

Adas Israel Congregation

CHRONICLE

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From the President

By Debby Joseph



At Adas Israel we have the honor of counting many among our membership who are truly unique and special for the gifts they bestow upon all who need them. Joel Ganz, who passed away in March, was one such person and he left behind his lovely and devoted wife Rhoda and three daughters. True *mensches* distinguish themselves by going about their business taking care of people's needs without drawing attention to themselves. So, only after his passing did the stories start to come in, many of which we heard about during the funeral and *shiva* visits.

There were many examples of people among his family and friends to whom he provided assistance or much-appreciated phone calls or drop-in visits. However, they included the less likely, too. For example, the young woman who hit his car in the Camden Yards parking lot to whom he sent flowers because she was so upset. And the person whose name he did not remember so he sent her flowers every year. And the turkeys he purchased for Adas Israel's maintenance staff and all their friends, neighbors, and passersby every Thanksgiving. Charles Mallory told me that some years Joel brought so many turkeys they stood on the curb and handed them out to any who wanted one. He insisted that his family

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clergycorner



Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

A poet I love, Donald Hall, wrote about his life with his wife and fellow poet Jane Kenyon saying,

Jane Kenyon and I were married for twenty-three years. For two decades we inhabited the double solitude of my family farmhouse in New Hampshire, writing poems, loving the countryside. She was forty-seven when she died. If anyone had asked us, "Which year was the best, of your lives together?" we could have agreed on an answer: "the one we remember least." There were sorrowful years—the death of her father, my cancers, her depressions—and there were also years of adventure: a trip to China and Japan, two trips to India; years when my children married; years when the grandchildren were born; years of triumph as Jane began her public life in poetry: her first book, her first poem in the *New Yorker*. The best moment of our lives was one quiet repeated day of work in our house. Not everyone understood. Visitors, especially from New York, would spend a weekend with us and say as they left: "It's really pretty here" [in Vermont, many added] "with your house, the pond, the hills, but . . . but . . . but . . . what do you do?"

The best moment of their lives was one quiet repeated day of work. For the poet it is the rhythm of the pen on the page, the quiet, the contemplative zone of thought. There is a different space of the journey of everyday, of marking time not through major accomplishments or milestones, but through the sun rising and setting, of marking the passage of time, of hammering at something slowly, patiently over a contemplative period of time. This is the *omer*.

We begin counting the *omer* on the second night of Passover, and we count every night until we get to 49 and arrive at the holiday of *Shavuot*—*matan Torah* (the giving of the Torah). In ancient times the counting was a marking of the agricultural calendar; one would plant his wheat at *Pesach* and harvest it seven weeks later. *Shavuot* is one of the *shelosh regalim*, one of the three times of year people would make pilgrimage to the Temple (the others being *Sukkot* and Passover). On *Shavuot* first fruits were brought to the Temple as a way of giving thanks for the abundance that God had provided.

We have become disconnected from the counting of the *omer* because we are urban; we do not rely on the small plantings we make in our city gardens to eat, we do not watch an entire harvest spring from the ground, and we do not have a Temple where we can offer our first fruits.

So the ritual of counting the *omer* needs a reset, a way of connection

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For Ryna and Rita, Adas Israel Is Home

Proudly announcing our community's 2016 Adas Fund Co-Chairs: Ryna Cohen and Rita Segerman



For more than 50 years, these two extraordinary leaders in the Jewish community (and beyond!) have called Adas Israel their spiritual home. Adas is where they came to find community, to watch their children grow, to see old friends and make new ones, to mark milestones, and to connect their lives daily with the joy and meaning of Jewish tradition. Throughout their many wonderful years at Adas, Ryna and her husband, Mel (z"l), and Rita and her husband, Bernie (z"l), have each held virtually every title there is within synagogue leadership: member, board member, committee chair, trustee, vice



president, president . . . to name just a few! How much our community has benefited from their commitment to the congregation is truly beyond measure. To this day, Rita and Ryna are champions of Adas's innovation and creativity; they honor the past and they look to the future.

Ryna and Rita are role models for all of us in how they have demonstrated their commitment to and impact on so many. Innumerable Jewish organizations, Israel advocacy groups, and cultural and historical institutions around the country have benefited from their counsel. For this reason they and their families were honored with our *Shem Tov* award, given to members whose good names ennoble the Jewish people through generosity, compassion, and leadership.

Along with a group of "Cohort Captains"—active members representing different groups in our community (names to be announced soon)—Ryna and Rita will lovingly chair this year's High Holy Day campaign. Building on the success of Toni and David Bickart's extraordinary work these past two years, we are thrilled and grateful to Ryna and Rita for once again dedicating themselves so willingly to ensuring our congregation's continued vitality. You will be hearing from them in the coming months, and we hope you will join with them as we all demonstrate our gratitude for the many personal and family journeys Adas Israel's members, clergy, and staff inspire. We are appreciative of all contributions; no amount is too small. We seek 100% participation. Please share Ryna and Rita's good example as we all establish for ourselves, our spiritual home at Adas Israel. ✨

Garden of the Righteous to Honor the Memory of Ioakim Alexopoulos, Greek Orthodox Bishop of Volos, May 22



On Sunday afternoon, May 22, at 3:00 pm, Adas Israel will honor the memory of His Eminence, Ioakim 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 asked by the Nazis to hand over the list of Jewish residents, he refused, answering, "I am a Jew." Honored as "Righteous Among the Nations," Archbishop Alexopoulos's name is inscribed in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum 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 program, initiated in 1992 by Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlberg to honor non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, is supported in part by the Peter Dreyer Memorial Fund, the Scott Dreyer Fund, and the Ryna and Melvin Cohen Senior Rabbi Program Fund.

We thank Adas member Judith Strauch who has given so generously of her time and wisdom to help curate this event for more than 20 years. The entire community is cordially invited to this moving event. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Please join us on Sunday, May 22, as we honor the righteous.

Scenes from a Topsy-Turvy *Purim* at Adas Israel!





Memorial Plaques

New Memorial Plaques Dedicated at Passover Yizkor



In loving remembrance, the following names have been inscribed on the Memorial Boards in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary, and formally dedicated at Passover:

Sandra Kahn Alpert
Leonard W. Burka
Ruth Fox
Pauline Goldberg
Joseph L. Herson
Sylvia Karlin Kaiman
Robert Kurzbauer
Dorothy W. Linowes
Bernard Meyer
Theodore A. Miller
Totoy Reyes
Marjorie Lee Rosenberg
Bette Rothstein
Pamela Saltz
Bernard Segerman
Marvin Sugar
Sandra Sugar

May their memory always be for a blessing.

