, but save Sunday, April 10, and stay tuned for more information in @Adas.



Don't forget . . . Sukkot in Spring, Sunday, April 17

Join the Adas Israel community on Sunday, April 17, for *Sukkot* in Spring, Yachad's signature event and the nation's largest home/community repair program, sponsored by the Jewish community. Additional information regarding timing, specific jobs, and project site is coming soon.

tikkunolam

Purim is almost here and it's time again for our Edible Groggers, a great Adas Israel tradition!!



Join us on *Erev Purim*, Wednesday, March 23, and celebrate (sustainably and joyfully) with "Edible Groggers," those wonderful noise-making macaroni and cheese boxes. Buy your edible *groggers* as you come for the reading of the *Megillah*, then recycle them for the next user. After *Purim*, the *groggers* morph into mac and cheese when we donate them to So Others Might Eat. Blot out *Haman's* name (noisily, of course) and support SOME (financially and with food).

A Letter of Appreciation from Our Friends at Peoples Congregational Church

Social Action Committee
Adas Israel Congregation
2850 Quebec Street NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Members:

The Food Pantry of Peoples Congregational Church is most grateful to this Committee and members of Adas Israel Congregation for your generous donation to our community outreach ministry. Your support has contributed to the operation of this program to serve those in need for over 35 years.

The volunteer services that members have provided during the holiday season to the Food Pantry for the past 12 years are truly appreciated. Peace and blessings to all as we begin the New Year.



Sincerely,
Shirley R. Moseley, Program Director ❀

sisterhoodnews continued from page 14

Women's League for Conservative Judaism's Torah Fund Campaign



Supporting the training of future rabbis, cantors, and teachers in Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

In an effort to further publicize the important work that Torah Fund does and to honor those who help support Torah Fund, we invite all those who have donated to Shabbat morning services in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary on March 5th. Cantor Arianne Brown will lead us in celebration of Torah Fund Day, on which you will be honored with a group Aliyah. We ask all who have Torah Fund pins from this year or past years to wear them on that Shabbat. ❀

A Covenant continued from page 4

people could make the *brit milah*, great—but if they could not, they should stay home and stay safe.

On Sunday morning, those who could walked through the snow to get there. More than 50 people made it, sitting on pale green chairs. Penina Alexander held her newborn in the front row, where a table had been prepared for the circumcision.

"This little guy has braved one of the greatest blizzards of the century in Washington," said Gil Steinlauf, head rabbi at Adas Israel, predicting the boy will "represent incredible strength and justice in the world."

The audience stood and sang as the maternal grandparents, Rabbi Shalom Podwol and Dalia Podwol, who had arrived from California on Wednesday, carried in the still-unnamed baby boy.

Rubin rose, explaining the covenant.

"Obviously, eight days is very important, because otherwise we wouldn't be here in the middle of a blizzard," she said. She explained the ritual objects, including a ceremonial chair called "Elijah's chair. It is said that Elijah is present at every *brit* so he can see with his own eyes that Jews are keeping the covenant."

The parents laid the baby on a pillow on a table. He whimpered. The circumcision was very quick. As the congregation sang, a bandage was applied, Rubin wrapped the baby, and Aaron Alexander placed his son on his chest.

Then, during a chant blessing the newborn, Steinlauf revealed his name: Amos Eden. Aaron Alexander sent a text to his mother in Florida to share the news. "No one knew the name except Penina and I," he said. "I texted her right away."

Penina Alexander rose and explained that one of the reasons they chose that name was in memory of her paternal grandmother, Mae. The "m" in Amos is a tribute to the first initial of Mae's name.

"My Nana Mae was a strong woman who also raised only boys," Penina Alexander said. "She was well loved and respected in her community and in her family. And her commitment to her family and to instilling Jewish values of community and of Israel set a great example for us."

Amos was an Old Testament prophet who "was special for a lot of reasons," Aaron Alexander added. "Primarily, he was able to see people for who they were and see the world the way it was in that time. Amos, like many prophets, railed quite eloquently against false piety, religious hypocrisy and understood that a spiritual life had to take care of those on the outside of the temple walls more so than it did for those on the inside of the temple walls.

"It was for that reason that Dr. King quoted from him often and in the 'I Have a Dream' speech. We know this baby was born on the Sunday of MLK weekend; it seemed right."

