

Adas Israel Congregation March 2017 / Adar-Nisan 5777

# CHRONICLE



THE WORLD  
UPSIDE  
DOWN



PURIM 5777

\$ GIVE 🍷 DRINK 🍴 FEAST 🎁 GIFT 🧐 HEAR THE MEGILLAH

## From the President

By Debby Joseph



MakomDC's theme for March is Courage & Cowardice. How prescient of our rabbis and committee members to have selected a theme as timely as this. As I look at the challenges facing us as Americans and Jews, it seems apparent that our values and identities as Jews call upon us to find the courage to stand up for what we believe is right. I believe that our synagogue community has many chances to explore this, not just in how we respond to the challenges facing us in the broader regional, national, and world arenas, but also internally, within our own Jewish community. Here at Adas Israel, we celebrate diversity and provide myriad experiences and opportunities to express our Judaism. We are proud of our pluralistic religious expression and we are actively engaged in *tikkun olam*. These are reflections of our Judaism and the values by which we choose to live our lives.

As the largest Conservative congregation in Washington, DC, we are proud to be the spiritual home to a broad array of people. We work in business, government, politics, foreign affairs, and greet visitors passing through, as well as students, interns, and others who are looking for a spiritual home. We welcome all who seek to join us and value the opportunity to learn about what we share in common as well as ways in which we differ.

In the spirit of all that Adas Israel members are doing to create a better place, we have the chance to be courageous in our efforts to be open to hearing and engaging with one another. Whether it is in one of our committees or task forces like Israel Engagement, Bylaws, Board of Directors, Religious Practices,

*continued on page 9*

## clergycorner



Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

My kids have this great book, called *Higher and Higher*, which is an old Yiddish folktale that I love. It is the story of a rabbi who disappears every *Yom Kippur*. His congregants believe that he is going to meet God to confess the sins of the community. A certain skeptical someone comes along and questions whether the rabbi is really meeting God on *Yom Kippur*. So Mr. Skeptical and the rest of the community set out to follow the rabbi. (Don't get any ideas.)

Several members of the community secretly watch on *Yom Kippur* morning as the rabbi exits his home in a disguise. The community members watching barely recognize their rabbi. Then they watch as all *Yom Kippur* day the rabbi delivers food to the poor, sticks for making fires for the poorest in the community, blankets, and clothing.

Mr. Skeptical, feeling quite proud of himself for catching the rabbi, says to the others, "See! He was not meeting God, he was serving the needs of the community and on *Yom Kippur*!!" The others look at him and say, "Indeed, he was communing with God."

I love this story because it is a constant reminder to me that not only are acts of *hesed* among the most holy in our tradition, but, when they are done for someone we do not even know, then we are breaking through boundaries where love is sometimes kept hidden in a fortress.

Recently, I visited a congregant who was healing from a surgical procedure. We spoke about many things, but the most prominent topic in the conversation was how moved she was by the Hesed team's response to her needs. She was overwhelmed by how many people stepped forward to cook for her, to deliver food, even people she had never met.

A similar conversation occurred when I was sitting with a family who had lost a loved one. They were feeling that they were in the midst of emotional chaos from loss, but one of the most grounding pieces of their healing was knowing that the community at Adas was a caring presence. They were nurtured throughout the entire funeral by the Bereavement Committee and, after *shiva*, were received with loving arms by the morning *minyan*.

Throughout my time at Adas, the piece of my work that has been most moving is watching volunteers give hours of their time and expertise to make the lives of other congregants better. Many times the volunteers in our community are helping people they have never met before, forging new bonds that can last a lifetime. This is how a community grows—by individuals realizing that they are a part of a greater whole that is endlessly affected by acts of *hesed*. And when one is on the receiving end of an act of kindness, she only wants to give back so that the next person or family is

*continued on page 5*

## Special Guest Speaker Anat Hoffman on Women of the Wall

Wednesday, March 22, at 7:30 pm



Please join us on Wednesday, March 22, at 7:30 pm, as we welcome guest speaker Anat Hoffman, who will discuss her experiences working with Israel's Women of the Wall organization. Anat has committed her life to social justice as a founding member of Women of the Wall,

which seeks to obtain equal rights for women to pray at the Western Wall. This special one-night discussion will offer insight into Anat's experiences as she shares personal accounts of her advocacy work.

Anat Hoffman became Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center in April 2002. She guides IRAC in promoting Jewish pluralism, tolerance, and equality and in combating racism, corruption, and religious coercion. During her tenure at IRAC, she has also expanded the organization's mission to go beyond the courts and the Knesset, and to engage in helping people directly through social action.

She represented the Civil Rights and Peace Movement on the Jerusalem City Council and specialized in attending to the details of municipal administration, where big decisions are often hidden away in the fine print. In doing so, she became a familiar figure in the Israel Supreme Court.

Anat was born in Jerusalem and in her teens was an Israeli swimming champion. After her army service, she received her BSc in psychology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and then pursued graduate studies at Bar Ilan University. She was a founding member of Women of the Wall, and she served on the boards of the Israel Women's Network, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, and many other Israeli organizations for social change.

In recent years, Anat has become a sought-after lecturer, addressing audiences in Israel and in the United States on subjects close to her heart: social justice, religious pluralism, Jewish-Arab coexistence, and equal rights for women and minorities. ❀

## Save the Date Garden of the Righteous Honoring the Veseli Family from Albania

Sunday, April 23, 10:30 am–12:0 pm



**We hope the ENTIRE Adas Israel community will join us for this annual Adas Israel event.**

On Sunday April 23, the congregation will honor the memories of the Veseli family from

Albania: Vesel and Fatima and their sons, Refik, Hamid, and Xhemal Veseli. The Veseli family sheltered the families of Moshe Mandil and Josef Ben Joseph from Yugoslavia.

Albania was the only country in Nazi-occupied Europe that ended World War II with more Jews than before the war started. For the Veseli family, and for all Albanians, protecting Jews during the Holocaust was part of *besa*, which literally means "to keep the promise." This Albanian code of honor requires that individuals protect anyone in danger regardless of their religious or political affiliation, to extend hospitality, and to treat them as part of their family. According to the International School for Holocaust Studies, every one of the 200 Jews living in Albania before the war was saved by Albanian citizens, and 2,000 Jewish refugees were hidden, housed, and provided for by Albanians.

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

This program, initiated in 1992 by Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg to honor non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, is supported in part by the Peter Dreyer Memorial Fund, the Scott Dreyer Fund, and the Ryna & Melvin Cohen Senior Rabbi Program Fund. We look forward to seeing you there. ❀

## New Member Oneg Friday, March 10 at 5:30pm

Please join us in the Biran *Beit Midrash* on Friday, March 10, at 5:30 pm, for a new member reception. This is an invitation to all our wonderful new members to join us for a relaxed meet and greet with the Adas Israel clergy, lay leaders, and community members!

Long-standing members of the community are also encouraged to attend to welcome our new friends to Adas Israel! Join us for services after the reception, choose from Return Again to *Shabbat* or our Traditional Lay-Led service, both of which begin at 6:30 pm ❀





THE WORLD

# UPSIDE DOWN



PURIM 5777



## Celebrate Purim @ Adas

**Purim urges each of us to witness our lives from an alternate reality;**

***a day in which up becomes down, right becomes left, inside becomes outside, and life becomes laughter.***



Join us for an off-the-wall Purim experience again this year at Adas. This year's theme, The World Upside Down, is an ecstatic embrace of a core experience at the heart of Purim: the day simply confounds our grasp on reality! Commemorating the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from Haman's plot "to destroy the Jews in a single day," Purim urges each of us to witness the world, and our lives, from an alternate reality, from an Upside Down reality.



**We are taking this theme literally, seriously:**

- Come and witness our beloved building "literally" turned upside-down and inside-out!
- Immerse yourself in creative encounters with the holiday's Mitzvot
- Take home some useful Adas swag
- Make a scene at our homegrown selfie-stations
- Feast on some hearty "Breakfast for Dinner"
- Enjoy tailor-made drinks including MordeWine, Pineapple Upside Down Cake Shots and Vashti Vodka Shots
- Dance the night away at our star-lit Roof Party downstairs (!) in Kay Hall complete with professional DJ



*Adas observances include a full Megillah reading, a Traditional Egalitarian Minyan family reading, readings for families with young children, and the incredible annual Purim Carnival with games, attractions, snacks, and more. Chag Purim Sameach.*

## JPDS Honors Adas Congregants at *Purim Ball!*



The Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital will honor Adas Israel congregants Patricia and Daniel Jinich, Adina Kanefield, Elana and David Cohen, and Marvin and

Joan Rosenberg, at its annual *Purim Ball* and Auction on March 19 at the National Press Club. Join the JPDS-NC community as its members celebrate the hard work of these extraordinary honorees, who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to Jewish day school education. For more information, or to purchase tickets to the event, visit [jpds.org/purimball](http://jpds.org/purimball).

## Eat Drink and Be Holy: The Holiday of *Purim*

On its surface, the holiday of *Purim* is fairly straightforward, characterized by an atmosphere of joy and celebration. We are required to eat and to drink; we parade around in outlandish costumes; and we make loud noises that can hardly be described as dignified. Not only are children expected to wear costumes; adults as well are encouraged to wear costumes and participate in the joyous celebration. Still, beneath its almost too obvious guise of merriment, *Purim* is marked by a seriousness of purpose equal to that of the most solemn holiday. We are required to perform a variety of *mitzvot*—and from each, we learn an important lesson.

