Adas Israel Congregation

CHRONICLE

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Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

“Our Rabbis taught: The mitzvah of Hanukkah is for a person to light (the candles) for his household; the zealous [kindle] a light for each member [of the household]; and the extremely zealous, Beit Shammai maintains: On the first day eight lights are lit and thereafter they are gradually reduced; but Beit Hillel says: On the first day one is lit and thereafter they are progressively increased.” Talmud Bavli, Shabbat 21b

As we approach the holiday of Hanukkah it is helpful to remember the different traditions of lighting the hanukkiyah/ot in each household. The Talmud teaches us that it is enough for one to light a candle each night of Hanukkah, but the more fervent among us have each family member of the household light his or her own candles each night. Since we follow the way of Beit Hillel, each night we increase the number of candles we light, thereby increasing the light.

During the darkest time of year, it is a joy and a blessing to bring additional light into the world. But it is not only the external world we are lighting up but our internal world as well.

The Sefat Emet, Yehuda Aryeh Leib Alter of Ger, teaches: “The candle of God is the soul of man, searching all of one’s deepest places” (Proverbs 20:27).

In the Gemara we read about searching for leaven with a candle—about “searching our internal places as though we were searching the deepest cavities of our bodies.”

The Sefat Emet teaches that the candle we use for bedikat hametz is a soul-searching candle. We are seeking to rid ourselves of the “puffed up” places where our soul gets lost and to find the core of who we are. The Hanukkah candles serve the same purpose. The Sefat Emet teaches that when the Mishkan and then the Temple stood, light was revealed through God’s constant presence, but now that the Temple is no longer standing; God’s light is hidden:

“Now that the mishkan is hidden, Divinity can nevertheless be found by searching with candles [as we do on the night before Pesach, and as we do when we kindle festival lights].” (Sefat Emet on Hanukkah, trans. Art Green)

The candles serve as a way of lighting up the depths of what is happening in our souls. What my soul needs is different from what your soul needs. What I struggle with may be different from what you are struggling with, so individual light is needed so every soul can have its own light.

So let’s light up the dark. Find those hanukkiyot, buy lots of candles, and let’s be fervent about finding the light within each one of us. Hag Urim Sameach! ☀️
There is a growing rift between many in the American Jewish community and Israel. For many synagogues, the very subject of Israel has become too difficult to broach. Jews across the spectrum of opinion about Israel’s present and future are feeling silenced and vexed, while Zionism itself is being vilified and equated with genocide around the world. We need to heal ourselves and the world. We need a new way to frame our discourse around Israel in our community and beyond. The time has come for us to deal with these challenges head-on as a community and to find new avenues of unity, hope, and peace.

Join master teacher Donniel Hartman, of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, as he comes to teach us about “Zionism 4.0” as a part of the Washington DC community-wide iEngage series, “Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” All are invited to attend, including those not signed up for the iEngage class at Adas Israel. This program is generously sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, the Embassy of Israel, Adas Israel Congregation, and 19 additional congregations throughout our community.

Combined Community Shabbat Service, Friday, Dec. 23, 6:00 pm

This year at Washington Hebrew Congregation

Continuing a tradition of more than 30 years, Adas Israel Congregation will again participate in a combined community Shabbat service on Friday, December 23, held this year at Washington Hebrew Congregation. Join Rabbi Aaron Alexander, officers, and congregants of our congregation together with Washington Hebrew, Temple Sinai, and Temple Micah.

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

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

Save the Date
Kol HaOlam 2017
7th Annual National Collegiate Jewish A Cappella Championship Competition
Saturday, Feb. 25 at 8:00 pm
Register at www.kolhaolam.org

Join us for one of the most exciting Adas musical traditions of the year! Come and witness incredible collegiate Jewish A Cappella groups from around the country sing their hearts out as they compete to be Number 1 in the USA! Who will be crowned champion in 2017?! Join us and find out!
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 group meets Tuesdays at noon on Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14, April 4, May 9, and June 13. The sessions are taught by Rabbis Steinlauf, Alexander, and Holtzblatt. The Downtown Study Group has been meeting monthly in a downtown conference room 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 is 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 Beryl.Saltman@adasisrael.org or Joel Fischman, fischman@comcast.net.

WANTED: A Few Good Women

The Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop is looking for new volunteers. We particularly need women who are interested in learning how to work in the shop to fill in as substitutes at various times during the week and on occasional Sundays. These volunteers will not work every week.

In addition to getting to know our congregants, all volunteers will receive a 10% discount on most items in the shop. If this work sounds interesting to you, please email us at adasgiftshop@gmail.com or call Jean Bernard, Co-Manager, 301-654-8914.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our amazing Adas Israel community members who helped to build and decorate the single largest community sukkah in the metropolitan area for all to enjoy throughout the holiday!
HAPPY HANUKKAH!

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

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

This year, Hanukkah begins on Saturday evening, December 24; candle lighting takes place in the evening.

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

Place the Hanukkah menorah in a conspicuous place in your home. The Hanukkah Calendar Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 13</td>
<td>Community menorah lighting at Somerset House</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 18</td>
<td>Dan Kaufman Memorial Latke Party, starting with a spirited sing-along in the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 30</td>
<td>Kabbalat Shabbat Hanukkah Oneg</td>
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Adas Israel

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

- Co-sponsor a Shabbat kiddush in honor or memory of a loved one ($250–$800)
- Co-sponsor Martin Luther King Jr. Oneg Shabbat reception ($500)
- Underwrite Shabbat babysitting ($3,000/year)
- Underwrite Tot Shabbat ($3,500/year)
- Underwrite Purim groggers and hamentashen ($750/year)
- Underwrite the 2017 Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Book ($5,000)
- Underwrite and upgrade our synagogue membership technology ($3,000/year)
- Help underwrite weekly Confirmation dinner ($750/week)
- Underwrite synagogue’s contribution to the Jewish Historical Society/Jewish Museum ($1,000/year)
- New computer technology for the Library and Gan Staff Lounge ($2,500)
- Five new tefillin for the Daily Minyan and Religious School ($500)
- New digital camera for schools ($1,000)
- Expanded High Holy Day “dial-in” lines ($2,000)

In addition, as many of you know, the Adas Israel Fund for the Future Endowment Campaign began in 1994 to ensure our future as a synagogue through endowing our major synagogue programs and departments. Today, the endowment is a critical mechanism for funding yearly operations and safeguarding the synagogue’s future. Named endowment funds begin at $18,000. Please contact Executive Director David Polonsky or Laurie Aladjem, VP for Development, for a sampling of Fund for the Future naming opportunities or to discuss participation in growing and strengthening the synagogue’s endowment.

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From the President
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rabbis and Religious Practices Committee studied the many halachic and privacy issues raised and ultimately reached the conclusion with which the Board concurred, that the availability of live-streaming enables many more members to be able to participate in our services, even when they are unable to do so in person. We have heard grateful appreciation from many people who have benefited from this important option.