The congregation prayed, and more blessings were bestowed on the baby.

Sitting near the back was Joyce Stern, who with her husband has been a member of Adas Israel for more than 45 years. Despite the fact that many sidewalks were unplowed, Stern walked with her cane from her home near the Van Ness Metro station, three-fourths of a mile away, to attend the *bris*.

"I'm 77 years old, I made it out to Connecticut Avenue and came," she said. God, she added, "gave me the strength. I made it, and I'm not exhausted. That is a miracle." ❧

DeNeen L. Brown is an award-winning staff writer at the Washington Post who has covered night police, education, courts, politics, and culture.

New Member Oneg, March 11

Friday, March 11, at 5:30 pm

Please join us in the Biran *Beit Midrash* on Friday, March 11, at 5:30 pm, for a new member reception. This is an invitation to all of our new members to join us for a relaxed "meet and greet" with the Adas Israel clergy, lay leaders, and community members. Long-standing members of the community are also encouraged to attend to welcome our new friends to Adas Israel!

From the President

continued from page 11

Religious Practices Committee, addressing the customs, ceremonies, and practices that occur in our synagogue.

All of these committees, task forces, and groups operate within a governance structure set forth in Adas Israel's bylaws. These were last revised in 2008, the longest time without an amendment since they were approved in 1992. During the past year, the Board undertook a leadership self-assessment with the assistance of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's SULAM program. Chaired by Molly Levinson and championed by Russell Smith, this review reflected a need to reconsider the governance status quo with the goal of updating the structures, bylaws, roles, and responsibilities to reflect the current and future of Adas Israel. With a desire to ensure leadership development, planning, relevance, and accountability for the fiduciary responsibility of lay leadership, we are embarking on a comprehensive review of our governance structure and bylaws. Margie Siegel is chairing the Governance Task Force, which includes Herlene Nagler and Andrew Herman. We are working with Rabbi Steinlauf, Executive Director David Polonsky, the Board, past presidents, Life Board Members, Trustees, and all additional members who are interested. Please feel free to e-mail me, at presidentdebbyjoseph@gmail.com, your thoughts and ideas. We welcome your input and will solicit it as we move along.

Thank you for your commitment to Adas Israel, and, as always, if you would like to contribute to any of the committees listed above, or others not mentioned, please let me know. ❧

synagogue contributions

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

Beit Midrash/Makom DC

By: Rhoda Baruch, Tony & David Bickart, Sarah Brooks, Sharon Burka, Stuart & Jamie Butler, Barbara & Robert Cline, David Cohen & Dr. Ruth Keves-Cohen, Richard A. Cohen & Kathy Krieger, Jessica & Keith Darden, Zack Kleinbart & Bianca Faccio, Renée & Roger Fendrich, Herrick Fox & Jennifer Daniels, Ricki Gerger, Dr. Todd & Lisa Goodlick, Clifford Goodman & Amy Golen, Kenneth Heitner & Rhoda Ritzenberg, Maryse & Stephen Horblitt, Harriet & Arthur Isack, Jill Jacob, Jeffrey Jacobovitz & Leah Hadad, Andrea & Martin Kalin, Randall & Susanna Katz, Sheldon Kimmel, Susan & Morris Klein, Eric Koenig & Amy Schwartz, Dr. Joshua & Lauren Kolko, Edward & Nancy Kopf, Helen Kramer, Craig Fifer & Yael Krigman, Terry & Ada Leach, Dr. Irwin & Grace Lebow, Michael Leifman & Sharon Samber, Martin Lewin, Stephanie & David Lynn, Betsy Maesen, Billy Mencow & Amy Mates, Rachel Mauro, Laura Milstein, John Larson & Janice Mostow, Victoria Perper, Dr. Joel & Cynthia Rosenberg, Mark Rosenberg & Betty Adler, Rachel Rosenthal, Deborah Russak, Robert Satloff & Jennie Litvack, Brian Schwalb & Mickie Simon, Charles Schwartz, Eileen & Randall Sherman, Margaret Siegel, Ronald Slotkin & Cheryl Wasserman, Sabrina Sojourner, Michael & Joyce Stern, Betsy Strauss, Healey Sutton, Kyle Hathaway & Rabbi Sarah Tasman, Howard & Gayle Teicher, Jeffrey Vinnik & Dr. Joan Liebermann, David Waskow & Ketura Persellin, Ellen & David Winter, Rabbi Elianna Yolkut & Dr. Stephanie Wethington, Michael Zeldin & Amy Rudnick.
In Memory Of: **Stanley Kaufman** by Roger & Renée Fendrich.