Memorial plaques are a traditional and dignified way of honoring your dear departed. Each plaque bears the name and *yahrzeit* date of a loved one. The memorial light adjoining the plaque is illuminated on every *yahrzeit* and for every *Yizkor* service. These plaques are truly perpetual memorials. If you are interested in purchasing one, please call Marcia Miller at the synagogue office, 202-362-4433. ✨

holidays@adas



Lag B'Omer

(Excerpted from the Jewish Federations of North America Website)

This year *Lag B'Omer* falls on Thursday, May 26 (the 18th of Iyar), but even before the second *sefer* is over—while we're still at the table—we start to count the days until *Shavuot* in what has become known as *Sefirat HaOmer*—the counting of the *omer*. In Temple times, the *Sefirah* connected the seven weeks between the Passover barley harvest with the wheat harvest of *Shavuot*.

Starting with the second day of *Passover*, our ancestors brought sheaves of grain to the Temple in Jerusalem. These sheaves (called *omer*—literally, a “measure”), were brought every day for 49 days and placed on the altar as an offering to God. Then, on the 50th day, the people celebrated *Shavuot*. Two loaves of bread made from the new wheat crop were offered in thanksgiving for God's bounty, and the counting of the *omer* was finished for another year.

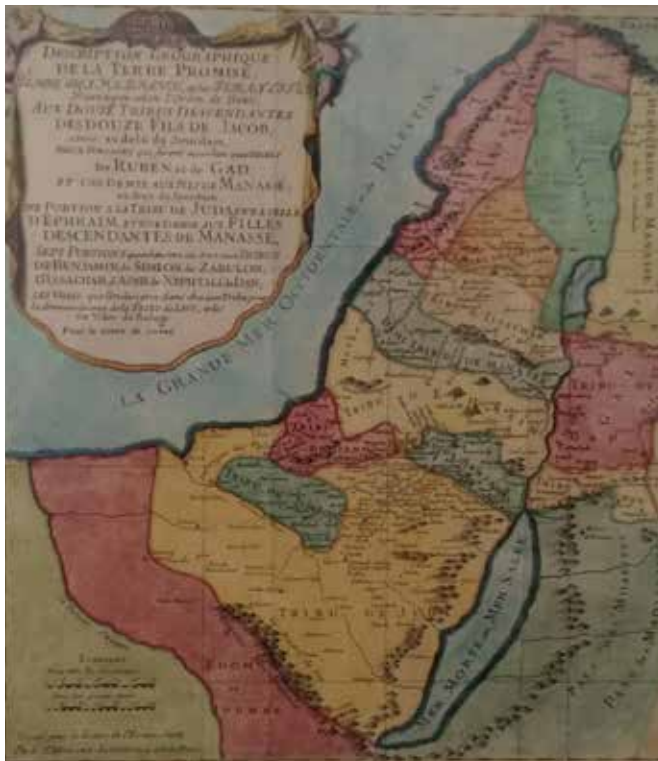
During the Exile, when the Jews were separated from their land, the rabbis shifted the emphasis of the *omer* from the agricultural to the allegorical and reasoned that, just as a bride eagerly counts the days between her engagement and her wedding, so will Israel continue to count the days between *Passover* and *Shavuot*, when we were finally united with God through our acceptance of the Torah. In this spirit, the ancient Israelites celebrated the *omer* period with joy. But after the destruction of the Second Temple, for some the *Sefirah* turned into seven weeks of semi-mourning, during which some do not get haircuts, go to banquets, listen to music, or attend weddings.

Some say the reason for this change from gladness to gloom is because we can no longer bring offerings to the Temple. Others say the mourning is for Bar Kochba's failed rebellion against the Romans and for the 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiba who perished in the fighting. Whatever the reason for the mournful mood of the *omer*, things brighten up on the 33rd day of the count with the arrival—in the Hebrew month of *Iyar*—of the festival of *Lag B'Omer* (*lag* from the Hebrew letters *lamed* and *gimel*, which add up to 33).

Lag B'Omer has no religious significance and its origins are a mystery. Was it instituted simply as a joyous break in the seven solemn weeks? Or is it perhaps connected with the legendary mystic, Rabbi Shimeon bar Yohai, who—before his death on *Iyar* 18—instructed his disciples to observe his *yahrzeit*—the anniversary of his death—in joy, not in sorrow? In many communities, dozens of weddings are performed on *Lag B'Omer*. People have parties and go to concerts, little boys get their first haircuts, and many celebrate *Lag B'Omer* with picnics in the woods. ✨

Signs & Wonders: Mapping the Holy Land Four Centuries of Maps of the Holy Land

From *Pesach* through *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* we are honored to present *Signs & Wonders: Mapping the Holy Land*, an exhibition of the Sternberg Collection of four centuries of maps of the Holy Land, in the Quebec Street lobby gallery space. Dating from 1545, the maps are the works of Dutch, Flemish, French,



German, and Italian cartographers and engravers. They illustrate conceptions of ancient Israel informed by biblical sources, legends, and their own imaginations. The maps depict scenes from the Torah and the Prophets, including the exodus from Egypt, the encampments in the desert, Jonah and the whale, Miriam's song at the Red Sea, and many others. They are full of detail and incredible art and are engaging for people of all ages.

Arnold Sternberg was a member of Adas Israel in the 1960s and 1970s and is the father and father-in-law of current Adas members Elizabeth Sternberg and Alan Ronkin. He began collecting 40 years ago, buying a map at the Veerhoff Gallery in Dupont Circle to decorate an empty living room wall. Arnold was inspired to continue collecting by his love of Israel. After serving in World War II, he joined the Haganah in 1948 to fight for Israel's independence. Serving in Haifa and in the Givati Brigade, Arnold fought and saw friends perish, in particular Mendel Matt and Jerry Kaplan, who died during the battle of Latrun. Their sacrifice made a great impression on Arnold and he vowed to ensure that their memory would not be forgotten. It is through his collection that Arnold found a way to honor their memory.

Printed and hand-colored works are included in the 400-year span of this exhibit. The invention of printing revolutionized map making by enabling more accurate reproduction than was possible in hand-drawn maps. Printing also made possible the widespread distribution of maps, which provided access to geographical information to the general public.

Arnold, who currently lives in Sacramento, CA, was in Washington visiting his daughter and son-in-law for *Pesach* and discussed the collection following services on the second day of *Pesach* (April 24). We invite you to visit the gallery and enjoy these works of art. Be sure to use the magnifying glasses provided to examine the incredible detail and artistry of the cartographers' vision of Israel created so many years ago. ✨

Yom HaZikaron



On this Israeli Memorial Day, the fourth of *Iyar* in the Hebrew calendar, we commemorate the soldiers

who have fallen fighting for Israel's independence and defending its security. In Israel, *Yom HaZikaron* is marked with sirens that alert people to stop all activity and honor the fallen.

This holiday's placement the day before Israel Independence Day is intentional: the soldiers who give their lives were directly responsible for the existence of Israel as an independent state. In this way, a day of solemn commemoration can be followed by joyous celebration and song. This year *Yom HaZikaron* is observed on **Wednesday, May 11**.



Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, 5776

The anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel is a wonderful milestone for the State and for the Jewish people. This modern miracle is unparalleled in history. *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* is celebrated this year on **Thursday, May 12**.

In celebration of *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, please attend our morning minyan at 7:15 am on May 12. Join us as we celebrate modern Israel's past, present, and future.

Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

We are pleased to announce our
**GIANT
ONCE-A-YEAR**



almost everything in the shop
SALE!*
SUNDAY, MAY 1 — SUNDAY, MAY 15

***Here's the fine print:**

No additional reductions on
already-reduced merchandise.

No other discounts apply.

No special orders.

Reductions do not apply to greeting cards,
kosher *klafs*, or edibles.

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 THE DATE

FOR THE
SISTERHOOD CLOSING EVENT
JUNE 26

sisterhoodnews

Sisterhood Shabbat, 2016

We wish to thank our volunteers for making the weekend such a great success. Sisterhood *Shabbat*, featuring educator, composer, and musician Naomi Less, was a memorable event thanks to sponsorship of the Mozelle Saltz Fund for Sisterhood Speakers and to the donations of time and energy from many volunteers.

Thanks go to **Linda Yitzchak** for chairing the event; **Lucy Hassell**, who coordinated all the activities; **Leah Hadad**, who made arrangements for the Saturday *kiddush*; and **Sabrina Sojourner**, who chaired the Friday potluck.

Sisterhood service participants were **Rhoda Baruch**, **Deborah Benator**, **Roberta Boam**, **Rebecca Boggs**, **Jamie Butler**, **Carmel Chiswick**, **Marcia Feuerstein** (Sisterhood president), **Gift Shop volunteers**, **Alex Horowitz**, **Arlette Jassel-Goldstein**, **Debby Joseph** (Adas Israel president), **Marilynn Kincaid**, **Fraydel Kramer**, **Elaine Kremens**, **June Kress**, **Nechama Masliansky**, **Adina Mendelson**, **Gail Roache**, **Kathy Sandler**, **Janet Scribner**, **Sabrina Sojourner**, **Joyce Stern**, **Betsy Strauss**, **Denyse Tannenbaum**, **Julie Weisman**, and **Linda Yitzchak**.

Aliyot included those for current Sisterhood leaders, past presidents, new Sisterhood members, and member **Judith Krones**, for whose *aliyah*, daughter Natanya Schorr, *leyned*. Thanks for the success of the event go as well to unstinting support from Rabbi Steinlauf, Cantor Brown, Rabbi Holtzblatt, Hazzan Goldsmith, and Executive Director David Polonsky.

Sisterhood in the Community

Sisterhood in the Community, a program begun last year and chaired by **Mary Hammer**, is a series of small, home-based brunches to welcome and get to know new members in a variety of neighborhoods. If you are interested in sponsoring a brunch this spring, please contact Marcy Feuerstein, at mfeuerst@hotmail.com or 202-396-1221.

Sisterhood Closing Event

Join the Board!!!

The Sisterhood year is swiftly moving toward the end of the year, and we are planning a unique and provocative program for our June 26 closing event. All will be revealed shortly, but know this—it will be interesting and irresistible! Also, at that event, attendees will vote on the nominating committee's slate for the Sisterhood Board. There are still some vacancies on the slate, so if you would like to become more active and contribute to our programs, contact Marcy Feuerstein. We welcome anyone who has an interest in joining the Board.

Norman Shore to lead Sisterhood's Taste of Tanach

Tuesday, May 17 @ 10:00 am

Community leader and teacher Norman Shore will lead Taste of *Tanach* on Tuesday, May 17, at 10:00 am. Taste of *Tanach* is an approach to traditional Hebrew text study that offers participants the opportunity to engage with challenging topics and ideas.

In May in celebration of *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, Israel Independence Day, we will study texts ranging from *Tanach* (Bible) to *Megillat Ha'atzmaut* (Israeli Declaration of Independence).

This class is open to the entire Adas Israel community, and students of all levels and backgrounds are welcome. To RSVP and for more information, please contact Beryl Saltman, beryl.saltman@adasisrael.org or 202-362-4433.

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After-School Program for Kindergarten, First and Second Grade!



We are proud to announce the pilot of a new after-school program for our kindergarten and first- and second-grade students. This program will offer a mix of Hebrew exposure and rhythms of Jewish life and culture through games, activities, and social experiences.

As our community of families continues to grow, we are excited to be able to create new programs and services to meet their needs. We are looking forward to having more students in our building in the afternoons, continuing to add to the lively place that is Adas!

To register please go to www.wizevents.com/register/4211 🌟

Sisterhood News continued from page 8

Torah Fund Contributions Still Accepted



The Adas Israel Torah Fund Campaign 5776 is ongoing. If you have yet to contribute in this cycle, please consider doing a big *mitzvah* by giving a gift that will endure for years to come. Giving to Torah Fund ensures that clergy candidates and professional lay leaders will have your financial support at JTS, the Ziegler School and Machon

Schechter in Jerusalem.

Send your contributions to Torah Fund, c/o Adas Israel Sisterhood, 2850 Quebec Street NW, Washington, DC 20008. We will acknowledge 5776 campaign donors in the June issue of the *Chronicle*.

Reading Stories with Rabbi Mindy Portnoy

Sunday, May 15 @ 10:00 am

She's back! Following on last year's success, Rabbi Mindy Portnoy is returning to Adas Israel to read more of her favorite Jewish stories written by contemporary authors. The program starts at 10:00 am on May 15 in the Adas Israel Library. If you have questions, contact Robin Jacobson at librarian@adasisrael.org.

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

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HAZAK@AI

HAZAK Dinner for Members 55+ Friday, June 3, services at 6:00 pm immediately followed by dinner



The HAZAK Steering Committee is pleased to invite synagogue members ages 55 and older to a very special Friday night

Shabbat dinner, following the congregational *Kabbalat Shabbat* in Song service with Rabbi Gil Steinlauf and Cantor Ari Brown. *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 friends.

Please register online at adasisrael.org/hazak or call the Front Desk, 202-362-4433.

Shabbat in Song, June 3



We hope you will join Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Cantor Arianne Brown, Kolot (our children's choir), and seasoned musicians for a warm, inviting, joyous *Kabbalat Shabbat*. Come with hearts ready to sing and feel the vibrations of *Shabbat*.

For our HAZAK members, a special Friday night *Shabbat* dinner will follow. Please register online at adasisrael.org/hazak or call the Front Desk, 202-362-4433.

Shabbat in Song is being held throughout the DC area as part of the Washington Jewish Music Festival. 🌟



Celebrate Your Second Bar/Bat Mitzvah Saturday, June 11 at 9:30am

Greetings!