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

### Reading the *Megillah*

Each year, we are required to listen to the complete reading of *Megillat Esther*. We are instructed to listen to every word and to do this twice—evening and





morning. Perhaps, in attending these public readings, we are learning the value of sharing with the entire community recognition of, and appreciation for, our collective triumph over adversity.

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

### **Mishloach Manot**

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



### **Matanot L'Evyonim**

Based on the injunction in the *Megillah* that we must "send gifts to the poor" (9:22), the holiday affords us a special opportunity to share our good fortune with those in need. Gifts can be given directly, for example, bringing food and clothing to a homeless shelter, or indirectly, through an organized charity. It is important to keep in mind that whatever additional *tzedakkah* we give throughout the year, donations must still be given on *Purim*. How important is this *mitzvah*? As Maimonides writes in his *Mishneh Torah* (*Hilkhot Megillah* 2:17): "It is better for a person to increase gifts to the poor than to increase his feast or the *mishloach manot* to his neighbors."

### **Seudat Purim**

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

**Erev Purim is on Saturday evening March 11;  
Purim is on Sunday, March 12. Chag Purim Sameach!!**



## **Register Today! The First Night Community Seder**

**Passover 2017 / 5777  
Monday, April 10**

Join us for our annual, festive community Passover *seder* at Adas Israel with delicious food, thought-provoking discussion, and joyful song. The Passover *seder* is one of the Jewish peoples' most treasured traditions. Few rituals have survived so long and remained so true to their original form. Using rich symbolism, role-playing, and all the senses, the *seder* has warmly transmitted the values of human dignity, liberty, and the search for higher meaning to every society it has reached.

To this day, in every corner of the world, Jewish families come together to reconstruct that original Passover *seder*, again and again, year after year. And every year, there is more to learn. We look forward to sharing this beautiful and meaningful tradition with you and your family this year. ❀

### **Clergy Corner** continued from page 2

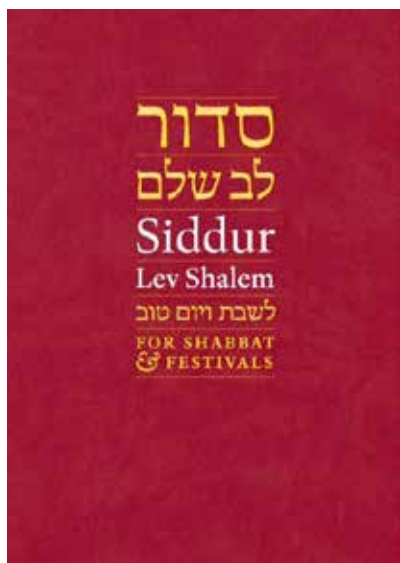
held just like she was.

In a beautiful *midrash* in *Genesis Rabba* 33:3 the rabbis teach us that when there was a time of drought, the people of Israel called on Rabbi Tanchuma to declare a fast to pray for Godly compassion, in the form of rainfall. Rabbi Tanchuma called on the people to be filled with *rachamim* for one another, and, in turn, God would show compassion to them. And when they did, the rains began to fall.

When we give to each other, we begin to affect the world around us. May we continue to grow as a community in compassion for each other and to show up even for those whom we do not yet know. As we do this, may the flood of *hesed* be felt deeply in our gates and way beyond the walls of Adas. (And if you would like to get involved in *Hesed*, Bereavement, or any other committee, please be in touch!) ❀

# Board of Directors Approves New *Siddur Lev Shalem* for Adas Israel Community Prayer

## An Exciting New *Siddur* for Our Community



*Siddur Lev Shalem* for *Shabbat* and Festivals, published by the Conservative Movement Rabbinical Assembly, will soon join the successful High Holy Day *Mahzor Lev Shalem* in all of our prayer spaces and bookshelves at Adas Israel. Like our wonderful High Holy Day *mahzor*, it features a four-column format; new translations in contemporary language; commentary providing historical context; and a variety of *kavanot*, poetry, and prose that expand and enrich our relationship to the text.

The Adas Israel Religious Practices Committee (Steve Kleinrock, chair) worked tirelessly with clergy and community members to carefully review the selection, and Cantor Arianne Brown hosted a learning session to explore the new *siddur* over the summer. The committee recommended the selection, and the Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve it. We are very excited about the selection. The adoption of a new *siddur*, a truly momentous occasion, will offer us an enriched and shared tool for accessing our Jewish prayer experience as community. A formal opportunity to introduce and celebrate our treasured new *siddurim* will take place during *Shabbat* services on May 6, 2017.

To acquire these magnificent new *siddurim*, we are seeking the support of the entire community. Members and friends are invited to dedicate one or more of these new books in honor or memory of a loved one or a special event in your life. With your contribution of \$36 per *siddur* (or 10 for \$350), you may select the wording for the dedication plate to be placed in the front of each book.

**To dedicate a *siddur*, which will be a permanent part of our Adas community worship, please use the form on this page; contact the synagogue front desk at 202-362-4433; or visit our website at [adasisrael.org/siddur](http://adasisrael.org/siddur).** A list of all dedications will have an individual bookplate and will appear in a future *Chronicle*.

This *siddur* draws from the geographic and historical expanse of Jewish life. For use in both the home and the synagogue, it includes all the traditional prayers, psalms, and songs that are familiar from previous Conservative *siddurim*, but is also a treasured anthology, offering a wide array of readings that can be used to celebrate *Shabbat* as well as material for study about *Shabbat*: poems both ancient and modern, Hasidic wisdom, rabbinic *midrashim*, and commentary on the history and diversity of the liturgy. In addition to modern translations, most of the key blessings, psalms, and songs are transliterated to enable Jews from all backgrounds to participate fully in welcoming *Shabbat*, and the extensive commentary is geared to both the novice and the learned, offering historical insight and spiritual meaning. We look forward to sharing it with all of you. 🕯

### Siddur Dedication Form

Please complete & clip this form and return it with payment to:

Adas Israel Congregation  
2850 Quebec Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of books you are dedicating: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ 1 at \$36 ☐ 7 at \$250 ☐ 18 at \$613 ☐ 36 at \$1,018 ☐ 54 at \$1,360

Wording as you would like it to appear in the *siddur*. **Note: Please print neatly; space for wording is limited.**

In honor of

In memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Check enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Adas Israel Congregation)

## Siddur Lev Shalem

### A Personal Letter from Cantor Arianne Brown

I remember my excitement at receiving my first *siddur*. Our *aleph* class stood on the *bima* on a Friday night as our cantor led us in singing the *Aleph Bet* song. My mom had decorated it with red puffy paint and stenciled my name in Hebrew letters, along with some hearts. Her note to me is in the back, and the synagogue's note in the front, telling me to love and cherish my Jewish tradition.

Though it has been a long time since the Silverman prayer book was in use, I still feel a rush of warmth when I take my *siddur* off the shelf. I hug it to my body and give the cover a kiss. Without even opening the cover, I see parts of my childhood in it—the worn, darkened pages along the side that delineate *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Musaf*, the ripped and taped *Ashrei* page from when my sister was a toddler, the tattered binding in the front.

We, as the Jewish people, are “the people of the Book.” Some think of that Book as the Torah, while others insist that it is the *siddur*—the prayers that we recite over and over again that change as we change, that follow us throughout our lives.

And so, we do not take it lightly when we as a congregation adopt a new *siddur* to help guide us through our prayers. It takes a *siddur* that is creative and innovative while remaining steadfast to the tradition we love, that furthers our connection to *tefillah*, and that addresses the progressive nature of our society to convince us to embrace it.

Several features of our new *Siddur Lev Shalem* drew me in as an enthusiastic supporter.

1. *This is a siddur that empowers the congregation with opportunities to create your own experience.* You'll notice that the layout often includes the traditional Hebrew text; a translation that is meant to be modern, true to the Hebrew, and prayerful in itself; transliteration; commentaries; and interpretive readings. This format helps give license to stay with the congregation or to get lost in your own readings and thoughts.
2. *Traditional liturgy, enhanced with ancient and modern sources, lends itself to creativity.* These enhanced sources include an evening prayer that comes from the Italian *siddur*, the Ladino *Ein Keloheinu* (a favorite of ours for *Shabbat* morning), and lyrics for several different songs of healing.
3. *Modernization.* *Siddur Lev Shalem* is a natural outgrowth of changes in society over the past 18 years, since our Conservative movement's last *siddur* publication date in 1998. Eighteen years have yielded a whole new generation of emerging adults as well as different societal norms and perhaps a yearning for more open



(Left) Cantor Arianne Brown with her first *Siddur* at age 8

Shabbat:

*Israel's Partner*  
Rabbi Shimon ben Lakish taught: The day of Shabbat came before the Holy One and said, "Creator of the world, every day has a partner (Sunday has Monday...) but I have no partner!" The Holy One replied, "Israel shall be your partner." And when Israel stood at Sinai, God said to them, "Remember My promise to Shabbat that Israel will be your partner." Thus it is written, "Remember the day of Shabbat to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8).

—GERMINE RABBIT

*L'kha Dodi*

*Come, my beloved, to welcome the bride;  
let us greet Shabbat as she arrives.*

"Observe" and "remember" were uttered as one, we heard it thus from the singular One. God's name is one and God is one, renowned with honor and deserving of praise.