Benjamin Eric Cooper Memorial Scholarship Fund

In Honor Of: **Jasper & Naomi Kaplan** by Stephen Kaplan.

Bereavement Fund

In Memory Of: **Aaron Feuerstein** by Ronald Shapiro.

Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

In Memory Of: **Howard Bleznak** by David Waskow & Ketura Persellin, Irv & Grace Lebow, Joel & Cynthia Rosenberg, Joel Fischman & Judith Rabinowitz, Neal & Ava Gross, Mark & Debby Joseph, Roger & Renée Fendrich. **Totoy Reyes** by Irv & Grace Lebow. **John Grad** by Rae Grad.

Capital Fund Contributions

By: Mariyan Kolev, David & Heather Polonsky.

Charles Pilzer Computer Center

In Memory Of: **Jean Greeberg Fogel** by Geraldine Pilzer.

Charlotte & Hubert Schlosberg High Holy Day Mahzor Fund

In Memory Of: **Goldyne Schlosberg** by Hubert Schlosberg.

Congregational Kiddush Fund

In Honor Of: **Rochelle Berman** becoming a bat mitzvah by Geoffrey Berman & Julia Gordon.

Sylvia's naming ceremony by Jeff & Jess Lieberman.

Daily Minyan Fund

In Memory Of: **Aaron Feuerstein & Howard**

Bieznak by Bill Levenson. **Barbara Goodof** by David Kline.

Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund

In Memory Of: **Daryl Rubenstein** by Lee Rubenstein.

Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund

In Memory Of: **Paul Mannes** by Dorothy Block, Stephen & Nappy Block. **Dr. Ronald Pomerantz** by Dorothy Block.

Executive Director Discretionary Fund

Mazel Tov To: **David & Heather Polonsky** by Steve Rabinowitz & Laurie Moskowitz.

Fund for the Future

In Honor Of: **Ethan Leifman** becoming a bar mitzvah by Roger & Renée Fendrich.

In Memory Of: **Israel Herman** by Jack M. Herman. **Shirley Epstein & Julius Epstein** by Phillip Epstein. **Balfour Goldman** by Roger & Renée Fendrich.

Garden of the Righteous

In Honor Of: **Rhoda Baruch's** special birthday by Judy Strauch. **Judy Strauch's** birthday by Patricia Rosenman.

In Memory Of: **Stanley Kaufman** by Judy Strauch.

Harry & Judie Linowes Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Jordan Bierman & Dorothy Wolf Linowes** by Harry & Judie Linowes.

Havurah Kiddush Fund

By: Jerry & Kathy Sandler.

In Honor Of: **Rhoda Baruch's** special birthday by Arnie & Mary Hammer.

In Memory Of: **Stanley Kaufman** by Arnie & Mary Hammer. **Rebecca Kopf, David Schwartz** by Jon Wilkenfeld & Suzanne Stutman.

Hymen & Sadie Goldman Prayer Book Fund

In Memory Of: **Barry Schweid & Bernie Meyer** by John & Sue Rosenthal.

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington

By: Joel Blumenthal.

In Honor Of: **Jasper & Naomi Kaplan** by Stephen Kaplan.

In Memory Of: **Mort Sobel** by Joel & Cynthia Rosenberg. **Alan Kress** by Robert & Barbara Cline.

Kullen Family Fund

In Memory Of: **Sidney I. Margolis** by Dr. Shirley Kullen.

Lillian & Daniel Ezrin Fund for Ritual Objects

In Memory Of: **Stanley Kaufman** by Joel & Rhoda Ganz.

Marilyn & Stefan Tucker Program Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Florence Tucker** by Stefan Tucker.

Mikvah Captial Campaign

By: Beth-Ann & Richard Kirby.

In Memory Of: **Ken Doggett, Howard Bleznak, Stanley Kaufman**, all by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

Morris Hariton Senior Programming Fund

In Memory Of: **Lillian Cardash** by Linda, Ken, Kara & David Kaufman. **Mollie Blatt** by Shelley Kossak.