You are invited to your very own **Second Bar/Bat Mitzvah**! Jewish tradition tells us that 70 years is a full life. Age 83 marks the time for a Second Bar/Bat Mitzvah (whether or not you celebrated your first).

Please join us in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary on **Shabbat morning, June 11, at 9:30 am**. All those age 83 and above will be called to the Torah together for a group *aliyah*. There is no need to prepare anything in advance.

You are an incredibly important part of our dynamic and vibrant Adas Israel community and we look forward to honoring you. Please invite your family and friends to attend.

—With love,
The Adas Israel Clergy

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

May God bless you from Zion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days
of your life.
May you live to see your children's children.
May there be peace upon Israel.

lifecycle Milestones

Birth

Joshua Morgan Levenberg, son of Keith & Tamar Levenberg, was born March 9. We wish our newborn and his family strength, good health, and joy.

B'nai Mitzvah



Ethan and Brandon Wilner, May 7

Ethan and Brandon, sons of Cheryl Wilner, are seventh graders at Takoma Park Middle School STEM Magnet Program. They began their Jewish education at the JCC of Greater Washington preschool and now attend the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Ethan and Brandon are excited to celebrate their *simcha* with their family and friends, especially their grandmother June Cohen. At this special time, they remember with love their grandparents David Cohen and Irwin and Joan Wilner, of blessed memory. For their *mitzvah* project, they volunteered with GSK/the American Association for the Advancement of Science to help teach physical science/electricity programs to elementary school students.



Samuel Rifkind-Brown, May 14

Sam, son of Amy Rifkind and Bruce Brown, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. He has attended the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School since kindergarten and is looking forward to celebrating his *bar mitzvah* with his sister, Rebecca, and many friends and family.



Callie Saltz, Thursday, May 19, Morning Minyan

Callie, an eighth grader at Thomas W. Pyle Middle School, enjoys playing the clarinet, tap dancing, cartooning, and working with watercolors. She also enjoys learning about the about biblical history and foreign languages. likes spending time with. She looks forward to celebrating with her younger sister and brother, Maddie and Danny, and the rest of her family.



Matthew Mason, May 21

Matthew, son of Thea and Gary Mason, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled, and is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He enjoys playing the drums, whitewater kayaking, and playing Magic the Gathering. Matthew is the grandson of Dan and Lauris Mason of Coral Springs, FL, and May Berkowitz, of Chevy Chase MD and Marvin Berkowitz (z"l). He will celebrate his *bar mitzvah* with his sister Jessica, and his many family members and friends.



Jacob Rosinplotz, May 21

Jacob is a seventh grader at the Model Asperger Program and a longtime student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He is the son of David Plotz and Hanna Rosin, and brother to Noa, a 2014 *bat mitzvah* at Adas Israel, and Gideon, a second grader at in the religious school. Jacob loves playing drums and keyboard, biking to his favorite shake joint, and making his own You Tube videos.

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Tobias Berlinski, May 28

Toby Berlinski, a seventh grader at Westland Middle School in Bethesda, began his Jewish education at Catford & Bromley Synagogue in London and is currently taking one-on-one lessons in Judaism and conversational Hebrew. He celebrates his *bar mitzvah* with his parents, Samuel and Carola; his older brother,

Nick; and his grandparents, Julio, Raquel and Enrique, as well as his aunts, uncles, and cousins in Argentina and the US, and other family and friends. At this special time he lovingly remembers his grandmother, Dina Berlinski, and wishes she were with him to share this milestone. For his *mitzvah* project, Toby is working with an organization that unites young communities in conflict through sports.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue member:

Joel Ganz

Robert Keimowitz

Joseph Sher

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Harriet K. Brooks, mother of Renana Brooks

Louise Hallet, grandmother of Chad Stahl

Reuben Kort, father of Ann Kort

Roslyn Lavine, mother of Judy Smith

Julian Lerner, father of Joy Lerner

David Lieberman, father of Patti Lieberman

Sylvia Sanderoff, sister of Charlotte Muchnick

Mildred J. Siegel, mother of Stuart Steingold

Life Cycle Information

When Death Occurs

When death occurs, please call the synagogue office, 202-362-4433, so that we may inform the clergy and be of assistance. During business hours, ask for Carole Klein. After business hours, a staff member on call may be reached by calling the synagogue office at the number above and pressing "2" to be connected automatically, or by calling the answering service, 301-421-5271, which will page the staff member on call. On *Yom Tov* and *Shabbat*, even though detailed funeral arrangements should not be made, a staff member on call can still be reached at 301-421-5271.

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



For centuries, brides and grooms have gone to the *mikvah* before their weddings. Different Jewish communities developed beautiful rituals to usher the

hatan (groom) and *kallah* (bride) into married life. A bride might go to the *mikvah* with female friends and family to be feted with songs, communal wisdom for a successful marriage, and blessings for health and fertility. Likewise, a groom might go with his male entourage, make a *l'chaim* (toast), and receive advice about being a good husband.

Gatherings like this happen all the time at our *mikvah*, especially now during the spring and summer wedding season. We hear drumming and chanting as guys and their *chevre* (buddies) mark the beginning of a wedding weekend. We welcome mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and cousins as they share bowls of fruit and offer advice on how to create a Jewish home. We also schedule back-to-back appointments for the couples who want a less-communal experience. They come together, immerse individually, wait for each other, and bond over the shared excitement.

Beyond the guest lists, the flowers, and the million details that weddings entail, the two individuals entering into the holiness of marriage have an opportunity here at the *mikvah* to experience this transition mindfully and profoundly. All who take the time to immerse in the *mikvah* before their weddings leave with a deeper sense of what the transition into marriage is all about. At our *mikvah*, of course, this includes same-gender couples, brides or grooms marrying someone of another faith, older brides and grooms, and people getting remarried.