*Come, my beloved...*

Let us go out to greet Shabbat, sacred wellspring of blessing, conceived at the beginning of time, finally formed at the end of six days.

*Come, my beloved...*

Shrine of our sovereign, royal city, rise up from destruction and fear no more. End your dwelling in the tear-filled valley, for with God's compassion you will be upraised.

*Come, my beloved...*

*continued*

*Ukha dodi likrat kalah, p'nei shabbat n'kab'lah.  
Shamor v'zakhor b'dibur ehad, hishmanu El ha-m'yuhad.  
Adonai ehad u-shmo ehad, yihem u-tiferet v'lichlah.*

*Ukha dodi likrat kalah, p'nei shabbat n'kab'lah.  
Likrat shabbat ikhu v'neil'khal, ki hu m'kor hu-b'rakhal.  
Me'roah mi-kodem n'khalah, Sof ma'aseh b'mahashavah t'bilah.*

*Ukha dodi likrat kalah, p'nei shabbat n'kab'lah.  
Mikdash melekhi m'lu'khal, kumi tze'i mitokh ha-hafeikhal.  
Rav lakh shevet b'emek ha-bakha, v'hu yahmol alaykhi bemah.  
Ukha dodi likrat kalah, p'nei shabbat n'kab'lah.*

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*L'kha Dodi*

*לְכָה דוּדִי לְקִרְאָת כָּלָה. פְּנֵי שַׁבַּת נִקְבְּלָה.*

*שְׁמוֹר וְזָכוֹר בְּדִבּוּר אֶחָד  
הִשְׁמַעְנוּ אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ.  
יְיָוָה אֶחָד וְשֵׁמוֹ אֶחָד.  
לְשׁוֹם וְלִתְפִירָתוֹ וְלִחְלָה.*

*לְכָה דוּדִי לְקִרְאָת כָּלָה. פְּנֵי שַׁבַּת נִקְבְּלָה.*

*לְקִרְאָת שַׁבַּת לְכוּ וְנִקְלָה  
כִּי הִיא מְקוֹר הַבְּרָכָה.  
מֵרֹאשׁ מִקְדָּם וְנִסְכָּה.  
סוֹף מַעֲשֵׂה בְמַחֲשָׁבָה תְּחִלָּה.*

*לְכָה דוּדִי לְקִרְאָת כָּלָה. פְּנֵי שַׁבַּת נִקְבְּלָה.*

*מִקְדָּשׁ מֶלֶךְ עִיר מְלֻכָּה,  
קוּמִי צֵא מִתּוֹךְ הַהַפֵּיקָה.  
רַב לָךְ שֵׁבֶת בְּעֵמֶק הַבָּקָה.  
וְהוּא יִחְמֹל עָלֶיךָ הַמָּלָה.*

*לְכָה דוּדִי לְקִרְאָת כָּלָה. פְּנֵי שַׁבַּת נִקְבְּלָה.*

*continued*

with the upper realms. The poem serves as an introduction to Psalm 92, "The Song of the Day of Shabbat," which was the start of the Friday evening service in many rites, before the introduction of Kabbalat Shabbat.

**COME, MY BELOVED** (לְכָה דוּדִי). The "beloved" who is invited here may refer to the soul, to others within the community of Israel, or to an aspect of the Divine. The first half of this refrain contains fifteen letters and the second half contains eleven, which are respectively the numerical equivalents of *yod-he* and *va-he*, spelling out the name of God.

**"OBSERVE" AND "REMEMBER"** (שְׁמוֹר וְזָכוֹר). The Decalogue appears twice in the Torah, with minor differences of wording. In Exodus (20:8), the fourth commandment opens with the verb *zakhor*, "remember" the Sabbath day; the Deuteronomy (5:12) version begins *shamor*, "observe" the Sabbath day. Harmonizing them, a midrash states that God uttered both words at once (Midrash, Babulash 7). Evoking that midrash here, the poet thus alludes to the unity established by Shabbat; for God, thought and action are one. And on Shabbat we, too, may feel as if who we are and how we behave are more unified.

**LET US GO OUT TO GREET SHABBAT** (לְקִרְאָת שַׁבַּת לְכוּ וְנִקְלָה). This verse alludes to the practice of leaving the synagogue and going out into the fields to welcome Shabbat, the custom followed by the mystics of Safed, based on their interpretation of the Babylonian Talmud (Shabbat 159a).

**SHRINE OF OUR SOVEREIGN** (מִקְדָּשׁ מֶלֶךְ). This verse and the next five all build on the theme of Israel's exile and her promised redemption. Shabbat is seen as a manifestation of the Shekhinah (God's presence in the world), which is in exile with Israel. At the same time, Shabbat is also a foretaste of the redemptive time.

23 שַׁבַּת לֵיל שְׁכֵת • קַבְלַת שַׁבַּת

### Example Page of Siddur Lev Shalem

acknowledgments of life in our places of worship. We see this in our *siddur* in so many ways, including:

- Egalitarian translations that do not address God in a gendered form
- A *misheberach* (blessing) celebrating the adoption of a child
- A general *misheberach* for any life transition
- Various singular/plural, and male/female conjugations in both Hebrew and English, making it easier to acknowledge all forms of relationships and parents in blessings prior to weddings and celebrating children's births
- A *misheberach* of comfort for someone who will not recover from an illness
- A *Yizkor* reading of remembrance for a parent who was hurtful in life

I hope you will mark your calendars to join us on **Shabbat morning, May 6**, as we lovingly bid farewell to our *Siddur Sim Shalom*, and we dedicate our new *Siddur Lev Shalem*.

See the previous page for a *siddur* dedication form. I encourage you to dedicate a *siddur* to Adas Israel, and hope that you will also purchase one for yourself—a *siddur* you can have as your own, one you can hug tight, write your own thoughts and prayers in the margins, and us to create new memories. ✨





## Courage & Cowardice Moral Strength & Emotional Weakness

"One should strengthen herself to wake up like a lion to serve her creator in the morning so that it is she who awakens the dawn" (*Orach Chayim* 1:1). Courage is cultivated by a lifetime of awakening and finding the light, the good, the just. We rise up with moral strength, not only from turning toward the good again and again, but by falling too. The fear in us that wants us to hide and run away

is a teacher, too. It shows us the dark spaces that need the dawn. In this month's learning, we'll look at moral courage and what it takes to face the darkness. *Register online or by calling Melissa Adler, 202-362-4433, ext. 146.*

### MakomDC March Learning:



#### 'Open Beit Midrash' Night in the Biran Beit Midrash

TUESDAY, MARCH 7 @ 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 Dr. Shai Held

TUESDAY, MARCH 14 @ 7:30 PM

Join us as our March scholar, Rabbi Dr. Shai Held, teaches on this month's topic, Courage & Cowardice. Rabbi Held is an awarded theologian, scholar, and Jewish educator, who has been named multiple times to Newsweek's list of the

50 most influential rabbis.

\*This event will be livestreamed: [adasisrael.org/adaslive](http://adasisrael.org/adaslive)



#### The Text

TUESDAY, MARCH 21 @ 7:30 PM

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.



#### Post-Kiddush Halakhah Class

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 @ 1:00 PM

Rabbi Alexander will give a text-based class, after kiddush, using halakhah (Jewish life and living) as a prism with which to access our monthly topic. We'll explore the unique intersection of courage and cowardice as it appears in

Jewish legal texts, with serious attention to how it has evolved over the centuries.

### Ongoing Learning:



#### Jewish Values: Israel & Palestine "iEngage" Series with Rabbi Gil Steinlauf, Curriculum from the Shalom Hartman Institute

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 @ 10:00 AM,  
BIRAN BEIT MIDRASH

Through the careful study of Jewish narratives about Israel, and the

unpacking of 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

MARCH 4, Rabbi Alexander

MARCH 11, Rabbi Steinlauf

MARCH 18, Guest Rabbi Elianna Yolkut

MARCH 25, Rabbi Alexander

*Boker Or* meets Saturday mornings in the Biran Beit Midrash with the weekly portion as its focus.



#### Friday Parsha Study with Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt or Rabbi Aaron Alexander

FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00 AM

First and second Friday study a piece of the weekly *parsha* through the eyes of the Hasidic masters, guided by Rabbi

Holtzblatt. On the third and fourth Friday explore a verse or two of the weekly *parsha* in its rabbinic context, with attention to modern messages and meanings, guided by Rabbi Alexander. ✨



#### Livestreaming in the Biran Beit Midrash

Adas Israel Congregation is pleased to offer livestreaming of many of our events in the Biran Beit Midrash, including our monthly

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





## From the Director of Education

By Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum

“Upside down” and “inside out” are often terms that go together, describing disorder, chaos, or something that is topsy-turvy. But “inside out” can also be seen as an invitation to invite the outside world in, and share our inside world with those around us—fostering better understanding and developing deeper relationships. One wonderful example of this is the Pixar movie *Inside Out*, which became an

immediate fan favorite upon its release in 2015. In the movie, we, the audience, are invited inside the emotional world of Riley, an 11-year-old girl. We meet Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust, and we have a front-row seat to the complicated internal dynamics that affect Riley’s day-to-day existence.

This behind-the-scenes glimpse allows us insight into her experience that her parents and those around her are not privy to. Our understanding of the many pieces that determine her actions enables us to tap into our empathy and compassion as we watch her journey. *Purim* is an invitation to experience our world as being upside down and inside out. As we imagine what that could look like, we engage in revelry and silliness, and take a stark look at this moment in our shared history. At the same time, let’s remember that we can also use this as an opportunity to share what we might not normally share, to invite others in and, in return, to be sensitive to the “insides” that they share with us.

