



Adas Israel Congregation

CHRONICLE

October/Elul–Tishri Highlights:

L'Shana Tova 2

The Adas Fund Campaign 3

High Holy Day Schedule 4

Simchat Torah Honorees

Ma Tovu:

Linda Yitzchak for 50 years of Service 22

***Chag Sameach* from your Adas Israel Family!**

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From the President

By Debby Joseph



What a year this has been for the congregation, the country, and the world! When I look inward to our Adas Israel community, I feel extraordinary pride in the many ways we are defying the statistics describing Jewish communal and congregational attachments and observance. In contrast, when I look outward, I am overwhelmed by the vitriol and acts of terror perpetrated against people within our own country and abroad. If ever there is a time for humanity to take stock of itself, it is now.

The High Holy Days always signal opportunities to begin anew. They provide us with time and space to consider what we may do to make things better in the next year. The liturgy's dramatic reminders of the fragility of life and relationships provide us with a chance to contemplate the delicate balance between what we can control and what we cannot. When I look back on this past year, it would be easy to feel defeated. However, the essence of these High Holy Days for me has become an inherent optimism that what I do, and what we all do, can make a positive difference for each other and the world beyond.

As I contemplate the year ahead, I look to the abundance of talent, commitment, energy, and inspiration that Adas Israel's members bring to our community. We are taking care of each other both within our immediate congregation and in the broader

continued on page 23

clergy **corner**



Senior Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

In the Talmud, Rabbi Isaac makes a fascinating assertion. He says, "Blessing is only found in that which is *samui min ha'ayin*—hidden from the eye." The Talmud goes on to explain: if you're about to go and measure your grain harvest, it's okay to pray to God that it be a bountiful harvest. If you are in the midst of measuring the grain, you can still pray for God's blessing. However, if you have finished measuring and you know the exact amount, you can no longer pray for your harvest because "blessing is not found in that which is weighed, measured, or counted, but only on that which is hidden from the eye, as it is written, 'God will command blessing to you in your hidden places [*ba'asamecha*]' (*Deuteronomy 28:8*)".

Now the rabbis of the Talmud are doing something very interesting here. In its original context, the verse in *Deuteronomy* uses the word *ba'asamecha* to mean "in your storehouses" or "in your barns." In other words, it promises that God will give us blessings in our storehouses and barns. But here in the Talmud, the rabbis notice that the root of the Hebrew term for storehouse is the same as the root for the word *samui*, which means "hidden." They are therefore able to broaden the meaning of the original verse to a teaching about how we find blessings in life.

This teaching reminds me of quantum mechanics. Apparently, when you get to the subatomic level, matter itself seems to exist only in potential. As far as we human beings can tell, the only time matter settles down and becomes something that we can measure and quantify is the moment when we humans observe it. Prior to that moment of conscious measuring, matter and energy—reality itself—contains a range of possibilities. I feel like the ancient rabbis were onto this idea when they applied the notion of hidden blessing to the act of measuring grain.

continued on page 27

L'Shana Tova from Your Adas Israel Family! Adas Israel High Holy Days 2016/5777



With warmth, sincerity, gratitude, and faith, we invite you to share the holiday season with the entire Adas Israel family. May you be inscribed in the book of life for another wonderful year. And may you find much meaning, warmth, and personal renewal throughout this year's High Holy Day services at Adas Israel.

Please turn to page 4 for a complete High Holy Day Schedule and Guide. ❁

The Adas Fund Campaign, Seeking 100% Participation!



As you've all seen by now, Ryna Cohen and Rita Segerman, longtime champions of the Adas community are chairing this year's Adas Fund High Holy Day campaign. We are also proud to announce that the following group of Adas Fund champions are partnering with Ryna and Rita as we seek 100% participation in the congregation's only annual campaign. 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. Adas Israel cannot function in the wonderful way we have come to count on without this critical support, so we are appreciative of all contributions; truly, no amount is too small. Please share Ryna, Rita and the Champion's good example as we support this campaign, and together, build our spiritual home at Adas Israel.



Nancy Weiss, joined 1993 — "There are way too many things I could say as to why Adas Israel is my home! When I first moved to the DC area from a close-knit Jewish community in Montreal, I didn't know how I'd find that supportive, close community feeling again. Before long, I found it at Adas! The community

embraced us, my daughter joined the Gan, and the rest is history. Adas is the focal point of my spiritual and communal life and I couldn't imagine the last 22 years without it."



Rachel Rosenthal, joined 2008 — "I feel very welcomed at Adas, and I want to help everyone else feel like Adas is a welcoming home, too—with vibrant community, spiritual growth, caring support throughout life's ups and downs, and more."



Erin Claxton, joined 2008 — "My family was once asked to describe Adas Israel in six words. We chose: Tradition. Sanctity. Community. Belonging. Love. Home. This says it all. Our family continues to grow and learn together in the wonderful, peaceful, and engaging environment that is Adas."



David Waskow, Ketura Persellin & Family, joined 2000 — "Adas is our family's second home, the *shul* where our kids have grown up and learned to read Torah, lead services, and—most important—be part of a close community. Since the week we moved to DC, we've been steadfast members of

the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan*. Our Adas family extends far beyond the *minyan*—to the inspiring and thoughtful clergy; to the brilliant and welcoming administrative staff; and, never to be forgotten, to the maintenance and security staff who organize our prayer spaces, prepare prayer books and Torahs for *shiva minyanim* and happy occasions, and have brought smiles to our kids' faces during all our years at Adas."



Laurie Aladjem, joined 2001 — "Adas is home to all of us. It started with our children. They went to the Gan and had their first taste of having a home away from home. But over the years we have all grown closer to Adas, and to our Judaism, in ways we never would have imagined when we first walked through the doors."



Jennie Litvack, joined 1998 — "Through 20 years of navigating our hectic DC lives, Adas Israel—from Gan through *b'nai mitzvah* to confirmation trips to Israel—has been a warm and welcoming home for me, my husband,

Rob Satloff, and our three boys, Benji, William, and David. Each one of us has had our own meaningful channels at Adas that bring us into community and our Judaism. For me, the founding of the Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington opened a whole new dimension of Judaism—spirituality—and synagogue life transformed from a family affair to include a profoundly personal experience of connection to God and community. That experience is most intense for me when I have the honor of blowing *shofar*. And Adas's remarkable clergy have become like extended family as they have accompanied me through life's joys and challenges."



Dennis Yedwab, joined 2011 — "Adas Israel is the place our family comes to be with its community. Adas Israel has been a touchstone for our family to celebrate important events and to solidify our connection to the larger community, whether at Tot *Shabbat*, the Gan, High Holiday Services, or the Purim *Shpiel*."



Adina Mendelson, joined 1971 — "Adas is the place where we have *davened* with family and friends, where we have learned and grown Jewishly, and where we have led and participated fully in this community. Our connections to Adas—our spiritual home—are deep and broad, totally intertwined with our lives." ❀



EREV ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, October 2

COMMUNITY SUNSET SERVICE 7:15-8:15pm

Community Service w/ Full Clergy • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary



FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, October 3

SHACHARIT 8:15am

Community Service w/ Full Clergy • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

Lay-Led, Traditional Egalitarian • Gewirz Beit Am (begins 8:45am)

TORAH SERVICE 9:30am

Led by Rabbi Steinlauf & Cantor Brown • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary 🎵

Led by Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander • Kay Hall 🎸

Lay-Led, Traditional Egalitarian • Gewirz Beit Am

Led by Rabbi Sam Rotenberg • Biran Beit Midrash

FAMILY SERVICE 10:30am

Family Experience w/ Rabbi Rosenbaum • Cohen Hall (Gan Space)

SERMON & MUSAF 10:45am (Sermon ~11:45am)

Led by Rabbi Steinlauf & Cantor Brown • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary 🎵

Led by Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander • Kay Hall 🎸

Lay-Led, Traditional Egalitarian • Gewirz Beit Am

Led by Rabbi Sam Rotenberg • Biran Beit Midrash

COMMUNITY TASHLICH 5:30pm

Led by Hazzan Goldsmith • Meet at Quebec St. Entrance

MINCHA/MAARIV 6:45pm

Community Services w/ Hazzan Goldsmith • Biran Beit Midrash



SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Tuesday, October 4

SHACHARIT 8:15am

Community Service w/ Hazzan Goldsmith • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

TORAH SERVICE 9:15am

Led by Rabbi Steinlauf & Cantor Brown • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

SERMON & MUSAF 10:45am

Led by Rabbi Alexander & Cantor Brown • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary 🎵

Led by Rabbi Steinlauf & Michael Leifman • Kay Hall

MINCHA/MAARIV 6:45pm

Community Services w/ Michael Leifman • Biran Beit Midrash

High Holy Days @ Adas, “Connecting the Threads: Our Home, Our Heart, Our World”

Rosh Hashanah begins Sunday Evening, October 2, 2016



Join us for an inspiring High Holy Day experience at Adas Israel. Whether you are new to the community, or a member of many years, we invite you to step out of your daily routines, to join together with the *kehilla*, to reflect deeply on what matters to you, and to embrace the pinnacle of our Jewish prayer experience. The theme of this year's High Holy Days is derived from a passage in the *Ahavah Rabbah* prayer, said daily in the morning service. It will serve as the connecting thread throughout this year's service experiences. It is an expression of our sacred longings as a religious community: to be woven together by a shared dream, in a shared home, which then drives us to realize our potential beyond the walls of Adas Israel.