All are welcome and all are celebrated... *L'chaim!* ✨

continued in right column

may2016
nisan–iyar 5776

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
123 Nisan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:30 am JMCW Class: Wise Aging 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	224 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	325 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	426 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Work Out 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Jewish Study Center Classes 7:30 pm Seven Blessings 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow	527 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	628 Nisan 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing; Teacher Recognition Shabbat 11:30 am Teacher Appreciation Kiddush 5:30 pm Chaggigat HaSiddur & L'Dor VaDor Shabbat for 3rd grade with Rabbis Steinlauf & Alexander 6:30 pm Shir Delight YP Shabbat; 7:30 pm; Service & D'var Torah by Rabbi Holtzblatt 7:47 pm	7 PARSHAT ACHAREI MOT29 Nisan 8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class with Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; B'nai Mitzvah: Brandon & Ethan Wilner; Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf 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 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 7:00 pm Kadima End-of-the-Year Party & SA/TO Presentations 8:47 pm Havdalah
830 Nisan 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am JMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga 10:30 am MakomDC: Intermediate Hebrew 10:30 am MakomDC: Beginners Hebrew 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	91 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	102 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site) 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 6:00 pm Mikvah Guide Training 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	11 YOM HAZIKARON3 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Work Out 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Seven Blessings 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow	12 YOM HA'ATZMAUT4 Iyar 7:15 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	135 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt 7:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Community Shabbat Dinner 7:54 pm	14 PARSHAT KEDOSHIM6 Iyar 8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class with Rabbi Holtzblatt 9:30 am Return Again Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt; Bar Mitzvah: Samuel Rifkind-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 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 8:54 pm Havdalah
157 Iyar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Adas Book Chat: Reading Soviet émigré stories with guest Rabbi Mindy Portnoy 10:00 am JMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga 10:30 am MakomDC: Intermediate Hebrew 10:30 am MakomDC: Beginners Hebrew 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow 1:30 pm Magen David Adom Dedication 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	168 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	179 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 10:00 am Sisterhood Taste of Tanach 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	1810 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Work Out 9:00 am Gan Truck Day 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Jewish Study Center Classes 7:30 pm Seven Blessings 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow	1911 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2012 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 5:00 pm Young Family Happy Half-Hour 5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Alexander 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith 6:15 pm Young Family Shabbat Dinner 7:00 pm Seven Blessings Shabbat Dinner 8:00 pm	21 PARSHAT EMOR13 Iyar 8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class with Rabbi Yolkut 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; B'nai Mitzvah: Matthew Mason & Jacob Rosinplotz; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:30 am Shabbat Awakening 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 6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services 9:00 pm Havdalah
2214 Iyar 8:45 am Baked by Yael 9:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am JMCW Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga 11:00 am JMCW Moving Meditation Yogic Flow 3:00 pm Garden of the Righteous Ceremony followed by Greek Feast 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2315 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2416 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session 7:15 pm MakomDC: Siyyum (End-of-the-Year Party) 7:00 pm JMCW: Asana For Ahava	2517 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Work Out 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Jewish Study Center Classes 7:30 pm Seven Blessings 7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow	26 LAG B'OMER18 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2719 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Brown 8:06 pm	28 PARSHAT BEHAR20 Iyar 8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class with Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Bar Mitzvah: Tobias Berlinski; Sermon by Rabbi Alexander 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 1:30 pm Shabbat Mincha Service 9:06 pm Havdalah
2921 Iyar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	3022 Iyar 9:00 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	3123 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	124 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 9:15 am Morning Work Out 6:00 pm Evening Minyan 7:00 pm Jewish Study Center Classes 7:30 pm Seven Blessings	225 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 6:00 pm Evening Minyan	326 Iyar 7:30 am Morning Minyan 8:00 am Morning Minyan 10:00 am Parshat Hashavua Class 11:20 am Gan Shabbat Sing 6:00 pm Shabbat in Song with Cantor Brown and Rabbi Steinlauf 7:30 pm HAZAK Dinner 8:11 pm	4 PARSHAT BEHUKKOTAI27 Iyar 8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class with Rabbi Steinlauf 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf; N'siah Tovah & Blessing for JPDS Graduates 9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan 9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service 11:00 am Tot Shabbat 11:00 am Netivot 12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush 12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush 1:30 pm Shabbat Mincha Service 9:11 pm Havdalah

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

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

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

10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with a full P'sukei D'Zimrah (introductory Psalms), Shacharit, and Musaf, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a d'var Torah. For more information, e-mail traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org. Havurah Service: Lay-led, participatory service at 9:45 am. Rotating volunteers lead services, read Torah, and conduct an in-depth discussion of the weekly Torah portion. A kiddush follows the service. For additional information and to participate, e-mail havurah@adasisrael.org.

Youth Shabbat Services: Starting with Tot Shabbat for children ages 5 and under led by Menuhah Peters

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).

Adas Israel

Early Childhood Core Values

The Gan Strategic Planning Committee is proud to announce that it has recently finished its work, and has identified a set of core values that will guide Adas Israel's early childhood education programs going forward. We are proud to share the identified values below, and we look forward to partnering with staff, leadership and parents as we strategically actualize these values in our community. As we've said throughout this process, the Gan is a key foundation, but not the only piece of the early childhood education and families with young children experience at Adas Israel. The Strategic Planning process and the plan that will emerge enables the congregation to be guided in a thoughtful way as we meet the ever-changing future of the early childhood experience.



Holistic family engagement.

Adas Israel's commitment to families with young children is not limited to the hours every weekday that children are at the Gan. Our community seeks to involve families as early as we can, & invite them into our community both at the Gan & beyond.



Jewish atmosphere that is warm, loving, and joyful.

Everything about the Gan and other places for families with young children at Adas should be discernibly Jewish places where our children and families wish to spend their time.



Learning is done through Jewish content and character development.

Our goal at Adas is not just to develop good kids, but to create “mensches.” Everything about our program infuses a Jewish sensibility into what it means to be a good person.



Diversity, including sexual/gender identity, developmental needs, family make-up, race, socio-economic & religious background.

We are a welcoming community which embraces and celebrates all who choose to join.



A values-driven Jewish community guided by the Jewish calendar and tradition with respect for individual practice.

Adas Israel is a Jewish community where we celebrate Shabbat and Y’mei Tovim, and have a policy on kashrut. When we act as a community, we are informed by policies, but we welcome all, no matter what their personal or family practice.



A high-quality program that reflects excellence and best practices in early childhood education.

Everything about the Adas Israel early childhood programs should reflect excellence, from curriculum, to staffing, to professional development, to physical space, both indoor and outdoor.



The Gan and early childhood program is an integral component of Adas Israel with connections through all ages and life-stages.

The Gan is an important part of the larger Adas Israel community, providing a focal point for involvement of families with young children and a jumping off point for involvement in the larger Adas community, Jewish community, and DC community.



Adas Israel’s early childhood program, including the preschool, is financially sustainable.

In order to maintain the level of early childhood programming at Adas Israel, including the Gan, we need to make sure that our financial model allows us to move into the future.

Office & School Closing

Memorial Day
Monday, May 30
Schools/Offices Closed

From the President

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continue his tradition without him.

Joel's love and support of his wife and family are also compelling. He was involved with all aspects of family event preparation, including parts of his funeral, in order to get them done right. The family clearly thrived on his attention and his ability to focus on the details that make all the difference. This enabled Adas Israel to benefit from Rhoda's active participation throughout the years as a lifetime member of the Board and trustee. Having grown up at Adas Israel, she brought her husband to her *shul* and raised her children here.