This summer we witnessed our first keruv aufruf. As is the case with other religious practices, Rabbi Steinlauf and his clergy team addressed the issues associated with this practice with the Religious Practices Committee, which then brought the issues to the Board. After much discussion and consideration, the Board approved the practice. For some time, we have allowed non-Jewish family members to participate in aliyot. This practice enables us to celebrate the upcoming wedding and communicate our joy in welcoming newlyweds’ participation in our Jewish traditions.

The number of new members and participation in all of our programs and services suggests that we are reaching many people. We are grateful to our inspiring clergy and program professionals as well as our members who spend many hours planning, creating, and working to provide a place of engagement, worship, and learning to so many. At a time when studies indicate that the majority of Americans in general, and Jews in particular, are distancing themselves from the traditional institutions that bind the community, Adas Israel is demonstrating that there is a place to embrace institutional Judaism and to stretch our walls to accommodate those who need the benefits of the community.

Please join us in being the shamash of our community, sharing the light of these holidays now and always. May the Adas Israel family continue to go from strength to strength.

Happy Hanukkah continued from page 5

lights should be kindled as soon as possible after nightfall with all members of the family present. Any members of the family, including children, may kindle the Hanukkah lights.

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

Besides being a “home” holiday, we also celebrate Hanukkah in the synagogue. We recite hallel psalms, there is an additional Torah reading in honor of Hanukkah, and we recite a special haftarah on Shabbat Hanukkah.

How to Light the Hanukkah Candles

Light the shamash candle first. On the first evening of Hanukkah, we light one candle, which is placed on the far right of the menorah, as you face it. Place a candle to its left on the second night of Hanukkah and continue placing the candles toward the left on each successive night of Hanukkah. Always light the new candle for that night first, and then proceed to the right in the lighting process.

On Friday, the Hanukkah candles are kindled before lighting the Shabbat candles. On Saturday night, the Hanukkah candles are kindled after you have recited Havdalah, which marks the conclusion of Shabbat.

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

**Blessings for Lighting the Menorah**

ברוך אתה يִהוּדָה חַנֻכָּה הָאָוֶל, אָשֶׁר כְּעִצֶּמְךָ בָּמְדָרְשִי, עָמֵנוּ לֶזַּדַּק לָנוּ.

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

ברוך אתה יִהוּדָה חַנֻכָּה הָאָוֶל, שֻׁשָּׁה נֵסִים לְבָרוּךְךָ עֲבָרוּךְ קָדָם הָאָוֶל.

Baruch ata Adonai, Eloheinu melech haolam, sheasa nisim laavoteini bo’yanim ha’aim baz’m man hazel. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who did wondrous things for our ancestors, in days of old at this season.

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

ברוך אתה יִהוּדָה חַנֻכָּה הָאָוֶל, שֻׁשָּׁה נֵסִים לְבָרוּךְךָ עֲבָרוּךְ קָדָם הָאָוֶל.

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

**ALL JOIN IN SINGING MA’OZ TZUR:**

Ma’oz tzu’y’shuati lecha na’eh Ishabei-ah,
Tikon beit f’tilati, v’sham todah n’za-bei-ah.
Leit takhin matbei-ah, mi-tzar ha’m’na-bei-ah.
Az egmor b’shir mizmor, Hanukat hamizbei-ah.

אֶנָּא אֵמוּר בִּשְׁירָּאָּשָּׁא הַמִּזְבֵּהּ.

lessings for lighting the menorah continued from page 2

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溴uchen at Adonai, Eloheinu melech haolam, sheasa nisim laavoteini bo’yanim ha’aim baz’m man hazel. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, Ruler of the World, who did wondrous things for our ancestors, in days of old at this season.

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Az egmor b’shir mizmor, Hanukat hamizbei-ah.
Tenderness & Anger
Letting Vulnerability & Invincibility Dance.

To harden one’s heart is to be like Pharaoh, to go too far. But what is a healthy amount of anger? Anger revives passion and reminds us of what we fear, how much we love, and what drives us forward. It is tenderness that takes the hard shell around the heart and opens it to bring life, and those we love, close. Throughout this month’s learning we’ll explore the walls that cause the heart to atrophy while learning how to let in the light of vulnerability and tenderness.

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

MakomDC December Learning:

‘Open Beit Midrash’ Night in the Biran Beit Midrash
TUESDAY, DEC. 6 @ 7:30 PM
A place to sit across the table from fellow seekers and explore the rich, sophisticated, sacred texts that have animated our people for so many years.

We’ll question together, grapple together, and passionately talk through the uplifting and challenging ideas these ancient and modern texts provide. Jewish learning has the potential to create an unmatched soulful energy. The “Open Beit Midrash” is where that energy is found.

Scholar: Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg*
TUESDAY, DEC. 13 @ 7:30 PM
Join us as our December scholar, Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, teaches on this month’s topic, Tenderness & Anger. Newsweek has named Rabbi Ruttenberg one of the top 50 most influential rabbis in the United States.

*This event will be livestreamed: adasisrael.org/adaslive

Post-Kiddush Halakah Class
SATURDAY, DEC. 17 @ 1:00 PM
Rabbi Alexander will give a text-based class, after kiddush, using halakhah (Jewish life and living) as a prism through which to access our monthly topic. We’ll explore the unique intersection of faith and doubt as it appears in Jewish legal texts, with serious attention to how it has evolved over the centuries.

The Text
TUESDAY, DEC. 20 @ 7:30 PM
Explore transformative Jewish texts in their original Aramaic and Hebrew. This means that we will break our teeth together and study with no translations but with lots of support from your peers and teachers.

Ongoing Learning:

JEWISH VALUES AND THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT
SUNDAYS @ 10:00 AM, BIRAN BEIT MIDRASH

“iEngage” Series with Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Curriculum from the Shalom Hartman Institute
Through careful study of Jewish narratives about Israel, and unpacking the complex meanings of peace in Jewish tradition, Rabbi Steinlauf invites you to encounter the ideas and values that animate different attitudes toward the conflict and how these values shape their own political understandings. Brought to you by the Israel Engagement Committee at Adas Israel.

Boker Or Shabbat Study
SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 8:30 AM
DECEMBER 3, Rabbi Batya Steinlauf
DECEMBER 10, Rabbi Holtzblatt
DECEMBER 17, Rabbi Steinlauf
Boker Or meets Saturday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash with the weekly portion as its focus.

Friday Parsha Study with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt or Rabbi Aaron Alexander
FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 AM
Study a piece of the weekly parsha through the eyes of the Hasidic masters. Taste a piece of their Torah and the world from which they emerged. Among the teachers we will study: Kedushat Levi, Netivot Shalom, Rav Soloveitchik, Noam Elimelech, and the Sefat Emet

Beginners Hebrew Class
Give Yourself the Gift of Learning to Read Hebrew
SUNDAYS AT ADAS ISRAEL
Give yourself the gift of learning to read Hebrew. Whether you’ve never seen a Hebrew letter before, or you’re a little bit more advanced, thus class will help you reach your next skill level. Classes are $54 for the 6 part series. Register online or call Marcia Miller at 202-362-4433 ext.112
“Let it shine,” says the popular children’s song. At this time of limited daylight, Hanukkah reminds us to do just that: rededicate ourselves to the search for light and miracles, both around us and in that quiet space of who we are. We invite you to join us as we embark on a month of JMCW events to celebrate the light we all share and to learn new ways to rekindle it. We are excited to offer two special events: a meditation with Jewish meditator and spiritual sage Rabbi Yoel Glick and a workshop led by Jessica Lasar on Yoga as Inner-World Art. We hope you will join us and help our events shine bright.