## Purim

By Yoni Buckman, Youth & Family Educator



A salient theme of *Purim* is discovering that which is hidden. *Megillat Esther*, the Book of Esther, is known for not including the name or any explicit mention of God. A cornerstone of Jewish religious life is transforming the mundane by introducing the sacred,

searching for and infusing sparks of the Divine in moments that seem devoid of the remarkable—taking time to recite blessings when we eat or drink, adding intention to our transitions from one space to the next by affixing *mezuzot* on our doorposts, and reciting prayers before bed and after arising. Opportunities to enhance and uplift our lives are not confined to the walls of sacred spaces or to periodic extraordinary moments. One of the joys of the holiday of *Purim* is celebrating our ability to mix the sacred and the secular, to challenge what is absurd and what is proper, and to confuse the mundane with the spectacular. Though *Purim* is just one day, it can shake up our year and awaken us to many beautiful truths in our world that lie just below our conscious perception.

## Religious School Curriculum: *Hakarat HaTov*

*Hakarat HaTov*: gratitude; recognition of the good; appreciation. Like most other mature human virtues, being grateful is not a natural state. Developing a sense of appreciation is a learned behavior for everything from the gift of

continued in right column

## March Calendar

### Children’s *Shabbat* Services

4: Tot *Shabbat*, Netivot, Junior Congregation

11: Tot *Shabbat*, Netivot, Junior Congregation

18: Tot *Shabbat*, Netivot

25: Tot *Shabbat*, Family *Shabbat* Service

life to physical “things.” We learn through direct instruction, storytelling, modeled behavior, and experiences that practice the desired behavior.

*Hakarat HaTov* serves as an antidote to the all-too-human impulse to take things for granted. Judaism refers to the Biblical creation story as a confirmation that the entire world really belongs to God. We are but caretakers of all we possess, including our bodies and souls. That understanding should free us from jealousy and avarice, empower us to share what we have with those in need, and encourage us to use our resources to perfect creation.

The translation of *Hakarat HaTov*, “recognizing the good,” can also be stated as “recognizing the טוב” where טוב is one of the names of God. Cultivating feelings of *Hakarat HaTov* may be the “gateway skill” for prayer, recognizing the needs of others, as well as other virtues that are eclipsed by human ego. In young people, especially in adolescents, recognizing the good in people and situations may counter feelings of depression or cynicism. Living an appreciative life reduces anxiety and heightens joy. With satisfaction come relaxation and calm.

—Pamela M. Gorin, Assistant Director of Education

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## From the President, continued from page 2

Personnel, Social Action, Budget or Investment committees, we are deeply committed to working on behalf of *K'lal Yisrael* as well as Adas Israel. Our synagogue members can rely upon our leadership’s commitment to follow our Jewish values as we courteously and civilly work together to make decisions. We also strive for transparency. Therefore, we have held listening sessions to assist us in updating the bylaws, committees regularly submit reports of their activities to the Board, and we are pleased to have so many broadly engaged members. Whether we represent Hillel or Shammai, I am proud to see our congregants displaying respect for each other as we work toward achieving common goals. 🌟

# life cycle

## Milestones

### Births

Mila Anita Hoffer, daughter of Marin & Melissa Hoffer and granddaughter of Ron & Audrey Hoffer, Born December 25.

Ruby Elizabeth Braunstein, daughter of Melissa & Todd Braunstein, born December 30.

Ezra Wilder Gratz, son of Michael Gratz & Stephanie Williams, born January 10.

Emanuel Nolan Pultuskier, son of Biva Ranjeet & Allon Pultuskier, born January 12.

Sasha Eliana Nussdorf, daughter of Inna Dexter & Ben Nussdorf, born January 18.

Solomon Eitan Hichenberg, son of Noah & Shira Hichenberg and grandson of Amy & Bill Mates, born January 20.

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

### B'nai Mitzvah



#### Jacob Strouse, March 4

Jacob, son of David and Mimi Strouse, is a seventh grader at The Field School. He began his Jewish education at Gan HaYeled and is a student at the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. He shares this *simcha* with his younger sister, Isabelle, as well as both maternal and paternal grandparents and other family and friends.



#### Eve Mullen, March 4 (TEM)

Eve, daughter of Kathy O'Neill and Dan Mullen, is a seventh grader at Holton-Arms School. She began her Jewish education at the Gan and has been a student at the Adas religious school since kindergarten. Eve enjoys helping people in need, especially the elderly, and plans on incorporating this interest into her *mitzvah* project. She shares this

*simcha* with her family; her brother Sam; her parents; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.



#### Hershel Samson "Sammy" Rabinowitz, March 11 (TEM)

Sammy, the son of Laurie Moskowitz and Steve Rabinowitz, is a seventh grader at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. Sammy is a proud graduate of Gan HaYeled and the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital and spends part of each summer at Camp Ramah in New England. Sammy looks

forward to celebrating his *simcha* in the Traditional Egalitarian *Minyan*, where he has grown up, along with his older brother Jake, his parents, grandparents Dara and Jerry Moskowitz, and friends and family from near and far. At this time we remember with love Sammy's grandfather and namesake, Harold Rabinowitz, as well as his grandmother Dorothy Rabinowitz (both *z"l*).



#### Lucy Geffen, March 18

Lucy, daughter of Roxana and Danny Geffen, is a seventh grader at Sheridan School and in the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. She celebrates her *bat mitzvah* with her grandparents, brothers Felix and Simon, and lots of extended family and friends.



#### Johanna Banner Lane, March 25

Johanna, daughter of Charles Lane and Catarina Banner, is a seventh grader at Westland Middle School. She attended the Jewish

Primary Day School from pre-K through sixth grade, has been an avid camper at Ramah in New England for the last three summers. She currently attends the Estelle & Melvin Gelman Religious School. For her *mitzvah* project, Johanna is helping Hope for Henry, a local nonprofit that fulfills the *mitzvah* of *bikkur cholim* by bringing joy to seriously ill hospitalized children. She shares this *simcha* with her brother David, sister Nina, and the rest of her extended family.

### In Memoriam

**We note with sorrow and mourn the passing of:**

Fred Buff, husband of Lotte Buff

Shirley Berkin Rosenberg, mother of Mark Rosenberg

Vernon Savadow, sister of Ava Gross ❀

### Mikvah Guide Training

#### April 19 and 20



*Mikvah* Guides support people through profound moments of personal and spiritual transition

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 spring, 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. The training dates are Wednesday, April 19, 6:00–7:30 pm, or Thursday, April 20, 12:00–1:30 pm (choose one of these times). 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, In/Fertility, Healing, Aging, Conversions, Welcoming Interfaith Families, Monthly Cycles

Again, you don't have to be a *mikvah* user to

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# Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW)

*To be a Jew means to wake up and to keep your eyes open to the many beautiful, mysterious, and holy things that happen all around us every day.* —Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, *Honey From the Rock*

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said: "To be spiritual is to be amazed." But how do we find our spiritual center when we feel despair? How can we see through darkness to find a spark of amazement? Perhaps it's when we join together in song on *Shabbat*. Or when we can take our own few minutes of "*Shabbat*" during the week to escape the noise of the hours that seem louder and busier than ever. Maybe it's when we can sit quietly in meditation or move our bodies in rhythm with our breath and find a little extra space to open our eyes to "the beautiful, mysterious, and holy things" happening all around us.

Even in darkness, whether personal or communal, mystery and wonder are there to be seen. Please join JMCW as together we sing, sit, breathe, and move to connect with ourselves, each other, and the Jewish tradition of amazement.

## 'Return Again' Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt and Elie Greenberg

**Friday, March 10, 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 festive Israeli tapas-style feast follows.

## Weekly Tuesday Evening Meditation, 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!

## Yoga & Kabbalah: Two Traditions, One Path with Rabbi Benjamin Shalva

**Five-week mini-series, Sundays: March 5, 19, 26, and April 2, 11:00 am–12:15 pm**

Online registration required: see the JMCW web page ([www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/](http://www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/)). Yoga provides us a path to wholeness through the connection of body, mind and soul. *Kabbalah*, Jewish mysticism, also points us toward wholeness. Join Rabbi Benjamin Shalva for an engaging and embodied exploration of these two ancient traditions. Participants will become familiar with key *Kabbalistic* ideas and will discover, through integrated Yogic and *Kabbalistic* practices, the benefits of melding these two traditions. No prior knowledge of Yoga or *Kabbalah* necessary.

## Weekly Yoga:

### Moving Meditation, Yogic Flow

**Sundays, 11:00 am–12:15 pm**

### Moving Meditation, Vinyasa Flow

**Wednesdays, 7:30–8:45 pm**

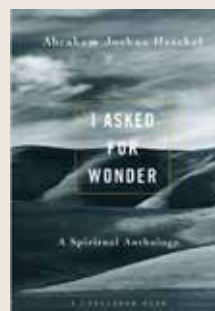
Check for updates and additional information on yoga offerings at [www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/](http://www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/). 🌸



## JMCW Recommends . . .

### *I Asked For Wonder: A Spiritual Anthology*,

by Abraham Joshua Heschel



Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel is considered one of the most influential Jewish thinkers of the 20th century through his writing, social activism, and many teachings, including those addressing the interdependence of God and humanity. This volume contains beautiful essays on wonder and radical amazement.