We're very excited about our High Holy Day lineup! Each of our various services has a style, a focus, and a *ruach* (spirit) all its own. The Adas Israel clergy will be joined during the holidays by Rabbi Sam Rotenberg (learn about Rabbi Rotenberg on page 6) and Michael Leifman. We also look forward to our wonderful High Holy Day family services with Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum. Full schedule of Youth Services available at adasisrael.org

MINCHA 5:45pm

Community Service w/ Hazzan Goldsmith • Biran Beit Midrash

KOL NIDRE 6:30pm

 Led by Rabbi Steinlauf & Cantor Brown • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary 

Led by Rabbis Alexander & Rotenberg • Kay Hall

Lay-Led, Traditional Egalitarian Minyan • Gewirz Beit Am

“RETURN AGAIN” KOL NIDRE 7:45pm

 Led by Rabbi Holtzblatt & Elie Greenberg • Adas Israel Parking Area 
SHACHARIT 8:15am

Community Service w/ Full Clergy • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

FAMILY SERVICE 10:30am

Family Experience w/ Rabbi Rosenbaum • Cohen Hall (Gan Space)

TORAH SERVICE & YIZKOR 10:40am (Yizkor ~11:15am)

 Led by R's Holtzblatt, Alexander & Cantor Brown • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary 

Led by Rabbis Steinlauf & Rotenberg • Kay Hall

Lay-Led, Traditional Egalitarian • Gewirz Beit Am

SERMON, MUSAF & MARTYROLOGY 12:45pm

 Led by Rabbis Holtzblatt & Alexander • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary 

Led by Rabbi Steinlauf & Cantor Brown • Kay Hall

Lay-Led, Traditional Egalitarian Minyan • Gewirz Beit Am

AFTERNOON DISCUSSION 3:15pm

The Roots Project • Kay Hall


MINCHA 4:30pm

Community Service w/ Michael Leifman • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary

LATE YIZKOR 5:00pm

Community Service w/ Rabbi Rotenberg • Biran Beit Midrash

N'EELAH 5:45pm (Shofar ~7:25pm)

 Community Service w/ Full Clergy • Charles E. Smith Sanctuary 
TRADITIONAL N'EELAH 6:00pm

Lay-Led, Traditional Egalitarian • Gewirz Beit Am


 With Instruments: *Reflective, Soulful Sounds*

 With Instruments: *Traditional, Cantorial Melodies*

HIGH HOLY DAY LIVESTREAMING AT ADAS ISRAEL

Now Available for Services in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary. In keeping with our ongoing efforts to provide accessible and inclusive community offerings at Adas Israel, we are excited to announce that livestreaming will now be available for High Holy Day Services in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary. This means that if you or a loved one will face difficulties in physically coming to the synagogue for the holidays, you will still be able to watch and hear our services from any computer, tablet or mobile device. Access to this service is strictly password protected for privacy purposes, but if you are a member of the synagogue, and would like to ensure access to our password protected livestreaming webpage, please call the synagogue front desk at 202-362-4433, and the password will be provided to you. L'Shana Tova!

HIGH HOLY DAYS TICKETS & SECURITY

For the comfort and safety of our community, tickets will be required to enter the parking lot and building for everyone over the age of one. Please check and separate your tickets before coming to services, and bring the appropriate ticket to each service. If you forget your tickets, please come to the Quebec Street entrance where your name will be checked on a ticket list. We apologize in advance for any delays. No one will be admitted to the building without a ticket, and without going through security. All bags will be checked by security personnel upon arriving. Please note, there will be heightened security on Kol Nidre for the outdoor Return Again service. All attendees will enter the parking lot through a security checkpoint, and there will be limited seating available. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we attempt to ensure a safe, peaceful and meaningful High Holy Day season. 🌟



Kever Avot Memorial Services & Cemetery Hours

Jews worldwide mark the approaching High Holy Days with annual visits to the graves of departed loved ones. An ancient custom, *Kever Avot*, literally “graves of the fathers,” dates almost as far back as Jews themselves. Gathering at the grave facilitates healing within families by creating an opportunity to grant forgiveness to one another. Others visit graves to connect with their past and to contemplate the life they want to live. The Adas Israel *Kever Avot* schedule is as follows:

Kever Avot Memorial Cemetery Service, Sunday, October 9, 10:30 am

Adas Israel Cemetery, 1400 Alabama Avenue, SE, Washington, DC
With Rabbi Gil Steinlauf
Bus leaves from the congregation at 9:30 am.
Call the synagogue office, 202-362-4433, to reserve a seat. Space is limited.

Judean Memorial Gardens Kever Avot Service, Sunday, October 9, 10:30 am

With Rabbi Aaron Alexander

The Adas Israel Cemetery on Alabama Avenue will be open on Sunday, October 9, from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. If you wish to visit at any other times, please call David Polonsky or Carole Klein at 202-362-4433 to set up a time.

May the memory of your loved ones forever be a blessing and an inspiration.

holidays@adas

Home Observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, 5777 *Rosh Hashanah at Home*

The celebration of *Rosh Hashanah*, like all Jewish holidays, takes place both in the synagogue and at home. The mood of the holiday combines solemnity and joy. The commemoration of *Rosh Hashanah* at home can be enhanced by the following preparation and ceremonies: the table should be set in a festive manner, with a white cloth (symbolic of purity and joy), candlesticks, wine, apples and honey, and *challot* (usually round to symbolize a full, complete year). The family gathers for the lighting of the candles.

1. *Rosh Hashanah* begins on Sunday evening, October 2; candles are lit and the blessing is followed by the *She-hecheyanu*:

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

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, asher kid-shanu b'mitzvotav v'tzeevanu l'hadleek ner shel Yom Tov. Praised are You, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us to light the festival candles.

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

Baruch ata Adonai Eloheinu melech ha-olam, she'hecheyanu, v'kee'manu, v'heegee anu lazman hazeh. Praised are You, Lord our God, Master of the universe, who has kept us in life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season.

2. Blessing of the children: It is a beautiful tradition for parents to bless their children before reciting *kiddush*. Parents place their hands on each child's head and say the appropriate blessing.

For sons:

ישמך יי אלהים כאפרים וכמנשה.
Y'simcha Eloheem k' Efrayim v'chi Menashe. May God make you as Ephraim and Menashe

For daughters:

ישמך יי אלהים כשרה רבקה רחל ולאה.
Y'simech Eloheem k' Sarah, Rivka, Rachel, v' Leah. May God make you as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

For all children, continue with the Priestly Blessing:

Y'va-rekh'kha Adonai v'yish-m'-rekha. May the Lord bless you and keep you;
Ya-er Adonai panav ele-kha vi-hu-neka. May the Lord's goodness shine on you and be gracious to you;
Yisa Adonai panav ele-kha v'ya-sem l'kha shalom. May the Lord turn with favor to you and give you peace. *Amen.*

3. On the first night of *Rosh Hashanah*, it is traditional to dip apples in honey and recite the following prayer:

ויהי רצון מלפניך, יי אלהינו ואלהי אבותינו, שתתחדש עלינו שנה טובה ומתוקה.

Y'hee ratzon milfanecha, Adonai, Elohaynu v'elohay avotaynu, she'ti-chadesh aleynu shana tovah u'metukah. May it be Your will, Lord our God, and God of our ancestors, that the New Year be both good and sweet.

4. *Kiddush* for Yom Tov

5. *Motzi*

6. On the second night of *Rosh Hashanah*, it is customary to eat a new fruit (mango, pomegranate, etc.) so that the *She-hecheyanu* may be recited. However, the *She-hecheyanu* may be recited even without eating a new fruit.

7. The traditional greeting for *Rosh Hashanah* is: לשנה טובה תקבלי
L'Shanah Tova Tikatevu.... May you be inscribed for a good year.

Yom Kippur at Home

1. Memorial Candle: It is customary to light a memorial candle for departed members of the family before lighting the holy day candles.

In the Jewish tradition, there is no official blessing recited upon lighting a *yahrzeit* candle. The reason for this is that the act of kindling the *yahrzeit* light is not the direct fulfillment of a specific *mitzvah*. The light reminds us of the *neshamot*, the souls of our beloved departed who brought light to our lives. There is a power in having nothing to say at all upon kindling the *yahrzeit* candle. As Jews, we are used to having something to say at a special moment—a blessing or a prayer. At this moment, however, when the memory of a whole life is before us, there are no words. There is only silence. When Aharon the High Priest witnessed the death of his two sons, the Torah says “Vayidom Aharon,” “And Aharon was silent” (*Leviticus* 10:3). Silence does not necessarily represent the lack of pathos and love. It can also be the fullness of those feelings, so full in fact, that no words can capture them adequately. As we light the *yahrzeit* lights, we can notice this silence, and feel the depth of love for those whom we have lost.

2. Blessing of the candles on Tuesday, October 11

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

Baruch ata Adonai, Elohaynu melech ha-olam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzevanu l'hadleek ner shel Yom HaKippureem. Praised are You, Lord our God, Master the universe, who has sanctified us with Your commandments and commanded us to kindle lights for Yom Kippur.

3. Blessing the children on the Eve of Yom Kippur (*Kol Nidre*): It is traditional for parents to bless their children as the candles are lit on the eve of festivals. This is a special additional prayer for the Eve of Yom Kippur (*Kol Nidre*):

May it be God's will to sustain you in life and health. May your eyes not lead you astray, may your mouths speak with wisdom, may your hearts meditate with reverence, may your hands be engaged in commandments, and may your feet hasten to do God's will. May the Almighty grant you children who will grow up to be righteous, occupying themselves with Torah and commandments all their days. May the Almighty enable me to meet the obligations of parenthood, to provide amply for your needs, and to guide you toward good and upright character. May you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Good and Long Life, together with all of the righteous. *Amen*.

4. A traditional greeting for Yom Kippur is: גמר חתימה טובה.

G'mar Hatimah Tovah, May you be sealed in the Book of Life. ❀

Lulav and Etrog Orders Due by Friday, October 7

“... and you shall take the fruit of goodly trees ... and rejoice before the Lord your God.”

We encourage you to order your *lulav* and *etrog* in preparation for the festive observance of *Sukkot*. Please send check and order form to the attention of Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith at the synagogue, 2850 Quebec Street, NW, Washington DC 20008.

Lulavim and *etrogim* may be picked up on Friday, October 14, between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm.

Enclosed is my check, payable to Adas Israel, for \$40 for a *lulav* and *etrog* set.

Print Name _____

Phone Number _____

*if you prefer, we can bill your synagogue account directly. Contact Rachel Goldsmith at 202-362-4433 or Hazzan.Goldsmith@adasisrael.org to make those arrangements.

Yom Kippur Afternoon Discussion

Wednesday, October 12 @ 3:15 pm

Kay Hall

Join us for an afternoon discussion with Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Ali Abu Awwad, co-founders of The Roots Project, a grassroots movement of understanding, nonviolence, and transformation in Israel



Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger is an activist, a member of the Rabbinical Council of America and the International Rabbinic Fellowship, a Rabbis Without Borders fellow, and the Interfaith Scholar Honoree of the Memnosyne Institute.



Ali Abu Awwad is a leading Palestinian activist who teaches his countrymen nonviolence and reaches out to Jewish Israelis at the heart of the conflict. He tours the world to tell his riveting story and discovery of the path of nonviolence and collaboration. ❀

Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah

Sukkot begins on the 15th day of the month of *Tishrei* (Erev *Sukkot* is Sunday evening, October 16) and continues for seven days. It is known by several names, none more descriptive than *Z'man Simchataynu*, Day of Our Rejoicing. *Hag HaSukkot*, the Feast of Tabernacles, reminds us of the huts (*sukkot*) in which our ancestors dwelt in the desert for 40 years on their way to the Promised Land.

Another name for *Sukkot*, *Hag He'asif*, the Feast of the Ingathering, stresses that this is a harvest holiday, falling at a time when crops were gathered. It is one of the three harvest festivals in the Jewish year known as the *Shalosh Regalim*, the three pilgrimage festivals (the other two being *Pesach* and *Shavuot*).