Special Guest Meditation Teacher Rabbi Yoel Glick
Tuesday, December 6, 7:30 - 9:00 pm
Gewirz Beit Am
Rabbi Glick is a teacher of Jewish meditation and spiritual wisdom. For over 30 years, he has guided seekers of all denominations in the United States, Canada, Israel, Asia, and Europe. As always, this session is open to beginners and experienced meditators.

“Return Again” Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt and Elie Greenberg
Friday, December 9, 6:30 pm
This monthly service is a favorite of all generations in our congregation! In the style of our innovative outdoor Kol Nidre service, join our reflective journey into the power of Shabbat with seasoned musicians and a spiritual excursion into prayer and song. A communal Shabbat dinner follows.

Weekly Evening Meditation Continues
Tuesdays, December 13 & 20, 7:30–8:45 pm
Led by one of four rabbis, the sessions include a teaching, an exploration of Jewish meditation techniques, and a silent meditation sit. Beginners and experienced meditators alike are most welcome! Our sit on December 20 will focus on Hanukkah preparation!

Weekly Yoga
Special Workshop: Embodied Devotion with Jessica Lazar
Sunday, December 18, 10:30 am–noon
Judaism and yoga both interweave practice and contemplation. As Jews we are encouraged to question, analyze, and embody our beliefs (e.g., davening, wrapping tefillin, or immersing in the mikvah). Yoga combines these same elements of embodied devotion, enabling us to access the divine spirit, or neshama, in each one of us. Register online at adasisrael.org/JMCW

Moving Meditation, Yogic Flow
Sundays, December 4 & 11, 11:00 am–12:15 pm
Moving Meditation, Vinyasa Flow
Wednesdays, December 7, 14, 21, 7:30–8:45 pm

 Especially at this season, when lights were miraculously lit for Israel even though they did not have enough oil, there remains light even now to help us, with the aid of these Hanukkah candles, to find that hidden light within each one of us. Hiding takes place mainly in the dark; we need the candles’ light to seek and to find. —Sefat Emet on Hanukkah
From the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum

I find that one of the most beautiful things about living in community is the ability to be in long-term relationship with others—to be witnesses to others’ journeys as they move through life marking life cycles and milestones. Yet, no matter the distance, physical or otherwise, being part of community means having a shared language, common touchstones, and a place that we all still call “home.” We are honored to be able to share the following words from one of our own students, Carol Silber, who is on the next steps of her journey, on a gap year program in Israel. She wrote this after being hosted on her first Shabbat by an older couple, Jojo and Mazal, in a small town in the Negev. Jojo shared his family’s story and his personal journey from Tunisia to Yeruham, which left Carol with a lot to think about:

Yeruham is no Yerushalayim. It is not the image you put in your head when you count down the days until your flight from JFK to Ben Gurion. No one will ask you, “Did you go to Yeruham?” when you return home. But the point of a gap year is not only to go to the Kotel, Machane Yehuda, and the beach in Tel Aviv. Those places are Israel, but so is Yeruham.

To take a gap year in Israel is to see beyond the fragments of Israel that most tourists see. It’s to go deeper than that, to get under the surface of Israeli life, to embrace what’s on the periphery. Shabbat in Yeruham showed me that angle. It reassured me about all the moments when I doubt my Hebrew, when I can’t figure out the Israeli bus system, or when I get frustrated by the fact that no one here understands the concept of waiting in line. It taught me that moving to Israel is not easy. It certainly was not easy for people like Jojo, and it’s not so easy for Americans like me, either. But that’s the point. To come, to struggle, to figure it out, to make Israel your own. That’s what people have been doing in Yeruham for half a century, and I’m looking forward to my own nine-month version of that journey.

Religious School Curriculum

The Shalom Learning value for December is Gevurah. Throughout this unit, we will emphasize the idea that gevurah goes beyond physical strength and acts of bravery on the battlefield to include spiritual courage and the willingness to take risks and incur costs for the right cause. Gevurah also incorporates the notion that we all can be heroic in our everyday lives by living an exemplary life and doing what is right and just.

One of the goals of the curriculum is to encourage students to apply gevurah to issues of withstanding peer pressure, sticking their neck out for others, and taking a leadership role in their group when the opportunity or need to “step up” comes along.

Using Jewish stories, rituals, and mitzvot will provide the “muscle memory” for responding to life with gevurah (personal strength) or ometz lev (courage of heart), a critical component of a healthy and meaningful Jewish education. Since the gevurah unit coincides with the Hanukkah season, this gives us the opportunity to revisit the Maccabees as both leaders of an armed revolt and models for spiritual resistance and defenders of religious freedom.
December 2016 Programs for Families with Young Children

**Tot Shabbat:** Saturdays, 3, 10, 17

“Coffee Club” for Babies and their Adults: Wednesdays, 7, 14

**Playdate in the Gan:** Thursdays, 1, 8, 15

Sing N’Play in the Library: Thursdays, 1, 8, 15

Kangaroo Adult/Toddler Class: MWF

“Shir a Song”: Music with Miss Ellie: Tuesdays, 6, 13

Come enjoy time with your children and your Adas family! Connect with old friends and make new ones.

**Tot Shabbat:** Weekly Shabbat morning services at 11:00 for young children and their families.

“Coffee Club” for Parents with Babies: Stop by the Beit Midrash Wednesday mornings, 9:30–11:30 to visit with and meet other parents with babies.

Playdate in the Gan: The Gan is the place to be on Thursday mornings at 9:00 if your little one is too young to attend, the tots will play, you will schmooze! Parents, the Gan grandparents, and caregivers welcome!

Sing N’Play in the Library: Join us in the upstairs library, Thursday mornings at 10:00, for stories and songs with your little one, followed by time to chat with your friends— or to make new friends— while your children play. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers welcome!

Kangaroo Adult/Toddler Class: Is your child 18–24 months? Come join us in the Kangaroo class! Your child will get to know the warmth and wonder of the Gan with your support. MWF 9:00–10:30 or 10:30–noon. Register @ the Gan website.

“Shir a Song”: Music with Miss Ellie: Music and movement classes for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and the adults who love them. Tuesday mornings in the library at 9:30 and 10:30 am. To register for the spring semester, visit www.mselliemusic.com/register. Cost is $185 for first child, $100 for first sibling.

Gan HaYeled

It’s December at the Gan, which means that Adas will soon be fragrant with the aroma of latkes cooking. Each class at the Gan celebrates differently, but they all enjoy latkes and light-filled activities. One of the many strengths of the Gan is the variety of classroom opportunities offered; each class has its own traditions as well as those of the school as a whole. And don’t forget to check out the Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop for Hanukkah gelt, cookies, and myriad gifts for your little ones!