Offerings Fund

By: Allyn Kilsheimer, Dahlia Rockowitz.

In Honor Of: Engagement of Joyce & Michael Stern's granddaughter, **Emily Stern**, to Jared Kerzner by Dava Berkman.

In Memory Of: **Lila & David Rudnick** by Amy Rudnick. **Aaron Feuerstein** by Bruce Ray & April Rubin, Dava Berkman, Susan Winberg.

Totoy Reyes by Harry & Judy Melamed. **Mary Povich** by Larry Povich. **Barry Schweid** by Phyllis Kritz. **Samuel Zweig** by Richard Zweig. **Balfour Goldman** by Shirley Cohen.

Rabbi Alexander Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: birth of **Amos Eden Alexander** by Don & Gail Roache, Irv & Grace Lebow, Jane Baldinger, Sherry Kaiman. **Rabbi Alexander's** installation by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.

In Loving Memory Of: **Frances & Hyman**

Kornberg by Larry Rosenblum.

In Memory Of: **Aaron Feuerstein** by Robert & Barbara Cline.

Rabbi Holtzblatt Discretionary Fund

In Honor Of: **Rabbi Holtzblatt** by Sherry Kaiman.

Rabbi Jeffrey & Judith Wohlberg Masorti Fund

In Memory Of: **Stanley Kaufman** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz History Fund

In Honor Of: **Faye & Sheldon Cohen's** special anniversary by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

In Memory Of: **Edward Kluft** by Glenn & Cindy Easton.

Rabbi Steinlauf Discretionary Fund

In Memory Of: **Rubye B. Willis** by William Willis.

Rhoda & Jordan Baruch Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: **Melvin S. Cohen** by Ryna Cohen

Rose R. Freudberg Sisterhood Memorial Library Fund

In Honor Of: Birth of **Amos Eden Alexander** by Elinor Tattar.

In Recognition Of: **Elinor Tattar's Simchat Torah** honor by Adrian & Annette Morchower.

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especially as we make our way through personal crisis, is to strive to see the Truth in this. It's true even when we deal with terminal illness. Even when death itself strikes.

People's words and deeds, as well as life's ever-changing nature, can leave us feeling existentially alone. But the *Book of Esther's* "hidden" promise is that abandonment is never the ultimate reality. Not ever. It's true that you and I can come up with endless examples of abandonment experiences in life. Nevertheless, we are never really alone and lost in this life. It's just that our feeling connected to others and to God can sometimes be "hidden" from view. Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlov put it this way:

There are two types of hiddenness:

When God is hidden behind a single veil, it makes it very hard to find Divinity. Still, when there just one veil it is still possible to toil and search until one finds God, since one knows that God is hidden. However, when God is hidden behind two veils (that is God's concealment itself is veiled from a person) and one is not aware at all that God is hidden from oneself, then [in that moment] it is totally impossible to find God since one is not even aware of the presence . . .

But nevertheless, even with two veils—God is certainly there. There is nothing lacking God's life-force. For without that there could not be any existence. Therefore in all things, people, deeds and thoughts—God, Godself is clothed. (*Likutei Moharan* 1:56)

When Rabbi Nachman talks about God being hidden behind "two veils," that was the situation in the *Book of Esther*. And that's the situation whenever we're in crisis. At such moments, we aren't going to find God anywhere, even if we try. This is why it is absolutely vital that we—those of us who are not in crisis—must avoid words and actions that can leave people in crisis feeling abandoned and alone. Whenever we, even with good intentions, try to "fix" someone in crisis, we are inevitably projecting our own fears onto them and "adding another veil" to an already hidden God in their lives. When someone we care about, someone in our community or someone we love feels alone and isolated, we can say: "We are here." We can ask, "What do you need?"

We all have a job to do in the world as the Jewish people, and that is to bear witness to the presence of God and the possibility of Redemption and healing for the whole world. We accomplish this sacred task not just through ritual observance or social justice engagement, but also in the ways that we show support and presence for one another, especially in hard times. This *Purim*, let's set an intention to enable those of us in our community who are in crisis to find an answer to the question, "Where is God now?" May they find the presence of God in our outstretched arms, our listening ears, and in our presence, even when we don't have answers to their unanswerable questions. We are the ones whose job it is to remove the veils. ✨



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