This book is available in the Adas Library, along with other books on Jewish spirituality, meditation, and mindfulness. Some of these can be found under call number 175.01, or speak with Adas Librarian Robin Jacobson ([librarian@adasisrael.org](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org)) for more information. 🌸

The Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington @ Adas (JMCW) offers 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/](http://www.adasisrael.org/jmcw/), where you can also subscribe to our e-newsletter. 🌸

*Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement. . . get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed.*

—Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel



march**2017**  
*Adar–Nisan 5777*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div><b>26</b><b>30 Shevat</b></div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Adas Book Chat</div> <div>10:30 am Hebrew Course: Beginners</div> <div>10:30 am Hebrew Course: Intermediate</div> <div>10:45 am Adult Trop Class</div> <div>11:00 am Yoga &amp; Kabbalah: Two Traditions, One Path</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>27</b><b>1 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>28</b><b>2 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div><b>1</b><b>3 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Class</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Panel of Previous Converts</div> <div>7:30 pm Yogic Flow</div> <div>8:15 pm JSC Class</div>	<div><b>2</b><b>4 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>3</b><b>5 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith</div> <div>6:30 pm Shir Delight Happy Hour</div> <div>7:30 pm Shir Delight Service with Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>8:30 pm Shir Delight Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>5:45 pm </div>	<div><b>4 PARSHAT TERUMAH</b><b>6 Adar</b></div> <div>8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Return Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt; Bar Mitzvah: Jacob Strouse</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Alexander; Bat Mitzvah: Eve Mullen</div> <div>9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 am Netivot</div> <div>11:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 am Junior Congregation</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha</div> <div>6:45 pm Havdalah</div>
<div><b>5</b><b>7 Adar</b></div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Rabbi Steinlauf's iEngage Class</div> <div>10:30 am Hebrew Course: Beginners</div> <div>10:30 am Hebrew Course: Intermediate</div> <div>10:30 am JMCW Class: Wise Aging</div> <div>11:00 am Yoga &amp; Kabbalah: Two Traditions, One Path</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>6</b><b>8 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>7</b><b>9 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 am Morning Awakening with Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pm MakomDC: Open Beit Midrash</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div><b>8</b><b>10 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC: Latke-Hamentaschen Debate</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Mikvah Presentation</div> <div>7:30 pm Yogic Flow</div>	<div><b>9</b><b>11 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>10</b><b>12 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha with Talmudic Commentary</div> <div>5:30 pm New Member Oneg</div> <div>6:30 pm Return Again Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>6:30 pm Traditional Lay-Led Shabbat Service; D'var Torah by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>8:00 pm Community Shabbat Dinner</div> <div>5:52 pm </div>	<div><b>11 PARSHAT TETZAVEH/SHABBAT ZACHOR</b><b>13 Adar</b></div> <div>8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service: YP Shabbat; Sermon by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Rosenbaum;</div> <div>11:00 am Bar Mitzvah: Hershel "Sammy" Rabinowitz</div> <div>11:00 am Netivot</div> <div>11:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha</div> <div>5:30 pm Purim Pajama Party</div> <div>6:52 pm Havdalah</div> <div>7:45 pm Havdalah/Maariv/Full Megillah Reading &amp; Purim Shpiel</div> <div>7:45 pm Havdalah/Maariv/Full Megillah Reading; TEM Family Service</div> <div>9:30 pm Purim Dessert Reception</div>
<div><b>12 PURIM</b><b>14 Adar</b></div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan/ Megillah Reading</div> <div>9:15 am Purim Carnival</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>13</b><b>15 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>14</b><b>16 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>12:00 pm Downtown Study Group (off-site)</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pm MakomDC: Rabbi Dr. Shai Held</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div><b>15</b><b>17 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Passover</div> <div>7:30 pm Yogic Flow</div>	<div><b>16</b><b>18 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>17</b><b>19 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut</div> <div>5:00 pm Happy Half Hour</div> <div>5:30 pm Young Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Holtzblatt</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Hazzan Goldsmith</div> <div>6:59 pm </div>	<div><b>18 PARSHAT KI TISSA/SHABBAT PARAH</b><b>20 Adar</b></div> <div>8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Bat Mitzvah: Lucy Geffen; Sermon by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 am Netivot</div> <div>11:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 am Junior Congregation</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>12:45 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>7:59 pm MakomDC: Shabbat Learning</div> <div>Havdalah</div>
<div><b>19</b><b>21 Adar</b></div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Adas Book Chat: New York, New York Program</div> <div>10:30 am Hebrew Course: Beginners</div> <div>10:30 am Hebrew Course: Intermediate</div> <div>11:00 am Yoga &amp; Kabbalah: Two Traditions, One Path</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>20</b><b>22 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>21</b><b>23 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>10:00 am Weekday Torah with Sisterhood</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pm MakomDC: Advance Beit Midrash Talks</div> <div>7:30 pm MakomDC in the Home</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div><b>22</b><b>24 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Class</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Israel</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow</div> <div>8:15 pm JSC Class</div>	<div><b>23</b><b>25 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>24</b><b>26 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha with Talmudic Commentary</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Cantor Brown</div> <div>7:06 pm </div>	<div><b>25 PARSHAT VAYAKHEL-PEKUDE/SHABBAT HACHODESH</b><b>27 Adar</b></div> <div>8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Bat Mitzvah: Johanna Bannier Lane; Sermon by Rabbi Steinlauf</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Awakening with Rabbis Alexander and Holtzblatt</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan</div> <div>10:30 am Family Shabbat Service with Rabbi Rosenbaum</div> <div>11:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>8:06 pm Havdalah</div>
<div><b>26</b><b>28 Adar</b></div> <div>9:00 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:30 am Hebrew Course: Beginners</div> <div>10:30 am Hebrew Course: Intermediate</div> <div>11:00 am Yoga &amp; Kabbalah: Two Traditions, One Path</div> <div>5:30 pm JUFJ Labor Seder</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>27</b><b>29 Adar</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>28</b><b>1 Nisan</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>Rosh Chodesh Nisan Breakfast sponsored by the Goldstein Rosh Chodesh Minyan Breakfast Fund</div> <div>9:15 am Morning Awakening w/ Rabbi Lauren</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Meditation Session</div>	<div><b>29</b><b>2 Nisan</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div> <div>7:00 pm JSC Class</div> <div>7:30 pm Intro to Judaism: Social Justice</div> <div>7:30 pm JMCW Moving Meditation Vinyasa Flow</div> <div>8:15 pm JSC Class</div>	<div><b>30</b><b>3 Nisan</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>1:00 pm Sisterhood: Mah Jongg</div> <div>6:00 pm Evening Minyan</div>	<div><b>31</b><b>4 Nisan</b></div> <div>7:30 am Morning Minyan</div> <div>10:00 am Parsha with Hassidut</div> <div>6:00 pm Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>7:13 pm </div>	<div><b>1 PARSHAT VAYIKRA</b><b>5 Nisan</b></div> <div>8:30 am Boker Or Parashat Hashavuah Class</div> <div>9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service; Sermon by Rabbi Alexander</div> <div>9:30 am Traditional Egalitarian Minyan with Rabbi Steinlauf; Bar Mitzvah: Lincoln Aftergood</div> <div>9:45 am Havurah Shabbat Service</div> <div>11:00 am Netivot</div> <div>11:00 am Tot Shabbat</div> <div>11:00 am Junior Congregation</div> <div>12:00 pm Congregational Kiddush</div> <div>12:30 pm Havurah Shabbat Kiddush</div> <div>1:00 pm Shabbat Mincha/Maariv Services</div> <div>8:13 pm Havdalah</div>

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

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

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

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

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

or Rabbi Ben Shalva. *Netivot*, for students in grades K–3, is led by Linda Yitzchak or Allison Redisch. Junior Congregation, for grades 4–6, is led by Yoni Buckman and teenage *madrichim*.

**‘Dial-in’ for Programs & Services:** If you are unable to attend programs, lectures, or services, dial in to hear them. Call 202-686-8405.

**Library Open on Shabbat:** Our third-floor library is open on *Shabbat* following services. You may sign out materials using our “no-writing *Shabbat* method,” explained in signs on the check-out desks. For assistance during the week, contact our Director of Library Services, Robin Jacobson ([librarian@adasisrael.org](mailto:librarian@adasisrael.org)).

## Ruth & Simon Albert Sisterhood Gift Shop

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



### Gift Shop Hours

Sunday–Monday, Wednesday–Friday  
9:30 am–12:30 pm  
Tuesday, Special Extended Hours  
9:30 am–3:00 pm, 6:00–8:00 pm

*Every purchase benefits Adas Israel Congregation.*

**202-364-2888**

**adasgiftshop@gmail.com**

## Mikvah Guide Training continued from page 10

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](mailto:Mikvah@adasisrael.org). ❄

## sisterhoodnews

### Happy Purim from Sisterhood Co-Presidents Marcy Feuerstein and Miriam Rosenthal

On behalf of the Board and Officers of Adas Israel Sisterhood, we wish everyone a *freilichin Purim*—a very happy *Purim*. We hope it is a day when we see meaning and purpose behind everyday details and we glimpse unimagined hope and truth behind what is usually masked from view.