December is also a busy time for Gan administrators as we continue Open House programs for prospective families. We are told again and again that the number one way families find the Gan is through friends’ recommendations. If someone you know has a child who will be two in the fall of 2017, please let them know about our full-day, year-round (September–August) and traditional (September–June, part-day) programs. We’re happy to host them at either an Open House or a private tour. Call Abby in the Gan Office, 202-362-4491, to reserve. Registration begins in January 2017 for the 2017–2018 school year. **ducation update** continued from page 9

Youth@AI

As 2016 comes to a close, and Hanukkah is just around the corner, now is a great time to start thinking about summer camp 2017. Adas Israel and Youth@AI are proud to offer a summer scholarship program, which offers summer subsidies to active members of our youth groups. Please visit our website at http://www.wizevents.com/survey/survey_begin.php?id=4638 to fill out an application.

With gratitude, we acknowledge the following for their generosity:

- Bertha and Oliver Atlas Youth Fund
- Benjamin Eric Cooper Youth Scholarship Fund
- Cecile and Seymour Alpert Israel Youth Scholarship
- Morton and Norma Lee Funger Israel Programs Fund
- Janice Wasserman Goldstein Scholarship Fund
- Isaac W. and Dina Halbfinger Youth Fund
- Rita Rosenthal Heine Youth Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Louis Jacobs Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund
- Samuel and Sadie Lebowitz Israel Scholarship Fund
- Anna and Abe Nathanson Youth Fund
- Lillian and Max Offenberg Youth Fund
- Steven M. Reich Memorial Youth Fund
- Gertrude and Philip Smith Youth Fund
- Leah M. Smith Memorial Youth Fund

The deadline for summer scholarship applications is February 1, so get your paperwork in soon! Feel free to contact Jordan Rothenberg with any questions.

For more information about Youth@AI, visit our website listed above, or contact Jordan Rothenberg, Youth & Family Program Coordinator, at Jordan.Rothenberg@adasisrael.org or 202-362-6295. **

Gan HaYeled

It’s December at the Gan, which means that Adas will soon be fragrant with the aroma of latkes cooking. Each class at the Gan celebrates differently, but they all enjoy latkes and light-filled activities. One of the many strengths of the Gan is the variety of classroom opportunities offered; each class has its own traditions as well as those of the school as a whole. And don’t forget to check out the Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop for Hanukkah gelt, cookies, and myriad gifts for your little ones!

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Upcoming Youth Events

**Sunday, December 4:** Machar Zoo Lights: National Zoo, 5:00–9:00 pm
**Saturday, December 17:** USY & Kadima Social Action Event; location and time TBD
**Sunday, December 25–Thursday, December 29:** USY International Convention, Dallas, TX

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Attention: Class of 5780
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Candidates

We are in the process of organizing the B’nai Mitzvah Class of 5780, which includes children who will celebrate this milestone between August 2019 and June 2020. Below is a list of children of our members who, according to our records, should celebrate becoming b’nai mitzvah with the Class of 5780 (which means they were born between July 2006 and July 2007).

Bar/bat mitzvah dates are assigned to members in good standing with children enrolled in the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School or in a Jewish day school. Members delinquent in their synagogue account or whose children not enrolled in school will delay the assignment of their child’s date.

If your child is missing from this list and you believe they should be included with this bar/bat mitzvah group and celebrate between August 2019 and June 2020, OR if your child is in the fourth grade and you would like him or her to be included in this group, OR if you have any questions, PLEASE CONTACT: Beryl Saltman in the rabbis’ office at 202-362-4433, ext. 121, or beryl.saltman@adasisrael.org, so that we can add your child to the list below.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 8, 2017, 9:30–11 am, for the 5780 B’nai Mitzvah Parents’ meeting with Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Cantor Arianne Brown, Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, Hazzan Rachel Goldsmith, and Naomi Malka to discuss the b’nai mitzvah program and bar/bat mitzvah date assignments.

Max Aaron
Jacques Bassat
Dino Becker
Atalia Berger
Elana Bilbao
Clara Bilbao
Elana Boyar
Adi Brooks-Rubin
Colette Claxton
Adi Cook
Samanta Cutler
Hannah Danin
Louis Diamond
Julia Drimmer
Aaron Genachowski
Gabriella Goldberg
Joshua Goodglick
Charlotte Green
Elana Green
Jonah Grosser
Harry Groves
Zachary Henderson
Samuel Herzberg
Isabella Hsu
Oliver Hsu
Benjamin Kahn
Jeremy Kalfus
Miriam Kanter-Goodell
Maya Knoll Kenny
Amalia Knoll Kenny
Ezra Lefkowitz-Rao
Franny Leibovich
Gil Leifman
Reuven Magder
Sam Mallen
Avner Martin
Sadie Marven
Zoe Neufeld
Benjamin Pollack
Solomon Ravitz
Eve Ronen
Hugo Rosen
Sebastian Rosen
Maya Roskes
Benjamin Roskes
Nora Sachse
Maxwell Scott
Shira Shapiro
Samantha Shapiro
Zachary Shapiro
Gideon Siff
Avi Sokolov
Jack Spector
Shayna Strong Jacobson
Natalia Stutman-Shaw
Henry Wachs
Evan Weinstein
Yotam Zisenwine
Evan Zucker

Adas Night Out at Theater J!

Copenhagen by Michael Frayn
Directed by Eleanor Holdridge
Thursday, January 19, 7:30 pm

Join other Adas theater lovers for a night out at Theater J! In 1941, German physicist Werner Heisenberg traveled to Copenhagen to meet his Danish counterpart, Niels Bohr. Old friends and colleagues, they find themselves on opposite sides in a world war and embroiled in a race to create the atom bomb. Why Heisenberg went to Copenhagen, and what he wanted to say to Bohr, are questions that have intrigued and divided historians and scientists ever since.

Michael Frayn’s Tony Award–winning play about this historic meeting is a classic of modern drama—a meditation on friendship and moral responsibility, intellectually dazzling, and deeply moving journey through the realm of science and beyond.

Purchase tickets at www.washingtondcjcc.org. Use the coupon code ADAS to receive a 20% discount. For Theater J subscribers who would like to change dates to attend with other Adas members on January 19, please call the Theater J Box Office, 202-777-3210.

Plan for the rest of the season; other Adas Night Out dates are: The How and the Why, Thursday, March 2; Brighton Beach Memoirs, Thursday, April 20; and Broken Glass, Thursday, June 29. 🎭
Traditional Egalitarian

	

Every morning service includes a traditional egalitarian Minyan and sermon by the Rabbi and often includes participation by members.