The *lulav*, a palm branch composed of three myrtle twigs and two willow branches, and the *etrog*, a large citron resembling a lemon, both symbols of the harvest season, are used in keeping with the biblical commandment (*Leviticus* 23:40), "You shall take the fruit of the pleasant trees, palm branches, thick leafy boughs, and willows of the brook, and you shall rejoice . . ." Because the *brachot* (blessings) for the *lulav* and the *etrog* are to be recited on six of the nine days (not *Shabbat*) of this festival period, and because these harvest symbols do so much to enhance the home, many families purchase them for home use.

Attached to *Sukkot* is an eighth day, known as **Shemini Atzeret**, which is a separate *yom tov*. Not technically part of *Sukkot*, it is punctuated by two special prayers. The first is *geshem*, the prayer for rain, in which the Jewish people pray that a sufficient rain fall in *Eretz Yisrael* to make the land fruitful and the crops plentiful. This is especially meaningful since Israel has suffered years of drought. The other prayer is *Yizkor*, the memorial prayer for those we have lost, which is also recited on *Yom Kippur*, the eighth day of *Pesach*, and the second day of *Shavuot*.

The final day of this holiday season, **Simchat Torah** (which in Israel is the same day as *Shemini Atzeret*), celebrates the Festival of Rejoicing in the Torah, at which time we give thanks for the Torah by parading the scrolls around the synagogue in a joyous ceremony known as seven *hakafot*, in which men, women, and children of all ages participate. It is on this day that we complete the annual reading of the Torah and begin again with the first words of *Bereishit* (*Genesis*).

Simchat Torah begins this year on Monday evening, October 24. Celebration of *Simchat Torah* at Adas Israel begins at 6:00 pm with *Mincha*, followed by *Maariv* and *Hakafot* at 6:30 pm.

The celebration continues on Tuesday morning, October 25, at 9:15 am, when we will recognize our *Simchat Torah* honorees, Alan Bubes, Michelle Buzgon, Judy Heumann, and Linda Yitzchak. Please come to honor them and the Torah. ❀



Sukkot Services



Erev Sukkot, Sunday, Oct 16 – Simchat Torah, Tue, October 25

Join us for an array of special Sukkot practices including waving of the Lulav and Etrog, Hallel (traditional Holiday service of praise) and Yizkor (memorial service). For a full schedule of prayer times and events throughout this joyous holiday, Zman Simchateinu, please visit adasisrael.org/sukkot ❀

Simchat Torah @ Adas

The biggest Torah Party of 5777!



Monday, October 24 @ 6:30 pm

Featuring multi-instrumentalists and vocalists Zach and Aaron, joined by local klezmer musicians, to lead us in festive song & dance!

On *Simchat Torah*, the Torah scrolls wish to dance, so we become their feet! Zach and Aaron are a young klezmer duo who will lead us in festive music as we dance with the Torah. Join the Adas Israel community for an ecstatic, musical community celebration on the most

joyous holiday of our holy calendar!

In addition, there will be a joyous *Simchat Torah* service with the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan*—without instruments—at 7:00 pm. All are welcome! ❀

Simchat Torah Honorees, 5777

Honoring Alan Bubes, Michelle Buzgon, Judy Heumann & Linda Yitzchak

Simchat Torah is one of the most joyous days of the Hebrew calendar. On this day, the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah is begun again. Each year, several congregants who have served with unusual dedication are selected to receive special honors on *Simchat Torah*. For each of them, Adas Israel is deeply entwined with their lives and those of their families. Please join us on the morning of *Simchat Torah*, Tuesday, October 25, when we will celebrate this year's worthy honorees.



Alan Bubes

Alan and his wife, Nancy, are lifelong members and pillars of Adas Israel, with roots in our community that go back four incredible generations. Alan is a trustee of the congregation, has chaired the synagogue's High Holy Day appeal, serves on the congregation's Development Task

Force, and has proven time and again to be a vital thought leader and advocate for the synagogue and its many leadership initiatives over the years. Alan and Nancy are also recognized as philanthropic leaders in the Washington, DC, community and beyond, with particular focus on the needs of kids and families in the city. Alan's commitment to Adas and the essential value of *L'dor VaDor* continues to be an inspiration for us all, making him a very worthy *Simchat Torah* honoree.



Michelle Buzgon

Michelle Buzgon & her husband, Jay Kirschenbaum, have been active and beloved members of Adas Israel for more than 20 years. Michelle — who can often be seen at the synagogue attending an array of Shabbat services, participating in numerous committee meetings, bringing sons

Judah and Simon to religious school, davening or leading a program, and just hanging out in the Biran Beit Midrash — is truly a part of the "lifeblood" of our thriving congregation. In fact, she's been asked more than once if she works at Adas! Through her extraordinary volunteerism, and as part of her deeply felt commitment to cultivating a warm and welcoming community, she has helped to revive the critical Membership Engagement committee, working closely with (actual) staff member Marcy Spiro to develop efforts to reach out to prospective, new and veteran members. Amid her involvement in many projects (including the Adas Inclusion Task Force, the Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington, the team that calls every new member, etc.), Michelle has worked to ensure that every member of our community feels connected and finds their "place" within our large and diverse congregation. Michelle gives her heart and soul to the congregation in so many ways and sets a wonderful

example for others. Chief among them is that she makes it her personal responsibility to foster the strength, warmth and character of her Jewish community. And for this and many other reasons, we look forward to honoring Michelle from the Bimah this year.



Judy Heumann

Judy has been a member of Adas for nearly 20 years and is a current member of the Board of Directors. She is perhaps best known as an internationally recognized leader in the disability community and a lifelong civil rights advocate for disadvantaged people. As chair of Adas Israel's

Inclusion Task Force, Judy has led the community's efforts to ensure that the synagogue can live up to its vital core values, and identify and remove both physical and attitudinal barriers that limit the participation of people who have various types of disabilities. Under her leadership, the Inclusion Task Force has organized activities each February in recognition of Jewish Disability Awareness Month and has led a comprehensive assessment for facility modifications to ensure building accessibility for all. Her commitment to Adas Israel, her active participation in our *Shabbat* community, and her poignant understanding of the essential work behind building a truly welcoming community have made her an indispensable asset to our Adas family and the greater Jewish community.



Linda Yitzchak

Linda proudly refers to herself as an Adas Israel lifer! This year will mark her 50th year leading our extraordinary youth services at Adas Israel. In fact, she has been an active member of Adas for her entire life and added teaching and service leading since the end of high school in the 1960's. Linda began her

Adas journey as a classroom teacher in the religious school and created and facilitated family education at Adas in the 1980's. She has shared her love and knowledge of Judaism with children, teens and adults of all ages throughout the years. All of her life celebrations and milestones including Confirmation, wedding, B'nai Mitzvah of her three children, her Adult Bat Mitzvah, her husband's Adult Bar Mitzvah and numerous aliyot celebrating lifetime milestones have been at Adas. The community is very much her home, and a part of who she is. Through her incredible commitment to prayer experiences and Jewish education for young children she inspires all of us to recommit to the sacred task of handing down our rich traditions to the next generation. Adas Israel is a place for "L'dor Vador" thanks in no small part to her service and we are honored to celebrate it with her. ❀



Sukkot Community Events

Community-Wide Sukkah-Decorating
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, HAPPY HOUR

We have so many community events already planned to take place in the *sukkah*: the Gan “snack in the shack,” Religious School *Shacharit* Live, New Member Reception, *Kiddush* in the *Sukkah*, etc. Now we need a community to help build and decorate the famous Adas Israel *sukkah* on the Connecticut Avenue patio.

Please join us in this *mitzvah* on Thursday, October 13, at 4:30 pm for our community *Sukkah-Decorating* Happy Hour. If you are available earlier in the day to build, please come at 11:00 am. There will be an additional *sukkah*-decorating party on Sunday, October 16, for our Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School families.

For more information please contact Director of Membership Engagement Marcy Spiro, at marcy.spiro@adasisrael.org or 202-362-4433, ext. 113.

New Member Reception in the Sukkah
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 6:30 PM

Please join us in the *sukkah*, for a new member reception. This is an invitation to all the wonderful new members at Adas Israel to join us for a relaxed “meet & 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.

Shabbat Dinner in the Sukkah
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 7:15 PM

Join fellow congregants to celebrate *Sukkot* with a *Shabbat* dinner in the Adas *sukkah*, following the 6:00 pm *Shabbat Sukkot* service. For more information and to register, please visit adasisrael.org/sukkot. 🌿

holidays@adas

Jewish Life and Learning

Your monthly learning resource for Jewish “How-To’s” & insights from Adas Israel.

The Sukkah:

How and Why

For 40 years, as our ancestors traversed the Sinai desert prior to their entry into the Holy Land, miraculous “clouds of glory” surrounded and hovered over them, shielding them from the dangers and discomforts of the desert. In the words of the verse (*Leviticus* 23:42–43), “For a seven-day period you shall live in booths. Every resident among the Israelites shall live in booths, in order that your [ensuing] generations should know that I had the children of Israel live in booths when I took them out of the land of Egypt. I am the Lord, your God.”



Ever since, we remember God’s kindness, and reaffirm our trust in the universe, by “dwelling” in a *sukkah* for the duration of the *Sukkot* festival, from the 15th through the 22nd of the Hebrew month of *Tishrei* (in Israel, through the 21st only).

A *sukkah* is essentially an outdoor hut that is covered with vegetation, known as *sechach*.

Where Do I Build My Sukkah?

Construct your *sukkah* outdoors, ideally in a spot that’s most accessible to your residence. Popular *sukkah* locations include porches, backyards, courtyards, lawns, balconies, and rooftops. Basically, any location under the open sky.

An important requirement is that there should be nothing between your *sukkah* and the open sky, so make sure that there are no trees, canopies, or roofs of any sort overhanging your *sukkah*.

Walls of the Sukkah

A *sukkah* must have four walls. If you don’t have enough material to build four full walls, you can use the wall of an already existing structure such as a house to complete one side of the *sukkah*. Any material can be used to make the walls; the only requirement is that it be strong enough to withstand a normal gust of wind and prevent a candle from being blown out. If cloth is used for the walls, it must be tied down so that it doesn’t flap in the wind.

Size of the Sukkah

Traditionally each wall of your *sukkah* should be at least three feet tall. As a whole, the *sukkah* should be at least 26 inches long and 26 inches wide, with room enough to accommodate a table where people can comfortably eat a meal. The walls of a *sukkah* cannot be more than 30 feet tall, because the ancient rabbis felt that if a *sukkah* became too big, people might forget the purpose of the structure and view it as a regular building instead.

Roof of the Sukkah

The roof of your *sukkah* should be made of natural materials that grow in the ground and have been detached from it. Examples include straw, cornstalks, tree branches, and bamboo reeds. Narrow beams of wood are

continued on page 19

Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW)

Our rabbis teach us that God seeks to exist always with the Attribute of Compassion in ascendancy over the Attribute of Judgment. So, too, on earth, we must live so that our choices and actions place compassion over judgment.