### Celebrating Last Month's Sisterhood Shabbat

Thank you to the following people for a successful Sisterhood *Shabbat*: the rabbis, synagogue staff, students in the Ma'alot program, volunteer instructors, and *Shabbat* service participants; Donald Saltz for underwriting Sisterhood *Shabbat*; Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Mozelle Saltz Sisterhood Speaker; the Honorable David S. Tatel, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the Honorable Beryl A. Howell, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and the Honorable Judith Bartnoff of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, who presided over Miriam's Appeal; Ed Hoffman and Hoffman Caterers for a delicious *kiddush*; and the Sisterhood *Shabbat* Committee: June Kress (chair), Marcy Feuerstein, Miriam Rosenthal, Leah Hadad, April Rubin, Betsy Strauss, Julie Weisman, and Kinney Zalesne.



*JTS Associate Professor of Bible Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky was our guest Mozelle Saltz Sisterhood Shabbat Scholar Feb. 10–11.*

### Weekday Torah with Sisterhood Tuesday, March 21 at 10:00 am



*Scholar and community leader Norman Shore*

Please join Weekday Torah with Sisterhood at 10:00 am on Tuesday, March 21, in the Biran *Beit Midrash*. Community leader and scholar Norman Shore will lead a discussion on Jewish answers to the age-old question: *When is it okay to lie?* The class will examine biblical sources, rabbinic stories, and legal texts on lying, white lies, and evasions in situations, including personal relations, job interviews, promoting peace, preventing others from taking advantage of you, and thwarting the government. And no

worries—some texts will encourage truth-telling!

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. Students of all levels and backgrounds are welcome.

To RSVP and for more information, please contact Marilyn Cooper at [MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com](mailto:MarilynCCooper70@gmail.com).

Weekday Torah with Sisterhood will meet on the following dates: March 21, April 25, May 16, and June 20.

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## Mah Jongg Group for Sisterhood Members Continues

**Now Every Thursday at 1:00 pm in Sisterhood Hall**

Sisterhood is pleased to announce that every Thursday\* we're playing mah jongg at 1:00 pm in Sisterhood Hall. Bring your National Mah Jongg League card (\$8, [nationalmahjonggleague.org](http://nationalmahjonggleague.org)). The cards come in large print for \$1 more. For those new to the game, we'll teach you. This activity is *not restricted to Sisterhood members*.

If there's enough interest, we can also form a Sunday and/or evening group. To express interest and to RSVP for the mah jongg group, contact Barbara Friedell, 702-630-5106 (C); 202-813-3781 (H); or [bhfriedell@yahoo.com](mailto:bhfriedell@yahoo.com).

**\*Please note change of date from Wednesdays to Thursdays.**

## An Evening with Artist Arlette Jassel's *Daily Dance* Event, April 30

An evening with **Arlette Jassel**, artist and Sisterhood member, will present *Daily Dance*, her newly published adult coloring book. Come to enjoy wine, cheese, and coloring together!



## More Sisterhood programs in the works!

**Sisterhood Bakes for Hased:** Date to be announced in the early spring.

**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, please contact Marcy Feuerstein ([mfeuerst@hotmail.com](mailto:mfeuerst@hotmail.com)) 🌸

## Special Event: Max Ticktin Memorial Latke-Hamentasch Debate!

**March 8, 7:00–9:00 pm**

The Jewish Study Center and Adas Israel are pleased to host this annual comic symposium delving into the eternal question: Which is better, the latke or the hamentasch? As always, scholars and celebrities will weigh the academic, political and religious aspects of this important and controversial question! After the hour (or so) debate, the audience is invited to conduct their own tasty research with the latkes and hamentaschen that are included in the price of admission. We've renamed the debate this year in loving memory of our founder, Max Ticktin (z"l), who brought the debate to Washington from the University of Chicago. Adas, JSC members \$12, others \$15. 🌸



*In memory of Max Ticktin*

## Celebrating Our Members!

We at Adas Israel Congregation would like to wish a *mazal tov* to all of our members who are celebrating an amazing milestone; 65+ years as an Adas Israel member!

We are so grateful that you have continued to be a part of our wonderful Adas community, and feel truly blessed to have you as members.

Our fondest wish is that you come to be a part of something beautiful that will not only enrich your life, but will make this world a better place as well. We hope that as a member you have shared many moments of *simcha* (joy) and *kedusha* (holiness), and we look forward to many more.

Stanley Zupnik	80 years as a member
Sylvia Greenberg	73 years as a member
Reeva Goldberg	70 years as a member
Norman & Diane Bernstein	70 years as a member
Sonya Gichner	69 years as a member
Mel Jacobson	69 years as a member
Bud & Lorraine Rothstein	69 years as a member
Donald Wolpe	69 years as a member
Monica Greenberg	69 years as a member
Frances Lish	69 years as a member
Blanche Speisman	69 years as a member
Mendelle Woodley	68 years as a member
Adele Buckhantz	68 years as a member
Jack & Flo Herman	68 years as a member
Ruth Rheingold	68 years as a member
Maxine Bernstein	68 years as a member
Robert & Marion Rosenthal	68 years as a member
Phyllis Zweig	67 years as a member
Robert & Joy Cohen	67 years as a member
Stanley Scherr	65 years as a member
Bernie & Zita Glassman	65 years as a member
Doris Goldman	65 years as a member
Shirley Kullen	65 years as a member



## Adas Israel Hesed Calls Team



The joy of *hesed* is manifested through many types of outreach activities at Adas. One of the special ways Adas members are touched by Hesed is through phone calls. The Hesed Committee offers **two** types of phone calls to Adas members.



**Shabbat Calls:** Thanks to team leader **Kathie Hoppe**, she and eight wonderful volunteers form the Hesed Caring Phone Line. Every Friday they call Adas Israel congregants who are chronologically gifted (seniors), have been members of Adas for many years, and are unable to attend services on *Shabbat*. They make 14 *Shabbat* calls each week!

Their message is simple but important. The callers say, "Hello! I am calling from Adas Israel Congregation to let you know we are thinking about you and also to wish you *Shabbat Shalom*. How are you? Take care and I will call you again next week. *Shabbat Shalom*." The callers provide weekly updates to Rabbi Lauren about anything new with these special individuals.

Clergy visits and additional contacts with the individual (sometimes by the callers) have resulted from these *Shabbat* calls. Congregants tell us they love getting them; the contact makes them feel included in the Adas Israel caring community.

**Misheberach Calls:** Have you or a loved one been hospitalized or faced a serious illness? Then you understand these can be isolating, overwhelming and scary times. Enter the Adas Hesed Mishaberach Phone Team under the leadership of team leader **Harriet Isack**. The Misheberach calls bring "connection" and a message that you are not alone . . . that your Adas community cares and we are here to help. (This program is

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## tikkunolam

### Social Action Team Updates



### Refugee Team News: Welcome Project Volunteers Furnish a New Home for Iraqi Family

In less than one week, with much compassion, generous donations, and the enormous muscle power of many of our volunteers, we created a warm and welcoming home for a refugee family to be settled in Riverside, MD. Less than a week before (at the MLK *Shabbat* Dinner no less), Lutheran Social Services (LSS) asked if we could furnish an apartment for an Iraqi family of three (a couple and their 11-year-old daughter) arriving on January 20. It seemed a bit crazy at the moment, but with over 80 volunteers signed up and ready to get involved, there was nothing to do but swing into action.

Our notice went out late on Sunday evening. Offers of furniture and other items came flooding in, and by Wednesday evening, the apartment had gone from bare to beautiful. If we learn more about this family, including other ways we can help them settle into our area, we will let everyone know. We have offered to assist LSS in other apartment set-ups while we wait and see if we will be assigned a refugee family to co-sponsor fully.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this apartment! Thanks to our *schleppers* and move-in specialists: Toni and David Bickart, Alex Levy, and Eliav and Adiv Brooks-Rubin. A special thanks to Amy Golen and Liana Brooks-Rubin, who lead the Adas Welcome Project, for making this happen. And we thank those who have already donated financially to the Refugee Response Team. Please note that donations can be sent by check to Adas Israel with "Refugee Fund" in the memo line or online via the Adas website. If you donate online, please select "Other Fund Not Listed" and write in "Refugee Fund."



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## Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat—A Powerful Experience

*Yasher koach* and our thanks to everyone who helped make our MLK weekend so successful, including Lois Fingerhut (chair of our Gun Violence Prevention team), who brought our Friday night speaker, Ryane Nickens from Bright Horizons Ministry in Anacostia, to share her powerful, personal story, and Monica Goldberg (chair of our Racial Justice Working Team), who organized our very special *Shabbat* morning speakers—our own Tim Pratcher, Salina Green, and Joanie Lieberman—who shared their very personal stories.

And many thanks to our focus teams and committee members who attended the dinner and welcomed our community partners. We had more than 400 people at the Return Again Service and 240 dinner guests. It was an awesome *Shabbat* and the awesomeness continued at the Sunday morning service at Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ, where we were warmly welcomed. Charles Cobb, a veteran of the civil rights movement, former journalist, and current professor, gave a history lesson about organizing in the South with words of wisdom for our current times. And Rabbi Alexander spoke powerfully about joining together for justice and equality and with those who are less powerful.