Donniel Hartman

Breathing

PARSHAT TOLDOT

Monday

27 9:30 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan

28 7:30 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan

29 7:30 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan

30 7:30 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan JNCW Meditation Session

31 8:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund

1 Tevet 4:28 pm Rosh Chodesh Menorah Lighting with Rabbi Alexander

2 Tevet 4:33 pm Rosh Chodesh Menorah Lighting with Rabbi Steinlauf

12:00 pm Combined Shabbat Minyan and TEM Services with Rabbi Steinlauf

12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush

1:30 pm Hassidic Shabbat Kiddush

4:30 pm Shabbat Minchah/Ma'arves Services

5:37 pm Havdalah

10:30 am Bar Mitzvah: Cole Edelstein

Rabbi Alexander; Rabbi Holtzblatt (off-site)

11:00 am Kindergarten Consecration with Rabbi Rosenbaum

11:00 am Netivot

11:00 am Tot Shabbat

11:00 am Junior Congregation

12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush

4:30 pm Intro to Judaism: December Holidays

5:28 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow

12:00 pm Downtown Study Group with Rabbi Holtzblatt (off-site)

12:00 pm JSC Class: Jewish Philosophy

12:00 pm JSC Class: Jewish Poetries

12:30 pm JSC Class: Jewish Wisdom

12:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session

12:30 pm JSC Class: Jewish Poetries

12:30 pm JSC Class: Jewish Philosophy

12:30 pm JSC Class: Jewish Wisdom

3:37 pm Havdalah

4:33 pm Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund

Kislev–Tevet 5777

Sunday

27 9:00 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan

26 Cheshvan 9:00 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan

27 Cheshvan 9:00 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan

28 Cheshvan 9:00 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan

29 Cheshvan 9:00 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan

30 Cheshvan 9:00 am Morning Minyan Eventing Evening Minyan JNCW Meditation Session

1 Kislev 7:30 am Morning Minyan Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund

2 Kislev 4:28 pm Rosh Chodesh Menorah Lighting with Rabbi Alexander

3 Kislev 12:30 pm Hassidic Shabbat Kiddush

12:00 pm Combined Shabbat Minyan and TEM Services with Rabbi Steinlauf

12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush

1:30 pm Hassidic Shabbat Kiddush

4:30 pm Shabbat Minchah/Ma'arves Services

5:37 pm Havdalah

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES: Please turn off cellphones and pages 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 Torah. 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 Psukei 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 Services: 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 kidush follows this 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 Menahem Peters or Rabbi Ben Shalva. Netivot, for students in grades K-3, is led by Linda Yitzchak or Alison Redisch. Junior Congregation, for grades 4-6, is led by Roni Buachman 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 (rubin@adasisrael.org).
B’nai Mitzvah

Frederick Horowitz, December 3
Frederick, a seventh grader at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled in the Puppy class. Frederick plays goalie in the Montgomery Youth Hockey Association and, for his mitzvah project, plans to volunteer as a mentor with the Montgomery Cheetahs, an ice hockey team for children with disabilities. Frederick celebrates his bar mitzvah with his sisters, Clea and Phoebe, and his grandparents and extended family.

Cole Edelstein, December 10
Cole, son of Lynne and Darryl Edelstein, is an eighth grader at Westland Middle School attends the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He celebrates his bar mitzvah with his brothers, Max and Garrett; his grandparents Shirley Hoffenberg and Gail and Mannie Edelstein; and other special friends and family. At this time, he thinks with love about his grandfather, Monte Hoffenberg, of blessed memory. For his mitzvah project, Cole is participating in a variety of cabarets and other performances for charitable purposes.

Luke Macklin, December 10 (Mincha)
Luke, son of Jodi and Rodd Macklin, is an eighth grader at The Field School in Washington. He will share his bar mitzvah with his cousins, Tess and Ruby Mendelson; his siblings, Oliver, Cooper, and Janie; and his grandparents Sandy and Stanley Bobb and Stanley Macklin, along with many cousins and friends. At this special time, he will remember with love his grandmother Helen Macklin, of blessed memory.

Tess & Ruby Mendelson, December 10 (Mincha)
Tess and Ruby, daughters of Tammy and Cliff Mendelson, are fifth-generation members of Adas Israel. Tess is an eighth grader at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, and Ruby is an eighth grader at the Field School. Tess and Ruby are sharing their b’not mitzvah with their cousin Luke Macklin as well as their older sisters, Amanda and Annie; their grandparents Sandy and Stanley Bobb of Chevy Chase and Joan Mendelson of New York City; and the rest of their extended family and friends.

In Memoriam

We mourn the loss of synagogue member:

Anita Bobys

We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:

Lillian Calem, mother of Judy Lieberman
Gerald David Lachter, father of Katie Lachter & Eloise Lachter
Rabbi Professor Jacob Neusner, father of Noam Neusner
Herbert S. Radley, father of Gayle Teicher & Greg Roggin, son of Dr. Gary Roggin
Miriam Sharin, mother of Patty Flagg

Life Cycle Information

When Death Occurs

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

Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee assists families with all of the arrangements surrounding the funeral and subsequent burial of loved ones. We welcome your interest and encourage your participation.

Life Cycle Information continued on page 17
Echoes from the Eichmann Trial
By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director

Some time back, I discovered a tantalizing thread of family history. Neatly folded inside a book that once belonged to my grandfather was a publicity flyer. It announced an extraordinary event at a Boston synagogue on December 10, 1961: an “eyewitness report” on the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem, which had transfixed the world in preceding months. Amazing to me, Benjamin Jacobson, my grandfather, was the “eyewitness” slated to speak on “the trial, the personalities, the environment and the relation of the trial to Israel as a nation.” The flyer heralded Jacobson as a “special observer,” invited to the trial by the Israeli Prime Minister’s Office. Yet no one in the family ever mentioned it! So, I’m left wondering how my grandfather—a quiet, unassuming man who eked out a living from his small drugstore—wound up at the Eichmann trial as a guest of David Ben-Gurion.

All these decades later, the capture, trial, and psychology of Nazi officer Adolf Eichmann continue to fascinate and appall, as witnessed by a steady flow of movies and books. Recent publications include The Nazi Hunters by Andrew Nagorski (2016); Eichmann Before Jerusalem by Bettina Stangneth (2014); The Eichmann Trial by Deborah Lipstadt (2011); and Hunting Eichmann by Neal Bascomb (2009). These excellent books draw variously on previously classified material, newly mined archives, and interviews with former Mossad agents. Here is an overview.

Kidnapping in Buenos Aires
Adolph Eichmann organized the deportation of millions of Jews to death camps. When World War II ended, Eichmann eluded detection, eventually escaping to Argentina. A determined West German prosecutor, Fritz Bauer, secretly tipped off the Mossad that Eichmann was living in Buenos Aires under the alias Ricardo Klement. Bauer, a German Jew who had fled to Scandinavia during the war, did not trust West German authorities to apprehend Eichmann.

As dramatically described in Hunting Eichmann, a Mossad team tracked Ricardo Klement and gathered evidence to confirm that he probably was Eichmann. On May 11, 1960, they ambushed him on a lonely dark road as he walked home from the bus stop, shoved him into a waiting car, and whisked him to a safe house. To the agents’ relief, Eichmann readily acknowledged who he was. Shortly thereafter, El Al (which did not regularly fly to Argentina) sent a special plane on the pretext of transporting an Israeli delegation to honor the 150th anniversary of Argentina’s independence. When the delegation was ready to fly home to Israel, Mossad agents smuggled Eichmann aboard, drugged and disguised as an El Al steward.