This is the second instance within a short time that I am highlighting the loss of a special member of our community. At a time when our headlines report hate and destruction perpetrated by humans around the world, it seems right that we reflect upon the spark of humanity that is present in our midst as both a model for each of us and to offer us hope. Joel was someone particularly important to me because he was one of my first mentors when I became a freshly minted child and adolescent psychologist. Although we both closed our private practices many years ago, it felt particularly meaningful to me to reconnect with Joel at this stage of our lives and in my capacity as president of Adas Israel. It is a reminder to me of the many people with whom we cross paths over our lifetimes, whose true measure may be learned only after they are no longer with us. I am sure you know such people. We are all blessed to have known them, who, like Joel Ganz, are *Shem Tovs*. ❀

educationupdate



Graduation

Mazal tov to our graduating seniors! We hope that you look back at your Religious School and Ma'alot days fondly and that they serve as a strong foundation for moving forward in your Jewish journey. We have loved watching you grow and mature in your Judaism, and we wish you all the best in the days ahead. Remember that your Adas family is always here for you and that our friendship doesn't end as you walk away from the graduation ceremony.

Our graduates: Naomi Baumgold, Samuel Ringel, Michael Rones, Avery Schonberger, Justin Sherman, Ethan Sorcher, and Zachary Sosland. ❀

Gan HaYeled

Doris Herman Educator Recognition Award

Adas Israel's Gan HaYeled is thrilled to announce Ellen Ungerleider as this year's Doris Herman Educator Recognition Award honoree. Ellen's career has taken her from customer service (including the Naval Weapons Station and Delta Airlines) to educator extraordinaire. She taught at Har Shalom's Early Childhood Center for 11 years before coming to the Gan in 2012.

The parents of children in Ellen's class write: "Our child's experience in the *Kofim* this year couldn't have been better"; "Ellen takes excellent care of parents"; and Ellen gives "thoughtful and insightful explanations of what to expect at [our child's] age." Ellen Ungerleider is a gem in the Gan's crown, and we are proud of the work she does here.

Ellen's award includes a stipend for professional development. Contributions to the fund in Ellen's honor can be made on the Adas Israel website, www.adasisrael.org. Click on *Adult Education & Library Funds* and you'll see a drop-down menu. Click on *Doris Herman Teacher Recognition Fund*. You may make a donation in Ellen's honor or to the fund in general. The award will be presented at our Teacher Appreciation *Shabbat* on May 6.

Truck Day: Beep! Beep! Honk! Honk! The 23rd annual Gan HaYeled Truck Day is May 18, 9:00 am to 12 noon, in our parking lot. The Gan Parents Association committee arranges the event each year. The children get to climb in, on, and around all sorts of vehicles, from snow plows and dump trucks to fire trucks and motorcycles. The synagogue parking



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Hesed Needs YOU!

When you go to services and programs at Adas, do you find yourself looking forward to saying hello to friends? That's what a community is all about. Our Adas community is very special, and we want everyone to feel part of the beautiful sense of belonging that comes from being with people you know and care about. Building community involves reaching out to those who might need a little help. Members who need help might be someone you know, or someone you have not met yet but who would love to get to know you. By being part of the Hesed Committee, you can reach out by providing a meal, a phone call, a visit, or a basket, or much more. There are so many meaningful and rewarding ways you can reach out to others to help build community. The Hesed Committee needs YOU to volunteer to become part of this very special community building activity.

To learn more about what YOU can do, please contact rabbi.holtzblatt@adasisrael.org or Rae Grad, rgrad@comcast.net.

Dedication of a New Ambulance for Israel Through the American Friends of Magen David Adom, May 15



Congregant and Sisterhood treasurer Dava Berkman has generously sponsored an ambulance for the people of Israel through the American Friends of Magen David Adom, to honor the memory of her parents, Esther and Bernard Berkman. We invite the congregation to the

dedication of this ambulance on Sunday, May 15, at 1:30 pm, in the Adas Israel parking lot. Representatives of American Friends of Magen David Adom (AFMDA) will be here, and you will have an opportunity to see the ambulance before it leaves for Baltimore to be shipped to Israel to begin saving lives.

Dava is the second congregant and Sisterhood member to donate an ambulance to the people of Israel through AFMDA. Last year, Ruth Kurzbauer sponsored an ambulance for Magen David Adom.

Magen David Adom is Israel's ambulance, blood services, and disaster-relief organization, serving as emergency medical first responders for the state's more than eight million people, regardless of religion or ethnicity. MDA is the only organization mandated by the Israeli government to serve in this role, but it is **not** a government agency, so it relies on funding from supporters around the world. To learn more, please visit www.afmda.org. 🌟

So Others Might Eat (SOME) Provide-a-Meal Adas Israel Volunteers at SOME on Memorial Day



Please join us on Memorial Day, May 30, to help prepare and serve breakfast or lunch to hungry guests at SOME's Dining Rooms for the Homeless located at 71 O Street, NW. The *tzedakah* funds raised during *Purim*'s

Edible *Grogger* sales and the SOME Pick-a-Pocket contributions will go toward the cost of a meal for 400–500 guests. Volunteers must be 13 or older. Directions and transportation information are available at <http://some.org/volunteer/dining-room/>. The closest Metro is the New York Avenue (NoMa) station. SOME is located a half-mile from the station.

For more information, contact Ben Buring at benburing@hotmail.com. To register, visit the Tikkun Olam section of the Adas Israel website.

Pick-A-Pocket Contributions and Edible Grogger Sales Bring in Almost \$1,000

As *Purim* revelers walked through our building and experienced an Adas Israel transformed into Victorian London, they remembered others in need by performing a *mitzvah* and giving to community-based and national organizations.



Those organizations that benefited include N Street Village, SOME, Anne Frank House, Martha's Table, Capital Area Food Bank, House of Ruth, and HIAS. And those edible *groggers* morphed into mac 'n' cheese when they were donated to SOME. We thank the many people who gave *tzedakah*. 🌟



Shabbat Mincha Time Changes for Summer 2016

This summer *Shabbat Mincha* will be held each week immediately following the congregational *kiddush*. The Board and the Religious Practices Committee hope this change will encourage members to participate, read *Torah*, and support those in our community who are saying *kaddish*. *Shabbat Mincha* will take place at this time beginning May 28, and will continue through September 3.

Gan continued from page 16

lot will be closed during that time; we apologize for any inconvenience.

Last chance to register: There are still spots left in Camp Sweet Summertime, the Gan's summer camp. Sweet Summertime begins June 20 and runs through August



12 in two-week sessions. Throughout the eight weeks of Sweet Summertime you will see smiles and hear laughter from our campers and staff alike. With a broad variety of activities, there is something for everyone.

As a special bonus, our very special Gan teachers work in the summer and make Sweet Summertime a wonderful experience. This year's theme is Elements of Fun

Join the Gan for the 2016–2017 school year! We still have a few spaces left. For more information call the Gan office, 202-362-4491 or visit adasisrael.org/gan. 🌟

Save the Date

Annual Congregational Meeting & Open Board Dinner, June 15

Featuring the *Yad Hakavod* Award Honoree

Please join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting and *Yad Hakavod* Award Ceremony at 7:30 pm in the Gewirz Beit Am.