—Rabbi Gil Steinlauf

As we move through our holy days this month, we embrace both joy and sorrow, regret and forgiveness, solitude and belonging, faith and doubt, impermanence and the certainty of what is right now. How can we expand our gratitude for the mystery of what will be and the gift of this moment? How do we take our prayers and the teachings of our traditions into our lived experience? How do we confront our own truths with compassion? JMCW welcomes you to join our many offerings as we sit, stretch, breath, pray, chant, walk, and rejoice together.

High Holy Day Musical Services

Join the JMCW for reflective, soulful musical services on *Rosh Hashanah*, *Return Again Kol Nidre*, and *Yom Kippur*. Look for 🎵 in the program of services for full schedule.

Rock Creek Sh'ma: A Mindful Nature Walk

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2:00–4:00 pm

SHABBAT AFTERNOON (MEET ON THE QUEBEC STREET STEPS)

Set your *kavanah* for the new year with a relaxing mindfulness walk in Rock Creek Park with Judd Holtzman. Open to anyone age 15 and up.

Preparing Body and Soul with Meditation and Song

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 4:30–5:30 pm

YOM KIPPUR AFTERNOON IN THE LIBRARY

Calm your mind and awaken your spirit. Susan Barocas and Michelle Buzgon will lead us as we concentrate on the sounds and rhythms of our breathing, singing, and guided meditation. Open to all levels of practice.

Immersing in Holiness

APPOINTMENTS AT THE ADAS ISRAEL COMMUNITY MIKVAH

Enter the holidays physically and mindfully: to acknowledge challenges of the previous year, to center yourself before the holidays, and to set your intentions for the new year.

E-mail mikvah@adasisrael.org or call Naomi Malka, 202-841-8776, to schedule an appointment.

Special Sukkot Yoga–Pen & Pose

Sunday, Oct. 23, 10:30 am–12:00 pm

Join us for this workshop to harvest gratitude through embodied practice and narrative writing.

YP Sukkot Gathering and Hike

Sunday, Oct. 23, 12:00–3:00 pm

Join us for a mindful hike in the urban wilds of Rock Creek Park. After the hike, we will gather in the *sukkah* for snacks and socializing.

YP Introduction to Jewish Mindfulness Workshop

First class begins Sunday, Oct. 30, 4:00–6:00 pm

Explore the world of Jewish mindfulness through an innovative, four-part series for Young Professionals. All levels welcome!

Classes continue on Nov. 6, 13, and 20.



SAVE THE DATE: An Evening with Dr. Lisa Miller, presented by JMCW & MakomDC, Nov 1 @ 7:30 pm

Come join us for a special evening with Dr. Lisa Miller who will discuss her new book, *The Spiritual Child*. 🌸

JMCW Recommends . . .



Experience or revisit JMCW special guest teachers. Watch Jewish Mindfulness wisdom streaming right from the Adas web site! Go to www.adasisrael.org/adaslive/ to find these video links.



Rabbi Bendat-Appell, of the rabbinic faculty of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality in New York, and co-founder of the Center for Jewish Mindfulness in Chicago, speaking in the *Gewirtz Beit Am* during a JMCW Tuesday night meditation sit in March 2015. Length: 16 minutes.

The Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW) has been offering services, programs, and workshops that help deepen contemplative practices as part of our individual and communal religious and spiritual lives. Along with our joyous monthly *Return Again Services*, the JMCW offers weekly meditation, yoga, *shacharit*, and *Shabbat Awakening* services. Watch this space each month to follow these JMCW offerings along with additional special programming. Visit our Adas web page at www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/, where you can also subscribe to our e-newsletter

Know! You need to judge every person favorably, even someone who is completely wicked, you need to search and find any little bit of good. By finding in him a little good and judging him favorably you actually bring him over to the side of merit and you can return him in teshuva.

—Rebbe Nachman of Breslov

OCTOBER Religious School Dates

16: Religious School *Sukkot* Program

23: Family Day and Anne Frank House Mini Walk

Children's Services

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

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

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

21: Young Family *Shabbat*

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

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

Youth@AI



As we begin the year, we welcome Shira Wolkenfeld, our part-time youth group advisor, to assist with our youth group programming. You will find her (among other places) doing exciting programming with both *Chaverim* (K–2) and

Machar (3–5). Shira just completed a semester in Israel and is now beginning her studies at George Washington University. We are excited to reimagine the aspirational arc of youth programming at Adas Israel and look forward to the partnership of the parents and students here as we embark on that journey.

Religious School Curriculum

Last year we were excited to introduce a new *T'filah*/Hebrew curriculum into our third through sixth grades, and this year we are implementing our new Judaics curriculum to complement it. We are using a new values-based Judaics curriculum, called Shalom Learning, that connects core Jewish values to holidays, text, *t'filah*, and *mitzvot*. This is the result of the continued work of our dedicated curriculum committee, made up of lay leaders, parents, and teachers. Each month we will highlight the core value that the students are learning, so that the larger community can join us in this educational journey.

This month's value is *T'shuvah*—repentance. The students will learn about the meaning of *T'shuvah* (תשובה), investigating its root "שוב" to return. Our students will discuss the roles that introspection and taking responsibility for one's own actions play in moving forward in spite of our mistakes. ❀

educationupdate



From the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum

We are carried through the High Holy Day season by the refrain "*t'shuvah*, *t'filah*, *u'tzedakah*"—literally translated as repentance, prayer, and charity. But we all know that each word is actually symbolic of an idea far beyond its basic meaning. Each of these phrases presents us with an opportunity to examine our relationships and ask ourselves where we can make change.

T'shuvah helps us to assess ourselves and our actions over the past year. It requires us to look within to return, repair, and repent, but it doesn't stop there. *T'shuvah*, by definition, involves other people and reminds us of the impact we have on those we encounter. Our actions and words can hurt, but we can also use them to heal.

T'filah is a way of opening lines of communication between each of us and the divine. Whether we use the words of our tradition or the words of our heart, making ourselves vulnerable through prayer can allow us to connect with our deepest spiritual self and bring it into contact with something bigger than ourselves.

And *tzedakah* challenges us to remember our responsibility to our larger community. Each of us has something to give and something to share. It is incumbent on us to discover what it is and how we can make the most meaningful impact on our world.

Each of these words calls for something powerful. But all together they remind us that this season is about both soul work and the work of our hands, about our heads and our hearts, and about ourselves and others. While each of them could stand alone, they don't. And neither do we. What a blessing it is to live in community that brings us together, harnessing our amazing potential to make change in this world. May this be a year of intentional relationship, of spiritual growth, and of using our voices together to make a difference. ❀

Gan HaYeled

The Gan is off to a great start. Our year-round, full-day program has grown; this year we have five classes of students who are here from September through the third week of August. Our traditional preschool year also started in September. These classes run through the first week of June and feature three-morning and five-morning classes with the option to stay for two or three afternoons a week as well. We do have a few spots in the Gan if you know of anyone moving to DC who is looking for an outstanding pre-school.

This month we will celebrate High Holy Days, *Sukkot*, and *Simchat Torah/Shemini Atzeret* with the Adas community. We invite you to check out the bulletin boards in the Gan areas to get a glimpse into life at the Gan.



THE DAYS OF AWE

Youth Services

We are blessed to have so many families in our community. Children, like adults, can feel drawn toward different modalities of prayer. We have a variety of service options to allow our children and their grown-ups to engage in meaningful, communal experiences over the holidays.

FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH ALL SERVICES @ 10:30AM

Family Service w/ Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum

Cohen Hall: For families who want to share the experience with their elementary school age children (grades K–6).

Torah and Tefillah for Tots through K

Youth Lounge: For families with young children to celebrate together, led by Menuhah Peters.

Children's Services

Funger Hall: Grades 1-3. Parents welcome (not required) to attend, led by Linda Yitzchak.

Sisterhood Hall: Grades 4-6, led by Yoni Buckman.

Family Tashlich

Families should meet on the **Connecticut Avenue Patio** after services at 12:15pm. All children must be accompanied by adult.

USY Tashlich

Students in grades 9-12 meet in **Quebec Street Lobby** at 12:30pm.

SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH PLEASE NOTE TIMES

Preschool Children & Families Service

Cohen Hall @ 9:30–10:30am: w/ Rabbi Alexander & Robyn Helzner.

Torah and Tefillah for Tots through K

Youth Lounge @ 10:30am: For families with young children to celebrate together, led by Menuhah Peters.

Children's Services

Funger Hall @ 10:30am: For students in grades 1-6. Parents welcome (not required) to attend, led by Linda Yitzchak.

YOM KIPPUR ALL SERVICES @ 10:30AM

Family Service w/ Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum

Cohen Hall: For families who want to share the experience with their elementary school age children (grades K–6).

Torah and Tefillah for Tots through K

Youth Lounge: For families with young children to celebrate together, led by Menuhah Peters.

Children's Services

Funger Hall: Grades 1-3. Parents welcome (not required) to attend, led by Linda Yitzchak.

Sisterhood Hall: Grades 4-6, led by Yoni Buckman.

Teen Chat for Students in 7th–12th grades

Library @ 12:30pm: Join Yoni Buckman & Jordan Rothenberg for a discussion and reflection on Jewish values in our modern lives.

N'eelah

Connecticut Ave. Patio @ 7pm: Students are invited to gather on the Connecticut Avenue Patio to join the services in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- An activity room staffed by madrichim will be open from 9 to 11am before Children's Services for students in grades K–6 while their parents are in services. **Location: Third Floor Art Room.**
- There are no separate services for children in grades 7 and above. We encourage our older students to attend services with their families and join their peers for the USY Tashlich and the Teen Chat.
- Everyone is welcome at N'eelah, the concluding service on Yom Kippur. Children are encouraged to wear white & bring shofarot.
- For safety reasons, we ask parents to make sure that their children are supervised at all times, either directly by their families or in synagogue activities.

For Our Families with Young Children: Come enjoy time with your children and your Adas family! Connect with old friends and make new ones.

Shabbat Tinok: Help us celebrate the new babies born into the Adas community during the last year with a special *Shabbat* morning service in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary. The next event is Saturday, October 22.



Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children: Join us once a month for a Friday night "Happy Half-Hour" (wine, cheese, and crackers to tide you over) at 5:00 pm, followed by *Kabbalat Shabbat* Services for young children and their families at 5:30 pm, and a delicious dinner at 6:15 pm. The next event is Friday, October 21.

Tot Shabbat: Weekly *Shabbat* morning services at 11:00 am for young children and their families. Dates in October are 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.



"Coffee Club" for Parents with Babies: Stop by the *Beit Midrash* Wednesday mornings between 10:30 and 11:30 am to visit with and meet other parents with babies. October dates (Wednesdays) are 5, 19, and 26.