Trial in Jerusalem
The Israeli chief prosecutor opened his case by proclaiming that “six million...
Oyez! Oyez! Notice of Legal Appeal by Miriam the Prophet!

February 10–11
Mark your calendars for the court hearing of the century. A special hearing panel of judges has now been convened, which includes the Honorable David S. Tatel, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; the Honorable Beryl A. Howell, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia; the Honorable Judith Bartnoff of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; and Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky from the Jewish Theological Seminary.

This special panel will hear biblical Miriam’s appeal of her sentence after she and Aaron were accused of lashon hara against Moses and his wife.

In a rare coincidence, both sides have chosen lawyers from the same source—the 11th and 12th graders from Adas Israel’s Ma’alot program.

The distinguished panel will hear this unprecedented argument on Friday, February 10, the beginning of Sisterhood Shabbat weekend. We invite everyone to join us for the evening and again Shabbat morning, February 11, when we will hear from the Mozelle Saltz Sisterhood Shabbat scholar, Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky, during services and after kiddush.

If you’d like to help out or volunteer for a part on Shabbat morning, please contact June Kress, kress@court excellence.org, or Miriam Rosenthal, 202-966-3897.

Friendly Reminder: Sisterhood Wants You!
Please renew your Sisterhood membership. Click on the right side of the web page, http://adasisrael.org/sisterhood/. We’ll be glad to welcome you as our sister!

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood
“Lights from Darkness,” Dec. 20, with Norman Shore
Please join Weekday Torah with Sisterhood (formerly Taste of Tanach) at 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 20, in the Biran Beit Midrash. Community leader and scholar Norman Shore will lead a discussion on Orot me’ofel (Lights from Darkness). We will explore stories about light and texts on Hanukkah, Creation, the solstice, and havdalah.

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood is an engaging approach to traditional Hebrew text study that offers participants the opportunity to study and discuss challenging texts and ideas. This class is open to the entire Adas Israel community. Classes are monthly, except in the summer, and usually meet on the second or third Tuesday of the month. Dates for the rest of the 2016–17 year are Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March 21, April 25, May 16, and June 20. Students of all levels and backgrounds are welcome.

To RSVP and for more information, contact Marilyn Cooper at MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com.

Torah Fund Campaign Update
The Adas Israel Torah Fund campaign has reached 40% of its goal for 5777! We thank all of our donors for their much-needed financial assistance for clergy and Judaics professionals in training at Conservative/Masorti institutions.
Sisterhood News continued from page 14

If you have yet to support this great cause and are looking to do a mitzvah, please send your gift today, using the pre-printed envelope sent in the fall or by sending to Torah Fund, Adas Israel Sisterhood, 2850 Quebec St., NW, Washington, DC 20008. Checks should be made payable to Torah Fund. The deadline for a 2015 tax year contribution credit is December 5.

We have more programs in the works!

**Sisterhood Bakes for Hesed with Susan Barocas**: Date TBA

**Sisterhood Goes to the Movies**: An occasional event during the Washington Jewish Film Festival. This international showcase of Jewish cinema is one of the largest Jewish film festivals in the country. Films celebrate Jewish history and culture as well as the diversity of the Jewish experience. If you want to help organize these events, please contact Marcy Feuerstein, mfeuerst@hotmail.com.

**An Evening with Arlette Jassel**, artist and Sisterhood member, who will present *Daily Dance*, her newly published adult coloring book. Enjoy wine, cheese, and coloring together! Date TBA

**Adas Israel Community Mikvah**

Our mikvah is a sacred space where Jews can mark life transitions with powerful physical ritual. Immersing in a mikvah connects the body to the water cycle of our planet and to the sources of life. People visit our mikvah to observe the mitzvah of monthly immersion; to celebrate simchat; to find strength during a difficult time; to pray for healing; to reflect on the meaning of becoming a bride, groom, or bar or bat mitzvah; to convert to Judaism; and to prepare physically and spiritually for chagim.

To learn more about our mikvah or to schedule an appointment, contact Naomi Malka, 202-841-8776 or mikvah@adasisrael.org. For more information, visit adasisrael.org/mikvah.

**Before You Head South for the Winter**

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

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**Adas Israel at The Secret Garden**

**Shakespeare Theatre, Dec. 11**

Join a large group of Adas families, clergy, and staff, on Sunday, December 11 for a wonderful 2:00 pm performance of *The Secret Garden* at Shakespeare Theatre Company! Marsha Norman and Lucy Simon's Drama Desk– and Tony Award–winning musical based on the beloved children's book, *The Secret Garden* is a story of hardship turned into hope, of beauty discovered in unlikely places, of the power of a child's imagination and the wisdom that accompanies growing up. Based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, the performance is directed by David Armstrong and co-produced with the 5th Avenue Theatre.

A special behind-the-scenes “Making Stage Magic” workshop will begin at 4:45 pm. All are invited to stay for this one-of-a-kind experience.

Reserve online at www.adasisrael.org or call 202-362-4433.

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**Life Cycle Information continued from page 14**

participation and assistance. We need you; please join us. If you have questions, or know of someone whom you think might be interested in participating in this important work, please feel free to call Edie Hessel (202-244-7189) or contact Toni Bickart (202-244-2747) regarding the Tahara Committee.

**Hesed Committee**

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 hesed@adasisrael.org or rabbi.holtzblatt@adasisrael.org.

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If you have yet to support this great cause and are looking to do a mitzvah, please send your gift today, using the pre-printed envelope sent in the fall or by sending to Torah Fund, Adas Israel Sisterhood, 2850 Quebec St., NW, Washington, DC 20008. Checks should be made payable to Torah Fund. The deadline for a 2015 tax year contribution credit is December 5.
Gun Violence Prevention Team News

WIN Meeting at Brighter Day Church: On October 20 WIN held a meeting at Brighter Day Church in which several affiliated organizations, including Adas Israel, participated. Amanda Poppei from the Washington Ethical Society and Ryane Nickens from Brighter Day facilitated the meeting. WIN’s emphasis has shifted from targeting gun manufacturers (Do Not Stand Idly By campaign) to a focus on police accountability and community safety.

Lois Fingerhut and Dale Kaufman represented Adas Israel. Lois updated the group on two meetings she attended with Shelley Tomkin at the 2nd District, MPD. Commander Melvin Gresham is very interested in improving community policing, recognizing that there is a need to de-escalate tensions. They would like to partner with WIN to institute a pilot program that focuses especially on educating young people in the community (mentioning Wilson High School in particular) about effective ways to be partners.

Commander Gresham and his team will draft a framework to share with those of us who attended the meeting, including representatives of Metropolitan AME Church and Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church.

Community Film Viewing and Discussion: On October 23 we showed the film, 91%: A Film About Guns in America, which examines the national conversation surrounding gun legislation by looking at the failure to pass mandatory universal background checks on all gun sales.