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



TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Financial and Budget Presentation
- Election of new Board Members and Synagogue Leaders for the new Fiscal year
- "State of the Synagogue" Address by President Debby Joseph
- *Yad Hakavod* Award Presentation
- Dessert Reception follows the meeting 🌟

Sisterhood News continued from page 9

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 you received 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.

Women's League Offers Special Online Learning Workshops

Women's League provides customized training on a variety of topics covering every area of Sisterhood business and leadership development. Recognizing that the great training it offers isn't always convenient to attend, Women's League created the concept of Distance Workshops, which are available online. In addition to saving you time and money, you will be able to apply your new knowledge to your Sisterhood immediately!

Three online workshops will be held this spring:

- **May 18:** Public Policy and Social Action
- **June 6:** What's in Your Marketing Toolbox?

There is no charge, but pre-registration is necessary. Participation is limited to members of Women's League. For additional information, call 212-870-1263. 🌟

A Vision for the Social Action Committee – Join Us As We Chart A Course for the Future

Social Action Committee

June 5, 10:00 – 11:30 am (Childcare Provided)



The Social Action Council welcomes all who want to contribute their time and talent to our many projects and activities. SAC volunteers find satisfaction in their efforts and create new friendships within our Adas Israel community. We encourage you to contact activity coordinators or Social Action Chair Jamie Butler (Butler364@aol.com) to talk about your interests and how you can get involved. Please keep the Social Action Fund in mind when you are commemorating yahrzeits, celebrating smachot, or honoring special individuals. To Learn more about us and what we do go to www.adasisrael.org/tikkunolam/.

On June 5, the Social Action Committee invites the entire congregation to join us as we lay out our vision for the kind of justice work Adas Israel does, can do, and will do moving forward. It will be a powerful morning, filled with prayer, testimony, dreams and personal connections.

We'll learn together about what is possible concerning urgent communal needs, such as homelessness, gun violence prevention, and climate change. We will also explore the ways in which we are actively working to connect to a wide and diverse coalition of DC/Maryland/Virginia residents and people of faith.

If you've been interested in getting more involved with Adas Israel by focusing on community organizing, social action projects, and systemic change work, this will be a great space to begin that journey and join this sacred team. ✿



Impressions: Zemer Chai 40th Anniversary Concert

*The values we live by...the stories we tell...
make lasting impressions, on the wings of
song!*

Zemer Chai,
the Jewish
Chorale of the
Nation's Capital,
celebrates its 40th
Anniversary with
a gala concert—
Impressions— on
Sunday, June
5, at 5:00 pm,
at Adas Israel
Congregation.



Impressions will feature music that leaves lasting impressions of the values we live by and the stories we tell. The concert includes the world premier of *Higid L'cha* by Steve Cohen, commissioned in honor of the choir's 40th Anniversary.

Guest artists include Cantor Arianne Brown, Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller, the Robyn Helzner Trio, and Ari Helzner.

Tickets are available at www.ZemerChai.org: \$40 Preferred Seating; \$20 General Admission (\$25 at the door).

Follow Us on Facebook

Visit our Adas Israel Facebook Page at facebook.com/adasisraeldc to get up-to-the-minute information in your community. Just "like" our page!



Ma Tovv: Rob and Maya Hyman

HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

Why Washington, DC, and why Adas Israel?

Rob: I came for a job in transportation and climate change. Like so many people who move to DC for a job, I thought I'd be here for a few years . . . it's been 14 years.

Maya: I grew up in Oregon and when deciding where to go to college, I knew I wanted a school in DC, where I could stay up late at night and watch CSPAN with other students obsessed with government. After college I spent some time in California and Colorado . . . but DC has always felt the most like home. Over 20 years of living here and I still love it more and more each year! We both fell in love with DC—its vibrancy, its neighborhoods, its resources, free museums, all that being in the capital allows us to experience.

Adas has an amazing set of rabbis (and so many of them!!), we love the incredibly dynamic programming, and most of all we love our cohort and community—they are so friendly and accepting. We honestly feel like Adas may be the best synagogue in the country right now and we are privileged to be a part of it. Rob's parents in New York are constantly calling to tell me they saw another news story about something happening at Adas. I mean, where else would you get to see the President speak? Not to mention that our son Marcus got to take a picture with him in the preschool after his speech.

Your two children attend our Gan HaYeled. Why is it important for you to have them in a Jewish preschool?

We feel it is very important for our kids to develop a strong Jewish identity when they are young. We want them to have fun and happy memories of being Jewish. We love that they come home from school singing songs about *Shabbat* and the holidays, and that they are starting to help us with the *Shabbat* prayers.

When Ellie was four, someone (not Jewish) asked her what her favorite holiday was, expecting Halloween or Christmas as the answer. Instead she said, "*Sukkot*." We credit the Gan with giving her this strong Jewish identity. Both of our kids have been in the full-day program (Ellie since its first year) and we really think it is excellent!

What are some of your favorite family memories at Adas?

We love the Gan/Young Family *Shabbat* dinners. The kids get to play with their friends and we get to talk to our grown-up friends. It's just enough of a service that the kids pay attention, followed by a wonderful meal. We also really enjoy High Holiday Family Services lead by Rabbi Kerrith, which are now standing room only!

What's your favorite neighborhood in the DC area to explore and why?

R: I love all the new development coming in on the 14th Street corridor. When I first moved to DC I lived on 15th Street and everyone told me it wasn't safe to go anywhere east of it. Now it's the hippest place in town, with new restaurants popping up all the time.

M: This is a hard question for me; I love so many of them! As a realtor I spend time in so many different neighborhoods that I keep wanting to move our family to them all. Right now I'm really excited by everything happening along the 16th Street Corridor (Crestwood, 16th Street Heights, Colonial Village, Shepard Park) and the changes coming as a result of the development of Walter Reed.

We celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut this month. If you've been to Israel, what were your favorite experiences there? If you haven't been yet, what are you excited to eventually see?

R: I studied abroad in Tel Aviv junior year of college and loved it so much that before grad school I went back for a summer *ulpan* program in Jerusalem. I had so many great experiences there—having smoothies at Yotveta on the beach in Tel Aviv, shopping for vegetables at Shuk HaCarmel, walking the walls of the Old City in Jerusalem—so many things to do and places to see!

M: I was born in Israel and lived on a *kibbutz* until I was five years old. I then went back for six weeks when I was 16 and a year when I was 18 with Young Judaea. I've had the chance to travel back many times for business and pleasure and look forward to our first trip there as a family. We've asked our kids what they are excited to do in Israel, and it sounds like their number one priority is to ride a camel!