Play Date in the Gan: The Gan is the place to be on Thursday mornings at 9:00 am if your little one is too young to attend the Gan. They will play; you will schmooze! Parents, grandparents, and caregivers welcome! Dates in October are 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Story Time for Tots: Join us in the upstairs library, Thursday mornings at 10:00 am, for stories and songs with your little one, followed by time to chat with your friends—or to make new ones—while your children play. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers welcome! October dates are 6, 13, 20, and 27. 🌸

october2016
elul 5776–tishri 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2522 Elul9:00 am Morning Minyan10:00 am JMCW: Spiritual Shofar Blowing6:00 pm Evening Minyan2:30 pm CPR Training	2623 Elul7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2724 Elul7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session	2825 Elul7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan7:00 pm JSC Class7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: The High Holy Days7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow8:15 pm JSC Class	2926 Elul7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan	3027 Elul7:30 am Morning Minyan10:00 am Parshat with Hassidut6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Alexander6:33 pm	1 PARSHAT NITZAVIM28 Elul9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services7:33 pm Havdalah9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service11:00 am Netivot11:00 am Tot Shabbat11:00 am Junior Congregation12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush2:00 pm JMCW: Rock Creek Sh'ma Mindful Nature Walk
2 EREV ROSH HASHANAH29 Elul9:00 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan7:15 pm Community Sunset Service6:30 pm	3 ROSH HASHANAH DAY 11 Tishri8:45 am Rosh Hashanah –Shacharit Service7:29 pm9:30 am Rosh Hashanah Torah Service and Sermon10:30 am Rosh Hashanah Family Service6:45 pm Evening Mincha and MaarivSEE PAGE 4 FOR FULL ROSH HASHANAH SCHEDULE	4 ROSH HASHANAH DAY 22 Tishri8:15 am Rosh Hashanah Day 2 –Shacharit Service9:15 am Rosh Hashanah Torah Service and Sermon10:45 am Rosh Hashanah Sermon and Musaf6:45 pm Evening Mincha and MaarivSEE PAGE 4 FOR FULL ROSH HASHANAH SCHEDULE	53 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan	64 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan	75 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith6:22 pm	8 PARSHAT VAYELECH/SHABBAT SHUVAH6 Tishri8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan Service joined by Smith Sanctuary Service11:00 am Netivot11:00 am Tot Shabbat11:00 am Junior Congregation12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services7:22 pm Havdalah
97 Tishri9:00 am Morning Minyan10:30 am Kever Avot Adas Israel Cemetery Service with Rabbi Steinlauf; Kever Avot at Judean with Rabbi Alexander6:00 pm Evening Minyan	108 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan	11 KOL NIDRE9 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan5:45 pm Evening Mincha6:30 pm Kol Nidre7:30 pm 'Return Again' Kol NidreSEE PAGE 5 FOR FULL YOM KIPPUR SCHEDULE	12 YOM KIPPUR10 Tishri8:15 am Yom Kippur–Shacharit Service10:40 am Torah Service, Yizkor, Sermon, Musaf and Martyrology3:15 pm Yom Kippur Afternoon Discussion4:30 pm Evening Mincha4:30 pm JMCW: Preparing Body and Soul5:00 pm Late Yizkor5:45 pm N'eelah7:30 pm Congregational Break-the-Fast8:00 pm YP Break-the-Fast	1311 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan	1412 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Holtzblatt6:12 pm	15 PARSHAT HA'AZINU13 Tishri8:30 am Boker Ohr Parashat Hashavuah Class9:30 am Return Again Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service11:00 am Netivot11:00 am Tot Shabbat11:00 am Junior Congregation12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush
1614 Tishri9:00 am Morning Minyan10:30 am JMCW Class: Wise Aging5:30 pm Oneg in the Sukkah6:00 pm Erev Sukkot6:00 pm Evening Minyan with Cantor Brown6:09 pm	17 SUKKOT–DAY 115 Tishri9:15 am Combined Smith/TEM Sukkot Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf11:00 am Family Sukkot Service12:00 pm Cong. Kiddush in the Sukkah5:30 pm Oneg in the Sukkah6:00 pm Evening Mincha/Maariv with Hazzan Goldsmith7:08 pm	18 SUKKOT–DAY 216 Tishri9:15 am Combined Smith/TEM Sukkot Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander12:00 pm Cong. Kiddush in the Sukkah12:45 pm Mincha with Hazzan Goldsmith	19 CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT17 Tishri7:15 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan6:30 pm New Member Reception in the Sukkah	20 CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT18 Tishri7:15 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan	21 CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT19 Tishri7:15 am Morning Minyan5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Rosenbaum6:00 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service6:02 pm	22 SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT20 Tishri9:15 am Shabbat Morning Service; Bar Mitzvah: Leo KlaymanBaby Shabbat/Shabbat Tinok; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf7:02 pm11:00 am Junior Congregation12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services9:15 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan9:30 am Shabbat Awakening with Rabbis Alexander & Holtzblatt11:00 am Netivot11:00 am Tot Shabbat
23 HOSHANA RABBA21 Tishri9:00 am Morning Minyan with Cantor Brown10:00 am Tikkun Olam Restorative Yoga11:00 am Moving Meditation Yogic Flow6:00 pm Mincha/Maariv w/Hazzan Goldsmith6:30 pm Kiddush in the Sukkah5:59 pm	24 SHEMINI ATZERET22 Tishri9:15 am Charles E. Smith Sanctuary Service/ Yizkor ServiceD'var Torah by Rabbi Alexander9:15 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan12:00 pm Shemini Atzeret Cong. Kiddush6:00 pm Mincha6:30 pm Erev Simchat Torah/ Ma'ariv and Hakafot7:00 pm TEM Erev Simchat Torah Service6:58 pm	25 SIMCHAT TORAH23 Tishri9:15 am Charles E. Smith Sanctuary Service joined by TEMD'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf11:00 am Family Simcha Torah Service12:00 pm Simchat Torah Kiddush1:00 pm Mincha with Hazzan Goldsmith	2624 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow	2725 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan	2826 Tishri7:30 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Steinlauf5:53 pm	29 PARSHAT BERESHIT27 Tishri9:30 am Shabbat Morning Return Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt; Bar Mitzvah: Daniel Kotelanski9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Steinlauf; Bat Mitzvah: Eden Goldblum6:53 pm11:00 am Junior Congregation12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush6:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service10:00 am Fall Kadima Kallah: Capital Camps11:00 am Netivot11:00 am Tot Shabbat
309:00 am Morning Minyan6:00 pm Evening Minyan						

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

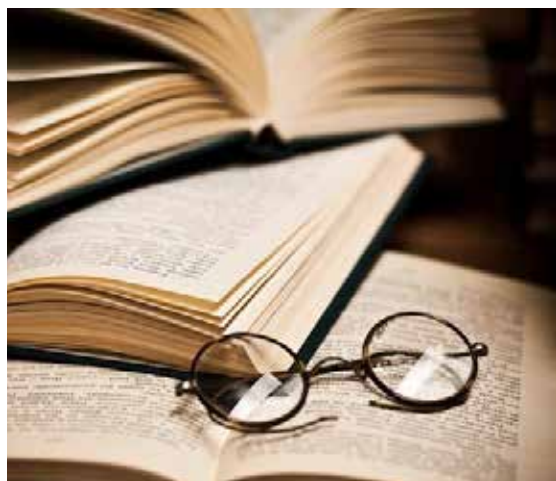
10:30 am. Led by laypeople with the occasional assistance of Adas clergy, the TEM is a participatory service with a full P'sukei D'Zimrah (introductory Psalms), Shacharit, and Musaf, a complete reading of the weekly Torah portion, and a d'var Torah. For more information, e-mail traditionalminyan@adasisrael.org. 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).



Downtown Study Group— A Long-Standing Adas Tradition

Join a highly motivated group of fellow Adas members who gather once a month at a conveniently located downtown conference room to take a break from their busy lives and study texts and grapple with powerful Jewish issues. The schedule for this year's sessions is Tuesdays at noon on November 8, December 13, January 10, February 14, March 14, April 4, May 9, and June 13.

Taught by Rabbis Steinlauf, Alexander, and Holtzblatt, the Downtown Study Group has been meeting monthly for almost three decades. The intellectual level of the group ensures that every session is challenging, intellectually satisfying, and horizon-broadening. This cohesive group welcomes new members, and the sessions are open to the community.

There is no charge for the class, but there is a fee for lunch. For more information, please contact Beryl Saltman at the synagogue, Beryl.Saltman@adasisrael.org, or Joel Fischman, fischman@comcast.net. ✨

MakomDC



2016/17 SEASON: LIVING IN THE "AND"

Learning, Living, and Exploring in Adas Israel's Biran Beit Midrash

This season in the Biran *Beit Midrash*, we will explore the emotional journey of a religious life, which is so often about living between, and within, multiple truths and values. Torah is rarely about black or white, yes or no, right or wrong. Each month's theme this year comprises two (seemingly opposing) emotions; Torah embraces the "and" in our lives, in our hearts, and in our world. The cornerstone of the religious impulse is the heart, the ever-dynamic place in which feeling leads to expression, expression to intention, intention to action. *Register online or by calling Melissa Adler, 202-362-4433, ext. 146.* To learn more visit adasisrael.org/makomdc.

The Weekly Rotation

Offering a Different Way In, Throughout Each of Our Months

Week
1

The first Tuesday of the month will offer an Open *Beit Midrash*, a place to sit across the table from fellow seekers and explore the rich, sophisticated, sacred texts that have animated our people for so many years.

Week
2

The second Tuesday of the month will offer a keynote experience, featuring a dynamic scholar and master teacher to explore the month's topic, expanding and deepening the texts covered in the first week.

Week
3

The third Tuesday of the month will explore transformative Jewish texts in their original Aramaic and Hebrew. That means we will break our teeth together and study with no translations but with lots of support from your peers and teachers.

Week
4

On *Shabbatot* over the course of the year (third Saturdays of the month), Rabbi Alexander will give a text-based class, after-*kiddush* in the Biran *Beit Midrash*, using *halakhah* (Jewish life and living) as a prism through which to access our monthly topic. ✨



The Adas Israel Hesed Committee is committed to fostering a caring, compassionate, and giving community. Our sacred obligation is to help identify, reach out to, and lovingly support community members in moments of joy, pain, and/or grief. If you are experiencing an illness, or have surgery or medical treatments planned, or if someone in your family has had a new baby – please let the Hesed Committee know. We want to reach out to you. Contact hessed@adasisrael.org or rabbi.holtzblatt@adasisrael.org

life**cycle** Milestones

Births

Lila Claire, daughter of Alan & Rachel Koch, born July 21.