Rabbi Alexander opened the meeting with a meaningful text from Deuteronomy 22:8 that teaches us that our “obligation to protect” outweighs our “right to . . .” Christian Heyne, the legislative director of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, moderated a discussion after the film. In addition to members from Adas, people from Temple Sinai and Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church attended. When asked what he thought we could do, Heyne recommended, first, staying on top of Virginia’s legislative work as guns used in crime in DC often come from Virginia where there are no background checks on private sales of firearms, and, second, staying involved in community work as we are now doing.

Homelessness and Poverty Team News

Ezra Pantry Coat Drive to Benefit SOME

Remember to bring your new or gently worn winter coats to Adas. Our newly designed coatroom tzedakah space has large white containers to hold your donations. Please bring only coats. We have limited space and ask that you do not leave other items of clothing. Thank you!!!

continued on page 19
Hesed Baskets Team

We are very proud of the work of the Hesed Basket Team, co-chaired by Rabbi Penina Alexander and Mike Fingerhut. Our primary goal is to strengthen connections between members of our synagogue community. We do so by delivering baskets—actually they are stylish reusable tote bags—to those who recently joined the Adas Israel family and to families that recently celebrated the birth of child or expanded their family through adoption. We have also partnered with Sisterhood to deliver baskets to those who are grieving a loss, and we hope to add more opportunities for connection.

Join us and be part of an effort to bring smiles to more faces. A dedicated group of volunteers helps fill the bags with items such as wine, challah, goodies prepared by the Hesed Cooking subcommittee, coupons for community dinners and Gift Shop purchases, a mezuzah for the new baby’s room, and music from our own Cantor Brown and Gan HaYeled. All bags also include a personal hand-written note.

Have something to give? Exciting additions to our baskets have come from generous donations from our members. New members now receive complimentary theater tickets to Theater J, and new mothers feel rejuvenated with beauty supplies from Sephora. Since the program launched in June, 74 new members (thank you, Marcy Spiro) and 12 families with new additions have received our special bags.

Be part of our team. We are blessed that our community continues to grow, and we welcome those who wish to volunteer. A larger team means that our work can go even further. We have found that the impact of the bags is greater than their contents. The smiles and thanks you receive when delivering the bag, coupled with the relationships that are formed, are priceless.

To volunteer or more information contact Penina (peninap@gmail.com) or Mike (mbfing@gmail.com).
We're in DC, so let's get some of the basics. How long have you lived here, where were you before, what brought you to DC, what are your careers, etc.?

Dan has lived in DC for 30 years now. He originally came to attend college at GW, and other than a few years in Chicago for graduate school, has been here ever since. He's worked in sales and business development for the Washington Wizards/Capitals and Washington Redskins, founded and run a social networking website, led corporate marketing for a national nonprofit and a software company, and now has his own sales and business development consultancy.

Sharon came to DC in 2006 for graduate school from her hometown in Norfolk, VA, where she taught high school and college English. She left DC for a couple years to teach English at Old Dominion University and then returned in 2013. Currently Sharon is a professor at GW's Graduate School of Education and Human Development. She teaches foundational education courses with a focus on English education and supervises student teachers in the field.

Sharon, you were instrumental in starting our “Coffee with Babies” meet-up on Wednesday mornings. This idea has now blossomed into many additional classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. How did you get the group started, and what are some of your other ideas for Adas?

One of my husband's best traits is his ability to network, and the idea for the “Coffee Club” started when Dan met some of the members of Adas's Education Committee at Firehook Bakery. He shared that we were expecting our first child and that I was interested in learning more about early childhood programming at Adas. I met with Sheri Brown to talk about starting a group for parents and their new babies, and a month after our planning meeting, the “Coffee Club” began in the Beit Midrash with some of the newest (and cutest!) members of Adas Israel Congregation.

Now that we're expecting our second child, I'm excited to rejoin the “Coffee Club” on Wednesday mornings. I'd also love to see additional educational opportunities focused on the Jewish family life cycle and how to engage little ones in holiday celebrations and rituals.

Dan, you work at the WeWork building in Dupont Circle. Can you tell us a bit more about what you do, what WeWork is, and what you love most about that working environment—besides the beer on tap, of course?

I have a sales and business development consultancy called DC RevGen in which I lead corporate and cause marketing efforts for several national nonprofit organizations. I also provide sales strategy, sales coaching, and business development services to for-profit organizations seeking to grow their revenue. WeWork is a shared work environment, meaning there are lots of small-to mid-sized offices with basic essentials and shared facilities, like conference rooms, printers/copiers, kitchens, and bathrooms. WeWork also hosts “Lunch & Learn”-type events and happy hours. The beauty of WeWork is that you get all the benefits of having a nice big office with amenities without having to pay for all of it because the expenses are shared across so many companies. In addition, the leases are month-to-month so a business can quickly scale up or down according to its needs. I think there are about 250 companies in the Dupont Circle office, and there's a great sense of community, which allows for meeting new and interesting people.

Levi is in his first year at the Gan and is a Kof!! Why did you want to send him to a Jewish pre-school, and what are some of the highlights from his first half-year?

Levi is in the Kofim (Monkeys) class this year. He adores the Gan, his classmates, and his awesome teachers, Ms. Ellen, Ms. Rachel, and Mr. Daniel. He loves reading books and playing on the new playground, but, hands-down, “Shabbat Sing” on Fridays has to be his favorite part of the week. Every week he gets to break out his latest dance moves to a few of his favorite numbers: “There's a Dinosaur (Who Wants to Spend Shabbat with Me)” and “I'm So Happy (Today Is Shabbat).”

What are some of your favorite winter family activities in DC?

Dan is from New England and impervious to the cold, and even though Sharon is from Norfolk and more of a warm weather person, we love being outdoors as much as possible. We're also trying to indoctrinate Levi with an enjoyment of Patriots and Celtics games, as we (that is, Dan) feel that it's very important for Levi's character development. We also like visiting museums and area farms for their various seasonal festivals and love seeing the National Zoo lit up for the winter holidays.

Hanukkah is this month! Are you an applesauce or sour cream latke family? How many hanukkiyot do you have at home, and which is your favorite one?

I hope we don't lose friends over the answer to this one, but we're an applesauce family all the way. We have a nice collection of about half-dozen hanukkiyot at home, including wooden, brass, oil-lit, and electric. Our favorite one is definitely the one Levi helped decorate last year. ✽
Given the current refugee crisis, community partnerships have been vital to enabling LSS/NCA staff to handle the increased number of refugees they have resettled in 2016. LSS/NCA Refugee Good Neighbor is a group of volunteers whose members work together (and in partnership with LSS/NCA) to help newly arrived refugee families rebuild their lives in America. Good Neighbors are vital to helping refugees become self-sufficient and feel part of their new community.

There are four levels of Good Neighbor partnership with different types of responsibility, engagement, and relationship building, ranging from the most intense (Level 1) to the least (Level 4). Good Neighbors can help with rent, furnish an apartment, and stock the pantry before the families arrive, pick up families from the airport, and welcome them to their new home and community; provide a culturally appropriate meal upon arrival; and mentor families in developing English-language skills, employment preparation, transportation assistance, education, and health care advocacy, to name just a few.