## Adas Attends the People's Prayer Service

On Inauguration morning, Rabbis Holtzblatt and Alexander and a group of Adas members joined a diverse collection of faith voices from around the nation to pray and

call for justice in America. Held at Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, the People's Prayer Service was a time of prayer and relationship-building with congregations and organizations committed to ensuring love and justice for all people in all communities. With prayers and prophetic witness, Christian and Jewish leaders offered calls for unity and words of exhortation to love one another as we love ourselves and to continue the struggle for justice. Rabbi Holtzblatt was among the clergy who spoke powerful words of Torah to all those assembled. ✡

## Anne Frank House Update



### ANNE FRANK HOUSE

It was wonderful that two of our residents attended the Martin Luther King Jr. dinner and service at Adas Israel in January and had the chance to share a special evening

with Adas congregants. Since we're often asked about our residents, we thought you'd appreciate learning more about one of our residents, George Siletti, who has participated in the MLK events several times in the past.

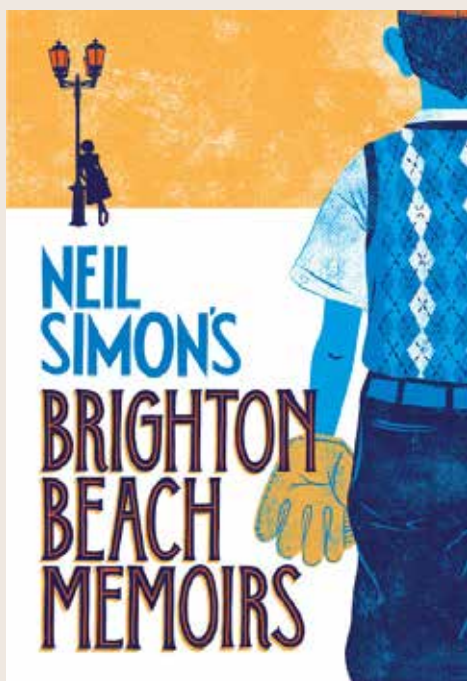
### George's Siletti's Story

George Siletti is one of Anne Frank House's longest residents, having lived in one of our apartments since 2004. Before coming to AFH, George had been homeless for much of the past 30 years. His mother had died when he was 3, after which he was sent to live with relatives, and later to a "boy's home." When George was thrown out of the home at 16, he began moving from place to place, often homeless, frequently unable to land a job because of a lack of formal education. George eventually made his way to Washington, DC, and contacted Friendship Place for help.

He was given a bed at St. Luke's Shelter, where he lived for six months. When one of AFH's apartments became available, Friendship Place case managers, who also work with AFH residents, recommended George for that vacancy. Since becoming an Anne Frank resident, George has remained active in Friendship Place, speaking on many occasions about homelessness and telling his story to adults and children.

In the last year, something wonderful has happened to George: he has been reunited with brothers and sisters he had not heard from since childhood. (See the photo of George with his sister, next page.) George calls that "the best birthday





## Adas Night Out at Theater J!

*Brighton Beach Memoirs*  
by Neil Simon

Directed by Matt Torney

Thursday, April 20

Join other Adas theater lovers for a night out at Theater J! Coming of age is never easy—but it sure can be hilarious. Eugene Morris Jerome is 15, lives in Brooklyn, and thinks of little else but playing for the Yankees... and girls, of course. But he's more likely to become a short story writer than a shortstop. Eugene's witty commentary about his life, his overworked father, his overbearing mother, his overconfident brother, and his overly gorgeous cousin, makes this tender journey through puberty both poignant and joyful.

To purchase tickets, visit [www.edcjcc.org](http://www.edcjcc.org). Use the coupon code ADAS to receive a \$5 discount. For Theater J subscribers who would like to move dates to attend with other Adas members on April 20, please call the Theater J Box Office at 202-777-3210.

The other Adas Night Out date is *Broken Glass*, Thursday, June 29 🌸

tikkunolam continued

## Anne Frank House continued from page 17



present I could get." He has also suffered from a series of serious health problems, requiring frequent doctor's visits and treatments.

### Can You Help?

The good news is that George and our other AFH residents are leading stable lives. However, they're getting older and several need help

coping with a number of chronic health conditions.

Each of our clients has a volunteer liaison, but sometimes the liaisons can't be there for their clients. If you have time to spare, George would appreciate your help getting him to and from his medical appointments, and several of our other clients would value whatever time you can give them. If you are able to help George or one of our other clients, please contact Sue Ducat, [stansue@verizon.net](mailto:stansue@verizon.net).

We're also most grateful for the financial support we receive from the Adas Israel community.

Contributions can be made online at <http://www.theannefrankhouse.org/donate.html>. Or, you can send a check to Anne Frank House, Inc., PO Box 73275, Washington, DC 20056-3275 or in care of Adas Israel Congregation, 2850 Quebec Street NW, DC 20008., Thank you! 🌸

## Hesed Calls Team continued from page 16

crafted to ensure privacy, so calls are only made with permission, and that permission is sought only through the Adas clergy.)

These calls are no different from the calls you make to your friends or family members when they are hospitalized or ill. The caller asks how the person/loved one is feeling, whether there is something with which we can help—for example, providing food, a ride, a visit, etc., and then we say we will call again if it is okay with the call recipient. This simple call, however, can result in all sorts of connections—coordination with the Hesed Meals Team and arranging for meals when the person comes home from the hospital; a Hesed hospital visitor so family members can have a reprieve to go home and catch up on things they need to do, and the like. Or maybe it just becomes a friendly voice that makes you feel that someone cares, and that you are connected to the larger community.

The Hesed Phone Team is just one of many ways that Hesed touches Adas members. Hesed actions are a key component of Jewish values, and Hesed builds community. 🌸

## Inclusion Shabbat Thank You

We want to thank everyone who helped to make February's Jewish Disability Awareness & Inclusion Month a success: guest speakers Rabbi Dahlia Kronish and Lauren Tuchman and our Inclusion Task Force members: Michelle Buzgon, Barbara & Robert Cline, Ross Eisenman, Pamela Ehrenberg, Joel Fischman, Marcie Goldstein, Zoe Gross, Judy Heumann, Debby Joseph, Amanda Maisels, Naomi Malka, Aurora Reyes, Tamar Shuldiner, Rabbi Steinlauf, Sara Vogler, and Linda Yitzchak.

We also add special thanks to Toby Dershowitz, Robin Jacobson, Rabbi Kerrith Rosenbaum, and Stephanie Slater for their participation and leadership. 🌸





## March 2017 Programs for Families with Young Children



**Purim Celebrations:** March 11, 12  
**Shabbat Dinner for Families with Young Children:** March 17  
**Tot Shabbat:** Saturdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25,  
**“Coffee Club” for Parents with Babies:** Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
**Playdate in the Gan:** Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
**Sing N’Play in the Library:** Thursdays, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
**Kangaroo Adult/Toddler Class:** Fridays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31  
**Miss Ellie’s Shir a Song:** Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28

**For Our Families with Young Children! Come enjoy time with your children and your Adas family! Connect with old friends and Make New Friends. Contact [Alexis.Tinsley@AdasIsrael.org](mailto:Alexis.Tinsley@AdasIsrael.org) with any questions about programs or registration.**

**Purim!!:** Join us Saturday evening, March 11, to hear the young children’s version of the story of *Purim*, told through story and song. Watch your child march in the costume parade on Sunday morning, March 12, before having a blast at the moonbounce and *Purim* carnival for families with young children. Register online at [adasisrael.org/purim](http://adasisrael.org/purim)

**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, *Kabbalat Shabbat* Services for young children and their families at 5:30, and a delicious dinner at 6:15. *Registration deadline is: March 10.*

**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 ones are too young to attend the Gan. They will play, you will schmooze! Parents, grandparents, & 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 ones—while your children play. Parents, grandparents, & caregivers welcome!

**Kangaroo Adult/Toddler Class:** Is your child 18–24 months old? 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 at 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, go to: [www.mselliemusic.com/register](http://www.mselliemusic.com/register); \$185 for first child, \$100 for first sibling. 🌸



## Gan HaYeled

Registration for Sweet Summertime Camp is open. We have four, two-week sessions to choose from, each of which is chock-full of fun. Our new Outdoor Learning Environment will take on more water play features; entertainment will visit the Gan; and each session will provide different activities. The camp link is on the Gan homepage. We’d love to have you join us for an exciting summer program.

Registration for 2017–2018 is well under way, but we do have some spots available. If you or someone you know is looking for a top-notch preschool, please explore the Gan website or give us a call to get your questions answered. You can also apply online’ the link is on the ADMISSIONS page of the school website. 🌸

## Youth@AI

**Wednesday, March 1:** USY Student Leadership Applications due; USY goes to the Israeli Embassy, 7:00 pm

**Sunday, March 5:** Machar Bowling at Bowlmor Lanes in Bethesda, 12:30–3:00 pm; Kadima ClimbZone, 12:30–3:30pm

**Friday–Saturday, March 17–18:** 6th Grade Shabbaton

To register for all Youth@AI events, visit [www.adasisrael.org/youth](http://www.adasisrael.org/youth) and click on the registration link. And remember to check out our website, [www.adasisrael.org/youth](http://www.adasisrael.org/youth), to stay up to date on current events, check out pictures from previous events, and view our 2016–2017 Youth@AI Calendar. Always feel free to reach out to us for any questions at [Jordan.Rothenberg@adasisrael.org](mailto:Jordan.Rothenberg@adasisrael.org). 🌸

# Ma Tovv: Bo and Marky Kirsch

## HONORING OUR LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Interviewed by Marcy Spiro, Director of Membership Engagement

**You both have an extraordinary history with Adas Israel dating back to when we were still operating out of 6th & I. Can you bring us back to the beginning of your time at Adas Israel?**

**Marky:** My parents were members of a different synagogue located at 14<sup>th</sup> and Euclid streets, NW. The *shul* had no classrooms and no religious school. When it was time for me to begin my religious education, they joined Adas Israel, then located at 6<sup>th</sup> & I streets NW. Having no classrooms, Adas used the Jewish Community Center at 16<sup>th</sup> and Q streets, NW, which is where I attended Sunday School. At the time there was no mid-week religious school. Shalom Pomeranz was hired as Education Director, and he instituted Saturday School, which was held at 6<sup>th</sup> & I, so I attended school on both Saturday and Sunday. In Saturday School we learned Hebrew and conducted our own *Shabbat* services in the small chapel. I was confirmed in 1949 with Rabbi Solomon Metz and Cantor Jacob Barkin. I was a part of the first class to have boys included in the Confirmation Class.