Jake Michael Snyder, son of Jenna & Jeff Snyder, great grandson of Ruth Snyder, born August 1.

Leah Esther, daughter of Benjamin & Sara Tauber, born August 1.

Ella Michal Kaplan, daughter of Adam Kaplan & Melissa Boteach, born August 14.

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

Wedding

On behalf of the entire Adas Israel community, we join together to wish a mazal tov to Manny Schiffres, on the marriage of his son Ethan Benjamin Schiffres to Allison Rachel Ganz, on Saturday, August 27, 2016.

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

B'nai Mitzvah



Leo Klayman, October 22

Leo, son of Elliot and Iona Klayman, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School and attends the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He celebrates his *bar mitzvah* with his siblings Daniella and Zachary; his grandmothers, Dora Klayman and Irene Sherman; and other family and friends. For his *mitzvah* project, Leo is volunteering to serve meals to

homeless people through Bethesda Cares.



Daniel Bernard Kotelanski, October 29

Danny, son of Marina Feldman and Jorge Kotelanski, is a seventh grader at Pyle Middle School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and graduated from the Jewish Primary Day School NC. Danny celebrates his *simcha* with his sisters, Maia and Ella; his grandparents, Rosa Kotelanski and Berta and Carlos Feldman; and other family members and friends. At this special time he

thinks with love about his grandfather, Bernardo Kotelanski (z"l).



Eden Goldblum, October 29 (TEM)

Eden, daughter of Jessica Lazar and Dan Goldblum, and stepdaughter of Adam Jonath and Erika Wasserman, is an eighth grader at the Mclean School of Potomac. She began her study of Hebrew and Judaics at the age of 18 months in the Kangaroo class at Gan HaYeled, then continued on to JPDS, where her appreciation for Jewish values and traditions

grew. Eden celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with her older sister, Ella (JPDS class of 2013) and her grandparents, Michele Lazar, Jack Crane, Amiram Goldblum, Idit Amihai, and her *savta* of blessed memory, Israela Goldblum. In early autumn, Eden will begin her volunteer service with Sunrise Senior Living, a DC- based assisted living facility that provides quality care to seniors.



Sophie Zinn, October 29 (6th & I)

Sophie, daughter of Ellen Harris and David Zinn, is a seventh grader at Georgetown Day School. She began her Jewish education in the Kitten Class at Gan HaYeled and attends the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. Sophie looks forward to celebrating her *bat mitzvah* with her older siblings, Jaren and Amalie; her grandparents, Lenore and

Matthew Zinn and Ruth and Herschel Wisebram; and her large extended family.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue member:

Clement Alpert

Ruth Eanet

Ethyle Miller

Sarah Gotbaum

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Dr. Joyce J. Kaufman, mother of Rabbi Jan Caryl Kaufman

Mary Merves, mother of Esther S. Merves

Alice Rosenfeld Goldsmith, mother of Denise Gershowitz and Willis Goldsmith

Anna Rosenbloom, mother of Rebecca Burka ❀

Mikvah Guide Training

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 6:00–7:30pm OR

Thursday, Nov. 3, 12 noon–1:30 pm



Mikvah Guides support people through profound moments of personal and spiritual transitions and facilitate a connection to the Holy through

Jewish ritual. They offer themselves as witnesses to both quiet moments and joyous celebrations. *Mikvah* Guides can attest to the beauty of Jewish tradition in addressing the sanctity of the body.

This fall, the Adas Israel Community *Mikvah* is looking to train a fourth cadre of volunteers. This opportunity is open to women and men of all ages, from all levels of Jewish observance. No experience is necessary. A background in social work, therapy, or health care may be useful, but anyone with the right amount of sensitivity to others can be a good guide. This is a great opportunity for learning, growth and connection.

Some occasions when your guidance might be called upon:

- life-cycle events
- conversions
- in/fertility
- welcoming interfaith families
- healing
- monthly cycles
- aging

Again, you don't have to be a *mikvah* user to become a *Mikvah* Guide, and no minimum time commitment is required. There will be a one-time orientation at Adas on one of the dates above, and then ongoing training on your schedule.

For questions or more information, or to express interest even if you can't come to the training, please contact Naomi Malka at 202-841-8776 or Mikvah@adasisrael.org. ❀

Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

Are you ready for the High Holy Days and the other October holidays?

Come in and browse our honey dishes, Sukkot decorations, Shabbat candles, shofarot, and children's holiday books, among other items.



Regular 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

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the number of holidays this month, the Gift Shop will be closed on the following dates:
October 3, 4, 12, 17, 18, 24, and 25

Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.

202-364-2888

adasgiftshop@gmail.com

sisterhoodnews

L'Shana Tovah from Your Sisterhood!

Sisterhood co-presidents Marcia Feuerstein and Miriam Rosenthal, and the entire leadership of Adas Israel Sisterhood, wish all our congregants and community a very sweet, healthful, and good New Year. *L'Shana tovah u'metukah.*



Sisterhood Co-Presidents Miriam Rosenthal and Marcy Feuerstein.

B'teyavon! A Sephardic Rosh Hashanah Seder

For a fresh way to start the New Year, on September 18, Sisterhood enjoyed a double treat from the gifted Susan Barocas. Susan showed how to prepare a Sephardic *Rosh Hashanah seder*, and she catered a special luncheon for us.

An Adas Israel member, Susan was the founding director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Jewish Food Experience (www.jewishfoodexperience.com) and is a member of the culinary society, Les Dames d'Escoffier.

We'll share photos of the event in the next edition of the *Chronicle*.



Susan Barocas prepares the 2016 Passover seder at the White House.

Torah Fund Campaign 5777 Underway



Torah Fund supports Jewish rabbinical, cantorial, chaplaincy, and educational studies candidates at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies-AJU, Schechter, and Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano. And, for the first time, Torah Fund is now a proud supporter of the fifth Conservative/Masorti institution, the Zacharias Frankel Rabbinical College in Potsdam, Germany, which was inaugurated this past year to address the growing spiritual needs of European Jewry.

We at Adas Israel are very fortunate to be the beneficiaries of the most knowledgeable, talented and well-prepared clergy, scholars, and professional lay leaders who study at these institutions. Please give a gift today that will ensure this bounty for the future. Here's how you can participate:

- *Send a gift today* using the pre-addressed Torah Fund envelope sent in the Sisterhood's pre-High Holy Day mailing or mail to Torah Fund, c/o Adas Israel Sisterhood, 2850 Quebec St., NW, Washington, DC 20008.
- *Pledge now and pay later* (before June 1, 2017), by sending an e-mail to adasisraeltorahfund@hotmail.com.
- *Buy Torah Fund cards throughout the year.* Beautiful NEW Torah Fund cards for life-cycle or other occasions, specially designed for Women's League by celebrated local illumination artist and scholar Debra Band, are now available. To view or order these cards anytime, visit the Adas Israel Sisterhood website, adasisrael.org/sisterhood.
- *Reach out and encourage others at Adas Israel or beyond to fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah.* They do not need to be Sisterhood or Adas Israel members, and gifts do not need to come only from women!

continued on page 19

Upcoming Events

November 15: Weekday Torah with Sisterhood, 10:00 am

November TBA: Play with Color with Arlette Jassel

December 20: Weekday Torah with Sisterhood, 10:00 am

January 17: Weekday Torah with Sisterhood, 10:00 am

February 10–11: Sisterhood *Shabbat*—A weekend of engagement!

Sisterhood News continued from page 18

Every gift to Torah Fund matters! We recommend that you pick a level that is appropriate for you. Those contributing \$36 and above will be invited to the Seaboard Region Torah Fund event in Spring 2017; those contributing \$180 and above will receive the beautiful 5777 Torah Fund pin, *P'ri Yadehah*, "The fruit of her hands" (*Proverbs*), depicting the wheat of sustenance and the olive branch of peace.

Your Talent and Skills Are Welcome

If you'd like to write, draw, or design; if you'd like to teach; or if you'd enjoy organizing programs, we welcome you to our teams of volunteers! Please contact Miriam Rosenthal, co-president, sisterhoodpresident@adasisrael.org or 202-966-3897, or June Kress, vice president for membership, kress@courtexcellence.org.

Staff Appreciation Lunch

Adas's staff does so much for the entire congregation, and it does everything well! The Sisterhood sponsors an annual Staff Appreciation Lunch to say, Thank you! Words cannot sufficiently express our appreciation. Kudos and *todah rabah* to the entire Adas staff!



Sisterhood was honored to express its appreciation to Adas's hardworking and creative staff by sponsoring a Staff Appreciation Lunch on July 7. Visual artist Arlette Jassel led the activity

Too Good to Forget

Sisterhood's Closing Event of last season was held in Adas on June 26. Led by Linda Fishman Yitzchak, we shared items that were emblematic of our family and religious heritages. It was a compelling, warm experience. Linda and artist Arlette Jassel taught us how to paint personalized dinner plates to take home.

We also thank Rabbi Gil Steinlauf for his thoughtful and appreciative welcome. 🌸



(Left) Linda Fishman Yitzchak starts our painting project. (Right) Helen Kramer discusses her heirloom.

The Sukkah continued from page 10

also permissible as long as they are no wider than 16 inches.

Whatever materials you choose, they should not have been treated in any way (e.g., you can't paint them with a waterproofing solution). They also can't be attached to your *sukkah* with metal or leather.

When building the covering for your *sukkah*, be sure to space your materials evenly and check that there are no gaps wider than 11.5 inches between each piece. The finished roof should provide shade from the sun but allow you to see the stars at night. Rain should be able to come through the covering as well.

Decorating Your Sukkah

Decorating a *sukkah* is one of the most anticipated *Sukkot* activities. Children especially like to help, and at synagogues, where communal *sukkot* are usually built, children from the religious school will often make decorations for the *sukkah*. Examples of *sukkah* decorations include drawings, colorful paper chains, wind chimes, and streamers. Many people also like to use plastic fruit or colorful plastic leaves to decorate their *sukkot*. When possible decorations are saved and used again every year.

If you try this *mitzvah*, you will probably find great joy in it. Start building as soon after *Yom Kippur* as possible. One of the good things about a *sukkah* is that you should build your own. Even if you buy the "prefab variety," you should erect it yourself. Most of us live in houses or apartments built by others and eat bread baked by professionals. Like *challah*-baking, *sukkah*-building gives us the chance to enjoy the fruits of our own labor. And it is a great joy to sit back in the *sukkah* with friends and family and reflect on the fragility of all things considered "permanent" in this world. In this natural environment, we rediscover what is truly important in life, and that, ultimately, we surrender to a much higher calling than our earthly possessions.

Our willingness to leave the security of our homes and spend eight days in a flimsy outdoor hut demonstrates our faith in God and in our traditions. May it be a joyous season for you and your loved ones, and may you enjoy the fruits and warmth of the *sukkah* experience this holiday season. 🌸

Anne Frank House Update

From Anne Frank House to the entire Adas Israel family, best wishes for a sweet and healthy new year. Our residents are doing well—and we hope to acquire a new resident in the year ahead.