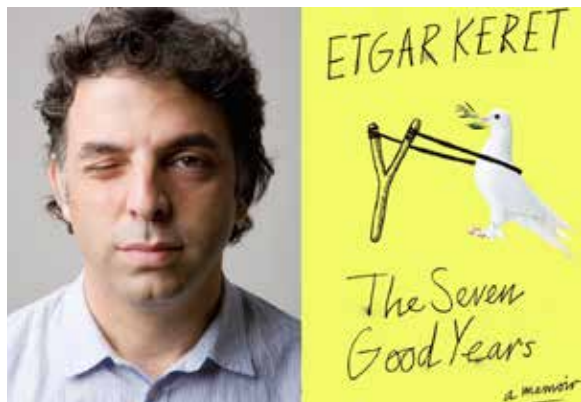
We celebrate Memorial Day this year which means summer is coming and we're allowed to wear white again! What are some of your summer plans?

Ellie is graduating from the Gan to start kindergarten, so she is going to camp this summer. Every summer we go to a hotel on the Eastern Shore with some of our friends from Adas; the kids call it the "summer hotel" and look forward to it all year. We're also hoping to visit Maya's brother and family in Oregon. Beyond that, lots of swimming! 🌊



Savoring The Seven Good Years

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director



In January, my daughter made *aliyah* and moved to Tel Aviv. This unexpected change of direction on the family road map has upped my interest in all things Israeli, including Israeli authors. Etgar Keret writes of everyday life in Israel in *The Seven Good*

Years, a witty, irreverent, and poignant set of autobiographical essays. While the book is not at all reassuring, it did make me laugh. Try it—especially if you don't have children in Israel.

Etgar Keret

Born in Israel in 1967 to Holocaust survivors, Etgar Keret is sometimes called "the voice of his generation." His short story collections, often surreal in style, are international best sellers and include *The Bus Driver Who Wanted to be God*; *The Nimrod Flipout*; and *Suddenly, A Knock on the Door*. The versatile Keret has also written and directed plays, films, and television shows, not to mention contributing to the NPR program, *This American Life*.

Reviewers distinguish Keret from the older generation of Israeli writers, like Aharon Appelfeld, David Grossman, Amos Oz, and A.B. Yehoshua, who write about large-scale issues touching the State of Israel—the Holocaust, Jewish history, Palestinians. Keret focuses more on the inner life of Israelis, offering a fresh, offbeat perspective on day-to-day existence in tumultuous Israel.

The Seven Good Years

The Seven Good Years covers the period from the birth of Keret's son to the death of Keret's father. For a book that begins with a terrorist attack and ends with a rocket falling on Tel Aviv, it is unexpectedly comical and sweet.

In the first essay, Keret and his wife arrive at the hospital for their son's birth only to find most of the maternity ward staff gone, called away to the emergency room to treat victims of a terrorist attack. While Keret nervously awaits his son's arrival, he parries with a cynical reporter eager for a quote from celebrity Etgar Keret on the attack.

In the closing essay, Keret, his wife, and their seven-year-old son Lev are in the car when an air raid siren goes off. They immediately lie face down on the highway. To ease Lev's fears, Keret makes up a game, "Pastrami Sandwich," and lets Lev be the pastrami layer between his parents, the sandwich bread. Lev is enchanted with the game and disappointed when it ends. His parents ruefully reassure him that he can count on more sirens and more opportunities to play.

Elsewhere in the book, Keret deals hilariously with a determined telemarketer (Keret pretends—to no avail—that she's caught him in the hospital about to undergo an amputation) and goes on book tours. At a loss for how to inscribe books for strangers at public signings, he falls back on his talent for writing fiction:

continued in right column

Reading Stories with Rabbi Mindy Portnoy SUNDAY, MAY 15 @ 10:00 AM

Following last year's success, Rabbi Portnoy returns to share her love of contemporary Jewish literature. For copies of the stories the Rabbi will discuss, please contact Robin Jacobson (librarian@adasisrael.org).



Books & More continued from left column

"To Danny, who saved my life . . . If you hadn't tied that tourniquet, there'd be no me and no book."

"To Avram. I don't care what the lab tests show. For me, you'll always be my dad."

"Bosmat, even though you're with another guy now, we both know you'll come back to me in the end."

We also meet Keret's father, a man of effervescent optimism despite having spent his childhood hiding from the Nazis. Keret says that the book's title, *The Seven Good Years*, refers to the "lucky" years in which Keret was both a son to his father and a father to his son. As a child of Holocaust survivors, Keret knows not to take those years for granted. ✿



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By: Richard Muller.

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Hanna Rosin becoming a *bat mitzvah* by David Plotz & Hanna Rosin. Being called to the Torah before we head to Israel by Howard & Sandy Marks. **Irv's** 90th birthday by Irv & Grace Lebow. **Judah Kirschenbaum's** *bar mitzvah* by Jay Kirschenbaum & Michelle Buzgon.

Naming of **Tessa Eve Schiller** by Lowell & Julia Schiller. **Marshall Cohen's** 2nd *bar mitzvah* by Marshall & Arlene Cohen. Our marriage by Max Parness & Elena Alschuler. Naming of our granddaughter, **Ariel Berg** by Ruth Field & Alan Gebel. **Adina's** 80th birthday by Sandy & Adina Mendelson. **Adam Burdett** becoming a *bar mitzvah* by Tom Diaz & Stacy Burdett.

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Clergy Corner continued from page 2

in the modern world to link the time between our liberation (Passover) to our revelation and receiving of Torah (*Shavuot*). This is where Donald Hall, the poet, spoke to me this year. In the piece above he talks about the most remarkable days being those of the quiet rhythm of our lives. Waking up without the rush—the steady movement forward—gentle and calm. The time to dig our hands into our relationships, our work—the planting. The time for reflection, noticing, and being—awaiting the harvest. And, finally, the joy of our first fruits, which we can gather only after we have had the discipline of sowing, planting, and waiting. Something will always emerge out of the ground.

There is a reason we don't recite *Shehecheyanu* each night of the counting of the *omer*. Rabbi Levi Yitzhak, the Kedushat Levi, writes,

during the counting of the *omer*, people are in anticipation of when the counting will be completed.

They want the completion to arrive soon so they can experience closeness to the divine. Were they to have the capacity to complete the counting in an instant and be immediately able to enter into the closeness, how good and how pleasant it would be. This is why we do not recite *shehecheyanu* upon counting the *omer*.

The *shehecheyanu* would imply that we have arrived at a particular moment. But this time is about the steady, continuous journey, not the arrival. We'll know when we have arrived and we'll be ready then to offer our first fruits. This year we will again mark the *omer* at Adas with a display in the Quebec Street entrance, where we will add a jar and a wheat stalk every day. With each jar we get closer. Let's use this time to linger, to notice, to plant, and to allow the Torah of our deepest selves to emerge. I look forward to seeing you at Sinai.



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