When the present building was constructed, Bo and I were the second wedding (1953) to take place in the Main Sanctuary with Rabbi Metz, Rabbi David Panitz, and Cantor Barkin officiating. Our marriage was the beginning of Bo's involvement at Adas. Bo married into my family and into Adas.

**Bo, you were instrumental in the start of our Gan HaYeled, which is now thriving with over 150 children. Why did you think it was important for our community to open a Jewish pre-school?**

I joined the Board a few years after our marriage (and I'm still on it!). I served on the Personnel and Finance committees and was a trustee for four years. Donald Wolpe (president at the time) asked me to chair the Education Committee in the early 1970s. It was during this time that Rabbi Rabinowitz came up with the idea of having a nursery school. Rabbi Rabinowitz was very forward-thinking; he always felt that we should be the major conservative synagogue in town, and this was a way of growing the synagogue. As chairman, I became very involved in carrying out his idea. The best thing we did as a committee, was hiring our first-time director, Charlotte Muchnick. She was the driving force of the nursery school for many years.

And today it's great to see so many families with young children at Adas. Everything is a little bit different now. There are newer services, different spaces, etc. But the younger generation is very active, which bodes well for the future of the synagogue.

**Marky, you have seen Adas during several building transitions. What are some of your favorite aspects of our current building?**



Previous renovations were primarily decorative. The current building has completely changed the spaces. It took some getting used to, but the Charles E. Smith Sanctuary is eye-catching and beautiful. I like the large open Quebec Street lobby, the lovely expanded gift shop, the improved restrooms, the multi-purpose Biran *Beit Midrash*, and the redone Kay auditorium.

**What has kept you in Washington, DC, all these years?**

Family and friends and Bo's work. At 91, Bo, an attorney, is still working as general counsel for a real estate development company. Our parents lived in DC until their deaths. Two of our three sons with their wives and family live here. And now one of our grandsons, his wife, and their new daughter live in DC. We became great grandparents three months ago.

**What are some of your favorite family memories at Adas?**

Life-cycle occasions. In addition to our wedding, our three boys (Stephen, Mark, and Neal) became *bar mitzvah* and were confirmed here, one was married here, and two granddaughters had their baby namings here. All at Adas. Marky's father, Samuel Lebowitz, was a leader in the congregation, including serving as president, 1964-66, and receiving the *Shem Tov* Award in 1972. Many of our proudest memories are events related to his leadership and honors.

**Purim is coming up! If you could create your ultimate hamentaschen (and you're not required to make it), what would it be?**

**Marky:** Hard question. In all modesty, though I'm an excellent cook, famous for my *matzah* balls and brisket, I've never made *hamentaschen*. I like *mun* (poppyseed), prune, and apricot. And I'm happy to eat whatever someone else makes! ❀

## A Modern Queen Esther: Remembering Ruth Gruber

By Robin Jacobson, Library & Literary Programs Director



Ruth Gruber aboard refugee ship in 1944.

Although it was a sweltering *Shabbat* night in August, it felt like Purim. Around a dining room table in Baltimore, our hostess Flora and her brother Simon were recounting their personal Queen Esther story. In 1944, a brave American journalist named Ruth Gruber risked her life to rescue Flora, Simon, and their parents, Yugoslavian Jews. The family was part of a group of nearly 1,000 European refugees—mostly Jews—whom Gruber shepherded on a perilous voyage from Naples, Italy, to the United States. This group, lamentably, was the only large contingent of Jews permitted into America during World War II. And

even these refugees were deemed temporary “guests” and restricted to Fort Ontario, a former army camp in Oswego, NY. After the war, Gruber rescued the refugees yet again; she and others successfully lobbied for them to be allowed to remain in the United States, rather than returned to Europe.

Ruth Gruber died this past November, at age 105, sparking numerous tributes. Gruber’s wartime mission was the first of many she undertook to aid the Jewish people. Nonetheless, she called her encounter with the refugees “the defining moment” of her life. She told their story in *Haven: The Dramatic Story of 1000 World War II Refugees* (dramatized in the film, *Haven*, starring Natasha Richardson) and in the documentary, *Ahead of Time: The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber*. Here are some highlights.

### From Brooklyn to a U.S. Troop Ship

Born in Brooklyn, Ruth Gruber (1911–2016) first won fame by earning a Ph.D. in literature at the precocious age of 20 from a German university. Within a few years, she was reporting from the Soviet Arctic for the *New York Herald Tribune*, a feat that caught the attention of Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes. He hired Gruber, initially for a fact-finding mission in Alaska.

In June 1944, President Roosevelt decided to bring 1,000 European refugees to the United States for the duration of the war, outside of regular immigration quotas. Secretary Ickes sent Gruber, who spoke German and Yiddish, to escort the refugees from Italy to Fort Ontario. To protect her, Ickes granted Gruber the honorary rank of general. If Gruber were captured, Ickes hoped she’d be treated as a prisoner of war rather than shot as a spy.

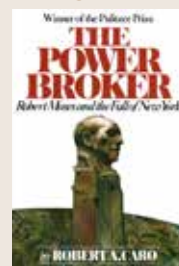
Dodging danger, Gruber reached Naples and boarded an American troop transport ship where 982 refugees awaited her. Selected from 3,000 applicants, the refugees hailed from 18 different countries; all had made their way to Allied-controlled southern Italy under harrowing conditions (as Flora and Simon’s family did). The ship sailed for America, part of a secret convoy that narrowly eluded Nazi bombers and submarines. On the ship’s deck, Gruber set up a blackboard and taught English. She convinced the refugees to tell their war stories, however horrible, so that American readers could learn the truth about the Nazi regime.

When the war ended, the departments of State, Justice, and Treasury insisted that the refugees return to Europe, in accordance with agreements these desperate people had signed in Italy. But Gruber and others worked

tenaciously to raise public support for the refugees. To the joy and relief of many, President Truman granted them immigrant status; they left Fort Ontario in January and February 1946.

Flora and Simon were young, vulnerable children when Ruth Gruber brought them to the United States. Unlike millions of Jewish children in wartime Europe, they lived to lead full lives. On that Friday night in August when they remembered Gruber’s courage and commitment, their children and grandchildren sat round the *Shabbat* table. ✨

## New York, New York! All-Adas Book Chat led by Religious School Parents



**Sunday, March  
19 @ 10:00–11:00 am in  
the Library**

A dynamic group of religious school parents invites you to discuss a chapter from Robert Caro’s Pulitzer Prize–

winning ***The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York***. This chapter tells

of a Bronx Jewish community that fought for its survival against powerful urban planners. Packets containing the *Power Broker* chapter are available at the front desk in the Adas lobby—pick one up! A special invitation goes to New Yorkers, urban planners, activists, and enthusiasts of historic Jewish neighborhoods.

## Meet Journalist-Filmmaker Symi Rom-Rymer “Beyond the Shoah: Young Jewish Voices from Contemporary Central Europe”

**Sunday, April 30 @ 10:00–11:00 am in the**



**Beit Midrash**

Symi Rom-Rymer, an award-winning Jewish social entrepreneur and journalist, will present her narrative video, *Beyond the Shoah*, which showcases the

personal stories of young European Jewish leaders and activists who are revitalizing post-Shoah, post-Communist Jewish life in Central Europe, contrary to all expectations. What does it mean to be Jewish in the 21st century in the former Soviet bloc?



# synagoguecontributions

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## Adas Fund

*In Honor Of:* **Ryna Cohen** by Michael & Laura Cutler.

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**Stanley Snyder** by Ruth Snyder. **Barbara & Hugh Taft** by Fred Weiss & Martha Taft. **Bertha Popkin** by Susan P. Willens.

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## B'Yahad Special Needs Fund

*By:* Michael & Cathy Gildenhorn.

## Cantor Brown Discretionary Fund

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*In Memory Of:* **Arthur Lerner** by Linda Dreeben.

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## Charlotte & Hubert Schlosberg High Holy Day Mahzor Fund

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## Congregational Kiddush Fund

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## Howard Karl Amchin Memorial Fund

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## Jewish Mindfulness Center of Washington

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### Rabbi Jeffrey & Judith Wohlberg Masorti Fund

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### Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz History Fund

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**Alma Gildenhorn's** special birthday by Glenn & Cindy Easton, David & Heather Polonsky.

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**UPCOMING CHRONICLE  
DEADLINE—**

May: Wednesday, March 29,  
at noon