We appreciate the support of many members of the Adas Israel community. It enables us to do our important work. Our annual Walk to End Homelessness will take place on October 23 at Adas Israel. The walk is one of the ways we raise funds for Anne Frank House and build awareness of the need to help homeless people with mental illness in our community. Again this year, we are inviting the entire community to participate in the walk.

If you or your company or organization would like to be a walk corporate sponsor, let us know. Your corporate logo will be proudly displayed on the walk T-shirts. ✨



The Anne Frank House Walk to End Homelessness

Sunday, October 23, 11:15 am at Adas

A brief program precedes the walk

Registration fees: \$18 per youth (age 25 or younger), \$36 per adult. Your registration fee will serve as a donation to Anne Frank House, even if you can't be present at the walk.

Everyone who registers will receive a free T-shirt! You must register by **October 9** to guarantee your T-shirt will be available by the day of the walk.

To register, visit <http://www.theannefrankhouse.org/> and click on the "Walk to End Homelessness" tab.

For additional information about the walk event, corporate sponsorship, or any other questions about Anne Frank House, please contact Sue Ducat, 301-841-9962 or stansue@verizon.net.

tikkunolam

Harnessing Our Power to Make a Difference

Our Social Action Committee (SAC) continues to provide direct service to those in need. This past year, we also developed a small cadre of volunteers in community organizing and advocacy. Together with our clergy, we embarked on a listening campaign within our congregation and broader community to determine ways we can make a bigger difference in our neighborhoods and world. Our activities and actions are now organized by teams supporting target issue areas. See what we're up to and please join us as we harness our collective power to make the world a better place.

Action for Refugees Team (ART)

We've all read and seen the horrors of the refugee crisis and we feel helpless. Now, a group of Adas members is exploring how we can act to support refugees and displaced persons through the lens of Jewish ethics and values. Initially, we are supporting newly resettled refugees and asylum seekers by partnering with HIAS (formerly, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society). Specific local HIAS needs include pro bono legal assistance to HIAS clients seeking asylum, volunteer translation or interpretation for HIAS legal clients, and letter writing to asylum seekers in immigration detention.

Other areas we are studying are partnering with national and international organizations to advocate on a range of issues relating to refugees; sponsoring a refugee family through a local organization (HIAS does not resettle in around DC); and Jewish teaching and learning about the refugee crisis. Join us as we chart a course of action to make an important difference in this humanitarian work. Contact Dan Aladjem, dan.aladjem@gmail.com, for more information.

Climate Action Team (CAT)

Climate change and the air pollution causing it are a threat to the health of our families and community, as well as families and communities around the world. To foster collective learning about what Torah and Jewish tradition have to say about environmental matters, we are planning to work with clergy and members to share Torah lessons from the *parashiyot* related to this subject. There are many opportunities for the Adas community to act in our synagogue and in our homes and communities to reduce the pollution causing climate change.

We plan to bring to you specific ways to take action, such as with group purchasing discounts for solar. In addition, we are watching for opportunities to engage in advocacy campaigns for climate action in the Metro Washington, DC, area. Through these activities, Adas Israel congregants can find ways to act together. We welcome engagement by any and all from the Adas community. For more information, contact Philip Henderson, philphdc@gmail.com.

Gun Violence Prevention Team (GVP)

The vision for the GVP is to bring communities together within Adas Israel to make a difference in the epidemic of gun violence that is affecting our communities, our city, and our country. Toward this end, the GVP will begin its work with the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) and its member faith-based communities in DC that are engaged in GVP efforts to prepare for WIN actions, including meetings with the mayor and police chief.

We will work to build relationships and educate within the many Adas communities to engage with our members about gun violence prevention efforts that make sense for them and that help Adas members keep their homes, families, and communities safe. We will also reach out to local/

continued on page 21

national elected officials/staff to gather more information about current gun violence prevention legislation for future action or support and monitoring legislative action. Each component of our work will include appropriate educational programming, such as films and speakers. For more information, contact Lois Fingerhut, loisafingerhut@gmail.com.

Poverty/Homelessness/Housing Team (PHH)

We are entering 5777 committed to addressing the broader causes of homelessness, poverty, and illiteracy, and to fostering equal opportunity for all DC residents. Our commitment is to community organizing and advocacy and to projects that provide direct service to those in need—the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and the vulnerable.

Over this past year, our team has been developing the community organizing skills necessary to become effective advocates. We will continue to identify and recruit interested congregants who will train in organizing practice. We are reviewing our direct service projects, deepening and invigorating them, and we are reaching out to congregants who are interested in direct service volunteerism. As a new member of WIN, we are now part of a large interfaith network of DC area churches, synagogues, and mosques. We will partner with WIN to support and advocate for various campaigns as appropriate to our goals, including the mayor's plan to replace DC General Emergency Family Shelter with smaller, dignified, short-term housing in all eight DC wards. Direct service and advocacy efforts are essential aspects of the work we do together. Contact Sharon Burka, sburka@aol.com, for more information.

Racial Justice Working Group (RJWG)

The Racial Justice Working Group (RJWG) seeks to encourage deeper understanding of contemporary racism to enhance our ability to counter residual racial bias in our everyday lives, our synagogue, and society as a whole. In this effort, we are following the lead of our clergy, who have eloquently expressed from the pulpit the urgent need to address the continuing struggle for justice and freedom here in the United States. Current activities include a monthly racial justice book/movie club, the first of which took place in September with Ta-Nehisi Coates's book, *Between the World and Me*.

A kick-off panel is planned on November 13 to examine the Jewish underpinnings of antiracism work. We welcome interested congregants to join us in this extremely important work as we develop additional opportunities for learning, self-reflection, and action in the coming year. For more information, contact Monica Goldberg, monicabgoldberg@yahoo.com.

Adas Israel's Pop-Up Summer Project: Fill a Back Pack Fuel a Dream

Adas comes through again with 55 backpacks for children living in homeless shelters. Thank you, Adas community!

continued on page 23



Office Closings

Schools/Offices Closed for the following:

Rosh Hashanah Day 1
Monday, October 3

Rosh Hashanah Day 2
Tuesday, October 4

Yom Kippur
Wednesday, October 12

Sukkot Day 1
Monday, October 17

Sukkot Day 2
Tuesday, October 18

Shemini Atzeret
Monday, October 24

Simchat Torah
Tuesday, October 25



**EZRA
PANTRY
FOOD
DRIVE**

Yom Kippur 5777/ 2016

In our High Holy Day liturgy, *tzedakah* is one of the three acts that gains us forgiveness from our sins. During this *Yom Kippur*, we urge all to join us in performing acts of *tzedakah* by bringing your nonperishable food items to Adas Israel's Ezra Food Pantry. Canned goods, pastas, cereals, rice, beans, condiments, and the like will be taken to SOME (So Others Might Eat) to help feed the people the organization serves. SOME is a grassroots, nonprofit, interfaith organization that for over 44 years has been helping District residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to transition to self-sufficiency.

Let's strengthen our resolve to commit ourselves to sacred acts of kindness—in the toughest parts of town, for the people who need it most. Pick up extra goods every time you go to the grocery store, or just grab something from your kitchen cabinet. It all helps, it all heals . . .

Judith Kroner (Judith.kroner@gmail.com) is the Ezra Pantry coordinator, and Nechama Masliansky (nmasliansky@some.org) is our liaison with SOME. Feel free to contact them with any questions or to volunteer. ❁

Ma Tovv: Linda Yitzchak for 50 years of service!

HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

Linda is celebrating her 50th year teaching and leading services at Adas Israel, and we are grateful to her for all she has brought to our community throughout these years.

You refer to yourself as an Adas Lifer. What does that mean?

My grandparents were founding members, and my mother is in the photograph of the 1927 Confirmation class in Confirmation Hall. Adas Israel became the safe and loving haven for my brother Robert Fishman and I when our father died in 1956. I have been an active member for my entire life and added teaching and service leading at the end of high school in 1966. All of my life celebrations and milestones, including Confirmation, wedding, *b'nai mitzah* of our three children, my Adult *Bat Mitzvah*, my husband's Adult *Bar Mitzvah*, and numerous *aliyot* celebrating lifetime milestones have been at Adas.

Joseph Bruckenstein was the education director during my teen years. He became one of my many mentors as my interest in being a Jewish educator started to form. I wanted to share my gift with others who had not received or discovered it. First I was an aide in the Kindergarten class, and as a senior in high school, I started teaching. Going to Israel for my junior year was the key to the kingdom so I could also teach in the Hebrew school, grades 4 through 7. When I returned from my junior year at Tel Aviv University, I brought back much-improved Hebrew skills and the man who would be my husband for the past 47 years.

My natural instinct as a Jewish educator was to *do* what Jewish people *do*, not just learn *about* what Jewish people *do*. Rather than learning about *shalach manot* for *Purim*, I sent home lists of kosher items to be brought to school so my class could make gift baskets for seniors in the neighborhood. Of course, we added *hamentashen* that we made at Adas.

In 1965, I was asked to be an aide for Audrey Krash, who had been leading children's High Holy Day Services in for many years. In 1966, I became her successor, and 50 years later I'm still leading the children's High Holy Day Services. During these earlier years of leading children's High Holy Day services, I began to notice that more and more parents stayed at the service instead of just dropping off their children. Unintentionally, this was my first experience as a Jewish family educator. Adas sent me to my first CAJE [Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education] in 1982 at Brandeis University. Following that experience and studies at the Whizen Institute at the University of Judaism, I became one of the first family educators in the Washington area. Our Adas program encompassed all grades, from K through post-Confirmation, and I created some 50 interactive and innovative programs, some of which have been published. Adas was one of the first congregations in the Washington

area to embrace Jewish family education.

In addition to all that you do for Adas, you work full time at the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes. What is your role there, and why is that work important to you?

For the past 10 years, I have had the privilege of being the chaplain at the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes. Besides reaching out to take care of the spiritual needs of our 200 residents and participants, their families, and our staff of over 250, I supervise the *kashrut* of 22 group homes; arrange for our residents to attend *Shabbat*, High Holy Day, and other holiday services at 18 congregations; and recruit volunteer groups to build, decorate, and deconstruct 16 *sukkot*. I lead *shiva minyanim* and memorial services following the loss of residents, their family members, and our staff; lead study groups with residents of various functioning levels; train all new staff about Judaism, *kashrut*, and *kashering* homes for *Pesach*; celebrate Jewish holidays with our residents and reach out to volunteers and congregations to include JFGH in their celebrations and activities; and the list goes on.

You have three beautiful children. What are some of your favorite memories of them growing up at Adas?