The Adas Israel Refugee Action Team is working with LSS/NCA to develop our Good Neighbor efforts. Look for more information on the Adas Israel Tikkun Olam homepage and in @Adas announcements. Contact Dan Aladjem, chair of the Refugee Action Team at dan.aladjem@gmail.com for more information.

### Tips to the Staff Holiday Gift Fund
Adas Israel Congregation is fortunate to have a wonderful, dedicated maintenance, clerical, administrative, and support staff, all of whom ensure that the synagogue runs as needed. Our staff serve our members, officers, committees, schools, and clergy in achieving the mission and goals of the congregation.

Several years ago, the synagogue adopted a policy of “no tipping” to individual staff members following events or programs. Some staff members are more visible than others, but it takes all of them to prepare.

In lieu of tipping, the congregation has created a Staff Holiday Gift Fund, which is divided equally among the support staff every December. We appreciate those who contribute to the holiday gift fund to our maintenance and support staff members in honor of their good work during the High Holy Days and throughout the year.

### Snow Closures
The synagogue office follows the federal government’s inclement weather policies. When the federal government closes, the synagogue office also closes. When the federal government opens late, the synagogue office also opens late.

When in doubt, visit adasisrael.org or call the synagogue/school for a taped message. If the synagogue offices are closed due to the snow, all daytime and evening programs are cancelled. If the schools are closed, but the building/offices are open, please call the synagogue regarding evening programs and classes. The daily minyan typically meets twice each day, regardless of the weather, but, again, please consult the website.

### Scenes from This Year’s Anne Frank House Mini-Walk
After learning in Religious School about different ways to help the community, our students, their families, and members of the community joined together for some tikkun olam in action at this year’s Anne Frank House Mini-Walk to raise funds to provide housing for DC’s homeless on October 23. Yasher koach!
The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

**The Adas Fund**
*In Honor Of: Custodial staff by Terry & Ada Leach, Sherri & Robert Gratz by Kira Epstein, Jane & Bob Loeffler by Paula McMartin, Sarah Lichtenfeld & Benjamin Tauber by Alice Tauber.*

**Rabbi Holtzbllatt by Nancy Zivitz Sussman.**

With Thanks For: Giving me a place to come for the High Holy Days on such short notice by Michelle Pascucci.

**In Memory Of: Seymour Schechter by Amanda Schechter, Babette Kaplan, Madeleine Blumenthal, Bessie Kaplan, all by Marsha Kaplan.**

**Ann & Lou Chelec Memorial Fund**
*By: Ziggy & Lois Chelec.*

**Anne Frank House Fund**

**In Honor Of: Dava Berkman by Marsha Dubrow, Steven Schwat by Rebecca Owen, Daniel Seltzer, Maya Rose Rand by Doug Rand, Rachel Farbilarz & Alex Lasky’s hospitality by the Hon. Henry & Janet Waxman.**

**In Memory Of: Ruth Schwartz Eanet by Phyllis Burka, John & Dottie Goldman by Karen Green, Dr. Stanley Mayer by Steven & Lisa Schwat, Bernard Kotelski by Fred & Felisa Siegel.**

**Barbara Abrams Cohen Memorial Library Fund**
*In Honor Of: Edie & Art Hessel’s anniversary by Ellen Ratner.*

**Bereavement Fund**
*In Memory Of: Sarah Gotbaum by Fradel Kramer.*

**Break the Fast on Yom Kippur**
*By: Elinor Tattar.*

**Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund**

In *Appreciation Of: Cantor Brown’s officiating during the funeral for Dr. Clement Alpert by the Alpert/Madden/Sorcher family. High Holy Day services by Rita Segerman.*

**In Recognition Of: Michelle Buzgon’s Simchat Torah honor by Michael & Joyce Stern.**

With Thanks To: Cantor Brown for Sammy Davis’s bar mitzvah by Stacey Davis.

**Cantor’s Concert Sponsors**
*By: Edna & Larry Povich.*

**Capital Fund Contributions**
*In Honor Of: Bean Hemmati by Dan Hemmati, Celia & Louis Grossberg Cantorial Fund by In Memory Of: Esther Ruth Fisher Goodman by Robert & Sherry Gratz.*

**Charlotte & Hubert Schlosberg High Holy Day Mahzor Fund**
*In Honor Of: Hank Schlosberg’s special birthday by Glenn & Cindy Easton.*

**Congregational Kiddush Fund**

**Daily Minyan Fund**

**In Memory Of: Sylvia Horwitz by Marvene Horwitz, Philip R. Ugelow by Richard Ugelow.**

**Dan Kaufman Children’s Program Fund**
*In Memory Of: Paul Hilowitz by Minna Kaufman.*

**Daryl Reich Rubenstein Staff Development Fund**
*In Memory Of: Millie Lutter by Trina Rubenstein.*

**Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School Fund**
*In Memory Of: Essie Margolies by David Margolies & Susan Tersoff.*

**Ethel & Nat Popick Chronicle Fund**
*In Recognition Of: Alan Bubes’ Simchat Torah honor by Glenn & Cindy Easton, Adrian & Annette Mochower.*

**Executive Director Discretionary Fund**
*In Honor Of: David Polonsky by Sandy & Miriam Ain, Gail & Howard Teicher by Zev Lewis.*

**In Appreciation Of: David Polonsky by Stuart & Jamie Butler.**

**Frances & Leonard Burka Social Action Endowment**

**Fund for the Future**

**Garden of the Righteous**
*In Memory Of: Erika Brodsky by Jean Bernard, Gerald Lacher by Judy Strauch.*

**Havurah Kiddush Fund**

**Hesed & Bikkur Cholim Fund**

**Ida Mendelson Memorial Prayer Book Fund**
*In Memory Of: Gerald Lacher by Yaacov & Herlene Nagler.*

**Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington**

**Marilyn & Stefan Tucker Program Endowment Fund**
*In Honor Of: Marilyn & Steef Tucker by Sandy & Miriam Ain. In Memory Of: Reuben Miller by Marilyn Tucker.*

**Mikvah Capital Campaign**

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

**Morris Hariton Senior Programming Fund**
*In Memory Of: Louis Jacob Wineburg by Harry & Judy Melamed.*

**Offerings Fund**
*By: Daniel Levisohn, Mariyan Kolev. In Honor Of: Arthur Herman’s first aliyyah by Norman Herman, Abraham Kaplan’s second


Rabbi Jeffrey & Judith Wohlberg Masorti Fund In Memory Of: David Sackett by Stanley Scherr. 

Rabbi Rosenbaum Discretionary Fund In Honor Of: Judah Kirschenbaum becoming a bar mitzvah by Jay Kirschenbaum & Michelle Buzgon. 


Staff Gift Fund By: Stuart & Jamie Butler. 


Staff Gift Fund By: Stuart & Jamie Butler. 


Traditional Minyan Kiddush Fund In Memory Of: Dr. Joyce J. Kaufman by Bill Levenson. Morton Berkower by Dr. Ira Berkower. 


Office Closing Christmas Day Observed Monday, December 26 Schools/Offices Closed.
UPCOMING CHRONICLE DEADLINE—
February: Friday, December 30, at noon