Our daughters were named at Adas, and our son received an unprecedented *misheberach* when he was two weeks old. All three children had their *b'nai mitzvah* and Confirmations and continued through post-Confirmation at Adas. An anonymous donor in those years gave the post-Confirmation students \$100 in gratitude and support for their completing their high school studies at Adas. The synagogue was a critical part of all three of our children growing up, just as it had been for me.

You are very involved with Women of the Wall. Can you tell us a bit about this organization and how others can get involved?

From the first time I went to the *Kotel*—Western Wall—in 1968, I could not connect with it as a prayer space since women were not allowed to pray in their own voices. Founded 26 years ago, Women of the Wall has led the battle, both literally and figuratively, to attain social and legal recognition of our right as women to wear *tallitot*, pray, and read from the Torah, collectively



continued on page 23, right column

Adas and So Others Might Eat (SOME)— A Growing Hands-On Partnership



Adas funded, prepared, and served lunch to more than 400 men and women on August 15.

We have another opportunity to volunteer at SOME. On October 31, Adas volunteers will return to SOME to prepare and serve lunch. Adas is funding the cost of the lunch, thanks to an anonymous donor. Join us as we work with SOME staff to serve a hot meal to the men and women who use their services. In 2015, SOME served 241,548 meals in its dining rooms. Register on the Tikkun Olam/Social Action page of the Adas Israel web site, or contact Sharon Burka, slburka@aol.com, for more information.



Hesed Cooking Team Update: Next Cooking Event in November

Come cook for a cause! The Hesed Cooking Team has been keeping busy this summer with our inaugural event in June and a *Challah-Thon* in August. Fall cooking events included one in September in preparation for the fall holidays and



Challah braiding is not as easy as it looks!

another coming up on November 20, our first-ever Sunday cooking event.

All of our cooking events include some Torah learning and discussion. At our June launch, we learned from Rabbi Holtzblatt that the Torah both begins and ends with acts of kindness, *hesed*. Cooking and feeding another person is at its very nature the act of caring for someone by fulfilling a basic need. Since its launch in June, the Hesed Cooking Team has been helping those in the Adas community in need of a meal—such as the bereaved, ill, or new parents—with a freezer stocked full of reheatable vegetable lasagnas, kugels, and *challahs*, all made by the loving hands and hearts of our congregants.

Join one of Adas's rabbis in November, along with Hesed Chair Rae Grad

continued on page 27

From the President continued from page 2

community. We are exploring our spiritual depth and needs in multiple ways as we also attend to those who are no longer with us. Our educational opportunities across the ages are inspiring and thought-provoking, as are our religious services.

With this in mind, on behalf of the lay leadership of Adas Israel, please accept our apologies for the actions we may have taken, deliberately or inadvertently, that may have caused you disappointment or hurt. Please know how much we care about you and your family. We look forward to another extraordinary year of attending to the needs of ourselves, each other, and our communities, local and beyond. We hope you will join us in these activities.

Mark, Ethan, Noah, Gaby, and I wish you and your loved ones a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year! *G'mar Chatimah Tovah!* ❀

Ma Tovv continued from page 22

and aloud at the *Kotel*. My yearly trips to Israel are planned around being in Jerusalem on *Rosh Chodesh* when Women of the Wall gather at 7:00 am to pray as a group at the *Kotel*.

When you're not working or teaching, what are some of your favorite things to do?

I love traveling with my husband. Since we became grandparents in 2009, most of our travels are to visit with grandchildren in New Hampshire and Jerusalem. We are blessed to have one local grandchild, Raziell, who has been joining us at *Shabbat* morning services since he was one week old.

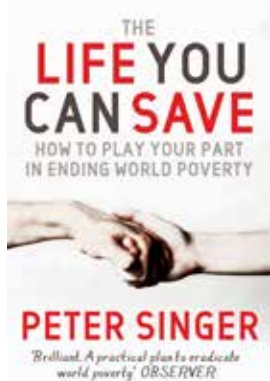
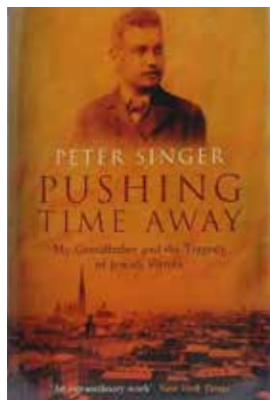
After 50 years of teaching, what would you like to impart to your Adas community of lifelong learners?

In the Talmud, Rabbi Chanina remarked, "I have learned much from my teachers, more from my colleagues, and the most from my students" (*Tractate Ta'anit 7a*). I have been blessed with learning from my students for 50 years. Other than family and children, what bigger blessing can I ask for?

God gave us our bodies; appreciate and take care of your health and those you love. God created every person in God's image. Discover and savor the worth of every person you encounter. Live your life doing what God expects of you. If you do not know what God expects of you, go study and find out. ❀

The Lives of Faraway Strangers Matter

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director



When my college daughter, Sylvia, excitedly announced last year that she had signed up for a course in Practical Ethics taught by Peter Singer, I had never heard of him. Since then, Peter Singer has become for me like the person you meet once—and then see everywhere. A renowned philosopher and public intellectual, Singer has written numerous influential books and articles on philanthropy, animal rights, euthanasia, and other controversial topics. Major philanthropic organizations, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, sing Singer's praises—and share his conviction that we owe help to the needy.

Singer says that his family history affected his work in ethics. His parents and grandparents were Viennese Jews, caught in the maelstrom of the Holocaust. Singer's parents escaped to Australia, but his four grandparents were deported to concentration camps, and only his maternal grandmother survived. All this is recounted in Singer's *Pushing Time Away: My Grandfather and the Tragedy of Jewish Vienna*, a reflective biography sparked by his curiosity about his maternal grandfather, David Oppenheim.

Holocaust Tragedy

Like Singer himself, David Oppenheim (1881–1943) was profoundly interested in big, timeless questions about human nature and how we ought to live. Oppenheim was a scholar of ancient Greek and Latin, but wrote that his true life's work was to bring to light "the secret of the human soul." A member of the elite Vienna Psychoanalytical Society that met in Sigmund Freud's home, Oppenheim later broke with Freud to support Freud's rival, Alfred Adler.

It is a tragic irony that Oppenheim, who dedicated himself to the study of humanity, failed to recognize the peril posed by the Nazis. Even after the prestigious school where Oppenheim had taught for three decades fired him in 1938 for being Jewish, he persisted in thinking that his World War I military service and medals would protect him and his wife, Amalie. He delayed joining his children in Australia and ultimately died in Theresienstadt.

Responsibility to Strangers

With this family history, it is not surprising that a central tenet of Singer's thinking (see *The Life You Can Save; Writings on an Ethical Life*) is that we have a moral responsibility to help those in extreme need—even strangers in faraway places. For Singer, one of the most immense and preventable tragedies today is that millions in the developing world die annually from poverty-related causes. Singer famously uses the example of a drowning toddler to argue that we have a responsibility to help the needy:

I pass a shallow ornamental pond and notice that a small child has fallen in and is in danger of drowning . . . Would anyone deny that I ought to wade in and pull the child out? This will mean getting my clothes muddy, ruining my shoes . . . but compared with the avoidable death of a child none of these things are significant.

Books & More continued from left column

Singer extrapolates from this "drowning toddler" scenario the principle that "if it is in your power to prevent something bad from happening, without sacrificing something nearly as important, it is wrong not to do so." This means, says Singer, that if we can afford to make hefty donations to save lives and do not do so, we are really no better than someone who sees a child floundering in the pond and walks on. Singer argues that dollars spent on luxuries like restaurants and new clothes should go instead to international aid organizations. We are responsible, he believes, for the lives we could have saved, but didn't—an uncomfortable idea, but maybe one worth pondering as the High Holy Days approach. ✨

Meet the Authors!

Book events & signings in our library:



SUNDAY, OCT. 13, 10:00 AM

Michelle Brafman, novelist, on *Bertrand Court*



SUNDAY, NOV. 13, 10:00 AM

Jeffrey Rosen, legal scholar and commentator, on *Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet*



SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 10:00 AM

Elizabeth Poliner, novelist on *As Close to Us as Breathing*

continued in right column

synagoguecontributions

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tikkunolam continued from page 23



Our challahs fresh out of the oven! and Cooking Team leaders Susan Barocas and Kristen Carvalho on Sunday, November 20, at 1:00 pm. Registration is free and limited to 30 people. Visit the Hesed Committee Page for sign-up details. Volunteers are asked to be *at least 16 years of age*. If the event is fully booked, e-mail Kristen (kristencarvalho@gmail.com) to be put on a waiting list.

Cook for a cause. Enjoy learning new recipes. Make new friends. Do *hesed*. ❀

Clergy Corner continued from page 2

Of course, the rabbis weren't just talking about measurements—quantum, granular, or otherwise. I see in this teaching a brilliant paradigm of living life itself: you can't just live your life in the known quantities. If you want to live life well, then you must always go toward the unknown, toward what you can't see, to push past all that you have experienced before. The rabbis point out that prayer itself, and the act of making blessings, all exist in the face of a reality that is always more than we can judge or measure. In other words, you can't truly pray for anything—you can't really have a relationship with God—if you already have all the answers worked out for yourself about how life is and what you expect out of it. It is the truly wise person who is always willing to meet the unknown with curiosity rather than fear. Live your life like that, and you will always find God's blessings.

As we enter into these High Holy Days, we find ourselves in a world where so many closed-minded people have sway and influence over public opinion and world affairs—people with a worldview defined by fear rather than curiosity and open-heartedness. We find ourselves in a world where the privileged still refuse to see and acknowledge the plight of the marginalized. Faced with an uncertain future, we can respond either with fear, or with a heart in search of blessing.

I recently heard some good advice on an NPR show, in an interview with a woman who is an avid runner: success always lies in pushing past your comfort zone. She heard this advice from a salesman in a sneaker store. It's also good advice for life, something I'm sure the ancient rabbis would agree with. If we find ourselves in a society that meets those who are different with fear and mistrust, then we must be the people who defy that fear and mistrust. If we are always among people who know everything they know because they read it on the Internet—from articles written by folks they already agree with—then we must be the people who go out and encounter ideas that we have never heard before.

In this new year, let us all become a people in search of true blessing, looking beyond our experience and our privilege and our preconceptions of what has been hidden from our eyes. Let us push past our comfort zones and spend time with people whose skin is a different color from our own. Let's hang out with people who have a radically different worldview from our own. Let us listen to them and hear their stories. Let us endeavor to encounter ideas that are outside the bounds of anything we have ever considered before. Our tradition promises us that we really can meet people who are different and experience new ideas and experiences without fear. In fact, this is the only way we can really find real blessings, and the true face of God.

L'Shanah Tovah Tekateivu—May you be inscribed for a good, sweet, and healthy New Year! ❀



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